

Refuge Reporter

Volume 9, Issue 1

Winter 2005/2006

A Place to Float Your Bobbers and Boats

By David Peters, Tractor Operator

The first half decade of the new millennium has been period of significant investment in visitor facilities at Shiawassee NWR. In 2002, an increase in the amount of hiking opportunities available was realized with the opening of a new trail and visitor parking lot at the Cass River Unit, adjacent to the Bridgeport / I-75 interchange. The same year, restroom facilities were installed for users of the long established Ferguson Bayou and Woodland trails. The following year, a new parking lot was established at the corner of Moore and Creswell Roads. Previously, hunters accessing at this location had to park along the shoulder of the road. The hunter access lots at Houlihan Road and Ambrose Road were upgraded in 2003 as well. Now in 2005, the refuge has broadened its ability to meet the needs of the public with the completion of its first boat launch and fishing site on the banks of the Cass River at M-13.

The project began in 2002 when the Fish and Wildlife Service, through an exchange with the State of Michigan, acquired the tract of land on the northeast side of the M-13 Bridge over the Cass River just south the City of Saginaw. It was an established DNR Access Site at the time, so not only did the acquisition fit nicely with the surrounding public land already managed by the Service, it provided a point from which to start offering increased angling opportunities. Though it was just an open area along the river with an access road and turn around, with some effort it could easily become a very nice, well maintained facility for visitor use.

The first task was some major spring cleaning, undertaken in 2003. Over 30 cubic yards of trash and debris that had been illegally dumped were removed. Unfortunately, like many unattended public lands with vehicular access, the area had been frequented for dumping and other prohibited activities. But

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A Year of Successes and Setbacks

By Steve Kahl, Refuge Manager

December is a time of assessment for refuge managers. Looking back at the year, I am proud of the many accomplishments the refuge and its partners achieved in 2005. However, to capture a credible picture of what the year was like, these accomplishments must be placed in perspective with the setbacks of

the year. This 360° view illuminates how difficult it is for the refuge to make gains. Further, it brings a realization that the successes are even sweeter. Moreover, a holistic review places us in better position to face the challenges ahead.

One of the most important achievements of
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Special Point:

- *Winter is a great time to get out and enjoy the refuge on skis or snowshoes, assuming there's enough snow! We do not groom any of our trails. The Woodland Trail at Stroebe Road and Green Point are good places to go, especially if you're a beginning cross-country skier.*

A Place to Float Your Bobbers and Boats Continued

(continued from page 1)

experience had shown that though it does not completely eliminate such problems, maintaining a presence and cleaning-up such debris promptly does reduce the frequency of occurrence. Another major shortcoming of the site was the lack of clearly defined boundaries between areas for people and areas for vehicles. This was addressed in autumn of that year by setting large solid concrete blocks in place to define a parking area and prevent vehicular access to the riverbank and the surrounding woods. The use of lumber posts and rails for this purpose, as done in other refuge public parking lots, was not feasible. The site has a history of extensive use, and the solid remnants of this underlie much of the area, making it difficult to drive a sign post into the ground, let alone auger over two dozen ten inch diameter holes in exact alignment. With the site "secured", 2004 was spent planning for the installation of a boat launch ramp and improvements for bank anglers.

As it was, fishing was feasible from the riverbank, but with some difficulty due to the near-vertical eroded slope and numerous line entangling obstacles. The use of limestone riprap, as is used for bank stabilization elsewhere on the refuge, was not allowable due to the difficult and hazardous situation visitors would encounter walking up and down it to the waters edge. The far better alternative was the use of interwoven mats of concrete blocks. These would not only provide erosion protection for the shoreline, but also a safe, even surface for visitors to fish from. The open cell design of the blocks would provide a perforated surface which would fill with soil, and thus allow a certain degree of natural vegetation to establish itself on the bank as well.

After considering several options, the same material used for the bank was selected for the surface of the sixteen foot wide by sixty-four foot long launch ramp. The upper half would be the same open cell type as the bank, but is filled with crushed limestone rather than soil. The blocks on the lower, partially submerged half, would be solid, so as to provide a surface that will optimally withstand the forces of water and boat launching activities.

Site preparation and the placement of the launch and bank materials was completed in late summer/ early fall 2005. Following the completion of these two major steps, the large open use area was graded and seeded. Then, as the last task, the parking area was graded and a new gravel surface was applied. The lot can accommodate up to fourteen vehicles with trailers. Soil excavated from the launch ramp area was used to form a directional "island" in the lot to help visitors efficiently launch/retrieve their boats and park while fishing.

