



April-May 2017 Community Programs

Nature School (Founders Hall)

Friday, April 14th

Friday, April 28th

Friday, May 12th

Friday, May 26th

9:00 to 11:00 AM

The purpose of "Nature School" is to introduce the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, games, books, songs, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their 4 to 6 year old - though not required. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Registration required

Fee: \$10 per child or \$5 per child for members (per class)

Walking Guides (Various Locations)

April 8: Outdoor Discovery Center, 10-11 am

April 13: New Richmond Bridge Park, 10-11 am

April 22: Bysterveld Park, 10-11 am

May 8: Allegan Sports Complex, 10-11 am

This spring, we will "virtually walk" 240 miles along regional trails in Michigan. The challenge begins Monday, April 3rd!

This free 7 week program is designed to help you spring into fitness and get moving after a cold winter. Participants of all fitness levels are invited to join.

Join us for one or all of our optional group walks as we explore the different county parks. Each walk will be led by a naturalist guide.

Walks listed above are led by an ODC naturalist. For a full list of the walks please visit

<http://www.miottawa.org/Parks/stepitup.htm> .

Sponsored by Ottawa Department of Public Health, Ottawa County parks & Recreation Commission, Allegan County Michigan, and Allegan County Parks Commission.

No Registration required

Fee: None

Raptor Madness (Visitor Center)**Saturday, April 1st****11:00 – 12:00 PM**

It's finally here. It's what you've been waiting for. It's Raptor Madness!

Come out and meet our Final 4 Raptors up close and personal. Learn facts about our birds of prey as you see them so you can use that knowledge to vote for the winners. After the program follow and vote for your favorites online.

It's going to be a blast!

Registration required**Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members****Awesome Amphibians (Founders Hall)****Monday, April 3rd****11:00 – 12:00 PM**

What the heck is an amphibian and why are they important? Well why don't you join us and find out.

We will have live amphibians to see and touch as we learn about these amazing animals!

No Registration Required**Fee: None****Little Explorers Spring Break Camp (Founders Hall)****Tuesday – Thursday, April 4th, 5th, 6th****9:00 – 12:00 PM**

Do you want to catch frogs and play in mud? Would you like to be an explorer for the day and discover what lives here at the ODC Nature Preserve? In this camp we will do all that and more! We will spend our time outside listening to stories, creating crafts and hiking. Please bring a water bottle and a light snack.

Participant Ages: 4-6 yrs old

Registration required**Fee: \$40 per child, \$25 for members****Picnic with the Birds (Birds of Prey)****Wednesday, April 5th****11:00 – 1:00 PM**

During this open house program, you will learn more about various birds of prey including what they like to eat. Bring along your own picnic lunch to eat while the birds have theirs! This will be a great chance to see the Center's birds up-close and personal.

No Registration Required**Fee: None****Animals, How do they Move? (Founders Hall)****Thursday, April 6th****2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Some hop, some waddle, some even slither! Come learn how animals, all the way from snakes to rabbits, get around! Come dressed for a short walk outside.

Registration required**Fee: None**

Woodcock Watch (Founders Hall)**Thursday, April 6th****8:00 – 9:30 PM**

Explore the nature preserve with a naturalist in search of two bird species most people don't see: American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe. Dress in dark clothing and be prepared to be outside the entire time. Flashlights are welcome. Meet at Founders Hall for a brief introduction before going outside.

Registration Required**Fee: \$4 per person, FREE for members****Hungry, Hungry Serpents (Founders Hall)****Friday, April 7th****2:00 – 3:00 PM**

What do snakes eat? Since they are carnivores, their diet consists of things like toads, worms, and mice! Visit Founders Hall to see these awesome predators in action.

No Registration Required**Fee: None****Spring is Here (Founders Hall)****Saturday, April 8th****11:00 – 12:00 PM**

Visit the ODC and learn about all of the animal happenings going on. Frogs calling, birds building nests, and flowers blooming. There is so much going on outside! After a short hike led by a naturalist there will be a candy egg hunt sponsored by Sam's Club.

Registration Required**Fee: \$4 per child, \$2 for members****Turtles for Tykes (Founders Hall)****Wednesday, April 12th****10:00 – 11:00 AM**

Have your little tyke learn more about turtles like what they eat, how they move and where they like to live in Michigan. There will be live turtles for you and your child to interact with during the program!

Registration Required**Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members****Women in Nature – Nature Photography****Thursday, April 20th****6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. In order to do so we are offering various program experiences.

Learn how to take your best photos of nature by learning from a local professional, Tina Gartley. Tina will give tips on how to get the best shot. If there are any questions about lighting or exposure, she will be a great resource. Bring your camera and be ready to practice!

Registration required**Fee: None**

Knee-deep in a Wetland (Laketown Township)

Friday, April 21st

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Families are invited to meet a naturalist at Farview Park in search of amphibians, insects and other aquatic life. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided. Old shoes or boots that can go into the water are recommended. No sandals or bare feet please. Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Program Location: Farview Nature Park, 6257 138th Avenue, Holland, MI

Registration Required

Fee: None – sponsored by Laketown Township

Mist-netting Songbirds (Founders Hall)

Saturday, April 29th

7:00 – 10:00 AM

Learn all about the world of birds during this morning of mist-netting. The morning will have visitors helping inventory songbird species found on the ODC Nature Preserve. Stay for a few minutes or a few hours. No prior knowledge is necessary and all ages are welcome. Depending on their abilities, participants may be able to help retrieve birds from nets, band birds, record vital information about birds captured and release birds back to the wild.

No Registration Required

Fee: None – sponsored by Hope college biology department

Macatawa River Cleanup

Saturday, April 29th

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Help clean the Macatawa River. Depending on the group size, there may be a crew on the shores of the lake and another in kayaks in the river. Anyone under 16 years old must be with an adult. All boats, paddles and life vests will be provided.

Program Location: Kollen Park, 240 Kollen Park Boulevard, Holland, MI

Registration Required

Fee: None – sponsored by Macatawa Watershed Project

Scat and Tracks for Tykes (Founders Hall)

Friday, May 5th

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Have your little tyke learn more about scat and tracks and which animals leave them behind. Be prepared to go on a walk on our trails and search for animal signs.

Registration required

Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

Spring Wildflowers of Sanctuary Woods (Laketown Township)

Saturday, May 6th

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Hike the natural trails and stairs of Sanctuary Woods with a naturalist as you find and identify woodland wildflowers. Cameras are encouraged. Sturdy hiking shoes are required. Field guides and magnifying glasses will be provided.

Program Location: Sanctuary Woods Preserve, 66th Street, Holland, MI

Registration Required

Fee: None – sponsored by Laketown Township

Early Birds Hike (Park Township)**Saturday, May 13th****7:00 – 9:00 AM**

Wake up with the birds as you hike the trails with a naturalist in search of spring migrants like warblers, vireos, flycatchers and shorebirds. Binoculars and field guides are available for loan. Meet at the Ottawa Beach Road parking lot.

Program Location: Stu Visser Trails, 929 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland, MI**Registration Required****Fee: \$5 per person, \$10 per family****Feeding time for the Animals (Founders Hall)****Saturday, May 13th****11:00 – 12:00 PM**

Help a naturalist or watch as our captive reptiles and amphibians are fed. There will be opportunities for handling of many of the animals. Stay for five minutes or the entire time.

Registration required**Fee: \$2 per child, FREE for members****Women in Nature - Kayaking****Thursday, May 18th****6:00 – 7:30 PM**

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. In order to do so we are offering various program experiences.

Kayaking programs will take place at two local rivers (Rabbit River in Hamilton and Macatawa River in Holland) that have little current and are ideal for an inexperienced or casual paddler. During these programs, women will get the opportunity to learn about river wildlife, our efforts to improve the Macatawa Watershed, and enjoy a casual paddle with a naturalist.

Program Location: Window on the Waterfront, 19 N. River Ave., Holland, MI**Registration Required****Fee: \$10 per person****Knee-deep in a Wetland (Founders Hall)****Saturday, May 20th****11:00 – 12:30 PM**

Catch a frog, touch a tadpole and have fun exploring a wetland on the ODC Nature Preserve with a naturalist. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided. No sandals or bare feet please.

Registration required**Fee: \$4 per child (with accompanying adult), FREE to members**

For more information about ODCMG Programs: www.outdoordiscovery.org
To register for a program, contact the office at odc@outdoordiscovery.org or 616-393-9453
or register on-line.