



# EXPLORING NATURE PROGRAMS

## VAN RIPER STATE PARK JULY 7 TO JULY 11, 2009

**TUESDAY, JULY 7**

### State Employee Furlough Day

*Sorry, No Programs are scheduled for today. Please check the schedule and join us soon!*



### Did you know?

The American beaver was trapped for its fur almost to extinction in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Due to habitat protection and trapping laws, this mammal had made almost a full recovery by the 1940s. The beaver plays a crucial role in wetland creation and restoration.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**

### Who's Being Green? 7 pm

Join the Explorer Guide to discover how your Michigan State Parks are going green. We'll also take a stroll through the campground to discover who is the greenest camper of them all.



**THURSDAY, JULY 9**

### Makin' Tracks 5 pm

#### Meet at the Pavilion

Get your detective skills in gear as we learn how to uncover clues of an animals' presence. Then, we'll be making our own keepsake tracks on the beach of Lake Michigamme.



### Into the Darkness 9:30 pm

Join the Explorer Guide on this short hike to compare the adaptations of nocturnal animals with our own human abilities.



**FRIDAY, JULY 10**

### Energy Lessons for Youth with Guest Speaker from Northern Options 3 pm Pavilion

Join us for this very special program with Mr. TJ Brown from Northern Options in Marquette. We'll be learning all about energy conservation and alternative energies with hands-on activities!



### Weatherization with Guest Speaker from Northern Options (Adult oriented program) 7 pm

Join us for free professional advice on how and why to weatherize your home and business. Find out what the best investments are and what gimmicks should be avoided.

**SATURDAY, JULY 11**

### Survival 101 2 pm

Discover the basic essentials when a leisurely hike turns into a struggle for warmth and shelter.



### Fishing in the Parks 6:30 pm

Meet across from the Peshekee Cabin (the south side of US-41). Learn to Fish! Some fishing poles will be provided, but please bring your own pole if you have one. No fishing license needed for those 17 and under.



*For more information, contact: Van Riper State Park, (906) 339-4461. Programs will meet at the Campfire Circle (behind site 17) unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. Come prepared for weather and bugs. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.*

**Motor Vehicle Permit required for park entry.**

**Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors**



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## VAN RIPER STATE PARK JULY 12-JULY 18, 2009

**TUESDAY, JULY 14**

**Stump the Explorer Guide and Discovery Box**  
5 pm

Think your nature knowledge is up-to-snuff? Come find out by asking the Explorer Guide a nature question you know the answer to. Prizes to be won if you can stump the Explorer Guide!



**Into the Darkness**  
9:30 pm

**Meet at the Pavilion**

Compare your human abilities to those of nocturnal animals with a few activities and a short night hike.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

**Fish Cleaning and Prep**  
3 pm

Ok, you've caught the fish...now what? Find out how to properly clean and prepare your fish with a demonstration by one of Van Riper's experienced fishermen.



**Mammal Mania**  
7 pm

Come learn all sorts of facts about all sorts of mammals that are native to the Upper Peninsula.



**THURSDAY, JULY 16**

**Wetland Discovery**  
3 pm  
**Meet at the Boat Launch**

Join the Explorer Guide to search for some wetland dwellers and to discover why wetlands are so important.



**Wildfire Watch**  
7 pm

Discover why natural wildfires are important to an ecological cycle and how human-caused or threatening wildfires are fought with DNR Park Officer and firefighter Mike Knack.



**FRIDAY, JULY 17**

**Bird Nerds**  
6 pm  
**Pavilion**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO MAKE A BIRD FEEDER**

Pre-register by Thursday, 10 pm at the Campground Office to make a way-cool bird feeder and learn all about the adaptations of different birds.



**Bats and Owls**  
7:30  
**Pavilion**

After you've perfected your bird feeder, stick around a little while longer as we learn about the majestic owls and the bats that soar the skies.

**SATURDAY, JULY 18**

**The Van Riper Green Team**  
2 pm

Join the Explorer Guide to find out how Michigan State Parks are going green. Then, we'll take a stroll around the campground to see who's the greenest camper of them all!



**Fishing in the Parks**  
6:30 pm

**Meet across from the Peshekee Cabin (the south side of US-41)**  
Learn to fish! Fishing poles are provided, but please bring your own pole if you have one. No fishing license needed for those under age 17.

For more information, contact: **Van Riper State Park, (906) 339-4461**. Programs will meet at the Campfire Circle (behind site 17) unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. Come prepared for weather and bugs. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

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