



Big-game prize: Tony Conrad of Livonia poses with the huge set of antlers from the elk he shot during a special hunting trip to Wyoming last year.

# Elk hunter fulfills his dream during excursion to Wyoming

BY BRAD EMONS  
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Livonian Tony Conrad considers himself an avid outdoorsman. To celebrate the new millennium, the 61-year-old pressman from the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers decided he needed a different kind of hunting challenge.

Conrad was lucky enough to obtain an elk permit allotted by the governor of Wyoming for a late season hunt. Over 400 had applied for the special permit, but only eight were pulled.

So last November Conrad put 1,597 miles on his '99 Ford pickup and headed to the northwest corner of Wyoming — the town of Cody just inside the Yellowstone area — in quest of a much-desired bull.

"I've been on 20 to 25 trips out west, but I was the most excited about this one because of the kind of bull I was going to get," Conrad said. "I knew I was going to get a good one. For a late season hunt you need a premium tag to draw because it's in a limited quota area. It's an area filled with big sheep, elk and deer."

Conrad will also tell you he went to great personal expense to fulfill his hunting dream.

After his 2½-day drive, Conrad hooked up with two other hunters from Colorado and his trusty guide.

"The outfitter provides the food, horses, meals and tents," Conrad said. "I took just about everything I owned — two of everything as far as personal gear. I had insulated boots, felt packs. Besides my rifle, I bought a good sleeping bag at Cabella's, one that is safe all the way down to 20 below."

For three straight days in the Yellowstone wilderness area, Conrad experienced morning low temperatures near zero, with highs reaching 25.

He also had to prepare for the physical rigors of his hunt.

"I did a lot of walking up stairs," Conrad said. "You're up 7,600- to 8,500-foot altitude and that can be a problem. Starting out it was tough because heavy snow we were in and the extreme cold."

"But I got my elk the second day."

Even though it's only four months later, Conrad recalls the hunt as if it were yesterday.

"Elk migrate out of Yellowstone to the lower elevations," he said. "The guide pushed us to their escape route. They move in bachelor bands and I spotted a bull early that morning. You can spot them from long distance through the pines and branches because a lot of it was burned out in 1988."

"Using my spotting scope I aimed at the best one of the five we had seen. I missed my first shot, but the second one I hit him in the hip. I made the shot from about 400 yards and running. Once I slowed the bull down we headed to the basin hell-holes where he got caught up in the rocks, and that's where I finished him off."

Conrad's mounted prize was an 8-year-old bull that weighed approximately 800 pounds.

"I missed a bigger one first day — a seven-by-seven — probably would have made the record book," Conrad recalled. "If I had one I missed I still think about."

Once the bull, sporting six-by-six horns (scored a 350 by Boone & Crockett) was quartered and

scaped, Conrad packed the meat and headed back to camp. Riding the rugged terrain by horse and mule proved to be a challenge in itself.

"Those animals are made to carry different weights and sizes," Conrad said. "It took about a half-day. It was tough walking down those crooks, most of them were frozen. Some of those areas were so steep that we had to walk the horses down."

The experience, however, was like none other for Conrad.

"I went on a goat hunt in British Columbia and it was equally exciting," he said, "but there's nothing more majestic in the U.S. than a bull elk. We really had the best weather conditions and I must have seen 500 elk."

# Novi Expo Center will be site for Outdoorama 2001



BILL PARKER

His eyes sparkled and he wore a grin as wide as Texas. The excitement exuding from the young 6-year-old was genuine and robust as he struggled to land the fish.

The determined youngster finally won the battle as he hoisted, for our inspection, a dandy 14-inch trout.

After a congratulatory high-five from his dad and a quick picture by his mom, the fish was wrapped and iced. The young fisherman then grasped his catch tightly in one hand and pranced off with his parents with the pride of a gladiator.

Catching your first fish, even if it is in a stocked pond at an outdoor show, can have that effect on a youngster. It often sparks an undeniable desire that blossoms into a life-long passion — sometimes even bordering on obsession.

The trout pond at Outdoorama 2001, slated for Feb. 23-March 4 at the Novi Expo Center, will no doubt be a popular stop for the kids. I'm sure the seeds will be planted for at least a couple new anglers to be born. And there are several other fun, educational attractions that make this show one of the best around.

"Wet and Wild World of Fish" features a display of Michigan's record gamefish as well as three interactive exhibits: Let's Bug A Fish; Think About Fish; and Fish 'R' Us.

All three exhibits feature hands-on activities designed to enlighten and educate participants about the respective topics.

Wildlife Encounter, MUCC's fantastic educational display of live animals also returns to Outdoorama, providing the public with an opportunity to see live animals up close and personal. There will also be live animal exhibits from the Michigan Hawking Club, Michigan Gamebird Breeders Association, and Safari Club International.

There will also be some good, wholesome family entertainment at the show in the form of Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Band — a musical comedy act — and the exciting Timber Show, which features lumberjacks displaying their timber skills such as logrolling, axe throwing, chain saw carving and more. Both of these shows will be running at various times throughout the 10 days of the show.

This year's theme nights will be as follows: Monday, Feb. 26, Sporting Dog Night; Tuesday, Feb. 27, Wild Game & Outdoor Cooking Night; Wednesday, Feb. 28, Bow Hunting Night; Thursday, March 1, Big Buck Knight; Friday, March 2, Big Fish Night.

