

Refuge Reporter

Volume 13, Issue 4

Fall 2010

Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk Canceled Due to Auto Tour Construction

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

The Wild Goose Chase 5K Run and Walk has been canceled for 2010. Construction for the 7.5 mile auto tour route began in May and is not scheduled to be done until November. The race was originally scheduled for Saturday, October 2. Refuge staff were concerned that construction materials and/or equipment could hamper runners and walkers and decided that it was best not to hold the race this year. Other refuge trails were considered, but none of them could safely support race attendees and their vehicles. Puddles has been busy helping with the construction, as you can tell from her attire, but plans to be back for next year's race!

The auto tour route will be open to the public beginning next Spring.



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Special Points:

- The refuge received applications from 4,150 hunters for 20 managed deer hunts this year. Altogether, 1,216 permits will be issued. Be sure to check the trail closures before coming out to hike!
- Auto Tour construction continues through the end of 2010. If you're interested in helping with Grand Opening next spring, please contact Becky Goche at (989) 759-1669 or email Becky_Goche@fws.gov.

Annual Open House Weekend is September 11 & 12

The refuge will be open to hiking, bicycling and deer scouting during daylight hours on September 11 and 12. The auto tour route construction has limited some of the events that we normally offer.

There will be two guided bicycle tours at the Evon Road area led by Tom Horb—one Saturday morning beginning at 7 a.m. and

one on Sunday evening at starting at 6 p.m. Bikes with wide tires work best.

You can pick your favorite photos in the Refuge Photo Contest at the refuge headquarters on Saturday only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, the Friends group will have their bookstore open on Saturday at the headquarters.

Head Start Program for Refuge Blanding's Turtles

By Janet Martineau, Friends Board

Call it a Head Start program for tiny turtles.

The Children's Zoo at Celebration Square and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, both located in Saginaw, have teamed up to give the endangered/threatened Blanding's Turtle a new lease on life.

Joanna Rogers, a Central Michigan University graduate and refuge intern, told a "Nurturing Nature" program audience in June about the unusual program.

As Rogers explained it, the "very docile and friendly" Blanding's Turtle, with its bright yellow chin and neck and helmet-shaped shell, is in decline from Nova Scotia to Nebraska. And research on the Shiawassee refuge for the past two summers revealed one of the reasons why.

As soon as ma turtle lays her eggs, marauding raccoons come calling. Rogers says at first refuge volunteers intervened by quickly taking the eggs and incubating them in the refuge office. "We ended up with lots of baby turtles, which we released in the bayou, and they also became snacks for the raccoons."

So, she says, the zoo in Saginaw and the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing will incubate eggs gathered this summer at the refuge, overwinter the babies, keep and feed them for a full year, and then release them when they are a bigger size and hopefully more able to survive.

Rogers has spent her recent summers tracking the turtles on the refuge through radio transmitters placed on them. A lot of the ones she and others found were more than 20 years old, she said, determined by counting the growth rings on the outside of their shells, about the age the reach sexual maturity.

Some of the tracked turtles moved more than a mile in a day. Since they tend to dwell in marshes and water, that tracking was tricky. The signal varied with the water depth. Entering their habitat was impossible. There were battery pack malfunctions and lightning or metal in the ground created echoes. "They can be right there and you don't seem them," says Rogers.

Until, that is, they lay those eggs in the coarse gravel on the refuge dikes -- in sight of humans and hungry raccoons, usually between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m.

The humans installed raccoon exclusion cages at the favored nesting sites, but thanks to the high domes of the Blanding's the cages did not work. Leaving the entrance high enough for them to clear getting under to lay the eggs was room enough for the raccoons to enter as well. "We even saw two raccoons circling one turtle as it was laying the eggs."

Thus the "kidnapping" of the eggs and incubating them inside at the refuge.

But when the release of those baby turtles also was thwarted by the raccoons, along came the Head Start idea with the two zoos.

Meet Our Refuge Summer Employees

Vanessa Slack—Conservation Intern Program (CIP) Intern



If you've been to Green Point this summer, you've probably seen me around. I was hired this summer as a CIP intern, originally to gain more experience in environmental education. As an intern, I have done more learning than teaching!

Some of my many roles at Green Point included feeding and taking care of all the critters that inhabit

the area—from our resident tortoise to the gang of squirrels

and birds at the feeders outside (including a family of Baltimore Orioles!). Another job I learned to love was educational outreach where we took a handful of our "yes, they're real, they're just not alive" taxidermy animals to schools or organizations and discuss different topics.

In addition to welcoming daily visitors, I led a bear educational program that talked about what to do if you see a bear in the wild (don't run!), and the *Habitat Detectives Camp*, as well as reading to the younger children at our monthly *Stories from Nature*. And I think I have stuffed enough envelopes to keep the Post Office busy for a month!

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"Stump the Refuge Manager" at September's Nurturing Nature Program at Green Point

By Janet Martineau, Friends Board

Here's a tip. Bugs might bug Shiawassee National Wildlife Manager Steven Kahl on the night of Sept. 1, when he's in the hot seat during the "Stump the Refuge Manager" program for the "Nurturing Nature" series.

Kahl has served as the manager at Shiawassee since early 2005, and has more than 12 year of experience working on national wildlife refuges as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife biology and management.

And while he says he fears no questions that night on laws, regulations and policies affecting the management of Shiawassee as well as all things about birds, reptiles and amphibians, he does admit bugs and invertebrates are not his strong points.

Actually, says the Saginaw Township resident, "my vision for the talk is more to enlighten the audience on why we do what we do at the refuge and the resources that make the refuge special and less about trivia (like how many eggs does an earthworm lay)."

Kahl oversees 9,501 acres of hardwood forests, rivers, marshes, managed pools, fields and croplands at the Spaulding Township refuge as well as its sister sites at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center in Saginaw, the Stroebel Road site in James Township and the Cass River Unit in Bridgeport Township. Shiawassee also administers the Michigan Island National Wildlife Refuge in Lake Huron.

Shiawassee was established in 1953 and is one of 570 refuges nationwide. It is home to 270 species of resi-

dent and migrating birds, has 12 miles of hiking trails, and is in the process of constructing a 7.5-mile open-daily auto drive through.

Kahl says if he is indeed "stumped" that night, he will get back to the person with an answer.

Becky Goche, the visitor services manager at Shiawassee, came up with the idea for the "Stump the Refuge Manager" evening.

"I thought the program might be of interest to people to ask why the refuge does the things it does," she says. "For example, why does the refuge drain the marshes rather than keeping them full of water year round? Why does the refuge allow hunting when it's called a 'refuge?' I want to keep the questions specific to Shiawassee NWR and the National Wildlife Refuge System in general."

"The 'out there' kind of questions, like how many feathers do blue jays have; how much wood could a wood chuck chuck, if a wood chuck could chuck wood, probably are not what I was thinking."

She promises refugee freebies for all who attend -- bookmarks, posters, coloring books and pencils.

Kahl oversees a staff of nine and an annual budget of \$1.1 million. Shiawassee is considered an urban refuge and registers 55,000 visitors a year.

Before coming to Saginaw, Kahl was the manager at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in northern New Jersey and before that worked at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in western New York and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in New York's Finger Lakes region.

Meet Our Refuge Summer Employees continued from page 2

Most of my time was spent preparing information for future visitors. This included a pamphlet on poison ivy/oak/sumac, a hiking guide to show common things you can find while hiking outside, and a wildflower trail guide. I have also created new identification cards for the different taxidermy animals inside our building, and an aquatic life booklet for the common creatures that live in the waters of our aquariums, ponds, and rivers.



Zachary Gilna—STEP Employee

Zac did a variety of maintenance tasks throughout the refuge this past summer such as mowing trails and trimming back branches along them, as well as mowing and weed trimming around maintenance buildings. He has spent much of his time out in the

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Meet Our Refuge Summer Employees continued from page 3

wet-prairie mitigation site planting native perennials, and also pulling Garlic Mustard in the woods where it was encroaching on native herbaceous plants. In addition, he earned his Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License which has allowed him to maintain vegetative growth along the dikes on the refuge as well as to spray invasive plants. Zac was also exposed to tracking Blanding's Turtles via radio telemetry as well as how to conduct forest assessments.

Zac's current focus is on finishing his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan - Flint in Wildlife Biology. From there, his plan is to attend graduate school to study either Conservation Biology or Plant Biology. Zac's long term goal is to one day obtain a full-time position with a federal or state government agency.

Matthew Cross—STEP Employee



Matt, a Central Michigan University GIS graduate student, spent his summer at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge as a S.T.E.P. employee. Much of his summer was devoted to maintenance tasks such as mowing, trail upkeep and string-trimming.

Other duties included, but were not limited to: pulling invasive plants, planting seedlings in the mitigation site, spraying pesticides on woody vegetation along the refuge's dikes and helping with a Blanding's Turtle project. He was in charge of gathering and entering data for the Herp Atlas (a monitoring program and repository for reptile and amphibian sightings) on the refuge. He also spent some time making a map of the Wildlife Drive. More recently, he was able to go to Marshall to assist with the ongoing efforts to clean oil off of the wildlife affected by the recent oil spill.

Matt just recently finished a masters degree in conservation biology and is in the process of obtaining another masters degree in GIS. His main focus is his research on massasauga rattlesnakes, where he hopes to use his biology and GIS experience to help guide conservation efforts of this species. His future plan is to get his PhD and to continue his conservation research either at a university or for a state or federal agency.

Kile Kucher—STEP Employee



I spent many days of my youth riding bike along the Woodland Trail. More recently, I spent the past 2 summers on the refuge studying eastern foxsnakes. I received my B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and am currently finishing my M.S. degree in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University.

In addition to my daily duties of doing tasks very similar to what Matt and Zac have already listed, I presented programs about the refuge and my foxsnake research to high school and college students, monitored Blanding's turtles, assisted in an earthworm study and much more. A couple are highlighted below.

I assisted 2 graduate and 2 faculty researchers from Central Michigan University studying mussels (what many people call clams) on the refuge. For an entire week, we surveyed the rivers flowing through the refuge, and found many mussels, 2 of which were not previously documented to occur (living) on the refuge. The methods we used to find these mussels included SCUBA to dive in the deeper parts of the rivers, snorkel in the shallower areas, and "pollywogging" which involves feeling around in the substrate (mud) for partially buried mussels. We also used D-nets to scrape the bottom to capture mussels and other invertebrates.

In early August I traveled to Marshall, MI with Refuge Officer Joe Hughes, Matt and Zac. We assisted in the Kalamazoo/Enbridge Oil Spill Response as part of a wildlife team whose task was to capture wildlife covered in oil and transport them to the wildlife rehabilitation center to be stabilized and cleaned. Our two main concerns were 1) for the health of the animals covered in oil, and 2) the health of the environment, as some of the animals were dispersing away from the core affected area and contaminating previously unaffected areas. Through this entire experience, I was most impressed with the cooperation of all involved in the response, including volunteers, state and federal agencies, as well as private environmental contractors hired by Enbridge.

My experience here at the refuge has further solidified my interest in wildlife conservation, and I hope to continue working in this field, using my knowledge and skills of wildlife ecology and management for the conservation of natural resources.

Michigan's Junior Duck Stamp Artwork and Program Featured on October 6 at Green Point

By Janet Martineau, Friends Board

For the past five years, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services Manager Becky Goche has become an avid connoisseur of art.

That is how long she has served as the co-coordinator of the Michigan Junior Duck Stamp art competition -- a federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services program in which the annual winner in each state, territory or district vies for the \$5,000 grand prize awarded in Washington, D.C.

"We average about 340 entries a year in Michigan," says Goche, who also organizes the awards ceremony which takes place each spring at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center.

And while she knows a mallard from a swan in those entries, and a good drawing vs. a struggling one, sometime she gets fooled in other ways.

