



WOODS talk

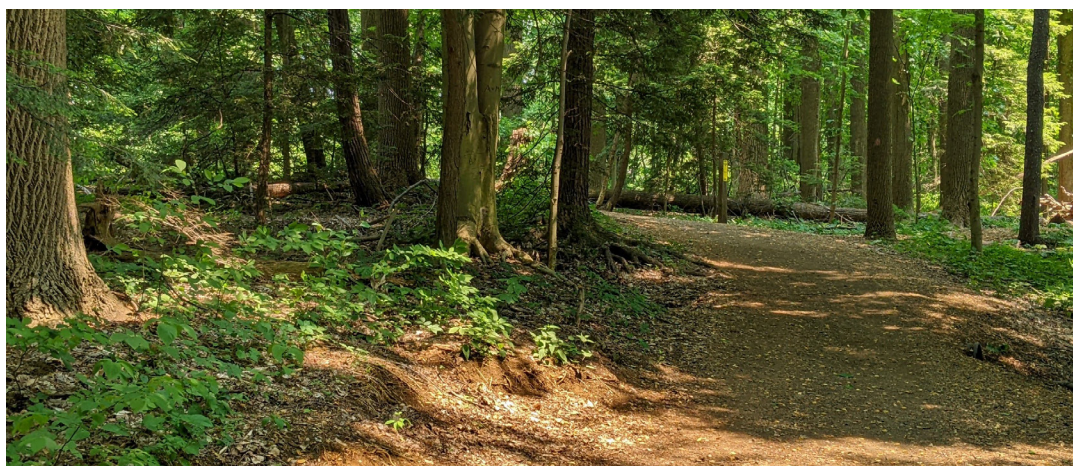
Asbury Woods

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

May
June
July
August

2025

ASBURY WOODS Conservation Stewardship Plan Update



Exciting developments are coming to the Woods this summer! Over the past several years, Asbury Woods has worked to ramp up conservation efforts on our 234-acre property. This endeavor started with the planning, publication, and adoption of our Conservation Stewardship Plan in 2023. Implementation of the plan began immediately with invasive species treatments, staff, and volunteer trail maintenance training, acquiring additional acreage, and securing funding to enable us to continue moving forward. Asbury Woods has taken another major step with plan implementation by hiring Conservation Stewardship Coordinator, Greg Ritson. Greg's years of experience in trail management, conservation, and volunteer training will catalyze the ongoing work to preserve and protect our property for current and future generations.

Asbury Woods is proud to welcome tens of thousands of visitors to the property each year through educational programs and outdoor recreation. However, this heavy use leaves a lasting impression on the land. The combination of a Conservation Stewardship Coordinator, the Conservation Stewardship Plan, and funding, means Asbury Woods can work to reduce human impacts on the property, improve habitats for plants and wildlife, and deliver a better experience for current and future visitors.

Visitors can expect to see trail improvements and restoration activities this summer and beyond. There will also be opportunities for the public to get involved through vernal pool investigations in June, a white-tailed deer census in July, and trail improvement projects throughout the summer. Thanks to our private conservation funders, and a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant from Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Asbury Woods is ready to launch our conservation efforts in a big way.

We invite all Asbury Woods supporters to engage in conservation of the property through volunteerism, participation in programs, financial support, and continuing to love the Woods!



Upcoming Events
and Festivals
Page 3

Trout Release
May 10

Monday Music
Starting June 2

5 Mile Trail Race
June 7

Lake Erie Cyclefest
July 24-27

Fish Field Day
August 2

Year of Wildlife
Page 8

Take a Plant,
LEAVE a Plant
Page 6



Sarah Bennett
Interim Executive Director
Director of Education &
Community Programs

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer is Finally Here!

With the new season comes big changes at Asbury Woods. After 7 years of dedication to the Woods, Jennifer Farrar has taken a position at a new organization. We thank her for her service to our mission and vision and wish her the best of luck!

As Director of Education & Community Programs, it has been a pleasure to get to know all of you who are so connected to Asbury Woods. I cherish the stories I hear about grandparents who grew up exploring the Woods and who now drop their grandchildren off at summer

camp each year. I have loved being “Miss Sarah” during summer camp and working with teachers to ensure fun and educational visits. As I take on the new role of Interim Executive Director, I am excited to use these experiences to lead Asbury Woods into the next chapter of conservation, innovative programs, and continued connection to nature.