Outdoorama is produced by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the largest statewide conservation group in the nation with nearly 100,000 members, and sponsored by Bass Pro Shops. Proceeds from the show will be used for educational, legislative and advocacy efforts to promote Michigan conservation.

**Volunteers wanted**

Camping season is just around the corner. While it's probably a bit early to start preparing your equipment for the season, it's not too early to consider an opportunity offered each year by the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division of being a campground host.

Free camping sound good? If it does, you may want to check out the program. Volunteers are allowed to camp for free camp in a state park or state forest campground in return for helping out in the campground. Duties include such things as welcoming park visitors, arranging campground activities and answering questions from other campers about the campground.

The DNR is looking for individuals or groups to work as campground volunteers. persons must be at least 18 years old, furnish their own equipment and personal items, and attend a training session May 1-2 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon.

Contact Ada Takacs at 517-348-6371 ext. 2049 for more information on the campground host program.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Bill Parker, c/o Outdoorama, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009)

**Oakland University Presents ...**

## 2001 National Independent Conference Swimming & Diving Championship

Who: Cincinnati, Florida Atlantic, Houston, Illinois State, Louisiana-Meuler, Northern Arizona, Oakland, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, Western Kentucky

What: NIC — One of the Nation's Premier Collegiate Swimming & Diving Conferences

Where: Oakland University's Aquatics Center — Rochester, Michigan

When: Thursday-Sunday, February 22-24, 2001

Time: 10 a.m. Prelims and 7 p.m. Finals Daily

Cost: \$5 Each Session / \$15 All-Session Pass

Call 248-370-4000 for Ticket Info  
[www.oak.edu/~nic2001](http://www.oak.edu/~nic2001)

### OAKLAND COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT TO ENLARGE THE WAGNER DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT

John P. McCulloch, Drain Commissioner for the County of Oakland, Michigan, acting for and on behalf of the Wagner Drain Drainage District, has received a request to add 2.96 acres to the existing Wagner Drain Drainage District.

The Wagner Drain Drainage District at present contains approximately 677 acres. There is capacity in the existing Wagner Drain to serve the lands to be added without detriment to or diminution of the drainage service provided.

Proceedings have been undertaken according to the provisions of Section 453, Chapter 18 of Act No. 49 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, to enlarge the Wagner Drain Drainage District.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Wagner Drain Drainage District to enter into an agreement providing for the addition of the following described lands to the Wagner Drain Drainage District:

Part of the North ½ of Section 22, T.1N., R.10E., City of Southfield, Oakland County, Michigan, being more particularly described as commencing at the North ¼ corner of said Section 22; thence S. 01°47'07" W., 1126.16 feet along the North and South ½ line of said Section 22; thence S. 60°01'39" E., 609.56 feet; thence N. 87°25'01" E., 51.02 feet; thence S. 01°47'07" W., 276.14 feet; to the point of beginning; thence N. 86°25'38" E., 65.03 feet; thence S. 03°34'22" E., 176.00 feet; thence S. 27°47'04" W., 34.64 feet; thence S. 03°42'22" E., 105.50 feet; thence S. 26°13'31" E., 77.06 feet; thence S. 03°38'42" E., 690.33 feet; thence S. 86°25'25" W., 131.63 feet; thence N. 03°34'35" W., 20.00 feet; thence S. 86°25'25" W., 44.74 feet; thence N. 01°47'07" E., 1057.15 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 128,723.50 square feet or 2.96 acres.

Part of Sidwell No. 24-22-201-017

This notice is given by order of John P. McCulloch, Drain Commissioner for the County of Oakland, Michigan.

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### ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR THE WIDENING OF FARMINGTON ROAD EIGHT MILE TO GRAND RIVER AVENUE

Your Board of Road Commissioners of Oakland County and the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills invite your comments on the proposed project to widen and reconstruct Farmington Road from Eight Mile Road to Grand River Avenue. The construction plan is to widen Farmington Road from four lanes to five lanes. We invite all interested citizens to attend and express their views or request information on this matter prior to the start of construction of this project. For this purpose, we have scheduled an Informational Meeting.

DATE: February 26, 2001 TIME: 4 PM to 7 PM

PLACE: Farmington City Hall, Council Chamber, 23600 Liberty Street.

At this meeting, staff of the Road Commission for Oakland County will be available to discuss the project and answer questions individually. Project drawings will be available for your review. The meeting is informal; please stop by anytime between 4 PM and 7 PM. Tentative project schedule is to construct between Eight and Nine Mile Road beginning July 2001. The second phase (Nine to Grand River Avenue) will be constructed in 2002.

Your attendance at the meeting will give the best opportunity for presenting your views and gaining desired information. However, we welcome your written statements to us. Send your comments to: Road Commission for Oakland County, Permits & Environmental Services Department, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48326. If you require accommodation in accordance with provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, please provide our Engineering Department (248) 645-2000, ext. 2268, with five days advance notice.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

**BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

Larry P. Crake, Chairman  
Rudy Lewis, Commissioner  
By: Brent O. Bair, Managing Director

Publish: February 18, 2001

## Pistons vs. the BEASTS OF THE EAST

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PHILADELPHIA 76ers FRI., FEB. 23 • 8:00PM  
Celebrate George Blaha's 25 years of Pistons broadcasting

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