

# Refuge Reporter

Volume 8, Issue 4

Fall 2005

## Michigan's New Jr. Duck Stamp Coordinator

By Becky Goche, Park Ranger

Shiawassee NWR is the new home of the Jr. Duck Stamp program for the State of Michigan. I accepted the new State Coordinator position in July and am very excited about the potential of this national program and what it can do for the Refuge and the surrounding community.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic, active, arts curriculum designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum. This non-traditional pairing brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social, and geographic boundaries to teach greater

awareness of our nation's natural resources. This benefits not only ducks, but all migratory birds, including neotropical migratory songbirds, and hundreds of other plants and animals that depend on wetlands habitat for their survival.

This program requires an understanding of anatomy and environmental science while offering a way to express that knowledge outside the traditional science classroom. It also offers an opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of wildlife.

The first place national winning design is used to create a Federal Junior Duck Stamp each year. Proceeds from the sales of the Junior Duck Stamps, which cost \$5, support conservation education by providing awards and scholarships for the students, teachers,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Refuge Open House Auto Tour Scheduled for September 10

The annual Refuge Open House will be the weekend of September 10 and 11, 2005. During this weekend you can hike and bicycle anywhere on the refuge during daylight hours only. This is also the weekend when deer hunters can scout out the best spots for hunting in the fall and winter.

The self-guided auto tour will be on Saturday only from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tour will start at the parking lot at the west end of Curtis Road. The route will take you into areas that are normally closed to the public. The Friends of Shiawassee NWR will have refreshments and other items for sale.

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### Special Points:

- *The Ferguson Bayou Trail at Curtis Road will be closed until 1:00 p.m. each day during goose hunting. At the time of publication, the dates had not been set. We anticipate the dates MAY be October 8 through October 30, 2005. Contact the Refuge for more information.*
- *The pop machine at the Refuge Headquarters has been removed. The Friends are selling Coca-Cola products by the case. Make them an offer! Contact Rich Hodge at (989) 652-9019.*

# Refuge Trail Closures for 2005

Hiking trails will be **closed to all public use** on the following dates for white-tailed deer hunting. The hunting management program is necessary to maintain the Refuge deer population at a level compatible with the its purpose of protecting habitat for migratory birds. The Ferguson Bayou Trail will also be closed until 1:00 p.m. everyday during goose hunting season typically in October. Dates are pending.

## Woodland Trail at Stroebel Road

October 29 – November 2, 2005

November 3 – 7, 2005

November 19 – 20, 2005

December 9 – 14, 2005

## Ferguson Bayou Trail at Curtis Road

October 29 – November 2, 2005

November 3 – 7, 2005

November 15 – 20, 2005

November 26 – 27, 2005

December 1 – 5, 2005

## Did You Know...

...that there are 19.55 miles of roads on the Refuge? And that's not counting the miles of deer trails!

...there is 187,769 linear feet of dikes? That's over 35 miles!

...that there are 6 permanent pumps?

...that there are 20 water control structures?

The above information was compiled from the Refuge's Real Property Report by Assistant Refuge Manager Ed DeVries. One of Ed's many duties is keeping track of all the real property found on the Refuge. We hope that you found it interesting!

December 9 – 14, 2005

December 19 – 23, 2005

December 27 – 31, 2005

## Cass River Unit in Bridgeport Township

October 29 – November 2, 2005

November 3 – 7, 2005

December 1 – 5, 2005

December 19 – 23, 2005

December 27 – 31, 2005



Trails at Green Point ELC are available for hiking and cross-country skiing everyday, during daylight hours only. Bicycles and pets are not allowed on Green Point's trails.

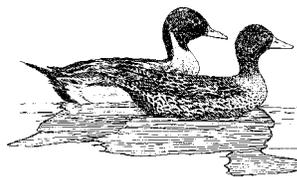
Coyote

## Jr. Duck Stamp Program Continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

and schools that participate in the program. For more information on the Junior Duck Stamp Program, visit the website: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>.

