



# Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

Spring 2005



## Pierce Lake Golf Course

### New Programs Encourage Increased Participation

**W**ith today's fast paced life it is sometimes hard to get to the golf course and play, even for lovers of the game. A survey compiled by the Professional Golfers Association in 2004 indicated the three main reasons why people who *are* interested in golf, but *do not* play are: less money to spend, the need to be at home with family, and the high fees at most golf courses. WCPARC and the Pierce Lake Golf Course staff have developed new

programs to address these issues for county golfers.

#### Family Fun

For starters, the 2005 golf season is shaping up to be the "year of the family". PLGC offers a new program to get families to enjoy the game of golf and, possibly, even get hooked for life. Every Wednesday during the season will be *Family Day*, where kids under 17 play free when accompanied by a paying adult. The course will be set up with a short set of tees for beginning golfers to make this admittedly difficult course much less intimidating. This arrangement allows the whole family to play from the same set of tees if they choose, or adults can drive from the back tees and children from the front tees. By starting from the front tees, much closer to the green, youngsters have a better chance of obtaining a par for the hole and "beating" mom or dad!

Since the time it takes to play the entire course can be an inhibiting factor, PLGC has changed the minimum play requirement from 9 holes to 3. On Wednesdays patrons can play 3, 6, 9, or more holes depending on the amount of time they have. And with the

(continued on page 3)



Frederick L. Barkley Golf Center

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**Contact Us!**  
[parks@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:parks@ewashtenaw.org)  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)  
734.971.6337

# From the Director

Robert L. Tetens

February marked the end of an era for the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC). Commission President David E. Rutledge, a member of the WCPARC for over 32 years, has been appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to serve on the County Road Commission, and will be leaving his position on the WCPARC.

For well over three decades, Commissioner Rutledge has served the citizens of Washtenaw County with distinction and unparalleled professionalism. While serving on the Parks Commission he was instrumental in the development of innovative recreational facilities throughout the County, including the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, Rolling Hills Water Park and Pierce Lake Golf Course and Park. His interest in land preservation was evident in the establishment of the Natural Areas Preservation Program and he strongly advocated for the establishment of a countywide non-motorized trail network.

In addition to serving on the Parks Commission, his community involvement includes serving as Superior Township Supervisor; as Deputy Director of the Legislative Research Staff for the State House of Representatives; on the Board of the Ann Arbor Community Foundation; the State Boundary Commission; the Board of Directors for Citizens Bank; the Michigan Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; and, since 1996, on the Board of Trustees at Washtenaw Community College. His many accomplishments and his community involvement were recognized when the Ann Arbor News selected him as the Citizen of the Year in 2000.

The WCPARC and staff of the department will be forever grateful for the genuine interest, leadership and tireless effort of Commissioner Rutledge. We wish him continued health and happiness as he explores another avenue of public service.



Scouting new trails at the Brauer Preserve in Freedom Twp

## NAPP News

### Natural Areas Preservation Program

Total Protected (2001-present): **715 acres**

The Washtenaw County NAPP recently concluded its **4th Round** of nominations, which included eleven properties totaling 733 acres. Three properties were highly rated by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) and established as highest priorities by WCPARC (they total 79 acres located in Scio and Manchester Townships). Next steps involve negotiations with property owners to discuss the possibility of purchase by the County.

Due to the nature of land use in Washtenaw County, a number of properties purchased through the NAPP have included lands currently or recently in use for agriculture. To continue to allow farming where appropriate, WCPARC is developing Conservation Plans for managing both natural areas and cultivated land. With the assistance of the Washtenaw Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a Conservation Plan for the Leonard Preserve (purchased in 2004) is in preparation to enhance the habitat value of the preserve and simultaneously make productive use of several former farm fields.

The **5th Round** of nominations is **open now until June 30, 2005**. If you own property that you would like to preserve for future generations or have any questions about the program, please contact Tom Freeman at 734.971 6337, x323 or visit our website at [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org). Please note that the WCPARC is interested in receiving nominations from all parts of the County. Map on page 11. ♪

## GOLF COURSE, *continued from Cover*

resident fee of only \$16 for a 9-hole weekday round (Mon-Fri; \$22 with cart) WCPARC is confident that it will be easier for everyone, and especially families, to grab their clubs and head out to the course.

### Junior Golf Championship

A very special event is planned for the golf course on July 13th. PLGC will be hosting the first *Washtenaw County Junior Golf Championship*, open to boys and girls ages 14 to 17 (residence in Washtenaw County is not required). The junior golf scene is growing with many mini tours and tournaments held across the state. Washtenaw County Parks is delighted to showcase some of the best junior golfers in Michigan in this 18 hole tournament. Awards will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers for both boys and girls. The \$20.00 registration fee will include lunch.

