

# Area archery club is oldest and steeped in tradition

**OUTDOORS**



**BILL PARKER**

When the conversation turns to archery, namely the oldest archery club in the state, places like Grayling and Marquette probably come to mind. But if the truth be told, West Bloomfield is the home of the state's oldest archery club, Detroit Archers.

In 1924 a group of 11 avid archers took it upon themselves to organize the first archery club in the state. With the likes of legendary Fred Bear, Dr. Saxton Pope and Art Younger (Pope & Younger Club) among their ranks the seeds were sown that year for what is today known as Detroit Archers Inc., Michigan's first and oldest archery club.

Perched in the midst of opulent condominiums and subdivisions in elegant West Bloomfield, Detroit Archers today fea-

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tures 31.43 acres of wooded grounds and a large 60-foot by 120-foot indoor range and clubhouse.

But the club hasn't always called West Bloomfield home. With a history dating back better than 70 years its no surprise that the organization moved around before finally targeting West Bloomfield as a permanent home.

The club was formally organized in 1928 and had grown slightly in those four years since its inception to include 17 members and their families. By-laws and rules were drafted and the club was granted access to the fifth floor of the Storm-Foltz-Lovey Building on Grand Blvd. and Woodward Avenue in Detroit to use as its indoor range.

In 1930 Detroit Archers established a formal outdoor range at Rouge Park, but moved to Palmer Park in 1935. Detroit Archers began renting 70 acres of undeveloped land at 10 1/2-mile and Telegraph in 1939 and established a "roving range" or field range as we know it today.

Around the same time Detroit Archers also established an east-side practice site at Water Works Park in Detroit and a westside practice area at South Forest Creek and White in Lincoln Park so members wouldn't have to travel all the way across town to practice.

In 1941, the club moved its indoor practice facility to Bear Archery Products on Philadelphia in Detroit. The alliance with Bear Archery lasted for 30 years until Detroit Archers con-

structed its current range and clubhouse in 1971 in West Bloomfield.

Detroit Archers moved its field range to rented property at Middlebelt and 13 Mile Road in 1946. By 1950, growing weary of renting space to shoot and yearning to own it's own facility the Detroit Archery Club was formed. Ninety shares of stock were sold at \$100 each to members of Detroit Archers. The money was used to purchase 21.43 wooded acres off Drake Road in West Bloomfield, the site of the current Detroit Archers facility.

The club officially moved it's field range to the West Bloomfield site in 1952 and in 1964 the club decided to purchase 10 adjoining acres at the West Bloomfield site. In 1971 a 60-foot by 120-foot clubhouse and indoor range was built and after 47 years, Detroit Archers finally had its own indoor range and clubhouse.

With rising taxes and property values Detroit Archers faced

financial uncertainty in the early 80s. Fortunately, West Bloomfield Township granted Detroit Archers some property tax relief in 1983 under the Open Space Easement Act.

The final mortgage payment was made in 1985, fulfilling a 61-year dream of Detroit Archers owning a debt-free archery facility.

Today, Detroit Archers thrives at the same location in West Bloomfield.

The clubhouse features a 22 lane indoor range, a pro shop and a trophy room featuring, among other trophies, the hide of the first polar bear Fred Bear ever shot.

Outside, Detroit Archers has a 20 station PPA range with targets at marked distances ranging from 20 yards to 65 yards; a 28 station field course offering shots from distances of 10 yards to 80 yards; and a 28 station broadhead course featuring five elevated platforms. Detroit Archers also boasts the oldest league in the United States. The

Bush League, which started when the club was formed, is a bear bow league in which no sights are allowed.

Detroit Archers offers a continuing Junior Archery program; an annual Youth Shoot where no child walks away without a trophy; and hunter education classes.

All of the ranges at Detroit Archers are open to the public during leagues and scheduled shoots and the facilities are made available, free of charge, to non-profit organizations like the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. Anyone with additional information on the history of Detroit Archers is urged to call the club at (248) 661-9610.

*(Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009)*

**OUTDOOR CALENDAR**

**ACTIVITIES**

**OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION**

The Oakland County Sportfishing Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, 2125 Denby, Drayton Plains. Call (248) 693-4389 or visit the club's web site at <http://go.to/ocsa> for more information.

**DOWNRIVER 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 Gander Mountain (14100 Pardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 676-2863 or send an e-mail to [riverra122@home.com](mailto:riverra122@home.com).

**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 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. Visit [www.mffc.org](http://www.mffc.org) on the Internet 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 Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Jim Kudej at (734) 691-0843 or send him an e-mail at [jkudej@nol.com](mailto:jkudej@nol.com).

**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.

**CLINTON RIVER BASS 'N RATS**

The recently organized Clinton River Bass 'n Rats meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call (810) 247-9900

for direction and additional information. The club is an affiliated chapter of the B.A.S.S. National Federation.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

**COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (248) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

**GO FISHING! CONTEST**

"Go Fishing!" nights offer free loaner equipment and instruction by trained Department of Natural Resources instructors. Dates are July 16, July 30, Aug. 13 and Aug. 27 at Orion Oaks County Park, which is bordered by Baldwin, Clarkston and Joslyn roads. All sessions take place from 5-8 p.m. Participants must supply their own bait. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish by age group. For more information, call (248) 858-1486.

**LOOK IN TODAY'S JOBS AND CAREERS CLASSIFIED SECTION FOR THESE COMPANIES...**

**They Are Hiring Now!**

**BELLE TIRE • COMCAST • JACK CAULEY CHEVROLET**

## Second Annual GUS MACKER BASKETBALL

**August 10 - 11, 2002**  
West Bloomfield High School

To benefit "On My Own of Michigan" and our Children's Fund

**The best in outdoor hoops and wholesome fun!**  
This is more than a game, it's a family festival that takes place around the pick-up basketball game. The high school parking lot will be filled with about 500 teams with basketball players of all ages, genders and skill levels.

**Saturday will feature a SLAM DUNK contest judged by local celebrities!**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
Interested players and volunteers can register on-line at [www.wblib.org/wbop](http://www.wblib.org/wbop) or call **616-754-0373** to get a team registration form. Registration Deadline July 19, 2002.

**ORGANIZED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST BLOOMFIELD AND SPONSORED BY:**

**ST. JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND** 17th ANNUAL **LOCAL 4 WOIV/DETROIT**

# Heart of the Hills

**5K & 10K RUN**

PRESENTED BY **UBS|PaineWebber**  
"It's good for your heart!"

VOTED ONE OF MICHIGAN'S TOP 50 RACES BY MICHIGAN RUNNER

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2002**

**ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
4200 ANDOVER ROAD, SOUTH SIDE OF LONG LAKE ROAD, JUST WEST OF TELEGRAPH ROAD

**REGISTRATION 6:45-7:30 AM • START TIME 8:00 AM**

**ENTRY FEES**  
\$20.00 IN PERSON AT TOTAL RUNNER BETWEEN JULY 22-26, 2002  
\$22.00 DAY OF THE RACE OR ONLINE AT <http://gaultracemanagement.com>

REGISTRATION PACKETS AVAILABLE AT TOTAL RUNNER JULY 23-26 OR AT THE EVENT.

5K	10K	5K
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**ONLINE REGISTRATION AT <http://gaultracemanagement.com>**