

# Jamboree challenges area bowhunters



**GREAT OUTDOORS**  
**BILL PARKER**

The fall hunting seasons can't be far away when the Detroit Archers hold their annual Bowhunter's Jamboree. For the past 60 years or so, Detroit Archers — the oldest archery club in Michigan — has held a bow hunter extravaganza in September just prior to the October 1 opening of the Michigan archery deer season. This year will be no exception as the Bowhunter's Jamboree begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at the club's facilities in West Bloomfield.

"I think we've been holding the Jamboree pretty much since the club opened. It used to be a little bigger back in the 80's, but it's growing again now," said Detroit Archers board member Andy Munro. "We had about 500 people here last year and we're hoping for about 600 this year. We get people from all over Michigan, Ohio and southern Ontario, and we get people of all skill levels from professionals to people who have only shot a bow once or twice."

Bowhunters who have procrastinated this season are running out of time to sharpen their shooting skills. The Jamboree provides the opportunity featuring a 42 target 3D course using lifelike McKenzie deer, bear, antelope, elk, javelina, turkey and boar targets.

The course winds through a 32-acre wooded parcel of land at 5795 Drake Rd. (north of Maple). Archers follow a path to designated stations. Targets are set up in natural situations challenging archers to make a good shot. Most shots simulate hunting from the ground blind but there are also a few raised platforms that simulate shots from a tree blind.

"You get to shoot at targets in as real a condition as we can provide," Munro said. "The shots are from varied distances, up hill, down hill, through brush and from elevated platforms. It's a fairly realistic way

to prepare for hunting game."

For the adventurous archers, there will also be novelty shoots including a running deer and spinning clay pigeons.

Hundreds of prizes, including a Bear bow, will be raffled off or given away as door prizes. Entry fees are \$10 adult, \$25 family and \$5 for youths 17 and under.

**Outdoor weekend arrives**

Unlike other hunting and fishing shows which take place during the winter, the Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Weekend takes place Friday through Sunday in Imley City (51 miles north of Detroit).

Held annually just prior to the start of the fall hunting seasons, the show started out show six years ago and has evolved into a huge weekend event.

"The feeling was that as the temperatures cool everybody gets that hunting urge," said show director Tom Campbell. "If I could provide deals on equipment and some good speakers and seminars the feeling was that people would come out."

Last year's 12,000-plus attendance is a good indication that the people are showing up.

The highlight of this year's show will be the appearance of Pat McManus. The popular humorist and best-selling author who writes "The Last Laugh" column for Outdoor Life magazine will be on hand all three days of the show. McManus will be available to speak with the public and autograph copies of his eighth book, *The Good Samaritan Strikes Again*, which will be released for the first time at the show.

The 120 exhibitor booths available at the Eastern Michigan Fair Grounds are sold out for the show which means there will be plenty of hunting and fishing gear for shoppers. Thirty continuous seminars will be held, featuring some of the state's top outdoor experts including Tom Huggler, Denny Geurink, Howard Shelley, Bob Garner and Eric Sharp. There will also be lumberjack shows, a chili cooking competition, deer and turkey calling

contests, archery novelty shoots, camouflage bow painting, arrow contest.

Admission is \$5 and children under 12 will be admitted free. The Eastern Michigan Fair Grounds are located a half-mile north of I-69 on M-53 (Van Dyke).

**Hunter's education class**

Last but certainly not least on this list of weekend events in the free Michigan Hunter Education Clinic, the successor to the Detroit News Young Hunter Safety Clinics.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1960 are required by law to present a Hunter Safety Certificate to purchase a hunting license and this clinic is a perfect opportunity for kids to earn that certificate. It is also a good chance for adults to freshen up on the guidelines of safe, ethical and successful hunting. Adults are encouraged to attend the clinic.

The clinic stresses firearm safety, but all aspects of hunting are touched upon from hunting heritage and history, hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and management, wildlife identification, game care and specialty hunting (muzzle-loading, handguns and bowhunting) to survival and first aid and water safety.

Certified instructors from area outdoor clubs — including members of the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association — pass participants through a series of stations throughout the two-day clinic. Registration begins Saturday at 6:45 a.m. The clinic starts promptly at 7:30 each day. Participants must attend all sessions during both days to pass the course. Call 827-3203 for more information.

(Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: *Outdoors*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or call Bill Parker Monday evenings at 644-1101, ext. 241.)

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## OUTDOORS CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER'S HARVEST MOON**  
A naturalist-led discussion followed by an evening hike through the park, begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.
- FULL MOON WALK**  
A naturalist-led walk by the light of the full moon, begins at 8 p.m. Friday at Kensington.
- FALL BIRD COUNT**  
A morning-long census of the park's bird population, begins at 7 a.m. Saturday at Kensington.
- Participants should bring binoculars and a picnic lunch.
- FUN WITH INK AND NATURE**  
A chance for kids ages 6-10 to explore their artistic talents and create an ink masterpiece, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.
- OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT SHOW**  
A display by local businessmen of outdoor recreation equipment including mountain and racing bikes, stunt kites, and rickshaws.
- radio controlled airplanes and helicopters, bird feeders, canoes and kayaks, camping gear and fly fishing equipment, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.
- WALL WILDFLOWERS**  
A nature hike to explore the fields for wildflowers, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.
- METROPARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Most Metropark programs are free, while some require a nominal charge. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required, 1-800-47-PARKS.

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