

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6177 Chicago Road, in Warren. The public is welcome. Dennis Bidgore, well-known charter fisherman on Lake Michigan, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Feb. 29 meeting. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wileczek at (810) 757-3665 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310. The Detroit Area Steelheaders will also hold a Sportmen's Game Dinner March 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren. The dinner is open to the public and doors open at 5 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Tickets are available by calling Tom Moores at (248) 634-5789, Mary Karakas at (248) 545-1161 or Linda Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

CLINTON VALLEY BASE
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gandor 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 Liparato 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 Kudej at (734) 691-0843.

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 Rd., Flat

Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for information.
BASE ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Base Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 5:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Cander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a nonprofit 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.

HIGHLAND CC SW
The Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 2-3 hour cross country ski trip at the Highland Recreation Area on Sunday, Feb. 13. Call (313) 863-8392 for more information.

HERITAGE PARK HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 2-3 hour hike at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills on Sunday, Feb. 20. Call Don Dahlin at (248) 644-2746 for more information.

POINTE PEELE ICE HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 2-3 hour hike at Pointe Pelee in Ontario on Feb. 27. Call (313) 581-7679 for more information.

BANQUET/DINNER

WILD GAME DINNER
Michigan Sports-person Heritage Conservancy Unlimited will have a wild-game dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Taylor Moose Lodge, 9981 S. Telegraph Road, Taylor. Turtle soup, rabbit, venison, beaver, buffalo, kangaroo and elk will be included on the menu along with some other surprises. Proceeds from the dinner will be used on hunting and fishing projects, youth education and projects for disabled persons. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Call (248) 851-1266 or (313) 277-8291 for more information.

SAFARI CLUB SE BOWHUNTERS
The Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter of Safari Club International will hold its 14th Annual Banquet and Fund raiser on Saturday, March 18, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, in Livonia. For tickets and more information call Jim Shafer at (734) 741-9527, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Area youth gobbles up competition



Cody Rizo knows the difference between a putt and a pure and a cluck and a cut. He has spent hours upon hours perfecting his technique and mastering the art of calling turkeys. All that time and hard work paid off recently when the 12-year-old Livonia resident came out on top of the flock in the Michigan Turkey Calling Championships. The championships were held Jan. 22 at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare, in conjunction with a National Wild Turkey Federation seminar.

Rizo, who has been calling since he was nine years old, was competing in the Junior Division, which is open to youths as old as age 16. Undaunted by the challenge of competing against opponents as much as four years older than him, Rizo serenaded a panel of judges with cutting, clucking, purring and putting, and even landed in a keekee run on route to winning the title.

Rizo, a member of Away Hunt- ing Products Calling Team and coached by six-time state calling champion Greg Abner, was carrying on what is fast becoming a family tradition. You see, Cody's brother, Tim, won the junior state championship in 1994.

Look for the loon
With the dreaded tax time upon us, it's also time for an annual reminder to "Look for the Loon" when filling out your state tax return.

If you have a refund coming to consider making a small donation to the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund, by filling in the box next to the fund. Funding for non-game animals, fish, protected plants and their habitats are

all dependent on these annual voluntary donations, which also supports research, education and habitat improvement projects.

Some of the projects already funded by the fish and wildlife fund include an ongoing study to determine natural and artificial variables, including recreational use, on the current and potential loon occupation of lakes in the Upper Peninsula; educational outreach efforts, many of which focus on eagles, hawks, great blue herons and song birds; and distribution of wildlife poster and videos, and assistance with the design of teaching activities to school teachers, youth leaders and citizens across the state.

For additional information on some of the other projects supported by the fund request a free copy of the quarterly newsletter, The Spotting Scope. Send your name and address to: Natural Heritage Program, Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909-7680 or check out the Department of nat-

ural Resources web site at www.dnr.state.mi.us

Best of the bunch

Want to see some of the biggest deer, bear, elk and turkeys taken in the state? Then plan a little trip to the Lansing Center this weekend and take in the 2000 Michigan Deer & Turkey Spectacular.

The show's trophy deer, elk, bear and turkey events attracts some of the biggest trophies taken in the state each year. In addition, the show features over 300 exhibitors, live animal displays, archery, laser firearms shooting and much more.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$14 for a two-day pass and \$3 for kids ages 11-16. Children 10 and under will be admitted free. On Friday Family Night all youths 15 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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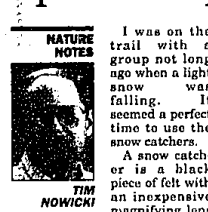
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Small ice crystals add up to be a pile of snow



I was on the trail with a group not long ago when a light snow was falling. It seemed a perfect time to use the snow catchers. A snow catcher is a black piece of felt with an inexpensive magnifying lens attached on a piece of yarn. Conditions were indeed perfect and so were the snow crystals. Unlike many snowfalls when the individual crystals attach and cluster with other crystals on their way down, these crystals were separate individuals. They were not big, but we could see all the details of their structure when they landed. With the aid of the magnifying lens we identified dendrites and needles.

"Fortunately, the temperature was cold enough that they did not melt when they landed on the felt. This gave us enough time to admire the delicate patterns created when microscopic water molecules bond together and form the traditional three-sided snowflake.

"The needles formed three-dimensional star shaped forms that were much smaller than the dendrites.

"Late-like dendrites were only 1/8th of an inch in diameter, but under magnification I could see the branching pattern that formed each of the six rays emanating from the center.

"Large fluffy clusters that fall as hundreds of these tiny crystals jumbled together. It's very difficult to see one individual crystal from this group. That is why this morning was so special, each flake was independent from others.

Looking at each one of these delicate intricate works of art made it hard to believe that each one started to form around a minute particle of dust, smoke, pollen, bacteria, fungi, salt, or anything else floating in the upper atmosphere.

Water molecules began to attach to the minute particle in a structured arrangement that allows the 120-degree angle of a water molecule to attach to others and form a six sided snowflake.

So remember, when children eat snow they are essentially eating dirt and water.

Some crystals may be more columnar in shape, while many combine structures of two basic crystals. Round beads of water falling in cold temperatures are called rimed. It is formed when snow crystals falling are pushed upward into the clouds and melt, or bring into other crystals losing their traditional shape.

A single crystal may be loosed up and down in a cloud several times before it finally falls to the ground.

In southeastern Michigan the average snowfall between 1940 and 1969 was between 30-40 inches. The snowiest place in Michigan is Delaware in the Upper Peninsula, they average 241.5 inches per winter.

During the winter of 1978-79 they recorded 391.9 inches of snow over 32.6 feet. Baldwin recorded 39.6 inches of snow fall in one day.

It's hard to believe that those tiny crystals I needed a magnifying lens to see could accumulate into several feet of snow.

How many crystals would have to be formed to accumulate to several feet of snow? Next time it starts to snow, take a magnifier outside and see if you can enjoy some superb snowflakes.

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