

Board Members

President—Sandy Wright

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Past President—Sandy Burris

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

Seeking Heroes

by Sandy Burris

The Hero Award will be presented at our annual meeting in February. Nominations are being accepted until December 31st. This award was established by the FOWC to honor those groups and/or individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the Old Woman Creek estuary and watershed.

Previous recipients include: Dr. David Klarer, Gene Wright, Floren James, Linda Feix, Dick Boyer, the Glen Bernhardt family, Dr. Ken Krieger, Elaine Waterfield, Gary Obermiller, Frank Lopez, Sue Cloak and Breann Hohman.

If you would like to suggest a recipient of this honor, you can get a nomination form at the OWC Visitor Center or by email at fowcreek@gmail.com.



Happy Holidays to all!



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.

MISSION STATEMENT



Newsletter December 2021
Volume 14 Issue 3

Friends of Old Woman Creek
PO Box 247
Huron OH 44839

Local Farms Engage in H2Ohio

by Breann Hohman



Governor Mike DeWine's Water Quality improvement initiative, H2Ohio, has expanded its incentives to Erie County to help reduce nutrients and sediment from farms. The program nearly exceeded all its goals in a 10-county expansion zone for participation in developing volunteer nutrient management plans, incorporating small grains into a crop rotation and planting overwintering cover crops. In Erie County, more than 75% of eligible farmland is participating in H2Ohio. We hope this means healthier soil, resilient farms and cleaner streams flowing into Lake Erie.

Goodbye to Rich Parilla

by Sandy Wright

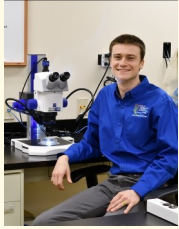
Rich Parilla became a trustee on the FOWC board in 2012. Besides attending board meetings, he has spent countless hours on projects for the Friends and for the OWC Reserve. Rich came to events, helped transport our displays and talked to the public about the Creek. He has donated his custom built bird houses for the National Estuarine Research Reserve fund raiser many times.



His donation box in the Visitor Center is a big hit and has helped raise money for the Friends. Although we will miss him at our board meetings, I am sure he will continue to support us in other ways.

Rich with donation box he made.

Welcome Jacob Cianci-Gaskill



Jacob joined OWC in July as the new System-Wide Monitoring Program Coordinator. Originally from Rochester, NY, Jacob attended the SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY and received his masters from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. He arrived at OWC after finishing his PhD in water resources at the University of Missouri where he studied the factors that contribute to harmful algal blooms, as well as the impacts of invasive zebra mussels.

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Jacob is thrilled to be at OWC, working at such a beautiful location and with such wonderful people He is especially excited to contribute to and work with the important datasets. High-frequency water quality monitoring has been occurring at OWC for 41 years and counting, making the reserve ideally positioned to understand how conditions have been changing in recent decades, and to help understand how we can address future water quality challenges.

In his free time, Jacob enjoys reading, hiking with his dog, Nora, and trying with limited success to keep tropical plants alive in his home.

Welcome Emily Kelly



Emily joined Old Woman Creek in June as a seasonal Water Quality Technician. She assisted with long-term monitoring of water quality, meteorology and nutrients at sites in the reserve.

Prior to this, Emily researched harmful algal blooms with Dr. Bullerjhan at BGSU while completing her bachelor's degree in biology. In partnership with BGSU researchers, she led research in the reserve to pilot the use of a rapid, portable system capable of detecting cyanobacterial toxins. This project inspired her future research grant opportunities following the completion of her Master's of Science degree in Environmental Science in January.

Photo Contest Results

by Sandy Wright

The Friends of Old Woman Creek held its third annual photo contest. The winning photos were displayed at OWC during National Estuaries Week, then at the Huron Public Library gallery in October. Cash prizes and ribbons were awarded.



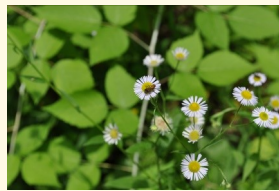
First Place

Adult: Mark Capucini "Cormorant with Fish"

Teen: James Daneker "Sun Kissed Monarch"

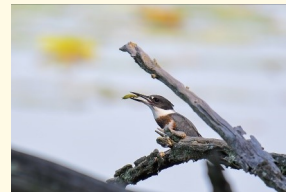


Youth: Reese Hykes "Respite"

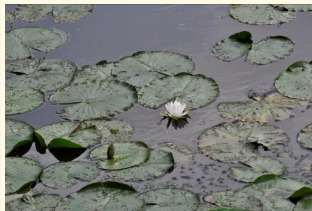


Second Place

Adult: Katie Myer "Belted Kingfisher with Insect Snack"



Teen: River Hykes "Hope"



Youth: Reese Hykes "Texture"



Third Place

Adult : Katie Myer "Fly Fishing"



Teen: River Hykes "Searching"

The Honorable Mention photos, were posted on our Facebook page. It is not too early to starting thinking about next year's contest and start taking photos at OWC.

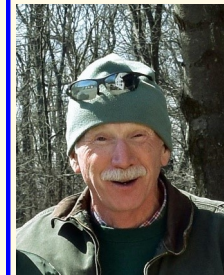
Annual Meeting

by Sandy Wright

Our annual meeting will be held at the OWC Visitor Center on Saturday, Feb. 26th. A continental breakfast will be provided at 9 a.m. followed by the meeting at 9:30. After the reports, an election will be held for vice president, treasurer and four trustees. Details will be sent via email or by mail if you have no email.

Farewell to Bill Pifer

by Sandy Wright



During your walks at Old Woman Creek, you were likely to see Bill working on improving the trails, building benches, and taking great care of the grounds. He worked as a volunteer for several years before joining the staff in 2013. He always responded to requests for help on special Friends' projects.

We wish him well in his retirement and know that he will still be around to help when needed.

Rich Parilla and Bill with the bench they built for the FOWC's 20th anniversary.

