

GUIDED TALKS EVERY SATURDAY MORNING 10 AM

Come learn about the cultural and natural history of the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area (SHNA).

Meet at the North End of the Oval Beach parking lot. A short, relatively un-strenuous climb will follow. Talks will take place, rain or shine, starting Saturday, May 31 through Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014. The docent-led talk is free, but Oval Beach parking costs \$6 after Memorial Day and before Labor Day.

For more information, call 269-857-2603 or visit saugatuckcity.com/index.php/parks-recreation/saugatuck-harbor-natural-area

Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area
City of Saugatuck
Box 86
Saugatuck MI 49453

SPECIAL NATURE & HISTORIC WALKS THIS SUMMER

The free hikes require a moderate level of fitness (trail/beach walking and climbing). Meet at north end of Oval Beach unless otherwise noted.

- *Sun, June 1 9:15 a.m. Birds of the SHNA led by birder Rick Brigham*
- *Sat, June 14 10 am A View from the Crow's Nest led by Patty Birkholz, Director, League of Conservation Voters. Meet at Mt Baldhead.*
- *Sat, June 21 10 am Art in the Dunes led by artist Peggy Boyce*
- *Thurs, Jun 26 7 pm The Shifting Sands of SHNA led by Brian Yurk, Hope College dune scientist*
- *Thurs, July 17 7:00 pm Exploring the SHNA led by April Scholtz, Land Conservancy of West Michigan*
- *Thurs, July 31 7:00 pm Exploring the South side of the SHNA led by Kay Smalley. Meet at Mt. Baldhead.*
- *Sun, Aug 17 6:00 pm Birds, Bugs and Beaches, led by John Legge, Illinois DNR*
- *Thurs, Aug 28 6:00 pm The Crow's Nest and Tallmadge Woods. Leader TBA. Meet at Mt. Baldhead park.*
- *Thurs, Sept 4 6:00 pm To be announced*

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AND SPECIAL NATURE & HISTORIC WALKS THROUGHOUT SUMMER 2014



Photo: E. Scholtz

Tel: 269 857 2603

The Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area

The Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area (SHNA) is a 173-acre tract of magnificent duneland along the Lake Michigan shore acquired by the City of Saugatuck with the help of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. The land is home to several species of rare plants, birds and animals, and demonstrates the unique geological and ecological features of Great Lakes dunes, including globally imperiled interdunal wetlands, Great Lakes shore and beach, Great Lakes marsh, and riparian shoreline and adjacent marshes. Artists and tourists have been



visiting these dunes for over a hundred years.

The Guided Talks

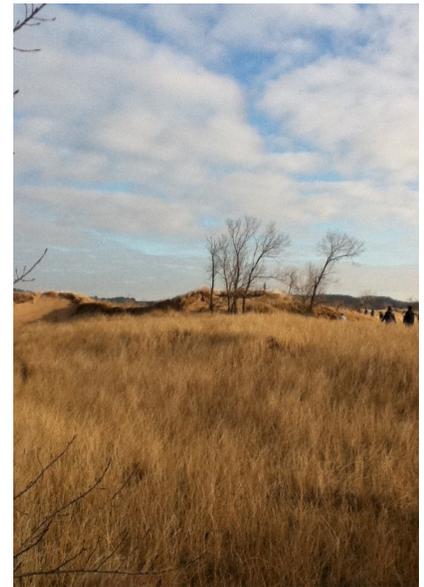
The guided talks are an introduction to the natural and cultural history of this special place, led by volunteer docents. We'll climb a nearby dune, a relatively short and non-strenuous effort, survey the landscape, and talk about its features, its past, its present, and its future. It's not a full tour of the trails through the Natural Area, but interested visitors can go on to make a more detailed study on their own. The talks will take place every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the north end of Oval Beach parking lot. The talks are free, but parking costs \$6 during the summer season.

The Special Walks

We also sponsor several nature and historic walks with experts through the summer season. See the other side for more information. Moderate level of fitness required (trail/beach walking and climbing).

Visiting the Saugatuck-Douglas area? Seeing the SHNA is an es-

sential part of understanding how these towns developed as lumber ports, fruit shipping depots, and magnets for artists and summer tourists. We hope to see you soon at one of our events.



Blanchard's cricket frog, one of the rare species that lives in the Natural Area