

# DNR Outdoor Adventure Center newsletter – fall 2022

## Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center Staff

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## Hours of Operation

Sunday	12-3 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday	Closed for general admission; group visits scheduled by appointment only
Friday	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Free First Sundays

Our Thrilling Thursday events are taking a break for the fall and winter. They will return for the popular summer season. Until then, we will be offering Free First Sundays. Each event will feature a specific themed activity adjacent to the Critter Room, plus guests will enjoy all the regular exhibits at the Outdoor Adventure Center. When you visit, you can also earn digital badges through Detroit Public TV's Digital Adventure Program.

Complimentary admission!

Noon – 3 p.m.:  
Sunday, Oct. 2  
Sunday, Nov. 6  
Sunday, Dec. 4

## Admission Fees

Adults (age 13-61): \$5

Seniors (age 62 and older): \$3

Children (ages 2-12): \$3

Children under age 2: Free

Annual family membership: \$50

## Convenient Online Registration

Our online registration system will facilitate registration for all programs offered at the OAC. At <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>, you will find all options that are available for online registration. In order to register, you will need to create an account using your email address and a password. This will allow you to securely check out once you register. You will also be able to view past registrations and activities. If you have any questions about this site, please email [DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov).

## COVID Safety

\*The OAC is committed to providing visitors with a safe environment. We have implemented the following changes to our building procedures and environment:

- Mask zones have been added where social distancing with staff is impeded by the activity.
- Floors are washed or vacuumed daily.
- CDC-approved disinfectant wipes and cleaners are used on hard surfaces (such as counters, railings, and other common touch points).
- An electrostatic disinfectant unit is used daily in spaces with irregular surfaces.
- Restroom doors are propped open to alleviate the need to touch door handles.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout our exhibit areas.
- Staff will maintain 6-foot social distancing.
- The interactive toys we usually have out are kept secured for the time being.
- Sneeze guards are in place at the front desk.
- Masks and social distancing are encouraged for guests.

\* Subject to change.

## Offerings for Teachers

We are continuing to offer a variety of formats for a visit with our educators. We have developed the following options considering the limitations of COVID safety precautions in various districts. Please choose from the following options to provide an engaging learning experience for your students:

### Traditional field trip:

We will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays to the public and for field trips as they were scheduled pre-COVID. On Thursdays, we will schedule select groups to visit when we are closed to the public. This option has limitations based on the size of the group and classroom sessions. Visit the [Field Trips page](#) on our website to view offerings and to register.

### Virtual education sessions:

Bring our educational sessions to your classroom via live instruction on Zoom. Visit the [Virtual Education Sessions](#) page on our website to view offerings and to register.

# Accessibility at the OAC

## Mobility

- A beautiful, new paved sidewalk allows guests a much smoother entry from the parking lot to our front door.
- Electronic-assist doors are available at the entrance and exit.
- An elevator is available to access all three floors of the building.
- Ramps are installed behind the sustainable home and behind the hunting exhibit on the second floor.
- All restrooms are equipped with an accessible stall.

## Hearing

- With at least two weeks' notice, every attempt will be made to provide sign language interpreters.

## Sensory inclusion

- The OAC has partnered with KultureCity to improve our ability to assist and accommodate guests with sensory needs. Our objective is to provide an inclusive and seamless experience for all guests for all events, including those with sensory needs.
- We strive to raise awareness of the needs and challenges faced by individuals with sensory processing disorders by supplying our team members with annual training.
- A family restroom is located on the second floor.
- A room with a rocking chair is available on the second floor. Any staff member can help guests gain access to this room.
- A space is designated in the gift shop/preschool area, with a soft chair and quiet activities, for guests who need a break from stimulation.
- A limited number of sensory bags – containing special KultureCity VIP badges, fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones and other resources – are available for checkout (at no cost by leaving an ID) at our front desk on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Weighted lap pads are also available upon request (at no cost by leaving an ID) at our front desk.
- A visual tour of our building is available to view at home to prepare for a visit.
- The KultureCity Sensory Inclusive App is available to view our social story to help you plan your visit. App Store: <http://bit.ly/KCiphone> or Google Play: <http://bit.ly/KCandroid>.

## Family needs

- A family restroom is located on the second floor.
- A locked nursing room is available on the second floor. Any staff member can help guests gain access to this room.
- Baby-changing tables are available in all multiple-toilet restrooms. They are installed in the handicap stalls.
- The entire building is stroller-accessible, and you may also park strollers in the locker area.

## Language

- Facility maps are available printed in Arabic, Spanish, German, French, Chinese and Japanese. These maps are available in the entrance lobby.

