

Happenings at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Reporter

Volume 12, Issue 3

Summer 2009

Kids' Free Fishing Day is June 13 at Ojibway Island

By *Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

Kids' Free Fishing Day is back! We survived last year's windstorm that damaged much of Ojibway Island and caused us to cancel the contest for safety. This year's Kids' Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 13, 2009, at Ojibway Island in Saginaw. The fishing contest is for children aged 3- to 15-years-old and runs from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Anglers can register from 7:30 a.m. through 9:30 a.m.

Every child who registers has a chance to win prizes like fishing poles, tackle boxes and other cool stuff! If children catch fish during the contest, they increase their chances of winning. Helping the refuge sponsor this event is the City of Saginaw, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Lake Huron Area

Council—Boy Scouts of America, and U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps—H.R. Doud Division.

We Need Your Help

We need several kid-friendly volunteers who can help out during the morning. Set up begins at 6:30 a.m. which is when we need folks with muscles to set up tables and a small tent. We need several smiling and friendly faces to help with registration and to help with the awards ceremony which usually ends by 11:30 a.m. If you're more interested in working with the fish that the young, proud anglers will catch, we need several hands to help in the fish return and release area along the bank of the Saginaw River. Contact me either by email at Becky_Goche@fws.gov or call me (989) 759-1669 if you can help or would like more information.

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Special Points:

- *Looking for a fun and inexpensive way to spend some time with your family on the weekends? Green Point is now open 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through September 27.*
- *There are no Nurturing Nature programs in July and August. The next program will be September 2.*

Start Training for the Next Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk

By *Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

Mark your calendars! The second annual **Wild Goose Chase 5K Run and Walk**, sponsored by the refuge and Friends of Shiawassee NWR, is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009. Last year we had 112 participants that got a chance to run on natural surfaces, away from city streets

and cars, while getting views of the refuge's great collection of wildlife. Some of our runners even had to dodge deer standing on the route!

You can get more information and download the registration form from our website.

Digging Up History at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

By Ed DeVries, Assistant Refuge Manager

Our history goes back. Way back. To put it in perspective, when the Roman Empire was still in its infancy there were people hunting, fishing, and traveling through this area. Historians haven't attached a name to these groups of early Saginaw residents because specific identities for these groups are unknown. During the time of the Middle Woodland period, maybe around the time of Julius Caesar, there was a small encampment on the wooded peninsula where the Shiawassee and Tittabawassee rivers join. This camp was there when the Mayans were building their empire in Central America and it wasn't until at least 1,000 years later that the Vikings would start poking around the coastline of North America in their longships. Later residents called this place where the two rivers joined Shows-ko-kon, which was the English pronunciation of the Anishinaabe name for Green Point. The Saginaw area's cultural history goes farther back than many people realize.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the people who lived here, probably in a small group of no more than twenty individuals, harvested seasonal bounties that included mussels, sturgeon, and muskrat, as well as black walnuts, hickory nuts, arrowhead tubers and elderberries. Their harvest tools included simple wood shafts tipped with sharp stone points made of bezel-cut chert; suitable for spearing fish and small animals. Their homes were constructed of wood frames overlaid with bark or woven cattail mats. Cooking bowls were uniquely fashioned of clay which was shaped, dried in the sun and then fire-baked. This camp was one of at least a dozen vil-

lages or camps strategically located on low ridges along the four rivers in this area of east-central Michigan. Then as now, these four rivers; the Cass, Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, and Flint, eventually converged to form a vast resource-rich marsh system which extends to the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron.

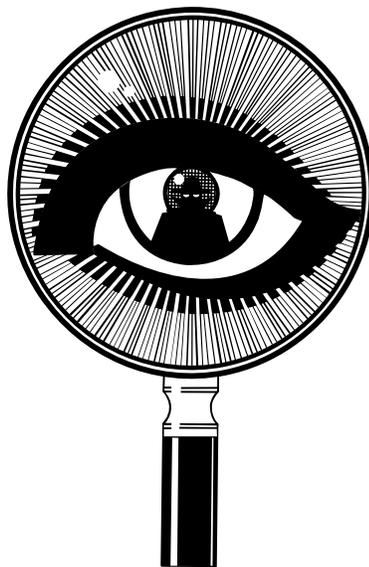
The extensive stands of sedges, rushes, wild rice, and prairie cordgrass provided food and habitat for an ample supply of fish and wildlife for the early people, hence the appeal this area had for those who depended on the land to survive. The shallow marshes were a rich nursery for spawning fish and migrating waterfowl. The vast forests were inhabited by deer, elk, bear, and wolf. The waterways provided the people with prime access routes for necessary trade and travel. Little is known about the local early cultures who utilized these many resources, but they have been the subject of a great deal of speculation among many historians. Archaeological evidence has proved that the first villages and peoples found in this area actually existed thousands of years before the Sauk, Odawa, Huron, and Ojibwe cultures would eventually migrate here. Today their story as well as that of later occupants of the land is being meticulously traced through the efforts of archaeologists exploring portions of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

Recent archaeological surveys have confirmed that the area surrounding and within Shiawassee NWR is one of the richest regions in the state of Michigan for significant archeological sites. Under an Archaeological Resources Protection Act
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Junior Refuge Manager Academy and Habitat Detectives Camps Planned

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

Two, free day camps are planned for children this summer. The **Junior Refuge Manager Academy** is for children aged 8 to 12 years. The camp is June 18 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. The theme for this year's Junior Refuge Manager Academy is "Birds, Birds, Birds." Junior Managers will study birds and their many, fascinating adaptations through fun activities, hikes, and science experiments. Children need to bring a sack lunch both days. Please note that camp size is limited to 12 children. Register by June 16.



On July 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the **Habitat Detectives Camp** will be held for 5- to 7-year-olds. These young detectives will investigate animal mysteries at Green Point as they explore the different habitats found here. Lots of fun activities and hikes are planned. Children need to bring a sack lunch. Register by July 21.

To register for either camp or for more information, please call Green Point at (989) 759-1669. Parents are welcome to drop off their children or spend the day with them. Children should wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. No sandals, please. We also recommend mosquito repellent, sun screen and a hat.

Junior Duck Stamp Winners Honored at Awards Ceremony on April 25

By Becky Goche, State Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator

This year's first through third place winners in the Michigan Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest were honored at an awards ceremony at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center on Saturday, April 25. Twenty of the 36 winners and their families and teachers attended for a total of 75 – a standing room only crowd!

More than 330 students from across the state submitted artwork for this year's contest. Five judges picked the winners on March 25, 2009. All first through third place winning artwork can be seen on the refuge's website. Michigan's Best of Show artwork was drawn by Yi Li, age 17 of Ann Arbor. This was the second year in a row that Li's artwork won this distinction. Her artwork, an oil painting of Harlequin ducks, advanced to the national competition held on April 22 at the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, Li's artwork did not place at the national level.

At the awards ceremony, each student received a book bag, sketch pad, colored pencils, duck call, 2008-2009 Junior Duck stamp, place ribbon, plaque (first place winners only), and a magnet featuring his/her artwork. The Best of Show winner got all of these items, plus a \$100 gift card for art supplies, two duck decoys donated by Ducks Unlimited, and two plaques featuring her artwork. In addition, six outstanding teachers were recognized for their efforts in getting their students involved in the program. These teachers were: Chris

Bowen of Carrollton Elementary, Lois Ege of Grand Rapids Public and Parochial Schools, Lisa Gabriel who worked with Saginaw County Girls and Boys Club, Deborah Helbig of Lapeer East High School, Anne Keller of Goodwillie Environmental School, and Julee Li of Art Corner. Each teacher received an \$80 gift card for art supplies. The Friends of Shiawassee NWR provided a decorated sheet cake featuring an edible replica of the Best of Show artwork and lemonade for those in attendance.



Yi Li, 2009 Michigan Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show winner and State Coordinator Becky Goche frame Li's winning artwork at the awards ceremony held on April 25, 2009. This was the second year that Li represented Michigan in the National Junior Duck Stamp competition. Photo by Joy D. Clark, April 25, 2009.

"Stories from Nature" Program for Young Children and Adults at Green Point

By Tom Horb, Park Ranger

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 our stories under the shade trees near the small waterfall or indoors if the weather is too hot or inclement. Of course we will 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, June 10
- Wednesday, July 1
- Wednesday, August 5

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

Dunlin at Shiawassee NWR

By Don Poppe, Biological Technician

Dunlin are a shorebird about the size of a Bluebird. They have black legs, a black bill, and a black belly patch. Their back and wings are rufous colored, hence their former common name: Red-backed Sandpiper. Shiawassee NWR is an important stopover site for Dunlin (*Calidris alpina hudsonia*) during northward migration (spring), and to a lesser extent during southward migration (fall). Dunlin at Shiawassee are one of three North American subspecies. The *hudsonia* subspecies found here breed in central Canada and winter in the southeastern USA. Length of stay times for Dunlin at Shiawassee are not known, so it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of Dunlin using the refuge each spring. However, the refuge does participate in the International Shorebird Survey (ISS), counting the number of shorebirds of each species on a single day (surveys are conducted at least once every ten days). From these surveys we do know how many birds might be using the refuge on a given day. The average number of Dunlin recorded on a given day during peak migration is about 1,400 or 1,500 individuals (Dunlin Overall One Day Peak: 2,152 individuals; 2006).

During spring migration, Dunlin use the refuge as an area where they can build up fat reserves for the next segment of the long journey to their breeding grounds. Dunlin prefer shallow water habitat (0-2 inches) that provides an abundance of invertebrates to dine on. Most of their diet is midge larvae. This habitat is usually available at Shiawassee thanks to the diligent effort of refuge staff. Active water level manipulation is a daily process at managed wetlands during spring, designed to mimic natural flooding regimes. It is believed Dunlin will stay at a stopover site as long as there is adequate food to get them to the next destination.

Refuge staff and volunteers will be banding Dunlin (May-June, 2009) for avian influenza surveillance and also to take blood and feather samples for contribution to a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service study on Dunlin. Objectives of the study include: to determine the genetic differences between Dunlin subspecies (blood sample); and stable isotope determination from the feather samples, which will help determine wintering and breeding season sites. It is known that black breast feathers are grown on wintering grounds and wing feathers (primaries) are grown on breeding

grounds. Testing these feathers for their isotopic makeup will link the individual bird to an area where those stable isotopes are found. Shiawassee's contribution to this project will help us to better understand Dunlin and help us to better conserve them.



A pair of dunlin on refuge. Photo by Steve Gasser.

New Opportunities on the Cass River!

By Michelle Vander Haar, Private Lands Biologist

The Cass River Greenways Committee has been meeting for over a year now and the results have been amazing. The group has raised almost \$15,000 for projects in the watershed including the development of a water trail and a bike route. The group was also awarded a Michigan Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Cleanup Grant from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The event will take place on July 25 and will likely take place upstream of Heritage Park in Frankenmuth. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with clean-up activities as well as organization on the day of the event. Appreciation gifts will be given out to all participants and prizes will be awarded to those collecting unique trash items from the river. A small lunch will also be served. This is a first time event for the Cass River and we look forward to making it an annual one. We can't do it without your help! More information will be available in the coming months as we continue to organize the event. If you are interested in helping organize the event or want to help in another way, contact Michelle Vander Haar at (989) 777-5930, ext. 12.

Digging Up History at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Continued

permit issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 Regional Director in 1998, Jeffrey D. Sommer of the Historical Society of Saginaw County has documented 38 sites within the refuge's boundaries. Concentrating mostly in the area where refuge waterways meet to form the Saginaw River, Sommer and his assistants have salvaged artifacts from the refuge which date from 4000 BC through the early 20th century.



Test excavations on Shiawassee NWR. Photo by Jeffrey D. Sommer.

Beginning with slightly elevated ridges and taking note of materials left by woodchuck burrow excavations, the researchers first shovel test for suitable sites. The shovel test pits are dug by hand, and the soil material is sifted through hardware cloth or washed through a fine screen sifter.



Shovel Test Pit on Shiawassee NWR. Photo by Jeffrey D. Sommer.

The test pits are 50 cm x 50 cm in size, dug 60-100 cm deep. Many of the sites which have been excavated include ancient trash pits which contain an array of fish and mammal bones, turtle shell fragments, nut shells, ceramic pieces, stone tools, and points. Nearly 200,000 artifacts have been retrieved thus far, and are being identified, labeled, and catalogued by the researchers. When handling these artifacts, especially the points, one is struck first of all by the knowledge that they are holding an implement which may be 3,000 years old. Secondly, the points are still remarkably sharp even after several thousand years of lying idle under layers of soil. Interestingly, based on the types of chert used, some of the recovered pieces indicate that there were interactions with cultural groups from as far away as Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, southern Ontario, and New York. Most of these artifacts represent the Middle and Late Woodland periods (1-1000 AD). According to Sommer, evidence found suggests that late Archaic to Early Woodland (1000-1 BC) deposits lie even deeper under refuge soil, and are likely well-preserved due to their depth.

