

Board Members

President—Sandy Wright

Vice President—Rosie Kovacs

Secretary—Char Schuman

Treasurer—Tim Adams

Trustees—Nate Fuller, Marian Hancy, Gail Hesse, Jaclyn McLean, Subha Nagarajan, Gary Toll, Elaine Waterfield, Rhonda Watt

Past President—Sandy Burris

Honorary Trustees: Barbara Berg, Sue Cloak, Linda Feix, Pat Krebs, Rich Parilla

Seeking Heroes

The 2022 Hero Award will be announced at our annual meeting in February. Nominations for this award are now being accepted. This award was established by the Friends to honor those groups or individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the Old Woman Creek estuary. Forms to nominate a deserving hero may be obtained at the Visitor Center, on our website (friendsowc.org) or by email fowc@gmail.com. Previous heroes include Dr David Klarer, Gene Wright, Floren James. Linda Feix, Dick Boyer, Glen, Marje and Phoebe Bernhardt, Dr. Ken Krieger, Elaine Waterfield, Gary Obermiller, Frank Lopez, Sue Cloak and Bre Hohman.

2022 Photo Contest

This year's contest is underway! Photos are due by September 6th. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all age categories as well as a year's membership to the Friends of OWC. Rules are available on our website (friendsowc.org) as well as at the Visitor Center. Questions? Email fowc@bex.net

Mission Statement

To promote public awareness and appreciation of the uniqueness of the estuary and to support stewardship programs that sustain the ecological integrity of Old Woman Creek.



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Friends of Old Woman Creek
PO Box 247
Huron OH 44839

25th Anniversary Celebration

The Friends of Old Woman Creek will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 17th at Old Woman Creek Visitor's Center. When the Friends began in 1997, there were only a handful of members. Today we have more than 200 members from across the country.

Back to the Wild Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will be joining us for three hours from 1 to 4 with an open session for you to ask questions and view their wildlife ambassadors.

A guided hike led by a naturalist, a game with prizes, refreshments and a special gift will be part of the celebration for our members. The Nature Gift Shop will be open as well. Hope to see you!



Announcing Our New Website!!

friendsowc.org is now live. Our web site is the result of developmental work by aha Creative of Sandusky and input from our board members.

I invite you to take a tour, enjoy the pictures from our photo contest winners and maybe even make an online donation!

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. We are planning on how to best incorporate volunteer opportunities and bring our Nature Gift Shop online.

'Ia Orana and Hello!

by Keanu Rochette-Yu Tsuen

My name is Keanu Rochette-Yu Tsuen and I am from the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia. I am currently studying at the University of Hawai'i to get my bachelor's degree in Global Environmental Science.

Being surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, I have always been inclined to study marine sciences. However, I wanted to know what issues are associated with the conservation and management of coastal resources in freshwater ecosystems, such as those existing in the Great Lakes Region.

I was fortunate to get a scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through the National Ocean Services office, I was placed with an internship with the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (OWC NERR) to work on the Phenological Species Monitoring Program this summer. The goal of this program is to collect long-term data on the seasonal activities of local wildlife and investigate any changes in their activities with respect to environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, water levels, and vegetation composition within the estuary.

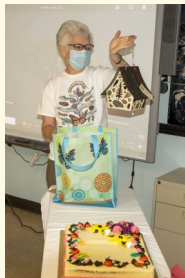
My personal research project during this internship is to investigate potential trends linking water depth, vegetation composition, and the activity of muskrats within the estuary to water quality data collected by the System-Wide Monitoring Program. The goal is to study the potential role phenology (i.e., the cyclic or seasonal pattern of natural phenomena) might play in informing ecosystem services, such as water quality and biodiversity. This is especially relevant given the water quality goal of reducing phosphorus loading by 40% into Lake Erie, and the goals of H2Ohio, a state-run program that supports initiatives to reduce nutrient inputs from the coastal areas of Ohio.

I am very fortunate to work with OWC NERR and my learning experience will be valuable in addressing coastal management issues in the Pacific islands where resources are limited, and proper management practices are essential for the well-being of my local community.



Nature Gift Shop

by Sandy Wright



Sue accepts gift at board meeting.

The Friends has managed a Nature Gift Shop in the OWC Visitor's Center since 1998. It began with a small gift cart overseen by Marje Bernhardt. In 2005, Sue Cloak, with 30+ years in specialty retailing (Wileswood Country Stores), took over and expanded the cart into a full blown gift shop. She enlisted the help of a trusted former employee and good friend, Margaret Suarez. They not only expanded the inventory but moved the shop into its own room. Sue enlisted and trained volunteers to help keep the shop open as often as possible. They took the gift shop on the road to various events through the years.

In 2016, the office space occupied by the gift shop was needed by a growing staff and the shop was downsized and moved to the lobby in the Visitor's Center.

Sue's energy, enthusiasm and tireless efforts guided the shop until 2021, when she stepped down and turned the reins over to our Vice President, Rosie Kovacs and her committee.

Although Sue received our Hero Award in 2019, I want to express our appreciation for her continued support and dedication to Old Woman Creek and the Friends.



Stop by to see our newest items! We are open whenever the Visitor's Center is open.

Welcome Subha Nagarajan

by Marian Hancy



The Friends of Old Woman Creek recently welcomed new board member Subha Nagarajan on board. Subha was born in Chennai, India. As a child, she was instilled by her mother, a chemist, with the knowledge that chemistry is involved in so many aspects of our lives. That love of chemistry and its gifts has continued to motivate her in her chosen field.

Subha received her Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell with a specialization in polymer science. Her research focused on developing environmentally friendly methods of the synthesis of advanced materials.

At BGSU Firelands, Subha explores two different research areas, the use of naturally occurring enzymes for the synthesis of compounds with antioxidant properties and understanding the role of wetlands. Subha strongly believes that the conservation and restoration of wetlands is of paramount importance as they play pivotal roles in conserving wildlife and the surrounding environment.

She oversees a service learning lab where students learn about the wetlands at Old Woman Creek. You may wonder how such a special scholar found her way to Old Woman Creek and, once again, we have the internet to thank, which is where Subha stumbled across the opening for a part-time chemistry professor position at Firelands BGSU. The part-time position quickly evolved into a full time one.

Subha is trained in classical Indian music and enjoys singing as well. In addition, she and her husband love to dance the Argentine tango and salsa. (Let's hope a certain dance competition TV show doesn't lure her away!) Also, Subha and her husband enjoy gardening. She loves to take advantage of the Cleveland Metro Parks and their trails, being close to the Great Lakes, and appreciates the friendliness of Midwesterners.

As a member of the board of the FOWC she hopes to actively participate in the board's efforts to promote people's awareness and appreciation of our local wetlands. Both Firelands BGSU and the board of the Friends of Old Woman Creek are most fortunate to have such a well learned contributor in our midst. Welcome, Subha!