

Refuge Reporter

Volume 9, Issue 3

Summer 2006

Michigan's 2006 Junior Duck Stamp Winners

By Becky Goche, State Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator

Samuel Dantuma's acrylic "Northern Shoveler by the Lake," was awarded Michigan's Best of Show in the Junior Duck Stamp contest held on March 30, 2006, at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center in Saginaw. Dantuma, son of Daniel and Jennifer Dantuma of Pinconning, is a junior at Standish-Sterling Central High School in Standish. Dantuma has been drawing since the second grade and won his first national art competition sponsored by the Winter Olympic Committee when he was in the seventh grade. His high school art teacher Ann Werth said, "He's a very creative young man and I can see him doing great things in the future." Dantuma's artwork garnered a "Top Ten" finish in the national competition

held in Washington, D.C. on April 20. Rebekah Nastav of Amoret, Missouri, was this year's national first place winner. Her artwork of a Redhead duck will become the 2006-2007 Federal Junior Duck Stamp to be released on June 1, 2006, at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C.

More than 34,000 students nationwide competed in this year's contest. In Michigan, 378 students in grades K-12 entered. Entries came from all parts of the state and included students from public schools, private schools, Scout Troops, and home schools. Russ Terry, regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited, and one of the five judges who selected winning artwork said, "Ducks Unlimited is proud to be a partner in this year's

(Continued on page 2)



"Northern Shoveler by the Lake" by Samuel Dantuma, Michigan's 2006 Best of Show Junior Duck Stamp winner and Top Ten winner in the national competition

Inside this issue:

<i>Junior Duck Stamp Winners cont.</i>	2
<i>Free Fishing Contest & Discovery Camp for Kids</i>	3
<i>Green Point Gets ECO Intern for the Summer</i>	3
<i>To Save or Not to Save</i>	4
<i>Friends Group Preparing to Go on the Road</i>	5

Special Points:

- There will be no auto tour during the Open House Weekend on September 9 due to damaged roads caused by flooding in March. The refuge will remain open for hiking, bicycling and deer scouting during daylight hours only throughout the weekend.
- Deer applications are due August 1, 2006. Visit the refuge website for more information and to learn how to apply online.

Junior Duck Stamp Winners continued

Junior Duck Stamp Contest. It is so important to foster an appreciation for habitat conservation in our youth, and the Junior Duck Stamp Program is a great way to do it. Plus, the proceeds from the sale of the stamp support conservation education.”

Twenty-five winners were selected in each of the four age groups; first, second, third and honorable mention (HM). All first through third place winners, the Best of Show winner, and 12 teachers were honored at an awards ceremony on May 6, 2006, held at Green Point.

Group I (Grades K-3) winners: Artemis Eyster, Chelsea – 1st, Madisyn Halligan, Rockford – 1st, Madison Helsel, Clio – 1st, Lacey Storms, Birch Run – 2nd, Amariah Wright, Birch Run – 2nd, Kyle White, Horton – 2nd, Jenna Butzin, Saginaw – 3rd, Evan Reiersen, Rockford – 3rd, Jeff Ayling, Birch Run – 3rd, Kimberly Kenyon, Bangor – HM, Emily Malone, Rockford – HM, Joseph Jarbou, Birch Run – HM, Cheyenne Enderle, Birch Run – HM, Bryan Hood, Grand Rapids – HM, Jared Eichorn, Sturgis – HM, Alexandra Mauger, Hudsonville – HM, Morgan Ford, Saginaw – HM, Bailey Fairchild, Rockford – HM, Sydney Macomber, Scotts – HM, John Worm, Grand Rapids – HM, Jacob Cornett, Colon – HM, Jackie Friel, Mendon – HM, Payton Jakiemiec, Rockford – HM, Samantha Cuneo, Rockford – HM, and Maddie Russo, Rockford – HM.

