

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



NATURE CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES

Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016–AUGUST 31, 2017



DEAR FRIENDS,

GROWTH. EVOLUTION. RELEVANCE. These are words that come to mind when reflecting upon the past year at the Nature Center. As we turn the page on another year, the Nature Center is turning its focus forward to prepare for a future of possibilities. The freeway fight, which highlights our humble beginnings full of community spirit, passion and activism, is an integral part of our rich past—one which we will always honor and embrace, but 2017 was a time to change our perspective. The past year was an exciting time as we developed plans for moving towards a vision of our future—and a seed was planted. In fact, many seeds were planted and while the growth of some may yet be unseen, we continue tending each in anticipation of watching them flourish and grow.

Some seeds have sprouted quickly. You may have noticed a refreshed logo, or perhaps navigated to an improved website. Did you happen to catch the updates made to our membership program? We listened to our community, expanded our reach and targeted our programming to engage a broader and more diverse audience to fulfill our mission. You may have attended one of our new multi-generational hands-on workshops, or an Artist's Reception to kick off our quarterly Art on View displays—a program which showed promising growth over the last year. We introduced two new water quality education programs, and participating schools received much needed storm water bill credits through the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. As we entered our fourth year of the Applied Science for Kids (ASK!) program, urban youth continued to receive critical, high-quality science based educational programming and were immersed in the natural wonder of our beautiful oasis, nestled in our urban community.

Our annual summer benefit, which helps ensure we continue to serve the community in these important ways, was also updated. The new strolling format was met with warmth and enthusiasm, and we cannot wait to build upon that excitement in the coming years.

Other seeds sown have yet to sprout. Their roots only beginning to take hold, growth goes unseen while progress happens underground. Seeds have recently been scattered in our outdoor classroom, where so many critical learning and visitor experiences take place. The growth of these seeds may not break the ground for years to come, yet we will continue to care for and unveil them when the time is right.

Momentum is building, and we feel it. We invite you to take this journey into the future with us as the exciting changes continue to unfold and we inspire our community in conservation, environmental stewardship, and deepen its connection to nature.

With deep appreciation and warm regards,

Kay Carlson,
President & CEO

Kimberly H. Dyer,
Chair, Board of Trustees





PLANTING A SEED OF GIVING

Our beautiful backdrop does more than offer a much-needed dose of nature—it inspires others to give back. We are so grateful to those who give their time, energy, and hard earned money to make the Nature Center an amazing experience for all.

Volunteer of the Year: SARAH DIVAKARLA

We are pleased to acknowledge Sarah Divakarla as this year's Volunteer of the Year. As chair of the Annual Plant Sale committee since 2013, Sarah helps bring hundreds of visitors to the Nature Center each May for the Annual Plant Sale, while focusing on the organization's mission to educate about and provide native plants for sale. The plant sale has grown significantly through Sarah's efforts and she has been a valuable resource.

A current board member, Sarah grew up near the Nature Center and spent time enjoying the trails and honing her skills as a member of the Woodbury Elementary School photography club. Her mother, Rosemary

Merchant, volunteered for the Squirrel's Nest Holiday Boutique, and Sarah has fond memories of running around the building to help her set up. In 2005, Sarah moved back to Shaker Heights and introduced her husband and two young sons to the Nature Center. The boys enjoy exploring and participating in camps. "The Nature Center provides a valuable oasis in the suburbs," Sarah said, "and I hope the Nature Center continues to be a wonderful steward for the land."

We thank Sarah for her leadership and dedication to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.



901
VOLUNTEERS

7,363
HOURS GIVEN BY
VOLUNTEERS

193
HOURS DONATED
BY OUR TOP
INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEER

801
NATURE CENTER
MEMBERS

\$1.498M
DOLLARS RAISED
TO SUPPORT
OUR MISSION

1,846
FUNDRAISING
EVENT
ATTENDEES

645

SPRING BREAK AND
OUTDOOR SUMMER
CAMP SESSION
PARTICIPANTS

210

SUMMER CAMP
HIKES COMPLETED

4,178

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENTS ATTENDED
ASK! (APPLIED
SCIENCE FOR KIDS)
PROGRAMS

117

SCHOOLS SERVED
WITH UNIQUE
OUTDOOR NATURE-
BASED FIELD
EXPERIENCES

12,214

STUDENTS IMPACTED
THROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION



PLANTING A SEED WITHIN OUR YOUTH

For a child, it's a fun day spent outside instead of inside a classroom. But interactive nature-based learning experiences help connect them to nature, encouraging deep roots that will provide the foundation to inspire future generations of conservationists who will love and protect our lands.





PLANTING A SEED FOR OUR FUTURE

Our 20 acres are more than simple trails and habitats: they serve as our outdoor classrooms for thousands of students each year. The seeds planted for land conservation do more than restore our habitats: they ensure our refuge remains as a place to escape from busy everyday life and inspires a greater connection to nature for students, visitors and nature enthusiasts alike.



19,630
WELCOME DESK
VISITORS

7,040
FEET OF TRAILS
MAINTAINED

8
NATIVE OHIO
HABITATS
MAPPED

200+
NATIVE PLANTS
INSTALLED
FOR HABITAT
RESTORATION

10
TONS OF TRAIL
MIX GRAVEL
SPREAD

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



1 New Logo

Developed and launched
a refreshed identity

1
Membership
Program refresh

Over
450

Flyways Not Highways Guests

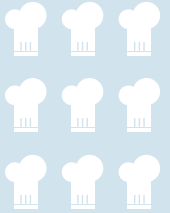
24
Event Sponsors

1
Exciting strolling
format

over
\$75,000
in net income to support
the NCSL mission

9

Pestival chefs created delicious dishes
with invasive garlic mustard



55

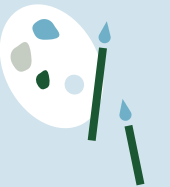
One-Gallon Bags of Cleaned Garlic
Mustard Delivered to Pestival Chefs

114

Art on View pieces exhibited

43

Art pieces sold to support the Nature
Center at Shaker Lakes mission



12,379

Birds banded
through
Spring 2017

105

Bird species
banded for
research



128

Species of homegrowns
donated and sold
at Annual Plant Sale

\$58,346

Generated revenue
from the Annual
Plant Sale



20

Acres Conserved

with continued ongoing invasive species removal

1 GIS software mapping
system implementation



\$644

Donated to Kathleen Barber Memorial Habitat Restoration through plant sale purchases

13,050

Nickels donated by the community through Whole Foods Nickels for Nonprofits

5¢

Demolition and Removal of Mini-Marsh Deck

- 1 Constructed hand rail alongside steps leading to North Park and added gravel to trail
- 1 Constructed turtle enclosure

1

Big community event celebrating 50 years of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes!

500
HIKE & RUN
PARTICIPANTS

750
PARTY IN THE PARKLANDS
GUESTS

110
VOLUNTEERS

55
PERFORMERS



123
PARTY IN THE PARKLANDS
TREE CLIMBERS

5
BEAUTIFUL BIRTHDAY CAKES
DECORATED FOR THE NATURE CENTER'S
50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

4
CAMP
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

18
RAIN BARRELS
CONSTRUCTED DURING
WORKSHOPS

32
SUMMER CAMP
FIELD TRIPS

17
CITIES REPRESENTED
IN SPRING BREAK
AND SUMMER CAMPS

24
"TOAD ABODES"
MADE DURING OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE CAMP

