

# Elk is there, but hunting permits are needed

**T**HE ELK HERD in Michigan today was actually born in 1918 with the release of seven Rocky Mountain elk in Nunda Township in Cheboygan County. The release was an effort to restore the once native elk to the woodlands of Michigan. Today that herd, located primarily in the Pigeon River County State Forest, is estimated to be 1,200 strong.

The Eastern elk was native to Michigan and a common sight to Lower Peninsula settlers prior to 1875. But due to unregulated hunting and settling practices these magnificent animals disappeared from the state in the late 1800s.

After the planting efforts of 1918 the herd grew steadily. Records of the Department of Natural Resources indicate that the size of the herd increased to 200 by 1925, 300-400 by 1930, 900-1,000 by 1958 and 1,200-1,500 by the early '60s.

**DURING THE EARLY '60s** these elk were primarily located in a 200-mile range in the northern Lower Peninsula. Due to this dense population problems soon occurred. Crop, wildlife range, forests and fences were all damaged by the herd. The DNR's Wildlife Division initiated a research program in 1963 to find a way to ease the elk pressure and reduce the damage. This research program set the stage for the first elk hunts in modern history. They were held in 1964 and 1965.

A total of 600 permits were issued in the two hunts and 452 elk were taken. At the same time poaching took an enormous increase and the herd was drastically reduced.

Gas and oil exploration in the elk habitat area during the early '70s

also took its toll on the herd. By 1975, after the highest confirmed poaching loss of 45 elk in 1974, the herd hit a threatening low of 200.

**SINCE THEN**, however, public concern, legislative action, court cases and administrative and corporate compromises have enabled the herd to again reach an excess of 1,000.

"We believe we have a herd of about 1,200 animals," said DNR wildlife biologist Joe Vance. Over the past three years the DNR has held a special permit-only elk hunt in a special area surrounding and including the area of the Pigeon River Forest. They will hold the hunt again this year on Dec. 9-13.

In the past three hunts the DNR gave out 255 permits and 261 hunters returned home with an elk.

A total of 130 permits were recently issued by the DNR for the 1987 hunt. They were selected from 38,546 applications. Eighty-one hunters received a permit for an antlerless elk only, while another 49 received a permit for a choice permit which entitles them to shoot either a bull or cow elk.

**SEVERAL OBSERVER AND EC-CAPTAIN** area hunters were fortunate enough to receive elk permits including Bernard Crandell of Birmingham, Ted Rieple of Farmington Hills, Leon Hanson of Plymouth and Ron Gerrior and Larry Hand of Garden City.

For Crandell it will be his first elk hunt after some 30 years of hunting the elusive white tail deer in both Michigan and Texas. He'll be accompanied by his son Bill. "I feel pretty lucky," said Crandell.



**Bill Parker**  
outdoors

line, operating 24-hours a day, at 1-800-298-7800 or the DNR Gaylord District office at (517) 732-3541. Anyone convicted of illegally shooting or possessing an elk may be fined up to \$1,000, may be sentenced up to 180 days in jail and may be

forced to pay restitution of up to \$1,500 per elk.

A \$1,000 reward is also being offered for information on the shooting of twin 9-month-old bears in Montmorency County in September. Anyone with information should call the RAP line, the Gaylord District Office, or the Atlanta District Office at (517) 785-4251.

A "Deer Hunter Information Center" will be operated by the DNR at the Department of Transportation's John C. Mackie Welcome Center and

Rest Area on U.S. 27 at Clare on Nov. 12-14.

Wildlife enforcement officers and wildlife biologists will be manning the station, providing hunters with deer data and deer hunting literature and answering questions on hunting regulations, places to hunt even places to set up camp.

DNR director Dr. Gordon E. Gayer will be at the station from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14. The Deer Hunter Information Station will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14.

## outdoors calendar

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- Nov. 1-30 - Shining or the use of artificial light for locating wildlife is illegal throughout the state. Shining is illegal from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. from Dec. 1 to Oct. 31 only.
- Nov. 10 - Mink season opens (residents only) Zone 3.
- Nov. 11 - Pheasant season closes in Zones 2 & 3.
- Nov. 11 - Canada geese season closes in Zone 2.
- Nov. 11 - Duck season closes in Zones 1 & 2.
- Nov. 15 - Duck and geese seasons closes in Zone 3. (Special seasons are Nov. 27-29).
- Nov. 15 - Firearm deer season opens statewide.

### OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

- Autumn's Applifest, a nature

program in which participants will discuss the origins, varieties and uses of the apple, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks. Pre-registration is mandatory and there is a \$3 fee for the program. For more information, contact the park at 625-6473.

### METROPARKS

- Full Moon Walk, a naturalist led hike in search of creatures of the night, will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at Kensington.
- Saturday Morning Stuff, a monthly nature program for children ages six to 12, will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.
- Nature for Tots, a nature program for children ages four and five about how animals prepare for the winter, will be offered at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Kensington.
- Deer Through the seasons, a photographic display of deer at Kensington will be held at 2 p.m.

Sunday. The session will follow deer through the four seasons and show how they grow and find food and shelter.

The 1987 Huron River Canoe Map, illustrating over 100 miles of the Huron River, is available, free of charge, from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

The maps are available at Kensington Metropark (near Milford), Hudson Mills Metropark (near Dexter), Lower Huron Metropark (near Belleville), Lake Erie Metropark (near Rockwood) and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Administrative Offices in Brighton. To obtain a copy by mail send your name, address and \$2 cents in postage to: Canoe Map, Dept. W-41, The Metroparks, P.O. Box 290, Brighton, Mich. 48116-0291.

Most Metropark programs are free but all require advance registration. For more information or to register, call the Metroparks at 1-800-24-PARKS.

# Shamrock gridders gear for big defensive struggle

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

If good old-fashioned rock'em, sock'em football is your cup of tea, then the place to be is the Dearborn Fordson-Redford Catholic Central game Saturday at Fordson.

It's the third meeting between the two schools in the state Class A playoffs. CC holds a 2-0 lead.

This Region IV first-round matchup promises to be a hard-hitting, defensive struggle.

"CC is an exceptional team that could win the whole tournament," said Fordson coach Charlie Justice, who has guided the Trojans to the playoffs 8 of the past 9 years, including three state Class A finals. "They don't move the ball much on offense, but they're a very opportunistic team defensively. They wait for you to make mistakes and then they capitalize. They look like a very good team."

**BOTH TEAMS** have similar styles.

"It's hard to predict a game like this because both are running teams playing against good defenses," said CC coach Tom Mach, who beat Fordson in 1979 en route to the state title. "This is going to be similar to the first Fordson team we played in 1979. In 1985 they had (Mike) Iaquanello at quarterback and they liked to pass a lot more."

CC's vaunted defense, which shut out five of its nine opponents during the regular season, must stop Fordson's talented running duo of Fouad

"Walker," Zaban, a 5-foot-5, 148-pound senior, and Mo Berry, a 5-10, 172-pound senior.

"Their backs are resilient and they don't go down easy," said Mach. "They get those extra yards after you hit them. They're good backs."

CC's strong defensive line, anchored by 6-2, 230-pound Erik Knuth and 6-3, 220-pound Pete Dankert, will be tested by the Fordson offensive line.

"THAT LINE (Fordson's) has been together for two years and they're an experienced line," said Mach. Fordson, like CC, does not throw much, but junior quarterback Scott Szalkowski will throw on occasion for the Trojans.

"I think their quarterback might be better than people believe," Mach said. "We saw them during the passing segment in a four-way scrimmage and they can throw well. We're going to have to work on defense against the pass as well."

Justice is convinced the better running team, not passing team, will win this encounter.

If that is the case, CC will need good production out of its trio of backs, led by senior Chris Kovach, along with juniors Lee Krueger and Chris Johnston. They will be running behind a mammoth offensive line led by 6-6, 260-pound Toby Heaton, a major college prospect.

"THIS IS GOING to be a battle where both teams emphasize defensive power and the power game on offense," said the CC coach. "But we

might have to use a few tricks if the running game isn't going. There could be a few gimmicks, but it sounds like this confrontation will be nothing less than knock-down, drag-out affair."

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