

## Animal Encounters

Animal Encounters, Inc., formerly Science Discovery Shows, was created by certified teachers in 1989. Since then over two million people have enjoyed our animal shows throughout the country at Gulf World Marine Park, thousands of schools, Borders Bookstores, amusement parks, fairs, and festivals. Our staff includes an animal trainer and the programs are presented by a professional entertainer. Our animals are healthy, energetic, and love what they do. This year we will showcase the "Gator Pool" and the Rainforest Creature presentation. For more information, visit their website at: [www.animalencounters.org](http://www.animalencounters.org).

## Bridget Llewellyn - Author

Bridget McGovern Llewellyn holds a degree in TV, Radio and Film Production from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and though recycling wasn't stylish at the time, Bridget did her best to engage her roommates in the practice.

Bridget, a conservation pioneer, was born in New York City, and shuffled across Upstate New York to settle in Buffalo. An avid writer and devoted mother, writing "One Child, One Planet" was such an exciting experience for Bridget, she says, "I wanted to show children that Earth is a fragile and precious gift, and inspire them to care for such a treasure. Teaming up with Carl Sams and Jean Stoick was a gift in itself. Their photography captures the beauty of Mother Earth and all of her creatures." Bridget lives with her husband, Pat, and their four daughters in Lake Orion. In between recycling and composting, Bridget watches a lot of girls' soccer, enjoys long walks with her dog, "Scooby," and has fun with her family in the great outdoors!

## The Buggs - roaming musicians

Raymond and Susan Bugg are a husband-and-wife duet from Harbor Beach. The Buggs perform their musical ministry at many assisted-living facilities and community events throughout Huron County. Raymond plays guitar and Susan provides an atmosphere of joy with an assortment of costumes and props. It's song, trivia, and fun with "The Buggs!"

## Candy Drop

Al Hanson Motors will sponsor the return of the Embracing Our Earth Candy Drop. At 1:30 p.m., the Al Hanson Motors helicopter will hover over the Bad Axe High School Football Field and drop several dozen pounds of candy in a taped off area. At the sound of a whistle the tape will be dropped and children will be allowed to rush the field. The field is located right behind the junior high school. (Weather permitting.)

## DTE Energy Foundation

The DTE Energy Foundation is the major sponsor of Embracing Our Earth VII, and DTE will have a significant presence at this year's festival. At the DTE Energy display, kids can create a craft made from recycled materials and enter to win a colorful kite. Adults can learn more about saving energy, wind power, solar power, and other utility programs and services.

## Detroit Science Center

The Detroit Science Center's "Green Machine" stage show is all about Reduce, reuse, recycle! These are the founding principles in creating a 'green' promote a clean and healthy environment. These principles are vitally important because they improve the quality and longevity of life. All life! And it starts with you! During the show the DSC

has three different games to highlight various aspects of the "3 R's" first - the "Bucket Game" - the DSC will hand out different items and ask if these items go in the Recycle Bin to make compost or in the Trash Can. Second - the "Sort Recyclables" game - with five basketball hoops over five bins where contestants have to shoot the correct hoop to get that item in the right recycling bin. Third - the "Time In A Landfill" game - the DSC hands a variety of items to people and then they have to place an item on the Landfill Wall in the correct spot that corresponds to how long it takes to break down if that item is placed in a landfill. All three are challenging and fun!

## Dome Theater Planetarium & Immersive Dimension Visual Experience

A planetarium that is educational and fun will be at Embracing Our Earth! this exhibit will bring educational enjoyment all who visit. The educational aspect of this extraordinary event encompasses major curricula for students; science,

mathematics, history, language, and art all form this Dome of Education. You will discover giant planets orbiting other stars and microscopic Earth life in places from hot springs to Arctic ice. Explore realistic life-bearing extra solar planets that might exist and find out how human beings are searching for other life in the universe. Students may walk on the moon according to NASA's new space initiative. Watch as a violent collision creates the moon, share the adventure of the Apollo astronauts, and then hop on board a translunar craft for a journey to your lunar base of tomorrow! Earth's Wild Ride, a favorite for most second through eighth grade students, is a program you do not want to miss. It's 2081 and a grandfather shares his stories of Earth with his grandchildren that were born on the Moon. Fly through their lunar colony, soar over the lava flow of an erupting volcano, ride a river through a canyon, and visit the dinosaurs as an asteroid hits. This program alone introduces 15 earth science topics! Although it looks like a giant igloo-shaped funhouse from the outside, entering the Mobile Planetarium is like an instantaneous trip into a world of learning.

