



Photo credit: Dave Brown Images

## WHY DOES REPRESENTATION IN NATURE MATTER?

Tania Younkin, *Director of Marketing*

In ecology, diverse biological communities are the most resilient in the face of environmental change and adversity. At the Nature Center, we believe the same to be true of our human community. As our organization and entire country adapt to the rapid changes and adversity we have faced throughout 2020, our role in providing an equitable and accessible destination to ALL will only serve to strengthen our organization and ensure our sustainability into the future.

To strengthen our biological community, we actively work to learn, preserve, and enhance our habitats and green spaces. Likewise, the same level of nurturing is required to serve, sustain, and grow our human community. The Nature Center is taking many steps to ensure that each visitor and program attendee is heard and understood, including their varied experiences, interests, or any imposed barriers that may prevent them from enjoying and caring for the natural world.

Kim Smith Woodford, Nature Center partner and founder of Journey on Yonder, a nature, equity, engagement and wellness consultant based in Cleveland, has found that barriers to enjoying our natural world are especially prevalent for people of color. “There is a long-standing narrative that Blacks don’t belong in greenspace and have even been challenged by Whites to justify why they are in that space. It inhibits the opportunity to freely celebrate and work in these spaces authentically. The lack of representation at many parks and nature centers as well as a lack of stories shared about people of color is a problem,” Smith Woodford said.

In our journey to address these issues and meet people where they are, we recognize that much needs to be done and we must be proactive. “While it is important for Black and Brown people to be able to create space in nature, it is as equally important for outdoors and nature agencies to know that diversity and inclusion cannot rest there. Much dismantling is needed in this space, which includes recognizing unconscious bias and including trauma informed training and programming,” Smith Woodford added.

As an organization that is free and open to the public, we fully embrace our role in providing equitable access to nature. Through school programs with local districts, including the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, we can reach children at a young age and show them that nature is theirs to cherish and enjoy. Social media has also provided a new way for people and groups to connect and celebrate nature in many forms. Through conscious programming and lectures, we can explore barriers within our community, dismantle assumptions, and open conversations that will ultimately help us better serve our diverse and vibrant region.

Each experience in nature, whether the first or one of many, has the power to inspire us to look at our world through a new lens of opportunity and understanding. We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming programs in a new fall adult speaker series, **Exploring Equity in Environmentalism**, to further explore this topic.

## RESILIENCE: HONORING OUR VIBRANT HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES

### IN THIS ISSUE:

THE IMPORTANCE  
OF REPRESENTATION  
IN NATURE

HOW DO TREES TALK?  
LEARN ABOUT THE  
“WOOD WIDE WEB”

FASCINATING FLOWERS:  
THE PARASITIC  
GHOST PIPE

THE MOST DIVERSE  
ANIMALS ON EARTH:  
BEETLES!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we soak in the lingering rays of the summer sun and transition into autumn, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes remains committed to sustaining our mission as we continue to preserve our habitats, improve our trails, and welcome ALL visitors to our green space during these uncertain times. With your continued support, we are becoming a stronger, more resilient organization every day.

We attribute our resilience to all our supporters, including staff and volunteers. It is our diverse and vibrant community that makes the Nature Center and our 20 acres a unique experience for everyone. Over the past two years, we have been on a journey to become a more equitable and diverse organization. Most recently, through a continued focus on our core values of being Welcoming to All and Respecting People and Nature, we have crafted our statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to guide us as we commit to becoming a more diverse, resilient and vibrant organization. You will see this reflected in our future programs and community partnerships. If you have not read our statement, I urge you to visit our website at [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) and take a look.

This summer, we managed to transition many of our in-person programs and events to virtual options, including our popular 9-week Summer Outdoor Adventure Camps. We enjoyed seeing so many smiling faces and photos on Zoom as our educators were able to engage children in summer hands-on learning and exploration outdoors. As we plan for fall and embrace the “new normal” of living through a global pandemic, we are working diligently to continue to offer both real and virtual content, learning and outdoor engagement opportunities. We hope you will join us as your interest, schedule, and comfort level permits. With so many uncertainties around school programming, your participation in and support of our public programs and events means more to us now than ever.

While our building remains closed at this time, we have drafted a re-opening plan that closely aligns with the State of Ohio’s color-coded coronavirus alert system. Stay tuned for more information as we share this more widely. We remain flexible and will continue to offer in-person, small group size, outdoor programming where we can ensure the safety of our staff and participants until it is safe to open our building again. This includes the upcoming Hike, Run & Fun on September 12 and 13, which we have modified to span the entire weekend to include staggered start times which ensure physical distancing and allow real, safe outdoor enjoyment for all.

