

Refuge Reporter

Volume 14, Issue 3

Summer 2011

Water, Water, Everywhere...

by Ed DeVries, Asst. Refuge Manager

In early April I saw something on the refuge which I'd never seen before: a Canada goose nesting in a bald eagle nest. Typically bald eagles nest in mature trees and build their nests very high in the canopy. And typically, geese nest on muskrat houses or elevated ground, not in trees. This eagle nest is typical for eagles. It's over land but close to a waterway, and it's located approximately 30 feet high in the tree. This nest in fact has successfully fledged eagles in the past. But a Canada goose has been occupying the nest since early April. This observation seemed really weird to me at the time, but I found out later that although this is unusual behavior, tree-nesting geese have been documented elsewhere in the country. In fact a second goose has been using an old great-horned owl nest in another

part of the refuge, but again high in the treetop. Are these nests coincidences? And what do weird geese have to do with the title of this article?

During the middle two weeks of April, Shiawassee NWR received almost 4.5 inches of rain. Some areas north and south of here received even more precipitation. The ground was already water-soaked but with four major rivers flowing through the Shiawassee NWR, plus drainage from a number of tiled ditches and drains, we took on a lot of water during the first week of May. Many of our roads and lower dikes were overtopped with flowing water, and we suffered a critical dike breach on the Flint River. Water poured in through the break for about three days and filled the adjacent wetland which we manage as

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Special Point:

- *The eagles are incubating their eggs in their nest along the Wildlife Drive. Flood damage may also cause a delay in opening the route...we hope to open it in late June or early July.*

Green Point Is Open on Weekends for the Summer

Green Point has added weekend hours during the summer months. The center is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. These summer hours began on May 7 and will continue through August 28. Week day hours will remain 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed all federal holidays.

Several guides hikes and other programs are planned throughout the summer all over the refuge on weekends. Please note that the building may be closed while staff are doing these programs elsewhere on the refuge. Be sure to check out the calendar to see what programs interest you!

Junior Duck Stamp Winners Honored at Awards Ceremony on May 7

by Becky Goche, State JDS Coordinator



Students in grades K-12 submitted 393 pieces in this year's Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The Best of Show artwork was drawn by Paulina Tsao, age 15 of Ann Arbor. Her artwork featured a colored pencil drawing of a Northern pintail. Each state's Best of Show artwork competed in the national contest on April 15 at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum in Pennsylvania.

Michigan's artwork was judged by a panel of 5 judges on March 24 at Green Point. Contest judges included Lucetia Manwaring, Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Dale Kildee; Barb Avers, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Mike Kelly with the Conservation Fund; Dr. Eugene Beckham, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Natural Resources Department at Northwood University; and Elizabeth St. James with Ducks Unlimited.



The five judges selected the color pencil drawing of a Northern pintail by Paulina Tsao, age 15, of Ann Arbor as the State's Best of Show artwork.

This year, the judges also picked a Conservation Message winner to send onto the National competition.

Amanda Young, age 12, from Goodwillie Environmental School in Ada won. Her message: "Nature is like an hour glass, both fascinating to watch and observe and also a symbol of all we have and what remains. The question isn't how long until the sand runs out, it's who's willing to flip it over again."



Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator Becky Goche with the 2011 Best of Show winner, Paulina Tsao, following the awards ceremony on May 7. Photo by Janet I. Martineau.

On Saturday, May 7, all first through third place winners, including the Best of Show winner and Conservation Message winner, were honored at an awards ceremony held at Green Point. Two teachers—Nathan Adolphson of Siebert Elementary and St. Brigid Catholic both in Midland, and Lisa Rodammer of North Elementary in Birch Run—were also recognized for their efforts in bringing the Junior Duck Stamp program to their students. Friends of Shiawassee NWR provided a cake decorated with the Best of Show artwork.

You can view the first place winners' artwork and a list of all the other winners on the refuge website.

“La Ruta de Los Conquistadors” Bicyclist to be Featured at June Nurturing Nature Program

By Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board

To call Midland resident David Burke an avid bicycle rider is an understatement. Among his “credits” is the annual One Day Ride Across Michigan event – a little jaunt of nearly 160 miles in one day, from Montague to Bay City. He also has participated in the seven-day, 412-mile tour of Colorado known as the “Ride of the Rockies.” But those were on his road bike. On paved roads.

In April 2010 he bought his first mountain bike, hired a trainer, and in November participated in “La Ruta de Los Conquistadors” – a four-day, 240-mile ride over roads and trails, through jungles and coffee fields, across rivers and atop active volcanoes from Costa Rica’s Jaca on the Pacific coast to Limon on the Caribbean. It is considered one of the most difficult athletic events on the planet – accumulative climbing of 39,000 feet; gravel, hard-packed dirt, loose dirt, mud, sand, volcano ash surfaces; hot and humid weather to freezing cold.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, Burke will share images and stories on his training, racing and recovering from that adventure during a **Nurturing Nature** program at the Green Point Environmental Learning Center, 3010 Maple in Saginaw.

“The biggest surprise was my fourth place finish in my age category,” says Burke, 55. “There were 14 competitors in the 50 plus age category and I placed fourth. My goal had been to get fit, learn how to ride a mountain bike and just plain finish La Ruta – 25 percent (who enter) do not. To finish just off the podium was a very pleasant surprise.”

There were 194 participants overall, he says, with only 146 completing the four stages. He placed 77th overall.

Burke, a native of Ottawa, Ont., moved to Midland in 2001 to work for Dow Chemical in its finance department. He retired from the company in 2009.



“I have always been an avid cyclist. When I lived and worked in Toronto I commuted to work there on a bike. I also took bike vacations with my wife. But when I moved to Michigan I met an enthusiastic group of riders who encouraged me to pursue more biking activities, including charity rides starting in 2002 and eventually racing in 2004.”

He is a member of the Tri-City Cyclists of Bay City, Saginaw and Midland.

Training for La Ruta was a bear, says Burke. It included road biking, mountain biking and some running as well as two skills camps in Colorado Springs, Colo., and a four-day camp in Costa Rica to scout parts of the race course.

“I trained on the bike up to 18 hours a week and sessions in yoga and pilates. However, with mountain biking comes injuries so there were extended periods of time when I recovered and spent less than 6 hours a week training.”

So how did he even consider LaRuta in the first place Newly retired, in November 2009, Burke participated in a Carmichael Training System camp in Tucson, Ariz., run by former Tour de France racer Chris Carmichael. Then, in early 2010, he met up with Carmichael again at a skills camp in California.

“He told me he would be forming a team to race La Ruta and encouraged me to apply, even though I did not even own a mountain bike. I saw it as an opportunity to learn new skills, improve fitness and travel – exactly what I was interested in.”

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Water, Water, Everywhere...continued from page 1

Moist Soil Units 1, 2, and 6. Once this wetland filled, the water crept over the Wildlife Drive and filled the adjacent ditch which we call Eastwood Drain. Water also poured over a dike on the south end of the Moist Soil Unit 7, thereby filling Moist Soil Unit 6. Wetlands became small lakes without a hint of a dike between units.



Water pours into the refuge through the breached dike along the Flint River (photo above) and covers several refuge Moist Soil Units and a portion of the Wildlife Drive auto tour route (photo below). Canada geese are swimming along the route. Photos by Ed DeVries.



The waters began receding as the rivers started dropping on May 4, but a great deal of dike, road, and trail

damage has occurred. We won't know the full extent of the dike and road damage until the waters go down, but the break on the Flint River is 40 feet wide at its widest part and is likely 20 feet deep. This dike is a flood control dike so it's critical that we get it repaired quickly. Plus there will be a lot of flood debris to clean up elsewhere on the refuge once everything dries out.

A lot of wildlife was displaced during the flood also. Muskrat houses were seen floating downriver. Many turkey and goose nests were destroyed, as well as at least one sandhill crane nest. Water was high enough to flow into some of the wood duck boxes. Red-winged blackbirds were nest-building and have been set back a bit but it was probably a bit early for most other birds. And it's early enough in the year that those birds will re-nest. On the bright side most of the wildlife that inhabit wetland areas like this is adapted to survive high water events. Our wetlands were filled with water and fish, so there were new areas for fish to spawn. Herons and eagles have many more areas to feed in with all the accessible fish. We've also been shown how much water-holding capacity the refuge has, thus we can use this information for future habitat planning.

Some say that the stripes on a woolly bear caterpillar will foretell how hard the winter will be. Others look at the thickness of fur and hair on particular animals to forecast winter's cold. Could it be that in the future when we see geese nesting in trees we might think of impending spring floods? Those high-nesting Canada geese I talked about earlier are likely feeling quite smug right now, far above the water swirling below. On the other hand, the first step those goslings take will be a big one!

Meet Green Point's New Summer Park Ranger

by John K. Anderson, Park Ranger



Hello everyone! My name is John Kerr Anderson and I will be the Summer Park Ranger at Green Point Environmental Learning Center.

For the past year and a half I have been a volunteer at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge providing assistance with trail maintenance, Michigan Free Fishing weekend events, open house and clerical support.

I also volunteer with MSU Extension—Saginaw County where I help provide nutrition information in the area.

I hold a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan—Flint with a minor in economics. I have also completed two computer certifications; however, my passion for the outdoors has steered me in a different direction. I've spent a great deal of time in Northern Ontario where I have developed an appreciation for nature, hiking, and bicycling to name just a few.

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to do my part in helping make the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge the great place that it is. I do look forward to seeing you this summer! Be sure to stop by and say hi—I'm here every weekend.

"La Ruta de Los Conquistadors"...continued from page 3

Carmichael, by the way, finished third to Burke's fourth.

"I will race La Ruta again, possibly in (November) 2012, the 20th edition of the race. The Transandes Challenge is my next big event – a six-day mountain bike race across Chile in January 2012."

Nurturing Nature is sponsored by the Friends of the Shiawassee NWR. Admission to the programs is free for members and \$2 for others.

Fishing Pole Loan Program at Green Point ELC

We have several fishing poles that we loan out for use on-site during weekends in the summer. Here are the rules:

- ◆ Poles and bait (typically, corn) are for children and youth under age 17
- ◆ Poles will be loaned out on weekends between 1 pm and 4 pm only when a Park Ranger is available to help
- ◆ All poles must be turned in the same day by 4:30 pm
- ◆ Poles may only be used at Green Point's pond
- ◆ Everything that you catch has to be released back into the pond

You may come and fish at other times if you bring your own gear and bait. Please note that if you are over the age of 17, you must have a valid Michigan fishing license.

Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk is Set for September 24

By Susan Scott, Friends Board



While Spring is currently in the air, we are busily planning the next *Wild Goose Chase 5K Run/Walk* for the Fall. Imagine running through a tranquil forest with the smell of leaves and earth surrounding you, rather than car exhaust. Hear nothing but the sound of your own breathing and the birds and squirrels calling from the trees. Enjoy the feel of your shoes as

they strike gravel, grass and dirt paths, rather than hard, paved roads.

This 5K walk/run was put on a hiatus last year due to the construction of the new wildlife drive which is now

complete.

We are excited to be able to have the third running of this event take place on September 24, 2011. The walk/run will cover the trails and roads within the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

Hopefully many of you will consider joining us for this event. Runners and walkers of all ability levels and ages are welcome to participate on Saturday, September 24, 2011. In the past participants have ranged in age from 8 to 70. Be sure to save the date and start your training now!

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

Looking for Crafty People to Help with "A Pioneer Christmas" Program in December

By Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board

Got a pioneer days craft or something rooted in nature that you would like to share?

For our final *Nurturing Nature* program of 2011 on Wednesday, Dec. 7, we're trying something a little different: "A Pioneer Christmas."

Plans are to set up four or five craft stations at Green Point Environmental Learning Center where guests that night can make something to take home. They can just stay at one table, or circulate among them to take home several different creations.

Do you have a Christmas custom or craft of yore you could lead? Or something rooted in nature, to either feed the critters or celebrate the natural world? The project should take no more than 10 or 15 minutes to complete (so people can circulate among the tables), should not be labor or materials intensive, and should be family friendly so all ages can enjoy the evening.

Hot chocolate, popcorn and cookies will be served. "A Pioneer Christmas" will run from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Call Becky Goche at (989) 759-1669 to volunteer, or e-mail janetmartineau@att.net

New Logo for Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

By Janet I. Martineau, Friends Board



FRIENDS OF THE Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Check out the new upgraded logo for the Friends of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge – one incorporating two familiar refuge sights, the American bald eagle and marsh cattails, along with the outline of the Saginaw Bay/Michigan mitten's thumb.

It was designed for us by new refuge volunteer Pam Keith, a resident of Saginaw and for 25 years a graphic designer/artist for The Saginaw News. She is now a freelance artist/illustrator (contact her at pamkeith@gmail.com).

Says Pam of her Friends logo design:

“I have spotted many bald eagles and each sighting is as thrilling as the first. Its majestic flight and magnificent

beauty is a privilege to discover. Because of my own enthusiasm (and the devotion of the refuge to this bird), I incorporated the bald eagle into the Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge logo – along with Michigan's natural vegetation.

“I kept the design uncomplicated to simulate what the refuge is: a natural habitat.”

Pam also is in the process of designing a refuge pin for sale in the Friends bookstores at Green Point and at the main headquarters. And she already has designed Shiawassee NWR T-shirts, patches, mugs and hats depicting the bobolink, Eastern fox snake, northern leopard frog and Michigan lily.

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)—Kevin Shinn

Administrative Officer—Mary Ann Gillette

Maintenance Worker — vacant

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)



Green Point Now Has Weekend Hours During the Summer

Kids' Free Fishing Day to be Held June 11 at Ojibway Island in Saginaw

By Becky Goche, Visitor Services Manager

Grab your fishing poles! The annual **Kids' Free Fishing Day** is Saturday, June 11, 2011, at Ojibway Island in Saginaw. This will mark the 31st year of the contest on the Island! 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. The day coincides with Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend when a license is not needed to fish.

All children who register receive a small prize. In addition, children can win rods and reels, tackle boxes and other fishing supplies with every fish they catch.

Partnering with the refuge to hold this event are the City of Saginaw, Dow Chemical Michigan Operations

Fishing Club, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps—H.R. Doud Division, and Walt's Crawlers, Inc.

Interested in Helping?

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 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 can use hands to help in the fish return and release area. Email me at Becky_Goche@fws.gov or call me (989) 759-1669 if you can help for an hour or two or would like more information.



Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

2011 Summer Calendar of Events

La Ruta de Los Conquistadors

June 1, 7:00 p.m.

Green Point ELC

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. Admission for the program: \$2, FREE for Friends of Shiawassee NWR.

*Please note: There are no *Nurturing Nature* programs in July or August.

Leave No Trace Picnic

June 4, 11:00 a.m.

Green Point ELC

Join Park Ranger John Anderson for a hike to learn how to minimize your impact to nature when you go hiking and camping. Bring a lunch, mosquito repellent, and water.

Kids' Free Fishing Day

June 11, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Ojibway Island, Saginaw

A fishing contest for children ages 3 to 15. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Lots of prizes can be won! Bring a fishing pole and tackle. (See article)

Guided Bicycle Tour

June 18, 9:00 a.m.

Ferguson Bayou Trail (Curtis & Bishop Roads)

Park Ranger John Anderson will take you on a 2-hour, guided bike tour at the Ferguson Bayou Trail. Bicycles with wider tires work best. Dress for the weather and bring water, camera and binoculars.

Sunday Stroll

June 26, 1:00p.m.

Green Point ELC

Park Ranger John Anderson will lead you on a leisurely hike. Bring mosquito repellent.

Fourth of July Holiday

July 4

All offices are closed.

Bottomland Hardwood Forests

July 9, 9:00a.m.

Green Point ELC

Learn the unique and important features of the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem on a hike with Park Ranger John Anderson.

Guided Bicycle Tour

July 16, 9:00a.m.

Woodland Trail (Center & Stroebel Roads)

Park Ranger John Anderson will take you on a 2-hour, guided bike tour at the Woodland Trail. Bicycles with wider tires work best. Dress for the weather and bring water, camera and binoculars.

Sunday Stroll

July 24, 1:00p.m.

Green Point ELC

Park Ranger John Anderson will conduct a hike on the many trails at Green Point. Join us for a leisurely hike. Don't forget good shoes and mosquito repellent.

Tree Identification Hike

August 6, 9:00a.m.

Green Point ELC

Explore the variety of trees that grow in the area and their importance on a hike with Park Ranger John Anderson.

Guided Bicycle Tour

August 13, 9:00a.m.

Woodland Trail (Center & Stroebel Roads)

Park Ranger John Anderson will take you on a 2-hour, guided bike tour at the Woodland Trail. Bicycles with wider tires work best. Dress for the weather and bring water, camera and binoculars.

Sunday Stroll

August 21, 1:00p.m.

Green Point ELC

Park Ranger John Anderson will conduct a hike on the many trails at Green Point. Come join us for a leisurely hike. Don't forget good shoes and mosquito repellent.

Summer Weekend Hours End @ Green Point ELC

August 28

This is your last weekend day to enjoy the inside displays at Green Point. Trails and grounds remain open every day during daylight hours.

***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



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

& Partners present: 31st Annual Great Saginaw River "Kids Free Fishing Day"

Saturday
June 11, 2011
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.

Age Groups:
3-6 years old; 7-10 years old; and 11-15 years old

Equipment:
Bring your own fishing pole and gear. Limited FREE bait (worms & corn) will be available. Practice your casting skills with Saginaw County Parks and Rec. staff. Kids Free Fishing Day promotes catch and release.

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 11, 2011, 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 11, 2011 (The "Event") organized by the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), City of Saginaw, The Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Friends of Shiawassee NWR, Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation Commission, U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps-H.R. Doud Division, and Walt's Crawlers, Inc. ("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.

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: _____

This event is sponsored by: City of Saginaw, Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Fishing Club, Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps – H.R. Doud Division, and Walt's Crawlers, Inc.

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.”