The cover letter highlighted important ways we are moving the Conservation Stewardship Plan forward and several ways that our supporters can get involved. If you or your children are interested in volunteering, now is a great time to explore the Get Involved page on our website. Our 234-acre property takes a lot of effort to maintain and keep healthy and we couldn’t do it without your support.

Our Year of Wildlife, sponsored by the FirstEnergy Foundation, continues this summer with exciting opportunities for you to engage with wildlife. In May, you can learn what a mustelid is and meet our new ferrets. In June, our friends from Erie Zoo will teach you about Canadian lynx and their bobcat relatives. July offers a community science deer census event where you can help us estimate the number of deer on our property and learn about their impact on our forest. Finally, in August, learn about the often-misunderstood local coyotes. These are just a few of the many exciting programs we have in store this summer.

We at Asbury Woods are energized for all that summer brings and we hope you are, too! Look for summer favorites like Monday Music, Summer Sprouts, and Nature Safari, as well as brand new opportunities to engage with nature. For the first time we are offering one day camps for youth to explore a topic in depth, whether it’s fishing, nature art, or outdoor survival. We also have several programs where you can learn how to identify birds, whether by sight or sound! Thanks to Presque Isle Audubon, we have a new video bird feeder and interactive wingspan display in our new exhibit Wild About Wildlife! Discovering Pennsylvania’s Native Species.

There are so many reasons to visit the Woods this summer. I look forward to seeing you and hearing your stories! As always, thank you for your continued support of Asbury Woods.

From the Woods,



Asbury Woods

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

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
Interim Executive Director
Director of Education & Community Programs

Mario Bruni
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Rachel Cherry
Environmental Educator

Casey Keating
Environmental Educator

Emma Mader
Assistant Director of Education

Ron Maggio
Facilities & Grounds Coordinator

Bailey Merritt
Visitor Services Associate

Abigayle Propst
Animal Care Technician

Greg Ritson
Conservation Stewardship Coordinator

Jake Stush
Environmental Educator

Sheila Walmer
Constituent Relations & Office Manager

Jessica Weiss
Naturalist

Karina Wismer
Visitor Services Associate

Abbie Harrington
Visitor Services Associate

Board of Directors

Chair
Amy Brinling

Chair-elect
Jennifer Lyons

Treasurer
James Kubaney

Secretary
Ashley Marsteller

Bridget Barber
George Dusckas
Gloria Gerbracht
Ashleigh Montagna
T.J. Richter
Steve Ropski
Jacob Thomas
Jane McMaster
Becca Turner
Bridget Shames

Solicitor
Mark Shaw

UPCOMING EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Trout Release | Saturday, May 10

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Free Program, Registration required

Location: Lake Pleasant Conservation Area, Valley Road, Union City

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. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by:



Monday Music | June 2 – July 28

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Free: \$5 donation recommended

Location: Nature Center

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.

Sponsored by:



5 Mile Trail Race | Saturday, June 7

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Registration required, visit <https://www.asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/>

Test your mettle on a competitive racecourse that includes a mix of boardwalks, packed dirt trails, and single-track loops. Childcare and a youth fun run round out this family-friendly event.

Sponsored by:



Lake Erie Cyclefest | July 24 – 27

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 throughout Erie County, benefiting several local nonprofit organizations, including Asbury Woods.

Sponsored by:



Tour de West County | Saturday, July 27

Registration Required: Visit www.asburywoods.org/events/cyclefest

Asbury Woods is thrilled to continue the ride tradition of Tour de West County. This ride offers choices of 12, 25, or 50-mile ride routes and features a post-ride picnic for registered cyclists.

Sponsored by:



Fish Field Day | Saturday, August 2

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free

Asbury Woods and local partners bring you a fun-filled day exploring fish! Get up close and personal with our resident trout, 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!

Sponsored by:



MAY - AUGUST 2025 PROGRAMS

Supported through the generosity of

FirstEnergy
Foundation

YOUTH

NEW!

One Day Camps

Nature adventures await during these new one-day camps. Campers will spend the day exploring and learning with our environmental educators. All campers should bring a lunch, water bottle, and snack.

The camp day is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Each camp has a rain date.

Supporting Donor Fee: \$50

Program Fee: \$60

Location: Brown's Farm

Reel Adventure

Date: Monday, June 30 (rain date July 2)

Age: 13 – 17 years

Spend the day fishing at Walnut Creek with Asbury Woods' aFISHionado, Emma Mader. This is a one-day camp for kids interested in fishing. Poles and bait will be provided, though campers are welcome to bring their own.

Wild Outside

Date: Monday, July 21 (rain date July 23)

Age: 9-12 years

Spend the day adventuring outdoors with Asbury Woods' educator, Jake Stush. This is a one-day camp for kids interested in being outside.

Nature As My Canvas

Date: Monday, August 18
(rain date August 20)

Age: 10 – 13 years

Engage your artistic side and enjoy the outdoors with Asbury Woods' educator, Rachel Cherry. This is a one-day camp for kids interested in art and nature.



STREAM Girls

Dates: Saturday, June 14

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Age: Girls going into Grades 5-8

Location: Brown's Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$50

Program Fee: \$60

Description: Asbury Woods is partnering with Trout Unlimited to offer the STREAM Girls program for young women interested in fishing! Spend the day at Brown's Farm and Walnut Creek learning about stream ecology and practicing fly fishing. This program is designed for Scouts, but all young women are welcome.



Summer Sprouts

Date: Fridays, June 13 – August 22

Time: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Age: 2-5 years old

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

Date: Wednesdays, June 18 – August 13

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Children accompanied by an adult

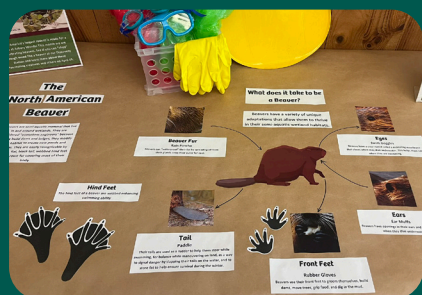
Location: Nature Center

FREE, no preregistration required

Explore the ecosystems at Asbury Woods with a different theme each week. This program is rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure.

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.



A great place for your next event!

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/

ALL AGES

Wildflower Walk

Date: Saturday, May 3

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

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

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

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



Is It a Mink?

Dates: Saturday, May 24

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: All Ages

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: FREE, no registration required



Mink, weasel, ermine, ferret... What's the difference? Learn all about the unique animals of the Mustelid Family, which ones you can find in Erie and meet our resident ferrets.



Backyard Birding Workshop

Date: June 28

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Age: All Ages

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$5



Learn how to use binoculars and identify common birds at Asbury Woods! This workshop will include instruction, a bird walk, and a DIY bird feeder! This program is sponsored by Presque Isle Audubon.



Exploring Vernal Pools

Dates: Tuesday, June 24

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Asbury Woods is a great place to explore important habitats called vernal pools. These temporary wetlands are nurseries for frogs and salamanders, and home to many other animals. Data that we collect, as citizen scientists, will also be sent to the PA Natural Heritage Program and will serve to inform our overall knowledge of vernal pools in the state.



Community Science – Deer Census

Date: Saturday, July 26

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Ages 6 and up

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: Free



Celebrate the Month of the White-Tailed Deer during this community science event! Participants will help conduct a deer census on Asbury Woods' property. Instructions will be provided.



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/

ADULTS

Canadian Lynx with the Erie Zoo



Dates: Tuesday, June 10

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Ages 16 and older

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: FREE

Learn all about the Canadian lynx, a close relative of this month's spotlight animal, the bobcat. This lecture will be presented by Heather Gula from Erie Zoo.

Forest Bathing

Dates: Saturdays, May 17, June 14, July 12, August 16

Time: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

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

Nature Exploration for Adults with Disabilities

Dates: Fridays, May 2, June 20, July 25, August 22

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.

Cold Process Soap Making

Dates: Tuesdays, July 22 & August 19

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$28 includes all supplies

Program Fee: \$32 includes all supplies

Experience the magic of soapmaking with Sealed by Nature. Each attendee will make 2 bars of soap from natural ingredients.



Mushroom Discovery Hikes

Dates and Times:

Sunday, May 4, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and

Saturday, June 28, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Age: Adults and Teens

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 4 will be led by Dr. Matthew Gacura from Gannon University and June 28 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.



Dog Days of Summer

Dates: Mondays May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center May and August, Brown's Farm June and July

Program Fee: FREE, registration required

Dog Days are back! Join ABC Certified Dog Trainer Lynn Yusz for a guided hike with your four-legged companion through the beautiful Asbury Woods trail system. Please only one dog per person.

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



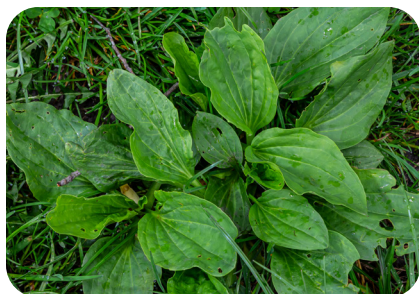
Take a Plant, LEAVE a Plant

The Carrie T. Watson Garden Club's **Take a Plant, Leave a Plant** stand is returning again 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, we ask that you **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.



ADULTS



Medicinal Plant Walks

Dates: Sundays, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 20, August 24, September 21

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

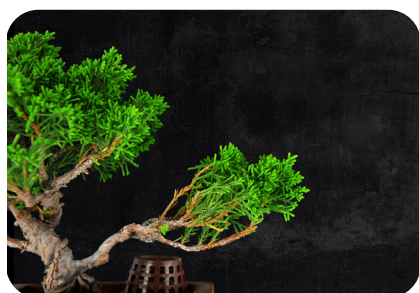
Age: Adults

Location: Brown's Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$3

Program Fee: \$5

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.



Ashton Ferns' Intermediate Bonsai Class

Date: Thursday, June 5

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$45

Program Fee: \$50

Learn how to make your very own bonsai from start to finish! Perfect class for beginners and intermediate enthusiasts! Class includes a Procumbens Nana Juniper, 100% Sustainable Bonsai Pot, Soil, Wire, and Decorative Gravel. Shears are provided for use during class.

Decoding Bird Songs

Dates: Thursday, July 17

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8



If all bird songs sound like a jumble to you, this beginners to novice level class is for you. We will break down the anatomy of bird songs, learn a step by step way for decoding any bird song you like, and how to learn new ones on the fly. This class will finish with a short interpretive hike to practice your skills.

Rain Barrel Workshops

Dates and Times: Saturday, June 21,

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at ECCD or

Wednesday, June 25, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

at Brown's Farm

Age: Adults

Program Fee: \$30,

Registration opens May 12

This workshop, offered in partnership with Millcreek Township, will delve into the environmental impacts of stormwater runoff and equip residents with rain barrels to help reduce their impact at home. Choose your preferred date and location: Saturday, June 21 will be at Erie County Conservation District (ECCD), 1927 Wager Rd., Erie, PA 16509 or Wednesday, June 25 at Brown's Farm. Participants should register for only one date. Each participant will receive a 50-gallon rain barrel to install at home. Installation instructions will be covered during the workshop. One barrel per registration. You must participate in the program to get your barrel. Barrels will be available to take home after the program.

Commemorate the YEAR OF WILDLIFE



with our
new t-shirt
design.

Available
now in the
Squeaky
Frog Gift
Shop.



Wine & Dine in the Woods

Friday, July 11, 2025

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

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

Pressed Flower Craft

Date: Thursday, August 7

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: 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.

Backyard Compost Workshop

Dates: Saturday, August 23

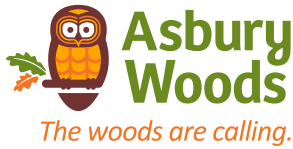
Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

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. You must participate in the program to get your bin. Bins will be available to take home after the program.



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

4105 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506
asburywoods.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ERIE PA
PERMIT NO. 199

Year of Wildlife Animal Spotlights



Each month during the *Year of Wildlife* we will highlight a different native animal. Visit the exhibit hall to find that animal specimen, participate in hands-on learning activities, and look for animal programs in our schedule!

For more details on how to become a *Year of Wildlife Sponsor of the Month*, contact Sarah Bennett, Interim Executive Director, at 814-836-6178 or sbennett@asburywoods.org.

MAY Mink

*Sponsored by Jim & Jennifer Lyons,
Edward Jones*



JUNE Bobcat

Sponsored by Diana & Steve Day



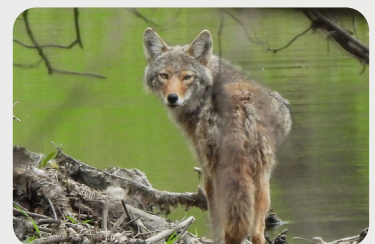
JULY White-tailed Deer

Sponsored by Bob Howden



AUGUST Coyote

*Sponsored by Frontier General
Contracting, Inc.*



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

