

Preregistration is required

Carpooling is encouraged

All field trips leave from Alpena Community College parking lot, unless stated in the description

Fisheries Heritage at Besser Museum

8:00 am -11:30 am

Group size – 25

Distance – walking distance from Alpena Community College

Fee: \$0

Explore the riches of the Lake Huron fisheries - past, present, and future - with the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, Michigan Sea Grant, and sponsored by the Center for Great Lakes Literacy. Learn about Great Lakes fisheries history and heritage through recreational, commercial, and fisheries science vessels and exhibits. Step aboard two historic Great Lakes vessels to experience first-hand how our Great Lakes fisheries have benefited this region socially, ecologically, and economically. The historic *Katherine V* “turtle back” fishing vessel fished northern Lake Huron waters was witness to the height of commercial fishing on the Great Lakes. Explore this iconic fishing vessel and her stories with Tuffy Cross, who fished the Great Lakes since his childhood. Fishing for science, this dockside exhibit will also take you aboard the *R/V Chinook* immersing you in the story of how native species like Lake Trout, invasive species like Sea Lamprey, and introduced species like Chinook Salmon have threaded together in a changing Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem and fishery. This history and heritage of science and management of the Lake Huron fisheries will be shared by Jim Johnson, a retired DNR fisheries scientist who studied these Lake Huron changes from the decks of the *R/V Chinook*. Finally, dive in with a natural history tour of Besser Museum’s Great Lakes fish ecology exhibit, and pick your way through the Museum’s fossil park for some souvenirs from the 360 million year old Devonian shallow salt water sea and ocean life recorded in Alpena’s fossil record. Leave with some fossils and a new appreciation of how our Great Lakes fisheries are connected with our world’s ocean through geologic time and still today.

North Point Nature Preserve

8:00 am -11:30 am

Group size – 20

Distance – 28 minutes east of Alpena

Fee: \$0

Just minutes from downtown Alpena—jutting out into the waters of Lake Huron—is an astonishing area known as the North Point Peninsula. One of the most ecologically significant regions in the Great Lakes basin, the peninsula provides critical habitat for rare species and is an important stopover point for migratory birds. North Point and the surrounding area is so valuable for biodiversity that a bi-national analysis identified it as one of only 26 “Biodiversity Investment Areas” in the Great Lakes region. Here you’ll find 1,384 acres of cedar forests, unique wetlands and meadows that harbor diverse plants and wildlife. There are also four miles of Lake Huron shoreline, which borders a verdant landscape of wetlands and cedar forests. The fertile near shore waters are a critical spawning area for Great Lakes whitefish and perch and feature underwater limestone sinkholes that support unique microscopic organisms of great interest to the scientific community. Included in the property are over 200 acres of coastal fen and 700 acres of rich conifer swamp. Another six acres make up a Great Lakes marsh, a wetland type that provides habitat for over 50 fish species. Along with its ecological importance, the property comes with a rich maritime history and an abundance of both recreational and educational opportunities. This event will include a brief introduction to the property and a walking excursion of up to 1.5 miles in distance in the woods and along the water. Wear shoes appropriate for walking along boardwalks, sand, gravel, and uneven wooded trails. Bring binoculars and cameras if you have them!

Project WET

8:00 am -11:30 am

Group size – 25

Location – on campus at Alpena Community College

Fee \$40

Make the hydrosphere your favorite thing to teach this year! Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is nationally renowned and one of the most popular supplemental natural resources curriculums in America. WET offers engaging activities for educators to use in their classrooms and outdoors. Interdisciplinary activities will explore water through seven water literacy themes and will be presented in a fun, collaborative, and hands-on way, preparing participants to directly implement Project WET into their classrooms or educational programs. This professional development workshop also fulfills a Strand 2 requirement for the Michigan Environmental Educator Certification (EEC). Whether you are a currently trained WET educator or participating for the first time, you will enjoy this chance to learn about our planet's most precious resource.

Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS)

8:00 am - 11:30 am

Group size – 25

Location – on campus at Alpena Community College

Fee \$0

Join us for a hands-on workshop exploring the new Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) units. This workshop will highlight the Water Quality and Ecosystem and Biodiversity units demonstrating how they can be used in the classroom. Participants will receive free material kits to support their implementation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the latest Michigan-based environmental education resources and how to engage your students in meaningful learning experiences. This workshop also fulfills a Strand 2 requirement for the Michigan Environmental Educator Certification (EEC).