

# LEARNING FROM THE LAKE

FROM THE GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

JUNE 2011

The Education Newsletter is a new monthly resource for families, educators, and naturalists alike! Every month, this newsletter will provide activities for families to do at home; phenology for the current month to keep you updated on migration patterns and happenings in nature; interesting facts relevant to the time of year; astronomical events; and family-friendly events happening around the Duluth area.

Watch for Education Newsletters each month! For inquiries on FREE subscriptions, contact Lindsay Brandt via email [lbrandt@glaquarium.org](mailto:lbrandt@glaquarium.org) or phone (218) 740-2027.

## Family Activity—Underwater Scope

Explore a world beneath the surface! Journey to a nearby creek, river, or lakeshore and use the Underwater Scope to observe the life that lives underwater.

What you need:

- Large coffee can (with bottom cut out)
- Plastic wrap
- Rubber band



Cover the top or bottom opening of the coffee can with plastic wrap and secure with the rubber band. Place the Underwater Scope in the shallow area of a creek, river, or lake so it does not touch the bottom. As you observe, keep your eye out for plankton (tiny plants and animals) and tadpoles. These tiny creatures are important food sources for many animals that survive around bodies of water.

## Phenology—June 2011 *Minnesota Weatherguide*

### First and Second Weeks

- Juvenile eastern chipmunks and squirrels can be seen exploring their new environments.
- White water lilies begin to bloom.
- Canada geese lose their flight feathers and will be in flightless condition until mid-July.
- Common loon eggs hatch and can be seen on the backs of their parents.

### Third, Fourth, and Fifth Weeks

- Turtles begin laying their eggs.
- Harvesting green peas and cutting of alfalfa hay is well underway.
- Birds start singing at about 4:30am.
- Purple lilac, crabapple trees, and wild lupine have showy flowers.
- Juneberry and mulberry fruit is ripe.
- Southern MN farmers begin cultivating corn fields.

## Invasive Species—Did you know?!

June 30th marks the opening date of *Aquatic Invaders*, Great Lakes Aquarium's newest exhibit. Explore how misplaced, fish, plants, and invertebrates compete with native species. Below are a couple ways invasive species have a negative impact.

- A Sea Lamprey can feed on up to 40 pounds of fish during its lifetime.
- Zebra mussels can filter all the water from Lake Erie in a single day.



### It's Great Outdoors Month!

*"America's extensive and diverse outdoor spaces are a source of great national pride and we have long strived to protect them for future generations. This month highlights the benefits of getting outdoors and enjoying our wonderful shared resources of forests, parks, refuges, and other public lands and waters."*

- Patrick Fitzgerald, NWF Director of Education Advocacy

Enjoy the warm weather and fresh greenery this month! Take your family hiking, fishing, or camping to name only a few ideas.



  
**Great Lakes Aquarium**

# June Astronomy

Keep your eyes peeled for summer constellations and stars! Since ancient times, constellations and stars have been associated with mythological beings and epic stories. This summer, *Learning from the Lake* will feature constellations and stars you can spot and their story. This month's constellation is one of the most popular!



## Ursa Major (AKA Great Bear, Big Dipper) and Ursa Minor (AKA Lesser Bear, Little Dipper)

Callisto, a great hunter, lived during the age of ancient Greeks. Her charming beauty led Zeus, king of the gods, to fall in love with her. Hera, Zeus' wife, became furious at this and searched for Callisto. Upon finding her, Hera declared "Your beauty is no more!" Hera morphed Callisto into a bear. And so, Callisto wandered the forest with a constant fear of hunters and other wild beasts. The day came when she recognized her son Arcas hunting in the forest. Thrilled to see Arcas, Callisto approached him and attempted to embrace him with a hug. Unaware of what happened to

his mother, Arcas thought the bear was attacking him. As Arcas prepared to strike, Zeus intervened and turned Arcas into a bear. Then, Zeus sent both mother and son into the sky as the Greater and Lesser Bears by hoisting them up by their tails, stretching them to their unnatural length.

Hera witnessed Zeus saving Callisto from a hunter. Furious once again, she punished the two bears by forcing them to wander the night sky throughout the entire year. Thus the reason why the two constellations never set below the horizon and are visible year-round.

The last star on the Ursa Minor constellation is also well known for being the north star, Polaris. Historically and presently used when navigating seas or finding ones way when lost in the wilderness, this star will be featured next month!

## Family Fun Local Events

- June 4: Watershed Festival at LSC
- June 9: M.A.D. Safari at Lake Superior Zoo
- June 11: Split Rock Lighthouse Open House
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 17: Whipper Snapper Races for Kids
- June 18: Lincoln Park Walleye Opener
- June 18: Grandma's Marathon
- June 19: Father's Day
- June 19: Wild about Dad Event at LSZoo
- June 21: Summer Solstice
- June 25: Split Rock Lighthouse Children's Day
- June 30—July 1: Big Top Chautauqua "Take it to the Lake" on Mt. Ashwabaway in Bayfield, WI

*For information on these events and more, please go to [visitduluth.com/events](http://visitduluth.com/events) or [lszoo.org](http://lszoo.org).*

## JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Educational Programs at Great Lakes Aquarium

### **Whirligigs Preschool Program, beginning June 14th**

Register your preschooler for this fun and exciting weekly program! This summer, preschoolers will take a closer look at habitat, tiny critters, water animals, and invasive species. For information or to register, contact Lindsay Brandt at [lbrandt@glaquarium.org](mailto:lbrandt@glaquarium.org).

### **Animal Care Camp, June 20th—23rd**

Take an active role in animal care at Great Lakes Aquarium. Learn what it takes to keep our resident animals healthy, happy, and active. Prepare meals, keep the exhibits clean, test water quality and create enrichment toys for otters, birds, and more! For more information or to register, contact Jillian Godfrey at [jgodfrey@glaquarium.org](mailto:jgodfrey@glaquarium.org).