

FEATURED PROGRAMS

EXPLORE THE ESTUARY BY CANOE!

A guided on-water tour focuses on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. Ages 10 years and older only, see below for more details. Assist research staff in plant and/or animal counts and learn tips to install your own over-water bird houses. Weather cancellations may occur; rain dates will be scheduled as needed. A limited number of canoes and personal flotation devices are available. This program meets at Old Woman Creek Beach Access, 2005 Cleveland Road East, Huron, Ohio 44839.

- REGISTRATION REQUIRED •

BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAYS *NEW!*

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.

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.

**FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT NO. 4621**

ABOUT ESTUARIES AND OLD WOMAN CREEK

An estuary is a place where rivers meet the sea. In the Great Lakes, estuaries exist where rivers or creeks meet and mix with the Lake itself. Northern Ohio rivers and creeks form Lake Erie's estuaries. Freshwater estuaries like Old Woman Creek are critical to the health of Lake Erie and Ohio's wildlife.

The Old Woman Creek estuary consists of diverse 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, great egrets, belted kingfishers, and shorebirds. Several rare plants and animals, including the American bald eagle, thrive near the estuary. To grow and reproduce, some organisms depend on functioning estuarine wetlands. Others 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.



VISITOR CENTER HOURS:
 Monday: Closed
 Tuesday-Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Weekends: 1:00pm - 5:00pm
 • April thru October Only •

To learn more, visit oldwomancreek.org or estuaries.noaa.gov



OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
OLD WOMAN CREEK
 National Estuarine Research Reserve
 2514 Cleveland Road East
 Huron, OH 44839

Financial support for this publication was provided, fully or in part, by a grant under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland. Copies of this publication are available from the Old Woman Creek NERR, Huron, Ohio.

Estuary 2014 Explorations

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NEW! **MARCH 7TH FRIDAY**
BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY
 Jason Ross, USGS Great Lakes Science Center:
"Impacts of Shoreline Alteration on Nearshore Fish Communities: A Reduction in Community Complexity and Habitat Use."
12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM
 Jason Ross will share his recent research looking at how fish species richness is affected by shoreline armoring and vegetation. He just received an MS in biology at University of Toledo with Dr. Christine Mayer while working with the Division of Wildlife's Sandusky fisheries office. Jason is currently a Student Contractor for the USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan under the supervision of Dr. Edward Roseman.

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.

MARCH 18TH FRIDAY
STREAM MONITORING CHILI DINNER
5:30 PM
 The Firelands Coastal Tributaries Volunteer Stream Monitors have been collecting water samples in four watersheds in Erie County. Come learn what we've found, preview the latest watershed report cards, and meet the monitors over a warm bowl of chili. Bringing a dish is a plus! PLEASE RSVP. Contact Bre Hohman at 419-626-5211 or BHohman@eriecounty.oh.gov. Location is offsite at the Berlin Township Conservation Club.
 •PLEASE RSVP•

APRIL 4TH FRIDAY
BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY
 Speaker TBA.
 See oldwomancreek.org for details.

APRIL 5TH SATURDAY
STREAM QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
 To become 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.
 •PLEASE CALL 419-433-4601 FOR DETAILS•

APRIL 5TH SATURDAY
OWC VOLUNTEER FAIR DAY
...Be informed! Ask Questions! Get Involved!
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 Come visit the tables set up at the Reserve to discover what current OWC research, education, coastal training, and management volunteer opportunities exist; the staff is available throughout the visitor center. See where help is needed for the year, ask questions, and hear what's going on next. Sign up to volunteer if you wish. Friends of Old Woman Creek and Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed partners will also have their information available so you can also get involved with their activities.



COASTAL WETLAND 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! Interact with Google 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. Ask about our self-guided trails Smartphone application. No RSVP or fees required.

APRIL 12TH SATURDAY
CLIMATE SCIENCE: ARE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS RESPONDING TO CHANGES?
 Discovery Learning Laboratory
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 Explore the latest Great Lakes climate science and see how plant and wildlife populations have been responding. Discover sources of pollution contributing to extra greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and learn how to minimize these at home. Take a small demonstration home with you and share the importance of wetlands for sequestering carbon and combating climate change. Registration not required. Families welcome.

