

Board Members

President—Sandy Wright

Vice President—Rosie Kovacs

Secretary—Char Schuman

Treasurer—Katie Gore

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

Honorary Trustees: Sandy Burris, Sue Cloak, Linda Feix, Pat Krebs, Rich Parilla, Elaine Waterfield

Annual Meeting

by Sandy Wright

The Friends of OWC Annual meeting was held on February 25th after a delicious brunch at Blue Ribbon Catering. The slate of officers and trustees was unanimously accepted. Congratulations and thank you to Rosemary Kovacs, Vice President, Katie Gore, Treasurer, and trustees, Tim Adams, Nate Fuller, Subha Nagarajan, and Rhonda Watt.

Photo Contest

It is not too early to begin taking photos for our sixth 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.



“The Arrival” by Robert Myer

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.



W: friendsowc.org
E: Info@friendsowc.org

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Friends of Old Woman Creek
PO Box 247
Huron OH 44839

2023 Watershed Report Cards Released

by Bre Hohman

We celebrated World Water Day (March 22nd) with the release of the 2023 Watershed Report Cards of our local creeks. Since 2008, more than 20 volunteers collected water quality data annually from several sites in Pipe Creek and Old Woman Creek watersheds to help tell the public a story of their health. Mills Creek watershed was added in 2011 and Chapel Creek in 2022. The report cards help to make sense of our data by summarizing it into letter grades which most of us have become accustomed to.

Our scores show us there is much more to be done to improve our streams that drain to Lake Erie. **Learn more about our monitoring program and what challenges we have observed in our local streams at the Science Friday presentation at noon on April 5th at the 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

An Earth Day Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 20th at Osborn Park from 11 am to 3 pm. The Friends of OWC are partnering with Erie MetroParks for this event. We will have a 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 Award

by Sandy Wright

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



This year, the Hero Award was presented to Sandy Burris at our annual meeting on February 25th.

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. 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 as president. Thank you for your service!

Starting Saturday, April 6th, the OWC Visitor Center and Nature Gift Shop are open weekends from 1-5 p.m.

Events at OWC

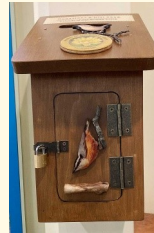
April 5, 12 - 1 PM. Science Friday with Bre Hohman. "Watershed Report Cards" Refreshments provided.

April 6, 2 - 3:30 PM. Photography workshop - Registration required. Call (419) 433-4601.

April 6, 11 AM - 3 PM Vermilion River Watershed Open House. Location 3780 Edgewater Blvd, Vermilion Friends will have a display and gift shop items.

Nature Gift Shop News

Thanks to the talents of Rich Parilla, former board member, we have a new and improved donation/sales receipt box on the wall next to the display case. We expect sales to be brisk this year with more inventory and special deals planned.



Hiking sticks continue to be a favorite item along with Jabebo earrings made from recycled cereal boxes.

On opening weekend of the visitor center, Saturday, April 6th, a print of the famous Charles Courtney Curran painting "Lotus Lilies" painted at OWC in 1888 will be on sale for only \$10.



Meet the Interns

by Sandy Wright

The Friends of OWC is providing financial support for two interns this year. They will be primarily working with the Stewardship, Education and Coastal Training programs. They will gain hands-on experience in the design and implementation of an independent research or education project. The interns will give a presentation of their work at a Science Friday seminar later this summer.



Katie Boutell, the Stewardship intern, joins us from Oberlin College where she studies biology and environmental science. She is abroad this semester in Costa Rica. Her main interest is wildlife, especially herps. She says she is super grateful and excited to be working at OWC this summer. Katie is from Michigan.

Kimberly Villanueva-Bernal, the Education and Interpretation intern, joins us from the University of Kansas where she is majoring in Environmental Science. She has a strong background in STEM work and has experience with early childhood education through the Boys and Girl Club and a local daycare where she is currently working.

Ditches CAN Improve Water

by Breann Hohman

In 2012, the Erie Conservation District installed two conservation ditches in the headwaters of Old Woman Creek to help trap sediment and nutrients from traveling downstream to the estuary. Conservation ditches are different in that they are wide and allow for a natural channel to form among wetland vegetation in the base. Ten years later, and estimated 1,000 tons of sediment has been trapped in just one 900 foot section and with it an estimate 1,800 pounds of phosphorus, and 6,700 pounds of nitrogen. Additional research will help to establish the economics of this conservation practice that provides drainage to the farm and ecosystem services to the creek.