



SUMMER 2019

Corina Newsome at the Nashville Zoo with a Barn owl

THE IMPACT OF OUR URBAN SANCTUARY

Corina Newsome



We see many people come and go, but we do not always know the true impact our Nature Center has on visitors. Corina Newsome is a biology graduate student at Georgia Southern University who found her calling by seeking refuge in our Shaker Parklands.

Her story inspired us:

It was in college at Malone University in Canton, Ohio, where I first fell in love with ornithology, the study of birds. By graduation, the discomforts I had weathered as the only person of color, together with the shiny new Wildlife Biology degree, had prepared me for every possible scenario awaiting me. I moved to Shaker Heights to take on two new jobs; one as a zookeeper, and another as a veterinary assistant.

Something felt wrong. For many reasons, I felt as if I was losing confidence and control. One day, my roommate mentioned that she had just visited the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and that I would absolutely love it. I went the very next day.

I still remember the feeling when I first walked into the Nature Center; the thought makes my eyes well with tears to this day. I had finally found my refuge! Every weekend, I explored, watched birds, practiced stillness, and allowed myself to be absorbed into the wilderness. The Nature Center became my sanctuary. Soon thereafter, I was met with a decision. Would I continue on my current path, or switch careers to become a biologist? Almost instinctually, I ran to the Nature Center, found my favorite bench, and sat in silence. With more clarity than I had ever felt in my life, I whispered "I have to be out here."

Now, four years later, that moment is still my True North. I am now a biology graduate student at Georgia Southern University. The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes was the single most calming force in the most paralyzing season of my life. I found the hope, direction, and refuge that once seemed impossible. I have new refuges now, but Shaker Lakes will always be the one for which I am most deeply and eternally grateful.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I look forward to sharing another exciting summer with you—our visitors and supporters—as we switch gears (and seasonal clothing) for warmer weather and outdoor fun! After a successful spring season of school programs and our week-long Spring Break Camp, we can’t wait to see what exciting adventures await our Summer Outdoor Adventure Campers! I remain inspired by the hope that the memories made throughout our 20-acres this summer will last these children a lifetime, as they have for me. Perhaps one will find their calling here, as Corina was able to.

You may have noticed some construction around the Nature Center this spring and summer. Although the former All People’s Trail has been removed, a new, more inclusive, ADA compliant trail is currently being constructed in its footprint. The new All People’s Trail will have many enhanced features such as additional seating areas, larger habitat viewing areas and a wider deck, improving opportunities for observation, education, and traffic flow for students and visitors. Need a quiet place to relax? The newly designed gazebo might just become your favorite spot to reflect! The All People’s Trail is the second project of a multi-year, multi-phased plan to enhance our outdoor spaces and restore native habitats—there is much more yet to come!

Our Board of Trustees has resoundingly supported our comprehensive vision to restore and enhance our outdoor classroom, and we have begun to take this vision to a broader audience as we seek philanthropic support for the future of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. More information about the vision and goals of **Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes** will be conveyed in the coming months and I look forward to continuing to update you on its progress. For now, let me simply say that the Nature Center is fortunate to have many members, friends, supporters and donors who believe genuinely in our mission and have shown extraordinary generosity, which we are grateful.

During this time, your continued support of our Annual Fund is vital, and I want to personally thank the over 500 guests who attended Flyways not Highways on June 1, as well as over 700 who attended the 37th Annual Plant Sale, helping to raise the critical funds that support the Nature Center’s mission. It is moving to witness our community coming together to support a cause that impacts humans and the natural world that we steward.

Stay tuned for information this fall as we prepare to open the new All People’s Trail with a ribbon cutting ceremony, to which all will be invited! Thank you for being with us during this exciting time in the evolution of the Nature Center.

See you on the trails!

Kay Carlson

Kay Carlson,
President & CEO



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WILDLIFE FEATURE: WILDLIFE CANDID CAMERA

Nick Mikash, *Natural Resources Specialist*

Raccoon, White-Tailed Deer, and Virginia Opposum can be seen by just about anyone in the Shaker Parklands, but what other mammal species reside here?

We can find out with a hidden camera, of course!

Camera trapping is a technique that uses small, motion triggered digital cameras to collect photos of wildlife. Also known as trail cameras, these devices let us capture otherwise unseen moments around our Nature Center habitats. An ultraviolet flash even lets us get a glimpse into the lives of nocturnal animals.

These camera traps were installed in November 2018. Through winter and spring, we collected hundreds of images and stewardship volunteers and staff sorted through these images to find squirrels, deer, and raccoon making numerous appearances! We will continue using camera traps in the future to gauge animal activity and to see if we can spot more elusive mammals like fox, coyote, or mink. Studying the diversity of mammals in this area gives us better insight into the health and populations of native wildlife.



White-tailed deer caught on our camera traps during daytime (top) and nighttime (bottom).

SECRETS OF THE SOIL

Ashley Hall, *Marketing Coordinator*

While hiking our Stearns Trail, have you noticed that we leave dead trees lie? Rotting wood is an incredibly important resource, as well as an important component of soil.

But how exactly is soil formed?

Quietly living under rotting logs and leaves are some of the most charismatic macroinvertebrates you’ll ever meet! Millipedes, centipedes, earthworms, and isopods are a common sight. Isopods, also known as ‘potato bugs’, ‘sow-bugs’, or ‘pill-bugs’, are not bugs at all! Isopods are land-adapted crustaceans that are more closely related to crayfish, lobster, and crabs than insects. They breathe through gills that have to stay moist, which is why you will always find isopods in damp places. These detritivores play a hugely important role in the ecosystem, consuming decaying wood, leaves, and animal scat, and returning nutrients to the soil.

According to The Ohio State University, there are more microbes in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on the Earth. Soils contain about 8 to 15 tons of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, earthworms, and arthropods, all which share in a very dirty job—turning rotting matter into healthy soil.

When hiking Stearns Trail, take a closer look into the soil and who knows—you just might discover a new love for the secret world of soil!



Red-backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*), isopods, and millipedes are a common sight under leaf litter on Stearns Trail.

SUMMER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

• BIRDING HIKES •

SUMMER BIRD WALKS AT THE NATURE CENTER

Second Wednesday of the month from 6:30–8:30PM | June 12 | July 10 | August 14

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Binoculars available for use with ID. **Free.**

• FAMILY PROGRAMS •

BAT NIGHT AT LAKE VIEW CEMETERY

Friday, August 9 | 7:30PM

A naturalist from the Cleveland Metroparks will discuss different species of bats that make Northeast Ohio their home. In collaboration with the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Cleveland Metroparks, and Lake View Cemetery. Reservations required and can be made at lakeviewcemetery.com or 216.421.2687. **\$15 per adult, \$7.50 per child, children 3 and under are free.**

DOAN BROOK ANNUAL FAMILY FISHING DAY

Rockefeller Lagoon | Saturday, July 13 | 9AM–2PM

Hosted by our friends at the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, families can enjoy a day of free fishing and outdoor activities at University Circle’s historic Rockefeller Park Lagoon. Learn how to cast, tie knots, and fish. Identify native Ohio fish and gain a better understanding of the importance of clean water. Fishing equipment for children is available with advance registration, or bring your own. Register online at doanbrookpartnership.org or call 216.325.7781. **Free.**

TAKE TO THE LAKE

Lower Shaker Lake | Saturday, August 24 | 10AM–5PM (Date subject to change)

Doan Brook Watershed Partnership hosts an afternoon of paddling classes, geocaching, yoga, story-telling, and music around picturesque Lower Shaker Lake. Area residents may bring their own kayak or canoe. Registration is required for all participants, whether bringing personal boats or signing up for a kayaking class. In collaboration with the Cleveland Metroparks, Breakaway Excursions, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Beginning in July, register online at doanbrookpartnership.org or call 216.325.7781.

• ADULT PROGRAMS •

COMMON GROUND CONVERSATION:

MY ENVIRONMENT WAS, MY ENVIRONMENT IS, AND MY ENVIRONMENT WILL BE

Sunday, June 30 | 10AM–12PM

Join Nature Center at Shaker Lakes’ President & CEO, Kay Carlson for a light brunch and round-table discussion that deeply connects to our mission to conserve a natural area, connect people to nature and inspire environmental stewardship. The Nature Center is proud to be a host site for this year’s Common Ground Conversation where we will be discussing the state of our environment within the context of our communities and how the Nature Center has, is, and could continue to foster the best environment possible. #FredWalksCLE starts the conversation this spring by highlighting the valuable resources we share, the ambitious projects that aim to improve and protect them, and the individuals doing the work that makes Greater Cleveland an amazing place to call home. This event is supported by the Cleveland Foundation as part of Common Ground and #FredWalksCLE and invites community members to unite, share a meal, and connect over topics that explore our environments in Northeast Ohio. **Free.**

• SAVE THE DATE •

SHAKER LAKES HIKE, RUN & FUN

Sunday, September 15, 2019 | Races & activities begin at 8:30AM

HIKE, RUN & FUN

• NATURE STORY TIME •

Children ages 3 ½ to 7 years with an adult enjoy stories, crafts, and a hike related to the theme of the day. Space is limited, so please pre-register. **\$5 per member child and \$10 per non-member child.**



BEAUTIFUL BATS

Monday, June 24 | 10–11AM

There are many myths surrounding bats. Learn about where they live, what they eat, and when to see them in Ohio.



OWLS THAT PROWL

Monday, July 22 | 10–11AM

Join us to discover whoooo these beautiful birds are that are up all night and sleep during the day.



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

Monday, August 5 | 10–11AM

Discover animals and plants that live in and around the Doan Brook. Bring a change of clothes and waterproof shoes!



Nature Story Time



Bat Night



Family Fishing Day

VOLUNTEER NEWS

The volunteer program would like to thank the following groups for their continuing support of the Nature Center and all of our programs. Volunteers assisted with education, land management, and special event projects. Thanks to all of you for your time!

Business Volunteers Unlimited, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Key Bank Neighbors–Make a Difference Day, Ruffing Montessori, Jewish Family Services, Positive Education Program–Greenview School, Gross Schechter Day School, Shadowing Case by Case at Case Western Reserve University, Shaker Heights Environmental Club, Project FeederWatch Volunteers, Boy Scouts of America, Shaker Lakes Garden Club, CWRU Saturday of Service Students, and OSU Extension Cuyahoga County, Master Gardeners.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are available for interested youth through our Outdoor Adventure Camps and Youth Stewardship Assistant programs. Interested youth volunteers should fill out an online application at shakerlakes.org/volunteer-application and provide two non-family references.

VOLUNTEERING SPOTLIGHT: STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS!

Spend two hours on a Saturday once a month being stewards of the Nature Center grounds! Benefits include: fresh air, physical exercise, community investment, working in nature, making new friends, and learning along the way. We provide gloves, tools and marsh boots (if needed). Groups, families with children 8 years and up, and teens entering high school welcome. No gardening or land management experience necessary. Please plan on dressing for the weather and wearing long pants and closed-toed shoes.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER CAMP TRAVELER

Adults 25 and over will join us on off-site field trips, assisting staff as they guide children to facilitate learning, adventure and safety in the outdoors. All trips will begin at the Nature Center and travel by van to the location. Find a full position description online at: shakerlakes.org/volunteer.

NATURE STORY TIME

- Beautiful Bats | June 24 | 10–11AM
- Owls that Prowl | July 22 | 10–11AM
- Water, Water, Everywhere | August 5 | 10–11AM

FAMILY FISHING DAY

July 13 | Rockefeller Park | 9AM–2PM

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

June 29 and July 27 | 10AM–12PM

TAKE TO THE LAKE

August 24 | Lower Lake

More information at shakerlakes.org/volunteer or to sign up for any of these opportunities, please email volunteer@shakerlakes.org.

ART ON VIEW

Art on View, our in-house art gallery exhibition space, provides an additional experience that introduces Nature Center visitors to a variety of artistic mediums and styles. Local artists display art that reflects our mission, brightens our walls, and provides an additional revenue stream to support educational, mission-based programs for all to enjoy. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Kim Bihler at bihler@shakerlakes.org 216.321.5935 x 241.



See current artist Julie Cook’s works on display through August 4, 2019.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT: COMPOSTING



Patty Albrecht,
Membership and Annual Fund Manager

We are excited to announce a new composting program here at the Nature Center in partnership with Rust Belt Riders! By signing up for the community supported composting program (C.S.C.) through Rust Belt Riders, participants can drop off household food scraps at the Nature Center for monthly fee of \$5. Rust Belt Riders then pick up all food waste, sourcing out to a network of partners who process the material into a nutrient-dense, high-quality soil. To ensure food waste is turned into a usable product, please note that composting will only be available to subscribers of the composting program.

Were you aware that over 40% of all food in the United States ends up in landfills? Help reduce your carbon footprint! To learn more and to subscribe to Rust Belt Riders C.S.C. program visit rustbeltriders.com. NCSL members receive a 25% discount on the program. Please contact Patty Albrecht, Membership and Annual Fund Manager, at albrecht@shakerlakes.org for your exclusive member discount code.

37TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

This year’s plant sale was our largest yet! More than 700 visitors attended sale day in addition to 210 pre-orders from our catalog sale. These sales netted over \$25,000 to benefit the Nature Center. Our Plant Sale provides our neighbors with invaluable gardening education and ensures their gardens are growing beautifully with more natives this summer!



Many thanks to committee chairs Mary Finley and Susan Strauss; the Plant Sale planning committee; and the 50+ volunteers that helped with the catalog order assembly and day-of sales; catalog advertisers; Stone Oven Bakery and Café; and Dewey’s Pizza.

FLYWAYS NOT HIGHWAYS ANNUAL BENEFIT

Despite ominous skies, this year’s annual benefit welcomed more than 530 guests for a fun evening full of culinary favorites, crafted cocktails, dancing and good conversation with friends. More than \$100,000 in critical funds were netted to support the Nature Center’s conservation and environmental education programs for 14,000 children each year.

A special thank you to our benefit co-chairs Kate Nagel, Meredyth Ralph, Carrie Shelfer, and Ingrid Tolentin (below, right); our culinary partners—Doug Katz of fire food and drink (below, left), Luna Bakery and Marigold Catering for their delicious creations; Gigi’s on Fairmount, the Wine Spot and Boss Dog Brewing Company for keeping our spirits flowing. We also thank our numerous sponsors for their generous support. Photos of the event can be viewed online at flickr.com/photos/naturecenter/.



MEET THE STAFF:

ASHLEY HALL,
MARKETING COORDINATOR
AND EDUCATOR



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE NATURE CENTER?

Since February 2019.

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I received my college degrees in Anthropology (Zooarchaeology) and Animal Behavior at Indiana University Bloomington. I have a decade of experience as an informal educator, naturalist, and paleontologist (Yes, I’ve excavated and published on dinosaurs!).

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Sharing how amazing this Nature Center is! Communicating our work on habitat restoration and wildlife conservation through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram is extremely rewarding. Follow us on social media if you aren’t already —I’m the one behind the posts!

WHAT SHOULD EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE CENTER?

Our staff are some of the most talented and dedicated people you’ll ever meet. Come in with questions. Attend programs. Go birding on our trails. This Nature Center is a gem!



ENHANCING YOUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

CAMPAIGN *for*
THE NATURE CENTER
at SHAKER LAKES



ALL PEOPLE'S TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Julia Mitchell, *Grants Manager*

On a chilly spring morning in late April, we gathered with friends and supporters to celebrate new beginnings; we officially broke ground on the new All People's Trail—the iconic elevated boardwalk that serves as the centerpiece of our environmental education programs. Since 1983, the All People's Trail has connected our community with nature, giving visitors a bird's-eye view of Doan Brook, allowing them to walk through the forest canopy, and immersing them in a marsh full of blooming rose mallow and migrating birds.

Given the deterioration of the wooden boardwalk over its 36 year life, it was time to reimagine and reconstruct the trail. The new boardwalk will follow the same approximate route as the original, but will include new features such as a larger hub and marsh landing, a woodland-themed gazebo, interpretive signage and more welcoming entrances. In keeping with the original vision for the All People's Trail, it will be fully accessible to people of all ages and abilities, so everyone—from babies in strollers to their great grandparents—will be able to access nature.

Deconstruction of the trail will also give us full access to the Doan Brook floodplain for the first time in 36 years, allowing us to completely restore habitat that has been taken over by invasive trees and shrubs. The new, enhanced All People's Trail will be open to the public in late fall 2019. In the meantime, please visit shakerlakes.org to see our progress and plans for the All People's Trail—as well as the exciting vision for the rest of our outdoor classroom!



Pictured at top: President and CEO Kay Carlson, Campaign Co-Chairs David Lavelle and Cindy Klug and Board Chair Jim Dixon break ground and "pull planks" at the All People's Trail groundbreaking ceremony on April 30, 2019. Center: Proposed All People's Trail hub. Bottom: Proposed main entrance to the new All People's Trail.



Tree removal at Lower Shaker Lake

NEARBY NEWS!

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN THE SURROUNDING SHAKER PARKLANDS

Jeff Jowett, *Watershed Team Leader, NE Ohio Regional Sewer District*

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, through the Regional Stormwater Management Program, is working to improve the dams at Lower Shaker Lake, which are currently out of compliance with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The project will help the cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, the owners of the dam, address some of the deficiencies identified by ODNR.

During the first phase, trees were removed from Lower Lake near Brook Road before April 1 to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act that protects endangered bat habitat. After April 1, bats begin to roost in dead trees across northern Ohio. Per ODNR, "Trees and brush should not be permitted in embankment surfaces or in vegetated earth spillways. Extensive root systems can provide seepage paths for water. Trees that blow down or fall over can leave large holes in the embankment surface that will weaken the embankment."

In June, the second part of the project will begin. To protect the dam face from erosion, large stones will be placed below the normal high-water mark with more aesthetically pleasing river stones placed above the normal high-water mark. The lake will be temporarily drained to allow for both this work and a thorough inspection of the dam spillway (the foot bridge that links both sides of Brook Road). The spillway not only allows Doan Brook to continue its flow to Lake Erie, but also allows for the lake to safely release water downstream during large storms.

It is important to note that both Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights have installed snow fencing to keep people away from the exposed mud flats that will appear as the lake water lowers. These exposed mud flats can be dangerous as people can get stuck in the mud requiring emergency services to perform rescues.

Included in this project is the improvement of the Green Lake dam located in Shaker Heights off Lee Road and Parkland Drive. The dam on Green Lake is at the far western end of the lake and comprises Andover Road. Additional work will be conducted this summer on the Green Lake spillway to increase the spillway's capacity during large storms without over-topping the dam. The lake will be temporarily drained during this work as well. Upon completion of the spillway modifications, Andover Road will be transformed into a pedestrian walkway with a foot bridge, similar to the foot bridge at Lower Shaker Lake.

All work is anticipated to be completed by winter 2019 with site restoration occurring in the spring of 2020. Similar deficiencies at Upper Shaker Lake (Horseshoe Lake) will be addressed by the Sewer District later this year. Any questions can be directed to Jeff Jowett at jowettj@neorsd.org.



JUNIOR NATURALIST

STEPPING ONTO STEARNS TRAIL

Lisa Golba, *Early Childhood Environmental Educator*

Stop by this summer to see what you can find on Stearns Trail! Discovery can start at the Nature Center’s Rusty Knight Woodland Garden, the Lavelle Family Amphitheater, or from the left side of the parking lot.

Take a moment to look and listen for signs of life from the forest floor to the tops of the highest trees.

Close your eyes and count how many different sounds you hear.

How many amazing things can you find on the trail?

MINK

Mink can be found near streams, rivers, marshes and lakes. Mink are a distant relative to the skunk and produce a fluid that smells like skunk musk!



MINK

EASTERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDERS

Eastern red-backed salamanders live on land in moist habitats and breathe through their skin instead of lungs. If attacked, they can drop their tail like a lizard in order to escape.



EASTERN RED-BACKED SALAMANDER

CHICKEN OF THE WOODS MUSHROOMS

Chicken of the woods mushrooms can be easily spotted by its impressive size and vibrant yellow-orange colors. Look for this fungus growing on dead or mature trees such as oak or beech.



CHICKEN OF THE WOODS MUSHROOMS

WHITE TURTLEHEAD

White turtlehead gets its name from the Greek word ‘chelone’ meaning tortoise because of the shape of its flowers, which look like the head of a turtle! This beautiful native plant can be found along stream banks in moist soil.



WHITE TURTLEHEAD

NATURALIST ACTIVITY

10% OFF!

RUN...DON'T WALK OVER TO OUR WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR SUMMER NATURALIST ACTIVITY!

VISIT shakerlakes.org/junior-naturalist-web-activities/ AND BRING YOUR COMPLETED ACTIVITY TO THE NATURE CENTER DUCK POND GIFT SHOP FOR 10% OFF.

WORD SEARCH

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS BELOW

R W C A M P F I R E H I H
E A G L E H Y E W P S N E
O T N S A C B I R D I S L
Q E M G N M A E U Y F E P
D R I B E A L R A E R C R
O E R M U R K D E R F T E
C P E A D C D E I F V S V
H R L R B P K U E R U G A
I T W A K B Q E C C T L E
P L O C E S I C T K U Y B
M O I C B U T T E R F L Y
U S H O V E L T M O O S E
N Q W O N P L F W O L F C
K V X N D P R E V E N T Z

KEY

MOOSE
BEAR
RANGER
DEER
OWL
BUCKET
BIRD
SNAKE
BUTTERFLY
EAGLE
SHOVEL
BEAVER
DUCK
RACCOON
WATER
CHIPMUNK
PREVENT
RABBIT
FISH
CAREFUL
INSECTS
CAMPFIRE
WOLF
LION
DIRT
SQUIRREL
REMEMBER
HELP

CREATURE FEATURE:



CAN YOU GUESS?

Can you guess this month’s featured creature using the clues below?

This creature is:

- Super slow-moving
- Feeds on dead leaves and wood
- Found under logs, leaves, and rocks
- Leggy! It can have anywhere from 40 to 400 pairs of legs
- More active at night, or nocturnal



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#SHAKERLAKES

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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

216.321.5935 • naturecenter@shakerlakes.org

SHAKER LAKES

HIKE, RUN & FUN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

7AM REGISTRATION | 8:45AM GUIDED HIKES DEPART | 9AM 5K & 10K DEPART

5K • 10K • GUIDED NATURE HIKES • FAMILY FUN • BEER GARDEN
ADULT AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOLLOWING THE RACES!

More information at shakerlakes.org/hrf

