

Educator's Guide



Green Point Environmental Learning Center

**Educational Facility for the
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge**

(989) 759-1669

Schedule Your Group's Field Trip Today

On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first refuge for the protection of birds at Pelican Island, Florida. Today, there are more than 540 refuges across the country with at least one in every state and U.S. territory. Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is just one of these refuges within the national network of lands. Established in October, 1953, Shiawassee NWR provides resting and feeding areas for migratory birds. It's a great place to visit and an even better place to learn!

For more information on the Shiawassee NWR, visit our website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/shiawassee>.

Green Point Environmental Learning Center, located in the southwest corner of the City of Saginaw, serves as Shiawassee NWR's educational focal point. Students of all ages are welcome to come and explore its variety of habitats. Green Point offers 2.5 miles of trails that wind through a bottomland hardwood forest, restored grassland and along the Tittabawassee River. Inside the building, a large

classroom with several displays, some featuring live animals, awaits students. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are also available.

Field trips for groups are available by reservation only. Green Point's hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed all Federal holidays). Please contact Green Point at (989) 759-1669 to schedule your group. Choose from the programs within—offered either on-site or in your classroom. Staff at Green Point prefer working with groups of 30 or less students, especially when hiking to provide a more personal experience for students. Please note that other arrangements can be made for larger groups.



A Variety of Programs to Meet Your Needs

On-Site Programs

These units are offered at Green Point, led by our staff. Each unit takes about 90 minutes. All of the programs are available year-round unless otherwise noted.

Home is Where the Habitat Is! – Discover what habitats are and how they differ. A habitat hike will introduce the basic life requirements of local wildlife. Students will make a wildlife friend to take home. PreK-3

Tracks and Traces – Learn how to identify animals by the traces they leave behind. Discover animal adaptations that allow for survival. Make your own animal tracks to take home. PreK-3

Sensing the Seasons – Come see how the plants and animals of Green Point change from season to season in this year long program. PreK-3

Bird Eye-Q – Ever wonder why birds fly south for the winter? How do biologists identify one bird from the next? Practice your skills at using a bird field guide to identify local species. Gr. 1-6

Forest Apartment – The forest community can be divided into many layers, much like an apartment building. See what happens at each layer. No Winter program. Gr. 1-3

Water Wonderland – Experience the water cycle. Learn the steps of the cycle and properties of water. Gr. 1-3

Micro World – Learn the parts of a microscope and how to use it. Use the video microscope to study microscopic life in Green Point Pond. No Winter program. Gr. 4-12

Migration Mapping – Study bird migration in depth. Using an 18' x 18' floor map, students learn about bird ranges, flyways and more! Socks required! Gr. 4-12

Insect Safari – Collect and study insects to discover the health of a prairie. Use a field guide to identify insects. No Winter program. Gr 4-12

Web of Life – Students learn about interrelationships of living organisms by building a food web. Gr. 4-6

What's a Tree? – Learn about tree parts and their functions. Identify local trees. Build a human "tree." Gr. 4-6

In-School Programs

We bring our activities to you! These programs are 1 – 2 hours in length.

Careers in the Fish and Wildlife Service – Through an open discussion with a Refuge staff person, your students will learn what it takes to be a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team. Grades 6 – 12.

Endangered Species – Students will see a variety of endangered species and illegal wildlife trade items. Good for all grades.

Birds of Prey – Discover the world of hawks, eagles and owls. "Soar" with a life-size pair of Bald Eagle wings. Good for all grades.

ToxRAP – Students will learn about environmental health hazards through stories, games and activities. A nine week program or less. Grades K – 6.

Let's Build a Refuge! – Students will learn what it takes to build a National Wildlife Refuge. Grades 4 – 6.

Classroom Trunks

Borrow for two weeks to use in your classroom. The trunks can be used for any grade level. Call to schedule pick up and drop off times.

Cargo for Conservation – A good kick-off for studying endangered species! Includes informational materials, activity ideas, reproducible coloring pages with student information, lesson plans, pamphlets, posters and wildlife parts and products actually confiscated at and within U.S. borders.

Michigan Natural Resources – This trunk is a collection of materials covering forest, soil and wildlife. It includes informational materials, activity ideas, posters, track casting materials, forestry measuring devices and much more.

Prairie Discovery – This trunk was designed with subject-oriented learning materials and educational tools to be used by groups of any age.

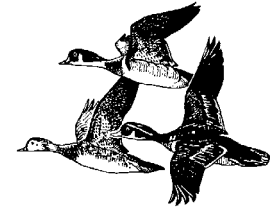
The Activity Guide contains nine units that concentrate on specific aspects of the prairie ecosystem. A variety of educational videos, books, posters and even a buffalo costume are included!

Shorebirds – Learn about the natural history of shorebirds. This integrated teaching unit contains an activity guide, posters, maps, puppets, binoculars, and a variety of books.

Songbirds – Learn about the natural history of migratory songbirds, their other life in Latin America and the increasing problems birds face in their homes. The trunk contains an activity guide, posters, maps, puppets, and a variety of books.

Wetlands Discovery – This trunk helps your students learn about wetlands. It includes background information, videos, posters, books, curricula, activity guide, artifacts, audio cassettes, puppets, props and more!

Wolf Wonders – Explore the world of one of America's endangered species, the wolf. The trunk includes activity ideas, books, a video, a wolf skull and a wolf skin.



Jr. Duck Stamp Program

Shiawassee NWR is home to the Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program for the State of Michigan. It features a dynamic, active, arts curriculum designed to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. This nation wide program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum. There are awards and scholarships for students, teachers and schools who participate. Contest deadline is March 15, 2006. For more information on the Jr. Duck Stamp program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>.

Green Point Environmental Learning Center

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