APRIL 26TH SATURDAY
VOLUNTEER DAY: INVASIVE SPECIES PULL, RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE, BEACH CLEAN-UP
Great projects for service groups and individuals!
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
 Join the staff to improve Reserve habitats by maintaining our native flower beds and rain garden, removing invasive species, and assisting with the annual spring beach clean-up. No experience necessary. As we work, our staff will answer questions and provide tips on improving your home habitats. Dress for weather (boots/sturdy shoes, sunscreen, etc.) Clean-up supplies provided.

MAY 2ND FRIDAY
BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY
12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM
 Speaker TBA.
 See oldwomancreek.org for details.

MAY 10TH SATURDAY
BIRDING OLD WOMAN CREEK RESERVE
7:00 AM - 9:30 PM
 To celebrate the "Biggest Week in American Birding" Old Woman Creek will host birding activities all day. Discover which birds are using the different habitats of the Reserve. Which ones are migrating through? Learn how to create a bird-friendly habitat in your backyard. Dr. Carl Tuttle's taxidermy collection (recently cleaned and restored) will be featured as a local treasure. Resources will be available for beginning birders. Bird viewing is available all day from the two feeding stations within the Visitors Center. Trails will be open as long as the sun is up and at sunset we'll lead a guided Owl Prowl. How many species can we identify today and what will we discover about them?
 ■ Guided Hikes: 7:00 am, 8:00 am, and 9:00 am
 ■ Bird Banding Demonstration: 7:00am
 ■ Raptor Watch: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
 ■ Birding by Canoe: 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm (ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED.)
 ■ Guided Owl Prowl at Sunset, at the Visitor Center)

JUNE 5TH THURSDAY
RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS
(2nd class is repeat)
5:00 PM-6:30 PM OR 6:30 PM-8:00 PM
 Rain barrels are a perfect way to reduce municipal water usage and recycle rainwater to keep your plants vibrant and healthy! \$45 (Payable to "Erie SWCD") covers all materials to make a rain barrel to take home and use in your lawn or garden.
 SPACE AND SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•
 Call Erie SWCD at 419-626-5211 to reserve your kit

JUNE 6TH FRIDAY
BROWN BAG SCIENCE FRIDAY
12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM
 Speaker TBA.
 See oldwomancreek.org for details.

JUNE 7TH SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JUNE 10TH TUESDAY
RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS
(2nd class is repeat)
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM OR 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Rain barrels are a perfect way to reduce municipal water usage and recycle rainwater to keep your plants vibrant and healthy! \$45 (Payable to "Erie SWCD") covers all materials to make a rain barrel to take home and use in your lawn or garden.
 SPACE AND SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•
 Call Erie SWCD at 419-626-5211 to reserve your kit.

JUNE 12TH THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JUNE 21ST SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
Spend the Summer Solstice on the Estuary!
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JUNE 26TH THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JUNE 28TH SATURDAY
VOLUNTEER DAY: GIVE BACK!
Help us maintain our trails
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
 Join staff in improving visitor experiences by assisting in maintaining our trails! Clean up trails, cut back shrubs or limbs in paths, and water seal signs and boardwalks. Perfect for students, conservation clubs, scouts, and 4-H service hours! Individual volunteers welcomed, too! Dress for weather (boots/ sturdy shoes, sunscreen, etc.) Clean-up supplies will be provided.

JULY 5TH SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JULY 10TH THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JULY 19TH SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
9:00AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

JULY 24TH THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

AUGUST 2ND SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

AUGUST 7TH THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

AUGUST 16TH SATURDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

AUGUST 21ND THURSDAY
EXPLORE BY CANOE OR KAYAK!
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

SEPTEMBER 13TH SATURDAY
COAST WEEKS: OLD WOMAN CREEK ESTUARY WATERSHED CLEANUP
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
 Help us protect our Coast, roll up your sleeves and join us for clean up of the creek crossings, roadsides, and the beachfront on International Coastal Cleanup Day. Bring sunscreen and dress for weather, including boots/sturdy shoes. Clean-up supplies will be provided. Perfect for conservation clubs, scouts, and 4-H service hours! Individual volunteers welcome, too!

SEPTEMBER 20TH SATURDAY
LAKE ERIE WING WATCH
 OWC will join a variety of bird conservation partners throughout Erie, Lorain, and Ottawa counties to host a weekend of fall birding activities called "Lake Erie Wing Watch." Guided Hikes, Birding by Canoe, Research Demonstrations, Crafts, and Group Celebrations will all be part of this fall birding weekend throughout the Lake Erie coastal region. Check the Lake Erie Wing Watch website www.lakeeriewingwatch.com or like us on for a list of activities at Old Woman Creek and other sites around the region. Some activities require registration.

SEPTEMBER 20TH SATURDAY
LAKE ERIE WING WATCH: BIRDING BY CANOE AT OLD WOMAN CREEK
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 A leisurely, guided on-water tour with frequent stops to focus on the ecology of the estuary and its watershed. This program meets at the Old Woman Creek Boathouse.
 SOME PADDLING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

SEPTEMBER 21ST SUNDAY
LAKE ERIE WING WATCH: CHILDREN'S HIKE AT OLD WOMAN CREEK
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Bring your young one out to OWC for a morning Birding Hike to see a large variety of migratory birds passing through as well as some of our resident bald eagles. Parent or guardian must accompany children. Meet at the Visitors Center by 9:00 a.m. Dress for the weather.
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•

SEPTEMBER 27TH SATURDAY
NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 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 depart at the top of even hours (10:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 2:00 pm). Outside guided hikes depart at the top of odd hours (1:00 pm & 3:00 pm).
 • A Canoe Tour of The Estuary 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM •
 • REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR CANOE TOUR •
 Friends of OWC raffle to support School Bus Transportation Grants allowing local schools to apply for field trip busing stipends to Reserve education programs.

NEW! **SEPTEMBER 27TH SATURDAY**
STEWARDSHIP IS FUN & BEAUTIFUL: RAIN BARREL ART!
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Celebrate National Estuaries Day by joining the half day demonstration by a rain barrel artist from Linda Zolton Wood's group, Art for All, of greater Cleveland. Stop in or stay for the entire session. Learn how you, too, may paint your new rain barrel from OWC's June rain barrel workshops. Very helpful tips are offered in addition to the artist's fabulous work!
 Other detailed listings for the day can be found at: oldwomancreek.org

OCTOBER 18TH SATURDAY
WETLANDS & WATERSHEDS
 Discovery Learning Laboratory
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 Through hands-on demonstrations, discover the functions and values of wetlands like Old Woman Creek. Learn about Ohio's wetlands, past and present, loss, and what we can do to protect and conserve remaining wetlands for wildlife and water quality. Take home a small demonstration and share with your friends the importance of wetlands for stormwater retention. Registration not required. Families welcome.

NOVEMBER 1ST SATURDAY
VOLUNTEER DAY: WHACK A WEED!!
9 AM - NOON
 Relieve stress while helping us remove invasive plants! Learn techniques and new tools to help with invasive species removal. Today's event will be centered on identifying and removing Autumn Olive, Bush Honey-suckle, and Privet. These invasive bushes tend to out-compete our native plants here at the Reserve.

DECEMBER 12TH FRIDAY
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES BREAKFAST FOR FARMERS
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
 As a farmer, you have many choices in managing your land. Best Management Practices (BMPs) could help increase yield, save money, and improve the quality and health of Ohio's streams, rivers, and lakes. Join Division of Wildlife staff and Erie Soil and Water Conservation staff to discuss BMPs. Learn updates regarding grant programs available to landowners in the region. Another year of field tile monitoring data will also be presented and discussed. Space is limited.
 •REGISTRATION REQUIRED•
 MUST BE REGISTERED BY DECEMBER 9TH



GENERAL INFORMATION:
 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 desk for the location.
 Friends of Old Woman Creek Association sponsored events are noted by their logo:

VISITOR CENTER HOURS:
 Monday: Closed
 Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Saturdays & Sundays: 1:00pm - 5:00pm
 • April thru October Only •

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