



## **Featured Biology Intern Nick Duthler Outdoor Discovery Center Spring/Summer 2009**

Senior Biology major (and recently graduated) **Nicholas Duthler** is one of several students who have interned at the Outdoor Discovery Center in the last few semesters.

(<http://odcofwu.schoolwires.com/odcofwu/site/default.asp>)

Nick worked at ODC during the spring semester on a project aimed at assisting visitors in identifying common species of wildflowers on the property. He developed interpretive displays and learned a variety of botanical identification skills, as well as assisting ODC staff with a diverse array of seasonal tasks, including care of their resident animals used in educational programs, assisting with K-12 programs, on-site land and invasive species management, and the development of new resources at ODC. Nick continued interning at ODC this summer with a fishy new twist! He is establishing a database for fish he is tagging in the center's numerous ponds that will be used as a resource for Hope College classes.

See page 2



THE OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER PROVIDES PEOPLE WITH OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ILLUSTRATE THE BENEFITS OF NATURE AND ENCOURAGE STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD.

[HTTP://WWW.OUTDOORDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG/ODCOFWU/SITE/DEFAULT.ASP](http://www.outdoordiscoverycenter.org/odcofwu/site/default.asp)

CONTACT:  
OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER  
OF WILDLIFE UNLIMITED AND  
MACATAWA GREENWAY



Nick's project is just a portion of big things to come as Hope College and the Outdoor Discovery Center created an official partnership just this August! The Outdoor Discovery Center had long been functioning as an extension of the Hope College Campus providing buildings and resources on the ODC Nature Preserve for Hope professors and students. The new relationship provides Hope access to much needed facilities on a large natural area within close proximity to campus and will certainly pave the way for even more opportunities for students like Nick to develop real-world skills outdoors!

This project makes use of Nick's extensive experience with fish populations; he has worked for the past few summers with the Idaho Fish and Game Department on their Steelhead Monitoring and Natural Production Projects. As of August 15, Nick and his helpers had tagged 106 fish (primarily sunfishes and Largemouth Bass) with small, individually numbered tags. Students in Bio 280, Bio 315 and GEMS may have the opportunity to re-census and re-measure these fish during the fall semester, as part of a long-term monitoring project that this database will enable. Students like Nick may earn academic credit in Biology (Biology 499) by working through their advisor and the Chair of the Biology Department well in advance of the anticipated intern semester (for policies on department internships see: <http://www.hope.edu/academic/biology/ourdepartment/policies/>)