



## SIMPLE ACTS *activated a*

# LASTING COMMUNITY GIFT

Photo credit: Anthony Koonce

### PARADISE FOUND

by Vondell Petry, *Friend of the Nature Center*

This month when we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and enjoy the newly restored trails, rustic walkways, and recently constructed features, all designed to inspire, uplift and affirm our fundamental connection to this pristine landscape, it's difficult to imagine the time when the fate of this beloved spit of land literally hung by a gossamer thread. When bulldozer and wrecking ball nearly ended it all.

That this horrific tragedy was averted amplifies our current debt of gratitude to all of those who joined together as an unstoppable army of ordinary individuals, local civic groups, and various city officials, coalescing into what is now known as the famous Shaker Lakes 'freeway fight.'

Contemplating the unfolding destiny of what was then called the Parklands, a curious 'spirit of place' seems to have guided its fabled history, a palpably felt intergenerational presence whispering wisdom from the ages.

There was the American Revolutionary War Veteran, Jacob Russell (now buried near Horseshoe Lake) who traveled here from Connecticut in 1812 with some twenty family members to put down roots.

And, Jacob's son Ralph, who a decade later founded the North Union Shaker

Community, initiating a period of almost 70 years when that religious group modeled a standard of excellence manifested in lush farms and orchards, expertly constructed mills, and beautifully handcrafted furniture and other products, all while living a spiritual discipline guided by the golden rule.

Finally, three quarters of a century later, appear our own personal heroines, when members of ladies' garden clubs, created, much to their astonishment, what can only be described as a spontaneous uprising to save from certain death the land, the lakes and the little brook that connected it all.

The elegant simplicity of their mission coupled with the enormity of their task captured imaginations and inspired hearts and minds throughout their suburban neighborhoods, spilling into the community's nooks and crannies until it roared forward with the fierce determination of a people on a sacred crusade.

While the story of the fight and those who led it has been appropriately immortalized on numerous occasions, one of the most eloquent tributes to these unlikely heroines appears in, "The Doan Brook Handbook," author Laura Gooch's excellent work, published two decades ago. The book's dedication reads, "To Mary Elizabeth Croxton, Jean Eakin, Betty Miller, and all the women of the garden clubs. Without you there would be little left to say about the Doan Brook."

*continued on page 4...*

### IN THIS ISSUE: CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM AND OUR RICH HISTORY

MEET OUR  
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS  
OF THE FUTURE

LEARN ABOUT THE  
WHITE THROATED SPARROW

UNVEILING A NEW  
NATURE CENTER:  
CELEBRATE WITH US  
SUNDAY, 9.19

FUN FALL  
PROGRAMS



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### DEAR FRIENDS,

I am incredibly excited to share that we have completed our five year, \$6.1 million campaign to Enhance Your Outdoor Classroom! It is through your support and contributions that our vision has come to life and I thank each of you for helping us achieve this monumental goal. Your generosity has helped ensure generations to come will more deeply connect with the outdoors and create the lasting memories that so many of us have experienced within these acres. As the campaign draws to a close and we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Nature Center's founding, I reflect with awe on how much the Nature Center has changed and grown over these years. The historic Freeway Fight in the 1960s catapulted decades of hard work and activism at the Nature Center and the last five years have given me a renewed sense of focus and enthusiasm for our future.

This fall, we celebrate all of the environmental activists among us that have contributed to 55 wonderful years here in the Shaker Parklands. For some, 'environmental activism' may not be a title we use to label ourselves, yet simply reading this newsletter and engaging in this way with us is a form of your activism. As a visitor and supporter, you have already taken steps on your environmental journey. Participating in our programs like composting with Rust Belt Riders, exploring the world as a junior naturalist, supporting our campaign or annual fund, planting natives at your home, or recycling are all ways to fight for our planet's future and the future of the Nature Center. No matter how large or small your acts of activism are, we are grateful to have you working alongside us.

The momentum we have gained during the campaign energizes us, and we are beginning to conceptualize our next steps and vision of the organization. Meeting the needs of our community continues to be a priority as we grow and adapt for the future. As we continue on our path to sustain the Nature Center and leave a lasting legacy, we will keep you informed and hope you continue to walk beside us in fulfilling our mission.

See you on the Trails!

*Kay Carlson*

Kay Carlson,  
President & CEO



### FUN FACTS:

- Look for these sparrows on the ground or in low bushes near areas with trees or under bird feeders.
- Their primary food is seeds. They can sometimes be seen jumping backwards dragging their feet to scratch the ground to uncover food.
- Their head pattern comes in two color forms, black with white stripes or brown with tan stripes. It has been observed that males prefer females with black/white head pattern and females prefer males with tan/brown pattern. This enables both color patterns to continue to exist.

## NATURE CONNECTION

### AN EVOLVING WATERSHED

by Julia Mitchell, Grants Manager

The Shaker Lakes have been integral to the history and character of our community. They inspired the citizen-led movement to fight the Clark-Lee freeway and establish the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes in 1966. While we value this history, we now have an exciting opportunity to restore a large section of Doan Brook, create valuable native habitat and reduce the risk of flooding in our watershed.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) recently released its recommendations for the future of the Shaker Lakes, which included restoring the Lower Lake dam and removing the dam at Horseshoe Lake. In place of Horseshoe Lake, they envision free-flowing Doan Brook channels surrounded by functioning, vegetated floodplains that will provide natural flood control and restore valuable native habitat.

The Nature Center is not directly involved in the dam projects, but as a stakeholder we have a keen interest in maintaining the accessibility, scenic beauty, and diverse ecology of the Shaker Parklands. We look forward to learning more about NEORSRD's plans over the coming months and encourage you to do the same. Please visit their website at [neorsd.org/shaker-lakes-review-and-recommendations/](https://neorsd.org/shaker-lakes-review-and-recommendations/). For additional questions, please contact: Jeff Jowett, NEORSRD Senior Watershed Team Leader, at [JowettJ@neorsd.org](mailto:JowettJ@neorsd.org).

### WILDLIFE FEATURE

by Julie West,  
Nature Center Honorary  
Life Trustee, Bird Expert



White throated sparrow  
Photo by Laura Gooch

White-throated sparrows are unusual in that they not only pass through Ohio during spring and fall migration on their journey to and from breeding grounds in Canada, but some winter here. The distinctive white throat outlined in black, a yellow spot (lore) in front of the eye, and a striped head pattern makes these birds easy to identify.

The song of the white-throated sparrow is a quite recognizable, somewhat melodious, whistle. As is often done with bird songs, it's been described using words that reflect the cadence: "Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada" or "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody." Full and partial songs may be heard during migration, and less frequently during the winter.

Stop by the Nature Center this fall during migration and see if you can spot one!

## junior NATURALIST

MOLDING OUR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

VISIT  
[shakerlakes.org/jrnat](https://shakerlakes.org/jrnat) to find NEW  
activities this fall for  
your junior naturalist  
to enjoy

*Our campers had a great time this past summer!  
But don't take our word for it...*

### AYA (AGE 4) NATURE NURSERY

**What is your favorite thing to do at camp?**  
*I love going creek walking!*

**What do you learn about?** *Fishies! We see fish in the creek. I like to watch fish eat. They eat mosquitoes.*



### MILANA (AGE 5) SQUIRREL SCOUT

**What do you like to do at camp?** *I am an artist and I like coloring.*

**Do you have any fun memories from the Nature Center?**  
*One time we looked at a turtle! It pooped.*

**What have you learned?** *Moths make cocoons and butterflies make chrysalis.*



### MAYA (AGE 7) LIFEGUARD

**What are you doing today?** *We are going in the creek! We built a bridge in the creek with rocks and sticks and it's still there! And we are tie-dyeing coffee filters to make flowers.*

**Who is your favorite teacher?** *Miss Katie. She says she is 100 years old!*



### MAGGIE (AGE 9) EXPLORERS

**What are some cool things you do at camp?**  
*We look at bugs with the microscope. We looked at a waterbug from the creek. They had legs, but no shell. They looked humongous!*

**Are there any moments you'll never forget?** *I saw a red headed woodpecker.*



### JUDE (AGE 9) EXPLORERS

**How long have you been coming to camp?**  
*4 years, I was a squirrel scout.*

**What have you learned?** *I love fungus. I took pictures of mushrooms at my house after camp. My favorite are the puff balls. My dad mowed over one in our yard and it puffed up black spores!*

**Can you tell us what you like to do at camp?** *Play snake tag, riddles, finding cool things and looking at fungus especially.*



Visit [shakerlakes.org/camp-interviews-2021](https://shakerlakes.org/camp-interviews-2021) to read more from our campers!

### 2022 outdoor adventure camp registration is coming soon!\*

Become a member today and enjoy the benefits of early registration, opening November 30 to our members, plus a \$30 discount per camp session. Camp sessions sell out quickly so become a member and ensure your spot! Visit [shakerlakes.org](https://shakerlakes.org).

\*Public registration opens Monday, January 10.

### NATURE STORY TIME: Old Enough to Save the Planet

Children ages 3 1/2 to 7 years with an adult are invited to join us, in-person, at the new Jimmy's Treehouse. This season's programming was inspired by Loll Kirby's book, "Old Enough to Save the Planet." After the story, we'll take action like the heroes in our stories as we spot butterflies, take care of our plants, or protect our water.  
**Member: \$5 per child; Nonmember: \$10 per child.**

**WINGED WONDERS** | September 14 | 3:30-4:30PM  
(Book by Meeg Pincus)

**HARLEM GROWN** | October 12 | 3:30-4:30PM  
(Book by Tony Hillery)

**WE ARE PROTECTORS** | November 9 | 3:30-4:30PM  
(Book by Carole Lindstrom)

### CREATURE FEATURE:

#### WHAT AM I?

- I am the home to many great blue herons who gather here to build their nests.
- This place allows blue herons to help each other look out for predators such as eagles and owls from above and racoons from below.
- I can be found high in the safety of the tree tops.
- It is very noisy here during the summer as babies grow and blue herons make their calls.

Answer: Rookery



### FUN FACT:

Prior to December of 1996, the mallard duck was our logo. In 1996, as part of the Nature Center's 30th anniversary celebration, a new logo, the great blue heron, was unveiled and remains today. This newsletter, The Rookery, has since been named, and appropriately so, after a colony of nesting great blue herons.



## FALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### GUIDED FALL BIRD WALKS

Wednesday, September 15 | 6–7:30PM  
Select Sundays: October 17, November 14,  
December 12 | 8–10AM

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Bring your own binoculars. **\$5 donation. Registration required.**

### FALL BIRD BANDING

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays August 23–October 29  
7:30–11:30AM | NCSL

Find Julie West near the right side of the driveway and observe migratory birds as they are banded by Julie West and her team. Banding provides valuable insights about the migratory bird routes in northeast Ohio. Please observe 6' of distancing. **Weather permitting. Free.**

### THE BIG SIT

Sunday, October 10 | All day, dawn to dusk

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. Meet on the All Peoples’ Trail marsh deck. This event serves as a fundraising effort for bird-related projects through pledges gathered by participants. **Donations encouraged. For information contact Julie West [jwest@ameritech.net](mailto:jwest@ameritech.net).**

### FALL HIKING SERIES

Select dates September, October, November

This series replaces the hikes typically offered at Hike & Run and kicks off September 19 at the Fall Festival. **See page 8 for details.**

### COMPOSTING WITH WORMS 101

Wednesday, September 29 | 6–7PM

Join Tim Steckel from Work Workers ([wormworkers.com](http://wormworkers.com)) to learn what vermicomposting is and why it is a great method of composting. Vermicomposting can be done right in your backyard, basement, or even apartment. Let the worms do all the heavy lifting for you, helping to break down your food scraps and other organic waste and divert from the landfill. **\$5 member; \$7.50 nonmember. Register at [shakerlakes.org/programs](http://shakerlakes.org/programs).**

### FAMILY CAMPFIRE NIGHT

Friday, November 5 | 5:30–8:30PM

Bring your friends and family to this annual favorite for a fun evening of hiking, crafts, campfires and toasted marshmallows (vegan and kosher varieties available)! Bring camp chairs and marshmallow sticks. **Member: \$5 per person; Nonmember: \$7.50 per person; no charge for ages 2 and under.**

### ADULT LECTURE SERIES: COMMUNITY IMPACT

Select Dates November–January

Join us for a series of lectures to celebrate the positive changes we can make when we come together to support an idea. In addition to recounting the history of the freeway fights, you’ll learn from local experts leading present-day efforts to improve our community through urban green spaces, stormwater management, and more. **Visit [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) for more information and to register.**

### NATURALIST NOTEBOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, November 21 | 1–3PM | Loganberry Books or Virtual

A book group discussion in partnership with Loganberry Books. Dan Egan’s *Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, published in 2018, brings together the history, science findings and personal experiences of these critical freshwater resources. Egan examines the urgency of a growing water crisis while providing some cautious hope to the reader.

Visit [shakerlakes.org/programs](http://shakerlakes.org/programs) for details and registration information.



## ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE FUNDRAISER

Support the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
and your feathered friends! Ordering will be available  
throughout October.

Visit [SHAKERLAKES.ORG](http://SHAKERLAKES.ORG) beginning  
October 1 for available options, prices, and to place your order.  
Order pick-up will be in the Nature Center parking  
lot on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 12–14.

Thanks to Dave Pretnar, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited  
in Mayfield Heights, for partnering with us on this sale  
to offer high quality bird seed for your backyard feeders.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your continued support of the Nature Center and its programs. We are especially grateful for our most recent groups and partners: Summer Stewardship Assistants, Outdoor Adventure Camp Assistants, Shaker MyCom/Y.O.U, Eaton Corporation, Greater Cleveland Volunteers, and Business Volunteers Unlimited.

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### VISITOR SURVEY VOLUNTEERS | FALL 2021

Friendly volunteers are needed to help us engage with our visitors to field a short survey. Results will help us understand how we can better serve the community and deepen our impact. Training is provided. Dates and times vary and can be scheduled based on availability.

### NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 25 | 10AM–1PM

In partnership with the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, volunteers work together to improve the habitat and wildlife areas of the Shaker Parklands. Tasks may include pulling invasive plants or 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 shoes and long pants. **Register at [shakerlakes.org/volunteer](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer).**

### STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY

October 30 | 10AM–12PM

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

### PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

November 13–April 29 | Select weekdays & weekends

We’re 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!

To learn more or sign up for an opportunity, email  
[volunteer@shakerlakes.org](mailto:volunteer@shakerlakes.org) or visit [shakerlakes.org/volunteer](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer).

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

*As we celebrate our roots in environmental activism, we are honored to help young people find their voice and explore their passion for the natural world as volunteers.*



### MEET ASHER

ASHER H., 13 YEARS OLD

What is your current role at the Nature Center and what types of things did you participate in daily? I volunteered as a Youth OAC Assistant. I set up activities, made sure every camper had fun, and cleaned up. I spent lots of time going outside, playing games, and learning alongside the campers.

Why is giving back to the Nature Center and the environment important to you? I wanted to spend my summer volunteering and work towards a cause I care about. I found the Nature Center and was interested in its environmental goals. The environmental crisis affects every living thing on this planet, which is why I wanted to do my part in giving back.

How has volunteering helped shape your views toward the environment? My time at the Nature Center made me appreciate having a wonderful place like this near my home. Preserving places like these is important. I realize my actions directly affect the environment, and that changing my daily life even just slightly is effective. During the pandemic especially, the Nature Center was one of my favorite places. The time I’ve spent volunteering made me want to help others take advantage of the Nature Center.

What have you learned through your experience that has changed the way you think about your future role in protecting the planet? I’ve learned environmental activism includes taking part in big and little actions, as a community and individually. Big changes are needed, like adapting our transportation systems, promoting green energy, and stopping deforestation. The small things everyone can do individually also count, like adopting a plant-based diet, reducing, reusing, recycling, and volunteering for local organizations that work toward a greener world, like the Nature Center. If we could get everyone to do the small things, we could achieve an incredible amount. The Nature Center showed me that everyone’s work counts, and one of our jobs is attracting young people to environmental activism earlier.

What does the Nature Center mean to you? The Nature Center gives me hope for a better future. Its creation shows that fighting the environmental crisis is possible because the Nature Center was developed instead of a highway being built. I am very fortunate to be a part of the Nature Center family, and I look forward to continuing to volunteer here.

## PARADISE FOUND *continued from cover...*

In that regard when we interviewed the late Jean Eakin some 24 years ago for an article that appeared in a local newspaper, she was then at age 90, still visibly animated when she spoke of those days. Drawing up her diminutive frame, her voice clear and strong, she said about the moment she learned of the intended Parkland destruction, “I was devastated, completely devastated when I heard what was about to happen, so I called Mary Elizabeth [Croxtton] who was head of an area garden club and I said, ‘Let’s try to save the lakes’.”

Named chairperson of the subsequently created Park Conservation Committee, Eakin and hundreds of her fellows were instrumental in the 1966 incorporation of the Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center, achieved when the ‘freeway fight’ was still raging. Although the newly constructed Center’s doors opened in 1969, it would be another two years before then Governor James Rhodes would finally announce that plans for the infamous freeway would be withdrawn.

Looking back, it does seem more than fortuitous that we are blessed with what the Shakers of the North Union called, “The Valley of God’s Pleasure,” taken from a curious vision that Ralph Russell reported he experienced when returning home from having visited the Ohio based Union Village community of Shakers.

Ralph recounted that on his journey, he was accompanied by a strong, clear column of light, and when his horse approached his home situated only a few miles from what is now the Nature Center, that same column of light became a vertical beam and upon touching the ground transformed into a beautiful tree.

It doesn’t really matter what we think of visions; what does matter is that here, now at this moment we are gifted with our own everyday living visions, a brook dancing through ancient ground, majestic trees, exquisite plants and flowers, ages old rocks, and critters large and small, all making this place their home. What all those ancestors, the settlers, the Shakers and our heroine grandmothers were saying is that this beloved place is also our home, our legacy, our shared experience, knitting us all together in an unbroken celebration of life.

At this extraordinary opportunity to acknowledge these simple gifts, we are invited to claim that birthright, to breathe in the miracle of this place and breathe out our profound gratitude.

## SUMMER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: Made Possible Through the National Environmental Education Fund (NEEF)

This summer, sixteen hard-working teenagers volunteered through the Nature Center’s Youth Stewardship Program to restore riparian habitat surrounding Doan Brook. The Nature Center received funding from the NEEF’s Restoration & Resilience COVID Recovery Fund to help fund the 2021 Youth Stewardship Program and make substantial progress on our restoration goals. Together our volunteers donated a total of 542 hours, removing invasive species and planting hundreds of native trees, shrubs and perennials.

With all of us  
working together, we  
made a visible difference.  
I look forward to making  
more change in  
the future.

”

– Hannah Whitney,  
Youth  
Stewardship  
Assistant







## 2008

### The Stewardship Center

With walls constructed mostly by hand of straw bales and cob (a mix of clay, sand, and straw) by a team of volunteers who 'knitted' the cob into place, the center was built as a home to support our critical land management activities and all of our hard working stewardship volunteers and their equipment. The straw bales provide a high insulating factor while the cob allows a high thermal mass—slow to heat and slow to cool down.

## 2012

### Completion of Marsh Restoration

After invasive plants such as narrow-leaved cattails and crack willow trees took over the marsh, displacing the diverse native plants that once grew here, the Nature Center embarked on a multi-year project to restore this critical habitat. Staff and volunteers cleared the invasive species and planted a variety of native grasses, sedges, wildflowers, and trees, including the gorgeous colorful native swamp rose mallow that has become a visitor attraction each summer. The restoration provided improved water quality and wildlife habitat, attracting a diversity of native water-loving plant and animal species.

## 2013

### Applied Science for Kids (ASK!)

Local school districts including Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Shaker Heights, and others have been bringing grade school children on field trips to the Nature Center since 1971. While called many different things throughout the years, including *Earth Safari* and *Lost Treasures*, the premise is the same—Nature Center Environmental Educators utilize hands-on, experiential programming throughout our 20-acre outdoor classroom to provide grade-level standards-based curricula and immerse students in science and environmental education. After years of partnering with CMSD at various schools and grade levels, the ASK! program was our first opportunity to partner district-wide through multiple grade levels, doubling the number of children we serve and cultivating informed citizens who will become future environmental stewards.

## 2018

### The Lavelle Family Amphitheater

Located directly behind the Nature Center building, the unique ADA-accessible amphitheater created more usable outdoor space for unmatched learning experiences, lectures, and discussions and now connects directly to our trails and parking lot.

## 2019

### The Newly Reconstructed All Peoples' Trail

Arguably the Nature Center's most iconic feature, the APT is a 1/3-mile, ADA-accessible elevated boardwalk. The new APT is longer and even more accessible with a larger, more visible and welcoming entrance, improved ADA accessibility and connectivity to the larger Lake to Lakes trail system, larger nature and wildlife viewing areas, and features a one-of-a-kind woodland-themed Rose Foundation Gazebo bringing the beauty and tranquility of nature to life in exciting and engaging ways.

## 2021 + BEYOND

### A Fully Restored and Enhanced Stearns Woodland Trail

Completion of Jimmy's Treehouse, the new Carfagna Family Nature Play Area, the DBJ Foundation Terraza de Meditacion (Meditation Terrace), and many enhanced trail bridges and segments, highlighted the unveiling of the new Stearns Trail and completion of *Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes*.

Ongoing habitat restoration focusing on the stream, woodland and wetland areas at the heart of our educational mission, but threatened by invasive species, has been in full force across our 20 acres and will continue in coming years. New neighborhood trail entrances have improved pedestrian connectivity to our trail systems. We look forward to many years ahead of actively working to preserve and enhance this valued green space with your support as we ensure sustainability and relevance of this treasured space for future generations.



## NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

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## FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, September 19 | 10AM-1PM



### JOIN US to celebrate YOUR PARK.

Experience the newly renovated  
trails, neighborhood entrances,  
and exciting outdoor features  
made possible by the Campaign to  
Enhance Your Outdoor Classroom.

- Food
- Entertainment
- Libation Station
- Kids Activities
- Raffles
- Guided Hikes & Trail Tours
- Native Plant Sale

Visit [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) for more information and an activity schedule

### FALL HIKING SERIES



A fun and different approach to our annual one-day Hike & Run event. Expand your definition of "hike" as we join with community partners to blend meditation, care, art, recreation, laughter and, of course, learning about nature, into this new fall hiking series.

Register for your favorite hiking styles or try something new—there are countless ways to experience nature.

Visit [shakerlakes.org](http://shakerlakes.org) for details and to register.

Attend the Fall Festival on September 19 where we will kick off the first hike in this new series—a FREE family-friendly hike showcasing the Nature Center!

## ART ON VIEW "REFUGE: THE LAST DAYS OF WONDER," by Ursuline College's Wasmer Gallery

Opening Reception & Artists' Talk | Sunday, October 17 | 2-4PM

The Wasmer exhibit, "ReFuge: The Last Days of Wonder," opens Friday, October 22 and runs through Friday, January 28, 2022, as an interactive, immersive art experience around the theme of refuge. Conceived and curated by Wasmer Gallery Director Anna Arnold, ReFuge invites visitors to explore gallery space that has been transformed into a surreal fantasy forest created by four invited installation and mixed-media artists from Cuyahoga County who will use recycled materials.

The Nature Center will host a companion exhibit, "Seeking ReFuge," featuring two-dimensional work by artists who use recycled and mixed media materials. The dates of this intimate show are Sunday, October 17, 2021, through Sunday, January 16, 2022. On October 17, an opening reception from 2-4PM will include an artists' talk at 3PM. Learn more at [ursuline.edu/wasmergallery](http://ursuline.edu/wasmergallery). Check the website for any changes in hours. Pieces not for sale.

