

Refuge Reporter

Volume 12, Issue 4

Fall 2009

Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk Slated for October 3

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

Lace up your running and walking shoes! It's time again for the second annual **Wild Goose Chase 5K Run and Walk**. Runners and walkers of all ability levels and ages are welcome to participate on Saturday, October 3, 2009, near the Ferguson Bayou Trail parking lot. Race start time is 9:00 a.m.

The 5 K course winds its way along the Ferguson Bayou Trail and through parts of the refuge that are normally closed to the public. The course includes knee-friendly surfaces: grass, dirt and gravel. Runners and walkers will have a unique opportunity to view wildlife as they compete for prizes in their age group. Last year, the fastest runners were dodging deer who were standing on the trail!

Early registration is open through Septem-

ber 23. The entry fee is \$17 with a shirt or \$12 without a shirt. Trust me, you will want the shirt featuring "Puddles" the racing goose. The late registration fee after September 23 through race day is \$15 and no shirts are available. Registration flyers with more information can be picked up at the refuge headquarters, Green Point ELC, several sports stores, or downloaded from the refuge website.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with the **Wild Goose Chase**. We will need people to help with packet stuffing prior to the race, early packet handout the night before the race, registration the morning of the race, water stations, finish line refreshments, and set up and take down. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Goche at (989) 759-1669.

Annual Refuge Open House Weekend is September 12-13

It's time for the annual Refuge Open House Weekend. This is the only time during the year that visitors are able to hike, bicycle and deer scout ANYWHERE on the refuge, during daylight hours. Unfortunately, there will be NO SELF-GUIDED AUTO TOUR this year. The refuge is currently in the process of developing a permanent, nearly year-round

auto tour route, hopefully to be completed by late 2010.

Please see the calendar of events for a list off all the activities that are available each day during the Open House Weekend and at other times.

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Special Points:

- *Green Point's summer hours end on Sunday, September 27. Beginning September 28, Green Point will only be open Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
- *4,412 hunters applied for deer hunts on the refuge this year. Approximately 50% off all applications were submitted on-line. The refuge issued 988 permits for 2009.*

The Job of a Student Career Experience Program Intern

By *Natasha Urban, SCEP Intern*

Greetings! My name is Natasha Urban and I am the new SCEP-ROS intern for Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. What exactly is a SCEP-ROS intern? SCEP is the Student Career Experience Program which allows graduate students to get on-the-job training with the Fish and Wildlife Service while they still get their academic training. The focus of my training is in the ROS, or Refuge Operation Specialist, area. A ROS employee's duties include managing the grounds, property, equipment, and sometimes personnel of a refuge. A ROS oversees the many activities occurring on the refuge and this often involves the over-site and planning of the construction and maintenance of the facilities. The ROS track is often referred to as the management series because this training helps prepare individuals to eventually become assistant refuge managers or refuge managers.

I have been working at Shiawassee NWR since the end of May and plan on finishing my required term by the end of September. I plan on graduating in December from the department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University with my Master's in Wildlife. I received my Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I am originally from upstate New York but have lived in various parts of Indiana for five years. My main areas of interest have been mammalogy and wildlife reactions to forest management.

Working at Shiawassee has been great! I've been able to participate in a variety of activities while still learning the intricacies of refuge operations. Besides the various forms and contracts I have to learn, I shadow the assistant manager, Ed De Vries, a great deal to learn how things get done. I also receive a lot of direction and advice on office management from Steve Kahl, refuge manager. These skills are certainly something missing from college curriculum.

It is not all paperwork, though. I have been able to get out on the refuge and participate in several research projects. I was able to help radio-tag and survey several Blanding's turtles and was even lucky enough to observe one lay her eggs! I was also able to survey fish, participate in a butterfly count, and observe

transmitter surgery on a fox snake. The summer is not over either. I plan to work on a mitigation project and help band shore birds. What a fun and educational experience the SCEP internship has been for me and what a great refuge to have so close to where you live. Get out and observe some of the fantastic wildlife Shiawassee NWR has to offer and thank the great staff working hard to keep it successful.



Natasha Urban, SCEP intern, holding a Blanding's turtle captured on and awaiting release back on the refuge. Photo by Steven Pires.

