Feathered friends need to wash, too



Our bird has been a constant source of entertainment since water. Sometimes they squat down in the water and open stant source of entertainment since water in the property of entertainment since water and spen and interactions of birds using the bath. It also seems very reminiscent of people bathing.

First of all, many times there is a line for the bath. It also may be waiting on the edge of the bird bath, on the ground near the base, or on a branch nearby. Only one tub means that some must wait. This reminds me of waiting in line for a shower at the campround.

In the bird world, bigger birds get to bathe first.

If a small house finch is bathing and a robin arrives, the finch makes a hasty departure. Fortunately, a bird bath does not take too long, so the finch can return in a short time to finish.

Watching a bird bathe can be very entertaining. Some of them really get the water them to finish.

Watching a bird bathe can be very entertaining. Some of them really get the water splashing with wings, tails, or both. Others seem more sedate when bathing.

The also enjoyed watching in light water before stretching out of the water, rolling the water than the water, then more on to do one wing and then the other wing.

Washing a wing generally involves dipping the wrist into the water, rolling the water back onto the wing and then the water, rolling the water than water and open at the water. Sometime wing left facility to wake a the regulation water and open at the rough life time to dry off.

Drying often atarts with a gold palea.

Drying often atarts with a gold palea.

Drying often atarts with a gold palea and the sun when the state of the sun with a state of the palea way, birds will stroke their field and runny in the water, then more on the dome of the more of the more of the water of the

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RACE FACTS

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WEST BLOOMFIELD HALF-MARATHON

Race director hopes for record turnout

BY CHRIS MAYER STAFF WRITER cmsyer@os.home

One of the year's most anticipated events – the prestigious West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run – is just a week

Runers from across the near will converge on West Bloomfield High School April 30 for the 24th annual event. The half-marathon, a challenging 13.1-mile race conducted on paved roads and bike paths amidst senie, rolling terrain, attracted some 734 participants last year. More than 1,200 runners and walkers partook in the overall event last year and organizers are hoping for another substantial turnout in 2000.

The West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K RunWalk and Kids Fun Run is coordinated by West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation.

"I'm hoping for a record turnout this season," race director Jerry Krawchuk said Wednesday. We have a total of about 600 registrants to this point, and we're hoping for over 1,000 runners in the three races. Those numbers might not match an event like the Optroit Free Press/Flagstar Bank International Marathon in Detroit, but we're very happy with that considering the size of our department."

Krawchuk, in his third year as race director, says the significant level of community involvement is a tribute to the event's popularity. Major spon away. Runners from across the

"I've read quotes from people who have run in the past, and I think runners appreci-ate the friendliness of the volunteers cut on the course. I think it's really a combination of everything that makes this event so special.'

Jerry Krawchuk - WB race director

sors for this year's races include Singh Development Inc., PizzPapalis, Hodges Subaru, Faddock Pools of Eastern Michigan, Inc., Robertson Brother's Pool Service, and Homedica U.S.A., Inc.

"I think what makes this reac unique is that it is truly a community event," Krawchuk said. "We receive tremendous support from our sponsors and from our local businesses. And we usually have close to 200 volunteers from West Bloomfield and the surrounding areas, and those people do a greatjob.

"Yo read quotes from people who have run in the past, and I think runners appreciate the friendliness of the volunteers out on the course. I think it's really a combination of everything that makes this event so special."

The 5K Run/Walk kicks off the feativities with a 10:30

a.m. start. The Kids Fun Run begins at 11:30 a.m. on the West Bloomfield High School track, followed by the half-marathon at 12:45 p.m. Rossville resident Keith Stopen, formerly of Farming-ton Hills, clocked the second-best time (1:08,19) in the histo-ry of the half-marathon last year. That enabled Stopen to win his fourth overail ittle since 1995, but there will be a new champion crowmed in 2000.

Stopen has elected not to run

new champion crowned in 2000.

Stopen has elected not to run in this year's West Elcomfield Half-Marathon, because he is scheduled to compete at the U.S. Men's Olympic Marathon Trials in Pittaburgh on May 7.

The breaks my heart not to be there (at the half-marathon), but I'm hoping to back next year, "Stopen said. "I do think the race in West Bloomfield is very special or I wouldn't go back. ... The people there really do a tremendous job putting it together, and it's a nice time of year to go out and run 13 miles.

That event gets a big turnout because it's special. It's a good activity for people there are, it's an activity."
Other defending champions include Birmingham Marian grad Colleen Conway in the women's division of the half-marathon (1:26.48). Paul Rice in the men'soft (16:39) and Katie Kramer in the women's SK (20:56). Kramer, only 14 years of age, became the youngest runner to ever win a race at the event.

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