### Outings and Proshop

Finally, when it comes time to pick a course for a golf outing we invite

you to consider Pierce Lake. Our group rates are some of the lowest in the area and our pavilion overlooking the lake is very popular for after golf activities. PLGC also has a well appointed pro-shop stocked with *Titleist* and *Callaway* golf balls, (the ones that go far) and *Gear* and *Callaway* apparel. New for 2005 will be the addition of *Top-Flight* balls (these go really far!).

The pro-shop also carries golf balls and apparel especially designed for women golfers.

Call Brian Klender for additional information on fees, outings, *Family Day* and the 2005 *Washtenaw County Junior Golf Championship*, 734.475.5858. ☞

*Brian Klender, General Manager*



*Can you identify which hole this golfer is teeing off from at Pierce Lake Golf Course?*

## Meet Our Staff!

Working tirelessly year-round, the permanent staff at **Pierce Lake Golf Course** includes Brian Klender, *General Manager*, Bryan Bloomensaat, *Greens Superintendent*, and Aaron Buysens, *Turf Supervisor*.

Of course, PLGC could not function without its seasonal employees who work so conscientiously each year to make the course such a great golf venue. Nice job everyone!



*From left to right, the permanent staff of PLGC, Bryan Bloomensaat, Brian Klender, and Aaron Buysens*

## Free Golf Cart Rental at Pierce Lake!

Visit us online at [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org) to print the coupon good for a free 9-hole cart\*

Valid through April 24<sup>th</sup>

\*not valid with league or outing play

# Protecting Species and Their Habitats

## Rare and Uncommon Plants and Animals Living in County Parks

What do eastern box turtles, least bitterns, eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, and white lady's-slipper orchids have in common? All of these animal and plant species are rare to uncommon in Washtenaw County, but each of these species has been found living in a Washtenaw County Park! Our Winter 2004-2005 newsletter included an article about natural features inventory work conducted by Park Naturalist Intern, Catherine Marquardt. Inventory work is ongoing to document the presence of all species found in our parks, and it is especially exciting when a rare or uncommon plant or animal is found, whether during a formal inventory or by chance.

One day last summer a friend and I were exploring the Leonard Preserve, one of the County's new nature preserves. As we came out from under a downed tree blocking the trail, I heard my friend say, "Well, hello!" He had picked up an animal that I have rarely seen in the wild anywhere, and one that I had never found on County Parks land. It was an eastern box turtle, a Michigan **species of special concern** (a species not yet considered threatened or endangered, but suffering population decline). Box turtles are locally common in the southwestern counties of Michigan, but they have mostly disappeared from southeastern Michigan. It was wonderful to find this turtle in a woodland that is now protected, especially since loss of wooded habitat is the main reason for the decline of the species.

Least bitterns are shy, seldom seen wetland birds, and the smallest

member of the heron family. This bittern requires marsh habitat with fairly deep water—just the type of habitat found in much of the Gosline Preserve, a recently acquired property just west of Independence Lake County Park. A least bittern was spotted by myself and two others in late spring 2003 and confirmed nesting was reported a few weeks later—a nestling was seen! This bird is designated as a Michigan **threatened species** (likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future), so this was an especially great find.

Another exciting animal was encountered during an interpretive walk last August. As a group of 23 people carefully made their way across the prairie fen habitat of Park Lyndon, someone quietly called, "Come and see the rattlesnake!" A large eastern massasauga rattlesnake lay coiled and partially hidden by plants. Massasaugas are designated as species of special concern in our state. Normally found in various wetlands, they can wander into upland areas in the summer. Preservation of the wetland acreage on County Parks land will help protect species like the least bittern and the massasauga. This is especially important since Michigan has lost over 50% of its wetland habitat since the time of European settlement!

It is great to find five or six specimens of an unusual plant, but to find 100 plants of a threatened species of orchid is truly a thrill! Last spring a large population of white lady's-slippers was found in Park Lyndon in an area little explored until last year's

inventory work. Other threatened wildflower species found in various parks include upland boneset, oval ladies tresses, and false white indigo.

