

# WOODS talk

Asbury Woods

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

January  
February  
March  
April

2026

## Asbury Woods | Year of Exploration

Wonder, Wander, and Discover during the Year of Exploration at Asbury Woods! This year we'll have even more opportunities and incentives to explore every season and deepen your connection to nature.

**Wonder** what's in store for this year? **Wander** into the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center and purchase the Year of Exploration Adventure Passport. This passport encourages you to **Discover** everything Asbury Woods offers with a discount code for 10% off almost every program and event throughout the year and a chance to earn an exclusive Asbury Woods gift at the end of the year.

Our 2026 Explorer Series will get you well on your way to filling out that passport with old favorites and new adventures. In January, venture into the snow with our Snowshoe & Sip program. Wonder at the night sky during February's Starlit Stroll. Enjoy our reinvigorated Maple Festival in March and explore spring's creatures during April's Amphibian Adventure.

As we begin this exciting new year, the Nature Center will get a couple of exciting updates. The front doors will be replaced with push-button openings to improve people with disabilities' accessibility. This important project was made possible by grants from the Erie Community Foundation and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Once those doors are completed, we welcome you to explore the new History of Asbury Woods exhibit in our historic Behrend Room.

Another exciting addition is our 90s Night fundraiser on January 30. Party like it's 1999 with Asbury Woods and our friends from Werner Books, Erie Ale Works, Perry's Pizza, and Stitches of Erie. You'll get a grown-up twist on favorites from the nineties including a book fair!

We hope you're as excited as we are to explore everything 2026 has to offer. As always, we would not be able to do all that we do without your generous support through donations, program attendance, and volunteerism. With your help, we can continue to inspire a greater connection to the natural world through outdoor recreation, environmental education, and conservation. Happy New Year!

From the Woods,



Sarah Bennett  
Executive Director



Thanks to Konzel Construction, Year of Exploration Sponsor



Wonder | Wander | Discover  
2026

### Upcoming Events and Festivals Page 3

90's Night  
January 30

4 Mile Trail Run  
February 22

Maple Festival  
March 7

City Nature Challenge  
April 24 – 27

Donate



## Donor Spotlight: Amy & Jeff Brinling

For Amy and Jeff Brinling, supporting Asbury Woods started with proximity and grew into purpose. Living near Brown's Farm, their family spent years exploring the trails, an experience Amy says "deepened our appreciation for this incredible community treasure." When she later joined the Board of Directors, the couple gained a fuller understanding of the organization's mission and potential. "The more we learned about its educational outreach and vision for the future," she explains, "the more committed we became to supporting its work."



As outgoing Board Chair, Amy has seen firsthand how intentional growth creates value for the community. One highlight during her tenure was the acquisition of more than 40 acres of land, including the cherished Buttermilk Falls property. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors," she notes, "that expansion is now fully paid for." She also emphasizes the importance of talent and leadership, adding, "Asbury Woods has assembled a passionate team dedicated to advancing the mission and ensuring the organization continues to thrive."

Philanthropy, for the Brinlings, comes down to confidence in impact. "Our support is being used wisely and is making a difference," Amy says. Jeff and Amy are particularly motivated by programs that connect children with the environment. "We've always had a special place in our hearts for causes that inspire and educate children," Amy says, and they see Asbury Woods doing exactly that through hands-on science, sustainability education, and creative community events.

Asbury Woods' recent programming, including the popular Winnie the Pooh-themed event, stands out as an example of thoughtful engagement. "It brought together fun, learning, and nature in such a magical and imaginative way," Amy says, adding that seeing children explore and connect with nature through these experiences "leaves a lasting impression."

Looking toward the future, Amy and Jeff believe Asbury Woods is well-positioned for long-term community impact. "Its potential to enrich our community for generations is tremendous," she says. She encourages others who are considering getting involved to see their contribution as a true investment. "Your gift—whether financial, time, or expertise—will go further and have a greater impact than you might imagine."



## Asbury Woods

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

**Vision Statement:** Asbury Woods strives to realize a future for Northwestern Pennsylvania where appreciation for and protection of natural places is a deeply held personal and community value.

The Mission of Asbury Woods is to inspire a greater connection to the natural world by protecting, managing and interpreting our property; providing outdoor recreational opportunities; and offering environmental education experiences.

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  
*Public Programs Coordinator*

Vijay Woodworth  
*Facilities & Grounds Coordinator*

Bailey Merritt  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Mia Miraszek  
*Environmental Education Associate*

Greg Ritson  
*Conservation Stewardship Coordinator*

Zachary Seabridge  
*Steward of the Woods Intern*

Jake Stush  
*Environmental Educator*

Karina Wismer  
*Visitor Services Associate*

### Board of Directors

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*Secretary*  
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**Bridget Shames**  
**Jennifer Dunmire**  
**Brandon Sieber**  
**Jacob Thomas**

*Solicitor*  
**Mark Shaw**

# UPCOMING EVENTS & FESTIVALS

## 90's Night | January 30

6 – 9 p.m.

Asbury Woods is taking it back to the 1990's! Join us on Friday January 30th for a night of nostalgia in the Woods. We will be partnering with Werner Books, Perry's Pizza, Erie Ale Works and other amazing local businesses to host a throw back book fair with trivia, crafts, honey & cheese pairings, snacks and beer, wine & mocktail tastings. (This event is 21+ only)



Sponsored by:



## Trail Run | February 22

Kick off the Trail Run series with our 4-mile Fun Run! This untimed event is all about celebrating outdoor recreation and fitness year-round on the scenic trails of Asbury Woods. After the run, warm up with hearty chili provided by Cali's West Catering and enjoy beverages courtesy of Erie Beer. Learn more at [asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series](http://asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series)



Sponsored by:



## Maple Festival | March 7

The annual Maple Festival celebrates a tradition deeply rooted in our region's history. Discover the fascinating process behind one of nature's sweetest renewable resources through engaging tours and hands-on demonstrations. A highlight of the experience is a visit to the working sugar shack at Asbury Woods, where you can watch the transformation from sap to syrup in action. Enjoy samples from local vendors featuring a wide variety of maple products, and explore our gift shop filled with handcrafted creations by local artists. Learn more at <https://www.asburywoods.org/events/maple-festival/>



More Information:



## City Nature Challenge | April 24 – 27

The **5th Annual Greater Erie City Nature Challenge** is happening across Erie County! This four-day event, part of the global City Nature

Challenge, invites everyone to document as many wild organisms as possible using the free iNaturalist app. As you explore and learn about the living things around you, each observation helps build a valuable global database used by scientists worldwide. Learn more about how you can get involved at [asburywoods.org/events/city-nature-challenge](http://asburywoods.org/events/city-nature-challenge).

More Information:





# SPRING PROGRAMS: JANUARY – APRIL 2026

## YOUTH

### Homeschool Programs at the Woods

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Age:** 5-12 years old

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

Homeschool programs with pre-lessons and extension activities are back! Sign up for one or all the classes below. All classes meet the PA STEELS Standards, and registered participants will receive a certificate of completion. Parents may drop their children off or choose to stay with them regardless of age.

#### January 22 – Forest Management

Learn about forest land management through various games to understand what causes wildfires, their impact, and how we can prevent them. If the weather holds, we will also have a simple hike to observe why biodiversity helps this process.



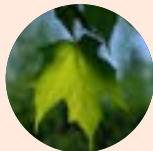
#### February 12 – Wintertime Survival

Learn about the ins and outs of furs, feathers, migration, and physical wintertime adaptations that help animals survive. We will also

learn basic fire building, followed by a sweet surprise as part of the program.

#### March 19 / 26 – Trees, Trees, Trees!

The sap is flowing, and the trees are budding. Let's explore! We'll inspect the maple tree life cycle, and practice basic tree surveying skills that foresters use, like reading tree rings.



#### April 23 / 30 – Bugs & Amphibians

It's Spring, and our ecosystems are budding after a long winter. Let's inspect who's been hanging out in our bug snugs, what creatures are awake in our vernal pools, and more!

The more we find, the better it is for our ecosystems.



### Kids Night Out!

**Date:** Fridays, January 16th and February 13th

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 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.



### Kids' Winter Day Camp

**Date:** Monday, January 19th

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Age:** Children in kindergarten through 5th grade

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$55

**Program Fee:** \$65

Children can enjoy the day off school at Asbury Woods! We'll explore the outdoors, use our imaginations, and more!

### Tiny Trailblazers

**Date:** Wednesdays, February 4 – April 29

**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

Our preschool *Sprouts* class has a new name! Young nature explorers with an adult are invited to join us for some big adventures at Asbury Woods! Classes will include an outdoor activity as well as science and nature exploration through sensory experiences, hands-on activities, and crafts.

### EcoExplorers Club for Middle Schoolers

**Dates:** Tuesdays, February 10th and 24th, March 17th and 31st, and April 14th and 28th

**Time:** 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Age:** starting current 6th – 8th graders

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$40

**Program Fee:** \$50

Are you a middle schooler interested in nature and science? Join EcoExplorers! EcoExplorers work with our animal ambassadors, dive deeper into nature and the outdoors, and conduct hands-on science investigations.

### The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop

The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop is open during regular business hours and is filled with nature-inspired treasures, unique gifts, and locally crafted items. Every purchase you make directly supports Asbury Woods—helping to fund our educational programs, maintain our trails, and enhance our exhibits. Stop in to shop with purpose and take home something special!



# ALL AGES

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

## Snowshoe & Sip

**Date:** Saturday, January 10th

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10



Take a leisurely snowshoe hike through the beautiful winter woods and end your mini adventure with a cup of hot chocolate by the fire. If there isn't enough snow to snowshoe, we will take a winter hike.



## Cross Country Ski Clinic

**Date:** Saturdays in January – February

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$13

**Program Fee:** \$16

These clinics will teach participants the basics of cross-country skiing. There must be at least 6" of snow for the clinic. You can sign up on the day of the clinic.

## Let It Gnome!

**Date:** Wednesday, January 21st

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** Ages 12 & Up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$30

**Program Fee:** \$35

Join *Gnome-Mans-Land* for a fun night for all, creating your very own light-up gnome to brighten the season! All gnome supplies are provided, so feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks to elevate your crafty night out. A portion of the proceeds from the night will benefit Asbury Woods.



## Starlit Stroll

**Date:** Saturday, February 21st

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$8



Enjoy the clear winter night sky on this delightful evening hike. Participants will learn about local constellations and folklore, make a DIY star guide, and go on a starry night hike.

## Name That Tweet!

**Date:** Saturday, March 14th

**Time:** 9:30 – 11 a.m.

**Age:** All *Interested* Ages, children must be accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7



Who made that sound? Wait, was that a bird? Practice your bird call identification skills during this inside training on local bird calls.

## Conservation Project

**Dates:** Saturday, March 21st

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Age:** Ages 12 & up, children must be accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** FREE, registration required



Want to get your hands dirty with a conservation project at Asbury Woods? Now is the time to help us maintain our trails so they can stay safe and open to the public. This program requires physical labor to remove invasive plant species and a can-do attitude!

## Amphibian Adventure

**Date:** Saturday, April 25th

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Age:** All ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** Free, registration required



Join us to explore our vernal pools while looking for native amphibians! These precious ecosystems are the perfect home for salamanders, frogs, toads, and more.

## Owl Prowl

**Date:** Thursday, April 30th

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children ages 10 and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10



Prowl the evening at Asbury Woods! The experience begins indoors, learning about local owls and dissecting owl pellets, then continuing outdoors to try to call for owls. Bring your flashlights and your curiosity.



## Rent a Maple Bucket

**Date:** Maple season

(registration begins January 23)

**Time:** Anytime during Nature Center hours

**Age:** All ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** \$25 for 2 buckets



Let Asbury Woods tap the maple trees while you take home the sap! Come "rent" a set of two buckets (each bucket can hold up to 4 gallons of sap) to make syrup at home. 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.



# ADULTS

## Forest Bathing

**Dates:** January 17th, February 14th, March 14th, April 11th  
**Time:** 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
**Age:** Adults  
**Location:** Brown's Farm  
**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.



## Nature Exploration for Adults with Disabilities

**Dates:** Fridays, January 23rd, February 13th, March 27th, and April 24th  
**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 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.

## Cold-Pressed Soap Making

**Dates:** Tuesdays, February 17th and March 24th  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
**Age:** Ages 16 & Up  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$28  
**Program Fee:** \$32

Experience the magic of soapmaking with *Sealed by Nature*. Each attendee will receive everything they need to make 2 bars of soap from natural ingredients.

## Chirp & Chat

**Date:** Saturday, April 18th  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Age:** Adults  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5  
**Program Fee:** \$7

Practice your bird-watching skills during migration time with an Asbury Woods educator. Binoculars and bird IDs will be provided to use during the program, but feel free to bring your own!



## Medicinal Plant Walk

**Dates:** Sunday, April 19th  
**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.



## Shoreline Gems

**Date:** Thursday, April 23rd  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Age:** Adults  
**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.

## Backyard Beekeeping Workshop

**Date:** 4-week session every Wednesday, April 1-22  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
**Age:** Adults  
**Location:** Nature Center  
**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$55  
**Program Fee:** \$65

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



*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. Explore available venues and pricing at: [asburywoods.org/rentals/](https://asburywoods.org/rentals/)

# Featured at the Woods



## Year of Exploration Passport

Kick off our **Year of Exploration** with the brand-new **Asbury Woods Adventure Passport**! Pick one up in the gift shop for \$35 and earn stamps all year long by hiking, attending programs, and joining special events. Passport holders get **10% off Asbury Woods event registrations** (excluding summer camp) and those who complete the challenge will receive an exclusive year-end gift in December. Start your adventure—your passport is waiting.



## 90's Night Information

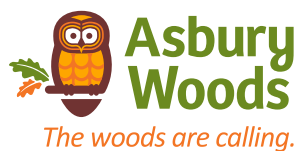
We're throwing it back to the book-fair days—but this time there's wine. Join us Friday, January 30th, for a 21+ night featuring a Scholastic-style book fair with Werner Books, craft beer and wine tastings, honey & charcuterie "grown-up lunchables," trivia, and fancy 90s crafts. Admission includes catered snacks from Perry's Pizza, a honey and charcuterie pairing & trivia. Tickets are \$45.



## Summer Camp

We've put together a schedule packed with outdoor adventures, hands-on nature exploration, science discovery, and plenty of fun! Last year's camp sold out, so be sure to register early. Registration opens to the public on February 16, with early access for supporting donors beginning February 2. Visit our camp website for the full schedule and camp descriptions at [asburywoods.org/camp](http://asburywoods.org/camp).





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**Wonder | Wander | Discover**  
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Wonder, Wander, and Discover your way through Asbury Woods during our Year of Exploration.



Don't forget your passports and receive get 10% off Asbury Woods program registrations!

## 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