## Sensory-Friendly Sundays

The DNR Outdoor Adventure Center welcomes friends and families with sensory processing differences to our sensory-friendly building hours!

Enjoy the opportunity to explore and experience the OAC with building sounds and ambient noises at a lower volume. During your visit, there will be a quiet room with sensory materials available to use. At noon, the building will open to the public, with volumes returning to regular levels. All staff are KultureCity-certified to ensure the best possible experience.

Fee: Admission complimentary.

10 a.m.-noon

Dates:

Sunday, Oct. 2

In October, we are celebrating the Halloween season with extra goodies! Dressing in a Halloween costume or a festive fall shirt is welcome!

Sunday, Dec. 4

In December, we will have a raffle with a chance to win a holiday-themed book! There will be holiday crafts available, while supplies last.

Sunday, Feb. 5

Sunday, April 2

Sunday, June 4

Sunday, Aug. 6

Sunday, Oct. 1

Sunday, Dec. 3

## OAC Membership

### Annual family membership

An annual membership can be purchased for \$50 for up to five members of the same household. For an additional \$25, you can bring up to two guests any time you visit the OAC. Family memberships can be purchased online by clicking on the OAC Membership tab at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/michigan-dnr/catalog>.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission for one year from the date of purchase.
- Exclusive, early admission to select special events.
- First glance (before the general public) at all newsletters.
- Members-only adventure packs (for use during your visit).
- Special pricing or early registration for select events.
- Early seating for popular programs.

### Current member benefits

Oct. 8: Michigan Birds of Prey – early seating

Oct. 15: Bat Biology – early seating

## Get Creative in Our Rental Space

Let your imagination run wild! Just like the Outdoor Adventure Center, your event will be anything but ordinary. The great thing about having your event or meeting at the OAC is using our unique spaces to do things you would not generally think of.

General Motors hosted the press conference for their newly released 2023 GMC Canyon AT4X and Denali on our archery range. You heard right! They showcased two of their not-yet-revealed vehicles in the same space where we teach archery!

The Detroit Grand Prix, Hollywood Casino-Greektown, Detroit Downtown Runners & Walkers, along with a host of weddings, receptions and vendor events, have all been held on our archery range! If you are looking to step outside of the box and use your creativity for an event or meeting, think of the Outdoor Adventure Center.

Contact our promotional agent Jackie Hoskins at 800-622-6237 or email [DNC-OAC@Michigan.gov](mailto:DNC-OAC@Michigan.gov) for more details.

## Scout Badge Workshops Are Back!

We are excited to bring back Cub and Girl Scout badge workshops to the Outdoor Adventure Center!

Badge workshops are available for online registration on the following dates:

Sunday, October 23

Sunday, November 6 (Girl Scout workshops only)

Sunday, December 11

More dates will be added soon!

FEE: \$10 per Scout for all workshops; includes OAC patch.

Regular admission fees apply for family members, including siblings who wish to visit the building with scouts after the program.

Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and take place both indoors and outdoors. Dress for the weather and wear close-toed shoes. Due to limited classroom space, only the Scout leader and another responsible adult may join the badge workshop. Family members, including siblings, are welcome to join the Scouts to explore the OAC exhibits when the building opens to the public at noon.

Minimum: 8 Scouts

Maximum: 20 Scouts (please note that Cadette Archery is limited to 12 Scouts)

[Girl Scouts:](#)

## Brownies

- Bugs: 1.5 hours. Addresses all requirements. ONLY OFFERED APRIL-AUGUST.
- Hiker: 1.5 hours. Addresses requirements 1-3 and 5. Troops can pack a snack for their field trip to fulfill requirement 4.
- Outdoor Adventurer: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-4.

## Junior

- Animal Habitats: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-3.
- Camper: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1, 2, and 4.

## Cadette

- Archery: 2 hours. Addresses all requirements. LIMITED TO 12 SCOUTS.
- Trees: 2 hours. Addresses requirements 1-4.

## Cub Scouts:

### Tiger

- My Tiger Jungle: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-4, 6-7.
- Tigers in the Wild: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-3.

### Wolf

- Call of the Wild: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-4 and 6.
- Paws on the Path: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-6.

### Bear

- A Bear Goes Fishing: 1.5 hours. Addresses requirements 1, 2, and 4. ONLY AVAILABLE APRIL-AUGUST.
- Bear Necessities: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-4.
- Fur, Feathers and Ferns: 2 hours. Addresses requirements 1-6.

### Webelos

- Earth Rocks: 1.5 hours. Addresses all requirements.
- Into the Wild: 2 hours. Addresses requirements 4-9.
- Into the Woods: 1 hour. Addresses requirements 1-3 and 5.

[Register for Scout Badge Workshop.](#)

## You Should Visit ... Maybury State Park

Maybury State Park, located in Wayne County's Northville Township, is a busy, day-use park, one of

the few state parks serving the Detroit metro area. An oasis of lush, green forest amid developed land, the park is a place for visitors to connect with nature on its miles of varied trails. The state acquired the land in 1971 from the City of Detroit following the closure of the Maybury Sanatorium, which once occupied the site.

The park now has a track chair for visitors to borrow. Track chairs easily handle trails, snow, sand and even up to 4 inches of water, allowing users to explore areas of the parks where traditional wheelchairs might not go.

Containing almost 1,000 acres of gently rolling terrain, open meadow and mature forest, the park offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including an extensive trail system for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Other opportunities include youth organizational camping, fishing, educational programming and a working farm.

## Educator's Corner

By Emily Grant

Fall is my favorite season. I love how the heat of August gives way to the chill of a September morning, and the changing leaf color that makes every day fresh and new.

This is our first fall in our new home, and while I am so excited to finally have a backyard, it has been a big learning curve to understand all the work that goes into maintaining a property.

Our task list grows every day – raking the leaves is not truly a single bullet point, but is many collective tasks for new homeowners like ourselves. Our revised list:

- Purchase rakes, tarps, gloves.
- Start raking.
- Stop to distract toddlers.
- Return to store to get toddler-sized tools.
- Resume raking.
- Enjoy toddlers' "help" with chores.
- Redo raking once toddlers are safely abed for naptime.

Though we are occasionally overwhelmed by the amount of work, the sheer joy on our kids' faces as they careen into my freshly raked pile of leaves is a wonderful payoff. We're having an excellent time discovering nature in our backyard this season, from woolly-bear caterpillars below our feet to the migrating geese above our heads. The eight-point buck that ate my flowers and my willow tree all summer is proving his wisdom this fall, sticking to the ravine between our yard and the neighbor's property. He emerges in the evening to say hello, much to our delight.

Yes indeed, fall is an amazing time of year.

## Archery at the OAC

Welcome to the Outdoor Adventure Center's archery range!

We offer a variety archery experiences you can choose from, ranging in price from free to \$12 for an hour-long session. To enhance your target practice, we offer National Archery in the Schools Program targets by Morrell, 3D animal targets, paper targets and much more! Archers will have the opportunity to practice shooting distances of both 6 and 10 meters in the advanced programs.

For all archery programs:

- Participants must be 8 years of age or older.
- Closed-toed shoes are required on the range.
- A signed waiver for all participants must be on file before accessing the range.
- Children under the age of 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in the building.
- All equipment is provided.

For Graduate Shoot:

- Outside equipment with a draw weight over 30 pounds is prohibited.
- Crossbows and broadhead arrows are prohibited. Only target-grade arrows are permitted.
- The OAC does not secure outside equipment. Equipment must be stored outside of the building by participants who wish to visit the exhibit area after an archery program.
- The OAC does not provide assembly or maintenance support for outside equipment.

## Try It!

This is your opportunity to give archery a try. This 30-minute program is designed as a brief introduction to archery. Participants will learn to safely handle a bow and shoot several arrows. Preregistration is not available for this program. Participants must sign up on-site at the Outdoor Adventure Center on the day the program is offered. Sign-up will begin about an hour before the first program and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

Times: 2:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Dates:

Saturday, Oct. 8

Saturday, Oct. 22

Saturday, Nov. 5

Saturday, Nov. 26

Saturday, Dec. 3

## Explore It!

This is your chance to explore archery. This one-hour program will give participants the opportunity to learn to safely handle a bow, learn proper stance and shoot several arrows. Browse our Explore It program selections to find the program that best suits your interests!

Fee: \$12.

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

[Explore It: 3D Target](#)

Grow your love for archery in this fun program. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their



shot on various 3D animal targets. This program is perfect for practicing hunters or anyone who just wants to try something different.

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Date:

Wednesday, Oct. 12

[Explore It: Skill Development](#)

Grow your love for archery in this fun, skill-building program. Participants could have the opportunity to practice their shot with various target faces and activities. Skill development activities will be provided with instructor's discretion.

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Dates:

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Wednesday, Dec. 7

[Register for Explore It.](#)

[Archery 101](#)

This four-week program will offer a more in-depth archery experience in a safe and fun environment. Each week will focus on a different part of the shot process with fun drills and games to help students learn the sport of archery in a hands-on way. The program will cover the steps of shooting, how to retrieve arrows, and will provide plenty of shooting opportunities for students to refine their skills.

Fee: \$60

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 6 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals.

Dates: Wednesdays (four weeks), Oct. 19 – Nov. 9

[Register for Archery 101.](#)

## Graduate Shoot

Graduate open shoot is available to students who have taken any paid archery program at the OAC since Jan. 1, 2022 (this excludes Try It programs). Sessions will allow returning students the opportunity to practice their skills without repeating the instructional portion of a program. Archery games may be available to archers upon request.

Fee: \$10

Preregistration required. On-site registration is not available after the registration deadline.

[Register for Archery: Graduate Shoot.](#)

Time: 5:30-6:20 p.m.

Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. Range time will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. We are not able to accommodate late arrivals. Participants bringing their own equipment must arrive by 5:15 p.m. for an equipment inspection.

Dates:

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Wednesday, Dec. 14

## Get Outside

Fall Family Hikes – Let's Explore

Six-week series, beginning Oct. 6.

9-10:30 a.m.

Ready to enjoy the crisp fall air, but not sure how to hit the trail with kids in tow? Not to worry!

Our hiking series begins at the Outdoor Adventure Center on Oct. 6 with a 30-minute information and discussion session, including tips and tricks on hiking Michigan's state parks with little ones. Then we'll gear up and hit the trail! Successive hikes begin at the destinations listed below.

Participants will receive a raffle ticket for each hike they attend, good for a chance at new hiking shoes for the whole family, courtesy of Bearpaw Shoes!

Week 1 – Thursday, Oct. 6 – DNR Outdoor Adventure Center and Milliken State Park in Detroit

Week 2 – Thursday, Oct. 20 – [Bald Mountain Recreation Area](#) in Lake Orion

Week 3 – Thursday, Nov. 3 – [Maybury State Park](#) in Northville

Week 4 – Thursday, Nov. 17 – [William C. Sterling State Park](#) in Monroe

Week 5 – Thursday, Dec. 8 – [Island Lake Recreation Area](#) in Brighton

Week 6 – Thursday, Dec. 15 – Milliken State Park, and raffle drawing at the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center

Fee: \$5 per family; preregistration required.

### [Register for Fall Family Hikes – Let's Explore.](#)

#### #OptOutside Hike

Friday, Nov. 25, 2022

11 a.m. - noon and 1-2 p.m.

Green up your Black Friday and get outside with our fabulous OAC team. We'll venture along the renowned Detroit River and the Dequindre Cut, then enjoy the OAC facility.

Fee: This is a free outdoor event. Regular admission fees apply for building access.

#### Outdoor Reindeer Games

Saturday, Dec. 10

1:30 - 3 p.m.

Bring your competitive edge to the OAC's official Reindeer Games! Team up with your family to dash, dance and prance through our outdoor challenges, and take home a fun prize.

### Grown-Up Gatherings

#### Friend Fridays: Holiday Craft Night

Friday, Nov. 4

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Grab your friends and family to kick off the holiday season with the OAC. Your evening will be filled with making your own holiday wreath and a custom stamp for your holiday gift tags. Join us for what surely will be an evening of creativity and joy at the OAC!

Fee: \$30

This is a 21 and over event; please provide ID at event check-in. Beer, wine and snacks provided.

### [Register for Grown-up Gatherings Friend Fridays: Holiday Craft Night](#)

### Just for Fun

#### Indoor Snowball Fights and Indoor Prize Fishing

Saturday, Dec. 17

Noon-3 p.m.

Michigan is famous for its snowy, frigid winter season. Come sample some exciting winter activities at the Outdoor Adventure Center, in the comfort of a heated building! We will have indoor "snowball fights" and "prize fishing!"

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

This is a drop-in event and may end earlier depending on the number of participants and amount of supplies.

### [National Ugly Sweater Day](#)

Saturday, Dec. 17

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come dressed in your ugly sweater! We will have contests throughout the day. There will be a photo booth available.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

### [Just for Kids](#)

[New this season: Little Cub and Explorers Club!](#)

Why not share all the fun together? We've decided to try out a new format for our former Cub Club and Young Explorers programs, inviting all participants ages 3-10 for a combined experience, with separate focus activities for the different age groups. We'll explore a different topic each month, beginning with an introductory activity for everyone, followed by two choices for age-appropriate activities – one for Little Cubs (ages 3-6) and one for Explorers (ages 7-10). Little Cubs will enjoy crafts and a story time, and Explorers will dive a little deeper into science and exploration. Note that activities for the Explorers will last approximately 30 minutes longer than those for Little Cubs. Activities may or may not include outdoor exploration, so please come prepared for the weather!

[Hawks, Falcons and Eagles, Oh My!](#)

Saturday, Oct. 8

Little Cubs: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Explorers: 10:30 a.m.-noon

Fly into this session to learn a bit about the hawks, falcons and eagles that migrate through southeast Michigan this time of year.

Explorers will learn how to identify some hawk species in flight and complete some of the activities in the Detroit River Hawkwatch Junior Hawkwatcher booklet. We hope you'll join us for Part 2 at the Hawk Watch site at Lake Erie Metropark on Oct. 16!

This special session will feature a live bird of prey from our friends at Michigan Avian Experience.

Preregistration is required, and there is a participation maximum for this session.

[Register for Hawks, Falcons and Eagles, Oh My!](#)

[Be a Junior Hawkwatcher at Detroit River Hawkwatch!](#)

Sunday, Oct. 16

Little Cubs: welcome to join the fun, but programming geared toward Explorers age

Explorers: 1-3 p.m.

Drop in on-site at the Detroit River Hawkwatch at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown for Part 2! Join staff from the OAC, Lake Erie Metropark and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge to practice your hawk ID skills in the field! We'll work together to complete required activities in the Junior Hawkwatcher booklet, and participants will receive a certificate of completion! Visit [DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org](http://DetroitRiverHawkwatch.org) to learn more about the Detroit River Hawkwatch project.

This is an off-site program taking place at:  
Lake Erie Metropark\*  
32481 W. Jefferson Ave.  
Brownstown, MI 48173

\*Note that a Huron-Clinton Metroparks vehicle pass is required for entry into Lake Erie Metropark. Fee is \$10 for a daily pass or \$40 for an annual pass.

[Register for Be a Junior Hawkwatcher at Detroit River Hawkwatch!](#)

Terrific Turkeys

Saturday, Nov. 19

Little Cubs:10:30-11:30 a.m.

Explorers: 10:30 a.m.-noon

What do a gobble and a purr have in common? They are both sounds made by an interesting bird – the wild turkey! Join us to learn more about toms, jakes, hens and poults in this session focused on this symbol of the Thanksgiving season. We'll explore what turkeys eat, their family life and their habits throughout the seasons.

[Register for Terrific Turkeys.](#)

Antlered Animals

Saturday, Dec. 10

Little Cubs:10:30-11:30 a.m.

Explorers: 10:30 a.m.-noon

We sure do see a lot of white-tailed deer around here, but there are other deer-like animals in Michigan, too! Join us in this session to observe some similarities and differences among the antlered animals who call our state home.

[Register for Antlered Animals.](#)

Live Animals

Michigan Birds of Prey

Saturday, Oct. 8

1-2:30 p.m.

Join our friends from Michigan Avian Experience to meet some of Michigan's fascinating raptor species! The program will focus on raptor adaptations and behaviors, and audience members will have an opportunity to feel feathers, skulls, feet and/or bones. You don't want to miss this one!

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Bat Biology

Saturday, Oct. 15

2-3 p.m.

As part of our FestiFall weekend, join us for an opportunity to meet up to three live bats with the Leslie Science & Nature Center and take an up-close look into the wondrous world of bats! Explore what makes bats so unique, why they're important across the globe, and what you can do to conserve and protect key bat populations.

FEE: Included with the price of admission.

### Active Aging Adventures

#### Brunch & Learn

Join us for a new monthly series! Each month we will feature a program just for seniors. Throughout this series, participants will have opportunities to meet our on-site educators, listen to guest presenters, and take part in various natural resource-themed activities. All programs begin at 9 a.m. and include pastries, coffee and tea upon entry. At 9:30 a.m., presentations will begin, so sit back and enjoy your snack during an exciting and informative program, then wrap up with time to explore the OAC exhibits.

Fee: \$6 per person; preregistration required. Payment can be made for groups or individuals.

### Feeding Birds in Winter

Thursday, Oct. 13

Learn about the birds that will visit your yard in the winter and the feeders and bird food that will attract and nourish them. Presented by Rosann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods and a Detroit Audubon board member.

Speaker bio: Rosann Kovalcik, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident, has been the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in that same city for thirty years. Her specialty store caters to the hobby of feeding birds in your yard. Outside of running the store, Rosann stays very involved in the birding world, serving on the Board of Michigan Audubon and Detroit Audubon as well as being an active member of Grosse Pointe Audubon. No matter where she is or what she's doing, Rosann loves to bring people and nature together!

[Register for Feeding Birds in Winter.](#)

The Edmund Fitzgerald: What really happened?

Thursday, Nov. 10

Presented by the National Museum of the Great Lakes.

We will explore a brief history of shipping on the Great Lakes that led up to the impressive debut of the Edmund Fitzgerald. She had an exciting life during the 18 years she sailed, often carrying recordbreaking loads. Her loss on November 10, 1975, still puzzles many to this day. We will explore several of the prevailing theories on her loss.

Speaker bio: Ellen Kennedy is the Education and Visitor Experience Director for the National Museum of the Great Lakes. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Clemson University and a master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She worked at several historic sites before joining the staff of the National Museum of the Great Lakes in June 2015.

### [Register for The Edmund Fitzgerald: What really happened?](#)

Birth of a Land Ethic

Thursday, Dec. 8

Come hear the story of Michigan's White Pine from the Outdoor Adventure Center staff. Learn how it was logged, the impact of logging on Michigan's developing economy and forest ecosystems, and how our approach to natural resource management has changed over the decades. We'll end with an optional evergreen-themed craft to spruce up your seasonal decor!

### [Register for Birth of a Land Ethic](#)

Senior Stroll – Riverfront Rambles

Join a naturalist for a casual stroll along the Riverfront and through Milliken Park. Every other month, we'll focus on a topic related to natural or cultural history. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather – we'll go out rain, snow or shine!

Fee: included with the price of admission.

Ship Building and Freighters

Thursday, Nov. 17

10-11 a.m.

The Great Lakes system has long served as a highway to transport people and goods. To support that industry, Detroit became a hub for ship building and an important port city. Learn more about freighters and the ship-building history of the area, including the original use of our own Outdoor Adventure Center!

Upcoming stroll topics

- Jan. 19 – Ducks on the River
- March 16 – Voyageurs and Ribbon Farms
- May 18 – Songbird Migration
- July 20 – Wild and Wonderful Wetlands

### Special Events

Detroit Riverfront Cleanup at Milliken State Park

Saturday, Oct. 1

9-11 a.m.

Join OAC staff to help keep our Detroit Riverfront area clean, beautiful and safe for people and wildlife! We're partnering with the Great Lakes Educators of Aquatic and Marine Sciences (GLEAMS) and the Alliance for the Great Lakes on a region-wide Great Lakes shoreline and beach cleanup effort. Our efforts will focus on the Milliken State Park portion of the Detroit Riverwalk. Cleanup equipment will be provided, but please plan to bring your own water bottle. BOGO admission to the OAC will be provided to participants to be used that day or a later date.

### [Community Open House and Native Plant Sale](#)

Saturday, Oct. 1  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Outdoor Adventure Center is kicking off its fall season with a Community Open House. This is an opportunity for you to meet our amazing local partners dedicated to increasing access to the outdoors and improving native habitat! You'll have the opportunity to learn about exciting program offerings in the community, gather resources to make your backyard a habitat, purchase native plants from local nurseries and more, just outside of our building! Detroit Horse Power, Michigan Equestrian Trails, Buffalo Soldiers Detroit and Detroit Mounted Police will be on site, along with live horses for visitors to meet!

Confirmed partners will include:

- Blue Heron Headwater Conservancy
- Detroit Butterfly Nursery
- Detroit Hives
- Detroit Wildflower Nursery
- Friends of Detroit Animal Care and Control
- Orleans Landing
- Plants for Ecology
- We're Fixin To Fish
- Wild Birds Unlimited Grosse Pointe
- Xerces Society

Fee: complimentary admission

### [OAC Festi'fall Weekend](#)

Saturday, Oct. 15  
1-5 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of Halloween and harvest programming! From drop-in crafts and activities to outdoor games and live animals, there is surely something for everyone to enjoy!

Indoor activities:

1-2 p.m.:

#### *Wildlife Boo-ologist*

Do you have what it takes to be a wildlife boo-ologist? We will use our sense of touch to determine what mysterious features of some of our favorite "Halloween" wildlife are hidden within mystery buckets.



### *Owl Pellet Dissection*

While most of us are asleep, our nocturnal feathered neighbors, owls, are hunting for their food. What are they finding out there in the dark? Stop by for some owl pellet dissection and bone identification to figure it out!

### *Whose Bones?*

Let's get scientific with skulls! Join us on an investigation of the skeletal parts of some of our favorite "Halloween" wildlife. Using clues, you'll have a chance to determine whose bones are at our various skull stations!

### *Critter Room*

Scaly, slimy and slithery are just a few of the words that describe the educational wildlife that resides in the Critter Room at the OAC – stop in to learn a bit about them, and even observe them up close.

1-4 p.m.:

### *Trick or Treat*

Dress up in your favorite family-friendly costume and receive some special seasonal goodies as you explore the OAC (while supplies last)!

### *Craft a Critter*

We'll provide the supplies, you bring the creativity! Keep an eye out for our craft table, where you'll have the chance to make your very own paper bat to take home with you (while supplies last)!

3:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.:

### *Try It: Zombie Archery*

This is your opportunity to give archery a try. This 30-minute program is designed as a brief introduction to archery. Participants will learn to safely handle a bow and shoot several arrows. Participants must have closed-toe shoes and be 8 years of age or older. All equipment is provided. Preregistration is not available for this program. Participants must sign up on-site at the Outdoor Adventure Center on the day the program is offered. Sign-up will begin about an hour before classes start and is on a first-come, first-served basis. For this seasonal session, we will practice our skills on paper zombie targets!

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

2 p.m.:

### *Live Animals! Bat Biology*

Meet up to three live bats with the Leslie Science & Nature Center! Join in as we take an up-close look into the wondrous world of bats. Explore what makes bats so unique, why they're important across the globe, and what you can do to conserve and protect key bat populations.

Outdoor Activities:

1-4 p.m.:

### *Outdoor Harvest Fun*

Join us outside of the OAC for some harvest-themed games. Gather your family and friends to play spider leg ring toss, challenge each other to a sack race, play a round of candy corn bowling, or enjoy some pumpkin tic-tac-toe! A variety of options will be available for drop-in harvest fun.

### *Harvest Relays!*

Ready, set, go! It's Minute to Win It, harvest style! Take on our silly challenges and compete against other families for Harvest Crown and a sweet prize. Specific challenge times will be announced throughout the event.

### *Cookies With Mrs. Claus*

Saturday Nov. 26  
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

We are getting in the holiday spirit with Mrs. Santa Claus! Join us to decorate holiday cookies with the best baker at the North Pole. Each child will be given a cookie kit – this will include two cookies, frosting, sprinkles and tools to decorate. Children will also learn the reindeer macarena and other fun surprises.

\*Fees and toys will be donated to the Sargent Santa Holiday Toy Drive. Toys will be distributed in cooperation with Michigan DNR conservation officers and Detroit Police officers.

Fee: \$10 or a new, unwrapped new toy for our holiday toy drive\*

\*Program fee or gift includes one admission and cookie kit per child. Regular admission rates apply for adults.

Preregistration is required.

[Register for Cookies With Mrs. Claus.](#)

[Toy Drive with Conservation Officers: "Stuff a Truck" Michigan DNR and Detroit Police Department Holiday Toy Drive](#)

Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Outdoor Adventure Center is kicking off our "Stuff a Truck" toy donation drive with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Michigan DNR conservation officers and Detroit Police officers are collecting toys for their annual event, aiming to collect enough toys to fill the back of a conservation officer's patrol truck! All donated toys will be distributed through the Detroit Sergeant Santa program and shared with deserving, local children. We can only accept new, unwrapped toys.

Families who bring donations for the toy drive (unwrapped toys or cash) can get complimentary photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus in our beautifully decorated Lodge Room or in front of our big tree. Regular admission rates still apply.

Can't make it for the toy drive kickoff dates? We will be collecting donations the first two weeks in December – stop by during our regular hours of operation.

## [Homeschool Hangout: An Academic Adventure](#)

Thursday, Nov. 3  
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Bring your young scholars to the Outdoor Adventure Center for scavenger hunts, hands-on activities and classes by grade level. This event is perfect for homeschool parents and their children who are looking for a fun and educational experience.

Preregistration required.

[Register for: Homeschool Hangout.](#)

## [ScOutdoor Adventure: Cub Scouts](#)

Saturday, Nov. 12  
1-3 p.m.

Join us for a fun day and enjoy a series of programs that help your Cub Scout fulfill requirements for a variety of badges and patches. See details below. There will be an optional knot tying workshop at 3:00 P.M. for all enrolled participants. **This is not a drop-off program; Scouts must be accompanied by an adult during the program. Preregistration required for all attendees (Scouts and family members).** This event is subject to cancellation if minimum attendance is not met. A portion of the event will be held outside rain or shine; please dress for the weather.

Our educators will address components of the following Cub Scout Badges (see registration links for full details):

- Tiger Scouts: Tigers in the Wild and My Tiger Jungle.  
Please note the Tiger Scouts program may end earlier than 3 p.m. Don't forget the optional knot tying workshop at 3 P.M. for all enrolled participants.
- Wolf Scouts: Wolf Call of the Wild and Wolf Paws on the Path.
- Bear Scouts: Bear Fur, Feathers, Ferns and Bear Necessities.
- Webelo Scouts: Into the Wild and Into the Woods.

**Please note that check-in for ScOutdoor Adventure: Cub Scouts will take place 12:30-1 p.m. Please complete check-in by 1 p.m. or you may miss your first session.**

FEE: \$10 per Scout, regular admission applies to non-Scouts. Everyone attending must preregister.

[Register for ScOutdoor Adventure: Cub Scouts.](#)

## [The More You Know](#)

### [Wild Science Saturdays](#)

There's always more to nature than meets the eye! We'll take an in-depth look at the science behind natural phenomena with hands-on activities.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

Fee: Included with price of admission.

#### Tricksters and “Monster” Critters

Saturday, Oct. 22

1:30-2:30 p.m.

What are some of the tricks animals use to survive? Are there really vampires and zombies in nature? Join us to find out more!

#### Fall-ing Leaves and Seeds

Saturday, Nov. 19

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Why do leaves change color? How and why do seeds travel? Play some games and do an experiment to find the answers!

#### Survival of the Fittest

Saturday, Dec. 17

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Winter is coming, and plants and animals are getting ready! What do they do to prepare? What can we learn from them to help us survive and enjoy the winter season?

#### Halloween Animal Mythbusters

Saturday, Oct. 29

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Are owls really wise? Are bats really blind? Come learn the truth behind some of our most misunderstood animals. We'll play some wildlife trivia, observe animal features up close and have an opportunity to make something to take home with you. All activities will focus on popular animals of Halloween.

We recommend joining the fun at the start time. We may not be able to accommodate those who arrive more than 15 minutes into the activity.

Fee: Included with the price of admission.

## Certification programs

#### Hunter Education – Field Day

Saturday, September 17

8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.

The main purpose of the hunter education field day course is to provide an alternative to the traditional course. This course is the same as the traditional hunter education course; however, the

classroom portion is completed by enrolling in the online training session. In order to purchase a hunting license in Michigan, an individual born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, is required to successfully complete an approved hunter education course. The online course is fee-based and can be taken at [www.hunter-ed.com/Michigan](http://www.hunter-ed.com/Michigan). Students completing the online course followed by the field day must present a copy of their certificate of completion (voucher) for the online course at the start of the field day. All participants must have successfully completed the online hunter education course prior to registering for the field day.

About the field day:

- Four-hour course.
- Written test (80% or better to pass) and practice assessment (pass/fail).
- No minimum age requirement; however, students under 18 years of age should be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or other adult approved by parent or legal guardian.

Fee: \$2; preregistration required.

## RECREATION PASSPORT COST / WHERE TO PURCHASE / DETAILS

- Vehicles: \$12 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State
- Vehicles: \$17 when purchased at state parks, \*DNR customer service centers (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle. (Recreation Passport fee + \$5 convenience fee = \$17).
- Motorcycles: \$6 when purchased with your license plate registration renewal through the Secretary of State.
- Motorcycles: \$11 (\$6 passport fee, plus \$5 convenience fee) when purchased at state parks and DNR customer service centers (cash or checks only) or at the Secretary of State outside your license plate registration renewal cycle
- Moped: \$6 when purchased at state parks.
- Commercial daily pass \$17 when purchased at state parks (24k+ lbs and/or seating capacity of 16+).
- A resident Recreation Passport cannot be purchased online.
- The purchase of a separate Recreation Passport is required for any hitched or unhitched towed vehicles.

The \$5 convenience fee will not be applied to purchases made at / for:

- Belle Isle Park.
- Non-street-legal vehicles at the Silver Lake State Park ORV area.
- Non-annual renewing vehicles (ie. historical/authentic, street-legal moped, tribal government, dealer, temporary, manufacture, non-profit organization (Y) plates).
- Mopeds (a moped Recreation Passport is not available for purchase at the Secretary of State, so the \$5 convenience fee does not apply).
- Commercial vehicles.

Thank you for supporting your state parks by purchasing your recreation passport and by visiting our beautiful state parks.

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Visit [Michigan.gov/OAC](http://Michigan.gov/OAC) and scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up for email alerts; including this triannual newsletter.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR).