

## 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

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

## Annual Meeting

by Sandy Wright

Our annual meeting was held on February 25th after a delicious breakfast at Blue Ribbon Catering. The slate of officers and trustees was unanimously accepted. Congratulations and thank you to Sandy Wright, President, Char Schuman, Secretary, and trustees, Marian Hancy, Jaclyn McLean, Gary Toll and Elaine Waterfield.

## Photo Contest

It is not too early to begin taking photos for our fifth annual photo contest! Photos taken at Old Woman Creek and not previously entered will be accepted via email later this summer. Check our website, “friendsowc.org”, Facebook page or the visitor center at Old Woman Creek for details after June 1st.



“Patience” by James Daneker  
1st Place Teen category

### 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

## 2022 Watershed Report Cards Released

by Bre Hohman

We celebrated World Water Day (March 22nd) with the release of the 2022 Watershed Report Cards of our local creeks. Each year over 20 volunteer stream monitors collect water quality data from over 24 sites in Mills Creek, Pipe Creek, and Old Woman Creek watersheds to help tell the public a story of their health. In 2022, the watershed program added Chappel Creek to the monitored watersheds and will begin reporting in the following year. The report cards help to make sense of our data by summarizing it into letter grades which most of us have become accustomed to.

After 10 years of reporting, the Old Woman Creek finally received a B! This in part is due to a small change in the scoring process but is also a sign that improvements in the watershed are making a difference. Find out more at the Science Friday presentation at noon on April 7th at Old Woman Creek Reserve.

You can view the report cards online or explore the data collected at each site monitored through the Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed Webpage on the Erie Conservation District website.  
<https://erieconserves.org/watershed-program>



## Earth Day

This year's Earth Day Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at Osborn Park from 11-3. The Friends of OWC are partnering with Erie MetroParks for this event and will have a display table with handouts, a wildlife trivia game and items for sale from our Nature Gift shop. Please stop by and say hello!

Check out Erie Metroparks' social media for details of all the fun things that are planned.

## Hero Awards

by Sandy Wright

The Hero Award goes to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the stewardship of Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve/National Estuarine Research Reserve.

This year, two Hero Awards were presented at our annual meeting on February 25th. The first was to Bill Pifer of Berlin Heights. Bill started volunteering at OWC in 2008, helping with trail projects. He was hired as a natural resource technician in 2012 and worked until retiring in 2021. After that he volunteered for canoe tours, school groups and helped out when needed.

The second award went to a couple from Vermilion, Rudy and Joli Reising. They have contributed over 1300 volunteer hours in the past seven years. They helped with canoe programs and species monitoring along with mentoring interns and graduate students.



Thank you all for your continued volunteer service to Old Woman Creek Reserve.

## Farewell to Sandy Burris

by Sandy Wright



Sandy Burris became Vice President of the FOWC in 2003 and President in 2007. She served for 8 years, then assumed the duties of past president for 6 years until resigning this February. Sandy was generous with her time and talent. She made bookmarks each year to thank the volunteers for their service. She attended several

National Estuarine Research Reserve conferences as our representative. During her years as President, the FOWC reached out to the community and worked on many joint projects such as Wing Watch, Earth Day, Harvest Happenings, the Vermilion River Watershed Annual Open House and the Midwest Birding Symposium. The Hero Award was created during her term. We sincerely extend our gratitude to Sandy for her many years of service to the Friends of OWC and wish her well.

## Events at OWC

- April 7 - Science Friday with Bre Hohman. "Watershed Report Cards" Refreshments provided
- April 15 - Citizen Science Friday 1-4 p.m.
- April 22 - Earth Day Learning Lab 1 - 4 p.m.  
Activities for all ages
- April 29 - Learn to Bird - 9 -11:30 a.m.  
Registration required. Call (419) 433-4601

Starting April 1st, the OWC Visitor Center and Nature Gift Shop are open weekends from 1-5 p.m.

Do you like working with the public? Can you spare a few hours to volunteer at the visitor center's front desk? Training will be provided. Please contact Robin Taylor at OWC at (419) 433-4601 or email her at [Roberta.Taylor@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Roberta.Taylor@dnr.ohio.gov).

## Welcome Janet Hannaway

by Marian Hancy

We have a new face behind the desk! Janet Hannaway has joined the staff at OWC as the Office Manager. Originally from Upper Arlington near Columbus, she and her husband, Robert, decided to change their scenery to the North Shore and moved to Vermilion in 2017. The area has certainly benefitted from her many artistic talents. She serves on the Advisory Board for Public Art Vermilion. Before becoming involved with matters of the Lake Erie waters, she sourced vintage furniture for The Chairmaker.



However, fate stepped in and brought her to a part-time job at the Office of Coastal Management which opened up a whole new learning experience for her as she found her way through the regulations of coastal management. Then fate, in the form of COVID, stepped in again. After a bit of time, another change arrived. This time for the position of Office Manager at OWC.

Janet is most impressed with the breadth of knowledge exhibited by the staff at OWC and at their generous willingness to share it. She continues on her path of learning more about Lake Erie and the estuary, while also observing the comings and goings of the barrier beach.

Janet and her husband have a small motor boat which allows them to take day trips from the harbor in Vermilion. As she says, she has moved over to "the dark side" by having a motor boat. She use to sail quite a bit, even racing some boats as a young girl. Their daughter, Nikki, manages a very popular food and lifestyle site called Cravecle so they get to try new restaurant venues in the popular foodie areas of Cleveland. At home, one will also find a very spoiled Golden.

The Friends of Old Woman Creek welcome this very talented lady to the staff and perhaps they will benefit from her talents as well. Hint. Hint. Hint.