

Discover Nature

Winter 2018-2019





In this quarterly program guide you will find a wide variety of ODC programs being offered to our community. We'll also share some updates from our organization—this fall we're excited to announce new developments on both the Macatawa River and Kalamazoo River Greenways.

Hi Everyone,

Our mission is to connect people, land, and nature through outdoor education, greenway development, and habitat and wildlife conservation. In this work, we are making our community the best place to live, learn, work, and play. We rely on partnerships and support from the community to accomplish our goals.

We hope you consider joining us for one of our upcoming programs and enjoy this edition of *Discover Nature!*

Travis Williams
Chief Executive Officer
ODC Network

Visit Us

4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423 616.393.9453

The Outdoor Discovery Center is a 155 acre nature preserve of the ODC Network located on the south side of Holland, south of West Michigan Regional Airport. The site includes 3 miles of trails.



FREE ADMISSION



Join us for a Program!

In the following pages, you will find descriptions of all our community programs in the upcoming months. If you have young children, check out the **Parent & Child** program section. **Programs for Everyone** include those designed for older children, teens, families, and adults – feel free to call us at 616-393-9453 anytime you have a question about a program.

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT OUTDOORDISCOVERY.ORG.

Program Locations

Most programs meet at the Visitors Center, Founders Hall, or the Discovery Pavilion. Go to our main entrance at: 4214 56th Street, Holland, MI, 49423.



Visitors Center



Founders Hall



Discovery Pavilion

We also lead programs at other locations around the community. These locations are listed next to the program title and if off-site, the address and details can be found in italics beneath the program description.

Welcome to the Outdoor Discovery Center! Popular features are shown below.

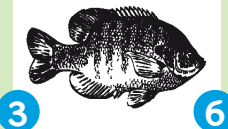


taxidermy collection.
Open 9 AM–4 PM Monday-Saturday.



Imagination Forest

Dig in a sandbox or balance on logs; enjoy the Discovery Pavilion nearby for picnic tables and bathrooms.



Catch-and-Release Fishing Ponds

Bring your own gear and try your luck fishing off one of the docks.



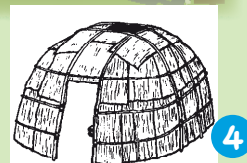
Fillmore Discovery Park

Stack blocks, build forts, climb over obstacles, or overlook the fun from the pavilion.



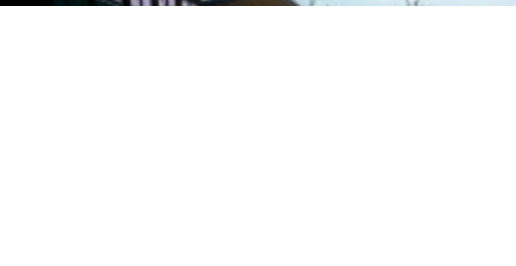
De Witt Birds of Prey Center

See live hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls up close!



Ottawa Summer Village

Explore a replica village including a bent frame house, cook house, and three-pole house.



Registration for 2019-20 School Year Opens January 29

The ODC Network offers preschool classes for 3 and 4 year old children at its Little Hawks Discovery Preschool. Running from mid-September to mid-May, Little Hawks offers a nature-based preschool program that is unique in its emphasis on outdoor play as a key component for preschoolers' development and school readiness. Children spend at least half of each preschool session outdoors—throughout the year!

Registration for the 2019/20 school year will begin on January 29, 2019. To register, parents will need to complete a registration form online and pay a registration deposit of \$50.

Scholarships and tuition assistance are available for qualifying families. We participate in Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for qualifying 4-year-olds.

More information about Little Hawks Discovery Preschool can be found at littlehawks.org.

If you are interested in receiving announcements and registration information by email, add your family to our contact list. Visit littlehawks.org/homepage/registration.



Half-day sessions offered:

- 3-years old** **4-years old**
- 3's and 4's together**

Children must be 3 years old on or before September 1st to enroll.



Nature for Tykes (Founders Hall)

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—making crafts from nature, discovering how amazing snow is, and learning how animals survive our winters! Please dress for the weather.

Wednesday, December 5 • Theme: Crafts

Wednesday, January 9 • Theme: Snow

Wednesday, February 20 • Theme: Winter Survival
10–11:00 AM

Registration is required

Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

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Nature School (Founders Hall)

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.

Friday, December 7

Friday, December 21

Friday, January 4

Friday, January 18

Friday, February 1

Friday, February 15

10 AM–12:00 PM

Registration is required

Fee: \$10 per child or \$5 per child for members

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Explore a Story (Founders Hall)

It's time to round up the little ones and come out to the ODC for Explore a Story!