Parklands are valuable for many reasons. They provide various opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors, and just as importantly, they preserve and protect habitats and the many species, common and uncommon, that call them home. ♪

Faye Stoner, Park Naturalist



Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*, top), Least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*, middle) and Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, bottom)

# Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

734.971.6355

## Get Ready for Summer!

### Swim Classes

Registration: April 23 - May 4  
Adult classes start May 11  
Youth classes start May 7

### Summer Camp

Here comes another great summer of Camp with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation! Group games, nature programs, arts & crafts, swimming, and field trips are all part of the fun. Registration begins April 1.

### Day Camp

sign up for any 4 weeks, Jun 20 - Aug 5  
ages: completed kindergarten - 11 years

### Camp Big Heart

for physically and mentally challenged individuals  
1 week, Aug 8-12; all ages



## Frequently Asked Questions...

**Do I have to be a member to use the Rec Center?**  
No, anyone can register for swim classes, "drop-in" on fitness classes, or pay a daily fee to use the facilities.

**What is a "drop-in" class?**  
All adult fitness, dance and water exercise classes are "drop-ins". You don't need to register for them and you can drop-in on any class *anytime you want!*

**What is a "punch card"?**  
Good for 10 drop-ins to any class\* at a discounted rate that *saves you \$\$!* Punch cards can be shared with friends and family and expire at the end of the calendar year.

\* *except Instructional Swim (Adult or Youth); does not guarantee a spot in any class*

## Drop-In Class Fee Schedule

	Resident (per visit)	Non-Resident (per visit)	Punch Card (10 visits)
Adult (16-61)	\$5	\$7	\$32
Senior (62+)	\$4	\$5	\$22
Disabled	\$4	\$5	\$22

## Facilities & Programs

Track (1/12 mile)  
Gymnasium  
Heated Pool  
Cardiovascular Training Area  
Strength Training Area  
Locker Rooms  
Assisted Care Locker Rooms  
Fitness Classes (Adult)  
Swim Classes (Adult & Youth)  
*(Registration forms available at the Rec Center or parks.ewashtenaw.org)*

## Building Hours

Mon - Fri, 6am - 10pm  
Sat, 8am - 6pm  
Sun, Noon - 10pm  
*(Closed: Good Friday, Mar25 at 6pm; all day Easter Sunday, Mar27)*

## Come on Down!

2960 Washtenaw Avenue  
*(entrance on Platt Road)*  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
734.971.6355



## Adult Fitness & Dance “Drop-In” Classes

### Fitness Pilates I & II

Increase core strength and flexibility of the spine with a wide variety of exercises. You will experience improved posture, alignment and an increased mind-body connection.

### Kickboxing

This workout uses kicks, punches, blocks and combinations to create an incredible workout. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves as this class involves bag work.

### Power Sculpting

Intervals of aerobics and conditioning. Fast paced, easy to follow and a very effective fat burner.

### Sculpting & Conditioning

Designed to strengthen and tone the total body. This mildly aerobic workout is adaptable yet challenging for all fitness levels. Hand held weights, tubes & bands are provided.

### Aerobic Strength Training (AST)

This 1.5 hour class will do it all, give you a 30 minute aerobic workout as well as tone, strengthen and firm your entire body.

### Dance

Learn basic moves for the *Foxtrot*, *Waltz*, *Rumba*, *Swing*, *Ballroom*, and *Salsa*. No partners needed.

### Step & Ball

This class will soon be your favorite. We have combined the Fat burner section of a step class and added the conditioning benefits of the ball. Join us for a great workout!

### Step I & II

This fun aerobic workout has a third of the impact and twice the benefits. Concentrating on lower extremities makes this class an excellent fat burner. 1, 2, 3... step!

### Light Aerobics

Work off those calories and build your cardio fitness in this aerobic dance class. No dance experience necessary

### Hatha Yoga

The physical practice of yoga that involves moving in and out of different positions called “asanas”. This class involves breathing and meditative exercise. All levels welcome.

### Tai-Chi

The main purpose of this training is to harmonize the body and mind to better handle stressful situations. This progressive class will calm the mind and relax the body.

### Butts & Guts

1 hour of core strength training at its best. Concentrated abdominal work and back muscle conditioning to give you the abs you want!

### Turbo Kick

Work on punches kicks and drills, aerobic and anaerobic. Class includes bag work, plus weights and tubes for conditioning. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves.

### Pilates Yoga Fusion

You'll feel stronger and leaner after taking this class. We have combined the best of yoga—flexibility and versatility—with the benefits of Pilates—core strength and alignment.

### Super Session

An intense, 1.5 hour workout with step, strength training and stretch with Yoga/Pilates. Challenging for all levels. *Sundays, dates TBA*

### Cardio Mix

This workout can be a combination of high/low aerobics. Step and muscle conditioning. Always different, never boring. Excellent cross training.

### Step Mix

Come join this fun class. Burn the fat in this great cardio workout with one step....or more. For all levels.

## Seniors

### Senior Aerobics

Big Band and contemporary music make aerobic exercise lots of fun. This 1-hour class requires 45 minutes of standing and finishes with balance exercises and light weight resistance. *M/F 9:15 - 10:15 am*

### Senior Stretch Fit

Combines basic stretching, and Pilates-like exercises with standing, wall and floor work. Benefits include muscle flexibility, increased range of motion and general well being. *T/TH 10:45 - 11:45 am*

### Senior Sculpt

Hand weights, bands and resistant tubing tone muscles, while improving strength and balance. *T/TH 8:30 - 9:30 am*

### Senior Step Aerobics

Each person has a step unit and chair (for balance and support). Sharpen balance awareness and increase cardiovascular and muscle endurance. *M/W 8:15 - 9:00 am*

For all drop-in class times call the...

# Aerobic Hotline

971.6337 x352

Updated daily

### Weight/Cardio Room Orientation

Have questions? We'll show you how to use the equipment with the proper amount of weight and repetition to help you reach your goals!  
*Sign up for class at the front desk, dates and times vary.*

# Get in the Pool!

## Youth Swim

### Infant Toddler

(6 mos-2 yrs with adult) With adult participation, infants and toddlers learn to enjoy water activities. Songs and games teach the children water comfort. One adult per child.

### Pre-School 1

(18 mos-3 yrs with adult) Through songs and games, and with adult help, pre-school aged children learn water comfort and simple water skills. One adult per child.

### Pre-School 2

(3-5 yrs with adult) These children will begin to practice Young Swimmer 1 skills. This class is for kids who aren't ready to be in the water without a parent. One adult per child.

### Young Swimmer 1

(At least 4 yrs of age) A great class for beginners! Children with little or no water experience will learn water comfort, supported floating and kicking, and basic arm movement.

### Young Swimmer 2

(Ages 4-5) Children already comfortable in the water will practice swimming skills without support. Floating, kicking, front and back crawls and safety skills will be taught.

### Level 2

(At least 5 yrs of age) Children who can float and kick on both front and back without support begin to complete their strokes. Focus will be on stroke completion and technique.

### Level 3

(Must pass Level 2 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Learn to combine and coordinate basic swimming skills into complete strokes. Rhythmic breathing will be introduced; front & back crawls, treading water and safety skills will improve.

### Level 4

(Must pass Level 3 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Students improve stroke technique and endurance. 25-yard front & back crawls, breaststroke, sidestroke, sculling and rescue techniques.

### Level 5/6

(Must pass level 4 or with Aquatic Programmer permission) Students will refine and improve all strokes learned while increasing endurance and stroke efficiency. More distance is introduced. Butterfly, open turns and rescue skills also taught.

	Sec#	Fee**
<b>Infant Toddler</b>		
SA 11:15-11:45	31010	\$45
<b>Pre-school 1</b>		
SA 10:35-11:05	31020	\$45
SA 11:50-12:20	31021	\$45
<b>Pre-school 2</b>		
SA 10:00-10:30	31030	\$45
<b>Young Swimmer 1</b>		
SA 10:00-10:30	31040	\$45
SA 11:15-11:45	31041	\$45
SA 12:30-1:00	31042	\$45
<b>Young Swimmer 2</b>		
SA 10:35-11:05	31050	\$45
SA 11:50-12:20	31051	\$45
SA 12:30-1:00	31052	\$45
<b>Level 2</b>		
SA 10:00-10:35	31060	\$45
SA 11:15-11:50	31061	\$45
SA 11:50-12:25	31062	\$45
<b>Level 3</b>		
SA 10:35-11:15	31070	\$45
SA 12:30-1:10	31071	\$45
<b>Level 4</b>		
SA 11:50-12:30	31080	\$45
<b>Level 5/6</b>		
SA 12:30-1:10	31090	\$45

\*\* price increase reflects the change from a 5-week to a 7-week session

## Instructional Swim Classes, 7-week Sessions

Session	Register	Classes*
A	Apr 23 - May 4	Adult: May 11 - Jun 22 Youth: May 7 - Jun 25

\* No Class Saturday, May 28

### \*\* PLEASE TAKE NOTE \*\*

Children who are not potty trained must wear diapers with training pants and a swimsuit

You may watch swim classes from the deck on the 1st & last days only; all other days use the main floor observation windows

## Adult Swim

### Instructional Swim

Two instructors will divide the class into two skill levels on the 1st day. Classes are designed for adults who wish to learn to swim, improve strokes or just learn to be comfortable in the water. **Registration required. Sorry, no drop-ins.**

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
22410: Jan 12 - Feb 23, \$55\*\*

## Adult Water Exercise

### "Drop-In" Classes

#### Easy Toning

For beginning exercisers, older adults and others looking for a low to moderate intensity workout. Focus on upper & lower body stretching, range of motion and strength exercise. No swimming skills required.

M, T, Th 9 - 10 am

#### Aqua Aerobics

Increase and maintain aerobic fitness without the impact or sweat of a traditional aerobics class. You will also spend time on warming up, cooling down, and "floor work" exercises. No swimming skills required.

Mon 8 - 9 pm

Tue 10 - 11 am

Wed 9 - 10 am; 8 - 9 pm

Thu 10 - 11 am

Fri 9 - 10 am

Sat 9 - 10 am

# Health & Fitness at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

## Pool Schedule

Winter 2004 - Spring 2005

No one under 18 years is admitted to Adult Lap Swim  
An adult must accompany children under 12 years at all times

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6-9am	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 8-9	Rec Center Opens at 12
9-10am	Easy Toning	Easy Toning	Aqua Aerobics	Easy Toning	Aqua Aerobics	Aqua Aerobics	
10-11am	Open Swim	Aqua Aerobics	Open Swim	Aqua Aerobics	Open Swim	Youth Swim Classes 10-1:15	
11-1pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 12-2
1-5pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Closed for Cleaning 1-6	Open Swim	Open Swim 1:15-4:30	Open Swim 2-8
5-7pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 6-7	Adult Lap	Adult Lap 4:30-5:45	
7-8pm	Swim Class	Open Swim	Swim Class	Open Swim	Open Swim	Rec Center Closes at 6	Adult Lap 8-9:45
8-9pm	Aqua Aerobics		Aqua Aerobics				
9-9:45pm	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap	Adult Lap		

**CLEANING & MAINTENANCE CLOSURES** – Pool: Closed from 1-6pm every Thursday, AND on the first Thu/Fri of each month the pool is closed from 1pm on Thu to 9am on Fri; Locker Rooms: Closed M-F, Men's 10:15-10:45am, Women's- 2:00-2:30pm; Track: Closed M-F from 1:30-2pm

Gym Schedule		(subject to change without notice)	
WEST GYM	EAST GYM	WEST GYM	EAST GYM
<b>Sunday</b> 12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Adult Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Family Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Adult Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	12:00 - 2:00 Adult Basketball 2:30 - 5:00 Family Volleyball 5:30 - 6:45 Family 6:45 - 8:00 Teens 8:15 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Monday</b> 6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Family Badminton	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00-10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Family Badminton	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00-10:30 Closed for Class 10:30 - 2:30 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 7:45 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Tuesday</b> 6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult BB 25+	6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult BB 25+
<b>Wednesday</b> 6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 3:00 Open 3:00 - 5:15 Teens 5:30 - 7:30 Adult Basketball 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Thursday</b> 6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Wheelchair BB	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball	6:00 - 11:30 Open 12:00 - 3:00 Adult Volleyball 3:30 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Wheelchair BB	6:00 - 8:45 Open 9:00 - 11:00 Tot Time 11:00 - 5:45 Open 6:00 - 7:45 Closed for class 8:00 - 9:45 Adult Volleyball
<b>Friday</b> 6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Teens 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Open 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Teens 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton	6:00 - 12:00 Open 12:30 - 7:15 Open 7:30 - 9:45 Adult Badminton
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00 - 11:30 Adult BB 30+ Community 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Open Badminton	8:00 - 11:30 Open/ 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Adult Volleyball	8:00 - 11:30 Adult BB 30+ Community 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Open Badminton	8:00 - 11:30 Open/ 12:00 - 2:30 Teens 3:00 - 5:45 Adult Volleyball

# Something New in County Farm Park

## New Park Shelter at the Medford Road Entrance

County Farm Park will soon be home to a “new” park shelter at the Medford Road entrance. The new shelter is actually a replacement for an older one, built by Jaycees volunteers in 1974. At that time, the small 13 acre County-owned woodlot was land leased to the City of Ann Arbor and known as Park Washtenaw. Today, the shelter and woodlot are part of the larger 126 acre area, designated and developed as public parkland in 1982 by the County, now known as County Farm Park.

“Physical facilities” are often the most obvious products of a park and recreation system—the swimming pools, golf courses, trails, and parklands that provide recreation space for public use. These locations for indoor and outdoor activities are frequently what the public first thinks about when discussing recreation. It’s true that the major portion of park budgets often go to provide these facilities.

New facility development and park expansions, particularly larger ones and those responding to underserved populations, tend to be big news. However, needs confronting recreation systems are not solved through new development and facility expansion alone. Existing facilities must be kept in service in order to continue to provide adequate recreational opportunities for public use and enjoyment. While not as attention getting as a major new development, existing facilities must be routinely evaluated for needed maintenance, repairs and rehabilitation. Eventually there comes a time when replacement is required. Such is the case with the County Farm Park Medford Shelter, located at the Medford Road entrance to the park.



*Drawing of the new Medford Shelter for County Farm Park*

Scheduled to be erected early this spring, the new shelter will be quite a departure from the asphalt shingled wood structure that park visitors have become familiar with. The new 32’ x 32’ shelter is a contemporary, cross-shaped, steel structure with standing seam metal roof, gabled ends, cupola, and deck railings. Its interior will be brighter, airier and more inviting than the old wood shelter, providing sun and rain protection for park picnickers for years to come. When fully constructed and landscaped, this will be an attractive setting for family gatherings, events and perhaps even small weddings. ☺

*Ray Essell, Park Planner*

## Park Facilities for Rent!

Planning a celebration, perhaps a corporate party? Have you considered the beauty of gathering in a park setting? The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission would like to share our facilities with you.

Our attractively sited shelters can handle any size gathering, from intimate groups of 12 to parties of 480. We also have meeting rooms available for retreat size groups of 35-40. Additionally, Sharon Mills is a lovely setting for weddings, parties or catered events.

For more information about permits, fees, availability and rules, visit [parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org) or call 734.971.6337.



Photo ©Fred Golden

*Pavilion at Sharon Mills*



# Garden Corner The Good Weather Days of March

**A**fter winter's darkness, March's promise of spring calls me outside to start early spring pruning and landscape clean-ups. Here is the **Early Spring Task List** that I keep in mind:

### Prune/Hedge/Edge

Hedge-clip certain flowering shrubs, prune out winter-kill

### Spring Clean-up

Uncover, cut and clear all dead perennial and fall debris

### Transplant/Divide/Move

Relocate plants out of place, divide and move perennials and shrubs

### Weed & Litter Control

Trash removal and weeding are two of the most critical ongoing gardening tasks. Get an early start on these!

### Rounds & Recons

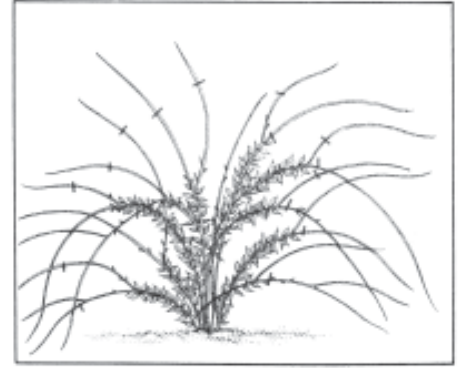
Keep a garden journal with current observations, dates, work being done, suggested plants and tasks to be done.

Many *Spirea* and *Potentilla* benefit from a heading at this time of year so I take the hedge-pruners to these and other small bushy flowering shrubs (see illustration).

The **exceptions** are *Bridalwreath Spirea*, *Forsythia*, *Lilac*, and *Aronia* which should **not** be pruned until right **after** flowering is done.

The red twig dogwoods in front of the Meri Lou Recreation Center are cleaned of winter dead limbs and pruned severely so people can see out the windows while exercising in summer. *Cotoneaster* is trimmed along the edges to keep their limbs from rooting outside of garden edges, and spent perennial plantings are cut (down to about 3 - 6") to clear the way for new spring growth. *Grasses* are hedge-clipped to 8 - 12" above ground, or in the case of native plantings they are burned to mimic natural fires. Also, evergreens are pruned of winter browned limbs and some trees are pruned with an eye to form.

When the ground thaws, I can also move and divide perennials—most require dividing on a 3-5 year cycle. I use my shovel in the softened earth to quickly make all the changes that I noted to be done over the last season. I divide



© Horticultural Publishing

*This sprawling shrub (top) requires severe "heading" to control growth, resulting in a more compact and upright form (bottom).*

overgrown plants and prepare for plant additions I will be purchasing in May and June.

I don't mind being outside early, even in the spring rains. As long as I dress correctly I stay warm, and get most of my spring perennial clean-up done just as bud-tips are popping out of warmer ground in May. It is rejuvenating to clear the way and see everything waking up!

Come join me at any of the County park gardens in late March - April. I will be cleaning up and moving plants at County Farm Park, Parker Mill, Rolling Hills, Independence Lake, and Sharon Mills and I often have some **free plant divisions** available for volunteer gardeners! Call me at 734. 971.6337 x317, I check my voice mail regularly. ☺

Kathy Squiers, Park Horticulturist

## Emerald Ash Borer & Wood Utilization Fair, Saline

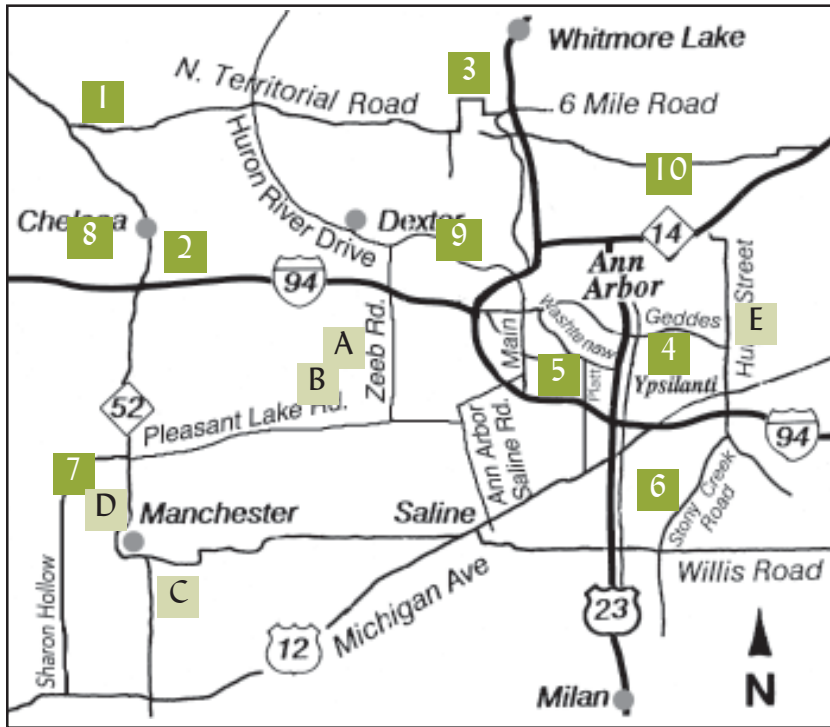
Eight million ash trees have already been lost to the emerald ash borer. WCPARC attended the fair in February to learn what others are doing about the problem and share information about our EAB program and parks in general.

Currently, WCPARC is helping researchers track the spread and behavior of the invasive pest; removing significant infested ash trees and replacing them with native trees; trying different treatments to protect uninfested trees; and developing a program for getting kids involved in growing and planting "replacement" trees.



WCPARC booth at the fair

# Maps and More...



Visit us online for  
park maps and more info!  
[parks.ewashtenaw.org](http://parks.ewashtenaw.org)

## Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 1** Park Lyndon  
18801 N. Territorial Rd., Lyndon Twp
- 2** Pierce Lake Golf Course  
1175 South Main St., Chelsea
- 3** Independence Lake  
3200 Jennings Rd., Webster Twp
- 4** Parker Mill  
4650 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor Twp
- 5** County Farm  
2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor  
- and -  
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center  
2960 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor
- 6** Rolling Hills/Water Park  
7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti Twp
- 7** Sharon Mills  
5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Sharon Twp
- 8** Cavanaugh Lake  
Cavanaugh Lake Road, Sylvan Twp
- 9** Osborne Mill Preserve  
East Delhi Road, Scio Twp
- 10** Park Northfield  
Pontiac Trail, Northfield Twp

## NAPP Nature Preserves\*

- A** DeVine Preserve, 137 acres  
north side of Liberty Rd, 1/2-mile west  
of Zeeb Rd, Scio Twp
- B** Brauer Preserve, 180 acres  
west side of Parker Rd, just south of  
Waters Rd, Freedom Twp
- C** Ervin Preserve, 72 acres  
west side of Clinton Rd, directly  
opposite the intersection of  
Burmeister Rd, Bridgewater Twp  
- and -  
Stucki Preserve, 57 acres  
south side of Austin Rd, immediately  
west of Neal Rd, Bridgewater Twp
- D** Leonard Preserve, 205 acres  
end of Union St, Manchester
- E** LeFurge Woods Preserve  
south side of Vreeland Rd, just east of  
Prospect Rd, Superior Twp  
(Owned by the Southeast Michigan Land  
Conservancy; a conservation easement on  
64 acres is held by WCPARC)

New Entry  
Sign, Parking  
& Trails!

