

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

OAKLAND COUNTY

SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION
The Oakland County Sportsman Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at Santa Hall, 1985 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor, Call (248) 693-4389 or visit the club's web site at <http://go.to/ocsa> for more information.

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) 767-7365 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

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, 10000 Garden City Road 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 (248) 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. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, 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 Garden City High School 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) 988-0658 for more information.

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, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3191.

TRAVELS WITH A NATURALIST

Karen Bates, SOLAR Club member and outdoor enthusiast, traveled the mighty Colorado River by raft. Her photographic journey will take you through ancient rock layers revealing mysterious

American Indian pictographs, fossils, canyon wildlife and spectacular natural beauty. This program is set for 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 9 at the Nature Center of Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester. For more information, call (810) 761-4821.

CREEK FESTIVAL

Come and take a peek at what's living in the creek. See how a river cuts a channel, learn your creekhead address, watch live indoor demonstrations, and learn how the critters in the creek predict your future during this program scheduled for Sunday, March 11 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Nature Center of Kensington Metropark near Milford/Brighton. For more information, contact the Kensington Metropark Nature Center at 1-800-477-3178.

FOXES, WOLVES AND COYOTES

Discover interesting facts about all foxes, wolves and coyotes through pictures and discussion during this program scheduled for Saturday, March 17 at the Nature Center of Kensington Metropark. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 1-800-477-3178.

OAKLAND PARKS

COUNTRY 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 2001 Oakland County parks motor vehicle permits are now on sale at all county park offices and many parks and recreation and township offices. Cost is \$20 through April 30, 2001. After May 1, 2001, the permit cost will be \$25. All senior citizens (ages 62 and older) can purchase the permit for \$15 at all times. Call (248) 858-0906 or TTY (248) 858-1684.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Prou Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (248) 849-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-8787. For programs at Prou Lake and Highland call (810) 695-2187. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7057.

WAYNE PARKS

COUNTRY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Advanced registration is required. Call (734) 241-1990 to register and for more information.

(To submit items for consideration in The Observer & Eccentric! send information to: Outdoor, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to 248-644-1314.)

Fly fishing requires dedication



BILL FARMER

Fly fishers are generally a pretty dedicated lot. The sport certainly lends itself to dedication. For starters, it takes time and a concerted effort to master the art of casting a fly. Then you must learn about the different rods, reels, fly lines and tips.

Once you've mastered that, a lesson in entomology (the study of insects) is on tap so you can understand the insects you are trying to imitate with the flies. That's just to get started. You then learn to "match the hatch" and "read the water" before true success can come your way.

Ardent fly fishers often evolve to the stage of tying their own flies and some to making their own fly rods. The sport allows for different levels of participation depending on the devotion of the participant.

With such dedicated and motivated fly fishers, it's no surprise the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, which holds bi-weekly meetings

at the Livonia Clarenceville Middle School on Middlebelt Road, was founded in 1970. Its goals are to promote and preserve the art of fly fishing, fly tying, and rod building, and to protect gamefish and their natural habitat.

"We're a non-profit group of guys and gals who like to fly fish," said MFFC board member Ron McNeal. "Most of our members are from the west side, but we have members from as far away as Toledo, Grand Blanc and Ann Arbor."

"We fish mostly for salmonid species, but we also like to go down the Huron River and fly fish for smallmouth bass. Some members are really interested in stream restoration and may be members of Trout Unlimited, which focuses on trout stream habitat restoration. Others simply want to fly fish."

The club funds projects annually and has made donations to other organizations to assist with their habitat and fishery projects. One of the best known local projects the Michigan Fly Fishing Club initiated is the early catch-and-release, fly-only trout season on the Huron River at Prou Lake. Each spring fly fishers get an extra day of trout fishing thanks to the efforts of this group.

The only fund-raiser the

Michigan Fly Fishing Club holds is the annual Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition, which is scheduled this year for March 10-11 at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion.

"This is the one show we have to raise money to fund grant requests we get from some of the other trout organizations," McNeal said.

Along with some 84 exhibitors, outfitters, and conservation displays, this year's show features a spectacular lineup of speakers. Included in the lineup is Jason Borger, a nationally renowned fly fishing writer, author and teacher. He may be familiar to some as the poster fly fisherman for the 1991 film "A River Runs Through It." Borger performed the shadow cast in the movie, which focuses on three different actors during casting and fishing scenes.

In fact, the image of Borger's shadow cast was used on the poster to promote the film. His seminars at the Expo will cover tying the water and presentations.

Jerry Kustich, of Twin Bridges, Mont., is another of the noted speakers. Kustich is a writer, artist, conservationist, bamboo fly rod builder, and avid steelhead fisherman, and will speak on steelhead fishing and adventure fly fishing.

Rick Kustich, of Grand Island, N.Y., is a dedicated fly fisherman and an accomplished author and conservationist who will speak on Great Lakes steelhead and adventure fly fishing.

A couple of Michigan natives round out the slate of speakers. Lansing's Jim Bedford, a retired environmental biologist, writer and college instructor will present a seminar entitled "Extending Your Michigan Fly Fishing Horizons."

Kelly Gallop, a pioneer in fly and fly fishing technique development, a writer and the owner and operator of The Troutman, a fly fishing shop in Traverse City, will give a seminar entitled "Cripples and Spinners."

All of these speakers will also spend time instruction patrons and answering questions at the Expo's casting pond and tying bench.

For more information on the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo or the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, call McNeal at (248) 380-8547 or visit the MFFC web site at www.mffc.org.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for The Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send in your letters to Bill Parker, c/o Outdoor, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

Hawks, voles play cat-mouse game



TIM NOWICKI

Sometimes several things fall into place at the right time.

The other day I was hiking on the Hawk's View trail at Independence Valley County Park with some kindergartners, showing them an exposed vole tunnel in the snow.

I explained that when the snow is deeper they tunnelled through the snow to stay warm and to hide from predators. Now that the snow has almost melted away, the tunnels, which look like snake trails in the snow, are visible.

About that time someone noticed a red-tailed hawk circling high overhead. As it made "lazy circles in the sky," the sun reflected off the white belly and underwings. This allowed me to

determine that hawks can see the ultraviolet light reflected from the urine of voles.

Since many animals travel familiar routes to and from feeding areas, hawks can increase their chance of finding prey by watching areas with trails that reflect a concentration of light.

Too often scientists only think of an animal's capabilities in terms of human senses. Scientists are now realizing that different kinds of animals can detect things in many different ways. The earth's magnetic field, polarized light, infra-red and more, have all been determined recognizable by various animals.

An animal can also identify fine gradations using a particular sense. Birds can distinguish which individual is more colorful than another. Possessing this ability, it is believed, helps a female choose a mate that will be a better provider.

Since coloration in birds often depends on diet, if a bird has intense color, then it probably

determined that hawks can see the ultraviolet light reflected from the urine of voles.

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Since coloration in birds often depends on diet, if a bird has intense color, then it probably

knows how and where to get the best food. Good food will help raise healthy offspring.

Even humans can determine the difference in color between two individuals in some cases, but imagine trying to differentiate between the intensity of colors in starlings.

Their iridescent coloration reflects light of many different colors. Through many scorns the starling, its feather does have a beautiful opal-like reflectance.

Female starling can see gradations of color by using the ultraviolet spectrum. People are unable to see light in this spectrum.

Now that man is learning more about what animals can sense, it makes me wonder what new things will be learned in the future.

Recognizing their capabilities will undoubtedly help us understand how they do things that we can't explain today. I'll keep you informed of new discoveries to the best of my ability.

Novi Golf Show serves as kickoff to new season



MICHAEL P. SHIELDS

If travel isn't in your budget, but golf is on your mind, the upcoming Novi Golf Show is a perfect cure for frosty golf fever.

Friday through Sunday, March 9-11, eager golfers will pour into the Novi Expo Center. Last year, 250,000 people dropped in to take a look at the 400 exhibitors who offer everything from equipment to travel ideas, with many options at special, discount prices. Contests will be held and the mood is typically festive.

In addition, golfers or would-be players can get free instruction

from PGA professionals and meet celebrities.

Among those special guests at the Novi Golf Show, and accessible to all attendees, will be Debbie Massey. Massey has an impressive career in golf. She began as one of the top female amateurs, having been low amateur at the 1974 U.S. Women's Open, and a member of the U.S. World and Curtis Cup Teams in the mid-1970s.

Massey then competed on the LPGA Tour where she won seven tournaments and was voted "Rookie of the Year" in 1977.

The highlight of her professional career may have come last fall when she captained Pat Bradley and the American Solheim Cup team in Ryder Cup-style international competition.

Massey founded Opus 1 Golf Inc., a sports marketing and pro-

motions company after her competitive career ended. Opus 1 Golf, Inc. has represented LPGA stars such as Pat Bradley, Rosie Jones, Jane Geddes and Val Skinner.

Massey will represent the nationally acclaimed Black Lake Golf Club, which is located in Onaway, MI.

The Rees Jones-designed golf course was recently named runner-up for "Best New Unavailable Public Facility" in America by Golf Digest, and Golf Magazine named Black Lake GC to its prestigious list of "Top Ten You Can Play."

