

# Rookery

Spring, 2017

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### Stay Connected!



#shakerlakes



Cut-leaved Toothwort



Yellow Trout Lily

## In Search of Spring Ephemerals

By Sarah Cech, Natural Resources Manager

As the days get longer and the ground and air warm up, our native plants begin to unfold. These first woodland flowers of spring are called "spring ephemerals," and the Nature Center is awash in them. In our Woodland Garden you will find white trillium, Virginia bluebells and Mayapples. Throughout the upland forest you will see a blanket of yellow trout lily. In the early spring, our native trees have not yet leafed out, so ample sunlight reaches the forest floor. Spring ephemerals take full advantage of that sunlight to grow, flower, produce seeds and go dormant all in the few short weeks before the trees shade them out.

Spring ephemerals are important food sources for our early pollinator species. Native bee species that nest in the ground and in logs emerge as soon as the air warms up and begin looking for food sources. If you look closely at the spring flowers, you will notice that the non-native honeybee is not the critter on these flowers, but rather flies and tiny little bees that will not sting (well, unless you grab and squeeze them). The timing of flower and bee emergence is crucial to the survival of both the plants and bees.

Our native bee population is in decline for a variety of reasons, including habitat loss and reduction of food sources. One threat to a thriving spring ephemeral community is the invasive Norway maple tree. These trees are commonly planted on urban streets and have spread into the forest. Their leaves emerge early and shade out the ephemerals.

Planting spring ephemerals in your home garden is a first step to help the native bee populations. Check out the Nature Center's Annual Plant Sale for a wide selection of native spring and summer wildflowers to enhance your garden. Order on our website beginning March 20. Happy planting!



Marsh Marigold



Virginia Bluebells



What will the Nature Center look like in 50 years? How will we continue to fulfill our mission and engage our community as we adapt to the future? As we set the stage for the next 50 years, our staff has been working diligently to improve the visitor experience and advance educational opportunities and offerings. Through the coming months, you can expect to see exciting new things at the Nature Center as we reveal plans to revitalize our trails and habitats and elevate our look and feel.

Through GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping, Natural Resources Manager Sarah Cech is developing a robust habitat restoration plan through improved tracking of invasive species population data and plotting of official habitat types. This will improve how we manage and conserve our natural area for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Facilities Director Tom Hornberger is overseeing development of conceptual designs for trail renovations. Our trails and outdoor spaces are a cornerstone of the value we provide to the community and will help set a foundation for future growth and sustainability. Finally, our marketing team has been quietly working on a refreshed logo that will follow our uniquely crafted

50th Anniversary logo, a launch that will help propel our brand into the future.

Through change, I often crave the familiar to keep me grounded. The Nature Center has been and will continue to be a special place for so many, and we will always stay true to our core. As such, I invite you to join me at a few of our longstanding and mission-driven springtime events: Festival (April 7) and the 35th Annual Plant Sale (May 13). I enjoy seeing familiar faces each year at our Plant Sale and love to see how our homegrown plants have truly differentiated this event. And I hope to see you at the best party of the year – our Annual Summer Benefit, “Flyways not Highways,” on Saturday, June 10!

Spring is a time to make way for the new. I could not be more excited to share these changes and events with you, our visitors and supporters. We hope you will continue to engage with us through these exciting times as we craft and set foot toward a bright future.

*Kay Carlson*

Kay Carlson  
Executive Director

## From the Director

The coming of Spring evokes images of rebirth, or new beginnings. As nature wakes from her winter slumber, I enjoy observing the first pale green leaves unfolding from their buds and cannot help but sense how this natural change of seasons seems to inspire fresh possibilities, renewed outlooks and a chance to expand our horizons. As we bring our 50th Anniversary celebration to a close and look back on what a tremendous journey it has been, we are now turning our sights toward the future, and I am excited about the bright beginnings that lie ahead.



# Festival 2017

Friday, April 7

Featuring creative cuisine made from garlic mustard, an edible, invasive species pulled from the Nature Center grounds each year.

