

Discover Nature

Programs and News
from the ODC Network



Spring
2023



The **ODC Network** is a collection of business divisions with the mission to advance outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan.



FREE ADMISSION—Two Locations!

4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423

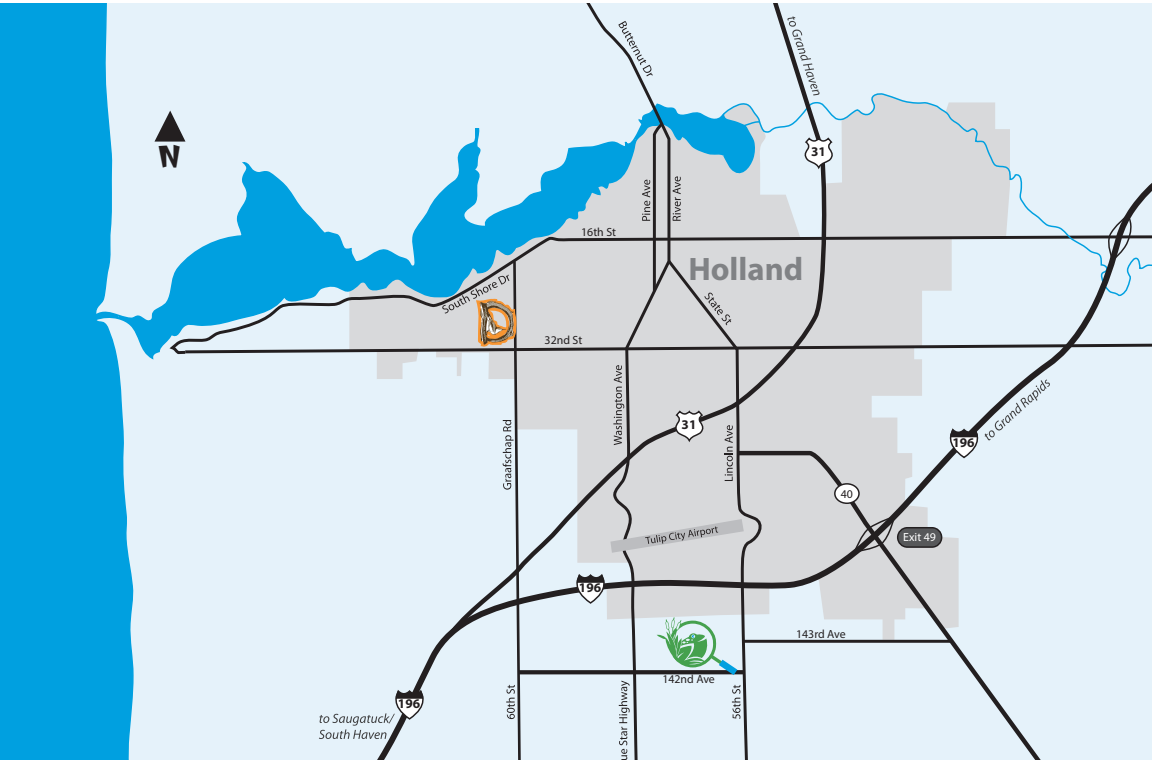


The Outdoor Discovery Center is 155 acres with about 3 miles of trails, located on the south side of Holland, just south of West Michigan Regional Airport. Admission is free! Trails open dawn to dusk—Visitors Center open 10 AM–3 PM, Monday–Saturday.

600 Graafschap Road • Holland, MI • 49423



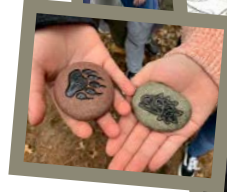
DeGraaf Nature Center is 18 acres of forest and wetlands located within the City of Holland, just south of Lake Macatawa. Admission is free! Trails open dawn to dusk—Helen O Brower Visitors Center open 10 AM–3 PM, Tuesday–Saturday.



Discover Nature • Descubrir la Naturaleza

The Education Network team returned to Harbor Lights Middle School to engage with students outdoors and in conversations about inclusion - in both English and Spanish. It's a weekly after school club for English as a second language students. Various cultures and languages are represented across the group. The activities range from exploring through nature walks, learning through ODC's live animal ambassadors, and outdoor cooking on a grill.

