



Nature Discovery

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Our **2011 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, 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 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 the schedule of weeks in a nutshell. Check the following pages for details of each. Jim & Carol will again be teaching summer science classes for 2nd to 8th grade students at Lansing Community College East.



SCHEDULE

- June 20-23 Field Birding (10 yrs & up)
- June 27-30 Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)
- July 5 & 8 Day Trips (MS/HS);
- July 6 & 7 Budding Naturalists Mini (5-6 yrs)
- July 11-14 Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)
- July 18-21 Wetland Exploration (10 yrs & up)
- July 25-28 Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)
- Aug 1-4 Lepidoptera Field Camp (8-10 yrs)
- Aug 8-11 Mich Reptiles & Amphibians (8-10 yrs)
- Aug 29-Sept 1 Entomology (10 yrs & up)

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

Details...

Michigan Field Birding (10yrs & older)

June 20-23; 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 binos are NOT recommended.) Serious birders only, please. FEE: \$180 (\$90 NR deposit).



Nature Discovery (7-9 yrs)

June 27-30 or July 11-14; 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: \$170 (\$85 NR deposit).

Budding Naturalists Mini-Camp (5-6 yrs)

July 6-7; 9am to 12pm

Here's a two-day version of the Budding Naturalists camp below.

FEE: \$45 (\$20) NR deposit.

Budding Naturalists (5-6 yrs)

July 25-28; 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: \$90 (\$45 NR deposit).





Biodiversity Day Trips

for Middle/High School Students

**Monday, July 5:
Yankee Springs Recreation Area**

**Thursday, July 8:
Hoffmaster State Park**

7:30am to 5pm

Here are a fun couple of full-day field trips dedicated to exploring biodiversity in two separate natural communities – the forests and wetlands tucked among the rolling terrain of immense glacial deposits at Yankee Springs; and the globally-unique Great Lakes coastal dunes and forests at Hoffmaster. Participants will identify flora and fauna unique to each location. We'll keep a checklist of birds encountered each day as well as a list of other life encountered, from reptiles & amphibians to insects, wildflowers, trees and vines. Students are encouraged to bring a digital camera to photograph flora and fauna, habitats and friends. In the afternoon we'll spend time swimming at a beach before returning. Enroll for one or both days! FEE: \$75/day (\$35 NR dep).

Wetland Exploration (10 yrs & older)

July 18-21; 9am to 3pm.

Keep a change of clothes on hand for this wet and wild week! Participants will explore a different wetland habitat type each day, including the vernal pond on Nature Discovery's grounds, a permanent pond and lake, a river and stream and a floating bog, all within a short drive. Students will encounter and identify a wide array of wetland plants, aquatic invertebrates, wetland birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals and keep a record of what they find. Students are encouraged to bring a personal digital camera. FEE: \$170 (\$85).



Lepidoptera Field Camp (10 yrs & older)

August 1-4; 9am to 3pm.

Michigan is home to a dizzying array of Lepidoptera - butterfly and moth species, many of which are large, colorful and impressive. In this week, students will learn to identify and classify a wide range of butterflies in the field and keep checklists of the week's finds. We'll also search for caterpillars of various species on specific food plants found on roadsides and in other natural habitats. Participants will have opportunities to bring home a number of larvae to continue rearing after the camp's end, including those of monarchs, luna moths, sphinx moths, swallowtails and more. Students are encouraged to bring a

good digital camera to photograph adults and larvae encountered through the week.

FEE: \$170 (\$85 NR deposit).



Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians (8-10 y)

August 8-11; 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: \$170 (\$85 NR dep).

Entomology (10 & older)

August 29-September 1; 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: \$170, 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! 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.

July 18-21: Neighborhood Wildlife (2-3 gr, am)

MI Reptiles/Amphibians (2-3 gr, pm)

July 25-28: Mystery Festival (4-5 gr, am)

Robotics & Rocketry (6-8 gr, pm)

Aug 1-4: Science with Experiments (2-3 gr, am)

Robotics & Rocketry (6-8 gr, pm)

Aug 8-11: Detective's Casebook (6-8 gr, am)

Science Wizards GATE (2-3 gr, pm)

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

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