

Mild weather assists deer



Back-to-back mild winters—not the "flop" season, coupled with fair weather during the spring thawing seasons—has resulted in an increase in the deer population across the region.

For proof of that increase, look no further than the recent success of Dale Horne's hunting party.

For the past seven years, Horne and nine or 10 friends have made their bow camp during the last week of October in the western Upper Peninsula—somewhere near the Marquette/Iron county line. Last week there were 10 hunters in the "Snake Ridge Bowhunter's camp" and all 10 tagged a deer.

"That's the best we've ever done," said Horne, of Redford. "I keep a log each year and the best we had done before this year was eight deer between 11 hunters back in 1990. The (deer) numbers are definitely up. For the average, we were usually seeing three or four deer each day, which is pretty good for up there. The numbers are coming back up."

Of the 10 deer, four were bucks. The largest was a four-point.

"We're all dedicated bow

hunters. There are bigger bucks up there, but we're really not after the trophies," Horne said.

Clatskanie's Rick Fleet arrived at a 5-point buck last week in Clatskanie County, hunting from a tree stand on private property.

Troy's Blake Williams recently arrived at a 5-point buck with his bow while hunting along a corn field in Clatskanie County.

Oregon's Billy Edwards shot a 5-point buck from a ground blind in Lapeer County.

DNR seeks deer heads

As part of the state's overall strategy to eradicate bovine tuberculosis from Michigan's white-tailed deer herd the DNR is asking for hunter's assistance.

Hunters who shoot deer in northeastern Michigan are asked to bring the head of their deer to a DNR check station for free examination. Fawns will not be tested.

Hunters who take deer from the following counties are asked to participate in the program: Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, Montmorency, Otsego, Antrim, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Missaukee, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin and Arenac.

Heads of bucks and does are needed for laboratory examination because the lymph nodes

located in the head bear the brunt of the disease and are accurate M & A deer and TB tests.

Use with approved equipment to collect lymph nodes. Do not use a saw or other tool to cut the head. Do not have the head in contact with anything other than a clean cloth.

For a list of check stations call the DNR Deer Lab Laboratory at (517) 275-6882.

Most Many Bowhunters

Four area bowhunters will join 118 other bowhunters to compete in the 2nd Michigan Regional Bow Hunting Tournament on Table Rock Lake in Kimberling City, Mo.

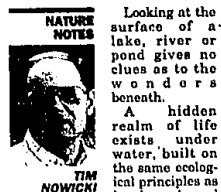
Linda Bennett of Canton, Scott Emory of Lapeer, Kevin Long of Oxford, and David Beards of Livonia have all qualified for the regional by placing in the top 30 in the Best Man Michigan Division.

The top prize is a new Chevy truck and a Ranger boat, both equipped with a 175-horsepower Johnson outboard motor.

The top eight will advance to the \$290,000 Red Man All-American May 8-18 on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, Ark.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Send information to: Outdoor, 805 S. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. For information to (248) 643-1314, send e-mail to sparker@oe.hometeam.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-3573.)

Lake harbors smaller life forms



NATURE NOTES

Looking at the surface of a lake, river or pond gives no clues as to the world below.

A hidden realm of life exists under water, built on the same ecological principles as land-based organisms. Animals depend on oxygen in the water from photosynthesis, food chains of various size animals exist, and the seasons cause changes in lifestyles.

Today, the temperature was only in the 30s and the wind was blowing constantly making it feel much colder.

As I walked down to the lake with a group of third graders, we were hard pressed to find insects flying around. Yet that is what we hoped to find in the water.

Getting our hands wet in the cold wind did not make it comfortable looking for aquatic critters, but we found a good sampling of representative aquatic animals.

Because water retains heat longer than air, our targets were relatively warm in the water, though we were feeling cold above the water.

Many insects live in the water before they emerge as adults. Dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies have nymphs that mature under water before transforming into a winged adult.

Some dragonfly nymphs may take two or three years to become a winged adult.

During the winter nymphs of many aquatic insects remain active, but sluggish due to the cold water. Cold blooded insects on land had already adjusted for the cold winter temperatures and would not be seen until warm weather returned.

