

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

## CLASS/CLINIC

## FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-4440 to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

## MORE 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. To register call (248) 360-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

## DUCK &amp; GOOSE CALLING

The West Bloomfield Schools Community Education Department is offering a basic Duck & Goose Calling class on Mondays, beginning May 1 and lasting through May 22. The one-hour classes will be taught at Orchard Lake Middle School from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Contact the West Bloomfield Schools Community Education Department at (248) 639-2290 for registration 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.

## ACTIVITIES

## DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS

Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6177 Chicago Road, in Warren. The public is welcome. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wilczek at (810) 767-7365 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

## ARCHERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

Open shoot hours are from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call (313) 825-2110.

## LIVONIA RANGE

The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and 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. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

## BASS TOURNAMENT

The 2000 Top Bass Tournament will be held at various sites throughout the summer months. The schedule is as follows: Saginaw Bay, May 27; Lake St. Helen, June 3; Wixom Lake, June 24; Sanford Lake, July 8; Wixom Lake, July 22; Lobdell Lake, Aug. 5; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 19; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 28-29. Guaranteed payouts will be awarded with amounts determined by the number of entries. For more information, call (734) 729-1782 or (734) 422-5813.

## 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 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 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. 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 Civic Park Senior Center, 16218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information.

## FISHING BUDDIES

Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0556 for information.

## HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Rd., 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) 676-2853 for information.

## 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.

## SHOOTING RANGE

## PONTIAC LAKE

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

## ORTONVILLE RECREATION

Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours are noon-6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. 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, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

## 2000 PERMITS

The 2000 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS.

## NATURE PROGRAMS

Two nature programs will be conducted at the Nature Center of Stony Creek Metropark (near Rochester): "May Migrants" is scheduled for 8 a.m. Friday, May 12, where an interpreter will guide you in a search for warblers, vireos and flycatchers during an early morning walk. "An Adult Night Walk" follows on Saturday, May 13 at 8 p.m. Take a two-hour, two-mile leisurely walk (for adults only) through woods and meadows to learn about the sights and sounds of a spring evening. Pre-registration is required for both events. For more information or to register, contact the Nature Center at (810) 781-4621.

## MOTHER'S DAY

Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester will be the site of the "Annual Mother's Day Walk-A-Mom" on Sunday, May 14 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Take mom for a walk on any of the trails. "Walk-A-Mom" certificates will be awarded, and moms receive a garden flower to plant. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 1-800-477-7766.

## Habitat improvement effort ends



BILL PARKER

end of the creek.

Trout rely heavily on gravel, as a source for insect hatches – a main source of food – as well as for spawning activity. At the urging of TU, the project received a green light and a state grant, and there is now a new gravel bed in Paint Creek.

"When we installed the bottom draw in Paint Creek (1994) it gave us cold water in the upper stretches of Paint Creek," said DNR fisheries biologist Jeff Braunscheide, of the DNR's Livonia district office. "Now we have to improve the habitat so fish can spawn, and hopefully this project will provide for that."

The price tag for the project was in the area of \$24,000. The DNR awarded a grant totaling \$10,000 to the project and TU came up with the rest.

The project began last week and was scheduled to be completed before Saturday's trout opener. A large sand bar was removed from the creek and replaced with gravel. Walls were also added to the bank of the creek, narrowing the stream, increasing its depth and increasing the velocity of the water flow,

all of which should encourage natural reproduction.

"Paint Creek has a very good survival rate and some limited reproduction," Braunscheide said. "We stock it to supplement that reproduction."

The DNR annually stocks 5,600 brown trout in Paint Creek. The stocking program supports a stellar fishery that is enjoyed by hundreds of anglers each spring and summer.

"Fish should start using the area immediately," Braunscheide said. "They'll spawn in the fall and it should provide good habitat for the young fish, too."

## Elk herd grows

Michigan's winter elk survey turned up 1,100 elk, up from last winter's count of about 950 animals. Combined with this spring's calves, the fall herd will number in the area of 1,500.

The state is shooting for a summer herd of some 950-1000 animals, so speculation is running high that the state Natural Resource Commission will expand the area open to hunting and increase the harvest goals for the 2000 elk season.

The DNR made a recommendation to the NRC to expand the area open to hunting to include the counties of Alpena, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Osego and Presque Isle. Elk have expanded their range and biologists feel there is a need to open the entire seven-county area to hunting to better manage the herd.

Hunters combined to harvest 189 elk last year between a September hunt and a December hunt.

## Bear hunt applications

State bear hunters are reminded that the application deadline to apply for a fall 2000 hunting permit is May 15.

"Bear hunters have requested an earlier registration period for years," said Tim Reis, Michigan Department of Natural Resources bear specialist. "This will give them more time to plan for their vacations."

This year is the first of a preference point system. This year's drawing will still be a random lottery since no preference points have been awarded.

Unsuccessful applicants for the 2000 hunt will receive one preference point toward next year and hunters with the highest preference points will be given the first shot at receiving a tag. Points will accumulate until the hunter receives enough to qualify for the hunt.

Last year, a record 8,097 harvest tags were issued and hunters killed 1,707 bears statewide. The largest harvests were in the Baraga (388 bears), Newberry (354), Bergland (285), Red Oak (196) and Gwinn (189) management units.

This year the DNR is issuing upwards of 8,400 kill tags compared to 8,094 that were issued for the 1999 hunt.

The DNR's harvest goal is 1,900. Last year, state hunters tagged 1,707 black bear.

Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Questions and comments are encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

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