

Fishermen make sport accessible to community



Gone are the days of the gruff, beer guzzling 'geezers sittin' round at the 'fishin' club' broggin' about the big ones that got away.

Oh sure, the tales are still flying around and most are as tall as the Queenenon Falls, but many of today's fishing clubs are concerned about more than simply wetting a line and catching a fish.

"More and more clubs are getting involved in community programs," explained Joe Zawislak, president of the Four Seasons Fishing Club, based in Livonia. "Some clubs are getting involved with handicapped people or youth programs, trying to get people out to enjoy the resources. Sportmen are really a different breed of peo-

ple. We like hell (about the ones that got away), but deep inside we have big hearts."

And those big hearts are the reason Four Seasons recently received certificates of appreciation from the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Today's Living Concept for their contributions to members of the respective organizations.

Four Seasons members sponsor a pair of unique outings over the summer in which they took members of each organization out fishing.

"Last year was the first time we did anything like this and it went over really well," Zawislak said. "We plan to have these outings every year. We want to get these people out of the house and let them enjoy the outdoors."

"We tossed the idea around the table that we wanted to do something for the community and decided to put these things together."

The first outing was at Belle-

ville Lake with members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Four Seasons member Paul Brown, a member of PVA as well as the equal access committee of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs organized the event.

"I think everyone enjoyed it. We got able-bodied people together with wheel-chair people and had a lot of fun," Brown said. "It gave everyone a better understanding of each other and let them share in equal access."

Later in the summer, Four Seasons members took a group of about 40 mentally and physically impaired individuals on a fishing trip to Newburg Lake. The event was a joint effort between Four Seasons and Today's Living Concept.

"It went like clockwork," Zawislak said. "Bob Slazinski was instrumental in setting it up and everyone from the club really chipped in and made it work." Fish Michigan mayor, Robert Barnett, even made a special appearance

at the outing. Those unselfish anglers from the Four Seasons Fishing Club realized there are people in the world who enjoy the outdoors just as much as they do, but don't have the luxury of access upon demand. We could all learn something from their actions. Why not take a day or afternoon and spend some time on the water with someone less fortunate than ourselves. A little camaraderie can sure go a long way.

Fish Michigan

Since we're on the topic of fishing, a recently released book of lake maps would make a great addition to any angler's fishing gear. Noted outdoor writer Tom Huggler has just completed his ninth book: *Fish Michigan - 100 Northern Lower Michigan Lakes*. The book is the second in a series of books examining the fishing opportunities awaiting anglers in Michigan. Like its predecessor, *Fish Michigan - 100 Southern Michigan Lakes*, this book is a

combination of detailed lake maps and fishing information. Huggler offers the best year-round techniques, times, lures and bait to catch more than 20 species of gamefish. He also rates catching opportunities from outstanding to poor and pinpoints the best spots to catch each species in a particular body of water. The maps, which measure 11x15-inches, include depth contours, shoreline features and public access sites. Other information such as the phone numbers and addresses of local bait and tackle shops, campgrounds, DNR offices and the Chamber of Commerce are also included along with survey and stocking information.

Huggler said his criteria for selecting the lakes published in his new book was the same criteria used to select lakes for his first book in the series and included personal fishing experiences along with hundreds of interviews with everyone from weekend and professional anglers to fish biolo-

gists, conservation officers, bait and tackle dealers and marina owners.

"I also looked for unique opportunities," Huggler said. "These included prospects for ice fishing, family sport, trophy catches, access for shore fishermen and disabled anglers, and weather or not boats can be rented."

The books are available at local sporting goods dealers or by calling, 658-1955.

Huggler is currently working on the third book in the series: *Fish Michigan - 100 Upper Peninsula Lakes*. He also has plans for other books including *Fish Michigan - 100 Rivers* (due out in 1995) and *Fish Michigan - 100 Great Lakes Hot Spots* (1996).

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

SPORTS SHORTS

Home for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for the Monday edition).

EAST-WEST SOCCER

A tryout session for the East-West Soccer Ambassadors will be Saturday, Feb. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at Thompson Middle School in Southfield.

Players age 11 to 19 are eligible to try out for age-group teams to represent the United States in overseas competition.

Players should bring their own soccer ball, water and \$15 to register. For more information, call the East-West office at 216-562-1900.

SPONSORS SOUGHT

The Farmington Bandits, an under-14 boys select soccer team coached by Tom Faro, is seeking sponsors for the spring season to help with tournament fees and other team expenses.

Individuals or area companies interested in supporting the Bandits should call team manager Linda Wainwright at 477-7438.

MADONNA SALE

The Madonna University women's softball team will hold its second annual big garage sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Madonna University Activities Center. Admission is free.

