

**OUTDOOR CALENDAR**

**SHOWS**

**SPRING BOATING EXPO**  
The 6th Annual Spring Boating Expo is scheduled for March 28-19 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features some 200 exhibitors with new boats and watercrafts, motors, trailers, docks, accessories and more.

**OUTDOOR MARKS**  
OutdoorMark's 2000 Michigan Sport and Travel Show concludes today at the Novi Expo Center. The show features over 200,000 square feet of floor space devoted to more than 400 exhibits featuring the latest in hunting, fishing and camping equipment, recreational vehicles, boats, conservation clubs travel and outfitting destinations.

**ARCHERY**

**ARCHERS OF WEST CLOMFIELD**  
The Detroit Archers of West Bloomfield (5795 Drake Road) is hosting a number of leagues: 3-D indoor, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.; Monday back league, 7:30 p.m. (men only); Tuesday target league, 7:30 p.m.; 3-D bow hunter, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. (indoor); and Friday fun league, 7:30 p.m. Open shoot hours are from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 8-10 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call (313) 625-2110.

**JUNIOR OLYMPICS**  
The Oakland County Sportman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444.

**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. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wilczek at (810) 757-7305 or club President Ray Bahney at (810) 698-0010. The Detroit Area Steelheaders will also hold a Sportsman's Game Dinner March 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren. The cost is \$30 per person.

**BASS TOURNAMENT**  
The 2000 Top Bass Tournament will be held at various sites throughout the summer months. The schedule is as follows: Saginaw Bay, May 27; Lake St. Helen, June 3; Wixom Lake, June 24; Sanford Lake, July 8; Wixom Lake, July 22; Lobbell Lake, Aug. 5; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 10; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 28-27. Guaranteed payoffs will be awarded with amounts determined by the number of entries. For more information, call (734)

729-1762 or (734) 422-5815.

**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) 660-0910 for more information.

**KETRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
Ketro-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 Liparolo 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) 470-1494 for more information.

**FOUR SEASONS**  
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15215 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 691-0843 for information.

**BASS ASSOCIATION**  
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 7:30 p.m. the first 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) 988-0655 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. 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 Sunday. Call (313) 581-7679 for more information.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**SAFARI CLUB SE BOWHUNTERS**  
The Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter of Safari Club International will hold its ninth annual Banquet and Fundraiser on Saturday, March 18, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, in Livonia. For tickets and more information call Jim Shaeffer at (734) 741-0527, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Outdoors group questions DNR ways**



A group of concerned hunters is taking the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission to task over the way that state sets regulations regarding fishing and game management.

Whitetails Forever, which started out as a small group of deer hunters from Grafton County, has blossomed over the last few months. The group, which is receiving legal counsel from Fred Treat, producer of The Practical Prentissman TV series, is circulating petitions in 70 of the state's 83 counties in an effort to change the Legislative Procedures Act.

Subsection 207 (D) of that act exempts the DNR and NRC from holding public hearings before setting regulations. Public opinion is welcomed at the monthly NRC meetings, but Whitetails Forever wants to force the NRC to hold public hearings so every opinion expressed at these hearings will become a matter of public record and will have to be considered in

the decision-making process. Senator David Jaye (R-Macomb) has jumped on the Whitetails Forever bandwagon and is considering sponsoring legislation to change the act.

That doesn't make much sense to me. Complicating the issue But to change the way the DNR and NRC manage wildlife over one controversial issue doesn't make sense to me either. Whitetails Forever claims it doesn't want to take away any power from the DNR or NRC, and that it just wants to force the state to listen to hunters and anglers.

The problem is that changing the Legislative Procedures Act through an act of legislation simply brings more government and more complications into the picture. If public hearings were held on every rule or change, game management would be locked in the backfield. Now that takes 60 to 90 days to accomplish would take months to get through a public-hearing process.

And what happens the first time a rule or change is proposed and hunters get back to their typically apathetic ways and fail to show up at an NRC meeting? I'll tell you what will happen. The anti-hunting crowd, knowing it's opinions will be a matter of public record and feared into the final decision, will show up in force. Anti-hunters are activists. They write letters, call legisla-

tors, show up at meetings and voice their opinions. Most hunters and anglers, on the other hand, aren't activists, don't write letters and don't show up at meetings.

