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Michigan Sea Grant <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu>

"LIFE OF THE LAKES" EXHIBIT AND LECTURE LAUNCH MUSEUM THEME SEMESTER ON BIODIVERSITY EXHIBIT

A colorful new exhibit on Great Lakes ecosystems opens on Wednesday, January 21 in the Rotunda of the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes Avenue in Ann Arbor.

The "Life of the Lakes" exhibit, co-sponsored by the Michigan Sea Grant College Program, explores the science of the lakes, including the critical role people play in preserving and restoring lake health and biodiversity. The materials for the exhibit are based on *The Life of the Lakes: A Guide to the Great Lakes Fishery* published in 2003 by Michigan Sea Grant.

LECTURE

Gerald R. Smith, retired UM professor, former Curator of Fishes and Director of the UM Museum of Zoology, will launch the exhibit on January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Exhibit Museum with a lecture entitled "Life of the Great Lakes: History and Hope for Restoration." Smith's talk will explore the history of the Great Lakes, including ecological marvels of the region.

Smith has worked on Great Lakes fish projects since 1959. His experiences include service on the research vessel *Cisco*, with LaRue Wells; publications on Great Lakes fishes with Thomas Todd, and recently, work on a revision of *Fishes of the Great Lakes Region*, to be published by the University of Michigan Press.

MUSEUM THEME SEMESTER

The lecture and exhibit are part of the "What on Earth is Biodiversity?" theme semester offered by the Exhibit Museum from January through May 2004, featuring a wide range of activities for children, families, and adults. For more information about the programs, visit: <http://www.exploringbiodiversity.org>.

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