

GREEN ISLANDS

SUMMIT METRO PARKS



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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Metro Parks

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Mushrooms

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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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



Joel D. Bailey Tonya Block Mark A. Spisak Tina Ughrin Herb Newman

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.



SHIELD ASSISTANCE DATES



The 54th annual Fall Hiking Spree is the largest and longest-running event of its kind in the nation. A first-year hiker who completes eight trails before November 30 earns a hiking staff and shield. A veteran hiker earns this year's hiking shield.

Volunteers will help attach your new shield to your staff as follows:

Liberty Park / Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

October 14, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.

Furnace Run Metro Park / Brushwood Lodge

4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

October 29, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm / Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

November 4, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.

November 11, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.

November 18, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.

November 25, 2017, 1 – 3 p.m.



DISCOVER

YOUR BACK YARD



WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN



Forrest D. Myers
Forrest D. Myers,
Board of Park Commissioners
(1958–1973)

The park district first published *Green Islands* in 1960. It remained a regular collection of news, stories and programs until the early 2000s, when a second publication was created solely to promote our educational and recreational offerings.

Now, in an effort to be more efficient and sustainable, we're back to producing just one publication. The monthly *Programs & Events Guide* has been

discontinued. Beginning with this issue, the new bi-monthly *Green Islands* will include information about wildlife, research, programs, events, sprees and more.

With this relaunch, we look back to a letter included in the very first issue of *Green Islands*, written by Forrest D. Myers, chair of the Board of Park Commissioners, on December 15, 1960.

"With this issue we begin sending to you a series of newsletters devoted to parks and enjoyment of the outdoors. We hope you find them interesting and that they will help you to increase your enjoyment of the Metropolitan Parks ...

Perhaps you are wondering why the title 'Green Islands' was chosen for our newsletter. Our Metropolitan Parks suggest green islands of rest and relaxation in a sea of subdivisions, highways, and industrial development. They provide harbors of refuge against the turmoil and bustle of modern urban life. They are your 'green islands,' almost at your doorstep."

We encourage you to **Go Out** and **Discover, Explore** and **Enjoy** your **Summit Metro Parks!**



barred owl

OWL FUN FACTS

- Owls do not have typical eyeballs. They have eye tubes, which don't rotate, so owls are unable to look left, right, up or down without turning their heads.
- Owls cannot rotate their heads 360 degrees. They can turn them 270 degrees.
- Great horned owls will prey on smaller screech and barred owls.
- Great horned owls are the main predators of skunks.
- Owls eat small animals as part of their diet, including mice, moles, chipmunks and other, smaller birds.
- An owl will consume an entire animal and later regurgitate the indigestible parts — hair or feathers and bones — as a pellet.

MYSTERI

Owls are large, charismatic birds that are seldom seen since they are mostly active at night. Often portrayed as wise and all-knowing creatures, owls have captivated humankind for a long time. They are common residents of the Metro Parks, but knowing where and how to find them is a different story.

OWLS AND POWERFUL OWLS

Elizabeth Kresse and Sarah Putnam, Interpretive Naturalists



great horned owl

DRAWN TO OWLS

Spotting an owl is an exciting experience. As nocturnal predators, owls are considered mysterious and powerful.

Konrad Lorenz, who is often referred to as the father of ethology — the study of animal behavior — found that people are drawn to baby animals with large, round heads and eyes coupled with small noses. Even as adults, owls keep these features; they look appealing.

“HUNTING” FOR OWLS

Summit Metro Parks offers hikes to search for owls, and the programs are

fun for the whole family. Our naturalists typically start each hike by sharing general information about owls. *What kinds of owls are native to Ohio? How have they adapted, and what makes them one of the ultimate nighttime predators?* Naturalists also bring along owl taxidermy — things like wings, talons and skulls — for visitors to touch to get a better sense of these amazing birds.

Owls are silent while in flight, so we watch for their shadows in the moonlight as we use a machine to call them to our location. We start by calling the smallest owl species and work up to the largest. Why? A large owl will prey on a small one. For example, if a great



Sarah Putnam, interpretive naturalist, leads an evening owl program.



Usually nocturnal hunters, this barred owl has a mouse for “lunch” during the day.

horned owl answers first, a screech owl will not come near since it has heard a predator’s call.

If our calls are successful and one or more owls fly in, we will shine a bright spotlight on them so visitors can see the bird(s).

The spotlight doesn’t scare them off.

Even if we cannot get an owl to come near, many times barred owls will vocalize in the area due to their inquisitive nature. If no owls have responded by the end of our hike, a naturalist may attempt to call other wildlife, such as coyotes, so visitors can still enjoy the experience.

continued on page 19

FUN FACTS



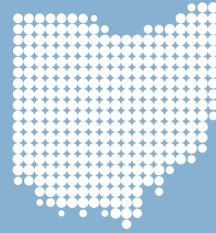
Bat fossils have been found from more than 50 million years ago. Surprisingly, current species are very similar to fossil records from this time.



The hoary bat is Ohio's largest bat, but only weighs about **one ounce!**



Bats are important because they pollinate flowers, spread seeds, produce fertilizer, and control insect populations (which controls disease as well).



Nearly **70%** of bat species eat insects, including ALL bats found in Ohio.

MEAL TIME

But bats may also consume:

- birds
- fish
- frogs
- fruit
- nectar
- small mammals
- even blood



Most bats catch and eat their prey while in flight. They also drink on the wing.

Without **bats** we would not have **bananas, mangos** or **agave**.



PHYSICAL QUALITIES

BATS are the only MAMMALS capable of true FLIGHT.



Bats have special tendons that allow them to lock their toes and hang upside down without expending any energy, so they can rest in places most other animals can't. That provides bats a safe and unique place to "hang out."



Bats HAVE clear and accurate DAYTIME vision. 

They use ECHOLOCATION to navigate at night.



BAT SPECIES



Some bats in Ohio, like **little brown bats**, hibernate to avoid winter when their food is scarce.



Others, like the **eastern red bat**, fly south for the winter and remain active, much like many birds do.



The **northern long-eared bat** is a *federally threatened species*.



Northern long-eared bats look similar to the **common little brown bat** but with noticeably longer ears.



The ear of the **northern long-eared bat** has a long, pointy TRAGUS (the *fleshy projection just inside the ear*). You do, too!



Big brown bats are beetle specialists and help farmers reduce pesticide use by eating these pests that feed on corn and soy beans.

EXPLORE

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Beginning Friday, September 1 SUBMIT ENTRIES FOR THE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT



Through November 23, visitors may submit two entries for the 18th Amateur Photography Exhibit, on display in the Nature Realm visitors center January through May 2018. Only two printed photographs will be accepted, and all images must be taken in areas managed by Summit Metro Parks. With each entry, please include your name, address, phone number, email, the location where the image was taken and a title for the image. Entries should not be matted or framed, and should be one of the following sizes: 5"x7", 8"x10" or 11"x14". All originals may be picked up at the Nature Realm after the exhibit. *Only drop-off entries will be accepted at the Nature Realm during regular building hours; no mail-in entries, please.* FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, September 1, 9 – 11 a.m. FERN WALK

Join a naturalist to learn about some of Ohio's native ferns and discover how to identify them by their structure and habitat. SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron



Friday, September 1,
6:30 – 8 p.m.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDERS



Join a naturalist to explore the amazing variety of crawling creatures that call this park home, with magnification aides to get close-up views. Program will begin in the shelter and include a hike on Meadow Trail. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 🥾



Saturday, September 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. SNAKES OF LIBERTY PARK

Join a naturalist as we explore the ledges for indigenous snakes of Liberty Park. Learn why these "scary" serpents are very important to the health of the eco-system and why they should be respected and not feared. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🥾

HEALTHY STRIDES HIKES

Summit Metro Parks is partnering with Cleveland Clinic Akron General to present Healthy Strides Hikes. During the Fall Hiking Spree, join us on casual 1- to 3-mile walks, preceded by a brief, informative talk by physicians and caregivers. Topics change each session based on the leader's specialty. All hikes will be on hiking spree trails. 🥾

Saturday, September 2, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Wednesday, September 13, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, September 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Sunday, September 3, 9 – 11 a.m.

BEGINNER STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Try stand-up paddleboarding, the fastest-growing water sport, to get a workout and enjoy nature. A certified instructor and a naturalist will guide you. No experience needed. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of paddleboard, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 🙌 (8/16) 💰

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Programs with these icons require advance registration, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses, by the method indicated.



Call: 330-865-8065



Web: 330tix.com

(date) Registration start date

💰 Fee

🥾 Fall Hiking Spree credit

BHT Bike & Hike Trail

CVN Cascade Valley / North

CVS Cascade Valley / South

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

SR Sand Run

TT Towpath Trail

WH Wood Hollow

For more information: Call 330-867-5511, visit summitmetroparks.org or email marketing@summitmetroparks.org

Sunday, September 3, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
MOLES, VOLES, MICE & SHREWS



Join a naturalist on a hike along Chippewa Trail to discover the differences between these tiny mammals that live under our feet. Please wear sunscreen and bug spray.

SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton 🐾

Sunday, September 3, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
METRO PARKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

We'll hike a different trail each month, taking a photographic record of the seasonal changes that happen. In December we'll come in from the cold and review the year in pictures. You can take your own pictures or just enjoy the hikes. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson



Sunday, September 3, 12 – 3 p.m.
INTERMEDIATE STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Join a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn moving on the board, advanced paddle strokes and rescue techniques. Prior paddleboarding experience is required. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of paddleboard, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 🐾 (8/16) \$

Monday, September 4, 1 – 3 p.m.
WEEKDAY WALKERS

Take a stroll on the challenging Chuckery Trail, with stops along the way to discover nature and history. CVS/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron 🐾

SPREE HIKE WITH LISA KING

Hike with Executive Director Lisa King during the Fall Hiking Spree and ask questions about Summit Metro Parks. 🐾

Tuesday, September 5, 5 – 6 p.m.
 SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Tuesday, September 12, 5 – 6 p.m.
 FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Tuesday, September 19, 5 – 6 p.m.
 CVS/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Tuesday, September 26, 5 – 6 p.m.
 GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Tuesday, September 5, 7 p.m.
RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

Weather permitting, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. Concert cancelled if it rains. If wet weather is in the forecast, call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. for status. FASN/Onondaga Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, September 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
WEEKDAY WALKERS

Stroll along Downy Loop Trail, with frequent stops to discover nature along the way. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Wednesday, September 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.
NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🐾 (8/18)

Wednesday, September 6, 3 – 5 p.m.
O'NEIL WOODS HISTORY HIKE

Join a naturalist on a hike to discover the history of O'Neil Woods Metro Park. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
SPREE AT THE BOG

Earn hiking spree credit while enjoying a fabulous late-summer evening with a naturalist. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp. 🐾

Friday, September 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: ORIENTEERING

Homeschoolers, ages 7 to 10: Learn the basics of map reading and orienteering to solve a mystery. Compasses will be provided. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🐾 (8/25)

Friday, September 8, 4 p.m. – Sunday, September 10, 11 a.m.
FALL FAMILY CAMPOUT

Join naturalists for a fun and relaxing weekend while camping out in a Metro Park. Includes hiking, campfires, fishing and nature activities. Camping equipment is not provided. Space is limited. Location provided during registration. Location: TBD 🐾 (8/26)



ARCHERY GAMES

Play different games to build archery skills. Participants must have already taken one of our **Intro to Archery** programs. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 50 inches or taller. HH/Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls 🐾 (8/22) \$

Wednesday, September 6, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
FOR ADULTS (ages 16+) \$10/person

Wednesday, September 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
FOR ADULTS (ages 16+) \$10/person

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Learn international-style target archery. Program good for beginning and practiced archers. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 50 inches or taller. HH/Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls 🐾 (8/23) \$

Thursday, September 7, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
FOR ADULTS (ages 16+) \$10/person

Thursday, September 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
FOR KIDS (ages 9–15) \$10/person

KINDEREALM: MUSHROOMS

Children 3 to 6 with their adult companions learn how mushrooms grow and how they benefit wildlife. A craft and hike are part of the program. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.. ☎ (9/9)

Friday, September 15

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FASN/Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, September 15

1 – 2 p.m.

FASN/Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, September 20

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

F/Coventry Oaks

40 Axline Ave., Akron

Monday, September 25

10 – 11 a.m.

LP/Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Friday, September 8, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

INTRO TO MUSHROOM I.D. HIKE

Learn the basics of mushroom identification while hiking along Dogwood Trail. Edibles are not included in this program. **SR/Wadsworth:**

1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron 🍄

Friday, September 8, 6 – 8 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line at Little Turtle Pond. A few rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children but are not permitted to fish. **F/Little Turtle Pond:** 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Saturday, September 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m..

HISTORY OF THE GORGE

Join park historians and archaeologists on a walk in Gorge Metro Park. The past will come to life as we explore the human history of this natural area. **G/Main Entrance:** 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls

Saturday, September 9

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

SILVER CREEK KAYAK

Paddle a portion of Silver Creek lake with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, safety tips, and to see wildlife around the water. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of kayak, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **SC/Boathouse:** 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 🍷 (8/29) \$



Sunday, September 10, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

CARDIO HIKE

Join a naturalist for healthy outdoor exercise by hiking at a vigorous pace with few, if any, rest stops. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, September 10, 9 – 11 a.m.

BIRDS AND BLOOMS

Pass through woods, meadows and wetlands as we search for birds and blooms along Meadow Trail. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows:** 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 🍄

Sunday, September 10, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

FUN FACTS HIKE

What are hummingbird nests made of? How did the box turtle get its name? Join a naturalist for a fun hike to discover the answers to these questions and more! **FR/Brushwood:** 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 🍄

Tuesday, September 12, 7 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

The all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. Concert will be held indoors if it rains. **F/Coventry Oaks:** 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Tuesday, September 12, 7 – 8 p.m.

YOGA IN THE PARK: VINYASA

Enjoy a vinyasa yoga practice in the arboretum with a certified instructor. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat or towel and drinking water. Program will be outside if weather permits. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (9/4)

Tuesday, September 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

CAMPFIRE COOKING WITH TWINSBURG LIBRARY COOKBOOK CLUB

Join Summit Metro Parks and the Twinsburg Library Cookbook Club for a campfire cooking demonstration. We'll eat, swap recipes, discuss cookbooks and talk food. Participants will be asked to contribute to the feast. Meet at the shelter. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (9/2)

Wednesday, September 13, 9:30 – 10 a.m.

NATURE STORIES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired story time intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (9/5)

Wednesday, September 13

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

WILD IN THE WOODS

All ages can stop by our Nature Play area and engage in fun, hands-on experiences with nature. A naturalist will be on hand to help guide your experience. Getting dirty is encouraged, so dress appropriately. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Thursday, September 14, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

EARLY MORNING HIKE

Join a naturalist for an early morning hike, and view the colors of the sky from the sunrise just minutes before. **SFB:** 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp. 🍄

Thursday, September 14, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

HIKING SPREE FOR DOGS

Dogs and their owners hike with other pets during this annual event. Pets must be on leashes (8-foot max) and under their owners' control at all times. **SC/Big Oak:** 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton 🍄



Thursday, September 14, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
SPREE AT TALLMADGE MEADOWS

Join a naturalist for an evening spree hike. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 🍷

Friday, September 15, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
LOOKING FOR LADYBUGS

Join a naturalist to “spot” these polka-dotted critters along Willow Trail. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 🍷

Friday, September 15, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
ANIMAL FOLK STORIES: HIKE & FIRE

How did the chipmunk get its stripes or the opossum its bare tail? Learn what folklore has to say, and roast a marshmallow (while supplies last) while you're at it! LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, September 16, 9 – 11 a.m.
BEGINNER STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

See 9/3 beginner program description. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 🍷 (9/8) \$

Saturday, September 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
MOUNTAIN BIKE AREA OPEN HOUSE

Join Summit Metro Parks to enjoy the Hampton Hills Mountain Bike Area, whether you own a bike or not! Several local cycling shops will have FREE adult loaner bikes for use during the event. Postponed to 9/30 with rain or wet conditions. For status, call 330-865-8060 or follow @SMPmountainbike on Twitter: HH/Mountain Bike: 2092 Theiss Rd., Akron

Saturday, September 16, 12 – 3 p.m.
INTERMEDIATE STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

See 9/3 intermediate program description. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 🍷 (9/8) \$

Saturday, September 16, 1 – 3 p.m.
POLLINATORS OF LIBERTY PARK

Join a naturalist as we hike Bluebird Trail in search of pollinators. We will search for butterflies, several different bees, flies and other insects pollinating the flowers. Nets and jars will be available. Bring sunscreen and a hat. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, September 16, 7 – 9 p.m.
SUMMER INSECT SYMPHONY AND FIRE

What do crickets sing about? Listen for katydids, crickets, and cicadas and learn about their language while enjoying a campfire. Marshmallows provided, while supplies last. Please wear bug spray. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Sunday, September 17
9 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 3 p.m.

GORGE KAYAK
 Paddle the Cuyahoga River at the Gorge to see towering rock ledges and breathtaking scenery from your kayak. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of kayak, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 🍷 (9/13) \$

Sunday, September 17, 9 – 11 a.m.
FALL BIRD WALK

Join a naturalist for a fall bird walk. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Sunday, September 17
12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.
NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Ages 6 to 12 join our interpretive artist for this lesson in nature drawing. Paper and pencils will be provided. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 📞 (9/12)



Monday, September 18, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
CARDIO HIKE

Hike four miles at a vigorous pace. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron 🍷

Wednesday, September 20, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
ADULT ADVENTURE DAY CAMP: WATER

Spend a day outdoors to recharge and reconnect with nature. We will start the day at Goodyear Heights Metro Parks and go on a 3-mile nature walk around Alder Pond, learning water ecology. Then, participants will drive to Gorge Metro Park and learn to kayak on the Cuyahoga River. Just like camp as a child, you will make a craft to take home. Everyone will weave a basket as a keepsake. A box lunch and snack is included in the fee. Transportation is not included. Participants must be 18 years and older. Fee: \$50. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron 🍷 (8/31) \$

Friday, September 22, 1 – 3 p.m.
HOMESCHOOLERS: ORIENTEERING

Homeschoolers, ages 11 to 14: Learn the basics of map reading and orienteering to solve a mystery. Compasses will be provided. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 📞 (8/25)

Friday, September 22, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

AFTER-SCHOOL FISHING

Calling all kids! Learn the basics of fishing, bait a hook, and drop a line in Alder Pond. A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Participants 16 and older must have a fishing license. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Friday, September 22, 8 – 10 p.m.

ATTRACTING MOTHS TO BLACK LIGHTS

Join naturalists while they are attracting moths to black lights, and observe the insects' amazingly beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. Bring a flashlight and camera. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Saturday, September 23, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

THE QUILL PIG (AKA, THE PORCUPINE)

Join a naturalist to learn about this prickly and unusual creature. Discover its natural history and why it is making a comeback in Ohio. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, September 23, 1 – 3 p.m.

FALL MUSHROOM HIKE

Join a naturalist for a walk along parts of Indian Spring Trail to discover the beauty, variety and interesting ecology of fall mushrooms. Meet at the trailhead. Edibles are not part of the program. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls



Saturday, September 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

QUIT BADGERIN' ME

Let's talk weasels! Many people don't realize we have such cool animals that live here in Ohio, like badgers, mink and river otters to name a few. Learn about these amazing animals with a naturalist. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

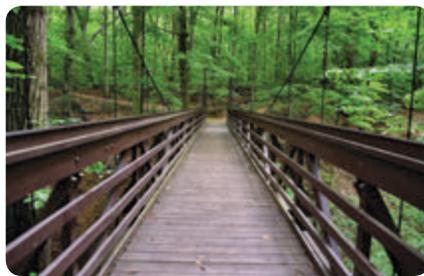
LICHENS AND MOSSES OF LIBERTY PARK

Join a naturalist to delve into the romantic world of mosses and lichens. Learn about the ledges' "living skin" and how a fungus and algae took a "lichen" to one another. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 

Sunday, September 24, 12 – 3 p.m.

I SPY

Enjoy a stroll while playing the familiar game "I Spy." Pick up your scavenger hunt list between noon and 3 p.m., then hit the trail to search for some unusual objects. Return your list to the front desk by 5 p.m. for a prize. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Sunday, September 24, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HISTORY HIKE

Join Summit Metro Parks and the Summit County Historical Society for a hike in historic Deep Lock Quarry. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Sunday, September 24, 7 – 8 p.m.

YOGA BASICS ON SENECA DECK

In the last program of this series we will combine everything from the summer and complete our first vinyasa class. Even if you haven't participated in previous programs, all are welcome to register. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat or towel and drinking water. Program will move inside in the case of inclement weather. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron  (9/4)

Thursday, September 28, 3 – 5 p.m.

WILD IN THE WOODS

All ages can stop by our Nature Play area at Goodyear Heights and engage in fun, hands-on experiences with nature. A naturalist will be on hand to help guide your experience. Getting dirty is encouraged, so dress appropriately. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 28, 7 – 8 p.m.

A YEAR OF HERBS: PRESERVING HERBS

This month, participants will learn about the best way to preserve herbs and how long to store them. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 

Friday, September 29 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

HIKE THE HOLLOW

Warm summer days are quickly coming to a close. Join a naturalist on a leisurely hike to discover what is out and about this time of the year. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Friday, September 29, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HIKE & FIRE

Hike Ledges Trail and learn about wildlife found in the park, then settle in with a campfire story and roasted marshmallows (while supplies last). LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 

FREE THE FALLS: BRINGING DOWN THE GORGE DAM
#FreeTheFalls

For 100 years, Gorge Metro Park has coexisted with a 420-foot-wide, 60-foot-tall dam. Now, that dam is being studied for removal. This presentation will examine the interwoven story of the Gorge Dam, the Cuyahoga River and the park itself, plus the benefits of dam removal. The tale is one of gravity and water, of scenic beauty and contamination, and of competing economies. Mainly, it is the account of how our vision for the Gorge has evolved.

Monday, September 25, 6 – 7 p.m.

Akron-Summit County Public Library 60 S. High St., Akron

Thursday, September 28, 6 – 7 p.m.

Fairlawn-Bath Branch Library 3101 Smith Rd., Akron

OCTOBER

Continuing this Month

SUBMIT ENTRIES FOR THE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT



Through November 23, visitors may submit two entries for the 18th Amateur Photography Exhibit, on display in the Nature Realm visitors center January through May 2018. Only two printed photographs will be accepted, and all images must be taken in areas managed by Summit Metro Parks. With each entry, please include your name, address, phone number, email, the location where the image was taken and a title for the image. Entries should not be matted or framed, and should be one of the following sizes: 5"x7", 8"x10" or 11"x14". All originals may be picked up at the Nature Realm after the exhibit. *Only drop-off entries will be accepted at the Nature Realm during regular building hours; no mail-in entries, please.* FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Sunday, October 1, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SEARCHING FOR SKELETONS

Stroll through the forest in search of skeletons. Learn how creatures use specialized bones, teeth, shells and more to survive. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🍂

Sunday, October 1, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

LEAVE YOUR LEAVES

Bag no more! Learn why leaving leaves in your yard is beneficial to you and wildlife during this interactive presentation. Then, go on a short walk to look for wildlife in the leaves. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

FALL FAMILY OUTINGS



Fall into autumn fun with FREE hayrides, bonfires, naturalist activities, live music, apple cider, cookies and more. A wheelchair-accessible hay wagon is available.

Saturday, October 7, 6 – 9 p.m.

GYH/Main Entrance:
2077 Newton St., Akron

Saturday, October 14, 6 – 9 p.m.

SC/Bathhouse:
5000 Hametown Rd.,
Norton

SPREE HIKE WITH LISA KING

Hike with Executive Director Lisa King during the Fall Hiking Spree and ask questions about Summit Metro Parks. 🍂

Tuesday, October 3, 4 – 5 p.m.

ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath

Tuesday, October 10, 4 – 5 p.m.

HH/Main Entrance: 2925
Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Tuesday, October 17, 4 – 5 p.m.

MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Tuesday, October 24, 4 – 5 p.m.

TT/Clinton: 2749 North St., Clinton

Thursday, October 5, 7 – 8 p.m.

SMP FAMILY TREE: ADAM FAMILY

Have you ever wondered about the families who donated land to Summit Metro Parks, or the people who worked to make the parks what they are today? This month we will "meet" the Adam family. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, October 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON STROLL

Join a naturalist for this leisurely afternoon stroll to enjoy all that fall has to offer. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton 🍂

Saturday, October 7

9 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 3 p.m.

GORGE KAYAK

Paddle the Cuyahoga River at the Gorge to see towering rock ledges and breathtaking scenery from your kayak. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of kayak, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls

🍂 (9/27) \$



KINDEREALM: BONES



Children 3 to 6 and their adult companions learn all about skeletons of animals that lived in the park. A short hike and craft are included. Please make arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers. ☎ (9/26)

Friday, October 6
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, October 6
1 – 2 p.m.

FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, October 16
10 – 11 a.m.

LP/Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, October 18
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

F/Coventry Oaks
40 Axline Ave., Akron

Saturday, October 7, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

Did You Know? Fungi have different ecological roles. Join a naturalist for a walk along parts of Deer Run Trail to discover the beauty, variety and interesting ecology of fall mushrooms. Edibles are not part of the program. **ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath**



HEALTHY STRIDES HIKES

Summit Metro Parks is partnering with Cleveland Clinic Akron General to present Healthy Strides Hikes. During the Fall Hiking Spree, join us on casual 1- to 3-mile walks, preceded by a brief, informative talk by physicians and caregivers. Topics change each session based on the leader's specialty. All hikes will be on hiking spree trails. 🥾

Saturday, October 7, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, October 11, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Sunday, October 22, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Sunday, October 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

ADULT ADVENTURE DAY CAMP: FALL FOLIAGE

Spend a day in the park to recharge and reconnect with nature. Participants will go on a strenuous 5-mile hike on rugged terrain and learn forest ecology, visit the Nature Realm to see seasonal exhibits, cook lunch over a campfire, and try their hand at archery. Just like camp as a kid, everyone will make a craft (whisk broom) as a keepsake. Lunch and a snack are included in the fee. Participants must be 18 or older. Fee: \$50. **SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron 🏠 (9/28) \$**

Sunday, October 8

12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Ages 6 to 12 join our interpretive artist for this lesson in nature drawing. Paper and pencils will be provided. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🏠 (9/23)**

Monday, October 9, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

TRICK OR TWEET

Take a hike in search of some feathered friends, then try your hand at feeding the birds. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 🥾**

Tuesday, October 10, 7 – 8 p.m.

YOGA IN THE PARK: VINYASA

Enjoy a vinyasa yoga practice in the arboretum with a certified instructor. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat or towel and drinking water. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🏠 (10/3)**



Wednesday, October 11

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🏠 (9/30)**

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

NIGHT HIKE

Find the creatures that go “bump” in the night. Flashlights, head lamps and a sense of adventure are recommended! **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 🥾**

Thursday, October 12, 9:30 – 10 a.m.

NATURE STORIES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired story time intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🏠 (9/29)**

Thursday, October 12, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Enjoy this walk along Piney Woods Trail, with frequent stops to discover nature along the way. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron 🥾**



Thursday, October 12, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

WILD IN THE WOODS

All ages can stop by our Nature Play area at Goodyear Heights and engage in fun, hands-on experiences with nature. A naturalist will be on hand to help guide your experience. Getting dirty is encouraged, so dress appropriately. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Thursday, October 12, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

PARASITES

Is that your skin crawling or is it something else? Join a naturalist to learn about animal parasites, their amazing adaptations and extreme lifestyles. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, October 13

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

**HOMESCHOOLERS:
DOES IT DECOMPOSE?**

Homeschoolers, ages 7-10: from leaves and berries to paper and plastic, explore the world of decomposition and create a garbage graveyard. Come prepared to get dirty. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** ☎ (9/1)

Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**GEOLOGY OF FIRESTONE
METRO PARK**

Join a naturalist as we hike Willow Trail to learn how the land within Firestone and surrounding areas was formed. You might be surprised by what is buried under the hills of the park. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron** 🥾



Saturday, October 14, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LEAF HIKE & CRAFT FOR KIDS

Hike with a naturalist to learn some leaf identification, in addition to seeing beautiful colors on the trees. Children will make a craft. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, October 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

**HIKING SPREE
SHIELD ASSISTANCE**

You hiked eight trails to earn the 2017 Fall Hiking Spree shield, but attaching it to your hiking staff may be harder than completing the hikes. Volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, October 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

**NATURE AND HISTORY
OF O'NEIL WOODS**



Hike the rugged 1.8-mile Deer Run Trail, with stops along the way to discover nature and history. **ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath** 🥾

Saturday, October 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

OWL PROWL

Explore for owls with a naturalist. Patience and silence are essential. Program for ages 6 and older. No dogs, please. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg** 🥾

Sunday, October 15

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

SILVER CREEK KAYAK

Paddle a portion of Silver Creek lake with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, safety tips, and to see wildlife around the water. 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. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes use of kayak, paddle, life jacket and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton** 📍 (10/5) \$

Sunday, October 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

BIRD WALK

Hike the rugged and beautiful Ledges Trail in search of fall birds. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg** 🥾



Sunday, October 15, 1 – 3 p.m.

**COLORS OF FALL:
LEAVES & MUSHROOMS**

Join a naturalist as we hike Dogwood Trail looking for the colors of fall. Leaves are not the only colors on display; chicken of the woods, corals, turkey tails, and other mushrooms provide a splash of color on the forest floor. **SR/North Hawkins: 800 N. Hawkins Ave., Akron** 🥾

Sunday, October 15, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

**METRO PARKS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

We'll hike a different trail each month, taking a photographic record of the seasonal changes that happen. This month we will hike the rugged Glens Trail. In December we'll come in from the cold and review the year in pictures. You can take your own pictures or just enjoy the hikes. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Sunday, October 15, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

CREATURES OF THE BOG

What dwells in the depths of Springfield Bog may not be as creepy as you think. Join a hike to learn about these not-so-spooky creatures. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.** 🥾

Monday, October 16, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Enjoy a leisurely stroll with a naturalist along Spring Hollow Trail while learning some amazing nature trivia. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron** 🥾

Tuesday, October 17, 1 – 2 p.m.

CARDIO HIKE

Hike 2.7 miles at a vigorous pace with few, if any, rest stops. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield** 🍂

Wednesday, October 18, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT

Join a naturalist for a hike along Downy Loop Trail while searching for various spooky and not-so-spooky items. **WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

Thursday, October 19
6 – 7:30 p.m.



PUMPKIN CARVING

Join a naturalist to create a seasonal work of art! It's B.Y.O.P. (pumpkin, that is) or register to receive a free pumpkin, while supplies last. Limit one free pumpkin per family. Some carving utensils will be provided. **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron** 📞 (10/10)

Thursday, October 19, 9 – 11 p.m.

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF STARS

Join a naturalist as we gaze upon the stars over the meadow from Coyote Run Trail. Telescopes will be set up to view various celestial objects. We will learn about the upcoming fall and winter constellations, their myths and legends. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, October 20, 1 – 3 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: DOES IT DECOMPOSE?

Homeschoolers, ages 11-14: from leaves and berries to paper and plastic, explore the world of decomposition and create a garbage graveyard. Come prepared to get dirty. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (9/1)

Friday, October 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

NOT-SO-SPOOKY STORIES & CAMPFIRE

Sit beneath a moonless sky to hear some nighttime tales. Enjoy the warmth of a fire and roast marshmallows afterward, while supplies last. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, October 21, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FALL MUSHROOM HIKE

October is a great time to view the beauty and diversity of fall mushrooms, if rainfall is adequate. Join a naturalist on a hunt for one of nature's most important decomposers. Meet at the trailhead. Edibles are not part of the program. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron**

Saturday, October 21, 12 – 4 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Join The University of Akron and the Cuyahoga Valley Archaeology and Chippewa Valley Archaeology societies to view artifacts, atlatl throwing, flint knapping, children's crafts, and to gather information about early people. Bring your artifacts for consultation. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, October 22, 12 – 4 p.m.

SCARECROW DAY

Join us for our annual Scarecrow Day extravaganza. Activities include a scarecrow build-off, scavenger hunts, crafts, face painting, storytelling, marshmallow roasting, raffles and even a crow-calling contest. Awards will be given to the best crow callers and the top three scarecrows. To participate in the scarecrow build-off, advance registration is required. An armature, bag for the head, markers, twine and straw will be provided. The clothes and creativity are up to you! Registration for the crow-calling contest will be the day of the event. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (10/7)

HIKE
Sep. 1 ~ Nov. 30
FALL HIKING SPREE
Hike **eight** trails to earn a **hiking staff** and **shield**.

hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org

GET FORMS ONLINE AND AT ALL ACME FRESH MARKET STORES.

Spree rewards are FREE for Summit County residents.

330-865-8065 | #SMPspree

Sunday, October 22, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

ARCHERY OPEN SHOOT

Register for a half-hour time slot to improve your shot. Participants must have already taken our **Intro to Archery** and **Archery Games** programs. All equipment provided. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls** 📞 (10/6)

Wednesday, October 25, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

CARDIO HIKE

Hike four miles at a vigorous pace. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron** 🍂





Wednesday, October 25, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

Hike with a naturalist to see the beautiful Gorge, and all of the amazing colors the trees have to offer, while learning some identification. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Wednesday, October 25, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

WILD IN THE WOODS: CAMPFIRE

Explore our Nature Play area while the sun is setting. Pretend you're a nocturnal animal, look for nighttime insects, and experience the forest at night. A naturalist will be on hand to help guide your experience. Boundaries will be lit, as well as a campfire. Getting dirty is encouraged, so dress appropriately. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Thursday, October 26, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

NATURE TRIVIA

Join a naturalist to play a nature-based trivia game that will teach you about the flora and fauna of Ohio. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Meet at Mingo Lodge. **SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron**

Thursday, October 26, 7 – 8 p.m.

A YEAR OF HERBS: NATIVE AMERICANS

This month, participants will learn how Native Americans used herbs and about their relationship to them. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, October 28, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON STROLL

Join a naturalist for this leisurely afternoon stroll to enjoy all that fall has to offer. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Saturday, October 28, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

DINO EGG HUNT

Kids: Learn about the dinosaurs that once roamed Earth while exploring outside. Help look for a dinosaur egg and solve some riddles! **GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Saturday, October 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

HELLBENDERS

Join a naturalist as we dive into Ohio's largest salamander, the hellbender. This mysterious amphibian grows upwards of two feet, can live for 100 years, breathes through its skin, and only lives in rivers and streams. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Saturday, October 28, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

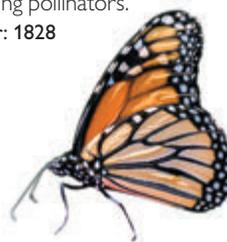
HAUNTED HISTORY HIKE: BARBERTON

Hike with a naturalist at dusk and listen to truly terrifying tales of the towpath and historic Barberton. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Recommended for ages 13 and older. **TT/Wolf Creek: 33 Snyder Ave., Barberton**

Sunday, October 29, 12 – 3 p.m.

FLIGHT OF THE MONARCHS

Stop in to celebrate the monarch butterflies' arrival at their over-wintering grounds in Mexico. Learn about this charismatic insect, its journey to Mexico and how you can help these amazing pollinators. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Sunday, October 29, 1 – 3 p.m.

HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE

You hiked eight trails to earn the 2017 Fall Hiking Spree shield, but attaching it to your hiking staff may be harder than completing the hikes. Volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**



Sunday, October 29, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HOWL-OWEEN DOG HIKE

Bring your costumed canine companion to hike with other pets around Meadow Trail. Dogs must be leashed (8-foot maximum). **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Sunday, October 29, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

CREATURES IN COSTUME

What sorts of "costumes" do our animal neighbors wear? Take a closer look at critters that "dress up" as other animals and objects to survive. All participants are encouraged to dress up! **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Monday, October 30, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

DISTANCE HIKE

Hike 7-plus miles at a continuous pace on trails that are difficult or primitive. There will be few, if any, rest stops. Please wear footwear appropriate for potentially muddy conditions and stream crossings. Drinking water is recommended. **SR/North Hawkins: 800 N. Hawkins Ave., Akron**

Monday, October 30, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HAUNTED HISTORY HIKE: TALLMADGE MEADOWS

Join a naturalist for a hike along Meadow Trail while learning about the haunted and not-so-haunted history of the Tallmadge Meadows Area of Munroe Falls Metro Park. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

ENJOY

FANTASTIC FUNGI & MAGNIFICENT MUSHROOMS

TAKE OVER THE NATURE REALM

Lindsay Smith,
Marketing Coordinator

A new exhibit sprouted in June at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron). Now through the end of the year, visitors can experience the “Fantastic Fungi and Magnificent Mushrooms” display where a wide variety of mushrooms will be highlighted throughout the exhibit. Visitors can also enjoy 3D models, interactive displays, a large-scale replica of the forest floor with a scavenger hunt, a community art display and a small children’s mushroom playhouse.

Several Summit Metro Parks naturalists teamed up to create the exhibit. Naturalist Dave Brumfield, known as our resident “fun-guy” expert, contributed to the project years of experience and a passion for fungi education.



The beautiful violet coral mushroom looks like you'd find it growing in the ocean.

When did it all begin for Brumfield? “Growing up as a child I can remember family outings in the spring to collect morels. That was the extent of my association with mushrooms (other than as pizza toppings) until I became a naturalist about five years ago. As I spent time in the woods looking at ferns and wildflowers, I began to develop a passion

continued on page 18



parrot mushroom



dryad's saddle



oyster



amethyst deceiver

continued from page 17

for these amazingly beautiful types of fungi. The deeper I dig into the world of mushrooms, the more I realize how little I actually know about these colorful and unique fungi," he said.

Brumfield said he hopes people will come away from the exhibit with a better understanding and appreciation of the role mushrooms play in our world.

The visitors center at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 330-865-8065 with questions or to learn more. 

Field Guides Available Online

Now available at summitmetroparks.org are downloadable fungi guides, featuring several different mushroom varieties.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's a difference between fungi and mushrooms. All mushrooms are fungi, but not all fungi are mushrooms. Mushrooms are the fruiting body of a type of fungus — the part that is visible and produces spores. When we use the term fungi in our exhibit, what we mean is the "macrofungi," or mushrooms with large fruiting bodies.

- The largest living thing on Earth is a fungus.
- There are over 30 species of mushrooms that glow in the dark.
- "If an animal can eat it, I can eat it." This is not true! Squirrels and rabbits can eat Amanita mushrooms, but they are poisonous to people.

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WHOOO AND WHERE

If you are not able to attend a naturalist-led program, keep your eyes open when hiking on your own. Fall and winter seasons are a great time to “hunt” for owls, since the leafless trees make it easier to spot the creatures.

Look for screech owls in tree cavities. Screech, barred and great horned owls can be seen roosting in trees during the day. Just because they are nocturnal

doesn't mean you will not see them during the day. You may if you are more observant.

Owls can be found in each of our 16 parks. However, there are some locations that have more owl activity than others. Silver Creek Metro Park (Norton), Sand Run Metro Park (Akron), Liberty Park (Twinsburg) and Munroe Falls Metro Park (Munroe Falls) are all excellent places to hear and see barred owls. 🦉



For upcoming owl programs and to learn more, visit summitmetroparks.org or call 330-865-8065.

2017 Fall Hiking Event

FALL HIKING SPREE

TO PARTICIPATE

Hike at least eight of the designated trails. After completing each hike, date your form. Hikes must be completed September 1 through November 30. Parks are open daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn the hiking shield. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

BRING COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Administrative offices

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday

Liberty Park Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday

Rewards are not available after March 31, 2018.

TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD BY MAIL

Veteran hikers may mail their completed forms to the administrative offices. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Shields are mailed flat. Rewards are not available after March 31, 2018.

TOWPATH Trail

📍 Clinton Trailhead

2749 North St., Clinton 44216

CASCADE VALLEY Metro Park

🌲 Chuckery Trail / Chuckery Area

837 Cuyahoga St., Akron 44313

FIRESTONE Metro Park

🌳 Willow Trail / Tuscarawas Meadows Area

2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 44319

FURNACE RUN Metro Park

🌳 Old Mill Trail / Brushwood Area

4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 44286

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS Metro Park

🌲 Piney Woods Trail / Pioneer Area

550 Frazier Ave., Akron 44305

GORGE Metro Park

🌲 Glens Trail / Main Entrance

1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221

HAMPTON HILLS Metro Park

🌳 Spring Hollow Trail / Main Entrance

2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313

LIBERTY PARK

🌲 Ledges Trail / Twinsburg Ledges Area

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

MUNROE FALLS Metro Park

🌳 Meadow Trail / Tallmadge Meadows Area

1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 44278

2017 Commemorative Hiking Shield



F.A. Seiberling NATURE REALM

🌲 Seneca Trail

1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

O'NEIL WOODS Metro Park

🌳 Deer Run Trail

2550 Martin Rd., Bath 44333

SAND RUN Metro Park

🌳 Dogwood Trail / Wadsworth Area

1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron 44313

SILVER CREEK Metro Park

🌲 Chippewa Trail / Pheasant Run Area

5000 Hametown Rd., Norton 44203

SPRINGFIELD BOG Metro Park

🌳 Prairie Trail

1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp. 44312

Hiker's Choice

📦 Hike any ONE of your favorite METRO PARKS trails.



Need directions? Check our website: hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org
Additional forms are available online and at Acme Fresh Market locations in Summit County.



Summit Metro Parks GREEN ISLANDS

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SEP/OCT '17

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Akron, OH 44313-5837

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54th ANNUAL FALL HIKING SPREE

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY/GROUP HIKING FORM

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

METRO PARK	TRAIL	SYMBOL	MILEAGE	CLASS	RATING	SIGNATURE (Only if staff or volunteers are available)	DATE
TOWPATH / Clinton	Clinton <i>north</i> to Franklin and back		2.8	A / B	1		
CASCADE VALLEY	Chuckery		2.4	C	3		
FIRESTONE	Willow		1.6	C	1		
FURNACE RUN	Old Mill		1.4	C	1		
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	Piney Woods		2.0	C	2		
GORGE	Glens		1.8	C	2		
HAMPTON HILLS	Spring Hollow		1.6	C	3		
LIBERTY PARK	Ledges		1.1	C	2		
MUNROE FALLS	Meadow		2.0	C	1		
NATURE REALM (no pets)	Seneca		1.4	C	2		
O'NEIL WOODS	Deer Run		1.8	C	3		
SAND RUN	Dogwood		1.9	C	3		
SILVER CREEK	Chippewa		2.0	C	1		
SPRINGFIELD BOG	Prairie		1.6	C	1		
Hiker's Choice (Metro Park ONLY) _____		<input type="checkbox"/>	—	—	—		



Rating: 1=Easy 2=Moderate 3=Strenuous
Class: A=Multipurpose B=Accessible C=Basic D=Primitive

Visit our website for rating and class definitions

330-867-5511 • hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org

All trail mileage reflects **round-trip** hikes

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED.