



NATURE CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES

SPRING 2022

INSIDE:

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS

JOE-PYE WEED: A RAIN GARDEN FAVORITE

40TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SPRING PROGRAMS

ROOKERY

WATERSHED: NATURE'S FLOOD CONTROL

Here, the south branch of the Doan Brook flows through the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (NCSL) near Stearns Woodland Trail. NCSL serves as a slowing or holding zone for water, which in turn helps control flooding downstream. NCSL is located in the Doan Brook watershed, and all of the rainfall in the surrounding area drains into the Doan Brook, which runs through our property. The Doan Brook then flows into Lake Erie.

Anytime our neighborhood experiences a flood, we can all thank the 20 acres of floodplain forest and wetland habitats at NCSL for holding water, and buying time for areas downstream to clear.

Photo: David Perelman-Hall



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

With the scent of spring drifting through the air, a deep breath feels imminent. I am looking forward to watching the rebirth of nature around us—spring showers, budding trees, sprouting ephemerals, and the funky, yet sweet, smell of skunk cabbage. This will also be our first spring since the completion of our capital campaign. It will be nice not to have construction noises or trail closures around our property, and to simply be able to enjoy our newly enhanced and restored outdoor classroom, providing ample space and opportunities to immerse ourselves in spring.

Spring brings an increase in rainwater, and that can come with periods of flooding. The north and south branches of the Doan Brook converge in our big marsh, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes offers a large natural floodplain for helping to reduce downstream flooding. In light of the findings surrounding the structural integrity of Horseshoe Dam, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our staff, visitors, trails, and facilities from potentially severe and life-threatening flooding and to improving the ecological health of the Doan Brook.

True to our mission, we value the natural stormwater management offered by the Doan Brook and surrounding wetlands in the greater Shaker Parklands. We look forward to participating in the planning phase to explore various concepts for how Horseshoe Lake might be transformed into a beautiful and functional habitat that offers greater flood control capacity.

As we unwind from a very exciting and successful campaign, our leadership team is taking stock of what we have accomplished and how far we have come, and is poised to begin strategically planning for our future. The ideas are endless, and prioritizing based on community needs and input will be critical to crafting our future plans. In doing so, we are committed to ensuring that diversity, equity, inclusion and access become the mainstay in everything we do moving forward, from programming, to staffing, to board recruitment.

As we jump into warmer weather, we hope you'll join us this spring for our 40th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7. Summer camp is filling up quickly, so be sure to register your campers soon. We are also planning to kick off summer with our annual benefit, Nature at Night, on Saturday, June 4, so save the date and join us under the stars for a fantastic evening celebrating our mission.

See you on the trails!

Kay Carlson, *President & CEO*



• Presented by Curb Appeal Painting •

SATURDAY, MAY 7 | 9:30AM–1PM

Welcome spring with the 40th Annual Plant Sale at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes! Planting season is closer than you think and there is no better place to shop for a wide variety of native perennials as well as herbs, veggies, annual flowers and hanging baskets.

We will feature a great selection of native plants with something to fit almost any condition. Wet, dry, shady or full sun, we'll have a plant! Experts will be available to help you pick the right plant for the right place. A fun day for the whole family! Parking is available on nearby streets and curbside assistance with purchases is provided.

**ONLINE PLANT SALE
MARCH 21–APRIL 9***

Enjoy online viewing and secure ordering on the Plant Sale website. Plant Sale Catalog can be downloaded from the website. Place your orders early for home delivery (20-mile radius). Selection online and on plant sale day varies.

SHAKERLAKES.ORG/PLANTSALE

**Or until sold out.*

**MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW
8:30–9:30AM**

We invite Nature Center members to join Plant Sale Day ahead of the crowd. Grab a complimentary cup of coffee and a pastry from The Stone Oven while you enjoy the first pick of sought-after offerings. Mingle with fellow garden enthusiasts and get planting advice from our knowledgeable staff and volunteers.

Not a current member? Visit shakerlakes.org/membership to join!



The health of the Doan Brook Watershed is crucial to our own health and survival. The Nature Center is situated within the Doan Brook floodplain, with the Brook's two branches merging in our marsh habitat. The land that borders a body of water is known as the riparian zone. While much of Doan Brook's riparian zone has been urbanized or eliminated by culverts, our habitats are functional and provide for local residents who may have never thought about their importance.

There are many benefits, or ecosystem services, that humans receive from healthy riparian systems. They help to mitigate flooding, by providing a floodplain that can temporarily retain water. While many people may not have seen it, our trails flood annually as the floodplain takes on excess waters. During the reconstruction of the Stearns Woodland Trail in 2020, one flood event raised the water level several feet, to just below the first bridge along the trail. While a pond or lake can also retain some flood waters, they often have a limited capacity for extra water, whereas intact riparian zones can often offer a greater capacity for flood control.

Riparian areas also help to filter pollutants. For example, they can absorb excess nutrients, or collect sediment. A healthy, intact riparian zone with native vegetation can support an array of bio-diverse wildlife. Food, shelter, areas for raising young, as well as migrational stopping points are just some of the things that attract wildlife to riparian zones.

These systems are not only important for wildlife, they are important for us all! Watersheds funnel water into our water source, therefore it is important to properly manage our watershed. At the Nature Center, we have a history of restoring our natural areas and that work has only accelerated recently. Our natural resources staff has made removing invasive species and reestablishing native vegetation a priority, planting over 6,300 native trees and plants since 2019. As we continue our efforts, we are beginning to see birds and other wildlife species responding positively and establishing nests. We also expect to attract species that haven't been seen in decades. We also hope to help our riparian zone so that it can continue to protect our community.



HOW TO:

PLANT a RAIN GARDEN at HOME

by Nick Mikash, *Natural Resources Manager*

The goal of a rain garden is to collect and filter rainwater, rather than allowing it to run off into storm sewers.

First, create a depression in the landscape or plan to use one that already receives rainwater. Some rain gardens may be fed directly by a downspout. A wide variety of native plants including sedges, grasses, ferns, perennials and even shrubs can live happily in a rain garden. Some of our favorites are cardinal flower, Joe-Pye weed, fox sedge and marsh marigold.

THE NATURE CENTER as a CRITICAL FLOOD PLAIN

If we assume the **Nature Center's property is around 20 acres**, and about **30% of the total property is defined by hillside slopes**, surface lot, buildings, etc., this leaves approximately **14 acres of lower woodland and marsh areas**. **One inch of water on one acre is about 27k gallons.**

If we were to calculate **four inches of water across the 14 acres**, (a fairly conservative figure today), this comes to approximately **1.5 million gallons of water being held on the grounds.**

That's approximately 41 Olympic swimming pools! The actual amount may be quite a bit more, especially when considering water is flowing through an elevated Doan Brook and being absorbed into the grounds, even on the hillside slopes which were not included in the initial calculation.

This highlights the critical need for woodland and wetland areas to slow and absorb water in extreme rainfall events.

SPRING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

GUIDED SPRING BIRD WALKS

Select Sundays March 13 | 8–10AM

April 10, April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15 | 7:30–9:30AM

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. April and May bird walks are part of the Audubon Spring Bird Walk series. **\$5 suggested donation.**

Registration required.

WINTER HIKE WITH PHOENIX COFFEE

Saturday, March 12 | 9:00–10:30AM

Start the weekend off with a mug of warm coffee from Phoenix as we take an easy morning stroll through the Nature Center trails. A naturalist will lead the hike and discuss native wildlife. We encourage you to bring your own mug or thermos. Meet at the Nature Center. Reserve two or more tickets to this hike, enter the discount code, “Phoenix,” to receive one ticket for free. **\$5 per member; \$7.50 per non-member.**

NIGHT SKY

Friday, March 4 | 7:30PM

Winter is the best time for night sky viewing, but what will we see from the Nature Center? Stars? Clouds? Nocturnal animals? Bundle up to find out as you join a naturalist for this astronomy-themed outdoor program. Meet at the Nature Center. Program will be 60–90 min., weather depending.

\$5 member; \$7.50 non-member; no charge for ages 2 and under.

MORNING HIKE WITH THE HIIT FACTOR

Saturday, April 2 | 8:30–10:00AM

Saturday, May 7 | 8:30–10:00AM

Start your weekend with an invigorating hike from The HIIT Factor on Larchmere to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and back. We'll focus on the health of our mind and bodies as we alternate, from a brisk walk to taking nature breaks with a naturalist along the way. Prepare for dirt trails and to hike for about 3.5 miles. Meet at the HIIT Factor on Larchmere. **Free.**

FAMILY EXPLORATION DAY

Saturday, April 30

• 10:00–11:30AM | Wildflower Hike

• 12:00–1:30PM | Creek Exploration

• 2:00–3:30PM | Caterpillar/Butterfly Monitoring

Join the Nature Center education team as we search the trails (and creek) for as many different types of living things as we can find. The results will be shared with our local City Nature Challenge team. This global event celebrates biodiversity in urban areas around the world and we hope you'll join us to celebrate the biodiversity here in Cleveland! Participants of all ages are welcome. These programs take place along dirt trails. “Creek Exploration” requires stepping into a shallow portion of Doan Brook and “Monarch Caterpillar Monitoring” includes off trail components. Stop in the Friends Pavilion during your visit to enjoy nature-themed games between 11:30AM–2:00PM. **\$5 per member; \$7.50 per non-member; no charge for ages 2 and under.**

NATURALIST NOTEBOOK DISCUSSION

Join Loganberry Books and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes for this quarterly book club. **Date and topic coming soon! More info at shakerlakes.org.**

ART IN NATURE

Thursday, May 19 | 5:30–6:30PM

Find your inspiration along the Nature Center trails with the Guild of Nature Artists. This experience includes an easy stroll on our trails followed by a seated drawing activity. It is for artists of all skill levels ages 10 to adult. Meet at the Nature Center. **Free.**

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 24 | 5:30–7PM

Make your own rain barrel and save more than just water! We supply the barrel, parts, and tools and show you how to construct a closed, 55-gallon rain barrel system. Barrels can be attached to any standard downspout to collect and conserve rainwater for your plants and yard. This event is in collaboration with Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. **Workshop fee, including parts, is \$60.**

BRINGING NATURE HOME

Lecture series sponsored by Independent Tree

Select Dates in March and April | Virtual

Local experts will share the benefits of gardening with native plants and show us how the decisions we make for our home or neighborhood gardens can have a positive impact on the surrounding community. Join the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and Doan Brook Watershed Partnership for this virtual series inspired by Douglas Tallamy's Book, BRINGING NATURE HOME. **Free. Donations welcome. Visit shakerlakes.org for additional details, dates and times.**

Find more information and register at shakerlakes.org/programs.
Updated COVID policies available upon registration.

ART ON VIEW

“In the Garden of Old Age”,
a half verse and half photography
collaboration between Poet
Nina Freedlander Gibans and
Photographer Abby Star

Opening reception
Wednesday, May 25 | 5:30–7PM
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

This exhibit features Nina Gibans and Abby Star's hanging installation of their book, “In the Garden of Old Age.” Star's photography of the life cycle of nature is paired with Gibans' poems about growing older. Several of the book's more than 50 poems are inspired by life at Gibans retirement community, Judson Park. As you flip through the book's pages, bright flowers give way to autumnal leaves, the colors becoming more and more monochromatic. The final poems are flanked by black and white photos of streams and tall forest canopies. The exhibit runs from Wednesday, May 25 to Monday, August 15, at the Nature Center. Pieces may be purchased for a fee with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the Nature Center.



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

We would like to thank all of our volunteers—individuals and groups—for their continued support of the Nature Center. Volunteers assist with education, land management, and special events. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are listed below. To register or inquire, please email volunteer@shakerlakes.org or visit shakerlakes.org/volunteer.

DOAN BROOK ANNUAL STREAM SWEEP

Saturday, April 16 | 12:30–3:00PM

Join the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and Doan Brook Watershed Partnership as we work together to clean up around our local watershed.

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

April 16, May 21, June 25 | 10:00AM–12:00PM

Calling all volunteers 8 years (with a guardian) and up! Gloves, tools, marsh boots (if needed), water and light snack provided. Individuals and groups are welcome. Please register so we know how many to expect.

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

• PICK DAYS:

May 4 & 5 | 7:00AM–7:00PM

Minimum 3-hour shift assembling orders. Volunteers help assemble plant orders in teams before they get delivered.

• SALE DAY:

May 7 | 6:30AM–1:30PM

Minimum 3-hour shift, roles vary. Volunteers may help with crafts, loading orders, sales, or greeting shoppers.

VISITOR SURVEY VOLUNTEERS

2-hour shifts weekdays or weekends

Friendly volunteers are needed to assist with collecting visitor feedback as Survey Volunteers. Perfect for people who never meet a stranger and enjoy being outside.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPRING BREAK CAMP

MARCH 28–APRIL 1

(Minimum Commitment–2 days)

SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

JUNE 13–AUGUST 12

(Minimum Commitment–2 weeks)

SUMMER YOUTH STEWARDSHIP

JUNE 13–AUGUST 5

(Minimum Commitment–10 days)



MEET THE STAFF:

JEANETTE MOORE,
VOLUNTEER MANAGER



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE NATURE CENTER?

Just over two years. It's been rewarding to figure out ways to include volunteers in our mission during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAVORITE TRAIL FEATURE?

It seems like each season I find a new favorite spot but with a little one I absolutely love the Nature Play Area.

HOW DO YOU PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME?

We recycle and limit the amount of single-use plastic we use. We also like finding ways to upcycle and reuse things.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

It is wonderful how we involve so many youth volunteers here at the Nature Center! There are great opportunities for them to figure out how they can actively connect with the environment and fuels their love for nature.

FAVORITE NATURE MOMENT?

There have been so many over the years. My first favorite nature moment happened when I was a pre-teen on vacation with my family near Shenandoah National Park. I saw an albino deer. It completely fascinated me and is the reason I started paying more attention to nature.



Children enjoying
the Nature Play Area



NATURE STORY TIME: *Wet & Wild*

This spring, we will learn about all the animals that call the Doan Brook home.

From one of our largest waterfowl, the Great Blue Heron, to the smallest macroinvertebrates, we will learn exactly who is wading through our waters.

\$5 member; \$10 non-member.

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HENRY THE IMPATIENT HERON

Saturday, April 2 | 11AM-12PM

Join a naturalist to learn about Great Blue Herons and other waterfowl. Program includes a story, craft and hike.

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CREEK CRITTERS

Saturday, May 14 | 11AM-12PM

Join a naturalist to uncover who is living in the rocks and sediments in the Doan Brook. Program includes a story, creek exploration and craft. Please bring boots and a change of shoes for creek walking.

Register at shakerlakes.org/programs.



SUMMER OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Our in-person, beloved Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp registration is almost full!

A few spots remain for **Explorers (Grades 4-5)**, **Rangers (Grades 6-9)** and afternoon sessions of **Chipmunks (3-Kindergarten)**.

Scholarship spots are available for each grade level. Need-based financial aid covers 25%-75% of the cost for one week of camp or pop-up camp.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

GRADES K-4

March 28-April 1 | 9AM-3PM

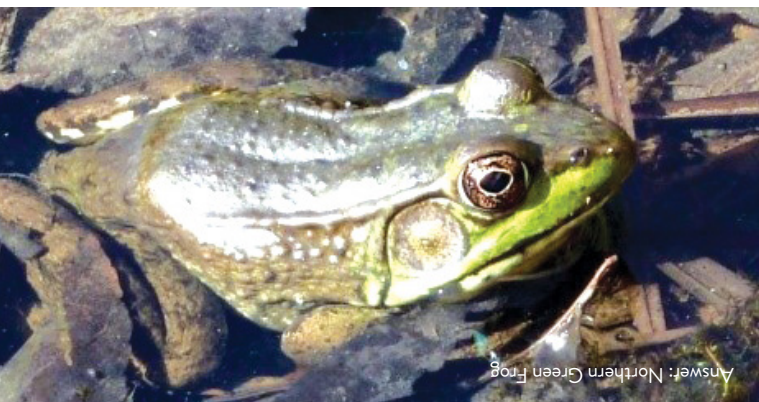
Our spring break camps offer themes including Naturally Artistic, Spring Scientists, Mammal Mania, and more for grades K-4.

POP-UP CAMP

GRADES 1-6

June 13-August 12 | 9AM-12PM

Our summer pop-up camps are themed Fungus Among Us, Doan Brook Discovery, and Junior Naturalist for grades 1-6.



Answer: Northern Green Frog

CREATURE FEATURE:

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

- I belong to a group of animals called amphibians.
- I have permeable skin that makes me sensitive to toxins.
- I can be found in the Doan Brook at the Nature Center.
- I eat insects, slugs, snails, spiders, and caterpillars.
- Many confuse me for a bullfrog, which I am not.

MOLDING OUR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

FUN FLORA FACTS:

JOE-PYE WEED

Joe-Pye weed has thick stems with dark green leaves that can grow to be almost a foot in length. In the summer, the plant blooms with small pink-purple flowers in large clusters. Joe-Pye weed is attractive to pollinators and is the perfect addition to a native plant and rain garden. This hardy plant is low maintenance and grows best in wet conditions with full sun or partial shade. Joe-Pye weed is in the sunflower family.

WHO IS JOE PYE?

According to some historical accounts, there was a Mohican chief named Schauquethqueat (Christianized name, Joe Pye) who used local plant concoctions to cure a variety of illnesses including typhoid fever. His medicinal knowledge helped stop this epidemic that was growing in Colonial Massachusetts during the 18th century.

Sources: NYT, Adirondack Almanack, The Spruce



Where does the water you use to cook and drink come from? From our great lake—Lake Erie! All of our precipitation collects into streams, creeks, and rivers that empty into Lake Erie. Lake Erie is a beautiful home to wildlife and an important natural resource we all enjoy! BUT...sadly, it also has many types of pollution. We are all guilty of contributing to pollution, but we can all help and do better to control and limit the pollution that goes into our water systems.

Let's explore the types of pollution in our water systems. The **SNOT** acronym is an easy way to help us remember.



S EDIMENT:

DEFINITION

Sand, silt, clay, rocks and pebbles. Sediment is good; however, erosion or people disrupting sediment, makes the water cloudy. Sediment can also change the way a water system flows, or the depth of a water system, which can make it difficult for some wildlife to survive.

EFFECTS

Animals cannot see food or predators and some struggle to breathe.

N UTRIENTS:

Chemical fertilizers for yards/gardens.

Fertilizer runoff makes algae grow, producing algae blooms. These blooms create toxins in the water making it unsafe to drink or live in, and makes uninhabitable dead zones in the lake with very little oxygen.

O RGANIC:

Organic means something is living, or came from something living. An example might be animal waste, or scat, such as not picking up after your dog on walks.

One gram of pet waste contains millions of bacteria that can spread diseases and parasites in our water systems.

Fun Fact! There are over 90,000 dogs in Cuyahoga county that produce 45 tons, or 90,000 lbs. of waste each day!

T OXINS/TRASH:

Litter, detergents (i.e. washing a car), salt, oil, gasoline, chemicals, etc.

Unsafe drinking water for people and hazardous for wildlife.



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FPO

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



#SHAKERLAKES

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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

216.321.5935 · naturecenter@shakerlakes.org

SAVE THE DATE
NATURE *at* NIGHT
SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Conserve. Connect. Celebrate.
*We look forward to celebrating the Nature Center
at Shaker Lakes under the stars with you.*

benefit co-chairs
LAURA DEAN, COURTNEY NOVAK, CATEY PETERS,
AND LIBBY RAY