Even with the low river levels experienced this fall, water at the end of the ramp is nearly three feet deep, enough to

launch boats of a size suitable to ply the Cass and other rivers within the refuge. Of course, the ramp also lends itself to launching canoes and kayaks as well, which are even better craft for exploring the navigable rivers that quietly flow through the refuge. Recognizing not everyone who fishes owns a boat, fishing from along the 180 feet of accessible shoreline should be a much more enjoyable experience, (though it can't be claimed that the improvements will encourage the fish to bite).

Valuable funding assistance for the establishment of the Cass River boat launch and bank fishing area was provided by the Friends of Shiawassee NWR. They received and administered a major grant for the project from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), as well as funding from a Fish and Wildlife Service Challenge Cost Share Agreement. These funds allowed several local businesses to receive contracts to provide materials and labor for the project. The collective efforts of all involved have helped Shiawassee NWR's ongoing efforts to provide compatible wildlife dependent recreational opportunities to a broad range of people from throughout the community.



Area after concrete barricades were installed. Note steep, vegetated bank and no area to launch a boat. Photo by David Peters.



A refuge deer hunter launches his boat at the newly completed boat launch area on October 31, 2005. Photo by David Peters.

Michigan's Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program—Will It Land in Your School?

By Becky Goche, Michigan Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator



"This is the best thing in my whole life," stated Nick Stone, age 6 from North Dakota. Nick is just one of the thousands of students nationwide who participates in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp program and art contest each year. Last year over 300 students in grades K through 12 participated in Michigan alone! Public schools,

private schools and students from home schools were represented. Every year students, teachers and parents from across the country learn about wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation through this program. As an added benefit, each year there is a national art contest where students, teachers and schools compete for scholarships and other prizes. All of the national winners first must win their individual state's competition.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is based on the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the "Duck Stamp." Federal Duck Stamps are pictorial revenue stamps and although called "stamp," they are not valid for postage. Created in 1934 as the Federal migratory waterfowl hunting license and as a way to purchase and conserve our Nation's wetlands, Federal Duck Stamps also serve as an entrance pass to national wildlife refuges that have an entrance fee. Since it started, the sales of Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than \$670 million, which has been used to help purchase or lease more than 5.2 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the U.S. These lands are managed by the refuges just like Shiawassee NWR. Proceeds from the Junior Duck Stamp support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for the students, teachers and schools that participate in the program. You can purchase Federal Duck Stamps (\$15) and soon Junior Duck Stamps (\$5) at the refuge.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program uses art and science to teach students the value of wetlands. A curriculum guide is available online or from me for teachers to use. A new curriculum guide is now being developed which will include Federal Science benchmarks for each activity. This new guide should be available by 2007. Using scientific and wildlife observation skills, the program helps students communicate visually what they have learned by creating an entry to the Junior Duck Stamp art contest. A prime location to help students visualize and artistically represent waterfowl in its habitat is the Shiawassee NWR! Jaye Boswell, a teacher in

Sanibel, FL, stated, "As the Art Teacher, I loved being able to introduce the various aspects of the natural environment emphasizing the importance of saving wetlands, preserving natural vegetation, and maintaining safe habitats for our magnificent ducks, swans, and geese."

The Junior Duck Stamp art contest begins each spring when students submit their artwork to the refuge by March 15. Students at the state level are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV: 10-12. Three first, second, and third place winners are selected for each group. In addition, 16 honorable mention winners are picked in each group. Judges select the "Best of Show" from the 12 first place winners, which is then submitted to the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The first place design from the national contest is used to create the Junior Duck Stamp for the following year.

All entries will receive certificates of participation and winners will receive special ribbons and hopefully, if I find enough partner organizations to help, prizes, too. All artwork will be returned to the students or schools. The Best of Show entry is included in a national traveling display. In addition, the top winning artwork in Michigan will travel around the state for up to one year following the contest.

To learn more about the Jr. Duck Stamp (JDS) Program, download curriculum or get the entry form and rules, visit the website: www.fws.gov/duckstamps and click on the JDS link. I also can mail the 2006 informational brochure to you – either call me at (989) 759-1669 or email me at Becky_Goche@fws.gov.

Quick Requirements for Design and Submission*

*This list is not complete, please see official rules for more information.

- Artwork must be 9" x 12", in horizontal format.
- Images must be a live portrayal of a Native North American duck, swan or goose (42 species are eligible).
- Entries should not be matted nor have a border.
- Entry may be multi-color, black-and-white, or a single color; rendered in ink, paint, pastel, crayon, or pencil.
- No lettering, words, signatures or initials may appear on the front of the design.
- Design entries must be contestant's original, hand-drawn creation and may not be traced or copied from published photographs or other artists' works.
- Deadline for submission is March 15, 2006.

2005 Refuge Amateur Photo Contest Winners Announced

By *Becky Goche, Park Ranger*

Seventeen photos by 10 people were entered into this year's Refuge Amateur Photo Contest sponsored by the refuge and the Friends of Shiawassee NWR. The contest ran from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005. During the Refuge Open House Weekend on September 10, over 100 visitors voted for their favorite photos in each category.

Winners in the "Wildlife and Plantlife Category" were: First place – Benjamin Martinez, Saginaw; Second place – Kim LeBlanc, St. Charles; and Third Place – Steve Gasser, Saginaw. Winners in the "Habitat Category" were: First place – Kim LeBlanc, St. Charles; Second place – Doug Thornhill, Saginaw; and Third place – Ronald Cauvin, Wayne. Winners in the "People Category" were: First place – Steve Gasser, Saginaw; and Second place – Kim LeBlanc,

St. Charles. Doug Thornhill won the "Refuge Manager's Choice" and Benjamin Martinez won the "Friends of Shiawassee NWR Choice." Winners were recognized and awarded their prizes at the *Nurturing Nature First Wednesday* program on October 5, 2005. Thank you to all the photographers who entered this year's contest: Ronald Cauvin, Steve Gasser, Leanne Goodrich, Jim Goodrich, Kim LeBlanc, Benjamin Martinez, David Peters, Doug Thornhill, Todd Ware and Tracy Ware. We hope that you will submit photos for next year's contest, too!



Cedar waxwing

Friends' Member Spotlights: Chuck Hoover and Janet Martineau

By *Charles Hoover, Friends' President and Janet Martineau, Activities Chair*

Chuck Hoover

For me, my second year as president is like returning to my roots. I was born in Manitowoc, WI (40 miles from Green Bay and loyal Packers fan!), but was raised in Saginaw. Developing a love for the outdoors, I took a job operating a D-8 Caterpillar bulldozer and helped build the Shiawassee River State Game Area next to our refuge. I worked my way through college in this way, but fell in love with history and Michigan archaeology. Graduating from Ferris State University as a technical engineer, I thought I would make my living in that field. However, my organizational skills took me as a professional with the Boy Scouts of America, on the staff of the Chamber of Commerce, and eventually into my love of history as I opened the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History and served as the Director for 25 years. Now retired, I have returned to the "Shiawassee Flats" and enjoy working with the our Friends group.

Janet Martineau

I am an avid bird watcher, gardener, and love all animals, except mosquitoes! For nearly 40 years, I have worked as the arts/entertainment editor of *The Saginaw News*. In my free time, I serve on the Chippewa Nature Center board, participate in the Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association as an advanced master gardener and historian, write the

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity newsletter and perform with the Golden Guild troupe sponsored by the Midland Theatre Guild. As a member of the Friends' Board of Directors, I oversee the "Nurturing Nature First Wednesday Series," workshops, and am currently working on developing the mobile Trailhead Store.



Janet Martineau and Chuck Hoover serve on the Friends of Shiawassee NWR Board of Directors and are both active in the group's many activities. Photo by Becky Goche.

Successes and Setbacks continued

(continued from page 1)

2005 was the completion of the Cass River Boat Launch rehabilitation project. Tractor Operator David Peters and Engineering Equipment Operator Butch Nowosatko worked tirelessly to stabilize the riverbank, overhaul the boat ramp, and renovate the parking lot from August through October. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of the Friends of SNWR and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN). Special recognition also goes to David Peters for seeing the project through. Although it was a true team effort, David was at the point for the project's coordination and implementation on the ground.

Another big win for the refuge in 2005 occurred when Park Ranger Becky Goche stepped up to become Michigan's coordinator for the federal Junior Duck Stamp program and art contest. Becky's efforts will improve the state's participation in this important national program which involves youth and schools in wildlife conservation through the arts. Additionally, it is an opportunity to shine a light on Shiawassee NWR since all of the media releases and correspondence with schools and citizens throughout the state will carry our name. Moreover, we look forward to an event publicizing selection of the contest winners in 2006.

The refuge had several other successes in 2005. Refuge staff assisted the Alpena Fishery Resources Office with surveys of the Cass, Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, and Saginaw Rivers for spawning lake sturgeon. The refuge created a new online application for our deer hunt which makes it easier for hunters to apply while reducing the staff's administrative burden. In fact, the number of applications for this popular program increased from 4,000 to 4,700 this year. The refuge was able to replace its 1970 flat bed truck with a new 5-yard dump truck. We added 815 tons of gravel and stone mix to the access road which leads to our new Bremer pump and 1300 tons of stone mix to Ferguson Bayou Nature Trail. We continued to make strides in removing the invasive glossy buckthorn from refuge woodlands. Also, we began efforts to monitor and assess the refuge's Blanding's turtle population to facilitate conservation efforts for this declining species.

Unfortunately, 2005 also had its share of losses. The budget for the National Wildlife Refuge System has been basically flat since our 2003 Centennial. However, our costs continue to increase. The net result for FY2005 was a 12.5% decrease in Shiawassee NWR's budget for fixed costs such as utilities and salaries. Additionally, we suffered a 2% cut in our annual maintenance budget. Although all refuge staff picked up to do more with less, it is virtually impossible to lose such a large percentage of funds without affecting the overall quality of refuge programs and facilities.

The most dramatic effect of the decrease in our base funding

in FY2005 was our inability to replace our Biological Science Technician Rick McAvinchey when he departed the Fish and Wildlife Service in April. Consequently, we were unable to continue the forest inventory project that we initiated in 2004. This inventory is a critical first step to assess our forest resources so that we can manage them better for wildlife. The biotech vacancy also reduced our ability to monitor the 118 FmHA conservation easements the refuge is responsible to protect. In fact, the refuge is required to visit these easements annually. However, we monitored less than 20% in 2005. Thus, it will be even harder to enforce regulations on these easements in 2006. This vacancy was also a critical factor in our inability to partner with the Michigan DNR to band waterfowl at the refuge for the first time in decades. Similarly, it contributed to our inability to use prescribed fire to maintain and enhance refuge grasslands and wetlands.

Another important setback for the refuge was the continued lack of funding for land acquisition. The refuge was authorized in 1996 to add approximately 7,500 acres within an approved acquisition boundary. In the past year, the refuge was contacted by willing sellers of nine tracts totaling over 700 acres within this boundary. However, we currently have no funding to purchase any of these tracts and some tracts have already been sold. In fact, the refuge has lost out on well over a thousand acres in recent years.

Low water levels in the Great Lakes continued to impair our ability to provide the best habitat for wildlife in 2005. Adjusting water levels in our 17 wetland impoundments is one of our most important wildlife management tasks because it directly yields the best food and cover plants for migratory birds. Unfortunately, the drought that has affected our area since July has left most of our impoundments below targeted levels. In fact, many of our units are almost dry. Unluckily, this was a particularly good year for food plant production in these pools.

As we look ahead to 2006, I anticipate many successes. The refuge will benefit from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant administered by Ducks Unlimited. This grant will enable us to begin a 153-acre wetland and grassland restoration project on M-13. Further, we hope to develop this project into a quality wildlife observation opportunity for the public, perhaps with a parking area and observation platform. We also plan to work with the Friends of Shiawassee NWR, Saginaw Valley Audubon Society and other groups to expand birding opportunities at the refuge by increasing the number of auto tours and walks. Simultaneously, I expect budget challenges to continue. Hurricane Katrina introduced heightened uncertainty over flat or declining appropriations while the recent dramatic increase in fuel prices will surely increase our costs. Still, I am hopeful that with the help of its partners, the refuge will continue to make gains in 2006.

About That Blue...Whom Will You Tell, Whom? - Vladimir Nabokov

By David Peters, Tractor Operator

Aside from the sky, blue is not a predominant color in the natural world. There are no blue mammals I can think of, and though there are blue birds and blue flowers, they are a minority, as are blue reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The same holds true for insects, but as one would expect from this diverse group of animals, when an insect is the color blue, it is blue at its bluest and most vivid. At Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, dragonflies and damselflies are typically the most obvious insects in possession of blue. But this past year, it's was an exquisite little blue butterfly - *Everes comyntas*, the eastern tailed-blue, that was most notable, flying in the moist meadows northwest of the observation tower in unusually large numbers.