## Equinox

Equinox is composed of six multi-talented musicians. At the Celtic core of the band are traditional pipes, fiddle, flute, whistles and concertina. By adding guitars, mandolin, Middle Eastern and West African percussion, the band expands this ancient music to new dimensions. The band's repertoire ranges from sweet renditions of the familiar Danny Boy, The Irish Washerwoman, and the tunes of O'Carolan, to hard-driving arrangements of Ye Jacobites and Whiskey in the Jar.

Having played venues from pubs and weddings to theaters and festivals, Equinox creates a musical experience that has the proverbial "glass" full to the rim with energy! The jubilant Michigan sextet is made of passionate performers who love to bring Celtic

music alive with a driving energy and soulful sound you'll remember for a lifetime. With crisp vocals and a repertoire as diverse as our instrumentation, we give you Celtic music like you've never experienced before!

## Face Painting

Jessica Dietzel and Bad Axe High School art class students will provide face painting throughout the day from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. Young and old alike will enjoy the creative abilities of these artists as they decorate faces, hands, and arms with wonderful temporary designs and images. Paints used are non-toxic, safe, and are removable with soap and water.

## Food Court

A variety of traditional and healthy food choices will be available including the Bad Axe High School food service staff with a host of options. Other favorites like cotton candy and popcorn also will tempt your tastebuds. This year, try a Bisonburger!

## Fun with Inflatables

Get your exercise or watch others get theirs in a variety of different inflatable structures for kids of all ages. Enjoy the 15-foot slide, the thrilling obstacle course, or the highly-entertaining bungee race. Balloons animals will also be available for the younger crowd. Servant Hands will provide the inflatables and fun.

## HATC

The Huron Area Technical Center will have a display featuring alternative energy and "green" information.

## Maplewood Petting Zoo

Small children will love stepping into the Maplewood Petting Zoo area to pet and interact with the wide variety of ani-

mals. Little children love little animals - come enjoy this great, family activity. Maplewood Petting Zoo will also be providing horse-drawn wagon rides around the grounds of Embracing Our Earth.

## Michigan Green Schools

Several local school districts/buildings will receive awards for becoming official Michigan Green Schools. In 2006, the Michigan Green School Law was enacted which recognizes schools that meet specific criteria guidelines in Environmental and Energy Savings. These schools have fulfilled and/or exceeded at least 10 of the 25 listed activities and submitted their applications to become official Michigan Green Schools. During an award presentation, schools will be recognized and awarded certificates signed by the governor and official Michigan Green School flags to proudly display at their school reminding everyone of their efforts to be good stewards of our environment while also saving on energy expenses and taxpayer money. Those schools becoming "official" Michigan Green Schools are: Huron Area Technical Center, Huron Learning Center, Bad Axe Intermediate School, Bad Axe Junior High, Bad Axe High School, Caseville Public Schools, Cross Lutheran School, George E. Greene Elementary, North Huron Elementary School, North Huron Secondary Schools, Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools, Ubyly Elementary School, and Ubyly Jr./Sr. High Schools.

## NOAA: Great Lakes Environmental Research & National Weather Service

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitors and predicts changes in the Great Lakes region to protect lives and property, promote economic vitality, and manage coastal resources. The NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) Detroit/Pontiac Forecast Office issues severe weather watches/warnings and public forecasts to 17 counties in southeast lower Michigan and the U.S. waters of Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron, and the Michigan waters of Lake Erie. Weather safety as well as warning and forecast information will be available from the NWS. Meteorologists from the NWS will be available for questions. Also on display will be a table-top

tornado exhibit. The NOAA Ann Arbor/Muskegon Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) conducts studies to understand and predict the effects of biological, chemical, physical, and human-induced changes on the Great Lakes. Information on research going on in Saginaw Bay, Thunder Bay, and all the lakes will be available. Hot topics include invasive species, harmful algal blooms, muck on the beaches, and habitat restoration. GLERL staff will be available to questions. Also on display will be Great Lakes invaders and bathymetric maps that can be viewed with 3-D glasses.

## Nature Discovery

With dozens of species of Michigan snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs, and salamanders, Nature Discovery is home to the largest collection of live Michigan Reptiles and Amphibians in the state. Michigan has several species of snakes, turtles, frogs, toads, salamanders, and lizards. Nature Discovery maintains live specimens for use in presentations and exhibits. These are often supplemented with color slides, audio recordings, and other props.

## Organization for Bat Conservation

The Organization for Bat Conservation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve bats and their habitats. Programs compare and contrast the nearly 1,000 different kinds of bats worldwide. Bat detectors are used to allow the audience to listen to and understand the ways in which micro-bats avoid obstacles and catch their prey and communicate with echolocation. Educational material is distributed for reference. For more information, visit their website at: [www.batconservation.org](http://www.batconservation.org).

## Port Austin Kayak & Bike Rental

A kayak and bike rental shop is located in Port Austin at the tip of the Thumb.

They rent kayaks by the hour, day, and week for touring Lake Huron. They also provide guided tours and group outings. Their goal is to introduce people (especially middle school and high school kids) to the sport of kayaking and the natural beauty of Lake Huron so that they can develop a better appreciation for the lake and hopefully want to protect it. For more information, visit their website at: [www.thumbkayak.com](http://www.thumbkayak.com).

## Saginaw Castle Museum

Their Mission Statement says: "The Historical Society of Saginaw County is committed to serve the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage." Their museum is in a building constructed as a post office and dedicated on July 3, 1898, the French Renaissance Revival architecture of the building was an unusual - if not unique - choice for a post office. In 1970, a new federal office building was dedicated and the building was threatened with demolition. Again, the community advocated for the preservation of the building, and it was transferred to the County of Saginaw to become the home of the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. They have many exhibits and one - from Huron County - will be at Embracing Our Earth 2011 - come out and see what it will be!

## State Parks & Wildlife - MIDNR

Come out and see and hear all about the wonderful natural resources found right here in our own backyard within the State Parks and many natural areas of Huron County. Someone from the parks such as a Conservation Officer, Park Ranger or Wildlife Biologist will be on hand to share their expertise and answer questions.

## Student Activity Stations

Students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities developed by high school students throughout Huron County. These are primarily targeted for upper elementary and middle school students.

## Student Energy Carnival

A variety of fun and engaging activities designed by Ubyly High School students will be available for younger elementary students. This carnival atmosphere is always a big hit for the young learners who win lots of fun prizes and learn about energy and the environment at the same time.



## Tuscola Conservation District

The Michigan Water Stewardship Program, a program of the Huron and Tuscola Conservation Districts, will have a Groundwater Model on display to demonstrate the effects of pollution runoff and leaching on drinking water safety. AFTER THE STORM, a 22-minute DVD produced by EPA and the Weather Channel, will be shown throughout the day, discussing the effects of pollution due to runoff. There will also be a table with free information on water quality, wildlife habitat, conservation practices, and more with a representative of the Conservation District on hand to answer questions.

## Zeemo the Yo-Yo Man

The Yo-Yo Man of the 1950's comes to life as Paul Kyprie assumes his alter ego "Yo-Master" Zeemo. While just about everybody has played with a yo-yo at some point in their lives, few master the variety of tricks required to be a yo-yo pro. Zeemo has "The World on a String" as he can perform over 200 different yo-yo tricks; these range in difficulty from fundamental tricks like "Walk the Dog" and "Around the World" to complex tricks like "Whirly-Bird" and "Splitting the Atom." In addition to yo-yos, Zeemo is also adept with other spinning toys such as hula-hoops, spin tops, frisbees and the amazing Chinese diabolo. By combining these and other talents, "Yo-Master" Zeemo can perform a 30-minute fun-filled stage act. Audience participation is one of the highlights of the show.

## Ziibwing Song and Dance Performance

A song and dance presentation given by the Anishinabe performers is a unique option that the Ziibwing Center offers for your next meeting or event. This onsite or offsite performance is a one-of-a-kind experience that your meeting attendees or event guests will remember for many years to come. Men and women dancers perform traditional style dances, while men perform the grass or fancy feather style dances, and women perform jingle dress and fancy shawl style dances.