

Refuge News

Spring 2011 Newsletter

A Publication Funded by Seney Natural History Association for its Members.

Seney Natural History Association

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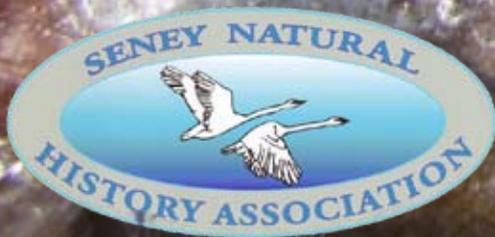


Photo: Beach stones at Whitefish Point, April 2011.
Credit: Sara Hollerich, USFWS.

Come to the 22nd Annual Children's Fishing Day June 18, 2011

by Mandy Salminen, 2011 SNHA Intern

It's that time again... Children's Fishing Day is this Saturday so grab those fishing poles and head to the refuge. The day is dedicated to getting children outside, enjoying the good ol' sport of fishing. Who doesn't remember a time when their parents or grandparents took them out to cast a line and drown a few worms? It wasn't just about catching fish, but being outside and enjoying the day and the company you were with. Fishing brings people of all ages and backgrounds together.

Children's Fishing Day is all about getting children to take an interest in fishing and for families to spend time together, as well as a way to meet others from the surrounding communities. Several fish species can be found in the refuge pools, including yellow perch, northern pike, brown bullhead, black crappie, and bluegill. Please remember the use of lead tackle is not allowed at the refuge. Lead is a toxic metal which has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of wildlife.



Photo: Children's Fishing Day participant Zac Ott with his prize winning pike. Credit: Marco Sanchez.

Registration and fish measuring will begin at 9:00 am and will run until 2:00 pm. Games, crafts, hands on demonstrations, and, of course, fishing will start at noon and run until 2:00 pm. If you don't have a fishing pole, don't worry, a limited number of fishing poles will be available for loan. A free dinner for all participants and their families is planned for 3:00 pm. After dinner, awards will be given out. So come

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*Photo: Seney at Sunset.
Credit: Atlee Hart, 2010 Photo
Contest.*

Manager's Corner

by Mark Vaniman



I am often asked "What do you do?" or "Describe a typical day at the Refuge?" I guess that the fact that these are difficult questions for me to answer is indicative of my good fortune. What do I do? Well, I could go on and on about reports and phone calls and letters and meetings etc., but, although they are important, they are not what I do. I seem to spend a lot of time engaged in these activities

but I think they are far from the essence of my job. If I think of the things that I really like and really make my days worthwhile it is my interaction with the staff, the volunteers, the local population and our visitors. I enjoy the fruits of the efforts of a truly professional staff, each and every one that has a passion for our Refuge and our resources; our volunteer cadre and Friends group are second to none and a good portion of our visitors are serial Refuge tourists. So, I try to listen and glean the information necessary to make decisions that, first and foremost benefit wildlife, but also take into account our partners and visitors, and utilize our limited resources for the greatest return.

As the weather turns warmer our winter planning efforts will hopefully become reality as staff, partners and volunteers hit the field. Highlights of the summer include: wildlife surveys and censuses; studies and investigations; continued aggressive buckthorn control; several prescribed fires; the Youth Conservation Corps and initiation of a farmfield to forest reversion project. Rich, Matt, Don and Jim have been busy readying the buildings and visitor facilities for our spring opening and are going to spend a good portion of the summer rehabilitating the C-2 Pool dike. We have begun gathering information for a hydrology restoration project west of the Driggs River and hope to complete several prescribed fires. YCC crews will complete many maintenance projects and will extend our walking trail system to include a loop around the south show pool. Laurie is currently involved in setting up and implementing a new accounting program (not glamorous but very necessary) and our visitor services staff is intensely planning for what should be a busy summer. We have seasonal staff arriving for our applied sciences program and four for visitor services program and you can count on seeing some of the old favorite programs in addition to some new offerings as well. Our Comprehensive Conservation Plan for our Island Refuges is well underway and should be completed this year and we are moving ahead with our attempt to purchase additional acres at our Whitefish Point Unit. Nationally, the Service is preparing for our Vision Conference to be held in Madison, WI in July. At the conference, participants will finalize a renewed vision document for the Fish and Wildlife