The eastern tailed-blue are part of a group of butterflies known as blues, that are in turn part of a family of butterflies known as Lycaenids, which also includes the harvesters, hairstreaks, elfins, and coppers. Like most of the butterflies in this family, it is by most standards a small butterfly, its open wingspan only about 25 mm. With wings held closed, it could hide behind a dime. It occurs in open, sunny fields throughout the eastern half of the United States and the adjoining portions of southern Canada.

As its common name suggests, the upper side of the male's wings are blue, a dazzling cerulean blue. Spring flying females are also this color, while summer flying females are dark brown on top. The underside of both males and females is gray with black and white markings, highlighted by 1-3 small orange spots on the lower outer margin of the hind wing. These are directly adjacent to the diminutive "tail" that extends 1-1.5mm from the margin. When the butterfly is at rest with wings closed, the tails and bright spots are thought to give a false impression of being the head, (spots as the eyes and tails as the antennae), thus tricking a predator into attacking the wrong end of the insect, allowing the butterfly to escape with it's life at the cost of only a little wing damage. Eastern tailed-blues and other Lycaenids elaborate on this ruse even more by "rubbing" their hind wings together, moving the left and right slowly forward and back in opposite directions, in a further attempt to draw predator's attention to this area.

The eggs of the eastern-tailed blue are light green with white ridges, laid singly on plants of the legume (pea) family. The caterpillars are typically dark green with a brown stripe. They feed on the flowers of their host plants, and spend the winter hibernating at this stage of life, often within the seed pods of these plants. The species they favor, such as clover and trefoil, are all rather short, and indeed this is a butterfly that seldom ventures above the meadow vegetation. The adults sip nectar from flowers blooming within a few inches

of the ground, sip moisture from wet soil, and the males locate mates by flying low, patrolling in the vicinity of their preferred food plants.

Due to their ground hugging lifestyle and small size, and despite their bright coloring, the eastern-tailed blue, is rather inconspicuous and can easily be overlooked. Look for them in late summer near the observation tower at the far point of the Ferguson Bayou hiking trail, and while you're at it, take time to observe more of the multitude of splendid little insects that also dwell within the protective boundaries of the Refuge, in the world below your knees.



A female eastern tailed-blue—what male could resist her striped antennae? Photo by David Peters.

Storm Recovery Kit from Arbor Day

A "Storm Recovery Kit" is available for free downloading at arborday.org/storm. The kit contains information about how individual homeowners or entire communities can save damaged trees after storms. There are illustrations that detail how to inspect trees and assess damage, guidelines to help homeowners find qualified tree specialists, a guide on how to perform "tree first aid," and more.

The kit comes with high resolution illustrations suitable for print media. The kit is recommended for news reporters, community and civic groups, tree boards, neighborhood associations, and any group responsible for the care of trees.

Friends Group Sets Activities for Upcoming Year—Your Help is Needed

By Charles Hoover, Friends' President

The Friends of Shiawassee NWR has an exciting and informative series of activities going on for the refuge this year. The projects are supportive and very helpful to our refuge. Members of our Friends group will be the key volunteers, but everyone is welcome to join with us to get the job done. Listed below are the projects we are involved in now. If you can help, please let us know. Contact me at (989) 790-3836 or Susan Scott at (989) 791-9270 or send an email to Shiawassee@fws.org.

Mobile Trailhead Store

We have obtained a RV trailer to set up as a traveling store. We will take it to refuge events to sell refreshments, educational materials and other nature-related items. We need help to staff the store and help in merchandising and marketing.

Refuge Tours

We will have a series of walking tours and workshops at our refuge and will support the auto tour during the Refuge Open House Weekend in the fall. We also are setting up a bus or tram tour schedule to take visitors into the refuge. We need tour coordinators, tour guides (we will train you), and people for marketing and safety.

Outreach Events

The Friends obtain, set up and staff information booths for our refuge at several expositions, fairs and festivals. It is a time for us to promote our refuge to our communities. We need help designing good booths and will need staffers at the booths to give out information.

Nurturing Nature First Wednesday Series

We will continue to host these programs at Green Point on the first Wednesday of the month. We need program coordinators, marketing and welcome volunteers.

Projects

We have three current projects where we could use your help:

- Developing, publishing and distributing this newsletter
- Grant writing and fundraising to support projects, the refuge and the Friends group
- Continuation of the development of the educational hiking trail at the Cass River Unit in Bridgeport

Refuge Trail Closures for Deer Hunting

Woodland Trail at Stroebel Road

December 9 – 14, 2005

Ferguson Bayou Trail at Curtis Road

December 1 – 5, 2005

December 9 – 14, 2005

December 19 – 23, 2005

December 27 – 31, 2005

Cass River Unit in Bridgeport Township

December 1 – 5, 2005

December 19 – 23, 2005

December 27 – 31, 2005

Green Point's trails remain open everyday, during daylight hours. Bicycles and pets are not allowed.

