

# Sporting Flies Challenge returns to Southfield

## OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

Get out your fly rod, tie on a tippet and add an old ragged dry fly. It's time to wet a line. Don't worry, there's no heat wave coming that's going to ruin our ice fishing season. It's just time for the sixth annual Sporting Flies Challenge, sponsored by the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

This year's event, held in conjunction with the Chapter's annual "What's New in Tackle Night," is scheduled for 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.

For the past six years members of the Paul H. Young Chapter have transformed the Southfield Civic Center into a artificial trout stream and invited anglers

of all ages to come and try their hand at casting to specific targets. The stream is actually a huge, winding piece of blue plastic.

Obstacles like papier-mâché boulders, old Christmas trees and other woody debris are placed strategically along the stream and participants must cast to water targets placed among the debris.

"We try to set it up to look as realistic as possible," said Bob Batchik, director of the challenge. "We've got simple casts and challenging casts. It's really a lot of fun."

Participants cast three times at each of five stations. If you hit the target on your first cast you receive three points. Hit it again with your second cast and receive two more points, and hit it on your third cast and receive an additional point. A perfect score on any one target results in

six points. The highest point total at the conclusion of each event is the winner.

The Sporting Flies Challenge started out as a contest between TU chapters, but has grown in popularity and now includes three divisions of competition: an Individual Challenge, a Club Challenge and a Team Challenge.

The Individual Challenge costs \$6 for each pass and individuals may pass through the course as many times as they want. The Club Challenge is a two-man team event reserved for clubs and organizations. Entry fee is \$100 and the winning team gets 75-percent of the collected entry fees.

The Team Challenge is a four-man team event open to any and all comers. The entry fee is \$100 per team and the winning team gets 50-percent of the collected entry fees.

Money raised through this fund-raising event is earmarked for stream improvement projects statewide.

"All the money goes into our annual grant fund for stream improvement," Batchik said. "We raised about \$2,000 each of the last two years. We hope to do a little better this year."

The annual "What's New in Tackle Night," will also be held and includes representatives from local fly shops as well as tackle and equipment manufacturers.

Food and refreshments will also be served and tickets for TU's raffle of a Jeep Cherokee will also be available.

For more information call up the Paul H. Young Chapter's web site at

www.paulyoungtu.org or call Batchik at (248) 683-3688.

Outdoor Explorers Club grows in an effort to help youngsters explore Michigan's vast natural world the Michigan Department

of Natural Resources a few years back started the Outdoor Explorers Club. Membership in the club, which is geared for youngsters age 12 and under, is free and club members receive a colorful and informative newsletter four times a year. The newsletter is full of games, riddles and activities as well as some surprises for its readers, such as the use of special pine-scented ink that was used in the winter edition featuring information on Hartwick Pines State Park and Michigan's logging history.

"The Outdoor Explorers Club newsletter was created because the DNR is committed to creating new opportunities for family interaction with educational activities that promote fun, appreciation and knowledge of Michigan's great outdoors," said K.L. Cool, director of the MDNR.

Over 10,000 youngsters joined the club last year, bringing the

grand total to more than 30,000. "Our goal is to reach 200,000 by the year 2002, making it one of the largest conservation youth groups in the world," Cool said.

To join the club send a sheet of paper with the name, address, phone number, age and date of birth of the prospective member to: Explorers Club, Department of Natural Resources, Box 30690, Lansing, MI 48909-8190.

Applications are also available at the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mi.us and at all DNR offices statewide.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Send information or comments to: Outdoors, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009).

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

### ARCHERY

#### LIVONIA RANGE

The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The range is also open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only through the end of November. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for more information.

#### JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

### ACTIVITIES

#### FUND-RAISING CHALLENGE

The Paul Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited's 6th annual Sporting Flies Fund-raising Challenge will be held Thursday,

Feb. 3 at the Southfield Civic Center. Many fly rod retailers and manufacturers representatives will be in attendance showcasing their latest equipment. Manufacturers reps will begin setting up at 5 p.m. and casting begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

**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 Daily at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

**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) 476-5027 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) 478-1494

for more information.

#### 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, 16218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are invited and refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information.

#### 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) 656-0556 for information.

#### HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Rd., Flat

Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for 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 for more information.

#### FLY TYING

The River Bend Sports Shop Fly Tying Club meets every other

week in Southfield. Call (248) 356-5484 or (248) 691-3474 for more information.

## SYMPOSIUMS

### BLACK BEAR SYMPOSIUM

Michigan Bear Hunters Association, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will sponsor a Black Bear Symposium beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, March 10, at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Several distinguished researchers will be on hand discussing issues including: Bears Around the World; Bear Population Dynamics; Cultural Carrying Capacity Concepts; Land Use Trends and Bear Habitat, and much more. Admission is free and the symposium is open to the public. For

more information call Tim Rein at (517) 873-1253.

### QUIET WATER SYMPOSIUM

A quiet water symposium will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Michigan State University Agriculture Pavilion (just south of Mt. Hope Road on Farm Lane) in East Lansing. This annual event brings together people who share a love of outdoor, non-motorized recreation. The symposium features speakers, a slide presentation, workshops, demonstrations, a paddlers film festival, information about water quality and access, and much more. Admission is \$5 for adults and children under the age of 12 will be admitted free. For more information contact Wayne Barry at (517) 339-3112 or send e-mail to catalina@tr.com



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