



# WOODS talk

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

SUMMER  
2021

## Support Asbury Woods at the Pump this Summer!

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. The program will run May 1 – October 31, 2021 at designated Charity Pumps at various Country Fair locations in Erie County. Two cents per gallon pumped at the Charity Pumps will be pooled and then divided between the five nonprofits. At the conclusion of the 2020 six-month timeframe, Country Fair was able to donate \$28,455 to each nonprofit.



Asbury Woods joins the Presque Isle Partnership, Erie Humane Society, Mental Health Association of NW PA and the Autism Society as this year's partner charities. Paul Rankin, Vice President of Country Fair, commented, "The Country Fair Cares program was initiated so we could have a major impact each year on the nonprofit sector in our community. Country Fair started in Erie and we remain committed to the Erie area. By partnering with local charities and individuals purchasing gasoline, we can work together to invest in these organizations who make up the fabric of our region."

Jennifer Farrar, Executive Director, stated, "Asbury Woods is grateful for corporate partners like Country Fair who recognize the value of the nonprofit sector in our community. The power of their marketing and number of locations available to Pump for Charity helps us have a reach beyond what each agency could achieve on their own. We applaud their efforts to rally this incredible support for Asbury Woods and the other four organizations."

Starting May 1, look for the orange pumps at Country Fair and be sure to Pump for Charity to support Asbury Woods and the four other nonprofits. 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!

## Wine and Dine in the Woods

July 16 AND July 17  
Tickets on sale soon!

## Monday Music in the Woods

June 14 – July 26

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## INSIDE / OUT *A Pennsylvania Wildlife Experience*

Exhibit and Programs

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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# FULL STEAM AHEAD

## SUMMER EVENTS & PROGRAMS

It's full steam ahead towards a summer of activities at Asbury Woods! We are thrilled to be planning our signature Wine & Dine in the Woods event again after missing the 2020 version. This year we'll host it over two nights to ensure less crowds and a safe environment. As we plan our usual round of summer camps, trail run, summer programming and events, we are also excited to be entering into a new partnership with the Erie Sports Commission to be part of the Lake Erie Cyclefest. The Cyclefest is well-aligned with the outdoor recreation portion of our mission. Watch for details to be announced in the coming weeks.



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE  
Executive Director

This summer will also see the completion of an exciting improvement project on the parcel just south of the main entrance to the Nature Center. Thanks to funding from Asbury Woods donors and an Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Parks, Fields and Trails grant, we will be removing the old asphalt, reducing the amount of hard surface, creating designated parking spaces and adding directional signage to more closely connect this portion of the property to the rest of the trail network. As you may remember, initial work started last summer with the re-opening of a trail between the grassy meadow and the forest trails.

Finally, we couldn't be more thrilled to be part of the Country Fair Cares Pump for Charity program between now and October 31. As one of the five non-profit partners, Asbury Woods will be encouraging all our supporters to Pump for Charity at designated orange pumps. Two cents of each gallon from those pumps will go back to the charity partners. We're counting on you to help us spread the word!

Thank you for your interest, involvement and support of Asbury Woods! We couldn't do it without the incredible circle of program participants, community supporters, volunteers, and donors.

Happy Summer!



ANDREW J. CONNER  
NATURE CENTER  
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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

Jennifer Farrar  
*Executive Director*

Liza Elias  
*Bookkeeper*

Melissa Goodwill  
*Education & Program Coordinator*

Michael Grandinetti  
*Facilities and Grounds Manager*

Andrea Krivak  
*Marketing Coordinator*

Mexie Sands  
*Visitor Services Associate*

Carissa Snarski  
*Director of Development & Marketing*

Jessica Stefano  
*Assistant Director of Education and Community Programs*

Jeanine Timon  
*Gift Shop and Rental Coordinator*

Sheila Walmer  
*Constituents Relations Coordinator*

Steve Wasiesky  
*MTSD Environmental Education Coordinator*

## Asbury Woods Board of Directors

**Chair**  
Dan Franks

**Chair-elect**  
Anthony Cusati

**Treasurer**  
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Jane Thornton  
Charles Walczak

**Solicitor**  
Mark Shaaw





## MONDAY MUSIC IN THE WOODS

**Mondays • June 14 through July 26 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Free**  
<https://www.asburywoods.org/events/monday-music-in-the-woods/>

Your favorite outdoor music series is back and better than ever! 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.

Lavery Brewing Company will host a beer garden on-site. Enjoy a locally brewed craft beer, and \$1 from each pint 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.



**June 14**

### Jesse James Weston

Enjoy an eclectic mix of rock, alternative, pop, and blues covers across multiple decades.



**July 5**

### Matt "Broke" Boland

Matt is a singer, songwriter playing nostalgic sounds of 50's rock and roll, rockabilly, blues, country, and folk.



**June 21**

### Buttermilk Falls Gang

A bluegrass band with roots along the banks of Walnut Creek. Casey Schultz, guitar/vocals; Warren Keck, mandolin/banjo/vocals; Lacey Alyse, guitar/vocals; and Adam Swartzfager, bass.



**July 12**

### Bass/Drum/Bass Trio

A Jazz/Latin trio with Stephen Trohoske, Tony Grey & Ian Maciak.



**June 28**

### Rankin and Schell

An acoustic duo (guitar & bass) from Erie, PA featuring Glenn Rankin and Chip Schell.



**July 19**

### Riffriders Lite

Acoustic rock and blues with Amy Shallenberger and Sean Seth.



**July 26**

### The Mailettes

Playing acoustic, pop, country, and rock classics.

**Monday Music in the Woods is presented by:**  
**Bock Insurance Agency, Country Fair, and National Fuel,**  
**with additional support from Lavery Brewing Company.**



**Bock Insurance Agency**





## SUMMER PROGRAMS

### May – August 2021



### Fairies and Fireflies

**Date:** Saturday, May 8

**Time:** 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Age:** Children ages 3 – 8 and up, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$9

Calling all fairies and fireflies! Put on your wings and experience Asbury Woods through the eyes of fairies and fireflies. Enjoy a walk along the trail where we'll look for signs of fairy and firefly homes, hear stories about fairies, learn real science facts about fireflies, and create a wand made from natural materials. Children are encouraged to dress in their fairy or firefly costumes, if desired.



### Learn to Use a Compass

**Dates:** Thursday, June 17

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Age:** Children ages 9 and up (may attend alone)

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Knowing how to use a compass is a fun and useful skill for adventurous kids and teens. Join us as we teach the parts of a compass, how to properly read a compass, and how a compass can be used to navigate in the natural world. Compasses will be available for in-class use.

## YOUTH



### Nature Safari

**Dates:** Tuesdays: June 15 – August 10  
(no Nature Safari July 6)

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

**Location:** Nature Center

**FREE**

Discover the wild world outside the Nature Center at Asbury Woods. With a rotating list of themes that include investigating insects, walking with wildflowers, and a pail in the pond, your wildlife explorer will discover something new each week. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure. No pre-registration required.



### Summer Sprouts

**Dates:** Wednesdays: June 16 – July 28  
(no Sprouts July 7)

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Age:** 18 months – 5 years old, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$8 per class

**Program Fee:** \$10 per class

Outdoor adventures await young explorers this summer. Hands-on activities, nature play, movement, and science discovery will help foster your child's connection to nature. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for the outdoors.



### Summer Homeschool Field Day: Wild Water!

**Dates:** Tuesday, August 24

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Age:** Children ages 4 and up, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$8

Enjoy a day of wet, wild fun and learning as we spend our morning exploring what lies below the surface of the water in the Asbury Woods swamp. After a picnic lunch, we'll hike roughly one mile to Walnut Creek to spend the afternoon splashing in the water, peeking under rocks, and enjoying some good old-fashioned water play. Each participant should bring a packed lunch and a water bottle. Bathing suits worn underneath your clothing, towels, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a dry change of clothes are encouraged.



### Tree Seek and Find

**Date:** Thursday, July 22

**Time:** 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**Age:** Children 5 and up, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Calling budding naturalists! Let's head out on a tree hunt! Using some basic identification skills, we'll learn how to find and identify some of the common trees on the Asbury Woods property. Each child will leave with a tree journal that we'll complete along the way.

**Pre-registration is required**



**TO REGISTER**

**Go Online**

**[www.asburywoods.org](http://www.asburywoods.org)**

## ALL AGES



### Dog Days of Summer

**Dates:** Tuesdays: May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children ages 8 and up

**Location:** May 25, July 27 Brown's Farm Barn and June 29, August 31 Nature Center  
**FREE**

Join Asbury Woods educator Jessica Stefano and ABC Certified Dog Trainer Lynn Yusz on the last 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.



### Family Low Ropes Challenge

**Date:** Saturday, June 19

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**OR** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults and children 7 and up, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$10

**Program Fee:** \$12

Kick off your Father's Day weekend by bringing your family to Asbury Woods for a friendly challenge on our low ropes course! Asbury Woods' certified low ropes course facilitators will lead your family through a series of elements that challenge your ability to work as a team, communicate effectively, and become kings and queens of fun! Are you tough enough? Closed toed shoes are required. Long pants are recommended.

### Mushroom Discovery Hike

**Date:** Saturday, May 29

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

**Location:** Nature Center

**Support Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program fee:** \$6

Join John Vanco and Kelly Armor, avid amateur mycologists, as they share how they safely identify, harvest, and consume a wide range of wild fungi while we stroll the Asbury Woods property together. 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.



### Planting For Pollinators

**Date:** Saturday, May 8

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Do you love butterflies, honeybees, and hummingbirds as much as we do? Join us for this informative session where you'll learn interesting facts about the importance of our local pollinators and we'll share how you can make your yard more pollinator-friendly with well-chosen plants and feeders.

### Twilight Hikes

**Date:** Thursdays: June 3, July 1, and August 5

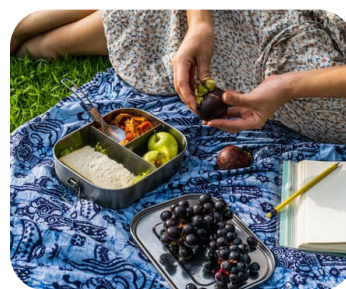
**Time:** 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**FREE**

Join us as we discover how the woods come alive as the sun goes down. Our twilight 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.



### Zero Waste Picnic

**Date:** Saturday, August 21

**Time:** 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

**Age:** All Ages

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Picnics are the perfect way to enjoy life's simple pleasures. Join us at Asbury Woods as we challenge you to bring your own picnic lunch without creating any trash in the process! Are you up for the challenge? To help you prepare, we'll share a video with smart tips, fun tricks, and the "dos and don'ts" of zero waste lunches with all participants a week before our picnic. Participants are required to bring their own picnic meals and will create a reusable napkin to take home.

### Drop-in and Discover NATURE CENTER

**Dates:** Saturdays, May 1 – August 28

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

Drop-in and Discover is preseted by

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN**



# ADULTS

## Becoming a Citizen Scientist

**Date:** Saturday, May 22

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center **OR** Zoom

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

If you love nature and have always wanted to make a difference, but aren't sure where to start, consider becoming a citizen scientist. Ordinary people are contributing to scientific research by making observations, collecting data, and supporting scientists and experts all over the world. Join us as we learn what citizen science is, how citizen science has helped answer big questions, and how we can contribute to important research in our communities and around the world. Zoom registrations will be emailed a log-in link prior to the program.



## Learn to Use a Compass

**Dates:** Thursday, June 17

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Have you always wanted to know how to use a compass, but never had the chance to learn? Join us for this fun and informative session designed for an adult audience where you'll learn the parts of a compass, how to read its dial, and how a compass can be used for navigation. Compasses will be available for in-class use.



## Let's Talk Trees

**Date:** Thursday, July 22

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

Join Asbury Woods educator Jessica Stefano and Certified Arborist Mark Spitulski for an evening walk through the woods to learn about trees. In this one-hour session, we'll learn to identify trees that are common in our region, we'll hear some of the interesting, comical, and sometimes heartbreaking stories that these trees have to tell, and we'll learn why it's so important to protect these living assets and their habitat.

## Recreational Trail Walks

**Date:** Saturdays: June 5, July 10, and August 7

**Time:** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**FREE**

Seniors, amateur photographers, and anyone looking for a leisurely walk in the woods will enjoy this casual-paced hike on our Asbury Woods trail system. The slower pace of this guided morning hike will allow us to take in the sights, sounds, and smells of our beautiful wooded property while capturing a few photos, quietly chatting with a friend, and spotting local wildlife. Trekking poles are available to borrow for any participants who would like extra stability while on the trails.

## Zero Waste Workshop

**Date:** Wednesday, May 12

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center **OR** Zoom

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$4

**Program Fee:** \$6

How much trash does the average person create in a year? How much time do we have before our regional landfill has reached its maximum capacity? What simple changes can I make to reduce the waste in the world and help create a cleaner global community? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we explore a "zero waste" lifestyle and learn the steps we can take to create a cleaner, more sustainable future. Zoom registrations will be emailed a log-in link prior to the program.

## Earth Eats: Eating in the Natural World

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Nature Center

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$16

**Program Fee:** \$20

During the Earth Eats series, we'll explore how we can use the amazing microbes in the air around us to transform ordinary ingredients like flour and vegetables into delicious, healthy foods. We'll break down the process into easy-to-follow steps and share some tips and tricks to successfully get started.

