



# WOODS talk

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

May  
June  
July  
August 2022

## Reaching A New Audience With *Nature in Your Neighborhood*



June will bring the launch of another new initiative, *Nature in Your Neighborhood*. Thanks to a sponsorship from the Erie Community Foundation, Asbury Woods can pilot this new program to connect with kids close to their homes.

*Nature In Your Neighborhood* will take Asbury Woods science and nature programming on the road to various locations in the City of Erie during the summer. This free program will encourage family participation in various hands-on activities each week. The

program's goal is to ignite a curiosity about nature through engaging themes and to provide unique learning experiences in an open and accessible format.

A core tenet of our vision is to educate people of all ages about northwest Pennsylvania's unique and diverse habitats and native wildlife. Research shows that environmental education helps build creative thinking and relationship skills, fosters leadership qualities, and makes school subjects rich and relevant. *Nature in Your Neighborhood* will take science concepts and real-life environmental examples to help influence the way youth think about the world and their connection to it.

"Fostering diversity of our visitors and program participants is a goal of our strategic plan and taking our show on the road is one way to achieve that. We look forward to welcoming families in each neighborhood to stop in for these hands-on, minds-on, staff-facilitated educational activities. Each week offers a unique experience to discover and encourages family participation," says Jennifer Farrar, Asbury Woods Executive Director.

"We support the *Nature in Your Neighborhood* program because it aligns with the goals of the City of Erie to create welcoming and vibrant neighborhoods that provide excellent amenities for all residents, high quality of life, and community pride. This family-friendly, free programming will offer residents educational opportunities in local public spaces within their neighborhoods during summer months," says Chuck Zysk, Director, Department of Public Works, City of Erie.

Every Thursday, June 16 – August 18, 2022 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at various public parks in The City of Erie. See schedule, location and theme details on page 6.

Monday Music  
in the Woods  
June 6 – July 25

5 Mile  
Trail Run  
June 11

Lake Erie  
Cyclefest  
July 28 – 31

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Exciting New  
Family  
Programs

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Through Your  
Eyes

Exhibit and  
Programs

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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Welcome to Summer in the woods!

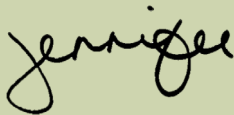
Asbury Woods will be bursting with activity as we move into the summer months! More than 400 summer campers ages 4-13 will descend upon the property during the height of our season. We love the excitement they bring and hope they relish their experiences here as they get outside, make new friends, learn about nature, stomp in the creek and have fun!

Of course, Asbury Woods isn't just for the kids! We have a variety of adult programs lined up as well including hikes with various topic experts, our weekly Monday Music series, our photography exhibit and a range of education programs.

If you're a frequent visitor on our trail network, this summer you'll likely notice work that is scheduled to start in June on the Brown's Farm parcel. Significant work will be undertaken to restore a meadow habitat in areas where woody plants, shrubs, saplings and several invasive species have taken hold. A meadow provides important habitat for birds and pollinators. This multi-year plan will include removal of invasive species and plants not conducive to meadow settings, then reseeding the site with the preferred seed mix. There will be some short-term disruption and the site might not look as aesthetically pleasing for some time but the long-term outcome will be a sustainable meadow.

This summer we will also kick-off a year-long project of a new master site plan. With the pending acquisition of the 40 acre James Preserve from Mercyhurst University and the April 2021 acquisition of 11 acres, the time is right for a comprehensive and long-term site plan to carry us forward. We are excited to be working with Pashek MTR, a firm which has undertaken other large-scale projects in our area such as the Wintergreen Gorge development with Penn State Behrend and work at Erie Bluffs State Park.

I can't wait to see you on the trails, in the Woods and at the Nature Center this summer!



**Jennifer Farrar, CFRE**  
Executive Director



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

[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.

## Asbury Woods Staff

Jennifer Farrar  
*Executive Director*

Sarah Bennett  
*Director of Education and Community Programs*

Anush Dulgarian Bruno  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Sharon Burton  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Michael Grandinetti  
*Facilities and Grounds Manager*

Dakota Holmes  
*Grants & Sponsorship Coordinator*

Andrea Krivak  
*Marketing Coordinator*

Emma Mader  
*Environmental Educator*

Valerie Niebling  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Erin Paquette  
*Environmental Educator*

Carissa Snarski  
*Director of Development & Marketing*

Jessica Stefano  
*Interpretive Naturalist*

Jeanine Timon  
*Gift Shop and Rental Coordinator*

Sheila Walmer  
*Constituent Relations Coordinator*

Steve Wasiesky  
*MTSD Environmental Education Coordinator*

## Asbury Woods Board of Directors

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Mark Shaw

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.

## Monday Music in the Woods

Mondays • June 6 through July 25

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Free

Register online: [www.asburywoods.org/mondaymusic](http://www.asburywoods.org/mondaymusic)

Grab your lawn chair 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. Snack on dinner from an on-site food truck or pack your meal for a picnic.

Enjoy a craft beer or glass of wine from two of our locally owned businesses, Lavery Brewing Company and Pisano Family Wine Cellar. \$1 from each drink sold will be donated to Asbury Woods.

The Nature Center hours will be extended on Monday Music in the Woods concert evenings. Guest can enjoy the show and explore the Nature Center, the animal exhibit, and browse the gift shop.

Presented by:



Bock Insurance Agency



Additional support from:



## 5 Mile Trail Run

June 11

The 5th annual Into the Woods 5 Miler will kick your Asbury as you test your mettle on the trails. This highly competitive five-mile race is the anchor event, but participants can choose a non-competitive two-mile walk. Childcare and a youth fun-run round out this family-friendly event.

Register Online: [www.asburywoods.org/trailrun](http://www.asburywoods.org/trailrun)

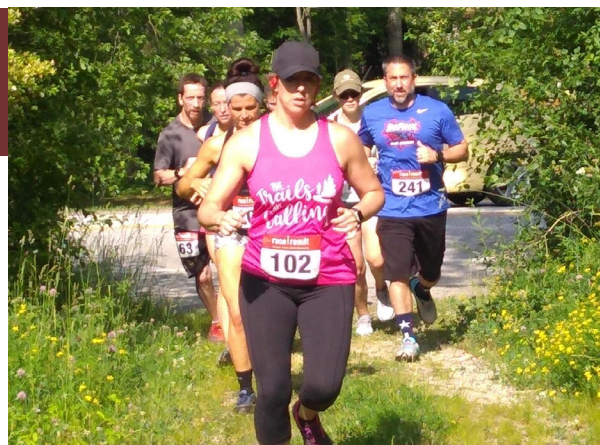
Presented by:

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Sponsored by:

Wegmans

Additional support from:



## Lake Erie Cyclefest

July 28-31, 2022

Lake Erie Cyclefest is a four day celebration of all things bike! Six unique riding events will be offered at locations across Erie County and will benefit several local nonprofit organizations, including Asbury Woods. This dynamic partnership helps showcase the beauty of Erie County while helping to drive tourism and raise money for nonprofits doing important work.

Visit [www.lakeeriecyclefest.com](http://www.lakeeriecyclefest.com) for all the details and to register.

Presented by:



Sponsored by:



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

## YOUTH



### Summer Sprouts

**Dates:** Fridays, June 10 – August 12

**Time:** 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

OR 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

**Age:** 2 – 5 years old

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$7

**Program Fee:** \$9

Outdoor adventures await young explorers this summer! Through hands-on activities, nature play, movement, and science discovery your child will grow their connection to the natural world. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for outdoor fun.



### Nature Safari

**Date:** Wednesdays, June 22 – August 17

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Age:** Children accompanied by an adult  
**FREE, registration required**

Discover the wild world outside the Nature Center at Asbury Woods. Your wildlife explorers will discover something new every week. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure.



