

# Lathrup band director fights back

**T**OM MILLER, Southfield-Lathrup band director, had a frightening experience last year while hunting on Nov. 14, the day before opening day of the firearm deer season, in Presque Isle County.

While sitting quietly in his blind, Miller saw a man dressed in a black snowmobile suit with no license moving slowly through the woods with a 12-gauge shotgun "at the ready."

"I yelled to warn the hunter of my presence," Miller said. "He started off all things, he was pleasant hunting (which closes annually Nov. 11). He said they hunt that area every year and there were six men in the party."

Miller and his hunting partner, Joe Shaw, immediately left the area, but not before encountering three other men dressed in similar attire.

"It was obvious, while quietly bow hunting, we slipped into the middle of an illegal deer drive," Miller said. "We felt lucky to be out of there. The incident was reported to the DNR officer in Rosecommon and hopefully this year their annual illegal deer hunt will be interrupted by DNR officials."

ACCORDING TO LT. Bruce Gustafson of the DNR's Law Enforcement Division, hunters who find themselves in similar situations, or those confronting any poaching situation, have a couple of options.

"First of all, you must use good judgment," Gustafson said. "But for the most part, if an individual or a group of individuals is confronted while in the act of poaching, that confrontation will act as a great deterrent. If someone tells (the poacher), 'Hey, I won't stand for that and if you continue I will report it,' that's usually enough to stop them."

On the other hand, if you don't think it's a good idea to approach the poacher, report the incident to local authorities or to the DNR's 24-hour



Bill Parker outdoors

Report All Poaching hotline: 1-800-232-7800.

"It's better for us if we talk to the individual who witnessed the incident," explained Gustafson. "They should tell us exactly where the incident occurred and how many people were involved. If a vehicle was involved, we need to know the license number."

"THE BIGGEST THING is that citizens become involved with protecting their natural resources," Gustafson added. "Natural Resources in Michigan belong to everyone, not just the poacher. If we act together, we can make a difference."

This year, for the first time, the DNR is incorporating the use of a central radio system based in Lansing in its fight against game-law violators.

"Now (with the use of the new radio system) we can dispatch any (conservation) officer in the Lower Peninsula," Gustafson said. "It's a tremendous system. It's the first system in the state that can reach anywhere in the Lower Peninsula. We're just beginning to operate it, but down the road it will be a tremendous benefit to us."

WITH AN ESTIMATED herd of two million deer in Michigan, DNR officials predict another record harvest for the 1989 Michigan deer season.

Harvest records have been set in each of the last three years and the trend should continue this year when

upwards of 750,000 hunters take to the woods for the 15-day firearm season, beginning Nov. 15.

The DNR expects close to 200,000 bucks to be taken across the state when combined the totals from the archery, firearm and muzzleloading season. The total harvest (including antlerless only deer) should exceed 354,000.

"The archery season has been outstanding this year," explained Ed Langenau, Big Game Specialist with the DNR. "All the field offices have been up (in successful hunter reports), some as much as 25-percent. Some weekends (the number of hunters stopping at deer check stations) have been like the firearm season."

Langenau attributes some of that success to a banner acorn crop in northern Michigan.

Another reason for the success is a large number of 2½-year-old bucks among this year's herd. These 2½-year-olds begin scraping (a ritual of the annual mating season) much earlier than other bucks, sometimes up to six weeks before the doe goes into estrus. This increased activity results in an abundance of deer sign in the woods, stirring hunter interest considerably.

NOW, MORE THEN any other time of the year, motorists should be on the lookout for deer.

A look at last year's DNR statistics reveals there were 42,868 car/deer accidents reported in the state, up from 38,927 reports in 1987. Surprisingly, there were 180 car/

deer accidents in Wayne County last year and 704 in Oakland County.

Prime hunting hours — two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset — are also the prime hours for car/deer accidents. Deer are on the move at these times of day, usually to and from feeding areas. However, for the next few weeks deer will be at the peak of their mating cycle and both bucks and does will be constantly on the move.

Drivers should watch the ditches and both sides of the road. If a deer crosses in front of your car, slow down and keep alert. Deer travel in numbers; there will often be other deer trailing the first one.

HUNTERS HEADING NORTH this year for the firearm season can stop and take a break at two Deer Hunter Information Stations.

Conservation officers and wildlife biologists will be on hand to provide hunters with deer hunting literature and will answer questions.

The stations are located at the John C. Mackie Welcome Center on U.S. 27 at Clare and at the I-75 St. Ignace Welcome Center, just north of the Mackinac Bridge.

A SUCCESSFUL HUNTER patch will be awarded to deer hunters who stop at DNR field offices or highway check stations to have their deer examined by DNR wildlife biologists.

Highway check stations will be in operation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 16-19 at the following locations: U.S. 131 south of Big Rapids; U.S. 27 north of Alma and I-75 south of Clio.

(Bill Parker is happy to answer questions readers have regarding the outdoors. Hunters are also encouraged to report their success. Send questions or comments to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48091, or call 644-1101.)



Myrna Partrich exercising options

## Ankle sprains most common athletic injury

Dear Myrna: I have repeatedly injured my ankle. I've been told my last injury was a sprain. This time I've been treating the problem myself by wrapping it in an Ace bandage. I'm tired of this problem. What should I do?

This injury might be different from the others. You must see an orthopedic physician and not assume anything yourself. Ankle sprains are of the most common, acute athletic injury. Do you remember a sudden twist or perhaps a fall? If you have a sprain, the degree of the sprain must be determined by your doctor. The degree of sprain determines treatment necessary and how long it takes before resuming regular activities. The seriousness of a moderate or severe sprain should not be underestimated. Improper treatment may result in a chronically unstable ankle that is prone to repeated injury. This forces limitation in sports activities, causes early arthritis in the ankle joint and eventually may result in the need for surgery. You must take this injury more seriously than you have in the past. See your doctor. You may also require physical therapy. Sorry.

(Myrna Partrich, co-owner of The Workout Company Inc. of Bloomfield Township, is happy to answer any questions readers may have regarding exercise. Please send your letters to: Sports Department, Myrna Partrich, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI)

## outdoors calendar

- IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**
- Nov. 10 - Mink, muskrat and raccoon trapping season begins in Zone III.
  - Nov. 11 - Pheasant season ends in zones II and III.
  - Nov. 14 - Turkey, ruffed grouse and woodcock seasons end statewide. Huffed grouse season will end Dec. 1.
  - Nov. 15 - Firearm deer season opens statewide.
  - Nov. 15-30 - Resident bear season is open in Zone I.
  - Nov. 16 - Firearms Sighting Days end at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association. Call 453-9843 for more information.
  - Dec. 5-12 - Elk season is open in portions of Zone II.
  - Through Jan. 1 - Squirrel season is open statewide.
  - Through Jan. 31 - Raccoon season is open statewide.
  - Through March 1 - Gray and red fox season is open statewide.
  - Through March 31 - Rabbit season is open statewide.
- METROPARKS**
- Snowshoe Tying Workshop, a five-hour workshop in which participants will learn to tie their own snowshoes, will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs. There is a \$45 charge for a snowshoe kit and a \$22 charge for bindings. Participants should bring a snack and a knife.

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