

Advancing Great Lakes Fisheries Education through Project F.I.S.H., “Salmon in the Classroom,” and Michigan Hatchery-Based Volunteer Training and Support

FINAL PROJECT REPORT
July 2004

Submitted by:

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“I can’t wait to use this in my classroom, it’s so life!”
Cheryl Larkin, Pontiac Schools

Project Objectives

- To increase the knowledge, positive attitudes toward, and active participation in conservation and stewardship of Great Lakes fisheries and associated aquatic ecosystems in an additional 4,000 Michigan youth in 2003, particularly in the Lake Michigan watershed basin.
- To reach at least 200 new volunteers and teachers, and increase their Great Lakes fisheries and aquatic resource knowledge and confidence in teaching, resulting in at least two new community-based networks of such volunteers associated with Michigan's newly renovated fish hatcheries.
- To increase "advanced" fisheries knowledge and teaching strategies with 30 teachers who will use the Salmon in the Classroom program and Project F.I.S.H. to provide an intensive, hands-on learning experience for at least 600 K-12 students throughout primarily the Lake Michigan basin.
- To update the skills and knowledge of 40 Project F.I.S.H. volunteers/teachers through sharing of the Zint and Fortner framework for fisheries education at an "Advanced Training Workshop/Retreat," then engage these 'master volunteers' as instructors in subsequent beginning workshops.
- To expand the partnership support base for Project F.I.S.H., by involving new organizations such as the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and other national and regional co-sponsors. These partners will help to sustain Project F.I.S.H., the Salmon in the Classroom project, and associated offerings such as KATCH small grants for habitat conservation work by youth and their teachers/leaders.

Specific Accomplishments

Oden Visitor Center

Project FISH staff made numerous contacts by phone, e-mail and personal visits to potential partners for fisheries education in Northern Michigan. These included: MDNR Fisheries Staff, Michigan State University Extension Offices, Northwest Michigan Indian Tribes, Sportsman Clubs affiliated and not affiliated with MUCC, local nature center and local businesses. Local Schools we not in session when contacts were made. (See Appendix #1 – Contact List)

Held an introductory/exploratory meeting at the Oden Fish Hatchery in early August, 2003 to discuss local needs in fisheries education and explore best possible dates to hold a Project FISH workshop. Sue Shenk MSUE, Cheri Leach Raven Hill Discovery Center, Maureen Jacobs MDNR, John Spieles MDNR, Dr. Shari Dann MSUFW, Mark Stephens MSUFW, were able to attend this meeting. Those who were invited, but could not attend were Jason Dinsmore MUCC, Steve Lenart LTBOI, Harold Woodruff Windjammer Marina, Tom Cadwalader MUCC Rep. An introduction and brainstorming session on the possibility of a Salmon in the Classroom workshop happened at the end of this meeting. Further discussions took place throughout the winter with the MDNR staff for future needed training.

A press release was sent to all local papers, magazines TV and radio. 4 local newspapers ran a story: The Harbor Light from Harbor Springs, The Charlevoix Courier, The Petoskey News Review, and the Cheboygan Daily Tribune. The local TV station, TV 9 &10 played a video clip about Project FISH on the AG Day News, which spurred calls from California, Nevada, Indianapolis and Michigan.

Personal contact was made by Cheri Leech from Raven Hill to all of the local bait shops, and schools including a talk at a regional Principals' Conference. Maureen Jacobs promoted the workshop to visitors and school groups visiting the Hatchery. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce for each major city was contacted and sent information by e-mail and USPS. These included Charlevoix, Cheboygan, East Jordan, Harbor Springs, Iron River, Mackinaw City and Petoskey.

Sportsman Clubs (President, Secretary and Club MUCC Rep.) affiliated with MUCC were contacted by phone, followed by e-mail and hard copy, asking for promotional assistance and participation. Much enthusiasm was expressed about what we were trying to accomplish. MUCC Staff requested that this contact list is to remain confidential.

In spite of all of this effort, the Oden Visitor Center, the Raven Hill Discovery Center and Project FISH staff made a joint decision to cancel this workshop because of only two registrants.

