

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

**BALD MOUNTAIN HIKE**  
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a five-mile hike at Bald Mountain State Recreation Area beginning at noon on Sunday, Aug. 22. Call Dan Dahlin at (248) 644-2746 for information.

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.

**NATURE CLUB**  
Ages 8-12 will learn about the outdoors during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, 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 the 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) 685-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7087.

**SUMMER EVENING STROLL**  
Explore the park's natural and cultural history through a variety of weekly hikes and interpretive presentations during this class, which will be held at 7 p.m. each Thursday through the end of August at Maybury.

**NATURE FOLKLORE**  
Take a look at nature from a different

forest angle and learn about legends and folklore during this naturalist-led hike at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Maybury.

**FAMILY FISHING**  
Bring the entire family for an evening of fishing fun during this program at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Maybury.

**BIRD HIKE**  
Observe and identify bird species seen throughout the park during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Maybury. A similar program begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11.

**FEATHERED FRIENDS**  
Children and their families will take a closer look at how and where birds live through activities and guided hikes during this program at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Maybury.

**BATS OF MICHIGAN**

Learn all about bats during this slide presentation, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at Maybury.

**KIDS GARDEN DAY**  
Learn about gardening, weather, helpful insects and animals during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Maybury.

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, 1-800-477-7136; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

**CHICKEN LITTLE'S NIGHT OUT**  
Learn about summer constellations and view the Perseid Meteor Shower during this campfire program, which begins at 9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 12-13, at Stony Creek.

**FRIDAY NIGHT FOR FAMILIES**  
Families can share a relaxing evening together surrounded by the sights and sounds of summer during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, at Stony Creek.

**SUMMER SOJOURN**  
Discover what's happening along the nature trails during this guided hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15, at Kensington.

**HURON RIVER CLEAN UP**  
Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Huron River from Proud Lake through the Kensington Metropark during the 12th annual Huron River Clean Up, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, at Kensington. The rain date is Saturday, Aug. 28. Call (248) 685-7129 for more information.

**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 permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

Kensington Project helps osprey make comeback



BILL PARKER

News from the field:

In a continuing effort to reintroduce Osprey into southeast Michigan, four more chicks were transported from the Upper Peninsula and are now making their home in a hack box overlooking Wildwing Lake at Kensington Metropark. Four chicks were also relocated to Kensington last summer.

The Kensington Project is a combined effort between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks and the Detroit Zoological Institute Authority. The fish-eating raptors will be cared for and monitored by trained staffers and volunteers until they can fly and feed on their own.

Osprey were once abundant in Michigan but the use of DDT and other harmful pesticides as well as habitat destruction reduced their numbers so much that Osprey were placed on the endangered species list in the mid 1980's.

Osprey migrate to South America for the winter and return north when the weather warms. Traditionally, when male birds are sexually mature they will return and nest in the area they were raised. The hope is that these birds will return to Kensington and make it their permanent summer home.

Baiting ban

The state Natural Resource Commission unanimously voted to prohibit all baiting of deer in the northeastern Lower Peninsula where the Bovine Tuberculosis outbreak has occurred.

Previously, the commission had voted to allow limited baiting in the area, but the United States Department of Agriculture mandated that both baiting and feeding of white-tailed deer be prohibited in the area of the

outbreak as a condition for granting Bovine TB zoning for Michigan's agricultural industry. Under the zoning proposal, the rest of the state will maintain its TB free status, which is crucial for the future of Michigan's cattle industry.

A five-gallon per-day baiting restriction remains in effect for the rest of the state.

Wolf comeback continues

The results of last winter's wolf survey, conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, confirmed that the population is growing. The survey revealed at least 174 wolves making up some 30 packs, scattered across the Upper Peninsula. Last year the survey revealed 140 wolves.

The wolf survey is conducted by biologists on snowmobiles and snowshoes and from aerial observations of radio collared wolves during the winter. This year's count was delayed by poor tracking snow in early winter.

"This represents a minimum count of wolves," said Jim Hamill, DNR's wildlife management unit supervisor. "Since wolves can travel 30 to 50 miles in a day we don't include all tracks to eliminate as much duplicate counting as possible. We like to know something about the number of wolves traveling in a pack and the range they use before we confirm new sightings."

It is believed that all the wolves now in Michigan are either descendants of Michigan breeding wolves or the result of migration from Wisconsin, Minnesota or Ontario. No wolves have been trapped and relocated to Michigan since a failed attempt in the mid 1970's.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

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