

MAR•APR '24 | Vol. 65 No. 2

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine



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Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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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

The moon partially veils the sun, providing a glimpse of the cosmic convergence witnessed by Northeast Ohioans in 2017.



Planet vs. Plastic

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Plastics are a danger to human, animal and ecosystem health, disrupting the delicate balance of life on earth. You can help! Phase out single-use plastics and take action toward building a plastic-free future for generations to come. Join Summit Metro Parks for Earth Day programming on *page 15*, or pave the way for a healthier Earth by looking for involvement opportunities at summitmetroparks.org.



Discover YOUR BACK YARD



Squirrel corn (Dicentra canadensis)

Woodland Wildflowers

Janean Curfman,
Interpretive Naturalist

[To see a wide array of woodland ephemerals, consider a trip to Liberty Park, Furnace Run Metro Park or Hampton Hills Metro Park in April.]

AND THE CREATURES THEY DEPEND ON

Tiny ephemeral wildflowers carpet the forest floor in spring, providing important early food sources for pollinators. These delicate blooms often depend on specialized partnerships for survival.

Spring beauties use bright lines called nectar guides to direct pollinators where to land. Maroon-colored (and slightly smelly) red trilliums and wild ginger imitate the favorite meals of flies, enticing them to aid in pollination.

Once pollinated, some flowers rely on animals to disperse their seeds. The mayapple's fruits are eaten by box turtles. As they travel, turtles deposit seeds, which are more likely to sprout

thanks to their digestion! Other flowers such as trillium, trout lily and bloodroot entice ants to pick up their seeds by producing a fatty appendage called an elaiosome. Ants pick up seeds, take them home to eat the tasty treat attached and discard the rest, thus planting more flowers!

When admiring spring wildflowers, remember that they have just a few short weeks to complete their life cycle before falling dormant beneath the shade of the trees. For this reason, it can take some flowers, such as trout lily, up to seven years to produce their first blooms! So take only photos, and enjoy the beauty of spring. 🍁

A Spectacular Show

2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE

Katelyn Freil, Marketing Specialist

ON APRIL 8, a momentous event will grace the skies above Ohio as the sun, moon and Earth align, providing a few moments of midday darkness during a breathtaking spectacle: a total solar eclipse.

During the solar eclipse, the moon will pass between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun from view and casting a shadow on a strip of land more than 100 miles wide from Mexico to Canada.

There are two parts to the moon's shadow. The penumbra is the outer, lighter portion where the sun is only partially covered. The umbra, also known as the path of totality, is the central, darker part where the sun is completely blocked. Summit County will be in the path of totality and experience complete darkness for about three minutes during this event.

continued on page 6



Proper viewers are essential to protect your eyes when watching an eclipse.

continued from page 5

SCAN THE QR CODE

to learn more
about safe
solar filters and
viewers through
the American
Astronomical
Society.



While total solar eclipses around the globe are not exactly rare (occurring about once every one and a half years), to be in the path of one is. The last time Ohio experienced a total solar eclipse was in 1806, and the next will not be until 2099, making this a special experience for the 7,275,000 Ohioans living in this year's path.

In addition to residents, this total solar eclipse is expected to attract

hundreds of thousands of people to the state, bringing new visitors — and traffic — to public spaces like the Metro Parks. To avoid the crowds, consider viewing the eclipse from home or walking to a local public space. Remember: The view will be the same regardless of where you are, so long as you're in the path of totality.

This means that planning where to view the eclipse is not nearly



You can make your own viewer at home with a cereal or similar cardboard box.

as important as how. Viewing the sun's rays is never safe, even when partially obscured in the moments before and after the total solar eclipse, so special viewers are required. Look for safe solar viewing glasses (also known as eclipse glasses) and handheld viewers from reputable sellers, or try making a viewer at home by following the park district's online activity guide. Remember that cameras, telescopes and binoculars

also require solar filters to be directed at the sun. Don't ruin your device trying to get the perfect picture and instead, enjoy the moment!

As we turn our collective gaze to the sky, let's appreciate the opportunity to experience this celestial event as a community. 🍁



Did You Know?

