

# Refuge Reporter

Volume 14, Issue 2

Spring 2011

## Refuge's New Auto Tour, the Wildlife Drive, to Open April 15

by Steve Kahl, Refuge Manager

Construction has been completed on the new auto tour route at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The new 7.5-mile Wildlife Drive meanders past forests, grasslands, marshes, open water pools, and the Shiawassee River. Amenities along the route include a new observation platform on the Shiawassee River. A new parking area was built to enable visitors to get out and walk the 4.5-mile Ferguson Bayou Trail. Greffe Tower was demolished and rebuilt and a new parking area and overlook was built adjacent to Moist Soil Unit 7.

Currently, visitors mainly have access via four trails situated on the edges of the refuge and few get to see the wildlife spectacle that makes the refuge unique. The Wildlife Drive will enhance the ability of visitors to see large concentrations of waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, eagles, and a

great diversity of other wildlife. Further, visitors will be able to see the management practices the refuge uses to attract this abundance of fauna.

The much anticipated opening of the Wildlife Drive will be April 15. It will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00PM and it will close on October 5. Unscheduled closures will likely occur periodically through the season. Four rivers converge on the refuge and flooding is always an issue. The Wildlife Drive will be closed when flooding creates a threat to the public and the roads.

Wildlife disturbance is an important issue in management of the Wildlife Drive. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is "Wildlife First." However, the new route will bring visitors into the core area of the refuge where the largest flocks of migratory birds occur. To minimize this disturbance, the Wildlife Drive will be

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### Special Point:

- We regret having to cancel February's Nurturing Nature program on "Animal Skulls," featuring the always-popular Janea Little of the Chippewa Nature Center, due to the extreme weather conditions that night. Plans are to reschedule her presentation during the 2012 series.

## Want to Improve Your Land for Wildlife? Attend Open House on March 4

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will be hosting an Open House for private landowners to learn more about cost-share programs available to improve their property. The event will take place on Friday, March 4 at the Spaulding Township Hall, 5825 Cole Rd., Saginaw, MI. from 12 – 3 p.m.

All landowners are invited to attend from farmers to residential and public entities. We will have representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, Michigan State University Extension

*(continued on page 7)*

## Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Deadline is March 15

By Becky Goche, State JDS Coordinator



Entries for the 2011 Michigan Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest are due by March 15, 2011. All entries must be sent to Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, 6975 Mower Road, Saginaw, MI 48601. The Junior Duck Stamp Program uses art and science to teach students the

value of wetlands and the waterfowl that use them. This program is available to school children in grades K-12 and to home schoolers. It is modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Program and gives students an opportunity to create a design for a stamp. The artwork must be of a North American duck, goose or swan.

Last year, over 400 Michigan students participated in the program. The Junior Duck Stamp Program is run annually in each state – approximately 30,000 students participate throughout the country. At the state level, students are judged in four groups according to grade level. Each participant receives a certificate. In addition, prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place and honorable mention winners 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 Competition. The first place winner from the national contest is used to create the Junior Duck Stamp for the following year.

To learn more about the Junior Duck Stamp Program, download curriculum, or get the entry form and rules, visit the refuge’s website at <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>. You can also contact me at (989) 759-1669.



2010 State Best of Show winner, Qianchi Zhang with her winning artwork.

## Kids’ Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 11—We Need Your Help

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

We need several volunteers who can help with this year’s **Kids’ Free Fishing Day** on Saturday, June 11. The fishing contest is for children aged 3- to 15-years-old and runs from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. For the past 31 years, the City of Saginaw has helped sponsor this event on its Ojibway Island on the Saginaw River. The fishing contest centers around the Island’s stage. Children can fish in either the Saginaw River or its backwaters surrounding the Island.

Set up for the event begins at 6:30 a.m. which is when we need people to set up tables, setup the fish return area, and unload prizes. We need patient, friendly people to help the children register for the event beginning about 7:30 a.m. We need several people to help

with handing out prizes at the awards ceremony to all the eager and excited children which starts around 10:30 a.m. If you’re more interested in working with the fish that the young anglers catch, we can use hands to help in the fish return and release area. Email me at [Becky\\_Goche@fws.gov](mailto:Becky_Goche@fws.gov) or call me (989) 759-1669 if you can help or would like more information.

