



# WOODS talk

May  
June  
July  
August  
**2026**

## Asbury Woods

ANDREW J. CONNER  
NATURE CENTER  
BROWN'S FARM  
GREENWAY TRAIL

The past year in my new role as Executive Director of Asbury Woods has been incredible. We have built a strong, hard-working team of educators, planners, conservationists, and fundraisers to carry the organization into its next era with dedicated leadership from our Board of Directors. We have connected with old friends of the organization and made new ones along the way. Every day I am reminded of what a special place Asbury Woods is and humbled by the generosity of the community in their support.



Sarah Bennett  
Executive Director

There is always something exciting happening at the Woods! Starting May 1st, a portion of the aging boardwalk in the James Preserve along the Greenway Trail will be closed for reconstruction. This will be part of a multi-year effort to replace the entire 750-foot structure. Boardwalks are necessary on this portion of the trail because much of the land is wetland. They allow trail users to cross the wetland safely while protecting the important ecosystem.



This project is made possible by a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and a Trails & Greenways Grant from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. We are excited to partner with the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps to replace approximately 280 feet of boardwalk. The public is also welcome to get involved with the project on our volunteer work days to be held May 1st and 15th. Check out [www.asburywoods.org/getinvolved](http://www.asburywoods.org/getinvolved) to sign up.

The trail will be closed at the boardwalk May 1st through early June and there will be no access from one side to the other during construction. We know that this will be a short-term inconvenience for our visitors, but it is unavoidable for visitor safety during construction.

We hope you are as excited as we are for the busy summer season! As always, we have a wide range of program offerings to allow you to get outside and connect to nature. Monday Music will kick off June 1st with BB2 and food trucks by Mule Creek Grille and Sundae, our free Nature Safari for families is back on Wednesdays, and we're pairing up with other organizations like the Erie Bird Observatory and Parkinson's Partners of NWPA for an even wider variety of programs. Due to popular demand from families, we will offer 3 Kids' Nights Out. Finally, don't forget to pick up your Year of Exploration Passports in the gift shop! These passports provide a 10% discount on almost every program and a prize at the end of the year for completed passports.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

From the Woods,

Thanks to Konzel Construction, Year of Exploration Sponsor



**Monday Music**  
June 1 - July 27

**5 Mile Trail Run**  
June 6

**Wine and Dine  
in the Woods**  
July 10

**Cyclefest  
Tour de West County**  
July 25

**Fish Field Day**  
August 8

Donate Here!





## Donor Spotlight: Buzz N B's

Tucked into the fabric of Erie's small business community, Buzz N B's Pet Shop is built on a simple but powerful idea: the things we care for, whether animals, ecosystems, or each other, should thrive, not just survive. It is a philosophy that made their decision to support Asbury Woods feel less like a business move and more like a natural extension of who they already are.

For owner Paige Rhodes, the connection was immediate.

"Asbury Woods is such a unique organization for our area, and we're really lucky to have it here in Erie," she shared. "Supporting something that prioritizes animals, nature, and education felt like a natural fit for us. So much of what we do centers around helping people better understand and care for living things. The alignment just made sense."

It is a perspective that mirrors what happens across the trails, wetlands, and forests of Asbury Woods.

"Our values align very closely in terms of education and respect for animals and their environments," Paige explained. "We're always encouraging people to think about how everything works together. Asbury Woods does that on a larger scale, helping people connect with nature in a meaningful way."

Though Paige is still discovering all that Asbury Woods has to offer, that sense of place has already left an impression.

"I'm not originally from the Erie area, and I feel like I'm just starting to fully appreciate everything Asbury Woods offers," she said. "What stands out to me is just how incredible it is to have a space like that so accessible to the community. It's something you don't always realize the value of until you step back and see how special it really is."

That reflection speaks to the heart of why local support matters.

"Investing in organizations like Asbury Woods helps strengthen our entire community," Paige said. "They're creating opportunities for education, connection, and appreciation for nature, which ultimately benefits everyone."

Paige puts it simply:

"Supporting organizations like Asbury Woods is how they're able to continue offering all of the incredible things they do. Just as local businesses need community support to survive, the same goes for organizations like this."

If your business would like to join Paige in supporting Asbury Woods as a Sustaining Sponsor contact Director of Development, Pat Miller, at [pmiller@asburywoods.org](mailto:pmiller@asburywoods.org)



## Asbury Woods

ANDREW J. CONNER  
NATURE CENTER  
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GREENWAY TRAIL

[asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org) | 814.835.5356

The Asbury Woods Partnership is a 5013(C) nonprofit charity registered with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State at 1-800-732-0999. Funding for the Asbury Woods Partnership is provided through grants, program fees and the generosity of our members, donors and patrons.

## Asbury Woods Staff

Sarah Bennett  
*Executive Director*

Emma Mader  
*Director of Education*

Jami Manafio  
*Operations Manager*

Patrick Miller  
*Director of Development & Marketing*

Mario Bruni  
*Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator*

Rachel Cherry  
*Environmental Educator*

Melissa Flowers  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Abbie Harrington  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Casey Keating  
*Environmental Educator*

Erika Levy  
*Environmental Educator*

Vijay Woodworth  
*Facilities & Grounds Coordinator*

Bailey Merritt  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Greg Ritson  
*Conservation Stewardship Coordinator*

Zachary Seabridge  
*Steward of the Woods Intern*

Jake Stush  
*Environmental Educator*

Jocelyn Swisher  
*Watershed Intern*

Karina Wismer  
*Visitor Services Associate*

## Board of Directors

*Chair*  
Jennifer Lyons

*Vice Chair*  
Rebecca Turner

*Treasurer*  
James Kubaney

*Secretary*  
Ashley Marsteller

Meredith Bollheimer  
Kara Cacchione  
Jennifer Dunmire  
George Dusckas  
Bob Maas  
Ashleigh Montagna  
T.J. Richter  
Steve Ropski  
Bridget Shames  
Brandon Sieber  
Jacob Thomas

*Solicitor*  
Mark Shaw

# UPCOMING EVENTS & FESTIVALS



## Monday Music | June 1st to July 27th

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring your lawn chair and a cooler, and relax in the scenic Celebration Garden at the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center while enjoying live local music, from folk and bluegrass to classic rock and more.

Sponsored by: In Partnership with:



More Information:



## 5 Mile Trail Run | Saturday, June 6th

8:00 a.m. Registration, Kids Fun Run 9:00 a.m.  
9:30 race starts

Take on a competitive course featuring boardwalks, packed dirt trails, and winding single-track loops. With childcare and a youth fun run, it's a family-friendly event for all ages.

More Information:



Sponsored by:



## Wine and Dine | Friday, July 10th

Held in the beautiful gardens surrounding the Nature Center, with Asbury Woods as a stunning backdrop, this event is your opportunity to sip, savor, and support. Proceeds help Asbury Woods continue making a meaningful impact through environmental education, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

More Information:



## Cyclefest | July 23rd – 26th

Lake Erie Cyclefest is a four-day celebration of cycling, featuring six unique rides across Erie County. Proceeds support several local nonprofits, including Asbury Woods.

### Tour de West County Saturday, July 25

Asbury Woods is excited to carry on the tradition of the Tour de West County. Riders can choose from 12, 25, or 50-mile routes, with a post-ride picnic included for registered participants.

More Information:



## Fish Field Day | August 8th

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Asbury Woods and local partners invite you to a fun-filled day all about fish! Get up close with our resident trout, discover the creatures they feed on, test water quality, and learn the basics of fly tying and fly fishing. It's a swimmingly fun day for the whole family!

More Information:



Sponsored by:



# SUMMER PROGRAMS: MAY – AUGUST 2026

## YOUTH

### Tiny Trailblazers

**Date:** Fridays, June 12th – August 7th, except July 3rd and 10th

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Age:** 2-5 years old, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10

Young nature explorers with an adult are invited to join us for some big adventures at Asbury Woods! Our preschool classes go on outdoor adventures, conduct science experiments, and explore nature through sensory experiences, hands-on activities, crafts, and more.



## New Merchandise



The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop is open during regular hours with nature-inspired gifts, local items, and our new Year of Exploration T-shirts. Every purchase helps support Asbury Woods and its mission.

### Kids' Night Out!

**Date:** Fridays, June 12th, July 17th, August 28th

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** 5 – 11 years old

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$25

**Program Fee:** \$30

Enjoy a date night or catch up on other things and let your kids hang out with us at the Woods! We'll do indoor and outdoor activities. Dinner will not be included, but a snack will.

### Homeschool Summer Days

**Age:** 5-12 years old

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

#### Creek Critters – June 18th from 1 – 3 p.m.

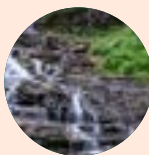
Take a hike to Walnut Creek

to explore creek life! Students will identify local plants, collect water samples, and get their hands wet and dirty while identifying various organisms that call Walnut Creek home. More details regarding what to bring will be sent to participants.



#### Homeschool Creek Day! – July 1st from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for a casual homeschool creek day adventure.



Participants will swim, explore, and lounge by Walnut Creek. Students will eat lunch at the creek, so a packed lunch and a water bottle are required. More details regarding what to bring will be sent to participants.

## ALL AGES

### Mushroom Meander

**Date:** Saturday, May 2nd, and Sunday, June 28th

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Age:** Ages 13 and up; anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7



Join local mushroom expert Dr. Matthew Gacura from Gannon University as he shares interesting facts and how to identify a wide range of local fungi while strolling the Asbury Woods property. Asbury Woods does not allow harvesting, so be ready to enjoy the hunt and take home only memories and photos.



### Spring Wildflower Walk

**Date:** Saturday, May 9th

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7



Experience the magic of Asbury Woods' spring wildflowers on this walk with a naturalist.



# ALL AGES

## Trout Release

**Date:** Saturday, May 16th  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Age:** All Ages  
**Location:** Lake Pleasant Conservation Area



**Program Fee:** FREE, Registration required

Asbury Woods has been raising rainbow trout from hatchlings to fingerlings as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. Join us for this special opportunity to release the trout into Lake Pleasant. Registration is required for a specific time slot, and each registration will include 1–2 trout to release. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult.



## Buttermilk Falls Hike

**Date:** Saturday, July 18th  
**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Age:** All Ages; anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult  
**Location:** Brown's Farm Barn  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5  
**Program Fee:** \$7



Take a guided hike to Buttermilk Falls, a hidden waterfall within Asbury Woods. Along the way, explore the forest, learn about the geology and ecology that shape this unique water source, and enjoy the sights and sounds of a peaceful natural retreat. This includes walking through the creek, so water shoes are required. More details about what to bring will be sent to participants.

## Nature Safari

**Date:** Wednesdays, June 17th- August 12th  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Age:** Anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Program Fee:** FREE, no registration required, **donations welcome**



Explore Asbury Woods with our educators and local partners, featuring a different theme each week. This program is rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure. Save time and sign the waiver online!



## Shoreline Gems

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, July 14th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. & Saturday, August 1st, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
**Age:** Ages 13 and up; anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$17  
**Program Fee:** \$20

Join us for a relaxing craft night to create your very own beach glass jewelry piece! We'll have everything you need to make your beach glass pendant, but feel free to bring your favorite beach glass piece to use.

## Pressed Flower Craft

**Date & Time:** Thursday, August 6th, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, August 15th, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
**Age:** Ages 13 and up  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$15  
**Program Fee:** \$18

Create a beautiful keepsake inspired by nature! In this hands-on program, all materials are provided for participants to design a small glass jar using real pressed flowers to make a one-of-a-kind piece. Along the way, you'll learn a bit about local plants and the art of flower pressing.

## Plover Power!

**Date:** Tuesday, August 18th  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Age:** All Ages  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Program Fee:** FREE, Registration required



Join the Erie Bird Observatory for an engaging look at their research on local birds, including the remarkable piping plover! Discover how these small birds have a big impact along our local shores, then create your own plover-inspired craft to take home.



## Small but Mighty: Bonsai Builds

**Date:** Thursday, August 20th  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Age:** All Ages  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Program Fee:** \$35

Learn how to make your very own bonsai from start to finish with Ashton Ferns! Perfect class for beginners and intermediate enthusiasts! The class includes everything you need to bring your terrarium to life, from tree to terrarium. *A portion of the proceeds goes to Asbury Woods.*



## Board & Brush at the Woods: Family Edition

**Date:** Saturday, August 22nd  
**Time:** 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. & 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.  
**Age:** All ages, families  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Program Fee:** \$35

Bring the whole family and roll up your sleeves, it's DIY time! Board & Brush will provide their @home kits with step-by-step instructions for a short and sweet project for your home. Each registered person can choose from a variety of sizes and stencils to create their own custom wooden signs. *A portion of the proceeds goes to Asbury Woods.*

**Pre-registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise noted.**

# ADULTS

## PawPaw Research Presentation

**Dates:** Thursday, May 7th

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** FREE, Registration required

Learn about student-led pawpaw tree research conducted at Asbury Woods by Tristen Robertson and Dr. Christopher Dolanc of Mercyhurst University. You can find out more about this research project on the program registration page.



## Nature Exploration for Adults with Disabilities

**Dates:** Fridays, May 29th, June 26th, July 31st, and August 28th

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults with a caregiver

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10

Adults with disabilities and their caregivers will enjoy outdoor exploration on our accessible boardwalk, followed by a hands-on nature activity. There will be a different theme each month. Only one registration is required per adult/caregiver pair.



## Forest Bathing

**Dates:** Saturday mornings, May 16th, June 13th, July 11th, and August 15th

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7

Enjoy a meditative walk using your senses to explore the woods, including a sit spot and a sharing circle. This program will be led by Craig Casler, *Certified Instinctive Meditation Teacher and Forest Bathing Guide*.

## Medicinal Plant Walk

**Dates:** Sundays, May 17th, June 14th, July 19th, and August 23rd

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7

Join Kristy Baird of *Verity Herbs and Wellness* for a guided walk at Brown's Farm to check out what's growing and learn about traditional uses and lore.



## Rain Barrel Workshop

**Dates:** Saturday, May 30th at Brown's Farm or Sunday, June 7th at Erie County Conservation District

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Brown's Farm or Erie County Conservation District

**Program Fee:** \$40

This workshop, offered in partnership with Millcreek Township, will delve into the environmental impacts of stormwater runoff and equip residents with rain barrels to help reduce their impact at home. Choose your preferred date and location: Saturday, May 30th will be at Brown's Farm and Sunday, June 7th will be at Erie County Conservation District (ECCD), 1927 Wager Rd., Erie, PA 16509. **Participants should register for only one date.**

Each participant will receive a 50-gallon rain barrel to install at home. Installation instructions will be covered during the workshop. One barrel per registration. You must participate in the program to get your barrel. Barrels will be available to take home after the program.

## Forest Bathing for People with Parkinson's Disease

**Date:** Saturday, July 18th

**Time:** 10:00- 11:00 a.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7

Enjoy a meditative walk using your senses to explore the woods. This program is offered in partnership with Parkinson's Partners of NWP and is specifically for people with Parkinson's Disease. The walk will be led by Craig Casler, *Certified Instinctive Meditation Teacher and Forest Bathing Guide*. One registration per person. Caregivers do not need to register.

## Backyard Compost Workshop

**Date:** Saturday, August 1st

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Program Fee:** \$40

This workshop, offered in partnership with Millcreek Township, focuses on diverting kitchen food waste from landfills by composting at home. Upon completion of the workshop, each participant will receive a Compost Wizard Jr. bin so you can put your new knowledge into action, saving landfill space and producing nutrient-rich soil. One bin per household. You must participate in the program to get your bin. Bins will be available to take home after the program.

## Board & Brush at the Woods: Adults Edition

**Date:** Wednesday, August 12th

**Time:** 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. & 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** \$35

Create a custom wooden sign while enjoying a relaxed, social evening in nature. *Board & Brush Erie* will provide their @ home kits with step-by-step instructions to craft a piece you'll be proud to display. Each registered participant can choose from a variety of sizes and stencils to create their own custom wooden sign. *A portion of the proceeds goes to Asbury Woods.*



## Rentals

From corporate retreats to baby showers, Asbury Woods offers a naturally beautiful setting that's perfect for any special occasion. Choose from a variety of unique indoor and outdoor spaces that will make your event truly memorable for you and your guests. Add a guided hike, team building, craft or other activity for a full Asbury Woods experience. Explore available venues and pricing at: [asburywoods.org/rentals/](http://asburywoods.org/rentals/)

# Featured at the Woods



## Boardwalk Project

Asbury Woods is excited to announce a major boardwalk renovation project. Starting **May 1st, and continuing through early June**, the Greenway Trail will be closed leading to the Grandmother Tree. We will be replacing 280 feet of boardwalk with the help of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corp. Funding support for this project comes from the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Trails & Greenways Grant from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.



## Wine and Dine in the Woods

Set among the gardens and wooded trails of Asbury Woods, Wine & Dine in the Woods offers an elegant evening of fine wine, craft beverages, and curated cuisine in a truly unforgettable setting. Your support helps sustain the conservation, education, and natural spaces that make Asbury Woods a lasting treasure for our community.

**Friday, July 10th,  
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Tickets Available  
Starting  
May 15th**



## Winnie the Pooh's Asbury Adventure

Winnie the Pooh and all his friends will be back Saturday, September 19th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for Winnie the Pooh's Asbury Adventure! This year is Pooh's 100th birthday! We will celebrate with early bird tickets going on sale 100 days before the event on June 11th. We hope to see you at the 234 Acre Woods. Learn more at Winnie the Pooh's Asbury Adventure - Asbury Woods.



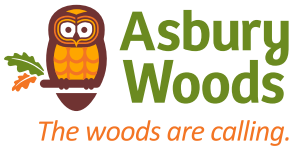
## Asbury Woods Low Ropes Course

Asbury Woods Low Ropes Course gives groups a fun, hands-on way to enjoy the outdoors while building teamwork skills. Guided by a trained facilitator, participants strengthen communication, problem-solving, leadership, and confidence through engaging challenges. Designed for both youth and adult groups, this active experience encourages everyone to step outside their comfort zone and grow together. Learn more and schedule your visit at: [www.asburywoods.org/rentals/low-ropes-course/](http://www.asburywoods.org/rentals/low-ropes-course/)

## TAKE a Plant, LEAVE a Plant

The Carrie T. Watson Garden Club's **Take a Plant, Leave a Plant** stand is back this summer! Modeled after Little Free Libraries, the stand will be stocked with herbs, tomatoes, flowers, and bulbs—free for the community to take or share. It will be available in June and September, ideal for planting and dividing. Follow our social media for updates!





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**Wonder | Wander | Discover**  
**2026**

*Celebrate summer at Asbury Woods with the*

### **Adventure Passport**

as part of the Year of Exploration! Pick one up in the gift shop for \$35 and earn stamps all year by hiking, attending programs, and joining special events. Passport holders receive 10% off event registrations (excluding summer camp), and those who complete the challenge by collecting 20 stamps will earn an exclusive year-end gift in December. Your adventure starts here!

## **Wonder, Wander, and Discover Asbury Woods during our Year of Exploration.**



### **Nature Center**

November 1 – March 31:  
Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 – 4:00 p.m

April 1 – October 31:  
Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m

### **The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop:**

Same as Nature Center

### **Trails**

Open Dawn to Dusk

