



Nature Discovery

Summer 2010

Nature Discovery's summer camps offer high-quality Michigan wildlife education experiences in a rural setting, and are specially geared for students who exhibit a strong interest in the natural world. A limited enrollment of about 10 per week provides for a more friendly, less inhibited atmosphere with a low student-to-teacher ratio. Parents are amazed at the breadth of natural knowledge that gushes from students who have taken these camps!

Each week emphasizes a specific area of interest, and is labeled with the recommended age range. A student who is a year outside the age range for a specific week may be accepted based on the ages of the other children enrolled for that week and the parent's assessment of the child's abilities. If a child is younger than 10 years and attending a camp here for the first time, we strongly recommend enrolling in a "Nature Discovery" week, which offers a sampling of a range of natural topics.



Our popular captive collection of Michigan reptiles and amphibians, the largest in the state, is kept in the bi-level classroom from which the camps are conducted. No matter which week your child attends, the collection is accessible every day. The camps are designed such that a student naturalist has an opportunity, over several summers of attendance, to gain a broad background in Michigan natural science. We recommend enrolling in a different camp topic each year. We do not recommend a child taking the same camp topic year after year.

Parents are invited to participate in as many days as they'd like at no charge.

FEES for most 4-day full-day camps are \$160/student. Other fees are listed in the descriptions below. Some weeks have additional materials or travel fees. A minimum \$80 **non-refundable** (NR) deposit is required to reserve a session. Do **not** send a check prior to a phone or e-mail correspondence. Availability of an opening for the week of your choice must first be confirmed. A spot on the roster is not guaranteed until the deposit is received. The balance is due on the first day of the camp or trip.

Here is the schedule of weeks in a nutshell. Check the following pages for details of each. Jim & Carol will also again be teaching summer science classes for 2nd to 8th grade students at Lansing Community College East. See the LCC section for details.



SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

- June 21-24 Field Birding (10 yrs & up)
- June 28-July 1 Nature Discovery (7-8 yrs)
- July 6-9 Biodiversity Day Trips (MS/HS)
- July 19-22 "Bugging" Naturalists (5-6 yrs)
- July 26-29 Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)
- Aug 2-5 Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians (8-10 yrs)
- Aug 9-12 Nature Discovery (7-8 yrs)
- Aug 23-26 Advanced Entomology (11 & up)

Details...

Michigan Field Birding (10yrs & older)

June 21-24; 8am to 2pm.

There are about 400 species of birds in Michigan, yet, most people would have a hard time naming twenty! If you are gung-ho about a 4-day adventure where we try to see as many species as possible in a diversity of locations and habitats, this one is for you. Each day, we'll head off in a different direction within an hour drive of Williamston to see up to 80 species, many of which you don't find just anywhere. Jim's "birdpod" and spotting scope help ensure close looks. Birders will keep their own personal checklists. Bring a good pair of binoculars. (Jim can recommend some good ones. Compact binos are NOT recommended.) Serious birders only, please. FEE: \$175 (\$80 NR deposit).



Nature Discovery (7-8 yrs)

June 28-July 1; 9am to 3pm.

This week offers students engaging exposure to a range of Michigan wildlife through a mix of inside and outside activities, including hands-on studies with our huge collection of live Michigan frogs, salamanders turtles and snakes, in addition to bird-watching, insect collecting, tree, shrub, vine, and wildflower identification, pond life studies, and more. We will also take short drives around the neighborhood to experience a diversity of habitats and wildlife.

FEE: \$160 (\$80 NR deposit).

Biodiversity Day Trips (Middle/High School)

July 6-9; 8am to 5pm.

Biological diversity is diminishing all around us, yet, most citizens show little concern. It's not surprising since school curricula teach little about biodiversity. As a result, a vast majority of high school graduates and adults are unable to identify many Michigan trees and shrubs, flowers and frogs, butterflies and birds, snakes, squirrels, etc. Lack of this knowledge not only makes one's time spent in the natural world less interesting and therefore, of less personal value, but also disallows an ability to make observations and informed decisions regarding the health of our natural environment.

Here's a fun but focused four days of field trips - each day to a different location, dedicated to recognizing biodiversity. Our goal: identify as many species of flora and fauna as possible. Students will be supplied with their own notebooks for field notes. We'll snap and catalog digital photos of natural subjects, habitats, and students in action to arrange in a catalog of the week's discoveries.

At the conclusion of each day, we'll find a beach on a lake where we can take a dip after a warm day of "biodiversifying." FEE: \$200 (\$100 NR dep).





“Bugging” Naturalists (5-6 yrs)

July 19-22; 9am to 12pm.

Here’s a version of Budding Naturalists with a heavy insect-slant. Young naturalists will spend time with our reptiles and amphibians in between field collecting a variety of insects to identify, to keep alive in captivity, and to feed to the turtles, frogs and salamanders. Each student will also have opportunities to keep his or her own insect pets to bring home and rear. A snack is served each day. FEE: \$85 (\$40 NR deposit).

Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)

July 26-29; 9am to 12pm.

Young naturalists (5-6 yrs) will enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor nature activities, including hands-on visits with our captive reptiles & amphibians, and excursions on our nature trails featuring wildflower and tree identification, catching insects to identify, inspect and feed to our turtles, frogs and snakes, bird watching and more. A snack is served each day. FEE: \$85 (\$40 NR deposit).

Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians (8-10 y)

August 2-5; 9am to 3pm.

Here’s a full week of Michigan frogs, salamanders, turtles, lizards and snakes in the classroom and in the field. Students will handle snakes, and help feed and maintain all the animals on hand while learning about them at the same time. We’ll also go on various field excursions by van and on foot around the neighborhood to find and identify as many wild herps as we can. Students will keep checklists of their herpetological finds. With parental permission, there will also be opportunity to take home a small frog or snake to keep in captivity. FEE: \$160 (\$80 NR dep).



Nature Discovery (7-8 yrs)

August 9-12; 9am to 3pm.

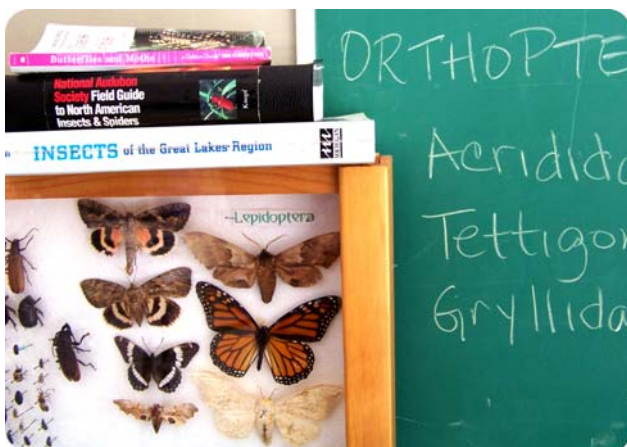
Here’s a late summer version of the June 28 Nature Discovery camp. Check the description above for all the details and fees.

Advanced Entomology (Middle/High School)

August 23-26; 9am to 3pm.

This intensive camp is geared for students who have already taken an entomology/insect collecting camp through Nature Discovery or elsewhere, or for middle/high school students who are new to the field. A mix of indoor lecture, outdoor collecting, pinning, and classifying specimens to the family level make for a busy and productive week. Materials fees include a box of insect pins, a mounting board, a killing jar, and a 15x24 finished wooden and plexiglass display box. Students are welcome and encouraged to stay later each day to work on their collections.

FEE: \$160, plus \$50 for materials (\$100 NR dep).



To Enroll

Call or Email Jim & Carol

517.655.5349

naturedisc@cablespeed.com

After availability is confirmed, send a deposit check to secure your reservation. Enrollment is limited, so sign-up early!



LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Once again, Carol and Jim will each be teaching one-week summer classes for elementary and middle school students at LCC's East Lansing facility. Here are the dates and topics.

July 19-23: Neighborhood Wildlife (2-3 gr, am)
MI Reptiles/Amphibians (4-5 gr, pm)

July 26-30: Mystery Festival (4-5 gr, am)
Robotics & Rocketry (6-8 gr, pm)

Aug 2-6: Detective's Casebook (6-8 gr, am)
Science Experiments (2-3 gr, pm)

Call LCC at 517-483-1860 for enrollment info.

Nature  *Discovery*

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