

MAY•JUN '25 | Vol. 66 No. 3

# GREEN ISLANDS

*Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine*

**Summit  
Metro  
Parks®**

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Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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EDITORS

- Claire Merrick *Marketing & Public Relations Manager*
- Victoria Putnam *Community Engagement Manager*
- Lindsay Smith *Chief of Marketing & Communications*

DESIGN & ART DIRECTION

- Jennie Levy *Graphic Designer*
- Karl Simonson *Graphic Designer*

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

Administrative Offices: 330-867-5511  
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm: 330-865-8065  
Liberty Park Nature Center: 330-487-0493  
Summit Lake Nature Center: 330-864-8431  
Seasonal Information: 330-865-8060  
Volunteer Information: 330-865-8047

Photos contributed by:

- Rob Blair • Jackie Boesinger-Meredyk • Jerry Cannon
- Christy Counterman • Katelyn Freil • Charlotte Gintert
- Jeff Hill • Tami Hill • Erin Krumpe • Ashley Mikulec
- JJ Prekop Jr. • Denny Reiser • Robert Roach • Karl Simonson
- Janean Skiles Ray • Jessica Tomlins • Rob Vaughn

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



Board of Park Commissioners



Jill M. Stritch   Herb Newman   S. Theresa Carter   Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.   Joel D. Bailey

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.



ON THE COVER

*Blacknose shiners* are just one species that is thriving now in one of SMP’s conservation areas. See page 4 for the full story.

Discover  
NORTHAMPTON POINT

Launch from the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park and enjoy a scenic 6-mile paddle on the Cuyahoga River to Northampton Point, a new take-out location in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Created in partnership with



CVNP, Northampton Point provides a safe, designated access point for paddlers and includes a nearby parking lot, seating area, small changing room structure and portable

restroom. Grab your gear and be among the first to explore this exciting new paddling destination!



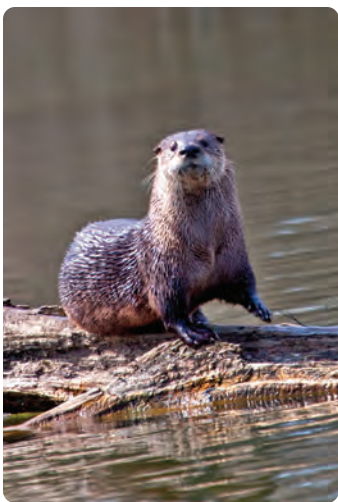




# Discover YOUR BACK YARD

## Clean Streams and Thriving Lakes

*Jason George,  
Interpretive Naturalist*



North American river otter

Bullfrogs croak from the lake's edge as an osprey's white belly flashes in the sky above. Spotting a bluegill just below the water's surface, the raptor swiftly transitions from soar to dive. In the blink of an eye, talons crash through still waters and wrap around the unaware bluegill. Fresh meal in tow, the osprey ascends toward his nest atop a light post. Safely overlooking the lake, the osprey and his family feast.

Now common sights around Summit County's waters, ospreys, bald eagles and much more have benefited from efforts to protect and restore the health of our waters. It's not just animals that benefit. With the fear of sludge-topped lakes and flaming rivers gone, human

communities can once again connect and thrive along rich waterways. Thanks to continuing restoration projects, our streams, lakes and rivers can be touchstones of human and non-human communities for generations to come. 🍁

**[ Trash on land can be carried to nearby streams, rivers and lakes. Once in the water, it may harm wildlife directly or break down into microplastics or other materials that are difficult to detect but still capable of causing harm over time. The simple act of picking up a piece of trash goes a long way toward protecting our waters. ]**







# Marilyn Buckey

## and the

# TINY ENDANGERED FISH

## She Helped Save

*Jen M. Harvey, Chief of Philanthropy and Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation*

You may have never heard of blacknose shiners, blackchin shiners, lake chubsuckers, Iowa darters, least darters and western banded killifish, but they were once common in the Portage Lakes and throughout the clear, clean waters of Ohio until development pressure, loss of habitat and pollution pushed them to the brink of extinction.

These fish are now thriving at a Summit Metro Parks conservation area, along with thousands of other species including over 20 species designated as endangered or protected. Rare plants include the state-endangered scouring rush and state-listed prickly pear cactus that flourish in the sandy soils.

But how did Marilyn Buckey and conservation organizations save this place and the extremely rare glacial lake fish that now live there?

The Robert A. and Jean C. Meyers Conservation Area, named for Marilyn's parents, is located along the northern shore of Long Lake. It was designated for conservation by The Trust for Public Land, an

*Marilyn Buckey and Mike Johnson*, chief of conservation, share a moment on location to celebrate the success of everyone's effort to help fulfill SMP's mission to preserve and conserve our natural resources.



*Marilyn and Ramsey Langford, park biologist, take a closer look at fish sampled from the ponds.*

*continued from page 5*



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organization that worked with Marilyn to fulfill her vision of protecting the property. Subsequently, the area was donated to Summit Metro Parks in 2008.