We will be introducing kids to the outdoors through books and outdoor adventures.

We'll read stories, take hikes, meet animals, and have lots of fun.

Dress for the weather because we will be heading outside to experience the nature around us!

Tuesday, December 11

Tuesday, January 15

Tuesday, February 12

9–10:00 AM

*Registration is not required,
but appreciated*

Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



Cervidae - The Deer Family

Cervidae (pronounced serve-ih-day) is the name given to a group of mammals more commonly known as the Deer Family. In North America, members of this family include moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, caribou,

and elk. We can call each of these cervids in general. Being in the same family doesn't mean they are all brothers and sisters, it means that they have a lot of features in common.

Cervids have...

...antlers.

Antlers are bones that grow every year and are shed every year.

In most species just the males grow antlers, but female caribou can grow antlers too.



...no top incisors.

Cervids have no top teeth in the front of their mouth.

Instead, they have a hard palate. It's the chopping block that the bottom teeth cut against.



...4 toes on each foot.

Most of the time, cervids walk on their bigger two toes, called the hoof.

Being up on their tiptoes allows cervids to run fast.



Michigan Populations

Moose (*Alces alces*)

- Estimated to be 400 individuals in the Upper Peninsula, over 1,600 found on Isle Royale in western Lake Superior
- After near extinction from Michigan by late 1800's, two different introductions of moose were made to increase UP populations (1930's and 1980's)

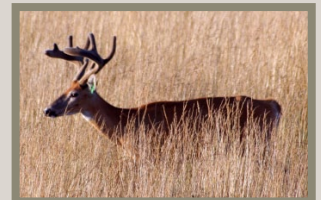


Rocky Mountain Elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*)

- Estimated to be 1,200 individuals in northeastern Lower Peninsula
- Eastern Elk became extinct in the late 1800's
- Rocky Mountain Elk first introduced to Michigan in 1918 near Wolverine, Michigan

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

- Estimated to be 1.75 million individuals throughout the state
- Approximately 45,000 deer in 1914, up to 1.125 million deer in 1937, and 1.5 million by 1949
- Over hunting and habitat destruction resulted in population decline between the 1960's and 1970's to about 500,000 individuals



Deer Family Word Search

Can you find all the deer-related terms in the box below?

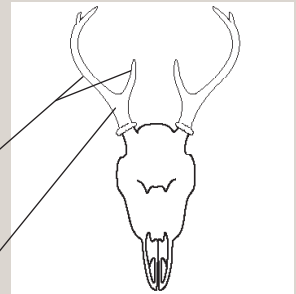
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 T I T I P A W R G I O T Y L U
 F V M O O S E G X D E O O L E
 O E Z R R E U A R A H R G X Z
 O L J X D R B K V E P M V H X
 H V R Z K V M M A C X E W P R
 W E Q B S A Y T L J P B U F F
 O T J K C U B J I A Z D J K A
 C W H I T E T A I L W F L L D
 X V D N L S I E V T P E T E G
 Z G A G W R N D B L G B Y K P
 V G T F T O X N K D M N Q Z C

DEER
 ELK
 MOOSE
 CERVIDAE
 ANTLER
 HOOF
 VELVET
 BUCK
 DOE
 FAWN
 WAPITI
 WHITETAIL
 RUT
 BUGLE

Antlers versus Horns

- Antlers are unique to the deer family
- Consist of branched structures made of solid bone
- Antlers are shed each year
- While growing they have a fuzzy covering of skin called velvet
- Velvet begins to peel off when fully grown
- Fully grown antlers are exposed, dead bone

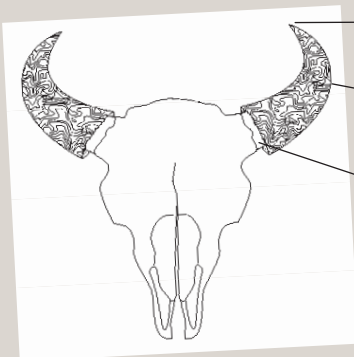
Deer Antler



branched

solid bone

Bison Horn



single point

keratin sheath

bone core

- Horns are permanent structures made of living bone covered with keratin
- Characteristic of the bovine family: bison, goats, sheep, and domestic cattle
- Only males of most species grow horns

Dear Ms. Joy and Andrew

Feb 20 2018

Thank you for leading us around, telling us facts because you're so smart when it comes to birds of prey! and just making the trip so much funner! I appreciate you leading us around because alot of us have never been there. Now I want to go there again with my friends and family. My favorite part was you guys showing us the peregrine falcon, the great horned owl, and the red tailed hawk. Thanks again for leading us around.



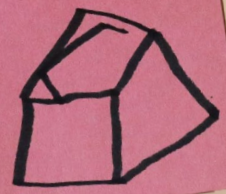
Dear staff of ODC

Thank you for letting me learn a lot. I learned a lot of great things. Queen Ann's lace



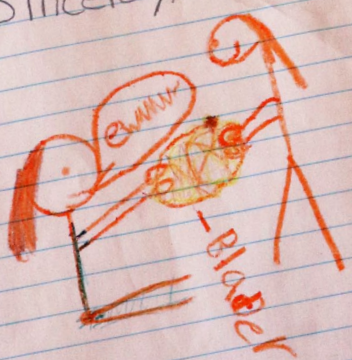
Sin
Model

Thanks for bringing the Owl I really like seeing the owl and learning about it. I understand the book more now. You are the best!
Your friend, Maleighu



Dear Ms. Joy,
Thank you for teaching us about Native Americans. I learned the Native Americans used bufflow bladders as water bottles. My favorite part was the waymranag and the at-laddle. It was AWESOME! I loved it! The Outdoor Discovery is cool and so are you!

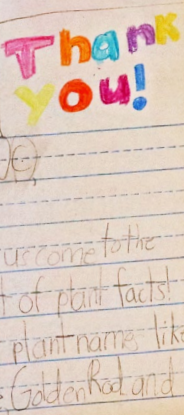
Sincerely, your Student, Au-Tum



Taya



Thank you ODC. I liked all the animals. they are cool.



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YOU



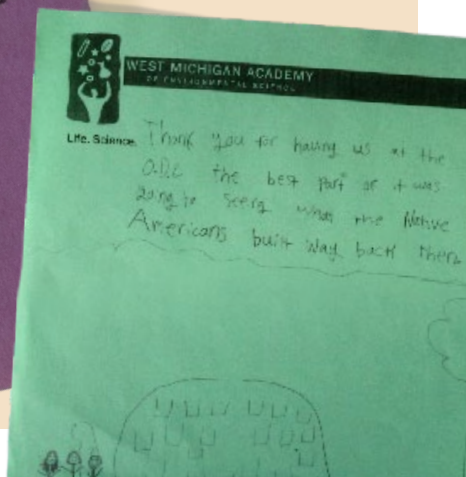
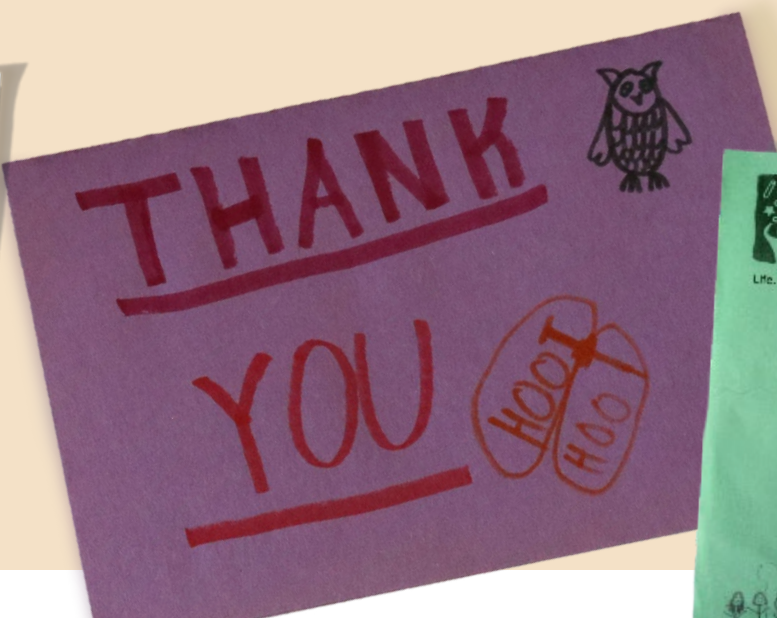
Hi Everyone,

The Outdoor Discovery Center provides priceless outdoor experiences for children and adults in our community. In fact, each year more than 50,000 people participate in our programs. We couldn't do that without you.

You can help us reach more people in three simple ways. First, join one of the programs in this guide. Second, tell someone else about us. Third, make a year-end gift to support our mission in the enclosed envelope or online.

Thank you for helping to make our community the best place to live, work, play, and learn!

Your friends at the
Outdoor Discovery Center



Holidays at the ODC

Create family memories and traditions with us during these programs in December!

Nature Puppet Show (Visitors Center)

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. This program is ideal for children 3 to 5 years old.

Saturday, December 15
11 AM–12:00 PM

Registration required
Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



Tales and Tails (Visitors Center)

It's just a few days before the holidays and you need to entertain the family and friends. We have the solution for you—join us for a fun story and meet one of our resident animals!

Friday, December 22
10–10:30 AM

No registration necessary
Fee: FREE



Bird of Prey Encounter (Visitors Center)

What makes a bird of prey different from other birds? Come find out as we learn about and meet several of our resident raptors including hawks, owls and falcons. There will be an opportunity to get an up-close look at the birds and explore raptor skulls, wings, talons and feathers.

Wednesday, December 26
11:00 AM –12:00 PM

Registration required
Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members



Come to the ODC for a Scavenger Hunt that changes weekly! Pick up your copy at the front desk of the Visitors Center.



For Everyone

Hungry, Hungry Serpents (Visitors Center)

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Snakes are carnivores and only eat other animals. They are definitely not vegetarians! Come to the Visitors Center and find out what's on the menu as you watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Thursday, December 27
2-3:00 PM

No registration necessary
Fee: FREE

Winter Walk (Founders Hall)

Bundle up and join one of our intrepid naturalists as we explore the trails of the ODC. Winter is one of the best times to find animal tracks, interesting animal homes, and other natural wonders. Dress for the weather and prepare to be amazed.

Friday, December 28
10-11:00 AM

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



Birds of Prey Photo Shoot (Visitors Center)

The Center's Birds of Prey are ever popular with visitors and photographers alike. Birds will be perched on stumps, branches and in other natural settings so that photographers can capture great images of our raptors. Up to seven birds including hawks, owls, falcons and an eagle will be available for photographing.

Dress for the weather since the entire photo shoot will take place outside.

Fee: \$50 per person, \$37.50 for members

Saturday, January 5
9 AM–12:00 PM

Registration required - photographers who show up on photo shoot day without registering may not be able to participate.



Family Ice Fishing (Visitors Center)

Come wet a line in an ODC pond during this catch-and-release ice fishing day. All materials are provided including fishing poles, tackle, and bait. This is an open format program where visitors can fish as long as they would like. Dress to be outside for at least one hour. Participants will be able to use the Center's equipment up until 1 PM.

Saturday, January 19
11 AM–1:00 PM

Registration required

Fee: \$5 per fishing pole/FREE for members



Hungry, Hungry Serpents (Visitors Center)

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Snakes are carnivores and only eat other animals. They are definitely not vegetarians! Come to the Visitors Center and find out what's on the menu as you watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Monday, January 28
Monday, February 18
2–3:00 PM

Registration is not required, but appreciated

Fee: FREE



Superb Owl Prowl (Sanctuary Woods)

Hike the dune of Laketown Township's Sanctuary Woods in search of resident and migratory owls. The group will try to call in Eastern Screech, Barred, and Great Horned Owls as they hike. Flashlights are welcome. Dress for the weather! Please note this hike does include approximately 170 stairs up a dune.

Friday, February 1
5:30–6:30 PM

Program Location: Sanctuary Woods 66th Street Holland, MI

Registration required

Fee: FREE - sponsored by Laketown Township

Snowshoe Hike (Bysterveld Park)

We are partnering with Allegan County Parks to offer a family snowshoe hike. Hikers will explore the trails of Bysterveld County Park in search of interesting animals and plants while walking in wooden, Ojibwa-style snowshoes. The snowshoes are ideal for people aged 8 years and up. Participants are welcome to wear their own snowshoes and bring a sled for little ones to be pulled while hiking.

Be prepared to be outside the entire time hiking. At least 4 inches of snow base is required in order for the loaner snowshoes to be available to the group.

Saturday, February 2
10–11:00 AM

Program Location: Bysterveld Park 4171 14th Street, Wayland, MI 49348

Registration required

Fee: FREE - sponsored by Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism



Great Backyard Bird Count (Visitors Center)

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a fun and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations and it's free! Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

A naturalist will be in the Visitors Center monitoring the feeders for the duration of this drop-in style program. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided!

Saturday, February 16
10 AM–12:00 PM

No registration necessary

Fee: FREE



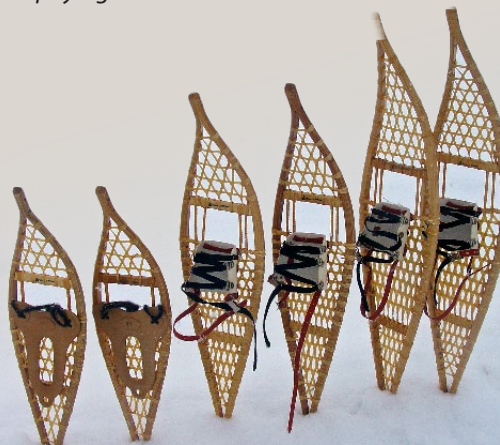
Snowshoe Rentals

Borrow a pair of Ojibwa-style snowshoes to walk at the Outdoor Discovery Center. They can be used for a \$5 per pair donation. All kids 8-13 years are FREE with a paying adult (snowshoes are not designed for those 7 years and under). Snowshoes can be borrowed from the Visitors Center during business hours if there's more than 4 inches of snow on the trails. We ask that anyone borrowing snowshoes return them at least 30 minutes prior to the building closing on that day.

Monday-Saturday with 4" of snow
9 AM–3:00 PM

No registration necessary

Fee: \$5 per adult; children 8-13 FREE with paying adult



Using Predators to Combat Aliens: Loosestrife Beetles

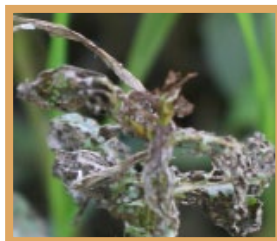
Purple Loosestrife is a plant that is native to Eurasia and has begun taking over roadsides, marshes, and wetlands by aggressively outcompeting native flora. Because it does not provide any food or shelter for animals, fewer wildlife are seen in areas dominated by purple loosestrife, and it reduces habitat quality.



Removing purple loosestrife to create healthier habitats is a challenge. In 1992, researchers imported populations of the plant's natural control from Eurasia, the *Galerucella* beetle. The project was a success and researchers saw purple loosestrife die off.

ODC Conservation Services began assisting with the spread of this beetle ten years ago in the Potawatomi Marsh. The process begins by collecting purple loosestrife root crowns in early spring and transplanting them to a controlled environment where they can be grown without allowing the plant to flower and seed. When the plant is large enough, staff

will then collect *Galerucella* beetles from areas where they have been previously released. These beetles are then placed onto the control plants and netted. Given enough time the beetle population grows by 500 times!



The pots of *Galerucella*-inhabited purple loosestrife are then taken to a site where control is needed, and the beetles are released. ODC Conservation Services has seen incredible success using this method, and this biological control has completely replaced any of the other control measures we have used in the past!

This winter, we are expanding our *Galerucella* rearing operation in our greenhouse. If you are interested in ordering beetles or have questions about the process, contact Ben Heerspink at ben@outdoordiscovery.org.



Loosestrife-invaded marsh along the Kalamazoo River



Marsh after 3 years of beetle treatment

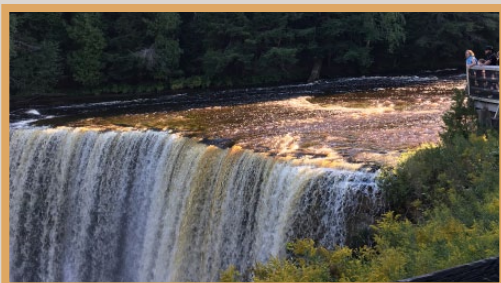


Women in Nature Trip – Fall 2019

Treat yourself to a fabulous girls' getaway in the beautiful Upper Peninsula. Enjoy

breathhtaking fall color and the perfect combination of adventure and tranquility on a women's trip in the fall of 2019. We will be visiting spectacular sites like Tahquamenon Falls, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Kitch-iti-kipi, as well as taking time to relax and enjoy some wine tastings and a spa visit. Bring your gal pal, sister, mom, or make new friends during our adventure!

If you are interested in participating in this trip in 2019, please contact Joy Funk at joy@outdoordiscovery.org or 616-368-2847.



December 2018

January 2019

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Crafts for Tykes	6	7 Nature School	8
9	10	11 Explore a Story	12	13	14	15 Nature Puppet Show
16	17	18	19	20	21 Nature School	22 Tales and Tails
23	24	25	26 Bird of Prey Encounter	27 Hungry, Hungry Serpents	28 Winter Walk	29
30	31	1	2	3	4 Nature School	5 Birds of Prey Photo Shoot
6	7	8	9 Snow for Tykes	10	11	12
13	14	15 Explore a Story	16	17	18 Nature School	19 Family Ice Fishing
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Hungry, Hungry Serpents	29	30	31	1 Nature School Superb Owl Prowl	2 Snowshoe Hike
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Explore a Story	13	14	15 Nature School	16 Great Backyard Bird Count
17	18 Hungry, Hungry Serpents	19	20 Winter for Tykes	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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