

# Outdoor Adventure Center

## MARCH – APRIL 2021

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### Convenient Online Registration

The online registration system will facilitate registration for all programs offered at the OAC. At <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:DNR-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 has been 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.

### Spring Brings Change: My Study of Lepidoptera

By Katie Gillies

In the weeks approaching March, I've enjoyed hearing the songs of birds in the morning. I've enjoyed the extra slivers of sunlight and have been keeping a countdown until we get our extra hour back! I am looking forward to spring bird migration – one of my absolute favorite times of year! And I've been looking forward mostly to my favorite summer friends – caterpillars. For the past few springs and summers, I have had the pleasure of learning to raise caterpillars. They are the larvae of my favorite group of insects, Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).

Right now, in my refrigerator, sits a container filled with about 30 giant silk moth cocoons, which were spun in late summer by the caterpillars I raised last year. Inside of those cocoons are the pupa of the moths. But let's back up a little bit and talk about giant silk moths and their life cycle in the wild. Adult moths will emerge from their cocoons (where they spend the entire winter) in late spring and early summer. As adults, giant silk moths do not eat, they live for just a few days, and in those few days they have just one mission – find a mate. Once they have found a mate, the female of the pair will find a leaf on the species of plant that is just right for her offspring to eat, and she will lay eggs there.

From those eggs will hatch some very small, very hungry caterpillars in their first instar. An instar is basically the first stage of being a caterpillar (most silk moths will go through five different instars). They will instantly begin munching on the leaves of their host plant, and they will grow rapidly. As they get larger, caterpillars will shed their skin. Each time they shed, they will enter another instar. For some caterpillars, every time they shed into a new instar, they look totally different from the instar before! It takes a few weeks for giant silk moth caterpillars to grow to full size, and once they reach their largest size (sometimes as large and wide as the average person's index finger) and they feel they have had enough to eat, they will begin the process of spinning a silk cocoon. This is where they spend the whole winter, as a pupa, waiting to emerge in the warm spring air as an adult moth – looking for a mate to start the whole process over again!

The cocoons in my refrigerator are there because the pupa need to remember that it is currently winter outside. Once we are closer to having leaves on the trees again (a food source for caterpillars) and having other moths out and about (potential mates), I will take the cocoons out of the refrigerator. With a few weeks of warmth, adult moths should emerge, which I will then release outside. And if I am lucky, I will be able to acquire some eggs to start this spring and summer hobby all over again!

I find raising caterpillars, whether butterflies or moths, to be a fascinating and educational summer hobby. So, how could you get started raising caterpillars of your own? You can certainly search through tree leaves in the spring and summer for eggs or caterpillars! But often you can find other folks who partake in this ongoing hobby, and they might just be willing to share some of their friends with you! For example, [Nature Discovery](#) often has programs in the spring you can attend to learn more about these fascinating friends and take a few home with you. Happy spring!

## Live from the Great Outdoors: Virtual Programs for Every Age

Join us online this spring for public virtual programming in March and April. Our programs will be hosted on Zoom and Facebook Live and will include a combination of live presentation, video, and time for Q & A. We hope you join us to learn something new and ask any questions you might have. We encourage you to sign-up and add the programs to your calendar, so you don't miss out on the fun!

### Make a Backyard Pollinator Habitat

Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

As a follow-up to February's "Make a Backyard Habitat" program, we'll focus specifically on making your yard welcoming for some of the most important animals on the planet – our insect pollinators! We'll look at bees, butterflies and other lesser-known, but no less important, pollinator species. You'll learn what will attract them,

plus what they will need throughout the summer and the rest of the year, so you can help sustain a healthy pollinator population in your neighborhood. Your garden (and your neighbor's gardens!) will thank you!

[Register for Make A Backyard Pollinator Habitat.](#)

## Birding for Beginners – Get Ready for Spring

Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m.

Over the past year, birding has become more popular than ever – now's the time to jump on the bandwagon! Spring is the perfect time to start – you can see migrant birds as well as those setting up nesting territories here in southeast Michigan. We will go over the basics of bird ID, including some tips and tricks to help the newbie get started. We'll also provide recommendations of some great local spots you should visit this spring to start your new favorite hobby!

[Register for Birding for Beginners – Get Ready for Spring.](#)

## Enjoy the Great Outdoors Safely With the OAC

We are excited to take our engaging family-friendly programs to the outdoors. We will use the outdoor spaces surrounding the OAC to bring the following programs to your family. Preregistration is required in order to meet Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for outdoor gatherings. The link to register is listed below each program. For everyone's safety, face masks must be worn (except for those participants under 3 years old), and social distancing is required for non-family members throughout the outdoor program.

### Wonderful Wetlands

Saturday, March 20 from 1-2 p.m.

Join us for a hike through the Milliken State Park wetland to learn about the rich wildlife habitat, history and breathtaking views the park has to offer! Discover the ecological significance of wetlands through a fun, interactive activity. This hike will be 1 mile long and will be wheelchair-friendly.

Fee: \$2 per person

[Register for Wonderful Wetlands.](#)

### Fishing the Detroit River

Saturday, April 3 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Put your casting skills to good practice while fishing the Detroit River at Milliken State Park. Try your luck at adding your catch to our daily leaderboard! This will be a great program for all experience levels. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring their own gear, and staff can assist with setup if needed.

Participants over the age of 17 are required to have a 2021 fishing license. Purchase your fishing license online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses).

Fee: \$2 per person

[Register for Fishing the Detroit River.](#)

### Birding on the Riverfront

Saturday, April 17 from 10-11:30 a.m.

The area along the Detroit River is a great place for birdwatching, especially throughout migration season! By April many of our migrant bird species are on the move, so there is no telling what we might see. Join us for an early spring walk along the riverfront, through Milliken State Park and in the area around the OAC to identify

and learn about the species we see. All experience levels are welcome; binoculars are available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee: \$2 per person

[Register for Birding on the Riverfront.](#)

## Detroit River Coalition's Earth Day Cleanup

Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Outdoor Adventure Center is proud to be part of the Detroit River Coalition. We invite you to join the coalition in celebration of Earth Day by participating in socially distanced cleanup events happening along the Detroit River Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To participate in the cleanup at the OAC, registration is required using the link below. We will be checking in volunteers, handing out gloves and trash bags and weighing the resulting trash picked up curbside at 1801 Atwater. Groups can choose from staggered check-in times and are limited to 10 people from no more than two households.

The Detroit River Coalition is made up of several river-facing organizations from Michigan and Ontario that work together to promote the appreciation and conservation of the diverse natural heritage of the Detroit River from a binational and watershed perspective.

[Register for Detroit River Coalition's Earth Day Cleanup.](#)

## Attention Teachers: Register Now for One of Our Virtual School Programs!

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.

### Trapper and Traders (grades 3-5)

Detroit was founded in 1701 as a fur-trading post in the wilderness. Join us for a virtual exploration of 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.

[Register online for a virtual field trip.](#)

## Scout Offerings: This Season We Will Move Our Scout Badge Workshops Outdoors!

Since the OAC is still closed, we will use the outdoor spaces surrounding the building to present the scout badge workshops listed below. Each scout needs to register individually, and only one adult will be able to attend with each scout due to COVID restrictions. Other family members are free to explore the Dequindre Cut or Riverwalk during the workshop, but one adult does need to stay with the scout throughout the program. A minimum registration of eight scouts will be required for each program to take place.

This program will run rain or shine; be sure to dress for the weather. Everyone must wear a mask and maintain 6-foot social distance from non-family members.

The cost of the program is \$3 for each scout; adults do not need to register. Registration includes an OAC patch for participation.

Some badges may require additional activities to be completed on your own or with your troop.

[Register for a scout badge workshop.](#)

### March 2021

Tuesday, March 9 at 4:30 p.m.

Daisy: Rosie

Tuesday, March 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Wolf: Paws on the Path – Requirements: 1-6

### April 2021

Tuesday, April 6 at 4:30 p.m.

Brownies: Hiker – Requirements: 1-5

Tuesday, April 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Bear: Fur, Feathers and Ferns – Requirements: 1-5

## Meeting/Event Space Spotlight

### Benefits of Having Your Event at the OAC

"I didn't know the Outdoor Adventure Center had event space."

We hear this a lot, as we have only been open since 2015. The great thing is, once people have their event at the OAC, they tell everybody. Word of mouth has kept us busy with new and returning clients.

Here is why we have never had to advertise:

- You receive great customer service.
- You work with one person from beginning to end.
- On-site staff assist during your entire event.
- A variety of spaces with scenic views for meetings or events.
- A blank canvas is great for D.I.Y.
- You can use our list of approved caterers or bring in your own.
- No rental fees for tables, chairs and audio-visual equipment that we have in our collection.
- We will set up the event space to your specifications.
- Parking is available next to the OAC.

Now that you know we have rental space, let us know how we can make your event an adventure.

Please contact our promotional agent, Jackie Hoskins, at 1-844-622-6367 or email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more information on future bookings or to arrange a site visit of the event spaces at the Outdoor Adventure Center.

## 2021 Lumberjack Virtual 5K

Saturday, March 27

The Outdoor Adventure Center is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone who enters our doors. In accordance with Gov. Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will be hosting the March 27 Lumberjack Run (5K and .5K) as a virtual race.

The maple syrup is running, and so are our lumberjack runners. Join the only race that strongly encourages running in your best lumberjack attire.

Pick any course you like for a walk, run or roll. Wear your flannel and send us photos of your race.

Each runner will receive:

- Custom 4-inch pancake medal with ribbon.
- Red and black, checked face mask.
- Maple syrup runner's gel pack
- Family four-pack admission to the Outdoor Adventure Center (to be used when we reopen).

Registration will be available through March 30, and participant packets will be available during the last week of the month, with the option for curbside pickup or to have it mailed right to your home.

Curbside pickup will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 27 at the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St. in Detroit.

Just drive down Atwater – we'll be curbside with your packets. Participants also can choose to have their packets mailed for an additional fee.

Preregistration is required and limited – this will sell out. [Sign up](#) today!

Fee: \$20 per person

## 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 (\$12 Recreation Passport fee plus \$5 convenience fee) when purchased at state parks or \*DNR customer service centers (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle.
- 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 (i.e., 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 parks.

Outdoor Adventure Center  
1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367)

[Michigan.gov/OAC](https://www.michigan.gov/OAC)  
[DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov)

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

Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](https://www.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 [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).