



WOODS talk

May
June
July
August
2024

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

Supporting Asbury Woods with a Qualified Charitable Distribution



Bob Howden became familiar with Asbury Woods shortly after moving to Erie in 1986. "I became active in the Lake Erie Chapter of the Sierra Club, and they held their meetings at Asbury Woods" he said. "After I retired, I decided I wanted to volunteer in the community and started volunteering at Asbury Woods." Bob's involvement and commitment to the organization resulted in him being asked to join the Asbury Woods' Board of Directors in 2018, a seat which he still holds.

When asked why Asbury Woods is important to him, Bob replied "What's important to me is protecting the environment, especially undeveloped land. Once you "pave paradise" for whatever reason, you don't get it back." Bob also highlighted the importance of Asbury Woods' educational programs. "If you are going to teach future generations the value of environmental preservation, you need concrete examples of such efforts. Asbury Woods is such an example."

In terms of his financial support, this year Bob was able to join Asbury Woods' Grandfather Tree Society by making a gift utilizing a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from his individual retirement account (IRA). A qualified charitable distribution is a distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity such as Asbury Woods. A QCD is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income. QCDs can be made from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA, but there is no tax benefit to making a QCD from a Roth IRA because distributions are already tax free.

"Using a QCD as a donation tool was a no-brainer," Bob said. "I reduce my taxable income and provide funds to support a non-profit that does wonderful work." He continued, "QCDs offer a straightforward giving process. All I had to do was contact my IRA Administrator and request that a distribution be made directly to Asbury Woods [EIN: 26-0699998]. Then I notified the Asbury Woods staff of my QCD donation."

"Taking a walk along the trails and appreciating the sounds of nature, to me is priceless. Asbury Woods provides the people of the Erie region with a way to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. During the nine years I've been a volunteer here, I've met many people who are visiting Asbury Woods for the first time. They are always amazed at what they see, the programs we offer and the things we do. I wish everyone in the region would visit Asbury Woods to experience it firsthand."

Many individuals who are required to take money from their IRA but do not need it for living expenses have chosen to make QCDs from their IRA to support the work of Asbury Woods. This may make sense for you too! For more information on how to support Asbury Woods using a qualified charitable distribution contact Stephen J. Engro at sengro@asburywoods.org, or call (814) 836-6179.



Upcoming Events Page 3

**Trout Release
May 11**

**Monday Music
starting June 3**

**5 Mile Trail Run
June 8**

**Lake Erie Cyclefest
July 25 - 28**

**Fish Field Day
August 24**

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**Take a Plant,
Leave a Plant
Returns!
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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring & Summer!

What a season it's going to be at Asbury Woods! This newsletter is packed with awesome opportunities to enjoy Asbury Woods. We are excited to partner with several local experts to offer new programs and experiences, plus a host of all-time favorites such as owl prowls and pond safaris. So often people comment to me that they have not been to Asbury Woods since their kids were little. This summer's programs offer proof once again that we are a place for all ages!



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

As we continue to grow our program offerings, expand our physical footprint, improve buildings and trails, and reach more people with our mission of conservation, environmental education and outdoor recreation, our need for community support continues to grow as well. As our cover article demonstrates, there are a multitude of ways you can invest in our mission, whether through volunteering, donations, gifts of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, monthly sustainer contributions and so many more. Just like there is a program for everyone, there is a way for everyone to support and give back to this incredible community and regional gem.

Since Dr. Otto Behrend's original gift of land that formed Asbury Woods, a legacy of community support has carried us forward and helped ensure that these precious acres are preserved as green space in our community. Those that came before us were generous in protecting Asbury Woods for us, now it's our turn to be generous in preserving it for current and future generations. I hope you'll join me, our board members, and our staff in contributing to Asbury Woods. We all believe in how special a place it is, and I know you do too!

Thanks for being part of the Asbury Woods story! I hope you have many opportunities to enjoy the wonders of nature at Asbury Woods this summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer".



ANDREW J. CONNER
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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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & FESTIVALS



Trout Release | May 11, 2024

This activity is part of the national Remake Learning Days festival.



Time Slots Available: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Lake Pleasant Conservation Area

Free, Registration required visit www.asburywoods.org/programs/program-schedule/

Asbury Woods has been raising rainbow trout from hatchlings to fingerlings through the Trout in the Classroom program. Sign up to help release the trout into Lake Pleasant. Participants will receive 1-2 trout to release per registration.

