



# Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

## Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center FALL 2009 School Programs

Program	Grade Level	Length	Maximum # Students
Introduction to Michigan Fish Hatcheries	All	1 hour	70
<i>Add a program:</i>			
Alien Invaders of the Great Lakes	3-10	2 hours	35
Fishery History	All	1 hour	35
Great Lakes, Great Fish	4-7	2 hours	35
Meet a Monster	2-12	2 hours	35
Nature Hike	All	1 hour	70
Self Guided	All	N/A	N/A
Wetland Wonders	4-7	2 hours	35
Wild About Water	3-7	2 hours	35

### **INTRODUCTION TO MICHIGAN FISH HATCHERIES**

Students will learn the importance of fish hatcheries and the role hatcheries play in the management and conservation of fisheries throughout Michigan. This interpretive program will show students the process involved in raising millions of fish to stock Michigan's lakes, rivers and streams. The guided program through the hatchery facility offers students a firsthand look at a variety of fish at different life stages. Fish species seen during the program depends on the time of year.

### **ALIEN INVADERS OF THE GREAT LAKES**

Students will learn about invasive species and their impact on the Great Lakes region. Species of focus include the sea lamprey, round goby, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife, mute swan and more. Students will discover the influence these species have on native flora and fauna and how they are being controlled and managed in the Great Lakes.

### **FISHERY HISTORY**

Students will explore the history of Michigan fish hatcheries and our Great Lake fisheries as they are guided through our new museum exhibit where they will walk through a replica train car and see a fully restored 1928 Model AA, both used at one time to transport fish to their stocking locations. Students will learn how hatcheries operated in the past and the impact of invasive species, commercial fishing and humans on our lakes, rivers and streams.

### **GREAT LAKES, GREAT FISH**

Students will learn about the Great Lakes and the variety of fish species that live there. This program focuses on identifying Great Lakes fish by using a dichotomous key and learning about the different parts of a fish and their function. Students will have the opportunity to

identify a variety of live fish in our show pond, including lake sturgeon, northern pike, northern muskellunge, walleye, steelhead trout and chinook salmon.

### **MEET A MONSTER**

Students will get their hands dirty as they search the show pond for critters that lake sturgeon eat including crayfish, leeches, worms, dragonflies and nymphs. Students will use their results to determine the overall health of the pond. Students will learn about the history of Michigan's largest and most primitive fish, the lake sturgeon. Lake sturgeon can weigh as much as 300 pounds, be up to nine feet long and live 150 years. Students will discuss the lake sturgeon's life cycle and how human activities have impacted its habitat and survival.

### **NATURE HIKE**

Students will take part in a guided nature hike around the hatchery's ponds. They will explore the history of the ponds, the importance of wetlands and will have the opportunity to see a variety of plants and wildlife. Numerous different species of wildlife frequent our ponds including birds, frogs, snakes, turtles and more.

### **SELF-GUIDED PROGRAM**

**You will not have an interpretive guide for this program**

- ◆ This program is intended for groups that would like a less-structured visit.
- ◆ Although you will not have a specific time slot reserved, we require all self-guided groups to reserve a morning or afternoon to prevent overcrowding at the visitor center.
- ◆ You will receive a packet of information following your reservation to better prepare you in providing your students with a memorable educational experience at the visitor center.
- ◆ Please be respectful of groups that may be at the visitor center during your visit who have signed up for an interpretive program.
- ◆ Students will have the opportunity to feed the fish in our show pond, walk our nature trails and utilize the visitor center exhibits and newly renovated museum. Please call with specific questions. **This program does not include a tour of the hatchery.**

### **WETLAND WONDERS**

Students will explore the value of a wetland ecosystem and the benefits they provide to plants, animals, humans and the environment. They will take a guided hike around our wetlands and have the opportunity to see a variety of plants and wildlife. They also will take part in a hands-on cattail study.

### **WILD ABOUT WATER**

Students will learn where water is found on Earth and its uses. They will learn about the various sources of pollution and potential steps that can be taken to reduce their impact on our water resources. Students will conduct water quality tests to determine the overall health of the show pond. Tests may include measuring pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and nitrate levels.

### **\*\*\*INTRODUCTION TO MICHIGAN FISH HATCHERIES ROAD SHOW \*\*\***

This program is currently unavailable. We hope to offer it again soon.