The protection and preservation of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge's cultural resources is an important part of the refuge's mission. This ongoing study of the refuge's cultural and natural history is enhancing our knowledge as to what resources were here historically, as well as how this area was utilized in more recent history. The refuge is fortunate to have the interest and energy of professional historians involved, so that this story can be further explored and preserved in a way that will benefit the refuge, in addition to future generations.



Sample artifacts from Shiawassee NWR. Photo by Jeffrey D. Sommer.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Assisting with refuge events | _____ Helping with workshops |
| _____ Doing outreach activities | _____ Leading walking tours |
| _____ Assisting with Nurturing Nature | _____ Developing trails |
| _____ Writing newsletter articles | _____ Helping with simple maintenance projects |
| _____ Writing/developing grants | _____ Staffing Store |
| _____ Serving as Committee member | _____ Researching/Ordering merchandise |
| _____ Leading children’s activities | _____ 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.

Friends of Shiawassee NWR Update

By Chuck Hoover, President

At the time of your reading this newsletter, a great many good things have happened to our Friends group. First, As of the end of March we had a membership of about 300 registered members and we will have several membership registration drives completed during April and May. Therefore, I expect that about 500 of you registered Friends will be with us and about 300 will be reading it for the very first time. This will be very helpful as I present our requests for funding of our projects to those in Washington DC.

And what powerful projects they are. The first is to resubmit the request for funds to upgrade or repave the Curtis Road system to provide access to the new auto tour road that is under construction on the dikes within the refuge. When completed next year, the public will be able to drive right into the center of the refuge to a wildlife observation area. However, we need to have the county roads improved to be able to reach the new one. The second is to have the road out in front of the Green Point ELC "PAVED", and to build a connecting pedestrian trail from the City sidewalks into Green Point ELC so the children visiting won't have to walk in the street to get there. Third, we want to build a pedestrian trail connecting the Refuge Woodland Trail system with the proposed Saginaw Valley Rail Trail on Center Rd. in James Township. We also want to repave that entrance road and the parking lot. All three projects are providing public access into our refuge and are an area that is not addressed by the local road commission.

The monthly Nurturing Nature programs that the Friends co-sponsor are taking a two-month vacation; however, the Friends are still active with a free picnic pork roast scheduled about the 15th of July within the refuge. We don't know where yet, as the new auto tour construction will dictate what area is open for us. We will call it our "Muskrat Ramble Picnic" and all registered Friends will receive a Special Invitation in the mail. It will be a time for the Friends to meet the Refuge Staff and learn first hand about what it takes to operate a wildlife refuge such as ours. We should also be setting up our Traveling Trailer Store with stock and operation program. It will then be used by the Friends to reach the public at many local events. If you would like to assist in getting this store going, please call me at 790-3836.

Last, did you know that our Shiawassee NRW has the largest concentration of nesting WOOD DUCKS in the state? See you in July!

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 3

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, Howard Miller

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)



Join the Friends of Shiawassee NWR for FREE—Membership form inside



Family Nature Club Kicks Off at Green Point on June 14

There's been a lot of buzz going around lately about the importance of connecting children with nature. Studies have shown that it is important, healthy and fun for children to have frequent and varied opportunities to play in the outdoors, especially with natural vegetation, as a part of their everyday lives. Duh! We see the resulting smiles on children's faces everyday when they visit us here at Green Point!

The *Family Nature Club* is a free, monthly program designed for families to further explore things to do and see in the outdoors together. Our only requirement: Parents, grandparents and/or guardians must attend with their child(ren). The first event kicks off with a mini-fishing clinic on Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. During this weekend only, no license is required to fish in Michigan. You can bring your own gear or borrow Green Point's. You will learn the basics of fishing—how to tie a knot, bait a hook, and identify fish you may catch. Of

course you'll get to test your angling skills as you try to catch fish in Green Point's pond.

