



WOODS talk

September
October
November
December
2022

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



Asbury Woods to Host Children's Water Festival

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Children's Water Festival is back and Asbury Woods is its new home! The Children's Water Festival first came to Erie in 2015 and was hosted on the campus of Penn State Behrend. Due to changes on campus, the volunteer committee who was the driving force behind the Children's Water Festival was seeking a new home and found it at Asbury Woods.

The Children's Water Festival is a dynamic, interactive and fun educational program for regional 5th graders. During the week of October 3 – 7, more than 500 fifth graders will visit Asbury Woods for a day long immersion into the wonderful world of water. Thanks to an incredible array of people and organizations, the students will rotate through various stations where they learn about the importance of water, taking care of our watersheds, conserving water and water as a vital resource. Kids will depart with a sense of how water plays an integral part in our lives on this planet and how they can have a role in taking care of our water resources.

The Erie Children's Water Festival is modeled after the Children's Groundwater Festival that was initiated in 1988 in Grand Island, Nebraska to educate children about water and water issues. Since that time it has become an international model that has been adapted and replicated throughout the world. Festivals are annually held in more than 40 U.S. States, plus Mexico, Canada, Australia and India.

Sarah Bennett, Director of Education & Community Programs, noted, "I was previously involved with Children's Water Festival as a volunteer. When I started at Asbury Woods last year, I was thrilled that we were the new stewards of this critical education program. It's a terrific fit with the environmental education programming we already offer and with the opportunity to get the kids outside into the landscape, it will make the day all that more engaging, meaningful and fun."

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, schools do not pay a program fee to attend the Children's Water Festival. "We are so grateful for the donations which enable us to offer this program to public and private schools across Erie County with no fee to attend. Support of this program is an investment in our children, our future and our planet so that our youth understand how important it is to protect and conserve water," stated Jennifer Farrar, Executive Director.

Children's Water Festival supporters for 2022 include: E.E. Austin & Sons, Erie Yacht Club Foundation, Northwest Savings Bank, Reed Manufacturing, Sheetz and W.C. Weill Company.

FROM HIVE TO HONEY

September 17

SCARY CREATURE FEATURE

October 13, 14 & 15

WINTER WONDERLAND

All December

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Asbury Woods Recognizes OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

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6 Mile TRAIL RUN

October 15

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOOKING FORWARD

As we come into the Fall season, one of my favorite Asbury Woods traditions is on the calendar, our annual volunteer recognition event. In this newsletter you can read about a couple volunteers who we are recognizing this year but the truth is, every single volunteer is special to us! Each individual is helping us in big and small ways to achieve our mission. As I tell people nearly every week, our staff is small so there is no way we could achieve the impact we do without the incredible dedication, skills and passion that our volunteer force of almost 400 people brings to Asbury Woods. We are so lucky to have people who believe in the power of nature and want to help ensure Asbury Woods continues to thrive and be a shining gem in our community. It never ceases to amaze me when needs arise and there is someone who steps up to assist and volunteer their time and skills. While our volunteer recognition event takes place in September, I assure you that every day we are grateful to our volunteers. Our volunteers are an asset to Asbury Woods that neither myself, the staff, nor the board of directors takes for granted, we are continually in awe of the generosity of spirit that our volunteers demonstrate.

I'm also looking forward to one of our newer Asbury Woods traditions, the expanded holiday gift shop! Last year our gift shop coordinator curated an incredible selection of unique items that filled our shop and extended into the lobby area throughout the month of December. It will be back again this year and I know it will once again feature many local artisans and their handmade wares. I loved checking items off my shopping list for friends and family knowing I was supporting local craftspeople and Asbury Woods with my shopping.

Thank you for your support of Asbury Woods! I am personally grateful for those who volunteer their time, attend our programs, enjoy the trails and make donations. It all contributes to the success of this very special place we all love.

From the Woods,



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director



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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.

Asbury Woods Staff

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Executive Director

Sarah Bennett
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Visitor Services Associate

Sharon Burton
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UPCOMING FESTIVALS



From Hive to Honey: The Honey Bee Story

Date: September 17

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$6, children under three are free

Pre-registration preferred

From Hive to Honey celebrates the wonderful honey bee and the vital role it plays in agriculture, pollination and the food chain. The event offers fun and learning for all ages in an outdoor setting. Kids and adults alike will delight in the honey extractor demonstrations, learning how to harvest honey from a honeycomb and touring Asbury Woods' bee hives. Learn all about the science and social life of the amazing honey bee!

Sponsored by: 



Scary Creature Feature

Dates: October 13, 14 and 15

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$9, children under two are free

Registration Required

This is a family event, complete with activities, storytelling and a guided walk through the woods where guests encounter and learn about some not-so-scary nocturnal creatures that live in the forest. It's the perfect chance to explore the woods at night and enjoy the cool, crisp air of an autumn evening.

Sponsored by: 



Winter Wonderland

Dates: December 1 – 31 (except December 24 and 25)

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

FREE, open to the public.

Donations accepted but not required.

Our extended version of Winter Wonderland is back! The boardwalk adjacent to the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods will be lit up each night in December (except December 24 and 25) from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. for the community to enjoy a peaceful evening stroll on the boardwalk through the woods. Holiday lights will twinkle in the woods and wetlands along the boardwalk which covers 1/3 of a mile. Stop inside the Nature Center and view our animal exhibit and browse holiday items for sale in our expanded gift shop with products from local artisans.

Sponsored by: 



FALL PROGRAMS: September – December 2022

Supported through the generosity of **A.J. Grack Business Interiors**

YOUTH



Nature Tots

Dates: Wednesdays, September 14 through November 9 (except Oct. 5)

Time: 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Age: Children 18 – 36 months, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Calling all little explorers! Toddlers and an accompanying adult 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.

Preschool Nature Discovery

Dates: Tuesdays, September 27 through November 15 (Except Oct. 4)

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Dates: Wednesdays, September 14 through November 9 (Except Oct. 5)

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

Big adventures begin at Asbury Woods in our nature class for pre-schoolers. Classes will include science and nature explorations through sensory experiences, hands-on activities, and crafts. Most weeks include an outdoor activity so come dressed for the weather.

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

Little Pumpkins

Dates: Saturday, October 22 or Sunday, October 30

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Age: Children 2 – 6 years old, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Our little pumpkins are so excited for Halloween but they need help dressing up! Children will take a short hike to collect their perfect pumpkin then decorate it for Halloween. Each child will take home the pumpkin they decorate.

Kids Hiking Club

Dates: Tuesdays, September 13, October 18, November 15, and December 13

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Age: Children 5 – 8 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Ages 9 – 12 years old may attend independently

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$5

Come explore the trails at Asbury Woods with one of our naturalists! Appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy walking shoes or boots are a must.



Kids Night Out!

Dates: Fridays, November 11 and December 16

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Age: Children 5 – 10 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$20

Program Fee: \$25

Want to get a jump start on holiday shopping or enjoy a night out? Let your kids hang out with us at the Woods! We'll do indoor and outdoor activities and have pizza for dinner!

Homeschool Team Building

Date: Friday, September 16

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Children 9 – 17 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$12

Program Fee: \$14

Put your teamwork skills to the test on our low ropes course! Kids will work together through a series of low ropes challenges designed to encourage working together and communication. Children can attend without an adult. Close toed shoes and comfortable clothes are required. Longer shorts or pants are recommended.

Homeschool Water Wonders

Date: Tuesday, October 11

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: Children 5 – 8 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Ages 9 – 12 years old may attend independently

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Explore the wonders of water through several hands-on activities. Kids will learn about the importance of water and how we all play a role in protecting it. Wear clothes that can get messy!

Homeschool Preparing for Winter

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: Children 5 – 8 years old, accompanied by an adult.

Ages 9 – 12 years old may attend independently

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Learn what plants and animals are doing to prepare for winter though fun and interactive activities. Kids will also explore what's happening outside so be sure to wear warm clothes and boots.

ALL AGES

Night Hikes

Dates: Thursdays, September 22, October 20, and November 17

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

FREE

No pre-registration required

Join us to discover the sights and sounds of the woods, fields, and wetlands at Asbury Woods. Comfortable shoes are a must, as this hike will be approximately 1.5 miles long.

Going Batty

Date: Sunday, October 2

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Join Steven J. Ropski, Ph. D., Professor of Biology, Gannon University, for a small lecture followed by a short hike to listen and search for bats. From pollinating our favorite fruits to eating pesky insects to inspiring medical marvels, bats are heroes of the night.

Mushroom Discovery Hike

Date: Saturday, October 1

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Age: Adults and children 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Join John Vanco and Kelly Armor, avid amateur mycologists, as they share how they safely identify, harvest, and consume a wide range of fungi while we stroll the Asbury Woods property. Asbury Woods does not allow harvesting, so be ready to enjoy the hunt and take home only memories and photos. Comfortable shoes are recommended, and cameras are encouraged.

Orionid Meteor Shower

Date: Friday, October 21

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Brown's Farm

FREE

No pre-registration required

One of our interpretive naturalists will guide you through an evening of watching the Orionid meteor shower. Bring a blanket or chair and binoculars if you have them.

Cross Country Ski Clinic

Dates: Saturdays, December 10 and 17

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$12

Program Fee: \$15

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 cross country skiing. No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. There must be at least 6" of snow for the clinic.

Snowshoe Clinic

Dates: Saturdays, December 10 and 17

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$12

Program Fee: \$15

No pre-registration required

Snowshoeing is a great way to explore the outdoors during the winter months. The clinic provides you with basic techniques. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. Waterproof boots are recommended.



Family Winter Solstice Night Hike

Date: Wednesday, December 21

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Embrace the long nights of winter as we hike the trails of Asbury Woods on the longest night of the year. The entire program is held outdoors. After the hike, enjoy the lights at Winter Wonderland!

Drop-in and Discover NATURE CENTER

Dates: Saturdays,

September 3 – December 17

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Age: Children, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

FREE

No pre-registration required.

Looking for something wild to do? Stop in each Saturday to discover something new about the natural world. Each week, Asbury Woods will offer a new experience that could include an animal meet-and-greet, a science experiment, a nature art project, a guided hike, and more. Check our website for upcoming themes www.asburywoods.org/programs/program-schedule/



Special Extended Drop-in and Discover

Date: Saturday, September 10

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Children, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

FREE

No pre-registration required.

Spend some time learning all about the fascinating world of birds! From feathers to flight, to beak sizes, you will be amazed by the differences between bird species. We will also hold the grand opening of the Asbury Woods storybook walk where you can enjoy the woods while reading *The Birdwatchers* by Simon James. The storybook walk was developed by Asbury Woods volunteer Kendall Laurin for her Girl Scouts Silver Award project.

ADULTS



Backyard Compost Workshop

Date: Sunday, September 25

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$30

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. Bins will be available to take home after the program.



Fall Mason Jar Oil Lantern

Dates: Tuesday, October 25 and

Thursday, October 27

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$14

Program Fee: \$16

Join us for an evening of fire and light as we make a scented oil lantern using mason jars and natural materials such as citrus slices, berries, and spices.

Blushing Beasts Trivia Night

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Who doesn't want to know more about how the birds and the bees do their thing! Join us for a fun-loving interactive trivia night featuring fascinating and unusual animal mating facts from all aspects of the animal kingdom. Play as a couple, team, or on your own. To make it even better, feel free to bring snacks and drinks. So, come spend a "romantic" evening with us, learning about animal lovemaking while letting out lots of laughs and covering up your blushing cheeks.



Holiday Door Swag

Date: Thursday, December 8

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$17

Program Fee: \$20

Participants will use fresh-cut greenery, ribbon, and decorative items to create a door swag for their home. Feel free to bring hand trimmers and work gloves, if desired.

Adult Winter Solstice Night Hike

Date: Wednesday, December 21

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children, ages 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Embrace the long nights of winter as we hike the trails of Asbury Woods on the longest night of the year. The entire program is held outdoors.



First Day Hike

Date: Sunday, January 1

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: All Ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE

No pre-registration required

Celebrate the New Year at Asbury Woods! Join us on New Year's Day for a 1- 2 mile guided trail hike. Dress for the weather; if there is over 6 inches of snow we will use snowshoes – bring your own or use Asbury Woods equipment.



Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe 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 216 acre property during regular business hours. Visit our website for more info asburywoods.org/rentals.

Asbury Woods Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Asbury Woods thrives because of volunteers who play a vital role in helping us to achieve our goals of conserving the land, connecting people to nature and inspiring environmental stewardship. We were fortunate to have 368 volunteers spend over 7,489 hours of their time caring for the Woods and sustaining our educational programs this past year.

The recipients of Asbury Woods' annual awards go above and beyond in their efforts to inspire a greater sense of environmental awareness, sustainability and stewardship to visitors. We are proud to announce the distinguished recipients of our annual Volunteer of the Year awards.



Adult Volunteer of the Year: David Karle

In his time as a volunteer, David has given 310 hours (and counting!) to help Asbury Woods achieve its mission. He's assisted with everything from our trail runs, outdoor visitor services, program assistant, festivals, ski and snowshoe rental fittings, summer camp helper and much more! David shares, "Asbury Woods provides an opportunity to get involved at whatever level is comfortable for you. I started small and have grown into various roles, including leading education programs. The dedicated staff is so much fun to work with and I've learned so much working alongside them." Congrats and thank you to David Karle, 2022 Adult Volunteer of the Year!

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Susannah Poese

Susannah Poese hasn't been volunteering for us long, but she has made quite an impression, contributing over 45 hours since the beginning of June, 2022! She was looking for something fun to do over the Summer and heard about our volunteer opportunities through her high school guidance counselor. She feels Asbury Woods is a great resource for the community and it is one of her favorite places in Erie, so she didn't hesitate to sign up. Since then, she has been a key volunteer for a lot of our summer programming. Thank you Susannah for volunteering your time and enthusiasm with Asbury Woods, we congratulate you on being Youth Volunteer of the Year, 2022.



Pictured left to right: Christine, Bob, Sarah, Ashley, Bill, Mary Margaret, Dwayne, Aaron, Rashad.

Group Volunteer of the Year: NeuroRestorative

NeuroRestorative started volunteering as a group for Asbury Woods in 2003 (then called Anchor Inne). While the faces of the many volunteers have changed, one thing has remained constant, their dedication to helping Asbury Woods thrive!

The individual members enjoy contributing their skills as well as learning new ones through their volunteerism. Mary Margaret, the longtime therapist facilitating the group shares that, "Working at a place like Asbury Woods provides our individuals an opportunity to reestablish past skills and/or gain new skills for resume building; it provides social opportunities, and gives them ways to connect personally."

This year NeuroRestorative has reached the milestone of volunteering over 1,000 hours of their time and efforts. We appreciate their passion for Asbury Woods and wanting to make this a better place for the community to enjoy. Congratulations to NeuroRestorative for being the Group Volunteers of the Year!

Read more about our distinguished award recipients and the full article on our website at asburywoods.org/news.



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

4105 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506
asburywoods.org



New Tees!

We are happy to continue our partnership with Erie Apparel with a new Asbury Woods themed T-shirt! They will be available for purchase in the Squeaky Frog Gift Shop, both Erie Apparel locations and available to ship through the Erie Apparel website.

A portion of the proceeds of each shirt benefits Asbury Woods.



6 Mile Trail Run | October 15

Our 216 acres of property is the perfect place to present a challenging trail race. Join us for the final race of the 2022 trail run series! Wind your way through six miles of trails, fields, and streets to go the distance in the final race of the series. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors of nature as you race to the finish line. Visit our website for more info asburywoods.org/trail-run

Presented by:

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Special Thanks:

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Culligan Water

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

