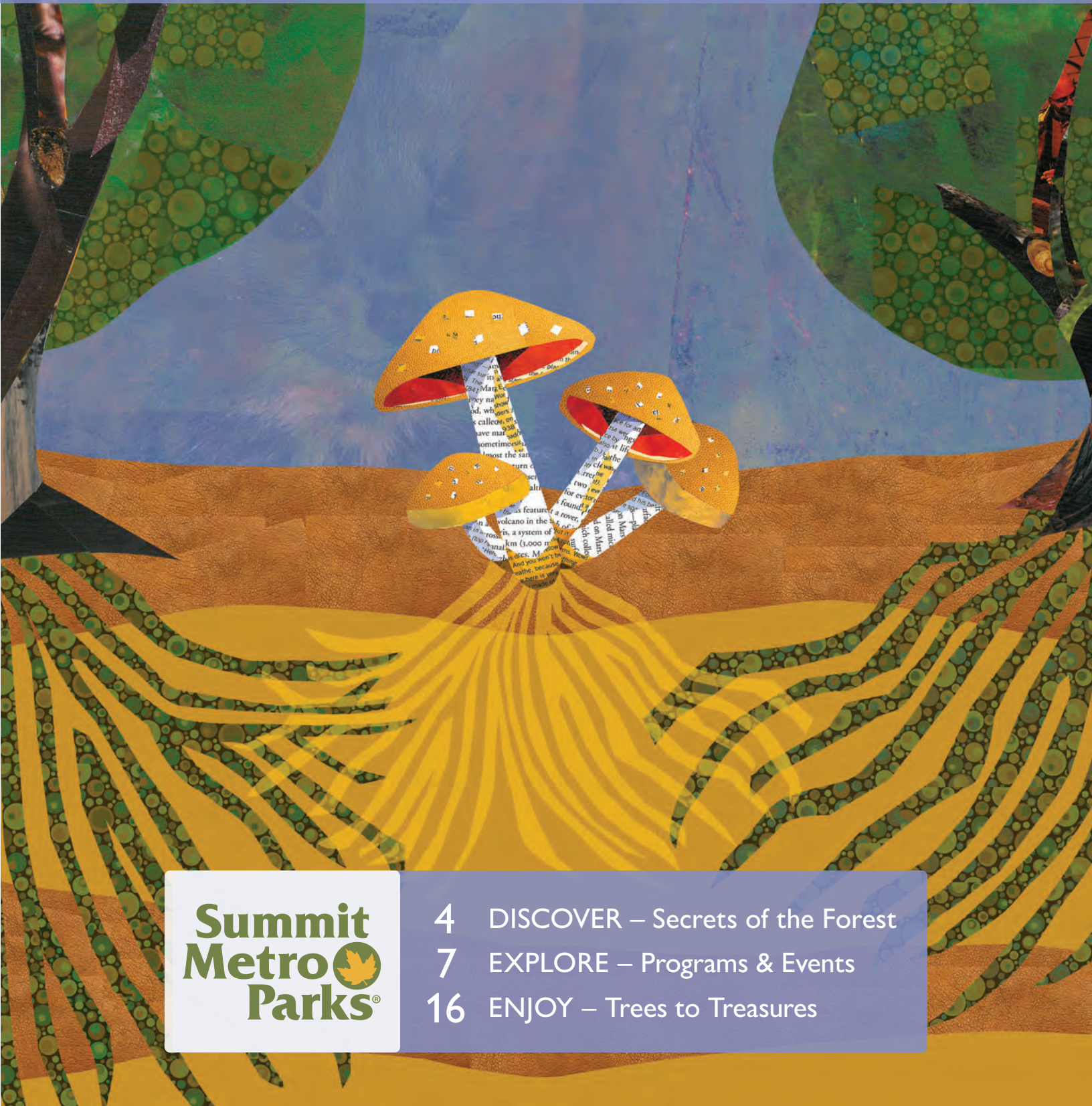


MAY·JUN '24 | Vol. 65 No. 3

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine



**Summit
Metro Parks**

- 4 DISCOVER – Secrets of the Forest
- 7 EXPLORE – Programs & Events
- 16 ENJOY – Trees to Treasures

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

IN THIS ISSUE

Populate Your Pond by Planting Native 3
Secrets of the Forest 4
Programs & Events 7
Trees to Treasures. 16
The Latest Efforts to "Free the Falls" 18
Spree for All Hiking Form '24 20

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

- Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. Chair
Joel D. Bailey
S. Theresa Carter
Herb Newman
Mark A. Spisak
Lisa M. King Executive Director

EDITORS

- Claire Merrick Marketing & Public Relations Manager
Victoria Putnam Community Engagement Manager
Lindsay Smith Chief of Marketing & Communications

DESIGN & ART DIRECTION

- Jennie Levy Graphic Designer
Karl Simonson Graphic Designer

Summit Metro Parks
975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837

Administrative Offices: 330-867-5511
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm: 330-865-8065
Liberty Park Nature Center: 330-487-0493
Summit Lake Nature Center: 330-864-8431
Seasonal Information: 330-865-8060
Volunteer Information: 330-865-8047

Photos contributed by:

- Rob Blair • Jerry Cannon • Christy Counterman • Elizabeth Kresse • Erin Krumpe • Scott Pease • JJ Prekop Jr. • Denny Reiser • Robert Roach • Karl Simonson • Rob Vaughn

This magazine is mailed free of charge to Summit County residents. To join the mailing list, send your name and mailing address to contact@summitmetroparks.org or call 330-867-5511.

Green Islands can be downloaded online:
summitmetroparks.org

Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax. This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.



Board of Park Commissioners



Mark A. Spisak S. Theresa Carter Herb Newman Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. Joel D. Bailey

The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the executive director, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers.



ON THE COVER

Just as trees have roots, fungi have mycelia. This original artwork by Interpretive Artist Danette Rushboldt depicts their subterranean connection, a relationship of reciprocity and mutual exchange.

Native Plant Festival Returns



Celebrate the season by welcoming wildlife into your outdoor space with beautiful, beneficial native plants!

Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK

(521 S. River Rd, Munroe Falls) to learn about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem, browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase and more!

Look for more information on page 10 of this publication, or visit bit.ly/wildbackyards for event details.



Discover YOUR BACK YARD



Broadleaf arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia)

[Broadleaf arrowhead is sometimes called duck potato because its tuberous roots can be prepared and eaten just like potatoes. However, ducks are more likely to eat other parts of the plant due to having difficulty dislodging the roots from the soil.]

POPULATE YOUR POND BY PLANTING NATIVE

Jason George, Interpretive Naturalist

Arching gently skyward, a slender stalk emerges from a still pond. Broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) is the pinnacle of elegance with whorls of white petals gently pleated like fine fabric. More than a beautiful sight, this aquatic plant provides a bounty of pollen and nectar for butterflies, bees and skippers.

While colorful pollinators visit on the petals, katydids hop between broad leaves in search of a suitable home for their eggs. Muskrats and mallards forage for roots and seeds, parting the leaves as they swim by. The gifts of the arrowhead reach even deeper. The submerged stalks play host to the larvae of caddisflies safe in their armored homes woven from silk and pebbles.

Planting broadleaf arrowhead, or other native aquatic plants like spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*) and American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), in ponds and ditches is an invitation to transform still waters into a rich home for a diverse array of creatures. 🍃

Secrets of the



The Forest

Marlo Perdicas, Biologist



A walk in the forest can enlighten all of our senses. Did you know that trees have senses, too? Through much research, we know trees are social, cooperative and even intelligent.

In recent years, scientists have made interesting discoveries about trees. We are familiar with photosynthesis, whereby trees convert sunlight to energy in the form of sugar. As it turns out, they not only use this sugar for themselves, but they share it to help other trees or use it as payment for services rendered.

Scientists learned trees prefer to live in communities. Forest trees benefit from the establishment of a local micro-climate, protection from wind and weather and the ability to share resources. Forester Peter Wohlleben discovered that trees provide nutrients to neighboring trees when they are sick. Trees also provide nutrients to their offspring and can distinguish their young from other trees nearby. While in the understory, younger trees have less sunlight for photosynthesis. During this time, mother trees will provide nourishment through their roots for their young trees to survive.

continued on page 6

continued from page 5



Trees also communicate threats to other trees in the forest. Just like we may wear perfumes to communicate with other people, trees can send signals to other trees by releasing chemicals. Trees can use these chemicals to warn other trees or to attract beneficial insects for themselves. For example, willows, poplars and sugar maples have been found to emit bug-repellent chemicals when a nearby tree is being eaten by insects. How do they know? The affected tree sends out warning signals to alert them! But repellent isn't always the solution. When pine trees are being eaten by caterpillars, they release airborne chemicals that attract predatory wasps. The wasps eliminate the caterpillars without harming the tree. Both the wasps and the pine trees win.

Arguably one of the most fascinating discoveries is that fungi provide a pathway for much of the communication between trees with mycelia. Mycelia is an underground network of root-like structures that act like an internet highway, connecting trees to one another and allowing nutrients and knowledge to be shared.

Trees use these pathways to feed their offspring, help sick trees or warn others that they are being eaten by pests.

However, these connections come at a price. The fungi expect sugar produced by the tree in return for their services to fuel their growth. Unlike trees, fungi rely on external nutrients for energy. In a balanced ecosystem, this doesn't hurt the tree and everyone in the cycle of life benefits.

But, just like the internet, the underground web also has a dark side. Walnut trees can use these pathways to release toxins to sabotage neighboring trees, providing more resources for the walnut trees to thrive. Some orchids tap into the system to procure resources for themselves, sharing nothing in return.

Once met with skepticism, the notion of tree communication has been suggested for decades. Scientists' recent acknowledgment of observations that trees can converse, adeptly respond to threats and care for their offspring challenges the conventional understanding of trees. Amazingly complex, nature has its own language — one that beckons those willing to watch and listen, inviting us to uncover the wonders concealed within the whispers of the trees. 🍃

Explore PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MAY

Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL: BIGGEST WEEK BIRDS



Join us online to discover the amazing avian journeys that are occurring now, right in our own back yards! We'll meet some migratory bird species, talk hot spots

and share our love for these special groups of songbirds. Zoom meeting ID: 485 730 2450

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

PEEP PEEP PEEP HIKE

Bring a flashlight, wear insect repellent and hike with a naturalist along the 1.6-mile Celebration Trail to listen for one of the first, best signs of spring: the male spring peeper's mating call! CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Beginning Thursday, May 2

EYE SPY: HARD MODE

SMP's hit trail hunt is back! Hike along the 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail any time through May 15 for a challenge in the woods. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 2, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required (4/26). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING

Let's ride, seniors! We will gather to determine the route and distance before rolling out. Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles, at a casual (10-12 mph) pace. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. FT/Middlebury Lot: 1765 Northeast Ave., Tallmadge

Thursday, May 2, 6 – 7 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP

Join us to swap some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables, herbs and native plants are preferred, but all plants are welcome! All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, May 4, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

SPRING BIRD STROLL

For some folks, spring means birds. We are those folks! Join a naturalist on a guided hike to see which bird species are passing through during the migration. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you've got 'em! MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Saturday, May 4, 1 – 3 p.m.

MAY THE FOURTH BIKE RIDE

Bring the family for a Star Wars themed bike ride. Explore 6 to 12 miles of Freedom Trail while wearing your best cycling-safe Star Wars costume. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. FT/Lions Park: 245 Northeast Ave., Tallmadge

Beginning Sunday, May 5

SELF-GUIDED STORYBOOK TRAIL: THE GARDEN NEXT DOOR

Enjoy some exercise and fun while following a self-guided story trail based on the book, "The Garden Next Door." This experience will be available along the 0.25-mile Maple Loop Trail through May 26. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 – 10 a.m.

PEAK MIGRATION BIRD WALK

Happy Biggest Week in American Birding! Hike the 1.6-mile Celebration Trail with a naturalist to spot neotropical migrants on their journeys north. Along the way, discover how bird lovers can better support our avian friends at home. Please bring binoculars and a bird guide. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for this weekly gardening program for children of all ages. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest in the garden.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 2

Thursday, May 9

Thursday, May 16

Thursday, May 23

Thursday, May 30

Key



CALL: 330-865-8065 Advance registration required, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses.



ZOOM: ZOOM.US/JOIN Key in the Meeting ID number.



WEB: 330TIX.COM Register online beginning on the date in parentheses.

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

BHT Bike & Hike Trail

CV Cascade Valley

DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

F Firestone

FR Furnace Run

FT Freedom Trail

GYH Goodyear Heights

G Gorge

HH Hampton Hills

LP Liberty Park

MF Munroe Falls

NR Nimisila Reservoir

ONW O'Neil Woods

SC Silver Creek

SFB Springfield Bog

SLNC Summit Lake Nature Center

SR Sand Run

TT Towpath Trail

WH Wood Hollow

Sunday, May 5, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

SMARTPHONE BIRDING

So often our phones take us away from nature, but that doesn't have to be the case! Come for a high-tech bird walk on the 1.4-mile Alder Trail and explore how you can enhance your birding experience with technology. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Sunday, May 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

MOTHER NATURE NURTURES MOMS



Nature is our greatest healer. Moms-to-be, moms and their children are welcome to join this wellness walk along a portion of the stroller-friendly Mother's Day 5K race course. After our

hike, connect with fellow moms as we enjoy refreshments and conversations surrounding the importance of maternal mental health. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Sunday, May 5, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. All materials will be provided. **Registration required ☎ (4/24). FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, May 5, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: HUMMINGBIRDS

Join a naturalist for this bimonthly series on welcoming nature into our outdoor spaces. This month, we'll learn about fascinating hummingbirds, the flying gems of the garden, and how to attract them to your own back yard. After a presentation, take a short stroll to search for hummingbirds and the flowers they like best. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, May 5, 2 – 3 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. All you need is a pencil and paper. **Registration required ☎ (4/24). 📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.**

Tuesday, May 7, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

WANDERING FOR WARBLERS DAY TRIP

Join park naturalists for an all-day exploration of the Warbler Capital of the World during the Biggest Week in American Birding. The tour bus will depart at 6 a.m. for the famed Magee Marsh and other birding hotspots, returning at 6 p.m. Be prepared for extensive walking on boardwalks and trails. Dress for variable weather conditions. Pack lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and a camera. **Cost: \$75/person. Registration required 📍 (4/17). FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, May 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for an entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. **Registration required 📞 (5/2). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, May 8, 1 – 2 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing. No experience is necessary; all you need are pencils, paper and a sense of humor. **Registration required 📞 (5/2). 📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.**

Thursday, May 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

See *Wednesday, May 8* description. **Registration required 📞 (5/2). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, May 9, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SPRING EPHEMERAL SEED HARVEST WORKSHOP

Join a naturalist to learn the art of spring ephemeral seed identification, collection and preservation, then get hands-on as we collect native seeds as a group. You will go home with some of your bounty! **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, May 9, 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

BLACK LIGHT NIGHT HIKE

Peek just beyond the visible spectrum and explore the world of nature by black light. Hike the 1.6-mile Willow Trail after dark to discover how nature sends signals just out of our sight. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Friday, May 10, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can celebrate spring with an interactive, spring-themed story time. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the nature play area after the program. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, May 10, 4 – 6 p.m.

CAMPFIRE COOKING: WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Dutch oven cooking over a campfire can be as simple or complex as you choose. We'll demonstrate techniques and share recipes to create delicious and easy entrees! Help us cook, then taste the results (while supplies last). **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, May 10, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT FROGS

Venture out on a night hike in search of frogs and discover the important roles amphibians play in our world. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight and come prepared to step off trail in wet conditions. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Saturday, May 11, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children and must have a current Ohio fishing license if they want to fish. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

BALLOFLEX® GET FIT WHILE YOU SIT!

Enjoy an online exercise session with a certified BalloFlex instructor. BalloFlex is a seated workout that incorporates the elements of dance and fitness together in a safe, low impact and fun system. It is designed for all ages and abilities!

12:30 – 1 p.m.

VIRTUAL 📺: 849 6465 8634

Monday, May 6
Monday, May 20



KINDEREALM: LADYBUGS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will enjoy a game, craft, story and song centered around a much-loved critter that some cultures believe brings good luck: the ladybug! A short walk will be included. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (5/8).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 15

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, May 22

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, May 29

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, May 11, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE BIKE RIDE

Enjoy spring along the Towpath Trail with a leisurely paced, 15-mile bike ride to Wolf Creek Trailhead and back. Participants must bring their own bikes. Helmets are required. Minors must be accompanied by adults. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, May 11, 9 – 11 p.m.

MARVELOUS MOTHS OF RIDING RUN CONSERVATION AREA

Join a naturalist to attract moths using special lights and sheets as we observe these insects' amazingly beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. We will hope for the big silk moth to make an appearance! Bring a flashlight, camera and bug spray. Meet in the parking lot. **Riding Run Conservation Area: 2247 Everett Rd., Peninsula**



Sunday, May 12, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

13TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY 5K

Run, jog or walk to celebrate mom along this stroller-friendly course. This chip-timed race travels twice around the scenic Munroe Falls Lake. Proceeds benefit the Summit Metro Parks Foundation. *Learn more and register: bit.ly/smpMD5K* 📍 (1/1). MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Sunday, May 12, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

ROCKS AND MINERALS OF SMP AND OHIO

Join a naturalist as we delve into the geology of the Metro Parks and Ohio. Discover the different types of rocks and minerals that contribute millions of dollars to Ohio's economy. Learn how these mineral deposits were formed and the mining techniques involved in their extraction. We will have hands-on examples to examine. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, May 12, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

GUERRILLA GARDENING

Neglected, abandoned and unmaintained public spaces can burden any community, but there's potential for change. Learn how to ethically and responsibly revitalize these overlooked public spaces with guerrilla gardening practices. *Registration required* 📞 (5/3). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Tuesday, May 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

See *Wednesday, May 8 description*. *Registration required* 📞 (5/2). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

NATIONAL RIDE OF SILENCE

Join us to participate in the national Ride of Silence to honor the lives of cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Following the ride, we will conduct skills and cycling safety training and helmet fittings. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful, nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist for this easy, fun lesson. All materials will be provided. *Registration required* 📞 (5/10). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING

See *Thursday, May 2 description*. TT/Clinton: 2749 North St., Clinton

Thursday, May 16

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

Homeschoolers ages 7 to 12: Join a naturalist and the animal ambassadors of SMP to get up close and personal with some of the reptiles and amphibians that call our parks home. We'll also explore a trail and learn why wildlife conservation is important in the face of climate change. *Registration required* 📞 (5/9). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 16, 1 – 2 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful, nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist online for this easy, fun lesson. *Registration required* 📞 (5/10). 📺 A list of materials and a Zoom invite will be emailed after registering.

Thursday, May 16, 6 – 7 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP

See *Thursday, May 2 description*. GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Friday, May 17, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

SENIOR SAUNTER

Whether you're a senior by age or just want to appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace, join us for a short walk to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of nature in spring. Bring a mug and enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, May 17, 6 – 7 p.m.

FIRESIDE HISTORY



Tall tales over a campfire are an age-old tradition, but sometimes fact is even stranger than fiction! Join a naturalist to cook s'mores over a fire and hear some surprising true stories about Ohio history. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron



3rd Annual NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

Presented by Wayside Furniture

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Kick off summer by welcoming wildlife into your yard with beautiful, beneficial native plants! Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries to learn more about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase, or attend an educational session to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping.

10 – 11 A.M. INVITING BIODIVERSITY TO YOUR BACK YARD

What do butterflies, birds, fireflies and even salamanders have in common? They all need food, water, shelter and space to thrive. We'll discuss best practices to turn your back yard of any size into a well-rounded wildlife oasis for a variety of beloved native animals using a combination of native plants and wildlife-friendly features.

11 A.M. – 12 P.M. BACKYARD BIRD BUFFET

Birdseed is not the only way to feed your backyard birds! Did you know it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to feed one clutch of chickadees? Join a naturalist to discover how native plants can attract delicious insects to your back yard and create a diverse backyard bird buffet!

1 – 2 P.M. USING NATIVE PLANTS FOR SOFT LANDINGS

Learn about the native plants that provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Consider adding these plants below trees in your own Wild Back Yard!

2 – 2:30 P.M. MAKING SEED BOMBS

Learn how to make fun seed "bombs" using native seeds, soil, clay and water. These seed bombs will easily and quickly disperse seeds into a garden or green space, creating beneficial habitats for wildlife!

➤ Munroe Falls Metro Park/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Saturday, May 18, 9 – 11 a.m.

LET'S MOVE SUMMIT COUNTY

Let's Move Summit County is an initiative encouraging children and families to lead active, healthy lifestyles. Move with us as we ride a 6-mile, out-and-back route along the Towpath Trail. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required. Arrive 20 minutes early to register. TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron

Saturday, May 18, 12 – 1 p.m.

BIRD NERDS: MATING

Newbies and experts alike are welcome to join us in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. This month, we will peek through the curtains and discover how birds make more birds. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, May 19, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

BUG HUNT FOR KIDS

Come explore the insect world up close and personal! Remember to bring your own curiosity, but bug jars, sweep nets and other items will be provided. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are recommended. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Sunday, May 19, 1 – 2 p.m.

STORYTIME IN THE PARKS: SILLY GEESE

Stay silly this spring! You and your 2 to 5 year olds will enjoy a goose-themed story, craft, games and short hike. Registration required 📞 (5/3).

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Tuesday, May 21, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Celebrate the beginning of concert season with a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble. Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be moved indoors if it rains.

GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Beginning Wednesday, May 22

SELF-GUIDED: REPTILES

Come learn all about what reptiles might be right around the corner as you hike the 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail through May 31. From ponds full of turtles to snakes under logs, explore what makes these scaly creatures so unique. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, May 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: GARDENING AS WE AGE

Join Laura Akgerman, disability services coordinator at Ohio AgrAbility and OSU Extension for this month's session. Learn about good body mechanics, ergonomic gardening tools, safe lifting, sun safety, universal design and ideas for adapting your current work habits. We will review tools and structures that will help you continue gardening productively and safely as your abilities change. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 23, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

See Thursday, May 2 description. Registration required 📞 (4/26). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, May 24, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

See Friday, May 10 description. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, May 24, 4 p.m. –
Saturday, May 25, 11 a.m.

TENT CAMPING FOR WOMEN

Ladies 14 and older are invited to join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight tent camping experience. We'll be hiking, cooking, crafting and fishing as a group. Please bring your own camping equipment, including sleeping gear, toiletries, snacks and a chair. No gear? No problem! Request a free camping kit with essentials during registration, available while supplies last. Minors must be accompanied by a guardian. Registration required 📞 (4/25). FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Saturday, May 25, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GONE FISHIN'

See Saturday, May 11 description. LP/Tinkers Creek: 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Saturday, May 25, 3 – 4 p.m.

SWALLOW SWARM

Have you ever seen a bird dig? Bank swallows do! Join a naturalist to learn about their behaviors and see them as they return to their nests above the Cuyahoga. CV/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron

Sunday, May 26, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayaking techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet. All equipment will be provided. Space is limited and kayaks are available on a first come, first served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls



Sunday, May 26, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

INSECT SAFARI

Go on safari to sweep for beautiful and bizarre insects in the tall grasses alongside the trail. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.



Tuesday, May 28, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

BERT SZABO LEGACY ADDRESS WITH JIM McCORMAC

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society to celebrate biodiversity and beyond with photographer and naturalist-extraordinaire Jim McCormac. Honoring the legacy of Bert Szabo, the park district's first naturalist, with the idea that "the more of us who care, the more likely that our natural world will survive," Jim will inspire us to protect and enhance Ohio birds and biodiversity. Come ready to transform passion into action. Meet inside Himelright Lodge. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Thursday, May 30, 10 – 11 a.m.

WETLAND WILDFLOWERS WALK

Hike the rich wetlands of Firestone's 1.1-mile Redwing Trail to learn about and enjoy spring's early blooming flowers. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 30, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING

See Thursday, May 2 description. BHT/SR 91: 130 N. Main St., Munroe Falls

Thursday, May 30, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

BIKE BOSTON AND BRANDYWINE

Join a naturalist on a fun bike ride and learn about the geology of the Boston Ledges and Brandywine Falls. We will ride 8.6 miles on the Bike & Hike Trail from Rt. 303 to Brandywine Falls. The ride will be slow to moderately paced. Helmets are required. Drinking water is recommended. BHT/SR 303: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights

Friday, May 31, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

COLOR HUNT HIKE

Join a naturalist on a short hike while we search for all the colors of the rainbow! Along the way, we'll chat about the science behind colors in nature. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

JUNE

Saturday, June 1

10 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 2 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at an outdoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required (5/24). LP/Tinkers Creek: 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

INTRO TO MOUNTAIN BIKING

Are you mountain bike curious but nervous to hit the trail by yourself? Then this program is for you! Join us to go over mountain biking safety and trail tips, followed by a ride on the beginner and moderate mountain biking loops. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. Registration required (5/22). HH/Mountain Bike: 2092 Theiss Rd., Akron



Beginning Sunday, June 2

SELF-GUIDED STORYBOOK TRAIL: SOME BUGS

Enjoy some fun and exploration while following a self-guided story trail based on the book, "Some Bugs." This experience will be available along the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail through June 30. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

BALLOFLEX® GET FIT WHILE YOU SIT!

Enjoy an online exercise session with a certified BalloFlex instructor. BalloFlex is a seated workout that incorporates the elements of dance and fitness together in a safe, low impact and fun system. It is designed for all ages and abilities!

12:30 – 1 p.m.

VIRTUAL ☎: 849 6465 8634

- Monday, June 3*
- Monday, June 10*
- Monday, June 17*



KINDEREALM: TREES

Children 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn all about trees and the beautiful lives they live. A craft and short walk are included. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (5/24).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 5

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 12

F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 26

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, June 2

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

INTRO TO KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. All equipment will be provided. *Location subject to change based on water conditions.* Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📞 (5/22). NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green

Sunday, June 2, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Families with young children can bring a favorite teddy bear, blankets and picnic lunches to enjoy a fun afternoon as we learn all about bears native to Ohio and complete fun bear-related activities. A prize will be awarded to the best pre-decorated bear! In the event of inclement weather, this program will be moved indoors. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

FUN FACTS FOR KIDS

How do frogs survive frigid winters? Can toads give you warts? Which Ohio mammal has the most teeth? Join a naturalist on a 1.2-mile scavenger hunt along Downy Loop Trail for the answers to these questions and more! WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Wednesday, June 5, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

HALCYON DAYS OF SUMMER

Join a bird walk along the waters of the Tuscarawas in search of the enigmatic belted kingfisher. Together we will discover the oddities and eccentricities of how this bird behaves, and how its bizarre behavior inspired myths and sayings from ancient Greece to the Americas. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATURE COLLAGE

See Thursday, May 16 description. Registration required 📞 (5/30). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

See Thursday, May 2 description. Registration required 📞 (5/29). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 6, 1 – 2 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE COLLAGE

See Thursday, May 16 description. Registration required 📞 (5/30). 📧 A list of materials and a Zoom invite will be emailed after registering.

Thursday, June 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: WEED & WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn weed management and proper watering techniques for your vegetable garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, June 7, 7 – 8:30 a.m.

EARLY MORNING HIKE

Rise and shine! Get an early start to the day with a hike along the Cuyahoga River. We'll chat along the way about the early birds, bugs and other wildlife that might be awake. CV/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, June 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

O'NATURE GOODS OF O'NEIL WOODS

Hike the beautiful yet challenging Deer Run Trail with a naturalist to learn about the natural and historical goods these two hilly miles have to offer. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath



Saturday, June 8, 1 p.m. – Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m.

TENT CAMPING FOR FAMILIES

Families with children under 14 are invited to join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight tent camping experience. Activities include guided nature activities, a campfire, s'mores and games. Please bring your own camping equipment, including food, sleeping gear, toiletries and chairs. No gear? No problem! Request a free camping kit with essentials during registration, available while supplies last. Registration required 📞 (5/23). MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for this weekly gardening program for children of all ages. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest in the garden.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 6

Thursday, June 13

Thursday, June 20

Thursday, June 27

Saturday, June 8, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

NIGHT CREATURES HIKE

Bring a flashlight to hike along the 2.2-mile Indian Spring Trail during sunset to help us see what creatures may be out and about as darkness settles in around us! **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Sunday, June 9

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. All equipment will be provided. *Location subject to change based on water conditions.* Cost: \$15/person. *Registration required* (5/29). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Wednesday, June 12, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. The program will be canceled during inclement weather. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, June 12, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

INCLUSIONARY CYCLING

Join us for this inclusionary, family-friendly cycling event. Everyone will have an opportunity to explore the paved 1.3-mile Firefly Trail at their own pace. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Wednesday, June 12, 6 – 7 p.m.

BUILD YOUR OWN BIRD

Learn about the vibrant songs and colors of the birds who brighten our skies, then fold and decorate your own origami birds. Recommended for ages 8 and up. *Registration required* (6/5). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, June 13, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING

See *Thursday, May 2* description. **TT/Mustill Store: 248 Ferndale St., Akron**

Friday, June 14, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

The end of spring is near! Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive story time focused on the changing seasons. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the nature play area after the program. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, June 15, 12 – 1 p.m.

BIRD NERDS: NESTING

Newbies and experts alike are welcome to join us in this lively series for a fun, approachable discussion on a new bird topic each month. This month, we'll explore what raising kids looks like for our feathered friends. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, June 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

FATHER'S DAY FISHING

Happy Father's Day! Youth ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they can catch. Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children and must have a current Ohio fishing license if they want to fish. **F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**



Sunday, June 16, 12 – 3 p.m.

FATHER'S DAY DROP-IN

Drop by the nature center to learn about amazing animal dads! Go on a scavenger hunt around the nature center, roast a marshmallow over a campfire and make a simple craft to gift to the father figure in your life. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Presented by Wayside Furniture

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble. Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast.

7 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Tuesday, June 11

SC/Boathouse:

5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton



Cycling Without Age trishaw bikes will be available at the **Munroe Falls** concert beginning at 6 p.m. to carry riders with limited mobility on a bench seat for an unobstructed view of nature and the feeling of riding a bike in the outdoors. *Cycling Without Age is available with the support of the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.*

Monday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CANAL HISTORY FOR KIDS

What was it like to live on a canal boat? Kids and their adult companions can join us to find out! We'll learn through activities and storytelling fun along a 1-mile walk, with stops at the stone quarry and canal lock. **DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

Monday, June 17, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

NATURE AT NIGHT: SPRINGFIELD BOG

Beat the heat and explore the bog as the lights get low. We'll take a twilight stroll on the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail and soak in the hip-hop stylings of our froggy friends from the overlooks. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

Tuesday, June 18, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble. Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. SR/Treaty Line: 995 Treaty Line Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 19, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

KIDS CREEK WALK

Join a naturalist to explore what life is living in our local streams — it's more than you may think! We will hike half of Rock Creek Trail, then walk in the creek on our return. Closed-toe water shoes are required. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield



Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

CELEBRATION SUNSET STROLL

It's Juneteenth! Hike with a naturalist to celebrate and reflect on freedom in all its forms while taking in inspiring sunset views. Meet at the river access location. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SUMMER SOLSTICE HIKE

Celebrate the longest day of the year with a distance hike of about 3.1 miles through the forest. We'll experience multiple habitats as we walk along portions of the Parcours, Piney Woods and Alder trails. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

See Thursday, May 2 description. Registration required 📞 (5/29). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: WEED & WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

See Thursday, June 6 description. GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LET'S GET CRAFTY: KNOTTED YARN ART

Start a knotted yarn art project with park staff while learning about the history of plant fibers and dyes, then finish the project at your own pace. Guidance and supplies are included in the registration fee. For crafty people 16 and older. Meet at Maple Beach Shelter. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required 🐾 (6/12). MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Thursday, June 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT LIBERTY PARK

Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of instrumental music by the Western Reserve Community Band. Tap your toes along with the drums, trumpets, flutes and more! Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Rain date is June 27. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 21, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

SENIOR SAUNTER

Whether you're a senior by age or just want to appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace, join us for a short walk as we observe nature on the first full day of summer. Bring a mug and enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 21, 6 – 9 p.m.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic paddleboard techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet. All equipment will be provided. Space is limited; paddleboards are available on a first come, first served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. SC/Lake House: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Friday, June 21, 9 – 11 p.m.

MOTHS OF MANY COLORS

Join a naturalist to explore the variety and beauty of our local moths. Bring a flashlight and camera if you'd like to take photos. Enjoy the many colors, sizes and shapes that make up this group of lepidopterans. Learn the difference between pug, slug, dagger, silk and sphinx moths. You'll also learn what a moth garden is and why it is beneficial. Bug spray is recommended. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

DISTANCE PRIMER RIDE

Join us for our 29-mile distance primer. Come prepared to ride the distance at a 12 to 15 mph pace. Bring water and snacks. We will depart south on the Towpath Trail for the Summit/Stark County Line, where we will celebrate being in two places at once. After riding, we will discuss equipment, supplies and bikepacking. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

MEET THE MAMMALS

You're never too young to meet the mammals! Bring the kids to learn about some of the animals that live in our own back yards. Participants will have the opportunity to feel the furs of some of Ohio's favorite and most misunderstood critters before hiking a short portion of Pheasant Run Trail to look and listen for signs of animals in the park. Recommended for ages 6 and younger. SC/Lake House: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Saturday, June 22, 4 – 6 p.m.

ROCK & ROLL

Discovering geologic history doesn't have to take place at a geologic pace. Take a brisk 8.5-mile bicycle ride with planned stops to discover the geologic features along the trail. Participants must supply their own bikes. Helmets are required. BHT/Barlow: 331 Barlow Rd., Hudson





Beginning Sunday, June 23

SELF-GUIDED: DRAGONS & DAMSELS

Take a self-guided hike along the 1.6-mile Celebration Trail to explore the beautiful dragonflies and damselflies flitting overhead. Learn all about these beautiful insects through informational signage highlighting their diversity, anatomy and more. This experience is available through June 30. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Sunday, June 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

CRAYFISH CREEK ADVENTURE

Slip into your water shoes and get ready to get wet as we explore the waters of the Tuscarawas River. Nets and buckets will be provided. Closed-toe shoes are required for hiking and technical creek walking at varied water levels. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Sunday, June 23, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

SALAMANDERS OF SMP

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity of salamanders found in Summit Metro Parks. Liberty Park is home to 10 different salamander species, and we will have some to see up close. Following the program, we will explore Ledges Trail to see how many we can find! LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, June 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

FAMILY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH BRAD IMHOFF

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society to explore photography as a family hobby with photographer and mental health professor Dr. Brad Imhoff. Through his greatest passion of nature photography, with a special focus on birds, Brad will share his photographs and the many benefits of photography as a multigenerational hobby. Bath Nature Preserve: 4160 Ira Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 26, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

See Wednesday, June 12 description. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 26, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: GROW A GREAT CUTTING GARDEN

Learn about some of Stan Hywet's favorite flowers from Brian Gregory, senior horticulturalist. You will discover beautiful blooms and plants grown for floral arranging, as well as tips and techniques for growing your own productive and beautiful cut flower garden. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING

See Thursday, May 2 description. TT/Clinton: 2749 North St., Clinton

Thursday, June 27, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

THE ART OF PLANT PRESSING

Dried plants can become wonderful art pieces, important records for science and, if you're careful, both! Learn the tricks of the trade for mounting and preserving plant specimens and get the opportunity to try it yourself. Plants and supplies will be provided. Registration required 📞 (6/20). F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron



Friday, June 28, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

PROMISES IN THE PARK: AN OUTDOOR WEDDING EVENT

Summit County Probate Court and Summit Metro Parks are partnering once again to offer a free outdoor wedding ceremony and vow renewal for Summit County residents. The event will take place outside Himelright Lodge, featuring beautiful park views. Learn more and complete the required preregistration at bit.ly/promisesinthepark2024 (6/7). CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Friday, June 28, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

DRAGONFLY QUEST

Ferocious hunters prowl our lands during the summer. Adventure out with a naturalist to get up-close looks at amazing dragonflies. Insect nets will be provided for those who dare to try capturing these elusive predators. SR/Big Bend: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron

Saturday, June 29, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

KIDS FISHING

Whether your child is an expert angler or has never seen a fish before, drop in for a morning of fishing and fun. Bait and rods will be provided. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton

Saturday, June 29, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

GOOD AND BAD BUGS OF THE GARDEN

Join a naturalist as we look at the many different bugs in your garden: lady, potato, flea and cucumber beetles, assassin bugs and lace wings, just to name a few! Learn which ones are beneficial and which ones you want to minimize through earth-friendly ways. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, June 29, 1 p.m. –

Sunday, June 30, 11 a.m.

TENT CAMPING FOR FAMILIES

See Saturday, June 8 – Sunday, June 9 description. Registration required 📞 (6/13). MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Sunday, June 30, 12 – 3 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE BIRTHDAY BASH

It's a birthday party and you're invited! Come to the Summit Lake Nature Center to celebrate the anniversary of the center's opening. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, June 30, 12 – 3 p.m.

KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayaking techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet. All equipment will be provided. Space is limited and kayaks are available on a first come, first served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



TREES to Treasures



Tony Morgan, park carpenter for Summit Metro Parks

Lindsay Smith, Chief of Marketing & Communications

If you're one of the hundreds of thousands of people who have enjoyed a stop inside the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center or attended a private event at a lodge nestled within our scenic Metro Parks, you may have noticed beautiful and unique furniture and amenities made in-house from wood.

Your park district is fueled by professionals from many backgrounds, with many talents — most of which serve the public each day in less publicly visible ways than Park Carpenter Tony Morgan. Using special equipment and sustainable materials, Morgan creates the signs you see when you enter and navigate Summit Metro Parks — our portal entry signs, trail markers and more. He is also

a talented woodworker and furniture craftsman. Over the years as park carpenter, Morgan has lent his talents to several special projects that enhance our visitors' experience and create exceptional quality items that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

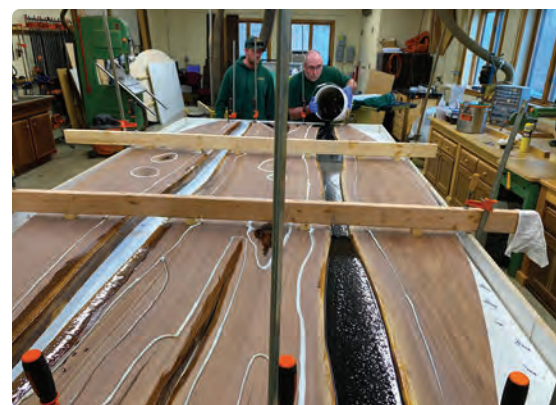
When asked about his favorite project over the years, Morgan reflected: "There are so many projects I've been a part of here; I'm very proud of all of them. A few at the top of my list are the conference room table at [headquarters] and the wall cabinet for the executive director's office."

Tony Morgan joined Summit Metro Parks in 2003 as a park technician I. Since then, he's held several positions in





- This conference table was created from a felled black walnut tree in Sand Run Metro Park.
- Morgan employed the CNC machine to surface and level the slabs, setting the stage for the slow set epoxy pour.



the operations department until 2016 when he was hired into his current role. He's been working with wood for nearly 16 years, setting up his own shop after renewed motivation from personal memories and admiration for the quality craftsmanship of Amish-made furniture.

For others aspiring to take the next step in transforming trees to treasures, Morgan shared this advice: "First and foremost, don't ever be afraid to challenge yourself. Find inspiration in whoever and whatever it might be. If you find satisfaction (mentally or physically) in creating things, wood is a beautiful way to display it."

From custom tables to unique displays, chances are you have seen one of

Morgan's pieces around the Metro Parks. Reflecting on his work, Morgan added: "I think inside every one of us, we want to leave some mark on the world, whether it's with family or by inspiring people. For me, a part of my mark is dedicated to Summit Metro Parks. I hope the pieces that I built here will stand the test of time and will be remembered!" 🍁



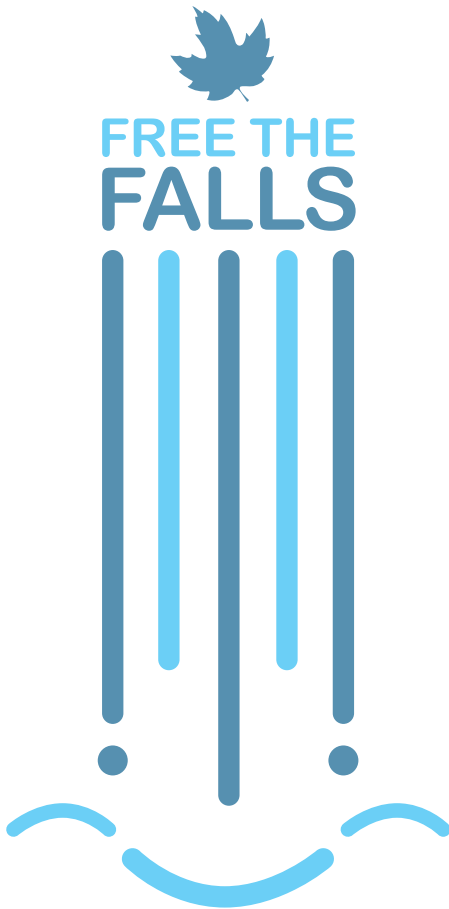
Tony created this one-of-a-kind side table along with these hand-crafted tables in Shady Hollow Lodge at Sand Run Metro Park.

BEHIND THE BARRICADES

THE LATEST EFFORTS TO

“Free the Falls”

Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation



Visitors to Cascade Valley Metro Park will notice the Peck Road entrance, which leads to the renowned Signal Tree, is closed. This closure will continue for the next few years to accommodate two major water quality improvement projects: the Northside Interceptor Tunnel (NSIT) and Gorge Dam removal, also known as the initiative to “Free the Falls.” The NSIT project is a City of Akron initiative and is part of its ongoing efforts to improve Cuyahoga River water quality and prevent untreated sewage from entering the water. The Gorge Dam removal project includes preparing the sediment placement area, removing and disposing of contaminated sediment, and deconstructing the dam.

As planning for the NSIT and Free the Falls projects has materialized into tangible progress, the landscape in Cascade Valley Metro Park has transitioned into a construction zone. While park visitors anxiously await the

thrill of a free flowing river through Gorge Metro Park’s geological splendor, environmentalists anticipate vast improvement to the physical, biological and chemical integrity of the Cuyahoga, the construction vehicles that will make it all possible are rumbling through the park.

While the NSIT project construction continues, an even bigger water quality improvement project is just beginning. After years of intensive planning and collaborative efforts to remove the Gorge Dam, the U.S. EPA secured funding to implement the sediment management portion of the project. Summit Metro Parks prepared the



Visit bit.ly/freethefalls to watch a video to learn more about this exciting project.

sediment placement site by clearing a 40-acre area adjacent to Peck Road. The City of Akron will structure this site so it can receive the sediment. Once site preparations are complete and the contractor's schedule is accepted, sediment from the dam pool will be pumped to this location, stabilized, capped with native soil and reforested.





Closure of affected park areas ensures public safety and site security during these multi-year infrastructure initiatives. Upon completion, the region will have a renewed park and river to explore. Summit Metro Parks will be planning for this exciting future with public input. Please visit bit.ly/freethefalls for the latest project information. 

[THE SIGNAL TREE WILL BE PROTECTED DURING THIS PROCESS AND WILL REMAIN IN PLACE POST-CONSTRUCTION.]

SPREE FOR ALL 2024 | SPRING HIKING EVENT

TO PARTICIPATE

Complete FIVE hikes between May 1 and June 30 — on five different trails, the same trail or any combination of trails — to receive a reward. The starting point at each trailhead is the information kiosk, which has a legend with the following symbols:

-  Teal Pentagon = 1/8 mile round trip
-  Blue Circle = 1/4 mile round trip
-  Yellow Square = 1/2 mile round trip
-  Green Triangle = 1 mile round trip

Mileage markers are provided as an aid. **You do not need to hike any prescribed length to receive credit.** Some trails listed offer a limited section of accessible terrain. To hike the accessible portion, follow the Spree for All markers along the path.

First-year hikers earn a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. Returning hikers earn the pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 / first-year hikers, \$5 / returning hikers).

WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

Administrative offices, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

Summit Lake Nature Center, 411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301

Wed. + Sat.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday
Noon to 5 p.m.

Closed: Mon. & Tue.

Rewards are not mailed.

Rewards are not available after August 15, 2024.

MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

Barlow Road
331 Barlow Rd.
Hudson 44236

FREEDOM TRAIL

Middlebury
1324 Middlebury Rd.
Kent 44240

OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

Big Bend
1337 Merriman Rd.
Akron 44313

Memorial Parkway
499 Memorial Pkwy.
Akron 44310

Franklin
2328 Center Rd.
New Franklin 44216

Clinton
2749 North St.
Clinton 44216



PARKS

CASCADE VALLEY

Overlook Area
354 Sackett Ave.
Akron 44313

F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd.
Akron 44313

FURNACE RUN

Brushwood Area
4955 Townsend Rd.
Richfield 44286

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

Pioneer Area
550 Frazier Ave.
Akron 44305

LIBERTY

Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd.
Twinsburg 44087

MUNROE FALLS

Lake Area
521 S. River Rd.
Munroe Falls 44262

Tallmadge Meadows Area

1088 North Ave.
Tallmadge 44278

SAND RUN

Old Portage Area
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.
Akron 44313

SILVER CREEK

Lake House
5000 Hametown Rd.
Norton 44203




GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837

-  facebook.com/summitmetroparks
-  @summitmetroparks
-  metro-parks.medium.com
-  @metro_parks
-  youtube.com/summitmetroparks
-  summitmetroparks.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUMMIT
METRO PARKS

 Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

» 21ST ANNUAL «
SPREE
FOR **ALL**
SPRING HIKING EVENT
2024
INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
OR GROUP HIKING FORM

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT			FIRST-YEAR HIKER	RETURNING HIKER	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.			
Address		City	State	Zip	
Email		Phone			

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT			FIRST-YEAR HIKER	RETURNING HIKER	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL	DISTANCE	TRAILHEAD	SIGNATURE (forms may be signed by staff, volunteers or you)	DATE
BIKE & HIKE TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Barlow Road		
FREEDOM TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Middlebury		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Big Bend		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Memorial Parkway		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Franklin		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Clinton		

METRO PARK

METRO PARK	LOCATION
CASCADE VALLEY	● ■ Overlook
F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM (no pets)	◆ Rock & Herb Garden
FURNACE RUN	◆ Brushwood Area
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	● ■ Alder
LIBERTY	● ■ Coyote Run
LIBERTY	● Maple Loop
MUNROE FALLS / Lake Area	● ■ ▲ Firefly
MUNROE FALLS / Tallmadge Meadows Area	● ■ Meadow Loop
SAND RUN	● ■ ▲ Jogging Trail
SILVER CREEK	● ■ ▲ Miner's

Please note: Before starting any fitness program, it is the participant's responsibility to contact their physician with respect to any past or present illness or injury that may affect their ability to participate in the program.



All of these trails are flat, easy and accessible for users of all abilities.