

**Fostering Youth Involvement in Conservation II  
(2004-0191-000)  
K.A.T.C.H. – Kids are True Conservation Heroes**

**Final Project Report**



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## Executive Summary

The primary purpose of this project was to expand on a successful education initiative that involved youth in fisheries and wildlife conservation projects through KATCH – Kids are True Conservation Heroes. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation support allowed the Michigan 4-H Foundation and Michigan State University’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to successfully secure additional state and local donor support to provide small grants to youth proposal writers. These youth, along with their mentors and with fish, wildlife and natural resources professionals planned, conducted and are continuing to work with local projects to benefit fish and wildlife. In addition, this allocation allowed for the project staff to develop, **Kids Are True Conservation Heroes, A Guide For Conservation Service Projects Selected Planned and Implemented By Youth In Their Communities**, and the YESS Competition (Youth Environmental Science and Stewardship) for youth to exhibit knowledge gained and gain recognition for their work with conservation in their communities.

Youth initiated and were involved with 14 local projects in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout Michigan. Completed projects include riverbank restoration, river clean up, nest box placement, school wildlife habitat sites, a wetland observation platform and invasive plant control, education/interpretation for the public, streamside tree planting to reduce soil erosion, macro-invertebrate analysis for water quality, wildlife food and cover plantings on interpretive trails within local recreation areas, creating wildlife cover brush piles, shallow water area creation and wetland enhancement, creation of resting/hiding areas for fish, and an adopt-a-watershed site.

Program impacts and activities are as follows:

- 569 youth spent 4421.5 hours working with these projects voluntarily.
- 177 adults contributed a total of 2,310 hours of service, valued at \$41,672.40 (\$18.04/hour).
- These local projects attracted contributions of local goods and services valued at \$51,228 from a reported 122 different local partnering entities and organizations.
- 14 project groups in 13 Michigan rural, urban and suburban counties directly, positively impacted 1540 acres of terrestrial habitats and 6.5 miles of riparian/lakeside habitats.
- Projects were carried out in communities with little overlap from the first KATCH Grant initiative in 2002. The program now has broader reach in Michigan.
- A local KATCH Grant Recipient attracted support from the FishAmerica Foundation and was featured as a model project for the American Sportfishing Association. This group initiated over \$20,000 of community support for work along the Cedar River in Gladwin MI.
- Participants reported significant benefits in the youths’ learning about ecology, conservation, and habitat planning and improvement; this was confirmed in the success of the YESS Competition held in June of 2005.
- Participants also reported significant benefits in youths’ development of essential life skills such as planning and carrying out projects, public processes and speaking skills, teamwork, community service, leadership, communications, cooperation, and being optimistic toward the future.

Working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation support to enhance community-based partnerships was an essential element of the success of this KATCH initiative. All of the mentors for the 14 completed projects indicated that this support is just the start to a series of fish and wildlife conservation activities they intend to continue and expand on locally. At the state level, we are seeking support to offer KATCH grants to local youth organizations to expand and enhance this initiative into the future.

# **Project Results, Activities and Evaluation**

## **Project Description and Goals**

This project was designed to expand on the successful KATCH educational initiative throughout Michigan that provided small grants to youth groups for local fish and wildlife conservation projects. Projects were identified through youth, volunteers and staff involved in the Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program's non-formal education network and through schools connected to the 4-H Programs and programs associated with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Project participants designed and implemented these conservation projects with the support of educators and conservation professionals. Program organizers (the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Extension program) have gathered and have shared important information about how to organize such programs and about the learning outcomes in fostering fisheries and wildlife stewardship through hands-on conservation education.

In addition, this project provided youth groups and schools at local levels the opportunity to form partnerships with local fish and wildlife agencies and conservation groups to carry out a project to benefit local resources and citizens. We achieved participation from 14 different local youth groups from throughout Michigan's urban, suburban and rural regions (see appendix 1). Specific overarching project goals were to:

- Increase youth initiated hands-on fish and wildlife conservation projects that link directly with natural resource professionals, locally and statewide.
- Create a guide to make the process of choosing and implementing a community conservation service project easier. This guide will assist groups interested in doing a service project to understand the requirements, and give them direction or a starting place to be successful.
- Support Extension staff and volunteers in conducting developmentally appropriate, local youth fisheries, wildlife, land and water stewardship programs, in order to foster long-term commitment in upcoming generations of "Conservation Heroes."
- Offer opportunities for youth to be challenged in their knowledge of conservation through the creation of the YESS (Youth Environmental Science and Stewardship) Competition

## **Project Objectives/Anticipated Outcomes**

Specific project objectives were to:

- Involve more than 500 youth ages 5-19 through the Michigan 4-H network in fisheries and wildlife conservation stewardship projects.
- Positively impact approximately 20 miles of riparian or coastal fisheries and wildlife habitat and approximately 1500 acres of terrestrial habitats through direct stewardship projects carried out, by youth. Approximately half of the teams will be from diverse populations.
- Involve more than 250 adults as mentors in the planning and conducting of youth-directed fisheries and wildlife conservation stewardship projects.
- Increase youths' appreciation and knowledge of conservation strategies that benefit fish and wildlife populations, and recognize youth through a new statewide contest.

## Methods and Activities/Accomplishments

### Project Organization

#### Accomplishments January -March 2005

- ✓ Prepared communications to offer small grants to youth for fish and wildlife conservation projects.

Staff reviewed and revised the KATCH Grant application process and updated the process based on what was learned from Fostering Youth Involvement in Conservation I. Revised materials were sent to all of Michigan's 83 county Extension Offices, posted on the 4-H Youth Development website, posted on the statewide sportfishing and aquatic resource education site [www.projectfish.org](http://www.projectfish.org), and sent to a number of list serves including environmental educators, and Envirothon teams. The KATCH grants were also announced in Michigan 4-H Today Volume 15, Number 1.

- ✓ Developed "**Kids Are True Conservation Heroes, A Guide For Conservation Service Projects Selected Planned and Implemented By Youth In Their Communities**"

A draft document was created and has been initially edited and piloted. It includes the following:

#### **Section 1: Let's Get Started**

Brain Storming - What is a Conservation Service Project?, Worksheet: Conservation Service Project Idea, and Voting for Our Conservation Service Project.

Learning More – Professional Information and Assistance, Researching Community Partners and Resources, Important Suggestions to Consider, Worksheet: Let's Get Started

#### **Section 2: Getting the Job Done**

Developing a Timeline, Grant Application and Fundraising, Volunteer Recruitment and Management, Publicity, Evaluation, Reporting and Future Plans, Worksheet: Getting the Job Done.

#### **Section 3: KATCH; Kids Are True Conservation Heroes, Conservation Service Projects Ideas and "Model" Youth Service Projects**

Habitat Management and Improvement Projects, Fish and Wildlife Management Projects, Water Quality Improvement Projects, Forest and Soil Conservation Projects, Solid Waste Projects, Public Education Projects Addressing Conservation Issues

#### **Section 4: Other Opportunities**

Education Programs and Other Learning Opportunities, References Used to Create This Document

- ✓ Youth wrote KATCH Project Proposals. Program staff linked local fish and wildlife professionals and project partners, and ensured quality work in fish and wildlife habitat improvement.

Staff communicated and assisted with 20 groups interested in submitting KATCH Grant applications and helped them in connecting to local community contacts for assistance in planning their service project. The project staff, to link them with the local group, contacted specialists within applicant's county; in addition staff gave direction and suggestions to create a stronger project.

## Project Implementation

### Accomplishments April-August 2005

- ✓ Small Grants awarded to successful recipients

Staff worked with 20 groups, of which 15 actually applied. A Review Committee was established consisting of an ecosystem professor, fisheries biologist, 2 educators and a fisheries and wildlife student involved with 4-H. Fourteen (14) applications were approved coming from 13 Michigan counties and KATCH Grant agreement forms were received from grantees. See Appendix 1.

- Applicants conducted local fish and wildlife habitat projects.
- Program staff monitored projects

County groups worked on their projects and linking with additional partners on their own and those provided by the staff. Communication with the groups by the staff has been an integral part of the success of this project.

As the staff monitored the progress of the local projects, they made a personal connection to the youth and adult volunteers and develop a level of comfort that makes communication much more productive.

- ✓ Planned and Implemented YESS (Youth Environmental, Science & Stewardship) Contest on the campus of Michigan State University during 4-H Exploration Days, June 23-24, 2005. The session was named “Challenge Your Wild Side”. Promotion for this contest was done through a variety of means from website/list-serve announcements to printed advertisement in the 4-H Exploration Days Registration materials. The 22 registered youth, 11-19 years old, from 15 different counties, participated in practice sessions learning about forest, prairie, wetland and urban habitats. Then they were divided into teams according to their age group and experienced a series of outdoor testing stations to challenge their knowledge, skills and teamwork. The youth were awarded certificates of achievement and field guide prizes.
  - “The contest was really interesting. It was a lot of exercise and the fun facts I learned from my team members, they were awesome.” .... Participant
  - “I learned that wetlands aren’t just mucky yucky areas but hold life for many species. I also learned that prairies are large in the center and the growth lessens as it goes out like a pyramid.”.....Participant

## **Project Results**

Project **GOALS** were to:

- Increase youth initiated hands-on fish and wildlife conservation projects that link directly with natural resource professionals, locally and statewide.
- Create a guide to make the process of choosing and implementing a community conservation service project easier. This guide will assist groups interested in doing a service project to understand the requirements, and give them direction or a starting place to be successful.
- Support Extension staff and volunteers in conducting developmentally appropriate, local youth fisheries, wildlife, land and water stewardship programs, in order to foster long-term commitment in upcoming generations of “Conservation Heroes.”
- Offer opportunities for youth to be challenged in their knowledge of conservation through the creation of the YESS (Youth Environmental Science and Stewardship) Competition

Specific project **OBJECTIVES** were to:

- Involve more than 500 youth ages 5-19 through the Michigan 4-H network in fisheries and wildlife conservation stewardship projects.
- Positively impact approximately 20 miles of riparian or coastal fisheries and wildlife habitat and approximately 1500 acres of terrestrial habitats through direct stewardship projects carried out, by youth. Approximately half of the teams will be from diverse populations.
- Involve more than 250 adults as mentors in the planning and conducting of youth-directed fisheries and wildlife conservation stewardship projects.
- Increase youths’ appreciation and knowledge of conservation strategies that benefit fish and wildlife populations, and recognize youth through a new statewide contest.

Specific **OUTCOMES/RESULTS** were:

- ✓ Twenty (20) groups indicated interest in applying for KATCH grants, and 15 applications were received in 2005. Of these, the review committee approved 14 projects. A total of \$16,937.50 was approved for disbursement, but only \$14,895.46 was awarded for KATCH counties’ projects, because one of the approved projects completed their work with total support locally and others adjusted their projects after the approvals were made. In addition, an additional amount of \$4254.54 was expended from support received from matching donors (not NFWF) to support additional KATCH-related work in counties involved with the REACT program within Michigan 4-H Programs. These counties were not required to report their local volunteer time or in-kind matching local donations. (See Appendix 2 Master List of KATCH Grants).
- ✓ 569 youth spent 4421.5 hours working with these projects as volunteers and leaders. Youth initiated and were involved with 14 local projects in urban, suburban and rural areas throughout Michigan. Completed projects include riverbank restoration, river clean up, nest box placement, school wildlife habitat sites, a wetland observation platform and invasive plant control, education/interpretation for the public, streamside tree planting to reduce soil erosion, macro-invertebrate analysis for water quality, wildlife food and cover plantings on interpretive trails within local recreation areas, creating wildlife cover brush piles, shallow water area creation and wetland enhancement, creation

of resting/hiding areas for fish, and an adopt-a-watershed site. Adult survey respondents indicated youth learning related to conservation of fish and wildlife, and youth thank you letters showed appreciation for hands-on conservation service learning. (See Appendix 1 for project summaries.)

