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Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center
 34270 C.R. 652, Mattawan, MI 49071 • 269.668.2876 • mcmillans1@michigan.gov

Summer Newsletter 2010

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors • www.michigan.gov/dnrevisitorcenters

HATCHERY

Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center



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HATCHERY

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HAPPENINGS

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The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to the conservation, protection, management, and accessible use and enjoyment of the state's environment, natural resources, and related economic interests for current and future generations.

FRIDAY NIGHT FISHING NEW IN 2010

Can't make it to a Saturday fishing program with your kids? Look no further! Join us the third Friday of the month in June, July and August with your kids for an opportunity to land a lunker in our half-acre show pond. Time slots are available at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. for children ages 6-16. Pre-registration is required.

LITTLE MINNOW FISHING NEW IN 2010

This program is for our newest anglers ages 3 - 5. Small groups will allow staff to spend more one-on-one attention with our young anglers to help them learn the basics of fishing. Little Minnow Fishing will be available on the first and third Saturday of June, July and August at 9 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

SUMMER FISHING DAYS

Our wildly popular catch and release fishing program is back again but with new morning time slots at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. every Saturday, June - August. For children ages 6 - 16. Pre-registration is required.

KIDS SUMMER 2010 FISHING PROGRAMS

Get ready for some good times on our half-acre show pond. Thousands of our finned friends swim its depths looking for a good meal and - we hope - a tasty worm on the end of your youngster's fishing line!

Back by popular demand, newly updated and expanded, the visitor center is proud to offer a variety of fun and exciting fishing programs for kids throughout the summer. All equipment is provided; programs take place rain or shine and all programs are catch and release. Call today to register your child!



Kids will fish from the shore of the visitor center show pond that is filled with a variety of fish including steelhead trout and chinook salmon.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2010

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Hours of Operation

Memorial Day - Labor Day
 Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 Open Holidays

Spring (March - May) and Fall (September - October), weekends in November
 Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Sunday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Closed Monday

How To Get To The Visitor Center...

- Located just 6 miles west of U.S. 131 on M-43.
- From Kalamazoo go west on M-43 from 131 toward South Haven.
- Turn left (south) onto Fish Hatchery Rd.
- Take the 2nd drive on your right.

Address and Contact

Information of Visitor Center:
 Michigan Department
 of Natural Resources and Environment
 Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center
 34270 C.R. 652
 Mattawan, MI 49071

For more information about events and programs, please contact the visitor center at 269-668-2876 or visit the Michigan DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnrevisitorcenters





Bullfrogs eat just about anything they can swallow including insects, fish, small snakes and turtles, mice and birds. See our aquarium animals feed during the "Feeding Frenzy" program.

FEEDING FRENZY

Weekdays at noon

Back by popular demand, this program will take place weekdays at noon throughout the summer. See our aquarium animals fed and learn about their different feeding habits in the wild. How does a lake sturgeon eat without any teeth? Why do some fish eat only plants and others eat insects? This short, 15 – 20 minute program is perfect lunchtime entertainment for all ages.

SUMMER GARDEN TOURS

Join us to smell, touch and see our gardens teeming with over 40 species of native flowers and grasses. Learn which kinds of plants attract birds and butterflies, and learn how to identify different plant species. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17 and Wednesday, July 21 and last approximately one



Lance-leaf Coreopsis blooms a beautiful yellow, May - August and requires full sun. Learn how you can incorporate this and other native wildflowers into your gardens to attract a variety of birds and butterflies at our Summer Garden Tours.

hour. Groups of 10 or more are required to make a reservation. If your group is unable to attend one of the scheduled programs, we may be able to accommodate your group at another time. Please call the visitor center for more information.

RARE BIRD AT WOLF LAKE

Friday April 30, 2010 proved to be a great day for birders in the area when a rare Yellow-headed Blackbird was spotted by visitor Tom Lechleitner. Closely related to meadowlarks, the robin-sized birds have a brilliant yellow head and have a unique less-than-musical song that has been compared to the sound of a chainsaw! Historically found in the western United States, it is believed that a combination of drought and wetland drainage led to the species expanding its range further east in the 1930's.

Though still considered a rare summer visitor, the yellow-headed blackbird is found most commonly in Michigan in the Saginaw Bay area.

The marshy habitat of cattails and reeds on the edges of hatchery ponds provide favorable breeding habitat. A female has not yet been spotted but visitor center staff are keeping a watchful eye with the hopes that a mate may soon make its way to pair up with the male.

FISHIN' WEATHER PROJECT

Visitor center staff has begun working with members of The Fishin' Weather Project to help create a variety of fishing opportunities for its members. Started in 2009 by Kalamazoo business owner Paul Frazier, the program is, "Intended to introduce urban youth to opportunities outside the boundaries of their neighborhoods, through meteorology and fishing." Based out of Millwood Magnet School in Kalamazoo, the project has approximately twelve, 6th – 8th grade members that meet weekly during the spring and several days a week for much of the summer. Originally funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the project as grown into a community-wide project involving several

local organizations and businesses including but not limited to; the Kalamazoo Nature Center (thank you Richard Chamberlin!), Gander Mountain and Strong Performance Charters (see sidebar).



Hatchery tours are a visitor favorite and offer the chance to see a variety of fish species including the prehistoric and threatened lake sturgeon.



THANK YOU!

Strong Performance Charters graciously donated a day of fishing on Lake Michigan for members of The Fishin' Weather Project. They have locations in South Haven and Ludington.

Check out their website at www.strongperformancecharters.com.

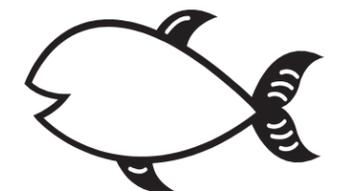
HATCHERY TOURS

Get a firsthand look at how the Michigan DNRE raises millions of fish each year through one of our daily public tours! Visitors on our summer tours can expect to see steelhead trout and lake sturgeon. Tours last approximately 30 minutes, are appropriate for all ages and are handicapped accessible. Public tours are available:

Memorial Day – Labor Day:

- Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. only

Groups of 10 or more individuals must call ahead and reserve a private group tour. Please call the visitor center for further information.



FUN FRIDAYS ARE BACK AGAIN!

Ever wonder what kind of birds are behind the bird calls you hear every morning? Or maybe you're interested



Visitors search the hatchery grounds for frogs and toads on our "Finding Frogs and Tracking Toads" program. Join us to see what we can find this summer!

in learning about mammals in Michigan. Kids and adults alike will enjoy learning about nature in Michigan by attending our interactive programs every Friday, all summer long! Topics may include but are not limited to birds, insects, snakes, turtles, frogs and more! Programs are at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and approximately 45 minutes in length. Pre-registration is not required. For more information and topic specific dates, contact the visitor center.



PRAIRIE PLANTING AND MORE

Historically abundant in Michigan, prairie habitat in the state has declined to just a fraction of its former land acreage. Many of the insects, birds and butterflies that evolved over millions of years depend on the specific plants found in prairies. They have suffered with the loss of habitat. Over the last several years, a number of gardens have been created on the hatchery grounds to create habitat that had been lost, add natural beauty and reduce mowing.

Another leg of the project began last fall and will be completed this spring with the addition of a native prairie on a half-acre portion of the large lawn area to the west of the visitor center building. A special thank you to Ilse Gebhard of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo, private donations, visitor center and hatchery staff who have worked hard to make these gardens possible.

