

Show and tell

Cable TV special should give anglers help during winter season

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

If you're a fair-weather angler and this early, cold winter has you fidgeting like a hooked shiner, I have some news in which you may be interested. On Saturday and Sunday, the TNN cable station will air a fishing show that should warm your blood just a little. This week's version of "Fishing with Roland Martin," which airs at 11:30 a.m. Saturday and 9:30 p.m. Sunday on TNN, will focus on bass fishing on Lake St. Clair.

Featuring Art Ferguson, a local bass pro who grew up in Rochester and now hails from Livonia, the show is centered around the outstanding smallmouth fishery just an hour's drive east of here on Lake St. Clair. I've been fortunate enough to have fished Lake St. Clair with Ferguson as

my guide, and let me assure you the lake is loaded with smallies. Three- and 4-pounders are common and a 5- or 6-pounder is not out of the question.

Ferguson guides on Florida's Lake Okechobee during the winter months and guides on Lake St. Clair and the Saginaw Bay during the summer. His guide business may take the back burner this summer, however, as Ferguson is returning to the national fishing tournament circuit.

"I picked up the Marathon Oil Company as a sponsor and, thanks to them, I'm going to start fishing the national circuit again," said Ferguson. "My first tournament will be the FLW Pro-Am, January 9-12 on Lake Okechobee. Hopefully, next year, I'll start fishing the BASSMASTER Invitational."

In 1990, Ferguson became the youngest amateur to qualify for the prestigious BASSMASTER Classic. He was only the second angler from Michigan to fish in the tournament. He fished the

BASSMASTER Invitational circuit for two years after that. His best finish was 45th in 1991 on Lake Guntersville in Alabama.

Nel Coons, of Coons & Dudek Advertising in Troy, will compete in the amateur division of the FLW Pro-Am.

Bennett 18th in Classic Star

Canton's Linda Bennett placed 18th in the National Bass'n Gals Classic Star World Championship, Oct. 27-28 in Athens, Texas. It was the second-straight appearance in the Classic Star for Bennett, who moved up four spots from a 22nd-place finish in 1994.

"I improved from last year so that's good," said Bennett. "On the first day I had my limit in 35 minutes. I got off to a great start; I just could not get a bite from any big fish. They were there, but they were shut down. Everybody had trouble catching the 18-inchers."

Bennett is already off to a good start for another trip to the Classic Star in '96. She competed in

the first Bass'n Gals National Invitational on Nov. 16-17 in Toledo Bend, Texas and placed 15th.

"I got a check. I got a plaque and I've got 86 points toward next year," said Bennett. "I'd like to thank Jan, at Jan's Sportshop in Goodrich, for her continued support and General Motors for their understanding. I couldn't have done any of it without both of their support."

When the fishing was done for the season, Bennett found a little time to go deer hunting. Her success continued as she shot a doe during the muzzleloading season.

More successful hunters

For Lawrence Konyha, persistence paid off. The Livonia hunter has applied for a Michigan elk permit every year since the recent hunts opened in 1984. He even applied for a limited number of permits which were available for Michigan's first public elk hunt in 1964 and 1965. He has never drawn a permit until this year.

"I just about gave up. This year I said, 'What's four dollars, and I applied,'" he said.

Konyha hit the jackpot when he received a hunter's choice permit for the 1995 December hunt. On Dec. 14 he made the most of his opportunity when he tagged a 5x5 bull which dressed out at 490 pounds.

Konyha and his guide, Harley Marsh of Atlanta, started following a set of tracks at 8 a.m. and had the bull by 10 a.m.

"I really enjoyed it," Konyha said. "It was the best hunt I've had in my life."

Juanita Perez had never gone hunting until this year, and the Garden City resident broke into the sport in a big way — 225 pounds worth. Perez drew an antlerless elk permit for Michigan's December season. On Dec. 15, the fourth day of the season, Perez dropped a bull call which dressed out at 225 pounds.

"It was an experience I'll never forget," said Perez. "It was exciting, but it was a lot of work. We

had two feet of snow on the ground. Every muscle in my body was sore."

Dave Coddington, of Troy, took advantage of an early exit from deer camp by one of his hunting partners by bagging a six-point on Nov. 16.

"Towards noon, I liked to a friend's blind and sat there," explained Coddington. "My friend shot a small doe from the blind on opening day and left on the morning of November 16."

By 3 p.m. a six-point appeared in a clearing and Coddington dropped the buck with one well-placed shot. It's the biggest buck to date for Coddington, who has a couple of spikes and a button buck under his belt.

Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 806 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLASSES

FLY TYING

The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering two courses in fly tying. The classes begin Jan. 22 and will be held at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Registration begins Jan. 2. Call (810) 647-1400 or (313) 359-4149 for more information.

SHOWS

CAMPER SHOW

The Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel and RV show will be held Jan. 24-28 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

OUTDOORAMA

MUCC's Outdoorama Sport and

Travel Show will be held Feb. 23-March 3 at the Novi Expo center.

SEASONS

BASS
Statewide through Dec. 31.

BOBCAT
Through March 1 in Zone I, Jan. 1 to March 15 in special areas of Zone II.

COYOTE
Through April 15 in Zone I, Through April 15 in Zones II and III.

DEER
Archery season runs through Jan. 1.

FOX
Statewide through March 1.

RUFFED GROUSE

Through Jan. 1 in Zones II and III.

RABBIT

Statewide through March 31.

RACCOON

Statewide through Jan. 31.

SQUIRREL

Statewide through Jan. 1

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN

The rifle and pistol range at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area is open 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Call (810) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE

The range at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is open 10 a.m. to sunset Wednesdays through Sundays. Call (810) 666-1020 for more information.

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. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

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. Bob

Mitchel, recognized field tester and outdoor writer will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 3 meeting. Mitchel will give a presentation on the new hot spot for walleye and steelhead in Erieau, Ontario. Call (810) 477-3816 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School. Call (313) 420-2965 for more information.

FISHING BUDDYS

Fishing Buddys Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (810) 656-0556 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK 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, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

SLEIGH RIDES

Dash through the snow in a horse-drawn sleigh weekends at Kensington Metropark.

FULL MOON WALK

A naturalist-led hike under the light of the full moon begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Stony Creek.

WOLF MOON

Learn about wolves, owls and animal tracks during an evening hike under the light of a full moon, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at Indian Springs.

WINTER WEEDS

A naturalist-led hike through the meadow to learn some of the uses of wildflowers by humans and animals, begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Stony Creek.

ANIMAL TRACKS AND T-SHIRTS

Learn to identify animal tracks and make track designs on T-shirts during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Indian Springs.

STORIES IN THE SHOW

Look for animal tracks and animal signs during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Kensington.

1996 PERMITS

The 1996 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle permits and annual boat launching permit are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle permits are \$15, \$8 for senior citizens. Boat launch permits are \$18, \$9 for seniors. Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

STATE PARKS

VEHICLE PERMITS

The 1996 state park motor vehicle permits are available for \$20 each at state park and state recreation area offices, (313) 953-0241.

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