### Sourdough Starter

**Date:** Saturday, June 5

**Time:** 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Participants will leave with a sourdough starter, recipes, and instructions to create their own starter at home. All supplies will be provided.

### Fermented Foods

**Date:** Thursday, August 19

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about the science and art of fermentation and will start a jar of their own homemade sauerkraut to take home. Participants are required to bring their own kitchen knife to be used for cabbage preparation. All other supplies will be provided.

## COVID - 19 GUIDELINES

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

**Mask wearing is required for all staff. Attendees must wear masks at all times indoors and outdoors when social distancing of 6 feet or more cannot take place.**

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

# INSIDE / OUT

## *A Pennsylvania Wildlife Experience*

Step into the pages of a Pennsylvania wildlife field guide and get up close and personal with the animals native to our region. This immersive experience provides visitors with the sights, scents, and sounds of Pennsylvania wildlife within the walls of the Brown's Farm Barn at Asbury Woods. Visitors will travel through this field guide-inspired exhibit to explore native animals in a new way with an inside look at their skeletal structure and an outside view of taxidermy specimens. Each display will include full-sized taxidermy pieces, skeletons, fur or feathers, action photography, and a hands-on learning experience. Adults and children alike will enjoy a glimpse at the inside of a turtle shell, the bone structure of a deer, the fur of familiar mammals and more!

### Exhibit Hours

**Date:** July 3 through August 7

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
and 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Brown's Farm Barn, located at 5774 Sterrettania Road.

**Admission is free.**

### Opening Reception

**Thursday, July 1, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of wildlife discovery as we kick off our summer 2021 exhibit, Inside/Out: A Pennsylvania Wildlife Experience. Gallery Talk with Leslie Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor of Forensic Science at Mercyhurst University, at 7:00 p.m.

**Admission is free.**



### Skeleton Keys:

#### Unlocking the Mysteries of What Remains

**Date:** Thursday, July 29

**Time:** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Age:** Adults

**Location:** Brown's Farm Barn

**FREE**

Scientists can use skeletal remains to understand the events an individual experienced during life, the evidence of their past is often recorded in their bones. Join Dr. Leslie Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor of Forensic Science at Mercyhurst University, for an interactive talk to discover how scientists use forensics, bioarcheology, and chemistry to understand the lives of the deceased. From what they ate, to where they lived and what diseases and physical challenges they encountered, bones can unlock mysteries of the past.



### Wildlife Detective:

#### Skulls, Pelts, and Tracks

**Date:** Saturday, July 10

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Age:** 4 – 10 years old, accompanied by an adult

**Location:** Brown's Farm Barn

**Supporting Donor Fee:** \$6

**Program Fee:** \$8

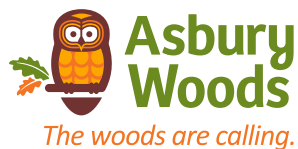
Become a wildlife detective as we take a closer look at some Pennsylvania wildlife and investigate the signs they leave behind. Feel their fur, see their bones, and then head outside to scout for signs in the wild.

**Inside/Out is presented in cooperation with the Forensic Science Department of Mercyhurst University with the loaning of the bones featured in the exhibit.**

**Exhibition presented by Country Fair.**



**Taxidermy specimens on display were donated by Dick's Sporting Goods.**



ANDREW J. CONNER  
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## Into the Woods 5 Miler Trail Race

**We're back!** The 4th 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 youth fun-run round out this family-friendly event.

[asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/](https://asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/)

## The Andrew J. Conner Nature Center is now open!



## Wine and Dine in the Woods July 16 AND July 17

It's been a year like no other, and we really missed hosting Wine and Dine in the Woods last year. This year, we decided to make it twice as nice. YES! We've decided to host two consecutive days of Wine and Dine in the Woods. This approach allows us to do an in-person event in compliance with current guidelines for occupancy limits with less people and more space to spread out.

We're excited to continue the Wine and Dine tradition which is a critical component of funding our educational programs and maintaining free access to the trails. You can expect the same casual vibe and fun atmosphere but in accordance with PA Department of Health guidelines as they stand now in regards to attendance limits, mask-wearing when not at a table eating, and space for social distancing.

We are committed to hosting the event for two days to spread out attendance to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Our typical attendance of 400 guests will be over two dates, with 200 guests per night. As of the print date of this newsletter, we have a handful of tickets available for purchase. Tickets will be \$80 each and available for sale on May 10, 2021 with limited quantities.

More information and details can be found on our website: <https://www.asburywoods.org/events/wine-and-dine-in-the-woods/>

### Nature Center

Monday – Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m

### The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop:

Hours same as Nature Center

### Trails

Open Dawn to Dusk