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Pool Maintenance

by Greg McClellan

Water Control Structure Replacement

As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the vintage 1940s water control structures at C-2 pool and Upper Goose Pen Pool were scheduled for replacement. Survey and design work were completed in 2009. In 2010, DeVere Construction out of Alpena, Michigan was awarded the contract to replace the two structures. Work began in June and continued into November. Summer 2010 was a very wet summer with over 20 inches of rain from June through August. It created problems and delays in the construction, but DeVere was able to complete the structures and a majority of the dirt work before pulling out for the winter. DeVere will be coming back in May 2011 to finish the dirt work, re-seed the areas and complete the projects.



Photo: The original C-2 Water Control Structure. Credit: USFWS.



Photo: The new C-2 Water Control Structure. Credit: Greg McClellan, USFWS.



Photo: The original Upper Goose Pen Water Control Structure. Credit: USFWS.



Photo: The new Upper Goose Pen Water Control Structure. Credit: Greg McClellan, USFWS.

Trees for Turtles and Fish

As you tour the Marshland Wildlife Drive and Fishing Loop this spring you may notice some changes. First, several trees which were standing last fall have been knocked into the refuge's pools. Second, many of the refuge's islands have been cleared of brush. To understand the method behind our madness you first need to understand the history of the refuge. Once this area was known as the Greater Manistique Swamp and it looked quite different than it does today. In 1935, when the refuge was established the idea was to make it into a great place to raise waterfowl, thus it was dubbed the Seney Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

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Meet the Summer Interns



Karen Palmer **Visitor Services Intern** **June 5th to September 5th**

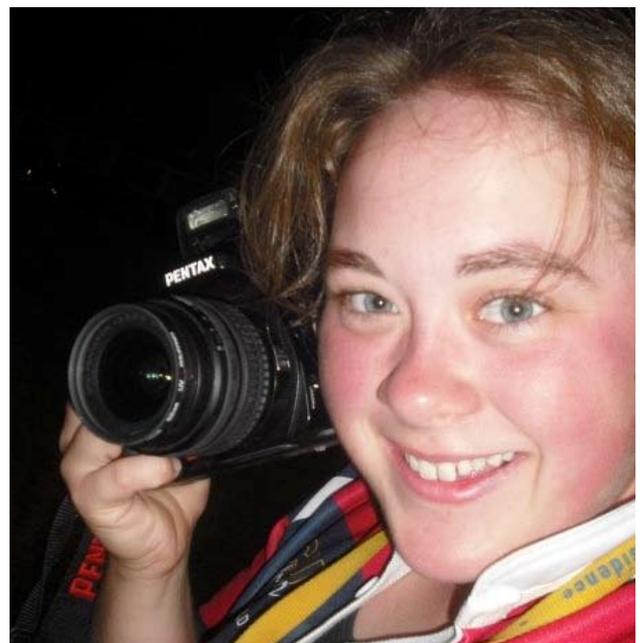
Hi, my name is Karen Palmer I am a senior from the University of Michigan – Flint. Though I grew up in the city, my passions in life have always been animals and the outdoors. My major at the U of M-Flint is Biology, with an emphasis in medicine (of the veterinary persuasion) and wildlife conservation. Last summer I spent five weeks assisting an internal equine medicine specialist at the University of Sydney's Large Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Camden, Australia on a critical care equine research project.

In Flint, when I'm not studying, I work at a Morgan Horse breeding farm where I help care for as many as 30 horses at a time. I am also active in the Wildlife Club at the University. As Vice President I am in charge of setting up volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community. Some events I have helped coordinate

include volunteering at the Organization for Bat Conservation at Cranbrooke, Fall Festival at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, and the Christmas Bird Count with the Genesee Chapter of the Audubon Society. I grew up vacationing in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula and have visited Seney NWR just as often. With my overseas excursion last summer I had a taste of what a career in veterinary medicine might entail, but I am looking forward to getting experience in another area of biology I find exciting. I enjoy fishing, hiking, birding, and herping and am hoping to get my fill of these activities while living and working at Seney this summer. I also find it funny that you can add "ing" to the end of a noun and make it into a verb.