- ✓ 177 adults contributed a total of 2,310 hours of service, valued at \$41,672.40 of labor. Although we did not achieve the 250 adults as mentors, the number of hours was higher than the 2,179 hours volunteered in “Fostering Youth involved in Conservation I.”
- ✓ Through local fish and wildlife projects directed by youth, 14 project groups representing 13 different Michigan counties positively impacted 1540 acres of terrestrial habitats and 6.5 miles of riparian/lakeside habitats (see Appendix 6). It is difficult to estimate the amount of impact on riparian or coastal fisheries and wildlife habitat; actual work was completed on 6.55 miles that were directly impacted and distributed among 8 major water bodies in Michigan. Water quality upstream and downstream of the work completed by the youth cannot be judged without further study.
- ✓ The new guide entitled “Kids are True Conservation Heroes: A Guide for Conservation Service Projects Selected, Planned, and Implemented by Youth in Their Communities” was completed, and pilot tested at youth and volunteer natural resources training programs throughout the state, including with urban and minority audiences. It is now ready for final copy editing and publishing.
- ✓ The new Youth Environmental Science and Stewardship (YESS) Contest debuted with participants from 15 counties, totaling 22 youth. Evaluation results were positive that this served to recognize youth engagement in local fish and wildlife learning and conservation. This event will be continued by Michigan 4-H in future years.

### **Program Successes**

Program successes were outstanding! We collected impact data by surveying each local project group with these key questions:

- How did the project support a positive and sustainable impact on land, water, fish and wildlife resources?
- How did the project positively impact youth development within a community context?

All of the fourteen project organizers provided detailed information in response to these questions. In addition, youth participants prepared donor “thank you” letters. Detailed evaluative quotes from each project are listed in Appendix 3. A summary of the responses follows.

For some groups, this funding initiative and the advice provided by the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife was the catalyst for something on which they had already been working. For other groups, KATCH provided the spark to start a new effort in fish and wildlife conservation. Regardless of the nature of the project, all 14 projects reported significant impacts on youth learning about environmental stewardship and about fish, wildlife and associated resources. Participants provided these quotes on their surveys:



- “We learned about the environment, animal habitat, grant writing, working with businesses and agencies, gaining relationships in our group, adult/youth partnerships and how to build nest boxes.”
- “We have reintroduced native species of tree and plants into an area devoid of anything but lawn. It has had an impact on the wildlife present there already.”
- “This project stabilizes the bank of the river.”
- “We will be monitoring the water quality along the watershed, the more we know about the quality the better we can understand how to take care of it, helping all life.”
- “Through water quality testing, site clean up and native planting, this club is making long term, positive impact on our local environment.”
- “This project improved students’ awareness of land, water and wildlife resources. Removing invasive species will benefit the native buttonbush and wildlife.”
- “This project restored one of the 140 erosion sites identified in the MDEQ approved Cedar River Watershed Management Plan.”
- “Our project establishes new areas for fish and wildlife and native plants to thrive.”
- “Creating large tracts of native prairie on our grounds means less mowing, runoff and emissions. We now have a stopover, resting and feeding area for waterfowl.”
- “The kids were taught to keep areas cleaner than they found them, which benefits fish.”

In addition to conservation understanding and skills, youth developed a wide array of valuable life skills by their participation in KATCH. Mentors reported the following impacts:

- “Kids learned to work cooperatively, and gained pride from the project. They have learned leadership skills and public speaking, as well as preparing educational materials.”
- “The kids expanded their knowledge by meeting and working with professionals in their community”.
- “By picking up all of the trash in the river, youth realized what happens when people litter or just leave trash laying around.”
- “The SCOPE project (Students Conserving, Observing, and Preserving the Environment) has given the students a sense of ownership for our school”
- “It gave our community and club members a sense that kids can have an impact”
- “Students took charge in implementing these improvements. They planned and executed this project. It was theirs.”
- “Some of the older kids in the club are now interested in conservation as a career. Two of the members attended a camp dedicated to leadership in natural resources because of this experience.”
- “This area gives local youth a wildlife area to explore, and take a sense of ownership.”
- “These river sampling activities have given the kids an opportunity to see pollution in and along waterways. It also taught them that they could do something about it.”
- “The kids now see the importance of making wise choices, even with natural resource management.”
- “They learned that things don’t always go as planned. When life gives you lemons make lemonade.”

## **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Participants were asked, “do you feel you met your desired outcomes?” Their responses were nearly unanimously “Yes!” Many of the groups were concerned about the plantings overcoming the drought period throughout Michigan in 2005 but all in all the projects were outstanding. We did have one group get involved with the Jaycees as a partner to do a project in a local park and all along the process things were very positive until a philosophy difference played out. The Jaycee group decided that they wanted to make the area more of a park setting with exotic and ornamental plants, more of a dog run park instead of a natural area. Communications became non-existent and the kids decided to work with another park in their county. They learned a lot about working through a process to be sure that everyone is in agreement with the project. Our new **Kids Are True Conservation Heroes, A Guide For Conservation Service Projects Selected Planned and Implemented By Youth In Their Communities** will help groups alleviate these problems in the future. It was helpful working with this group while working on the guide, as much was learned and added to the guide from their experience. All of the groups mentioned that they have new relationships with partners in their community that they didn’t have prior to receiving the KATCH Grant

From an overall project management standpoint, we had difficulty collecting needed report material from the counties by the due date we specified. We spent considerable time communicating with them to collect the information, which turned out to be more positive than negative. The groups were able to convey information from the local level to us for use in our guide, the things they said will be helpful for prospective grantees. Again we learned that partners are willing to provide support, education, and technical expertise.

## **Sharing the Results of this Project**

Results of KATCH have been shared throughout the Michigan State University Extension network, through media contacts, and in a national newsletter produced by the American Sportfishing Association. See Appendix 5 for copies of articles summarizing the results of this project.

At the local level, participants report these avenues for sharing the results of their work:

- Local news articles in daily papers and radio.
- Local newsletters (County MSU Extension, FFA, Sportsman Club Newsletters, township, school and community center newsletters, church bulletin)
- Radio interviews and TV broadcasts
- Speaking engagements (Rotary Club, Envirothon presentations, at 4-H Council and County Commissioner meetings)
- Community programs (e.g., bog walk, fair displays, for local community foundation)
- Flyers and signs for local event.

## Partnerships

Partnership development at the local level was the highlight of this KATCH initiative. This project was more successful in fostering local-level collaborations to benefit fish and wildlife than we, as organizers, ever anticipated. More than 122 different local partnering groups took an active part in helping the youth conduct their local projects. In most cases, it was the youth (and not the mentors) who made contact with these partners. Particularly noteworthy, all local projects made ample contact with fisheries and wildlife professionals and other appropriate technical expertise. This was the result of the state-level mentoring provided from KATCH staff involved in this project; these staff represented Michigan State University's Fisheries and Wildlife Department and the Michigan 4-H Foundation. These staff members provided regionally appropriate guidance regarding agencies and organizations to contact for detailed technical support at the local level. And, the youth did their part in following through on these contacts.

Through these partnerships, the following goods and services were contributed to this project, multiplying at least three-fold the initial funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:

- 569 youth spent 4421.5 hours working with these projects as volunteers and leaders.
- 177 adults contributed a total of 2,310 hours of service, valued at \$41,672.40 of labor. The value of volunteer time was estimated at \$18.04/hour for 2005 by the organization Independent Sector, ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org))
- These local projects attracted contributions of goods and services valued at \$51,228 from a reported 122 different local partnering entities and organizations
- Projects were carried out in communities with little overlap from the first KATCH Grant initiative in 2002. The program now has broader reach in Michigan.
- A local KATCH Grant Recipient attracted support from the FishAmerica Foundation and was featured as a model project for the American Sportfishing Association. This group initiated over \$20,000 of community support for work along the Cedar River in Gladwin MI.
- Participants reported significant benefits in the youths' learning about ecology, conservation, and habitat planning and improvement; this was confirmed in the success of the YESS Competition held in June of 2005.
- Participants also reported significant benefits in youths' development of essential life skills such as planning and carrying out projects, public processes and speaking skills, teamwork, community service, leadership, communications, cooperation, and being optimistic toward the future.

We, as project organizers, believe that this local level support would not have been possible without the generous support and credibility offered to this initiative through the support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It was a pleasure to work with our regional NFWF contact persons.

## The Future

At the local level, all of projects reported specific planned activities for sustaining and maintaining their project, such as:

- Maintain and monitor nest boxes
- Wrap tree and fertilize, mulch and continue “cluster” management
- Add to the existing areas through community grants and local support
- Utilize the KATCH Program for other organizations with which they work and to which they belong.
- Build additional nest boxes for other areas of the county
- Continue to monitor streams and waterways in their county, to keep up on the quality and work to enhance water quality if needed.
- Continue to promote the wise use of land and water and work to grow the club so more can be done in the future.
- Work on conservation education.
- Educate others on how to go about doing a service project and work with the community supporters created by this grant to focus on other identified sites.

From the coordinating level, we plan to promote the new **Kids Are True Conservation Heroes, A Guide For Conservation Service Projects Selected Planned and Implemented By Youth In Their Communities.** It is our intent to seek additional organizations (such as the support we have already obtained through donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation including the Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation, and FishAmerica Foundation) to procure contributions to expand the program. County 4-H offices and other organizations are already asking when the next round of grants will be available. This is a very popular and beneficial program that we believe we have refined to be able to administer it proficiently and with more impact from grantees. Our new guide will be a very helpful tool in working with youth groups interested in natural resource stewardship.

In summary, the support offered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has had a dramatic impact in Michigan. We are very proud to work in partnership with NFWF for the good of our kids and natural resource stewardship.

# **APPENDIX 1**

## **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Projects Carried out by KATCH – Kids Are True Conservation Heroes and Local Partners**

# **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Projects Carried out by KATCH – Kids are True Conservation Heroes and Local Partners**

## **Barry County**

Barry County MSU Extension 4-H; \$1,480

Wetland Adventures was held as a two-day program for 4-H youth to explore Michigan wetlands including fish, wildlife, plants and water. The participants were involved with water quality testing, experienced a research vessel, conducted a fish study, and learned about invasive species and birds. They also initiated and participated in a service project to control erosion along a trout stream. They worked with the Department of Natural Resources and started and grew native seed to be planted along a stretch of Augusta Creek. The participants prepared the area for planting and utilized stones and barrier control fabric to stop erosion until the plants were appropriate size for planting. A number of these youth were trained to be mentors for a sportfishing education program called Project FISH (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) and in Project WET and WILD Aquatic. This group has started a new Conservation/Environmental 4-H Club to continue work throughout the years to come. The grant was used to purchase materials and expenses for the educational program.

