



# 2023 BLUE WEEK SCHEDULE

## Blue Week Kickoff Day – Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

10 am - [Blazing Star Planting](#) [KITTY TODD NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
1 pm Join The Nature Conservancy for a planting day at the Kitty Todd Preserve from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on May 13th, 2023, to plant two species of blazing stars. We'll be planting dense blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) and rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*) to benefit the state-endangered blazing star borer moth and other pollinators. Meet at the Kitty Todd Preserve's main office at 10420 Old State Line Rd. in Swanton. Please wear long pants and shoes that can potentially get dirty and wet. Please bring gardening gloves, waterproof boots, and water. We'll have extra gloves and will provide all other tools. [REGISTER HERE](#)

7:15 pm - [Frogs and People: A Ribbeting Night of Fun and Learning](#) [OAK OPENINGS METROPARK, OH](#)  
9 pm Join Green Ribbon Initiative Partner Bowling Green State University's graduate student Brian Kron and hop over to Oak Openings Metropark for a Frog-Filled Night of Fun and Learning! Kids (6+) can play a frog lifecycle game for fun and prizes! You'll learn the calls of the native frogs and toads that reside in our area, and more about the importance of our local species. Then, you can join our frog research fun and test your new knowledge in the field to catch and identify frogs and toads at Oak Openings Metropark! [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

9 am - [Spring Clean Up in Ottawa Hills](#) [VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OH](#)  
11:00 am Join The Nature Conservancy and Cub Scout Pack 27 in cleaning up natural areas in the Village of Ottawa Hills. The Pack clears woody invasive species and trash from their designated area through GRI's Adopt A Natural Area program. Join us for the Spring Clean Up to learn more about AANA and the Landowner Registry. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants, and bring a water bottle. We'll meet in the back of the Epworth Church parking lot and work on the uneven ground off the trail. Let's multiply the Pack's impact by working together! [REGISTER HERE](#)

9 am - [All Things Blue \(Adults and 12+\)](#) [OAK OPENINGS METROPARK, OH](#)  
11:30 am Discover all things blue during this year's Blue Week! Celebrate the diversity of the Oak Openings region as we will look for Wild Blue Lupine, Blue Jays, Blue Birds, Blue Racer snakes and more. Meet at the Buehner Center at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. [REGISTER HERE](#)

3 pm - [Wildflower Walk](#) [OAK OPENINGS METROPARK, OH](#)  
4:30 pm Join Chris and Randy Harr for a wildflower walk to discover the spring and early summer wildflowers that carpet the Oak Openings trails, especially lupine, the Blue Week signature flower. We will meet outside of the Buehner Center at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Visit [www.oakopenings.org](http://www.oakopenings.org) for more details!

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

- 10 am - [Blue Week: Wetlands](#) [W.W. KNIGHT NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
11 am Wood County Park District is proud to be a partner with the Green Ribbon Initiative to highlight the natural treasures of the Oak Openings Region. Celebrate Oak Openings Blue Week by learning about the importance of wetlands and the creatures that call it home. We'll be heading out to the wetlands for hands-on collection of critters, so be prepared for wet and mud! [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 11 am - [Native Species Walk & Talk](#) [TOLEDO MEMORIAL PARK OFFICE, OH](#)  
12 pm Join Toledo Memorial Park (TMP) landscaping team at the TMP front office parking lot for a walk and short talk about their Wildflower Prairie. Learn how it began, what's been happening, and what TMP plans are growing forward. TMP will have a guided tour of the areas where they have incorporated the native species throughout the memorial park. Participants will be given a tour map and wildflower seed packet to take home. Tour maps will also be available to pick up for future visits to TMP. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 5 pm - [Stewardship: Behind the Scenes](#) [IRWIN PRAIRIE STATE NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
6 pm DNAP preserve manager, Maureen Bogdanski, will share some basic techniques and equipment operation for invasive species control. This event is open for the public to learn about methods to treat invasives at home and what to expect in a land management career for current students/recent graduates. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 6:45 pm - [Exploring Water Quality in Oak](#) [HARROUN COMMUNITY PARK, OH](#)  
8:30 pm [Openings: A Hands-On SWW Event](#)  
Join TMACOG's Student Watershed Watch coordinator, Sara Guiher, in exploring the quality of a waterway in Oak Openings using SWW equipment and materials. This family-friendly program will cover the basics of watersheds and how our actions affect them. Participants will learn how to interpret their water quality test results to assess the health of the water. Wear clothes and shoes that can potentially get dirty and wet. The event is suitable for those aged 10+ and may be cancelled if weather conditions are unsafe. Meet at the parking lot behind 5460 Main Street, Sylvania, OH 43560, and walk a short distance on a gravel trail. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

- 8 am - [Birds of the Oak Openings](#) [HARROUN COMMUNITY PARK, OH](#)  
10 am Please join The Nature Conservancy for a bird walk at Harroun Community Park to look for migratory birds as they pass through the Oak Openings Region. We'll be looking for warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, orioles, and any other birds we can find. Birding tours are free and open to the public. Bring binoculars if you have them. We'll be walking on paved or dirt trails. **Updated meeting location: Please park in the lot behind Root at 5470 Main St.** All participants will receive a coupon for coffee or a juice at either Chandler Cafe or Erin Ann's in downtown. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 10 am - [Garlic Mustard Pull](#) [IRWIN PRAIRIE STATE NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
1 pm Join DNAP preserve manager, Maureen Bogdanski, Wild Ones Oak Openings, and Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association for invasive species removal at Irwin Prairie. Wear gloves and knee-high rubber boots to help with garlic mustard control. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 3 pm - [Discovering Detwiler Marsh Nature Walk: 3pm](#) [DETWILER MARSH, OH](#)  
3:45 pm Play an interactive game as we stroll around the marsh discovering its beauty and the many benefits to our local waterways including Lake Erie, Maumee Rive, Swan Creek, Mud Creek, and more. [REGISTER HERE](#)  
Please use [THIS MAP](#) to help you find parking away from the apartment complex to not be towed.

## Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> *continued...*

- 4:15 pm - [Discovering Detwiler Marsh Nature Walk: 4:15pm](#) [DETWILER MARSH, OH](#)  
5 pm Play an interactive game as we stroll around the marsh discovering its beauty and the many benefits to our local waterways including Lake Erie, Maumee Rive, Swan Creek, Mud Creek, and more. [REGISTER HERE](#)  
Please use [THIS MAP](#) to help you find parking away from the apartment complex to not be towed.
- 6:15 pm - [Strengthening Our Connection to Nature with Chris Helzer](#) [Online & SECOR METROPARK, OH](#)  
8 pm Join GRI partners in a virtual Zoom program with Chris Helzer of The Nature Conservancy, followed by a walk at Secor Metropark. Chris will discuss how healthy habitats and species diversity create resilience in nature, which is reliant on human stewardship. Many of North America's natural landscapes, such as the tallgrass prairie, were shaped by indigenous people's active fire management. The interrelationship between humans and nature requires all of us to be actively involved in conservation. Let's celebrate nature's diversity and beauty and share our passion for it with others. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

- 5:30 pm - [Wetlands and Margaritas](#) [OLD EL CAMINO PARKING LOT, OH](#)  
6:30 pm Visit this new addition to Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. Much of this property, which was formerly farm fields, has been restored to wetlands with the help of funds from the H2Ohio program. LaRae Sprow, Natural Resources Supervisor with Metroparks will be leading this hour-long program. Park at Old el Camino at 13625 Airport Hwy, Swanton. Stay for dinner as we understand they have a Wednesday night margarita special. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 6 pm - [Otsego Island Clean-up \(volunteer\)](#) [OTSEGO PARK, OH](#)  
8:30 pm We're teaming up with Partners for Clean Streams for an island clean-up! Canoe over to Hedges Island from Otsego Park and help us pick up what flood waters dump. We'll supply all of the clean-up and canoeing supplies and instruction. Contact Craig Spicer with questions 419-661-1697x3 [cspicer@wcparks.org](mailto:cspicer@wcparks.org). [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 6:30 pm - [Movie Presentation:](#) [OLANDER PARK HALL, OH](#)  
8:30 pm [The Story of the Great Black Swamp](#)  
Outdoor Sylvania Community Parks presents the showing of the WBGU-PBS documentary: The Story of the Great Black Swamp. This documentary investigates the black swamp area in Northwest Ohio, from its creation during the glacial ages to its transformation into farmland. Come early and enjoy light refreshments and hear from park director, Erika Buri, and then enjoy the show at 7:30pm! [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 7:30 pm - [Night Owls Tour](#) [IRWIN PRAIRIE STATE NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
9 pm Join DNAP preserve manager, Maureen Bogdanski, on a nighttime tour of Irwin Prairie where we will rely on our heightened senses for unique wildlife encounters. From dusk through darkness, observe aerial courtship displays, listen close for frog songs and late-night owl conversations. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

5:30 pm - [Blue Week: The Rarest Pigment in Nature](#) [OAK OPENINGS METROPARK, OH](#)  
7 pm [\(Adults and 12+\)](#)

Join us for a short hike through one of the rarest regions in search of an equally rare pigment. Then, take that pigment home with you! Make an all-natural chalk pastel using water, pigment, and limestone powder (also found in our region!) for Blue Week, a celebration of all things blue in our unique Oak Openings region. [REGISTER HERE](#)

6 pm - [Woody Plant Removal \(volunteer\)](#) [W.W. KNIGHT NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)  
7:30pm

Help restore balance to the ecosystem by removing invasive woody species from the park. Loppers, hand-saws, and gloves will be available for volunteers to use. No experience needed. [REGISTER HERE](#)

6 pm - [Connection with Nature through](#) [TOLEDO BOTANICAL GARDEN METROPARK, OH](#)  
7:30 pm [Observations and Technology for Families](#)

This family friendly program will help kids of all ages discover nature in the Garden, and then share those discoveries with the group. The class will include both time out in the garden, and indoors with a technology component. Come be part of the enjoyable evening and learn more about nature including plants and insects, 4-H and Extension. In case of rain, the entire program will be held indoors with plenty of samples brought indoors for discovery. [REGISTER HERE](#)

6 pm - [Blue Week: No Bees, No Cheese](#) [CROSSWINDS MARSH, MI](#)  
8pm

Did you know that most of the foods we eat are made possible by pollinators? Examine bee keeping tools and see a bee hotel at work. Ice cream snack will be provided. We're partnering with The Nature Conservancy and Green Ribbon Initiative to offer this free event as part of their Blue Week, celebrating that You Belong in Nature! A maximum of 30 people may register, with a minimum of 10 people registered to conduct the program. Registration closes May 17th at 8:00AM. For more info, please call 734-654-1220 [REGISTER HERE](#)

7 pm - [Blue Week: Bradner Preserve and the Oak](#) [BRADNER PRESERVE, OH](#)  
8:30 pm [Openings Region](#)

Celebrate Oak Openings Blue Week with a hike that speaks to the connection of Bradner Preserve and its unique geology that relates to the Oak Openings Region. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

7 pm - [Fireside Chat](#) [BLUE CREEK QUARRY, OH](#)  
8:30 pm

Join the GRI professionals panel to discuss topics related to their field. This event is open for the public to learn about the Oak Openings Region and for current students/recent graduates to learn what to expect in a related career. Professionals are welcome to attend for networking and casual conversations around a fire. [REGISTER HERE](#)

9 pm - [Nature at Night: The Colors of the Night \(All Ages\)](#) [WILDWOOD METROPARK, OH](#)  
10:30 pm

How do you experience the world without help from the visible light spectrum? Let your senses be your guide on this Nature at Night. Meet at the Metz Visitors Center at Wildwood Metropark. [REGISTER HERE](#)

## Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

- 8 am - [Birds and Botany](#) [OAK OPENINGS METROPARK, OH](#)  
10 am Please join Elliot Tramer, University of Toledo professor emeritus and author of Richness and Rarity and Jerry Jankowski, former Oak Openings Metropark manager and rare plant monitor, as they lead a walk In Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. We will be looking for year-round resident birds and new spring arrivals. We will observe plants common to the Oak Openings savannas and woodlands including lupine, puccoon, and bird's foot violet. Please meet at the Buehner Center. This walk is limited to 20 people; please register. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 8:30 am - [Bird Tour Walk with Jeremy Dominguez](#) [MEADOWBROOK MARSH, OH](#)  
10 am Come join the Toledo Zoo's Birding Outreach Coordinator and Ornithologist, Jeremy Dominguez, and experience the annual spring bird migration. Each spring millions of migrating birds pass through North America from the neo-tropics on their way to their breeding grounds further north. This will be a spectacular birding opportunity you won't want to miss! This event is free, but space is limited. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 12 pm - [Blue Week: The Rarest Pigment in Nature](#) [WILDWOOD METROPARK-HALL, OH](#)  
1:30 pm [\(Adults and 12+\)](#)  
Join us for a short hike through one of the rarest regions in search of an equally rare pigment. Then, take that pigment home with you! Make an all-natural chalk pastel using water, pigment, and limestone powder (also found in our region!) for Blue Week, a celebration of all things blue in our unique Oak Openings region. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 12 pm - [Blue Week Native Plant Sale](#) [BLUE CREEK SEED NURSERY, OH](#)  
4 pm 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. *Note: NO Registration required.*
- 1 pm - [Blue Week: Tallgrass Prairie Trek](#) [OAKWOODS METROPARK, MI](#)  
2:30 pm At the end of the last glacier period, a large lake covered portions of NW Ohio and SE Michigan. That lake deposited sand along its shores. After the waters receded, the sands left behind developed into oak savanna and the low-lying areas in between the dunes held water throughout much of the year and became lakeplain wet prairie. This area is called this the Oak Openings Region. Join us as we take a trek through our remnant tallgrass prairie to discover the plants and animals of the Oakwoods prairie. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- 1 pm - [In Your Backyard](#) [WHEELER PRESERVE, MI](#)  
4 pm Join us for an open house at this Bedford Township Preserve to see this oasis of nature in a suburban area. The Nature Conservancy has done extensive work to remove invasives and the Township Park Commission has worked to introduce native species to the preserve. Although only 22 acres, the preserve has a variety of habitats. Much of the work that has been done here also applies to your own Oak Openings backyard habitat. Visit with Oak Openings Region Conservancy members to learn more about the Landowner Registry and opportunities to help manage your own natural areas. Bring your binoculars as bluebirds and many other birds should be around. (Meet at the corner of Whiteford Center Rd. and Section Rd.) [REGISTER HERE](#)

## Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

- 9 am - **[Public Archery Shoot - Bear and Turkey](#)** **[TOMAHAWK ARCHERS CLUB, MI](#)**  
1 pm Have you ever wanted to learn archery? Join us to learn one of the greatest hobbies of all time as we shoot a field course that winds through The Oak Openings. No experience or equipment is necessary. Tomahawk Archers will provide everything you need to have a fun filled experience. Kids- Free, Teens \$5, and Adults \$10 **[REGISTER HERE](#)**
- 10 am - **[Blue Week: What's Water Got to Do with It?](#)** **[WIREGRASS LAKE METROPARK, OH](#)**  
11:30 am **[\(Adults and 12+\)](#)**  
Celebrate the beautiful diversity of the Oak Openings Region during Blue Week. The story of this globally rare area starts and ends with water. Learn about the historic wet prairies as we travel a portion of the Moseley Trail. **[REGISTER HERE](#)**
- 10 am - **[Blue Week Native Plant Sale](#)** **[BLUE CREEK SEED NURSERY, OH](#)**  
2 pm 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. *Note: NO Registration required.*
- 11 am - **[Kitty Todd - 4H Guided Hike \(FULL\)](#)** **[KITTY TODD NATURE PRESERVE, OH](#)**  
1 pm Northeast Ohio 4-H will take a guided hike during Blue Week with The Nature Conservancy at Kitty Todd Nature Preserve. This event provides a unique opportunity for the group to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the importance of preserving our natural resources. The guided hike will showcase this globally unique nature preserve's diverse wildlife and plant species. Please note - that due to overwhelming interest, this event is now full.
- 2:30 pm - **[Enrichment Crafts](#)** **[OLANDER PARK-SHELTER 2, OH](#)**  
4:30 pm Join the Green Ribbon Initiative to learn about native plants and pollinators through paper folding and help build enrichment toys for injured wildlife in recovery at Nature's Nursery. **[REGISTER HERE](#)**