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## Thank You For Your Donations

We are thankful for the following donors who made contributions to the Friends of OWC between December 2022 & November 2023.

Emily Adams, Tim & Karen Adams, Berlin Heights Garden Club, Laurence & Karen Bettcher Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. David Clark, Michael & Fran DeWine, Carol Fahle, Firelands Audubon Society, Friends of Magee Marsh, Nate Fuller, Todd & Barbara Greene, Bob & Val Gregory, Barry & Vicki Gummow, Richard & Sheila Henderson, Gail Hesse, Sharon & Richard Johnson, Michael Kohr, Rosemary Kovacs, Douglas Kramer, Dennis & Peggy Murray Foundation, Rudy & Joli Reising, Melvin & Ellen Schlachter, Linda Rogers Sloan, Cynthia Stump, Ann & Ed Wardwell, Elaine, Amy & Steven Waterfield, Catherine Whitney, Patricia & Charles Wilkins, Joanne Wolan, Richard Wolan, and Terry Zeman.

For information about donating, please visit:  
[www.friendsowc.org](http://www.friendsowc.org).

*Happy Holidays!*



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 2023  
Volume 16 Issue 3



Friends of Old Woman Creek  
PO Box 247  
Huron OH 44839

## Plastic Pollution

by Emily Kuzmick

Plastic pollution poses a serious threat to both the environment and our health. Each year, over 22 million pounds of plastic end up in the Great Lakes, with some of the highest concentrations of microplastics found in Lake Erie.

The Ohio Coastal Training Program (CTP) located at Old Woman Creek, focuses on working with partners across Ohio's coast to raise awareness of and present solutions to marine debris in the Great Lakes. The CTP recently hosted a workshop at OWC geared toward providing regional updates and prevention practices for business and property owners in the Lake Erie watershed.

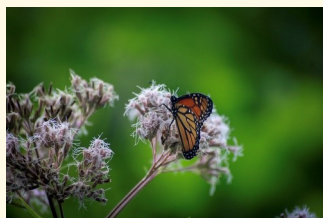
Partners shared their expertise on research and solutions to the plastic pollution crisis in Lake Erie. Following the presentations, attendees used the NOAA Marine Debris Transect Protocol for a cleanup at Old Woman Creek beach and constructed recycling bins for monofilament fishing line.

This was the first in-person marine debris partner training post-pandemic and paved the way for future initiatives to address additional audiences that might help reduce land-driven debris. For more information regarding these partnerships, please contact the Ohio CTP at [Emily.kuzmick@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Emily.kuzmick@dnr.ohio.gov).



## Photo Contest Winners

The Friends of Old Woman creek held its fifth annual photo contest. The winning photos were on display at the visitor center during National Estuaries Week in September, then moved to the gallery at the Huron Public Library for the month of October. Cash prizes, FOWC memberships and ribbons were awarded.



James Daneker  
Teen First Place  
“A Monarch’s Rest”



Emily Green  
Adult First Place  
“Chippy the Chipmunk”



Robert Myer  
Adult Second Place  
“The Arrival”



Jennifer Yingling  
Adult Third Place  
“Through the Lens”

To view the Honorable Mention winners, visit [friendsowc.org](http://friendsowc.org).

**Thanks go out to our  
judge Lynn Ischay!**

## New Email Address

The Friends of OWC has a new email address to contact you. You were notified of this via email in November. Please add the following email address to your Contacts or our emails may wind up in your SPAM folder. [info@friendsowc.org](mailto:info@friendsowc.org)

## Gift Shop Ideas for Stocking Stuffers

These are just a few of the nature related items you can find at our Gift Shop which is open whenever the visitor center is open. December hours are Tuesday thru Friday. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



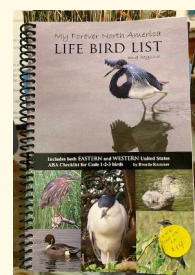
Hiking stick medallions



Curran note cards



Earrings



Life Bird List book

## Annual Meeting 2024

Please save the date of Sunday, February 25th for our Annual Meeting and brunch at the Blue Ribbon Caterers. Details will be sent later. Watch your email.

## Eagle Scout Project

by Sandy Wright

Many thanks go out to Jacob Bursley who replaced the deteriorating pergola at the Old Woman Creek beach site known at Peggy’s Garden for his Eagle Scout Project. His father, Erick Bursley, who is a union carpenter, assisted.

Jacob, a junior at Edison High School, belongs to Berlin Heights Boy Scout Troop 236. He chose this project after visiting Old Woman Creek and thought it would be a good fit since he is drawn to nature.

“This has been one of the most fun and experience gaining opportunities that could have been offered to me at such a young age. I will be forever grateful that my hard work of planning and building have paid off, and to provide something for the next generation.”

When I stopped by to see the pergola under construction in October, I discovered two bald eagles watching Jacob and his father working. I think they approved.

