



DEC '14

vol. 14 no. 12

PROGRAMS & EVENTS GUIDE

A MONTHLY SCHEDULE FROM SUMMIT METRO PARKS



DISCOVER!

THIS MONTH:

Tuesday, December 2 & Wednesday, December 3, 6 – 9:30 p.m.

NATURE CRAFTING FOR ADULTS: SANTA BASKET

Over two nights, weave your own Santa basket and learn a new technique for decorating the outside of the basket. Materials fee: \$15. Please bring a flathead screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, towel and 2-gallon bucket, if you can. SR/Shady Hollow: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron ☎ (1/21) \$



Thursday, December 4, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS 🌿

Take a leisurely stroll on Dogwood Trail with stops along the way to discover nature and history. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

☎ Programs with this icon require advance registration, beginning on the date in parentheses, by calling 330-865-8065.

Thursday, December 4, 1 – 2:30 p.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. Drinking water is recommended. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Friday, December 5, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

ANIMAL TALES

Children and their adult companions enjoy a story about our reptilian friends. After the story, the children will help a naturalist feed the Nature Realm reptiles. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (1/25)

Saturday, December 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m. SIGNS OF WILDLIFE 🌿

Explore Cherry Lane Trail in search of signs of wildlife activity such as tracks, diggings, homes and scat. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 6, 1 – 4 p.m.

SENECA TRAIL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 🌿

We've hiked Seneca Trail each month this year, taking a photographic record of the seasonal changes. We'll hike today, then come inside to review the year in pictures. Don't want to hike? Come to the slideshow in the auditorium at 3 p.m. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 6, 7 – 9 p.m.

FULL MOON HIKE AND FIRE

Experience the park in a whole new light while hiking through forest, field and wetland habitats under the full Cold Moon. Afterward, we'll gather around a fire. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Sunday, December 7, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

A IS FOR AKRON

Join local authors Karen Starr and Joanna Wilson to find out why Akron is a wonderful city. A lively discussion, followed by a book signing, will make this a lovely winter's afternoon. The book is for sale in the gift shop. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Summit Metro Parks



Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax. These programs and events are examples of your public dollars at work.



Summit Metro Parks

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Mark A. Spisak, Chair
Roland H. Bauer
Jane E. Bond
Morgan C. Greene, Ph.D.
Herbert Newman
Keith D. Shy, Director-Secretary

EDITORS

Nathan Eppink
Chief of Marketing & Communications
Mike Greene
Interpretive Naturalist
Christine Hockman
Interpretive Services Manager

ART DIRECTOR

Karl Simonson
Graphic Designer/Production Coordinator

Summit Metro Parks
975 Treaty Line Rd.
Akron, OH 44313-5837
330-867-5511

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm: 330-865-8065
Visitors Center: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday
through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday
Seasonal Information: 330-865-8060
Volunteer Information: 330-865-8047

Photos contributed by:

Rob Blair Tim Engel
Jerry Cannon Christine Hockman
Christy Counterman

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

The Programs & Events Guide can be downloaded online: summitmetroparks.org

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Wednesday, December 10
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS



Join a naturalist-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 ☎ (12/3)

Wednesday, December 10
10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist for a leisurely stroll on Alder Trail with stops along the way to discover nature and history. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Wednesday, December 10, 7 – 8 p.m.

WINTER BIRDS OF THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Ever wonder what the Audubon Christmas Bird Count is all about? Join a naturalist and the Greater Akron Audubon Society to learn why it got started, how you can participate, and about the birds we are likely to see during this year's count on December 14.

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, December 11
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

SHOW & TELL ME A STORY

Kids 1 to 3 join a naturalist for this special 30-minute story time for tots! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (12/4)

Thursday, December 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

PLIGHT OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON

The passenger pigeon once numbered in the billions, but went extinct 100 years ago. Discover what happened and how we can protect other species from the same fate. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 13
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Join a naturalist for a peaceful morning discussion at the wildlife viewing area. We will find out why this area is a favorite of our winter residents. Bring a mug. Coffee is provided. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 13, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
NATURE CRAFTS: YULE LOG

Learn the history of the Yule log and start a family tradition by creating your own. Some materials are provided. You may want to bring natural material from home to personalize it. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (11/28)

Saturday, December 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
OWL PROWL

Explore for owls with a naturalist. Patience and silence are essential when prowling for owls. Program for ages 6 and older. No dogs, please. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula



Sunday, December 14
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Join us as we help with the Greater Akron Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. We will be walking Seneca, Cherry and Fernwood trails to count the different birds that we see and hear. For beginners and avid birders. Binoculars recommended. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



KINDEREALM: CARDINALS

Cardinals really brighten our winter days. Children 3 to 6 and their adult companions discover how these red birds decorate our back yards in the cold months. Includes a craft and short hike. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

Friday, December 12
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron
☎ (12/6)

Friday, December 12
1 – 2 p.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron
☎ (12/6)

Saturday, December 13
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron
☎ (12/6)

Monday, December 15
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
GYH/Pavilion
2077 Newton St., Akron
☎ (12/6)

Wednesday, December 17
1 – 2 p.m.
F/Coventry Oaks
40 Axline Ave., Akron
☎ (12/6)

Sunday, December 14, 1 – 3 p.m.



HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE

You hiked eight trails before November 30 to earn this year's hiking 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. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, December 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

HOT CHOCOLATE IN THE GREENHOUSE

Stop by our recycled pop-bottle greenhouse located at the end of Seneca Trail anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to learn how and why we built it. Sip on delicious hot chocolate (provided). **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, December 14, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

COMEBACK KIDS: AMERICAN BEAVER



Join a naturalist for this series that explores how once-common animals disappeared from Ohio and then made great comebacks. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Monday, December 15, 10 – 11 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Enjoy this leisurely stroll with frequent stops to discover nature and history along the way. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Tuesday, December 16

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NATURE CRAFTING FOR ADULTS

During this hectic holiday season, spend a relaxing day crafting with a naturalist, creating a one-of-a-kind work of art using nature as inspiration. **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**
☎ (12/3)



Thursday, December 18

10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist for a leisurely stroll on Gorge Trail with stops along the way to discover nature and history. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Thursday, December 18, 7 – 8 p.m.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Join a naturalist and certified yoga instructor from Yoga Lounge and Barre. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat or large towel and drinking water. We will work to energize our bodies, helping us make it through the long Ohio winter. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** ☎ (12/12)

Friday, December 19, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Join a naturalist for a beautiful night out during this busy season. We will enjoy a short walk and afterward warm up around the fireplace. Marshmallows and hot cocoa provided. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, December 20

8 – 10:30 a.m.

HIKE & BREAKFAST: RED & EVERGREEN



Join us for a hike through the pines while looking for cardinals, then enjoy a festive breakfast. Participants will be asked to contribute to the feast. **GYH/Pavilion: 2077 Newton St., Akron** ☎ (12/16)

Saturday, December 20

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WILDLIFE & WOOD WORKSHOP: BIRD FEEDER

Discover the types of birds you can attract to your back yard and then build a hanging tray feeder. Limit one kit per family. Participation is required to purchase a \$5 kit. Space is limited. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**
☎ (12/13) \$

Saturday, December 20, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

UGLY SWEATER HIKE & FIRE

Enjoy a hike and learn about unusual or sometimes "ugly" creatures that live in our parks while showing off your ugly seasonal sweater. Then enjoy warming up around the campfire with some hot cocoa. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, December 21, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

PUPPET SHOW: HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Join us for another hilarious puppet adventure with T-Rex and his buddies. Includes a craft. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

☎ Registration required: 330-865-8065

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

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
ONW O'Neil Woods
SR Sand Run

SC Silver Creek
SFB Springfield Bog
TT Towpath Trail

 Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

Sunday, December 21, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
CROOKED RIVER WALK

Join us for a winter's walk to view the rich valley that we call home. Please dress appropriately for this moderate hike. **CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Monday, December 22
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SCHOOL'S OUT COOKOUT

Celebrate the start of another winter season! Bring your own hot dogs and buns to cook over an open fire, and we'll provide drinks and condiments. Then, hike with a naturalist to investigate how animals survive the winter. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, December 24
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**PRESENTS FOR THE
NATURE REALM CRITTERS**

Join a naturalist to help spread holiday cheer to the critters that call the Nature Realm home. We will make decorations for their tanks, give them gifts and feed them! **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (12/18)**

Friday, December 26
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SCHOOL'S OUT COOKOUT

Bring your own hot dogs and buns to cook over an open fire. We'll provide the drinks and condiments. Then, hike to investigate what animals are doing at this time of year. Dress for the weather. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, December 26, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
PINECONE BIRD FEEDERS



Join a naturalist to learn how to make pinecone bird feeders in preparation for winter; then head outside to feed the birds from your hand. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, December 27
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

LICENSE PLATE BIRD HOUSE

Learn how to attract wrens to your back yard, then build a license plate birdhouse. Limit one kit per family. Participation is required to purchase a \$10 kit. Space is limited. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (12/20) \$**

Sunday, December 28
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Ages 6 to 12 join a naturalist-artist for this lesson in nature drawing. Paper and pencils will be provided. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (12/19)**

Wednesday, December 31
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Crafts, activities and refreshments will help us ring in the New Year! Take a hike while you are here, then warm up by the campfire. Marshmallows are provided. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**DAY CAMPS FOR
AGES 7–10**

Join us during winter break for the following programs, and discover new places and activities in your Metro Parks!

Monday, December 29, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
WINTER ADVENTURE

Kids ages 7 to 10 can register for this winter adventure with fun, hands-on experiences. We will be using a map and compass, exploring the park, sledding and learning basic archery. Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10. **F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron ☎ (12/5) \$**

Tuesday, December 30, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
WINTER ART

Experience art through winter with fun, hands-on activities inside and outdoors. Kids ages 7 to 10 can register for this exciting one-day drop-off camp. Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield ☎ (12/5) \$**

Friday, January 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
WINTER TRACKERS

Kids ages 7 to 10 can enjoy this winter adventure with fun, hands-on experiences. We will be honing our tracking skills while exploring the park, looking for signs of winter animals. Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10. **SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron ☎ (12/5) \$**