

## Happenings at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

# Refuge Reporter

Volume 13, Issue 2

Spring 2010

### Time to Plan and Schedule Spring Field Trips

*By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

Even though there is still some snow on the ground, it's not too early to start thinking about field trips for your students this Spring. We have several programs for you to choose from for all ages of students. See our "Educator's Guide" on our website or call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to receive a copy. All of the programs last 1 to 1 1/2 hours and include both inside and "field" instruction, including an outdoor hike. Students can explore field, pond, marsh, forest and river habitat at Green Point.

We also have several programs that we can bring into your classroom. Your students can explore endangered species, birds of prey and careers in the Fish and

Wildlife Service. Each of these programs includes cool audio visuals and lots of neat things for your students to look at or feel. We can do these programs at Green Point, too! See our "Educator's Guide" for more information.

Want to spice up your curriculum? Green Point has trunks that you can borrow to use in your classroom. Each trunk is based upon a theme (shorebirds, prairie, wetlands, wolves, songbirds and more) and includes videos, posters, activities and curriculum ideas that you can use with your students. Once again, see our "Educator's Guide" for more information.

All of these programs are free! Call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 for more information or to schedule a program or a trunk.

#### Special Points:

- *Itching to try out snowshoes while there's still snow? Green Point has snowshoes that you can borrow and use on our property during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed all Federal holidays.*
- *You can also cross-country ski refuge trails. They're not groomed, so be prepared to blaze a trail!*
- *When the snow starts melting and the spring rains start falling, please be aware that many of the refuge's trails are prone to flooding.*
- *The bridge over the Tittabawassee River on Center Road is closed. The bridge is just north of the access road to our Woodland Trail parking lot. Please follow the detour to access our trails there: Go west on Gratiot/M-46, turn south onto S. River Road, turn east onto Stroebel Road, and cross Center Road to access the trail's parking lot.*

### Weekend Hours Begin at Green Point on May 1

*By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

Green Point will be open on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. starting Saturday, May 1. These weekend hours will continue through September 12. Week day hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Green Point is closed all federal holidays.

Several family hikes and guided bicycle tours are planned throughout the spring and summer. Be sure to check out the calendar for more information.

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)



***Weekend Hours at Green Point begin on May 1***

## Submit Your Artwork for the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest by March 15

*By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

It's not too late to get your artwork in for this year's Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Thousands of students nationwide participate in this program and art contest each year. Last year 335 students in grades K through 12 participated in Michigan alone!

All artwork must be postmarked by March 15, 2010. Students at the state level are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV: 10-12. Three first, second, and third place winners are selected for each group. In addition, 16 honorable mention winners are picked in each group. Judges select the "Best of Show" from the 12 first place winners, which is then submitted to the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The first place design from the national contest is used to

create the Junior Duck Stamp for the following year.

All entries will receive certificates of participation and winners will receive special ribbons and prizes. All artwork will be returned to the students or schools. The Best of Show entry is included in a national traveling display. In addition, the top winning artwork in Michigan will travel around the state for up to one year following the contest.

To learn more about the Junior Duck Stamp Program, and get the entry form and rules, visit the refuge website or go to [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck). I also can email the 2010 informational brochure and entry form to you – either call me at (989) 759-1669 or email me at [Becky\\_Goche@fws.gov](mailto:Becky_Goche@fws.gov).

# Shiawassee NWR Spring 2010 Calendar of Events



## **Independence Day for Baby Animals March 3, 7:00 p.m.**

**Green Point ELC**  
What does it take for  
a young animal to  
become  
independent?  
Chippewa Nature  
Center naturalist

Janea Little explains how some are self-sufficient right out of the egg while others spend months with one or both parents. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

## **Snowshoe Hike**

**March 6, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

### **Hart and Willing Roads in James Township**

Park Ranger Tom Horb will take you on a guided hike to show you the remains of an old coal mine area. 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 not enough snow, there will still be a guided hike. **\*Please note** that the bridge on Center Road is closed. Follow detour route: west on Gratiot/M-46, south on River Road, and east on Hart Road.

## **Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest DEADLINE**

**March 15, 9:00 a.m.**

All entries for the Junior Duck Stamp contest for students in grades K-12 must be postmarked.

## **Predator Hike**

**March 20, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Green Point ELC**

Volunteer Joanna Rogers will take you on a guided hike to learn about predators of all shapes and sizes that live in the area. Bring your binoculars.

## **Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Judging**

**March 25, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Green Point ELC**

Judges will pick the winners for this year's Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. Students in grades K-12 from across the state enter each year.

## **Guided Cross-country Ski Tour**

**March 27, 4:00 p.m.**

### **Woodland Trail**

(at the corners of Center and Stroebel Roads)  
Park Ranger Tom Horb will take you on a tour of the Woodland Trail, our most popular ski area. Bring your own equipment and dress for the weather. If there is not enough snow, there will still be a guided hike. **\*Please note** that the bridge on Center Road just north of the trail system is closed. Follow detour route: west on Gratiot/M-46, south on River Road, and west on Stroebel Road to parking lot.

## **Coal Mine Hike**

**April 3, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Hart and Willing Roads in James Township**

Park Ranger Tom Horb will take you on a guided hike to show you the remains of an old coal mine area. **\*Please note** that the bridge on Center Road is closed. Follow detour route: west on Gratiot/M-46, south on River Road, and east on Hart Road.

## **People Aren't the Only Sap Lovers**

**April 7, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Green Point ELC**

Dozens of animal species make use of that sweet sap as it drips from trees; the stuff humans use to create maple syrup. Chippewa Nature Center naturalist Janea Little gives the low down on who we are sharing it with ....and the evening includes some sweet samplings. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

## **Track and Scat Hike**

**April 10, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Green Point ELC**

Biological Technician Joanna Rogers will take you on a guided hike along Green Point's trails to identify who's been there.

## **Pioneer/Traditional Living Hike**

**April 17, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Green Point ELC**

Biological Technician Joanna Rogers will show you some "living off the land" ideas for environmentally friendly living.

**Turn over for more events...**

### **Cass River Boat Launch Hike**

**April 24, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Cass River Boat Launch at Highway M-13**

Put down your fishing pole and go on a guided hike with Park Ranger Tom Horb. You will hike along the Cass River and explore the woods. Bring your binoculars and wear boots that can get muddy.

### **Summer Weekend Hours Begin**

**May 1, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

#### **Green Point ELC**

Green Point will be open on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through mid-September, in addition to regular weekday hours.

### **Serendipity Hike**

**May 1, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Green Point ELC**

Park Ranger Tom Horb will lead a hike along Green Point's trails to discover what's there.

### **Singing the History of Saginaw Valley**

**May 5, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Green Point ELC**

Accompanying himself on guitar, mandolin and fiddle, Chippewa Nature Center director of interpretation Dennis Pilaske sings both original and traditional songs about the Saginaw Valley's fur trade, lumbering, pioneer life and farming—and even Green Point. Some sing-along required. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR members.

### **Bird Identification Hike**

**May 8, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Green Point ELC**

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with Biological Technician Joanna Rogers. She will take you on a guided hike along Green Point's trails to help you learn how to identify birds. The hike is geared for beginning and novice birders. Be sure to bring binoculars!

### **Guided Horseback Tour**

**May 8, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Evon Road parking lot**

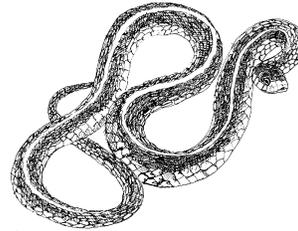
Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and see the refuge from the back of a horse. You must furnish your own horse and reservations are required. Call Deputy Refuge Manager Ed DeVries at (989) 777-5930, ext. 13 to save your spot. Rain date will be May 15.

### **Guided Bicycle Tour**

**May 15, 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Ferguson Bayou Trail**

Park Ranger Tom Horb will lead a guided bicycle tour along the Ferguson Bayou Trail. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best on the gravel roads. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars and cameras.



### **Reptile and Amphibian Hike**

**May 22, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Green Point ELC**

Learn how reptiles and amphibians made it through the winter and what

they're doing now. Biological Technician Joanna Rogers will lead this hike.

### **Guided Bicycle Tour**

**May 23, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Woodland Trail**

(at the corners of Center and Stroebel Roads) Park Ranger Tom Horb will lead a guided bicycle tour along the Woodland Trail. Mountain bikes or those with wide tires work best on the gravel roads. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars and cameras. **\*Please note** that the bridge on Center Road just north of the trail system is closed. Follow detour route: west on Gratiot/M-46, south on River Road, and west on Stroebel Road to parking lot.

### **Memorial Day Holiday**

**May 30 & 31**

All offices are closed.

**\*Plan ahead for adverse 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](http://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

If you wish to make a financial donation, please make check payable to “Friends of Shiawassee NWR.”