Two Live Birds of Prey Programs

By *Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

The refuge will be hosting two **Live Birds of Prey** programs this fall at Green Point Environmental Learning Center. The first program will be Friday, November 13, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the second one will be Saturday, December 5, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Joe Rogers and his crew from Wildlife Recovery Associates of Shepherd will provide an in depth look into the lives of Michigan raptors. Several live birds such as owls, hawks and falcons will also be on hand for the public to see.

There is no admission fee for these programs; however, donations will be accepted for Wildlife Recovery Associates to help them with their wildlife rehabilitation program.

Turtle Talk: Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

By Steven Pires, CIP Intern

As a CIP Summer Intern at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) my job encompassed a wide range of conservation related assignments. But, my main responsibility this summer was to use radio telemetry to gather data on our eight female Blanding's turtles, *Emydoidea blandingii*. The Blanding's turtle is the rarest species of turtle found on Shiawassee NWR and a state protected special concern species in Michigan. In addition to the Blanding's Turtle, Shiawassee NWR is home to the Common Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), the Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), the Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*), and the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Apalone spinifera spinifera*).

The Refuge established the Blanding's turtle program in cooperation with the University of Georgia – Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2005. The motivation behind launching the study was based on how little was known about our Blanding's turtles on the Refuge. In the summer of 2008 we fixated six of our Blanding's turtles (captured either by baited traps or by hand when searching for nest sites on the Refuge roads) with radio transmitters in order to gather subsequent data associated with habitat preference, wintering sites, nesting sites, population dynamics, and ultimately to guide future management decisions on the Refuge. In the summer of 2009 we captured two more female Blanding's turtles, fixated them with radio transmitters, and added them to our study as well.

The Blanding's turtle is a fairly large turtle with a smooth elongated carapace (up to 27.4 cm) camouflaged with tan to yellow irregular spots (see photo on page 5). The top and sides of the turtle's head is a dark blue-gray color with a network of tan irregular lines/spots scattered about. The turtle's most notable feature is the bright yellow chin, throat, and neck. It is a northern semi-aquatic turtle showing strong habitat affinity towards eutrophic lakes, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, wet prairies, and sloughs (Ernst, 1994). Luckily, Shiawassee NWR provides these turtles with a variety of wetland complexes to choose from. They spend little time out of the water, other than for nesting or moving to close by wetland habitat for foraging/refuge.

Much of our energy with the Blanding's turtle program this summer was channeled towards nesting behavior. Clearly, one of the most important components to any creatures' life history is reproduction. If a creature cannot

successfully reproduce, they will have little chance of sustaining a viable population in the wild. Blanding's turtles (as well as many other turtle species) tend to search for and build nests at dusk. Nesting activity typically occurs from late May to early July depending on geographic location and weather conditions (Ernst, 1994). Our Blanding's turtles seemed to emerge from their aquatic environments in search of a nesting site from mid to late June. It is evident after beginning this study that the lack of suitable nesting habitat may be the main limiting factor to the Blanding's turtle population. The turtles have adapted to the habitats available on the Refuge; it seems that nesting in the road is the most popular location for many of our turtle species.

Two of our Blanding's turtles were observed nesting in locations less than ideal for egg success: one beside the sidewalk at Green Point Environmental Learning Center and one in the middle of one of our Refuge access roads. For that reason, we recovered the eggs and are incubating them at the Refuge Headquarters.



Blanding's turtle eggs in the incubator, housed in the refuge manager's office. Photo by Steven Pires.

Egg recovery for incubation was used as the last resort option. Our initial plan was to use 3'x 3' hardware cloth and metal stakes to fend off nest predators, leaving the nest in its natural location. Unfortunately, due to the nesting locations of these two turtles (beside a sidewalk and in the road) we decided to recover the eggs for incubation. Nest predation in Michigan Blanding's turtles ranges from 42 to 93%. Common nest predators include raccoons, skunks, and opossums (Ernst, 1994).

continued on page 5

A Summer to Remember

By Joanna Rogers, CIP Intern

When I started my Conservation Intern Program internship at Green Point Environmental Learning Center, I had no idea what I would be doing. I came to Green Point Environmental Learning Center (GPELC) this summer already having met Becky Goche, who would be my direct supervisor, and Tom Horb, the only ranger I have ever met that can do pretty much anything and carry on a conversation at the same time.

Within the first week, the topic of artwork came up. I showed Becky some sample artwork that I just happened to have with me. She liked it and mentioned that she had long wanted a mural painted on the back cement retaining wall of GPELC. The trails start and end at this location behind the building. I said I thought it was totally feasible to paint it, and I would be more than willing to.

So, at the fast paced speed of government work, three weeks later we were buying paint. In the mean time I learned how to wash the windows, collect plantain, grape leaves, and dandelions for the tortoise, clean the bathrooms, vacuum the floor, and many more seemingly mundane tasks. I took pride in doing these tasks well, as I have learned that any job can be gratifying if you choose to make it so. Once the paint was purchased, I washed and primed the wall in two days. It turned from a yellow tan color with green algae and black crusty stuff, to a bright sky blue.

My primary job, I quickly learned, was to aid in the programs that GPELC hosts throughout the summer. A variety of local children from different parts of the city would come for events and activities that were available. Between the events that were open to the public, such as the *Stories of Nature* and *Sunday Strolls*, and the prearranged programs in cooperation with different organizations, such as the local Boys and Girls Club, it seemed that we had organized events occurring three to five days a week. On top of the organized events, GPELC would regularly end a day with anywhere between five and fifteen of the local kids who walk to the Center in order to hang out, go hiking, fishing, or help with chores such as weeding the garden or filling the birdfeeders. I also quickly became the unofficial tour guide for the many adults that wandered in and “hadn’t been there for thirty years.”

I received a variety of training while working. There was a day long class on CPR, and several computer training

courses including Defensive Driver Training, and Computer Security Training. Overall, the training I received through the internship was beneficial to me both on a personal fulfillment level and at a professional development level.

During the down times I would work on the mural. On the second or third day of painting, several of the local kids came earlier than usual. They seemed very content to watch me paint, however the idea evolved that they wanted to help. In pencil, I outlined several more silhouettes, and gave them paint brushes with the instructions to fill in the outlines. This worked well enough for me, even though the edges turned out a little more than rough in some places. When Becky informed me that she was leaving for the day, her expression was less than pleased as she looked at the four children covered in black paint and the numerous fingerprints on the wall. The kids were all smiling and very proud of themselves. The next morning I smoothed out the outlines the kids had filled in, and neatly covered the fingerprints.



A portion of the mural on the south side of Green Point that Joanna Rogers worked on during the summer. Photo by Becky Goche, USFWS.

For the most part, things smoothed into a pattern. Becky and Tom gave me more freedom and responsibility as they let me lead several of the organized activities. This gave me confidence and a sense of achievement, for I never before knew that I was capable of leading twenty plus youngsters into the woods and returning with all of them more or less intact.

continued on page 5

Turtle Talk continued

The sex of Blanding's turtle eggs is temperature dependent. Eggs incubated at 22.5-26.5 °C produce 97-100% males whereas eggs incubated at 30-31 °C produce 100% females (Ernst, 1994). We chose to incubate the eggs at the 27-29 °C range in hopes of yielding a 50:50 male-to-female ratio. Incubation set within our prescribed temperature range should produce hatchlings in 75 days (the projected hatch date is 9/18/2009).

Hopefully the incubation project will give our Blanding's turtle population the boost it needs to ensure their long-term success as a species on our refuge. If you encounter a Blanding's turtle (or any other wildlife) while enjoying the Refuge please do not disturb or remove these creatures. Disturbing, injuring, spearing, poisoning, destroying, collecting or attempting to disturb, injure, spear, poison, destroy or collect any plant or animal on any National Wildlife Refuge is strictly prohibited by Federal Law.



Steven Pires, with a Blanding's turtle with a newly attached transmitter and antennae. Photo by Natasha Urban.

References

Ernst, C. H., Lovich, J. E., & Barbour, R. W. (1994). *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press.

A Summer to Remember continued

As all good projects, the mural began to evolve as things were accomplished. Becky suggested that constellations would look good painted on the ceiling, and I used the left over black paint from the silhouettes to paint tracks leading up to many of the animals, to show a glimpse into their behavior. The most important part, however, is at the very beginning, where you can find a thank you to all the people who helped create the mural. The names of over twenty people, many local kids, and even Ranger Tom who let it be known that he hates painting, can be found on the east end of the mural.

I have had a great time this summer, and am sorry that it went so quickly. I will never forget the friends I have made, from the local kids to my coworkers. I have learned to be more confident in myself and what I am capable of. The internship expanded my horizons in many ways, for I had been very focused on biological field research, and now I realize that there are many more opportunities to have fulfilling and gratifying work available. These skills are ones that I can take with me as I enter a highly competitive job market. I would like to thank all the staff at the refuge for the wonderful summer.



Joanna Rogers working with a group of children participating in the Junior Refuge Manager Academy in June, 2009. Photo by Becky Goche, USFWS.

Join the Friends of Shiawassee NWR Today!

FREE Membership includes the following benefits...

- Joining a local constituency in support of the development and operation of the refuge
- Subscription to the *Refuge Reporter*, the quarterly newsletter from the refuge
- FREE admission to monthly *Nurturing Nature Wednesday Series* programs
- 10% discount on Friends merchandise
- Opportunities to participate in programs and volunteer for projects that help the refuge

To become a member of the "Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge" you must agree to support the mission and goals of the group, abide by the current and future bylaws if amended, and sign the following disclaimer. *"I acknowledge that I am participating in "Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge" (Friends) activities at my own risk, and that Friends has made no warranty or representation, expressed or implied, regarding safety of conducting any activity. I expressly release and hold harmless Friends and their officers, directors, employees, and agents from and for any and all claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever on account of any loss, damage or injury to person or to property suffered or incurred by me in connection with the activity or any aspect of it, including, but not limited to, any transportation arranged by, paid for, or provided by Friends. By signing below, I (we) acknowledge that I (we) have read and understand this form and that the statements I (we) have made are true."*

Signature(s) and Date: _____ Date: _____

Parent's signature if member is under age 18: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Friends' Volunteer Opportunities

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with refuge events | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doing outreach activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading walking tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with Nurturing Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing newsletter articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with simple maintenance projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/developing grants | <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as Committee member | <input type="checkbox"/> Researching/Ordering merchandise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading children's activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please list: |

Board meetings held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple Street in Saginaw. The annual meeting is held in January of each year. Friends Board of Directors Officers are: President – Charles Hoover, Vice President – Susan Scott, Secretary – Janet Martineau, Treasurer – Wil Hufton II.

Upcoming Trail Closures for 2009 Due to Deer and Goose Hunting

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

The refuge is offering deer hunting beginning October 30 to help manage the deer herd. Sixteen different hunts accounting for over 900 hunters, will be offered through the end of December. To help keep visitors safe, refuge trails in the vicinity of the units open to hunting will be closed. Following are the dates of closure at each of our trails.

Woodland Trail at Stroebel Road

October 30 – November 8, 2009
November 20 – 23, 2009
December 11 – 14, 2009
December 18 – 19, 2009

Ferguson Bayou Trail at Curtis Road

October 30 – November 8, 2009
November 15 – 18, 2009
November 20 – 23, 2009
December 1 – 5, 2009
December 11 – 14, 2009
December 18 – 19, 2009
December 26 – 30, 2009

Cass River Unit in Bridgeport Township

October 30 – November 8, 2009
December 1 – 5, 2009
December 26 – 30, 2009

Goose Hunting Trail Closures

At the time of producing this newsletter, the State of Michigan had not issued dates for goose hunting on the refuge. We anticipate that goose hunting MAY be October 10—29. Goose hunting only takes place on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. On these days, the Ferguson Bayou Trail is closed to visitors until 1:00 p.m.

The trails at Green Point Environmental Learning Center remain open during hunting season (daylight hours only) since hunting is not allowed within Saginaw's city limits. Keep in mind that pets and bicycles are not allowed on the trails at Green Point.

We need your email address!

Did you know that the *Refuge Reporter* can be delivered directly to your email inbox? Send an email with your name and email address to Shiawassee@fws.gov to be added to the list. The newsletter may be going to an all digital format in the near future. Keep in mind, the *Refuge Reporter* is already available on the refuge website in COLOR. Log on to www.fws.gov/Midwest/shiawassee/ and click on the Refuge Reporter Newsletter link.

REFUGE REPORTER

Published quarterly by the Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge for the refuge.

Volume 12, Issue 4

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

Visitor Services Manager—Becky Goche

Biologist—Jim Dastyck

Biological Technician—Donald Poppe

Private Lands Biologist—Michelle Vander Haar

Park Ranger—Tom Horb

Park Ranger (Law Enforcement)—Joe Hughes

Administrative Officer—Mary Ann Gillette

Maintenance Staff—David Peters

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>

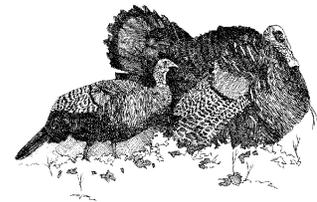
Shiawassee NWR
6975 Mower Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone: 989-777-5930
Fax: 989-777-9200
Hours: M - F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We're on the web!

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



Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk is October 3



Educational Programs at Green Point for Children of All Ages

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

It's time for school and that means it's time to plan your fall 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 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. Best of all, the programs are free!

Attention Parents of Pre-school Aged Children!

Come enjoy an hour of stories and fun once a month at Green Point. *Stories from Nature* is for young children and their parents, grandparents and/or caregivers. Each month will feature a different animal and/or nature theme. We will read

stories and do other fun stuff like scavenger hunts, hikes and maybe even a craft.

Stories from Nature is free and begins at 10 a.m. and lasts for one hour. Be sure to bring your own blanket to sit upon.

Dates are:

- Wednesday, September 9
- Wednesday, October 7
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, December 2

After the story hour, children and adults are welcome to explore Green Point on their own or even bring a sack lunch to enjoy. If you have questions, please call Green Point at (989) 759-1669.

Shiawassee NWR Fall 2009 Calendar of Events

Every Day Is Green

September 2, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Janea Little of Midland's Chippewa Nature Center will encourage those attending to take a look at their environmental footprint and will provide examples of small but concrete steps we can all take to live lightly and more greenly on earth. Admission: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

Labor Day Holiday – All offices closed

September 6 & 7

Stories from Nature

September 9, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

A fun-filled story hour for young children and the adults who care for them. Children learn about a different nature theme each month. Bring a blanket.

Open House Weekend

September 12, Daylight Hours Only

Entire Refuge

The entire refuge is open this weekend for hiking, bicycling and deer scouting. Special events taking place today:

7 a.m. – “Early Bird” Guided Bicycle Tour with Park Ranger Tom Horb. Meet at the Ferguson Bayou Trail parking lot.

9 a.m. – Guided Birding Auto Tour with Volunteer Steve Gasser and refuge intern Natasha Urban. Meet at the Ferguson Bayou Trail parking lot.

2 p.m. – Blanding's Turtle Tracking with volunteer Joanna Rogers. Meet at the Ferguson Bayou Nature Trail parking lot.

5:30 p.m. – Guided Bicycle Tour with Park Ranger Tom Horb. Meet at Ferguson Bayou Trail parking lot.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Refuge Photo Contest judging at headquarters.

Open House Weekend

September 13, Daylight Hours Only

Entire Refuge

The entire refuge is open this weekend for hiking, bicycling and deer scouting. Special events taking place today:

7 a.m. – Guided Bicycle Tour with Park Ranger Tom Horb. Meet at the parking lot at west end of Evon Road.

5:30 p.m. – Guided Hike at Old Coal Mine with Park Ranger Tom Horb. Meet at the corner of Hart and Willing Roads in James Township.

The Magnificent White-tailed Deer

September 16, 6:30 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Park Ranger Tom Horb will share his passion for Michigan's white-tailed deer through video footage that he has taken over the past 20 years and his collection of sheds. Participants are welcome to bring their own sheds in to share, too.

Guided Horseback Tour

September 19, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Evon Road parking lot

You provide your own horse and gear. Register by calling Ed DeVries at (989) 777-5930, ext. 13

Guided Hike

September 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ferguson Bayou Trail

(west end of Curtis Road, south of Saginaw, off of M-13)
Hike with Park Ranger Tom Horb. Bring water.

Wildflower Identification Hike

September 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Volunteer Joanna Rogers will help you learn about some of the late blooming flowers in our area. All ages are welcome. Dress for the weather.

Guided Mountain Bike Tour

September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Woodland Trail

(at the corners of Center and Stroebel Roads)

Join Park Ranger Tom Horb and learn about the history of this coal mining area of the refuge. Mountain bikes are recommended for this trail. Bring water and mosquito spray.

Last Day Green Point is Open on Weekends

September 27

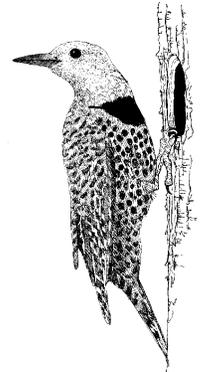
Return to regular hours of Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 28.

Bird Identification Hike

October 2, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Take an opportunity to see some of the resident birds plus some migrants. No prior bird knowledge is needed. Bring binoculars if you have them. All ages are welcome. Dress for the weather.



Wild Goose Chase Early Packet Pickup

October 2, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

For runners and walkers who pre-registered for the 5K course.

Wild Goose Chase 5K Run and Walk

October 3, 9:00 a.m.

Ferguson Bayou Trail

(west end of Curtis Road, south of Saginaw, off of M-13)
Registration is 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. race day. Late registration fee is \$15 (no shirts available).

Stories from Nature

October 7, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

A fun-filled story hour for young children and the adults who care for them. Children learn about a different nature theme each month. Bring a blanket.

Creatures of the Night**October 7, 7:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Meet nocturnal birds and mammals that live in Michigan. Staff from Howell Nature Center will bring several live critters for you to learn about! Admission: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

Columbus Day Holiday – All offices closed**October 12****Track and Scat Hike****October 17, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Volunteer Joanna Rogers will help you to identify signs that animals leave behind, literally. All ages are welcome.

**Nature at Night Hike****October 23, 7:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of nature at night. Learn about nocturnal animals and go on a guided hike to listen for owls and other nighttime creatures. Wear dark clothes and bring a flashlight with red filter.

River Walk**October 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Volunteer Joanna Rogers will teach you about wetlands and waterways, and their ecological and environmental impacts. Plus you get to enjoy some beautiful scenery. All ages are welcome.

Stories from Nature**November 4, 10:00 a.m.****Green Point ELC**

A fun-filled story hour for young children and the adults who care for them. A different nature theme each month.

Michigan's Junior Duck Stamp Program**November 4, 7:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Each year in Michigan, the Junior Duck Stamp competition attracts hundreds of artist in kindergarten through 12th grade. Becky Goche, the refuge's Visitor Services Manager, is the Junior Duck Stamp coordinator for Michigan. She provides an overview of the program and shows this year's winners. Admission: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

Bird Identification Hike**November 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Take an opportunity to see some of the resident birds plus some migrants. No prior bird knowledge is needed. Bring binoculars if you have them. All ages are welcome. Dress for the weather.

Veterans Day Holiday – All offices closed**November 11****Live Birds of Prey Program****November 13, 7:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Joe Rogers and his team from Wildlife Recovery Associates will help you learn about Michigan's raptors. Several live birds will be available for you to see. Donations accepted.

Tree Identification Hike**November 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Enjoy the fall colors and learn why they're there. Volunteer Joanna Rogers will show you other ways to identify trees once the leaves are gone. All ages are welcome.

Let's Get Ready for Winter**November 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Learn how different animals and plants prepare for the cold times ahead. All ages are welcome. Dress for the weather.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday – All offices closed**November 26****Stories from Nature****December 2, 10:00 a.m.****Green Point ELC**

A fun-filled story hour for young children and the adults who care for them. A different nature theme each month.

Fish of Michigan**December 2, 7:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Tom Lenon of Midland's Chippewa Nature Center will show how to identify fish common to Michigan, and share other interesting information. At 6:00 p.m., an optional fish dinner will be offered, with walleye and whitefish, French fries and slaw catered by Huron Fish of Saginaw. Reservations are limited to 30; the cost is \$12. Call (989) 759-1669 to reserve your spot. Admission for the program only: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

Snowshoe Hike**December 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Volunteer Joanna Rogers will teach you how to snowshoe. You are welcome to bring your own or use one of our pairs. Please call (989) 759-1669 to reserve your pair, as we have limited numbers. If there is no snow, there will still be a guided hike. All ages are welcome.

Live Birds of Prey Program**December 5, 2:00 p.m.****Green Point ELC**

Joe Rogers and his team from Wildlife Recovery Associates are back! Several live birds will be available for you to see. Donations accepted.

All programs are FREE unless otherwise noted. For more information call Green Point Environmental Learning Center, (989) 759-1669 or visit the refuge's website at www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee