

Trout season about to start

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



April each year — that's this Saturday, if you're not paying attention.

When thoughts turn to trout fishing the fly fisherman is always at the forefront.

Fly fishing for the elusive trout presents the ultimate challenge for an angler. Whether you're locating a feeding fish, looping a long cast to a precise spot on the river, or simply matching the hatch with your own hand-died fly, the art of fly fishing for trout is a true test of one's ability to tune-in to the natural surroundings.

Redford's Bill Waara has been tuning-in to Michigan's trout streams since 1926. A member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club and the Paul H. Young chapter of Trout Unlimited, Waara spends his free time making custom bamboo fly rods.

"Like John Volker said in his book, 'Festament of a Trout Fisherman,' Trout always feed in the most beautiful places. When you're after trout you end up in these places," explained Waara. "Trout fishing is a challenge. It's more like hunting than fishing. First, you have to get out there and see if the fish are actively feeding and if they are, you can see their surface. Then you have to stalk into position to make a cast, and you have to imitate the food they are eating."

Many people consider fly fishing to be complicated and confusing, but that's not necessarily the case according to Farmington Hills resident Art Dittmar, president of Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the nation's largest state-wide conservation organization.

"A lot of people look at fly fishing as kind of an elitist-type sport, but most of that has been generated by fly fishermen them-

TROUT SEASON FACTS

WHAT: 1995 Michigan trout fishing season.
WHEN: Open Saturday through Sept. 30.
WHERE: Designated trout streams and lakes across the state including 49 Blue Ribbon trout streams such as the AuSable, the Two Hearted, the Boardman and the Puro Marquette.
NEEDS: Anglers age 17 and over are required to have a Michigan fishing license (19.00) and a trout stamp (9.00) in their possession while fishing.
SIZE: Minimum legal size limit is seven inches on Upper Peninsula streams, eight inches on Lower Peninsula streams and 10 inches on inland lakes. (Also, 10 inches on the St. Joseph River in Berrien County).
POSSESSION: Inland lakes — five: stream — 10, but no more than five that are 18 inches or larger. (Check DNR fishing guide for specific details.)
REGISTRATION: Contact the DNR field office in Livonia (313) 953-0241, the DNR Fisheries Division in Lansing (517) 373-1220 or the DNR Fishing Hotline (313) 373-0900.

selves," said Dittmar. "Actually, it's not all that tough."

"They'll talk about how everything has to be balanced and of making 50- and 70-foot casts, but really don't need all that. Even matching the hatch is a little overrated. There are times a trout becomes very, very particular, but most of the time I've found size is more important than color. As long as you use a fly the same size as the hatch they'll take it."

While fly fishing is probably the most popular technique used to catch trout, it's not the only one.

"Many people use garden hake, or worms," said Dittmar. "That's probably the most effective way to catch a trout, especially at this time of year because most flies aren't that active yet. Most people use a lot of rain, other insects like worms and night crawlers wash into the water and that's what the trout are feeding on."

Whether you fancy casting hand-died flies with a custom-made bamboo rod, or a simple hook-and-worm setup on the end of a Zebco spinning rod, the trout streams are calling. Get out there and enjoy!

Anglers and turkey hunters 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 (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

Results.

Plant your advertising message in the Observer & Eccentric classified columns and reap the rewards.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

BALCON STAKES
The 17th annual River Crab Balcon Stakes Fishing Tournament will take place Saturday, at the River Crab Restaurant in St. Clair. Raffle/entry tickets are \$10 each and available locally at Charley's Crab in Troy, Meriwethers in Southfield, Big Fish in Dearborn, and Grandy Dancer in Ann Arbor. Tickets are redeemable for \$10 off dinner for two at any Chuck Muir Restaurant. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to support programs to help troubled children, adults and their families throughout Michigan, 1-800-468-3727.