During an inclusion activity, adapted from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, students used rocks with symbols that represent cultural unity. Each rock offered a group reflection: a bear paw, for the Anishnaabe Michigan Tribe, that represents courage to awaken and take action. Another rock symbol, a Cuahtli; Aztec Eagle, teaches the students that building trust in this group space is key to discovering similarities and differences that form authentic relationships. The Ed Network team is grateful to build a shared community with these West Ottawa students and staff.



Pick-Up or Print Your 2023 Park Passport

Self-guided booklet to help explore local parks and natural areas in our nature-rich community



Pick-Up
DeGraaf Nature Center
Outdoor Discovery Center



Print Your Own
Scan the QR code or visit
outdoordiscovery.org/park-passport

Available in English and Spanish!

Join us for a Program!

In the following pages, you will find titles or descriptions of our community programs available in the upcoming months. Look for more on our website or Facebook!

Program Locations

Programs may be held at the **Outdoor Discovery Center**, at **DeGraaf Nature Center**, or at **various other parks** and natural areas in our community. Attend programs closest to you— or discover new places in our community. All locations are listed next to the program title—when necessary, the address and details can be found in *italics* beneath the program description.



Outdoor Discovery Center
4214 56th Street
Holland, MI 49423
outdoordiscovery.org



DeGraaf Nature Center
600 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423
degraaf.org



Other Locations
*Addresses listed beneath
program description*

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Find the right program for you at a glance with suggested age ranges at the top of each description.

These are flexible with ability and attention span.

1 Raptor Madness

April 2023

May

June

2	3 Michigan's Animals	4 Explore A Story	5	6 Woodcock Walk	7 Knee-high Naturalists	8 Awesome Amphibians
		Discover Nature Spring Break Camp			Snake Snacks	
		Little Explorers Spring Break Camp				
9	10 Monday Morning Bird Walk	11	12 Nature For Tykes	13	14 Knee-high Naturalists	15 Sustainability from the Native American Community
	Homeschool - Signs of Spring				VoLes	
16	17 Monday Morning Bird Walk	18	19	20	21 Knee-high Naturalists	22 VoLes
					VoLes	A Symphony In Nature
23	24 Monday Morning Bird Walk	25 Migratory Birds & Trail Cleanup	26	27 Birds & Brews	28 Knee-high Naturalists	29 Grand River Cleanup
		Woodland Wildflower Walk			Tree Sale	
30	1 Monday Morning Bird Walk	2 Senior Series: Wildflowers	3	4 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring	5 Knee-high Naturalists	6 Turtle Races
7	8 Monday Morning Birdwalk	9	10	11	12 Knee-high Naturalists	13
	Homeschool - Animal Caretakers				VoLes	
14	15 Monday Morning Birdwalk	16 Explore A Story	17 Nature For Tykes	18 Step It Up!	19 Knee-high Naturalists	20 Lake Mac Cleanup
						VoLes
21	22 Monday Morning Birdwalk	23 Women In Nature - Archery	24	25	26 Knee-high Naturalists	27 DeGraaf Visitors Center Closed
	Frog Catching					
28	29 ODC & DeGraaf Visitors Center Closed	30	31 ODC Cup Golf Outing	1	2 Knee-high Naturalists	3 Step It Up!
					Springtime Story	
4	5 Explore A Story	6 Project Clarity 10th Anniversary Celebration	7	8 Women In Nature - Kayaking	9 Knee-High Naturalist	10 Frog Catching!
					Banquet for Birds	
					WiN - Clay Workshop	
11	12 Homeschool - Wonderful Wetlands	13 Time Travel ABC's	14	15 Nature For Tykes	16 Knee-high Naturalists	17 VoLes
		Little Explorers			Creek Stomp	
					Family Kayaking	
18	19 Senior Series: Birds of Prey	20 Time Travel ABC's	21 Critter Catchers	22 Nature Puppet Show	23 Road-Stream Survey	24
	Step It Up!			Compost with Ken	Knee-High Naturalist	
					Banquet for Birds	
					Snake Snacks	
					VoLes	
25	26 Story Time	27 Time Travel ABC's	28	29 Adult Archery Night	30 Knee-high Naturalists	

Live Birds of Prey—Raptor Madness Final Four (ODC) **Ages 6-99**

Come one, come all to our Birds of Prey Final Four. We will be highlighting the winners and losers of our Raptor Madness at this live bird show, no brackets necessary.

Saturday, April 1 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Michigan's Animals (ODC)** **Ages 4-99**

Learn about the reptiles, amphibians, and birds that can be found in Michigan with a naturalist! Live animals will be used in this family-friendly presentation. Time to handle some of the wildlife is dependent on the size of the audience.

Monday, April 3 • 1–2 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

Discover Nature Spring Break Camp **Ages 7-11 Drop-off**

This camp is for kids who are crazy about wildlife. They will study a variety of animals and plants native to Michigan and the habitats where they live at the Outdoor Discovery Center. We will discover animals both in the wild and from the Center's captive animal collection during camp.

Tuesday-Thursday, April 4-6 • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required • Fee: \$80 per child, \$64 for members

**Little Explorers Spring Break Camp (ODC)** **Ages 4-6 Drop-off**

Does your little one like to look for bugs and play in the mud? Would they like to explore for the day and discover what lives here at the Outdoor Discovery Center? In this camp we will do all that and more! We will spend our time inside and outside listening to stories, creating crafts, and hiking.

Tuesday-Thursday, April 4-6 • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required • Fee: \$80 per child, \$64 for members

**Woodcock Walk (ODC)** **Ages 6-99**

Explore the nature preserve with a naturalist in search of the elusive American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe. Dress in dark clothing and be prepared to be outside the entire time.

Thursday, April 6 • 8:30–9:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Knee-high Naturalists (ODC)** **Ages 3-6 Drop-off**

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into the experience.

April 7 • 10–11:30 AM

May 5 • 10 AM–12 PM

June 2 • 10 AM–12 PM

April 21 • 10–11:30 AM

May 19 • 10 AM–12 PM

June 16 • 10 AM–12 PM

Fridays • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 for members

June 30 • 10 AM–12 PM

Snake Snacks (ODC) **Ages 3-99**

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Come to the Visitors Center and watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Friday, April 7 • 2–3 PM

Friday, June 23 • 3:30–4:30 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Awesome Amphibians (ODC)** **Ages 4-99**

Learn about amphibians and why are they important! We will have live amphibians to see and touch as we learn about these amazing animals! Then, we will go on a frog hunt. Please dress for the weather.

Saturday, April 8 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

Homeschool Classes (ODC) Ages 6-10 Drop-off

Join one of these programs to learn all about our local spring ecology, daily upkeep of captive wildlife, or macroinvertebrate life in a wetland. Dress for the weather as the majority of the program will be held outdoors.

- Monday, April 10 • Theme: Signs of Spring
 - Monday, May 8 • Theme: Animal Caretakers
 - Monday, June 12 • Theme: Wonderful Wetlands
- 10 AM–12 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child



Nature for Tykes (ODC) Ages 3-7

Bring out your little tykes to learn more about nature. In each program, you and your little tyke will have the opportunity to explore together. This spring we will be learning about signs that warmer weather is coming, wildflowers, and wetlands! Please dress for the weather.

- Wednesday, April 12 • Theme: Signs of Spring
- Wednesday, May 17 • Theme: Wildflowers (at Rabbit River)
- Thursday, June 15 • Theme: Wetlands

10–11 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$6 per child, \$4 for members



VoLes (ODC) Ages 12-18 Drop-off

Our Volunteer League (nicknamed “VoLes”) is a service club for teens to experience what it takes to maintain a natural area and captive wildlife. This program is designed for 12–18 year olds who will work with staff on a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks at the ODC and DeGraaf. Past projects have included removing invasive species, cleaning up animal enclosures, and adding nature play features. It’s a great way to earn those community service volunteer hours!



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fri, April 14 • 3:30–5 PM | Fri, May 12 • 3:30–5 PM | Sat, June 17 • 10 AM–12 PM |
| Sat, April 22 • 10 AM–12 PM | Sat, May 20 • 10 AM–12 PM | Fri, June 23 • 3:30–5 PM |
- Registration required • Fee: FREE* (Window on the Waterfront)

A Symphony In Nature (ODC) Ages 12-99

Hear a talk and take a spring walk to learn about the influences of the natural world on Gustav Mahler’s music, concentrating on the Third Symphony and the Songs of a Wayfarer, which will be performed by the Holland Symphony Orchestra at their April 22nd concert. Led by Sarah Southard, educator and principal oboist for the HSO, along with an ODC naturalist, musical themes such as birdsong, water, and the inspiration of being outdoors will be explored.

Saturday, April 22 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE

Monday Morning Bird Walk (ODC) Ages 7-99

Start off your week bird watching during the peak months of bird migration. Thrushes, finches, flycatchers, vireos and warblers will be pursued as the group walks the trails of the nature center. Binoculars will be available to borrow.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Monday, May 1 | Monday, May 15 |
| Monday, May 8 | Monday, May 22 |

8:30–9:30 AM • Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE



Hooded Warbler

Senior Series (ODC) Seniors

Join us for a leisurely stroll at Sanctuary Woods as we look for spring wildflowers, or at the Outdoor Discovery Center to meet some of the amazing rescued birds of prey that call Michigan home. Adults only please.

- Tuesday, May 2 • Wildflowers (at Sanctuary Woods)
- Monday, June 19 • Birds of Prey

10–11 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members



Turtle Races (ODC) Ages 0-99

Come one, come all to the great turtle race! Meet the competitors, and learn a little bit about some of our native turtles. Pick your favorite one and root for it during the race. They might end shell and shell with each other—come out to see the excitement!

Saturday, May 6 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Women In Nature Archery (ODC)** Ages 12-99

Designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active, and passionate about the natural world surrounding them.

This archery program will include a quick lesson on how to shoot a bow and arrow, which will be taught by one of our certified women archery instructors. Then participants will have the opportunity to practice for the rest of the evening. Fun 3D targets will be set up, along with normal ring targets.

Tuesday, May 23 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$12 per person

Program Location: Meet at Kuipers Archery Range, 5675 142nd Ave, Holland

**Banquet for the Birds (ODC)** Ages 0-99

Stop by the De Witt Birds of Prey Center during this open house style program and watch a naturalist feed our resident raptors. You can bring a snack for yourself too! Plan on a 15 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center.

Friday, June 9

Friday, June 23

10:30 AM–12 PM • *No registration necessary • Fee: FREE*

**Frog Catching! (ODC)** Ages 0-99

Families are invited to meet a naturalist in search of amphibians, insects, and other aquatic life. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided.

Saturday, June 10 • 10–11:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Critter Catchers (ODC)** Ages 4-12

Our captive education animals are hungry! Learn what they like to eat, then head out on the trails to catch their prey. Bring your catch back to the center and help a naturalist feed the reptiles and amphibians. Nets and other materials for capturing animals will be provided.

Wednesday, June 21 • 10–11 AM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

Nature Puppet Show (ODC) Ages 0-7

You're invited to join us for a puppet show! Let's learn about wild animals and their habitat homes. After the show, stick around to meet some live Michigan animals up close.

Thursday, June 22 • 10–11 AM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

Adult Archery Night (ODC) Ages 17-99

Hey grown-ups, don't you want to shoot an arrow at a dinosaur? What about a giant mosquito? Well then, come on out to the ODC for your chance to learn or hone your archery skills. We will provide all of the equipment. (Sorry, no outside bows.)

Thursday, June 29 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$12 per person, \$9 for members

Program Location: Meet at Kuipers Archery Range, 5675 142nd Ave, Holland





Friends of the ODC Network,

We are pleased to share the 2022 ODC Network Annual Report with you highlighting another very productive year advancing the ODC Network mission on several fronts. 2022 marked the most significant growth year in ODC Network's History. As you review the impact report, we hope you are inspired by our accomplishments this past year.

We also hope you continue to trust and believe in our team and see the tremendous impact, leverage, and value our investment in the ODC Network generates for West Michigan.

Sincerely,



Travel with Explorer Network

Plan now to take a bucket list trip with us in 2024!



Women in Nature: Galapagos Islands • Spring Dates TBD

Experience an abundance of wildlife and a natural landscape unlike any other in the world. We will reserve a private catamaran and tour the Galapagos Islands with a private guide and on-board chef. The group will hike, snorkel, and cruise around a number of islands exploring the stunning landscapes, seeing renowned wildlife and relaxing in the warm equatorial sun.

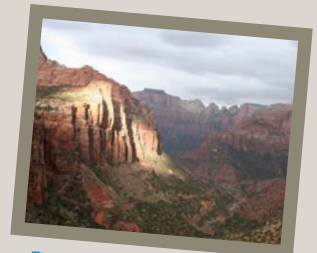


Coastal Alaska • September 2-12, 2024

Coastal Alaska boasts magnificent scenery, breathtaking glaciers, abundant sea life, and pristine wilderness. This will be the trip of a lifetime aboard the Sea Wolf; a 97 foot private pleasure cruiser with on-board kayaks, zodiacs, and a private chef. From the Sea Wolf, we explore Glacier Bay National Park and the Tongass National Forest with daily excursions by boat and on land.

