

# Outdoor Adventure Center Newsletter

## Fall 2020

### Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure staff

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### Convenient online registration

Our online registration system will facilitate registration for programs, reservations for birthday parties, booking a scout badge workshop or purchasing a family membership. By clicking on <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>, you will find all options that are available for online registration. In order to register, you will need to create an account using your email address and a password. This will allow you to securely check out once you register. You will also be able to view past registrations and activities. If you have any questions about this site, please email DNR-[OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:OAC@michigan.gov).

### Annual family membership

During the COVID-19 closure, we have been in contact with our member families. All membership expirations have been extended to reflect the months that the OAC is unavailable to our members. We value your membership and look forward to seeing our members in the building again. Once we reopen, members will be notified for a special “members-only” event!

While we are closed, online purchasing has been paused. Once we reopen, annual memberships can be purchased online at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog> for \$50 for up to five members of the same household. For an additional \$25, you can bring up to two guests any time you visit the OAC.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission for one year from the date of purchase.
- \$30 discount on Lodge birthday packages.
- Exclusive, early admission to select special events.
- First glance (before the general public) at all newsletters.
- Members-only adventure packs (for use during your visit).
- Special pricing or early registration for select events.
- Early seating for popular programs.

### Employee spotlight

#### Meet Casey Jezewski

Meet Ms. Casey Jezewski. She was born and raised Downriver. She has been with the Outdoor Adventure Center for the past year.

Casey resides in Wyandotte with her boyfriend Ryan and pet axolotl (a Mexican salamander).

She earned her bachelor's degree in marine biology from Bowling Green State University.

When she is not working at the OAC, you may find her at one of her other jobs at the Huron-Clinton Metroparks or Ann Arbor Forest School.

Casey's favorite outdoor activities are skiing and camping. Some of her earliest memories include skiing in northern Michigan with her family. She loves exploring new areas and finds that camping is the most affordable way to do that. Her favorite campground (so far) is at Port Crescent State Park. Her goal is to one day hike and camp on Isle Royale.

When asked what she enjoys about working at the OAC, Ms. Jezewski says that it is helping a guest experience something for the first time. Casey says, "whether it's a child catching their first fish, or a grandfather enjoying his first s'more, and I always have fun at the Girls Night Outdoors events because it is fun to watch adults act like kids again."

We love Casey's enthusiasm and energy and we can't wait to see what programs she comes up with next!

## Behind the Scenes

### Happy 5th birthday, OAC

This July, we celebrated five years of fun! Here are some OAC building history highlights.

1892

Detroit Dry Docks Building, later known as the Globe Building. The complex is significant as a historic maritime manufacturing facility. The earliest of the six structures was an 1892 machine shop where our "welcome elk" stands today. Our building is an example of an industrial building entirely supported by its steel frame that used traditional brick to act as an infill curtain.

2013

Michigan DNR acquires the building.

2014

Work begins to rejuvenate the 122-year-old facility.

June 20, 2014

Mayor Duggan and Governor Snyder sign the Grand Bargain at the OAC – the next day exhibit construction begins.

Sept. 18, 2014

Berry Gordy receives the inaugural Detroit Legend award during first Crain's Homecoming event – the OAC hosts this event before exhibits have been completed.

July 16, 2015

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a community event.

July 20, 2015

We host our grand opening celebration.

July 20, 2020

Our 5th birthday – we have delayed celebrating at this time.

In 2020, we are working hard to reopen. We are offering virtual programming. We are dedicated to finding ways to engage all of our friends.

It's been just five fast years, and over half a million guests later, we continue to grow in purpose and mission – committed to serving our guests. We hope you will join us as we move into our next five years!

## Introducing our new “Critter Room!”

During this closure, we have been working hard to enhance your visit. The Critter Room has been one of our favorite projects. While we have had a captive black rat snake that comes out on occasion to interact with guests and visiting students for a couple of years now, we’ve decided it is time to upgrade our live animal experiences! Upon reopening, we will be offering designated Critter Room visit times and programs in one of our classrooms for visiting guests. In addition to our black rat snake, we will have an eastern box turtle, a small live amphibian display, and the opportunity to view our live lake sturgeon and sea lamprey up close. An educator will be present in the room to share information and answer your questions. We’re looking forward to bringing you closer to some of Michigan’s fascinating native wildlife species!

## Grant-funded fisheries education

In spring 2019, the Outdoor Adventure Center received a grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to incorporate the Michigan Fisheries Education Initiative into our school programming. OAC staff designed a three-phase program geared toward middle school and high school students, which would run throughout the school year. Overall goals for the program include:

- Enhance students’ knowledge and awareness of the Great Lakes ecosystem and how fisheries management contributes to the health of the Great Lakes and its fish populations.
- Introduce the concept of invasive species management in fisheries with a focus on how invasive sea lamprey are managed in the Great Lakes.
- Introduce the concept of habitat restoration for native species with a focus on lake sturgeon and how fisheries scientists are bringing back lake sturgeon in the St. Clair-Detroit River system.
- Raise students’ awareness of how their actions can have a positive impact on the Great Lakes.
- Foster an appreciation for the sport of fishing, and encourage students to become lifelong anglers and/or stewards of the Great Lakes.

Seven schools participated in the program this year, totaling approximately 450 students ranging from grades six through 12, within the cities of Detroit, Ypsilanti and Battle Creek. Phase 1 of the program included a visit to their school from OAC staff, with an introductory Michigan fisheries program. Phase 2 included a visit for students to the OAC with a program focused either on lake sturgeon or sea lamprey – featuring an up-close encounter with live sturgeon and lamprey in the OAC classroom. The plan was for Phase 3 to be an outdoor fishing experience including interactive activities with local aquatic science professionals. Unfortunately Phase 3 could not take place in the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19. However, OAC staff and participating partners have been able to substitute virtual experiences where we can, ensuring students receive the highest-quality experience possible.

We look forward to continuing this successful program so we can help shape Michigan’s Great Lakes stewards for tomorrow. We would like to thank the following organizations and partners who have contributed to the success of this program: the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition, DNR Fisheries Division, DNR Law Enforcement Division, Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Michigan Sea Grant, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Preuss Pets, St. Clair – Detroit River Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Huron- Clinton Metroparks, Wayne County Parks, and Trout Unlimited – Clinton Valley Chapter.

While we are pausing the MFEI program for the 2020/2021 school year, we look forward to picking it up again for new students in the fall of 2021!

## Meet the Friends of the Outdoor Adventure Center Board of Directors

- Harvey “Chip” Amoe – Director of Sustainability, Henry Ford Health System
- Angela Ayers – Government Policy Initiatives Manager, Ford Motor Company
- Kevin Vettraino – Manager of Economic and Community Vitality, SEMCOG
- Carter Bundy – Account Executive, Rocket Fiber
- Charlie DeVries – Manager, Customer Relations, and Community Education, ITC Holdings Corp.

- Andrea LaFontaine – Executive Director, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

This terrific group has joined together to guide the growth of our new Friends group. We are so appreciative to have the talent and commitment of each member of this group.

Their first project at the Outdoor Adventure Center will be our long-awaited Donor Wall. Exhibits and special events at the OAC rely on additional funding provided by donors, and this wall will be a magnificent way to spotlight our team of donors.

Let's learn more about the creative team behind the Donor Wall project. Israel and Erik Nordin of the Detroit Design Center created the "DBurst" sculpture used in the New Year's Eve ball drops at Campus Martius and the Grandmont Rosedale neighborhood bike racks, and they were founding fathers of the Detroit Design Festival. These brothers were born and raised in Michigan, and their studio is located in Detroit on Michigan Avenue. They specialize in glass, metal, wood and other mediums. Together they create fine art and functional objects.