"I'd have to say the most amusing/embarrassing moment for me was at my first awards ceremony and asking for a boy to come forward (to receive a prize) based upon the first name -- when it was actually the name of a little blonde-haired girl."

During the Oct. 6 "Nurturing Nature" program, Goche will show pictures of this year's winners and honorable mentions in the four age categories of the kindergarten through 12th grade competition.

And although one might assume a high schooler always wins best of show and advances to the nationals, not so here in 2010. Qianchi Zhang, a 13 year old from Ann Arbor, won for her depiction of a pair of cinnamon teal.

Goche says she easily devotes 70 hours each year in administering the program for Michigan -- sending information to schools in the fall, writing news releases, sorting and reviewing entries, entering data from all the entries into a database, preparing and hosting the judging event at Green Point, preparing and hosting the awards ceremony, and then returning all entries. Refuge volunteers contribute another 70 to 80 hours.

Sadly, she says, every year some entries are disqualified because the rules were not followed. All art work must be on 9x12-inch paper and in a horizontal format. And, she adds, the works done in chalk always leave her with messy hands if not handled carefully.

Goche also secures the five volunteer judges each year, who assess each piece on both the correctness of the waterfowl depicted as well as the usual art criteria of line, form and texture. The judges in Saginaw have, over the years, been affiliated with the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland, Northwood University, Ducks Unlimited, the Michigan De-

partment of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, and Congressman Dale Kildee's Saginaw office.

Goche is amazed at the distance some of the winners travel to attend the awards ceremony. "We had one come from Escanaba, although at least the family was down state to pick up an older sibling from Michigan State University."

Traditionally many of the winners come from the Ann Arbor and Detroit area, and each year Goche gets a panicked call or two as the 2 p.m. ceremony nears from people lost and trying to find Maple St. and Green Point.

Prizes in Michigan include a backpack or bag for all first through third place winners, plaques for all first place winners, individual magnets of their winning art for all first through third place winners, and art supplies (paper and colored pencils). The Best of Show winner also receives a gift card to Dick Blick, two plaques with his/her artwork (one for school and one for artist), and a decoy from Ducks Unlimited.

Each year the Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife refuge buy the sheet cake for the awards ceremony -- a section of which contains, in colorful frosting, the winning artwork. That section of the cake is saved for the winner to take home.

All first through third place pieces are kept for displays across the state and returned after a year of touring. In addition to the winning artwork being displayed at Green Point each spring, the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson annually hosts the pieces each fall.

The winner nationally not only receives \$5,000 but also finds his or her or rendering on that year's Junior Duck Stamp, sold for \$5 at U.S. Post Offices. Proceeds benefit the Junior Duck Stamp Program, in its 18th year of fostering environmental awareness through art.



State Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator Becky Goche with 2010 Best of Show winner, Qianchi Zhang. Photo by Joy Clark.

November 3 Nurturing Nature Program Features Kyle Bagnall's "Understanding Headstone Symbolism"

By Janet Martineau, Friends Board



Headstone featuring a dove with a closed rosebud in its mouth. Photo by Kyle Bagnall.

With Halloween, All Saints Day and Day of the Dead just past, what better topic than cemeteries and their stories.

Kyle Bagnall, historian at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland, has haunted dozens of cemeteries over the years, and as a college student researched the unmarked graves and created an accurate to-scale map of the Ste. Anne's Cemetery on Mackinac Island.

He has stood atop a Viking burial mound in Sweden, and visited the graves of his ancestors in

a Lancaster, Mass., "Old Burial Field" dating to the mid 1600s.

Bagnall will show photos he has taken as well as tell stories during his "Nurturing Nature" presentation.

"I find the markers I look at interesting, touching, enlightening, inspiring, sobering or sad," he says. "Cemeteries often contain headstones depicting angels and children, especially as childhood mortality was higher in the past than it is today.

"One stone I discovered in Saginaw had what I first took to be a relief carving of an angel holding a child. Looking closely, I was struck by how 'ordinary' the angel looked. She ran barefoot, clutching the child to her breast, her dress and apron strings flying out behind.

"I then noticed the faint words 'My Wife' inscribed on the stone and realized I was looking at a depiction of a young woman and her child who were buried together under my feet."

Headstone symbolism has changed over the years, he says. Grinning skulls gave way to religious icons and symbolism inspired by ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. Today, more than ever, symbols reflect the per-

sonalities of the dead, giving visitors a glimpse into the lives of those in their final resting place.

Most headstone symbols, especially historic ones, have lost their intended meaning to people today because the cultural context in which they were used has changed, he says.

"It's been more than a century, for example, since people sent bouquets of flowers with each species intended to send a specific message to the recipient.

"Another category of misunderstood symbols are those used by fraternal organizations, many of which have greatly reduced membership today or are no longer active. Knights of the Maccabees, Woodmen of the World, Oddfellows, Masons, and a host of other 'secret societies,' used a wealth of symbols found on historic headstones, each with specific meanings."

One of the most memorable headstones he has encountered is a "white bronze" (cast metal) marker in Bay City from 1882. "First of all, it's huge – much larger than most markers made of that material. Replete with Masonic symbolism, it also features life-like reliefs of two men buried there, Wallace Alexander and Charles Lentz. Perched on top of the obelisk is a huge cast metal aloe plant, aloe being the 'plant of immortality' in ancient Egypt."

So does Michigan have a "don't miss" cemetery to visit? Bagnall says yes, despite the fact he himself has not been there yet. It's the Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.

"Founded in 1846, it's the oldest non-denominational cemetery in Michigan and contains the graves of many notable men and women from Michigan's past."

And when he dies, what would he like his tombstone to look like?

"While they're out of fashion now, I think I'd like a headstone shaped like a tree. Popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, realistic markers like these were ripe with natural symbolism such as flowers, ivy, birds, acorns and leaves.

"I've always found great inspiration and comfort in nature and would like for those who visit my grave to reflect on our place in this great, wonderful web of life."

2010 Refuge Trail Closure Dates

Hunting seasons are just around the corner and to help protect visitors and to provide a quality hunting experience for our hunters, the refuge trails will be closed at various times. Please remember that there is no hunting within Saginaw City limits, so Green Point's trails will be available during daylight hours. Bicycles and pets are not allowed on these trails.

Goose hunting will TENTATIVELY begin on Saturday, October 9 and end on Thursday, October 28. Goose hunting only takes place on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during this time period. The Ferguson Bayou Trail off of Curtis Road will be closed until 1:00 p.m. each day of the hunt.

Deer hunting begins on October 30 and continues through the end of the year. Please see the following list of when various refuge trails will be closed. Deer hunting helps maintain the population at a level compatible with the refuge's purpose of protecting habitat for migratory birds.

Woodland Trail at Stroebel Road

October 30 – November 8, 2010

November 19 – 20, 2010

November 26 – 29, 2010

December 6 – 7, 2010

December 10 – 13, 2010

December 18 – 19, 2010

Ferguson Bayou Trail at Curtis Road

October 30 – November 8, 2010

November 15 – 18, 2010

November 21 – 22, 2010

November 26 – 29, 2010

December 1 – 7, 2010

December 10 – 13, 2010

December 18 – 19, 2010

December 26 – 30, 2010

Cass River Unit in Bridgeport Township

October 30 – November 8, 2010

December 1 – 5, 2010

December 26 – 30, 2010

REFUGE REPORTER is published quarterly by the Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge for the refuge.

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

Refuge Manager—Steve Kahl

Assistant Refuge Manager—Ed DeVries

Visitor Services Manager—Becky Goche

Private Lands Biologist—Michelle Vander Haar

Park Ranger (Law Enforcement)—Joe Hughes

Administrative Officer—Mary Ann Gillette

Maintenance Worker —Ken Schimp

Engineering Equipment Operator—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.

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)



No Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk this Year Due to Auto Tour Construction

Fall Kayak Tour Planned for October 2 on Cass River

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

The two summer kayak trips were a hit so we've decided to add one for early fall, too. Perhaps some of the colors will be showing to provide an even more spectacular view of the refuge! This kayaking trip is geared for people who already have some kayaking experience. Keep in mind that this will be an out-and-back adventure. In other words, you will be paddling against the river's current for half of the trip!

The Fall Guided Kayak Tour will be Saturday, October 2, 2010, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Bring your kayak and meet at the refuge's Cass River Boat Launch, on the north side of the river, south of Saginaw on Highway M-13. Refuge Volunteers Maureen Tulip and Tom Horb will lead the tour. Two options will be available to kayakers. The first option will be a short route, starting at the launch to the Shiawassee River and return, lasting about 3 hours. The second option will take

kayakers farther into the Shiawassee River and last about 5 hours.

Reservations are required since space will be limited to about 8 kayakers. Call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to save your spot. Please note that you will be required to wear a PFD to participate in the tours. In addition, you may want to bring water, snacks, sunblock, binoculars, camera, mosquito repellent, water shoes, field guides, etc. In the event of rain or other adverse weather, the tours will be canceled.

Attention Teachers:

Be sure to schedule your fall field trip today. A variety of programs are available for you to choose from at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center. Visit our website for more information or call (989) 759-1669.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

2010 Fall Calendar of Events

Stump the Refuge Manager

September 1, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Shiawassee NWR Manager Steve Kahl is in the hot seat as the audience grills him about life on and policies governing the refuge. Small prizes await all participants. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

Labor Day Holiday

September 6

All offices are closed.

Refuge Open House Weekend

September 11-12, Daylight Hours

Anywhere on the Refuge

During this weekend only, the entire refuge is open to hiking, bicycling (expect Green Point), and scouting for deer.

Guided Bicycle Tour (Open House Event)

September 11, 7:00 a.m.

Evon Road parking lot

Tom Horb will take you on a guided tour of this area. The tour will last about 2 ½ hours. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best on the gravel roads. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars, cameras and water.

Refuge Photo Contest (Open House Event)

September 11, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Refuge Headquarters

You be the judge and vote for your favorite photos.

Guided Bicycle Tour (Open House Event)

September 12, 6:00 p.m.

Evon Road parking lot

Tom Horb will take you on another guided tour of this area. The tour will last about 2 ½ hours. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best on the gravel roads. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars, cameras and water.

Fall Guided Kayak Tour

October 2, 8:00 a.m.

Cass River Boat Launch at Highway M-13

Bring your kayak and PFD for a guided refuge tour via the Cass River with Tom Horb and Refuge Volunteer Maureen Tulip. Space is limited and registration is required – call Green Point (989) 759-1669 to sign up.

Michigan's Junior Duck Stamp Program

October 6, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

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

Woodland Trail Hike

October 16, 5:00 p.m.

Woodland Trail

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at your local refuge! Join Tom Horb for a hike along the Woodland Trail. Learn about some of its history and the wildlife that call it home.

Guided Bicycle Tour

October 24, 5:00 p.m.

Ferguson Bayou Trail

Tom Horb will take you on a guided tour. The tour will last about 2 hours. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best on the gravel roads. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars, cameras and water.

Guided Night Hike

October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

Come see who, who, who's active at night! Go on a guided hike and learn about owls and other nocturnal animals.

Understanding Headstone Symbolism

Nov. 3, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

With Halloween, All Saints Day and the Day of the Dead just past, Chippewa Nature Center historian Kyle Bagnall shows examples of often ignored or misunderstood headstone symbols from his travels to cemeteries throughout Michigan. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

Guided Bicycle Tour

November 13, 4:00 p.m.

Evon Road parking lot

Tom Horb will take you on a guided tour of this closed area. The tour will last about 2 hours. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars, cameras and water.

Habitat Exploration Hike

November 27, 8:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

Explore Green Point's different habitats and the wildlife that live there. Tom Horb will be your guide.

***Plan ahead for bad weather! Please note that events will be cancelled in the event of local travel advisories and/or severe weather conditions.**

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

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: |

Send membership form to:
Friends of Shiawassee NWR
P.O. Box 20129
Saginaw, MI 48602

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