

# Educator's Guide



## Green Point Environmental Learning Center

Educational Facility for the  
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

(989) 759-1669

2008-2009 School Year

## *Schedule Your Group's Field Trip Today*

On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first refuge for the protection of birds at Pelican Island, Florida. Today, there are more than 540 refuges across the country with at least one in every state and U.S. territory. Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is just one of these refuges within the national network of lands. Established in October, 1953, Shiawassee NWR provides resting and feeding areas for migratory birds. It's a great place to visit and an even better place to learn!

For more information on Shiawassee NWR, visit our website:  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee).

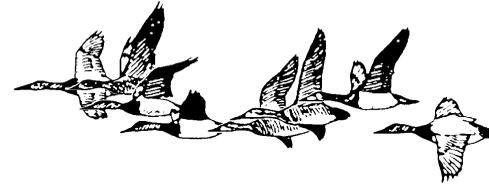
Green Point Environmental Learning Center, located in the southwest corner of the City of Saginaw, serves as Shiawassee NWR's educational focal point. Students of all ages are welcome to come and explore its variety of habitats. Green Point offers 2.5 miles of trails that wind through a bottomland hardwood forest, restored grassland and along the Tittabawassee River. Inside the building, a large

classroom with several displays, some featuring live animals, awaits students. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are also available.

Field trips for groups are available by reservation only. Green Point's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed all Federal holidays). Please contact Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to schedule your group. Choose from the programs within—offered either on-site or in your classroom. Staff at Green Point prefer working with groups of 30 or less students, especially when hiking to provide a more personal experience for students. Please note that other arrangements can be made for larger groups. **We modify and adjust each program to meet your grade level needs. This may include modifying the language we use or slightly altering an activity. We can work with middle and high school students for on-site visits, too!**



# A Variety of Programs to Meet Your Needs



## On-Site Programs

These units are offered at Green Point, led by our staff. Each unit takes about 90 minutes. All of the programs are available year-round unless otherwise noted.

**Home is Where the Habitat Is!** – Compare and contrast Green Point’s habitats and the wildlife that live in each. Describe basic life requirements of all living things. PreK-6

**Tracks and Traces** – Classify animals by the traces they leave behind. Discover animal adaptations that allow for survival. Practice different animal gaits. PreK-3

**Sensing the Seasons** – Compare the seasons at Green Point. See what the plants and animals do to survive. PreK-3

**Bird Eye-Q** – How do biologists identify one bird from the next? Practice using field guides and binoculars to identify local species. Gr. 1-6

**Water Wonderland** – Learn the steps of the water cycle and properties of water. Examine how humans interact with the cycle. Gr. 3-6

**Pond Safari** – Classify the layers of a pond and the organisms found in each. Use pond nets, hand lenses, microscopes and field guides to study aquatic life. No Winter program. Gr. 3-6

**Migration Mapping** – Become biologists and study bird migration in North America. Students practice their geography as they use a large floor map to study bird ranges, flyways and various impacts on bird habitat. Socks required! Gr. 3-6

**Insect Safari** – What is a bug? Identify insect anatomy and function. Collect and classify grassland insects using nets and field guides. No Winter program. Gr. 1-6

**Web of Life** – Students learn about interrelationships of living organisms by becoming a wet-

land-based food web, including the transfer of energy. Discuss human impacts and other factors that can affect it. Gr. 3-6

**What’s a Tree?** – Learn what’s under the bark and how it functions. Classify and identify local trees. Become a functioning human “tree.” Gr. 3-6

## In-School Programs

We bring our activities to you! These programs are 1 – 2 hours in length.

**Careers in the Fish and Wildlife Service** – Through an open discussion with a Refuge staff person, your students will learn what it takes to be a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team. Grades 6 – 12.

**“Virtual” Refuge Tour** – Your students will travel to Shiawassee NWR to see and feel the wildlife and habitats found there via a Power Point program and a variety of wildlife items. Good for all grades.

**Endangered Species** – Students will see a variety of endangered species and illegal wildlife trade items. Good for all grades.

**Birds of Prey** – Discover the world of hawks, eagles and owls. “Soar” with a life-size pair of Bald Eagle wings. Good for all grades.

**Let’s Build a Refuge!** – Students will learn what it takes to build a National Wildlife Refuge. Grades 4 – 6.

## Classroom Trunks

Borrow for two weeks to use in your classroom. The trunks can be used for any grade level. Call to schedule pick up and drop off times.

**Experience the Great Lakes** – Topics include Great Lakes food webs, aquatic invasive species, water, and fish. Benchmarks and standards covered by each lesson are documented for grades 4-8. Posters, DVD’s, specimens, and information about other invasive species are included.

**Cargo for Conservation** – A great kick-off for studying endangered species. Includes real wildlife parts and products confiscated at and within U.S. borders!

**Michigan Natural Resources** – This trunk is a collection of materials covering forest, soil and wildlife. It includes informational materials, activity ideas, posters, track casting materials, forestry measuring devices and much more.

**Prairie Discovery** – This trunk was designed to be used by groups of any age. Nine units concentrate on the prairie ecosystem. A variety of videos, books, posters and even a buffalo costume are included!

**Shorebirds** – Learn about shorebirds. This integrated teaching unit contains an activity guide, posters, maps, puppets, binoculars, and a variety of books.

**Songbirds** – Learn about migratory songbirds, their other life in Latin America and the increasing problems birds face in their homes. The trunk contains an activity guide, posters, maps, puppets, and a variety of books.

**Wetlands Discovery** – This trunk helps your students learn about wetlands. It includes background information, videos, posters, books, curricula, activity guide, artifacts, audio cassettes, puppets, props and more!

**Wolf Wonders** – Explore the world of one of America’s endangered species, the wolf. The trunk includes activity ideas, books, a video, a wolf skull and a wolf skin.

## Junior Duck Stamp Program

Shiawassee NWR is home to the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program for the State of Michigan. It features a dynamic, active, arts curriculum designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. This nation wide program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum. There are awards and scholarships for students, teachers and schools who participate. Contest deadline is March 15, 2009. For more information on the Junior Duck Stamp program, visit [www.fws.gov/duckstamps](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps).

### Green Point Environmental Learning Center

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