

# Orchard Lake girl world-class angler



Game and Fish Association.

"I love to go fishing. Fishing is something I love to do whenever I have some spare time," beamed C.J., a third grader at Roper School. "It's fun to catch them and sometimes, if they're real big, they're really good to eat. Sometimes we let them go and it's fun to watch them swim away."

Walker established world records in the girls small fry division by catching a 3-pound, 15-ounce lake trout and a 3-pound, 10-ounce northern pike. "She was just having a blast catching fish," explained C.J.'s father, Bruce. "The day she caught the pike, she caught five of them. She was laughing and having a ball. The whole experience was pretty exciting for her."

"The IGFA has a lot of recognized anglers and world record class fish, but recently began recognizing the accomplishments of young anglers through its junior program."

"The International Game and Fish Association has been around since 1939 and we started a junior records program in

1997," explained IGFA spokeswoman Kathy Corser. "The junior program is for children ages 16 and under and the small fry program is for ages 10 and under. We recognize 60 freshwater species and 60 salt-water species of fish, and there is no charge."

"C.J. caught both of her records last summer when on a fly fishing trip on northern Lake Superior with her father. Both fish hit a gold/red Cleo fished on a medium action spinning rod with eight-pound-test monofilament."

"It was very fun," C.J. said. "We were trying for a world record and when we got home and my dad looked it up and found out we had two records it was really exciting."

"There is a catch-and-release division for just fishing and catch-and-release fishing is encouraged by the IGFA. There is no charge to submit a record and membership is not required. Junior membership in IGFA is available for \$15 and includes a quarterly newsletter, a rule book, periodic record updates, a hat, a patch, a decal and a membership card. For a free list of all IGFA world records or more information, contact Kathy Corser at IGFA, 300 Golf Street, Dunedin, Fla., 32004 or call (904) 927-2928."

"They have to do everything to be eligible for a record," added Bruce. "They have to eat, reel, fight the fish. All I could do was net it. I couldn't even touch the line. She did a good job."

C.J. fishes often with her father and is an accomplished

angler. She has caught tuna and dolphin fish in the Caribbean and perch, blue gill, pike and bass at home on Cass Lake.

**Ferguson on fire**

Rochester bass professional Art Ferguson is in the hunt for a return trip to the prestigious BASS Masters Classic world championships. Ferguson qualified for the 1999 Classic through the Top 150 circuit and finished a very respectable 18th. This year he's in the thick of things in the Eastern Invitational circuit. The top five finishers in the circuit after five tournaments earn an automatic berth.

After the third tournament - the Alabama Invitational held in December on Lake Martin in Alexander City, Ala. - Ferguson placed in 11th place among more than 300 anglers. His total of 542 points was 22 points behind division leader Mark Menendez of Kentucky and just 15 shy of a qualifying spot.

Ferguson helped his cause in the Alabama Invitational by placing 36th with 12 fish that weighed 16 pounds, 15 ounces. He earned \$1,650 for his effort, along with 256 points in the race for the division lead.

Ferguson will compete later this month on Florida's Lake Toho and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in the \$409,450 Florida BASSMASTER Top 150.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly column for the Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Send comments and successful hunting and fishing reports to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

## SEASONS

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

## CLASSES/CLINICS

**FLY TYING**  
Hook Line & Sinker bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fly tying classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9218 for more information.

**ROD BUILDING**  
Hook Line & Sinker bait shop in Lake Orion will hold fishing rod building classes every Wednesday and Thursday until the beginning of ice fishing season. Call (248) 814-9218 for more information.

**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.

**MORE FLY TYING**  
River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tiers. Classes will be held at various times. For more information or to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

## CLUBS

**CLINTON VALLEY BASS**  
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 686-8910.

**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

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

Dominic Liparoti at (248) 476-6027 for more information.

**MICHIGAN FLY FISHING**  
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight mile roads. Call (810) 478-1404.

**FOUR SEASONS**  
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are invited and refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudel at (734) 591-0843.

**FISHING BUDDIES**  
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills. Meetings are open to all anglers (boaters and non-boaters). Call (248) 656-0566 for information.

**HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS**  
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for more information.

**BASS ASSOCIATION**  
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

**SOLAR**  
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658.

**FLY TYING**  
The River Bend Sports Shop Fly Tying Club meets every other week in Southfield. Call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474 for more information.

## COUNTY PARKS

**COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 for more information or to register.

**PERMITS**  
The 2000 Oakland County parks motor vehicle permits are on sale at all county park offices and many parks and recreation and township offices. Cost is \$20 through April 30 and \$25 thereafter. Call (248) 650-0906 or TTY (248) 858-1684 for information.

**SUNDAY SNOWSHOES**  
Take a snowy hike on snowshoes during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at Independence Oaks. Call the Friday before the event to register for the upcoming Sunday. The game is dependent on snow.

**TRACKS, TEES AND WILDLIFE**  
Search for animal tracks and other wildlife signs on the trail, then print your own animal tracks on a t-shirt during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, at Independence Oaks.

**TUNING YOUR TOT INTO WINTER**  
Ages 3-6 will use all five senses to explore winter wonders during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 16-17, and again at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29.

## WAYNE COUNTY PARKS

**COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Advanced registration is requested. Call (734) 261-1990 or register and for more information.



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