



WOODS talk

Asbury Woods

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

September
October
November
December
2021

FROM HIVE TO HONEY

September 18 & 19

SCARY CREATURE FEATURE

October 7, 8 & 9

NATURE NOEL

November 20 –
December 31

WINTER WONDERLAND

All December
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Asbury Woods
Recognizes

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

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NEW T-shirts are for sale!

Visit the Squeaky
Frog Gift Shop

Back Cover

Kent and Christi Bartlett, Making an Impact at Asbury Woods



The pandemic has added stress and strain to our lives in ways we couldn't imagine before. It has also prompted many individuals, families and businesses to assess their priorities and put many things into a different perspective. For Kent and Christi Bartlett, the parents of two young daughters and business owners, it has done all of this and more.

As schools and businesses closed during the spring and summer of 2020, the Bartlett's were frustrated that their children, Ella, age 9, and Remlee, age 3, couldn't be with children their own ages and were missing out on interactions

with friends. They felt their girls were lacking in educational experiences through the shutdown, and needed more stimulation for their minds and bodies.

For Christi, spending time outdoors, educational experiences, and learning while having fun are priorities for her family. "Spending time in nature is so meaningful to our family. We were desperately searching for experiences for our children last summer where they could learn valuable life skills, but also learn to protect and preserve nature, all while spending time with their peers, which was so important to us with young children," says Christi.

Longtime nature-lovers, hikers, and donors to Asbury Woods, the Bartlett's turned to Asbury Woods' summer camp program last summer for their children. It was a beacon of hope and light, and something the whole family looked forward to.

Kent recalls, "The girls took away something last summer that transcended beyond their couple weeks of camp into our everyday family life. Our oldest daughter learned valuable nature skills like how to safely build a fire, and this past year when we took a camping trip she was so proud to be the fire starter and tender (with our supervision!). Last year, when everything was cancelled or postponed, Asbury Woods was one of the only places offering programs that provided educational, hands-on experiences. Our children thrived there, having other children to interact with, building their confidence in new skills and learning valuable lessons about taking care of natural resources."

As owners of Bartlett Signs, Kent and Christi align their personal family values with their business mission and strive to support the Erie community and to give back to organizations that are making a difference. **(Article continued on page 6)**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOOKING FORWARD

FALL EVENTS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The seasons change but our mission remains the same, to inspire a greater connection to nature! All summer long the Nature Center, Browns Farm and the trails were buzzing with the activities of summer camps, individuals and groups hiking, visits to the creek and an array of programs for all ages. I had the pleasure to once again help lead two weeks of our Trail Blazers camp for middle-schoolers where they spend the week exploring the trails by foot and by bike. It's a joy to guide them as they tackle new experiences and to see the friendships form throughout the week.



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

As we transition to Fall we couldn't be more thrilled at the prospect of school students filling our building and the Woods again after the pandemic forced us to provide lessons virtually last school year. Hands-on, experiential learning is a crucial factor in helping students to understand the world around them and we are ready to welcome them back for enriching, nature-based STEM experiences.

We also have several of our long-held traditions at Asbury Woods to look forward to in the months to come including Hive to Honey, Scary Creature Feature and Winter Wonderland. After the incredible response last year to Winter Wonderland being a free, month-long event, we are excited to continue with that format. We're able to do this thanks to the generous donations of several sponsors who believe in helping us provide access to Asbury Woods for all members of the community. This year visitors to Winter Wonderland will be able to also visit the Nature Center where they will find a special holiday gift shop and the always popular exhibit animals.

Finally, don't forget to keep Pumping for Charity! The Country Fair Cares program continues through October 31 at designated gas pumps across Erie County. The two cents per gallon that is donated to the five charities, including Asbury Woods, adds up to make a big difference.

My heartfelt appreciation to everyone who supports Asbury Woods through visits, donations, volunteerism and program attendance. We couldn't do it without you!

With Gratitude,

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



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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Interpretive Naturalist

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UPCOMING FESTIVALS



From Hive to Honey: The Honey Bee Story

Dates: September 18 and 19

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

Program Fee: \$5, children under three are free

Registration Required

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!

Presented by:



Scary Creature Feature

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.

Dates: October 7, 8, and 9

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

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

Registration Required

Presented by:



Winter Wonderland

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

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Nature Center

FREE

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.

The lighted boardwalk and Nature Center will be free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted, but are not required.