This 134-acre conservation area is characterized by vast wetlands, marshes and swamp woods. While not open to the public, this preserve is working hard to benefit the people of Summit County. This natural area and others like it are cleaning our water and purifying (and actually creating) our air. The forests in these reserves are pulling carbon from our atmosphere and helping to mitigate the dangers of climate change. But the greatest value of these untouched areas is they are home to a host of species, many of which are on the verge of extinction. One study conducted by the Summit Metro Parks conservation department indicated the area provides over two million dollars in ecosystem

services and annually removes 68 tons of carbon dioxide from the air, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

*But the area truly shines in terms of the biodiversity it supports.*

One of the most interesting and surprising twists in the story has to do with how the area was used in a former life. In the past, a small portion of the property was mined for sand and gravel, and deep ponds were left behind that filled with crystal clear groundwater. These were artificial features and at the time not considered to be significant assets to the natural landscape. But everything changed in 2017 when we partnered with The Ohio Division of Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and The Ohio State University. When Summit Metro Parks began to work with these partners on breeding and reintroduction of the fish, we looked for suitable areas for reintroduction. While the old gravel ponds were not natural waterbodies, they did mimic many of the conditions of glacial lakes ... so we gave it a try. Several hundred of the six species of tiny, colorful fish were stocked into the old quarry ponds over the course of three years. The project has been more successful than anyone ever imagined.

*Marilyn poses by the Robert A. & Jean C. Meyers Conservation Area located at Long Lake.*



During a monitoring visit in 2024, former owner Marilyn Buckey joined park biologists and saw some of these beautiful fish up-close. Summit Metro Parks is thankful to our partners at Trust for Public Land and Marilyn Buckey who made the preserve a reality. We will continue to steward and protect these resources for the benefit of Summit County residents. 



# Explore

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### MAY

*Thursday, May 1, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

#### SENIOR CYCLING: WHY BIKES?

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 13.5-mile bike ride to discuss how transportation has evolved along the canal to the multimodal systems of today. This is a casually paced bike ride with frequent stops on the trail. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

*Thursday, May 1, 6 – 7:30 p.m.*

#### GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP



Join us to swap some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables, herbs

and native plants are preferred, but all plants are welcome! All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

*Thursday, May 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.*

#### INTRO TO TENT CAMPING

Kick off the 2025 tent camping season with an informational session on the basics of tent camping. We'll learn about preparedness, gear and campfire cooking. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

*Friday, May 2, 10:30 – 11 a.m.*

#### SPRING NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can celebrate spring during an interactive, seasonal story time. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the Nature Play area after the program. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

*Saturday, May 3, 8 – 10 a.m.*

#### SPRING BIRD STROLL

For some folks, spring means birds. We are those folks! Join a naturalist on a guided hike to see which bird species are present during migration. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you've got 'em! **CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

*Saturday, May 3, 10 – 11 a.m.*

#### FEMALE BIRD WALK

Female Bird Day is this month! Let's look for female birds and talk about their identification and importance on the 1.2-mile Coyote Run Trail. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

*Saturday, May 3, 1 – 2:30 p.m.*

#### HIKE AMONG BLUEBELLS

Enjoy a hike along the river with a naturalist in hopes of seeing bluebells and other wildflowers along the way. Hiking shoes and long pants are recommended. **Everett Rd. Covered Bridge: 2370 Everett Rd., Peninsula**

*Saturday, May 3, 2 – 4 p.m.*

#### SUMMIT LAKE HISTORY HIKE

Without Summit Lake, Akron would not be the city we know today. Take a walk around the lake to explore the many roles it has played in our city's history. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

*Beginning Sunday, May 4*

#### SELF-GUIDED: STORY TRAIL

Enjoy some exercise and fun while following a self-guided story trail based on the book, "The Garden Next Door." This experience will be available along the 0.8-mile Daffodil Trail through May 25. **FR/Daffodil Trail: 3100 Brush Rd., Richfield**

*Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

#### MAY THE FOURTH BIKE RIDE

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries as we celebrate all things Star Wars on National Ride a Bike Day. Explore 8 miles of the Towpath Trail while wearing your best cycling-safe Star Wars costume. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. **TT/Clinton Trailhead: 2749 North St., Clinton**

*Sunday, May 4, 12 – 1:30 p.m.*

#### NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. All materials will be provided. Registration required 📞 (4/25). **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



*Key*



**CALL: 330-865-8065** Advance registration required, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses.



**ZOOM: ZOOM.US/JOIN**  
Key in the Meeting ID number.



**WEB: bit.ly/SMPevents** Register online beginning on the date in parentheses.

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

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**BHT** Bike & Hike Trail

**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** Nimisila 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

**Sunday, May 4, 1 – 2 p.m. & 3 – 4 p.m.**

### BACK YARDS GONE WILD: RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Learn how to conserve water in your outdoor spaces. Registration cost includes a rain barrel kit, 55-gallon food grade plastic drum and instructions for assembly and upkeep. The option is available to assemble onsite or take the kit home. Bring a handheld power drill, gloves and eye protection if you have them. Cost: \$60/kit. Registration required (4/23). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Sunday, May 4, 2 – 3 p.m.**

### VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. All you need is a pencil and paper. Registration required (4/25). A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.

**Wednesday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

### NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for an entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. Registration required (4/30). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

### KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for weekly hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest and enjoy! Each week we'll have a game or craft, garden activity and a snack themed around what is growing and ready to harvest in the garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors.

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Thursday, May 1**

**Thursday, May 8**

**Thursday, May 15**

**Thursday, May 22**

**Thursday, May 29**

**Wednesday, May 7, 1 – 2 p.m.**

### VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing. No experience is necessary; all you need are pencils, paper and a sense of humor. Registration required (4/30). A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

**Thursday, May 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

### LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required (5/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

**Thursday, May 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

### NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist for this easy, fun lesson. All materials will be provided. Registration required (5/2). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Thursday, May 8, 1 – 2 p.m.**

### VIRTUAL: NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist online for this easy, fun lesson. Registration required (5/2). A list of materials and a Zoom invite will be emailed after registering.

**Friday, May 9, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

### WANDERING FOR WARBLERS FIELD TRIP



Join naturalists for an all-day exploration of the "Warbler Capital of the World" during the Biggest Week in American Birding.

