

**OUTDOOR CALENDAR**

**ARCHERY**

**ARCHERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
The Detroit Archers of West Bloomfield (6785 Drake Road) is hosting a number of leagues: 3-D indoor, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.; Monday burn leagues, 7:30 a.m. (rain only); Tuesday target league, 7:00 p.m.; 3-D bow hunter, Wednesdays, 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 on Club p.m. Thursday. For information, call (313) 825-2110.

**LYONIA 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 club is free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 466-2410 for information.

**JUNIOR OLYMPICS**  
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (248) 623-9444.

**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 Wilczak at (810) 767-7305 or club President Roy Banbury at (810) 699-0310.

**DOWNHILL SKIING**  
Oakland County Sportsman Club, in conjunction with Michigan Bowhunters, will play host to the International Bowhunters Education Program Sunday, April 2 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Whether a beginner or experienced bowhunter, participants will learn tree stand safety in the field, bow tuning and care, bowhunting sportsmanship, trailing your target, field dressing and preserving your game and arrow shot placement for clean and effective kills. Call Don Brown at (248) 823-7078 or the OCSC at (248) 823-0444.

**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; Lebdell Lake, Aug. 6; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 19; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 26-27. Guaranteed payouts will be awarded with amounts determined by the number of entries. Call (734) 729-1762 or (734) 422-5813.

**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) 668-8910.

**METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesdays of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto

at (248) 478-5027 for more information.

**MICHIGAN FLY FISHERS**  
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia (Livonia Middle School, 14000 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. Call Jim Kudoj at (734) 651-6543.

**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) 956-6656.

**HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS**  
The Huron Valley Steelheaders club meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27602 Hill Rd., Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 235-0843.

**BOAT ASSOCIATION**  
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 8:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 678-2863 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) 988-6653 for information.

**METROPARKS**

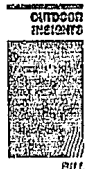
**METRO AREA RECREATION**  
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a recreation permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Siny Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

**2000 FERRIS**  
The 2000 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS.

**SKY WATCH**  
Warren Astronomical National Astronomy Day Sky Watch will be held Saturday, April 8, from 8-10 p.m. at the Nature Center of Siny Creek Metropark. Participants will be able to view the cosmos through telescopes and discover fascinating facts about nature with members of the Warren Astronomical Society. For more information, contact the Warren Astronomical Society at (810) 447-2424.

**BEAR SCOUTS WILDLIFE**  
"Bear Scouts Sharing Your World with Wildlife" will be held Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Nature Center of Indian Springs Metropark. Bear Scouts will learn about plants and animals that make their home in the Huron Swamp. For more information, contact Indian Springs Nature Center at (248) 625-7280.

**Trails management plan up for review**



**BILL PARKER**

Twenty years ago hunters rarely saw other park users in the state parks during the fall hunting season.

Since then, our population has grown and wild areas have diminished. Gaining access to hunt private land is often an insurmountable task...hence, state land - parks, recreation areas and game areas - especially here in southern Michigan, receive a tremendous amount of hunter pressure during the fall seasons.

In state parks particularly, hikers, bikers, runners, even inline skaters in some instances are also taking advantage of the parks trail systems, treading and trudging along the same trails hunters use to access their favorite spots.

Certainly, all user groups, including hunters, have the right to enjoy our natural resources. Unfortunately, all this added pressure has caused a conflict or two.

In fact, I was admonished one bright, sunny morning last fall by a woman who was taking her young son on a hike. I was headed back to my car following an early morning bow hunting when we encountered each other

along the trail. Before I even had a chance to wish her a cheery "Good Morning," which I had every intention of doing, I was verbally assaulted for being a hunter. "Go hunt somewhere else," I was told. "People are using this trail," she said, insinuating I was something less than human.

Controlling my urge to get into a verbal sparring match with this ill-advised woman, I said nothing at all as I walked passed her and her unfortunate son. Maybe I should have politely explained the parks were there for all users.

Maybe I should have engaged in a conversation about the reality of nature and food chains and things like that. Maybe not.

Still, the incident left a bitter taste in my mouth. There are too many people out there who aren't tolerant of other park users. There are many who would like to close the parks to hunters, biking, off-trail exploring and other forms of recreation that don't fit in with their ideas.

On the other hand, there are hunters who feel the parks should be closed to others during hunting seasons.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Bureau is attempting to address such issues by developing a trails program management plan for state parks in southern Michigan.

The DNR is inviting the public to comment on the plan, which focuses on non-motorized uses of trails in state parks. The plan is the result of a comprehensive study of trail usage throughout the year and combines input from numerous trail user groups and conservation organizations. The DNR now wants to hear from individual trail users.