### Homeschool Summer Series

**Dates:** Fridays May 20, June 24, July 29, and August 5

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Age:** Children 5 – 8 years old accompanied by an adult, children ages 9 – 12 may attend unaccompanied

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10

Homeschoolers can plug into nature all summer long at Asbury Woods! Descriptions of learning activities and certificates of completion for portfolio inclusion will be provided at the end of the session.

**May 20: Pond Safari** – What is that green stuff on the pond? Who lives under the surface of the pond? Join us for our pond safari to find out. Dress for wet and muddy learning.

**June 24: Art & Nature Journaling** – Do you love to draw, color, and paint? Do you find nature inspiring? This art and nature journaling program is for you! Dress for easy hiking and outdoor art creation.

**July 29: Insect Hike** – Do you love to explore the outdoors? Are you fascinated by all things that creep and crawl? Spend some time learning about some of the smaller creatures that live near Asbury Woods.

**August 5: Children's Yoga and Relaxation Hike** – Have you heard about the health benefits of spending some quiet time in nature? Join us as we practice mindfulness while connecting to nature. This program includes a 30 minute nature yoga session followed by a relaxation hike on the trails.

### Homeschool Hiking Club

**Dates:** Fridays May 6, June 10, July 15, and August 26

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Age:** Children 5 – 8 years old accompanied by an adult, children 9 – 12 may attend unaccompanied

**Location:** Nature Center

**Program Fee:** \$5

The homeschool hiking club continues each month this summer. Explore Asbury Woods' beautiful trail system and learn about nature while you go! Appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy walking shoes or boots are a must.



### Drop-in and Discover NATURE CENTER

**Dates:** Saturdays, May 7 – August 27

**NEW Summer Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Age:** Children, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**FREE**

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/](http://www.asburywoods.org/programs/program-schedule/)  
**No pre-registration required.**

Drop-in and Discover is presented by  
**UPMC HEALTH PLAN**

# ALL AGES



## Wildlife Moms

**Date:** Saturday, May 7

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Age:** Female caregivers and children ages 4 and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

Every year around Mother's Day, wildlife mothers of all types are busy feeding, sheltering, and caring for their animal babies. Learn about and celebrate some of the weirdest, strongest, and most loving wildlife moms from around the world with your favorite mother figure. Light snacks will be provided and a digital photo of each family group will be emailed to each registrant following the program.



## Pond Safari

**Date:** Wednesday, May 11

**Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Age:** All ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7

This program will explore the animals that start their lives in the watery habitats at Asbury Woods. During a guided hike participants will listen for frogs and toads calling near the water's edge and roll over logs to find salamanders and insects hiding below. Bug boxes, nets, and microscopes will be available to borrow to take a closer look at the amazing animals we find. Please dress for possible muddy conditions. Rain boots and coats are encouraged.

## Family Owl Prowl

**Date:** Tuesday, May 24

**Time:** 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

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

**Location:** Nature Center

**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 program includes a brief indoor portion followed by a hike on the trails. Bring your flashlight!



## Full Moon Hikes

**Dates:** June 14, July 13, and August 11

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 p.m.

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

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$7

**Program Fee:** \$9

Have some nocturnal fun at Asbury Woods this summer with each full moon. Join us as we transition from light to dark with our senses and learn how full moons got their names: June – Strawberry Moon; July – Buck Moon; August – Sturgeon Moon. Comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes are a must. If you wear bug spray, please spray before joining the group. Note: In the event of rain, this program will move indoors.

## Nature Dads

**Date:** Saturday, June 18

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Age:** Male caregivers and children ages 4 and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

How does your dad, grandad, uncle, or other male grown up compare to animal dads in nature? Bring your favorite father figure to Asbury Woods to find out! Join us as we learn about the best, worst, weirdest, and most remarkable wildlife dads from around the world. Light snacks will be provided and a digital photo of each family group will be emailed to each registrant following the program.



## Nature Journaling

**Date:** Saturday, July 23

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children ages 13 and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$8

Nature journaling provides a creative outlet, hones observation skills, and creates lasting memories of our connection to the natural world. Learn how to start your own nature journal, common ways to organize nature journal pages, and some tips and techniques for making nature journaling an enjoyable and relaxing experience. Paper will be provided but you're welcome to bring your own journal.

## Falling for the Stars

**Date:** Thursday, August 18

**Time:** 9:30 – 10:30 p.m.

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

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$5

**Program Fee:** \$7

Enjoy an evening of fun and learning about our constellations. Bring your blankets and binoculars and enjoy the beauty of our nighttime sky!

## Wallflowers Nature Art

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 25

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children 12 years and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$13

**Program Fee:** \$15

Create a beautiful piece of artwork for your home using natural materials. Each registrant will create their own unique wall canvas using stencils, paint, ink, and pounded wildflowers. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks to enjoy during the program!

# ADULTS



## Dog Days of Summer

**Date:** Tuesdays May 17, June 21, July 19, and August 16

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** May 17 Nature Center, June 21 Brown's Farm, July 19 Nature Center, August 16 Brown's Farm

**FREE, registration required**

Join Asbury Woods educator Jessica Stefano and ABC Certified Dog Trainer Lynn Yusz on the third Tuesday of the month for a guided hike with your four-legged companion through the beautiful Asbury Woods trail system. We request that participants limit to one dog per person.



## Rain Barrel Program

**Date:** Saturday, May 21

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Brown's Farm Barn

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$55

**Program Fee:** \$65

Installing a rain barrel at your home is an easy way to reduce your water footprint and conserve water. Water from rain barrels can be used to water your grass or gardens around your home. Participants will construct a rain barrel from a 55-gallon food grade container and learn about proper installation, maintenance, and use of the barrel. All supplies are included in the cost. Participants must have an accessible unburied downspout to attach the rain barrel to. Register in advance, space is limited.

## Outdoor Yoga

**Date:** Wednesday, May 25

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$8

Join Jeanine Timon, certified yoga instructor, for an introductory outdoor yoga session. Beginners are welcome. Please bring your own mat, water bottle, bug spray, and extra blanket to put on the ground, if desired.

## Frisky Fauna

**Date:** Thursday, July 21

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8

**Program Fee:** \$10

Are you looking for an unusual, interesting, and adults-only way to spend a happy hour at the Woods? Join us for a fun, comical, and slightly off-color learning experience where we'll address more about the wild mating game than just the birds and the bees. Part adult story time, part trivia night, this program is sure to result in a blushed cheek or two, fits of giggles, and a few exclamations of "No way!" Feel free to bring snacks and drinks to enjoy during the program!



## Happy Hour Hike

**Date:** Friday, August 19

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults 21 and up

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

Enjoy a beautiful guided hike through the forest, meadows, and wetlands of Asbury Woods. Feel free to work up a thirst because a refreshing beer or seltzer awaits you after the hike! Please have footwear appropriate for an up to 2 mile hike.



## Nature in Your Neighborhood

Every Thursday,  
June 16 – August 18, 2022  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**FREE**

**June 16:** Wayne Park

*Movement in Nature:* The story of seeds

**June 23:** Perry Square

*Insides and Outsides:* Explore animal pelts and skulls

**June 30:** Gridley Park

*Movement in Nature:* The story of seeds

**July 7:** Bayview Park

*Insides and Outsides:* Explore animal pelts and skulls

**July 14:** John E. Horan Apartments

*Movement in Nature:* The story of seeds

**July 21:** Wayne Park

*Taking Flight:* The wonderful world of birds

**July 28:** Perry Square

*I Spy:* Nature scavenger hunt

**August 4:** Gridley Park

*Taking Flight:* The wonderful world of birds

**August 11:** Bayview Park

*I Spy:* Nature scavenger hunt

**August 18:** John E. Horan Apartments

*Monarch Madness:* Butterfly life cycles

**Presented by:**



The Erie  
Community  
Foundation

*Helping today...Shaping tomorrow.*



## Through Your Eyes

June 17 – August 13, 2022

Continuing our tradition of a summer exhibit, *Through Your Eyes* will be a photography exhibit featuring images submitted by the Erie community, showing their favorite locations, features, plants, animals and activities at Asbury Woods.

