

Start of archery deer season bigger event now

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

ers and me in deer camp up in Montmorency County, as long as we kids maintained good grades, that is.

The importance of conservation and game management and respect for nature were rooted in all three of us boys at a very early age. We learned to hunt and fish, to shoot and to cast, but we also learned to respect our quarry and all natural resources and to only take what we planned to use. "Always leave the woods or the water in the same or better condition than when you arrived," dad always used to say.

My father hunted a little bit with a bow and arrow and taught my brothers and I to shoot with a recurve before compounds were popular. My oldest brother, Kevin, was so adept with a recurve that he outshot the archery counselor at Camp Agawan one year during summer camp with the boy scouts. The following summer he was hired as the new archery merit badge counselor.

For some reason, though, we never did much hunting with a bow and arrow.

Bit by the bug

That all changed for me about 18 years ago when I was bit by the bowhunting bug. Nov. 15 has now been replaced as the "big day" of the year by Oct. 1, opening day of the archery deer season.

Firearms hunting is great and I still thoroughly enjoy the season, but there's a special appeal that surrounds archery deer hunting. Bowhunters who successfully stalk or pattern a mature whitetail and intercept that animal on its own turf expe-

rienced a deep sense of accomplishment.

The big attraction for me is summed up in the popular bowhunter cliché: "It's now how far you can shoot an arrow; it's how close you can get to your prey."

The average lethal bow shot in Michigan is less than 20 yards. Many accomplished archers can certainly make a shot at much further distances, but the average is less than 20 yards.

For me, there's nothing more captivating than watching a whitetail meander toward your blind for 15 minutes, closing the distance from 100 yards to 60, to 50, to 40, to 30, to 20 and then ending up right where you had planned. Buck fever rises to a new level when a deer is at such close range.

Bow season opens

The woods will be full of skillful, camouflage-clad archers today as the 1998 Michigan archery deer season officially opens one half-hour before sunrise. Upwards of 350,000 bowhunters are expected to take to the woods and

fields of this great hunting state between now and the end of the season, Jan. 3.

Expectations for another stellar deer season are running high. With a burgeoning whitetail herd including some 600,000 right here in Zone III (southern Michigan) the outlook for the archery and firearms seasons is spectacular, especially in southern Michigan.

Southern opportunity

Believe it or not, in the last two deer seasons hunters have taken more deer in southern Michigan than they have in the forests of the northern Lower Peninsula or the Upper Peninsula.

The herd in southern Michigan has been on the rise for the past 30 years. As a child growing up in the northern Oakland County in the 1970s we'd rarely see a deer close to home. Today, my daughters and I go out with a spotlight before the 11 a.m. curfew, in the same area of northern Oakland County, and regularly see anywhere from 30 to 130 deer in an hour's time.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimated there were approximately 60,000 white-tailed deer in southern Michigan in the mid-1980s. There were approximately 140,000 by the mid-70s, 376,000 by the mid-80s and better than 600,000 today.

Bow hunters have taken advantage of this explosion by shooting better than 60,000 deer in southern Michigan over each of the past two seasons.

If you can gain access to some local private land you're chance for success will be excellent. Private lands hold the majority of deer in southern Michigan.

Hunting on public land

There is, however, over 140,000 acres of public land open to hunting in southern Michigan and much of it provides good to very good deer hunting opportunities.

A couple of the larger tracts of public land deer hunters can check out include the Waterloo Recreation Area (22,000 acres) in Jackson County, the Pineknay Recreation Area (11,000 acres) in

Washtenaw County, the Lapeer State Game Area (8,000 acres) in Lapeer County and the Holly Recreation Area (7,700 acres) in Oakland County.

Enjoy the season and consider sharing your bounty with others who are less fortunate. Many area butchers are cooperators with the Hunters for the Hungry program in which lean, protein-rich venison is distributed to homeless shelters across the state.

Enjoy the season and try to introduce a youngster to the outdoors this year.

Be safe. Hunt hard and remember what my dad used to tell us, "always leave the woods or the water in the same or better condition than when you arrived."

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to bparker@ec.homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

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 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

CLINICS

FALL FISHING
Metro-West Steelheaders will hold a seminar on fall fishing techniques beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. The seminar will cover river, surf and river fishing for salmon and steelhead. Call (248) 476-6268 or (248) 476-5027 for more information.

GPS
Learn the basics of the Global Positioning System navigation including what the GPS technology is, how it works and what a GPS unit can and cannot do during this class, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at REI in Northville. REI is located at 17559 Haggerty Road, at Six Mile. Call (248) 347-2100 for more information.

MAP & COMPASS
Learn the basics of map and compass reading including how to read a topographic map, how to use a base plate compass and how to triangulate your position during this class, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at REI. REI is located at 17559 Haggerty Road, at Six Mile. Call (248) 347-2100 for more information.

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

HUNTER EDUCATION
Wayne County Sportsman's Club

will hold hunter education classes in the upcoming months at its clubhouse and grounds in Romulus. These classes will be taught by certified instructors. Students must be present for both days of their respective class. All equipment will be provided. Classes will be held on Oct. 17-18 and Nov. 7-8. Cost is \$10.50 and includes lunch both days. Call (313) 532-0285 to pre-register.

CLUBS

SOLAR

The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (bouters and non-bouters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 686-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1491 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. Karl Schipper will be the speaker at the October 7th meeting and will discuss the use of the GPS and preparing boats and motors for winter storage. Refreshments will be served and visitors are welcome. For information call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester

Hills. The meetings are open to all anglers. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information.

TOURNAMENT

OAKLAND BASS MASTERS
Oakland Bass Masters will hold a 50-boat open tournament on Sunday, Oct. 11, on Lake Orion. Registration is \$75, \$80 after Oct. 7. Call (248) 512-5264 for more information.

MEETINGS

NRC
The monthly meeting of the state Natural Resource Commission will be Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 7-8, at the Holiday Inn-Fairlane, 5801 Southfield Service Drive in Detroit. Persons who wish to address the commission or persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Teresa Golden at (517) 373-2352 one week in advance.

SEASON/DATES

BEAR
Bear runs through Oct. 26 in designated bear management units.

DEER
Archery deer season opens statewide on Oct. 1. The firearms season opens statewide on Nov. 15. The muzzleloading season opens Dec. 4 in Zone I (Upper Peninsula) and Dec. 11 in zones II and III (Lower Peninsula). There are several other special seasons. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.

DUCK
The open season on ducks, mergansers, coots and gallinules will be Oct. 3 - Dec. 1 in the North and Middle zones and Oct. 10 - Dec. 8 in the South Zone.

ELK

The late elk season will be held Dec. 8-14, by special permit and in designated elk management units only.

GOOSE
The regular goose season runs through Oct. 4 statewide with a slightly long limit of two. There will be a special late Canada goose season Jan. 9-Feb. 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific boundaries.

GRIBBLE
Ruffed grouse season runs through Nov. 14 statewide. A special late season will be held Dec. 1-Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

RABBIT/HARE
Rabbit/hare season runs through March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL
Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

TROUT
Trout season ended Sept. 30 on designated trout streams and lakes.

TURKEY
The fall wild turkey season runs Oct. 5-Nov. 8 in designated areas of the state by special permit only.

WOODCOCK
Woodcock season runs through Nov. 2 statewide.

QUAIL
Quail season runs Oct. 28-Nov. 11 in 22 counties throughout southern Michigan. Consult the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific openings.

GUN RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours are 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. On Mondays and Tuesdays, shotgun and archery shooting is available noon-sunset while the rifle and pistol range is open 3 p.m. to sunset. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace

of Auburn Hills off M-24. Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Oak Rd. Call (248) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooting facilities. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (248) 693-6767 for more information.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

HAY RIDES
Maybury Farm will offer horse-drawn hay rides, 1-4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through October.

AUTUMN COLOR HIKE
Enjoy the brilliant colors of fall during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Maybury.

FARM STORIES
Spooky stories will be featured in this program, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, and again at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Maybury.

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 respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

1998 PERMITS

The 1998 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 1-800-477-PARKS for more information.

PICK YOUR PUMPKIN
Hay rides to and from the pumpkin patch will be offered noon-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3-4, at Kensington.

FALL FLOWERS
A naturalist-led hike to view some fall wildflowers begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Kensington.

TREE ID
Learn how to use a plant key to identify trees during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Kensington.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

HARVEST MOON HAYRIDE
Enjoy a crackling campfire and a hayride under the light of the harvest moon during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Independence Oaks.

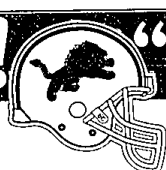
FREE WOOD CHIPS
Free wood chips from the Oakland County Parks Christmas tree recycling program will be available on Saturday, Oct. 31, at Orion Oaks at the Clarkson Road entrance. Individuals are asked to provide their own shovels and to load the chips by hand. No motorized equipment is allowed and no commercial haulers.



If you're 12 years old or younger you can ask a Detroit Lions football player a question! Send in a postcard with the question you've always wanted to ask a professional football player. Maybe you've wondered what he eats before a game or if he has a lucky charm. If your question is chosen and answered on the air by a Detroit Lion, you'll receive a terrific bag filled with Detroit Lions merchandise. Tune in every Monday night from 7-8 p.m. on WXYT AM-1270 and listen as we ask the questions—you could be one of them! In the next edition of your hometown newspaper!

Hey Kids! "Ask a Lion"

presented by
The Observer & Eccentric
DETROIT
LIONS



ALL YOU DO TO ENTER IS:
Put your question on a postcard along with your name, age, address, and phone number and mail it to:

Ask a Lion

c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

You are limited to one question for each postcard; please do not send duplicates. We'll collect postcards throughout the entire football season.

Employees of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, The Detroit Lions, and WXYT Radio are not eligible, nor are members of their families.