



WOODS talk

Asbury Woods

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



ASBURY WOODS | The Year of Trees

During 2024 Asbury Woods will once again have a year-long theme for our programs and outreach activities, The Year of Trees. Yearly themes help us to dive deeper into various environmental and conservation topics as we pursue our vision for Northwestern Pennsylvania to be a place where appreciation for and protection of natural places is a deeply held personal and community value.

Trees form the backdrop for most of the Asbury Woods property and are core to the establishment of Asbury Woods by Dr. Otto Behrend, co-founder of Hammermill Paper Company in Erie. Dr. Behrend's family had a rich history in papermaking, and from an early age he developed a deep appreciation for the power of trees, for industry, but also for health, wellbeing, and recreation. Throughout his life, Dr. Behrend was known as an avid outdoorsman, enjoying farming, walking in the woods with his dogs, golfing, planting fruit orchards and reforesting the 110-acre tract of land he purchased in 1920, then known as Asbury Farm. Dr. Behrend planted numerous trees over the years to reforest the former farmland but also to experiment with various papermaking processes. Dr. Behrend was known as an innovator in the science of papermaking and his country estate provided the perfect place to indulge his scientific curiosity and love of trees.

Upon his death, Dr. Behrend's beloved country estate was left to become the community treasure that is Asbury Woods. His original 110 acres has grown to 234 acres today, but remains true to Dr. Behrend's wish that it be a place for education and outdoor recreation. We can't think of a better way to honor Dr. Behrend's gift to the community than by celebrating 2024 as The Year of Trees.

The value of trees in a community is well-documented, providing shade and lowering energy costs, attracting wildlife, contributing to cleaner air, controlling erosion, reducing carbon in the atmosphere, beautification of urban, shopping, and residential areas, and so much more! This year Asbury Woods will explore trees from all angles. Identifying, appreciating, and caring for them, as well as sometimes knowing when to cut them down. Throughout the year we will host tree related programs and projects for all ages including hikes, self-guided activities, lectures, and an Arbor Day celebration just to name a few.

We are extremely grateful to J. Thomas Tree Service for serving as the Presenting Sponsor of The Year of Trees. Their involvement and support will provide topic experts for various programs and help us offer several new programs at no cost throughout the year. Owner, Jake Thomas, commented, "Asbury Woods is a special place in our community and I'm proud that our company has supported them for many years. During 2024 it is our pleasure to expand that support and partnership to present The Year of Trees."

This year we hope you'll take time to look at trees, appreciate them, learn more about them and share with us your favorite tree on our social media accounts with #yearoftrees. You can get started by attending one of our many upcoming Year of Trees programs that are easily identified with a tree symbol in the newsletter.

January
February
March
April
2024



Upcoming Events and Festivals Page 3

Luminaria
February 9

4 mile Fun Run
February 18

Maple Festival
March 2 & 3

Arbor Day
April 27

Get involved with
City Nature Challenge
April 26 - 29

Opportunities
during our
Maple Season
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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

Another new year and so many new things happening at Asbury Woods! As the calendar flips once again, we have an amazing line-up of new programs and activities to keep you coming back throughout the year.

We'd like to invite you to start the year with a self-guided hike that we created to launch our Year of Trees theme. Bring your smart device and follow the QR codes to learn about trees common at Asbury Woods. Use the QR code below to bookmark the webpage that will get you started.



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

Also new this year will be Discovery Stations inside the Nature Center. These hands-on and interactive learning stations will change monthly throughout the year and provide fun and engaging ways to learn more about nature. January will also bring a new batch of trout eggs to our exhibit hall as we continue our Trout in the Classroom program. Last year we raised more than 200 trout from eggs to fingerlings then released them into Lake Pleasant. You'll be able to follow the trout's growth and lifecycle on our website, social media and by visiting the trout tank in the Nature Center. Throughout the year you'll find an interesting mix of new programs such as an Arbor Day celebration, lectures, crafts, and more.

As we look to the year ahead, I can't help but also take a moment to look back at all that Asbury Woods has accomplished recently. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, the talent of our staff, leadership of the board of directors and dedication of volunteers, Asbury Woods is reaching more people than ever before with our mission of conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation. Not only are we reaching more people, but we are also reaching a broader, more diverse audience thanks to outreach programs and funding streams that are bringing new people to Asbury Woods for nature experiences. As we continue to grow and positively impact more people, our need for your support continues to grow as well. Your help through donations, program participation, advocacy, and volunteerism are what drives our mission forward, and we truly need your most generous support in all those ways during 2024.

All the best for a happy, healthy New Year and thank you for being part of the Asbury Woods story.



ANDREW J. CONNER

NATURE CENTER

BROWN'S FARM

GREENWAY TRAIL

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



Luminaria

February 9, 2024

Time: 6:00- 9:00 pm

Tickets: \$20 and \$5 to add childcare.

Registration required

Enjoy a self-guided romantic stroll through our meandering trails following the flickering lights of luminaries lighting a path through the woods, then warm up with a cozy fire, sweet treats, and music in the picnic shelter. Childcare will be available. To learn more visit: www.asburywoods.org/events/luminaria

Sponsored by:



A Place For All Seasons, A Race For All Seasons Trail Run Series 2024

Our 234 acres of property is the perfect place to present a challenging trail race. The scenic course through the Walnut Creek watershed will provide a mix of boardwalk, packed dirt trails, and single-course loops. Rock your running game during 2024 with the 4, 5, and 6 mile Into the Woods series at Asbury Woods! To learn more visit: www.asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/

February 18, 2024

Start off the season with our 4 mile fun run! This non-timed event is all about enjoying year-round outdoor recreation and fitness on the trails of Asbury Woods. Post race warm-up with chili compliments of Cali's West Catering and beverages from Erie Beer.

Sponsored by:



Special Thanks to:



Maple Festival

March 2 & 3, 2024

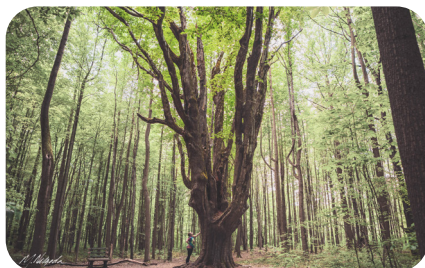
Time: 10:00 am- 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$6, Children 3 and under are free

Pre-registration preferred

The annual Maple Festival is a celebration of a heritage unique to our region. Learn more about this fascinating use of one of nature's sweetest renewable resources with interactive stations and informative demonstrations. The highlight is a stop in the Asbury Woods sugar shack where the magic of sap to syrup happens! You'll be able to tempt your taste buds with all manner of maple products provided by several vendors on site. To learn more visit: <https://www.asburywoods.org/events/maple-festival/>

Sponsored by:



Arbor Day Celebration

April 27, 2024

Time: 1:00- 4:00 pm

FREE, open to the public

Celebrate our mighty trees during this family friendly event for all ages. Learn how to identify trees, why trees are important, how to care for trees, and much more at our hands-on stations. This program is free and open to the public thanks to a generous donation from J. Thomas Tree Service in celebration of The Year of Trees.

Sponsored by:



WINTER PROGRAMS: January - April 2024

Supported through the generosity of



YOUTH



Snow Sprouts

Dates: Wednesdays, January 17 – February 14

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

Nature exploration is fun in every season! Little explorers and their favorite grown-up are invited to join us for hands-on nature exploration and guided outdoor play. Be sure to wear your winter gear, as we plan to go outdoors most weeks.

Nature Tots

Dates: Wednesdays, March 6 – April 24

Time: 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Age: Children 18 - 36 months old, accompanied by an adult.

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Calling all little explorers! Toddlers and accompanying adults will enjoy nature play and exploration through sensory experiences, hands-on activities, and crafts. Most weeks include an outdoor activity so come dressed for the weather.

Little Explorers Preschool Program

Dates: Wednesdays, March 6 – April 24

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Children 3 - 5 years old, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$7

Program Fee: \$9

Our popular preschool discovery program has a new name and a new theme this spring – Earth is Home. Preschoolers will love learning about the earth, water, and sky through hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, and crafts. Most weeks include an outdoor activity so come dressed for the weather.

EcoExplorers Club for Middle Schoolers

Dates: Every other Thursday starting January 11 – May 16

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Currently enrolled in 5th-8th grade

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$50

Program Fee: \$60

Club members will meet every other Thursday January – May. This club is perfect for kids who love nature, science, and the outdoors. Club members will also gain valuable volunteer experience. Come join us for the perfect blend of learning and fun!

Kids' Winter Day Camp

Dates: Monday, January 15;

Monday, February 19

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Age: Children in kindergarten- 5th grade

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$56

Program Fee: \$70

How does a day off from school get even better? Spend the day at Asbury Woods! We'll explore the outdoors, use our imaginations, and more! Dress to get messy and spend time outside. Hats, gloves, snow pants, winter coats, and boots are a must!

This is a drop-off program that children attend independently. Each child should bring a packed lunch, water bottle, afternoon snack and come dressed to be outside. Participants may be dropped off between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. and must be picked up by 5:00 p.m.



Winter Storytime & Craft

Date: Saturday, January 27

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: Children 3- 8 years old, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

FREE, no pre-registration required

Cold winter days are perfect for an indoor story and craft. We'll read a winter-themed book by Jan Brett, then do a related craft.



Veterinary Medicine 101 Day Camp

Date: Monday, February 19

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Age: 12- 16 years old

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.

Scout Hike Day

Date: Saturday, April 20

Times: Grades K - 1, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grades 2 - 3, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Grades 4 - 5, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: Grades K- 3 are \$8 per scout
Grades 4- 5 are \$10 per scout

Join us for a day on the trails! Scouts will complete their "Mountain Lion," "Tigers in the Wild," Daisy "Trail Adventure," Wolf "Paws on the Path," Brownie "Hiker," or "Webelos Walkabout" adventure or badge, or partially complete their Junior "Trail Adventure" badge. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult, but there is no charge for adults. Children 9 years of age or older may be dropped off and then picked up at the end of the program. Each child must register for the correct grade level.

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

Homeschool Snowshoe Adventure

Date: Thursday, January 18

Age: 5- 8 years old

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

or

Age: 9 - 16 years old

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

Put on your outdoor gear and join us for a snowshoe adventure in the woods! Kids should wear winter boots for this program. If there is not enough snow for snowshoeing, we will explore the woods in winter. ***If parents plan to stay and snowshoe, they should register, as well.***

*Pre-lessons and extension activities will be included in the following PA State Standards-based activities. Parents may drop children off or choose to stay with them regardless of age.

Homeschool Winter Wonderland*

Date: Thursday, February 22

Times: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: 5 - 11 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

Students will learn about winter weather and snow, meet several animals, and learn all about how each animal deals with wintery conditions.

Homeschool Maple Magic*

Date: Tuesday, March 5

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: 5 - 11 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

Maple Magic- Did you know that maple syrup is one of Pennsylvania's oldest native crops? Come learn all about maple trees and their key role in Pennsylvania's agriculture. Students will learn how maple trees make sap, how we collect it, and how we use sap to produce maple syrup.

Homeschool Trees are Terrific!*

Date: Tuesday, April 2

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: 11 - 14 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

It's the Year of Trees at Asbury Woods! Learn about all of the great things trees do for us, how to identify several native trees, and how to protect these important living things.



ALL AGES



Cross Country Ski Clinic

Dates: Saturdays, January 6 – February 24

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$14

Program Fee: \$17

No pre-registration required

The snowy trails at Asbury Woods are the perfect place to learn how to cross country ski. These clinics will teach participants the basics of the sport. No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. ***There must be at least 6" of snow for the clinic.*** Have a group of 10 or more? Call to schedule a private clinic.

Snowshoe Clinic

Dates: Saturdays, January 6 – February 24

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$14

Program Fee: \$17

No pre-registration required

The snowy trails at Asbury Woods are the perfect place to learn how to snowshoe. These clinics will teach participants the basics of the sport. No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. ***There must be at least 6" of snow for the clinic.*** Have a group of 10 or more? Call to schedule a private clinic.

Discovery Station

There will be a new addition to the nature center in 2024 – a Discovery Station! 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 in the Discovery Room.

Rent a Maple Bucket

Registration Opens January 8

Date: Maple Season

(roughly February and March)

Time: Anytime during Nature Center Hours

Age: Adults and Families

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$25 for 2 buckets

Let Asbury Woods do the work of tapping maple trees while you take home the sap! Asbury Woods is offering an opportunity to "rent" a set of two buckets to collect sap. Each bucket can hold up to four gallons of sap. New to maple syrup production? An Asbury Woods staff member will be corresponding with you to help guide you through each step of the process. Contact naturalist, Amy Shook, at ashook@asburywoods.org if you would like more information about this program.



Backyard Maple Syrup Production

Date: Saturday, February 10

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children 12 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$25

Program Fee: \$30

It's maple season at Asbury Woods and in your yard! Come and learn the basics of how maple syrup was discovered, how to identify and tap a maple tree, how to process maple sap into syrup, and how to bottle the finished product. Participants will take home a sap collecting kit for use on one tree with a reference book. The program fee is per kit.



Maple Tree Tapping

Dates: Saturday, February 17;
February 24

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE, no pre-registration required

Come join us to learn how to tap maple trees in a hands-on demonstration. Meet our naturalist in the exhibit hall and come dressed for the weather.



Family Owl Prowl

Dates: Tuesday, January 16;
Tuesday, February 13
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Age: Adults and children 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. Closed-toed shoes and weather-appropriate outerwear are recommended for all participants.

Full Moon Hike

Dates: Thursday, January 25; Saturday, February 24; Monday, March 25; Tuesday, April 23
Time: 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Brown's Farm
Supporting Donor Fee: \$3 per hike
Program Fee: \$5 per hike

Join us at Brown's Farm each month to learn how full moons got their names. Learn more about the dark through fun activities, and explore the trails on these guided hikes. January is the Wolf Moon, February is the Snow Moon, March is the Worm Moon, and April is the Pink Moon. Boots, weather-appropriate outerwear, and flashlights are recommended for all participants.

Trout Unveiling

Date: Saturday, February 3
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
FREE, no pre-registration required

Trout in the Classroom is back at Asbury Woods! Join us as our trout sac fry are unveiled to the public after two weeks in darkness. Learn about the trout life cycle and do a trout craft!

Sponsored by:



Great Backyard Bird Count

Date: Saturday, February 17
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
FREE, no pre-registration required

Learn all about birds and contribute to community science with Allegheny College's Bird Club. Enjoy a bird walk and education station about cavity-nesting birds.



Meet Amphibians & Reptiles

Date: Saturday, March 16
Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
FREE, no pre-registration required

Stop by the Nature Center to learn all about our resident reptiles and amphibians!

National Day of Forests

Date: Thursday, March 21
Times: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
FREE, no pre-registration required



Celebrate National Day of Forests with a guided hike at Asbury Woods. Hikes will start at the nature center, and will be 2-3 miles. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. ***These hikes are free thanks to a generous donation from J. Thomas Tree Service celebrating the Year of Trees.***

Melt & Pour Soap Making with Kids

Date: Sunday, April 14
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Age: Ages 3 and up, accompanied by an adult.
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$25
Program Fee: \$30
Includes all supplies.

Kids and their favorite adult will get creative making unique bars of soap using molds and melt & pour soap. Supplies will be premade and not caustic so children as young as 3 years old can participate. You will be guided through each step of the process by an experienced soap maker. ***Only one registration needed per child/adult pair.***

ADULTS

Nature Trivia Nights

Dates: Fridays, January 26; February 16; March 15
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Age: Adults
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$16
Program Fee: \$20

Our fun-filled nature trivia series continues January through March. Bring your friends for some fun-loving interactive trivia. January's theme will be Winter Wonderland, February will be Blushing Beasts Trivia 2.0 and March will be Nature's Wonders. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.



Lecture: The Importance of Trees in Forests and Cities by Christopher Dolanc, Ph.D.

Date: Wednesday, January 31
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Age: Adults and teens 16 and up
Location: Nature Center
FREE, pre-registration preferred

Trees are the dominant life-form across much of the planet. Why are they so important to our natural ecosystems and why do both human and non-human populations need trees in urban areas? Join Dr. Christopher Dolanc to find out! ***This program is free thanks to a generous donation from J. Thomas Tree Service celebrating the Year of Trees.***

Cold Process Soap Making

Dates: Wednesday, February 21; Thursday, March 28
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Age: Adults
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$28
Program Fee: \$32
All supplies included

Choose a day to experience the magic of soapmaking using regular kitchen equipment and inexpensive ingredients. Each attendee will make two bars of soap from natural ingredients. This class will be taught by an experienced soap maker and all safety equipment will be provided.



Painting at the Woods: A Tree for All Seasons

Date: Friday, April 5

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and teens 14 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$28

Program Fee: \$32

All supplies included



Celebrate and commemorate the Year of Trees by painting a tree for each season in 2024. With our first painting, we'll welcome the coming of spring! All materials will be provided; all you need to bring is your creativity! Feel free to bring snacks and beverages.

Backyard Beekeeping Workshop

Dates: 4 week session every Wednesday,
April 3 – April 24

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$55

Program Fee: \$65

Join our volunteer beekeeper, Charlie Schroeck, and learn all of the aspects necessary to be a successful backyard beekeeper. This four-week workshop will include background information on honey bees, equipment needed, proper maintenance and honey harvesting. Registration includes the book, *Starting Right with Bees*.

Backyard Compost Workshop

Dates: Sunday, April 21

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

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 valuable 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.



City Nature Challenge

April 26 – April 29, 2024



The Greater Erie City Nature Challenge is back! Last year we expanded to include all of Erie county where over 2,400 observations were made with 511 different species being documented during this four-day period.

The Greater Erie City Nature Challenge is part of the international City Nature Challenge which challenges us to document as many wild things as possible during this four-day event on the free iNaturalist app. Not only will you be learning about the creatures in Erie County but each observation contributes to a growing global wildlife database that scientists can use in their research.

Visit our website for more information
about how you can get involved.

www.asburywoods.org/events/city-nature-challenge/

Ways to get involved during our Maple Season.

Maple syrup season in Erie County is just around the corner and we want you to get involved! Here are some opportunities to learn about and engage in maple syrup making.



Sap Boiling

Stop in the Sugar Shack any time we're boiling sap to see maple syrup making in action!

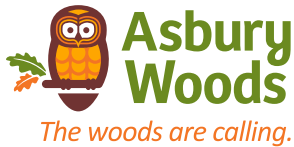


Sugar Shack Volunteers

Weekdays, February and March.

Visit our website to sign up!

<https://www.asburywoods.org/get-involved/>



ANDREW J. CONNER
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4105 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506
asburywoods.org



Summer Camp 2024

We have prepared a schedule chock-full of outdoor adventures, nature exploration, science, and fun! Last year camp sold out, so plan to register early!

**Summer Camp registrations
will open to the public on
February 15, 2024.**

Become a Supporting Donor with a donation of \$50 or more and you'll have the opportunity to register before the general public to ensure first chance at the camps and dates you want.

Become a Supporting Donor at www.asburywoods.org/donate/annual-fund/.



A great place for your next event!

Asbury Woods provides a natural setting that makes a perfect backdrop for any 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



Embrace Erie's winters and enjoy the outdoors in all seasons!

Snowshoes and cross country skis are available for rent at Asbury Woods. A great way to stay active and enjoy the outdoors during the winter, visitors of all ages may rent this equipment for use on our 234 acre property during regular business hours.

Visit our website for more details:
asburywoods.org/rentals/snowshoe-and-cross-country-ski-rentals/

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:

Hours same as Nature Center

Trails

Open Dawn to Dusk

