

Area angler finds success on pro fishing circuit

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

BY PAUL H. YOUNG

BILL PARKER

On a recent winter afternoon, Kyle Greene sat patiently on Lake St. Clair waiting for the perch to start biting. Although the action was slow, it was a relaxing task and a welcomed break from the pressure-filled action of the professional bass fishing circuit.

Greene, of Bloomfield Hills, has been competing at the professional level for 10 years and is off to his best start yet. With four of seven qualifying events under his belt in the BASS Kmart Top 150 Circuit, Greene

is in the running for a coveted berth in the BASS Masters Classic world championship.

The top 25 finishers in the point standings at the conclusion of the seven qualifying events earn a berth in the 2000 Classic, which will be held in August in Chicago.

Following a spectacular third-place finish two weeks ago in the Kmart Top 150 on Lake Too, near Orlando, Fla., Greene is in 21st place in the point standings. "If I can keep the pressure on and keep fishing the way I have been, I could be OK," Greene said. "I just need to keep going into the tournament with an open mind and, hopefully, have good results."

That open-mindedness is playing a key role in Greene's success.

"I changed my method of practice. I'm more open-minded when trying to find fish," he said. "I'm staying closer, so I'm not spending a lot of time running all over the lake and concentrating on the fish that are nearby."

That approach paid off in the Lake Too tournament when the weather kicked up on the second day of competition. Facing wind gusts of 30 mph, Green had to change his tactic and left the main lake for the wind shelter of a nearby bay. He finished with a four-day total of 20 fish that weighed 43 pounds, 7 ounces. For his efforts, Greene won a Chevy pickup truck valued at \$25,000 along with a check for \$5,000.

"I just bought a house so I wasn't planning on a new truck anytime soon," he said. "It came

at a good time."

Greene said he caught most of his fish on a Zoom Super Fluke, a soft plastic jerk bait.

"So far I'm off to my best start, my most consistent start," Greene said. "The key to this whole sport is being consistent."

The next stop on the Top 150 trail is at Lake Seminole, on the Florida/Georgia border, the second week of February. The Mega Bucks Tournament will be held on Lake Murray in South Carolina in March and the final tournament will be held in May on Lake Wheeler, Ala.

New shooting range

The DNR opened a state-of-the-art shooting range recently at the Island Lake Recreation Area, located on Grand River between Kensington Road and

Kent Lake (exit 151 off I-96), the range features 40 stations that are handicap accessible and offer shots of 25 yards, 50 yards and 100 yards. A mechanized skeet and trap range and a concession building is scheduled to be built this summer and the entire facility is expected to be completed and dedicated by Sept. 1.

Sporting Flies reminder

Don't forget about the sixth annual Sporting Flies Challenge, slated for Thursday, Feb. 3 at the Southfield Civic Center and sponsored by the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The event, held in conjunction with the annual "What's New in Tackle Night," will run from 7-10 p.m.

The Sporting Flies Challenge allows anglers to compete

against each other in an effort to raise money for stream improvement projects statewide. Participants cast at targets on an artificial trout stream and accumulate points for hitting the targets. There are three divisions of competition including an individual challenge, a club challenge and a team challenge.

For more information see the Paul H. Young Chapter's Web site at www.paulyoungt.org or call (248) 683-3688.

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

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

CLASSES

FLY TYING

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

FLY TYING

River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tying. Classes will be held at various times. For more information and to register call (248) 356-8484 or (248) 691-3474.

SHOWS

FLY FISHING SHOW

The 17th annual Silverdome Boat, Sport and Fishing Show will be held Feb. 2-6 at the Pontiac Silverdome. The show features over 300 boats from more than 75 manufacturers, fishing tackle, fishing trips, charter captains, virtual fishing, trout ponds, seminars, casting demonstrations and more. Show hours are 9-9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 2 and 3; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6. Admission is \$7 adult, \$3 for

children ages 6-14 and children under five will be admitted free.

DETROIT BOAT SHOW

The 42nd annual Detroit Boat, Sport and Fishing Show will be held Feb. 12-20 at Cobo Center. The show features the 2000 premiere shows of new model boats, motors, trailers, accessories and more. Some 1,000 boats will be available for viewing including fishing boats, ski boats, pontoons, cruisers, inflatables, personal watercrafts, canoes and kayaks.

TRAVEL & RV

The 17th annual Camper, Travel and RV Show will be held through Jan. 30 at the Pontiac Silverdome. The show features more than 100 exhibitors with the latest in campers, RVs and travel destinations. Show hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30. Admission is \$6.50 adult and \$3 for children. Ages five and under will be admitted free.

SPORTFISHING EXPO

The 12th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo is set for Thursday through Sunday, March 2-5, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. An all-star lineup of seminar speakers is already scheduled. The show also features exhibitors, merchandise booths, casting and fishing activities and more. Show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 2-3; 10 a.m.-9:30

p.m. Saturday, March 4; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 5. Admission is \$7.75 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6-12 and children age 5 and under will be admitted free.

SPRING BOATING EXPO

The 8th annual Spring Boating Expo is scheduled for March 16-19 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features some 200 exhibitors with new boats, watercrafts, motors, trailers, docks, accessories and more.

ACTIVITIES

SPORTING FLIES

The Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding the sixth annual Sporting Flies Challenge, 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the Southfield Civic Center. Participants can try their luck at hitting strategically placed targets on an artificial trout stream. Competition is held in individual, team and club divisions. All proceeds will be used for stream improvement projects within the state. For more information check the Paul H. Young Chapter's Web site at www.paulyoungt.org or call Bob Batchik at (248) 683-3688.

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) 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, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are invited and refreshments will be served. Call Jim Kudaj 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 are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more 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 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 more 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) 688-6568 for more information.

FLY TYING

The River Bend Sports Shop Fly Tying Club meets every other week in Southfield. Call (248)

360-8484 or (248) 591-3474 for more information.

OAKLAND 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 to register or for more information.

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) 858-0906 or TTY (248) 858-1684.

WAYNE COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

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

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