

Students study Rouge watershed

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Students from Southeast Michigan schools will spend time this week conducting chemical tests, examining aquatic life and surveying the Rouge River.

Participating in the Farmington area May 14-15 are Farmington and Harrison High Schools, East, Flower, Dunckel and Warner Middle Schools, St. Fabian and Steppingstone Schools, as well as home-schooled students.

"Every year thousands of students in the Detroit area assess the health of their local streams and rivers through the Rouge Education Project, coordinated by Friends of the Rouge," said project coordinator Courtney Shosh.

Nearly 6,000 students from 90 schools will assess the health of the Rouge River. Students from Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Troy, West Bloomfield and Westland, all in the Observer-Eccentric coverage area, will participate.

The Rouge Education Project began in 1987, to promote awareness and stewardship of the Rouge River watershed through school-based water quality monitoring, investigation and problem solving.

In addition to water quality monitoring, students are encouraged to take action to improve the health of the river based on their findings, and to consider how their everyday actions affect their environment.

The data that students collect is made available to the public on the Friends of the Rouge web site (www.fouroftherouge.org) and provided to communities in the watershed. Some of the data is also provided to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Many local businesses support the Rouge Education Project through the Adopt-a-School Campaign.

Friends of the Rouge is a non-profit group of citizens established in 1986, dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education,

ROUGE WATERSHED FACTS

The Rouge watershed is approximately 466 square miles in area. A watershed is the area of land that drains into a river system or network of rivers.

All or part of 48 communities are located in the Rouge watershed, which includes parts of Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. These 48 communities have a combined population of nearly 2.5 million people.

The Rouge River has a total of 126 river miles and consists of four major branches (the Main, Upper, Middle & Lower) and the Main Stem.

The Rouge empties into the Detroit River, which is a major source of drinking water for many southeastern Michigan residents.

citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts.
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RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following activities call the Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

Sand Volleyball

Registration is now being taken for two, three and four person and co-ed sand volleyball teams.

Boaters Safety

Passing this class will allow youth ages 12-16 to operate a motor boat of six-horse power or more. In addition, all people born after Dec. 31, 1978 must pass this course to operate a personal watercraft.

No one under the age of 14 may legally operate a personal watercraft.

A child 12 and over may ride a personal watercraft with an adult if both have passed an approved boater safety class.

Session dates are 6-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, May 13 and 15. The cost is \$5 per person and you must register in advance.

Hills Fun Passbook

Before registering for any program, be sure to see what the Farmington Hills Special Services Fun in the Hills Passbook has to offer. Passbooks are \$15 and offer over \$200 worth of savings. The passbooks can be purchased at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In-Line Hockey League

King of the Hills In-Line Hockey League will begin its eight game/eight week season on June 16. Games will be played on weekday evenings at the Heritage park In-Line

Hockey Rink in Farmington Hills. Divisions range from 7-8 years of age to 17 and up. Individual player fee is \$55. Registration deadline is Friday, May 23.

Family Mini Camp

Bring the whole family for Family Mini Camp 5-9 p.m. Saturday, June 14. Create a craft, roast hot dogs over the fire, take a hike and eat s'mores around the fire. Cost is \$7 per person, adults and children. Pre-registration is required.

Friday Night Madness

Kids ages 6-12 can enjoy an evening of swimming, movies, food and organized games 7-11 p.m. Friday, May 16, June 20, July 25 and Aug. 22. You must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. the day before the event. The fee to participate is \$10 per person, per event.

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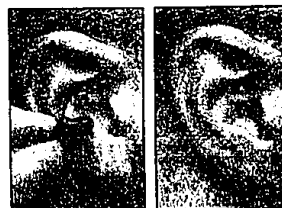
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