The annual **Kids’ Free Fishing Day** is held in conjunction with Michigan’s Free Fishing Weekend (June 11 and 12) when anyone can fish without a license. Please note that the **Kids’ Free Fishing Day** event promotes catch and release.

# Rambling Naturalists to Relive 1,000-mile Walk

By Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board

Wil and Sarah Reding of Kalamazoo call themselves “rambling naturalists.”

And they took that concept to an unusual length back in 2006 when they walked 1,000 miles “In the Steps of John Muir” – tracing a journey Muir made in 1867, from Indianapolis, Ind., to the Florida Keys.

“We had always wanted to do a long walk,” says Wil, “so we did this one to celebrate my 60th birthday. We were getting older and thought we had better do it now. John Muir is our mentor and we thought redoing his 1,000-mile walk would be fun.”

At 7 p.m. Wednesday April 6, the Redings will show pictures and talk about that “hike” during a **Nurturing Nature** program at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple in Saginaw.

The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, and admission is free to members. Others pay \$2 at the door.

Muir (1838-1914) was a Scottish-born American botanist, naturalist, author of 16 books, and early advocate of the preservation of wilderness in the United States. Numerous trails and natural areas are named in his honor, and his activism helped save Yosemite Valley and Sequoia National Park.

Reding says Muir remains relevant in today’s world. “He was one of the main leaders, the big tree so to speak, of the environmental movement. He helped (President) Teddy Roosevelt to understand and work for national parks. He helped us realize the importance of getting to know the environment first

hand, its connection to us, the importance of living in harmony with the natural world.”



The couple used Muir’s journals to retrace his steps as well as other research materials. The trek took them 53 days, from May 5 to June 25.

Granted they encountered cars, which Muir did not, and more people than he saw “but we still found all the plants he cited in his journal and the other physical things.”

From 1989 to 1994 Wil Reding worked for the Kalamazoo Nature Center, in a variety of educational positions, and he also is a former secondary school and college educator. He holds a master’s degree in environmental education.

Sarah Reding also has a master’s degree in environmental education and has worked at the Kalamazoo Nature Center since 1989, primarily in offsite and outreach programs.

What people will take away from the April 6 program, says Reding, is “to get outside and enjoy, no matter your age. They will laugh a lot and learn about people and backpacking supplies. And they will be inspired to love the outdoors and understand the importance of it and fight for it.”

## Wildlife Drive...continued from page 1

closed in early spring when the greatest concentrations of the most sensitive migrant birds need refuge the most. The route will also be closed during winter to prevent disturbance to concentrations of bald eagles. Lastly, the route will be closed in fall to prevent ducks and geese from being flushed from the sanctuary of the refuge to be killed at the adjacent Shiawassee River State Game Area where waterfowl hunting is permitted.

We will encourage visitors to stay in their vehicles except at designated locations. Animals interpret automobiles as less of a threat because a vehicle serves as a blind. The perceived threat is much greater when people get out of their vehicles and wildlife will much more likely flee. Thus, if visitors remain in their vehicles it will yield less disturbance to wildlife and preserve better viewing opportunities for everyone.

The Wildlife Drive was funded via \$2.4M from the Federal Highway Administration, \$690K from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Deferred Maintenance account, and \$240K from FWS Visitor Facility Enhancement funds.

The new route should increase the refuge's visitor numbers substantially and provide a boost to the local economy. Recreational use at the refuge generated approximately \$1 million in economic activity during fiscal year 2006, according to a report by FWS entitled "Banking on Nature 2006: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation." Approximately 60,000 people visited Shiawassee Refuge in 2006, with non-residents accounting for 63 percent of the total expenditure. The Wildlife Drive will conservatively attract 30,000 new visitors annually. In fact, this facility is by far the most requested improvement to the refuge's visitor services program made by the public.

An important challenge in developing the Wildlife Drive is the poor condition of adjacent county roads. Curtis, Ambrose, and Bishops Roads are severely degraded and their condition continues to deteriorate. In fact, there may be periods when the refuge will have to close the Wildlife Drive when the county roads reach a state where motorists may get stuck. The refuge is working with the Friends of Shiawassee NWR, the Saginaw County Road Commission, and Spaulding Township to rehabilitate these county roads.