Utah's Big Five • September 26-October 5, 2024

Southern Utah holds an extraordinary collection of uniquely amazing geologic features stretching across the state as well as Northern Arizona. Formed over millions of years of erosive forces, five National Parks anchor this seemingly alien landscape: Arches NP, Bryce Canyon NP, Canyonlands NP, Capitol Reef NP, and Zion NP. Take a step back in time and experience the deep geologic and human history of the region as you visit one of the most unique landscapes on the planet.



To learn more, visit outdoordiscovery.org/explore or email explore@outdoordiscovery.org

Sponsor an ODC Education Animal

Sponsoring an animal is a personal commitment to help us advance outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan. The ODC is home to 26 birds of prey, five mammals, and several reptiles and amphibians. These animals act as ambassadors for their

species to help ODC staff educate thousands of people about Michigan wildlife. Sponsoring an education animal of your choosing helps us to meet the animals' holistic care needs, such as diet and enrichment, throughout their lives.

To learn more, scan the code or visit outdoordiscovery.org/outdoordiscoverycenter/visit/sponsor-an-animal



Gear Up for Summer!

As an outdoor education and conservation organization, summer is always the busiest season for the ODC Network. 84,000 people—and counting—from throughout the Midwest visit our nature preserves, play on our nature playscapes, walk our trails, and sell out our programs and summer camps. We are grateful to have so many people engaged in the many experiences ODC offers. Offering a high-quality experience is a top priority, organization-wide.

During the summer, thousands of families enjoy our kayaking programs, our properties' native habitats are restored and maintained for visitors to enjoy 365 days a year, and local students enroll in our summer educational programs. To meet this growing demand, we need your help to "Gear up for Summer." Maintaining our equipment, tools, and trails is necessary to continue providing impeccable services. As such, we are asking for your support to outfit our teams and facilities for what will likely be our busiest summer yet!



ODC Conservation Services needs your help restoring 25 acres of prairie to grow our impact in the Macatawa Watershed.



The Outdoor Discovery Center needs your help providing safe and memorable experiences on our trails and waterways.



The ODC Education Network needs your help providing resources for children to thrive in our nature-based summer education model.

Go to outdoordiscovery.org/give to learn more and donate.

Explore a Story Ages 0-7

It's time to round up the little ones and come to DeGraaf Nature Center for Explore a Story! We'll be introducing kids to the outdoors through books and outdoor adventures. We'll read stories, take hikes, meet animals, and have lots of fun.

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday, May 16

Monday, June 5

10–11 AM • Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per child, \$4 for members

Monday Morning Bird Walk Ages 7-99

Start off your week bird watching during the peak months of bird migration. Thrushes, finches, flycatchers, vireos and warblers will be pursued as the group walks the trails of the nature center. Binoculars will be available to borrow.

Monday, April 10

Monday, April 17

Monday, April 24

8:30–9:30 AM • Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE

Knee-high Naturalists Ages 3-6 Drop-off

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

April 14 • **10–11:30 AM**

May 12 • **10 AM–12 PM**

June 9 • **10 AM–12 PM**

April 28 • **10–11:30 AM**

May 26 • **10 AM–12 PM**

June 23 • **10 AM–12 PM**

Fridays • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 for members

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi—Learning Sustainability From the Native American Community

Join us for this family-friendly, interactive presentation on sustainability practices led by a local tribal member from the Pokagon Band. *This program is in partnership with the City of Holland's Youth Advisory Council and funded through the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.*

Saturday, April 15 • 1–2 PM Ages 0-99

Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE

**Time Travel ABC's** Ages 5-99

Make history come alive with local resident and historical interpreter, Onalee Zartman, as you explore daily doings of cabin life through Artifacts, Books and Crafts. Try something new...or old! *(Food not provided)*

Tuesday, June 13

Tuesday, June 20

Tuesday, June 27

10 AM–3 PM • Registration is not required • Fee: FREE

**Composting With Ken Freestone** Ages 12-99

Join Master Composter Ken Freestone as he demonstrates how to build a low-maintenance compost bin, as well as methods of composting and ways to use it. (Includes a take-home kit of materials to build your own compost bin.)

Thursday, June 22 • 7–8:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$40 per bin, \$32 for members

**Volunteer Opportunities****Macroinvertebrate Monitoring (DeGraaf)** Ages 14-99

Come help us investigate the health of our area streams by collecting the aquatic macroinvertebrates that live there. No experience required and all equipment will be provided.

Thursday, May 4 • 8:30 AM - 2 PM • Registration required • Fee: FREE

**Road-Stream Crossing Surveying (DeGraaf)** Ages 18-99

Come help us inventory the conditions of the road-stream crossings in the Macatawa Watershed. No experience required and all equipment will be provided.

Friday, June 23 • 8 AM–12 PM • Registration required • Fee: FREE



Woodland Wildflower Walk (Sanctuary Woods)

Ages 6-99

We will hike this amazing dune ecosystem to see what animals and plants are ready for spring.

Tuesday, April 25 • 5–6 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location: Sanctuary Woods, 4749 66th Street, Holland



Birds and Brews (Saugatuck Brewing Company)

Ages 21-99

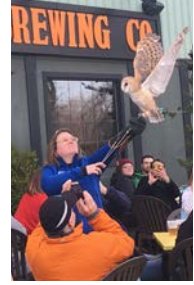
Join us for the 7th annual Live Birds of Prey & Beer Show! You'll see and learn about 5 different Birds of Prey and "pair" each bird's personality with the characteristics of one of SBC's beers.

Thursday, April 27 • 6:30–8:30 PM

Registration required - buy your tickets at saugatuckbrewing.com

Fee: Tickets are \$30-35/person and include the live Birds of Prey show, a welcome pint, 5 rounds of pairing and all gratuities. IDs required.

Program location: Saugatuck Brewing Company - 2948 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas



Step It Up! (Various Locations)

Ages 0-99

This free, 8-week program is designed to help you get active and visit new parks. Join us for one or all of our optional group walks as we explore different parks. Each walk will be led by a guide. More info: www.miottawa.org/Parks/stepitup.htm.

Thursday, May 18 • 5:30–6:30 PM • Bysterveld Park

Saturday, June 3 • 10–11 AM • New Richmond Bridge Park

Monday, June 19 • 1–2 PM • Outdoor Discovery Center

Registration is not required, but appreciated - www.miottawa.org/Parks/stepitup.htm

Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Ottawa County Department of Public Health, Ottawa County Parks & Recreation, Allegan County Department of Public Health, and Allegan County Parks Commission.

Frog Catching! (Farview Park)

Ages 4-12

Families are invited to meet a naturalist at Farview Park in search of amphibians, insects and other aquatic life.

Monday, May 22 • 4–5:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Laketown Township

Program Location: Farview Park - 6257 138th Ave, Holland

Springtime Story (West Side Park)

Ages 0-7

Enjoy a story and a stroll as we find out who's awake for spring, who came back for warm weather, and how the animals that stayed all winter are getting ready for spring. Includes live animals!

Friday, June 2 • 10–11 AM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation

Program location: West Side Park - 2152 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville

Migratory Birds and Trail Cleanup (Stu Visser Trails)

Ages 8-99

Learn to identify some amazing birds as you hike the trails with a naturalist in search of spring migrating species. We will also clean up the trail as we walk, helping improve the habitats these birds need to survive.

Tuesday, April 25 • 8:30–10 AM • Registration required • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Park Township

Program Location: Stu Visser Trails - 923 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland

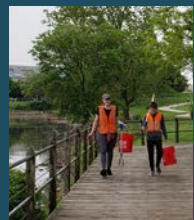
Lake Macatawa Clean-Up (at Window on the Waterfront)

Ages 5-99

Help clean Lake Macatawa at Window on the Waterfront from the shore or in a kayak. All bags, gloves, grabbers, boats, paddles, and life vests will be provided.

Saturday, May 20 • 10 AM–12 PM • Registration required • Fee: FREE

Program Location: Window on the Waterfront - 10 S. River Ave, Holland



Save the Date!

August 12,
2023



Any interested sponsors can email
ashley@outdoordiscovery.org

ODC Cup at Diamond Springs Golf Course



Wednesday, May 31

AM & PM Flights Available

During this event, golfers can learn about all aspects of the ODC Network and see live birds of prey—try to chip in a birdie for a birdie!

All funds raised will directly support the ODC Network's mission of advancing outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan.

Thanks to our first-in Sponsors:



Kamminga Family Charitable Fund

Get more details and register your team at

outdoordiscovery.org/golf



Interested in becoming a Sponsor?

There are a variety of sponsor levels available to fit your investment goals. Based on your chosen sponsorship level, you have the opportunity to have your logo on our website, recognition on all marketing materials, social media recognition, and one team registration.

For more information, please email Ashley VanZee, ashley@outdoordiscovery.org



Feast On Flavorful Foods at the Outdoor Discovery Center

Peachwave Frozen Yogurt

Available Memorial Day–Labor Day

We are excited to be opening the frozen yogurt stand in the main parking lot again this spring! There will be Peachwave branded vanilla and chocolate, and Dole Whip branded froyo available with a number of delicious toppings.

Food Trucks at ODC

Various Dates May–September



Throughout the summer, ODC is hosting a number of food trucks at our nature preserve. Many of the trucks will

be onsite for lunch or dinner, which is a fun addition to your next ODC visit. Go to outdoordiscovery.org/ode-food-trucks for a calendar of upcoming trucks. If you own a food truck and would like to bring it out, contact Ashley VanZee, ashley@outdoordiscovery.org



Women In Nature Series

Designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active, and passionate about the natural world surrounding them.

Kayaking (Schutmaat Park) Ages 12-99

Learn about river wildlife, our efforts to improve local watersheds, and enjoy a casual paddle with a naturalist. The Rabbit River has little current, ideal for an inexperienced or casual paddler.

Thursday, June 8 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$15 per person

Program Location: Schutmaat Park - 3500 Willyard, Hamilton



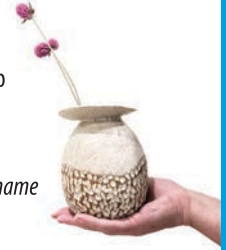
Clay Workshop (Holland Area Arts Council) Ages 18-99

Join us at the Holland Area Arts Council for another collaborative clay workshop! Ceramicists at HAAC will instruct how to make a pinch pot vase (no experience with clay needed)! This program is great for beginners as well as seasoned ceramicists. After our workshop, items will stay at HAAC for the drying, firing, and glazing processes; you can pick-up from HAAC after 3-4 weeks. *Light refreshments provided. Facility is fully handicapped accessible.*

Friday, June 9 • 6–8 PM

Registration required and limited. To register, email helpdesk@hollandarts.org with name & class name

Fee: \$75 per person • Program Location: Holland Area Arts Council - 150 8th St, Holland



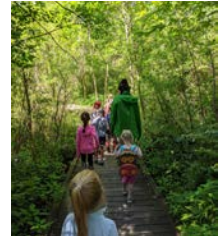
Little Explorers (Wolters Woods) Ages 0-6

Explore the nature trails as only a preschooler could. Find colors, shapes, and textures on the easily accessible trails of Wolters Woods. All materials will be provided. At the conclusion of the program, feel free to make time to play on the playground.

Tuesday, June 13 • 10–11 AM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Laketown Township

Program Location: Wolters Woods - 6281 147th Avenue, Holland



Creek Stomp (Stu Visser Trails) Ages 0-99

Explore the wetlands and Pine Creek at Stu Visser Trails with a naturalist in search of insects, fish, crayfish and crustaceans! All materials will be provided.

Friday, June 16 • 10:30 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Park Township

Program location: Stu Visser Trails - 929 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland



Family Kayaking (Littlejohn Lake Park) Ages 8-99

Paddle Littlejohn Lake with naturalists from the ODC Network. Kayaks, paddles, and vests are provided. The group will launch from the Gun Lake boat launch and paddle around the shore line. Good for beginner to experienced kayakers!

Friday, June 16 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation

Program Location: Littlejohn Lake Park - 3540 113th Avenue, Allegan

Story Time (Winstrom Park) Ages 0-7

Bring the little ones out to Winstrom Park and enjoy a story read by one of our naturalists and meet some of our captive animals. We will go on a short hike exploring for interesting plants and animals.

Monday, June 26 • 10–11 AM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Park Township

Program Location: Winstrom Park - 1774 Perry St, Holland

Employees Celebrating their 10 Year Anniversary at ODC!

President and Chief Operating Officer
David (Dave) Nyitra



Special Powers:

- Always greets you like he's had the right number of cups of coffee
- Has his finger on the pulse of almost anything
- Does not contract hypothermia easily
- Has a Moses-like ability to disseminate information from CEO to the ODC staff

Past Positions at ODC: Development Director

- Weaknesses:** Taste in Baseball Teams
 Free satellite radio offers (or any bargain)
 Notes written in cursive

Favorite Memory



"Being able to take my son and daughter to an amazing nature-based early childhood experience during the pandemic."

Silly Memory



"Well I'm predisposed for ridiculousness... I'm partial to a Stetson hat on Explorer Network trips, leave work wearing other people's coats; I can be "hangry" and correspondingly seek out meetings with a free lunch or snacks, and I may race around the Visitors Center or flights of stairs as part of friendly wagers."

Note from co-worker: Ashley



"Dave took a chance on hiring me after an internship—and I have been lucky enough to work beside him for nearly eight years. From having work gloves in his desk drawer to hiking in his dress shoes on a site tour, he is always ready to connect with our community and share the mission of the ODC, helping each division continue to provide quality services and programs during periods of growth."

Dave's Reflection

The ODC —being an organization with a knack for molding the future—has done the same for me. Personally, I've grown both in my own abilities and in the confidence to step out as part of a team on behalf of the community to do amazing things. I've seen how the ODC has helped change the collective community course. Lake Macatawa saw the lowest levels of Phosphorus in my lifetime last year, nature-based early childhood programming reached nearly 400 students annually, more than 500,000 people have participated in ODC programs, and an additional 600 acres of land have been preserved. The ODC plays a pivotal role in our community, but we couldn't do any of it without our supporters and partners. There are bold partners working with us on expanding child care opportunities in the community and it's amazing to envision their impact on the next 10 years. ”

Vice President of Programming
Joy Funk



Special Powers:

- Able to handle giant eagles
- Tows dozens of kayaks with a single vehicle
- ID's all the weird landscaping varieties of plants
- Great trailside manner

Past Positions at ODC: Naturalist

- Wildlife Manager
- Chief Naturalist

Weaknesses: Calling fly balls in ODC softball
 Trips over benches
 Easily enamored with cute kittens and large dogs

Favorite Memory



"I spent 18 months training our young bald eagle. It is one of the most challenging and rewarding things I've done."

Silly Memory



"On an Explorer Network trip to Washington with highschoolers, we stopped in Minnesota to camp for the night and a thunderstorm was coming in. Jamie and I got on our rain gear and sat in a meadow and watched as the storm moved towards us and we sat in the rain enjoying the beauty of nature."

Note from co-worker: Andrea



"Joy brings together all the frantically moving pieces so that the many educators of the ODC Network can do their very best. I've personally grown so much thanks to Joy. Thank you Joy, for being such a great leader and friend!"

Joy's Reflection

10 years ago the ODC was a different place with only 12ish employees and a lot of ambition. I was also a different person 10 years ago. I had only been married 7 months and had just moved to Michigan for this position. Since then, I have bought a house, traveled a lot, lost a parent, added pets to the family and became a mom. As we have grown together, I am so fortunate to call the ODC home. I have always felt welcomed and appreciated at the ODC. My thoughts and ideas are always considered and I've tried out a lot of new ideas at the ODC. Failure is treated as a growth opportunity and successes are celebrated. It only took 8 years to convince the ODC we needed an Opossum. I sincerely enjoy managing the amazing program team and am so fortunate to have such great co-workers. My favorite thing is still when a student tells me their field trip day "is the best day of their lives". That will never get old for me. I'm looking forward to another 10 years calling the ODC home. ”

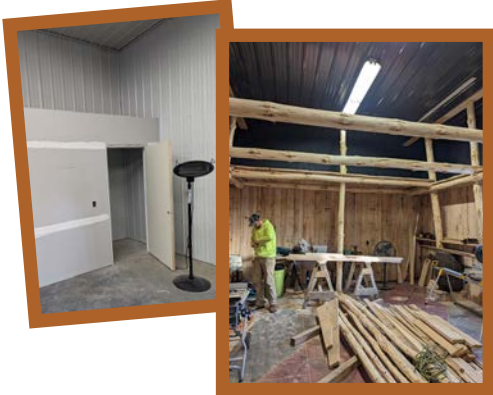
Thank you both for your commitment and contributions to the ODC throughout the last decade!



Continued Updates to Bradford Cultural History Classroom



INSIDE



Our operations team has been working on outfitting our Voyageur Fur Trading classroom. All of their hard work has made the space loosely reflect a traders cabin and the ambiance will be hard to beat. With wooden beams, barrels, and new wood panelling this space will be perfect to talk about the fur traders of Michigan.

OUTSIDE

New bathrooms and their accompanying heating systems were completed in early Spring. School groups were still able to use the space throughout the construction, and everyone is excited for these new improvements.



Funding by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council includes funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



We appreciate their investment in our efforts to help people learn about Michigan's cultural history.



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