

# Former band member makes different music

Back in the late 1960s and early '70s when rock-and-roll was booming, Lyman Burgess was busy making music as the bass player in the Nebraska-based rock band Smoke Ring. Today, nearly 30 years later, Burgess is still making music. The rhythm is a little different today, and the audience — although equally captivated — is certainly of a different breed than the audiences he entertained years ago.

A dedicated waterfowl hunter and local goose guide, Burgess, of West Bloomfield, composes most of his music today from the confines of a duck marsh or a goose blind. His instrument of choice is no longer a guitar. He now favors a variety of plastic and wooden goose calls. And instead of playing chords he prefers to lay down a cadence of clucks, double-clucks and come-back calls.

Burgess still finds time to play his bass, mostly just for personal enjoyment, but in the fall and early winter his free time is spent pursuing ducks and geese.

A goose guide for Plymouth-based Honker Hunts Inc., Burgess will be as busy as a migrating merganser for the next month as a special late goose season opens in southern Michigan from Jan. 4 to Feb. 2.

## A special season

"There are a lot of local geese that stay here all year," explained Burgess. "In some areas there are just too many geese and (this hunt) is a way to help control them."

This is the 17th year the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has offered the special late season. This year, the boundary and bag limit have been changed.

The entire South Zone for the

regular waterfowl season will be open for the late goose season with the exception of the Allegan County, Tuscola County, Saginaw County and Muskegon County waterfowl management units. The bag limit has been increased from two birds per day to five per day. Be sure to check the Michigan DNR waterfowl guide for the exact boundaries and details on the late hunt.

Once winter sets in the local birds are most often encountered by hunters who key on the agricultural areas — specifically cut corn fields. Geese will roost on open water and fly over to nearby corn fields early in the morning to feed. The key to successful winter goose hunting is to find open water, then set up in a nearby corn field.

"Corn is a very high protein grain and they know it's good for them," explained Burgess. "They'll also eat beans, but once you get snow on the ground the bean fields will shut off. Sometimes they'll go to golf courses or winter wheat fields, but corn is pretty much number one on their list right now."

## Setting the stage

On a recent regular-season goose hunt with Burgess in Washtenaw County we set up in a cut corn field and enjoyed a fantastic hunt.

Our blind was constructed of two rectangular wooden sides. The tops of each side were angled toward each other to form an elongated tee-pee structure. Fencing was hinged to the top so it could be easily opened to allow us a place to stand and shoot from. The outside was covered with corn stalks so the blind blended in with the surrounding field.

With the wind direction in mind, we set decoys all around the blind. The main decoys formed a "V" which angled out in front of us from each end of the blind.

"They'll always land into the wind, and with the decoys set up like this they'll have a nice open

spot to land (in the middle of the decoys)," explained Burgess.

When all the decoys were set we retreated to the confines of the blind to await the arrival of the first flock of the day. This is when the camaraderie of waterfowl hunting really plays out. Unlike deer or squirrel hunting, when it's imperative to be absolutely quiet, waterfowlers have the luxury of carrying on conversation until the birds arrive. We sat quietly in the blind, chatted softly, told jokes and drank coffee while awaiting the start of the action.

A faint honk in the distance cut short our conversation as Burgess responded with a series of eloquent calls. The birds were amiable and responded beautifully. Unfortunately our shooting didn't complement Burgess' calling. We took home enough for a meal but certainly didn't upset the balance of nature.

## Call of the wild

When the seasons end Burgess stays in tune by conducting goose calling classes. Each class meets once a week for four consecutive weeks. This spring, classes begin in late April and will be offered through West Bloomfield Schools Community Education (248-539-2290) and Clarkston Schools Community Education (248-674-3141).

"Anyone can learn to call and it's fun," said Burgess. "Many times if a person has a musical background they seem to have an easier time learning to call. Not always, but a lot of times. On the other hand I know some excellent callers who are tone deaf."

For more information on the late goose season contact Honker Hunts Inc. at (734-207-1986).

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker, evenings at (810) 901-2573.



Music maker: Lyman Burgess responds to the call of a passing flock of geese.

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

### FISHING CLUBS

**CLINTON VALLEY BASS ANGLERS**  
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. The next meeting is slated for 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910.

**METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 478-5027 for more information.

**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 Senior Citizen's Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843 for more information.

**FISHING BUDDIES**  
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

**BASS ASSOCIATION**  
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dearborn Civic Center. Call (313) 676-2863 for more information.

### FUND RAISERS

**WILD GAME DINNER**  
The Wyoming Safari Club will host a benefit wild game dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Taylor Moose Hall. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to benefit youth outdoor programs, hunting and fishing projects and activities for disabled sportspeople. Call Alan Thompson (248) 851-1266 or Steve Malina (313) 277-8291 for tickets and info.

### DATES

**GOOSE**  
The special late Canada goose season runs Jan. 2-Feb. 1 in southern Michigan. The bound-

aries for the late hunt have been changed this year and are now the same as those for the South Zone of the regular waterfowl season. The entire south zone is open during the late hunt with the exception of the five GMU's.

**RABBIT**  
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

**TURKEY**  
Feb. 1 is the deadline to apply for a spring turkey permit.

### CLASSES

**FLY TYING**  
The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Birmingham Continuing Education will offer a 10-week fly tying class beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Registration begins Jan. 6. Call (248) 203-3800 for information.

**GRAND CANYON**  
Visit the Grand Canyon and Canyonlands through videos and slides during the January meeting of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Northwest Unitarian Church in Southfield. Call (248) 932-5370 for information.

### SHOOTING RANGES

**BALD MOUNTAIN**  
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand, rifle, pistol, and archery) shooting facilities. Range hours are 10 a.m. to dusk on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenfield Rd. (three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills). Call (810) 814-9193 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.

### 2008 PERMITS

The 1998 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark

offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

**FEEL GREAT IN '98**  
Start off the year with a little exercise during this naturalist-led walk, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at Kensington.

**WINTER WARDROBE**  
Learn how some critters make it through the winter during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at Indian Springs.

**ICE FISHING FOR BEGINNERS**  
Learn the basics of ice fishing then wet a line and try to catch some fish during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Kensington.

**SKY SEARCH**  
Junior girl scouts can earn their Sky Search badge during this program, which will be held throughout the day Saturday, Jan. 10, at Indian Springs.

**STARS AND STORIES**  
A two-hour indoor program on winter constellations and their legends begins at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Indian Springs.

**BIRDING BASICS**  
Learn the basics of birding including bird identification, equipment and techniques during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Kensington.

### OAKLAND 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.

**RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES**  
Ten Oakland County Parks will be recycling Christmas trees through Jan. 11. Trees may be dropped off 9 a.m.-4 p.m., seven days a week. Independence Oaks and Orion Oaks will remain open for Christmas tree recycling through Jan. 25.

### STATE PARKS

**BIRD HIKE**  
Bring your binoculars and enjoy a guided bird hike during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Maybury.

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