This workshop was then rescheduled for April 13, 14, 20, 21 2004. The partners contacted many of the same sportsman organizations to get the word out early. We worked with the school districts in that region to consider having the workshop over 2 days as in-service days for those teachers wishing to get involved in the program. The Oden staff is very flexible during this time as the center isn't officially open until May.

In March, 2004, partners continued promotion of a Project FISH workshop for April 15, 16 at the Oden Fish Hatchery, including press releases, phone and letter contact with MUCC affiliated clubs, schools and county extension offices. Dan Boss of TV 9/10 interviewed Maureen Jacobs from the Hatchery and ran a news piece about the upcoming workshop. Many local newspaper and newsletters ran the promotion.

The workshop at Oden was cancelled for a second time due to low registration. Only two registrations were received despite all of the wonderful promotion. This may be a regional problem, as we have not conducted a successful workshop in this region since the beginning of Project FISH training. This may take continued efforts through the schools and more personal/direct contact, a possible reduction of the cost of the workshop, and some on the ground local liaison who understands the program working specifically to get this well attended. The two participants did attend a workshop held at the Kettunen Center the following weekend (April 2004) when 14 participants from around the state attended a weekend training at the Kettunen Center. Participants at this workshop learned of the new Life of the Lakes Curriculum as well as Salmon in the Classroom. One of the participants was a Salmon in the Classroom Educator working with Ron Ramsey in Charlevoix. (9 different counties were represented at this training)

Wolf Lake Visitor Center

Project FISH Staff followed the same process as with Oden by contacting potential partners for fisheries education programming at the Hatchery and surrounding area.

An additional meeting was scheduled with Doug Finley, Janet Canode and Shana McMillon in Lansing to discuss the planning of workshops and curriculum.

A meeting was held in late August, 2003 at Wolf Lake to discuss hatchery and community needs for Great Lakes fisheries education. A Project FISH workshop was planned for October 29, 30, November 5, and 6, 2003 to be held at the Hatchery involving MDNR, MSU Extension and the local sportsmen clubs and schools.

Promotion of this workshop began in early September by sending a finalized version of the workshop notice to the partners for distribution and placed on our website to be downloadable.

Project FISH staff sent a Press Release to local newspapers, TV and Radio; the Kalamazoo Gazette and COSY Radio were the only two entities who used the information. A press release was to be done by the MDNR staff as well.

Personal contact was made to local sportsman groups (approximately 30 affiliated with MUCC) to get more promotion, sponsorship and participation.

The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency has sent this information to all of its service area schools. Project FISH trainers in the local school promoted this workshop to colleagues, parents and older teens.

Despite this extensive promotional campaign this workshop was cancelled having only 4 registrants. This workshop was rescheduled for June 15, 16 2004 and was heavily promoted. The local media outlets agreed to print articles and do news stories prior to the event to generate more participants.

The June Project FISH Workshop was held at the Wolf Lake Fisheries Interpretative Center in partnership with Michigan Department of Natural Resources. 12 participants went through 2 days of lessons, activities and were introduced to the Center. Participants were able to tour the facility and meet the hatchery managers. Each participant received The Life of the Lakes materials, The Walk and participants were introduced to Salmon in the Classroom materials and philosophies.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING REQUESTS FULFILLED

November 2003

Met with the Monroe Public Schools Environmental Education Program staff to discuss a long term mentoring program and Teacher Training workshops for the old Bolles Harbor DNR facility. We have planned programs for the summer-fall of 2004, which will include many aspects of an advanced Project FISH project including aquaculture, Salmon in the Classroom and water quality monitoring. Partnerships are being formed for extensive programs with the Monroe Schools Math and Science Center.

Presented to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club about possible support to the State Project FISH and local Project FISH program for volunteer and financial resources. This presentation was very well received.

Participated in the Grand River Park program planning meeting initiated by the City of Lansing and MSU Vice President of Governmental Affairs. After this meeting, the Project FISH

communication network (our list serve) is being used to announce future meetings and activities that surround the Grand River Park. Future workshops and programming will be scheduled through this new initiative.

Presented by request to the North East Recreation and Park Association (NERPA) Many of the 35 members present were already using the program and strongly recommended that other members get acquainted and schedule future training. Spoke to 17 participants at the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association in Mid- January 2004 in Grand Rapids.

Met with three participants that were scheduled for the Wolf Lake workshop. Their interest is to start a foundation with an outdoor emphasis for handicapped youth from the Kalamazoo area. These individuals worked to recruit participants for the Wolf Lake Training in June 2004.

December 2003

Conducted a Project FISH Workshop for 23 participants in the City of Pontiac. This workshop was a partnership with Project Synergy Works Extended Day Programs, Pontiac Schools, Clinton River Watershed Council, Gander Mountain Stores, and Oakland County 4-H Youth Development. This program came about through word of mouth, as one of the teachers heard about Project FISH at two separate teacher conferences and made contact with Project FISH. She needed to clear it with her immediate supervisor who happened to be a former Boy Scout Camp fundraiser from whom Project FISH rented his camp for the first Project FISH Trainer training in 1997.

Fish for cleaning and eating were made available to us from the Wolf Lake Hatchery.



Evaluation Feedback from Project FISH Workshop participants:

- "I learned more than I imagined, I will be out fishing from the lessons I learned."
- "I can use much of this at my alternative school, it's so life!"
- "One of the most informative trainings I've ever been to."

Scheduled and promoted a mid-Michigan workshop held January 20, 22, 27, 29 2004 in Haslett MI in partnership with Haslett Community Education and the newly formed Haslett Neighborhood Family Fishing Club.

Scheduled and promoting the **First Advanced Project FISH Training and Retreat** for February 7-8, 2004 at the Kettunen Center in Tustin MI. Topics included fish decoy carving, Ojibwa jigging stick construction, Great Lakes Basin management, the "new" The Life of the Lakes Curriculum and Salmon in the Classroom, website use, state and local funding opportunities, charting the future of Project FISH, and of course ice fishing.

January 2004

Conducted a Project FISH Training Program in partnership with Haslett Community Education, Haslett Public Schools, MUCC and Ingham County Haslett 4-H Fishing Club. Twelve participants from 4 counties attended the 14 hour workshop and were filmed and aired on HOM TV Channel 25 within the mid-Michigan Community.

February 2004

Conducted the first Advanced Project FISH Training Program and Retreat at the Kettunen Center in Tustin MI near Caddillac February 7-8. Fifteen participants from Wayne, Macomb, Livingston, Midland, Saginaw, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Branch, Schoolcraft and Emmet counties participated in sessions on ice jigging sticks, fish decoy carving, program coordination within their local communities, statewide program planning, fundraising opportunities, and introduction to the Salmon in the Classroom Curriculum and the new The Life of the Lakes materials. The focus of the workshop was revitalization and rekindling of the statewide steering committee to chart the direction of Project FISH. These participants will be planning a statewide retreat and advanced trainings for the future. One participant has already gotten funding to do a Salmon in the Classroom Project through Ypsilanti Public Schools and another is working on an environmental curriculum throughout the Ionia Public Schools to begin Fall of 2004.

Tammy Newcomb from MDNR Fisheries Division attended and presented information of the DNR Watershed/Basin Management program. Participants appreciated the direct communication with the DNR staff.

Project FISH, in partnership with the Clinton River Watershed Council, Michigan Fly Fishing Club, MUCC and their local clubs, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan Native Fish Association, and Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, put on the Wet and Wild World of Fish at the Outdoorama in Novi MI. More than 50 volunteers used hands-on activities to teach @ 4200 kids and adults about the water resources around them. Fly Tying, a stream simulation table, native live fish display, invertebrate pools, fish printing, exotics information, and a wetland exhibit were just a few of the activities available for the 5 day event.

March 2004

Conducted a Project FISH 12 hour training for 15 participants for the Saginaw Public Schools After-school and Truancy program. Participants included, teachers, administrators, local 4-H volunteers, students and local school board members. This workshop was conducted at the request of a Project FISH volunteer who wanted more instructors for his program, and coordinated and funded it through a 21st Century grant.

Trained 4 adults during Agriculture and Natural Resources Week on the Michigan State University campus. This one day course excited the participants trained to begin planning workshops in their county for the fall of 2004. Workshops are now tentatively planned for September in Presque Isle and Iosco/Bay county area, and for October in Genesee County.