Fish Field Day | August 24, 2024

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Free

Join Asbury Woods and local partners for this fun-filled day exploring fish! Get up close and personal with our resident trout through our Trout in the Classroom program. Meet living creatures that are on a trout's menu, test water quality to see if fish can survive, and learn all about tying flies and fly fishing. Families are sure to have a swimming good time!



Monday Music | June 3 - July 29

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Free

Grab your lawn chair, bring your cooler, and enjoy the beautiful setting of the Celebration Garden at the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center while listening to local acts performing folk, bluegrass, classic rock, and other favorites. See full schedule on our website: www.asburywoods.org/events/monday-music-in-the-woods/



5 Mile Trail Run | June 8, 2024

Registration required, visit www.asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/

The 7th annual Into the Woods 5 Miler will kick your Asbury as you test your mettle on the trails. This competitive race course includes a mix of boardwalks, packed dirt trails, and single-track loops. Childcare and a youth fun run round out this family-friendly event.



Lake Erie Cyclefest | July 25 - 28, 2024

Registration required, visit www.asburywoods.org/events/cyclefest/

Lake Erie Cyclefest is a four-day celebration of all things cycling! Six unique riding events will be offered at locations across Erie County and will benefit several local nonprofit organizations, including Asbury Woods.

Tour de West County | Saturday, July 27

Asbury Woods is thrilled to be carrying forward the ride tradition of Tour de West County. Tour de West County offers choices of 12, 25, or 50-mile ride routes and will feature a post-ride picnic for registered cyclists.



SUMMER PROGRAMS: May - August 2024

Supported through the generosity of



YOUTH

Summer Sprouts

Dates: Fridays, June 14 – August 16

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: 2 – 5 years old, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$7

Program Fee: \$9

Little explorers and their favorite grown-up will experience hands-on nature exploration, crafts, and guided outdoor play.

Nature Safari

Dates: Tuesdays, June 18 – August 13

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Children accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Free, no pre-registration required

Explore the ecosystems at Asbury Woods with a different theme each week, rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure. Save time by signing the waiver online.

Veterinary Medicine 101 Day Camp

Date: Tuesday, August 20

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Age: 12 – 16 years

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$90

Program Fee: \$110

Are you interested in a career in veterinary medicine? Join certified veterinary technician, Patti Cioccio, for this day full of lessons and activities designed to teach you about this career field. Topics will include general wellness exams, bandaging, suturing, anatomy, CPR practice, and much more. This is a great starting point for anyone wanting to learn more about the field of veterinary medicine. Children should bring a lunch, a water bottle, and snacks for the day.

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

ALL AGES

Wildflower Walk



This activity is part of the national Remake Learning Days festival.

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: Ages 8 and up, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$3

Program Fee: \$5

Experience the magic of Asbury Woods' spring wildflowers on this hike through our property with a Naturalist.

Family Owl Prowl



This activity is part of the national Remake Learning Days festival.

Date: Friday, May 10

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$7

Program Fee: \$9

Kids and adults alike will delight in this unique evening learning about owls and attempting to get them to answer our calls. The program includes a brief indoor portion followed by a hike on the trails.

National Trails Day Hike

Date: Saturday, June 1

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Brown's Farm

FREE, no pre-registration required

Join us as we celebrate National Trails Day with a guided hike leaving from Brown's Farm. This hike will include walking up and down steep hills and will be two miles round trip. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Save time by signing the waiver online.

Be a Friend to the Earth

Date: Saturday, June 8

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE, no pre-registration required

Join two Girl Scout Cadettes working on their Silver Award to learn about single-use plastics and recycling. There will be a short presentation at 12:00 pm followed by crafts and activities.

Walking Wednesdays

Dates: Wednesdays, June 12 – August 14

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

FREE, no pre-registration required

Walk with Asbury Woods' staff on Wednesdays all summer! Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. All ages are welcome but must be able to hike 2-3 miles. Save time by signing the waiver online.

Sponsored by:



Pond Safari

Date: Saturday, June 22

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

What animals will you find as you explore the watery habitats at Asbury Woods? We will provide the equipment to explore these wetland habitats.

Summer Solstice Campfire Hike

Date: Friday, June 21

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Celebrate the summer solstice with an evening hike followed with s'mores by the campfire. All supplies will be provided.

Discovery Station

Visit the Discovery Station located inside the Nature Center for some self-guided science and nature discovery! Each month the Discovery Station will get a new hands-on, self-guided activity for visitors to learn and enjoy. Look for the Discovery Station inside the Discovery Room.