Mandy Salminen **Visitor Services Intern** **May 10th to October 22nd**

Hi, I am Mandy. I just recently graduated from Miami University with a major in Zoology and Environmental Science. At Miami, I was an active member and officer of the Wildlife Society. I also was involved in rugby where I played as a flanker and prop. I am from Painesville, Ohio, which is near Cleveland. I really enjoy hiking, camping, and my newfound hobby, thanks to my Ornithology class, bird watching. My favorite animal is a tiger. A random fact about me is that I have worked on an educational public farm where I milked cows and taught children how to do it. I am really excited to meet everyone.



Kimaya Franklin

Visitor Services Intern

May 30th to August 13th

My name is Kimaya Franklin. I am a sophomore/junior(in the fall) from the University of Pine Bluff Arkansas. My major is business marketing, and my hometown is Warren, Arkansas. I graduated high school in Canberra, Australia and it was a great experience. My family moved frequently while I was growing up because my father was in the military. I look forward to my internship in Seney, Michigan at the Wildlife Refuge.



Katie Julian

Student Career Experience Program Intern with Visitor Services

July 3rd to August 26th

Greetings! My name is Katie Julian. I began my career with the USFWS last year as a Student Conservation Association environmental education intern with the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, MN. I am delighted to continue leading environmental education and interpretation programs at Seney NWR and to be working toward a position in Visitor Services as part of the USFWS' Student Career Experience Program. I am originally from southeast Michigan and will start graduate school at Michigan State University this fall, studying Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management. Although I completed my un-

dergraduate work at the University of Michigan, my fierce love of wildlife and interpretation defies all football rivalries! I look forward to gaining wisdom from Seney's staff, inspiration from her volunteers and visitors, and to all the joy and wonder that comes with exploring the outdoors!

Ellen Comes

Applied Science Intern

May 9th to July 29th

My name is Ellen Comes and I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. This fall, I will be a junior at the University of Dayton in Dayton, OH where I am majoring in Environmental Biology. Some of my most exciting achievements have been partaking in a 17-mile kayak and camping trip on the Great Miami River and completing my first half-marathon.

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Andrew DiAllesandro

Student Career Experience Program Intern with Applied Science

May 23rd to August 15th

My name is Andrew DiAllesandro. I was born in Phoenix, AZ but call Dilworth, MN my home. I received my undergraduate degree in biology from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN in December 2008. After that I entered graduate school at North Dakota State University majoring in Natural Resources Management. I will graduate with my M.S. degree in December of 2011. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family during my downtime.

Meghan Cornwall

Applied Science Intern

June 6th to August 26th

My name is Meghan Cornwall and I am from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. I am graduating from Colby College in Waterville, Maine in May of 2011 with a degree in Environmental Science: Conservation Biology. I am very interested in working with communities to conserve the surrounding habitats and biodiversity through different land management practices. I also really enjoy being outdoors camping, hiking, running and nordic skiing. So with a love of the outdoors and an interest in conservation, I am looking forward to this field season at Seney National Wildlife Refuge!



Jennifer Field

Applied Science Intern

July 6th to September 23rd

My name is Jennifer Field and I am from Santa Monica, California. I will be graduating from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor at the end of June with a double degree in Biology and Environmental Science. I currently work as a docent at Michigan's School of Natural Resources and I teach environmental stewardship practices to grades K-12. I am excited to be an intern at Seney Wildlife Refuge, and plan to move back to California after, eventually continuing my education at a Graduate level. ❁

Children's Fishing Day Continued from page 1

on down to Seney National Wildlife Refuge and join the fun of fishing.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge would like to thank the sponsors who helped make Children's Fishing Day possible. Germfask: Big Cedar Campground and Northland Outfitters; Seney: Seney Party Store; Curtis: Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn, Fish and Hunt Shop, JR's Sport Shop, Manistique Lake Lions Club, and The Trading Post; Manistique: Top O' Lake Sport Shop; Marquette: Walmart; Munising: Glen's Market, Holiday Station 155, Madigan's True Value, and Bob's IGA; Ishpeming: Wilderness Sport Shop; Newberry: Snyder's Drug Store and S + J Sports Shop; and Garden: Garden Sports Shop. We would also like to thank Seney Natural History Association and all of the volunteers who have helped make this day unforgettable for 22 years and counting!



What Bird Am I? Answers (from the cover)

1. Wilson's Snipe. Charles Klinger, 2010 Photo Contest.
2. Song Sparrow. Credit: Kimber Regale, 2010 Photo Contest.
3. Northern Harrier. Credit: Kathy Koets, 2010 Photo Contest.
4. Red-eyed Vireo. Credit: Angela Nebel, 2007 Photo Contest.
5. Yellow Warbler. Credit: Keith Parish, 2007 Photo Contest.
6. Cedar Waxwing - Teresa McGill, Nature in Motion.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

2011 Amateur Photo Contest

You're invited to participate in Seney National Wildlife Refuge's Amateur Photo Contest. The sole purpose of the contest is to encourage you to visit and enjoy the Refuge. Up to five entries (total) per person may be submitted - no more than three per category with exception to the youth categories. There are new categories this year - Special Assignment - this topic will change each year. Photos may depict any of the following categories:

- 1. Wildlife (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Spiders, Insects, etc.)**
- 2. Public Use/Recreation**
- 3. Landscape**
- 4. Plants/Plant Like Organisms (Wildflowers, Lichens, Mushrooms, Liverworts, etc.)**
- 5. Special Assignment 2011: The Art of Hunting/Fishing - Not what you shoot or catch but how you do it. Please no "trophy" photos - show us your techniques or shots from the field.**
- 6. 13 and under: any subject but the photographer must be 13 years old or younger.**
- 7. 14 to 18: any subject but the photographer must be 14 to 18 years old.**

The photos will be displayed at the Visitor Center in September and October and on Seney's Flickr page (www.flickr.com/seneynwr). Credit will be given to each of the contestants once the voting has been completed. The public will vote for their favorites in each of the categories. Voting will take place at the visitor center or you can cast your vote online. Voting for 2011 will begin by September 10th, 2011. To vote online check out the photos on the Flickr website then follow the special instructions. Certificates, ribbons and prizes (e.g. books, t-shirts, posters) will be awarded. All entries will remain on display at the Visitor Center until October 15th, 2011 and on the internet. See page two for rules and regulations.

Winners will be notified by December 15, 2011. For further information please call (906) 586-9851 ext.15.

The 2010 1st Place Winners

Public Use/Recreation

Anne Springsteen 1st



Plants and Wildlife

Barbara Hysell 1st



Landscape

Atlee Hart 1st



Contest Rules and Regulations

1. All entries must be photographs taken at Seney National Wildlife Refuge.
2. Up to five entries (total) per person may be submitted - no more than three per category with exception to the youth categories. Youth may enter up to five photos in their age bracket.
3. Photographers must be non-professional; this is an amateur contest. For the purposes of this photography contest, a professional photographer is considered to be a photographer who has clients, depends on photography for their income, markets their services and/or writes off their expenses as a business owner.
4. All photographs should be submitted as an **electronic copy (please send the highest resolution possible) AND in a printed format 5"x7", 8"x10" or 8"x12"**. Black and white or color photos are acceptable. If you are unable to submit an electronic copy arrangements can be made to scan the image at the Refuge. Note that scanned photos are not always as high quality as photos submitted electronically. Photos may not be matted nor should there be any frame surrounding the photo. Photos may not display the name of the photographer on the front of the photograph.
5. Mail or deliver the printed entries to:
Seney National Wildlife Refuge
Photo Contest
1674 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, Michigan 49883
Electronic copies may be mailed with the printed copy or emailed to Sara_Hollerich@fws.gov, the subject line should read "2011 Photo Contest". Entries accepted year round.
6. On the back of the printed photo, please attach a signed permission form with your contact information. Photos lacking the signed permission form will be disqualified.
7. All entries must be received by August 31, 2011, or they will not be accepted.
8. All entries will be retained by the Refuge and may be used for non-profit publications, webpages and presentations.
9. While extreme care will be taken in handling all entries, the Refuge cannot be responsible for any damage to photographs.

Online Voting: Cast your vote for your favorite photos from September 10th to October 15th, 2011. Remember only one vote per category per person. Each email address will be allowed one vote - if you have more than one email please be honest and only vote one time; duplicates will be deleted. Vote for the best photograph in EACH of the categories. If you would like to vote, email seneynwr@yahoo.com. The subject line should read, VOTE 2011. The body of the email should include the code numbers for each of the four categories. Example: Landscape: L#, Wildlife: W#, Plants P#, Public Use/Recreation: R#, Special Assignment: S#, Ages 13 and Under: Y#, and Ages 14 to 18: T#.

Detach Here

Detach Here

Title of Photo: _____

Print Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Circle Category Entered: **Wildlife; Public Use/Recreation; Landscape; Plants; Special Assignment; Ages 13 and Under; or Ages 14 to 18**

I hereby grant permission to the Seney National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use my photograph and/or likeness in official service publications, in displays, or on the internet and it's world wide website without further consideration. Where appropriate this photo will be credited to the source and to the USFWS.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If a minor (18 and under) has taken the photo a Parent or Guardian of the minor must give their permission by signing below. If a minor is pictured in a photo the following form needs to accompany the entry (<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2260.pdf>), copies can also be found at the Visitor Center or mailed to requesting individuals.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Title of Photo: _____
 Print Name: _____ Email: _____
 Street Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Circle Category Entered: **Wildlife; Public Use/Recreation; Landscape;
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Signature: _____ Date: _____

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Agreement for Use of Likeness in Service Products

Grant Unrestricted Use of Likeness

I hereby grant permission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to make visual and/or audio recordings of myself and/or any minor under my control at the time of the recording. I also grant permission to the USFWS to use these photographic, video and/or audio recordings in official Service publications, productions, displays and on the Internet without any consideration. I hereby irrevocably authorize the USFWS to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo/video/audio for any lawful purpose. I understand these photo/video/audio recordings will be in the public domain.

As a result of being in the public domain, the USFWS, or anyone else, may freely publish, reproduce, use and/or distribute these photo/video/audio recordings in any media without your approval or permission, with no monetary compensation to you and without temporal or geographic restriction (unless using your likeness for commercial use - then your permission is required).

In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, where in my likeness appears. I also hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the USFWS from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons, acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization, and agree to indemnify the USFWS, its officers, agents and employees against any out of pocket expenses, including attorney's fees, that may be incurred in defense against any such claim, action or proceeding. I am at least 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and fully understand the content, meaning, and impact of this release.

Grant Restricted Use of Likeness

I hereby allow the USFWS to use my likeness, and/or the likeness of any minor under my control at the time of the recording, in Service publications, productions, displays, the Internet, etc, with the following conditions:

Print Name of Minor

Print Name

Signature

Date

Phone or E-mail

Service Representative _____ Office _____ Phone _____

Nature Nut Column

Dear Nature Nut,

Woodpeckers have always amazed me. How does a bird drill a hole in wood? Wouldn't it cave their head in? Do they only drill into dead wood or can it be alive? What are they after? Can you tell the difference between woodpeckers by the holes they make?



Truly,
Amazed

Dear Amazed,

Woodpeckers truly are amazing birds with some very interesting adaptations. Woodpeckers have evolved a thick skull, chisel-like beak, and powerful head and neck muscles which can be used to drill into both living and dead trees in search of food. They have a built-in face mask (feathers which cover their nostrils) which keeps wood chips and dust from entering their nose as they hammer away. They also have a special hinge between the base of their beak and the front of their skull; this spreads the shock of pounding.

Those are only the adaptations on the head of a woodpecker. Woodpeckers' feet are adapted to hold onto the side of a tree which gives them leverage, without this there could be no hole. They have short legs with four clawed toes on each foot, two toes face forward and two backward. Their claws dig into the trees bark holding the bird in place. Stiff tail feathers act as a prop or kickstand giving the bird leverage as it drills its hole.



Photo: Pileated Woodpecker. Credit: Marco Sanchez.

Depending on the species of woodpecker it may search for different kinds foods. Sap-suckers generally tap living trees in bands and return to the holes later to lap up sap and any insects that happened to become mired in the sticky substance. Pileated woodpeckers, on the other hand, peck medium to

large sized rectangular holes in living or dead trees also in search of insect prey. There are some really great books to help you identify woodpecker holes. One of my favorites, "Bird Tracks and Signs," is available in the Seney Natural History Association bookstore at the Visitor Center.

