



# Nature Discovery

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Our **2012 SUMMER DAY 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 10 or less 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 for a recommended age range. A student who is 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 huge and popular zoo of Michigan reptiles and amphibians 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 each week are listed in the descriptions below. Some have additional material or travel fees. A minimum **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 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 a calendar schedule of weeks. Check the following pages for details. Jim & Carol will also again be teaching summer science classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Lansing Community College East.



## SCHEDULE

June 18-21	Michigan Birds & Birding (9 yrs & up) Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)
June 25-28	Birding for Visually Impaired (10 yrs & up)
July 9-12	Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)
July 16-19	Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)
July 23-26	Free-Range Naturalist (11 yrs & up)
Jul 30-Aug 2	Okemos Nursery School Week
Aug 6-9	MI Reptiles & Amphibians (9 yrs & up)
Aug 20-23	Insect Collecting (9 yrs & up)
Aug 27-30	Insect Collecting for MS & HS Students

*Watch our monthly newsletters for updates and other offerings in addition to these over the summer.*

## Details...

### Michigan Birds & Birding (9yrs & up)

**June 18-21; 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 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 binoculars are NOT recommended.) Serious birders only, please. Enrollment is limited to 6 students. FEE: \$180, plus \$15 travel fee (\$90 NR deposit).



### Birding for the Visually Impaired (10 yrs & up)

**June 25-28; 8am to 2pm.**

Do you know of a visually impaired student who has a special interest in birds? Similar to the camp listed above, this special camp focuses heavily on "birding by ear." Contact us for details.

### Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)

**June 18-21 or July 9-12; 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 a couple of short drives around the neighborhood to experience a diversity of habitats and wildlife.

FEE: \$180 (\$90 NR deposit).

### Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)

**July 16-19; 9am to 12pm.**

Young naturalists 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: \$95 (\$45 NR deposit).



## **Free-Range Naturalist (11 yrs or older)**

**July 23-27; Hours TBD.**

A handful of qualified students fills up this week's roster. Do you have a "nature prodigy" in your house? We'd like to make Nature Discovery his/her oyster for the week (See March 2012 newsletter). This "create your own camp" allows the student full access to our six acres of natural area, the zoo of Michigan reptiles and amphibians, field guides, supplies and staff assistance, as needed. Otherwise, the student naturalist is on his/her own, to become immersed in birds, bugs, snakes, frogs, wildflowers, or all of the above. Up to 30 hours on site can be arranged, Monday through Friday, according to your personal schedule. Another prerequisite: the student must have attended previous Nature Discovery summer camps or have been enrolled at Stepping Stones Montessori or Montessori Children's House, where Jim teaches Michigan natural science weekly. Contact us to discuss whether Free -Range is a fit for your student, and other details. COST: \$150 (\$75 NR deposit).



## **Okemos Nursery School Camp**

**July 30-August 2; 9am to 12pm.**

Here's a Budding Naturalists camp on-site at Nature Discovery specifically for Okemos Nursery School students! For over a year now, Nature Discovery has brought nature lessons into the school on a weekly basis. It's so popular with young students and parents alike, we anticipate no trouble filling the roster. See the Budding Naturalists description on the previous page for more details. (Shopping for a pre-school for your toddler? Check out ONS!) FEE: \$95 (\$45 NR deposit).

## **Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians**

**(9 yrs & up)**

**August 6-9; 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: \$180 (\$90 NR dep).





## Insect Collecting (9 yrs & older)

**August 20-23; 9am to 3pm.**

This intensive camp offers a combination of indoor instruction and outdoor collecting. Students will identify insects and learn how to classify them to their taxonomic orders. They will also learn correct pinning and mounting techniques. At the week's conclusion, each student will take home an impressive and scientifically displayed collection. Materials fees include a box of insect pins, a mounting board, a killing jar, and a 15x24 finished wooden and plexiglass display box.

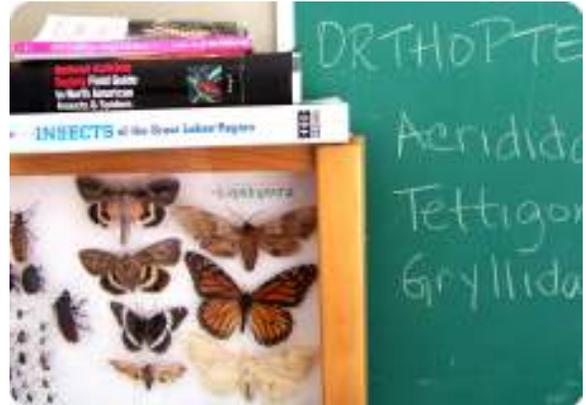
FEE: \$180, plus \$50 for materials (\$100 NR dep).

## Insect Collecting

### For Middle & High School Students

**August 27-30; 9am to 3pm.**

Some middle school and high school students are given insect collecting and classification assignments as part of a biology or zoology curriculum. Get a huge jump on the project by taking this intensive camp of field collecting, in addition to classification, pinning and mounting instruction. See the above Insect Collecting description for more details. Feel free to contact us about fulfilling specific assignment requirements. Any interested student is welcome regardless of whether it is a required assignment in school. FEE: \$180, plus \$50 for materials (\$100 NR dep).



## To Enroll

*Call or Email Jim & Carol.*

**517.655.5349    [naturedisc@cablespeed.com](mailto:naturedisc@cablespeed.com)**

*After availability is confirmed, send a deposit check to secure your reservation.*

*Enrollment is limited, so sign-up early! Ask about after-care arrangements.*

## **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.

- June 25-29: Get S.M.A.R.T. (2-3 gr, 1-4pm)
- July 16-19: MI Reptiles/Amphibians (2-3 gr, 9am-12pm)  
Bugs Class (2-3gr, 1-4pm)
- July 23-26: Detective's Casebook (6-8 gr, 9am-12pm)  
Robotics & Rocketry (6-8 gr, 1-4pm)
- July 30-Aug 2: Basic Robotics & Rocketry (4-5 gr, 9am-12pm)  
Science With Experiments (2-3 gr, 1-4pm)
- August 6-9: Science Wizards Avanced (2-3 gr, 9am-12pm)

Visit [http://www.lcc.edu/ece/youth\\_programs/aplus/dates\\_times\\_2012.aspx](http://www.lcc.edu/ece/youth_programs/aplus/dates_times_2012.aspx) for enrollment info.

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