Presented by:



Nature's Noel

Get into the holiday spirit by shopping Nature's Noel! The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop will extend into the lobby of the Nature Center, showcasing holiday and nature-themed gifts from local artisans. The Nature's Noel gift shop will be open November 20 through December 31 during regular Nature Center hours, and during Winter Wonderland.

Dates: November 20 – December 31 (except Nov. 25 & 26 and Dec. 24 & 25)

Opening Reception: November 19 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Meet the artists and shop early for the full selection of holiday themed gifts.

YOUTH



Nature Tots

Date: Wednesdays, September 15 through November 10

Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

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

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$7

Program Fee: \$9

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: Wednesdays, September 15 through November 10

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.



Pumpkin Patch Hunt

Dates: Sunday, October 17 or Saturday, October 23

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 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 Night Out!

Dates: Fridays, November 5 and December 17

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

Age: Children 5 – 10 years old

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$18

Program Fee: \$22

Want to get a jump start on holiday shopping or enjoy a night out? Don't get a babysitter; send the kids to the Woods! Indoor and outdoor activities and nature exploration. Please send a packed dinner, snack, and drink.



Tracking Winter Wildlife

Dates: Wednesday, December 8

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Age: Children ages 9 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Learn how to identify animal tracks and signs during a walk in the woods. Explore the skulls and pelts collection and make a track project to keep.

Drop-in and Discover NATURE CENTER

Dates: Saturdays,
September 4 – December 18
(No drop-in December 25, January 1)

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Children, accompanied
by an adult

Location: Nature Center

FREE

Looking for something wild to do? Stop in each Saturday morning 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/
No pre-registration required.

Drop-in and Discover is preseted by

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

ALL AGES



Going Batty

Date: Sunday, October 3

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Nature Center

Support Donor Fee: \$5

Program fee: \$7

Bats have been called sinister and spooky for centuries, likely because of their beady eyes and razor-sharp fangs. But there's more to these nocturnal creatures than meets the eye. Join Steven J. Ropski, Ph. D., Professor of Biology, Gannon University, for a short lecture followed by a small 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 2

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.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.

Night Hikes

Dates: Thursday, September 23,

Wednesday, October 27, and

Tuesday, November 30

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: September 23, November 30 at Nature Center, October 27 at Browns Barn

FREE

No pre-registration required

Join us as we discover how the woods come alive as the sun goes down. Our night hikes give us a chance to disconnect from the world and plug into nature at Asbury Woods. This guided hike will take participants through the woods, fields, and wetlands to experience the sights and sounds of an Asbury Woods evening. Comfortable shoes are a must, as this hike will be approximately 1.5 miles long.

Cross Country Ski Clinic

Date: Saturdays, December 4 and 11

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

Date: Saturdays, December 4 and 11

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 Owl Prowl

Date: Wednesday, October 20

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Browns Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

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



Winter Solstice Night Hike

Date: Tuesday, December 21

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 8 and up

Location: Browns Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

No pre-registration required

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.

CURRENT GUIDELINES: We must adhere to all Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations on safety during this pandemic and ask for your support as we follow current safety guidelines:

At printing deadline, the CDC is recommending wearing a mask indoors.

If an adult is required to attend for a children's program please limit to one adult per child or registered group.

ADULTS



Holiday Door Swag

Date: Thursday, December 2

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$20

Program Fee: \$25

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.



Backyard Compost Workshop

Date: Saturday, October 23

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Brown's Farm Barn or Zoom

Supporting Donor Fee: \$30

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. Participants are welcome to attend in person or experience the class virtually. One bin per household.

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

To register for a class, go to our website,
asburywoods.org/programs



Fall Mason Jar Oil Lantern

Dates: Wednesday, November 17

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.



Adult Owl Prowl

Date: Thursday, September 30, and
Wednesday, October 13

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Browns Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Get ready for a unique evening on the trails of Asbury Woods. The evening will start with a short indoor portion, then head out to the trails as our educator attempts to get owls to answer his calls.

Kent and Christi Bartlett, *Continued from page 1*

They demonstrated these values in a big way last year as the presenting sponsor of Winter Wonderland. In years past the event has drawn approximately 3,500 paid patrons over 9 days. But for 2020, the Bartlett's sponsorship allowed Asbury Woods to host Winter Wonderland the entire month of December, completely free for all visitors. The sponsorship allowed Asbury Woods to welcome all members of the community for an outdoor nature event in a COVID safe format, drawing more than 12,000 people to Asbury Woods for the experience.

"We are honored to support Winter Wonderland again this year. This event is the perfect way for families to get outside and enjoy nature. We're happy that Asbury Woods has been able to offer programming in a safe way for everyone to enjoy," says Kent and Christi Bartlett.

For the Bartlett's, their children are their biggest indicators of what programs and organizations are doing well. They like to support nonprofits that encourage children and families to have educational, and fun, experiences. "Our community needs to rally around nonprofits like Asbury Woods and others who are making a difference for children in our area; and we are happy for community gems like Asbury Woods to be there through the pandemic and beyond."

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 392 volunteers spend over 8,200 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: Beth Kopay

Beth's love of teaching and the outdoors, and her dedication to helping others, led her to volunteer at Asbury Woods for over five years. Volunteers like Beth are essential to all of us at Asbury Woods to inspire others to appreciate and respect the outdoors. Her help is instrumental in assisting the education staff with multiple events and programs.

"Asbury Woods has a magical feel to it. It's a warm and welcoming atmosphere every time I walk the trails or volunteer for a program. I love teaching and inspiring others, so this volunteer role is perfect!," says Beth.

"Receiving this award is a huge honor, and I am extremely grateful for the recognition. This is a great organization and I am proud to be a part of the volunteer legacy here."

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Elias Herrera-Hernandez

Elias is a tenth-grade student at McDowell Intermediate High School. Elias attended Scary Creature Feature in 2019 with his mom Gaby, dad Elias and two little brothers, Alonso and Damian. His interaction with the tour guide, a high school senior at the time, prompted him to look into volunteer opportunities at Asbury Woods. "I signed up for the next festival, Winter Wonderland. It was at this festival that some of my favorite memories of my volunteer time occurred, like talking to some of the visitors about their favorite Christmas memories," said Herrera.

Herrera volunteers to give back to his community noting, "...the more I volunteer my service to my community, the more I feel like I am a part of it, and the better I feel with myself because my philosophy is that if the community gives to you, you should also give to the community".



Group Volunteer of the Year: John Cockerill

For John Cockerill, providing responses to the needs of our time, also means: Social Responsibility. We at John Cockerill feel it is important to make an impact on our community.

Like so many people and companies around the world and our community, the pandemic proved to be very taxing on our people and we seemed disconnected. John Cockerill needed to reconnect safely again as a team and with the community. Asbury Woods was a perfect organization to volunteer and touches so many people in the community. We were thrilled to ask Asbury Woods if we could join their volunteer program. Since May, our team has had the pleasure of gardening at Brown's Farm.

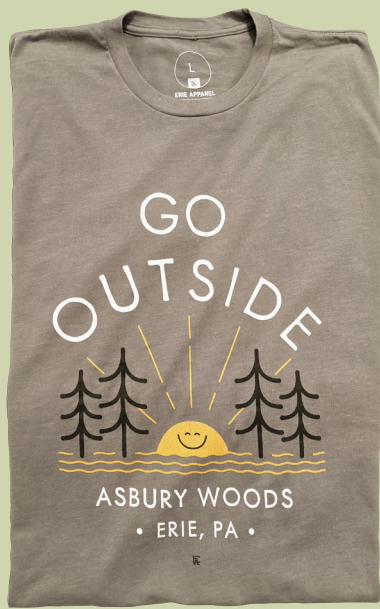
Pictured left to right: Anthony Pytlarz, Bridget Burkett, Fred Ebert, Joseph Durante, Ann-Marie Johnson, Christine Raygor, Bill Gdaniec, Tammy Johnson, Cherie Rowland, not pictured Jaimi Flick.

"It's so exciting to be honoring these individuals who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and are helping us connect people of all ages to nature. We truly appreciate all of our volunteers and I wish to congratulate the honorees." says Jennifer Farrar, Asbury Woods Executive Director. **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 excited to continue our partnership with Erie Apparel with a new Asbury Woods tee! They are available for purchase at the Squeaky Frog Gift Shop, both Erie Apparel locations, and available to ship through their website at erieapparel.co.

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

PUMP for CHARITY



Now through October 31

Asbury Woods is thrilled to have been selected as one of five nonprofits for the 2021 Country Fair Cares program. Now in its third year, this community investment program is a way for Country Fair to make a big impact in its hometown. Two cents per gallon pumped at the Charity Pumps will be pooled and then divided between the five nonprofits.

Don't forget to get your gas at a Charity Pump and support Asbury Woods! Share it on Facebook with the hashtag #CoFairCares so we can give you a shout out for helping raise money for Asbury Woods and our community!

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

