



MUDDY BOOTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSPIRED BY
WETLANDS

LARA ROKETENETZ, PH.D.

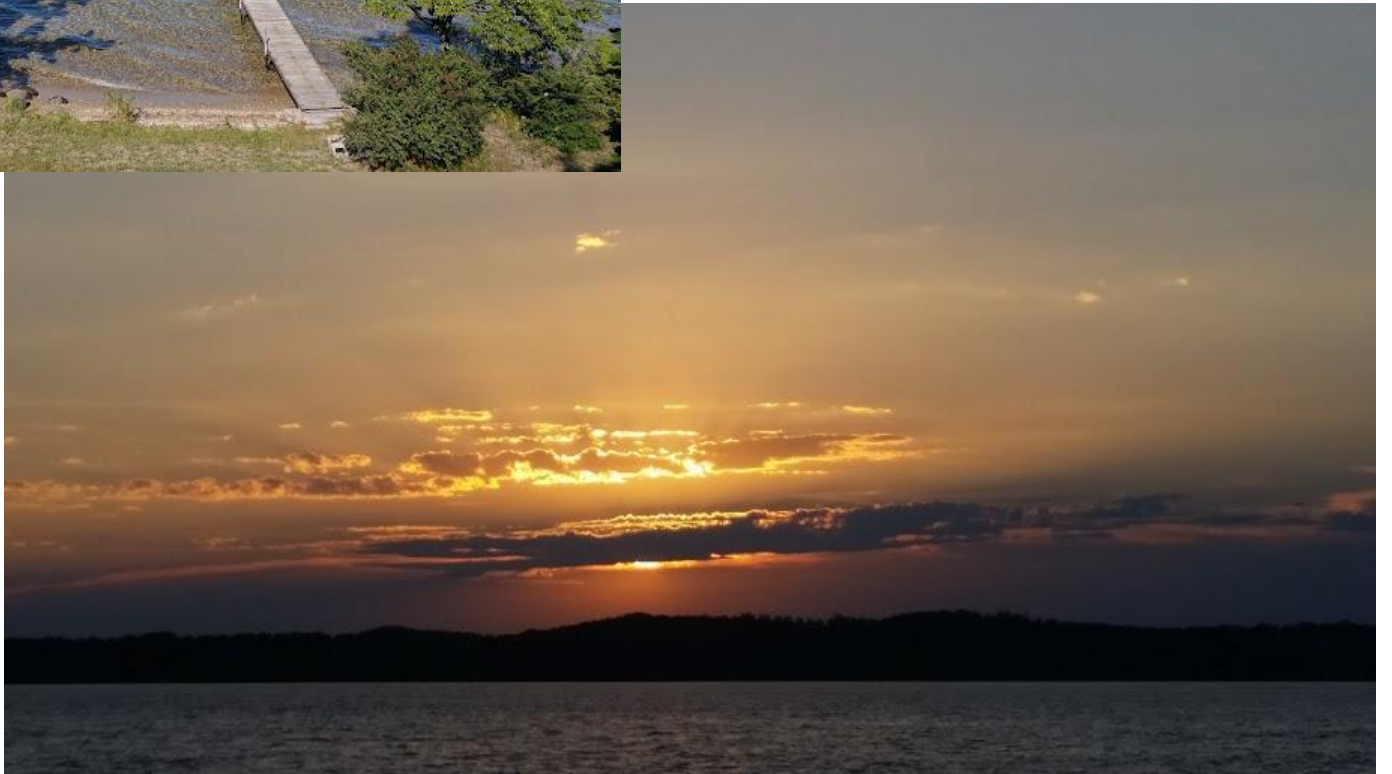
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FIELD STATION



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WHAT IS A FIELD STATION?

- Any establishment that calls itself a field station and supports scientists conducting research on or near its premises. (Struminger et al, 2018)
- Missions also typically include education and public engagement





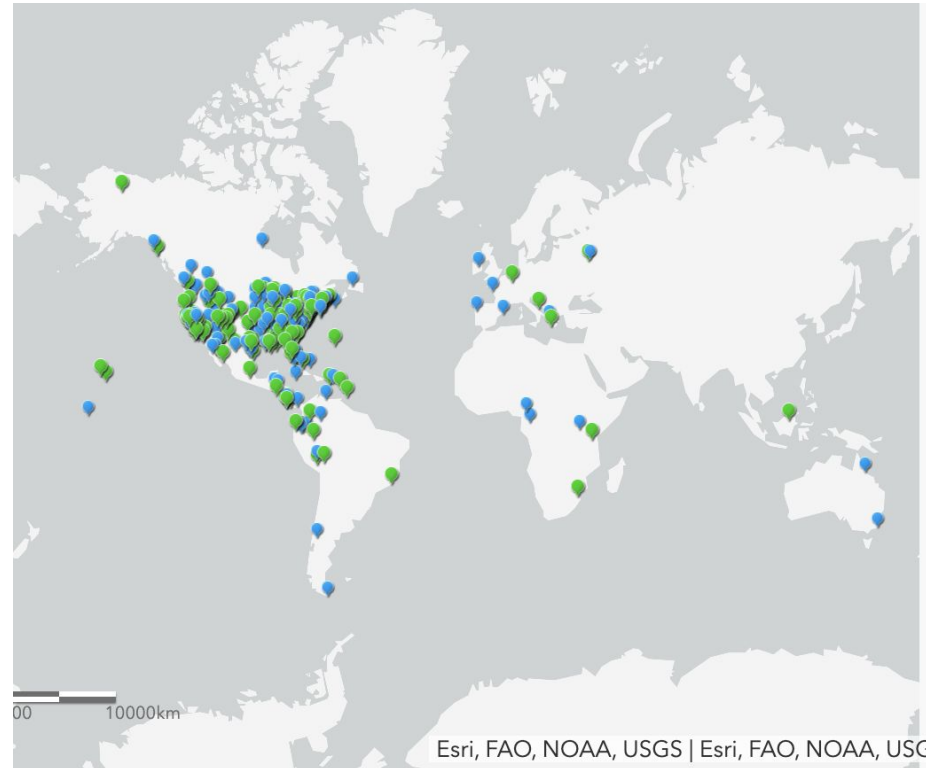
Organization of Biological Field Stations

Supporting Environmental Research, Education and Public Understanding

Join OBFS

<https://www.obfs.org/>

- Mission: Help member stations increase their effectiveness in supporting critical research, education, and outreach programs. We pursue this goal in a manner that maximizes diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and transparency.



The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve is a living laboratory for the advancement of knowledge through ecological research, education, and stewardship of the natural world.

- Provide a center for long-term environmental research emphasizing habitat restoration and ecology
- Interact with the local community in promoting environmental awareness
- Support the education programs of primarily urban universities and local schools (K-12)

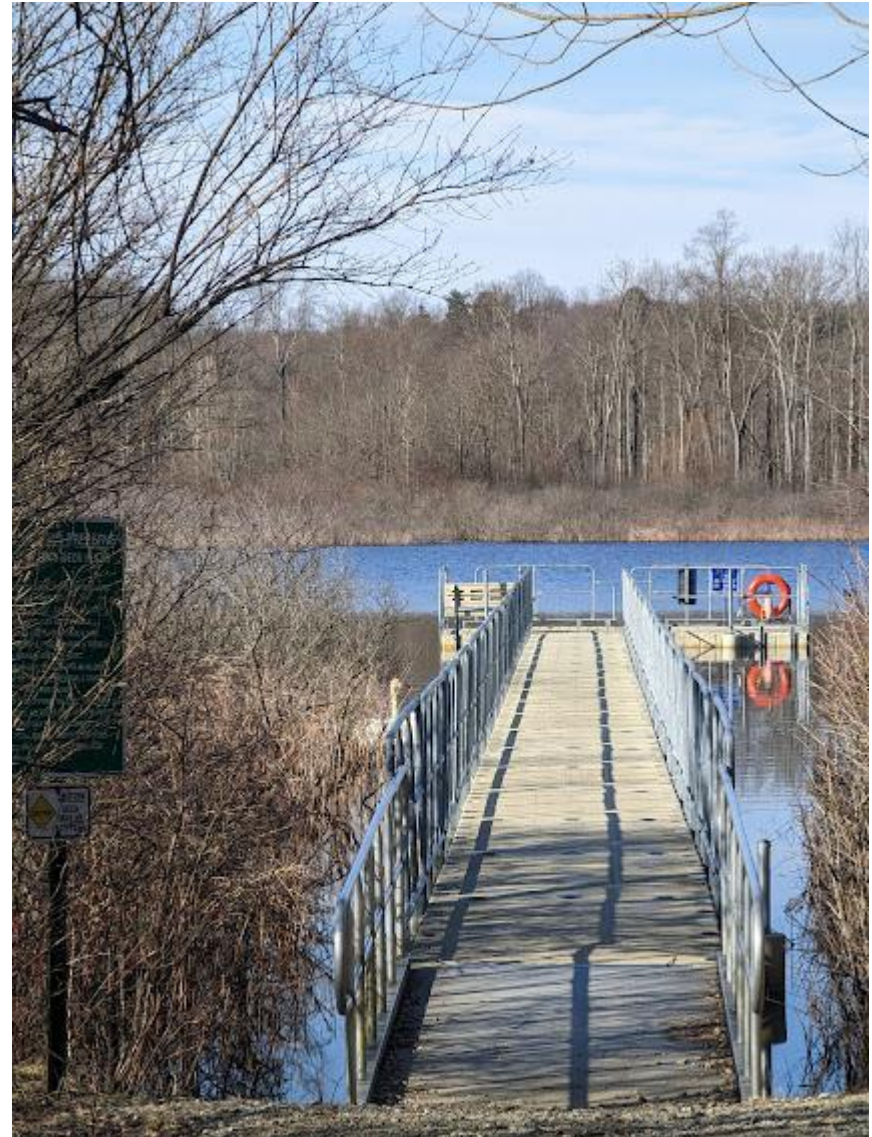
<https://www.facebook.com/UAFieldStation>

https://www.instagram.com/uakron_fieldstation/





BATH NATURE PRESERVE





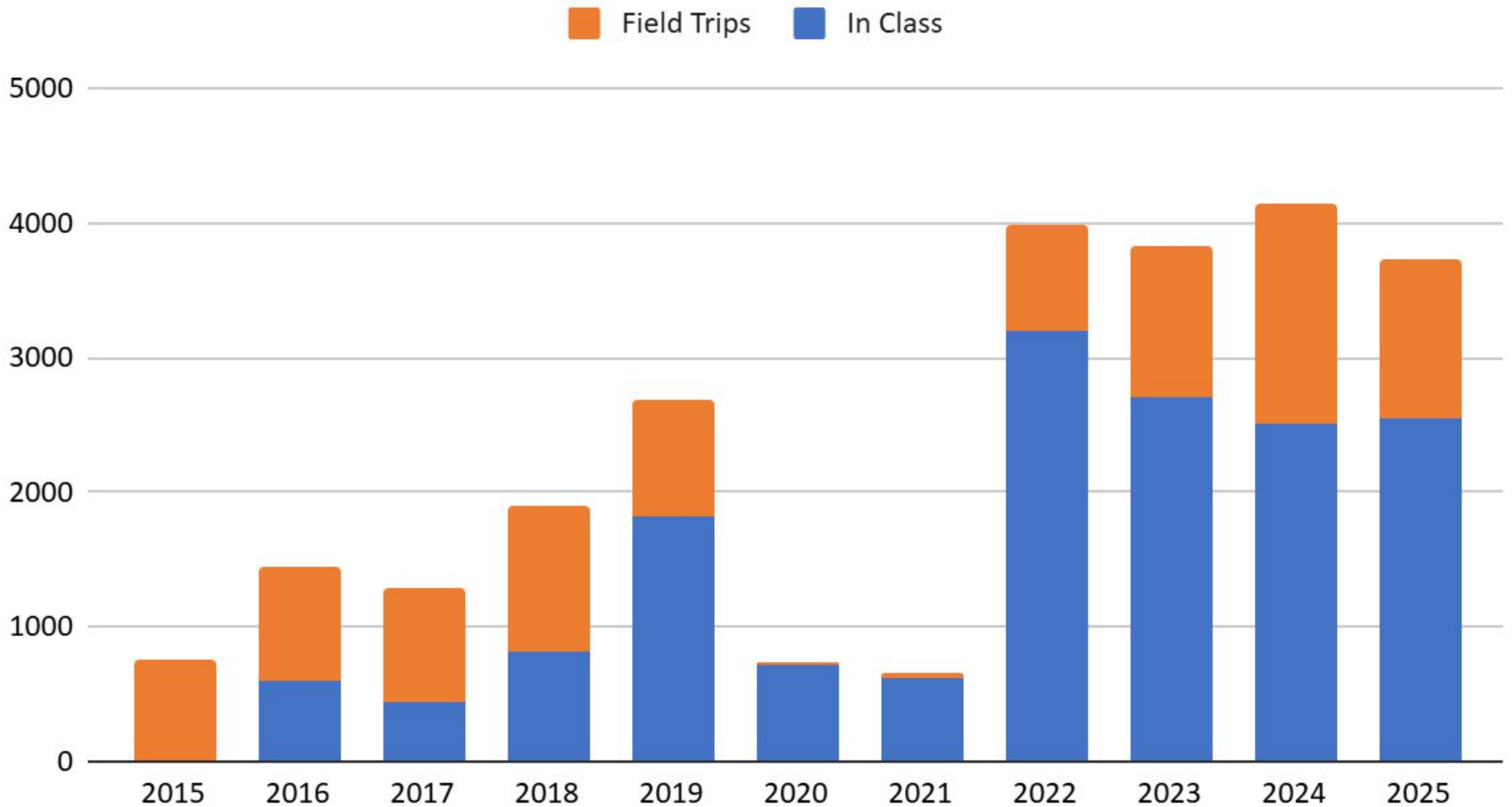
STEINER WOODS



PANZNER WETLANDS WILDLIFE PRESERVE

K-12 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In Class and Field Trips 2015-2025









HOME SCHOOL
GROUPS



BIOMIMICRY RESEARCH INNOVATION CENTER

[Home](#) [News](#) [Team](#) [Research](#) [Fellowships](#) [About](#)

Innovation inspired by nature:

Linking science, engineering, business, art, and design at the Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center

WHAT IS BRIC?

The University of Akron Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center (**BRIC**) is a center dedicated to the advancement of innovation inspired by nature. Together with our regional partners, we are building an internationally recognized center for biomimicry research, design, teaching and training.

The work of BRIC is to align the creative ideas of scientists, engineers, artists, and entrepreneurs to catalyze invention. By partnering our existing biomimetic research expertise with the Great Lakes Biomimicry (GLBio) business leaders, the BRIC paradigm lays the foundation for sustainable economic and educational innovation powered by nature-inspired technologies.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**











FIELD COURSES TO MAINE('23/'25), VIRGINIA('24), ALASKA ('26)



[UN]CLASSES THROUGH THE EX[L] CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING



GRADUATE AND
UNDERGRAD.
EDUCATION

Environmental
Education

Environmental
Ethics

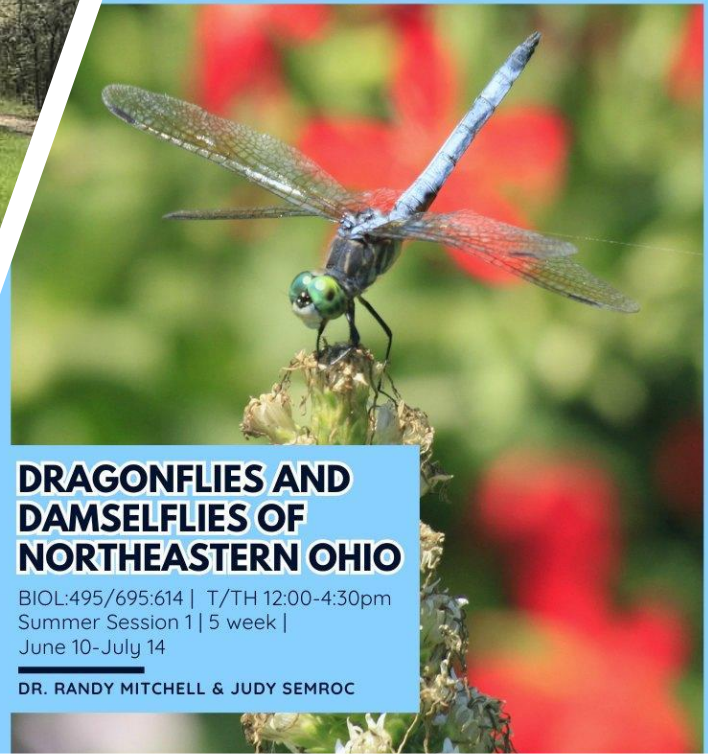
Vertebrate
Zoology

Wetland
Ecology

Entomology

Restoration
Ecology

Field Ecology



DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

BIOL:495/695:614 | T/TH 12:00-4:30pm
Summer Session 1 | 5 week |
June 10-July 14

DR. RANDY MITCHELL & JUDY SEMROC





Randy Mitchell
University of Akron

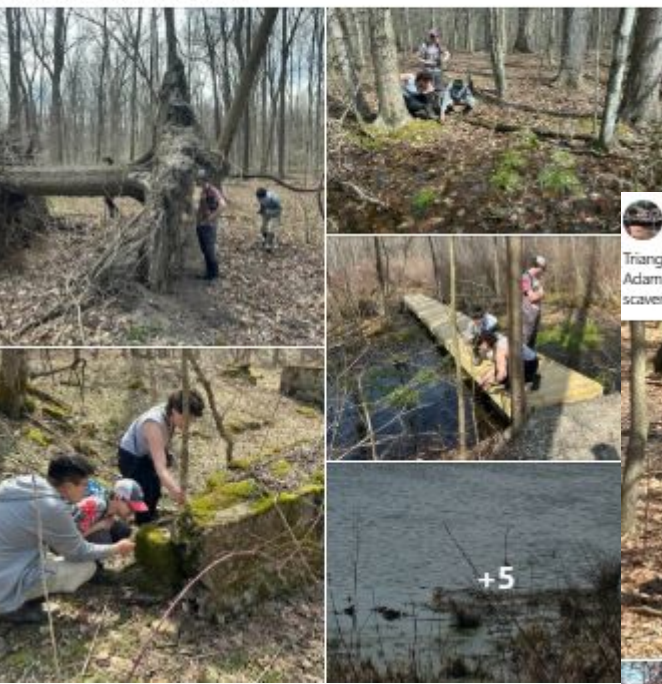
Jean Marie Hartman
Rutgers University



BATH NATURE PRESERVE'S TAMARACK "BOG" RESTORATION

Randy Mitchell
 March 26 at 7:57 PM · 🌐

Optional spring break field trip for the wetland class to eagle creek. Wonderful warm day, salamanders, frogs, turtles, bees, and plants. Why a great park! Spring wildflowers should be in full swing after a few more warm days



Randy Mitchell
 March 20 at 7:32 AM · 🌐

Triangle lake bog is such a great place for a class field trip. This time we were hosted by ODNRs Adam Wohlever, which added so much information. Afterwards we went to Kent bog and had a scavenger hunt quiz on plants. A wonderful warm day after some really cold ones



Randy Mitchell
 February 20 · 🌐

Finally the wetland class got outside at BNP! Wonderful. Inductions to learn about delineation. And lots of dirty hands, of course, from soils study



University of Akron Field Station
 1.3K followers · 261 following
 The Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve, Steiner Woods, and Parsner Wetland Wildlife Reserve are t
 Outdoor Recreation \$

Sign Up Following Message



37 2

ADULT TRAININGS – OCVN, INFORMAL AND FORMAL EDUCATOR PD





WETLAND DETECTIVES

- a NEW curriculum inspired by Wonders of Wetlands
- Provides an opportunity to teach students about the process of delineating wetlands
 - Teaches the basic characteristics of a wetland without “getting bogged down in details”
 - “fantastic way to help students focus on the big picture”
 - -“Is this a wetland” and “What is a delineation?”
 - Used in areas where wetlands in the field are hard to access like urban areas
 - School yard or even inside a building!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



project **WET**
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS HS

















WETLAND DETECTIVES!



- Divide into groups and get a delineation guidebook
- Choose one of 20 points distributed around the room
- Each point has a data sheet
 - Based on the WATER, SOIL, PLANTS clues at each point, determine if you have a wetland or upland point
- Yellow cone = not yet determined
- Blue cone = wetland point
- Red cone = upland point
- After all points are determined, use string or chalk to delineate approximate boundary of the wetland

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL OF OHIO CONFERENCE – APRIL 2024



OHIO WETLANDS ASSOCIATION TRAINING AT UAFS– MARCH 2025



RICHLAND COUNTY PARKS – JULY 2025



UNIVERSITY OF AKRON WETLAND ECOLOGY CLASS



The Flowing Forward Podcast

Co- hosted by Jocelyn Ruble and
Heather Torlina
Water Quality Extension
Associates

Deep Dive with farmers, professionals, researchers, and landowners discussing current problems in today's ever changing agriculture and urban landscapes.

New episodes are released the 3rd Friday of the month at 5am.

Scan the QR code to learn more

<https://podcast.osu.edu/flowing-forward/>



AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

Friend of Children Award – Bath Elementary School PTA

Conservation and Horticulture Educator Award – Akron Garden Club

Educator of the Year – Summit and Cuyahoga Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts

University of Akron Achievement Award – Community Outreach

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences – Community Outreach

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences – Dean's Above and Beyond Award

University of Akron Achievement Award – Diversity

Educator of the Year – Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Human Diversity Award – Organization of Biological Field Stations





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