REFUGE REPORTER

Published quarterly by Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge with funding from the Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

Volume 9, Issue 1

Editor: Becky Goche

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Established in October, 1953 and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shiawassee NWR provides resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other birds. Its mission is to preserve or manage an undeveloped expanse of floodplain forest, marshes, rivers, and associated habitat within an agricultural and urban landscape through habitat management, encouraging public stewardship, educational programs, and private lands activities.

Refuge Manager—Steve Kahl

Assistant Refuge Manager—Ed DeVries

Biologist—Jim Dastyck

Private Lands Biologist—Michelle Vander Haar

Biological Science Technician—Vacant

Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator—Becky Goche

Administrative Technician—Mary Ann Gillette

Maintenance Staff—Marion "Butch" Nowosatko and David Peters

Law Enforcement Officer—Jonathan Priday and Kevin Shinn

Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

A nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1999 to promote the preservation of the natural and historical resources of the Refuge, foster its use and enjoyment by the public consistent with the protection and preservation of its environment, and engage in such educational, scientific and civic activities as will assist the management of the Refuge in carrying out its mandates.

Refuge Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee>

Shiawassee NWR
6975 Mower Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone: 989-777-5930
Fax: 989-777-9200
Hours: M - F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We're on the web!

[Http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee)



New Friends Group Projects and Junior Duck Stamp Program Information Inside

Upcoming Winter Programs

Winter Night Hike

January 27, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

Meet at parking lot at west end of Curtis Road

Volunteer Steve Gasser will lead cold weather lovers on a 5-mile hike on refuge trails. This hike is not recommended for children or the faint of heart. Dress for the weather, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to walk on snow packed/icy roads.

There are no "Nurturing Nature First Wednesday Series" programs in December or January. March program—TBA

The Lake Sturgeon: Past & Present

February 1, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Jim Boase, Fishery Biologist at the FWS's Alpena Fishery Resource Office will discuss his work with sturgeon in the Great Lakes, including research that was done in the refuge and on surrounding rivers. Admission is \$2 per person, \$5 per family and FREE for Friends members.

Cross-country Ski Tour

February 4, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

See wildlife from your skis! Park Ranger Becky Goche will take you on a guided tour of Green Point's winding, flat trails. You must provide your own equipment. Reservations are required because space is limited. Call (989) 759-1669 for your spot. If snow conditions are poor, it will be a walking tour.



For more information call (989) 759-1669

FRIENDS OF SHIAWASSEE NWR MEMBERSHIP PAGE

Friends of Shiawassee NWR Membership

Renewal New membership

General Membership

\$10 – Individual (1) vote.

\$25 – Family (2) votes. (Member, spouse and children under age 18)

- Each membership receives quarterly newsletter - "Refuge Reporter."
- Each membership includes voting rights and opportunity to hold office.

Supporting Levels (includes 1 year individual membership): "Goose" \$50, "Blue Heron" \$75, "Owl" \$100, "Bald Eagle" \$125 & over

No membership at this time, but please accept my contribution.

*Membership is for calendar year. Dues paid after October 1 include remainder of current year plus the following year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to "Friends of Shiawassee NWR", PO Box 20129, Saginaw, MI, 48602.

Contributions to the Friends of Shiawassee NWR, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.

Friends' Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have any of these skills?

_____ Staffing Trailhead Store

_____ Leading walking tours

_____ Helping with workshops

_____ Assisting with refuge auto tours

_____ Doing outreach events, i.e. fairs

_____ Assisting with First Wednesday

_____ Writing newsletter articles

_____ Writing/developing grants

_____ Serving as Committee member

_____ Leading children's activities

_____ Developing trails

_____ Computer skills

_____ Photography

_____ Carpentry skills

_____ Business organizational skills

_____ Research

_____ Artistic skills

_____ Fund raising

_____ Grant writing

_____ Researching/Ordering merchandise

_____ Other – please list:

Board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple Street in Saginaw. General meetings with special programs are held at various times throughout the year. Friends Board of Directors Officers are:

President – Charles Hoover

Vice President 1 – Dick Von Berg

Vice President 2 – Vacant

Treasurer – Richard Hodge

Secretary – Barb Werle