

**DEER HUNTING**

Once again the Observer & Eccentric will feature a Community Buck Pole for the 1993 deer hunting season. Names and a brief explanation of the respective hunts will be published in upcoming editions of the paper.

If you manage to take an elusive whitetail at anytime during the 1993 archery, firearm or muzzleloading hunting seasons give us a call.

Contact outdoor writer Bill Parker Monday evenings (not this Monday) between 6-10 p.m. at 901-2573. You can also fax the information to 644-1314 or send a brief note to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich., 48009.

**Reward offered**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Bear Hunters Association is offering a reward of \$1,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the recent unlawful killing of a black bear in Crawford County near Grayling. The bear was found Sunday, Oct. 31. It had been killed with a bow and arrow, probably on Oct. 29 or 30. The legal hunting season for bear ended Oct. 26.

Anyone with information about this incident should call the DNR's Report All Poaching (R.A.P.) hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

**HUNTER'S GUIDELINES**

To help stack the odds of harvesting a whitetail deer in your favor, Whitetails Unlimited Inc. has produced a full color booklet to help sharpen your deer hunting skills. The publication, titled, "Whitetail Deer Hunter's Guidelines" is tailored to the novice hunter

but will add a degree of success to any hunt.

The intent of the booklet is to prepare the hunter for the season so that regardless of harvest success the outdoor experience can be fully enjoyed.

To receive a free copy of Whitetail Deer Hunter's Guidelines, send a self addressed, stamped, legal size envelope to: Whitetails Unlimited, Inc. Attn: WDHG, P.O. Box 422, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54225.

**HUNT MICHIGAN'S STATE PARKS**

Most people envision hunting as a lone trek to a secluded, privately owned camp, but in Michigan people hunt wildlife in more than 72,000 acres in 14 state park and recreation areas in Southeastern Michigan.

"Michigan is one of a few states in this nation in which state park lands are available for hunting," DNR Director Roland Harmes said. "In the Metro-Detroit area, people have easy access to many state recreation areas, many of which are only a short drive from their homes."

State Parks and recreation areas in Southeastern Michigan open for hunting include: Algona State Park in Algona, 765-5609; Bald Mountain State Park in Bald Mountain, 685-4913; Orion, 693-6767; Holly Recreation Area in Holly, 634-8811; Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area in Metamora, 797-4439; Pinkney Recreation Area in Pinkney, 426-4913; Freud Lake Recreation Area in Milford, 685-2433; W.C. Wentzel State Park in Algona, 327-6765; Brighton Recreation Area in Brighton, 229-6568; Highland Recreation Area in Milford, 685-2433; Island Lake Recreation Area in Brighton, 229-7067; Orton-

ville Recreation Area in Ortonville, 627-3828; Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford, 666-1020; Seven Lakes State Park in Fenton, 634-7271; and Waterloo Recreation Area in Chelsea, 476-8307.

For additional information, contact the DNR's Parks Division at (517) 373-1270.

**DEER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Regulated hunting... the fundamental basis of successful deer management.

This statement is supported by over 50 years of research and management experience. Whitetails Unlimited Inc., with financial assistance from Winchester Ammunition, has published and made available, free of charge, an educational booklet titled "An Evaluation of Deer Management Options."

This publication explains the rationale behind regulated hunting versus the utilization of other deer management options.

Highly emotional animal rights media campaigns typically focus on inaccurate portrayals of regulated hunting seasons and methods of harvest. This publication gives the sportsmen and women the accurate information they need to combat the anti-hunting sentiment. The booklet also serves as a great refresher for the seasoned instructor that understands the important role regulated hunting plays in today's management of the whitetail deer.

For a free copy of An Evaluation of Deer Management Options send a self addressed, stamped, legal size envelope to: Whitetails Unlimited Inc., Attn: Option Brochure, P.O. Box 422, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54225.

**Just how big was that buck?**



**BILL PARKER**

Like some sort of addictive drug, the approach of the firearm deer season lures many hunters into a frenzy of peculiar antics. The mere mention of opening day often sends anxious deer hunters into a garbled tirade about the big-rack bucks of the past. Over the years, the tales usually grow taller than the antlers themselves, but always draw the dire attention of the listener. "It was the biggest buck I've ever seen". . . "He looked like he had a tree on his head". . . "We nick-named him Bullwinkle," are just a few of the often used expletives.

