

GREEN ISLANDS

SUMMIT METRO PARKS



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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a Sweet Addition
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Giving Back at
Goodyear Heights
Metro Park



Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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Green Islands can be downloaded online:
summitmetroparks.org

Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax. This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.



BOARD of PARK commissioners



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 '19



The 56th annual Fall Hiking Spree ends November 30 and forms can be turned in for rewards through March 31, 2020.

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 on the following dates:

Furnace Run Metro Park (4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield)

Sunday, October 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron)

- Saturday, November 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 16, 1 – 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 23, 1 – 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 30, 1 – 3 p.m.

Goodyear Heights Metro Park (2077 Newton St., Akron)

Sunday, December 8, 1 – 3 p.m.



DISCOVER

YOUR BACK YARD

PRAYING MANTIS OOTHECA



David Brumfield,
Interpretive Naturalist



Adult praying mantis

Have you ever found a beige, Styrofoam-like mass on a shrub in your yard? This foamy structure is most likely the egg case of a praying mantis. The best time of year to look for these cases is November through April.

Adult praying mantises are most commonly encountered during their mating season, from September to early October. After mating, females lay up to 200 eggs in a frothy mass on small branches or stems. This egg sac, known

as an ootheca, hardens into a foam-like substance that protects the eggs from predators and winter weather.

When temperatures warm in the spring, these carnivorous insects begin to emerge from their egg cases and will spend most of the summer hunting and hiding in vegetation as they grow. Soon, it will be time for the cycle to start again and new egg cases can be found in the winter months. 🕒



Park Biologist Marlo Perdicas feeds the bees in the spring to help them produce wax and grow their colony.

HONEY

Make a

In 2018, the park district set out on a conservation-based initiative to care for two honey bee hives. Today, we have 14 hives throughout several Metro Parks. This Summit Metro Parks project is growing at a time in history when bees need our attention.

BEEES



Sweet Addition to Summit Metro Parks

Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation and Marlo Perdicas, Park Biologist

THE CASE FOR HONEY BEES

Honey bees have become the international symbol of insect decline and the stress humans are placing on the natural environment. Climate change, habitat loss, insecticides and monoculture farming are all converging to negatively impact honey bees. And it's not just the bees; almost all insects are noted to be in decline.



New SMP hives were established in 2018.

Honey bees are the classic example of a species that provides an "ecosystem service." Not only do they produce sweet honey, they pollinate most of our food crops, and society as we presently understand it would not exist if we lost honey bees. Imagine a world without apples, pears, tomatoes or almonds. These are just a few of the thousands of agricultural products that

are entirely dependent on bees. No bees, no food: it's that simple.

WHY BEES IN SMP?

As part of our mission, we conserve natural resources and connect people to nature. Just seeing a hive sitting in one of our parks helps visitors make

continued on page 6



Nectar (above) is stored and dehydrated to make honey. Honey and pollen are combined (called bee bread) by the bees to feed their offspring.



continued from page 5

a connection between conservation and something that is important to their daily life (like honey). It is a starting point to begin a conversation about conservation, including the importance of protecting land and managing habitats for all species.

CARING FOR OUR BEES

The hives are maintained by park staff and volunteers under the direction of Park Biologist Marlo Perdicas. These hives require weekly checks to make sure the queen is still alive and to monitor for parasites like varroa mites. As the hives grow, new boxes are added to accommodate more bees and more honey. The hives generally start out with 5,000 bees but will grow to more than 50,000 by the end of summer, as long as the conditions are right. Although our hives are still new and the colonies are in the building stage, we were able to harvest a small amount of honey this year. We carefully manage our summer and fall harvests because the bees need their own honey stores to survive the winter. They remain active inside the

hive and use honey reserves as food to sustain themselves until spring.

Bee Fun Facts

- All worker bees in a hive are sterile females and are all sisters.
- The males are called drones and have no function except to mate. Male bees do not sting.
- Unless they are provoked, most bees will leave you alone.
- The queen bee mates once and will then lay eggs for the rest of her life. She may lay as many as 2,000 eggs per day and can live for as long as five years.
- Honey is made from nectar, a sugary water, not pollen. The bees fan the nectar with their wings to dehydrate the nectar. This creates the honey, which is stored in the honey combs.
- Bees make wax from glands in their abdomen to build honey combs.
- Americans consume about 285 million pounds of honey each year.

We hope that our hives will continue to grow and help more people understand the connection between conservation of natural resources and human survival. Look for Summit Metro Parks wildflower honey for sale at Maple Leaf Gifts, located inside the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center in Akron! 🐝



Heading back to their hive, the bees' pollen sacs are loaded with pollen collected from a variety of plants. The pollen from different plants creates the various colors seen on their pollen sacs.





SMP Employee SPOTLIGHT:

Meghan Doran

Assistant Education and Recreation Manager Meghan Doran has worked for the park district since 2004.

We asked her to share more about her important work.

How long have you worked at SMP?

MD: I have been with Summit Metro Parks for 15 years. I started as a naturalist and I now have the privilege of working with the Community Engagement department as assistant education and recreation manager.

What's your favorite project you've worked on?

MD: It is difficult to name one, as I am extremely passionate about sharing nature with others. However, a few years ago, I was introduced to a project with the Autism Society of Greater Akron that resulted in the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm's designation as an Autism Friendly community site. I have received deep satisfaction knowing that we strive to welcome visitors of all abilities.

You are featured in this year's ad campaign. Can you tell us about those photos?

MD: I love spending time with my family doing anything outdoors! I feel like I can live vicariously through my children when we play in the parks.

What's your best tip to enjoy the Metro Parks?

MD: Spend time with us in a Metro Park! We have an average of 70 naturalist-led programs each month, most of which are FREE! We also have three centers with free admission that are open year-round. There is always something fun to do at Summit Metro Parks!



EXPLORE

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 1, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Have you ever wondered why animals' eyes shine when under the glow of a flashlight? Hike with a naturalist along Cherry Lane Trail and Fernwood Loop to learn why this phenomenon occurs and to search for these bright lights in the wild. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, November 1, 6 – 8 p.m.

DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION

Celebrate your ancestors and the remarkable journey of the monarch butterfly! Explore the cultural connection between nature and this holiday through music, community and remembrance. Please dress for the occasion. **F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**



Parade in Mexico City

Saturday, November 2, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

OVERLOOK HIKE

Join a naturalist for a leisurely hike to search for wildlife and enjoy the overlook view of the Cuyahoga River. We suggest bringing binoculars and a camera. **CV/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron** 📞

Saturday, November 2, 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** 📞 (10/18)

Sunday, November 3, 12 – 3 p.m.

I SPY

Grab your camera and hit the trail for a nature-themed game of "I Spy!" Pick up your scavenger hunt list between noon and 3 p.m., then explore Cherry Lane Trail in search of animals, plants and more. Return your list to the front desk by 5 p.m. for a prize. **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, November 3
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. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (10/19)



Wednesday, November 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

HEART HEALTHY 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. **ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath** 📞

Wednesday, November 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** 📞 (10/26)

Wednesday, November 6, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE HIKE

Hike the beautiful Towpath Trail to learn about the wonderful wildlife that lives near the river. **TT/Big Bend: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron** 📞

Friday, November 8, 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** 📞 (11/1)

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**
(additional fees may apply)

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

👟 Fall Hiking Spree credit

BHT Bike & Hike Trail
C Confluence
CV Cascade Valley
DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN FA. 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 Nimsisila Reservoir

ONW O'Neil Woods
SC Silver Creek
SFB Springfield Bog
SLNC Summit Lake Nature Center

SR Sand Run
TT Towpath Trail
WH Wood Hollow

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

HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE

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

1 – 3 p.m.

- Saturday, November 9
- Saturday, November 16
- Saturday, November 23
- Saturday, November 30



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

HOMESCHOOLERS: WINTER SURVIVAL SKILLS

Homeschoolers, ages 7 to 10: Do you have what it takes to survive outdoors in winter? Join a naturalist to learn and practice some useful skills. Dress for the weather; much of this program will take place outside. **FASN:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (11/2)

Friday, November 8, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

SUSTAINABLE DECORATING

Spend a relaxing afternoon learning how to be sustainable when planning your holiday decorations. Participants will create a sustainable centerpiece to take home! Cost: \$15/person. **FR/Brushwood:** 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 🗑 (10/17) \$

Saturday, November 9, 1 – 3 p.m.

FALL FAMILY BOOK WALK

Enjoy a story with your family while walking along Maple Loop Trail. Afterward, stop by our nature center for some hot chocolate and a treat, while supplies last. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, November 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

GEOLOGY OF DEEP LOCK QUARRY

Join a naturalist to learn how the Berea sandstone, shale and Sharon conglomerate were formed. We'll explore the history of Deep Lock Quarry and will find out how this area produced some of the highest quality sandstone for structural building blocks, the canal locks and grindstones. **DLQ:** 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula 🥾



ARCHERY

Wednesday, November 6, 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 13, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR SENIORS

Participants 55 years and older can learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. Program is good for beginning and practiced archers. Cost: \$10/person. 🗑 (10/29) \$

Wednesday, November 6, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR FAMILIES

Families with children 9 and older: Learn international-style target archery together at our temporary indoor range. Program is good for beginning and practiced archers. Must be 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$15/family. ☎ (10/29) \$

Thursday, November 7, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

ARCHERY GAMES FOR SENIORS

Ages 55 and older will play different games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our **Intro to Archery** programs. ☎ (10/29) **FREE**

Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

ARCHERY GAMES FOR COUPLES

Couples 18 and older will play different games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our **Intro to Archery** programs. ☎ (10/29) **FREE**

Monday, November 11, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR VETERANS

In honor of Veterans Day, we invite veterans to learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. This free program is good for beginning and practiced archers. **F/Coventry Oaks:** 40 Axline Ave., Akron ☎ (10/29) **FREE**

Wednesday, November 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR COUPLES

Join us for this special introductory program! Couples can learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship together at our temporary indoor range. Program is good for beginning and practiced archers. Participants must be at least 18. Cost: \$15/couple. 🗑 (10/29) \$

ALL EQUIPMENT AND HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION PROVIDED.

All programs at **F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**



KINDEREALM: ANIMAL HOMES NATURE WALK

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will go on a nature walk to look for animal homes 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. ☎ (10/25)

Monday, November 4
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
LP/Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, November 4
1 – 2 p.m.
LP/Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, November 13
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, November 13
1 – 2 p.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, November 14
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
GYH/Lodge
2077 Newton St., Akron

Saturday, November 9, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

ANIMAL FOLK STORIES CAMPFIRE

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! **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, November 10, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Fill your mug with a warm beverage and sit fireside for a peaceful morning discussion at the wildlife viewing area. We will find out why this area is a favorite of our winter residents. Coffee and tea are provided, but please bring a mug. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Tuesday, November 12, 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 to engage the senses and encourage self-exploration. Program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Tuesday, November 12, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

AFTERNOON STROLL

Enjoy a nice leisurely walk exploring the nature and history of Furnace Run while earning spree credit. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Thursday, November 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SIGNS OF WILDLIFE

Hike Oxbow Trail to look for signs and activity of local wildlife with a naturalist. **CV/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Wednesday, November 14, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON STROLL

We'll take our time on this naturalist-led hike to learn about the natural and cultural history along the trail. **DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

Thursday, November 14, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURES: TURKEYS

Calling all kids! Let's get together and talk all things turkey. Turkey tail fungus, turkey vultures and of course our favorite wild turkeys will be highlighted during this interactive experience. A short hike will be included so please dress for the weather. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Friday, November 15, 9 – 11 a.m.

WATERFOWL WATCH

New and experienced birdwatchers can join a naturalist to search for waterfowl during the fall migration. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope. **TT/Summit Lake: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron**



Friday, November 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

NIGHT HIKE & FIRE

Let's hit the trail to discover all that nature has to offer at night! Bring a flashlight or headlamp and your curiosity. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Saturday, November 16
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BEGINNER WINTER TREE ID

Join a naturalist and learn how to recognize trees using the three Bs: bark, buds and branches. Please dress for the weather. Warm apple cider will be served after the hike, while supplies last. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, November 17, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

SURVIVING BENEATH THE ICE

Where do turtles, dragonflies, frogs and other aquatic creatures go when the water freezes over? As winter approaches, hike the Towpath Trail to learn the amazing ways these animals survive the cold. **TT/Big Bend: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

Monday, November 18, 1 – 3 p.m.

HIKING SPREE STROLL

Join a naturalist to learn some interesting facts about the Cuyahoga River, nature and history as we hike Chuckery Trail. CV/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron 🥾

Tuesday, November 19, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: TWILIGHT

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll experience Liberty Park at twilight. 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. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🗎 (11/6) \$

Wednesday, November 20 10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist to hike Old Mill Trail, with stops along the way to discover nature and history. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 🥾

Wednesday, November 20, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

TRAINS, TROLLEYS AND TRAILS

Come learn about the historical treasures in and around Gorge Metro Park - some of the remnants can still be seen today! G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 🥾



Thursday, November 21 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SPREE HIKE FOR SENIORS

Join a naturalist for a leisurely hike on a paved, accessible trail while exploring nature and the Cuyahoga River. All abilities are welcome! CV/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron 🥾

Thursday, November 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

WORKSHOP: NO-SHAVE NOVEMBER

Ladies and gents: ditch the razor and create some of your very own toxin-free and sustainable personal care products to let that hair grow! Cost: \$10. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron 🗎 (11/7)



Friday, November 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: WINTER SURVIVAL SKILLS

Homeschoolers, ages 11 to 14: Do you have what it takes to survive outdoors in winter? Join a naturalist to learn and practice some useful skills. Dress for the weather, as much of this program will take place outside. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 📞 (11/2)

Friday, November 22, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

HOT COCOA HIKE

Come out and hike the trail to learn what the critters are up to outside, then warm up around the fire with a cup of hot cocoa. FASN /Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, November 23 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Fill your mug with a warm beverage and sit fireside for a peaceful morning discussion at the wildlife viewing area. Discover why this area is a favorite of our winter residents. Coffee and tea are provided, but please bring a mug. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, November 23, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

WINTER TREE AND SHRUB ID

How do you properly identify a dogwood tree? By its "bark" of course! Join a naturalist to hike Indian Spring Trail, identifying some trees and shrubs along the way. By the end of the program you will be able to easily tell the difference between spicebush, invasive honeysuckle, beech, maples, oaks and even dogwood trees. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Monday, November 25, 12 – 6 p.m.

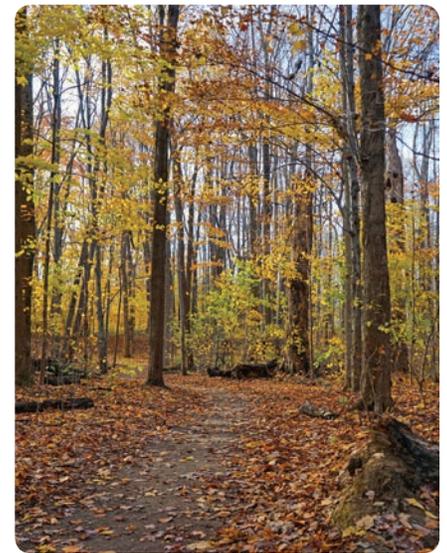
NATURE CRAFTING FOR ADULTS: PIE BASKET

Weave a pie basket to display your favorite holiday pie. When done it will fit a 9" pie plate. Please bring a flat-head screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, towel and 2-gallon bucket, if you can. Skill level: beginner. Materials fee: \$30. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🗎 (11/4) \$

Tuesday, November 26, 7 – 8 p.m.

OWL PROWL

Join a naturalist for an evening hike in search of owls. Learn some common owl calls, where to spot them and how they survive during the colder months. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton



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

READING THE LANDSCAPE

Can't see the forest for the trees? Join a naturalist to learn how to look at the forest in a different way by observing old fence rows or property lines, wind throws, pastures and more. What are wolf trees, and what do black leaves on the ground mean? Find out! SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton 🥾

Saturday, November 30, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

CHICKADEE FEEDING

Spend some relaxing family time around the campfire learning about one of Ohio's most endearing feathered friends, then participate in hand-feeding the chickadees along Cherry Lane Trail. Seed is provided. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.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 afternoon by hiking, picnicking or visiting our Nature Play area after the story. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (11/15)

Wednesday, December 4, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE TRIVIA HIKE

Come learn something new about wildlife. Test your knowledge to see how much you know about your wild backyard neighbors. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge



Wednesday, December 4, 5 – 7 p.m.

ALL ABOUT OWLS

Join a naturalist to discover the fascinating world of owls. During an indoor presentation, learn some identification tips along with the life history of the owls that call Summit Metro Parks home. Then enjoy a hike while prowling for these year-round residents. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, December 5
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BEDTIME – SEE YOU NEXT SPRING!

Young ones and their adult companions can join a naturalist to learn about hibernation and some of the cool critters sleeping the winter away. There will be a short hike to observe signs of hibernation and hands-on activities to further explore the topic. Participants are encouraged to wear pajamas! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



December 3 is
#GivingTuesday

foundation.summitmetroparks.org

WINTER DAY CAMPS
IN SUMMIT METRO PARKS

Registration starts 12/5 🖱️💰

ADVENTURE ART

Friday, December 27

Kids ages 11 to 13 can experience nature through art with fun, hands-on experiences. Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Meet at the lodge. Cost: \$10/person. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

WINTER TRACKERS

Monday, December 30

Kids ages 7 to 10 can enjoy this winter adventure with fun, hands-on experiences. We will explore the park and look for signs of winter animals. Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10/person. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

WINTER WONDERS

Thursday, January 2

Kids ages 5 and 6 who have started Kindergarten are invited to create, discover and explore all things winter! Pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10/person. F/Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

ALL ABOUT BIRDS

Monday, January 6

Kids ages 7 to 10 can enjoy this winter camp with fun, hands-on experiences to learn about birds. We will explore the park, make a craft and learn bird basics. Please pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$10/person. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

All camps: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



KINDEREALM: BEARS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions learn about black bears and what they do during winter. Each program includes a craft and short hike. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers. ☎ (11/16)

Monday, December 2

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

LP/Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, December 2

1 – 2 p.m.

LP/Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, December 12

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GYH/Lodge

2077 Newton St., Akron

Saturday, December 21

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FASN/Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 21

1 – 2 p.m.

FASN/Visitors Center

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, December 6, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

MORE S'MORES CAMPFIRE

Come out and enjoy a winter campfire with a naturalist and learn different s'more recipes. Bring unique recipes of your own to share, if you have them. S'mores will be provided while supplies last. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, December 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

NATIVE EVERGREENS OF OHIO

What makes the best Christmas tree? Are all pine needles sharp? Does a "fir" tree have shaggy hair? Join a naturalist to learn about the native evergreens in Ohio. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, December 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Fill your mug with a warm beverage and sit fireside for a peaceful morning discussion at the wildlife viewing area. We will find out why this area is a favorite of our winter residents. Coffee and tea are provided, but please bring a mug. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, December 8, 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. **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Tuesday, December 10, 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 to engage the senses and encourage self-exploration. Program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Tuesday, December 10, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: CONIFERS

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll learn about conifer trees first by taking a walk, then by journaling. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, journal pen and pencil. Cost: \$20/person. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield ☎ (11/22) \$**

Wednesday, December 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 ☎ (11/26)**

Wednesday, December 11, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WILDLIFE FOLKLORE

Are bats really blind, and does it ever rain cats and dogs? Learn the fun truth about local wildlife while hiking Oxbow Trail. **CV/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

PAPER CRAFTING

'Tis the season! Create your own holiday cards, bookmarks or other artwork using colorful scraps of patterned paper. Personalized presents never looked so good! **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Thursday, December 12, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike about five miles at a vigorous pace on a flat paved surface. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. **BHT/SR 303: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights**

Thursday, December 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

FULL MOON HIKE AND FIRE

Under the glow of a full moon, enjoy the sights, sounds and crisp air as we walk the trail. Following the hike, we'll enjoy some hot chocolate and perhaps a campfire (if there is snow cover). **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**



Friday, December 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

YULE LOG CRAFT AND EVERGREENS

Bring back an old tradition by making a Yule log this year with your family. Participants will learn about the different evergreens in our area and incorporate them into the craft. Some natural materials will be provided but you may want to bring some from home to personalize it. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (12/4)**

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

**CHICKADEE FEEDING
CAMPFIRE FOR FAMILIES**



Drop in and join a naturalist to experience the wonder of hand-feeding black capped chickadees! Discover the fascinating features of this

tiny, feathered friend while attempting to get one to feed from your hand. Seed will be provided. Enjoy a toasty campfire and marshmallows, while supplies last. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 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 ☎ (11/29)

Saturday, December 14, 1 – 3 p.m.
COCOA AND A CRAFT

Drop into Liberty Park for a cup of cocoa and to make a fun nature craft to take home! Cocoa and crafts will be available while supplies last. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, December 15
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

DISTANCE HIKE

Shake off the winter blues and stretch your legs as we hike more than 5 miles at a continuous pace on trails that are difficult or primitive. There will be few, if any, rest stops. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring drinking water. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Sunday, December 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 ☎ (11/30)

Sunday, December 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
BIRD WALK & HAND-FEEDING

Stroll along trails to spot winter birds and pause to hand-feed them along the way. Binoculars are recommended. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Monday, December 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
WINTER WALK

Enjoy a winter's walk along the beautiful Rock Creek Trail. We'll look for evidence of the animals that stay active all winter long. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, December 18, 5 – 6 p.m.
**AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURES:
TALES OF TREES**

Calling all kids! Join a naturalist to discover the fascinating world of trees. You'll even learn how some trees can save your life! We will be outside for part of the program, so please dress for the weather. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Thursday, December 19, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
HIKE THE HILLS

Come out and hike at a steady pace along Spring Hollow Trail to learn about the wildlife in Hampton Hills Metro Park. HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Thursday, December 19, 6 – 7 p.m.
LANTERN WALK

Enjoy a short nighttime stroll through the woods guided by the glow of luminaries. Afterward, celebrate the winter solstice around the campfire with marshmallows and hot chocolate. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, December 19
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

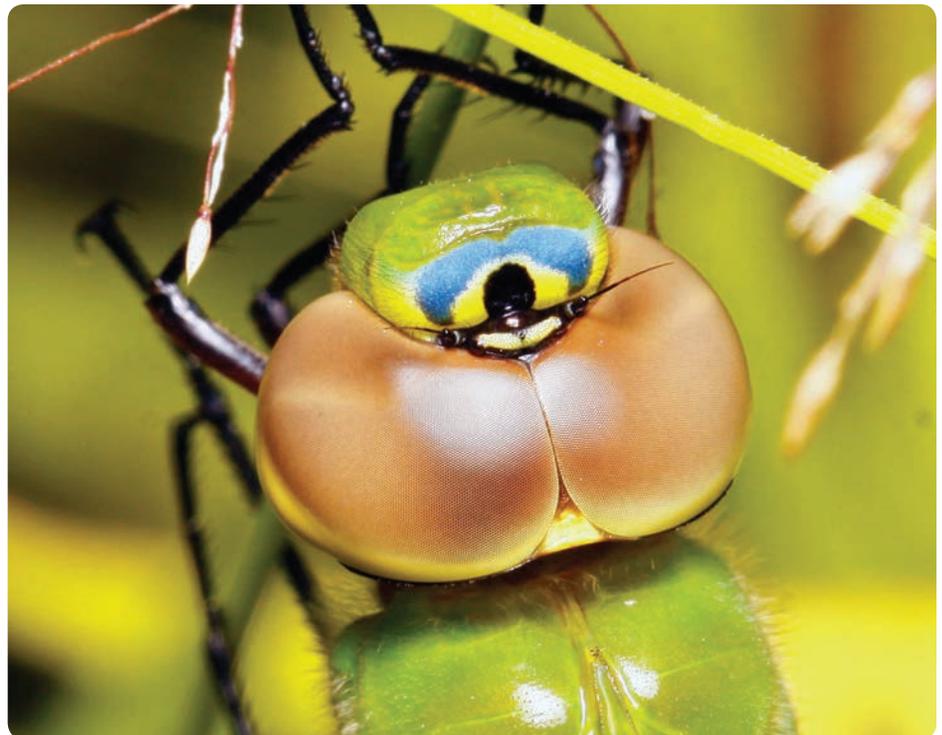
**A YEAR WITHOUT PLASTIC:
THE RESULTS**

After living one year while trying to avoid plastic, listen to a naturalist's thoughts on living as a plastic-free environmentalist in the age of convenience and disposability. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron



Friday, December 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
LIFE UNDER LENSES

Get an up-close view of nature under microscopes! Enjoy a brief presentation of extraordinary micro-photography, then look through lenses to view our native flora and fauna. Attendees will have a chance to win a Foldscope! GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron





Saturday, December 21, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
WINTER BIRD HIKE

Join a naturalist to search for birds that reside in Ohio year-round, along with winter's winged visitors. Afterwards, grab a warm beverage and relax around the bird viewing area inside the nature center. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Fill your mug with a warm beverage and sit fireside for a peaceful discussion at the wildlife viewing area. We will find out why this area is a favorite of our winter residents. Coffee and tea are provided, but please bring a mug. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, December 21, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AND HIKE

Celebrate the sun and the gradual lengthening of the days! Learn the significance of the solstice while stretching and hiking, then make a solstice-themed craft while sitting by a warm fire. Hot chocolate will be served, while supplies last. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, December 22, 1 – 3 p.m.
CAMPFIRE OPEN HOUSE

Stop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to enjoy the warm glow of a campfire, roast marshmallows and pick up seeds to try your hand at feeding the chickadees. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, December 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
DAYTIME HIKE AND FIRE

Join a naturalist on a short hike to discover what critters are out and about in winter and attempt to feed the chickadees. Afterward, warm up with marshmallows around a campfire. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, December 27, 11:30 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

Friday, December 27, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
HUMOR HIKE

Come enjoy nature jokes and riddles as we move at a steady pace along the difficult Dogwood Trail. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Saturday, December 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Join a naturalist to see who is visiting our window this month. Coffee is provided. Bring your favorite mug and any bird questions you may have. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, December 28, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
HISTORY OF AMERICA THROUGH THE EYES OF A TREE

Join a naturalist to discover some of the history of America through trees. Learn what the "King's Brand" was used for, how Wall Street began, the significance of the "Liberty Elm," why we have an 8-hour workday and much more! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, December 29, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
WOODPECKER FEEDER WORKSHOP

Join a naturalist to learn how to attract woodpeckers and other birds to your yard, and create a simple take-home bird feeder, while supplies last. Peanut butter and other "treats" will be used to fill our feeders, or choose to take your creation home empty. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Sunday, December 29, 1 – 3 p.m.
HIKE THE PINES

'Tis the season! Hike Piney Woods Trail to learn how its amazing pine trees benefit people and wildlife. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Tuesday, December 31, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
PINECONE BIRD FEEDERS

Drop in to create beautiful pinecone bird feeders on the last day of the year! All ages are welcome. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Giving Back at *Goodyear Heights* Metro Park

Jen M. Harvey, Fund Development Manager / Grant Writer



Since becoming a park in 1930, Goodyear Heights Metro Park has thrived with the help of neighbors and friends. During World War II, Victory Gardens were installed along Newton Street, and neighbors could grow their own food in a time of need. Trees planted by Girl Scout troops began the re-forestation of what was once the Waltz Farm.

The tradition of doing good for the park has continued to this day. Have you noticed the new community garden? It was funded in honor of Ann G. Allan, a lifelong gardener who once shared that the garden is “a special place bringing neighbors together in the out-of-doors.” With 28 rentable, raised-bed garden plots, beautiful fencing and an onsite water source, just about anyone can become a successful gardener here.

Likewise, park neighbors Linda and Wayne Sanders II were looking for ways to give back to the park they have enjoyed for many years. The result is

a new boardwalk on Alder Trail that blends organically into the landscape. The Sanders' very generous gift inspired a re-design that allows a more personal experience with the natural surroundings. “We love the park, its trails, and the enjoyment of nature, and we want to leave a legacy for others to enjoy it as much as we do.” 



SUMMIT METRO PARKS FOUNDATION

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 July 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.



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*in memory of
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Christen Wood

*in memory of
Fred Chopko & Jack Marshall,
who hiked the trails with us*

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 My mother*

Amy Kundmueller

*in honor of
 Mums everywhere!*

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Mustard Seed Market and Café

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*in honor of
 All your great Park Rangers*

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*in memory of
 Richard Remington, my father*

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