Local photographers of all ages have been submitting their images since December to help us show Asbury Woods through the eyes of our visitors. We hope that by showing the multitude of ways the community sees, appreciates, uses and engages with Asbury Woods we can inspire a continued appreciation for natural places, environmental stewardship and conservation of public green space. Art has long been used as a way to encourage people to consider new ideas, inspire appreciation

and prompt action. We hope the *Through Your Eyes* exhibition will provide new insights into how Asbury Woods is valued by individuals in our community and inspire others to consider the importance of protecting such places.

Plus, you can get in on the exhibit action by starting to share your Asbury Woods photos, stories and experiences on social media using our hashtag #MyAsburyWoods. During the course of the exhibit we'll be building a dynamic engagement wall sharing even more views of Asbury Woods *Through Your Eyes* with your tagged social media posts.

### Exhibit Details:

An opening reception will be held Friday, June 17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Road, Fairview, PA 16415. Exhibit is free and open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., plus Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Programming:

Deepen your experience and gain new insights and perspectives by participating in our special exhibit-related programs all summer long.

### Photography Hike Series

#### Dates and Times:

- Tuesday, June 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 6 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 9 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children ages 12 and up

**Location:** Brown's Farm

**Program Fee:** \$7 (each date)

Photographers from the Erie Photography Club and the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania will lead several photography hikes throughout the summer. Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to bring a camera and a love of nature to connect with other photographers in the area, learn nature photography tips, and capture the beauty of Asbury Woods.

### Through Their Eyes Hike Series

#### Dates and Times:

- Saturday, June 18 from 10:00– 11:30 a.m. (Brown's Farm) Hunt for Mushrooms with Kelly Armor and John Vanco
- Thursday, June 30 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Investigate Insects with Erin Paquette
- Saturday, July 16 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Identify Invasive Species with Natalie Waddell- Rutter
- Wednesday, July 6 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Talk Trees with Mark Spitulski and Jess Stefano
- Wednesday, July 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Nature Center) Explore the History of Asbury Woods with Jennifer Farrar

**Age:** Adults and children ages 12 and up

**Location:** Brown's Farm/Nature Center

**Program Fee:** \$7 (each date)

Explore Asbury Woods through the eyes of local naturalists, educators, and experts during this hiking series. Each hike will focus on different organisms, issues, and information found on the Asbury property. Watch for additional hikes to be added to this series!

Sponsored by:



Support for this program is provided in part by  
the United Arts Fund of the Erie Arts Endowment.



Erie Arts & Culture



## Donate Cryptocurrency

Asbury Woods now accepts cryptocurrency donations! Inspire a greater connection to the natural world with your gift of cryptocurrency. Donating cryptocurrency is a non-taxable event, meaning you do not owe capital gains tax on the appreciated amount and can deduct it on your taxes. This makes Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency donations one of the most tax-efficient ways to support Asbury Woods.

**Donate your cryptocurrency:**  
[www.asburywoods.org/crypto](http://www.asburywoods.org/crypto)

## Upcoming Donor Events



Generous donors are the foundation of our ability to fulfill our mission. Throughout the year, we schedule events to gather with donors to celebrate shared success, offer insights into strategic planning initiatives, update on behind-the-scenes plans, and more. Save the date for the following events:

- Director's Breakfast, donors who have donated \$500 or more this fiscal year are invited to breakfast with Jennifer Farrar on June 14, 2022.
- Grandfather Tree Society, donors who have donated \$1,000 or more this fiscal year are invited to an evening of celebration and insights on July 26, 2022.
- Celebration Garden Soiree, donors who have donated to the endowment with a memorial in the Celebration Garden are invited to an evening of honor on August 23, 2022.
- Annual Meeting, donors who have given \$250 or more this fiscal year are invited to attend the celebration of success and gratitude, along with a short business meeting with the board of directors on September 20, 2022.

Invitations to follow.