Presented information about Project FISH and Salmon in the Classroom to the State Board of the Detroit Steelheaders. This group will provide support to the state Project FISH Program and work with local volunteers on a variety of upcoming projects, including actual fishing on the Great Lakes.

April - May 2004

Kick-off of the Cast Aways for Kids (tackle donation program) happened on May 15, which included Press coverage in many local newspapers and state-wide publications. The program was also recognized Nationally as a feature story on Bill Dance Outdoors and Outdoor Life News. Calls about the Program came in from Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio, Iowa and Idaho. Project FISH

partners, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and Gander Mountain Stores in MI, sponsored this program.

The May 2004 Issue of Michigan Out of Doors Magazine highlighted the efforts of Project FISH and some success stories from a variety of communities utilizing partnerships to get kids angling.

City of Algonac and Downriver Recreation hosted a Project FISH Workshop and was coordinated by previously trained mentors. 12 participants attended this. These participants made future plans to attend an event to be hosted by the International Game and Fish Association in June for Free Fishing Weekend.

Participated on the Southeastern Michigan Planning Committee for RBFF along with MDNR Fisheries, Boating, Outreach and Education and Parks, Huron Clinton Metro parks, Clinton River Watershed Council, MSU Extension, Gander Mountain Stores, MUCC and the Michigan Boating Industries Association. This committee is to focus on Fishing and Boating partnerships/events and long-term mentor based programming for SE Michigan in conjunction with RBFF's efforts. Current immediate efforts were creation of a fishing access map for the 7 counties in SE MI and two events during National Fishing and Boating Week as test events for future collaborative efforts.



June 2004

Cast Aways for Kids continued through June 30th.

Held a 2-day Training at the Wolf lake Fisheries Interpretive Center in Mattawan. Twelve participants attended.

Youth from all over the state attended 4-H Exploration Days on the MSU Campus. Volunteer instructors hosted four, 5-hour sessions on Flytying 101 and Fish Decoy Carving. 60 youth participated in these events.

Project FISH volunteers led a week long Intergenerational Elderhostel at the Kettunen Center in Tustin MI. 50 participants, grandparents with their grandkids, gained knowledge in Great Lakes aquatic ecosystems, making tackle, people and fish management, and actual angling skills. Many Grandparents caught their first fish ever ... truly amazing.



Participated in two events hosted by the SE MI Fishing and Boating Partnership mentioned above, (May) Nearly 400 kids and adults attended the two events through some creative partnering and invitations targeted to that area of the state and lapsed anglers.

We think she will want to do this again, what do you think?

Summary of Impacts 2003 –2004

- Throughout 2003-04 the total number of volunteers trained with Project FISH materials/philosophy in Michigan was **119**.
 - 2 were from the cancelled training at Oden, and 12 from Wolf Lake.
 - 105 were additional requests for workshops from around the state.
- 15 Volunteers attended an Advanced Training and Planning Retreat. 50 Volunteers put in additional time at the MUCC Outdoorama and 25 at other local sportshows
- Approximately 5500 youth and families directly involved with Project FISH Events
- Nearly 10,000 youth contacted locally from volunteers through schools, events, afterschool club activities, and 4H.
- More than 1500 youth in other states have been contacted by a Project FISH mentor. Ohio, Missouri, Arizona, Idaho, Wisconsin are among the states where Project FISH have moved to or we have trained.
- Highlighted on two separate occasions on National Television Shows for creative and newsworthy activities and programs.
- There is at least one Project FISH trained adult in 58 of Michigan's 83 counties

Appendix #1

Contact List for Oden Workshop:

<p>Cheri Leach Raven Hill Discovery Center 04737 Fuller Rd. East Jordan MI 49727 877-833-4254</p>	<p>John Matheson Matheson Marine Allanson MI * Willing to sponsor the workshop or volunteers after the workshop</p>
<p>Dan Boss TV 9 & 10 News dboss@9and10news.com 800-782-7910 ex 4126 *will do any kids fishing news event</p>	<p>Bethany Prykucki prykuckb@msue.msu.edu 4H Agent *wanted to attend the first workshop, couldn't make the second.</p>
<p>* These two were trained at the Kettunen Center because of the cancellations at Oden.</p> <p>David Huntington Mackinaw City High School 10516 Wallick Mackinaw City MI 49701 616-638-6101 or 231-436-8211 huntingd@projectfish.org</p> <p>Holly Wirgau Rogers City Schools 151 E. Huron Rogers City MI 49779 989-734-9170</p>	<p>MUCC Contacts Confidential - contact MUCC for permission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingsley Rod and Gun Cedar rod and Gun Kingsley Sportsman's Club Benzie Sportsman's Club Bellaire Conservation Club Jordan River Sportsman's Club Harbor Springs Sportsman's Club Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club Emmet County Sportsman's Club Hillman Sportsman's Club Sturgeon For tomorrow, Inc. Cheboygan Area Sportfishing Association Indian River Sportsman's Club
<p>Sue Shenk Extension Children Youth and Families Charlevoix County 319B North Lake Street Boyne City MI 49712 231-582-6232 shenks@msue.msu.edu</p> <p>Sue contacted all of MSUE Northeast Region with Hard and Electronic announcements.</p>	<p>Bob Harderburgh LRBOI Natural Resource Director 375 River Street Manistee MI 49660 866-723-1594 rhardenburgh@lrboi.org</p> <p>Steve Lenart</p>
<p>Petoskey News & Review 231-439-9325 Petoskey Chamber of Commerce megan@petoskey.com Charlevoix Courier Jeremy McBain 231-547-6558</p>	<p>Charlevoix CoC – info@charlevoix.com Cheboygan CoC – 231-627-7183 Lindsay@cheboygan.com Indian River CoC – info@irchamber.com Mackinaw City – 231-436-5574 East Jordan CoC – Info@ejchamber.org Harbor Springs CoC – 231-526-7999 Boyne City CoC – 231-582-6222</p>
<p>Terry Martin Soo Area Sportsman's Club/K of C Hall 906-632-9566</p>	<p>Ashley Rosenberry Presque Isle County 4H rosebera@msue.msu.edu 989-734-9170</p>

Appendix #2

Contact List for Wolf Lake Workshop:

<p>Jane Hebert District Water Quality Agent WK Kellogg Biological Station 3700 Gull Lake Rd. Hickory Corners MI 49060 269-671-2412 X222 herberj@msue.msu.edu</p>	<p>MUCC Club Contacts – Confidential</p> <p>Battle Creek Sportsman’s Club Red Fox Sportsman’s Club Branch County Sportsman’s Club MSSFA –St Joseph, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo Dowagiac Conservation Club Paw Paw Conservation Club St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman’s Club Lakes Area Conservation Club Coloma Rod and Gun NWTf St. Joe Valley Chapter South Haven Rod and Gun New Buffalo Rod and Gun Berrien County Sportsman’s Club Cass County Conservation Club</p>
<p>Kalamazoo Gazette – 269-388-2731 Jblock@kzoogazette.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ran story on 10-11-03 <p>South Bend Tribune – Ran story on 10-19-03</p>	<p>Donna Desmond 2320 Tipperary Kalamazoo MI 269-342-8775 donna672@aol.com</p>
<p>D and R Sports 8178 Main Kalamazoo MI 269-372-2277 randy@dandrsports.com</p>	<p>Beth Clawson Van Buren County Extension 801 Hazen St. #A Paw Paw MI 49079 269-657-7745 clawsonb@msue.msu.edu</p>
<p>Mark Hettig 2873 Park Rd. Coloma MI 49038 (616) 621-7131 whistlerfarm@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Dathan Shifflet Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife – FW Club Rm 13 Natural Resources East Lansing MI 48824</p>
<p>Shori Teeple 3022 Michael Kalamazoo MI 49004 269-349-4584 shoriteeple@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Don Filcek 2809 Daventry Portage MI 49024 269-324-5275 dlfilcek@charter.net</p>
<p>Michelle Larson 5182 E.R. Rd. Portage MI 49002 269-337-0750</p>	<p>Patty Buckingham 4010 Broken Ridge Galesburg MI 49053 269-337-0750</p>

Appendix #2 Continued

In Addition: These following email contacts were sent from requests or personal contact asking for assistance with promotion.

dgtmjohnson@aol.com, catrkmd@beanstalk.net, bpshibes@sbcglobal.net,
maeoe@michiganenvironmentaled.org, klauritsen@mattawan.k12.mi.us,
crix@mattawan.k12.mi.us, cosy@wcsy.com, rhoward@i2k.com, triq5883@earthlink.net,
babrowe@bdalecards.org, martisue2@aol.com, speaktru@iserv.net, mlbarstow@netpenny.net,
rcurrie@marshall.k12.mi.us, Jelyea2@remc12.k12.mi.us, j41c@aol.com, bannermin@aol.com,
msheline@trschoools.org, penningtonb@hartford-schools.org, ddeweerd@remc12.k12.mi.us,
Herald-NewsEditor@groupwise.wmich.edu, Wswaney@Mattawan.k12.mi.us

All promotional material was posted on the web at www.projectfish.org/main_media.html.

Appendix #3

Promotional Materials for Oden and Wolf Lake Workshop

FOR Immediate release

**INTRODUCE KIDS TO REEL FUN
WITH PROJECT FISH**

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Educators and volunteers, even parents and grandparents, interested in teaching children how to fish and care for our water resources can attend a Project FISH (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) Workshop, April 20 and 21, 2004 at the Oden State Fish Hatchery in Oden, Mich.

The workshop is designed to provide the participants with hands-on activities and lessons to get kids interested in fishing. You may even want to start a neighborhood family fishing club after attending this class.

Workshop participants learn about Michigan aquatic ecology, people and fish, tackle crafting and building angling skills. They will leave with curriculum activities, equipment, and access to supplies and resources to begin a successful fishing program with children.

The program runs from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. each day and costs \$50 to attend.

Project FISH is coordinated by Michigan State University's department of fisheries and wildlife, along with MDNR Hatchery Interpretative Centers, the MSU Northern Extension Offices, Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Raven Hill Discovery Center. The workshop is also partially funded through the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

For information, contact Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700 or Maureen Jacobs at 231-348-0998 , download registration material at www.projectfish.org/main_media.html.

The registration deadline is April 12.

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**INTRODUCE KIDS TO REEL FUN
WITH PROJECT FISH**

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Educators and volunteers, even parents and grandparents, interested in teaching children how to fish and care for our water resources can attend a Project FISH (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) Workshop, June 15 and 16, 2004 at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery in Mattawan, Mich.

The workshop is designed to provide the participants with hands-on activities and lessons to get kids interested in fishing. You may even want to start a neighborhood family fishing club after attending this class.

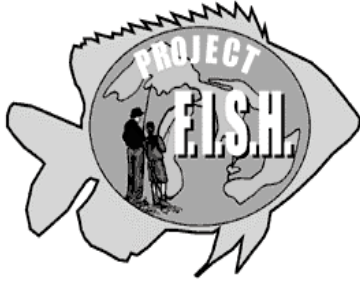
Workshop participants learn about Michigan aquatic ecology, people and fish, tackle crafting and building angling skills. They will leave with curriculum activities, equipment, and access to supplies and resources to begin a successful fishing program with children.

The program runs from 9 am – 4 pm each day and costs \$50 to attend.

Project FISH is coordinated by Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This Project F.I.S.H. workshop is a partnership with MDNR Hatchery Interpretative Centers, the MSU Southwest Michigan Extension Offices, and Michigan United Conservation Clubs. The workshop is also partially funded through the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

For information, contact Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700, or download registration material at www.projectfish.org/main_media.html.

The registration deadline is June 4th.



PROJECT F.I.S.H. Workshop

Oden Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center
US-31 Oden MI near Petoskey

April 20, 21, 2004
Both Days 3:00-9:00 pm

Project F.I.S.H. (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) invites teachers, educators and volunteers to four evenings of:

“Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education”

Coordinated by Michigan State University’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Project F.I.S.H. is a partnership with the Oden Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Regional 4-H Youth Development Programs, schools and community business and service organizations to educate young people about our natural resources through FISHING.

This workshop offers activities in Aquatic Ecology, Tackle Crafting, People and Fish Management and actual Angling Skills. Participants will leave with curriculum activities, equipment, even a fishing rod & reel, and access to supplies and resources to begin a successful fishing program/club with children. The workshop is partially funded through a grant from the **Great Lakes Fishery Trust** and the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**.



Cost for the Workshop is only \$50

Contact: Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700, steph143@msu.edu or
Maureen Jacobs at 231-348-0998, jacobsme@michigan.gov

Registration deadline: April 12, 2004.

Early registration will insure your participation, as space is limited.

*** Registration material can be downloaded at
www.projectfish.org/oden2004.pdf***





Project F.I.S.H. Workshop Registration
Oden Michigan Fisheries Visitors Center, Oden MI

The workshop will begin at 3:00 pm and will conclude at 9:00 pm each day.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Must be received on or before April 12, 2004

NAME _____ MALE OR FEMALE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ APT# _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION _____

PHONE _____ (HM) _____ (WK)

EMAIL _____

Special Needs

If you require any special arrangements for the workshop please state those needs below:

I would like to purchase an embroidered:

100% Cotton Shirt (size) _____ (\$12 ea.)

Hat - beige w/dark green bill _____ (\$12 ea.)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____. This total includes the registration fee of \$50 and hat/shirt cost. Additional clothing will be available for purchase at the workshop.

Refund and Cancellation Policy: A \$20 registration fee is non-refundable under any circumstances and cancellations after April 16, 2004 will receive no refund.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700 or steph143@msu.edu

**RETURN THIS FORM BY April 12, 2004 WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO
Project F.I.S.H.**

Mark Stephens, Project F.I.S.H
Room 13 Natural Resources Building * East Lansing MI 48824
517-432-2700 * Fax 517-432-1699

PROJECT F.I.S.H. COMES TO NORTHERN MICHIGAN

There is a lot to be learned in a short 12 hours of training. Project F.I.S.H. (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) will be in Northern Michigan in partnership with the Oden Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Regional 4-H Youth Development Programs and local schools, businesses and service organizations on April 20, 21, 2004 to educate interested teachers and volunteers about the fine art of fishing and the importance of caring for Michigan's vital aquatic resources. Each day will have the same theme "Let's partner to get kids to care for our aquatic resources by learning to fish."

Project F.I.S.H. is a mentor-based, community-supported program that will involve many partners including schools, 4-H, sportfishing organizations and mentoring groups within the community. Project F.I.S.H. is a Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife education program in cooperation with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation. Our goal in Michigan communities is to educate interested teachers and volunteers with our very exciting and hands-on activities and lessons and leave them with the materials and resources to get kids excited about fishing. Here are the main components of Project F.I.S.H.:

Michigan Aquatic Ecology: Learn about the things that make our aquatic ecosystems tick by using some very interesting activities involving our Great Lakes watersheds, invertebrates and neat sampling experiments designed to get you INVOLVED. Additional resources and contacts will be given to teachers for follow-up and continued support.

People and Fish: "How many fish are in that pond and what effect do I have on them?" These are the types of questions that will come up in this fish management and ethics session. What is the difference between an ethic and a regulation? You'll learn this as well as come up with your own code of ethics. You may learn more about a person by exploring his/her tackle box. Find out about Great Lakes issues and human involvement, like commercial vs. sportfishing, allocation and game laws. You may even say "hmm" a few times. Grab a fish, put it on your shirt, permanently!

Tackle Crafting: This session will get you making the equipment you can use to catch fish. You will use what you learned in aquatic ecology to reproduce an artificial tool for your attempt at catching fish. Fly tying, jig making, snelling hooks and creating worm/crawler harness are only a few ingredients of this part of Project F.I.S.H. Each participant will be given the materials for making harnesses and the knowledge to make these and other look-alikes. In addition, resources for expertise and partners will be given to all participants. This class is a lot of fun.

Angling Skills: This class is the bread and butter. How do I use this fishing pole? Pop can casting and basic skills will lead to proficiency with a variety of rod and reel types. Learn how to catch bass in your backyard and receive the game to teach you and your youth. You will also find the sources of materials to get kids actively involved with fishing, and they can do it in their own backyard. Take home a fishing rod for inspiration and a learning/teaching tool.

During your Project F.I.S.H. training, you will be introduced to a variety of individuals and organizations in your area to call on for assistance and expertise. Don't miss this chance to become involved in introducing this education style to your community. Our common theme will be ***IT'S FOR THE KIDS!***

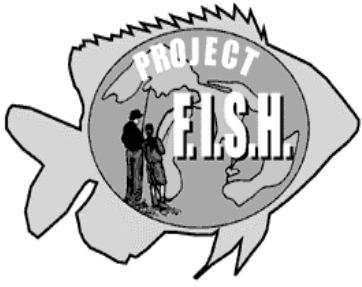
**Contact Mark Stephens for directions and any other information
at 517-432-2700**

Project F.I.S.H. Workshop



The center is located on US-31 in Oden MI

From I-75 take M-68 west to Alanson and make a left on to US-31. Follow this to Oden and the Visitor Center will be on the right.



PROJECT F.I.S.H. Workshop

**Wolf Lake Hatchery Visitor Center
Mattawan MI near Kalamazoo**

**June 15 and 16, 2004
Each Day from 9 am -4 pm**

Project F.I.S.H. (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) invites teachers, educators and volunteers to four evenings of:

“Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education”

Coordinated by Michigan State University’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Project F.I.S.H. is a partnership with the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery Visitor Center, Regional 4-H Youth Development Programs, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, schools and community business and service organizations to educate young people about our natural resources through FISHING.

This workshop offers activities in Aquatic Ecology, Tackle Crafting, People and Fish Management and actual Angling Skills. Participants will leave with curriculum activities, equipment, even a fishing rod & reel, and access to supplies and resources to begin a successful fishing program/club with children. The workshop is partially funded through a grant from the **Great Lakes Fishery Trust** and the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**.



Cost for the Workshop is only \$50

Contact: Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700, steph143@msu.edu or Shana McMillan at the hatchery (269) 668-2876 or mcmillsk@michigan.gov

Registration deadline: June 4, 2004



Early registration will insure your participation, as space is limited.

*** Registration material can be downloaded at
www.projectfish.org/main_media.html***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Mark Stephens
517-432-2700

April 29, 2004

“CAST AWAYS FOR KIDS” BRINGS NEW LIFE TO RETIRED RODS AND REELS

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Michigan State University’s Project F.I.S.H. and Gander Mountain Stores are working together with “Cast Aways for Kids” to collect and restore used fishing rods and reels to give them to schools, youth groups and other community programs.

Cast Aways for Kids, a program founded by Ron Schara of Minnesota Bound, and Gander Mountain Stores partner with fishing clubs and organizations that volunteer their time to renovate the rods to working condition. This year Gander Mountain is not only a partner, but also the exclusive donation site for rods and reels. The “retired” reels will then be given to Project F.I.S.H. volunteers.

“What we will do is work with the kids to refurbish the donated items, instead of doing it for them. This way the kids will learn how to take care of the equipment themselves,” said Mark Stephens, Project F.I.S.H. coordinator. “Cast Aways for Kids is just another positive tool for Project F.I.S.H. volunteers to use to give kids repeat contact with fishing and access to a caring adult.”

Gander Mountain employees will exchange old or unwanted fishing rods and reels for a \$10-off coupon toward a \$50 or more purchase. Donors will also receive a coupon booklet from Water Works Wonders, a national campaign dedicated to promoting the benefits of fishing and boating and sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

“When you bring in your ‘cast aways’ you not only get the monetary incentive, you help get a kid fishing at the same time, which is the essence of Project F.I.S.H.,” said Stephens. “This

equipment may encourage a kid to become a lifelong steward of Michigan's aquatic resources.

Partnered with a caring adult role model, your donation can do wonders.”

Cast Aways for Kids

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For more information about the location of the nearest Gander Mountain visit them online at <http://www.gandermountain.com> or call them toll free at 1-800-282-5993.

The program will run from May 15 through the end of June.

Project F.I.S.H. is a mentor-based, community-supported educational program that encourages interested teachers and volunteers to get kids excited about fishing, and works in cooperation with the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University Extension and Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

To learn more about Project F.I.S.H, check out www.projectfish.org, or contact Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700.