All proceeds will go toward the softball team's spring trip to Florida.

For more information, call 691-5000.

BASEBALL SHOW

The Canton High School Baseball Parents Club will have its Second Annual Sports Card Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 6-7 at East Middle School on Mill Street in Plymouth.

The show will feature hourly 50/50 raffles and a free card giveaway each day. Autographs will be signed by former New York Yankees pitcher and two-time World Series champion Bill Stafford and former Detroit Tigers great Billy Hoft.

All proceeds will benefit the Canton High School baseball program. For information call 465-3564.

EUROPEAN TOURS

Continental Teams is taking applications for its 1993 summer European tours for field hockey and volleyball.

Both tours will travel to England, Holland, Belgium and Germany to play local club teams and participate in various tournaments.

The field hockey team will depart June 12 and return July 6. High school girls, including those graduating this year, are eligible. The volleyball team will depart July 12 and return July 27. Girls and boys are eligible.

Players will be placed on teams according to age and/or ability. Teams are open to players with average to above-average skills.

For an application, brochure, trip cost and fund-raising information call 708-848-0070 or write to Continental Teams at 804 S. Ridgeland, Oak Park, IL, 60304.

SOCCER SIGN-UP

Registrations forms for the Farmington Soccer Club's spring season are available at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and the Farmington Hills YMCA.

The sign-up closes Friday, April 23, and lasts eight weeks. The fee for new players is \$50, for returning players from last fall \$30.

The deadline to register is Monday, Feb. 15. Any registrations received after that date will be assessed a \$5 late fee. For information call Jan at 563-8691 or Vince at 474-4541.

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

North Farmington-West Bloomfield will have baseball tryouts for an 11- and 12-year-old travel team. NFVW plans to enter a team in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation for the first time. For information call NFVW manager Bob Sopo in the evening at 661-6276.

DATES AND EVENTS

ARCHERY

Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, on its walk-through range in Lake Orion 693-9799 or 693-1369.

AUDUBON TRIPS

A trip to the Canadian side of the Detroit River (Sarnia) to view waterfowl begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, 626-6590 or 646-2929.

DETROIT BOAT SHOW

The 1993 Detroit Boat Show, featuring the latest boats, accessories, electronics, fishing gear, fishing and boating seminars and more, runs through Sunday at the Cobo Convention Center. Show hours are noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, and 9-10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Admission is \$7 adults, children (younger than 12) will be admitted free. Senior citizens enter free on Monday.

WILDLIFE ART EXPO

Northern Wildlife Art Expo, featuring the work of 50 wildlife artists, will be held Friday through Sunday at the Lansing Civic Arena. Admission is \$5 adult, \$3.50 senior citizen and children under 12 will be admitted free.

BOAT SHOW

The Boat, Sport and Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

SPORTFISHING EXPO

The Greater Detroit Sportfishing Expo will be held March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL

The Michigan Wildlife Art Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary April 2-4 at the Southfield Pavilion.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

DEADLINES

Rabbit season ends March 31. Fishing licenses expire March 31.

FISHING CLUB MEETINGS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City, 477-3816.

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, and Feb. 24, at the Livonia Clarenceville High School.

Romeo B.A.S.S. Busters meet 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Romeo Community Youth and Civic Center, 286-6469.

METROPARKS

KID STUFF: TRAIL DETECTIVES

A short discussion on the basics of animal tracking followed by an opportunity to make tracks on a t-shirt with acrylic paints, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

WINTER TREE ID

A woodland walk to learn the basics of identifying deciduous trees in winter, begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

FULL MOON WALK

A naturalist-led hike under the light of a full moon begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Kensington and Stony Creek.

PANCAKE WALK

A morning hike followed by a hot pancake breakfast begins at 9 a.m. Sunday at Stony Creek. There is a \$3 registration fee and participants should dress for the weather.

STORIES IN THE SHOW

An outdoor program in which participants will search for animal signs, 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.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

ONE SKI SCHOOL

The Observer & Eccentric Ski School, including cross country skiing, rental and lessons, begins at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Addison Oaks and Independence Oaks.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SKI NIGHT

An evening of outdoor activities including cross country skiing, ice

skating and sledging begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at Addison Oaks.

WOODCHUCKER'S HOLIDAY

Participants can relive the lumberjack days through activities such as nail pounding, seed spitting, log rolling and log sawing in this nature program which begins at noon Saturday at Independence Oaks. There will also be demonstrations by a blacksmith and a cedar fan maker.

MICHIGAN MAMMALS

A nature class about the warm-blooded animals living close to home begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Independence Oaks. Participants should dress for the weather and be prepared for an evening of hands-on crafts, games and discoveries.

COUNTY PARKS REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all Oakland County Parks programs, 625-6473.

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