Enjoy creations by celebrated local chefs from:

- Batuqui The Flavor of Brasil
- Blue Canyon-Pura Vida
- Coquette Patisserie
- The Greenhouse Tavern
- J. Pistone Market & Gathering Place
- Juice Up
- Mackenzie Creamery
- Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream
- Ohio City Provisions
- SASA
- The Sweet Fix Bakery

**Sponsors:**



**Patrons:**

- Brouse McDowell, LPA
- CultureShoc
- Farrow & Wren
- Margaret W. Wong & Assoc., LLC
- Pease & Associates, CPAs

**Supporters:**

- CLE Urban Winery
- Fire Spice Company
- Gigi's on Fairmount
- Portside Distillery

## Celebrate Eradicating Invasive Garlic Mustard!

Make your reservations now for this annual cocktail-style reception featuring delicious dishes made from the invasive garlic mustard pulled from our grounds each year. The evening also features wine from CLE Urban Winery, beer and a signature Festival cocktail from Portside Distillery. Proceeds will support the Nature Center's beloved public trails, natural habitats and acclaimed environmental education programs.

**Meet the Chefs:** 6 to 9 pm — \$90 (\$40 tax deductible, limited availability)

**Open Tasting:** 7 to 9 pm — \$65 (\$25 tax deductible)

### Advance Reservation for Members!

Through March 17, Nature Center members can make reservations before the general public. Visit [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org).

### Invade Gigi's on Fairmount, the official post-Festival party spot!

Gigi's will donate 10 percent of all sales to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes on April 7, 11 am to closing.

# Art on View

## Under the Canopy: Paintings and Poems Inspired by Nature

March 23 through June 19

Artist's Reception, Thursday, March 23, 5 to 7 pm

Free and open to the public

Hazel Brown is inspired by nature and living things. She grew up observing and absorbing the sights and sounds of nature. Hazel conveys her passion for nature and color through her paintings.

Shira Atik is a poet, writer and literary translator, who writes about people, their emotions, thoughts, struggles and triumphs. Shira appreciates that the natural world has an inner life of its own that is tempestuous, complex and full of feeling, such as the dramatic cycle of leaves or the irrepressible determination of a roaring river.

Through this collaboration of artist and poet, Hazel and Shira hope that the poetic expression will add a new dimension and insight to the beautiful paintings and enhance the ultimate experience of art.



# Freeway Fighter: Walter Kelley

The land that is now the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes has a long history as a valuable resource for the residents of the Greater Cleveland area. Walter Kelley, former law director and mayor of Shaker Heights, worked to ensure that the Shaker Parklands would continue to provide value to residents as a treasured place for education and recreation.

In 1889 when the North Union Shaker Community disbanded, it leased the Shaker Lakes area to the Shaker Heights Land Company. Six years later, the property was donated to the City of Cleveland, with the stipulation that the land be used for park purposes only. In 1947, Cleveland leased the parklands to the city of Shaker Heights and the area became known as Shaker Heights Park.

The strategy to stop the construction of the Clark and Lee Freeways running through the park on either side of the Doan Brook in the mid 1960s included discussions with schools in the surrounding communities about the need for nature education, a citizen letter writing campaign and the commissioning of an Audubon Report. In 1966, Shaker Heights Law Director Walter Kelley sealed the deal when he negotiated with the City of Cleveland for a lease and permission to build the Nature Center. A land lease occurs when the ground under a structure is leased, rather than sold, to the builder, and the land and structure are owned independently. A land lease typically runs for 50 years. The current land lease expires in 2040, with a 50-year option to renew.

Walter Kelley spent many hours sorting through the complex issues surrounding the Nature Center land lease. As a resident and public servant of Shaker Heights, Kelley had a large personal stake in preserving the land for future generations. Securing its protection as a valuable green space and outdoor classroom was tremendously rewarding for him.

Walter Kelley's greatest contribution was working through the land lease, but he was also key in supporting the development of the Nature Center. He was an original member of the Nature Center Board of Directors and served on the Executive Committee until 1968. He passed away in January 2014. An historical marker dedicated to the Freeway Fighters and the tireless efforts of Walter Kelley will be installed later this year.

## Community Partner Spotlight

# Gigi's on Fairmount



Gigi's on Fairmount opened in Cleveland Heights over three years ago. Owners Gia Ilijasic and James Patsch offer a friendly, charming environment and tasty menu selections, but they also give back to the community. Included on their list of donation recipients is the Nature Center. Gigi's will again this year donate 10 percent of sales on the day of Festival, Friday, April 7, as well as host the official post-Festival party in the adjoining Gigi's After Dark.

Both Gia and Jim have a history of working in the restaurant business. They enjoy working together, and it was a dream to open their own place. "We love entertaining and providing a welcoming atmosphere," Gia said.

Guests indeed feel welcome in this relaxing space in the heart of a neighborhood. "Being in the Heights is particularly gratifying," Gia said, "because the community is so connected. There's nothing like seeing friends run into each other at Gigi's and watching their excitement as they smile and hug. That's the best part of our job" she added. "We are all committed to serving our guests well and making sure they feel special and appreciated," she said.

They are equally committed to giving back to the community. Through their Magnificent Mondays, a program that designates a non-profit to receive 10 percent of the day's proceeds, Gigi's has been able to provide thousands of dollars to a variety of organizations. This long and growing list includes an orphanage in Honduras owned and operated by a Heights resident; Bright Pink, a non-profit educating young women about breast and ovarian cancer; Roots of American Music that brings music into classrooms; a teen leadership program called ELA; the LUNGeivity Foundation; and the Nature Center.

We are deeply grateful for Gigi's generous support and encourage you to support Gigi's and Festival on Friday, April 7 from 11 am to close. For information about Gigi's menu and hours, including their new Sunday brunch and dinner, visit [gigisonfairmount.com](http://gigisonfairmount.com).

# Junior Naturalist Springtime Fun!

Spring is here and it is time to trade your warm winter boots for some light weight rain gear. Find the nearest puddle and jump in!

This spring we are celebrating life. Winter snow is thawing away to reveal the squishy mud underneath. Keep your eyes open for plants and animals that are waking up from hibernation. Soon splashes of color will begin to pop up all over outside, and newly born critters will be running around.

At the Nature Center, we are giving a special shout out to all the pollinators in our life. Keep your eyes alert for the beautiful butterflies, bees and birds and, even flies, mosquitos, and beetles since they work to pollinate our native plants, too. All those little critters help spread the pollen that keeps our plants growing so that new plants will grow year after year. Make sure to study them closely and observe all of their hard work.

## Nature Challenge: Activity

Complete our spring word search! Go to [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org) to find the link. Bring your completed puzzle to the Nature Center and receive a Nature Center prize!



Above: Eastern Screech Owl

Left: Barred Owl

## Search for Owls at the Owl Prowl

Arbor Day is an annual day we are encouraged to plant and care for trees. This year Arbor Day is Friday, April 28. Join the Nature Center as we hike through Lake View Cemetery to search for owls, such as Eastern Screech Owls, Barred Owls and Great-horned Owls.

Trees are important to owls. Some owls like to make their nests in tree cavities, hollow trunks and stumps. Without many trees, both old and new, our owls would have a hard time finding cozy homes to lay their eggs.

Owls are nocturnal birds, meaning they are mostly awake at night. They eat mice, rats, insects and worms. A Great-horned owl is our biggest owl and can eat a skunk!

Above is an Eastern Screech Owl and a Barred Owl. What differences do you notice? Can you tell them apart?

Register for our Owl Prowl at Lake View Cemetery at [www.lakeviewcemetery.com](http://www.lakeviewcemetery.com)



## A Note to Parents

At the Nature Center, we strive to bring informative and interesting content to all of our readers — and that includes our junior readers, too! Whether you have attended one of our family programs or been a summer camper, we want you to be a part of the Nature Center all year. Beginning with this issue, we are adding fun and age appropriate information that will help our young naturalists continue to engage with our natural world. Stay tuned for more information that can be read and learned together, and learning activities that you won't want to miss!

## Register now for Outdoor Adventure Camps!

Join our dedicated and passionate environmental educators for one-of-a-kind week-long camp experiences filled with adventure and discovery. Camp opportunities are available for students ages 3½ through grade 9.

**Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp** runs June 19 through August 17. Each week offers a variety of fun-filled nature-based themes within each age group, with visits to off-site locations for Grades 3-9.

**Spring Break Camp** runs March 27 through 31 for Grades K-4, with after care available. Camps fill quickly! Register at [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org)

# Programs & Events

The Nature Center invites you to learn more about our natural world by attending one of our programs or events. We offer a variety of adult and family programming throughout the year both on and off site; registration and additional information is available online at [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org).

## Seasonal Bird Walk

**Sunday, March 12, 8:30 to 10:30 am**

Meet in the Nature Center parking lot to learn about upcoming spring migrants. Then walk throughout different parts of the Shaker Parklands looking for birds. Binoculars available for use with ID. Free.

## Audubon Bird Walks

**Sundays, April 16 through May 21, 7:30 am**

Meet in the Nature Center parking lot to begin a walk throughout different parts of the Shaker Parklands looking for birds. Binoculars available for use with ID. Free.

## Bird Banding Demonstrations

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**

**April 17 through June 5, 7 to 11:30 am**

See migratory and resident birds up close as they are banded. Data is collected and provides information to better understand their general condition and migratory patterns. Free.

## Conservation and Art Creation Workshop

**Saturday, March 25, 10 am to Noon (for Families and Adults) 1 to 3 pm (for Adults)**

In this ecology-informed sculpture workshop, learn about bird species in our region and the importance of land conservation for bird survival from an Ursuline biologist. Hear how consumer choices protect birds and look at the crucial need for global habitat conservation. Participants will create bird-themed sculptures using Cloud Clay modelling material. Supplies and instruction provided by Ursuline College faculty and students and is generously supported through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Registration is required as space is limited. Free.

## Planting Strategies for Your Garden

**Thursday, March 30, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

See description on page 6.

## The Perils of Plastic in Lake Erie and its Tributaries

**Dr. Sherri A. Mason**

**State University of New York at Fredonia  
co-sponsored by Cleveland Museum of Natural History**

**Monday, April 10, 7 pm**

Dr. Sherri Mason, a pioneer in plastic pollution research in freshwater systems, will provide an update on her extensive research in the Great Lakes. She will share her findings on microbeads and present results from current surveys in the tributaries of the Great Lakes and wastewater treatment facilities around the country. Dr. Mason will offer solutions to address the serious threat of microbeads to Lake Erie. Visit [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org) for more information. Free for members of either institution, \$5 non-members.

## Cleveland Growing Strong: Film and Panel Discussion

**Wednesday, April 19, 7 to 9 pm**

Gardens don't just grow food, they serve as urban oases, connecting neighbors with the cycles of nature. For Cleveland, urban gardening is as old as the city itself, providing refuge, sustenance and renewal through both good times and bad. After the screening, an expert panel will answer your urban community garden questions. Panelists include: Courtney Woelfl from OSU Extension, Maggie Fitzpatrick from Refugee Response, Brad Masi Film Director, and Nolan Jones from StoryLenz. Please preregister as space is limited. Free to members and \$5 for non-members.

## Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep & Weed Pull

**Saturday, April 22, 1 to 3 pm and**

**Sunday, April 23, 1 to 3 pm**

Celebrate Earth Day with Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and the Nature Center. Help clean up the winter accumulation of trash and pull invasive plants in the Doan Brook corridor. Volunteer as an individual or a group – all ages welcome! On Saturday, meet at the Nature Center or the tent at Fairhill Road and E. 127th. On Sunday, meet at Rockefeller Park and work on the lower watershed. Visit [www.doanbrookpartnership.org](http://www.doanbrookpartnership.org) to register or call (216) 325-7781. Free. Thanks to the Larchmere Community Association for their help with this effort.

## Owl Prowl at Lake View Cemetery

**Friday, April 28, 8 pm**

Enjoy a live owl presentation by Jeff Riebe from the Cleveland Metroparks. After, join Nature Center environmental educators for an adventurous owl prowl to look and listen for nesting Barred, Great Horned and Screech Owls. For more information and to register, visit [www.lakeviewcemetery.com](http://www.lakeviewcemetery.com) or call (216) 421-2687. \$15 per hiker; children 3 and under are free.

## DIY Rain Barrel Workshop

**Two Dates Offered:**

**Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 to 8 pm**

**at Cleveland Heights Community Center**

**OR Thursday, May 18, 6:30 to 8 pm**

**at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes**

Learn how to construct a closed, 55-gallon rain barrel system that can easily be attached to any standard downspout to collect and conserve rain water for your plants and yard. Space is limited and advance registration is required by May 5. In cooperation with the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. For more information and to register, visit [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org) or call Lauren Miller at (216) 321-5935, ext 224. Workshop fee, including barrel and parts, \$60. Additional barrel, \$45.



Eastern Bumble Bee on Culver's Root

## Living with Wildlife: Native Bees

When most people think of bees, they picture the quintessential honeybee, which is actually a transplant from Europe. But did you know that there are about 4,000 species of native bees across North America? These bees are critical to the pollination of our native plants, and many are more effective at pollinating certain crops than honeybees. Unfortunately, like the honeybee, our native bees are suffering population declines, due in large part to habitat loss and pesticide use.

How can you help reverse this trend?

Try the following:

- Minimize pesticide use.
- Build a nesting box for mason bees.
- Consider dedicating part of your yard to creating a pollinator garden full of diverse native plants, such as Joe-Pye Weed, New England Aster, Common Milkweed and Black-eyed Susan. Excellent non-native plants include Lavender, Dill and Dutch white clover in your lawn.

Stop by the *Tamar Maltz Pollinator Garden* at the Nature Center this spring to observe our native bees in action, and visit our *Providing for Pollinators* page at [www.shakerlakes.org/go-green/pollinators.php](http://www.shakerlakes.org/go-green/pollinators.php) to get ideas for your own garden!



Golden Digger Wasp on Swamp Milkweed



Green Sweat Bee on Kalm's St. John's Wort

# Get Ready for Spring Planting!

Welcome spring with the 35th Annual Plant Sale at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, featuring a wide variety of hard-to-find native plants, perennials, edibles and annuals selected by a local team of experienced gardeners. Our Plant Sale Catalog will be available mid-March.

**Order Online!** Enjoy online viewing and secure ordering on the Plant Sale website, available March 20. Visit [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org).

## Plant Sale

**Saturday May 13, 9:30 am to 1 pm**

Shop and choose from a beautiful variety of affordable herbs, vegetables, perennials, annuals, natives and hanging baskets. The sale includes the always-popular homegrown section featuring plants grown and donated by local gardeners. Experts will be available throughout the day offering selection guidance. Activities include a special Mother's Day kids' craft, music, refreshments and vendors, making it a fun day for the entire family. Parking is available on nearby streets, and curbside assistance with purchases is provided.

## Members-Only Plant Sale Preview

**Saturday, May 13, 8:30 to 9:30 am**

New this year! Members-only preview one hour before the general public. Get a jump start on selecting sought-after container assortments, ready-to-go pots and homegrown while enjoying complimentary coffee and pastries with the Nature Center community.



## Planting Strategies for Your Garden

**Thursday, March 30, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

In this seminar, led by Garrett Ormiston from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, learn how to maximize shady areas and minimize the effects of deer to create a beautiful garden using native plant species. Members \$8; Non-members \$10.



## Youth Volunteer Spotlight

# Ben Schelling

Ben Schelling is a frequent visitor to the Nature Center. He can often be seen walking the trails, camera in hand, looking for birds. He has also been an enjoyable and reliable participant in various volunteer programs year round.

When he was younger, Ben remembers seeing Nature Center volunteers working throughout the property. He looked forward to the summer when he was old enough to join them, and in 2013 he started volunteering in the Summer Youth Stewardship program. This program brings teens together from surrounding communities to work for eight weeks in the summer removing invasive species, collecting trash and maintaining the property's trails and habitats. Ben also assists with the Project FeederWatch Program counting and identifying winter birds that visit the feeders at the Nature Center. "I love that the Nature Center is an important bird area nestled in the heart of a busy suburb," he said.

In addition to learning how to identify birds and invasive plants, Ben has nurtured a life-long devotion to nature and the



people that value it. He enjoys caring for the environment as a whole as well as giving back to the Heights community. Ben brings the Shaker Heights High School Environmental Club to the Nature Center and encourages all teens to volunteer at the Nature Center. "You will meet like-minded individuals," Ben said, "and, if you are lucky like me, start friendships that last beyond the volunteer hours."

The Nature Center is lucky to have generous and talented volunteers like Ben Schelling.

## Stewardship Saturdays

May 20 and June 17, 10 am to noon

Join our Natural Resources Manager during this monthly hands-on event to complete land management and trail maintenance tasks to restore Nature Center habitats. Volunteers will be involved in invasive plant removal in the marsh and other habitats as well as maintaining the mile long Stearns Trail. Monthly tasks will vary based on land management needs at that time.



## Volunteer News

The Nature Center recognizes the following groups for their continuing support and assistance with education, land management and special event projects: Alpha Chi Omega – CWRU; Art Club – Shaker Heights High School; Beaumont School; Cleveland Heights Youth Committee; Environmental Club – Shaker Heights High School; Girl Scout Troop 70905 (Cleveland Heights/University Heights); Greenview – PEP; Gross Schechter School; Jewish Family Services; Kappa Alpha Theta – CWRU; Museum Of Contemporary Art; My COM Youth Council – Shaker Heights; Track Team – CWRU; Ruffing Montessori; Zeta Psi – CWRU

## Spring Break Camp Volunteers

Monday, March 27 through

Friday, March 31, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Get outside and explore spring at the Nature Center during Spring Break Camp. Volunteers of all ages can assist educators in leading games, crafts and activities. Join the fun for one or more days.

## Youth Volunteer Opportunities

**Outdoor Adventure Camps (OAC)**

June 19 through August 17

Youth Assistants will aid staff with the supervision and education of OAC participants 3-12 years old.

**Youth Stewardship Assistants**

Support our land management staff with natural areas projects throughout the summer. For a position description or more information visit [www.shakerlakes.org/volunteer/youth.php](http://www.shakerlakes.org/volunteer/youth.php).

**Volunteer at the Plant Sale**

The incredible power of teamwork is seen every spring as Nature Center volunteers support the Annual Plant Sale. A longstanding volunteer tradition, the Plant Sale has a task for everyone. Shifts and opportunities include set-up, assembling orders, sale check-out, children's craft support or assist with curbside valet. Opportunities available both May 10 and May 13.

**Upcoming Opportunities**

Join us for these Nature Center volunteer favorites: Festival; Doan Brook Stream Sweep; Headstart Family Day; Stewardship Saturdays and other programs. For more information or to register for volunteer opportunities and events, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (216) 321-5935, ext 237, or [volunteer@shakerlakes.org](mailto:volunteer@shakerlakes.org) or sign-up online at [shakerlakes.volunteerhub.com/Events/Index](http://shakerlakes.volunteerhub.com/Events/Index).



# Nature Center AT SHAKER LAKES

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[www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org)  
[naturecenter@shakerlakes.org](mailto:naturecenter@shakerlakes.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



conserving a natural area, connecting people with nature, and inspiring environmental stewardship



## SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a strolling party under the stars!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017

6 PM - 11 PM

**FLYWAYS NOT HIGHWAYS**

A Benefit for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