There are four types of solar eclipses:

- 1. TOTAL** (the sun is completely blocked from view)
- 2. ANNULAR** (the moon is far enough away from Earth that it does not fully block the sun)
- 3. PARTIAL** (the sun is partially blocked from view)
- 4. HYBRID** (an eclipse shifts between annular and total)

- Solar eclipses have distinct cultural and spiritual significance for communities across the globe. Some cultures recognize eclipses as signs or omens, while others may see them as a moment of harmony and balance.
- During this eclipse, a NASA citizen science project called the Eclipse Soundscapes Project will revisit a study from almost 100 years ago which showed that animals and insects are affected by solar eclipses.

Explore PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MARCH



Saturday, March 2, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

WINTER TREES

Join a naturalist for a guided hike to enjoy the serenity of a forest in winter and learn some tips and tricks for identifying trees without their leaves. **F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Beginning Sunday, March 3

SELF-GUIDED: STORYBOOK TRAIL

Bring the family to enjoy some exercise and fun while following a self-guided story trail based on the book "North Country Spring," by Reeve Lindbergh. This experience will be available along Rock Creek Trail through March 24. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Sunday, March 3, 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 ☎ (2/23). FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, March 3, 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 📺 (2/23).**

📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.

Monday, March 4, 1 – 2 p.m.

SKUNK CABBAGE SURPRISE

How's that plant already blooming? Hike the 1.4-mile Alder Trail and discover spring's first flower and the clever trick it employs to get its footing before the snow is gone. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Beginning Tuesday, March 5

SELF GUIDED:

F.A. SEIBERLING & FAMILY



Learn about the creation of what is now F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, the man behind it and his family! Enjoy a spring hike along the easy 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail through March 19

to discover interesting facts about how this important and much-loved park came to be. **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Tuesday, March 5, 1 – 3 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 ☎ (2/28). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Beginning Wednesday, March 6

SELF GUIDED: AMPHIBIAN LIFE

Enjoy a hike on the 1.1-mile Redwing Trail while learning all about our local amphibians. Available through March 20. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, March 6, 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 ☎ (2/28). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

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, March 4

Monday, March 11

Monday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 6, 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 📞 (2/28). 📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

Thursday, March 7, 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 📞 (2/28). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Thursday, March 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: SEED STARTING FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn best practices for starting seeds for the vegetable garden. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LET'S GET CRAFTY: NATURE EMBROIDERY

Start an embroidery project with park staff while learning about the wildlife in your creation, then finish the project at your own pace. Guidance and supplies are included in the registration fee. For crafty people 16 and older. Cost is \$10/person. Registration required 📞 (3/1). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, March 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PIGEONS: MANS' BEST FRIEND?

From being revered as a symbol of fertility to reviled as rats with wings, pigeons have a history full of twists and turns. Join a naturalist to learn about the history of this common bird and its extinct relatives. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, March 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

SALAMANDER SLIME OPEN HOUSE

Slime is all around us, even if we don't notice it! Stop by to learn about slime in nature. Afterwards, we will make our very own slime. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, March 10, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

ANTS GO MARCHING 2X2

Kids ages 3 to 6 are invited to celebrate the season with stories, games and a musical craft to learn about some of our busiest bugs! Registration required 📞 (3/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, March 10

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 12:30 – 2 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required 📞 (2/29). F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Sunday, March 10, 12 – 3 p.m.

ECLIPSE EXPLORATION OPEN HOUSE

All ages are invited to drop in and discover the science of the eclipse and how to safely view the celestial event of a lifetime through fun hands-on demonstrations, crafts, a campfire and more. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, March 13, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

SOUNDS OF SPRING(FIELD BOG)

Birds, bugs and the breeze. Discover the sounds of spring as we hike the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

MILK JUG SEED STARTERS

Learn how to transform a clean gallon milk jug into a mini greenhouse as an easy way to start seeds and have healthy young seedlings when it's time to start planting in your garden. All supplies provided. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., 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, March 7

Thursday, March 14

Thursday, March 21

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, March 14, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and an accompanying adult 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 📞 (3/8). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, March 14, 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 📞 (3/7). LP/Nature

Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, March 14, 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 📞 (3/7). 📺 A list of materials and a Zoom invite will be emailed after registering.



KINDEREALM: EARTH AND SUN AND MOON OH MY!

Children 3 to 6 and their adult companions explore all about our earth and moon, and how their movements result in special events like a solar eclipse. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (2/29).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 6

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, March 20

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, March 27

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, March 15, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

Spring is almost here! Young children and their adult companions can celebrate the change of seasons in 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

Saturday, March 16, 9 – 11 a.m.

WATERFOWL WATCH

They're back! Join a naturalist at Nimisila Reservoir to search for the amazing migrating waterfowl that we can view in our area this time of year. We will hop between parking lots looking for birds, so prepare for short drives around the lake in your vehicle. Bring binoculars, and hopefully we'll see some beautiful birds! NR/Lot C1: 5034 Christman Rd., Green

Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SNOWDROP ARRIVAL

Winter is ending, and snowdrops are arriving! Come join a naturalist to learn about the flowers known as snowdrops and other plant happenings. We will be hiking around the park, so dress for weather! FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, March 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

SUNSET BIRDING

Celebrate our waterfowl's journey northward with this naturalist-led birding hike. Binoculars will be available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, March 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

GOING GREEN HIKE

Grab your greenest garb and join a naturalist on the trail! Along the way we will discuss the upcoming spring season, search for emerging green foliage and explore ways to be more sustainable this season. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Sunday, March 17

1 – 2 p.m. & 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: DIY BLUEBIRD BOXES

Join a naturalist for this monthly series focused on creating nature-friendly backyards. This month we will learn about cavity-nesting birds such as chickadees, bluebirds and wrens. After a short presentation, participants can make a bluebird box to take home, free of charge, courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources. *Registration required* 📞 (3/6). Kits are limited to one per household. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, March 21

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. &

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS:

SOLAR ECLIPSE

Homeschoolers ages 7 to 12: Join us to discover the science of the eclipse, take a safe look at the sun and make an eclipse viewer to take home. *Registration required* 📞 (3/14).

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, March 21

4:30 – 6 p.m. & 6:30 – 8 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. *Registration required* 📞 (3/13). F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Friday, March 22, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

WAKE UP, WINTER'S GONE

Winter has gone and spring has sprung! Join a naturalist on a morning hike as we talk about seasonal change, who might be waking up from hibernation and more while we shake off the winter blues. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Friday, March 22, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

SENIOR SAUNTER

Whether you're a senior by age or just want to enjoy the outdoors at a leisurely pace, join us for a stroll to enjoy nature as spring arrives and the maple sap is rising. Bring a mug and enjoy a warm beverage, fire and more nature conversation afterward. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Friday, March 22, 7 – 8:30 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. **BHT/Young Road: 5090 Young Rd., Stow**

*Saturday, March 23 & Sunday, March 24
12 – 4 p.m.*

MAPLE MANIA OPEN HOUSE

Everyone loves maple syrup! Join a naturalist as we learn the ins and outs of maple syrup production. See how the trees are tapped, how sap is collected and how it's boiled down to that sweet amber syrup we all know and love. The best part? You can satisfy your sweet tooth by sampling our fresh, local syrup! **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Saturday, March 23, 12 – 1 p.m.

BIRD NERDS: MIGRATION

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 dive into the amazing world of bird migration, exploring both why and how they move around the globe. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, March 24, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

WEEKEND BIRD WALK

Catch the first wave of migrants returning for spring alongside familiar feathered friends as we walk Pheasant Run Trail. **SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

Tuesday, March 26, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

HOOKING NEW BIRDERS WITH KEVIN RUEGG

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society for a wholesome evening as we explore an unconventional approach to hooking new birders with Interpretive Naturalist Kevin Ruegg. Discover the humorous, accessible and downright entertaining program series "Bird Nerds" and fall in love with birds all over again. Meet in the West Room. **GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Wednesday, March 27, 7 – 8 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: DAHLIA GROWING INTENSIVE

Join Jud and Sharon Allen, owners of Bloom Hill Farm, to learn tips and tricks for growing dahlias. Learn about planting, digging, dividing and storing these beautiful blooms. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, March 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and an accompanying adult 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* 📞 (3/8). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, March 29, 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

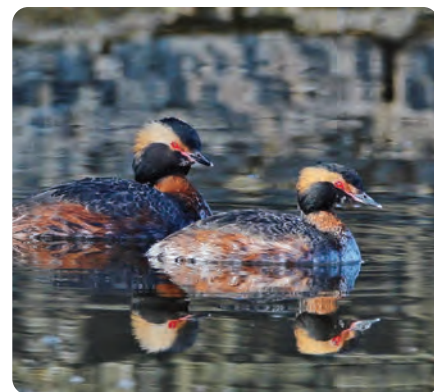
MIGRATION MADNESS FIELD TRIP

Join park naturalists on a bus trip to Wayne County for a morning of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the wetlands of Killbuck Marsh and Funk Bottoms. Pack binoculars, spotting scopes, snacks and a lunch. Dress for all day comfort out in the elements. Cost: **\$55/person. Registration required** 📞 (2/28). **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, March 29, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

EGGSTRONAUTS!

Getting into space is one thing, getting back safely is another! Ages 10 to 15 are invited to engineer your own landing craft for our SMP eggstronauts. *Registration required* 📞 (3/20). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



Saturday, March 30, 9 – 11 a.m.

WATERFOWL WATCH

Spring is a great time to view ducks, geese, swans and other waterfowl. Join us to explore Eagle Point and Seven Ponds Trails during migration. Bring binoculars. **LP/Tinkers Creek SNP: 1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora**

Saturday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WANDERING WILDLIFE

The past few centuries have dramatically changed the environment of the eastern United States. Join a naturalist for a hike along the 2-mile Chippewa Trail highlighting the changes in our landscape and stories of the sometimes surprising ways wildlife responded. **SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**

Saturday, March 30, 1 – 3 p.m.

CELESTIAL BODIES EXHIBIT OPENING

Get ready for the solar eclipse and enjoy the opening reception of the Celestial Bodies Photography Exhibit. Photographer Kathy Neurenburger will share her experience and tips for creating amazing nighttime photography. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, March 31, 12 – 3 p.m.

DROP-IN DISCOVERY: EGGS

Kids of all ages can drop in to get egg-cited about eggs! See real bird nests and eggs up close, make a simple craft and enjoy an egg-themed scavenger hunt around the nature center. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, March 31, 2 – 4 p.m.


SPRING CRAFT: DIY KITES

Take advantage of the spring winds by making and flying your very own kite. The breeze blowing off Summit Lake will send our creations soaring! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

APRIL

Monday, April 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL: FOOLS FOR NATURE

Celebrate April Fools' Day by learning about some of the daring, sometimes foolish adventures naturalists took during the age of discovery.  Zoom meeting ID: 812 5823 1664

Wednesday, April 3, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
FEEDING TIME



Lettuce, worms, tomatoes and roaches...yum! Stop by the animal room and get up-close with our animal ambassadors as they eat a healthy lunch. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, April 3, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

CROAKING CHORUS: FROG WALK

Learn to tell several frog calls apart as we walk at sunset in search of these slippery singers. It's bound to be a hoppin' good time! Bring a flashlight if you wish. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Thursday, April 4, 10 – 11 a.m.

SPRING INTO STORYTIME

Celebrate the season with a story craft and games especially made for 3 to 6 year olds. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Thursday, April 4, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANNING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn about different methods and tools for garden planning. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, April 4, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

LEGEND OF THE FIRE LIZARD

All ages can take a short hike in search of salamanders, then gather 'round the campfire to hear the tale of this special amphibian forged in fire that has captured the hearts of many nature enthusiasts each spring. Program will be moved to Seneca Deck if it rains. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, April 5, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

Spring is here! Young children and their adult companions can celebrate its arrival in 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, April 5, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ECLIPSE EXPLORATION OPEN HOUSE

All ages are invited to drop in and discover the science of the eclipse and how to safely view the celestial event of a lifetime through fun hands-on demonstrations, crafts, a campfire and more. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, April 5, 6 – 7 p.m.

BUILD YOUR OWN BUTTERFLY

April showers bring May flowers! Get ready for the spring blooms by learning how to make your own flowers and butterflies out of paper. Registration required  (3/28). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, April 6, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SALAMANDERS, FROGS AND LEECHES, OH MY!

Join a naturalist as we explore vernal pools in the Pond Brook Conservation Area of Liberty Park. Learn the importance these pools play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Hear the difference between our native frogs and see some of our native salamanders up close! Boots are advised, as we will be walking off trail through very wet areas. LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, April 6, 12 – 3 p.m.

ECLIPSE EXPLORATION OPEN HOUSE



All ages are invited to drop in and discover the science of the eclipse and how to safely view the celestial event of a lifetime through fun hands-on demonstrations, crafts, and more. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, April 6, 1 – 3 p.m.

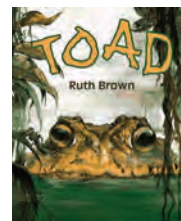
HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE

Is attaching the hiking spree shield more challenging than actually hiking the eight trails? Summit Metro Parks volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Beginning Sunday, April 7

SELF-GUIDED: STORYBOOK TRAIL




Bring the family out for some exercise and fun springtime exploration as you follow a self-guided story trail based on the book "Toad," by Ruth Brown. This experience will be

available along Quarry Trail through April 28. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Sunday, April 7

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required  (3/29). F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

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, April 1

Monday, April 15

Monday, April 22

Monday, April 29

Sunday, April 7, 12 – 3 p.m.

PRE-ECLIPSE SOLAR-BRATION

All ages are invited to drop in and discover the science of the eclipse and how to safely view the celestial event of a lifetime through fun hands-on demonstrations, crafts, music, a campfire and more. Experience the unveiling of a unique celestial-themed community art exhibit. Light refreshments will be available.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Beginning Wednesday, April 10

SELF-GUIDED:

BATS – A SUPER MAMMAL

Discover the secret lives of these gentle mammals, their benefits and how you can help them in your own backyard during an easy hike along 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail through April 24. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, April 10, 7 – 8 p.m.

SUNSET AT NIMISILA RESERVOIR

Learn about the interesting history and diverse wildlife that inhabit beautiful Nimisila Reservoir as we watch the 7:54 p.m. sunset from the open-air shelter. Bring your favorite lawn chair, blankets and a warm beverage if you'd like! NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green

Thursday, April 11, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and an accompanying adult 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* 📞 (4/3). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, April 11, 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* 📞 (4/4). FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, April 11, 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* 📞 (4/4). 📺 A list of materials and a Zoom invite will be emailed after registering.

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

WOODCOCK WALK

Join us on a short walk to discover the amazing life of a common yet elusive bird, the woodcock! With any luck we'll experience the males' fantastical sky dance and listen to their strange noises. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Friday, April 12, 4 – 6 p.m.

THE IMPRESSION THAT I GET

Bark is beautiful! Drop by and capture the unique textures of trees in cheerful crayon or classy charcoal as we enjoy Silver Creek Lake together. SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton

Friday, April 12, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

DRIVE-IN: ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Join a naturalist for a drive-in program on the science and history of our night sky. Learn what a lightyear is, why stars twinkle and how to identify planets, constellations and other objects. You will be in your car just like the old drive-in movies, enjoying popcorn while listening through your car radio. Arrive early to get a good parking spot! Weather permitting, we will scan the sky to see what might be visible after the presentation. LP/ Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING DERBY

Anglers 15 and younger each receive a \$1 prize if they catch a golden trout. Please bring fishing gear. A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use during the derby, and bait will be supplied. Visitors are encouraged to bring a lunch if fishing the entire day. Adults are not permitted to fish. *Presented by Wayside Furniture with support from Goodyear Hunting and Fishing Club.* FI Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Saturday, April 13, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Join a naturalist on a 1-mile hike for an up-close look at spring's beautiful wildflowers and learn how to identify these short-term visitors. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., 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, April 4

Thursday, April 11

Thursday, April 18

Thursday, April 25

Saturday, April 13, 1 – 2 p.m.

SOILS LAB

Get your hands dirty and learn a bit about the wonderful earth that supports our buildings and keeps our plants growing in this family-friendly workshop. You'll have the opportunity to run a variety of experiments to learn about soil composition and health. *Registration required* 📞 (4/4). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, April 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF RAIN



In Northeast Ohio, the weather seems to change every 15 minutes! Join a naturalist as we learn how to read the clouds to determine the upcoming weather.

Learn about cold fronts, warm fronts, what to look for during tornado season and why wind plays such an important factor in our weather. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, April 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

WETLAND WALK

Spring is here and it is a perfect time for birds and amphibians! Join a naturalist for a walk and take a look at this beautiful wetland area as Mother Nature wakes up. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron



KINDEREALM: ANIMAL BABIES

Children ages 3 to 6 can come learn about animal babies emerging in spring with a short lesson, story and craft. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 3
SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Wednesday, April 10
FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, April 24
LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd.,
Twinsburg

Sunday, April 14, 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* 📞 (4/5).

📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.

Beginning Monday, April 15

SELF-GUIDED: SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Welcome, spring! Hike Ledges Trail through April 28 to discover delicate spring blooms of all shapes and sizes. Interpretive signs will be posted along the way to point out these beauties and guide your learning experience. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd.,
Twinsburg

Monday, April 15, 5:30 – 6 p.m.

MAKING A MOSSTERPIECE

It's green, it's fuzzy, it's everywhere you look — but what is it? Come learn about moss and the wonderful ways you can integrate it into a garden of any size. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Tuesday, April 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SPECIAL NEEDS FISHING DERBY

Trophies will be awarded for the three largest fish caught. Only adults and children with special needs will be permitted to fish. Please bring fishing gear. A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use during the derby, and bait will be supplied. Visitors are encouraged to bring a lunch if fishing the entire day. *Presented by Wayside Furniture with support from Goodyear Hunting and Fishing Club.* F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron



Tuesday, April 16, 1 – 3 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* 📞 (4/10).

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, April 17, 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* 📞 (4/10).

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, April 17, 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* 📞 (4/10). 📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

Wednesday, April 17, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

AFTER WORK BIRD WALK

Feeling like a caged bird after a day of work? Come stretch your wings with fellow birders for an afternoon stroll along the 1.6-mile Willow Trail. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Thursday, April 18, 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* 📞 (4/10). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, April 18
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. &
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: SPRING FOREST FLOOR

Homeschoolers ages 7 to 12: Join us to explore the rich and complex life of the spring forest floor and the ephemeral wildflowers that bloom there. *Registration required* 📞 (4/11). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

WILDFLOWER WALK

Hike with a naturalist to learn about some of the common native spring wildflowers that call Sand Run Metro Park home. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a stream crossing. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Friday, April 19, 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 stroll as we enjoy nature while flowers are blooming again. Bring a mug and enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, April 20, 9 – 11 a.m.

BIRDS & BLOOMS HIKE

Join us on a hike through Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park, designated as an Important Bird Area, in search of songbirds and spring blooms. Binoculars and field guides are recommended. **DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

Saturday, April 20, 12 – 1 p.m.

BIRD NERDS: SONGS N' CALLS

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 get a little noisy and discover how birds talk to each other. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, April 21, 7:30 – 10 a.m.

EARLY SPRING MIGRANT BIRD WALK

Hike the river corridor in search of early migrating songbirds and discover why we should be listening to the “canaries in the coal mine.” Please bring binoculars and a bird guide. **CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Sunday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

EARTH DAY WILDFLOWER WALK



Join a naturalist as we hike Ledges Trail in celebration of Earth Day! Along the way, we'll discover the fascinating world of colorful, delicate spring wildflowers and

the animals that depend on them. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, April 21, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

UPCYCLING FOR THE EARTH

Drop in to try your hand at turning one person's trash into your treasure! In celebration of Earth Day, learn how upcycling can be a fun way to make something cool and help protect the earth. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Sunday, April 21, 1 – 3 p.m.

EARTH DAY FOR KIDS

Earth is such a special place! Come learn why the planet we call home is so unique and how you can help make a difference. There will be educational activities, arts and crafts and more. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Tuesday, April 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

THE PRESENTS OF BIRDS WITH JEN BRUMFIELD

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society to celebrate their 90th anniversary alongside Akron-born birding legend Jen Brumfield. Learn about their journey to being granted a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Birding Association in 2021, an award given to birders who have completed a lifetime's worth of exceptional work in promoting the cause of birding. Meet in the East Room. **GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Wednesday, April 24, 7 – 8 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: THE INFLUENCE OF NATURE ON OUR WELL-BEING

Based on the book, “The Well-Gardened Mind,” the presenters will explore and share the tremendous influence that nature, plants and being in the garden can have on our mental health. Learn about documented cases where nature has transformed lives. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, April 25, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and an accompanying adult 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 (4/3). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, April 26, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SPRING NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can celebrate the season in 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, April 26, 8 – 9:30 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. **SR/Big Bend: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

Saturday, April 27, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEDS IN THE WILD

No matter how hard we try, all sorts of creeping and climbing greenery sneak into our gardens. However, that's not the only place these weeds can be found. Join a naturalist-led hike to gain a greater understanding of these plants by finding them in the wild. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SPRING BIRD WALK

Enjoy a walk along Bluebird Trail as we look for and talk about the arriving spring birds. Afterwards we will try our hand at feeding the chickadees. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, April 28, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AMPHIBIAN ADVENTURE

Get an up-close experience searching for amphibians and other water-loving creatures. We'll learn what makes them slimy, small and special. Be prepared to get wet. **Closed-toe water shoes required. SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**

Tuesday, April 30, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

WARBLER WARM UP

Join a naturalist as we get ready for warbler season and the Biggest Week in American Birding! We will review the basics of warbler identification and other important tidbits about our feathered friends. There will be several specimens preserved by taxidermy to provide a bird's eye view of the many species that will be migrating through in the coming weeks. This program is designed for all levels of birding experience. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**





Enjoy

SUMMIT METRO PARKS

Water Has a Perfect Memory

Jen M. Harvey, Chief of Philanthropy

*"All water has a
perfect memory
and is forever
trying to get back
to where it was."*

~ Toni Morrison

There is a different way of telling the story of the Cuyahoga River now. Change has been slow, like the view from a kayak with the shore slipping by as you cover more miles than you might think. The river has been freed of dams in Brecksville, Kent, Munroe Falls and Cuyahoga Falls. Floodplains, riffles and bends are being actively restored. For those who live here, the changes are incremental. But now, we can pull that kayak into an eddy, look around and see how far we've come.

As water quality improves, biologists are reintroducing fish species that have been missing for years. In October 2023, the USEPA announced pivotal funding to remove the massive Gorge Dam — the largest remaining impact on the river's water quality. The Cuyahoga will flow freely again.

Summit Metro Parks is bringing river access to the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park so that people can enjoy more of the renewed river. Spanning eight acres, the project includes a canoe and kayak put-in, accessible pathways, observation areas and gathering spaces. It's designed to welcome you to this actively restored and recovering ecosystem.

Parks protect critical areas of the river as it flows through Northeast Ohio from the headwaters to Lake Erie. Your support of

these parks has made all the difference. Preserved areas foster native vegetation along the banks that filter runoff, keeping the water shaded for cool-water aquatic habitat. The river and these areas along it provide a crucial migration corridor for birds and other wildlife.

Our river does indeed have a perfect memory, and it's getting back to the way it was — a free-flowing, clean resource for wildlife and people. The Summit Metro Parks Foundation creates a lasting local impact in many ways, including protecting our river and helping provide outstanding places like the new river access area for you to enjoy.

To donate to the Summit Metro Parks Foundation, visit foundation.summitmetroparks.org, or send a check to the Summit Metro Parks Foundation at 975 Treaty Line Road, Akron, Ohio, 44313. 🍁

SUPPORT THE

*Summit Metro Parks
Foundation*

975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH, 44313

foundation.summitmetroparks.org



The Summit Metro Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in 1991 to further the goals and mission of Summit Metro Parks. We are grateful to the many people, organizations, businesses and agencies who made gifts, grants and sponsorships January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. These donations and other forms of support create thriving parks that are a cornerstone of Summit County's quality of life and benefit the park district's charitable, educational and scientific initiatives.

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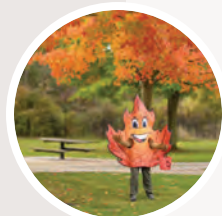
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2023

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