Through all the rapid changes and challenges, we remain committed to the enhancement and reconstruction of the Stearns Trail to enlarge gathering spaces and improve trail features for visitors, classes and programs to observe, learn, and interact with our native habitats. With these new features in place, our renewed focus on habitat restoration continues to compliment all of the beautiful capital improvements that are coming to life throughout our property.

With the news of so many non-profits and museums closing their doors recently, I would like to say thank you to our dedicated and bright Board of Trustees for their guidance and commitment through the last several months as we navigated our way through uncharted territories. Together, with the support of our members, visitors, staff, volunteers and trustees, I am confident that we will emerge from this pandemic as a stronger, more resilient organization.

See you on the trails!



Kay Carlson, *President & CEO*



## STEARNS WOODLAND TRAIL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued patience as the Stearns Woodland Trail remains closed while reconstruction continues. Our trails have become a haven to so many during recent stay-at-home and social distancing mandates, and we are working quickly to ensure our visitors can enjoy both of our beautiful trails once again.

To date, the new wetland observation deck (i.e. South Marsh Deck, shown here) and the new Group Deck near the Nature Play Area have been completed. While still not open to the public, we are looking forward to the re-opening of the Stearns Woodland Trail to share these new features with you!

For more information on Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: The Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, please contact President & CEO Kay Carlson at (216) 321-5935 ext. 227 or [carlson@shakerlakes.org](mailto:carlson@shakerlakes.org).



**ENHANCING  
YOUR OUTDOOR  
CLASSROOM**

CAMPAIGN for  
THE NATURE CENTER  
at SHAKER LAKES

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

WITH KIM SMITH WOODFORD, JOURNEY ON YONDER



### WHAT IS JOURNEY ON YONDER?

Journey on Yonder is an organization with the goal of advancing the narrative of diversity in the outdoors.

We work to:

- Create programming in a safe space to inspire participants to deepen their relationship with nature.
- Foster a greater understanding of the benefits of nature that are tied to our health as it relates to Black and Brown people.
- Understand environmental justice.
- Inspire people to become better stewards of greenspace.



### What inspired you to begin Journey on Yonder?

I began Journey on Yonder after volunteering four years with Outdoor Afro (OA). I was inspired by the few hundred or so people in the Cleveland area, specifically African Americans, that attended the meet ups I created during my time with OA. That opportunity allowed me to engage with attendees at a meaningful level to our true love for nature while out on the trails of our national and local parks. That experience motivated me to start Journey on Yonder (i.e. JOY, an acronym which I want people to experience when they are in any of the varied forms of nature).

### What excites you about nature?

So many things! Hearing birds call one another. The thick moss covering a fallen tree reminds me of good shag carpeting. The fungus attached to the trees and the forest floor. Butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. In short—all of the season's flora and fauna excite me. I love taking pictures of it all.

### What's your favorite part about getting the Black community involved with nature?

Sharing stories of first experiences in nature, from the first bee sting to their first trip to a national or local park. I enjoy when people tell me that their experience with me in greenspace/nature has inspired them to look at their street and neighborhood differently, that they now take notice of the trees and other plant life and what it means for the environment. Comments like these swell my heart.

Visit Facebook @journeyonyonder for more information.

## BIRDING PROGRAMS

### BIRD WALKS

- **Sundays, October 4 and November 8**
- **8-10AM**
- **Nature Center at Shaker Lakes**

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Six feet of physical distancing between non-family participants and masks will be required. Due to COVID-19 concerns, binoculars not available. *Note: our building (and restrooms) remain closed to the public, so please plan accordingly.* **Registration required to keep group sizes limited: [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](https://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs). Suggested donation: \$5.**

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### VIRTUAL FAMILY CAMPFIRE NIGHT

- **Friday, October 16**
- **6-7:30PM**
- **Virtual program via Zoom**

Join us for an evening of songs, activities, stories, and more! An interactive experience is planned that will have your family singing and dancing along to both traditional campfire music (led by some of our friends and neighbors) and a campfire DJ dance party (a family friendly performance from Darth Mall of Post Modern Entertainment). There are activities to try throughout the evening and the evening will end with star stories to inspire your family to enjoy the night sky together.

Purchase the optional family supply kit add-on (\$20) to have your favorite pre-packaged snacks and activity supplies prepared for pick-up at the Nature Center the week before the program, or check out the supply list provided to registrants so you can choose what you'd like to do along with us on screen. **\$10 member, \$15 non-member.**

**Optional \$20 family supply kit add-on (order by Oct 16). Registration required: [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](https://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).**



Birding Programs



Family Campfire Night

## ADULT SPEAKER SERIES

new!

### EXPLORING EQUITY IN ENVIRONMENTALISM

#### SUPPORTING AND RESTORING NATURE IN URBAN SETTINGS

- Presented by **Jacqueline Gillon**
- **Tuesday, September 15**
- **7-8PM**
- **Virtual program via Zoom**



Sharing the reality and dispelling the myths and assumptions about the presence of nature in some of Cleveland's historically redlined and under resourced neighborhoods. The conversation will cover "cleaning and greening," community assets and challenges. Jacqueline Gillon is dedicated to the stewardship of the natural and built environment, with extensive experiences in the field. She is co-founder of Black Environmental Leaders, a new association of community leaders, entrepreneurs, representatives of national and local non-profit environmental groups and governmental organizations. **\$5 member, \$7.50 non-member. Registration required: [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](https://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).**

#### NATURE'S LESSONS

- Presented by **Nicole Jackson**
- **Wednesday, October 21**
- **7-8PM**
- **Virtual program via Zoom**



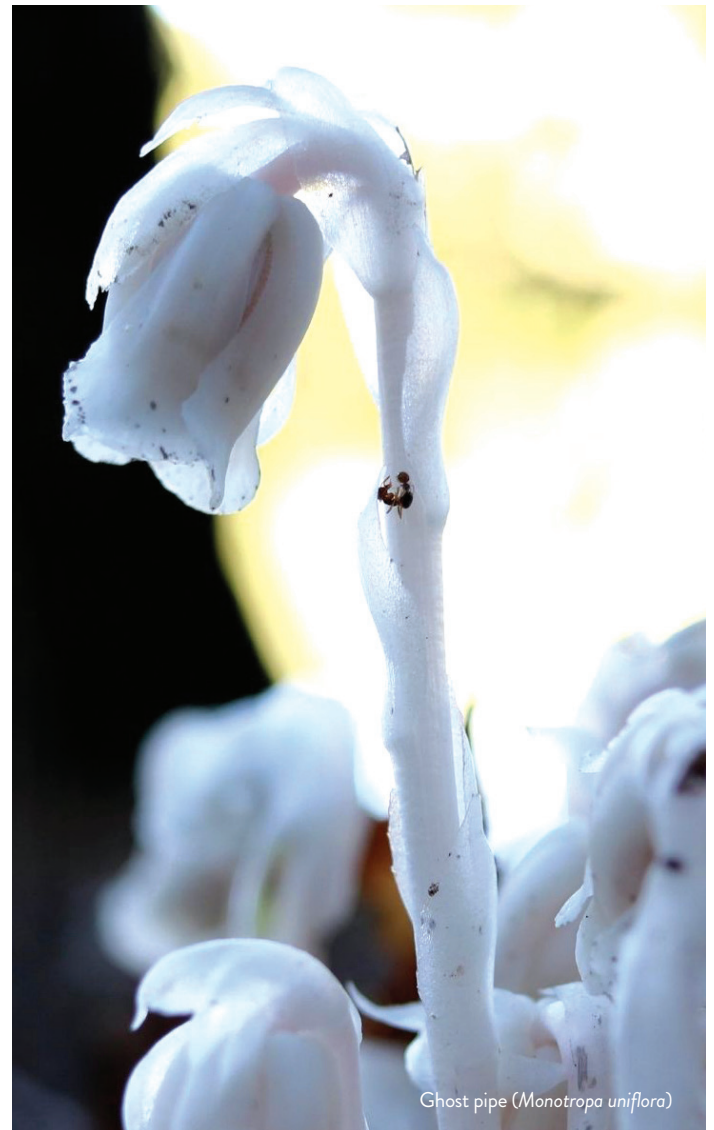
Join Nicole Jackson as she shares about her work blending equity, mental health, and relationship building into environmental education and outreach. Growing up with 10 other siblings in inner-city Cleveland, Ohio, Nicole Jackson loved learning and eventually became a first-generation college graduate earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Education from The Ohio State University. She began her college career wanting to become a veterinarian and realized she wanted to connect more people of color to nature after completing an avian technician internship. **\$5 member, \$7.50 non-member. Registration required: [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](https://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).**

**Free tickets to our speaker series programs are available to those in need. Email [prange@shakerlakes.org](mailto:prange@shakerlakes.org) for your unique coupon code.**

## GHOST PIPE: PARASITIC FLOWERS?

Ashley Hall, *Marketing Coordinator & Environmental Educator*

Ticks, fleas, tapeworms—we're all familiar with parasites, but what about plants? Believe it or not, it's strange, but true. Ghost pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) is a native parasitic flower—but don't worry, it doesn't feed on YOU! While hiking Stearns Trail, you may have walked right past this ghostly white and pink speckled flower. Growing in the shadows of tall beech trees, ghost pipe does not need sunlight to produce its own food and instead, gets its nutrition through the underground mycorrhizal network that connects fungi and trees together (See "The Woodwide Web: How Trees Talk on page 5). While ghost pipe is parasitic, it is a **mycoheterotroph**—it has a symbiotic relationship with the other organisms it feeds from. Look for ghost pipe from June through September throughout your local forests!



Ghost pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)

# NATURE CONNECTION

## “THE WOODWIDE WEB”: How Trees Talk

Ashley Hall,  
Marketing Coordinator & Environmental Educator

Have you seen mushrooms growing on logs in the forest? Fungi are important and necessary in our ecosystems; they decompose, or break down rotting organic matter like logs, fallen leaves, and even dead animals in forests, but there’s a secret world that many have never seen. Mushrooms are the “fruiting bodies” of fungi, just as an apple is to a tree. Beneath the surface of the mushroom lies a vast “wood wide web,” a term coined by German forester Peter Wohlleben. These networks of hair-like threads of fungi called mycelia can run for miles underground.

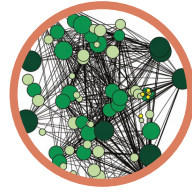


Diagram of fungal network:  
Beiler et al 2010.

What does this fungal network do? Think of it as nature’s internet. Canadian Scientist Suzanne Simard has been studying how trees communicate through this symbiotic network. Dr. Simard’s research has shown that large, old “Mother” or hub trees, are able to pump nutrients into their roots and through this system to help their “offspring” who cannot yet reach light to photosynthesize. Trees communicate through this underground network, sharing resources, information, and supporting related kin. How does each organism benefit from this relationship? Trees supply fungus with carbohydrate energy in return for water and nutrients that fungal mycelia gather from the soil.

While scientists have known for years that trees communicate with one another, we’re just beginning to scratch the surface of this interconnected “wood wide web.” Hopefully soon, we can start seeing the forest for more than just individual trees, but as an entire living, interconnected organism.

To learn more, pick up Peter Wohlleben’s book, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World*.

### fun fact:

While the largest animal to ever live is the blue whale, the largest living organism living is a fungus called *Armillaria ostoyae*, AKA the Humongous Fungus! It covers over 2,385 acres (4 square miles) in the Malheur National Forest in Oregon.



Photo: Illustration showing mycorrhizal network between trees and fungi. Source: UBC Botanical Garden. R: Hyphae as seen under an overturned log. Source: Wikipedia.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### COMMON GROUND CONVERSATION

- Count Me In: Equitable Access to Nature
- Tuesday, September 29
- 7–8:30PM

#### • Virtual program via Zoom

In partnership with the Cleveland Foundation, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes invites you to join your neighbors for an evening of conversation and action-planning. We will explore the topic of equitable access to nature. Bring your ideas, experiences and aspirations to share with the group as we discuss the barriers and opportunities that exist for each of us to be “counted” amongst the hikers, naturalists, scientists, adventurers, or decision makers who enjoy and impact the environment around us. Learn more at [clevelandfoundation.org/commonground](http://clevelandfoundation.org/commonground).

**Free. Registration required:**  
[shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](http://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).

### STRENGTHEN YOUR AURAS WITH PROFESSIONAL MEDITATION

- Presented by Release All Stress Meditation
- Saturday, October 3
- 3:30–4:30PM

#### • Virtual program via Zoom

Join SirWilliam Cofield, founder of Release All Stress Meditation, for an hour-long energy enhancing program live-streamed from the Nature Center. Negative thought weakens our own aura. Instead, you will learn techniques that bring about joy throughout the whole day. Meditation strengthens the immune system, is anti-aging, good for the heart, and provides a way to connect with nature when practiced outdoors. You will learn A+ Meditation Techniques (the “A” is for Aura) during this program.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

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

Business Volunteers Unlimited, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, Ruffing Montessori, Greenview School-PEP, Shaker Heights High School Youth Ending Hunger/Interact Volunteer Club, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, FeederWatch Volunteers, Shaker My Com/Y.O.U, 2020 Outdoor Adventure Camp Youth Assistants, and 2020 Youth Stewardship Assistants.

### THANK YOU

#### SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANTS

The Nature Center deeply appreciates all your hard work this summer. Whether removing invasive plants or helping in the marsh or on our trails and perimeter, you did a wonderful job. We could not have done it without you!

#### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP ASSISTANTS

The many kits you packed, supplies you sorted, and materials you organized, all with a smile and a willingness to do more was much needed and greatly appreciated. Your creativity and adaptability helped to make our virtual camps fun and engaging for our campers!

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### HIKE, RUN & FUN

September 12 & 13

Shaker Lakes Hike, Run & Fun benefits environmental education and promotes health and wellness while celebrating the Shaker Parklands. Volunteers are needed in several key roles for this fun, high-energy event.

#### STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

September 26, October 31

10AM–Noon

Join our natural resources team and other volunteers in land management and trail maintenance projects. No gardening or land management experience necessary.

#### PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Select weekends | November 14–April 9

We are looking for volunteers interested in counting birds for science at the Nature Center as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. All birding abilities welcome!

For these and other upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit [shakerlakes.org/volunteer](https://shakerlakes.org/volunteer).



Volunteers pulling invasive plant species at Stewardship Saturdays

## NATURE AT HOME PROGRAMS

### EXPLORE THE NATURE CENTER AT HOME

- Virtual Nature Walks
- [YouTube.com/Nature Center](https://www.youtube.com/NatureCenter) at Shaker Lakes
- Seasonal

Making nature accessible to all, join us for this video series of virtual seasonal hikes accessible from the comfort of your home! Watch our website, social media and e-mail updates for more information and release dates. Filmed by Long Division Creative. **Free. No registration required.**

new!

## SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME SERIES

Join the Nature Center once a quarter to learn strategies for a sustainable lifestyle to try at home.

### FIRST UP THIS FALL:

#### FOOD WASTE: THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WE CAN SOLVE

- Presented by Daniel Brown, Co-founder of Rust Belt Riders
- Thursday, November 12
- 6–7PM
- Virtual program via Zoom

In the United States, nearly 40% of all food grown will end up in landfills. When food enters landfills, it emits harmful greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change. This solvable problem has a massive impact ecologically, economically, and socially. Learn from Daniel Brown, Co-founder of Rust Belt Riders on both the causes of and solutions to this massive problem. **\$5 member, \$7.50 non-member. Register at [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](https://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).**

# junior naturalist

## Greetings from our Virtual Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp Volunteers!

Our virtual Summer Outdoor Adventure Camps were anything but virtual! Our junior naturalists spent time outdoors each week exploring, learning, and enjoying a summer of fun with our take-home Adventure Packs. Thank you to all those who participated and dove head first into this new camp format.



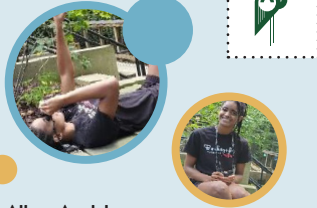
Hello Junior Naturalist,

Greetings from the Nature Center! I recently completed my three-week summer adventure.

I enjoyed the outdoor activities, like hiking, cloud watching, and looking for cool plants. At home, I enjoy planting vegetables in my back yard and riding my bike.

You could try out some of these cool things at home, too, to have fun outdoors! Or, plan a trip to the Nature Center to explore the plants. Things are always changing here through the seasons.

Hope to see you at the Nature Center!  
Allana



Allana Appleby

Outdoor Adventure Camp Volunteer

2600 South Park Blvd.

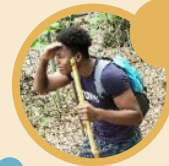
Cleveland, OH 44120

Hello Junior Naturalist,

Greetings from the Nature Center. I just finished my three-week adventure here this summer!

I love walking my dog outside, going to the beach, going hiking, and having picnics with my family. What I love most is walking my dog. My dog loves going outside and running around. His favorite place is Garfield Park. If you want to get outside, you can come to the Nature Center, have a picnic, and go on a hike here!

Go have some fun outside!  
Kaleob



Kaleob Woodson

Outdoor Adventure Camp Volunteer

2600 South Park Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44120

## Virtual Nature Story Time: Think Like a Scientist

Select Mondays | 4:30-5PM | Virtual program via Zoom

Children ages 3 1/2 to 7 years of age with an adult are invited to join the Nature Center on Zoom to read a story. This season, meet a few of the Nature Center's favorite fictional young scientists. These inquisitive role models will show you how to think like a scientist to make discoveries at home that contribute to real research. A craft or activity to try at home will be modeled after the story so your young naturalist can join in the fun.

**\$5 per family. Register at [shakerlakes.org/fall-programs](http://shakerlakes.org/fall-programs).**

- **September 14 •**  
**Bat Count: A Citizen Science Story,**  
by Anna Forrester
- **October 5 •**  
**Ruby's Birds,** by Mya Thompson
- **November 2 •**  
**Moonlight Crab Count,** by Curtis  
Jennifer Keets & Dr. Neeti

### fun fact:

Did you know that beetles are the most diverse group of animals on Earth?



Red milkweed beetle  
(*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*)

## CAN YOU GUESS?

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

- These creatures are the largest and most diverse group of insects
- These creatures have a set of thick, hardened wings
- They can be found both on land and in fresh water
- Some help pollinate flowers
- They like to eat parts of plants, small animals, fungus, and scat (poop!)
- Fireflies and ladybugs are in this group
- What are these creatures?

There are over **350,000** species of beetles and counting!

## CREATURE FEATURE:

junior naturalist activity

Visit [shakerlakes.org/jrnat](http://shakerlakes.org/jrnat) to find your naturalist activity!



Dogbane beetle (*Chrysochus auratus*)

Answers: Beetles

# SHAKER LAKES HIKE, RUN & FUN

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**9.12.20 & 9.13.20**

**REGISTER BY 9.11.20**  
**FOR DISCOUNT**

• 5K RACE • 1-MILE FUN RUN • GUIDED HIKES FOR ALL AGES •

**REAL RACES, REAL HIKES, REAL FUN** with small group & virtual options available for participant safety!

**HIKES**  
**THROUGHOUT THE DAY**  
**ON SATURDAY 9.12.20 & SUNDAY 9.13.20**

**RUN:**  
**5K CHIP-TIMED RACE**  
**ON SUNDAY 9.13.20**  
**Staggered start times** beginning at 7:30AM to ensure participant health & safety. The 1-mile fun run is scheduled to begin at 10:30AM.

**Visit [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) for complete program listing, departure times & locations, course map, parking suggestions & to REGISTER!**

The Annual Shaker Lakes Hike, Run & Fun benefits environmental education & promotes health & wellness while celebrating the Shaker Parklands. Partial proceeds also support the Jenny Goldman Fund.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS\*



Cynthia Bassett / UBS Financial Services Inc., Brouse McDowell LPA, Harry & Mary Ann Carlson, Clearstead, Eric & Jana Friess, John Hannon / Evarts Tremaine, Jackson Lewis P.C., Kidwell Family, McGregor, Medical Mutual, Tom Turco / Deloitte  
A special thanks to our partners: Cleveland Hiking Club, HMA Promotions

**Safe outdoor fun for EVERYONE!**



**REGISTER early to reserve your spot!**



**Group sizes are LIMITED for participant safety!**



## ART ON VIEW: PORTRAITS OF FLOWERS BY GLORIA PLEVIN

Opening reception Sunday, November 15 | 2-4:30PM | Nature Center at Shaker Lakes | Free to view

This exhibit features Gloria Plevin's stunningly beautiful portraits of flowers in watercolor, gouache, and acrylic paint. A passionate gardener and masterful painter, Plevin expresses her love of the world around us and especially flowers through these exquisite paintings. Her subjects—amaryllis, calla lilies, orchids, thistles, and more—come from her Chautauqua perennial gardens, Heinen's, or a local florist.

Exhibit runs from Sunday November, 15, 2020–Monday, February 15, 2021 at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Contact Kim Bihler at [bihler@shakerlakes.org](mailto:bihler@shakerlakes.org) to schedule a private showing in the event the Nature Center building remains closed due to COVID-19. Pieces may be purchased for a fee with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the Nature Center.