While sampling down by the river, large dragonfly nymphs were plucked from the sediments in the net. In fact, we seldom find such large nymphs in the warm weather. Later we dipped our nets along the lake shore off the dock and discovered different kinds of dragonfly nymphs.

Two water-beetle nymphs, insects with long legs flattened to resemble oars, were captured.

In the specimen trays, they demonstrated their rowing techniques expertly. Damselfly nymphs were not bothered by their movements above them. The leech kept on inching its way along the bottom of the pan, while the mayfly nymph stayed next to a small twig.

One student even caught a 2-inch long crayfish. We didn't see it until she brought up the net and we saw its escape movements.

When we put it in the pan of

water, it immediately scooped its tail under its body and propelled itself backwards, a typical maneuver used to escape danger. Though it was cold, and some got wet, no one complained, especially when they were catching things.

Some animals that we typically see in warm weather were not seen, but that didn't matter to these students.

Hands on opportunities to

learn are always fun and effective.

Today, despite the lack of action on land, the water world was still moving and providing us with a great learning experience.

We sometimes forget about all the life in the water until an opportunity arises to remind us how similar, yet different it is below the surface.

SEASON/DATES

DEER
Archery season runs through Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 2 statewide. A late antlerless-only season will be held Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on private and public land in DMU 452. A late antlerless-only season will be held Dec. 18-Jan. 2 on most private land in the Lower Peninsula. Muzzleloading season runs Dec. 8-12 in the Upper Peninsula and Dec. 10-19 in the Lower Peninsula.

DUCK
Duck season runs through Nov. 30 in the North and Middle zones and through Dec. 7 in the South Zone.

ELK
Late elk season runs Dec. 7-14 by special permit in limited areas of the northern Lower Peninsula.

GOOSE
The regular goose season runs through Nov. 14 statewide. A special late season runs Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

PHASANT
Phasant season runs through Nov. 14 in the Lower Peninsula. A special late season runs Dec. 1-15 in much of the southeastern part of the state.

RABBIT
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL
Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

TURKEY
The fall wild turkey season runs through Nov. 9 by special permit in designated areas of the state.

WOODCOCK
Woodcock season runs through Nov. 8 statewide.

CLASSES/CLINICS

FLY TYING
Hook Line & Sinkers bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fly tying classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9216 for more information.

ROD BUILDING
Hook Line & Sinkers bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fishing rod building classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9216.

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 to make a reservation.

MOOSE FLY TYING
River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tyers. Classes will be held at various times. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 691-3474.

CLIMBING CLASS
An introductory climbing course for the novice and first-time climber is offered at various times at REI in Northville. The class covers basic indoor climbing safety, technique, equipment and terminology. The course is free and available to adults and children. Call (248) 347-2100 for schedules and information.

ACTIVITIES

MAYBURY HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a hike at Maybury State Park on Sunday, Nov. 14. Participants are asked to meet at 1 p.m. at the park concession stand (at the Eight Mile Road entrance). Call Max Nemati at (734) 421-4397 for more information.

ARCHERY

LIVONIA RANGE
The newly renovated Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The range is also open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only through the end of November. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. The range is located on Glendale Avenue, east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS.

LIVES OF EXPLORES
Home schoolers will learn about the impact the French explorers had on the Great Lakes region during this program at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Stony Creek.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register.

PERMITS
The 2000 Oakland County parks motor vehicle permits are on sale at all county park offices and many parks and recreation and township offices. Cost is \$20 through April 30 and \$25 thereafter. Call (248) 858-0906 or TTY (810) 625-6473 to register.

NATIVE AMERICANS/PIONEERS
Ages 6-8 can explore the life of Native Americans and early settlers through crafts, games, a hike, stories, a snack and more during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at Independence Oaks.

FRIENDS OF FEATHERS
Join the nature center's new club for ages 8-12. Each meeting includes indoor and outdoor nature activities. Cost is \$4 and advanced registration is required. The next meetings will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday Nov. 27, at Independence Oaks.

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