

# ROOKERY

## WINTER 2017-2018

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## WINTER BIRDING IN OHIO

Lauren Miller, *Education Program Specialist*

If you think winter must be the worst time of year to start a bird watching hobby, think again! There are actually a few advantages to birding in winter, especially if you're a novice. One advantage is that deciduous trees are mostly bare of the leaves that hide birds so well during other seasons—meaning you don't have to work as hard to spot them as they sit on exposed branches. Another benefit to birding in the winter is that waterfowl are often gathered by the hundreds all together in the warm spots near the shores of Lake Erie that remain unfrozen.

"But many of our summer birds migrate south in the winter," you say? This is true, but we also have several migrants from further north who we typically only see in Ohio during the winter months. Some examples are the Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, and even some raptor species, like the Rough-legged Hawk, pictured above. Some years, the variety of northern migrants can be even greater, depending on food sources to the north.

If you want to enjoy Ohio's winter birds from the comfort of your cozy living room, there are a few things you can do to attract birds to your yard. In addition to putting out feeders with a variety of food types, one great way to attract birds to your yard is by being a lazy gardener. Leave your garden beds messy and create a brush pile in your yard. This provides shelter for birds during the winter and is much more attractive to a bird than a well-manicured yard. If you do choose to put out seed for birds, be sure that you keep the feeders filled throughout the winter. Birds come to rely on these food sources and will miss them if the feeders are left empty for a few days.

If you don't have feeders at home or you are not ready to venture outside to look for birds this winter, stop by the Nature Center! We have indoor viewing of our feeder area, and our trails are always a great place to see winter birds.

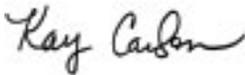
## FROM THE PRESIDENT

While many take the cold winter months as a chance to hunker down in their homes, enjoying the cozy indoors, here at the Nature Center, we're less like a hibernating bear and more like a worker bee! This winter, we'll be working hard teaching students in our classrooms and on the trails, planning our summertime Outdoor Adventure Camp, preparing for a busy springtime full of events and programs, propagating seeds from our native plants for the marsh and so much more. Additionally, we're offering a full array of programming that provides the perfect reason to throw on your coat and hat and enjoy the wintertime beauty nature has to offer!

Join our environmental educators for our annual Family Fireside Night on Friday, January 26—a fun evening that is always a sell out, so make sure to register early. And don't forget our Pancake Breakfast with the Birds on February 24, a joint program with the Rotary Club of Shaker Heights. It's always a great morning full of delicious pancakes, guided hikes, crafts and a bird-related show.

Don't let the wintertime snow hold you back from visiting the trails! There is no better way to enjoy the Stearns and All People's Trails than when they are covered in beautiful crisp white snow—you may find more than a few animal tracks, too.

See you on the trails!



**Kay Carlson**  
President & CEO



## MEET THE STAFF:

**JULIA MITCHELL, GRANTS MANAGER**



### How long have you been at the Nature Center?

Since August of 2017.

### What is your favorite part of your job?

It's fulfilling to work for an organization that touches so many people's lives and has meant so much to my family over the years.

### Favorite nature moment?

Walking the All People's Trail with my son during the recent solar eclipse.

### How do you conserve at home?

We recycle and compost, and every year we add a few more native plants to our pollinator garden.

### Favorite flower and/or plant?

White trillium—it's one of my favorite signs of spring.

## FREEWAY FIGHTERS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

A ceremony to dedicate the Freeway Fighters Historical Marker was held on Friday, November 3 on the North Woodland Road bridge overlooking the Nature Center, where it was installed. This historical marker commemorates the community effort that saved the Shaker Parklands from the proposed Clark Freeway and formed the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. The Freeway Fighters Historical Marker is dedicated to Walter C. Kelley, Mayor of Shaker Heights from 1973 to 1983, and all the individual and group volunteers that worked together to oppose the destruction of the Shaker Parklands threatened by the freeway. The marker was made possible through funding from the Walter Kelley family, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Cleveland Heights Historical Society and Shaker Historical Society.

## MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Thank you to everyone who attended our first annual Member Appreciation Day! The beautiful fall day was filled with festive pumpkin decorating, bird-banding, hiking, foraging and good company. It was a delight spending time with everyone who attended, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

## SHAKER LAKES HIKE, RUN & EXPLORE

A record number of volunteers and hikers participated in our Shaker Lakes Hike, Run & Explore on September 17 when the Nature Center welcomed over 1,100 people who participated in 5K and 10K races, four guided hikes, archery, crafts, tree climbing, games, food trucks and a beer garden. Nearly \$34,000 was raised for environmental education.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*We are pleased to introduce the following individuals who have joined the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Board of Trustees*



**SHERRI A. BARR**  
Senior Vice President & Relationship Manager in Corporate Banking, Middle Market for PNC Bank



**ERIN B. CONNELL**  
Cause-oriented civic volunteer who connects organizations with their audiences in strategic and meaningful ways



