

## FEATURED PROGRAMS

### EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE!

A guided tour focuses on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED – a limited number of canoes and personal flotation devices are available. Ages 10 years and older only, see below for more details. Assist research staff in plant and/or animal surveys; learn to install your own over-water bird houses; and collect water quality data. Weather cancellations may occur; rain dates will be scheduled as needed.

This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse at Old Woman Creek Beach Access, 2005 Cleveland Road East, Huron, OH 44839

### BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAYS

 A series of seminars at the noon hour to discover more information on a variety of topics including natural resource management, invasive species, water quality, coastal land use, current research, and Lake Erie and the entire Great Lakes region. All are welcome! You bring your lunch and your curiosity, and we will provide the interesting conversation and dessert.

### CELEBRATE THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY CENTENNIAL AND NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY!

Bookend the season with celebrations of conservation. April 30th will kick off our big birding season by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the International Migratory Bird Treaty. Birding events are happening all day, with a unique chance to bird on the usually closed west side area of Old Woman Creek's Nature Preserve. The Reserve is creating a new tradition of closing our summer season with an all-day event to celebrate our estuary in collaboration with National Estuaries Day. Tours are given by land, by water and behind the scenes, more opportunities to see areas that are usually unavailable to the public.

## ABOUT ESTUARIES AND OLD WOMAN CREEK

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

The Old Woman Creek 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 28 protected areas in which innovative research and education promote stewardship of our nation's estuaries and coasts.

Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Old Woman Creek Reserve. Please call the Reserve at 419-433-4601 to RSVP for your class or volunteer day. Please inquire at the Visitor Center front reception desk for the classroom location, unless otherwise noted.

Pets are not allowed on preserve property.

Bicycles are not permitted on preserve trails, there is a bicycle rack to park them in the parking lot.

To learn more, visit [oldwomancreek.org](http://oldwomancreek.org) or [estuaries.noaa.gov](http://estuaries.noaa.gov)



Financial assistance provided under award number NA12NOS4200138 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All programs meet at the Old Woman Creek Reserve Visitor Center, 2514 Cleveland Road East, Huron, Ohio, unless otherwise noted.

Registration appreciated,  
required only when noted.

Call (419) 433-4601 to register  
or for more info.

Participants under 18 must be accompanied  
by a parent or guardian.

A liability waiver may be required  
for some activities.

In the event of inclement weather, outdoor  
programs will be moved indoors. Canoe  
tours will be postponed to a later date.

## VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Weekends: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

• April thru September Only •

FIRST CLASS  
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COLUMBUS, OH  
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ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

**OLD WOMAN CREEK**  
National Estuarine Research Reserve

2514 Cleveland Road East  
Huron, OH 44839

OLD WOMAN CREEK • LAKE ERIE'S RESEARCH ESTUARY

# Estuary 2016 Explorations

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

**NEW FEATURES AT OLD WOMAN CREEK**  
Haven't been here in a while? Come in and see some of our new features that help us be sustainable and forward thinking in design and function. In addition to creating a smaller carbon footprint, we are conducting research on these features to determine just how effective they are. When you visit, be sure to ask a staff member about any of the following new features: pervious pavers in the parking lot, methane flux tower, sentinel site for climate change, and living shorelines. The Creek has grown and continues to change with the times.

## OLD WOMAN CREEK COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Join us for the FIRST IN A SERIES of talks by researchers currently conducting important investigations in the Great Lakes watershed. All are welcome! Bring your lunch and your curiosity, and we will provide the interesting conversation and dessert.

**APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Join us for the release of this year's Water Quality Report Card. Breann Hohman, Watershed Coordinator, will talk about the quality of the water in Old Woman Creek's watershed. Did OWC do better this year? What affects did our rainy spring have on water quality? Receive your own copy of this year's report card. Learn how the wetland at the mouth of OWC helps to filter the water before it enters Lake Erie. All are welcome! Bring your lunch and your curiosity, and we will provide the interesting conversation and dessert.

**APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON  
**STREAM QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS**  
Becoming an advanced volunteer requires commitment from you to be assigned to a dedicated stream section during specific dates April thru November yearly. Training involves learning how to accurately collect water samples and report data. Training location is offsite. Call 419-433-4601 for details.

**APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**OPENING WEEKEND**  
Now that spring is finally here, come in and explore the Old Woman Creek Visitor Center. The center will be open on Saturdays and Sundays through the end of September. To celebrate our extended hours, guided hikes will be offered. *Reservations recommended.*

**OUTSIDE GUIDED HIKES**  
DEPARTURE: 11:30 A.M. / 3:00 P.M.

**APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**DISCOVERY LEARNING LABORATORY**  
**EAGLE HABITATS AND THEIR RECOVERY**  
Join us at the Reserve to learn about bald eagles, their features, their habits and habitats, and why they have such love for the estuary. Learn about their dramatic decrease and subsequent increase in population, as well as the role humans played in the story of our national bird. Make and take a keepsake "Mighty Talon Mold" and compare it to the size of your own talon. Take a self-guided hike to the observation deck and see if you can get a visual on our active nest and its inhabitants. We are looking for photographers to share their best eagle photos from OWC ahead of this Discovery Learning Lab, so if you have snapped some good shots of our eagles and would like to share, please contact Michelle Bock at 419-433-4601. Families welcome.

**APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
**CELEBRATING MIGRATING BIRDS!**  
Come spread your wings for bird conservation! 2016 is the centennial of the International Migratory Bird Treaty, the most important policy protecting birds in North America. We will recognize the many successes of bird conservation and offer a day of birding for early arrivals, from land and water. For this special occasion, we will also be birding off trail on the west side of the preserve, in areas typically unavailable to public access. For all guided tours, make sure you dress for the weather, wear appropriate shoes and bring your favorite pair of binoculars.

**CANOE TRIP**  
7:45 A.M. at the boat house (reservations required)  
**BIRDING HIKE AT**  
8:00 A.M. at the visitor center (reservations required)  
**BIRDING ON THE WEST SIDE**  
10:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M. at the dorm (first come first serve)  
**OWL PROWL**  
8:45 P.M. at the visitor center (reservations required)

**APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**  
Increase your celebration of migratory birds by learning how to capture them using nature photography. Under the guidance of two noted professional photographers, capture the beauty of nature and sites of historical and cultural significance. Review use of the "creative triangle," aperture, ISO and shutter speed. Learn principles of composition, how to read and assess the quality of light and explore more advanced photographic applications such as HDR (High Dynamic Range) and macro photography. Develop your personal aesthetic in classroom workshops, on-location instruction and post-camera techniques. Put what you learn into practice after the session and head to the surrounding area to find photo subjects. The program is suited for advanced beginners and intermediate photographers with a good working knowledge of their camera's operation. Instructors are Tim Daniels, Division of Wildlife staff photographer, and Nina Harfmann, a published photographer and naturalist. **Note:** bring digital camera, tripod (if you own one) and camera user manual. Meet at Visitor Center.

**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.

**MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
**WILDFLOWER WALK**  
We think our wildflowers rival cultured flowers from just about anywhere. Stop in to learn what wild plant species thrive in OWC's protected areas and which ones don't belong here but somehow found a way on to the grounds. If you already fill up your camera or social media with pictures of wildflowers, come join our education staff in a new series of wildflower walks. Start your wildflower journal, leave only footprints and take only pictures! Suggested supplies: long pants, a hat, closed toed shoes, bug spray, water bottle, notebook, writing implement and of course your camera. In order to experience the variety of wildflowers that grow here, this will be a series and the other two dates are 7/30 and 9/17. *Registration required.*

**MAY 21<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**DISCOVERY LEARNING LABORATORY**  
**GREAT LAKES AND WATER QUALITY**  
Lake Erie is the smallest of the Great Lakes, but each year more fish are fished out of Lake Erie than the other four Great Lakes combined. Plus, 11 million people get their drinking water from Lake Erie, and that includes anyone who lives in a coastal county. Join Reserve staff to learn about Lake Erie and the lake's water quality issues and successes. There will be activities for all ages and even a quiz to test your Great Lakes knowledge. Families welcome.

**MAY 21<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
8:15 P.M.  
**SOUNDS OF THE NIGHT HIKE**  
Join the staff to experience the reserve after dark. This guided hike will take you on a journey through night sounds. You will need to use your built in night vision and be prepared to walk, on trails, with limited visibility. SPACE IS LIMITED. *Registration required.*



**JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.

**JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. (2nd Class is repeat)  
**RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS**

Rain barrels are a perfect way to reduce municipal water usage and recycle rainwater to keep your plants vibrant and healthy! \$45 covers all materials to make a rain barrel to take home and use in your lawn or garden. (Payable to "Erie SWCD"). SPACE AND SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. *Registration required.* Contact the Erie SWCD at 419-626-5211 to reserve your kit.

**JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.  
6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. (2nd Class is repeat)  
**RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS**  
Rain barrels are a perfect way to reduce municipal water usage and recycle rainwater to keep your plants vibrant and healthy! \$45 covers all materials to make a rain barrel to take home and use in your lawn or garden. (Payable to "Erie SWCD"). SPACE AND SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. *Registration required.* Contact the Erie SWCD at 419-626-5211 to reserve your kit.

**JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY**  
8:30 P.M.  
**FULL MOON HIKE**  
Join the staff to experience the reserve after dark. This guided hike will take you on a journey through night sounds. You will need to use your built in night vision and be prepared to walk, on trails, with limited visibility. *Registration required;* space is limited. 419-433-4601

**JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
**RAIN BARREL PAINTING**  
Rain barrels are a great way to save money and environment, but a painted rain barrel can add that special touch to your yard or patio. Local artist will be on hand to help bring out your creative side and/or help you sketch out a design. Must bring a pre-primed rain barrel to paint (Check out our rain barrel workshops on June 9th and 14th). All materials will be provided. *Registration required.* Contact the Erie SWCD at 419-626-5211. Limit 8. Cost \$25.

**JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**DISCOVERY LEARNING LABORATORY**  
**A PLACE FOR POLLINATORS**  
Pollinators are all the rage! OWC's wetlands, forests, and prairies provide safe havens for pollinators. These small but mighty creatures play an important role in the environment, but they face many stresses and stressors. Come learn about the different types of pollinators, the plants they need and the struggles they face. Participate in a prairie sweep and walk and start to identify some of our many pollinators. Make and take a demonstration and show your support for these little powerhouses during National Pollinator Week. *Registration not required.* Families welcome.

**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.

**JULY 2<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK!**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *REGISTRATION REQUIRED.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
**WILDFLOWER HIKE**  
We think our wildflowers rival cultured flowers from just about anywhere. Stop in to learn what wild plant species thrive in OWC's protected areas and which ones don't belong here but somehow found a way on to the grounds. If you already fill up your camera or social media with pictures of wildflowers, come join our education staff in a new series of wildflower walks. Start your wildflower journal, leave only footprints and take only pictures! Suggested supplies: long pants, a hat, closed toed shoes, bug spray, water bottle, notebook, writing implement and of course your camera. In order to experience the variety of wildflowers that grow here, the last date is 9/17. *Registration required.*

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.

**AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *RRegistration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY**  
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
**EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE/KAYAK**  
A leisurely, guided on-water tour stopping often to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.

**SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.



**SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**DISCOVERY LEARNING LABORATORY**  
**BEAVER BONANZA**  
It's official, there are beavers living in the Reserve. Come in and learn what they are up to and how they are changing the way things look around here. There will be hands-on, engaging activities for kids, as well as interesting information for the entire family. Families welcome.

**SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
**WILDFLOWER HIKE**  
We think our wildflowers rival cultured flowers from just about anywhere. Stop in to learn what wild plant species thrive in OWC's protected areas and which ones don't belong here but somehow found a way on to the grounds. If you already fill up your camera or social media with pictures of wildflowers, come join our education staff for the last in a new series of wildflower walks. Start your wildflower journal, leave only footprints and take only pictures! Suggested supplies: long pants, a hat, closed toed shoes, bug spray, water bottle, notebook, writing implement and of course your camera. *Registration required.* Call 419-433-4601.

**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY**  
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY**  
Reserve staff and partners will host behind-the-scenes tours of the laboratories and research facilities at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve. Learn about new research projects ongoing at the Reserve.  
**INSIDE TOURS**  
DEPARTURE: 10:00 A.M. / 12:00 P.M. / 2:00 P.M.

**OUTSIDE GUIDED HIKES**  
DEPARTURE: 11:30 A.M. / 3:00 P.M.  
**CANOE TOURS**  
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. (reservations required)  
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. (reservations required)

**OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY**  
12:00 NOON – 1:00 P.M.  
**BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY**  
Speaker TBA. See [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org) for details.

**EXPLORE OUR EXHIBITS OPEN DAILY!**  
Bring your family and spend a day exploring the interactive exhibits. Discover valuable Old Woman Creek habitats featuring taxidermy displays, microscopes, webcams, estuary monitoring gear, and of course, live animals! Get hands-on with our games, activities, and wildlife observation areas. Interact with electronic maps and play the virtual water choices game. Other exhibits include talking timelines, coastal resource kiosks, games to help demonstrate current research concepts, and Lake Erie Legacy movies. No RSVP or fees required.

**VISITOR CENTER HOURS**  
**Monday:** Closed  
**Tuesday thru Friday:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (April thru September)

Outside trails are open year round sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise posted.

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