To extract insects woodpeckers employ their long tongues, which tend to be sticky. After piercing the insects' tunnels with their beak, they can use their long tongues to explore deep into the tree plucking the insects from their hiding places. Of course the insects do fight back which brings us to their final adaptation – thick skin. Their thick skin protects them from biting insects and the stresses from constant pounding. As you can see woodpeckers are truly amazing birds.

Sincerely,
The Nature Nut

Dear Nature Nut,

This time of year always gets me in a tizzy. The mosquitoes at my house are so bad I wish that all they would all just die! What good are they anyway?

Sincerely,
Buzz Off

Dear Buzz Off,

Mosquitoes can be very annoying! They buzz in your ear and bite causing itchy welts. I would wager not many people find them appealing. They are one of those animals we love to hate, and rightfully so, after all they do spread many kinds of diseases. Unfortunately for us they are in fact, vital to the lives of many organisms.

The life cycle of a mosquito is fairly simple. The female lays eggs in the water which hatch into larvae, the larva changes into a pupa, and finally changes into an adult. As larvae and pupa, mosquitoes provide an important source of food for aquatic insects, fish, tadpoles, turtles, and birds. Carnivorous plants, such as the pitcher plant, depend on mos-

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Website Makeover

by Sara Hollerich

Seney National Wildlife Refuge has a redesigned website thanks to intern Marco Sánchez. Soon after Marco began his internship, in the summer of 2010, he came to me and asked if he could work on Seney's website as his special summer project. I was thrilled. While the original website had a lot of useful information, we were eager to make it easier to navigate as well as reflect the beauty of the Refuge. Good things take time and I had not had time to commit to the project.

If you haven't checked Seney NWR's website in the past few months, please do so at your convenience. We hope you will be pleasantly surprised. In addition to the numerous beautiful photos you will find recent bird sightings, tips on how to watch wildlife, brochures and maps, publications, activities and events, and a whole host of other information. There is also a short video Marco produced about the refuge. Please let us know if there is something you would like us to add. Send comments, questions, and recommendations to Sara_Hollerich@fws.gov or give me a call at (906) 586-9851 x16. ☘

eBird – Help Us Help Birders

by Sara Hollerich

Every once and a while you run across one of those great websites that makes you pause and think, now how can I use this in my job? eBird is one of those websites. It is run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and The National Audubon Society. I like this site because anyone can submit an observation for anywhere in the world. If you like to keep track of what birds you have seen, and when and where you saw them, this website can be a helpful tool. Simply go to ebird.org, click on submit observations. It is very simple, and dare I say fun? You also have an opportunity to view and explore data entered by other people. Bird enthusiasts looking for information on when and where birds have been seen find this site a great resource.

That brings us to how you can help your fellow birders at Seney NWR and the Whitefish Point Unit. As part of Seney NWR's website redesign I was lucky enough to find a way to connect the eBird sightings for the two areas to Seney's birding webpage. Now anyone can see what has been reported at Seney NWR for the last 30 days simply by visiting www.fws.gov/midwest/seney/birding.html. We would love to have your contributions! ☘

Amateur Photo Tours

Most Thursdays from May 26 to September 29th at 7:00 am

Join other amateur photographers and explore the refuge, look for great shots, and share photos and skills. You should have a working knowledge of your equipment. Call or check the website before you come to ensure the tour will take place as scheduled.

Wildlife Wednesdays

Wednesday Nights June – August 7-9:30pm

Join us Wednesdays for an evening guided auto tour of the Refuge. We'll be on the lookout for a variety of wildlife, while sharing refuge history and management practices.

Children's Fishing Day

Saturday, June 18th

Monarch Madness

Sunday, August 21st 8:30am – 1:00pm

Would you like to participate in collecting and tagging monarch butterflies? Join us for this morning of Monarch education.

Morning Bus Tours

**Tuesday, September 5th
Thursday, September 22nd
Wednesday, October 12th**

Enjoy a casual outing into the backcountry. This is a great opportunity to check out the habitats behind the gates. Tours start at 10:00 am and last approximately 2½ hours.

Scout Day

**For elementary age boys & girls
Saturday, September 17th**

A variety of activity stations will be available to help scouts fulfill badge requirements and learn about wildlife. Pre-registration is required. See the website or call for details and registration form.

Fall Color Float

Sunday, October 2nd at 11:00am

Join one of our staff for a 4-5 hour canoe/kayak trip down the Manistique river. Boat rentals are available locally. Pre-registration is required. Call for details. Rain date is the 9th.

***National Wildlife Refuge Week*
Week of October 9th to the 15th**

***Federal & Junior Duck Stamp*
July 2nd to the 22nd**

The first place winners from each state and US territory in both the federal and junior duck stamp contest will be on display. ☘

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 June	13	14	15 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	16 Photo Tour 7:00am	17	18 Children's Fishing Day
19 <<<<<<<<<<	20 Pollinator	21 Week	22 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	23	24 >>>>>>>>	25 >>>>>>>>
26	27	28	29 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	30 1st day of Federal Duck Stamp Sales	1 July	2 1st Day of Duckstamp Exhibit
3	4 4th of July	5	6 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	7 Photo Tour 7:00am	8	9
10	11	12	13 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	14 Photo Tour 7:00am	15	16
17	18	19	20 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	21 Photo Tour 7:00am	22 Last Day of Duckstamp Exhibit	23
24	25	26	27 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	28 Photo Tour 7:00am	29	30
31	1 August	2	3 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	4 Photo Tour 7:00am	5	6
7	8	9	10 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	11 Photo Tour 7:00am	12	13
14	15	16	17 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	18 Photo Tour 7:00am	19	20
21 Monarch Madness	22	23	24 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	25 Photo Tour 7:00am	26	27
28	29	30	31 Wildlife Wednesday 7 – 9:30 pm	1 September Photo Tour 7:00am	2	3
4	5 Morning Bus Tour 10:00 am	6	7	8 Photo Tour 7:00am	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Photo Tour 7:00am	16	17 Scout Day
18	19	20	21	22 Photo Tour 7:00am Morning Bus Tour 10:00 am	23	24 National Fishing and Hunting/Public Lands Day
25	26	27	28	29 Photo Tour 7:00am	30	1 October
2 Fall Color Float	3	4	5	6 Photo Tour 7:00am	7	8
9 Fall Color Float Rain Date <<<<<<<<<<<<	10 National	11 Wildlife	12 Morning Bus Tour 10:00 am Refuge	13 Photo Tour 7:00am Week	14 >>>>>>>>>>>>	15 >>>>>>>>>>>>
16 Final day the Visitor Center and Drive are Open	17 Visitor Center and Marshland Wildlife Drive Close	18	19	20	21	22

Nature Nut Column
Continued from page 11

quito larvae for food, but probably not in the way you think. Once certain types of pitcherplants have matured they stop producing their own digestive enzymes. Instead the reservoir which holds water provides a place for the female mosquito to lay her eggs. As other insects fall into the pitcher plant the mosquito larvae feed. The waste they excrete is then absorbed by the plant providing food.

As adults, mosquitoes are pollinators. Not all mosquitoes are after a blood meal. Until they are sexually mature, male and females mosquitoes spend time traveling from flower to flower in search of food. In fact, moths and mosquitoes are the important nocturnal insect pollinators. They pollinate many white flowers which lure them in with scent and show up nicely in the dark. Mosquitoes are an important food source for many species of bats, birds, dragonflies, and a variety of other animals. The other day I even watched a hummingbird perched on a feeder with its tongue flashing out trapping mosquitoes much like a frog.



Photo: Four-spotted Skimmer Dragonfly. Credit: Conrad Warren, 2010 Photo Contest.

the protein in your blood to produce her eggs. Male mosquitoes, in fact, never bite, you can recognize them because they have feathery antenna. While this information may not make you feel any better about mosquitoes I hope it will help you understand their importance.

Good Luck With the Skeeters!
The Nature Nut

The questions in the Nature Nut column come from questions posed by visitors.

Trees for Turtles and Fish
Continued from page 3



Photo: Removing jack pine trees from the refuge dikes. Credit: Sara Hollerich, USFWS.

To attract waterfowl the bottoms of the pools were cleared of trees, dikes were built, and islands were created to provide nesting spots for terns, Canada geese, and other species of waterfowl. These dikes were placed to connect pine islands (natural high spots which are dominated by red pine) like a giant "connect the dots." As time marched on, the focus of the refuge changed to encompass all native wildlife and their habitats. This was marked by a name change to Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Today the pools and islands are maintained for use by wildlife, including trumpeter swans, common loons, river otter, and other critters that people come to see at Seney NWR. To support habitat for wildlife some islands, as well as the dikes, were manmade, not natural.

The islands were cleared to provide better nesting habitat for birds, while the dikes were cleared to keep them in good working order. When the dikes and islands are free of trees and woody shrubs, mowing and other maintenance practices are easier. Also, trees' root-balls can rot away and create holes in the dike. Over the years, we have had a lot of trees grow up on the dikes, mainly jack pine. In the fall maintenance staff used heavy equipment to push over the majority of the trees along the upstream side of the man-made portions of the dikes along the Marshland Wildlife Drive and Fishing Loop. No trees were removed from the pine islands.

These trees and brush now serve a new purpose. Nutrients which have been locked in the trees will gradually seep back into the pools as the trees decay. Downed trees and brush make great nurseries for the fish in the pools. Logs are important loafing areas for turtles. ❀

Great New Resources to Check-out!

by Sara Hollerich

Seney Natural History Association and Seney National Wildlife Refuge would like to present several new options for loan. For years, a binocular loan program has given visitors an opportunity to utilize binoculars during their trip, greatly increasing visitor enjoyment. The loan program has expanded to include several additional options.

- **Standard binoculars** are still available with bird identification books.
- **Butterfly or close focus binoculars** are now available for check-out. These binoculars are special because you can focus on objects that are merely 18 inches away. Standard binoculars require you to be 8 feet or more away from the object. While these binoculars take a little longer to focus they open up the world of the tiny. Butterflies, dragonflies, and other insects are fun to watch using these specialized binoculars. They are also great for bird watching. There are two options available when checking out these binoculars, a **standard pack**, which only contains a bird identification book, and a **deluxe pack**, which contains bird, butterfly, dragonfly and damselfly identification books.
- The **"Family Pack"** allows families a quick option. It contains four sets of standard binoculars and one bird identification book. As the summer progresses additional items will be added to the family pack making it more interesting.
- The refuge now offers **fishing pole and tackle box loans**. The only stipulation is that children must be accompanied by an adult.
- The **"Get Outdoors Pack"** has a host of activities for children age 6 to 12. If you are looking for a way to make your visit to the refuge more educational these packs are for you. Inside you will find several activities designed to give kids a way to focus their attention of various aspects of the outdoors.
- Have you ever heard of geocaching? If not, have no fear the **"Geocaching Pack"** is here. This is a fun activity allowing people to get out on the Refuge and go on a scavenger hunt. Geocaching on the Refuge is slightly different than geocaching in other areas, we have virtual caches. You have to figure out a riddle and take a picture at the site. For more information you can visit our website at www.fws.gov/midwest/seney/geocaching.html. Several geocoins await discovery.



All of the loan programs are free! Simply have one person from your party leave their driver's license at Visitor Center and plan your trip accordingly so you are not rushed while out on the Refuge. Items are available during Visitor Center business hours only from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, May 15th to October 15th. ❁

Manager's Corner **Continued from page 2**

Service: Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation. Find out more by visiting <http://americaswildlife.org/>.

Congratulations to Dr. Greg Corace – Region 3 Refuge biologist of the year. Stop in and talk to Greg about ongoing research and restoration

projects on the Refuge or ask any one of our staff or volunteers for more information on Refuge activities, opportunities and programs. I would enjoy a visit as well – if you can find me – because sometimes my job takes me out into the wilds of Seney where phones and radios seem to work poorly or not at all... ❁

Join the Social Network

Fan us on Facebook to stay up to date on the happenings at Seney. Become our contact on Flickr and see up to date photos of the Refuge.



Seney Natural History Association
1674 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, MI 49883



What Bird Am I?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