### Local Grant Partners:

- MSU Extension Kellogg Biological Station
- Project FISH
- Project WET
- Grand Valley State University WD Jackson Research Vessel
- Department of Natural Resources
- Hastings, Thorneapple, Lakewood, St. Rose and Cedar Creek Christian Schools
- Libraries of Delton, Middleville, Nashville and Hastings

## **Branch County**

Project FISH 4-H Club; \$0

This is a three-part project. The youth received training and completed volunteer work with the local Natural Resources Conservation District in the areas of water quality monitoring, understanding watersheds, and habitat restoration of Hogs Creek. These kids also participated in a clean up day for Hogs Creek and meet every month for aquatic resource education through their newly formed Project FISH Club. Throughout the summer the kids participated in water quality testing and macro-invertebrate identification, watershed information classes, fish identification and decoy carving, a Hogs Creek wildlife search, bug and tree ID along the creek, and vegetation replanting for erosion control. This group has identified several sites along the watershed for attention in 2006. The grant of \$1200.00 was not needed, as enough community partners were involved to accomplish their goals.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Hillsdale and Branch County 4-H Youth Development
- The Community Church
- Department of Natural Resources
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Hillsdale County Conservation District
- Project FISH
- National Fish Decoy Carving Champion: Al Reig

## **Cheboygan County**

Makinaw Public School Forest Interpretive Trail; \$476.47

The newly formed Environmental Science Class developed an Interpretive Nature Trail in an 80-acre forest on school property. The project included clearing trails, designing informational signs with factual information about the trees, soil and wildlife of the area, placing picnic tables and bird nesting boxes for kids and their families to enjoy. They created brush pile habitats along the walking trails and came up with KATCH'y names like Aspen Avenue and Bark Boulevard for the trails. They created some benches and podiums as well. This is not the stopping point for this group or this site. They have plans to start growing their own seedlings for enhancing the habitat even more for wildlife and will integrate additional education activities from basic ecology of the site to fishing and aquatic steward mentoring. The grant will support the purchase of supplies to make the informational signs for the trail.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Cheboygan and Emmet County 4-H
- The Forestry Company
- Mackinaw City Schools
- Koffmans Hardware
- Mackinaw City Building Center

## **Gladwin County**

Gladwin County 4-H Project FISH Club; \$1,361.50

The kids in this project restored one of 140 erosion sites as part of the Cedar River Watershed Streambank Restoration Plan. They built and installed LUNKER structures and rock that will stop erosion along the steep bank and enhance fish habitat of the Cedar River. The kids learned about the effects of erosion and sedimentation and a number of them have exhibited a very strong interest in careers in natural resource management. Two of the participants attended the Great Lakes Natural Resources Teen Leadership Camp because of this experience and have also joined the 4-H Michigan Youth Conservation Council to become involved with working with Michigan legislators on environmental issues facing the state. This project has been featured in a national article in the Fishing Tackle Retailers Magazine because of its unique partnerships. It shows how youth can get involved in a sportfishing education program and extend their learning into community service with support of the fishing industry and local partners **The FishAmerica Foundation provided a portion of the funding for this project.** The grant supported purchasing supplies to build the LUNKERS and to purchase rock.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Gladwin County 4-H Extension
- The FishAmerica Foundation
- Project FISH/HOFNOD Programs
- Cedar River Watershed Management Plan
- Cedar River landowners and community residents
- Gladwin County Soil Conservation District
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Doyle Donn Excavators
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Iosco County**

Just Fishin' Club; \$120.25

The project was a Litter Control Project to remove litter from local beaches, a river and a state park area to teach kids the importance of preservation of clean waterways for human, animal and plant benefits. The kids participated in a number of clean ups and did educational displays and conservation days in their community. The kids did fish printing, fish and macro-invertebrate identification, aquatic invasive species education at Tawas Point State Park and Tawas Celebration Days. This group traveled to Bay City State Park to help out on Free Fishing weekend as well. The kids learned from doing community service and education but also had some fun learning new fishing skills at a few outings. The grant supported the purchase of supplies and educational resources to form a new 4-H Project FISH youth club in the county.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Iosco County 4-H
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Project FISH
- Department of Natural Resources
- Friends of Tawas State Park
- Calypso Charters

## **Macomb County**

Adopt A Stream/Watershed Project; \$999.47

This was an Adopt-a-stream and Watershed Education project. The kids identified a number of sections along tributaries leading to the Clinton River in Macomb County. The 4-H club youth members received training from the Clinton River Watershed Council and then implemented water quality monitoring at multiple creeks, rivers and streams in their area. The club made a commitment to the Council to be their northern monitoring group and continue the process for years to come as a club project. They will conduct sampling in May and October of every year and work to enhance habitat along areas producing below average monitoring scores. This group is planning to do work in Brandonburg Park to enhance fish habitat near piers and fishing areas. The grant supported the purchase of the water quality monitoring supplies.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Macomb County 4-H
- Huron Pointe Sportsman's Association
- Project FISH
- Department of Natural Resources
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Stoney Creek Metropark
- Macomb Conservation District
- Benz Microscopic Supplies



## **Midland County**

Arnold Center and Midland County 4-H Programs; \$796.43

REACTing For A Cause is a project that planned and improved bird habitat along the Rail Trail in Midland County by constructing, placing and monitoring ten wood duck nest boxes, twenty blue bird nest boxes and planting 100 native trees and shrubs on land adjacent to the Averill Preserve. This team of youth consisted of teens and adults from 4-H and the Arnold Center, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with varying needs, through the development of vocational, social and life skills. This group will continue to work on conservation services in the future including maintenance and monitoring of the nest boxes. The grant purchased supplies for the nest boxes and other promotional expenses.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Midland County 4-H
- The Arnold Center
- Midland Conservation District
- Little Forks Conservancy
- Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program

## **Muskegon County**

Central Elementary School; \$1,500

The “Our Great Outdoors” project was initiated to restore and enhance an existing nature area and parts of the schoolyard at Central Elementary School. The project was designed improve habitat for wildlife and create outdoor learning stations for science, math, language, arts and philanthropy. The kids built and planted raised gardens with themes and each year the new classes will do the same. They created a Dune Walk path to re-establish access to an area to be enhanced with native vegetation. The teachers in the school worked with the classroom curriculum and created birdhouses to place in the nature area, which created an atmosphere of learning for the whole school, around the “Our Great Outdoors” project. The kids in the school did a notepad fundraiser that raised nearly \$800.00. The grant supported the purchase of black dirt, wood chips, flower flats, shrubs and native grasses, pond and aerator and copper garden markers and a greenhouse to start seedlings to be planted into the nature areas in the future.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Muskegon County 4-H
- Reeths-Puffer School District
- Muskegon Math and Science Center
- Barry’s Greenhouse
- Muskegon County Conservation District
- Blanford Nature Center

## **Oakland County**

Boy Scout Troop 1036 and Bloomfield Hills Schools; \$1,500

This project was an Eagle Scout Project that created a Nature Study Platform near a wetland marsh for Bloomfield Hills students and Nature Center visitors to conduct biological experiments and nature studies and public viewing of wetland life. Teachers and nature center employees agreed that this platform would enhance the understanding of wetland functions and benefit wildlife in more areas than just at this site. The project was designed to educate about and remove invasive species of plants like buckthorn and purple loosestrife. This project taught and will teach respect for procedures and practices that help control development of wetlands. The grant was used to purchase supplies to build the platform.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Boy Scout Troop 1036
- Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Oakland County 4-H
- E.L Johnson Nature Center
- Top Notch Construction
- Starbucks and Brooklyn Bagels
- Charter Township Of Bloomfield
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

## **Ottawa County**

Woodbridge Elementary School, Zeeland Public Schools; \$1,500

The administrators, teachers and students at Woodbridge Elementary School will pilot the National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitat Project for the Zeeland Public School District with this project. They created several interconnected areas that will be used as outdoor classrooms and investigative sites for students. These include a native conifer grove, a pond area, native fruiting trees and shrubs, a grapevine tent, native deciduous tree plantings, a butterfly garden, native prairie area and a bluebird trail. This is a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders called the JASON Club. This group does many outdoor related activities based on the work they do on their school property for wildlife. This year's focus was bird feeders/houses, a migratory bird garden, and an environmental newsletter. They have even created "Lavatory Learnings" educational readings on Michigan Animals in student bathrooms. The grant supported the purchase of trees, other plants and the digging/dredging of the pond/wetland area.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Ottawa County 4-H
- Michigan Leopold Education Project
- Zeeland Public Schools
- National Wildlife Federation
- DeSal Excavating
- Pheasants Forever
- Shoreline Orthopedics
- Roarks Nursery
- Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation

## **Saginaw County**

Saginaw 4-H Project FISH Club; \$1,500

This group is a fishing club that wanted to enhance a canoe launch/landing site by landscaping with plants and stone to reduce soil erosion to create better water quality. They also created signs to post at the site about the importance of water quality for recreation purposes including canoeing and fishing. The group chose a project site early in 2005, but ran into complications with the Jaycees who agreed on working with them on the canoe launch. But, when it came to doing the project, the Jaycees wanted more of a non-native plant, park-like setting instead of native wildlife vegetation. They parted ways but this was a very good learning experience for the kids as sometimes things don't work out and if you follow a process you won't get too far into a project to get out. They found a new site at an existing canoe launch on the Cass River in conjunction with Frankenmuth Parks and Recreation. This area of the park needed bank stabilization so the kids agreed to work with this project instead. The youth learned permit processes and the skills of doing their homework to do presentations. They wrote poems, stories, drew about the area to be enhanced in order to provide baseline data and to monitor their success in the coming years. The grant was used to purchase native plants, stone, books, field guides, and signage for the area.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Saginaw County 4-H
- Frankenmuth Parks and Recreation
- Vonberg and Associates
- Saginaw County Soil Conservation District
- Department of Natural Resources
- Designs By Nature LLC
- Saginaw County Commissioner
- McDonalds of Frankenmuth

## **Saginaw County**

Brady 4-H Club; \$1,285

The project improved wildlife habitat at the Mid-Michigan Old Gas Tractor Show grounds. The kids built, placed and monitored bird nest boxes for bluebirds, wren and woodpeckers, planted wildlife food plots and winter cover to benefit songbirds, pheasants and other game birds. In addition the kids designed and constructed an educational display and informational signage to increase public education and awareness. The boxes already had a 60% occupancy rate and the community gives regular updates to the kids as they visit the site. The grant was used to purchase supplies for bird nest boxes, shrubs, wildflowers and other plants, signage, display and benches.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Saginaw County 4-H
- Saginaw Soil Conservation District
- Oakley Hardwoods
- Big T Construction
- Triple R Homes
- MSU Horticulture Club
- Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association
- Riverside Flowers

## **Sanilac County**

Sanilac County FFA; \$876.34

This project, a Black River Restoration and Clean Up, consisted of bank erosion control and the removal of trash to reduce sedimentation and to improve canoeing and fishing opportunities and water quality. The Sanilac FFA successfully cleaned one mile of the river and took out three tons of trash and 106 passenger tires. By involving the community youth, their opinions of the river and how people treat it was impacted. The kids saw that trashing the river really impacted the water flow, and numbers of organisms present on water quality assessment sheets provided by the DEQ. They will continue to educate the public in their area by writing articles and continuing clean ups planned in the future. The grant was used to purchase waders, supplies for trash pick up and other expenses like tire disposal.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Sanilac County 4-H
- Tractor Supply Company
- J&D Market
- Tri City Landfill
- Local Volunteers for Canoes
- Future Farmers of America
- Michigan Sugar Corporation
- Sanilac County Conservation District

## **Emmet County**

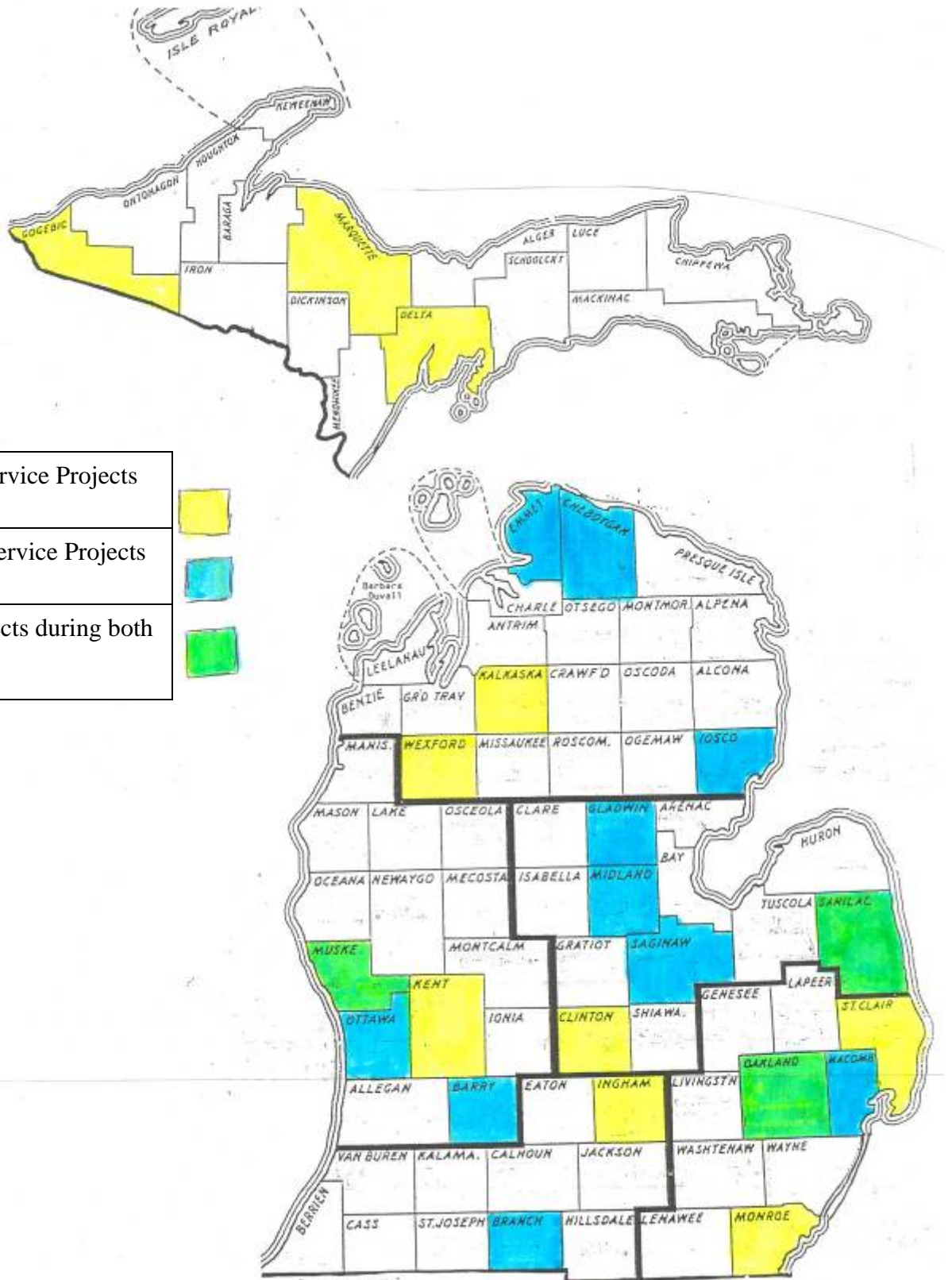
Petoskey High School Landscaping Project; \$1,500.00




This project involved re-introducing native plant species into an area devoid of anything but lawn grass. The project provided wildlife habitat and food sources. The kids in this project advertised the planting days and the reasons for re-creating this site in school advertisements. They looked for community support through other classmate's word of mouth around the community. They planted clusters of native trees, shrubs, and grasses and installed walkway surfaces and benches around the vegetation. The grant purchased trees, shrubs and grasses.

### Local Grant Partners:

- Petoskey Future Farmers of America
- Odawa Indian Tribe
- Great Lakes Energy People Fund
- Brad Dulin Memorial
- Harbor/Petoskey Foundation
- Emmet County 4-H
- John Hoffman Nursury
- Marvin's Gardens
- Emmet County Family Court

**Shaded Areas are where KATCH Grants have been administered**



KATCH I Service Projects 2001-2003	
KATCH II Service Projects 2004-2005	
Service Projects during both periods	

## **Appendix 2**

### **Master List of KATCH Grant Recipients**

Master List of K.A.T.C.H. Grant recipients January 2004-January 2006:

<i>Title of Grant</i>	<i>Grantee contact</i>	<i>Local Donations</i>	<i>Youth Involved</i>	<i>Youth Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>Adults Involved</i>	<i>Adult Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Total Expenses</i>
<b>Saginaw County Improvement of habitat on Old Gas Tractor Show grounds</b>	<b>Brady 4H Club Pennie Tomac 14563 S. Brennan Rd. Chesaning MI 48616 989-845-2792 <a href="mailto:tomacfarms@juno.com">tomacfarms@juno.com</a></b>	<b>\$1845.00</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>\$1285.00</b>	<b>\$1285.00</b>
<b>Iosco County Project FISH Club</b>	<b>Rebecca Shirrick 3950 Lawrence Dr. Oscoda MI 48750 989-739-4754 <a href="mailto:Loeffl28@msu.edu">Loeffl28@msu.edu</a></b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>	<b>\$120.25</b>
<b>Ottawa County Woodbridge SCOPE (Students Observing, Conserving and Preserving the Environment)</b>	<b>Marti Dekker Woodbridge School 9110 Woodbridge Dr. Zeeland MI 49464 616-748-3400 <a href="mailto:mdekker@zeeland.k12.mi.us">mdekker@zeeland.k12.mi.us</a></b>	<b>\$3550.00</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Oakland County Bloomfield Hills Nature Study Area Platform</b>	<b>Bill Aylesworth 4140 Lakeridge Lane Bloomfield Hills MI 48302 248-932-3445 <a href="mailto:bill@ourviz.com">bill@ourviz.com</a></b>	<b>\$3424.29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>426.5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Cheboygan County Mackinaw City School Forest Interpretive Trail</b>	<b>Mackinaw City Schools David Huntington PO Box 541 Mackinaw City MI 49701] 616-638-6101 <a href="mailto:huntingd38@yahoo.com">huntingd38@yahoo.com</a></b>	<b>\$1189.70</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$481.00</b>	<b>\$476.47</b>
<b>Barry County Wetland Adventures</b>	<b>Barry County 4H Kathy Walters-Surratt 206 W. Court St. Hastings MI 49058 269-945-1388 <a href="mailto:surratt4@msu.edu">surratt4@msu.edu</a></b>	<b>\$6479.04</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>\$1480.00</b>	<b>\$1480.00</b>
<b>Muskegon County Our Great Outdoors</b>	<b>Muskegon Public Schools Kathy Veenstra 1807 W. Giles Rd. Muskegon MI 49445 231-744-1693 x2509 <a href="mailto:veenstrk@reeths-puffer.org">veenstrk@reeths-puffer.org</a></b>	<b>\$2663.55</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>

<b>Midland County REACTing for a cause</b>	<b>Dave Thomas</b> Midland County 4H 220 W. Ellsworth Street Midland MI 48640 989-832-6758 <a href="mailto:thomasd@msu.edu">thomasd@msu.edu</a>	\$1160.00	50	750	6	70	\$1500.00	\$796.43
<b>Macomb County Adopt-a-Stream Watershed Project</b>	<b>Leroy Mikolowski</b> 29640 Armada Ridge Richmond MI 48062 586-727-5465 <a href="mailto:lamamikolowski@netscape.net">lamamikolowski@netscape.net</a>	\$120.00	10	100	6	60	\$1000.00	\$999.47
<b>Branch County Hogs Creek Watershed Project</b>	<b>John Underwood</b> 425 N. Fremont Quincy MI 49082 517-677-9552 <a href="mailto:woody@projectfish.org">woody@projectfish.org</a>	\$250.00	32	480	10	170	\$1200.00	\$0
<b>Sanilac County Black River Environmental Restoration and Clean-up</b>	<b>Robert Sollman</b> Sanilac FFA 175 E. Aitken Peck, MI 48755 810-648-4700 <a href="mailto:rsollman@sanilac.k12.mi.us">rsollman@sanilac.k12.mi.us</a>	\$1088.00	25	175	9	63	\$970.00	\$876.34
<b>Gladwin County Cedar River Streambank Restoration Project</b>	<b>Glenda Bair</b> Gladwin County 4H 555. W. Cedar Ave. Gladwin MI 48624 989-426-7741 <a href="mailto:msue26@msu.edu">msue26@msu.edu</a>	\$20,925.00	15	260	10	640	\$1361.50	\$1361.50
<b>Emmet County Petoskey High School Landscaping Project</b>	<b>Becky Scholl-Stauffer</b> Petoskey High School 1500 Hill Street Petoskey MI 49770 231-348-2223	\$7783.55	20	82	8	40	\$1500.00	\$1500.00
<b>Saginaw County Frankenmuth Canoe Launch and Nature Trail</b>	<b>Janet Wendland</b> Frankenmuth Project FISH Club MSUE One Tuscola Saginaw MI 48607 989-758-2500 <a href="mailto:wendlan2@msu.edu">wendlan2@msu.edu</a>	\$1025.00	15	150	12	120	\$1500.00	\$1500.00
<b>Direct KATCH related Totals:</b>		\$51528.13	569	4421.50	177	2310	\$16937.50	\$14895.46
<b>Additional KATCH-related grants to REACT counties</b>	<b>Supervisor: Andrea Grix Kettunen Center, Tustin MI</b>	\$4254.54	<b>Did not report</b>				\$4254.54	\$4254.54

Adults contributed 2310 hours @ \$18.04/hour = \$41,672.40 of in-kind volunteer labor.



## **Appendix 3**

### **KATCH Grant Photo Pages**

**Kids from Saginaw County enjoy a “Sit Spot” experience as part of their finding out more about the area that they worked on.**



Water look

### A TRIP TO THE WOODS

As I walk along,  
Not making one step wrong,  
I travel to my kingdom,  
No one will challenge me,  
As I walk to my throne,  
The base of the tree,  
I see the cautious squirrel,  
The mole climbing from his furrow,  
I will return soon someday,  
But for now I will stay.



**Iosco County kids educate children and families as part of their service project by setting up these educational, interactive displays at local festivals in their county. These kids are letting others know about fisheries management and exotic species. By utilizing local resources they worked with many age groups and had fun.**



**Kids from the Muskegon area working on the “Our Great Outdoors” Nature area.**



Here is a shot of the mulch bucket brigade. What a great day to be outdoors.

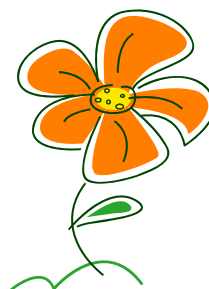
“The hard work paid off. Here is an example of how proper habitat encourages wildlife to live here.”



**Kids from the Brady 4-H Club create habitat on the Old Gas Tractor Association Fairgrounds.**



**This is a perennial bed and is located near the restrooms and showers.**





**This is one of the birdhouses with a nest in it.**



**This is one of the Woodpecker boxes we put up.**



**We were busy planting different wildlife shrubs.**



**This is the group that met to build birdhouses.**



Home Tweet Home

**Gladwin County kids get their feet wet working on a stream bank erosion project with the creation of some fish shelter called “LUNKERS” along a stretch of the Cedar River.**



Let’s see what we have before and after our project. I bet we get more macro invertebrates after we stop all of this erosion.



Building the LUNKER structures with help from the FishAmerica Foundation and KATCH Donors.





**Mackinaw Public Schools, High School students** created a Forest Interpretive Trail in an 80- acre forest area on the school property. The project included clearing trails, designing signs with interpretive information about trees, soil and wildlife of the area, placing picnic tables, building and placing Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes.