Last year's national winner was from Wisconsin. I hope that within the next few years the winner will be from Michigan! But, I can't do it alone. I am learning as I go with the help of a thick handbook, other State Coordinators, and our Regional and National Coordinators. I've been told several times that partnerships with other agencies and organizations is key to a successful program so don't be surprised when I come calling! If you are willing to partner with this program, have a teacher connection or can help in any other way, please contact me at (989) 759-1669 or email [Becky\\_Goche@fws.gov](mailto:Becky_Goche@fws.gov).



Pintails

# Friends' Mobile Bookstore Receives \$5000 Grant for Renovations

By Janet Martineau, Activities Committee Chair

The Friends' bookstore committee recently received notification that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has approved its \$5,000 grant application to convert a donated trailer and stock it as a mobile book store/concession stand. Board members Susan Scott, Barb Werle and Janet Martineau spent a spring Saturday "gutting" the interior of the trailer to make way for specially built and designed shelving and display space. This fall students at the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy have agreed to colorfully paint the trailer's exterior.

Seventeen Friends groups from across the country were collectively granted more than \$800,000 in the spring 2005 cycle. This year's granting process gave priority consideration to proposals that facilitate wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges and that reach new audiences. Bookstore committee chair Janet Martineau and her committee will soon begin researching books, outdoor equipment and souvenirs to sell. Proceeds from Friends' bookstore helps fund Refuge programs and services.

## First Wednesday Series Planning

Contingent on securing a funding grant to pay the speaker fees, the Friends activities committee would like to continue the "*Nurturing Nature*" *First Wednesday* series in hopes attendance will grow. The series ends its first season in November with totals for each event so far ranging between 10 and 25 people. Committee members will meet in September to start booking the 2005-2006 lineup. Friends members and other readers of this newsletter are asked to submit possible topics and/or speakers for the series. What would you like to learn about, actually make with your own hands or see in a slide show when it comes to the natural world? Speakers are paid \$50 and each program runs 60- to 90-minutes. If you have ideas or suggestions, call activities committee chair Janet Martineau at (989) 790-7341.

## Birding Trips Planned

Members of the Saginaw Valley chapter of the Audubon Society have agreed to lead two more free birding trips through the Refuge. Two were offered during spring migration this past year, and the two new outings will find shorebirds and waterfowl returning back home "down south" during their fall migration. Both fall birding trips are guided drive-through experiences. The first one is Saturday, August 27, and the second on Saturday, Sept. 24. Meet at the Refuge headquarters parking lot, on the corner of Curtis and Mower Roads, at 9:00 a.m. on both dates. Each trip will last two to three hours. Bring binoculars. Each trip is limited to 10 participants. Registration is required at least two days before each tour. Call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to save your spot.

## Refuge Open House Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Vote for your favorite photos entered in this year's Refuge Amateur Photo Contest from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Refuge Headquarters on the corner of Curtis and Mower Roads.

## Volunteers Needed

We need friendly people to help visitors along the Auto Tour. We need some folks throughout the day to help at the auto tour's entrance and exit and with the photo contest at the Refuge Headquarters. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact Becky Goche at (989) 759-1669.

### REFUGE REPORTER

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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)



**Refuge Open House Weekend is September 10 & 11, 2005.**

## Plan a Field Trip to Green Point this Fall

*by Becky Goche, Park Ranger*

It's time for school and that means it's time to plan your fall and winter field trips to Green Point! Green Point offers many different programs for you and your students to come and explore the outdoors. You can view a listing of these programs on our website (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee>) or you can call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to request a copy be sent to you in the mail. We have programs for all ages—you can pick a program appropriate for your class or we can suggest one based upon the grade level you teach.

We also offer programs for in your classroom, i.e. we come to you! Typically, we prefer doing these in the winter months when we have fewer visitors and school groups here, but we are flexible. How cool would it be for a real, live Park Ranger to come visit your class-

room? There are also many educational trunks covering a variety of natural resources-related topics that you can borrow for a two-week period. Each trunk contains a variety of items to enhance your curriculum including books, videos, posters, puppets, skulls, and more. All you need to do is call to schedule a time to pick one up from Green Point.



The Refuge's environmental education programs are **FREE!** For more information, visit our website and click on education or call Green Point.