"The rapidly growing use of trails, especially in heavily populated areas of the state, has created conflicts that raise issues of safety, equal opportunity for recreationists, protection of resources and maintenance," said Rodney Stokes, DNR Parks and Recreation Bureau Chief.

applied for a spring turkey permit this year and all were not successful in receiving their choice of a permit.

If you were one of the unsuccessful applicants, there are 609 leftover permits that go on sale at 10 a.m. Wednesday at all authorized license dealers across the state.

The number of leftover licenses and their corresponding hunt numbers are: hunt 168 - 50 leftover licenses available; hunt 172 - 44; hunt 176 - 107; hunt 180 - 11; hunt 189 - 60; hunt 193 - 18; hunt 197 - 8; hunt 206 - 173; and hunt 228 - 137.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants were notified on March 17. If you applied and were not notified call (617) 373-3904. Drawing results also are available on the DNR web site at [www.dnr.state.mi.us](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us).

Unsuccessful applicants are also eligible to purchase a permit for the special late hunt (No. 234), May 16-31. The entire area open to turkey hunting is open during the late hunt, except public lands in Zone 3.

Don't sell this opportunity short. I've hunted the late hunt twice and killed a gobbler both times. True, the weather is warmer, bugs are out and mushroom pickers are plentiful, but the hens are nesting, leaving the gobblers lonely and callable.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.)

**Leftover turkey permits**  
A record 131,000 hunters

**Spring time to appreciate variety of ducks**



**TIM NOWICHI**

There is no doubt that hummingbirds and warblers are some of the most beautiful birds, but some of the ducks in spring breeding plumage are hard to beat.

Now that the ice has melted from lakes in southern Michigan, ducks are returning from their southern wintering areas.

Since ducks cannot reach the plants they need for food when ice forms on lakes, they migrate south to more suitable areas.

Most species winter along the Gulf of Mexico coast, or along the Atlantic Ocean coast. A few species, like the black duck and green-winged teal, will winter just far enough south where they can find open water.

Ducks are strong fliers and can move north with the melting ice quickly and easily. Though the prairie potholes area of the Dakotas is the main nursery for ducks in the U.S., several species nest in Michigan and in the Midwest.

Besides the beautiful wood duck that nests throughout the state, green-winged teal nest sporadically in both the upper and lower peninsulas. Their finely striped gray body is set off by the chestnut head with a large green ear patch. A fine white strip near the breast on the sides really stands out in the field.

My favorite, the pintail, nests in Michigan, but only in a few scattered areas. Most of the birds we see during the spring migration probably just pass through the state.

But while they are here, take the time to see this stately duck. It has a white line that runs behind the cheek area on the head and moves down into a white breast.

Like the green-winged teal, it has a finely striped gray body,

and like its name suggests, it has a long pointed tail.

Northern shovelers with their enlarged bill are a beautiful duck, despite the big beak. They have a green head like the mallard, but a male shoveler has a white breast and a prominent rusty colored side.

Nests in the state are even fewer than the pintail, so be sure to visit our lakes before they leave for the prairie potholes.

When describing the coloration of ducks, I am describing the male coloration. Females are typically a variation of a brown

camouflaged coloration. Males have bold colorful patterns to impress females that they are the one for her.

In a few areas in the state you could see the American wigeon nesting, but since there are very few in the state it is better to see them on migration.

American wigeon were once called baldpates. This name came from the white cap on their head. Just below the white cap is a green ear stripe and a finely striped gray cheek and neck. The breast is a rich salmon color. Near the tail on the side is a

white patch that contrasts with the black undertail feathers.

When you visit our lakes to see these ducks you will encounter the blue-winged teal, which is a common nesting duck throughout the state.

In the breeding season, males have a bluish head with a white crescent moon shape in front of the eye. This field mark is unique to the blue-winged teal.

These verbal descriptions do not do these birds justice. Take some time to see them before they move through the state.

THINK FORD FIRST!

Metro Detroit Ford Dealers

**WJR**  
AM 760

PRESENT

**High School**

**ATHLETE of the WEEK**

sponsored by

**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

*Home Town News... it's all about you!*

★ **LAST WEEK'S WINNER**  
**Brian Burak**  
Ann Arbor  
Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard

Presented by  
**Blackwell Ford in Plymouth**

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!**

**"Dual Parts John Grisham & John Feinstein"**

Unwritten in the annals of the sporting world is the story of a man with unlimited potential who was denied his rightful place in the lore of golf. His story remained a mystery for so many years, yet it wasn't a mystery at all...

"If you have ever played just one round of golf, and appreciate clear, spare writing with a touch of To Kill a Mockingbird, you will love this book."  
-Edwin Pope, Miami Herald

Autographed copies available while supplies last

1 800 487 2233  
[sleepingbearpress.com](http://sleepingbearpress.com)

**Sleeping Bear Press**