**The Mackinaw High School students** were very proud of their work. They came up with KATCH'y names for their signage like "Aspen Avenue" and "Bark Boulevard." The KATCH grant funding was not the stopping point for this group or this site. They have plans to start growing their own seedlings for enhancing the habitat even more for wildlife and plan to integrate more educational activities.





**Arnold Center and Midland County 4-H Program's** service included improving bird habitat along the Rails to Trails in Midland County by constructing, placing and having plans to monitor Eastern Bluebird and Wood Duck nesting boxes.



The mission of the Arnold Center is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with varying needs through the development of vocational, social and life skills. The students from the Arnold Center will continue to work on the maintenance and monitoring of the nest boxes.



**The Branch County Project F.I.S.H. club** involved the youth in a three-part project. They completed training and volunteer work with the County Conservation District in the areas of water quality monitoring, understanding watersheds and habitat restoration on Hogs Creek.



Hogs Creek macroinvertebrate identification and analysis were the skills the kids learned and the data were useful to the resource professionals for water quality monitoring.



**Petoskey High School Landscaping Project pre and post photos. Community partners for the project were Petoskey Future Farmers of America, Odawa Indian Tribe, Great Lakes Energy People Fund, Harbor Petoskey Foundation, Emmet County 4-H, John Hoffman Nursery, Brad Dulin Memorial, Marvin's Garden and Emmet County Family Court.**



*Initial groundwork and preparation.*



*West view*

*"Northmen Den" Memorial Courtyard*

**Petoskey High School students** were involved in a Michigan native plant landscaping project for their high school. The students felt it was important to use native plant species which would provide wildlife habitat and food sources. They wanted to improve the school site and reduce the amount of mowed grass.



*Building a nursery for tree seedlings.*



*Final product, greenhouse in the back ground. We will plant these trees, balled and burlapped later into the landscape.*



# **Appendix 4**

## **Quotable Quotes From Kids and Mentors**

## **KATCH Grant Quotes**

### **Central Elementary – Our Great Outdoors**

“It was nice to see the whole school involved in the same project. Everyone worked together like never before” Kathy Veenstra, teacher

“Thanks forgiving us the money for the gardens. You should see how beautiful they are.” Collyn

### **Woodbridge Elementary**

“I will continue to incorporate this material into our curriculum. The kids love to be outdoors.” Marti Dekker, teacher

### **Brady 4-H Club**

“The community gives us reports on how the bird boxes are doing all of the time. They are really buying in to “fixing up” the area for wildlife.” Penny Tomac, volunteer leader

“It gave our community and club members a sense that kids can have an impact”

### **Sanilac FFA**

“Without your help, our chapter would never have been able to perform this project and wouldn’t have been able to improve the quality of the river.” Melissa Smith, FFA Student

“Seeing these kids work for something they love is amazing.” Jim Kneebone MSU Extension

### **Iosco County- Just Fishin Club**

“Brandon Schroeder from Sea Grant was very helpful . We had a lot of fun with him and the Project FISH activities.” Rebecca Shirrick, Club Leader

### **Gladwin County Project FISH Club**

“These kids were able to learn a lot from this project and they wouldn’t have been able to learn without the money we received. The hands-on learning is priceless.” Glenda Bair, Gladwin County Extension

“This type of teamwork is proof that the missions of both foundations (Future Fisherman Foundation, FishAmerica Foundation) come full circle to inherently benefit each other.” Mike Nussman, President and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association.

### **Barry County 4-H – Wetland Adventures**

“We have started a conservation-environmental science 4-H club, which also teaches youth fishing.” Kathy Walters-Surratt, Barry County Extension

“I got sick on the boat.” Camper

### **Mackinaw City Public Schools**

“The foundations have been laid and we now have a natural area to learn from and build upon.” David Huntington, teacher

“It was fun to come up with KATCH’y names for our trails like Aspen Avenue and Bark Boulevard.” Mackinaw City Student

### **Oakland County Boy Scouts**

“This is a project that many students and teachers will be able to learn from. We were able to accomplish something as a community team” Seth Aylesworth, Eagle Scout Candidate

### **Branch County 4-H**

“By getting involved in this project we have partnered with some really cool people from natural resources professionals to National Fish Decoy Carving Champions.” John Underwood, volunteer

### **Macomb County Coyote Club**

“We will keep an eye on our river to be sure that the water is clean and safe.” Meagan and Gareth, club members

“We wanted to do this project because no one is currently testing our northern streams by our club and we feel this is a very important cause.” Leroy Mikowloski, club leader

### **Saginaw County Project FISH Club**

“They learned that things don’t always go as planned. When life gives you lemons make lemonade.” Jan Wendland, 4-H Associate

“We heard birds over us and one kid heard the trickle of the water.” Club member

### **Midland County REEACT**

“We will continue to build additional birdhouses for other organizations in the Midland County area.” Dave Thomas, Midland County 4-H Agent

### **Petoskey High School Landscape Project**

“We have reintroduced native species of tree and plants into an area devoid of anything but lawn. It has had an impact of the wildlife present there already.” Petoskey High School Student

## **Appendix 5**

### **Samples of Promotional Materials and “Thank You’s” Received from Local Project Reports**

# 4-H Newsletter



MSU Extension Gladwin County  
Bringing Knowledge to Life!

*April  
2005  
Newsletter*



Dear 4-H Families,

I think spring is here at last! We seem to be moving right along with 4-H programming within the county and around the state. Please take time with your family and 4-H club to read over this newsletter. There are some changes going on that you all need to be aware of, such as, deadline dates for projects and events that need pre-registration. Committees have been meeting on a variety of programs. All of you can have a voice in the decision making if you attend a meeting. We would like to have you involved. Don't forget to check out our new portal website—[www.msue.msu.edu/gladwin](http://www.msue.msu.edu/gladwin). We have forms on line now and we did get some sent in this way. Technology is here!

The 4-H Family Handbook will be sent out in early June. The fair will be here before you know it.

Also, 4-H camp flyers are available at the office. Sign up now for a fun time at camp—Wild Wild West is the theme this year.

Please feel free to call the MSU Extension office at 426-7741 for any questions, concerns, etc regarding the 4-H program. We would be happy to meet with you also.

Have a great summer!

*Beverly Poptas*

Bev Przystas  
County Extension Director/4-H Agent

Congratulations to the Gladwin County 4-H Project F.I.S.H. Club. They have been awarded two grants. The first one is an Innovative Grant from the 4-H Foundation for \$500 that will help this club to tour the Platte River State Fish Hatchery in Beulah Michigan and then go on to Frankfort to spend some time fishing on the piers there.



The second is a KATCH (Kids Are True Conservation Heroes) Grant from the "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service", "Donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation", the FishAmerica Foundation and the "Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation." This grant for \$1,361.50 will allow the club members to assist in the building of 125 feet of "lunker" structure, that will be placed along a steep eroding bank of the Cedar River. This structure will increase aquatic habitat while reducing sedimentation of the river.

"4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills"



The Sanilac County  
**ersonian**

Best Sanilac County for 147 years

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Sunday, May 29 2005



**SNOVER PARTY  
STORE**

Flavor Burst  
Ice Cream

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•Sandwiches  
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## Career Center students clear three tons of trash from Black River

by MARGARET WHITMER  
reporter

The good news: Water samples collected from the Black River by Robert Sollman's biotechnology class in the past 10 years have consistently indicated very little pollution of a chemical or septic nature.

The bad news: Trash is an entirely different story.

Students from Sollman's class at the Sanilac Career Center estimate they cleared about three tons of discarded items — including tires, bottles, farm machinery, barrels, car parts and other human artifacts — from the river during the first-ever Black River Cleanup Day.

The clean up took place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 20, starting in Swinging Bridge Park, Croswell, and included about 30 juniors and seniors from all seven Sanilac districts.

"I was amazed at some of the stuff we were dragging out of there," Sollman said. "There are three significant piles we would like to tackle...stuff that goes back years. But it was significantly more than we could tackle. It was an awesome project for the kids to do."

The cleanup took place with the help of a \$960 grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The KATCH grant (which stands for Kids Are True Conservation Heroes) allowed Sollman's class to buy trash bags, wading boots, first aid kits and other supplies needed to safely conduct the cleanup.

From the dam across from Michigan Sugar, the group toiled about one mile to north of Sheridan Line Road, loading the junk dredged from the river into two canoes and three flat-bottomed boats.



### Fishing for trash

Ricky Lloyd, from Sandusky, a junior in the PEAK alternative high school, and Jennifer Schlueter, biotechnology instructional support technician, haul a discarded tire from the Black River during the first Black River Cleanup Day, conducted by students in Robert Sollman's biotechnology class at the Sanilac Career Center. (Photo by Nicole Trango)

The boats were unloaded at the cemetery across the road from the Croswell Stockyard. "We'd form a chain of kids and assembly line the stuff up the bank," Sollman said.

The junk was packed into 16-foot car-hauler trailers, plus one pickup truck, and driven to two host homes in Croswell to be sorted.

"Between the scrap metal and tires, I think we'll be able to recycle about two-thirds of what we pulled out," Sollman said.

What can't be recycled will be held until Free Dump Day, which is Sat., June 4.

Monitoring of the Black River has been

Continued on Page 2

## Croswell really delivers the goods during post office canned food drive

by MARGARET WHITMER  
reporter

The Project Blessing of Carsonville got an extra-special delivery recently, thanks to a first-time experiment conducted by the Croswell Post Office staff and the over-

one personal check) from folks along their six routes on May 14 during the U.S. Post Office's national canned goods drive.

"People left cans near their boxes and some even brought the food in to us," said Cheryl

Wednesday before and we were just amazed at the food," Patricia Olds said. "The woman at the pantry said the shelves were empty and, of course, we filled them up."

"The truck driver that picks our mail up was going to pick

The response was just wonderful."

Dudley said the food drive is routinely conducted by the Port Huron Post Office, where she served prior to coming to Croswell. Cards are left in customers' mailboxes, asking





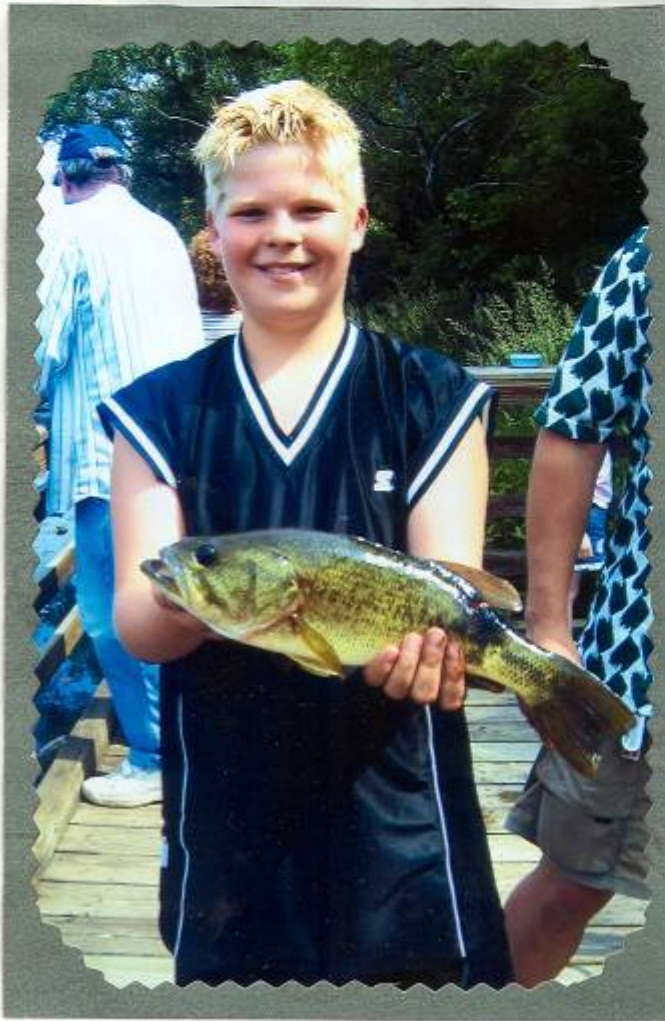
Young Conservationist Wins High Marks

Michael Healy won first place in the CCHE, a local home school co-op, science fair in the fourth thru seventh grade category. The title of Michael's project was "Hog Creek Water Quality Testing through Macroinvertebrate Collection". Michael surveyed three sites along Hog Creek in Allen Township. The survey was done in April. The data that Michael collected will be added to the current data on the Hog Creek.

When asked what was the coolest thing he learned during this project Michael responded, "Knowing the specific names of the insects I was finding." Michael loves the outdoors and the creatures that he finds. In the future he hopes to pursue this interest. Michael will participate with his 4-H group in a stream search this summer along the Hog Creek. If you have a group that would like to conduct a search call Sarah at the District.



Michael Healy showed great enthusiasm for conservation while conducting his science project. In the photo above, Michael is checking out his recent catch of invertebrates in a riffle on Hog Creek near Allen.



Michael Healy's  
4-H project +  
Science Fair  
Combo.



# Local kids quite a 'katch'

GLADWIN COUNTY – The Gladwin County 4-H Project F.I.S.H. Club was awarded a KATCH (Kids Are True Conservation Heroes) grant for \$1351.50 earlier this year to assist in building and placing 135 linear feet of "lunkers" along a steep eroding bank on the Cedar River between Beaverton and Gladwin.

The club is being assisted by the Gladwin Soil Conservation District, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

So far club members have helped to build 15 lunkers which will be placed in the river before this fall. The Project F.I.S.H. club had one of these lunkers on display at the Gladwin County Fair this year in their club booth, inside the still exhibit building.

Lunkers help to keep river banks from eroding and also provide habitat for fish by providing an overhanging bank that aquatic life will be able to use as cover and will also reduce water temperatures.





# Like to Fish or Want to Learn How?



*Do you have an urge-in, to learn about a Sturgeon?*

*Then bring your pal Spike, and we'll show you how to catch a Pike.*

If this sounds like fun to you, then come and join the new Iosco 4-H Fishing Club.

## The members will learn:

- ★ About fish (and how to catch them),
- ★ How to tie knots and cast,
- ★ What baits to use (and how to make some of them!),
- ★ To just explore the natural resources of Lake Huron, lakes, and rivers in our County.
- ★ Members will do community service during each meeting by cleaning up the site at which they explore and fish.



Each club meeting will take place at a new site around Iosco county.

The first meeting will be Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fishing/Park at the intersection of Nunn Road and Bridge Street in East Tawas.

To Register or for more information call the MSU Extension office, 362-3449



**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
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# Schoolyard Habitat Project Needs Helpers!

**The Students' Vision:** *A schoolyard where they can take part in hands-on science, math and social studies lessons in outdoor classrooms, exploring, reflecting, discovering and enjoying the natural areas around them. A wetland area for aquatic invertebrate and tadpole studies with under a willow tree. Learning about birds along a bluebird trail winding its way through tall grass prairie and pine grove habitats. A butterfly garden outside the multi-purpose room to attract wildlife and provide beauty and inspiration for art class while hiding the parking lot from view. Trees and grape vine tents to sit under and reflect during journaling exercises. These are but a few of the wonderful ideas students have helped generate for our school grounds.*

Based on the student vision, there are some big and very exciting projects in the works for Woodbridge's Schoolyard Habitat Project! Some of these include:

- dredging a pond
- landscaping around pond
- installing landscape timbers for hillside seating
- installing split rail fencing
- planting trees/bushes/flowers
- building trellises
- building 'grapevine tent' gazebo
- earth moving/grading
- grant writing
- bench and table building
- bird/bat/owl house building
- trail construction
- spreading woodchips
- tilling
- weeding
- watering
- working with classrooms on projects
- environmental club helpers

If you have interest, expertise or connections in any of these areas, and/or would like to be on the Schoolyard Habitat Committee or help with the Woodbridge Environmental Club,

**WE NEED YOU!**

The Woodbridge Schoolyard Habitat Committee is part of the Zeeland S.C.O.P.E Project. SCOPE stands for Students Conserving Observing and Preserving the Environment. SCOPE's vision is to make our Zeeland schools more fiscally responsible and environmentally friendly through the creation of no/low maintenance landscaping that can be designed, created and utilized by teachers and students to enhance curriculum with hands-on/minds-on opportunities. Some examples of SCOPE projects include: schoolyard habitats, outdoor classrooms, rain gardens, wetlands, butterfly gardens, environmental clubs, etc.



Our Wetlands Adventure Committee met at least three times during December of 2004 and January of 2005 to prepare the Katch Grant. The community service project was discussed by the youth members and the adult volunteers on the committee. Sara Schaefer a DNR Biologist said that she would work with the DNR to come up with a community service project for the Wetland Adventure Camp. She presented the Augusta Creek project at one of the meetings. The project would be close to the Kellogg Biological Station and would fit into the day camp schedule. The participants would prepare the banks of the creek to plant. Then plant the plants to prevent erosion. The seeds would be purchased in the spring by the DNR and planted in the DNR greenhouse. The seedlings would be nurtured in the DNR greenhouse from spring until August 16<sup>th</sup> when the plants would be planted on the banks of the creek by the participants. The participants will be supervised by the DNR staff. Sara will work with the DNR staff to buy the seed, plant the seed in the greenhouse and have the plants ready in August. Sara will also arrange for DNR staff to work with youth at the community service site and explain why this project is so important to the creek. This was all completed.

When it came time to plant the weather was so hot that drought conditions existed. The soil was too dry and conditions were not conducive to planting the plants outdoors. On August 16<sup>th</sup> the camp participants placed stones and barrier control fabric on stream bank for erosion control. We discussed getting together on another date in the fall if the weather changed from drought conditions. Unfortunately the conditions did not change. So it was decided by the DNR staff and Sara that the plants would be kept in the greenhouse until the spring of 2006 when hopefully the weather conditions will be much better for planting.

We will organize a special day for planting and invite all of the Wetlands Adventure participants to complete the community service project at the Augusta Creek.



3390 100<sup>th</sup> Ave Zeeland, MI 49464

Phone: (616) 748-4503 Fax: (616) 748-4505 [mtimmer2@zeeland.k12.mi.us](mailto:mtimmer2@zeeland.k12.mi.us)

To whom it may concern:

Zeeland Public Schools is committed to being an environmentally conscience district by creating sustainable landscape areas, outdoor classrooms, and energy efficient buildings. Some highlights of these efforts are that the district has:

- Created two onsite wetlands areas that cover over 10 acres of land
- Planted approximately 18 acres of prairie grasses and native wildflowers around the two existing high schools
- Built two new schools that are heated and cooled using geothermal and wind power along with more traditional sources.
- Done building improvements to create energy efficiency in older building in the district
- Rewritten the district science curriculum (K-12) to include a study of wetlands

Marti Dekker, a teacher at Woodbridge Elementary School, has created an environmental club that consists of about a dozen fifth grade students. Each year the students brain storm and come up with ideas that will positively impact the environment. During the fall of 2004 the environmental club convinced the teachers in grades 1 through 5 to become part of project feeder watch in partnership with Cornell University. The students wrote grants and received donations to create habitat areas out side of the classroom windows to attract local birds. Once they completed that, the students decided that the areas all around the building needed to be changed so they were ascetically more appealing, environmentally friendly, and could be used to support curriculum. The students partnered with the district Community and Careers Coordinator, numerous environmental professionals and the district financial manager to create S.C.O.P.E., a project to revitalize the schools grounds into outdoor classroom areas, habitats for birds and wildlife and to look more appealing to the general public. The students wrote a grant to the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation and helped in writing the KATCH grant. All three grants were awarded to them. Because of the outside funding received, the finance director of Zeeland Schools realized this was not a short-term project, but something that the students and the teachers were committed to so he agreed to finance the remainder of the project. This project will become another part of the Zeeland Public Schools environmentally friendly pieces and will provide a haven to students and wildlife for many years to come.

Thank you National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the  
Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation.  
Doing this has inspired me to go out and do  
more. Without this money most of the stuff  
needs we could not.

From,

Tyler Kolomycki

Seth Aylesworth  
4140 Lakeridge LN  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
48302

December 2, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to let you know how much I appreciate your financial support for the Eagle Scout service project. Your donation has allowed us to build a deck that provides learning experiences to the local schools. It is a project that will be appreciated by many students and teachers by allowing them to learn more about wetlands habitat. The viewing platform will benefit outdoor science and nature activities by science students, as well as promote an outdoor setting for creative writing students to connect with wildlife. The platform will also benefit the community by providing a direct connection between youth and land, water, fish, and wildlife resources. The project involved students, members of the community, businesses, and sportsman's groups, allowing the students to learn how to network and find resources. While working on the project, myself, as well as the other youth involved were able to come together as team and learn about construction skills, safety planning, project planning, fundraising and a list of other skills, while working toward a common goal. Once again I want to express my gratitude to you for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Seth Aylesworth  
Eagle Project Leader





# Sanilac FFA

November 7, 2005

175 East Aitken Road Peck, MI 48466

K.A.T.C.H. Donors

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you very much for your contribution to the K.A.T.C.H. organization. Without your donations organizations like ours would be unable to do community service projects, as they wouldn't have the needed funding.

Without the help of your donations to the K.A.T.C.H organization the Sanilac FFA wouldn't have been able to put our Black River Clean-Up Project into effect. During this project we cleaned up about a mile of the Black River, located in Croswell, and hauled around three tons of trash out of the river and the river banks. Without the help of your organization we wouldn't have had the needed funds to put this project into affect and the members that participated wouldn't have been able to get the experience of helping out their community.

Thank-you again for your contributions to the K.A.T.C.H organization which enables student organizations like ours to perform community service pieces. We hope that you will continue to offer your support in this organization.

Sincerely,

Melissa Smith  
K.A.T.C.H. Grant Recipient

**Saginaw County Project F.I.S.H. 4-H K.A.T.C.H. Grant Project  
2005**

The Saginaw County Project F.I.S.H club would like to thank all of our sponsors that have helped with our conservation project KATCH grant. As part of the project we hope that the visitors and residents have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the area. The bank will be stabilized and the canoe launch will be used as people will know that the launch and walkway is there.

We would like to thank Dave Wright of Frankenmuth Parks and Recreation for helping us achieve our goals with a new project. Also Vern Stephens with Designs by Nature for coming to our rescue with the plants we needed. We would like to thank Dick Vonberg from Vonberg and Associates for drawing plans for the canoe launch. Also to Dave Russel and Kathy Slate for their advice.

We would like to thank The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, and the Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation for funding and awarding us the grant that provided the means to do this project.

Thank you, Saginaw County Project F.I.S.H members.

Look at Picture page.



KATCH DONERS:

Midland County REAACT would like to thank you for supporting the K.A.T.C.H. grant which provided us with funds for our Wood Duck Box and Blue Bird House project. Our group consists of teens and adults from Midland 4-H and the Arnold Center, who make up REAACT. We put up 20 Blue Bird Houses and 10 Wood Duck Boxes on property of Little Forks Conservatory, which is along the Rail Trail in Midland County. This project provided our group with a fun and educational way to benefit our community and environment. Thanks again for your support with this great program, people will enjoy these for many years to come!

