

Discover Nature

Programs and News
from ODC Network



Spring
2024





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.



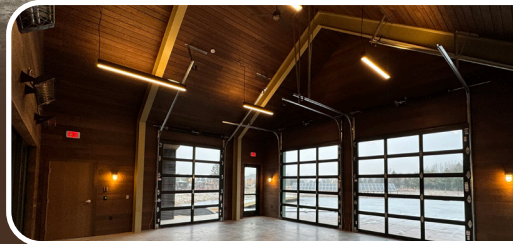
Herb Eldean Education Center Update: Opening Spring 2024!

This new space creates an additional safe space for program participants during inclement weather and provides a new location for outside organizations to gather at ODC!

Thank you to the Eldean Family for their continued support and to all donors who helped make this project a reality.



The Herb Eldean Education Center will house live animals that can be used for nature-based education programs



A 4-season room adjacent to the multi-purpose space opens on a deck that reaches toward the pond edge



Inside, the building will provide a larger capacity space for groups to meet during their experiences at ODC



The back deck is integrated into the trail system and the Herb's Harbor fishing dock on the pond behind the building

The animal exhibit space was made possible in part by the Hal & Jan Gleasson Foundation, which supports wildlife and domestic animal research and contributes to organizations that respect hunting traditions.

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.

April 2024

	1 Michigan's Animals	2 Explore A Story Woodcock Walk	3 Nature For Tykes	4 Woodcock Walk	5 Knee-high Naturalists	6 Live Birds of Prey Raptor Madness
		Discover Nature Spring Break Camp				
		Little Explorers Spring Break Camp				
7	8 Homeschool - Animal Caretakers	9	10	11	12 Knee-high Naturalists	13
14	15	16 VoLes	17	18 Bike Repair	19 Knee-high Naturalists	20 Radical Repair
21	22 Monday Morning Bird Walk	23	24	25 Migratory Birds & Trail Clean-up	26 Knee-high Naturalists	27 VoLes
28	29 Monday Morning Bird Walk	30 Woodland Wildflower Walk	1	2 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring	3 Knee-high Naturalists	4

May

5	6 Monday Morning Birdwalk	7 VoLes Volunteer Rainscaping Training	8 Nature For Tykes	9	10 Knee-high Naturalists	11 Turtle Races
12	13 Monday Morning Birdwalk Homeschool - Signs of Spring	14 Explore A Story	15	16 Women In Nature - Archery	17 Knee-high Naturalists	18 Lake Mac Cleanup VoLes Radical Repair
19	20 Monday Morning Birdwalk	21 Frog Catching Volunteer Rainscaping Training	22	23	24 Knee-high Naturalists	25
26	27 ODC & DeGraaf Visitors Center Closed	28	29	30	31 Knee-high Naturalists	1 Stop It Up!

June

2	3	4 VoLes	5 ODC Cup Golf Outing Nature For Tykes	6	7 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds	8
9	10 Homeschool - Wonderful Wetlands	11	12	13 Explore A Story Adult Archery Night	14 Knee-high Naturalists Springtime Story Family Kayaking	15 VoLes
16	17 Little Explorers	18	19	20 Women In Nature - Kayaking	21 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for the Birds Creek Stomp	22 Radical Repair
23	24 Story Time	25 Fishing Derby	26	27 Family Kayaking	28 Knee-high Naturalists	29 Frog Catching
30						

Join us for a Program!

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

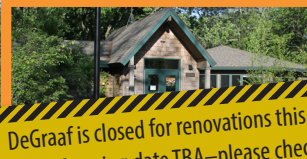
Program Locations

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.



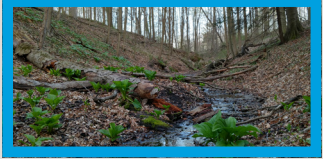
Outdoor Discovery Center

4214 56th Street
Holland, MI 49423
outdoordiscovery.org



DeGraaf is closed for renovations this spring! Opening date TBA—please check ODC and DeGraaf social media.

600 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423
degraaf.org



Other Locations

*Addresses listed beneath
program description*

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 1 • 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 2–4 • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required • Fee: \$90 per child, \$72 for members



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

Does your little one like to look for critters and play in the field? 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 2–4 • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required • Fee: \$90 per child, \$72 for members



Explore A Story (ODC) Ages 1-7

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. Dress for the weather, this program is outdoors.

Tuesday, April 2

Tuesday, May 14

Thursday, June 13

10–11 AM • *Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per child, \$4 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.

Tuesday, April 2 • 8:30–9:30 PM

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



Food Trucks at the ODC



Food trucks are coming back to the Outdoor Discovery Center throughout the summer from June - August! Look for them on Thursdays and Fridays to enjoy a delicious lunch!

Go to outdoordiscovery.org/foodtrucks for a calendar of upcoming trucks.

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. Please dress for the weather.

- Wednesday, April 3 • Theme: Rain
- Wednesday, May 8 • Theme: Wildflowers
- Wednesday, June 5 • Theme: Frogs
- 10–11 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$6 per child, \$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 5 • 10–11:30 AM | May 3 • 10 AM–12 PM | May 31 • 10 AM–12 PM |
| April 19 • 10–11:30 AM | May 17 • 10 AM–12 PM | June 14 • 10 AM–12 PM |
| Friday • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 for members | | June 28 • 10 AM–12 PM |

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 6 • 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.

- Monday, April 8 • Theme: Animal Caretakers
- Monday, May 13 • Theme: Signs of Spring
- Monday, June 10 • Theme: Wonderful Wetlands
- 10 AM–12 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child



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. It’s a great way to earn those community service volunteer hours!

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tues, April 16 • 3:30–5 PM | Tues, May 7 • 3:30–5 PM | Tues, June 4 • 3:30–5 PM |
| Sat, April 27 • 10 AM–12 PM | Sat, May 18 • 10 AM–12 PM | Sat, June 15 • 10 AM–12 PM |
| Registration required • Fee: FREE | (Window on the Waterfront) | |

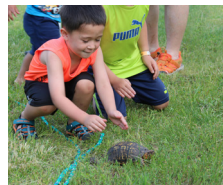


Turtle Races (ODC) Ages 0-99

Time for 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 11 • 11 AM–12 PM

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



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

This archery program will start with a quick lesson on how to shoot a bow and arrow, taught by one of our certified women archery instructors. Afterward, 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.

Thursday, May 16 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$12 per person

Program Location: ODC Archery Range - 5675 142nd Ave, Holland 49423



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 7

Friday, June 21

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



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 13 • 6–7:30 PM

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

Program Location: ODC Archery Range - 5675 142nd Ave, Holland 49423



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 29 • 10–11:30 PM

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



First Annual ODC Fishing Derby on June 25!

Cast your line and reel in the excitement! Join us for a thrilling fishing derby at Outdoor Discovery Center on June 25 where kids can participate in friendly competition fishing in one of ODC's ponds. This is a buddy-style derby, so each team must be comprised of 1 adult and 1-2 children (under 14). Whether your child is an experienced angler or a first-timer, this event promises fun for all.

Teams will compete for tagged fish, enjoy the outdoors, and make lasting memories with friends and family. A picnic-style meal, camaraderie, and the joy of fishing await.

Registration required, for more information, go to outdoordiscovery.org/fishingderby to sign up!

Thank you to our lead sponsors



Our Most Impactful Year Yet

2023 with ODC Network

Early Childhood
Education
Annual Enrollment

340
Kids

Community Programs

33,659
program participants

School Programs

105,983
Students

Visitor Center Guests

27,001
Guests

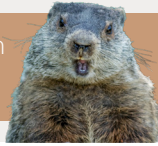
856,820
Impact hours

84,147
Impact hours

264,957
Impact hours

40,501
hours

This doesn't even include all visitors who walk or run the trails of ODC or our other nature preserves!



912 donors gave a collective **\$3.4 million** so our **team of 118 educators** could impact **166,000** students and community members creating **1.2 million** hours outdoors

Conservation
Services planted
more than
10,000 plugs
and trees



41 Volunteer Groups totaling **547** volunteers
helped with projects around ODC Network



Scan the QR code to view
our annual report





Big Things are Coming to ODC!

ODC Network strives to provide opportunities for people to slow down and engage with the outdoors. At the heart of our mission lies the knowledge that nature is a powerful catalyst for fostering curiosity and promoting overall well-being. That's why ODC is committed to maintaining **free admission to our nature preserves**, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, has access to the transformative benefits of the great outdoors.

We are excited to share with you some upcoming enhancements at one of our eight preserves, the Outdoor Discovery Center. These additions will elevate the experience for all who visit the preserve.

By investing in our mission, you are contributing to the enhancement and care of our trails, play areas, and educational facilities. You are ensuring that **future generations can continue to enjoy the benefits of nature's wonders**, while allowing the facilities to stay free and accessible for all.

We are grateful for your support, allowing us to create unparalleled experiences for people like you. Together, let's continue to enrich lives through the beauty and wonder of nature.



NEW FEATURES

Marc & Leslie Brown Family Nature Plaza

- Seating for program greeting and orientation
- Accessible trail connection from parking lot and Visitor Center

Transforming Imagination Forest

- New unique play features for our youngest learners

Establishing a Northern Trailhead

- Easier access to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center and ODC trail system



DONATE TODAY!

The combined investment for these programs/projects are over \$1,000,000. These additions will enhance the quality of our site amenities and YOUR experience.

Help us raise \$100,000

Support from people like you make projects like these possible while ensuring all ODC nature preserves stay free and open to the public every day of the year.



For more information and to donate online, scan the QR code.

Knee-high Naturalists (Dragonflies Learning Lab)

Ages 3-6

Introduce the natural world to young children through activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration.

April 12 • 10–11:30 AM

May 10 • 10 AM–12 PM

June 7 • 10 AM–12 PM

April 26 • 10–11:30 AM

May 24 • 10 AM–12 PM

June 21 • 10 AM–12 PM

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

Program Location: Dragonflies Discovery Preschool - 30 152nd, Holland 49424

Monday Morning Bird Walk (Various locations)

Ages 7-99

Start off your week birdwatching during the peak months of bird migration. Thrushes, finches, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers will be pursued as we walk the trails at local natural areas. Binoculars will be available to borrow.

Monday, April 22 • **Window on the Waterfront** - 10 S River Ave, Holland 49423

Monday, April 29 • **Geerlings Farm Park** - 600 96th Ave, Holland 49424

Monday, May 6 • **Stu Visser Trails** - 923 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland 49424

Monday, May 13 • **Outdoor Discovery Center** - 4214 56th Ave, Holland 49423

Monday, May 20 • **Rabbit River Preserve** - 4401 135th Ave, Hamilton 49419

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



Hooded Warbler

Woodland Wildflower Walk (Sanctuary Woods)

Ages 6-99

Hike this amazing dune ecosystem to see what animals and plants are ready for spring. Please note this hike does include approximately 170 stairs up a dune.

Tuesday, April 30 • 5–6 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: **FREE** - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location: Sanctuary Woods - 4749 66th Street, Holland 49423



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 21 • 4–5:30 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: **FREE** - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program Location: Farview Park - 6257 138th Ave, Holland 49423

Save The Date!

Macatawa Water Festival July 13, 2024



Evening at the ODC September 19, 2024



Find out more at outdoordiscovery.org/programs/events

Volunteer Opportunities

No experience required and all equipment will be provided



Project Clarity
Restoring the Macatawa Watershed

Other Locations

Migratory Birds and Trail Cleanup (Stu Visser Trails)

Ages 7-99

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.

Thursday, April 25 • 8–9 AM • Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: **FREE** - sponsored by Park Township
Program Location: Stu Visser Trails - 923 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland 49424

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring (ODC)

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 2 • 8:30 AM - 2 PM • Registration required • Fee: **FREE**



Lake Macatawa Clean-Up (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 18 • 10 AM–12 PM • Registration required • Fee: **FREE**
Program Location: Window on the Waterfront - 10 S. River Ave, Holland 49423



Check out our Sustainability Series for a free training to become an ongoing Rainscaping Volunteer!

Springtime Story (Gun Lake 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! Dress to be outside the entire time.

Friday, June 14 • 10–11 AM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: **FREE** - sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation
Program Location: Gun Lake Park - 2397 Patterson Rd, Wayland 49348



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 play on the playground!

Monday, June 17 • 10–11 AM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: **FREE** - sponsored by Laketown Township
Program Location: Wolters Woods - 6281 147th Avenue, Holland 49423



Women In Nature - 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 20 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$15 per person
Program Location: Schutmaat Park - 3500 Willyard, Hamilton 49419



We embrace Richard Louv's vision of a nature-rich community, pursuing beauty, health, biodiversity, creativity, and social justice. Join this pursuit as we explore a different sustainable topic every month.

Bicycle Maintenance and Repair (Macatawa Area Coordinating Council)

Ages 15-99

Join expert Laura Harris from Cross Country Cycle to learn how to prolong the life of your bicycle, or restore a previously-loved model to working order. *Registration includes a bundle of bike tools and materials worth \$50!*

Thursday, April 18 • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$50 per person

Program Location: Macatawa Area Coordinating Council - 301 Douglas Ave, Holland 49424



Radical Repair (Culture Works)

Ages 15-99

In an attempt to limit the negative impact that our clothing consumption has on environmental and social systems worldwide, join us to learn about some of the problems of textile waste, gain materials and skills to upkeep personal clothing, and make informed decisions in the future.

April 20: Repair

May 18: Revive

June 22: Repurpose

Saturday • 10–11:30 AM • *Registration required, visit thecultureworks.ludus.com/index.php*

Program Location: Culture Works - 24 W 6th St, Holland 49423



Volunteer Rainscaping Training (Various locations)

Ages 18-99

This will prepare you to complete site assessments for homeowners and provide recommendations for rainscaping practices. You must attend both parts of this training as each covers different topics. After training is completed, volunteers will be assigned to do assessments as homeowners request them.

Tuesday, May 7 • Part 1 at Dragonflies Learning Lab - 30 152nd Ave, Holland, 49424

Tuesday, May 21 • Part 2 location TBD

10–11:30 AM • *Registration required • Fee: FREE*



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 21 • 10:30 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Park Township

Program location: Stu Visser Trails - 929 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland 49424



Story Time (Winstrom Park)

Ages 0-7

Bring the little ones out to Winstrom Park, 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 24 • 10–11 AM

Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Park Township

Program Location: Winstrom Park - 1774 Perry St, Holland 49424



Family Kayaking (Ely Lake)

Ages 8-99

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

Thursday, June 27 • 6–7:30 PM

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

Program Location: Ely Lake - 5020 116th Ave, Fennville 49408



Exciting News from Seedlings Discovery Preschool!



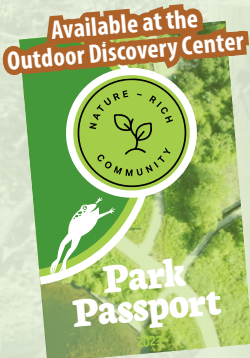
We are thrilled to announce the expansion of Seedlings Discovery Preschool! Over the winter, construction has successfully concluded on two out of the four upcoming classrooms at Seedlings Discovery Preschool.

Currently, our academic-year preschool for 4-year-olds is actively operating in one of the newly completed spaces. Now, we have a new year-round program for 2.5–3.5-year-olds operating five days a week in the second newly-constructed classroom. Our newest teachers, Taryn Neece and Amanda Wilson, have dedicated their time to familiarize themselves with the ODC's Early Childhood



Education Network's methods in preparation for the scheduled start of this exciting new program!

Simultaneously, construction has begun on the south side of the building. In just a few short months, the final two classrooms will be ready for use. Upon completion, Seedlings Discovery Preschool will feature its existing school-year preschool program, along with three additional classrooms operating in the traditional childcare format, catering to children 18 months through 5 years of age. Throughout this expansion, our focus has been to redefine and uplift the childcare experience, setting the highest standard in early child education.



Pick Up Your 2024 Park Passport

Create your own adventure with this self-guided booklet!

Explore local parks, search for challenge questions, and participate in health and nature prompts!

Visit outdoordiscovery.org/park-passport

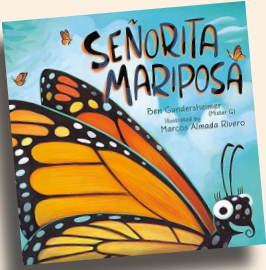
English/Spanish Bilingual Children's Books

Are you looking for some great recommendations on English/Spanish bilingual children's books for this spring/summer time? Check out these titles that our program team reads aloud at the wetlands and wildlife summer camp at the ODC:



Senorita Mariposa

Written by Ben Gundersheimer (Mister G) , Illustrated by Marcos Almada Rivero



“ Rhyming text and lively illustrations showcase the epic trip taken by the monarch butterflies. At the end of each summer, these international travelers leave Canada to fly south to Mexico for the winter--and now readers can come along for the ride! Over mountains capped with snow, to the deserts down below. Children will be delighted to share in the fascinating journey of the monarchs and be introduced to the people and places they pass before they finally arrive in the forests that their ancestors called home. ”

I Know the River Loves Me / Yo se que el rio me ama

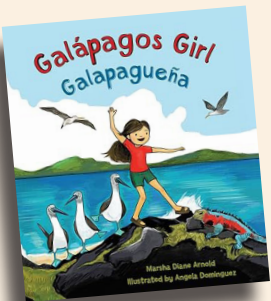
Written and Illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez

“ Listen... Can you hear the river calling you? Rushing and bubbling, splashing or still, the river has so much to teach us. Whenever Maya visits the river, the river jumps up to greet her. It cools her down when the summer sun is too hot, and holds her up when she dives in. It keeps her company in the quiet of winter. The river takes care of Maya and Maya takes care of the river. In this gentle story of love and respect for nature, Maya Gonzalez combines their award-winning talents as an artist and storyteller. Young readers will be inspired by the joy and wonder of being outdoors, and learn powerful lessons about their environment and themselves. ”



Galápagos Girl/ Galapagueña

Written by Marsha Diane Arnold, Illustrated by Angela Dominguez



“ Valentina was born on an island formed by fire, surrounded by blue-green sea. As a Galapagueña, Valentina spends her days observing the natural world around her. She greets sea lions splashing on the shore, scampers over lava rocks with Sally-lightfoot crabs, and swims with manta rays. But Valentina also understands the fragility of this wondrous world, and she makes a solemn promise to protect the islands and her animal friends. This delightful bilingual story was inspired by the childhood of Valentina Cruz, whose family was one of the first permanent inhabitants of the Galápagos. Valentina is now a biologist and naturalist guide who has dedicated her life to the conservation of the islands. Whimsical illustrations by Pura Belpré Honor recipient

Angela Dominguez transport readers to these unique islands, which shelter a diverse number of plant and animal species, many found of which can be found nowhere else on the planet. Come discover this beautiful world with Valentina and her animal friends!





ODC Cup at Diamond Springs Golf Course



Wednesday, June 5

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.

Eagle Sponsors:



Birdie Sponsors:

Direct Electric, K-Line Industries and Kamminga Family Charitable Fund

Beverage Sponsor:

Hoekstra Electric

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



Travel with Explorer Network

Join us for an Adventure in 2024!

Coastal Alaska
September 2024



Arctic Expedition
November 2024



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



4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423

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