If you're not sure about the timing of the approach of the season, check with a clerk at a local sporting goods store. These outlets are besieged by rampaging Nimrods at this time of year searching for that little something extra which will boost them into the ranks of those wearing the "Successful Hunter" patch. Glimicks and gadgets like electric sox, scent eliminator, deer calls, buck lure, trail markers, hot seats, and the latest pattern in blaze-orange hunting apparel all make the "Things I Need" list of many hopeful hunters.

By now, most of the prehunt shopping has been taken care of — except by those last-minute-Joes who will still be spending during the second week of the hunt. Now comes the midnight ritual of sorting, checking and packing.

There seems to be an uncharacterized psychological pattern hidden deep in the subconscious of the hunter. It leaps out, like a thief, in the deep of the night robbing its victim of sleep. It's a pre-



JIM JAGDELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Big buck: Trophy bucks like this one are the envy of every hunter's eye. This monster was shot by Livonians' Pat Flanagan in 1990 and scored 215 1/2.**

Because of the large amount the standing corn throughout much of southern Michigan during the '92 season and the snowy, wet conditions that hampered many areas of the north during the first week of the hunt last year, many hunters were disgruntled, to say the least, about not seeing a lot of deer. But because of this lack of action in some areas, many of last year's "ghost zones" will turn out to be this year's "hot spots" because the buck numbers will be up in these areas.

Still, the Department of Natural Resources reports that hunters took 161,000 bucks and 88,000 does last year, despite the unfavorable conditions. Although these numbers are significantly lower than Michigan's record harvest of 194,000 bucks and 140,000 does in 1989, they are still quite impressive and translate into a 33-percent success rate.

"It should be a pretty good season, overall," said Ed Langenau, DNR big game specialist. "I expect the harvest will be down a little bit from last year because we issued 25-percent less antlerless tags. The herd is close to the population objective we're looking for so we've issued less permits this year than in the past."

"Our field personnel report a very good buck-to-doe ratio with a lot of 2 1/2 year old bucks and older," added Langenau. "These deer are much wiser and harder to hunt, but I expect to see some nice bucks taken this year."

Get into the woods early Monday and enjoy the season, but above all be smart and be safe.

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. Fax information to 644-1314 or call Bill Parker Monday evenings (not this Monday) at 901-2573.

**OUTDOORS CALENDAR**

**DATES AND EVENTS**

**ARCHERY**  
Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3-D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday on its walk-through range in Lake Orion, 693-9977 or 693-1309. The Terminator 3-D course, featuring two challenging 30-target courses including one that is handicapped accessible, is open for practice 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. Call (517) 622-8777 weekends or 476-2830 weekdays.

**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 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, 420-2233.

**SEASONS**  
Quail season ends Nov. 11.  
Woodcock partridge and the first archery deer seasons end Nov. 14.  
Duck season ends Nov. 14 in the Southern Zone (southern Lower Peninsula).  
Pheasant season ends Nov. 14 in zones II and III.  
Firearm deer season opens Nov. 15.  
A special pheasant season, with a one-bird per day limit, will be held Dec. 1-5 in an area located west of US-23, east of US-131, south of M-67 and north of the Ohio/Indiana/Michigan border.

**SHOOTING RANGES**  
Sighting-In Days run through Nov. 14 at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association, 463-9843.

The gun range at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, 666-1020.

The gun range at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area is open 3 p.m. to sunset Monday and Tuesday; 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 693-6767.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

**STAR PARTY**  
Learn some of the secrets of the

stars in this nature program which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.

**HEY BEAR**  
Junior naturalists ages 9-13 will learn about Michigan's black bear through crafts, games, pictures and skins in this nature program which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Independence Oaks.

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

**METROPARKS**

**JOURNEY TO TANZANIA**  
A slide show will take participants on a tour through seldom-visited areas in East Africa in this program which begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

**BARN TOUR**  
A program for children ages 7 and older in which participants will explore the animals and machines in a barn begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.

**HABITAT HIKE**  
Explore a variety of habitats and learn about the interactions among those who live there in this program which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

**YOUNG ASTRONOMERS**  
A program for children ages 8 and older in which participants will explore the stars and make a device to measure a star's brightness begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

**DRIED WILDFLOWERS**  
A stroll through the fields collecting plant materials to take back to the Nature Center to create a small twig weaving begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

**COPING WITH COLD**  
Learn how plants and animals prepare for winter in this nature program which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

**METROPARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Most Metropark programs are free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required, 1-800-47-PARKS.

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