Group II (Grades 4-6) winners: Laura Meekhof, Grand Rapids – 1st, Paul Lou, Plymouth – 1st,

Rachel Biafore, Ada – 1st, Leoni Schmidt, Grand Rapids – 2nd, Deanna Scheid, Grand Rapids – 2nd, Alexandra Harris, Grand Rapids – 2nd, Brooke Bearden, Bloomfield Hills – 3rd, Celia Hart, Ada – 3rd, Evan Thomas, Grand Rapids – 3rd, Mercedes Gonzales, Ada – HM, Maddie LeVasseur, Grand Rapids – HM, Elly Vredevoogd, Ada – HM, Claudia Aleman, Detroit – HM, Jake Vroon, Grand Rapids – HM, Craig Lou, Plymouth – HM, Anna Mondrusov, Farmington Hills – HM, David Solon, Grand Rapids – HM, Ellie Miller, Bloomfield – HM, Heidi Schwartz, Sturgis – HM, Kaisa Erickson, Carney – HM, Jillian Hamersma, Ada – HM, Erik Johnson, Manistee – HM, Brennon Dick, Kentwood – HM, Ariana Rostamzadeh, Farmington – HM, and Amelia Richards, Ada – HM.

Group III (Grades 7-9) winners: Danielle Shen, Ann Arbor – 1st, Olga Pablo, Grand Rapids – 1st, Carly

Miller, Colon – 1st, Esther King, Sturgis – 2nd, Rachel Russell, Metamora – 2nd, Harold Eyster, Chelsea – 2nd, Rachel Kurecka, Saginaw – 3rd, Michael Tighe, Saginaw – 3rd, Emily Kangas, Ishpeming – 3rd, Adam Petersen, Beverly Hills – HM, Michael Frazier, Farmington Hills – HM, Nebiat Mengsteab, Grand Rapids – HM, Katie Klein, Walker – HM, Jennifer Kretz, Saginaw – HM, Katie Raber, Saginaw – HM, Caleb Miller, Sturgis – HM, Billy Giorgio, Redford – HM, Samantha Kohl, Farmington Hills – HM, Travis Vander Haar, Saginaw – HM, Rachel Nizinski, Saginaw – HM, Anne Gembrowski, Freeland – HM, Wesley Niemisto, Farmington Hills – HM, Jordan Shelton, Portage – HM, Aaron Handley, Saginaw – HM, and David Schmidt, Ishpeming – HM.

Group IV (Grades 10-12) winners: Samuel Dantuma, Pinconning – 1st and Best of Show, Zachary Miller, Centreville – 1st, Allise Noble, Midland – 1st, Maria Minard, Ishpeming – 2nd, Stefanie Klohe, Ishpeming – 2nd, Katherine Lou, Plymouth – 2nd, Kateland Harris, Big Rapids – 3rd, Ashley Nehls, Harrison Township – 3rd, Alec Zielinski, Hartland – 3rd, Lacey Peacock, Almont – HM, Leeanna Peter, Spring Lake – HM, Tennyson DeWitt, Rockford – HM, Derek Tormanen, Linden – HM, Nika George, Pinckney – HM, Nicole Clement, Watervliet – HM, Justin Perkins, Detroit – HM, Rebekah Wilson, Midland – HM, Jessica Mann, Midland – HM, Ian MacInnes, Midland – HM, Theodore Eyster, Chelsea – HM, Jillian Granz, Canton – HM, Marlena Freeman, Troy – HM, Jacqueline Kenyon, Bangor – HM, Kelli Waun, Bad Axe – HM, and Vincent Stefano, Midland – HM.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In Michigan, the program is coordinated by the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. This year's program partners are the Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Ducks Unlimited, Congressman Dale Kildee's Saginaw Office, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, Bay City State Recreation Area, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Office, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Challenge Cost Share.

To view first place winners' artwork visit the refuge's website at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee> and click the "Jr. Duck Stamp" button.

Free Fishing Contest and a Discovery Camp Just for Kids

By Becky Goche, Park Ranger

Take Your Child Fishing on June 10

Take your child fishing during Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend on June 10 and 11, 2006. During this weekend only, you do not need a license to fish. Each year the refuge and its partners sponsor a Kids Free Fishing Contest to coincide with this weekend. This year's contest will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at Ojibway Island in Saginaw. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the contest runs from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Children between the ages of 3 and 15 have a chance to win one of the over 90 prizes, including bicycles, donated by Meijer Stores. Prizes will be awarded around 10:45 a.m. following a program by the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Children must provide their own fishing poles, tackle and bait. A limited supply of free bait will be available.

The Sons of Italy will serve refreshments including free goodies such as popcorn, snow cones, cookies and McDonald's orange drink. They will also have hot dogs available for a small charge.

All children must fill out a Fishing Day registration

Green Point Gets ECO Intern for the Summer

By Becky Goche, Park Ranger

Nathan Northup of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, started his 12-week Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) internship at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge on May 22. He will work primarily with Park Ranger Becky Goche at Green Point with the refuge's Visitor Services and Outreach program. Nate is currently a student at the University of Wisconsin—LaCrosse working towards his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.

ECO is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of environmental careers. ECO's mission is to protect and enhance the environment through

form and have it signed by a parent or guardian to participate. Registration forms will be available the day of the event or may be picked up in advance at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, The Saginaw News, and Saginaw Meijer stores at the customer service counter.

Sponsors assisting the refuge this year include The City of Saginaw, The Saginaw News, Meijer Stores, the Sons of Italy, Michigan Division Fishing Club of Midland, Saginaw Children's Zoo, and the Pioneer Club.

Summer Discovery Camp for Kids on June 22

This camp is geared for children aged 4 to 6 years. Children will discover who lives at Green Point as they explore forest, grassland and pond communities. Lots of fun activities, crafts, stories and games are planned.

Class size is limited and registration is required by calling (989) 759-1669 before June 20. Children need to bring a sack lunch. Parents are welcome to either drop off their children or spend the day with them. Cost for the camp is \$2.

the development of diverse leaders, the promotion of careers, and the inspiration of individual action. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participates in the Conservation Careers Diversity Program. This program recruits underrepresented college undergraduates for exposure and training in a 12-week internship in various USFWS settings.

Nate is one of 14 ECO interns working at various field stations in Region 3 (includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota) this summer. We're fortunate to have him here! Be sure to stop by and welcome him.

To Save or Not to Save

By Susan Scott, Friends Board of Directors



That's a question asked as people happen upon what appears to be an injured or orphaned animal.

A baby squirrel with no visible injuries found at the bottom of a tree probably lost his balance and fell from the nest. Given time and space, mom will come down and take him back up to the nest.

A baby bird, with all his feathers, is called a fledgling. When birds first leave the nest they cannot fly. They spend one to two weeks on the ground and in low bushes strengthening their muscles and testing out their flight skills. This is the time they are most likely to be picked up by a well-meaning person who is afraid they will be eaten by a cat! Place the bird on a branch or in a bush, mom will find it. Should you find a nest blown out of a tree with birds that do not have developed feathers, you can take a small plastic container with holes punched in the bottom, or a small tomato container, fill it with grass clippings or the fallen nest and nail it back up in the tree as high as you are able to place it. Contrary to what you've been told you, birds have a very poor sense of smell and touching a baby bird will NOT keep its mother from taking it back. Birds look for their babies for up to two days.

Rabbits dig a nest hole in the middle of an open area, line it with grass and hair and have their babies. Check your lawn before mowing and if you find a nest just put a box over it while you mow. Mother rabbit only feeds the babies at dawn and dusk – baby rabbits are on their own at approximately three weeks of age. A bunny the size of a tennis ball, with its ears up and the white spot on its forehead almost gone is capable of taking care of itself. If you wish to move a bunny that size just put him in or near a brush pile where he can take shelter. Do not handle needlessly, baby bunnies can be “scared to death” by too much human interaction.

A new-born fawn is left for 8 or more hours on his own. After the birth, the doe cleans and feeds the fawn and spends a day or so bonding with the baby. She then separates her

twins or triplets in order to keep the fawns safe. She DOES NOT stay with them because that would give their location away to a predator but she is usually in the

vicinity. Fawns have no odor and cannot be detected by a predator by smell. A dog or a coyote would have to trip over the fawn to find it. Keep your dogs on a leash during fawning season (average is mid-May to mid-June). You will never see a doe standing guard over her fawn, but she and possibly other does in the area will come to the cries of a fawn you may be picking up. Fawns need intervention only if they are found lying next to a dead doe, if they are covered in diarrhea or maggots, if they are lying on their side in obvious distress, if their body temperature is extremely low or if they are severely dehydrated. Please call a licensed rehabilitator in your area before picking up a fawn. A good rehabber can assess the situation, give you advice and hopefully help reunite the fawn with its mom.

“You will never see a doe standing guard over her fawn...”

Remember, each baby animal requires a different formula to grow and thrive. Baby birds, rabbits or squirrels cannot eat infant cereal, white bread, or cow's milk. Their moms are not shopping at the local grocery store for their food. Human food will cause great distress and even death to most baby animals. The Department of Natural Resources allows you 48 hours to get an animal to a licensed rehabilitator before you are subject to stiff fines – check the Michigan DNR web site (www.michigandnr.com/dlr) for a list of people in your area that can help when you find an injured or orphaned animal that truly NEEDS your help.

This information was provided by Diane Solecki of the Howell Nature Center in Howell, Michigan.

Friends Group Is Preparing to Go on the Road with Traveling Bookstore

By Janet Martineau, Bookstore Committee Chair

Finally the Friends of the Shiawassee NWF traveling bookstore/concession stand is becoming a reality. Board members and a community volunteer have transformed its interior into shelving and hangers and the bookstore committee will start ordering merchandise with the \$5,000 grant we received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation. What we will need in the weeks ahead is lots more volunteer help:

- People willing to work its physical side when we're on the move (hooking up the propane and the generator and running the generator, installing and removing the stabilizing jacks, setting up and taking down the portable steps, etc.)
- People willing to work on sales (we plan to set up a table outside as well, so each stop will need at least two people to handle sales, a third when we sell food).
- People willing to work on the ordering of items to sell and keeping an inventory.
- A bookkeeper who likes to work with all things money and the tax forms that follow.
- Maintenance folks to keep it tidy and clean and make small repairs or upgrades.
- People willing to hunt for and secure places we can take our store and set it up (festivals, special events, etc.)
- Someone willing to work through the food permit issues (getting a license, making sure we pass inspection, detailing the rules and regulations).

We have no dates to tell you at this point, but what we do need to do is find people willing to work when we get them. Please, we need you. Call bookstore committee chair Janet Martineau at 790-7341, or e-mail her a jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com

Celebrating Nature Through Art Contest

As a part of its 40th anniversary celebration, Midland's Chippewa Nature Center is sponsoring a "Celebrating Nature Through Art" contest. Saginaw Valley artists

and photographers are urged to venture out and enjoy the natural world and then create from it.

There are two categories—drawing/painting on paper and photography. Entries must feature the Saginaw Valley region's plant life, critters of all kinds and scenery drawn, painted or photographed between January 1, 2006 and November 10, 2006.

The refuge, your back yard or other natural areas are eligible. There are three age categories: middle school, high school and adult. There is no entry fee and prizes will be awarded. Rules and regulations may be obtained on Chippewa Nature Center's website at www.chippewanaturecenter.org or by calling (989) 631-0830.

