

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

CLASS/CLINIC

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers. Call (248) 850-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

MORE FLY TYING
River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tyers. Classes will be held at various times. For more information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

DUCK & GOOSE CALLING
The West Bloomfield Schools Community Education Department is offering a basic Duck & Goose Calling class on Mondays, beginning May 1 and lasting through May 22. The one-hour classes will be taught at Orchard Lake Middle School from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Contact the West Bloomfield Schools Community Education Department at (248) 639-2290 for registration 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
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) 757-7365 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 698-0310.

3D TARGET LEAGUE
An archery outdoor 3D target league will be presented by Royal Oak Archers Inc. of Lake Orion (Orion Road, one-half mile west of Adams) beginning Wednesday, April 26. The league is scheduled to last for 10 weeks. For more information, call (248) 589-2480 or (248) 683-4229.

ARCHERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
Open shoot hours are from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call (313) 825-2110.

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. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Call (734) 466-2410 for information.

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; Lobdell Lake, Aug. 5; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 19; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 26-27. Guaranteed payouts will be awarded with amounts determined by the number of entries. For more information, call (734) 729-1762 or (734) 422-5813.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3179; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

2000 PERMITS
The 2000 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$16 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-7-PARKS for more information.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 825-6473 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.

Trout season
Anglers can find good fishing spots closer to home

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

Opening Day of the first regular inland trout season of the 21st Century is less than a week away. The last Saturday in April triggers an intense desire in many ardent trout chasers to return to that magical, secret hole where

undoubtedly, a two-pound brookie awaits your offering. Anglers are scrambling to prepare for the season: sorting flies, oiling reels, patching waders and making last-minute trips to the sporting goods store for equipment and fishing licenses. The first sunrise on the river and the first battle with a brookie, brown or rainbow will occur for many anglers on the last Saturday in April. While catching blue-ribbon trout streams like the AuSable, Manistee or Pere Marquette certainly has its merit, for anglers who are pressed for time or for some other reason can't make a trip up north, there are other alternatives.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, many times with help from conservation organizations like the Livonia-based Michigan Fly Fishing Club, maintain an aggressive stocking program for many streams and rivers in southeastern Michigan.

The effort pays off nicely with a modest, but recreational fishery down here close to home. Paint Creek, Kearsley Creek and the Huron River at Proud Lake, which all flow through parts of Oakland County, and the Johnson Draw, which originates in Washtenaw County and flows through western Wayne County are some of the better local streams that benefit from the program.

Check the 2000 Inland Trout and Salmon Guide (give a few minutes to familiarize yourself with it) for specific regulations, such as size and creel limits, on a particular stream.

Paint Creek, which originates at Lake Orion and empties into the Clinton River in Rochester, receives between 5,000 and 6,000 brown trout each spring.

With decent over-winter survival the stream gives up an occasional fish in the 20-inch range each year.

Paint Creek receives tremendous pressure on opening weekend, but after that the fishing gets fun as the pressure subsides.

There is ample access to Paint Creek, which flows through parts of the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. An old railroad grade that runs nearly the entire length of Paint Creek was turned into a hiking/biking trail by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. There are several stairways along the trail that provide easy access to the water.

Kearsley Creek originates in Ortonville and hooks up with the Flint River in southern Genesee County. Access is restricted as most of the creek runs through private property, but local homeowners have been known to allow fishing to a respectful

angler who politely asks for permission. Some 4,000 browns are stocked each year in Kearsley Creek.

Johnson Creek receives a stock of between 4,000 and 5,000 brown trout. This tiny creek is the only tributary of the Rouge watershed that holds trout.

Access to Johnson Creek is also limited. One option is through Hatchery Park in downtown Northville. Anglers also access the stream at east/west crossroads including Five Mile, Six Mile and Napier roads.

The Huron River at Proud Lake, in the Proud Lake State Recreation Area, has been open to catch-and-release flies-only fishing since April 1.

This portion of the Huron receives between 3,000 and 5,000 browns each year and the fish are between 12 and 16 inches when planted. When the regular season opens on April 29, anglers may begin keeping their catch if desired.

Access is readily available through the Proud Lake Recreation Area. There are many other trout

fishing options within an hour drive of O&E-land, including the main stream of the Huron River in Washtenaw and southern Wayne counties, the south branch of the Flint River in southern Lapeer County, and Mill Creek and the Belle River in St. Clair County.

You don't have to wait for that weekend trip up north to enjoy Michigan's trout opener. Get up early Saturday and venture out to one of southeastern Michigan's trout streams and enjoy the celebration of the season.

Spring Sport Show
Just a quick reminder that the Livonia Sport Show 2000 will also take place on Saturday, April 29.

The annual show, which allows individuals to buy and sell used sporting goods, fishing gear, boats and RVs, etc. will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, in Livonia. Admission is free.

(Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

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