

outdoors

With apologies to Will Shakespeare:

*'What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.'*

By Lem Messee
staff writer

You would think Ronald Reagan in the White House or Roger Smith at General Motors would have the biggest staff of ghost writers.

Well, this outdoors writer can top 'em all. In the last decade, 19 different reporters and editors have ghost-written the Outdoors column under the nom de plume of Lem Messee.

Many folks don't catch on right away that the name is derived from a hurry-up way of saying "Let me see."

Old-timers on the staff argue about who concocted such a crazy name. The honor usually goes to the late Bob McClellan, author of one of Lem's finest opuses, "My first (and last) season as a trapper" in 1971.

Two or three years ago, Lem came up with a canoeing and duck hunting buddy named C.O. Jones, a character based on one of the original Lem ghosts who left newspapering for public relations.

If the name is made up, the facts in the story are true.

A week ago, one of the more flamboyant Lems came up with a Bulgarian war bride named Jusi, with the J pronounced like Y. Jusi Messee — get it?

ACTUALLY, Lem Messee has never been a male chauvinist pig. A young ghost who tried to refer to "the little woman" got blue-pencilled in a heckuva hurry.

By actual count over 11 years, 10 of Lem's 19 ghosts have been women. Most frequent contributors are Mike Scanlon, county beat reporter, and Tim Richard, editorial page editor who opens Lem's mail.

The presence of female ghosts is one reason Lem Messee has such catholic tastes. We wanted our outdoors writer to have broader views than the huntin'-fishin' stuff you get in the daily papers.

So Lem has written on bird counting, bees, butterflies, brown trout, red-winged blackbirds, camping, wildlife art contests, parks programs, parks fees and photography, as well as fishin' and huntin' — just about everything a southeastern Michigan man, woman or child could be interested in. He has even written on things they're sometimes not interested in, such as safety.

He/she is not keen, however, on promoting activities that burn gasoline just for the sake of moving around — snowmobiling, speedboating and trail bikes.

Other than that, the clear sky is the limit. Lem will be glad to relay any news you might have from an outdoor or environmental club meeting if you send it along.

At least one of the 19 ghosts is bound to be interested.

DUCK HUNTERS should circle two Sundays, Sept. 23 and 30, on their calendars for wildlife identification classes.

The Oakland Wetlands chapter of

Michigan Duck Hunters Association will start the two-hour classes at 7:30 p.m. on the small bore range of Multi-Lakes Conservation Association. Multi-Lakes is on Newton Road between Richardson and Commerce roads off Commerce Township way in Oakland County.

Ed Sienkiewicz (624-4782) and Earl Huett (666-1196) say the first class will cover "paddlers" and the second "divers and geese." There's a test at the end.

The class is free, and a booklet called "Ducks at a Distance" goes for \$1.75.

YOU CAN GET a bus ride to an Oakland County park for your club or non-profit group.

The parks commission has three 44-passenger buses for rent to church, school, senior citizen and social organizations, according to Dan Stencil, recreation supervisor. You can get schedule and fee information from him at 858-4915.

It's part of the national "Life — be in it" campaign aimed at getting Americans more actively involved in recreation and leisure activity.

THE AUDUBON Society is selling wild bird food through Oct. 1 for pickup on Saturday, Oct. 24. Proceeds aid its sanctuary land preservation programs, according to Carol Dick.

You can order sunflower seed, mixed seed, sunflower hearts, peanut pieces, thistle seed and suet cakes by contacting the Audubon office at 303 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, or calling 545-2929 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

MICHIGAN'S first wave action pool Kayak and Deck Canoe slalom competition will be Sunday, Sept. 13 at the Waterford Oaks County Park wave pool.

The pool's three-foot waves should offer river-acquainted boaters a new experience.

Co-sponsored by the county and the Farmington Hills parks and recreation department, it's billed as "low-key."

"Kayaking in the wave pool should be more challenging because of the three-foot waves," said Dave Justus of the Hills department. "It should be much different because there will be no current."

The event is open to all canoeists and

speculators. No need to be an expert. Three will be five events, and participants may enter any two. Events are single canoes, double canoes, single kayaks (open), women's novice single kayaks, and men's novice single kayaks.

Cost is \$5 for two events and \$2.50 for one event. Canoeing equipment prizes will be drawn from among all competitors.

Waterford Oaks is located on Scott Lake Road between Dixie Highway and Watkins Lake Road west of Pontiac.

TEAMS OF one adult and one child related by family will participate in "Fishing for Fun" day 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 19 at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston.

Anglers youngest, oldest, catching the most and catching the longest will receive awards. Bring your own tackle and bait and meet at the clubhouse on Crooked Lake.

Coffee and donuts will be served and pre-registration ends Sept. 11. Registration fee is \$5 a pair. Call Teresa Fortino at 858-0916 for more information.

The park is on Sashabaw Road, 2.5 miles north of I-75.

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EXHIBITION: September 8-11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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INFORMATION: (313) 338-9203

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