

# Pro-hunting forces returned fire in 1998

## OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

BY PARKER

The one we faced in 1996 that threatened to limit bear hunting — voters in six other states were faced with ballot proposals centered around hunting, fishing and trapping issues.

The good news is that pro-hunting forces reversed the trend of losses by winning five out of the six issues that went to public vote in 1998.

In Ohio, voters defeated a proposal that would have banned dove hunting in the Buckeye state by a landslide margin of 60 percent to 40 percent.

The Michigan Bear Hunters Association, which took a leading role in this state in the fight to preserve bear hunting at the ballot box in 1996, was a major contributor to the pro-hunting campaign in Ohio. MBHA made a \$10,000 donation to the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, which spearheaded the pro-hunting campaign.

"The animal rights movement affects all of us," said Bloomfield Hills resident Bill Walker, past president and a current director of MBHA. "The loss of hunting privileges in Ohio is a loss to us here in Michigan, too. A loss in Ohio makes us more vulnerable to losing in Michigan."

Voters in Minnesota approved Amendment 2 (77-23 percent),

which established hunting and fishing as "a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good."

Alaska voters rejected a proposal (63-37 percent) that would have banned the use of snares for trapping wolves.

Voters in Utah and Wyoming passed measures that will make it tougher for animal rightists to gain passage of future anti-hunting proposals.

In Utah, voters passed a measure (56-44 percent) that established a two-thirds super majority as necessary to pass any future initiative issue to affect wildlife, including proposed hunting, fishing and trapping bans.

Wyoming voters passed a similar measure (62-38 percent) that requires a 15 percent signature tally in two-thirds of the state's counties to qualify any initiative issue for a ballot.

The only loss sportsmen incurred was a measure that outlaws trapping in California (passed 67-43 percent).

The reversal in the trend of losses is encouraging. Sportsmen and sportswomen have taken bite at the ballot box in the past, but we're finally learning to win. We must use these victories as a spring board to meet future anti-hunting attacks head on.

### Successful hunters

■ Every hunter wishes for the opening-day success experienced this fall by David LeFevre. On opening day of the bow season the Livonia hunter tagged an enormous 10-point buck. He returned to the woods for opening day of Michigan's firearms season and bagged another huge 10-point buck.

■ November 17 turned out to be a pretty good day of hunting for Rochester Hills resident Gary Rogers and his son Eric, of Richmond, Virginia, as each hunter shot a cow elk while hunting in New Mexico.

They returned to Michigan in time to get in a couple of days of whitetail hunting (before Eric had to return to Virginia) and the good fortune continued. On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 21, Eric shot a huge 8-point buck. Later that afternoon, both Gary and Eric were able to fill their doe tags.

"It was a very successful season with five animals harvested in five days," Gary said.

■ A few weeks ago it was reported here that Tom Lewis, owner of The Town Locksmith in Plymouth, shot a big 12-point buck in Hillsdale County. Update: The buck was Lewis' first buck with a bow and is the third largest non-typical buck taken in Hillsdale County. The green score is a whopping 161½ inches.

### Ice fishing hot spots

Looking for an ice fishing hot spot? Local guide Bob "Hangman" Mitchell has just produced a brochure - Ice Fishing Hot Spots - you might want to pick up.

Ice Fishing Hot Spots covers strategy and techniques for fishing Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and numerous inland lakes. A veteran guide on the local waters of southeastern Michigan, Mitchell offers tips and tactics that work for consistently landing everything from walleye and pike to pan fish.

For a copy of the guide send \$2 (including postage) to: Bob Mitchell, 20016 Beech Daly Road, Redford, MI 48240-1035.



**Top three:** Tom Lewis arrowed this Hillsdale County buck on the morning of November 7. The 12-point buck is the third biggest non-typical taken in Hillsdale County and has a green score of 161½ inches.

## 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

**TU FLY TYING**  
The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited will offer a 10-week fly tying class for beginners through advanced tiers beginning January 18 at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Cost is

\$50. Call (248) 203-3800 to register and 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.

### 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.

#### GROUSE

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 at the Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparuto at (248) 476-6027 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. Call (810) 478-1494.

#### FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. The Jan. 6 meeting will feature discussions on spearing pike through the ice and portable ice fishing shanties. Refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudej at

(734) 591-0843.

#### HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for 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 information.

### MEETINGS

#### NRC

The monthly meeting of the state Natural Resource Commission will be Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13-14, at the Lansing Center (Wednesday) and the Steven T. Mason Building (Thursday) in Lansing. 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.

### 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.

#### 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.

### 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 through Dec. 31 are 10 a.m. to sunset Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. On Mondays and Tuesdays only the sporting clay course is open, noon to sunset. Bald Mountain is at 1330 Greenshield Road, 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 Gale Road. Call (248) 666-1020 for information.

### ORTONVILLE RECREATION

Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are 12-5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The 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. Advance registration and a motor vehicle permit are required. Call the respective parks toll-free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

#### 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) 477-PARKS.

### COUNTY PARKS

#### COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

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

#### MOVIE MATINEE

Enjoy popcorn and the photography of some of Michigan's best filmmakers at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Independence Oaks.

### STATE PARKS

#### STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and information on programs at Maybury, call (610) 349-8390. Bald Mountain, call (610) 693-6707. Froid Lake and Highland, call (810) 685-2433 and Island Lake call (810) 229-7007.

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