Nature in Your Neighborhood

Every Thursday, June 13 – August 15
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

All Ages
FREE

Join Asbury Woods' for hands-on, minds-on nature and science-based activities every Thursday at different parks throughout the summer. Hooked on Books for Kids will be there to hand out a nature-themed book to each child participating.

June 13: Perry Square
Insides & Outsides: Explore Animal Pelts and Skulls

June 20: Bayview Park
Underwater Creatures: Find Creatures Big and Small

June 27: McKinley Park
Trees Are Terrific 

July 11: Napier Park
Underwater Creatures: Find Creatures Big and Small

July 18: Bayview Park
Insides & Outsides: Explore Animal Pelts and Skulls

July 25: Perry Square
Underwater Creatures: Find Creatures Big and Small

August 1: Wayne Park
I spy, Nature Scavenger Hunt

August 8: Napier Park
Insides & Outsides, Explore Animal Pelts and Skulls

August 15: McClelland Park
Trees Are Terrific 

Sponsored by:



Pennsylvania Forest Industry: Forests of Many Uses

Date: Thursday, June 27

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE, pre-registration preferred

Healthy "working forests" provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreation and green space. They also provide jobs and the beautiful wood products that fuel our daily lives! Learn about the many uses and types of forest products, sustainable forest management, the importance of active management for healthy "working" forests, and about current threats to PA forests. This program will be presented by the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG). AHUG provides education on sustainable forestry, the role of working forests in PA, responsible timber harvesting, wood products, and all the great careers available in the Pennsylvania forest and wood products industry.

Hike to Celebrate National Forest Week

Date: Tuesday, July 9

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: All Ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE, no pre-registration required

Celebrate the National Forest Week with a trek through Asbury Woods. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. All ages are welcome but must be able to hike 2-3 miles. Save time by signing the waiver online.

Love Your Tree with White Pine Center for Healing

Date: Saturday, July 27

Time: 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 5 and up

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$2 per person

Love Your Tree is an arts-based body positivity program that celebrates body diversity utilizing creativity. White Pine Center staff will lead an engaging discussion around body acceptance and appreciation connecting the differences and diversity seen in nature with those in people, as living things. Families will be given materials to translate this message into a physical representation, highlighting the value in the uniqueness that makes them who they are. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



Mushroom Discovery Hikes

Dates/Times:

Sunday, May 5 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

or

Saturday, July 13 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Age: Adults ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Join local mushroom hunters as they share how to identify a wide range of fungi while strolling the Asbury Woods property. May 5 will be led by Dr. Matthew Gacura from Gannon University and July 13 will be led by John Vanco and Kelly Armor, avid amateur mycologists. Asbury Woods does not allow harvesting, so be ready to enjoy the hunt and take home only memories and photos.



Medicinal Plant Walk

Dates: Saturdays, May 11; June 15; July 20; August 10; Sunday, September 15

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Brown's Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$3

Program Fee: \$5

Interested in learning about the medicinal and edible plants that grow around you? 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. This walk is open to anyone and everyone interested in learning more about local plants. Please wear weather-appropriate footwear and clothing.

ADULTS



Woods Walk with Foundation for Sustainable Forests

Date: Saturday, May 11

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

FREE, pre-registration preferred



Foundation for Sustainable Forests staff will discuss threats to the region's forests and the tools to address them, while simultaneously managing the woods for sustainably harvested forest products. They will also discuss an ongoing partnership with the National Aviary to understand how our management impacts songbird abundance and diversity. This walk will be at a relaxed pace but wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk at least 2 miles. Save time by signing the waiver online.

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests is a charitable land trust and outreach organization that protects forested ecosystems and supports communities through working forests. FSF practices and promotes "ecological forestry" to benefit forest health and resilience, and partners with landowners throughout the region to secure their legacy of conservation and thoughtful management.

Bonsai Class with Ashton Ferns

Date: Tuesday, May 14

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$45



Learn how to make your very own Bonsai from start to finish! This class includes one Procumbens nana Juniper, 100% Sustainable bonsai pot, soil, and decorative gravel. Shears will be provided for use during class.



What's Bugging Hemlocks? Identifying and Treating Hemlock Woolly Adelgids

Date: Thursday, May 30

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 14 and up

Location: Nature Center

FREE, pre-registration preferred



Join local arborist, Mark Spitulski, from MKS Arborist Services to learn about the hemlock woolly adelgid, Eastern hemlock trees, and how trees can be protected against invasive species. This program will include a short lecture followed by outdoor demonstrations of tree treatment against the hemlock woolly adelgid. Save time by signing the waiver online.



Make Your Own Bath Bomb

Date: Wednesday, June 19

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$25

Program Fee: \$28

Learn to craft flawless bath bombs and delve into the science behind these delightful creations. Each person will craft two of their own vibrant, bubbly bath bombs to take home. All materials will be provided.



Nature Exploration for Adults with Disabilities

Dates: Fridays, June 28; July 26; August 23

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

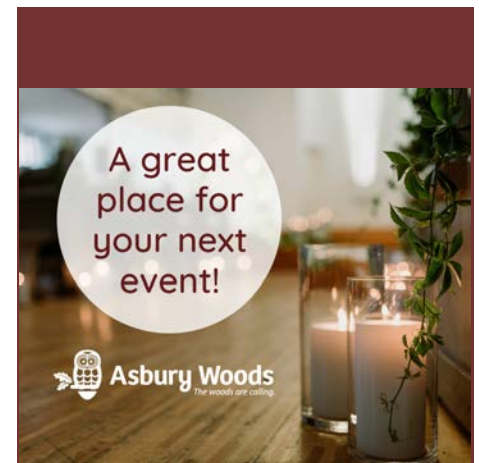
Age: Adults with a caregiver

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Adults with disabilities and their care givers 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.



A great place for your next event!

Asbury Woods
For woods and calling

Asbury Woods provides a natural setting that makes a perfect backdrop to any special occasion. We have several unique and beautiful rooms and areas on the grounds that would make your special occasion a memorable experience for you and your guests.

Visit our website to see spaces and pricing
asburywoods.org/rentals/

ADULTS

Forest Bathing

Dates: Saturdays June 15; July 20; August 17

Time: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$3

Program Fee: \$5



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.

Introduction to Herbs for Wellness

Date: Tuesday, July 16

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$3

Program Fee: \$5

Curious about using herbs the way our ancestors did for food and medicine? Join Kristy Baird of Verity Herbs and Wellness for a discussion on modern ways to use the herbs we grow in our gardens. Plants have been used since time immemorial to support our wellness and vitality. Discover safety tips, preservation techniques, ethical considerations, and more. This talk will be a broad introduction to the world of herbs, complete with tea samples!



Pressed Flower Craft

Date: Thursday, August 8

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$15

Program Fee: \$18

Use pressed flowers to create a unique glass candle jar. All materials will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own pressed and dried flowers.



Asbury Woods Low Ropes Course

The Asbury Woods Low Ropes course offers groups an exciting, fresh way to experience the outdoors while working to solve problems as a team. With the help of a trained program facilitator, groups grow their skills in team building, communication, problem-solving, risk-taking and leadership in an outdoor setting. Appropriate for both adult and youth groups, the Asbury Woods Low Ropes Course, is a positive, active experience that invites participants to challenge themselves in new ways.

Visit our website for more information
and how to schedule.

www.asburywoods.org/rentals/low-ropes-course/

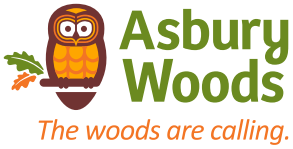


Take a Plant, Leave a Plant

The Carrie T. Watson Garden Club's Take a Plant, Leave a Plant stand is returning this summer! The idea is modeled after the popular Little Free

Library concept where people can share books. The Garden Club plans to stock the stand with a selection of potted herbs, tomato plants, flowers, and bulbs which the public is welcome to take at no cost. Likewise, if you have plants you wish to share, you can leave a plant for others to enjoy. The Garden Club intends to host the Take a Plant, Leave a Plant stand just two months this time, during June and September, better for planting and dividing. Look for our social media posts during those months for any updates.





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Wine & Dine In the Woods

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Asbury Woods, this year's event promises to be a night filled with delightful wines, craft beers, delicious food, live music, and great company, all for a good cause.

Friday, July 12, 2024
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Help us raise funds for the conservation and preservation of Asbury Woods.

For tickets and sponsor info,
www.asburywoods.org/events/wine-and-dine-in-the-woods/



Pickets for Play Fundraiser

Be a part of the Little Woods renovation through the purchase of a fence picket. This "Pickets for Play" fundraiser is a chance to buy and personalize the pickets used in the construction of the new fence around the Little Woods.

Commemorate your connection to Asbury Woods and your belief in the power of nature to shape our children.

Visit our website
www.asburywoods.org/donate/ways-to-give/



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, September 21, 2024

Asbury Woods newest family event includes Winnie the Pooh and Friends for adventure and fun!

Nature Center

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

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

The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop:

Hours same as Nature Center

Trails

Open Dawn to Dusk