## Refuge Hires New Wildlife Biologist

*By Eric Dunton, Wildlife Biologist*



Hello, my name is Eric Dunton I am the new wildlife biologist at the refuge and wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Prior to joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service I worked as a wildlife research biologist and state wild turkey biologist for the

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at the Farmland Wildlife Population and Research Group in Madelia, MN. I possess a B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Michigan State University, and a M.S. degree in Biology (Wildlife Emphasis) from Tennessee Technological University. My the-

sis research focused on brood movement patterns and survival of giant Canada goose broods in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee. After completing my M.S. degree I worked as a Biological Technician at Fort Benning in Columbus, GA evaluating pre and post construction impacts of a digital multi-purpose range complex on seven clusters of federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpeckers. The following year I accepted a senior wildlife technician position with Michigan DNR at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area covering Wayne and Monroe Counties. While working for Michigan DNR I also served as acting wildlife biologist at Waterloo State Recreation area covering Jackson, Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties. I grew up in Hillsdale, MI and I'm currently in the process of purchasing a home in the area with my wife and two wonderful children. I look forward to meeting the dedicated members of the Friends group and working to conserve our precious natural resources.

# CCC Comes Alive Again...and You Are a Member

by Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board



From 1933 to 1942, some 3.4 million American men went to work for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the nation as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, one of them will visit the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple in Saginaw, for a program titled "CCC Enrollee 1941." Well, sort of.

Michael Deren of Ann Arbor recreates, through music and stories, American history and his "CCC Enrollee 1941" program is presented as a part of the *Nurturing Nature* series sponsored by the Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Admission is free to Friends members. Others pay \$2 at the door.

During the program, Deren's CCC character will play the bugle, concertina and washboard and talk about life in the CCC camps.

"I do not present programs 'for' people," says Deren. "I present programs 'with' people as the audience is a full participant. The Green Point audience will be developing their character, joining the CCC, planting trees, and experiencing six months of life in a CCC camp."

CCC was a public relief program for unemployed and single men during the Great Depression and was one of the most popular of all the New Deal programs. The men, ages 18-25, were paid \$30 a month – of which \$25 was sent to their parents.

During its years, the men planted nearly 3 billion trees to help reforest America, constructed more than 800 parks nationwide that initiated the development of most state parks, updated forest fire fighting methods, built a network of thousands of miles of public roadways, and constructed buildings connecting the nation's public lands.

"We as citizens of Michigan and the United States are still enjoying the fruits of their labor in the trees which were planted, in the development and improvements in parks, wildlife refuges and national forests," says Deren.

"The 103,000 men serving in Michigan built the lumber camp at Hartwick Pines State Park, the Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the U.P., planted 484 million trees in Michigan, fought fires and much, much more."

"Enrollee" is not based on a life of a single CCC worker, he says, but is a compilation of numerous CCC alumni he interviewed. He also in a unique way, he says, brings three CCC alumni veterans with him to every presentation. And he also encourages any CCC alumni in the area to share their experiences at the end of his program.

Deren calls his series of programs about the common people whose labor built America "The Past in Person." Others tell the stories of an 1870 lumberjack, an 1865 Civil War musician, an 1880 Upper Peninsula iron worker, an 1875 Great Lakes schooner captain, an 1870 Transcontinental Railroad engineer and an 1840 Erie Canal boat captain.

He has a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in woodwind instruments and for 15 years taught instrumental and general music in grades 4 through 12 and college.

An avid hiker, outdoorsman and amateur historian, Deren has presented his "The Past in Person" programs since 1985 in schools, libraries, state parks, museums and for historical groups.

Deren says he continues to meet CCC alumni and that they are "consistently positive and glowingly complimentary about what the CCC gave them and did for them. All said it was a beginning and a future."

"Almost all of them have expressed the wish that the organization would continue today for America's youth and give them the tools for adulthood and success that the CCC gave them from 1933-1942."

The Friends of Shiawassee also is sponsoring a presentation by Deren for the students at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

## “Shooter” to Give “Stalking” Tips

By Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board

Phil Stephens, a senior naturalist at Midland’s Chippewa Nature Center, has been “shooting” wildlife since around 1970 – first with a Kodak Instamatic, on a wilderness Canadian canoe trip, and now with a more sophisticated digital SLR.



At 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, Stephens will present an “Introduction to Nature Photography” program at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple in Saginaw. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, and free to its members. Others pay \$2 at the door.

Stephens says the No. 1 tip he offers is “to be out in nature as much as possible, preferably with your camera.”

Among the other pieces of advice he will offer to budding nature photographers seeking to capture flowers, landscapes and wildlife: Exclude everything that detracts from your main subject, which means paying attention to or manipulating the background and foreground and monitoring the sides of the frame. Understand the idea of 18 percent gray exposure control. Go where the nature is.

So where has he been in those 40 years since he took up the craft. “I have photographed in Alaskan glaciers, moose on Isle Royale, mountains in Glacier National Park, bison in Yellowstone, wintry rivers at Chippewa Nature Center, alligators in the Everglades, waterfalls in the Upper Peninsula, pronghorn on the prairies, the moon, the Big Sur in California, frigate birds in Ha-

waii, orchids and insects from various locals, and icy Hudson Bay.”

People attending March 2 can expect to see many of these images as Stephens winds through his program.

He says all the seasons have their pluses, although he has not shot as much in winter as in the other three seasons. He says he has no favorite subject but does admit that “shooting from a plane has its own challenges.”

Stephens, also the land manager at Chippewa, has a master of science in biology degree from Michigan Tech University and for five years worked with the Isle Royale Wolf Ecology Project. He was raised in Grand Rapids, and joined the Chippewa staff in 1982.

So of all those images he has taken, what ranks the highest on his scale?

“It all depends on my mood! One of the more painful, but beautiful, series I shot was of a sunset in Great Sand Dunes National Park, with amazingly ferocious mosquitoes swamping around me.”

“Also, I was able to get within 20 feet of moose at various times and live to tell the tales.”

# Calling All Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge—We Need Your Help!

By Susan Scott, Friends Board



This Spring there will be a completed **Wildlife Drive** through a portion of our refuge. Our group has been asked to help staff the observation platforms with binoculars or a spotting scope and be

available to answer questions. Ideally we would like to have volunteers out on the tour route every weekend from mid-April through October. It is an excellent chance to get out and spend time on the refuge. For those of you that are wildlife enthusiasts, now you have an even better excuse to go bird and wildlife watching!

We are also looking for people to work at the refuge headquarters on weekends during the summer to answer visitors' questions and help guide them to various areas.

The refuge staff will train all the volunteers and schedul-

ing people will be up to our Friends group. Perhaps one of you who is a great organizer would like to be in charge of the scheduling. Consider utilizing this request for volunteers as a way to help our refuge, as well as the people who will be visiting and driving along the new **Wildlife Drive**.

Please feel free to email me at [SuHunSco@aol.com](mailto:SuHunSco@aol.com) and put "Friends of SNWR" in the subject line if you are interested in helping.

## Open House...continued from page 1

sion and more. Information will be available for improvements on soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat, soil testing, land preservation and conservation easements and much more.

The Open House is intended to be an informal environment so landowners have the ability to ask one-on-one questions of the available professionals. Please feel free to contact Michelle Vander Haar at [Michelle\\_Vanderhaar@fws.gov](mailto:Michelle_Vanderhaar@fws.gov) or 989/777-5930 ext. 12, if you have any questions.

**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

Wildlife Biologist—Eric Dunton

Park Ranger (Law Enforcement)—Joe Hughes

Administrative Officer—Mary Ann Gillette

Maintenance Worker —Ken Schimp

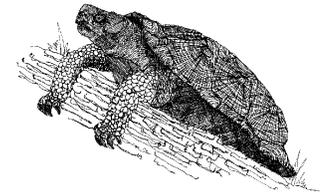
Engineering Equipment Operator—David Peters

**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)



*New Auto Tour Route—the Wildlife Drive—Opens April 15*

## Schedule Your Spring Field Trip Today

*By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager*

Spring is just around the corner and that's a perfect time to bring your students to Green Point Environmental Learning Center for a field trip! Green Point offers many different programs for you and your students to come and explore the outdoors. 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.

The refuge's new auto tour route, the **Wildlife Drive**, is another great opportunity to see wildlife and the habitat it lives in from the comfort of a vehicle. To help us track numbers, please contact Green Point to let us know when your group will be touring the area or to check if there are any road closures.

Can't come to us? We can come to you! We offer several programs for your classroom! How cool would it be for a real, live Park Ranger to visit your students? We always bring lots of interesting stuff to see and touch.

Green Point has many educational trunks covering a variety of natural resources-related topics that you can borrow for a two-week period. Each trunk contains a variety of items to enhance your curriculum including books, videos, posters, puppets, skulls, and more. All you need to do is contact Green Point to pick one up.

The refuge's environmental education programs are FREE! You can view a listing of these programs on our website (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee>) or you can call Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to request a copy be sent to you in the mail.



# Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

## 2011 Spring Calendar of Events

### Introduction to Nature Photography

March 2, 7:00 p.m.

#### Green Point ELC

Phil Stephens, a senior naturalist at Midland's Chippewa Nature Center and an accomplished nature photographer, offers tips on basic techniques for getting great shots of flowers, landscapes and wildlife. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

### Private Lands Open House

March 4, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Spaulding Township Hall

All landowners are invited to visit with various representatives on how to improve their land. Contact Michelle at (989) 777-5930, ext. 12 for more information.

### Junior Duck Stamp Contest Judging

March 24, 9:00 a.m.

#### Green Point ELC

The public is welcome to watch the judging for the state's Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

### In the Steps of John Muir

April 6, 7:00 p.m.

#### Green Point ELC

Sara and Wil Reding of Kalamazoo, known as "Rent a Rambling Naturalists," present a program on their 2006 trip retracing Muir's steps during his 1,000-mile walk, in 1867, from Indiana to the Florida Keys. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

### Guided Bicycle Tour

April 9, 8:00 a.m.

#### Ferguson Bayou Trail

Kick off your day with a relaxing bicycle ride along a portion of the Wildlife Drive and Ferguson Bayou Trail with Refuge Volunteer Maureen Tulip. You will get a sneak peak of the brand new auto tour route before it's open to vehicles. The tour will last about 2 hours. Bicycles with wider tires work best. Bring your binoculars and water.

### Guided Bicycle Tour

April 9, 1:00 p.m.

#### Ferguson Bayou Trail

Didn't make the morning ride? No problem! Refuge volunteer Maureen Tulip will lead another group out along a portion of the soon to be opened auto tour route. The tour will last about 2 hours. Bicycles with

wider tires work best. Bring your binoculars and water.

### Wildlife Drive Opens

April 15 – October 5, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### Wildlife Drive

The refuge's brand new auto tour route, the Wildlife Drive, is open every day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. through October 5. Please note that on October 1, the route will be closed in the morning for the *Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk*. There may be other times when the route is closed due to flooding, soft road conditions, severe weather, or special events.

### C.C.C. Enrollee

May 4, 7:00 p.m.

#### Green Point ELC

Michael Deren of Ann Arbor portrays, in costume, words, and music, a 1933-1941 Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) camp enrollee who goes to work for President Roosevelt and the nation to help rebuild America's natural and human resources. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

### Guided Bicycle Tour

May 14, 11:00 a.m.

#### Ferguson Bayou Trail

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a guided tour of a portion of the Wildlife Drive and the Ferguson Bayou Trail. Refuge volunteer Maureen Tulip will lead the 2 hour tour. Bring your binoculars and water. Bicycles with wider tires work best.

### Memorial Day Holiday

May 30

All offices are closed.

**\*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](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: \_\_\_\_\_

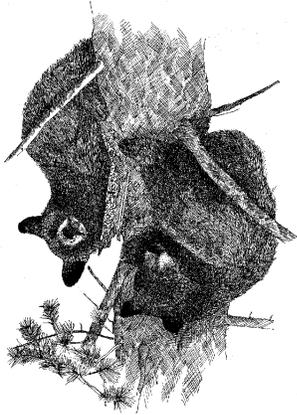
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.”

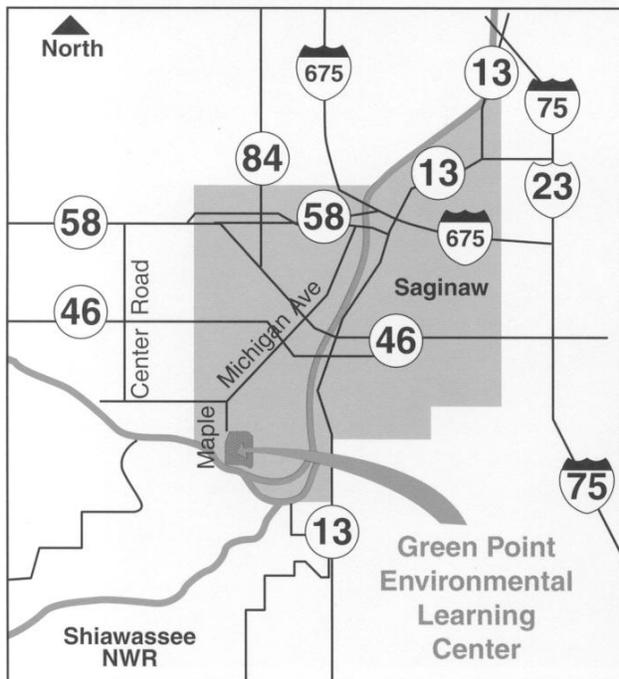


All programs begin at 7:00 p.m. at:  
Green Point Environmental Learning Center  
3010 Maple Street  
Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
(989) 759-1669

Sponsored by the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and  
Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

# 2011 Nurturing Nature Wednesday Series History hiking with John Muir, CCC, and apples

Admission \$2 per person, all ages  
FREE for members of Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and  
Midland's Chippewa Nature Center



## Directions to Green Point Environmental Learning Center

### From points north and south via I-75

Take the I-675 exit. Follow I-675 and take the Michigan Ave./Davenport Ave./M-58 exit. Get onto South Michigan Avenue and head south (towards the hospitals). Proceed on S. Michigan for almost 3.5 miles. Turn south (left) onto Maple Street and proceed 0.5 mile. Veer left at Gabriel Road. Green Point is located on the right side of the road.

### From points west via M-46/Gratiot Rd.

Take M-46/Gratiot to South Center Road. Turn south (right) onto S. Center Rd. and proceed 1 mile. Turn east (left) onto West Michigan Avenue and proceed 1.5 miles. Turn south (right) onto Maple Street and go 0.5 mile. Veer left at Gabriel Road. Green Point is located on the right side of the road.

## **Shiawassee's Wildlife Drive**

**January 5**

Refuge Manager Steven Kahl will discuss and show images of the building of the 7.5-mile, open-daily auto tour route due to debut in the spring.

## **Animal Skulls**

**February 2**

Janea Little, a senior naturalist at Midland's Chippewa Nature Center, offers tips on how to identify found animals skulls.

## **Introduction to Nature Photography**

**March 2**

Phil Stephens, a senior naturalist at Midland's Chippewa Nature Center and an accomplished nature photographer, offers tips on basic techniques for getting great shots of flowers, landscapes and wildlife.

## **In the Steps of John Muir**

**April 6**

Sarah and Wil Reding of Kalamazoo, known as Rent A Rambling Naturalists, present a program on their 2006 trip retracing Muir's steps during his 1,000-mile walk, in 1867, from Indiana to the Florida keys.

## **C.C.C. Enrollee**

**May 4**

Michael Deren of Ann Arbor portrays, in costume, words and music, a 1933-1941 Civilian Conservation Corps camp enrollee who goes to work for President Roosevelt and the nation to help rebuild America's natural and human resources.

## **La Ruta de Los Conquistadors**

**June 1**

David Burke of Midland shares images and stories of Costa Rica from his perspective - training, racing and recovering from his 2010 mountain bike race from Jaca on the Pacific coast to Limon on the Caribbean.

**July—No Program**

**August—No Program**

## **Michigan's One-room Schoolhouses**

**September 7**

Kyle Bagnall, the historian at Midland's Chippewa Nature Center, explores a typical day in the thousands of one-room schoolhouses that once dotted the state's country landscape -- and the current fate of many of these historic structures.

## **Antique Apples**

**October 5**

Jackynn Earley of Midland takes a look the world of "antique" or heritage apples which have stood the test of time -- among them the northern spy, Cortland and McIntosh but others whose names are not familiar. A sampling of apple goodies is included.

## **Junior Duck Stamp Winners**

**November 2**

Becky Goche, the refuge's visitor services manager, is the coordinator for Michigan portion of the national Junior Duck Stamp competition open to students ages 5 to 18. She will showcase the 2011 winners.

## **A Pioneer Christmas**

**December 7**

Craft tables, hot chocolate, popcorn and cookies all will play a role in this hands-on evening celebrating Christmas customs of the past and present.

Have a suggestion for a future program? Email [shiawassee@fws.gov](mailto:shiawassee@fws.gov) or call (989) 759-1669.

For information about other programs, please visit our website at [www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee).