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Women of Summit Metro Parks

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Green Girls Gain Ground
Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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Green Islands can be downloaded online: summitmetroparks.org

CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH
Here are a few ways to care for the planet this April!

• Plant a tree for Arbor Day. Oaks are one of the most beneficial native trees – more than 100 animal species feast on acorns and oak leaves support over 530 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.

• Create garden gold. Your vegetable trimmings, fruit cores and coffee grounds can transform into compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment that will help your plants grow, as well as eliminate organic waste going to the landfill.

• Lights out for birds! This time of year, migratory songbirds are making their incredible journeys north using the starry sky as a guide. Help birds by turning off lights to restore darkness to our skies and reduce window collisions.
If you look out over the water at Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park, you might see a rather strange-looking bird paddling by with its head bobbing forward and back. It is medium-sized, charcoal gray and has a white beak and face shield. Below the surface, it paddles through the water using its unusual, but well-adapted feet. This bird is the American coot (*Fulica americana*), also known as a mud hen.

Its feet are designed for swimming and walking around on matted wetland vegetation — they are lobed instead of webbed like those of a duck or goose. This adaptation allows the coot to forage in wetlands for plants and small aquatic critters like snails and tadpoles. Coots find food both above and below the water, as well as on land.

The next time you are out in Summit Metro Parks, try to sneak a peak at this curious bird and its unusual feet!
Celebrated annually in March, Women’s History Month comes with a yearly theme chosen by the National Women’s History Alliance. In 2020, the theme is “Valiant Women of the Vote.” One hundred years have now passed since women gained the right to vote, an effort which took nearly 100 years to achieve. It was even longer before some women of color gained full access to the polls. According to the Alliance, the theme honors “the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others.”

From the beginning, women have had a significant impact on our park district. Mothers and daughters from Girl Scout troops planted trees in the 1930s at Goodyear Heights Metro Park. Today, we enjoy the forest they helped create from farm land.
Summit Metro Parks would not be the park district it is today without the vision, generosity and foresight of the larger-than-life figures who have helped shape it. Many of those groundbreaking contributions came from women who were ahead of their time — and through their actions, helped forge the path for the women who now follow in their footsteps. Today, we share the tales of just a few of the women who are woven into Summit Metro Parks history.

**Gertrude Penfield Seiberling** (1866-1946)

Married to Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company founder and early SMP board member Frank A. Seiberling, Gertrude Seiberling was a true patron of the arts and cultural affairs in Akron. Her family’s land became much of what is today Sand Run Metro Park, including the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm property. Seiberling enjoyed the outdoors, spending hours in her gardens at Stan Hywet and founding the Akron Garden Club in 1924. She was also active in the Peace Society and Ohio Women’s Suffrage Association.

An accomplished opera singer, Seiberling performed at the White House in 1910 for President Taft, and she served as president of the National Federation of Music Clubs from 1919 to 1921. Over the course of her life, she traveled more than 25,000 miles and visited 21 states promoting musical enrichment and appreciation.

**Maude I. Watters Milar** (1868-1946)

Maude I. Watters Milar served on the very first Akron Metropolitan Park District board as the fledgling park district’s first female board commissioner from 1923 to 1929. At just 22 years old, she became a founding member of the Mary Day Nursery, which cared for children of working mothers and was the predecessor to Akron Children’s Hospital. She also helped establish the Sumner Home for the Aged.

*continued on page 6*
Milar was elected the Akron Head of Conservation and helped organize the Girl Scouts in Akron. She was the driving force behind the first Akron women’s chapter of the National Aeronautical Society, which was the first of its kind in the United States.

**Dorothy Adams Hamilton Brush**
(1894-1968)

When friends and family tried to discourage Dorothy Adams Hamilton Brush from converting some of her land to a public park, she forged ahead, erecting this sign as a social experiment:

“Dear public, they say that if I let you picnic here you will ruin my property. I don’t believe it, so I will try my experiment for a year. Please back me up by building no fires and disposing of all your rubbish. If you pick the wildflowers, there will not be any next year. This is a game preserve, so do not shoot.”

The experiment was a success, and today we have Brush to thank for Furnace Run Metro Park in Richfield. You can find a boulder commemorating the Brush family on Old Mill Trail.

Among her many accomplishments, Brush was also a reformer in women’s reproductive rights who helped found the Maternal Health Association. She was an author and playwright, and as an interesting piece of Summit County trivia, her sister Margaret Hamilton played the Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz!

**Willie Mae Prather**
(1914-1983)

The stories of Summit Metro Parks include not just those who helped create the park district, but those who once lived within it. One of the ways we learn about those who came before us is through historical documentation and archaeology. Like all the past residents of our properties, Willie Mae Prather is an important part of the cultural fabric of the landscapes that have become Summit Metro Parks.

Living in one of Akron’s first integrated neighborhoods at what is now the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park, Prather moved to Ohio from Alabama when her husband began working at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. She was a homemaker and active in the Shelton Temple Church of God in Christ. According to Joan Gattuso, whose family employed Prather from the late 1950s through the 1970s, “We loved her, and she loved us … I am so grateful that Willie Mae played such an important part in my life. She was a loving, kind woman who lived large beyond any stereotype. Her memory is still very alive in me, and I give thanks and smile every time I think of her.”

**Christine Dietrich Freitag**
(1934-2018)

As a lifelong environmentalist who was committed to a wide array of civic causes, Christine Dietrich Freitag founded Friends of Metro Parks, an organization that supports and encourages public enjoyment of Summit Metro Parks through membership, outreach and advocacy. She also played a key role in forming the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, then serving as the president of the park’s Conservancy. Freitag served on the board of the Ohio Environmental Council and founded Scenic Ohio.
She was president of the Garden Club of America from 1993 to 1995 and was especially committed to protecting rare and endangered plant species. Preserving the Summit Metro Parks monkshood population is one of the park district’s longest-running conservation projects, initiated and funded by the Akron Garden Club under Freitag’s leadership. Regarding her invasive species work, she once remarked that “Pulling garlic mustard in the Cuyahoga Valley and in Summit Metro Parks has been especially satisfying.”

**Frances Seiberling Buchholzer**

Having grown up on several hundred acres in Northfield, Frances (Fran) Buchholzer’s childhood instilled in her a passion for nature. She has spent her career focusing on the conservation of natural resources and educating the public about their importance. She was recently quoted in Crain’s Cleveland Business advocating for getting people into the parks in order to foster an appreciation for the outdoors: “If you are going to want to conserve something, you have to have passion to do so.”

Buchholzer served on the Summit Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners for 19 years and for a portion of her tenure was part of an all-female board consisting of herself, Carol M. Curtis and Rainy G. Stitzlein. She was also appointed by Governor George Voinovich as the first female director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and currently plays an active role on the boards of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Great Lakes Biomimicry.

**Lisa M. King**

Appointed in September 2015, Lisa M. King is the seventh director of Summit Metro Parks and the first woman to hold the position. Her responsibilities include leading the organization to ensure achievement of its mission, financial viability, short and long-term growth and stability. King continues to champion a mission-driven focus that has been an SMP trademark for nearly 100 years. In her position as director, King especially enjoys hearing stories from visitors about the role parks play in their daily lives and how those experiences have shaped them and their families.

An employee since 1998, King says, “The joy in creating public spaces is watching people enjoy them.” In her time with the park district, she has also served as its landscape architect and chief of planning, managing a variety of facility and trail improvement projects. She is most proud of her work over the past 15 years acquiring, designing and opening Liberty Park, now home to countless plant and animal species and dozens of recreational opportunities.

**Interested in learning more?**

Consider attending **Women of Summit Metro Parks** on Tuesday, March 10 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron).

For more details, visit summitmetroparks.org.
ILENE SHAPIRO
Summit County’s first female county executive shares her perspective on the value Summit Metro Parks brings to residents.

By Lindsay Smith, Marketing & Public Relations Manager

A diverse and well-rounded career path led County Executive Ilene Shapiro — the first female to hold this seat in Summit County and in Ohio — to where she is today. Shapiro sees her role as two-fold: the work itself and the example she sets for others.

“I think the qualities and skills I and many women possess — the ability to collaborate, communicate and compromise — help immensely in this role. It feels like women bring these skills and others to the table in a new and different way. I work hard to stay focused, be genuine and be a ‘do-er.’”

And while Shapiro doesn’t necessarily see herself as a role model, she hopes her example provides opportunities for other women.

When she’s not working to advance our communities, Shapiro can be found enjoying a moment in the Metro Parks. While she said it is impossible to pick a favorite, Shapiro values that SMP provides access to different types of activities for all kinds of people.

“Whether you want to walk through a park, jog on a trail or even practice your archery skills, SMP has something for everyone. For me, just being outside in the Metro Parks takes me to a place of calmness and tranquility. I think experiencing nature brings you down to a very humanistic level where you can appreciate the beauty and simplicity of our world,” she shared.

“Summit Metro Parks really sets us apart from other metropolitan communities. We are unique because we have so much green space to offer — 14,000 acres to be exact! Many communities long for a park system as comprehensive and beautiful as ours. Summit Metro Parks also embraces all people in our community. It has something to offer everyone and that makes our county an attractive destination. Summit County is a welcoming community and I believe Summit Metro Parks is a symbol of our collective friendliness and generosity,” added Shapiro.
### MARCH

#### AMPHIBIAN MIGRATION
Join naturalists as we attempt to witness the annual amphibian migration across Sand Run Parkway. To enhance your experience and to keep the wildlife safe, there will be a limited number of participants per program, so registration is required. To find out when a program is taking place, follow us on social media or call 330-865-8060 for the latest information. Programs occur when conditions are just right for the creatures to move: light rain, temperatures above 50 degrees and darkness. On the day that a program is announced, simply register by phone for this FREE program.

**For more information:** Call 330-867-5555, visit summitmetroparks.org or email marketing@summitmetroparks.org

#### PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 4, 9 – 10:30 a.m.**
**WEEKDAY WALKERS**
Learn about the nature and history of Indian Spring Trail as we relax and stroll. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

**Wednesday, March 4, 3 – 4:30 p.m.**
**AFTERNOON STROLL**
Join a naturalist for this leisurely afternoon stroll along Pheasant Run Trail to see what’s out and about. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

**Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
**SPOT ON**
Come out for a walk on Alder Trail to learn about animals with spots — and how these animals are less likely to be spotted by you. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

**Sunday, March 8, 2 – 3 p.m.**
**HISTORY OF JULIETTE GORDON LOW**
Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of one of the world’s largest organizations for girls: Girls Scouts of the USA. This Women’s History Month, come learn how Juliette Gordon Low’s efforts to teach young girls about the environment had a local impact on Summit Metro Parks. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Sunday, March 8, 7 – 8 p.m.**
**SUNSET PRAIRIE HIKE**
Relish the extra hour of sunlight by taking an evening prairie hike with a naturalist. Bring a pair of binoculars to spot birds and other critters. Please dress appropriately for the weather: SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

**Monday, March 9, 7:30 – 9 p.m.**
**SUPERMOON WALK**
Take a leisurely evening walk to see a beautiful sunset and moonrise. Learn what makes this moon “super” during a brief presentation before our walk and stick around afterward to view the moon through a telescope. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**
**WOMEN OF SUMMIT METRO PARKS**
Celebrate Women’s History Month by learning the history, stories and impact the women of Summit Metro Parks make at work and in their communities. Join us for a short presentation followed by a panel discussion. Bring your questions and positivity! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Wednesday, March 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 ☎️ (2/25)

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

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Wednesday, March 11, 2 – 4 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS
Enjoy this leisurely stroll with frequent stops to discover signs of spring along the way. Binoculars are recommended. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, March 12, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

GIRL SCOUT OPEN HOUSE
Calling all Girl Scouts! Celebrate National Girl Scout Day with outdoor games, a campfire, nature center exploration, self-guided hiking and more to learn how your troop can get involved in the Metro Parks. We'll give you the tools needed to earn a badge while you're at it! LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, March 13
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS:
THE SECRET LIFE OF TREES
Homeschoolers, ages 7 to 10: They may stand tall and silent, but many animals could not survive without them and some can even save your life! Discover the amazing trees found in Ohio and learn the fascinating ways in which they benefit wildlife and people. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron $ (2/29)

Friday, March 13, 6 – 8 p.m.

HOOK, LINE & THINKER
Are you thinking about how the “big one” got away because you didn’t have the right equipment? Curious about what is new and improved in the world of fishing? Discover the latest tackle, fish finders, rods and reels for the upcoming season. Industry reps will talk about their new products and answer questions. As part of the program, we will serve a catfish dinner. Space is limited; register early to secure your spot! Cost: $20/person. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg $ (2/27)

Friday, March 13, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

NATURE AT NIGHT
Explore nature after nightfall and learn about the benefits of darkness. Bring a headlamp or flashlight and your curiosity! CV/Schumacher Valley: 1690 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, March 14, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT
Hike about five miles at a vigorous pace on a hilly, challenging surface. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before starting a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Saturday, March 14
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

FEEDING TIME OPEN HOUSE
Lettuce, worms, tomatoes, roaches...yum! Stop in to the animal room and get up-close to our exhibit animals as they eat lunch. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, March 14, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

NATURE ART FOR TEENS
Do you have a creative spirit? Teens ages 13 to 17 are invited to join our interpretive artist for lessons in nature-inspired art. This is a drop-off program. Please dress for a mess. FASN / Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron $ (2/28)

Saturday, March 14, 6 – 8 p.m.

SUNSET HIKE
Join a naturalist for a relaxing evening hike on Meadow Trail, and hopefully we’ll enjoy a beautiful sunset along the way. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Sunday, March 15
12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS
Join our interpretive artist for this hands-on lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. Paper and pencils will be provided. FASN / Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron $ (3/3)

Sunday, March 15, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WONDERFUL WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS
Northeast Ohio is full of wonderful waterways to enjoy and discover. Take a hike along the Tuscarawas River and through surrounding wetlands to learn about these critically important habitats and the critters that call them home. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Fi/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING:
EMERGENT SPRING
Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month will be all about the emergence of spring. We will be outside for part of the program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Cost: $20/person. SR/Shady Hollow: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron $ (2/24)

Wednesday, March 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

DISTANCE HIKE
Join a naturalist to hike approximately 5.5 miles on the Towpath and Summit Lake Loop trails. TT/Wilbeth: 392 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron

BalloFlex®

BALLOFLEX FOR BEGINNERS
Enjoy exercise 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!

Friday, March 20
4:30 – 5 p.m.
SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Monday, March 30
10 – 10:30 a.m.
Fi/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

summitmetroparks.org
**NATIVE PLANTS 101**

Save water, save time and support native food webs. Learn the benefits of native planting and how to turn your yard into a native plant oasis. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS**

Get outside and enjoy nature through this monthly series for children ages 3 to 5. Each month we will explore a seasonal topic that will engage the senses and encourage the natural curiosity to explore. Program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**SPRINGTIME HIKE & FIRE**

Enjoy the sights and sounds of a spring evening while we hike. Afterward, gather around a campfire to roast marshmallows (while supplies last). LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**SPRING IS HERE**

Spring is in the air! Join a naturalist for a refreshing hike along Redwing Trail to look and listen for signs of spring. SR/Mingo: 50 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

**ARCHERY GAMES FOR FAMILIES**

Families with children age 9 and older will play different games to build archery skills together in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our Intro to Archery programs. All equipment and hands-on instruction is provided. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

**ARCHERY GAMES FOR ADULTS**

Ages 16 and older will play games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our Intro to Archery programs. All equipment and hands-on instruction is provided. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

**NATURE DAY CAMPS**

Please pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time.

- **SPRING STINKS**
  - One uses smell to repel, the other to attract. Join a naturalist to discover the wonderful, smelly world of skunks and skunk cabbage. GYH/ Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

- **NATURALIST TO DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF A SPRING EVENING**
  - Enjoy the sights and sounds of a spring evening while we hike. Afterward, gather around a campfire to roast marshmallows (while supplies last). LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

- **MINDFULNESS IN NATURE: MINDFUL WALKING**
  - Enjoy a peaceful morning in nature, sharpening your awareness of the world around you. We will spend the morning outside, so dress for the weather! CV/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

- **MEET ME IN THE GARDEN**
  - Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to discover how phenology tells us when to expect seasonal events such as blooming and insect activity. Presented by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director Pollinator Education, OSU Dept. of Entomology/Extension. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**S’MORE FUN TIME**

Come out to enjoy a few kid-friendly outdoor activities and s'mores around a fire. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

**THE SEARCH FOR SNIPES**

Did you know snipes are real animals? No fooling! Explore for this elusive creature along with other secretive nighttime animals. WH: 222 Barlow Rd., Hudson

**SPRING IS HERE**

Spring is in the air! Join a naturalist for a refreshing hike along Redwing Trail to look and listen for signs of spring. SR/Mingo: 50 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will go on a nature walk to look for amphibians along the trail, then come inside to make a craft. Be prepared to be outside for most of the program. Please make arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

**Sunday, March 8, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.**

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Monday, March 16, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

**Monday, March 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

S’MORE FUN TIME

Come out to enjoy a few kid-friendly outdoor activities and s'mores around a fire. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

**Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

THE SEARCH FOR SNIPES

Did you know snipes are real animals? No fooling! Explore for this elusive creature along with other secretive nighttime animals. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

**Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

CHECK IN TO THE SALAMANDER & FROG HOTEL

Join a naturalist to see what has checked in for a spring vacation in a five-star vernal pool. We will look for wood frogs, spring peepers, fairy shrimp, salamanders, horsehair worms, leeches and other mysterious creatures. Boots and bug spray are recommended. LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

**Wednesday, March 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to discover how phenology tells us when to expect seasonal events such as blooming and insect activity. Presented by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director Pollinator Education, OSU Dept. of Entomology/Extension. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

MINDFULNESS IN NATURE: MINDFUL WALKING

Enjoy a peaceful morning in nature, sharpening your awareness of the world around you. We will spend the morning outside, so dress for the weather! CV/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

**Wednesday, March 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to discover how phenology tells us when to expect seasonal events such as blooming and insect activity. Presented by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director Pollinator Education, OSU Dept. of Entomology/Extension. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron
Thursday, March 26, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**CHICKADEE FEEDING & CAMPFIRE**  
Come learn about the amazing chickadees living in Summit Metro Parks. Participants will have an opportunity to try to feed the birds from their hands, then warm up around a fire and roast marshmallows (while supplies last).  
F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Thursday, March 26, 1 – 2:30 p.m.  
**WHAT’S THE BUZZ ABOUT BUZZARDS?**  
Stop by this entertaining and educational open house to discover the world of buzzards (a.k.a. turkey vultures). Why do they return to the Liberty Park ledges each spring? What essential role do they play in helping to maintain a healthy environment?  
LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**WATERFOWL WATCH**  
New and experienced birdwatchers can view ducks, geese and other water birds during spring migration. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope. A few pairs of binoculars will be available for loan.  
**Friday, March 27, 9 – 11 a.m.**  
TT/Summit Lake: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron  
**Saturday, March 28, 9 – 11 a.m.**  
LP/Tinkers Creek: 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Friday, March 27, 1 – 3 p.m.  
**HOMESCHOOLERS: THE SECRET LIFE OF TREES**  
Homeschoolers, ages 11 to 14: They may stand tall and silent, but many animals could not survive without them and some can even save your life! Discover the amazing trees found in Ohio and learn the fascinating ways in which they benefit wildlife and people.  
FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎️ (2/29)

Friday, March 27, 6 – 8 p.m.  
**HOOK, LINE & THINKER**  
Interested in learning the new fishing regulations for 2020? ODNR Division of Wildlife officials will talk about the new rules and regulations and will answer questions. As part of the program, we will serve a perch dinner. Space is limited; register early to secure your spot! Cost: $20/person.  
LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎️ (3/5)

Saturday, March 28, 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. Remember, March 31 is the last day to collect Fall Hiking Spree rewards!  
FASN /Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, March 29, 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
**IT’S A BIRD, IT’S A PLANE… NOPE, A BIRD**  
Summit Lake is home to a gorgeous array of birds. Some stay year-round, while others only make a pit stop along a migratory journey. Join a naturalist to check out some of the bird species present while taking a hike around the lake. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring binoculars, if able.  
TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron

**Sunday, March 29, 12 – 3 p.m.**  
**OTTER OPEN HOUSE**  
Celebrate the return of otters to our waters! Learn about these playful creatures, where to find them and why they call this park home through interactive displays and activities. A naturalist will lead short walks every 30 minutes in search of otters.  
LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, March 27, 9 – 11:30 a.m.  
**IT’S A BIRD, IT’S A PLANE… NOPE, A BIRD**  
Summit Lake is home to a gorgeous array of birds. Some stay year-round, while others only make a pit stop along a migratory journey. Join a naturalist to check out some of the bird species present while taking a hike around the lake. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring binoculars, if able.  
TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron

Friday, April 3  
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.  
**HOMESCHOOLERS: GROWING GREEN GARDENS**  
Homeschoolers, ages 7 to 10: It’s Earth Month! Learn about all things gardening and explore our very own community garden. We’ll get hands-on looking for critters and starting seeds. Dress for a mess! Meet in the West Room inside the lodge.  
GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron ☎️ (3/21)
BALLOFLEX FOR BEGINNERS
Enjoy exercise 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!

Saturday, April 4
1 – 1:30 p.m.
SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Monday, April 27
10 – 10:30 a.m.
F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

FROGS: A SLIPPERY SYMPHONY
Join us to learn about some of the slippery singers that call Summit Metro Parks home. Afterward, we’ll take a short hike to look for the musicians. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Sunday, April 5
1 – 3 p.m.
DROP-IN DISCOVERY: EGGS
Children and their adult companions can drop in to learn about eggs of all kinds. See real eggs up close, make a simple craft and search for “eggs” hidden around the nature center. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, April 5, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
HISTORY IN THE HEIGHTS
Over the past 90 years, Goodyear Heights Metro Park has provided Northeast Ohioans with much-needed green space. Join a naturalist to discuss the long and storied history of the park while taking a hike. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Monday, April 6, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
NATURE JOURNALING: NATURE SOUNDS
Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month will be all about the songs and calls of spring wildlife. We will be outside for the part of the program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Cost: $20/person. SR/Shady Hollow: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron (3/25)

Wednesday, April 8, 9 – 11 p.m.
SUPER PINK MOON ASTRONOMY NIGHT
Join a naturalist as we learn about the “super pink” moon. Telescopes will be available for viewing the moon, as well as other celestial objects during the night. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, April 9, 10 – 11 a.m.
PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS
Get outside and enjoy nature through this monthly series for children ages 3 to 5. Each month we will explore a seasonal topic that will engage the senses and encourage the natural curiosity to explore. The program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, April 10, 9 – 11 a.m.
WATERFOWL WATCH
New and experienced birdwatchers can view ducks, geese and other water birds during spring migration. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope. TT/Summit Lake: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron

Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TROUT DERBY
Anglers 15 and younger each receive a $1 cash prize if they catch a golden trout. Bring fishing gear: A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use during the derby. Minnows cannot be used as bait; worms will be available for purchase. Adults are not permitted to fish. Sponsored by the Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Club and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. F/Little Turtle: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
DANCE WITH THE WOODCOCK
Discover the amazing woodcock and attempt to witness the male bird’s spectacular courtship flight over the fields as the sun sets for the evening. Listen for the “peeent” and the “whistling” sounds the male birds make as they try to attract a mate. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, April 12, 1 – 3 p.m.
DISTANCE HIKE
Join a naturalist to explore Goodyear Heights Metro Park on an approximately 5-mile hike. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Monday, April 13, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
S'MORE TIME OUTDOORS
Come out to enjoy outdoor activities and s'mores around a fire. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Tuesday, April 14, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
BOATING COURSE
Ohio law requires that anyone born on or after January 1, 1982 must successfully complete either a boating course or a proficiency exam in order to operate a boat powered by more than 10 horsepower. Join us to take the free, NASBLA-approved Ohio boating course! Participants must complete entire class to receive the certificate. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron (3/20)
KINDERREALM: HUMMINGBIRDS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn about hummingbirds. Program includes a short hike and craft. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

Monday, April 20, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron ☎ (4/14)

Sunday, April 25, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (4/14)

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 ☎ (4/1)

MINDFULNESS IN NATURE: WALKING MEDITATION
Enjoy a peaceful morning in nature while sharpening your awareness of the world around you. We will spend the morning outside, so dress for the weather! HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

NATURE CRAFTING FOR ADULTS: ODDS & ENDS BASKET
Weave a basket with your own creative flair! Make your own design or choose from a few simple patterns. Please bring a flathead screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, towel and 2-gallon bucket, if you can. Materials fee: $15. SR/Shady Hollow: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron ☎ (4/1) $
**Friday, April 17, 6 – 8 p.m.**

**HOOK, LINE & THINKER**

Are you thinking about where the next honey hole is hiding? Hear tips from local bait and tackle shop owners from across Summit County as they report on some of the best fishing spots. A walleye dinner will be served as part of the program. Space is limited; register early to reserve your spot! Cost: $20/person. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg (4/2) $

**Saturday, April 18, 8 – 10:30 a.m.**

**HIKE & BREAKFAST**

Join a naturalist for a short spring hike, then enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by our volunteers. Participants will be asked to contribute to the feast. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron (3/3)

**Saturday, April 18, 9:30 – 10 a.m.**

**NATURE STORIES**

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired storytime intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by hiking, picnicking or visiting our Nature Play area after the story. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg (4/2)

**Saturday, April 18, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**NATURE ART FOR TEENS**

Do you have a creative spirit? Teens ages 13 to 17 are invited to join our interpretive artist for lessons in nature-inspired art. This is a drop-off program. Please dress for a mess. FAS/N/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron (4/3)

**Sunday, April 19**

12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.

**NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS**

Join our interpretive artist for this hands-on lesson in nature drawing for ages 6 to 12. Paper and pencils will be provided. FAS/N/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron (4/11)

**Sunday, April 19, 3:30 – 5 p.m.**

**SUMMIT LAKE HISTORY HIKE**

Take a hike on the Summit Lake Loop Trail with a naturalist and learn about the rich ecological and cultural history of the lake and surrounding area. TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron

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**Wednesday, April 22, 2 – 3:30 p.m.**

**EARTH DAY WILDFLOWER HIKE**

Join a naturalist on Earth Day and celebrate Mother Earth by enjoying the spring wildflowers along the trail. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY**

As Earth Day reaches its milestone 50th anniversary, our planet is faced with enormous challenges, from loss of biodiversity to climate change. Learn about this celebration’s roots, how it has brought the environment to the forefront of public discussion and how we can all celebrate meaningfully. SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

**Monday, April 27, 8 – 11 a.m.**

**SPRING BIRD WALK**

New and experienced birdwatchers can join a naturalist for this informative bird walk on Deer Run Trail. This challenging trail includes stairs and an uphill ascent. Binoculars are recommended. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath

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**Wednesday, April 29, 7 – 8:30 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. After a short presentation, participants can build a bluebird box to take home, free of charge, courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources (while supplies last). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**IT’S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER DAY CAMP!**

Visit summitmetroparks.org for more information. Registration begins April 29.
Jennifer Davis, a former Summit Metro Parks outreach assistant, is a passionate advocate of the outdoors. She’s an active co-founder of a local group called the “Green Girl Gang,” a club of women and others who seek opportunities to empower each other through their love of the outdoors. The group tackles service projects that help the environment and also coordinates cultural events that support their mission.

Davis hit her stride with the organization after receiving a message on Instagram from the group’s founder, Jessica Suvak. “She saw that I was tagged in a climbing post, and saw how passionate I am about outdoor recreation and community-building,” shared Davis. “She originally started this group due to the lack of women in her outdoor circle. She needed that connection and relation to other women, as do many of the ladies in our group,” she added. “There is no way that she or I were the only women who enjoyed having fun and getting a little dirty along the way.”

The Green Girl Gang is forever changing and growing; it consists of about 30 members locally, with additional volunteers serving on a drop-in basis. Eventually, the group would like to establish chapters in different states. Davis currently runs the Akron chapter, while Suvak, along with others, manages the Cleveland chapter.

Each chapter hosts a diverse array of events that encourage women to unite and connect, including fly-fishing clinics, a clothing swap (where all leftover clothing goes to a battered women’s shelter),

Through their efforts, the group collected over 600 pounds of trash from Summit Lake in 2019.
park and lake cleanups, women’s wellness retreats featuring camping and backpacking, as well as occasional impromptu meet-ups for mountain biking, hiking, winter sports and more.

While their outdoor sessions benefit members on a personal level, the positive impact of the group is also measurable for the community. Last year, Davis removed over 600 pounds of trash from Summit Lake in Akron, and her intent is to double that amount in 2020. Ultimately, Davis continues this effort because of the positivity it brings to her life. “The entire experience is rewarding. I have met so many wonderful women who are now my best friends. We have helped communities and neighborhoods, and it’s such a rewarding feeling to have people recognize you by the group you are associated with, and hear how we inspired and gave them hope.”

The Green Girl Gang is a women-focused group, but does not discriminate — men are welcome, too, and the group is LGBTQ-friendly. Davis said if it wasn’t for the Green Girl Gang, she wouldn’t be who she is today. “I am forever thankful for each and every one of these women. I went from being surrounded by only male counterparts in my outdoor activities, and lacking a sense of relation, to feeling empowered on a level I didn’t know was possible.”

The Green Girl Gang welcomes interaction and inquiries through Instagram, where they may be reached at @thegreengirlgang.
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 through December 31, 2019. 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.
in memory of Myron Mudurian
Richard E. Ellis
Lynn Hayes
Janet L. Miggins
Sarah C. Miggins
Christine Mosey
Margie Moskovitz
Karen Mudurian
Kathryn Mudurian
Ben Ramnytz
Mary Ramnytz
Norma Yurian
in honor of Mums everywhere!
Lyn Saint
Mustard Seed Market and Café
Phyllis W. Knepper
in memory of Guy & Mary Kay Newton
John R. Daily
Timothy Nichols
Nancy Null
in memory of Kathy O’Neil
Anonymous
in memory of John L. Phillips
David & Susan Barsan
Sandra J. Davenport
Christi Donel
The Hamiltons
Hampton Falls Chapter
#5038 of AARP Inc.
Donald & Flora Howell
Dorothy M. Jay
Bob & Jo Kindel
Albert Meinell
National Association of
Letter Carriers #148
Robin Nelson
Jerry & Yvonne Nine
Ralph & June Truax
in memory of Edwin C. Pierce
Dwight Chasar
Christine H. Kaminsky
Deborah Matthews
in memory of Steve Pierce
Todd Abell
Jennifer Bailey
Ashley Heverly
Sean & Gretchen Kain
Ami M. Kamerer
Stephan C. Kremer
Lisa Nicole O’Donnell
Tim & Leah Renner
Andrea M. Schepis
Michelle Serrata
Meghan Kathleen Tichnell
Irwin Weinberger
Tara Winslow
Tracy L. Zappone
Pure Barre Hudson
in honor of all your great Park Rangers
James Marciniak
Toni Ravis
in memory of Richard Remington
Cynthia A. Peterson
Erin Rodriguez
Running Forward & Giving Back
John Russo
in honor of Nancy Sandor
Dufour & Marcia Sandor
George & Nancy Dufour
in memory of Peter J. Schloesser
Karen Schloesser-Beck
Sharon Schnall & R. Drew Sellers
John Sederwall
in memory of Thomas W. Sharkey
Eugene T. Fiocca
Diane Simonetti Lazznerini
Life University
Barbara L. March
Ellen B. Pullins
Shirley Sharkey
Debbie & Steve Skutch
Rosemary Draves
Kate Sitzer
Edward & Cheryl Silva
Karen E. Smith
Snell Family Fund
Denny Stoiber
Elizabeth Stuyvesant
Linda Teodosio
The Dreamcatcher Fund
Jim Thomas
David Thompson
in memory of David Timmerman
Ted & Hazel Krist
Robert Trogdon
Andrew Tuesday
Stephanie Tulley
Jan Tulley
Jane R. Ulmer
Margaret Urban
Joanne Urban
Elizabeth Vilk
in memory of Carol Wagner &
Chris Gill
Carol Bobroff & Marsha Michaels
Craig & Stephanie Walton
in memory of Hoyt & Meredith Wells
Tom & Cheryl Wells
 Burning River 100 Endurance
 Run & Relay Runner -
 Fundraisers and Western Reserve Racing, LLC
Linda Whitman
Mark & Sue Whitmore
Whole Foods Market
in honor of Jane Willey
Judy Willey
Sarah Wojcichowski
Donna Wojcik
in memory of Roberta Zimmerman
Silver Lake Elementary
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Donna Wojcik
in memory of Roberta Zimmerman
Silver Lake Elementary
9th annual
Mother’s Day 5K

SUNDAY, MAY 10

START TIME 8 a.m.

REGISTER ONLINE: summitmetroparks.org

Runners/walkers 14 and under are free, but they must register in advance, and with an adult. Jogging strollers are welcome.

MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK
Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

RUN, JOG OR WALK IN CELEBRATION OF MOM!