Trailside Eye Spy
Earn Fall Hiking Spree credit while checking off each item as you see it along Cherry Lane & Fernwood Loop at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313

1. Suspension Bridge
   Built in 1978, this 108-foot-long bridge gives visitors a beautiful view of the stream and ravine in all seasons. Look down to see rhododendrons, jewelweed and many, MANY scurrying chipmunks.

2. Runaway Rock
   How did this huge boulder end up in the woods? Glaciers, of course! Thousands of years ago, large granite boulders such as this one were pushed southward all the way from Canada.

3. Ferns
   The aptly named Fernwood Loop is the product of a 1979 Eagle Scout project. After planning the route, ferns and wildflowers were transplanted out of the path of the trail, many of which can still be seen along the way.

4. Beech Blight Aphids
   Do you notice any white fuzzy branches in the forest? Look closer to see hundreds of tiny “boogie woogie” aphids drinking beech tree sap and “dancing” when disturbed.

5. Duckweed
   By fall, the surface of Echo Pond is green with duckweed, tiny aquatic plants which filter water, reduce algal blooms, provide habitat, and are food for ducks and fish. This plant is even being studied for human consumption as it has a much higher protein content than soy!

6. Pokeweed
   Ripening in fall, the deep purple fruits of pokeweed are a delicacy to birds preparing to migrate south, though it is toxic to many mammals, including humans. Look for the plant’s brilliant magenta stems and large bright green leaves.

7. Groundhog
   Groundhogs, the largest members of the squirrel family, are busy packing on the pounds before winter, munching on flowers, roots, fruits and more. Groundhogs are one of few true hibernators, capable of sleeping for nearly six months!

8. Bigtooth Aspen
   Pick up a fallen aspen leaf and try to twirl it between your fingers. Difficult? That’s because aspen leaves have a flat petiole (stem), causing them to tremble in the wind more than other trees.

9. Mushroom Garden
   Do you notice a handful of purposefully placed logs along Cherry Lane? Years ago, a mushroom garden was planted here by packing spores into dead logs. What do you see popping up?