The tour bus will depart F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm at 6 a.m. for the famed Magee Marsh and other birding hotspots, returning at 6 p.m. Be prepared for extensive walking on boardwalks and trails. Dress for variable weather conditions. Pack lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and a camera. Cost: \$60/person. Registration required (4/11). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Friday, May 9, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

### CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Enjoy a 1.1-mile nighttime hike on Redwing Trail while learning about a few of the amazing creatures that prefer the cover of darkness. Flashlights are not necessary, but sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

**Saturday, May 10, 9 – 10:30 a.m.**

### MORNING MEADOW HIKE

Join a naturalist to hike and bird along the 2-mile Meadow Trail. Along the way, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for spring migrants and other wildlife. Bring binoculars. Extra pairs will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

**Sunday, May 11, 3 – 4 p.m.**

### OVERLOOK STROLL



Join a naturalist as we hike the 0.5-mile Overlook Trail. Enjoy the great views, native plants and birds that call this area of the Cuyahoga home. CV/Overlook Area: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron

**Tuesday, May 13, 1 – 3 p.m.**

### NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

See Wednesday, May 7 description. Registration required (4/30). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Wednesday, May 14, 6 – 8 p.m.**

### NATIONAL RIDE OF SILENCE

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 2.75-mile bike ride on the Summit Lake Loop Trail in silence. We will honor cyclists impacted and raise awareness for cyclist safety during this national event. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

**Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

### NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

See Wednesday, May 7 description. Registration required (4/30). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron





## KINDEREALM: TURTLES

It's turtle time! Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions can learn about our scaly, shelled friends through a story, craft and more. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (5/7).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, May 21

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd.,  
Twinsburg

Wednesday, May 28

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## SENIOR CYCLING: MAPPING YOUR COMMUNITY

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 10-mile bike ride exploring downtown Akron. This is a casually paced bike ride with frequent stops on the trail. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. TT/Mustill Store Trailhead: 57 W. North St., Akron

Thursday, May 15,  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. &  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

## HOMESCHOOLERS: MORE THAN JUST SOMETHING FISHY!

Homeschoolers ages 7 to 12 will explore freshwater habitats and the creatures that call them home, how to protect and enjoy aquatic places, and learn, then try out, the basics of fishing. All equipment will be provided. Dress for a mess. Registration required 📞 (5/8). FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Thursday, May 15, 6 – 7 p.m.

## GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP

Join us to swap some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables, herbs and native plants are preferred, but all plants are welcome! All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

## HOMEGROWN HABITATS: FROM THE GROUND UP

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us for this monthly series and learn how to re-wild your home landscape. This month we'll talk about habitat structure. From supporting nesting sites to incorporating soft landings, we'll discover how to intentionally make your home landscape a nursery for wildlife. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, May 16, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

## NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace and admire the beauty beyond daffodils that the 0.6-mile Daffodil Trail has to offer. Enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. FR/Daffodil Trail: 3100 Brush Rd., Richfield

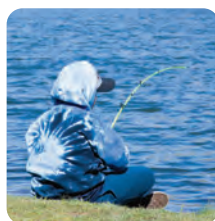
Friday, May 16, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

## FRIDAY NIGHT FROGS

Venture out on a night hike in search of frogs and discover the important roles amphibians play in our world. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight. SR/Big Bend Area: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron

Sunday, May 18, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

## GONE FISHIN'



Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided.

Please note: Little Turtle Pond is a youth-only fishing site where adults must supervise their children. F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Sunday, May 18, 10 – 11 a.m.

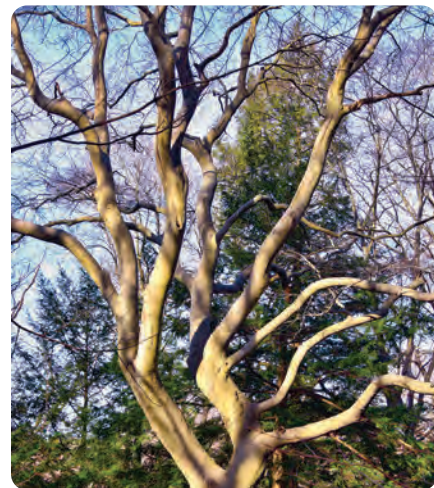
## WETLAND WALK

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching! Now is the time to check for amphibians and birds. Join a naturalist for a walk on Alder Trail to view the beautiful wetland area as nature begins to fully bloom. GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Sunday, May 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

## LET'S GO GREEN: RISKS AND REWARDS

Join us for the next program in our series "Let's Go Green." We will discuss the risks of maintaining the status quo and the rewards of adopting a more "green-minded" approach. Learn how you can make small changes to reduce your carbon footprint, save money and become part of a movement that will help preserve our planet for our children and future generations. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Sunday, May 18, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

## SECRET LIFE OF TREES

They're tall, they're silent, they're beautiful — but what really is a tree? Join a naturalist to learn about the wonder of trees as we hike along the wooded 1.2-mile Oxbow Trail. Be prepared for steep hills. CV/Oxbow Area: 1135 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Thursday, May 22, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

## LIL' SPROUTS

See Thursday, May 8 description. Registration required 📞 (5/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, May 23, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

## SPRING NATURE TALES

See Friday, May 2 description. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



## 4th Annual NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Kick off summer at the 4th annual Native Plant Festival presented by Wayside Furniture! Learn how to welcome wildlife into your yard with beautiful and beneficial native plants. Join Summit Metro Parks staff, local native plant nurseries, landscapers and partner organizations to discover the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase or attend an educational session to learn how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping.