When talking about the Nordin brothers, our Friends group chair Andrea LaFontaine says, "We enjoy opportunities where our worlds collide; outdoor recreation/trails and art, with the hope of leaving a meaningful legacy project for everyone to enjoy."

This year is the fifth anniversary of the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center, and the installation of the Donor Wall is the fledgling Friends group's very first contribution. We are hoping for a September installation and invite everyone to join us when this dynamic piece is unveiled.

Would you like to join our Friends Group? We are looking for members to help create meaningful exhibits and programs that "Inspire, Educate and Connect" our guests to Michigan's natural, cultural and historic resources. Learn more by emailing [friendsoftheoac@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheoac@gmail.com).

## What's new at the OAC?

### KultureCity provides OAC staff training

The Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center has earned 100% staff certification with KultureCity. We are joining over 550 locations nationwide that have been trained to better engage with guests with sensory needs.

Guests with sensory needs can review our enhanced social story to prepare for their visit. Families can be assured that tools are readily available to help those with sensory needs navigate our facility – including headphones, fidgets, communication cards for our nonverbal guests and more!

Kulture City makes the "nevers" possible by creating sensory accessibility and inclusion for guests of all abilities. We are proud to join their team.

## Meeting/event space

Bringing "up north, downtown" is what we do at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

There is no other meeting room in the OAC that says that more than the Lodge.

A 16-foot varnished pine table, made just for the Lodge, is the centerpiece of this room, which seats up to 12 of your guests. All four seasons are distinguishably displayed on each wall. A moose and elk adorn our log cabin. There's also a faux fireplace that adds to the Lodge's coziness.

As with all our rental spaces, the Lodge comes with complimentary audio-visual equipment, which includes a 60-inch TV that is computer-compatible for your presentations. White boards, markers and flip charts are also available with our compliments. There are also two 8-foot-long matching pine tables, which can be used for food, beverages or other items.

Consider hosting your board meetings, quaint engagements or other social gatherings in the Lodge at the OAC.

Contact promotional agent Jackie Hoskins at 844-622-6367 or email [DNR-OAC@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@michigan.gov) for more information or to arrange a site visit of the event spaces at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

## You should visit ... Gogebic State Park

Located on the edge of an extensive upland area set in the heart of the Ottawa National Forest, Lake Gogebic State Park is an ideal point from which to explore the western Upper Peninsula. Many points of interest are within easy reach of the park. Bond Falls and Agate Falls are to the east, the beautiful falls and rapids of the Black River and Presque Isle River to the northeast and the magnificent Porcupine Mountains and Lake Superior to the north.

Lake Gogebic State Park covers 360 acres and nearly a mile of lake frontage on the west shore of the largest inland lake in the Upper Peninsula. About 30 campsites are located directly on the lakefront, and the rest are nestled among the trees, not more than 100 yards from the lake.

The park is located on M-64 between U.S. 2 and M-28.

## Attention teachers: Register now for one of our virtual school programs!

### Register online for a virtual field trip

Allow us to visit you virtually! Choose from our list of virtual school program offerings to help keep your students engaged with Michigan's natural resources and the outdoors this school year. See our current offerings below, which include programs for grades pre-K through 12. The experience will be live with one of our educators, and will be approximately 45 minutes in length. Programs are NGSS-aligned, and additional pre- and post-lesson resources will be included.

Each program session of no more than 40 students costs \$40, paid in advance by check or charge (preferred). An educator will contact the teacher to discuss delivery details for the virtual experience prior to confirmation.

### **Animal ABC's (pre-K)**

Practice letters and spelling virtually with Michigan wildlife! Learn about Michigan species and the differences between mammals, birds and reptiles through stories, rhymes, and virtual exploration of their characteristics featuring a few of the OAC's live animals. We'll also discuss differences between wild and domestic animals.

### **Wild in Michigan (grades K-2)**

All animals have the same basic survival needs – food, water, shelter, and space – the components that make up a habitat. In this virtual program we'll take a closer look at several Michigan wildlife species from mammals to birds to reptiles and compare and contrast some of their specific habitat needs.

### **Trappers and Traders (grades 3-5)**

Detroit was founded in 1701 as a fur-trading post in the wilderness. Join us for a virtual exploration the abundant natural resources and the lives of both Native Americans and settlers during that time, featuring footage of some historical locations and land features that we can observe in the area today.

### **Great Lakes Invaders (grades 3-5)**

What does it mean to be invasive? How are invasive species in the Great Lakes different from our native species? We'll answer these questions and more while we introduce several of our Great Lakes invaders in our virtual program. We will also have the chance to meet one of our most destructive invaders – the sea lamprey.

### **Migration Science - Featuring Southeast Michigan Osprey (grades 6-8)**

Bird migration is an absolutely incredible feat, but to make the journey, migratory birds still require the basic needs – food, water, shelter, and space – as they migrate. How do birds know where to fly? How do they know where to stop for food and rest? How have humans impacted bird migration over the last several decades? We'll answer these questions and more in our virtual program, as we take a closer look at one local migratory species – the osprey. We'll track the migratory journeys of actual osprey, and see how local biologists have used technology to track their migration.

## White-tailed Deer - Coming to a Neighborhood Near You! (grades 9-12)

Have you been seeing more of Michigan's state mammal in your community? You're not alone! Numbers of white-tailed deer have gone up significantly in recent years – especially in our cities and suburbs! Join us to take a look at the reasons behind this increase, its ecological impact, and the unique challenges this mammal has created for citizens, municipalities, and wildlife managers in Michigan's urban areas.

## Recreation Passport

### Cost/where to purchase/details

PLEASE NOTE: As of March 1, 2020, the Recreation Passport vehicle entry fee increased to \$12 due to a statutory provision to adjust the fee based upon the Consumer Price Index.

- Vehicles: \$12 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Vehicles: \$17 when purchased at state parks, DNR customer service centers\* (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle. (Recreation Passport fee + \$5 convenience fee = \$17).
- Motorcycles: \$6 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Motorcycles: \$11 (\$6 passport fee, plus \$5 convenience fee) when purchased at state parks and DNR customer service centers\* (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle.
- Moped: \$6 when purchased at state parks.
- Commercial daily pass: \$17 when purchased at state parks (24,000-plus pounds and/or seating capacity of 16-plus).
- A resident Recreation Passport cannot be purchased online.
- The purchase of a separate Recreation Passport is required for any hitched or unhitched towed vehicles.

\*The option to purchase passports at DNR customer service centers is temporarily unavailable. You can still purchase passports in person at state parks and recreation areas.

The \$5 convenience fee will not be applied to purchases made at/for:

- Belle Isle Park.
- Non-street-legal vehicles at the Silver Lake State Park ORV area.
- Non-annual renewing vehicles (ie. historical/authentic, street-legal moped, tribal government, dealer, temporary, manufacturer, non-profit organization (Y) plates).
- Mopeds (a moped Recreation Passport is not available for purchase at the Secretary of State, so the \$5 convenience fee does not apply).
- Commercial vehicles.

Thank you for supporting your state parks by purchasing your Recreation Passport and by visiting our beautiful state parks.

## Who wore it best?

The adventure buff (a head wrap that can be worn many different ways) is the signature souvenir for the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. Submit a photo of yourself, members of your family or a whole group wearing the OAC buff. Each newsletter, we are going to select the best submissions and award prizes. Simply post your best photo to our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MiOutdoorAdventureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MiOutdoorAdventureCenter).

Start snapping those selfies – we can't wait to see your best photos.

## Outdoor Adventure Center contact information

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This newsletter is posted on our website and is available by email.

Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](https://michigan.gov/OAC) and click on “About Us” and look for the red envelope to sign up.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [Michigan.gov/DNR](https://michigan.gov/DNR).