



Old Woman Creek Community Calendar of Events 2026

Discovery Learning Labs

Stop in to learn various topics about Old Woman Creek, the Great Lakes, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. These programs typically do not require a reservation and are interactive opportunities for all ages. Bring the family, take away fun memories, and often fun crafts. To see more details about each Learning Lab, please visit our website.

EVENT DATES		
First Sunday of the Month		1p.m. – 4p.m.
January 4	Winter Wonderland: Investigating Snow	
February 1	Winter Crafts	
March 1	Bats: Ohio's Only Flying Mammal	
April 5	Amphibians and Vernal Pools	
May 3	All About the Great Lakes	
June 7	Summer Weather	
July 5	Summer Crafts	
August 2	Reptiles of OWC	
September 6	Meet the NERRs	
October 4	Signs of Fall	
November 1	Moths Mayhem	
December 6	Why Wetlands are Important!	

National Citizen Science Day

Saturday, April 25 1p.m. – 4p.m.
The Species Monitoring Program at OWC relies upon volunteers to track the presence and activity of reserve wildlife. Join us as we honor our volunteer scientists or sign up to become one yourself. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of Friends of Old Woman Creek. Species monitoring displays and refreshments will be in the classroom all afternoon.

- 1p.m. – Species Monitoring Program Overview
- 1:30p.m. – Citizen Scientist Acknowledgment
- 2p.m. – Monitoring Hike
- 3p.m. – Avian Survey



Science Fridays: Facts and Snacks Series

Join this seminar series at noon on Fridays to discover more about natural resource management, invasive species, water quality, coastal land use, current research, Lake Erie, and the entire Great Lakes region. All are welcome! You bring your lunch and your curiosity, and we will provide interesting conversations and dessert. Seminars will be offered in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) format. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more details on each Science Friday speaker.

EVENT DATES	
First Friday of the Month	12p.m. – 1p.m.
April 3	Erie Conservation District gives the State of our Streams and OWC's 2025 Report Card.
May 1	Soheyl Faghir Hagh, PhD student at the University of Vermont, presents innovative water sampling techniques via drones.
June 5	Mike Back, Margaret A. Davidson Fellow from Kent State University presents his research on nutrient exchange in wetland soil.
August 7	OWC interns present their summer projects.
September 4	Dr. Jacob Cianci-Gaskill, OWC's System Wide Monitoring Coordinator, will discuss phytoplankton as invisible drivers of nutrient cycling in OWC.
October 2	Dr. Nate Stott, Ohio State University, shares his work on monitoring bird populations across H2Ohio's wetlands.

Old Woman Creek NERR
2514 Cleveland Road East
Huron, Ohio 44839

The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Huron, Ohio, is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), established by Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended. Additional information about the system can be obtained from the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce, 1305 East West Highway - N/ORM5, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

To join our electronic mailing list or register for programs, scan the QR code.

For guided canoe tour reservations call 419-433-4601. To learn more, visit ohiodnr.gov/oldwomancreek and coast.noaa.gov/estuaries

Friends of Old Woman Creek sponsored events are noted by their logo.

Reminders while visiting the nature preserve:

- A parent or guardian must accompany program participants under 18 years of age.
- A liability waiver may be required for some activities.
- An access permit is needed to canoe or kayak in the estuary.
- No swimming or fishing allowed.
- No pets, alcohol, or bicycles are permitted; a bicycle rack is available in the parking lot.

Visitor Center Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
October – March closed on weekends.

All programs meet at the Old Woman Creek Reserve visitor center (2514 Cleveland Road East, Huron, OH 44839) unless the boathouse or beach is noted (2005 Cleveland Road East, Huron, OH 44839).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Webinar Series

This series of three webinars will highlight the history of wetlands, water in our region, and the Great Lakes as one of our nation's most valuable resources. Join OWC naturalist virtually on World Wetlands Day, World Water Day, and Great Lakes Awareness Day to learn about why these dates are recognized nationally and internationally. **Registration required, see website for details.**

World Wetlands Day	February 2, 10a.m. – 12p.m.
World Water Day	March 23, 10a.m. – 12p.m.
Great Lakes Awareness Day	May 4, 10a.m. – 12p.m.

Summer Solstice Yoga

Thursday, June 18 6p.m. – 7p.m.
Join OWC staff in an all-levels yoga practice as we honor the longest day of the year. No previous yoga experience is required, although you must be comfortable practicing on the sand. Bring a towel/ mat and other materials necessary for your comfort (water bottle, bug spray, etc.). Dress for the weather. This class will take place at OWC beach.
Registration is required.

Explore the Estuary by Canoe!

Enjoy a leisurely guided paddling tour, stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. **All participants must register for this event with a partner, be 10 years or older, and have some paddling experience.** This program meets at the OWC Boathouse.

Wednesdays from 5p.m. – 7p.m.	Saturdays from 9a.m. – 11a.m.
June 3, 17	June 13, 27
July 1, 15, 29	July 11, 25
August 12, 26	August 8, 22



Find me in the visitor center!

Continued on INSIDE



Explore OWC Through Themed Hikes!

Dress for the weather and **registration is required**. Visit OWC's program event calendar on our website (ohiodnr.gov/oldwomancreek) for more details.

Cold Weather Bald Eagle Hike
January 17 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
Bald Eagles are most often seen at OWC on a cold day. Join a naturalist on a hike to the west side of OWC's property. Be prepared to hike at least three miles, dress for the weather, and meet the naturalist at OWC's lakeside location (2005 Cleveland Rd. East).

World Migration Day Hike
May 9 **8a.m. – 10a.m.**
The birds are doing all the work migrating from the southern United States, the Caribbean, and even South America, and all we have to do is go outside and watch and listen for them. Join a naturalist who will lead the hike to great birding locations within the reserve's boundary.

Nocturnal Nature of OWC
May 16 **8:15p.m. – 9:45p.m.**
Experience OWC's nightlife and learn about the special adaptations of nocturnal animals and what calls the creek home. We will be walking a few of our trails and calling for owls. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp if it has a red-light option.



Barred Owl

Snake Spotting
June 20 **11a.m. – 12:30p.m.**
Join us to learn more about OWC's snake species. The naturalist will look under snake boards, discuss species found, and demonstrate ways to encounter snakes.

Snake Spotting
July 18 **11a.m. – 12:30p.m.**
Join us to learn more about OWC's snake species. The naturalist will look under snake boards, discuss species found, and demonstrate ways to encounter snakes.

Snake Spotting
August 15 **11a.m. – 12:30p.m.**
Join us to learn more about OWC's snake species. The naturalist will look under snake boards, discuss species found, and demonstrate ways to encounter snakes.

Forest Fungi for Beginners
September 21 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
Walk the trails with a naturalist and fungi enthusiast to spot the fungi of Old Woman Creek. Meet at the visitor center to learn identification tricks.

Nocturnal Nature of OWC
September 26 **8:30p.m. – 10p.m.**
Experience Old Woman Creek's nightlife and learn about the special adaptations of nocturnal animals and what calls the creek home. We will be walking a few of our trails and calling for owls. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp if it has a red-light option.

World Migration Day Hike
October 10 **9a.m. – 11a.m.**
The birds are doing all the work migrating from the northern parts of North America to the southern United States, the Caribbean, and even South America, and all we have to do is go outside and watch and listen for them. Join a naturalist who will lead the hike to great birding locations within the reserve's boundary.

Early Winter Boundary Hike
December 12 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
Join an OWC naturalist to hike off-trail on a brisk December morning. Be prepared to hike at least 3 miles off-trail with elevation differences. See some sights that are normally left just for nature and our wildlife residents.

Volunteer to Help Remove Invasive Species!

Garlic Mustard
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **10a.m. – 11a.m.**
Join us on Fridays in May to remove garlic mustard, an invasive species, in the spring to open up the forest floor for native species to grow. Gear is supplied, but dress for the weather.
Registration is required.



Garlic Mustard

Frogbit
Join us Mondays on the water as we remove European frogbit, an invasive aquatic plant that could dominate the wetland if left unmanaged. Kayaks and tools are supplied, but dress for the weather. **Registration is required.**

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
July 6, 13, 20, 27 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**

National Estuaries Week
Want to see science in action and learn what species are surveyed here at OWC? Join Reserve staff and partners to get a glimpse of our programs and learn about one of Ohio's best remaining examples of a natural estuary during National Estuaries Week.

Coastal Clean-Up
September 19 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
Join OWC staff while they help keep our Great Lake's beach clean. Even though visitors help pick up trash almost every day, there is still a marine debris problem in the Great Lakes. Staff will have all supplies, and the marine debris will be categorized, tallied, and reported to ensure our efforts are counted.

Forest Fungi for Beginners
September 21 **10a.m. – 12p.m.**
Walk the trails with a naturalist and fungi enthusiast to spot the fungi of Old Woman Creek. Meet at the visitor center to learn identification tricks.

Autumn Equinox Yoga
September 22 **6p.m. – 7p.m.**
Join OWC staff in an all-levels yoga practice celebrating the fall season. This class will take place on the OWC beach. No previous yoga experience is required, although you must be comfortable practicing on the sand. Bring a towel/mat and other materials necessary for your comfort (water bottle, bug spray, etc.). Dress for the weather. Meet at the OWC beach. **Registration is required.**

A Dusk Canoe Tour of the Estuary
September 23 **5p.m. – 7p.m.**
Meet at the OWC Boathouse to enjoy an evening tour of the estuary guided by OWC staff.
Registration is required.



Eastern Box Turtle

Find me in the visitor center!

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About Estuaries and Old Woman Creek

An estuary is where two bodies of water meet and mix, like Old Woman Creek (OWC) and Lake Erie. Freshwater estuaries like OWC are critical to the health of Lake Erie and Ohio's wildlife because the water leaves the estuary cleaner than when it enters.



The OWC estuary consists of habitats including marsh, swamp and upland forests, scrub-shrub, creek, barrier beach, and near-shore Lake Erie. The estuary attracts waterfowl and wading birds such as wood ducks, great blue and green herons, egrets, belted kingfishers, and shorebirds. Several rare plants and animals, including the American bald eagle, thrive near the estuary. To grow and reproduce, many organisms depend on functioning estuaries. Some spend their entire life cycle in estuaries, part of intricate food webs that begin at the microscopic level.



Old Woman Creek is a National Estuarine Research Reserve, part of a network of protected areas in which innovative research and education promote stewardship of our nation's estuaries and coasts. It is managed as a cooperative partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Office of Coastal Management, and as a dedicated State Nature Preserve through the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.