

Taxpayers can help state's nongame fish, wildlife

OUTDOOR INKINGS

BILL PARKER

Between ice fishing, rabbit hunting, searching for shed antlers and visiting all the outdoor shows in the area, many people are also thinking about those dreaded tax returns.

While musing over your tax forms, take a moment to consider making a small donation to the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund.

While game animals and fish

like deer, turkey, salmon and trout receive much assistance from hunting and fishing license revenue, nongame animals and fish don't receive such support. The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund was set up to provide such assistance. Donations to the fund provide critical support to many of Michigan's threatened, endangered and non-game species.

Last year, tax payers set a record as nearly \$735,000 was raised. That's a 25-percent increase over 1998.

"Last year was an exceptional year for the Nongame Wildlife Fund," said Ray Rustem, super-

visor of the Nongame Wildlife Fund. "We were pleased to see a reverse in the trend of declining donor numbers to the program. The increased funding has allowed us to accomplish many things, including increasing our grant program by \$100,000."

One of last year's major programs supported by the fund was the reintroduction of osprey at Kensington Metropark and the Maple River State Game Area, north of St. Johns. The fund also helped support 25 mini-grants provided to schools developing outdoor education sites. The fund is also responsible for the reintroduction of the

gray wolf in the Upper Peninsula and peregrine falcons at six locations in the state.

To make a donation simply enter the amount of your refund you'd like to contribute to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. (Line 27 of the 1040 form and line 14 of the 1040 EZ form.)

"We invite everyone who fills out a tax form to become a part of this exciting program," Rustem said. "Just look for the 'Leopard' on your state income tax form and fill in the amount you wish to donate. It's the best way I know to show your support for Michigan's wildlife heritage."

Osprey logo designs

The Feb. 1 deadline for entries in the osprey logo design contest has been extended to March 1. Young artists between the ages of 12 and 18 are encouraged to submit entries of a logo that symbolizes the effort to reintroduce osprey to the area.

In a joint effort between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and the Detroit Zoo, four osprey chicks were released in Kensington Metropark last summer. The hope is that these raptors will return to the area to nest and raise their young in a couple

years when they reach maturity. More chicks will be brought into Kensington over the next two summers in an attempt to re-establish wild nesting populations in the park.

The winning design will be used in a variety of ways including use on printed material as well as T-shirts.

Designs should be done on an 8½-by-11-inch unlined piece of paper. Entries must be received by March 1. Send entries to: Osprey Contest, DNR Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48900-7994. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

SHOWS

BOAT SHOW
The 41st annual "All New" Detroit Boat Show runs through Sunday at Cobo Center. Sponsored by Michigan Boating Industries, the show features more than 300 boat dealers and marine businesses, over 1,000 boats of all sizes and styles, the latest in services, accessories, engines and electronics, and one-stop on-site financing. There will also be a boating life theater, a kids boating clinic, contests and giveaways. Show hours are noon-10 p.m. Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday and 3-10 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Admission is \$8 adult and children 12 and under will be admitted free. Call (800) 932-2828 for more information.

DEER AND TURKEY
The annual Michigan Deer and Turkey Spectacular will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Lansing Center. The show features some 300 exhibit booths, trophy deer, bear and elk contests and displays, live animals, wild game cooking school, archery trick shot specialist Byron Ferguson, a free instructional archery range for children, an outdoor skills demonstration center, an outdoor photo contest, over 40 informational seminars and more. Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$9 for a one-day adult ticket, \$14 for a two-day adult ticket, \$3 for youths ages 6-14, and children under six will be admitted free. Call (800) 324-3337 for more information.

CAMPER AND RV
The annual Detroit Camper and RV Show will be held Feb. 13-23 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features all types of 1999 recreational vehicles including folding campers, motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers,

fifth wheels. Over 300 models will be on display ranging in price from \$3,000 to over \$200,000. There will also be RV and campground information, family entertainment, family entertainment and more. Show hours are 2-9 p.m. weekdays, noon to 9 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$8.50 for adults and children under 12 will be admitted free. Two-for-one coupons are available at participating RV dealers. Call (617) 349-8881 for more information.

BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Silverdome. The show features fishing seminars, outfitters, 100 merchandise booths, over 400 trimable boats and much more. Show hours are 9-9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 17-18; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. Admission is \$6.50 for adults and \$3 for children. Children ages five and under will be admitted free. Discount tickets are available at participating Marathon Stations and Elias Brothers Restaurants.

SPORTFISHING EXPO
The 10th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo will be held March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The show will feature a special appearance by national walleye angling champion Ted Takasuki on Friday, March 6. Other speakers of national renown scheduled to speak at the show include walleye pros Mike McClelland and Keith Kavelec, bowhunting expert Chuck Adams, In-Fisherman Magazine editors Dave Canada and Matt Straw, and Michigan's own Tom Huggler.

OUTDOORAMA
Outdoorama '99 Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 26-March 7 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features nearly 400 exhibits featuring the latest in fishing, hunting and camping equipment; recreational vehicles; boats; conservation clubs; and travel and outfitting destinations throughout North America. There will also be a reptile and amphibian display, live animals, a trout fishing pond, musical and variety acts, an archery range, hunting and fishing seminars, and much more. Show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, Monday and Tuesday, March 1-2, and Thursday and Friday, March 4-5; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 and March 6; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28; noon to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 7. Admission is \$6.50 adult, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and children five and under will be admitted free.

CLASSES

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

ACTIVITIES

KENSINGTON HURK
Take a stroll through Kensington Metropark with members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club, during this program, which begins at 11:45 a.m. at the park nature center. Participants can also meet at 11 a.m. behind the Marathon Station at Telegraph and 12 Mile roads. Call (248) 280-4376.

BIKE MAINTENANCE 101
Get your bike ready for spring during this instructional clinic, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at REI in Northville. Call (248) 347-2100.

SEASON/DATES

BOBCAT
Bobcat season runs through Feb. 16 in Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Isco, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Ogemaw, Oshtemo, Roscommon and Wexford counties and in Arenac County west of I-75 and north of M-61. The season runs through March 1 in the Upper Peninsula and in Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties in the northern Lower Peninsula.

CROW
The late crow season runs through March 31 in the Lower Peninsula.

COYOTE
Coyote season runs through April 15 statewide.

FOX
Gray and red fox season runs through March 1 statewide.

RABBIT/HARE
Rabbit/hare season runs through March 31 statewide.

STURGEON
Sturgeon spawning season runs through Feb. 28.

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 at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7768; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

ROCK, MINERAL, FOSSIL ID
Bring in some rocks and other geological specimens that you've collected and experts will try to identify them during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Kensington.

DEER THROUGH THE SEASONS
An informative presentation about one of Michigan's most common mammals, the white-tailed deer, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 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 permit is \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register.

TUNING YOUR TOT INTO WINTER
Ages 3-6 will tune-in to the outdoors through songs, stories, a short hike, a craft and a snack during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, and again at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Independence Oaks.

SCIENCE MAGIC
Ages 6-8 will experiment with the "magic" of science and present a magic show for parents and care givers during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 17-18, at Independence Oaks.

WINTER STAR PARTY
View the night sky through the Nature Center's Starlab and use the Oakland Astronomy Club's telescope during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and information on programs at Maybury, call (810) 349-5390. Bald Mountain, call (810) 693-6767. Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 685-2433.

DON'T MISS DETROIT ROCKERS WEEKEND AT THE JOE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 3:00PM

VS. PHILADELPHIA KIXX

CPI PHOTO DAY: The 1st 2,000 fans receive a free photo of Dennis "The Menace" Brosse, courtesy of CPI Photo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AT 3:00PM

VS. KANSAS CITY ATTACK

Let The Rockers play Cupid for you!! Special Valentine's Day Package includes:

- One Free Red Carnation
- One Free Photo with your sweetheart, courtesy of CPI Photo
- 2 Reserved Tickets (Regularly \$15/each)

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4 Great Lower Bowl Seats
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DETROIT'S OTHER GREAT TEAM SHARING THE JOE.
For some darn good fun, hang with the Rockers this season at Joe Louis Arena. Tickets are available at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office or call: 313-396-7070

ROCKERS IS SOCCER

There.
(Pick-A-Seat Weekend)
at Historic Tiger Stadium
Feb 13 & 14 from 10am to 3pm



1st Game	\$420	\$315	\$315	\$164
Full Season	\$1,620	\$1,215	\$1,215	\$640

Opening Day tickets included in every plan!

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