BANQUETS

TU BANQUET
The Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual fund-raising banquet beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at the Royal House in Warren (9201 E. Old 13 Mile Road). Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple. This banquet is the chapter's major fundraising event of the year. Funds raised at the banquet, through ticket sales, raffles and auctions, are allocated to such programs as river restoration, community education, college scholarships, environmental research and public access construction. Call (810) 789-0301 for tickets or more information.

SEMINARS

TURKEY SEMINAR
The Michigan Big Game Hunter's Association will hold a turkey hunting seminar beginning at 7 p.m. today at Arrowhead Archery and Pro Shop in Taylor (Van Born Road between Beech Daly and Telegraph), (313) 563-0285.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

STAMP DESIGN CONTESTS
Friday is the deadline for entry into the 1996 trout/salmon stamp and the 1996 waterfowl stamp design competitions, (617) 373-1280.

FISHING CLUBS

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, (810) 478-1494.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Gary Campbell, meteorologist for the National Weather Service, will discuss storm safety, and storm structure at the May meeting, 477-3816.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School, 420-2965.

SEASONS/DATES

TROUT
A special catch-and-release, fly-only trout season ends tomorrow on the Huron River from Moss Lake to the sign a 100 yards below the bridge at Wilson Road. The regular trout season opens Saturday.

TURKEY
Spring turkey season runs through May 28 in designated

management areas across the state.

BASS
Catch-and-release bass fishing is permitted on Cass, Kent and Pontiac lakes through May 27. The regular bass season opens May 28.

WALLEYE, SAUGER, PIKE
Walleye, sauger and pike season opens tomorrow on inland waters in the Lower Peninsula, and May 16 on inland waters in the Upper Peninsula. The season is open all year on Great Lakes waters in the Lower Peninsula, Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and Lake Erie.

SMELT
It is legal to use hand nets for catching smelt statewide through May 31.

CAMPING
Addison Oaks County Park near Rochester is open for weekend camping, (810) 693-2432. Weekend camping begins May 6 at Groveland Oaks near Holly (810) 634-9811. Regular camping begins May 19 at both parks.

METROPARKS

METROPARKS REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian

Spring, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

SPRING FESTIVAL
A weekend full of events designed to celebrate the arrival of spring will be held Saturday and Sunday at Kensington. Events will be held at the same time Saturday. **FACE PAINTING EVENTS**
Face the Clown, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Heron Rookery Observation, 12-4 p.m.; Furry Toy Theatre (puppet show), 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sheep Shearing, Wool Spinning and Candle Dipping, 1-3 p.m.; Face Painting, Antique Tractor Display, 1-4 p.m.; Rosco's Magic Show, 3-5:30 p.m.; Dairy Demonstration, 4 p.m.; Rosco's Magic Show, 6 p.m.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

WHAT'S MAKING THAT SOUND?
Learn to identify some members of nature's chorus and discover the reason why so many animals sound-off in the spring during this program which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 28, at Independence Oaks.

WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS
A family program in which participants learn about wildflowers through stories, hands-on activities and wildflower lore, begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Independence Oaks.

DISCOUNT PRICES!

