Old Woman Creek Research Reserve

Education is Change on the Ground

Girls in Science

Old Woman Creek staff hosted high school seniors in Advanced Placement Biology for an overnight wetland studies program at the reserve. During their stay, these young women had the opportunity to learn and practice fish survey techniques, add to the reserve's fish database, and use their fish observations to take part in discussions about the food chain in the estuary. Old Woman Creek's staff shared with them how the reserve monitors water quality and works to increase our understanding of nutrient movement through wetland ecosystems. Through the two days the students spent studying and experiencing the science conducted at Old Woman Creek Research Reserve, they gained knowledge and skills that will help them in their academic career and as future decision makers in the Great Lakes.

Partnering to Increase Access at the Reserve

For the past year, reserve staff have partnered with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities by offering programming to help members of the Board to become more comfortable experiencing the outdoors. These experiences led to a greater understanding of hiking in different seasons, provided confidence for some to branch out to join public paddling trips, while others became stewardship volunteers to help with land management and invasive species removal. This partnership has been the impetus for a new public program called Tranquil Tuesdays that offer low impact and accessible experiences at the reserve like birding, meditation at the beach, and gentle impact hiking to anyone who wants to try it.
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

Change on the Ground in 2022

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES
of natural classrooms & living laboratories with
26 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

RESEARCH RESERVES
ALASKA PUERTO RICO HAWAII

Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!

296,131 VISITORS
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Prepares
the Next Generation

54,773 STUDENTS
take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

4,347 TEACHERS
are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom

ESTUARY SCIENCE
LOCAL DATA
LAB WORK
FIELD INVESTIGATION

SKILLS BUILT
✓ Observation
✓ Asking research questions
✓ Problem solving
✓ Data driven decision making

Improves
the Environment

10,570 CITIZENS
are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS
lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states

coast.noaa.gov/estuaries

Creating value through education
37,371 volunteer hours = $1,119,261*

VOLUNTEER ACTIONS
✓ Protect wildlife
✓ Monitor water quality
✓ Plant native species
✓ Clean up the coasts

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $29.95 based on data from the Independent Sector.