**JUSTIN CRONISER**  
Partner with the law firm Hahn, Loeser & Parks LLP with focus on commercial litigation

Historical Marker



Bird Banding Demonstration



## WINTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### NATURE INSPIRED PRINTMAKING

Wednesday, December 6 | 7PM-9PM

Adults join teaching artist and environmental educator Meri Ruble to learn several printmaking techniques that will enhance your creative keepsakes. A great weekend activity for anyone, no experience necessary! You will have the opportunity to make a set of 10 cards with envelopes. Please bring any nature items and an apron. Registration required by November 30. **\$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.**

### CREATURE FEATURE WINTER HIKE: TRACKS ON THE TRAILS

Sunday, January 14 | 2PM-3PM

Where do the creatures creep? Who went hunting here last night? Search for stories in the snow, and find clues to the secret lives of our local wildlife. Enjoy a one hour hike with a warm-up break in the middle, if needed. Meet in the exhibit area. **Free for members; \$5 for non-members.**

### FAMILY FIRESIDE NIGHT: FABLES IN THE FOREST

Friday, January 26 | 6:30PM-8PM

Join us for truly exciting entertainment as Michael Frogman returns to the Nature Center to join our enthusiastic environmental educators for an enchanting evening with mystical stories and songs. Come prepared to participate! Hands-on fun with face painting, crafts, snacks and, of course, hot chocolate! **\$5 per person, or \$25 per family, maximum of 6.**

### BYOB VALENTINE'S DAY PRINTMAKING

Wednesday, February 7 | 7PM-9PM

Make one-of-a-kind valentines for that special someone! At this fun activity for couples or friends, you'll explore mixed media printmaking with a seasonal twist. Join teaching artist and environmental educator Meri Ruble as you learn several printmaking techniques that will make your holiday extra sweet. Bring an apron and imagery to work with or use our materials. No experience necessary. We provide the appetizers and treats, you provide the adult beverage of your choice. Registration required by January 31. **\$35 for single or \$60 per couple member, or \$45 and \$80 for non-members.**

### MASON BEE WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 10 | 10AM-12PM

According to USDA research, a single mason bee can do the pollinating job of close to 100 honeybees. Mason bees are small docile bees that are great early season pollinators for fruit trees, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and other spring flowering plants. Get your garden started right and help the declining bee population by making a four-by-four-inch house for mason bees. We cut the lumber and you put the house together. This is a fun family activity and lesson in conservation. **\$25 for a Mason Bee house, \$20 for any additional houses made that day. Register by February 2.**

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Saturday, February 24 | 8AM-12PM

This joint program with the Rotary Club of Shaker Heights includes an all-you-can-eat breakfast of plain, blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, apple sauce, juice and coffee, guided hikes, crafts, entertainment and a bird-related show. **\$9 for adults; \$5 for children ages 4-10; and free for children 3 and under.**

### BIRDING HIKES

Sundays, December 10; January 14; February 11; March 11 | 8:30AM

Walk throughout different parts of the Shaker Parklands looking for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. **Free. Binoculars available for use with ID.**

*Connect with our natural world by attending one of our popular programs or events. Registration and additional information at [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org).*

Hike, Run & Explore



Mason Bee Workshop



Winter Hike



Breakfast with the Birds



## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER GROUPS:

Case Western Reserve University Cross Country Teams, John Carroll University Softball Team, Shaker Heights High School Art Club, Baldwin Wallace Honors Service Learning Students, Hawken Students, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Jewish Family Services, Positive Education Program (PEP): Greenview, Ruffing Montessori School, Gross Schechter Day School, Beaumont School, HandsOn Northeast Ohio, Shaker Heights High School Environmental Club, CWRU Connects: First Year Service Students, and Cub Scout Pack 988.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### CITIZEN SCIENCE: PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

Identify, count, record bird species and fill feeders during a two-hour shift. Volunteers must commit to a minimum of four dates on select dates through April. All birding abilities welcome!

#### SPRING BREAK CAMP VOLUNTEERS

April 2 to April 6 | 8:30AM-3:30PM

Come outside this spring and explore at the Nature Center during Spring Break Camp. Volunteers ages 13 and up assist educators with games, crafts, and activities.

#### OTHER UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Family Fireside Night, Pancake Breakfast, Mason Bee Workshop, Printmaking Workshops, Planting for Pollinators and Birds, Plant Sale and other exciting programs. Please visit our volunteer hub at [shakerlakes.org/volunteer/](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer/) for these and other upcoming opportunities!

### SAVE THE DATE

**VOLUNTEER BRUNCH | Saturday, March 3 | 10AM-12PM**

**SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERING | June 18 through August 16**

## ART ON VIEW

### THE COLORS OF NATURE, photographs by Paula Friedman

Paula first explored her love of art and nature through drawing and painting. She began photographing flowers to detail the vibrant colors and curves of each petal. Paula is constantly viewing flowers and new blooms out her window each morning. The Colors of Nature is a series of photos of blossoms found in her Solon yard.

Meet Paula and discuss her work at the Artist's Reception to open her exhibit on Friday, January 19, 2018 from 5 to 7PM. The exhibit is on view with pieces available to purchase through April 16, 2018.



### SPRING PLANT SALE

The community favorite plant sale will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2018. Mark your calendar now and be sure to join us to grab all your favorite items for spring planting. Watch for your catalog in mid-March.

### ANNUAL SUMMER BENEFIT

Kick off summer with our always popular annual benefit on Saturday, June 2, 2018. We are pleased to have board member Beth Gillespie, together with Kristen Bartels and Carrie Shelfer as co-chairs for this exciting upcoming event.

Save  
the  
Date



LET'S GET

# TRACKING!

Lauren Schmidt, *Camps and Adventure Program Coordinator*

Winter may bring the cold and snow, but it's also a great time of year to search for animal tracks. Come in to the Nature Center and practice your detective skills looking for animal tracks in our lobby, then head out to the trails to look for the real thing!

*Match the tracks with its animal. Then come to the Nature Center to see if you are right!*

# JUNIOR NATURALIST

RACON



DEER



FOX SQUIRREL



## NATURALIST ACTIVITY

Jump on over to our website to find your wonderful winter nature activity! Bring your completed activity to the **Nature Center Duck Pond for 10% off** something fun in the store—like a cool holiday gift you won't find anywhere else for your best friend.

[shakerlakes.org/junior-naturalist-web-activities/](http://shakerlakes.org/junior-naturalist-web-activities/)

GET OUTSIDE  
AND ENJOY THAT

# WINTER WONDERLAND



Winter is a beautiful season. Stunning, actually. That glistening snow covering the ground and hanging off tree branches is magical. The wonder of those fluffy flakes as they float down can make stress melt away. Yet many prefer to view the beauty of winter from inside, snuggled next to a warm and cozy fireplace—and there is nothing wrong with that. After all, it is cold out there!

This year, consider a resolution to spend more time enjoying winter outside. There are so many benefits to experiencing the winter outdoors, one of which is getting your daily dose of Vitamin D. This becomes even more critical in the winter months and has a positive effect on improving your mood and reducing stress! The sun provides plenty of Vitamin D when exposed to your skin, even through the clouds. Being outdoors in winter can improve memory and attention span. If you dread winter, getting yourself outside during the season has one other very important benefit—it will make the winter fly by!

Bundle up, chase those first tracks and enjoy our winter wonderland. The Nature Center's trails are open dawn until dusk each day. With so much to explore, the memories you create will last a lifetime and help you sail through winter. Children and adults alike will reap the benefits!



## CAN YOU GUESS?

### CREATURE FEATURE:

Now that you have practiced some of your animal tracking skills, can you guess what animal made these tracks?! If you think you know what this animal is, come visit the Nature Center to find out if you are right!

*These critters stay awake all winter long  
and do not migrate.*

*Their famous call sounds a lot like they are  
asking for a “Cheeeeeeseburger.”*

*The black cap on their head lends to their name.*



# NATURE CENTER

AT SHAKER LAKES

2600 South Park Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

POSTAGE  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
WITH THE  
BIRDS



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | 8AM-12PM

This joint program with the Rotary Club of Shaker Heights includes an all-you-can-eat breakfast of plain, blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, apple sauce, juice and coffee; guided hikes, crafts and a bird-related show.

**\$9 for adults; \$5 for children ages 4-10; free for children 3 and under.**  
Visit [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) to register.



## JUNE 18 - AUGUST 16

Weekly summer camps, all with outdoor adventure in mind. Half- and full-day camps are available each week for children ages 3½ to 14. Experiences for campers grades 3 to 9 will explore a variety of outdoor recreation and adventures that Northeast Ohio has to offer.

**LESS SCREEN  
MORE NATURE**

Spend Summer Outdoors

*Learning, Exploring  
and Immersed  
in Nature*

## SPRING BREAK CAMP

APRIL 2 - APRIL 6 | 9AM-3PM

Grades K through 4

**Hikes, games, crafts and interactive learning**

Sign up for one, two, three, four, or all five days.  
Extended care available until 5PM.

**SUMMER  
OUTDOOR  
ADVENTURE  
CAMP**



*For more info,  
or to become a  
member and take  
advantage of early  
registration, visit  
[SHAKERLAKES.ORG](http://SHAKERLAKES.ORG)*

## THESE POPULAR CAMPS SELL OUT QUICKLY!

NOVEMBER 1 | Member registration opens

JANUARY 15 | Non-member registration begins

JANUARY 31 | Early bird discount ends



RECYCLED  
FPO



The Nature Center is and will always be a transparent organization that is thankful for the gifts our community members bestow upon us in order to further our mission. We are pleased to share that our organization has been awarded the top 4-star rating by **Charity Navigator** for our commitment to fiscal responsibility and healthy governance. More info at [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org).



#SHAKERLAKES

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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

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