STEEL RADIALS \$14.99 155R-13 BLACKWALLS 155R-12 21.99 175/70R-13 26.99 185/70R-13 32.99 185/70R-14 35.99 WHITEWALLS P185/75R-14 23.99 205/75-14 28.99 215/75-15 33.99 235/75R-15 35.99	#1 in Tires GOODYEAR T METRIC \$23.99 P155/SR12 20.99 P155/SR-13 23.99 P175/70R-13 35.99 P185/70R-13 39.99 P185/75R-15 39.99	DECATHLON \$28.99 P155/20R13 41.99 P205/75R-14 33.99 P205/75R-15 48.99 P225/75R-15 49.99 P235/75R-15 51.99	SILVER EDITION STEEL RADIALS \$51.99 P185/70R-14 51.99 P185/75R-14 54.99 P205/70R-15 57.99 P215/70R-15 61.99 P205/65R-15 56.99 65,000 MILE WARRANTY
	EAGLE ST \$49.99 P175/70R13 08.99 P225/60R15 77.99 P275/60R15 40.99	WRANGLER \$59.99 P205/75R15 RTE B 78.99 31-105R15 RTE B 82.99 LT235/55R16 (2) B AT 99.99	
TRUCK VAN & RV. \$52.99 P205/75R14	BFGoodrich Radial T/A \$48.99 P215/60SR-14 65.99 P215/55SR-15 69.99 P235/60SR-15 70.99 P205/55SR-16 91.99	Radial All-Terrain T/A \$77.99 LT215/75R-15 82.99 58-500R-15 82.99 21-105R-15 82.99 22-11.50R-15 103.99	HIGH PERFORMANCE \$42.99 P175/65R-13 49.99 P185/60SR-14 49.99 P195/60SR-15 54.99 P205/60SR-15 55.99 P215/60SR-15 67.99 P225/60SR-16 71.99
MICHELIN BECAUSE SO MUCH IS RIDING ON YOUR TIRES! XW4 / XZ4 \$48.99 P215/75R-14 BLK 71.99 P225/75R-14 BLK 71.99 P235/60R-15 82.99 P235/60R-15 2700 B 82.99	MICHELIN HXY4 \$48.99 P215/75R-14 BLK 71.99 P225/75R-14 BLK 71.99 P235/60R-15 82.99 P235/60R-15 2700 B 82.99	CUSTOM WHEELS \$20.99 14 X 6 WHITESPOKE	FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE 24 HOURS MON-FRI 8:00-6 SAT 8:00-5 FINANCING AVAILABLE SO Days 30 Days 60 Days 90 Days 12 Months APPROVED STORES NATIONWIDE GRATY USED TIRES \$5 & UP

DISCOUNT TIRE CO. AMERICA'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT TIRE CO. **DISCOUNT TIRE CO. INC.**

ASK ABOUT OUR "Free Replacement" CERTIFICATE

TAYLOR 374-8888
2704 E. Grand Ave. (E. of North Rd.)
WATERBURY 681-3300
4381 Highland Rd. (E. of Fort St. Clair)
TROY 885-8001
5419 Rochester Rd. (Rochester & 15 Mile Rd.)
STERLING HEIGHTS 828-7700
4625 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 15 Mile Rd.)
BENTON 847-1171
42900 Grand River Ave. (E. of North Rd.)

FARMINGTON HILLS 787-7718
20725 W. 12 Mile Rd. (E. of Corporate Lake Rd.)
CLINTON TOWNSHIP 281-1100
23601 Corporate Ave. (Exit 14 & 15 Mile Rd.)
MORAGAN 281-1100
22887 17 Mile Rd. (West of 18 Mile)
22887 17 Mile Rd. (West of 18 Mile)
8711 Allen Rd. (Across from Allen Park Civic Center)
18875 Livestock (12 Mile & 18 Mile)
18875 Livestock (12 Mile & 18 Mile)

CANTON 681-6800
41300 Ford Rd. (12 Mile & West of 27 Mile)
13080 Eureka (Across from Southgate Shopping Center)
W. ANN ARBOR 481-1100
1021 E. Washtenaw
481-1100
W. ANN ARBOR 481-1100
1270 W. Stadium

NEW LOCATION: FORT GRATIOT • 4830 24th Ave. • (810) 385-8640

THE Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS PRESENTS

FAMILY VALUE DAYS
Even Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

4 RESERVED TICKETS
4 HOT DOGS or PIZZA SLICES
4 SOFT DRINKS
\$24

WEDNESDAY MAY 3rd
TIGERS VS. Cleveland • 7:05 pm

Phone home **1-800-730-4 FUN**
* at any Metro Detroit Sports Authority (advance purchase only)