How to manage state parks concerns governor

State parks will st but they won't all necessarily operated by state governmentasys Gov. John Engler.

John Engler.

And he says his w plan to reorganize the Deplment of Natural Resources w reassign 33 middle managers tiled positions, at less pay, fring up \$3 million to hire evenhore field employees.

million to line evenhore field employees.

"Deployment is they issue," said Engler — not shenumbers. But Engler & budget being attacked by the Michin United Conservation Clube r cutting the budget II percent all putting on the selling blocks coloriul magazine, Michigan itural Resources, and some deq and harbors. "The state winever get those resources bk. Once they're gone, they're lie forever," said MUCC's editial.

Slated for closure | 22 state forest camprounds. By lend to be small, lack the liches and flush toilete of the its parks, and have few users, NR staff wants to close them ther than put thousands into it wells other repairs. Many he become weed grown.

MUCC also is pushe a plan for a one-year, dedical, I percent sales tax for park angle is cool about its chances.

Here are Engler's answers from recent exclusive interview.

More in field

More in field

Q. You've been taking a beating from Michigan United Conservation Clubs on the condition of state parks and the number of conservation officers in the field. They say there were 200 conservation officers in the field in the 1980s and 180 now. How far in that direction do you see the state going?

A. "I wann't even in school in the 1950s, so I don't remember how many were there then.

"I think in the last two years, while we may have had some early retirements, we've also worked to change the organization of the department to get some desk-bound efficers out into the field. In effect, we've tried to offset some of the downsiting caused by the early retirement legislation.
"I think that the deployment of people is a key issue. We've been able, in the Department of State Folice, to put troopers cut on the road that were originally behind desks. But now with the retirements, we are going to need the trooper school to train the next generation of state police.

"The same decision will be made for conservation officers when it's clear that the (DNR) re-

organization — which should be good for the 21st century — is in place so we can get an accurate measurement of where we are."

'A tough sell'

'A tough sell'
Q. On state parks, MUCC and other groups are proposing one cent of sales tax for one year—a \$700 million find—to earn \$15 million a year for state parks without going to the general fund. How does that grab you?

A. "The state parks remain a remendous bergain for the people who use the state parks. Our user count will be better next summer five have a hot summer with more weekends. The weather had a lot to do with it.

"We are looking at ways to expand our park usage. We've changed the management structure to go to a core system of parks (one manager serving two or more parks). We've found that has been very helpful. We do be-

lieve that through the use of other labor — some of it through the Conservation Corps, some of it maintenance by trusties from the prison system done in the off sea-son at a lesser cost, which frees

up more money.
"I think the petition drive for a "It think the petition drive for a penny increase in the sales tax will be a tough sell. The signatures might be gathered, but I'm not sure the public is ready to vote it. The sales tax — that's one of the firmly defended limits in the constitution. Even for schools, none of the proposals has been successful."

'No visible change'

Q. The term is privatize— any thought on privatizing state parks or turning them over to other units of govern-

ment?

A. "We've done so with a couple of parks if they were in the catchment area of (another agency). Maybe they can oversee the park

at a more economical cost. There'll be no visible change to the public.

There'll be no visible change to the public.

"We've offered some of the state parks that are closed in the winter to county park commissions to be kept open for winter sports. They use the parking lots for anowmobile rigs to be parked. "So we're trying to be cooperative. It's part of what we have to do with government at all levels — break down these artificial barriers that say, Well this is a state park, and no local or regional park commission can ever have anything to do with! It. "Realize it's public land, set saide as parks, not whether it's administered by the state, regional authority or local commission. We ought to figure out how best to serve people.

We cught to figure out now best to serve people. "I'm proud of the fact that I ap-pointed to the Natural Resources Commission the first person with a parks background: Joey Spano, known first in Ingham and now in

Oakland County parks circles, a graduate in parks and recreation from Michigan State University. It's the first time in memory for anyone with that kind of back-ground."

Unrealistic fears

Q. Some folks fear a hidden agenda — that you simply want to get rid of state parks, or pare down the number, or —

A "We've got 99. I'd like to open the 100th state park. We've used the natural resources transition to said some of the most wonderful and environmentally important areas in this state for the enjoyment of future generations.

"Michigan's parks are part of Michigan's peritage and legacy. People walk around with a lot of tears not based in any reality whatsoever. Some of 'em are done for political purposes, to raise money, get dues collected.

Auditions solicited for singing cholarship

The Birmingham Musle announces auditions for e \$400 Charlotte Ruppel Memal Voice Scholarship.

Application deadline Monday, March 8. For efficient forms, call 375-954. 1 auditions will take place 40 a.m. Saturday, March 13, atle First Baptist Church in Birmham.

Applicants must be etween the ages of 20 and 25 March 13, 1993, and resident of the state of Michigan evious winners of this award must apply

For the audition, one selection from each of these three categories must be performed: aria (opera or oratorio), foreign language art aong (German or French), and 20th century art song (American or British) in English.

The total performance shouldn't exceed 10 minutes. All selections, except the oratorio, must be memorized. One copy of each selection must be provided for the adjudication panel. Applicants must provide their own accompanists, and original music must be used by the accompanists.

You May Not Be Getting Any Younger. But It's Easy To Feel Like You Are.



With regular exercise, you can strengthen your heart and lungs, feel betterlive longer. You can maintain the active, independent lifestyle that means so much to you. And best of all, it doesn't matter if you've never been very active before—as long as you start now! Check with your doctor first. Then, just choose an activity you enjoy. Stick with it. And start feeling like you haven't felt in ages

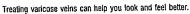


The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports





Never Worry About Showing Your Legs Again



We now offer a virtually painless in-office procedure that eliminates the need for surgery or hospitalization.



Call Michigan Vein Clinics for a free consultation.

Plymouth 459-0980

Birmingham 642-0210



It's Our 10th Annual ANTIQUE

ART SHOW & SALE Featuring 19th and 20th Century American and European Oil Paintings, Drawings and Collectibles.

March 5th thru March 20, 1993

Bloomfield Fine Arts

280 N. Woodward Birmingham • (313) 646-1132



Academy of the Sacred Heart Sunday, March 7, 1993 2-4 PM



Where our highly qualified faculty empowers our students

• to meet the challenge of a strong curriculum

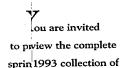
to develop social awareness through community service programs

to build and value a cooperative educational community

Preschool - Program for 3 year olds: Coed Lower School - Prekindergarten - Grade 4: Coed 2:00-4:00 PM CONTINUOUS CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Middle School - Grades 5-8: All Girls Upper School - Grades 9-12: All Girls 2:00-4:00 PM CAMPUS TOURS 3:00-3:30 PM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

1250 Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304 (313) 646-8900 S. of Long Lake • E. of Woodward





HKEY-FREEMAN ailored clothing

Frid, March 5, 12noon to 9pm Sattlay, March 6, 10am to 5pm

Othese days only, order your easure Hickey-Freeman selections anave the special order charge.

Our ickey-Freeman representative

be available to assist you

with ye choice of more than 300 fabric

swatches and a variety nodels and design options.

GAHAM&GUNN