Black Lake Golf Club, which opened in the summer of 2000, already ranks as an exquisite championship course that provides golfers with a nationally acclaimed golf experience - one already appreciated by UAW

members, guests, public golfers, and now, Debbie Massey!

The Novi Golf Show, in its ninth year, features some 400,000 square feet of golf-related products, and according to show statistics, 80 percent of those attending play golf a minimum of four times each month.

Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (248) 346-6942.

If you attend the Novi Golf Show, I'd love to hear your thoughts on the latest in equipment, travel and other opinions about the show. Get a good deal on clubs there? Meet Massey or any other celebrity golf people? Get a free lesson? Let me know about it at Mshields@aol.com or via fax at 503-961-0846. Include your name and city!

Whoops! Banner proclaimed record feat happened in 2002



AL HARRISON

Back to the Future. Do you remember the movie?

Now we can relate it to the record-setting performance reported here a couple of weeks ago (8/18/00). Al Harrison's Mike Makowicz rolled an 879 at Cloverlanes.

Whoever it was that hung the banner announcing the record feat in the main concourse had the date printed up as Feb. 6, 2002.

He did it next year? As far as I can tell, it is still 2001.

We can joke about it and Mike has a good sense of humor, and he continues to be a very popular

bill driller at David's Right Line Pro Shop. The date will be corrected in the record books and that is all that matters.

Mike was using the new AMF Angle Evolution ball, which was given to him a month ago by the AMF rep Bill Munce as he was passing through town.

He told Mike, "Try it, you'll like it."

Mike threw 33 out of a possible 36 strikes with games of 300-289. His David's Right Line squad also won the Cloverlanes Battle of the Sexes competition in January with a 3-0 actual.

This team consists of Makowicz, Al Stroud (captain), Greg Daniels, Greg Lewis and Ralph Jennings.

Mike also bowls in the Friday night St. Linus Classic League at Garden Lane in Garden City.

• Did you get to watch the new

TV bowling show yet?

It is Rolling for Dollars and is running 12 weeks on Detroit's WB Channel 20, at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

It has been a while since we have had a local TV bowling show. The host is Tom Mazawey of WJR Sports radio and this is a totally different concept in TV bowling. The three final contestants are each given an opportunity to draw a number.

Whatever the number is, the lucky bowler is then given three shots to make that exact number of pins. If the person wins, he or she receives the prize drawn for earlier.

There are quite a few prizes for the bowlers, including cash up to \$10,000, trips, cars, furniture, etc.

The third contestant last Saturday won a trip to Disney

World, but had to toss one in the gutter because he had made his 16 pins on the first two balls. The entrants have a chance to qualify at participating bowling centers around the area.

See the Feb. 21 issue of Bowler's Digest for more details.

A very good movie rental, The Contender, comes to the video stores next Tuesday, starring Jeff Bridges who plays the part of the president and includes a White House bowling scene that you will get a kick out of. It is a pretty good story, well written, filmed home and enjoy watching.

• The fifth annual fund-raiser for the Cooke School of Northville held Saturday at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills raised money for a special education facility for mentally impaired children. Proceeds

were used to support their participation in the Special Olympics and athletic program, and to provide equipment and uniforms, according to Steve Zehnder, who is the physical education teacher and coordinator of the bowling event.

It will also be the ones who go to the state summer Special Olympics at Central Michigan University at Mount Pleasant.

Country Lanes proprietor Jim Hamlin said his house raised over \$4,000 by selling 50-50 tickets to the league over the past several weeks, along with raffish tickets for nearly 100 door prizes. They also ran another 50-50 during the event.

Those who volunteered wish to express their appreciation to all donors of the door prizes for their help in making it another highly successful program.

By the way, Hamlin rolled a 300 game and 822 series. It was in a two-pin no-tap format. No ring, but still a nice effort.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

Place Lanes (Plymouth)

Sheldon Reed; Matt; Larry Minihan, Jr., 299/777.

Woodland Lanes (Livonia)

Wednesday Mike's Trio; Dave Myers, 300.

Ukiah Elia; Dave Utton, 290.

West Side (Livonia)

Club 50; Ed Lynch, 300.

Cloverlanes (Livonia)

Monday Bowling Pioneers; Clarence Gibson, 300/70.

St. Allen's Men; Mike Kowalski, 300/714.

Edison Men; Paul Hypo, 300/716.

North (Livonia)

Powerlans; Mike Haez, 300.

Wednesday Nite Men; Rick Russell, 299.

King Queens; Michael Henson, 800.

Mayflower Lanes (Redford)

Wednesday Men's Senior Classic; Dick Davis, 800.

Oakland Lanes

High School Conference; Steve Jacobs (Westland) John Glenn High School team, 300.