REFUGE REPORTER

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

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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

Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

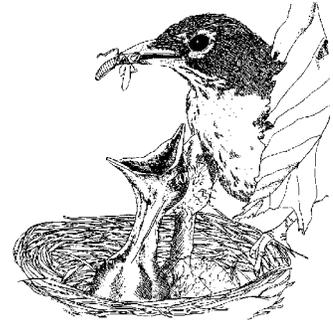
A nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1999 to promote the preservation of the natural and historical resources of the Refuge, foster its use and enjoyment by the public consistent with the protection and preservation of its environment, and engage in such educational, scientific and civic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



Free Fishing Contest and Summer Discover Camp for Kids in June

Junior Girl Scout Badge Day Scheduled for June 17 at Green Point

By Becky Goche, Park Ranger

Women (and maybe a man or two) natural resource professionals are teaming up to help Junior Girl Scouts earn the **“Earth Connections” badge** on Saturday, June 17 at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The team of professionals will lead the girls in six ecology activities (Numbers 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8) listed in the Junior Girl Scout Badge Book. Lots of hands-on, digging in the dirt, fun activities are planned! Instructors for the program are Gay Lynn Kinter, Soil Scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Flint, Michelle Vander Haar, Private Lands Biologist for the refuge, and Becky Goche, Park Ranger for the refuge.

Girls will study the plants, animals and soil found at Green Point and the refuge from women who do this

everyday as a part of their job! Best of all, this program is free!

Space is limited to 30 girls and you must register by June 14. Call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to sign up or for more information.



Calendar of Events

Nurturing Nature Wednesday Series

- All programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and last 60 – 90 minutes.
- Held at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple Street, Saginaw, unless otherwise noted.
- Admission: \$2 for individuals or \$5 for a family. FREE for members of the Friends of the Shiawassee NWR.

Underwater Creatures of the Great Lakes

June 7, 2006

Videographer and diver Ric Mixer has been exploring beneath the surface of the Great Lakes for more than 15 years. Come see the images of some of the strange creatures he encounters – from the giant sturgeon to the eel-like burbot.

Archeological Findings on the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

July 12, 2006

Jeffrey Sommer is the curator of archeology at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History and an active “digger” on the rich refuge. He’ll show slides of his expeditions and some of the artifacts found.

Fungi and More

August 2, 2006

Chippewa Nature Center senior naturalist Janea Little has attended two courses on fungi at the University of Michigan’s Biological Station. She will share pictures of the many mushrooms she encountered there, as well as other scenes from the station and fungi from the Upper Peninsula and mid-Michigan.

Summer Discovery Camp

June 22, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Green Point Environmental Learning Center

Find out who lives at Green Point. Children will explore forest, grassland and pond communities. Lots of fun activities, crafts, stories and games are planned. For ages 4 to 6 years. Class size is limited and registration is required by calling (989) 759-1669 before June 20. Bring your own sack lunch. Fee is \$2 per child.

Kids’ Free Fishing Day Contest

June 10, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Ojibway Island in Saginaw

A free fishing contest for children aged 3 to 15 years. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. More than 90 prizes will be given away. Free and low cost refreshments provided. Bring your own pole and bait.

Junior Girl Scout Badge Day

June 17, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Green Point Environmental Learning Center

Refuge staff and other natural resource professionals will lead six activities to meet the requirements for the “Earth Connections” badge. Space is limited and girls must register by calling (989) 759-1669 by June 14. This program is FREE!

Looking Ahead in 2006

Deer Application Deadline –

August 1

Waterfowl Festival at Bay City State Recreation Area – August 5 & 6

Photo Contest Judging – September 9

Owl Hike – October 6

There will be no auto tours in 2006 due to roads/dikes damaged by flooding in March. We hope to have it repaired in time for tours in 2007.

Summer Stroll

July 14, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Meet at parking lot at west end of Curtis Road

Volunteer Steve Gasser will lead the group on a 5-mile hike along the Ferguson Bayou Trail. Be prepared for mosquitoes. In the event of severe weather, the hike will be canceled.

For more information, contact Green Point ELC at (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 – Susan Scott

Treasurer – Wil Hufton II

Secretary – Barb Werle