

# Santa's help sought on hunter, outdoor issues

## OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

My two daughters were busy pecking away on our home computer recently, typing up their Christmas wish lists. I admit it's been years since I've made such a list, but I decided it was time to write to the Big Guy with the white beard and red pants and send in my own Christmas list. I know there must be a Santa because so many songs tell me he's real: "grandma got run over by a reindeer," "I saw my kissing Santa Claus," "Santa Claus is coming to town."

I sure hope he can help me with some of these gifts. Here goes:

Dear Santa, I haven't written in years, but

I hope you still remember me. The last time I wrote you brought me a neat little Remington semi-automatic .22 and a good pair of hunting boots. I got many years of use out of both. Thanks again.

If you would be so kind please give me the following gifts for Christmas this year.

Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus and have a happy New Year.

All I want for Christmas is...

1. A healthy, TB-free deer herd. The tuberculosis problem in the white-tailed deer herd in northeastern Michigan is a terrible calamity and threatens not only the state's wildlife populations but the cattle industry as well. The DNR and the Department of Agriculture are hoping to quell the problem by increasing the antlerless harvest in the area, but I think we need your help to really turn things around.

2. An injury-free deer hunting season. Please knock some sense into the careless and reckless hunters that make bonehead decisions. There is no room in the woods for someone who would mistake a human for a deer. That's not an accident, it's a crime. Unfortunately, there is no law in the books to keep people like this out of the woods, even after they've made such a mistake, so please knock some sense into them.

3. A combined Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality, or at least a solid working relationship between the two. When Governor John Engler split the DNR and formed the DEQ our natural resources took a big hit. The DNR was left understaffed and the DEQ seems more interested in keeping bureaucrats' heads above water than managing and preserving our valuable natural resources.

4. An end to the bickering between hunter groups. It does no good when one group whines and complains that another group has a longer season, or is shown a preference in permit allocations. To sit down together and work out these differences is much more productive than backstabbing and bickering. If we work together we can accomplish good things (remember the bear hunting ballot proposal in 1997). Remember, united we stand, divided we fall. Please Santa, unite these groups and help them to work together.

5. Clean water. The Great Lakes and the thousands of inland lakes in Michigan remain polluted with mercury, dioxins and other chemicals despite years of cleanup and pages of regulations to attain and maintain clean water. Unfortunately, most of the damage has already been done. We're working hard to continue the cleansing effort,

but a little intervention here would be greatly appreciated.

6. A healthy perch population in Lake Michigan. The perch population in Lake Michigan has been on a slide for several years and there is no simple solution to the problem. If you could intervene and bring the population back up to where it was just a few short years ago it sure would be great for the anglers of the state.

7. A few million alewives. The decline of the once-abundant alewives has raised concerns about the possible crash of the salmon fishery in Lake Michigan and Huron. The decline is so great fisheries managers in states surrounding these lakes have agreed to reduce future chinook salmon stocks. Those stocks will be reduced by 27 percent this year in Lake Michigan and by 20 percent in Lake Huron in the year 2000. If you could dump say a few million alewives

in the lakes I know it would help the salmon.

I'm sure I've forgotten a few other needs, but I'll keep those for next year. If you could help me on any or all of these issues it really would be a Merry Christmas.

Thanks in advance for your help.

P.S. I'll be sure to leave some (low fat) cookies and egg nog for you by the fireplace, and I won't forget a few carrots and apples for the reindeer.

Your friend, Bill.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report their 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@homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

### SHOWS

**CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV**  
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV Show will be held Jan. 27-31 at the Silverdome.

**BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING**  
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Silverdome.

### CLASSES

**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.

### ACTIVITIES

**GANATCHIO TRAIL**  
Come and explore the Ganatchio Trail, which runs from Windsor to Tecumseh parallel to the Lake St. Clair shore, during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. The event is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club. Participants should meet at the tourist information center on Route 3, south of the bridge in Windsor. Call (313) 581-7679.

### SEASON/DATES

**BASS**  
Largemouth and smallmouth bass season closes Dec. 31.

**DEER**  
The second archery season runs through Jan. 3. A special firearms antlerless-only deer season runs through Jan. 3 on private land only in much of the Lower Peninsula. Check the DNR's Hunting and Trapping Guide for exact locations of the late hunt.

**GOOSE**  
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.

**GOOSE**  
A special late season runs

through Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

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

**SQUIRREL**  
Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

### 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.

**CLINTON VALLEY BASS**  
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910.

**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. Call Dominic Liparato at (248) 476-5027.

**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) 478-1494 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. 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.

**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 information.

### MEETINGS

### FISHING REPORT

FISHING REPORT Dec. 16, 1998:

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Walleye Impressive in Saginaw River

Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Road. Call (248) 693-6767 for information.

### 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, (800) 477-3756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

**THE FUNNY FARM**  
This one-hour program for ages 3 and older includes farm stories, activities, live critters and

much more and begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the Kensington Farm Center.

**BIRD COUNT**  
Help census the park's bird population during this program, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Kensington.

**CHICKADEE IN THE HAND**  
Learn all about chickadees during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Stony Creek.

**TEA TRACKIN'**  
Learn about animals and their tracks, then track up a t-shirt during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at Kensington.

**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 permit is \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS.

### COUNTY PARKS

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

**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Enjoy some popcorn and the photography of some of Michigan's best film makers during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Independence Oaks.

Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and The Detroit Lions

## Hey Kids!—Join the DETROIT LIONS CLUB!

Here's your chance to become a member of the Detroit Lions Club! All you do is send us your question and if it's asked on WXYT radio, you'll receive all sorts of neat Lion stuff:

• T-shirt • Lions Hat • Lions Duffle Bag  
and all sorts of other great Lions stuff

Tune in WXYT 1270 AM every Monday at 8 p.m. to hear whether your question was chosen.

You must be 12 years old (or younger) to be a Lions Club member.

Just fill in the entry blank below and mail it to:

**Detroit Lions Club**

c/o Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Official Big Boy-Detroit Lions Kids Club

Entry Blank

My question is: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite Lion is: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_