800
ARCHERY ARROWS
SHOT BY OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE CAMPERS

2,156
Family and adult
program attendees

1 New Website

18,630 Website visitors

6,160 Facebook page followers



Volunteers made up
3.8
full-time equivalent
staff members

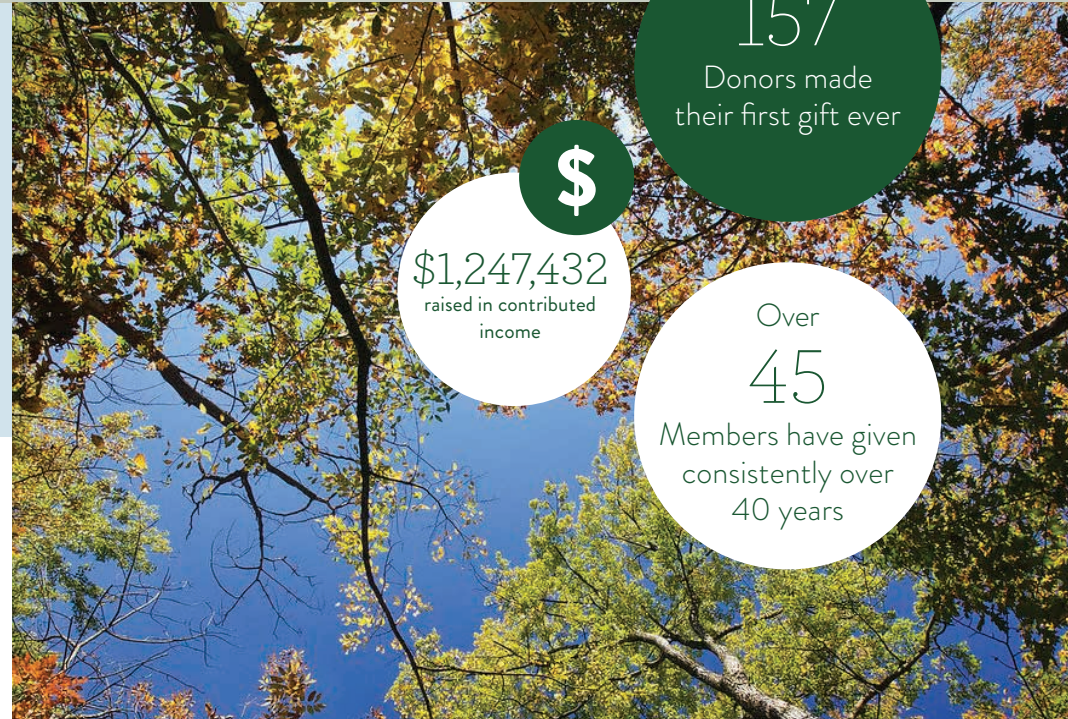


Volunteers gave
\$184,333
worth of time
through
Spring 2017

157
Donors made
their first gift ever

\$
\$1,247,432
raised in contributed
income

Over
45
Members have given
consistently over
40 years



Staff

Nature Center

Patty Albrecht, Membership & Annual Fund Manager
Jill Anderson, Visitor & Administrative Services Manager
Kristina Arthur, Volunteer Coordinator
Raja Byrnside, Director of Education
Christi Carlson, Welcome Desk Supervisor
Kay Carlson, President & CEO
Charles Collier, Building Maintenance Supervisor
Douglas Firman, Director of Finance and Administration
Jennifer Frates, Marketing Coordinator
Lisa Fredrickson, Events Manager
Lisa Golba, Early Childhood Environmental Educator
Thomas Horberger, Director of Facilities
Lauren Miller, Environmental Educator, Program Specialist
Julia Mitchell, Grants Manager
Lauren Schmidt, Environmental Educator, Camps & Adventure Program Coordinator
Robert Sikora, Director of Development
Tania Younkin, Director of Marketing

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Mon'trel Myrick, Welcome Desk Associate
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Volunteers

200+ Hours

Ruffing Montessori
Positive Education Program-Greenview

150-199 Hours

Margaret Poutasse
Norma Storer

100-149 Hours

Barbara Peskin
Helena Souffrant
Cindy Oakley
Char Sloan
Jane Donnell
Dave Bell
Miranda Luse
Henry Harte
Eagle Scout Project Troop 662 (Thomas Lang)

50-99 Hours

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We are thankful to those who have spent their time and energy to further our mission. Thank you to our many volunteers!



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The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes extends its deepest appreciation to the many donors, members and institutional supporters whose generous contributions helped make the past year a success.

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McMahon DeGulis LLP
Anonymous
Meritech
Pease & Associates, Inc.
Mr. Timothy F. Wuliger

\$100–\$499

F. Buddie Contracting, LTD
First Unitarian Church of Cleveland
Good Nature Organic Lawn Care
The Home Depot Foundation
Jubilee Gifts in the Heights
Mac's Books-Books on Coventry
Middle Ridge Gardens
NACCO Industries, Inc
Northeast Ohio Sierra Club
Ormiston Landscaping
Passport to Peru
Perennials Preferred
Roeder Consulting
Scioto Gardens
State Farm Insurance
The Bottlehouse
Verne & Ellsworth Hann, Inc
Wine Spot
Yoga Roots, LLC

Government

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Port of Cleveland

Endowment

Cynthia Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Sulak
David Reape
UBS Employee Giving Program

Jean Eakin Fund

Anonymous
Henry Boom & Anne Batzell
Linda & Michael Dudzinsky
John & Sybil Eakin
C. Robert Finkelstein
Claire A. Johnson
Andrew W. Jones
Paula Lozano
Mrs. Marie T. Salkin
Kenneth J. Vinciguerra
Wendy Donkin & Tom Zak

In Kind

Rising Star Coffee Roasters
RMS Investment Corp.
Rustbelt Reclamation
Jennifer Sammon
Jennifer Sammon
SASA
Shaker Country Club
Shaker Heights Public Library
Shaker Historical Society
Sheena McGee Designs
Carrie & Scott Shelfer
Snapology
Spice Kitchen & Bar
Sandy & Ken Stauffer
Patty Stevenson
Stone Oven
Studio Chartreuse
Sweet Fix Bakery
George Thompson
Jeremy Umansky
Barry Underwood
Upcycle Parts
Vincent Lighting
Sindy Warren, Yoga Roots
WB Mason & Keith Logan
Sue Weir
Whole Foods
Wild Birds Unlimited
Denny Young, Elevation Group

In Memory of

Hope & Stanley Adelstein
Deborah Adler
Jeffrey Beacham
Marjorie Carlson
Laura Chisolm
Lewis Donley
Daniel & Ann Ekelman
Anne Mulligan Marcus
Gretchen Mellin
Mary Murphy
Gary Neuman
Tom Pienkowski
Skip Stern
Jessica Van Dyke
Doris Weil

In Honor of

Enzo Colosimo
Chris & Marilyn Langmack
Kitty & John Mackley
Kemp & Nancy King Smith

Evergreen Society

Hope & Stanley Adelstein*
Bettie Joyce Baker*
Mrs. Anne H. Burton*
Jane Busch
Kathryn A. Carlson
Ruth Anna Carlson & Albert Leonetti
Sharon A. Coyle
Ruth J. Skuly & Leo A. Deininger
Gary J. & Winnie Dietsch*
John E. Doxsey*
Mrs. John Drollinger, Jr.
Kathy & Tom Heffernan
Ann T. Herbruck
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Horner
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Kelley
Patricia & S. Ernest Kulp, III
Dr. & Mrs. John T. Makley
William Mau*
Lynda & Charlie Mayer
Edith D. Miller
William & Margaret Mitchell
Mrs. Eloise Morgan*
Mrs. Alfred M. Rankin
John B. & Sally R. Schulze
Mrs. Billie Smith*
Deborah A. Smith

Mrs. Anne K. Stueber*
Paxton Van Sweringen
Julie West

*Deceased



We apologize for any omissions. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Patty Albrecht at 216.321.5935 ext. 232 or albrecht@shakerlakes.org.

Financial Information FY 2017 (Unaudited)

Revenue: Contributed

INDIVIDUALS	24%	\$233,547
CORPORATIONS / FOUNDATIONS	24%	\$294,683
GOVERNMENT	20%	\$80,693
EVENTS	7%	\$247,006
PLANNED GIFT	19%	\$298,479
ENDOWMENT (DISTRIBUTION)	6%	\$93,024

Earned

PROGRAM FEES	\$210,148
FACILITY RENTALS / MERCHANDISE	\$40,355

Total*

*Excludes distribution of funds from The Cleveland Foundation.

\$1,497,935

Expenses:


EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	51%	\$719,370
FACILITIES AND LAND MANAGEMENT	18%	\$162,337
FUNDRAISING	16%	\$254,909
MARKETING	12%	\$63,043
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	4%	\$211,268

Net Operating Revenue**

\$87,008

**Excludes investment income, depreciation and other adjusting entries. Includes a bequest of \$298,479.

The Nature Center's audited financial statements as of August 31, 2017 will be completed by H&J Certified Public Accountants, Inc. Copies will be available upon request in Spring 2018.



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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

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216.321.5935 • naturecenter@shakerlakes.org



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