On Sunday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., you will learn the art and science of "hunting" wildlife with your cameras or video cameras. You will go on a guided hike to search out the best spots for capturing wildlife on film. Be sure to bring your own camera or video camera, wear good hiking shoes, and bring mosquito spray.

Be prepared to get wet and muddy as you learn about who lives in Green Point's pond on Saturday, August 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. During the pond study, you will learn how to safely capture (and return) and identify aquatic insects and other things that live there.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Green Point at (989) 759-1669.

Shiawassee NWR Summer 2009 Calendar of Events

Fox Snakes on the Refuge

June 3, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Kile Kucher, a grad student from Central Michigan University, will discuss his ongoing study of Eastern Fox snakes on the refuge. Admission: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.



Guided Bicycle Tour

June 6, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ferguson Bayou Nature Trail

(west end of Curtis Road, south of Saginaw, off of highway M-13)

Celebrate National Trails Day by riding on the refuge's only National Recreation Trail – the Ferguson Bayou Nature Trail. Bikes with wide tires work best. Dress for the weather and bring water, mosquito spray, binoculars, and camera.

Sunday Stroll

June 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Join Park Ranger Tom Horb for a leisurely stroll along Green Point's trails. Learn about the wildlife found there. Wear good shoes and bring mosquito spray. Repeats throughout summer.

Stories from Nature

June 10, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

A fun-filled story hour for young children and the adults who care for them. Repeats with a different theme each month. Bring a blanket.

Kids' Free Fishing Day

June 13, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Ojibway Island, Saginaw

A fishing contest for children aged 3 to 15 years. Lots of prizes! Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Family Nature Club (Mini Fishing Clinic)

June 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Learn a bit about fishing and then practice your skills on this free fishing day. Kids must bring their parent/adult. Bring your own gear or borrow from us.

Junior Refuge Manager Academy

June 18 & 19, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

For children aged 8 to 12 years. Theme is birds. Bring a sack lunch. Registration required by June 16, call (989) 759-1669.

Sunday Stroll

June 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Sunday Stroll

June 28, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Stories from Nature

July 1, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

4th of July Holiday – All offices closed

All trails are open during daylight hours.



Guided Mountain Bike Tour

July 11, 9:30 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.

Sunday Stroll

July 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Family Nature Club ("Capturing" Nature)

July 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Learn how to capture wildlife and nature with your camera or video camera. Bring your cameras. Kids must bring their parent/adult.

Habitat Detectives Camp

July 23, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

For children aged 5 to 7 years. Study animal mysteries. Bring a sack lunch. Registration required by July 21, call (989) 759-1669.

Cass River Guided Hike

July 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cass River Unit in Bridgeport

(behind Cracker Barrel)

Join Park Ranger Tom Horb for a guided tour of this area along I-75. You'll be surprised at the wildlife and habitats found here.

Sunday Stroll

July 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Guided Bicycle Tour

August 1, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ferguson Bayou Nature Trail

Bikes with wide tires work best.

Stories from Nature

August 5, 10:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

Sunday Stroll

August 9, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Family Nature Club (Pond Study)

August 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Be prepared to get wet and dirty as you learn who lives in Green Point's pond. Kids must bring their parent/adult.

Sunday Stroll

August 23, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

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



29th Annual Great Saginaw River

KIDS FREE FISHING DAY

Saturday, June 13, 2009

8-10 a.m.

Ojibway Island in Saginaw
Registration is 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Prizes:

Many great prizes including fishing poles, tackle boxes and more! You can win a prize just by attending.

Registration:

To participate in the contest, each child ages 3-15 years must have their parent or guardian fill out the registration form. This signed form and an adult (18 years of age or older) must accompany each child when registering for the contest on Ojibway Island on June 13.

Age Groups:

3-6 years old; 7-10 years old; and 11-15 years old

Equipment:

Bring your own fishing pole and bait. A limited amount of free bait will be available.

Kids Free Fishing Day promotes catch and release.

Join Cub Scouts: The Cub Scouts will be on hand with information on how to join. All boys in grades K - 4 who join Cub Scouts at Fishing Day will receive a FREE FISHING LURE! For more info call 989-695-5593.

Rules and Regulations:

To participate in the Kids Free Fishing Day, all participants must agree to abide by and follow all Michigan State Fishing Regulations. Those registering a fish must be willing to have their parent or guardian make a sworn statement that their fish was caught within the rules of the contest. All fish must be caught from Ojibway Island on Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Entrants must personally catch any fish to be entered in this contest. Enter as many fish as you like, this will increase your chance of winning a prize. Odds of winning a prize depends on the number of registrations received and the number of fish caught. Multiple prizes may be awarded. A ticket will be issued when each child registers; one registration per entrant. Another ticket is given for each fish caught and turned into the fish return tent located on the west side of the Island. A random prize drawing will be conducted the day of the event at about 10:45 a.m. from all tickets. Prizes will be awarded in each age category. You must be present to win. If you do not redeem your ticket within one minute of being declared a potential winner, you forfeit all rights to the prize and an alternate winner may be selected.

All fish may be registered only once and may be marked at the fish return station. It is our goal to preserve the fish resource and return all fish to the water alive, so transport your fish to the fish return area in water as often as necessary. Participation is open to legal residents of Michigan who are at least 3, but not older than 15 years of age as of the date of the entry. Participation is open to amateur status anglers only. Sponsors are not responsible for registration forms or tickets that are lost, late, damaged, illegible, incomplete, incorrect, or misdirected, or for errors in the administration, or fulfillment of this contest, including without limitation, mechanical, human, printing, distribution, or production errors and may modify or cancel the promotion based on such error at its sole discretion without liability. This contest is subject to all federal, and Michigan state and local laws and regulations. Void outside Michigan and where otherwise prohibited. All decisions of the contest officials are final and binding in all respects. Violation of any rules may lead to immediate disqualification, as determined in the contest officials' sole discretion. Income and other taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winners. The parent or legal guardian of winners may be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility upon accepting the prizes or an alternate winner may be chosen. No substitutions for prizes except by Sponsors in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be substituted.

General Release:

By signing your name above and in consideration of your participation or the participation of your child or legal ward, in the Kids Free Fishing Day held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 (The "Event") organized by the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), City of Saginaw, The Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Lake Huron Area Council BSA, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, and U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, H.R. Doud Division ("Sponsors"), the above-signed hereby releases Sponsors and any related or affiliated companies and their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, licensee, subsidiaries, consultants and independent contractors (collectively, the "Releasees") of and from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by the above-signed, his/her child or legal ward, or any property of such individuals, arising from or in connection with the Event, or any prizes awarded, including claims that are known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen, future or contingent, or that arise out of the negligence of Sponsors.

The above-signed, being fully aware of the risks inherent in participating in the Event, hereby elects to voluntarily to engage in such activity, and/or allow his/her child or legal ward to do so. The above-signed hereby voluntarily assumes all risk or loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by the above-signed, his/her child or legal ward, or any property of such individuals, in connection with such activity.

This release shall be binding upon the distributees, heirs, next of kin, personal representatives, executors, and administrators of the above-signed. The above-signed also acknowledges the fact that Sponsors may publish photographs or the Event and entrants' names, likenesses and photographs, for advertising, editorial or publicity purposes. The above-signed hereby grants, releases and quit claims to Sponsors the right to use his/her name of likeness, and/or the name(s) and likeness(es) of his/her child or legal ward in the above promotional, advertising and editorial materials and acknowledges that any photographs, videotape or film taken may be exhibited and re-exhibited without limitation or liability or further compensation.

In signing the foregoing General Release, the above-signed hereby acknowledges and represents that he/she has read the foregoing release and fully understands it. The above-signed understands that this is a release of liability which will legally prevent him/her or any other person from filing suit or making any other legal claim against Releasees, relating to the causes of actions or claims hereby waived or released by above-signed. The above-signed nevertheless enters into this agreement freely and voluntarily and agrees that is binding upon the above-signed, his/her heirs, assigns and legal representatives.

Copies of this form are available at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Green Point Environmental Learning Center, and City of Saginaw, or call (989) 759-1669 to have one faxed to you.

This event is sponsored by: Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), City of Saginaw, Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Lake Huron Area Council – Boy Scouts of America, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, and U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps – H.R. Doud Division

Registration Form

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Check appropriate age category:

3-6 7-10 11-15

I have read and agree with the General Release and contest rules.

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____

Date: _____