

MSU researcher to attend Saginaw dioxin CAG meeting, explain five-year wildlife study

Published: Thursday, June 16, 2011, 9:00 AM



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[View full size](#)CourtesyMSU researchers gather data from a Great Horned Owl nest for the five-year wildlife study to find the effects of dioxin on several mammal and bird species.

KOCHVILLE TWP. — A Michigan State University professor will explain how dioxin has affected wildlife at Monday's Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination Community Advisory Group meeting.

Professor Matthew Zwiernik will present information from the university's Wildlife Toxicology Laboratory five-year **wildlife study** throughout the Tittabawassee River floodplain to assess the possible effects of dioxin and furan exposure from the environment. The study began in the fall of 2003.

The meeting is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday at Saginaw Valley State University's Alumni Lounge in Curtiss Hall, 7400 Bay in Kochville Township.

Zwiernik is the first in a series of expert speakers attending advisory group meetings. He also will conduct a question and answer session with the public.

The wildlife study focused on birds and mammals including American mink, great horned owls, eastern bluebirds, great blue herons, American robins, wood ducks, kingfishers, hooded mergansers, tree swallows and house wrens.

The researchers collected dietary items, tissue samples such as eggs and plasma and monitored productivity measurements such as hatch success and abundance of each species to measure population health.

MSU researchers collected data from Sanford, the Pine and Chippewa rivers from the Chippewa Nature Center, Freeland Festival Park, Imerman Park and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

At the meeting, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials will provide updates on the Tittabawassee River cleanup. EPA Region 5 senior managers will attend to speak with community advisory group members and conduct a question and answer session.