

# MICHIGAN OUTDOORS

# NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frazer

**RECORD MICHIGAN FISH**  
Every now and then Michigan fishermen get into an argument about big fish caught in the state, and frequent disputes arise as to who holds the record for various species.

To calm the troubled waters here's a complete list of current records on file with our Conservation Department—a list that you may want to clip for ready reference.

Let's begin with **Northern Pike**. Albert Kobs caught a pike that weighed 32 lbs. and was 44" long in Gratiot Lake, Keweenaw County, in 1944. It stands as the record pike to date.

In the **Walleyed Pike** or **Pickereel** class a new record was set in 1951 by George Fiedley of Yorktown, Indiana. His fish weighed 17 lbs. 4 oz. and was caught in the Manistee River above Tippecanoe Dam. It was 35" long.

The biggest Michigan **Muskie** caught was a 62½ lb. 59" fish caught by Percy Haver in Lake St. Clair in 1940. The largest **Bluegill** came from Silver Lake in Cheboygan County in 1943, and was caught by Ferd Brook. It weighed 2 lbs., 10 oz., and was 12" long.

The **Yellow Perch** record is held by Eugene Jezinski, caught in Independence Lake in Marquette County, and ran the scale to 3 lbs., 13 oz.

A 3 lbs., 5 oz. **Rock Bass** from Lake Cadillac at Cadillac holds the record for that fish, and the best **Calico Bass** on the books weighed 4 lbs., 2 oz. It came from Lincoln Lake in Kent County.

In the bass family the record **Snowmouth Bass** hit the 9½ lb. mark and was 27" long. It was caught way back in 1906 by F. Shoemaker, in Long Lake, Cheboygan County. The best **Largemouth Bass** ever taken in Michigan came from Big Pine Lake in Kent County, and weighed 11 lbs., 15 oz. It was caught by Bill Maloney of Grand Rapids on the opening day of the season in 1934.

**Michigan's Biggest Trout**  
The largest **Lake Trout** didn't come from Lake Superior as you might expect, but from Lake Michigan near Grand Haven. It was caught in 1864 and weighed 68 lbs. That's one record that probably will never be topped.

**Rainbow Trout** record for Michigan stands at 21 lbs., 7 oz., and was caught in the Manistee River in November, 1947, by Goldman Labadie.

**Brook Trout** fishermen out for a record have to shoot at a 6 lb., 1 oz. fish caught at White Fish Bay in 1934 by George Shipman of Flint.

The Michigan record for **Brown Trout** stands at 13 lbs., 8 oz., and is held by Burrell High, of Niles. The whopper came from Dowagiac Creek in Berrien County in 1940.

Michigan's largest fish is the **Sturgeon**, one specimen of which was hit by a steamer propeller near Benton Harbor, was captured and weighed in at 310 lbs. And believe it or not, a 47 lb. **Catfish** holds the record for Elmer Rayner of Ionia. The giant cat came from the Maple River in 1837. So, if you're out for a record fish in Michigan this year, there's your competition! Good luck— and you'll need it!

A Birmingham resident, Mort Neff, "Michigan Outdoors" writer. Show appears every Thursday at 10:15 p.m. over Station WJLV-TV.

# B of E Election, Installation Due At July 7 Meet

The reorganizational meeting of the Birmingham board of education is scheduled for July 7, as required by state law.

At this time Elaine Helmer Paris, newly elected board member, and William Spence, reelected on June 9, will be sworn in. The annual election of officers also will be held.

**DURING MARCH** night's meeting the board drafted a letter of thanks to Ross S. Campbell, retiring member, for the "splendid service" he has performed.

"He has been most unselfish in his service to the board and the district," was the comment of Amos Gregory, "and I feel we should extend our official thanks to him."

This meeting, it was pointed out, will replace the regularly scheduled meeting of July 15.

**Postoffice Picnic**  
Staff members of the Birmingham postoffice, with their families, held their fourth annual picnic Sunday at Spring Valley park. The all-day affair included a program of varied entertainment.

**THE FAMILY** includes some 7,000 species over 1,000 of which are found in the United States. Grasses seldom grow singly, but form extensive communities which are characteristic of the landscape. There are left in the world four great grasslands; the prairies, the steppes, the tundra, and the pampas of South America. These feed the animals of the world and so indirectly nourish much that is alive today.

Man is very dependent upon one of the great groups of grasses, the cereals. In their heavy seed-laden heads ripen the corn, wheat, oats and barley which go so far toward nourishing the peoples of the west. Rice, an equally important cereal, feeds the eastern half of our world.

Most grasses are low herbaceous plants with fibrous roots. They often have underground stems which extend horizontally and give off new tufts of leaves to form compact sod. But some varieties like corn and sugar cane grow 10 to 12 feet high, and bamboo, the tallest of the tribe, reaches tree-like proportions.

**ALMOST** everyone passes by a field of timothy or blue grass, little suspecting that each stalk is topped with a crowded flower head. One needs a hand-lens to see the structure of each individual bloom and it is necessary to use a microscope that magnifies 25-50 diameters to see its surprising beauty. The color effect is of the browns, greens and purples and the structure suggests jeweled or beaded work shaped into fantastic designs. There are usually three stamens surrounding the single pistil which is cut and branched into three shapes—the better to catch the wind-blown pollen. Since insects do not enter the flower to get the pollen, there is no need for petals which merely serve as bait and resting platforms for these little visitors.

The fruit of grass is a one-seeded grain which may be oval, cylindrical or tooth-shaped. The tiny embryo is tucked into the attached end and the rest of the seed is the baby plant's lunch. It contains all the necessary nutrition until the new growth can establish its own root and leaf system.

All grass stems are jointed. Some, such as wheat and timothy are hollow, others including corn and bamboo have pithy centers.

Grass leaves are typically long, flat and narrow, although in the shade of the tropics they become elliptical to catch more sunlight. They are born in two ranks and are enclosed in a sheath where they join the stem.

**MANY INDUSTRIAL** arts depend upon the grasses. Everyday items are made such articles as brooms, hats, rugs and paper. In the tropics their uses are even more varied—for native houses are built and furnished with bamboo. Two other members of the grass family, the sorghums and sugar canes, provide the raw materials for the manufacture of molasses and sugar which we all rely on.

The cultivation of millions of acres of these plants is a major industry in the tropics.

Finally grasses guard the soil and help to determine the all important water supply. Were it not for their restraining roots, hills and plains would be as shifting as the desert or the sea shore. Trees and shrubs are also dependent upon the companionship of the grasses for a sure foot-hold upon the earth. The interlacing mat of grass roots in the water reservoir of our plains holding and releasing soil is an essential to "all life and growth."

Now spring has once more opened its arms in living green and the grasses come forth offering to us their promise of rich gifts for all.

**'53 BSA Jamboree Committee Named**  
Two Birmingham men will take part in preparing for the 1953 Boy Scout Jamboree at the Irvine ranch in Southern California July 10-16.

Merritt D. Hill, vice-president of Bearborn Motors and a member of the Scout council's executive board, has been named Jamboree chairman. Walter Murphy, public relations director of Bearborn Motors, will handle publicity. Although no official application blanks have yet been issued, Merritt reports several scouts and leaders have already declared their intention of attending.

# Down to Earth

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

**GARDENING AS YOUR HOBBY** can open up many fine opportunities for you in the summer when you travel. As you drive over the highways it seems as though you have a new set of glasses on and the scenery takes on a new meaning to you. The texture of the leaves as the different forms of trees nestle together form a beautiful picture. When you see trees, shrubs, or smaller plant material which are strangers to you it is a real challenge to find out the name of the plant, often by the route of making a new friend.

The International Friendship Gardens at Michigan City, Ind., makes a fine stop for garden lovers driving West. It is the culmination of a dream of three brothers to promote world peace through the medium of a garden sanctuary. There, presidents, educators, scientists, and even kings and queens from foreign countries have contributed their native plants and

visited the various nationally gardens. There the visitor will hear symphony music as he wanders through the numerous paths of plant splendor.

There is a garden theater with seats on the hillside, and a most in front of the stage where stars of the Metropolitan and other musical groups give a series of concert throughout the summer.

In the springtime you may see over one-half million tulips. The visitor will come away with many ideas for glorifying a tree in his own yard. There is a beautiful hedge of yew in the garden and a collection of unusual evergreens. The clipped white pine hedge was an effect I would like to try.

Virgil Stouffer, one of the brothers in this dream toward World Peace, is on the job from sunup to sundown working and meeting garden lovers as they come to admire over fourteen years of planning.

**THE MORTON ARBORETUM** at Lisle, Ill. in the metropolitan area of Chicago, is another man-made glorious garden of 835 acres. There, in a well labeled show, the visitor can see plants from all over the world. A demonstration of over 75 growing hedges interested me.

In our contemporary architecture the use of hedges to emphasize the horizontal line of the home is important for good planning and design.

The shrubs loved by many of us are controlled to make beautiful textured hedges. Among these which were outstanding and which will take our midwestern winters were: Alpine current and humulus spiraea (it was in bloom with its rosy-purple flowers). Hawthorn made an exotic controlled hedge. Hill's Silver Juniper with its grey green foliage was unusual, common buckhorn and the Amur Maple.

**HEDGES** are formed by placing the plant material three feet apart except when the plant material has an open character of growth like the humulus spiraea where it is planted eighteen inches apart.

Among the other hedges seen at Morton Arboretum were: laurel willow which was extremely dense, the red leaf rose (Rosa Rubrifolia) and silver arbutus.

These two illustrations of garden ideas gleaned from travel, hope, will prove more than ever to you that with your love of gardening many doors are open for you to explore.

**JULY GARDEN CARE** can be a pleasure as you enjoy the delphiniums, lilies, shasta daisies, and other midsummer flowers if you allow yourself to sit back and "enjoy the show." July and August is the time to enjoy the results of your winter planning and hard garden work up to this date. As you mow the lawn be sure that your mower is set to cut grass two inches high to avoid crab grass.

**CRAB GRASS** will not germinate if the seeds are shaded by grass two inches high. This seed loves to germinate where the turf is left bald and the soil shows. Also do not mow the grass as often due to slow growing due to dryness.

**SUMMER MULCHING**, described in last week's issue, will mean no hoeing and attractive flower beds.

**EMERSON** said: "Every man passes his life in the search after friendship." Gardening with its challenge to explore with new plants, the tie up with travel, and the joy of creating a "heaven on earth" in your own backyard makes gardening as a hobby a program to the end of our time.

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RESOURCES	
Cash on hand and in banks	\$ 3,711,827.15
*United States Government Obligations	8,261,916.96
Securities of Federal Agencies	1,230,095.68
State, County and Municipal Bonds	2,052,001.99
Other Bonds and Securities	237,742.57
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	30,000.00
Loans and Discounts	2,336,225.38
Real Estate Mortgages	3,876,352.93
Banking House (Less Reserve)	266,017.18
Furniture and Fixtures (Less Reserve)	82,160.26
Prepaid Expense	15,806.08
Accrued Interest on Bonds Purchased	732.67
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$22,100,878.85</b>
LIABILITIES	
Capital—Common Capital Stock	\$ 500,000.00
Surplus Fund	500,000.00
Undivided Profits	130,000.00
Reserves for Contingencies	101,771.16
Reserve for Taxes and Dividends	63,767.55
Interest Collected But Not Earned	49,751.51
Other Liabilities	None
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Public Fund Deposits	\$ 1,280,741.72
U. S. Government Deposits	274,514.31
State of Michigan	25,000.00
Other Deposits	19,175,332.60
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>20,755,588.63</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$22,100,878.85</b>

\*United States Government Securities of a Par Value of \$710,000.00, Carried in the Forgoing Statement are Pledged to Secure Deposits Where Required by Law

# The Birmingham National Bank

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