\*Currently, only the DeVine Preserve has an entry sign, public parking and established trails. To access other preserves, call for more detailed directions, or check our Calendar for scheduled nature programs. Parking and access at other preserves will be provided later in 2005.

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Robert L. Tetens  
Director

# Calendar of Events & Programs

## Ongoing

**Family Day at Pierce Lake Golf Course**  
Wednesdays, kids under 17 play free  
when accompanied by a paying adult.

## March

Sat, March 5

✿ **Sap to Syrup: Doing it Yourself**, 1pm  
County Farm Park (Platt Rd Lot)  
Pre-registration required, 734.971.6337

Sun, March 6

✿ **Early Signs of Spring**, 2pm  
Devine Preserve, Liberty ½-mile west of Zeeb.  
Wet/muddy, wear boots!

Sun, March 20

✿ **Annual Waterfowl Watch**, 9am  
Independence Lake. Ducks, loons, grebes  
and more? Vehicle entry fee.

Sat, March 26

✿ **Under the Worm Moon: An Evening  
Hike**, 7pm, Independence Lake. Listen for  
frogs, woodcocks and owls. Hot drinks  
around the fire after! Vehicle entry fee.

## April

Sat, April 2

✿ **Spring Stars and Planets**, 8pm  
Independence Lake. Vehicle entry fee.

Sun, April 10

✿ **Exploring LeFurge Woods**, 2pm  
LeFurge Woods Preserve, south side of  
Vreeland just east of Prospect.

Thu, April 28

✿ **Great Lakes HummerNet**, 7:30pm  
County Farm Park (Platt Rd entrance)  
A program on Michigan hummingbirds.  
Meet in Parks Administration building.

Sat, April 30

✿ **End of April Bird Walk**, 8am  
Rolling Hills. Vehicle entry fee.

✿ **Frogs and Toads of Michigan**, 7:30pm  
Independence Lake. Slides and live frogs  
followed by a hike to look and listen for  
frogs. Wear boots! Vehicle entry fee.

## May

Sun, May 1

✿ **Mayhem at Rolling Hills!** 8:30am  
registration, 10am tee time. First of three  
disc golf tournaments at Rolling Hills in  
2005. Sponsored by DiscGolfExpress.  
Vehicle entry fee; registration fee.

✿ **Wildflowers of County Farm**, 2pm,  
County Farm Park (Medford Rd entrance)

Tue, May 3

✿ **Workday: Garlic Mustard Pull**, 6-8pm  
County Farm Park (Medford Rd entrance)

Sat, May 14

✿ **Workday: Dame's Rocket & Garlic  
Mustard Pull**, 12:30-2:30pm, Parker Mill

✿ **Spring Plants of the Floodplain**  
2:30pm, Parker Mill

Sun, May 15

✿ **Early Flowers in the Fen**, 10am  
Park Lyndon North. Wet, wear boots!

**Traditional Skills Workshop**, 1-4pm,  
Rolling Hills. Scott Coleman and friends  
return to teach fire by friction, rope  
making, flint knapping, sheltering, edible  
plant ID and more. Vehicle entry fee.

Wed, May 18

✿ **Workday: Dame's Rocket Pull**, 6-8pm  
Devine Preserve, Liberty ½-mile west of Zeeb

Sat, May 21

**2005 Walk 'n Wag: Humane Society of  
Huron Valley**, County Farm Park (Platt  
Rd entrance). Co-hosted by WCPARC  
and the Canine Social Club. Visit  
[www.hshv.org](http://www.hshv.org) for details.

✿ **Almost a Full Moon Hike**, 8pm  
Independence Lake. Vehicle entry fee.

Sun, May 22

✿ **Tours of Sharon Mills**, 1-4pm

Sat, May 28

**Opening Day at Rolling Hills Water Park  
& Independence Lake Spray Zone!**  
This day marks the beginning of our  
summer season. Keep your fingers crossed  
for blue skies and lots of sunshine! Vehicle  
entry fee; Rolling Hills Water Park fee.

✿ **Nature & Interpretive Programs**, for more info contact  
Faye Stoner at 734.971.6337 x318 -or- [stonerf@washtenaw.org](mailto:stonerf@washtenaw.org)

Map on page 11



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