

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

Park deer herds too large

SHOWS

OUTDOORAMA
Outdoorama '99 Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 26-March 7 at the Novi Expo Center, (800) 777-6720. The show includes nearly 450 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 5 and under will be admitted free.

SPORTSMAN EXPO
The 10th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo will be held Thursday through Sunday, March 4-7, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The show will feature 45 non-stop seminars including a special appearance by national walleye angling champion Ted Takasaki at 6 p.m. Friday, March 5. There will be more than 300 exhibitors including retailers, factory exhibits, outfitters, guides, charter boat captains and more. Show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6-12, and children 5 and under will be admitted free. Coupons for \$1 off admission are available at all Dunham's stores.

SEASON/DATES

BOBCAT
Bobcat 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.

COVOTE
Covote season runs through April 15 statewide.

FREE FISHING
Michigan's annual Free Fishing Weekend will be June 12-13.

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

SPEARING
Feb. 28 is the last day of perch spearing on Lake St. Clair.

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

STURGEON
Sturgeon spearing season runs through Feb. 28.

IN SEARCH OF

A naturalist-led walk to explore plants and animals spend the cold winter months begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Kensington.

DEAD AS A DODO
The extinction of birds and other animals will be the focus of this one-hour long program of slides and discussion, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

FULL MOON WALK
Learn some moon facts and lore during this naturalist-led hike under the light of the full moon, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Kensington.

1999 PERMITS
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metropolitan annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropolitan 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.



OUTDOOR INSIGHTS
BILL PARKER

Solutions are not coming easily for the white-tailed deer population problems at some of the local Metroparks. A Wildlife Management Advisory Committee has been studying overpopulation and the problems at Kensington and Hudson Mills and has made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

The problem is there are simply too many deer in all three of these parks. Park users enjoy watching and photographing deer, but the populations have exceeded the carrying capacity of the land and the park's biological balance has been upended. Car-deer accidents on local roads and over-grazing in the parks are top concerns.

"People come to Kensington and our other parks to see the deer. We are very aware that we must proceed carefully to ensure that our deer herd is visible to our visitors," said Frank Sudek, director of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. "At the same time, we must work diligently to keep and reestablish the biodiversity in the parks, where deer have destroyed wildflowers, shrubs and trees. In order to do this we are looking at a long-range plan to reduce and

manage the deer herd."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommends a density of 15 to 20 deer per square mile. The advisory committee is shooting for a density of 20 to 25 per square mile. At the present time there are 117 deer per square mile at Kensington, 82 per square mile at Stony Creek, and 50 per square mile at Hudson Mills.

The whitetail populations at these parks must be reduced for the overall good of the deer, the plant life and even the safety of motorists. To do this, the advisory committee recommended controlled hunts at Stony Creek and Hudson Mills and the use of a sharpshooter at Kensington. The Board of Commissioners voted to approve the recommendations and to continue to develop a plan to control the deer herds.

Imprinting helps young swans



NATURE NOTES
TIM NOWICKI

When Konrad Lorenz alerted the world to the process of imprinting, I'm sure he would never have imagined that this basic behavioral action would be so beneficial.

Imprinting is the process where birds identify the first thing they see as their "parents" and follow it.

In the case of Konrad Lorenz, he was the first thing the young geese saw, so they proceeded to follow him. When he walked down the trail they followed; when he swam in the lake, they followed and even rode on his back.

In a natural situation, the first living thing a young bird would typically see, would be their parents.

Following them is very beneficial to their survival. Researchers have capitalized on this natural behavior.

Scientists have arranged it so sandhill crane adults hatched and raised endangered whooping crane young.

When the sandhill cranes were ready to migrate to their winter site, the young whooping cranes followed. The purpose behind this kind of program is to establish a new wintering and breeding population of whooping cranes.

Most success has resulted. A modification of this imprinting process was used this past fall to take three trumpeter swans from southern Canada to southern Indiana.

Young trumpeter swans were raised with other swans so they did not become dependent on humans. But as part of their training, they were taught to follow a small ultra-light plane, like that used in the movie "Fly Away Home."

Four trumpeter swans were raised near Sudbury, Ontario, for this pilot project.

On Dec. 4, 1998, all four started to follow the ultra-light on their way to Indiana.

One decided to turn back after less than 10 miles into the journey. The other remaining birds flew 400 miles the first day and close to 80 miles the next two

days.

Flight for swans is helped by their 8-foot wingspan. Such a large wingspan is necessary because they can weigh up to 30 pounds.

They flew from Sudbury, Ontario, south past Detroit and continued toward Cincinnati. They moved into southern Indiana behind the ultra-light plane.

They will spend the winter in ideal conditions at the Muscatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Researchers are hoping they will fly north in spring to the marsh in which they were raised.

Michigan has a population of about 150 trumpeter swans that have been introduced through several releases within the state. Swans can survive the cold temperatures as long as they have some open water in which to feed.

Some trumpeter swans have been seen on the Huron River during the winter.

As more and more trumpeter swans make the Great Lakes area their new home, chances are good that we will see this once native species.

ACTIVITIES

ICE HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on the 8th annual ice hike to Canada, which begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Pte. Pelee. Interested participants should meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Ontario

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropolitan 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: Swan Creek, (800) 477-7755; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.

MAPLE MAGIC
Learn how maple syrup is made during this hike-style presentation, which begins at 10 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 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 additional information on programs at Maybury, call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain, call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland, call (810) 688-2433. For programs at Island Lake, call (810) 229-7067.

WINNING IT IN WINTER
A two-hour walk in search of winter resident birds begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Highland.

BLUEBIRD BOX

Learn to make a bluebird box and pick up some tips on how to encourage nesting during this program, which begins at 1 p.m.

at all Dunham's stores.

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Find these sites on the World Wide Web - Brought to you by the services of O&E On-Line!
To get your business On-Line, call 734-953-2038

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