Changing the Legislative Procedures Act to force public hearings will not solve any problems, and may create some. It will only complicate the entire process.

**The vote is in**  
In 1996, state voters approved Proposal G, which gives the Natural Resources Commission the authority to manage our fish and wildlife. Public comment is welcomed at monthly NRC meetings.

For those doubters who claim the DNR and NRC don't work for or listen to the concerns of sportsmen, I say that's not so.

For proof, look no further than the recent passage of a preference permit system for bear hunting. It took some time, but the ramifications of such a proposal could backfire and slap hunters and anglers in the face.

I hope Whitetails Forever realizes what it is asking for and reconsiders. On paper, changing the act looks like a good idea, but the ramifications of such a proposal could backfire and slap hunters and anglers in the face.

must make the most of each reproductive season and raise as many young as they can. That means they are serious about protecting their investments. I enjoy watching crows build a nest. They start when their are no leaves on the trees, that makes their activities easy to watch. Second, if you watch them for a while you can actually see them collect material.

They land near the ends of branches where the twigs are thin. Then they grab a twig with their bill and twist their head to see if it will break off. If the twig breaks free, they will hold on to it and transport it to the nest. Other crows may be in the vicinity and provide sounds of

"encouragement." Sometimes two or three crows will be in the area of the nest. These satellite birds are young from the previous year. They will help with raising their parent's next brood. During the nest building period, birds are nervous about predators scouting the area for potential meals. When a predator, like a hawk, is spotted crows will call to rally others in the area to deter it from getting closer. Crows mobbing a hawk near a nest make a loud raucous call that warns not only crows, but other kinds of birds in the area that danger is present.

Chickadees hearing the calls of crows will become aware of the threat, but do not have to worry too much. They can continue their flights of fancy and subtle posturing which alerts other males that they should stay away, or where the nest hole selected is located.

Singing, raising the feathers on top of their head, quivering their wings, all mean something in chickadee language. If you watch them close you will see some of these actions. Though a cold spell may occur — knowing Michigan weather — birds and other animals will continue their efforts to raise as many young as possible.

Spring foretells the period of plenty which has been productive for past generations.



Spring is definitely in the air. Squirrels are chasing each other, crows are building nests, chickadees, nuthatches and cardinals are singing or posturing to each other. All these activities are signs that a new season of reproduction has arrived. Squirrels spiraling down a tree trunk like the stripes on a barber's pole is a sign of amorous activity. Males may be chasing females, or males may be chasing other males from the area so they will have exclusive rights to the females in the area.

Watching the intensity of the chase is an indication of how serious the animals are about their intentions. Small animals like squirrels and song birds do not live very long. Fox squirrels may live about six years, while chickadees average about three years. During their short lives they

must make the most of each reproductive season and raise as many young as they can. That means they are serious about protecting their investments. I enjoy watching crows build a nest. They start when their are no leaves on the trees, that makes their activities easy to watch. Second, if you watch them for a while you can actually see them collect material.

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THINK FORD FIRST  
Metro Detroit Ford Dealers

WJR AM 760

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LAST WEEK'S WINNER  
Lauren Isotalo  
Warren  
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Al Long Ford in Warren

Tune in WJR 760 AM each Friday at 7:40 a.m. and hear the Athlete of the Week announced on Paul W. Smith's morning show.

To submit your nomination for the High School Athlete of the Week:

1. Send us up to one page of information about the athlete's involvement in sports, community, academic achievements and any awards he/she has received. Include the name of the high school and a picture of the athlete.
2. Include your name and daytime phone number.
3. Send your nomination to:

WJR 760 AM  
2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202  
Attention: Athlete of the Week  
or  
FAX to: 313-875-1988

Tune in to WJR 760 AM Friday morning to hear the winner announced!

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CHAMPION

FRIDAY, MARCH 17  
Semi-Finals  
SEED #1 vs. SEED #4 • 5:00pm  
SEED #2 vs. SEED #3 • 8:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 18  
Championship Game • 7:30pm

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BE SURE TO CATCH YOUR RED WINGS ON TV THIS WEEK  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14 vs. NASHVILLE • 7:30pm on FOX  
THURSDAY, MARCH 16 vs. TORONTO • 7:30pm on FOX  
SATURDAY, MARCH 18 vs. COLORADO • 3:00pm on ABC