Sincerely,  
Midland County REAACT/KATCH Team

To: The Donors of the 4-H Foundation  
From: Marjorie Angellotti, 4-H Volunteer of Barry County  
Re: KATCH Grant

Please accept my sincere appreciation of your generous contribution to the youth of Barry County. We involved several teen leaders to conduct activities relating to environmental conservation. Our day camp was three days long and took place at the Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan which provided us with all the resources we needed to do a pond study, fishing class, native plant study, entomology observations, erosion control project with the DNR (as a community service), as well as classroom lectures and activities involving ecosystems. The third and final day consisted of testing water quality in Lake Michigan on a research vessel which was a whole other adventure for the youth in itself. It was certainly my pleasure to assist in such an educational and worthwhile opportunity to mentor these dynamic youths. The youth's confidence, knowledge, and enthusiasm were clearly evident as the days progressed and were our rewards as adult mentors to witness this development. This was truly a remarkable experience for me, as a teacher, to participate in and I am pleased to share in such a wonder gift. Thank you allowing our small rural community to become a bigger force in our efforts of learning and teaching conservation and nature to our upcoming generations. It is an issue that affects every one of us on this planet and will only become more important as time goes on. Keep up the good work in providing such a valuable resource for us.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Angellotti, Teacher

December 9, 2005

Dear Fish and Wildlife People,

Thank you so much for the grant that your organization gave to our school. The donation from the 4-H Grant is going to be used to help dig a vernal pond on our school playground to create animal habitats.

We'd like to tell you a little about who we are! We are a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders in an environmental club, called the Jason Club. We meet with Mrs. Dekker, who was our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher each Thursday at noon. We work on projects to help our school and study the Jason Project. We are doing many different projects this year: feeding birds, creating a migratory bird garden, writing an environmental newsletter, and 'Lavatory Learnings', where we put educational readings on Michigan animals in the student bathrooms! We have captive audience!

Our playground is very ugly and needs lots of work to make it a better place for students and for animal habitats. We are hoping to become a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat location in the future. Your donation to help create the vernal pond will help. We are excited to start digging next spring. We plan to develop an outdoor classroom area with the dirt that is dug for the pond.

Right now it is snowing like crazy and freezing, so we can't dig for a few months. But we are busy keeping all our bird feeders filled!

Thank you again for your money, we appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
The Students in the Jason Club  
Woodbridge Elementary School  
Zeeland, Michigan

September 30, 2005

To: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Foundation  
Re: K.E.T.C.H. Grant Sponsors

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to all thank you personally for your support to our new fishing club in Iosco County. Without your support we would not have been able to purchase equipment needed for our group. We have met a few times now each time we learned a new fishing skill, learned about Michigan water species and then it is our motto keeping with the spirit of the 4-H "Just Fishing Club" we each give a little back to our community by cleaning the area when we are almost done for the day; of liter and debris so we are leaving the place just a little better than when we came. We bring our own trash bags and then dispose of the stuff on our own. Thanks again for all your help getting this group started.

Sincerely,

Dane Woodside, Dylan Woodside, Eric Thornton, Erin Gordon, Craig Laubon, and  
Rebecca Schirrick (adult Leader).



KAYLEE PAUL

Dylan Woodside

Jane Woodside

Craig Laubon





Wayne Kinne, Andrew Kern, Ray Hicks, James Hicks and Luke Penick work on one of the 15 lunkers they will be building.

The Gladwin County 4-H Project F.I.S.H. Club was awarded a KATCH (Kids Are True Conservation Heroes) grant for \$1351.50 earlier this year to assist in building and placing 135 linear feet of "lunkers" along a steep eroding bank on the Cedar River between Beaverton and Gladwin. The club is being assisted by the Gladwin Soil Conservation District, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So far club members have helped to build 15 lunkers which will be placed in the river before this fall. The Project F.I.S.H. club had one of these lunkers on display at the Gladwin County Fair this year in their club booth, inside the still exhibit building. Lunkers help to keep river banks from eroding and also provide habitat for fish by providing an overhanging bank that aquatic life will be able to use as cover and will also reduce water temperatures.

The club would like to thank Mike Turner of the Soil Conservation District for all of his help in spearheading this project. The kids have really enjoyed working with him this summer. Also thanks to Wayne Kinne III of Beaverton for taking this project on as a summer intern with the SCD. The funds for this KATCH Grant are provided by the following: "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service", "Donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation", the FishAmerica Foundation and the "Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation."

NOV 10 2005



Dech. K. A. E. E. E. D. D. D. D. D.

Thank you for giving  
us the money to build our gardens

Sincerely  
Jatob



Nov. 1, 2005



Dear K.A.T.C.H. Donors

Thank you for giving us  
the money to build our gardens  
The gardens are butiful.  
You should see the gardens.



11/15/05

Dear KATCH Donors:

On behalf of the Clinton River Watershed Council, I'd like to express our appreciation for your recent grant to Mr. Leroy Mikolowski and his 4-H youth group. Leroy has been a long term friend of the Clinton River Watershed Council and a strong voice in the protection of water resources.

Mr. Mikolowski approached me early last fall about involving himself and the 4-H youth that he works with in our new Adopt-a-Stream program. His unending energy and passion for educating youth on the importance of appreciating and protecting our environment is inspiring. Receiving your grant funds has allowed Leroy to purchase equipment that will allow his students to embrace water quality monitoring as an important contribution to the community. Leroy has great interest in making water quality monitoring accessible and rewarding to nonformal youth groups such as 4-H groups, scouts and homeschoolers. By involving some of his students in CRWC's Adopt-a-Stream program, Leroy is not only empowering youth to make a difference in their communities, but he is formulating a plan to make the Adopt-a-Stream program more accessible to youth across the Clinton River Watershed.

CRWC is very interested in expanding its water quality monitoring efforts to youth beyond the formal classroom walls and Leroy's efforts are an important "first step" in that process. CRWC is also able to use the data collected by the 4-H youth to help assess the health of our streams and rivers and to share that information with local communities working to reduce stormwater pollution problems. We are quite appreciative of your interest in supporting Leroy's efforts and the role that 4-H students can have in protecting and restoring resources in their communities.

Regards,

Tracie Beasley  
Stewardship Director

101 Main Street, Suite 100, Rochester MI 48307-2098  
Phone 248.601.0606 Fax 248.601.1280 E-mail [contact@crwc.org](mailto:contact@crwc.org) Web [www.crwc.org](http://www.crwc.org)



Brady 4-H would like to thank all of our sponsors that helped this past year with our conservation project. As part of this project we hope to preserve part of the Mid-Michigan Old Gas Tractor Association show grounds for wildlife habitat. We were able to plant wildlife friendly shrubs, install birdhouses and planted native flowers and other flowers to beautify the grounds.

The flowers that we planted received many compliments and brought attention to the project that we did. Many thanks to the MSU Horticulture club that donated flowers that helped us to do this, also Riverside Flowers for the donation of annual flowers.

We installed birdhouses for different types of birds including bluebirds, wrens, and woodpeckers. We hope that we can promote bird activity especially that of the woodpeckers to help combat the Emerald Ash Borer. We had fairly good results with the birdhouses that we put up. Even though we were late in getting all of the birdhouses up we still had a 60% occupancy rate. Thanks to Big T Construction for the materials that were used in the birdhouses. Also Dan Copes and Charlie Schramm for cutting out the houses.

Saginaw Soil Conservation donated many wildlife bushes that will provide shelter for wildlife in the future. Some of the bushes included high bush cranberry and different types of dogwoods that will provide berries all winter for the birds. Without the aid of the Conservation District we probably would not have started this project. Thank you very much especially David Russell, Americorps member.

Other individuals and businesses that helped included: Triple R Homes, fasteners for birdhouses; Frank Tomac and Rupp Seeds for fence post and lots of time helping; Oakley Hardwoods for mulch; and lots of parents and leaders who helped.

Finally we would also like to thank The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, and the Harold and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation for funding and awarding us the grant that provided the means to do this project.

*Thank you, Brady 4-H members*



# Armada Middle School

23550 Armada Center Road • Armada, Michigan 48005 • 586.784.9105 • Fax 586.784.8650

William A. Zebelian  
Principal

December 7, 2005

Dear Coyote Club,

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Armada Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders had the wonderful opportunity to conduct water quality testing at Wetzel State Park in Lenox Township, Michigan. The students were able to perform chemical and physical tests on the water in Coon Creek as well as observe and analyze the surrounding habitat. With the assistance of the field microscope and other supplies, which you allowed us to use, the students were able to clearly observe and identify many of the macroinvertebrates within the tested area. The students were amazed at the number and variety of organisms present in the samples. The use of the microscope allowed us to take the science lab into the field, and it enhanced the educational value of the experience.

On behalf of the Armada Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, I would like to thank you for your generosity. It is with the assistance of organizations such as yourself that educators are able to provide their students with a better understanding of our world.

Thank you,

Michelle Genereaux  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher  
Armada Middle School  
23550 Armada Center Road  
Armada, MI 48005

*"Over 100 years of caring"*

*Accredited by North Central Association*

*Equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary services available to individuals with disabilities.*





## Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program

IN COOPERATION WITH:  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Michigan Conservation Districts  
Michigan State University Extension  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
AmeriCorps National Service

David Russell  
AmeriCorps Member  
178 N. Graham Rd  
Saginaw, MI, 48609  
Phone: (989) 781-4077  
Fax: (989) 781-9493  
David.russell@mi.nacdnet.net

Dear Sirs,

This letter of support is to be included in the Saginaw County 4-H group (Pace Setters) K.A.T.C.H grant proposal. The group has approached me about participating in a wildlife habitat project on the Cass River in Frankenmuth. They are planning on building wood duck boxes, blue bird houses, educational signs and benches for wild life and wild life viewing. They have also enlisted the JCs, who have already began some planning and have resources to contribute. I work specifically in water quality, but plan to provide guidance and support for the project. I will also notify the club of other grants that could help further develop this property for the benefit of wild life.

I have met with the club to discuss their plans and provide additional input. They had many great ideas to not only increase wild life habitat, but to also provide an educational opportunity and make this land into a useable park with trails. I plan to help them develop the educational aspects of their plan, with my biology degree and to make sure their plans are water quality friendly. The children also seem to have a strong support network of parents and past partners to work from.

I look forward to helping Saginaw County 4-H implement the plans they have already set. I am an AmeriCorps member placed at this location until at least October. I can easily imagine them having this project well completed before I leave. .

Sincerely,

David Russell

All programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, or marital status.

# Appendix 6

## Land and Watersheds Impacted by Grantees

	Feet of Stream or River	Acres
Gladwin County	185 Feet	-
Sanilac County	5280 Feet	-
Branch County	5280 Feet	-
Macomb County	5280 Feet	-
Midland County		
Saginaw County	-	5 Acres
Muskegon County	-	½ Acre
Barry County	5280 Feet	1500 Acres
Cheboygan County	-	20 Acres
Oakland County	5280 Feet	6 Acres
Ottawa County	-	2 Acres
Iosco County	2640 Feet	5 Acres
Emmet County	-	1 Acre
Saginaw County 2	5280 Feet	1 Acre
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34505 Feet 6.55 Miles</b>	<b>1540 ½ Acres</b>

**Appendix 7**

**YESS Competition Format**

**and Guidelines**

## 2005 4-H Youth Environmental Science & Stewardship (YESS) Contest

· June 23–24, 2005, for ages 11 to 19 as “Challenge Your Wild Side” (session 223) at 4-H Exploration Days.

· June 24, 2005, from 1 to 4 p.m., for ages 5 to 10 (after 4-H Exploration Days)

Michigan State University

### **Purpose**

To provide a learning opportunity for 4-H members to test their environmental science and stewardship skills in a fun, outdoor learning environment and receive recognition for their accomplishments. To encourage youth and adult leaders to be more active in 4-H environmental and outdoor education programming.

### **Topic Categories & Learning Objectives:**

- **Nature Buds Division** (aged 5 to 10) – Be prepared to demonstrate what you know about the topics and learning objectives for your division.
- **Nature Observers Division** (aged 11 to 14) – Be prepared to demonstrate your mastery of the learning objectives for your own and the Nature Buds division.
- **Nature Stewards Division** (aged 15 to 19) – Be prepared to demonstrate your mastery of the learning objectives for all three divisions.

<b>Animals</b>		
<b>Nature Buds (5- to 10-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Observers (11- to 14-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Stewards (15- to 19-year-olds)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify common Michigan animals</li> <li>· Describe basic physical and behavioral adaptations. (What is it and what is it used for?) For example, point out a beaver's tail on a diagram and explain that beavers use their tails as rudders and to slap the water in warning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand developmental life cycles and behaviors of common Michigan animals.</li> <li>· Describe food webs and niches (an animal's role in the area in which it lives).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand species' interrelationships and population dynamics and management (human effects).</li> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of taxonomy and classification of specific Michigan wildlife (including scientific names).</li> </ul>
<b>Plants</b>		
<b>Nature Buds (5- to 10-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Observers (11- to 14-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Stewards (15- to 19-year-olds)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify common Michigan wild plants.</li> <li>· Describe basic plant adaptations and habitat needs for survival.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of basic plant life cycles and identify plant parts and function.</li> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of plant succession and competition and plants' roles in their community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand and describe population dynamics and management (human effects and uses).</li> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of taxonomy and classification of specific Michigan plant life (including scientific names).</li> </ul>
<b>Habitats</b>		
<b>Nature Buds (5- to 10-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Observers (11- to 14-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Stewards (15- to 19-year-olds)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of habitat components (food, water, shelter, space, arrangement).</li> <li>· Identify basic habitat types (wetland, forest and so forth).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand and describe the function and value of specific habitats (including human implications and benefits).</li> <li>· Evaluate a given habitat for its suitability for a designated plant or animal species based on the species' specific needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of topographic map reading of land features.</li> <li>· Describe interrelationships of populations within habitats.</li> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of human and natural effects and management (habitat loss).</li> </ul>



<b>Water Resources</b>		
<b>Nature Buds (5- to 10-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Observers (11- to 14-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Stewards (15- to 19-year-olds)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand and describe the water cycle process.</li> <li>· Identify the Great Lakes (HOMES).</li> <li>· Identify aquatic animals, including aquatic macroinvertebrates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand and describe the importance of water quality for use by living things.</li> <li>· Demonstrate basic knowledge of groundwater and surface water (rivers, lakes and wetlands).</li> <li>· Describe a watershed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of water chemistry and water quality indicators.</li> <li>· Understand watersheds and human effects on them.</li> <li>· Describe the effects of Great Lakes water diversion.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Issues</b>		
<b>Nature Buds (5- to 10-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Observers (11- to 14-year-olds)</b>	<b>Nature Stewards (15- to 19-year-olds)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify threatened and endangered Michigan animals and plants and reasons for their decline.</li> <li>· Describe recycling and why it is beneficial for the natural environment.</li> <li>· Understand how an individual can positively and negatively affect the natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify and have basic knowledge of invasive nuisance plants and animals.</li> <li>· Demonstrate a basic understanding of nonpoint-source pollution.</li> <li>· Demonstrate a basic understanding of wildlife management.</li> <li>· Understand how an individual can positively and negatively affect the natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of economic impacts of Michigan's natural resources.</li> <li>· Understand basic plant and animal diseases.</li> <li>· Demonstrate knowledge of current urban planning issues.</li> <li>· Understand how an individual can positively and negatively affect the natural environment.</li> </ul>

**YESS Contest Format:**

Teams of youth from 4-H clubs and counties will move from station to station and answer questions about animals, plants, habitats, water resources and conservation issues. The course also will give team members a chance to demonstrate outdoor skills such as compass use and pacing, map reading, casting, use of field guides or keys, use of binoculars, field identification and more. The YESS Contest will have one noncompetitive division for participants aged 5 to 10 and two competitive divisions for participants aged 11 to 19. The teams can earn prizes for first, second and third place in each competitive division. All

youth will be recognized for their participation with a certificate. Individuals or teams will be placed in one of three divisions:

- **Nature Buds Noncompetitive Division** – For participants aged 5 to 10 as of January 1, 2005
- **Nature Observers Division** – For participants aged 11 to 14 as of January 1, 2005
- **Nature Stewards Division** – For participants aged 15 to 19 as of January 1, 2005

Practice stations and learning activities will be available before the YESS Contest to help familiarize participants with the contest format.

#### **YESS Contest Guidelines:**

1. Teams consist of three to five participants in the same age division. 4-H members from the same county will be placed on the same team unless an individual asks to be placed on a specific team on the day of the competition.
2. To participate in the **competitive divisions** (Nature Observers and Nature Stewards), you must register through your county MSU Extension office **by May 6, 2005**, for “Challenge Your Wild Side” (second-half session 223) at 4-H Exploration Days. (Registration fees for 4-H Exploration Days apply.)
3. To participate in the **noncompetitive division** (Nature Buds), you must submit a completed registration form and payment to your county MSU Extension office **by June 3, 2005**. The county MSU Extension office will then send one county check (payable to Michigan State University) for all entries and all entry forms to the State 4-H Office by June 10, 2005.
4. Dress appropriately for outdoor temperatures and wear comfortable walking shoes. You may also want to bring rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent and a water bottle.
5. The team members are encouraged to work as a team and pool their knowledge to give one answer to the questions.

6. The more precise the answer the greater the number of points awarded for that answer. For example, the following points would be awarded for the following answers in the Animal Identification Contest:
- Rodent = 1 point
  - Mouse = 2 points
  - Vole = 3 points
  - Meadow vole = 4 points
  - Meadow vole, Microtus pennsylvanicus = 5 points
7. Decisions of the judges will be final.
8. Alteration of a contest item or field site by a contestant will disqualify the person's team.
9. During contests in the Nature Observers and Nature Stewards divisions, chaperones (relatives, leaders, friends and others) are prohibited in and along all portions of the course and contest area. They also are prohibited in the judging area before and during the contest. Contestants and chaperones may visit the course only after the contest is declared completed by the judges.
10. During contests in the Nature Buds division, one chaperone for each team of three to five contestants may travel with the participants but may not discuss the questions or activities of the contest with the youth participants.

#### **4-H YESS Contest Schedule**

*183 Natural Resources Building, MSU*

#### **Nature Observers and Nature Stewards Divisions**

**Thursday, June 23, 2005**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:30–2:00 p.m. | Introductions, creation of teams and explanation of YESS contest              |
| 2:00–3:30 p.m. | Practice stations and learning activities with natural resource professionals |

3:30–4:00 p.m. Prepare for contest

**Friday, June 24, 2005**

8:30–8:45 a.m. Organize for the contest

8:45–10:45 a.m. Contest

10:45–11:15 a.m. Review of contest stations and judges tally contest results

11:15–11:30 a.m. Awards and celebration

**Nature Buds Noncompetitive Division**

**Friday, June 24, 2005**

1:00–1:30 p.m. Introductions, creation of teams and explanation of YESS contest

1:30–2:30 p.m. Practice stations and learning activities.

2:30–2:45 p.m. Organize for the contest

2:45–3:45 p.m. Contest

3:45–4:00 p.m. Recognition and celebration

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**2005 4-H YESS Contest**

Nature Buds Noncompetitive Division

Friday, June 24, 2005, 1-4 p.m.

183 Natural Resources Building, MSU Campus

**Note:** This registration form is for the noncompetitive Nature Buds division (for 5- to 10-year-olds) of the 4-H YESS Contest. Young people aged 11 to 19 who wish to compete in the Nature Observers and Nature Stewards divisions must register for “Capture Your Wild Side” (session 223) at 4-H Exploration Days by May 6, 2005.

Nature Buds entrants must return the completed registration form and fee to your county MSU Extension office **by June 3, 2005**. The registration fee is \$3 an individual or \$10 a team. Make checks payable to Michigan State University. The county MSU Extension office will then send one county check (payable to Michigan State University) for all entries and all entry forms to the State 4-H Office by June 10, 2005.

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Volunteer Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

This 2-sided form is designed to enroll one person or one team. If you use this form to register one youth for the event, he or she will be placed with other participants on the day of the competition to form a three- to five-person team.

**Team Name (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Youth Participant Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Register additional team members on page 2 of this form.)*



**2. Youth Participant Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Youth Participant Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Youth Participant Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Youth Participant Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Prepare for the 4-H YESS Contest

1. To prepare for the 4-H YESS Contest, obtain a copy of the 4-H leader's guide, *The Walk: Taking Your Youth Outdoors* (4H1593) from your county MSU Extension office or the MSU Bulletin Office [[link to http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/mainsearch.cfm](http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/mainsearch.cfm)]. This guide gives references and information for getting a club started in environmental stewardship, outdoor recreation, natural resources, or environmental education. It also provides great activities that will encourage the creative and critical thinking of your club/team members in getting ready for this contest.
2. Set up a practice contest of any length or design suitable to your area or appropriate for the age level of your group. This contest is designed to encourage youth to use their observation and thinking skills, not to require them to memorize all sorts of natural history trivia. With this in mind, try the tips that follow for setting up learning and practice opportunities.

Set up stations around the room on top of tables. Use items at each station to pose a question to the youth. These items could include: jawbones, feathers, fur preserved specimens (feet, tails and so forth), pictures (from magazines, calendars, old field guides and similar reading material), posters, brochures, maps, twigs, leaves and other items. Use inexpensive everyday materials. Ask questions such as, "What is this?" "What animal is this?" "What animal did this?" "Why did the animal do this?"

- For the outdoor portion, choose stations in various types of habitats and with various types of land features. Mark each of these outdoor stations with fabric scraps or inexpensive plastic flagging. On an index card at each station, ask a question such as, "What type of habitat is this?" (for example, marsh versus swamp versus bog) "Why is this plant important to wildlife and what kinds of wildlife use this plant?" (For example, rabbits use it for food, bird's nest in tree cavities and so on.)
- For youth in the Nature Observers and Nature Stewards Divisions, locate outdoor stations within a short, visible distance of one from another OR have adults or older teens act as guides taking teams from point to point.

3. Send teens to the annual 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp (July 31 to August 6, 2005).

This will prepare your team for next year's contest. Visit

*<http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/glnrc.html>* for more information.

4. Attend the 4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education leader training at Kettunen Center held the first weekend of May of each year for ideas and resources to use with your 4-H club. Visit

*<http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/4htrain.html>* for more information.

5. Ask local natural resources professionals (from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Soil Conservation District and others) to visit a club meeting.

6. Check Web sites for fun learning opportunities. Possible sites to visit include:

4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education *<http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/enved.html>*

· Michigan Department of Environmental Quality [*[link to http://www.michigan.gov/mikids](http://www.michigan.gov/mikids)*]

· Michigan Department of Natural Resources Kids Page [*[link to](#)*

*<http://www.outdoorexplorersclub.com/flash/OECKids/KidsMain.html>*]

· Michigan United Conservation Clubs [*[link to http://www.mucc.org](http://www.mucc.org)*]

· National Wildlife Federation eNature [*[link to http://www.eNature.com](http://www.eNature.com)*]

· Michigan Environmental Education [*[link to http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org](http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org)*]

7. Check with your county MSU Extension office for educational videos and publications.

8. Practice using field guides for identifying plants and animals while enjoying outdoor hiking. Practice using a compass, topographic maps, binoculars, magnifying lens and microscopes, if you are able