### 10 – 11 A.M. EDIBLE NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

Native plants aren't just for the birds! From strawberry and elderberry to pawpaw and persimmon, join a naturalist to learn about incorporating attractive, edible native trees, shrubs and perennials into your outdoor spaces for backyard snacks that come back year after year.

### 11 A.M. – 12 P.M. MORE THAN MILKWEED

Join a naturalist as we take the next step in developing our Wild Back Yards. This session will focus on how to incorporate grasses, ground covers and other native plants into your existing spaces. We will explore the ecosystem services, form and function of several species, including late boneset, Culver's root, prairie dropseed and giant hyssop, among others.

► Munroe Falls Metro Park/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Friday, May 23, 4 p.m. –  
Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.

### TENT CAMPING FOR WOMEN

Women and girls 14 and older are invited to join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight tent camping experience. We'll be hiking, cooking, crafting and fishing as a group. Please bring your own camping equipment, including sleeping gear, toiletries, snacks and a chair. No gear? No problem! Request a free camping kit with essentials during registration, available while supplies last. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. *Registration required*  
(4/24). SC/Lake House & Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton



Saturday, May 24, 8 – 10 a.m.

### SPRING BIRD STROLL

For some folks, spring means birds. We are those folks! Join a naturalist on a guided hike to see which bird species are present at the Valley View Area during the late stages of migration. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you've got 'em! CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited and kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Saturday, May 24, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

### BIKE BOSTON AND BRANDYWINE

Join a naturalist on a fun bike ride and learn about the geology of the Boston Ledges and Brandywine Falls. The ride will be slow to moderate-paced and a total of 8.6-miles round-trip. Helmets are required. Please bring drinking water. BHT/SR 303 Lot: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights

Sunday, May 25, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

### BLACKLIGHT NIGHT HIKE

Take a peek just beyond the visible spectrum as we explore Freedom Trail by blacklight. FT/Middlebury: 1324 Middlebury Rd., Kent

Monday, May 26, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

### KIDS FIRST CREEK HIKE

Take a creek hike perfect for littles just starting to explore the wonderful world of water. Wear closed-toe footwear and get ready to get wet as we catch critters, splash and play in the low and slow waters of Furnace Run. FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield



Tuesday, May 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

### TREES: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society to celebrate the trees of Summit Metro Parks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and more with Ohio landscape and nature photographer, writer and educator Ian Adams. Honoring the legacy of Bert Szabo, the park district's first naturalist, Adams will share stories of his various collaborations with Szabo to produce mural displays and posters for the park district. GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron





**Tuesday, May 27, 7 – 8 p.m.**

### MUSIC IN THE PARK: SEASON KICK-OFF

Celebrate the beginning of the concert season with a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble. Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held indoors. **GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

**Wednesday, May 28, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: THE EVERYDAY CONSERVATIONIST

From lessening the lawn and planting native to leaving your leaves and supporting pollinators, there's no shortage of ways to help the planet from home. Join conservation photographer and author Danae Wolfe to explore ways you can curb carbon and bolster biodiversity in your own back yard. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Thursday, May 29, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### SENIOR CYCLING: UTILITARIAN, SPORT AND RECREATION

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 10-mile bike ride as we discuss the purpose of cycling for sport, recreation and utility. This is a casually-paced bike ride with frequent stops on the trail. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. **BHT/SR 303 Lot: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights**


**Thursday, May 29, 7 – 9 p.m.**

### SUNSET BIKE RIDE

Join us for an evening bike ride! Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles, at a casual (10-12 mph) pace. Bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. **TT/Big Bend Trailhead: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

**Friday, May 30, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

### SPREE FOR ALL STROLL

Enjoy a casual 1-mile round-trip stroll while learning some interesting tidbits about local history and nature. **TT/Clinton Trailhead: 2749 North St., Clinton** 

**Saturday, May 31, 9 – 10:30 a.m.**

### WOMEN IN BIRDING HIKE

All are welcome to celebrate women birders and female birds on the 1.6-mile Willow Trail. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

**Saturday, May 31, 6:30 – 9 p.m.**

### TENTS AND TALES FOR TOTS

Before camping season kicks off, parents and their young children are invited to try out the fun of camping with small children! Enjoy a campout story time, pitch a tent, make a s'more, play campsite games, take a hike and more! **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



**Saturday, May 31, 9 – 11 p.m.**

### MOTH NIGHT

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity and beauty of our local moths. While butterflies often steal the spotlight, you'll be amazed by the wide range of colors, sizes and shapes found in these underappreciated lepidopterans. Learn to identify different types of moths, including pug, slug, dagger, silk and sphinx moths. You'll also find out what a moth garden is and why it's beneficial. Bug spray is recommended and bring a flashlight and camera if you'd like to take photos. **Riding Run Conservation Area: 2247 Everett Rd., Peninsula**



## JUNE

**Beginning Sunday, June 1**


### SELF-GUIDED: STORY TRAIL

Explore the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail and enjoy a laugh while reading a story trail based on the book, "The Little Mole Who Went in Search of Whodunit." Available through June 29. **WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

**Sunday, June 1**

**10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.**

### INTRO TO KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required**  **(5/23). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Beginning Wednesday, June 4**

### SELF-GUIDED HIKE: MEET THE SEIBERLINGS

Learn about the Seiberling family's role in preserving F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm and their contributions to Akron and Summit Metro Parks during a hike along the 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail through June 18. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



## KINDEREALM: BEARS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn about black bears, beloved animals native to Ohio. A craft and game are part of the program. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (6/5).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 11

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 18

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd.,  
Twinsburg

Wednesday, June 25

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

## LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required 📞 (5/28). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 5, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

## GOOD GARDEN TALKS: WEED & WATER MANAGEMENT

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn weed management and proper watering techniques for your vegetable garden. The program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Kenmore & Ira Community Garden: 205 Kenmore Blvd., Akron

Friday, June 6, 7:30 – 10 a.m.

## SUMMER CENSUS BIRD WALK

It's the opening day of the Summer Breeding Bird Census! Join a naturalist and counter from the Greater Akron Audubon Society to discover the benefits of community science and discover which species are nesting in Summit County this summer. Binoculars recommended. MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Saturday, June 7, 10 – 11 a.m.

## BANK SWALLOW STROLL

Take a short stroll with a naturalist to learn all about bank swallows! We will get a glimpse of their annual nesting colony, providing an up-close opportunity to experience the beauty of nature, flight and new life. CV/Overlook Area: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron 🌸



Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## LIBERTY PARK NATURE CENTER 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us for a day of family friendly fun to celebrate Liberty Park Nature Center's 10th anniversary! Enjoy music, light refreshments and activities for all ages. Leave your mark by participating in a community art project that will decorate this special place for another decade. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, June 7, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

## QUEER BIRDERS WALK

Celebrate Pride Month with a birding walk on the 1.2-mile Pheasant Run Trail. Birder or not, queer or ally, doesn't matter — all are welcome! Join us for a fun and informative walk then stick around to socialize and enjoy some snacks at Sherman Shelter. SC/Lake House & Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Sunday, June 8,  
1 – 2:30 p.m. & 3 – 4:30 p.m.

## INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at an outdoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required 📞 (5/29). HH/Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls

Monday, June 9, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

## FOSSILS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can join a naturalist while exploring the stream to hunt for fossils and learn about the ancient creatures that once called this park home. Dress to get wet; closed-toe shoes required. FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, June 11, 9 – 11 a.m.

## DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

## KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for weekly hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest and enjoy! Each week we'll have a game or craft, garden activity and a snack themed around what is growing and ready to harvest in the garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, June 5

Thursday, June 12

Thursday, June 19

Thursday, June 26





Wednesday, June 11, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### BIKES & BOBBERS FOR SENIORS



Drop by for an afternoon of lakeside fun! Enjoy fishing, yard games, nature-related activities and more. Bring your bike to ride around the lake. Visitors with limited mobility have

the opportunity to take an adaptive bike ride on a trishaw. Lemonade and snacks will be provided, and all are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy by the water. All materials available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. *Cycling Without Age is made possible with support from the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.* In the event of inclement weather, program will be rescheduled for June 25. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Thursday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### SENIOR CYCLING: SAFETY, ADVOCACY AND TRAILSIDE REPAIR

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 14-mile bike ride on the Towpath Trail as we learn the basics of safety and trailside repairs. This is a casually-paced bike ride with frequent stops on the trail. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. **TT/Big Bend Trailhead: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

Thursday, June 12, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

### THE MUSIC OF THE FROGS

Learn about the musical talents of our local frogs and craft your own simple instruments out of recycled materials to join in the amphibious chorus. Meet at Pioneer Shelter. **Registration required** (6/4). **GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Thursday, June 12, 4 – 6 p.m.

### INTRO TO KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. **Registration required** (6/4). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Thursday, June 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

### SUNSET KAYAK

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor to view a beautiful sunset. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. **Registration required** (6/4). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Friday, June 13, 1 – 3 p.m.

### FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Ages 16 and over will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



Friday, June 13, 9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

### MOTH NIGHT

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity and beauty of our local moths. While butterflies often steal the spotlight, you'll be amazed by the wide range of colors, sizes and shapes found in these underappreciated lepidopterans. Learn to identify different types of moths, including pug, slug, dagger, silk and sphinx moths. You'll also find out what a moth garden is and why it's beneficial. Bug spray is recommended, along with a flashlight and camera if you'd like to take photos. **DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**



### MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble presented by Wayside Furniture! Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast.

7 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Tuesday, June 10

SC/Sherman Shelter:

5000 Hametown Rd., Norton



Cycling Without Age trishaw bikes will be available at the **Munroe Falls Metro Park** concert beginning at 6 p.m. to carry riders with limited mobility on a bench seat for an unobstructed view of nature and the feeling of riding a bike in the outdoors. *Cycling Without Age is available with the support of the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.*

Saturday, June 14, 9:30 – 11 a.m. & 12 – 1:30 p.m.

### INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at an outdoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. **Registration required** (6/5). **LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**

Saturday, June 14, 12 – 2 p.m.

### VERDANT WONDERS CELEBRATION

Join us to celebrate literature and the unveiling of the first edition of our literary journal, "Verdant Wonders." **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



*Saturday, June 14, 1 – 3 p.m.*

### LOVELY LADYBUGS

Join a naturalist as we explore the world of ladybugs. Did you know these beetles are fierce predators? Ohio is home to 14 species and North America has 450. Learn which species are native and which have been introduced, then take a short hike around the nature center to search for these fascinating and colorful insects. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

*Sunday, June 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.*

### GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Please note: Little Turtle Pond is a youth-only fishing site where adults must supervise their children. **F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**

*Sunday, June 15,  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.*

### INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required** (6/6). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

*Sunday, June 15, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

### THE WATER (BI)CYCLE

Akron reclaims over 2.5 million gallons of water a day, but Ohio's wetlands have been on the job for over 2.5 million years. Enjoy a 12-mile round-trip bike ride as we explore the similarities and differences in how people and the environment reclaim water. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. **TT/Big Bend Trailhead: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

