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## 2018 BLUE WEEK SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

5-7 p.m. **Blue Week "Green Drinks" Kick-Off** BLACK CLOISTER BREWING CO.  
Green Ribbon Initiative and Lucas County Sustainability Commission are partnering to bring you a casual event to mingle with environmentally minded people.

### Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

2-5 p.m. **Turning the Hills Blue** EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, OTTAWA HILLS  
Celebrate Mother's Day with a family-friendly event at Ottawa Hills. Kids will be able to plant native seeds to take home and have a chance to commemorate the day by snapping a picture with the giant photo frame. Tours of an Ottawa Hills riparian corridor will be led by Nature Conservancy staff every half hour. Attendees will learn about the Village's commitment to sustainability and GRI's Adopt-A-Natural-Area program.

### Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

9 a.m.- noon **Seed Collection Workshop** BLUE CREEK METROPARK  
Learn techniques used for collection and propagation including site planning and preparation, determining seed ripeness, storage, and sowing seeds indoors and out. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/green-ribbon-initiative-13363971518>

10:00 a.m. **Lupine in Bloom** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK LODGE  
Wild Blue Lupine is one of the signature species of the Oak Openings Region and is the only host plant for the Karner Blue Butterfly larvae. Please register at: <https://reservations.metroparkstoledo.com/programs/>

2-4 p.m. **Butterflies of Oak Openings** THE NATURE CONSERVANCY KITTY TODD PRESERVE  
Jan Dixon will guide guests through the preserve on a search for the diverse array of butterflies that fly in the Oak Openings. With a sharp eye and a little luck, one might catch a glimpse of the rare Frosted Elfin or Dusted Skipper.

6:30 p.m. **Native Alternatives** TOLEDO BOTANICAL GARDEN, CONFERENCE CENTER  
Join the Ohio Invasive Plant Council and Metroparks Toledo to learn about identifying and removing invasive plants in your landscape or natural area. Learn about some of the excellent alternative plants that you can replace them with and about the wildlife that will thank you! Some plants will be available for purchase.

6-7:30 p.m. **West Prairie Tour** WEST RD. AND ARSENAL RD., BROWNSTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, MI  
Discover the rare habitats in Sibley Prairie Priority Conservation Area and the current efforts of Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy to restore this natural gem.

### Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

2-3:30 p.m. **The Buzz about Bees in the Oak Openings** MEILKE RD. SAVANNA WILDLIFE AREA  
Enjoy an afternoon walk in the perfect place to see nature in action--bumblebees pollinating wild blue lupine and blueberries in a small, sandy oak savanna. Leader: Mitch Magdich, Education Curator of the Toledo Zoo. Free field trip limited to 25. Please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/green-ribbon-initiative-13363971518>

6:45 p.m. **Urban Prairie Program** SECOR METROPARK  
Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Chapter welcomes you to listen to Dr. Ryan Walsh from the Toledo Zoo conservation department discuss the Zoo's urban prairie program as well as their new native plant sale initiative aimed at bringing native plants to gardeners and home owners in the Toledo area.

## Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 a.m. **All Things Blue** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK  
Come and discover all things Blue on a naturalist led hike. We will look for Wild Blue Lupine, Blue Jays, Blue Birds, Blue Racer snakes and more! Please register at: <https://reservations.metroparkstoledo.com/programs/>
- 6:30 p.m. **Wetland Wildlife** IRWIN PRAIRIE STATE NATURE PRESERVE  
Considered the finest remaining sedge meadow in the state, Irwin Prairie is a mosaic of distinctive plant communities. Join Preserve staff as we search for the unusual plants and animals residing in the wetlands.

## Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 a.m. **Birds of Blue** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK  
Take a hike with a park naturalist and search for blue birds such as: bluebirds, blue jays, indigo buntings and anything else blue we can find! Please register at: <https://reservations.metroparkstoledo.com/programs/>
- 7:00 p.m. **Wild About Wildlands** BEDFORD HIGHSCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
The Green Ribbon Initiative welcomes Susan Morse, founder of Keeping Tracks and nationally renowned naturalist, to the Oak Openings to share her excitement for North America's wild habitats. Susan's award-winning photography and fascinating anecdotes emphasize the ecological and social values of connecting natural areas—including here at home in the Oak Openings! Susan will talk about the habits and habitat of a variety of local species, how to identify their most telling signs in the field, the role that these animals play in the local ecology, and the challenges they face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/green-ribbon-initiative-13363971518>

## Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 a.m. **Endangered Species** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK, GIRDHAM RD. DUNES  
Commemorate National Endangered Species Day on a morning quest to find Lark Sparrows, an Ohio endangered species. Bring binoculars for a close-up view! Please register at: <https://reservations.metroparkstoledo.com>
- 8a.m.–5 p.m. **Wild About Wildlife!** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK LODGE  
Join Susan Morse, a nationally renowned naturalist, for a day-long workshop exploring local animal behavior in the Oak Openings Region. Learn to read the landscape with a set of new eyes as Susan reveals the secrets of our wild neighbors. Participants will be equipped with the skills to detect, identify, and interpret tracks and signs of local Oak Openings species. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/green-ribbon-initiative-13363971518>
- 7:00 p.m. **Oak Openings Photo Contest Reception** NATIONAL CENTER FOR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY  
See the Oak Openings through another lens as you help us celebrate the winners of our photography contest! Awards will be given for the best photo in each of 4 Oak-Openings-themed categories, as well as an overall winner and runner-up, and a People's Choice winner. The top photos will be on display, light refreshments will be provided, and you get another opportunity to connect with acclaimed tracker and noted wildlife photographer Susan Morse. For contest information, visit <https://www.oakopenings.org/photo-contest/>

## Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

- 10 a.m.–4 p.m. **Native Plant Sale** THE NATURE CONSERVANCY KITTY TODD PRESERVE  
Help restore nature and bring more wildlife to your yard by growing native plants sourced from the Oak Openings Region and Great Black Swamp. Proceeds go to the Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative & Wild Ones programs.
- 8a.m.–5 p.m. **Wild About Wildlife!** OAKWOODS METROPARK, MI  
Join Susan Morse, a nationally renowned naturalist, for a day-long workshop exploring local animal behavior in the Oak Openings Region. Learn to read the landscape with a set of new eyes as Susan reveals the secrets of our wild neighbors. Participants will be equipped with the skills to detect, identify, and interpret tracks and signs of local Oak Openings species. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/green-ribbon-initiative-13363971518>

9 a.m.-12 p.m. **Adopt-A-Natural Area Stewardship Day** OAK OPENINGS PRESERVE METROPARK LODGE  
Interested in learning about how individuals, clubs, businesses and other groups can help with the restoration efforts throughout the entire Oak Openings Region? Join LaRae Sprow, Toledo Metroparks and some current AANA land stewards to explore an “adopted” barren habitat at Oak Openings Preserve. After learning about the program, we will then do hands-on restoration at one of the “adoptable” sites. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants.

7:30-9 p.m. **Frogtastic Night** SECOR METROPARK  
Join University of Toledo students and hop out for a Frogtastic Night of Fun! First kids will play a frog lifecycle game for prizes. Learn the calls of the native frogs and toads, then test your new knowledge in the field.

### **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

10a.m.-4 p.m. **Native Plant Sale** THE NATURE CONSERVANCY KITTY TODD PRESERVE  
Help restore nature and bring more wildlife to your yard by growing native plants sourced from the Oak Openings Region and Great Black Swamp. Proceeds go to the Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative & Wild Ones programs.

9 a.m.- Noon **Native Habitat for Game Hunting** PETERSBURG STATE GAME AREA, MI  
The Western Lake Erie Cluster of The Stewardship Network will be hosting a tour of the Petersburg State Game Area. Staff will identify species that are unique to the Oak Openings landscape and discuss management priorities to help preserve the habitat and promote recreational use for hunting.

1-4 p.m. **Bow for Blue Week** TOMAHAWK ARCHERS CLUB, MI  
Have you ever wanted to learn archery? Ever wanted to learn archery while walking through The Oak Openings Region? Join us to learn one of the greatest hobbies of all time as we shoot a field course that winds through The Oak Openings! As we go along, we will learn about what makes the Tomahawk Archers property unique along with what restoration efforts The Nature Conservancy has been doing over years. No experience or equipment is necessary. Tomahawk Archers will provide everything you need to have a fun filled afternoon.