



## ENHANCING YOUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

CAMPAIGN for  
THE NATURE CENTER  
at SHAKER LAKES

## FALL 2019

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## THE NEW ALL PEOPLE'S TRAIL NEARS COMPLETION

Julia Mitchell, *Grants Manager*

If you have visited the Nature Center or walked around the Shaker Lakes this summer, you have noticed that the parking lot and perimeter of our 20-acre site is surrounded by construction fencing and signage. Behind this fencing, an exciting new vision for the Nature Center's future is taking shape; the iconic All People's Trail boardwalk is being completely reconstructed and enhanced to better serve the entire community.

This transformative, \$2.5 million project is the largest component of the Nature Center's capital campaign to restore, enhance and expand its outdoor classroom- the collection of habitats, trails and outdoor facilities that allow our visitors to experience nature in every season of the year and every season of their lives. Now mid-way through the campaign, our goal is not just to replace aging infrastructure; it is to increase our impact within the community by making our space more welcoming and accessible and allowing us to elevate and grow our educational programming.

The new, universally designed All People's Trail will follow the same path over Doan Brook, but include a new gazebo, expanded overlooks and gathering spaces, and new interpretive signage. It will also include a more visible main entrance from our parking lot,

and thanks to a lead gift from the Cleveland Foundation, a new ADA-accessible entrance from North Woodland that will link it to the larger regional Lake to Lakes trail system.

We are eager to unveil the restored All People's Trail to the public in November and use it to host field experiences for local schools in the fall. As our Capital Campaign Co-Chair Cindy Klug describes the project, "the coming enhancements will allow thousands to establish profound connections to nature and experience the boundless ways learning can take place outside of the four walls of a classroom."

**Please join us at the public grand opening on November 9** as we celebrate the completion of the All People's Trail and show our gratitude to all of the people, foundations and corporations that have helped bring us to this critical point in our campaign. We will also be launching the second half of the capital campaign and turning our attention to the exciting improvements planned for Stearns Woodland Trail. We hope you will join us and share in our vision to make the Nature Center more engaging, more sustainable, and more accessible to the entire Cleveland community!



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful and busy summer we have had! This summer, 500 students attended our Outdoor Adventure Camps—some attending multiple weeks. Aside from exploring our own Nature Center trails and Doan Brook, campers explored our gorgeous neighboring Northeast Ohio park systems, and also learned how to sail, rock climb, and spent quality time in nature. A special thank you to our summer camp staff and volunteers for making this the best year yet!

As summer turns to fall, local school groups will soon fill our trails and classrooms. We will share hands-on outdoor learning experiences with several school districts, including Cleveland, Shaker Heights, and Cleveland Heights-University Heights, among others. Throughout the upcoming school year, we expect to welcome more than 13,000 students to our unique outdoor classroom where science and environmental education come to life. Although this will be the last year of our partnership with Michael R. White STEM Elementary before it closes, we look forward to a second year of working with the new Stonebrook Montessori School in Cleveland to bring these same lessons directly to their classrooms.

I am pleased to announce that these local students—as well as all of you—will be able to step foot on our new All People’s Trail—opening Saturday, November 9! At this phase of construction, we have come in under budget and remain on schedule for the exciting renovation of our unique elevated boardwalk. The landscape architects of Environmental Design Group have been wonderful to work with on the trail design and we would like to thank Signature Bridge, Inc. for their skill in bringing the design to life so beautifully. The Rose Foundation Gazebo, designed and built by local artist Matt Parker, and The Cleveland Foundation Trailhead and accessible ramp from North Woodland Road will be highlights

of the new trail. Habitat restoration will begin immediately and is an opportunity to make significant headway on improving the biodiversity of the area around this trail.

We cannot wait to unveil these and other unique spaces that will make up the new trail, which will expand and enhance both formal and informal learning opportunities for all who visit. We hope these exciting improvements bring all in our community much joy, discovery, and tranquility for years to come.

With the All People’s Trail construction being completed this fall, we are now setting our sights and energy on the third phase of the Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes: the renovation and restoration of Stearns Trail and its surrounding habitats. Design development has begun and construction is set to begin in the spring of 2020. We have also contracted with a design group for new wayfinding and interpretive signage to compliment the new renovations on the entire property, so watch for more updates related to these enhancements.

Throughout this summer’s construction, we are so thankful for your continued support and generosity during this exciting journey of stewarding the gorgeous property that we all love, cherish, and enjoy.

See you on the trails!

*Kay Carlson*

Kay Carlson, *President & CEO*



**KAY CARLSON** was recently selected as a *Notable Woman in Nonprofits* by *Crain’s Cleveland Business*. This prestigious selection in the August 2019 issue features Kay along with other profiles of inspiring female leaders in Northeast Ohio’s nonprofit sector. **Congratulations Kay!**

## MEET THE STAFF: THOMAS HORNBERGER, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE NATURE CENTER?**  
Since September 2014.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?**  
I love the mission of the Nature Center and the educational programming and experiences that we offer to children and families.

**HOW DO YOU PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME?**  
At home we have a rain barrel, compost bin, LED lighting, and we recycle.

**WHAT’S YOUR ROLE IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATURE CENTER?**  
I oversaw the construction of the Outdoor Amphitheater and I am currently overseeing the construction of the All Peoples Trail. Coming up, I will be assisting with the concept and design of the new Stearns Trail (coming next year)! It is an exciting time at the Nature Center.



# NATURE CONNECTION



## MY, WHAT BIG FISH YOU HAVE!

Ashley Hall, *Marketing Coordinator*

When walking past the bridge near Lower Lake in Cleveland Heights, you have probably seen the large, charismatic fish that surface with mouths gaping. These are common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), one of many invasive fish species currently found throughout the greater Midwest.

Over the summer, common carp were affected by the lowering of Lower Lake by NEORSD, dying in large numbers for reasons that were unclear. While it is troubling to see fish in distress, state and government officials are actively taking action to rid invasive fish species from every body of water, as they can have devastating impacts on our native fish populations. Doan Brook watershed, and water from the Shaker Lakes ultimately drain into Lake Erie, making this a larger environmental issue.

How did common carp get to Ohio? Originally brought to the United States in 1831, they were distributed widely throughout the country by the government as a food-fish, but they are now rarely eaten in the United States, where they are generally considered pests. Numerous public works projects are underway to keep other invasive species of carp from migrating into the Great Lakes and destroying its fisheries. Remarkably, typical adult female Common carp can lay 300,000 eggs in a single spawn. In response to rising water temperatures and rainfall, both of which we have had this year, carp can now spawn multiple times in a season.

Other than common carp, you may see bright orange goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) or ornamental koi, also known as Amur carp (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*) in Lower Lake. Unwanted pet fish are often dumped into our watersheds. To prevent further environmental harm, please donate unwanted pet fish to pet rescue organizations instead of dumping them, as they can cause harm to native fish populations, effecting the larger ecosystem.

To learn more about our native fish, visit [doanbrookpartnership.org/field-guide-fish/](https://doanbrookpartnership.org/field-guide-fish/).

## AUTUMN BEAUTY: AMERICAN WITCH HAZEL

Nick Mikash, *Natural Resources Specialist*

The American witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is a fascinating plant for many reasons. This small, shrubby tree is most attractive late in the year. Its golden yellow fall foliage is complimented by the unusual fact that it produces ribbon-like yellow flowers in late fall instead of spring. These flowers are followed by seed capsules that explode—actually explode—the following year, launching seeds up to 30 feet away! Extracts of the bark have historically been used medicinally and cosmetically. Stop by this fall to see them up close throughout Stearns Trail.





FALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

• SEPTEMBER •

HIKE, RUN & FUN

Sunday, September 15 | Rain or Shine!  
(see Page 8 for details)

Experience the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes through 5K and 10K races, hikes, and fun activities. The day of adventure continues after the races with music, games, food trucks, a beer garden, and free activities\*, including archery and kids’ yoga until 1PM. The Annual Shaker Lakes Hike, Run & Fun promotes health and wellness, and benefits the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes’ environmental education programming. Register online at shakerlakes.org/HRF. \*Donations accepted.

BIRDING WALKS

Wednesday, September 11 | 6PM  
Sundays: October 20, November 10, December 8 | 8–10AM  
Take a guided stroll through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds with expert birder, Julie West. Meets in the Nature Center parking lot. No previous birding experience necessary. Binoculars are available for use in exchange for ID. Free.

• OCTOBER •

ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPFIRE NIGHT:  
LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT

Friday, October 11 | 6:30PM–8:30PM  
Bring your family for a fun evening of hiking, crafts, campfires, and s’mores! Come prepared to learn about the legends of the night while searching for nocturnal animals around the Nature Center. Bring camp chairs and marshmallow sticks. \$6 per person, \$30 max per family, up to 6 people.

THE BIG SIT

Sunday, October 13 | ALL DAY  
Join area bird watchers at this annual “tailgate party for birders” to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within a 24-hour period. This event also serves as a fundraising effort for bird-related projects and events at the Nature Center through pledges gathered by participants. Free. For more information, contact Julie West at jwest@ameritech.net.

BAT BOX WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 19 | 10AM–12PM  
Help provide a home for local bats whose population is at risk due to deadly white-nose syndrome by building your own bat box! All materials will be provided and are included in the cost of the workshop. By building and installing your own bat box, you will not only encourage natural bat roosting, but enjoy the perks of natural mosquito management. \$30 per box.

• NOVEMBER •

ALL PEOPLE’S TRAIL GRAND OPENING

Sunday, November 9 | 12PM–5PM  
See page 6 for details.

CHOCOLATE ON THE ROCKS! GORGE HIKE

Sunday, November 17 | 3PM–5PM  
What could be better than adventure set in fall colors at sunset while exploring towering cliffs without leaving the Heights? How about savoring chocolates while enjoying the view? If you don’t know about the local treasure of the Doan Brook Gorge, join the tour! Hike co-lead with Kim Woodford from Journey on Yonder. Rough terrain. 1.5 miles. \$12 for non-members, or \$6 for members.

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 21 | 8AM  
Happening at various locations, count and tally the number of birds you can see or hear throughout the day. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot at 8AM to begin. Participants do not need to commit to the entire day. Free. For more information, contact Julie West jwest@ameritech.net.

For more information or to register for events, please visit shakerlakes.org/fall-programs.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We would like to thank the following groups for their continued support of the Nature Center and all of its programs. These volunteers assisted with education, land management, and special event projects. Thanks to all for your time!

Business Volunteers Unlimited, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Ruffing Montessori School: Fairmount Blvd., Jewish Family Services, Positive Education Program: Greenview, Gross Schechter Day School, Boy Scouts of America, Shaker Heights Troop 15 Eagle Scouts, Caring Cubs, My COM, Shaker YOU, 2019 Outdoor Adventure Camp Youth Assistants, 2019 Youth Stewardship Assistants, Key Bank: Neighbors Make a Difference, Shaker Lakes Garden Club Members & Provisionals, Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners, and Scout Troup 662.

THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANTS THIS SUMMER!

Whether removing invasive plants or working in the woodland areas or on our trails and perimeter, you all worked very hard, did a fantastic job and had a great attitude! We can’t do it without you!

THANK YOU TO OUR OAC YOUTH ASSISTANTS!

You came in everyday with an open heart, enthusiasm, and were ready to help. The many games you played, the questions you answered, and conversations you had will stay with our campers forever. Thank you for making the Nature Center camps the best they can be!

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HIKE, RUN & FUN

Sunday, September 15 | 6:30AM–1PM  
Shaker Lakes Hike, Run & Fun benefits environmental education and promotes health and wellness while celebrating the Shaker Parklands. The event includes a 5K, 10K, and new a 1-mile Fun Run, together with 1-, 5- and 7-mile hikes. There are volunteer opportunities throughout the morning and afternoon. This is a fun, high-energy event. Partial proceeds support the Jenny Goldman Fund.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 28 | 10AM–1PM  
Work alongside others in the community to improve the habitat and wildlife areas of the Shaker Parklands. Tasks may include pulling invasive plants and some trash clean up. All are welcome including families with school-aged children 8 and older. Gloves, tools, trash bags, and safety vests will be provided. Wear closed-toed shoe and long pants. Pre-register for this program.

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS  
Saturday, October 26 | 10AM–12PM

Spend some time on a Saturday with us! Volunteers will be involved in invasive plant removal and maintaining the grounds on Stearns Trail. Tasks will vary based on the land management needs at that time. Please wear clothing that can get dirty, bring a water bottle, and closed-toe shoes. We provide tools, gloves and snacks. Families and groups welcome!

FAMILY CAMPFIRE NIGHT  
Friday, October 11 | 5:15PM–9PM

Join us for a wonderful evening of s’mores and hikes at the Nature Center. We are looking for volunteers to help in a number of areas. This is a great opportunity event teens and individuals.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH  
November 16, 2019–April 3, 2020 | Select weekends

Do you love birds and bird watching? If so, come count birds for science! We are participating again with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Project FeederWatch. We ask volunteers to do four 2-hour shifts on select weekends during the program. All birding abilities welcome!

ART ON VIEW

“FRAGMENTS” BY PAULA ZINSMEISTER

Artist Paula Zinsmeister uses a variety of printmaking and mixed media techniques to portray the beauty of natural plants and grasses. In some instances, paper was made by hand or dyed using plants. Paula’s printmaking methods include monotype, paper lithography, dry point, and intaglio. The work is intuitive, meaning each added element responds to the previous layer. Paula’s work is a journey. Her hope is that the viewer experiences the mystery, beauty and tranquility of nature.



“Fragments” opens on Thursday, September 5 with an Artist’s Reception from 5:30 to 7:30PM, which is free and open to the public. The exhibit continues through January 6, 2020.



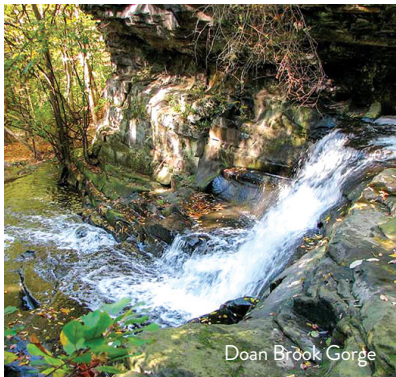
Annual Family Campfire Night



Hike, Run & Fun



Bat Box Workshop



Doan Brook Gorge



RESTORING NATIVE HABITATS



Nick Mikash, *Natural Resources Specialist*

The new All People’s Trail boardwalk won’t be the only exciting change you’ll see around here! We are working hard to introduce more native plants than ever before. We not only want to repair impacts from recent construction, but to restore areas that have been dominated by non-native invasive plant species for decades.



Our plan is to plant hundreds of new native trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers. Where non-native crack willow once stood, native black willow, American elm, and swamp white oak will flourish. The invasive Japanese bush honeysuckle and European privet that dominate the shrub zone near the eastern part of the All People’s Trail will soon be replaced by gorgeous native buttonbush, dogwood and elderberry. Marsh wildflowers and grasses will be reseeded and supplemented with new plants. Familiar favorites like marsh rose mallow and cup plant will be planted alongside native sedges and wildflowers.

Restoring native plants will provide higher quality habitat space and food resources for our local wildlife, including migratory songbirds. The restoration of our 20-acres will be an ongoing process and we hope you look forward to seeing it “grow” over the coming years.

SAVE THE DATE! ALL PEOPLE’S TRAIL GRAND OPENING  
Saturday, November 9, 2019  
Member Preview | 10AM–12PM  
Public Opening | 12–5PM

Make plans to join us for the All People’s Trail Grand Opening! Be among the first to set foot on the new All People’s Trail while we celebrate the future of your outdoor classroom!

INTRODUCING THE LEGACY PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY

Patty Albrecht,  
*Membership & Annual Fund Manager*

We are excited to announce the Legacy Pathway on the new All People’s Trail. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate occasions that matter, or to honor and remember those people who make a difference. By purchasing a legacy leaf or boardwalk nameplate, you will play an integral role in the Nature Center’s campaign to Enhance Your Outdoor Classroom.



To learn more about how you can leave your mark and show the community what the All People’s Trail means to you, please visit [shakerlakes.org/legacypathway](https://shakerlakes.org/legacypathway).



The Nature Center is partnering with Wild Birds Unlimited to offer high quality bird seed for your backyard feeders. Order ANYTHING in the Wild Birds Unlimited store during the month of **OCTOBER** and **mention the Nature Center** when placing your order. We will receive a percentage of each sale to support environmental education and programming. **Purchases include FREE DELIVERY!**

What types of feed attracts various birds? Visit our website during October to learn more about feeding wild birds this fall and winter.

Call 440.449.3324 or visit Wild Birds Unlimited at 5736 Mayfield Road, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124.  
[wbu.com](https://wbu.com)

AVOID THE MESS!

Did you know that traditional bird seed has up to 40% shell waste? The Nature Center recently switched from traditional seed to the No-Mess Blend from Wild Birds Unlimited. It is 100% consumed and attracts a wide array of birds without the mess of seed hulls. Inquire about the best options for your backyard birds at Wild Birds Unlimited.

For reference, here’s a list of popular orders from last year:

20 LB DELUXE BLEND	\$29.99
40 LB DELUXE BLEND	\$55.99
20 LB SUPREME BLEND	\$29.99
40 LB SUPREME BLEND	\$55.99
20 LB BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	\$24.99
40 LB BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER	\$46.99
20 LB NO-MESS BLEND	\$39.99
20 LB THISTLE/NYGER	\$39.99
20 LB SAFFLOWER	\$32.99
20 LB RAW PEANUTS NO SHELL	\$39.99
NATURALLY NUTS SUET CAKE	\$3.49

If you prefer to order via order form, please visit [shakerlakes.org](https://shakerlakes.org) or stop in.

JUNIOR NATURALIST

THAT’S A WRAP: SUMMER CAMP 2019!

Lauren Schmidt, *Camps & School Program Coordinator*

Summer camp 2019 was filled with hikes, splashing through the Doan Brook, bug hunting, bird watching, and getting messy! I want to thank our camp families for your help and understanding with drop-off as our All People’s Trail was under construction, but it worked out beautifully. If you are already planning for summer 2020, please mark your calendars as we will once again open registration to members on November 1, and to non-members on January 1. See you next summer!

Members receive priority sign-up for next year’s adventures. Become a member and enjoy the benefits of early registration, opening November 1, plus a \$30 discount per camp session.



BATS: NATURE’S PEST CONTROL



Lauren Schmidt, *Camps & School Program Coordinator*

Though there are many stereotypes surrounding bats in Ohio, they are an important part of many ecosystems. In more tropical parts of the world, bats are pollinators, eating fruit and dispersing seeds as they go. In Ohio, our native bats are insectivores, meaning they eat only insects. Native Ohio bat species such as the little brown bat, big brown bat, hoary bat, evening bat, eastern small-footed bat, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, tri-colored bat and silver-haired bat help to keep insects at bay by eating termites, mosquitoes and stink bugs, among other insects.

**Fun fact: a colony of 25 big brown bats can eat up to 1 pound of insects in a single night!**

LET US HOST YOUR B’EARTHDAY PARTY!

The Nature Center was recently named the Best Birthday Party location in Cleveland Magazine’s Best of the East 2019. Our unique birthday party experiences include an hour-long program or hike led by a naturalist. From butterflies to dinosaurs, we offer themes that suit your child’s interests and accommodate the appropriate age range of the party.

The Nature Center has a variety of indoor and outdoor rental spaces for ALL occasions! We accommodate events such as graduations, showers, business meetings, parties, and reunions. Visit [shakerlakes.org/rent](https://shakerlakes.org/rent) to inquire about your next event.



CREATURE FEATURE:



CAN YOU GUESS?

- I am the largest turtle in Ohio.
- Keep an eye out in our parking lot and trails because my babies hatch from their eggs in the fall.
- I play an important role in the food chain by eating up dead animals, insects, birds, and small mammals to keep nature in balance.
- I am not the fastest animal, but I can catch fish by opening my mouth to make a “worm” with my tongue that attracts them to me.

BAT COLORING PAGE

NATURALIST ACTIVITY

10% OFF!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR FALL NATURALIST ACTIVITY! BRING YOUR COMPLETED ACTIVITY TO THE NATURE CENTER DUCK POND GIFT SHOP FOR 10% OFF ANY PURCHASE.

VISIT [shakerlakes.org/juniornaturalist](https://shakerlakes.org/juniornaturalist)



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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

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SHAKER LAKES

# HIKE, RUN & FUN

SUNDAY 9.15.19

5K • 10K • GUIDED HIKES • FREE FAMILY FUN FROM 9AM-1PM

BEER GARDEN • FOOD TRUCKS • ARCHERY • CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING • DJ • KIDS YOGA  
LIVE MUSIC BY LOST BOB AND THE OZONE RAMBLERS

9AM | 5K & 10K RACES Chip-timed courses through the picturesque Shaker Parklands

NEW 1-MILE FUN RUN

8:45AM | HIKES DEPART

5-MILE HIKE Shaker Lakes Dam Restoration Hike with NEORS (with optional 4-mile add-on)

7-MILE HIKE Doan Brook Gorge Hike (strenuous)

1-MILE HIKE Pet-friendly, family hike along Nature Center trails

FUN! Adult and family-friendly activities open to the public following the races

Visit SHAKERLAKES.ORG/HRF for more information including a race map, parking suggestions and registration.

REGISTER BY  
**9.13**  
FOR  
DISCOUNT



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!\*



A special thanks to our partners including:  
Cleveland Hiking Club, Boss Dog Brewing Company, The Rolling Beans Expresso, La Fiesta Food Truck, Yoga Roots, CWRU Cross Country, HMA Promotions, Shaker Heights Art Club

\*As of 8.12.19