*Sunday, June 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.*

### LET'S GO GREEN: SOLAR PANELS

Join us for the third installment of our "Let's Go Green" series. In this presentation, we'll explore everything solar, from how solar power works and the rules and regulations surrounding solar panels to the feasibility of installing them at your home. We will also host a Q&A session with an energy expert who has personally installed solar panels at his residence. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

*Monday, June 16, 6:30 – 8 p.m.*

### BLACK BEARS IN OHIO

June is when Summit County residents are often treated to black bear sightings. Learn about our resilient and adaptable wild neighbors and what to do if you encounter a bear as we hike the 1.1-mile Ledges Trail. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



*Tuesday, June 17, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

### MAN VS. HORSE

You couldn't outrace a horse...could you? Learn the history of the man vs. horse race on the 3.4-mile Bridle Trail (Blue) and discover the surprising edge people have in besting our equestrian competition over long distances. **SC/Boathouse Area: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton**

*Tuesday, June 17, 7 – 8 p.m.*

### MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble. Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

*Thursday, June 19, 10 – 11:30 a.m.*

### LIL' SPROUTS

See *Thursday, June 5* description. Registration required (5/28). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

*Thursday, June 19, 6:30 – 8 p.m.*

### HOMEGROWN HABITATS: SUN LOVERS

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us for this monthly series and learn how to re-wild your home landscape. This month we'll spotlight full-sun plants that will thrive in areas of your yard receiving more than 6 hours of direct sunlight. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

*Friday, June 20, 10:30 – 11 a.m.*

### SUMMER NATURE TALES

Summer is one day away! Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive story time focused on nature in the new season. Make it a fun, family friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the Nature Play area after the program. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

*Saturday, June 21, 1 p.m. –  
Sunday, June 22, 11 a.m.*

### TENT CAMPING FOR FAMILIES

Families with children ages 13 and younger are invited to join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight tent camping experience! Activities include guided nature hikes, campfires, s'mores and games. Please bring your own camping equipment, including food, sleeping gear, toiletries and chairs. No gear? No problem! Request a free camping kit with essentials during registration, available while supplies last. **Registration required** (5/30). **SC/Lake House & Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

*Monday, June 23, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

### REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can join a naturalist to learn about the crawling, slithering, scaly and slimy creatures found in our parks. Meet one of our resident education animals before taking a short walk in search of toads, snakes and more in their natural habitat. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**







**Wednesday, June 25, 9 – 11 a.m.**

### DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Wednesday, June 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S DITCH LILIES

Nancy Secrist will share the history and growing tips for Hemerocallis. She will enlighten us with the latest flower advances, such as unusual forms, rebloomers, minis, giants and colors. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Thursday, June 26, 10 – 11 a.m.**

### REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can join a naturalist to learn about the crawling and slithering creatures found in our parks. Meet some of our animal ambassadors before taking a walk in search of turtles, frogs and more in their natural habitat. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Thursday, June 26, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### SENIOR CYCLING: A CALL TO ACTION

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a 13-mile bike ride on the Towpath Trail as we discuss ways we can connect to youth in the community through cycling. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. **TT/Franklin Trailhead: 2328 Center Rd., New Franklin**

**Thursday, June 26, 8 – 9 p.m.**

### FLY VS. FLY

Discover the world of insect subterfuge. Plenty of insects engage in mimicry but none quite like the firefly. Join a naturalist on a catch and release mission to crack the code of these cunning insects. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

**Friday, June 27, 10 – 11 a.m.**

### BUGS FOR KIDS

Join a naturalist for a bug-tastic story time! Afterwards, we will hit the trail to hunt for insects. Bug jars and nets will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. **CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

**Friday, June 27, 12 – 2 p.m.**

### NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace with a stroll to observe wildlife activity in the wetlands along the 1.8-mile Seven Ponds Trail. Enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. **LP/Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve: 1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora**

**Friday, June 27, 1 – 3 p.m.**

### FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Ages 16 and over will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Friday, June 27, 7:30 – 9 p.m.**

### FIREFLY NIGHT HIKE

Fireflies are lighting up the night! Let's enjoy them on the 1.3-mile Firefly Trail. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

**Saturday, June 28, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

### KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited, kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



**Saturday, June 28, 1 – 4 p.m.**

### BMX FOR BEGINNERS

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for an introduction to the sport of BMX. For ages 12 to 25, we will focus on foundational skills such as bike handling, balance, braking and basic maneuvers. BMX bikes and helmets will be provided for use during this program. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Sunday, June 29, 1 – 3 p.m.**

### BEEES OF LIBERTY PARK



Join a naturalist as we discuss some of the 475 native bees we have at Liberty Park. From the huge carpenter bees to the smallest sweat bee, we will be discussing the importance of these amazing insects in our daily lives. We will highlight their life cycle and learn how we can protect and sustain these essential creatures in our ecosystem. After the program we will walk around the nature center grounds to see which ones we can find. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



The Summit Metro Parks Foundation connects, conserves and inspires as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1991 where donors can create a lasting legacy by supporting the park district. We are grateful to the many people, organizations, businesses and agencies who made gifts, grants and sponsorships January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. These donations and other forms of support create thriving parks that are a cornerstone of Summit County's quality of life.

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Francis J. Jiamboi  
James R. Leone  
Canaan Linder  
Renee D. Mikula  
Gerald A. Reed  
Dana Springer  
Bob & Roberta Welter

*in memory of Judith White*  
Barbara Jeane Bergdorf  
Pam Donnavan-McDonald  
Michelle Ferensic  
Gaffney Family  
Michael J. Gorman  
Karcher Group  
Courtney Krieger  
Denice Lentine  
Anthony Locastro  
Dorothy H. Miner  
Camala Nye  
Laurie Price  
David Pristic  
Brian Skidmore  
Joyce A. Smith  
Sturtz Family  
Randy J. Thornlow  
Amy Walker

*in memory of Brennan Wickramaratne*  
Tieu Family

*in honor of Paul Wilkerson*  
Jon Hawes

*in memory of Pat Wilkey*  
Christina Hamilton  
Lois Hamilton

*in memory of Pat Williams*  
Linda & Tom Bickler  
Sally A. Deckard  
Scott Dennett  
Stephanie Fawver  
Verna Gail Lewis  
Pamela Pollock  
Rose Rakocy  
Mark & Patty Trudics  
Matthew Trudics  
US Communications and Electric, Inc.  
Thomas Watson  
Jeff & Michelle Williams  
Robert & Wendy Williams  
Winston Family

*in memory of Tyler Williams*  
Kathleen J. Williams

*in memory of Lois Wright*  
Tom & Pat Lindley McCrae

## Non-tribute

Beau Abdenour  
Virginia C. Addicott  
Akron Garden Club  
Akron Metro Parks Hiking Club  
Alliance Data Systems, Inc.  
Ham & Beth Amer Fund  
Janet H. Anderson  
The Nancy Andrews Family Foundation  
Anonymous (12)  
Lindsay Baldy  
Phil & Mindy Bartholomae  
Running Forward and Giving Back  
James A. & Linda R. Beck  
Randall & Annette Bisbee  
Bokom Foundation, Susan & George Klein  
Betsy Booher  
Linda Brashear  
Nathanael Bucher  
Carrie Burchett  
Scott Cadwallader  
Gail E. Cheslock  
Henry Chlanda  
Mark Cochran  
Steve Comunale & Jane Prem  
Deborah Conklin  
Bill Cope  
Linda Corman  
Tracy Cotopolis  
Maryalice Danko  
LeAnn Davis  
Jenny Earley  
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Mary Farkas  
Fast Girls Running Company  
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Sandra Ann Goetz  
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Geoffrey Goss  
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The Bruce & Erica Greer Family Foundation  
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Richard T. & Nicol B. Halishak  
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Sherry & Martin Hellman  
Joe D. Henninger  
HiHO Brewing Co.  
Greg & Denise Hill  
Kathryn Hiney  
Jen Horgan  
Bonnie Horovitz  
Samuel & Valerie S. Hudspath  
Chlondra Hunter  
Brandon Huth  
Thomas & Elizabeth Indriolo  
Maggie Jacobs  
Denise Jenison  
Robert J. Jenkins Jr.  
Lewis & Karen Johnson  
Ron Johnson  
Steve Johnson & Laurie Zuckerman  
Jennifer Joseph  
Mary A. Kincaid  
Phyllis Knepper  
Alexander Kokinov  
Taku Kopp  
Ted & Hazel Krist  
Joyce A. Krysinski  
Michele Kurilec  
Rena L. Large  
Betty E. Levinson  
Liberty Mutual  
Toby Mackenzie  
John D. Mancinelli

*continued on page 19*



## 2024

### Summit Metro Parks & Summit Metro Parks Foundation

#### Sponsors

Acme Fresh Market Foundation

Akron Children's Hospital

Buckingham

Cleveland Clinic Akron General and  
Cleveland Clinic Children's

Country Maid Ice Cream & Orchard

Davey Tree Expert Co.

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The Nightlight

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Sylvan Learning of Twinsburg

Vertical Runner

Wayside Furniture

Western Reserve Hospital

YellowLite

## 2024

### Summit Metro Parks Foundation

#### Grants

Acme Fresh Market Foundation  
Akron Community Foundation, William  
C. and Betty J. Zekan Fund and John A.  
McAlonan Fund

Akron Garden Club Centennial Gift to  
the Akron Community

Family of Ann G. and Ronald C. Allan

The Allstate Foundation

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Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs -  
Cleveland Fund

The Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs  
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Foundation

Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund  
in honor of John Daily

FirstEnergy Foundation

Howard Atwood Family Fund

Hudson Garden Club

Samuel & Valerie S. Hudspath

Kim Kleasen in memory of  
Audrey & Hubert Kleasen

The Lehner Family Foundation

Logsdon Family Foundation

Robert A. & Jean C. Meyers Family  
Fund

Synthomer Foundation

## GREEN ISLANDS LEGACY SOCIETY

We're grateful to those who have made a planned gift to Summit Metro Parks or the Summit Metro Parks Foundation. Those who have done so are recognized here as part of the Green Islands Legacy Society. Planned gifts (such as bequests) are a wonderful way to make a lasting difference for your parks.

Beau Abdenour

Julie Nicholas Amos

Anonymous (3)

Elizabeth Baker

David Bilas & Amy Dana

Alice M. Bittner

Bruce H. Buchholzer

Edna L. Carlson

Helen S. Coup

Craig James Culler

Laureen Drapp

Jennifer E. Gaylor

Christian Graham

James Hower

Samuel & Valerie S. Hudspath

Mike Johnson

David Jones

Kathryn Kilpatrick

Pamela Korenewych

Susan Korosa

Harold F. Levinson

Joan Leslie Long

Emil A. Merkle

Nancy A. Morrissey

Taylor Papiernik & Rachel  
Schlagel

George E. Seccombe

Charles E. & Ruth A. Shea

James & Letha Skinner

Sharon Stump

Marion L. Taylor

Matilda Varga

Marilyn Vernon

Mildred C. Walzer

Hoyt & Merdith Wells

Carol Zeh



continued from page 17

Robert A. & Jean C. Meyers Family Fund	Amelia Oriti	Sharon Schnall & R. Drew Sellers	John & Laura Struhsaker	The Richard and Beverly Waltz Family Trust
Brittany R. Michael	Laura Oseredczuk	The Sean & Nancy Ward Charitable Foundation	Bonnie & Joe Sudomir	Joseph Warner
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Dana Nelson	Austen Rau & Jennifer Bournique	Smaltz Insurance, LLC	Samuel Teague	Dale & Cynthia Woodling
Kristy Nelson	John & Sandie Rhoades	Timothy & Karen Snyder	Linda Teodosio	Daniel Young
Monica Maria Niemiec	Fredrick Ricci	Frederick & Elizabeth Specht	Barbara & Don Tolliver	Candace M. Zeman
Nordonia Hills Garden Club	The Richard and Alita Rogers Family Foundation	Sportsmen of Tomorrow, Inc.	Robert Trogon	Sophia Louise Zito
Emily M. OBrien	Bruce & Ann Rowland	Steere	Dave & Mary Tschantz	
OCSEA Summit Conglomerate Chapter 7700	Ryan Foster Schafer	Eileen Strauss	Verna Vander Kooi	
			Craig & Stephanie Walton	

SPREE FOR ALL

## 2025 | SPRING HIKING EVENT

## TO PARTICIPATE

Complete FIVE hikes between May 1 and June 30 — on five different trails, the same trail or any combination of trails — to receive a reward. The starting point at each trailhead is the information kiosk, which has a legend with the following symbols:

- Teal Pentagon = 1/8 mile round trip
- Blue Circle = 1/4 mile round trip
- Yellow Square = 1/2 mile round trip
- Green Triangle = 1 mile round trip

Mileage markers are provided as an aid. **You do not need to hike any prescribed length to receive credit.** Some trails listed offer a limited section of accessible terrain. To hike the accessible portion, follow the Spree for All markers along the path.

**First-year hikers** earn a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. **Returning hikers** earn the pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 / first-year hikers, \$5 / returning hikers).

## WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

**Administrative Offices**, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313,  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm**,  
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

**Liberty Park Nature Center**,  
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

**Summit Lake Nature Center**,  
411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301

**Open:**  
**Wed. through Sat.**  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Noon to 5 p.m.

**Closed: Mon. & Tue.**

*Rewards are not mailed.*

**Rewards are not available after August 15, 2025.**

## MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

## BIKE &amp; HIKE TRAIL

**Barlow Road**  
331 Barlow Rd.  
Hudson 44236

## FREEDOM TRAIL

**Middlebury**  
1324 Middlebury Rd.  
Kent 44240

## OHIO &amp; ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

**Big Bend**  
1337 Merriman Rd.  
Akron 44313

**Memorial Parkway**  
499 Memorial Pkwy.  
Akron 44310

**Franklin**  
2328 Center Rd.  
New Franklin 44216

**Clinton**  
2749 North St.  
Clinton 44216



## PARKS

## CASCADE VALLEY

**Overlook Area**  
354 Sackett Ave.  
Akron 44313

F.A. SEIBERLING  
NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd.  
Akron 44313

## FURNACE RUN

**Brushwood Area**  
4955 Townsend Rd.  
Richfield 44286

## GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

**Pioneer Area**  
550 Frazier Ave.  
Akron 44305

## LIBERTY

**Twinsburg Ledges Area**  
9999 Liberty Rd.  
Twinsburg 44087

## MUNROE FALLS

**Lake Area**  
521 S. River Rd.  
Munroe Falls 44262

**Tallmadge Meadows  
Area**  
1088 North Ave.  
Tallmadge 44278

## SAND RUN

**Old Portage Area**  
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.  
Akron 44313

## SILVER CREEK

**Lake House**  
4877 S. Medina Line Rd.  
Norton 44203

**Summit  
Metro Parks**

f i x y t | #SMPspree

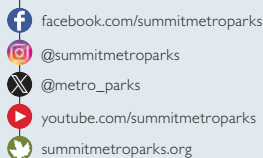
For park maps, directions and descriptions of the trails: [spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org](http://spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org) or 330-865-8065.

MAY·JUN '25 | Vol. 66 No. 3

# GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837



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» 22ND ANNUAL «

# SPREE

FOR ALL

SPRING HIKING EVENT

## 2025

### INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY OR GROUP HIKING FORM

#### PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

	FIRST-YEAR HIKER	RETURNING HIKER	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT
Primary Participant's Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name			
M.I.			
Address			
City			State Zip
Email			Phone

#### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT

	FIRST-YEAR HIKER	RETURNING HIKER	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT
Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name			
Zip			
Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name			
Zip			
Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name			
Zip			
Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
First Name			
Zip			

#### MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL

DISTANCE	TRAILHEAD	SIGNATURE (forms may be signed by staff, volunteers or you)	DATE
BIKE & HIKE TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Barlow Road		
FREEDOM TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Middlebury		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Big Bend		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Memorial Parkway		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Franklin		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲ Clinton		

#### METRO PARK

LOCATION		
CASCADE VALLEY	● ■	Overlook
F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM (no pets)	◆	Rock & Herb Garden
FURNACE RUN	◆	Brushwood Area
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	● ■	Alder
LIBERTY	● ■	Coyote Run
LIBERTY	●	Maple Loop
MUNROE FALLS / Lake Area	● ■ ▲	Firefly
MUNROE FALLS / Tallmadge Meadows Area	● ■	Meadow Loop
SAND RUN	● ■ ▲	Jogging Trail
SILVER CREEK	● ■ ▲	Miner's

*Please note:* Before starting any fitness program, it is the participant's responsibility to contact their physician with respect to any past or present illness or injury that may affect their ability to participate in the program.



All of these trails are flat, easy and accessible for users of all abilities.