



YOUR PARK. YOUR FUTURE.

by Ashley Hall, *Marketing Coordinator*

Since 1966, the Nature Center’s unwavering mission has been to conserve a natural area, connect people with nature, and inspire environmental stewardship. For the past 54 years, we have remained grounded in a legacy of civic involvement and environmental access for all, welcoming a diversity of visitors. We understand our visitors enjoy and use our 20-acres in a variety of ways—each as unique as the habitats and native species that make up this special place.

The Nature Center as YOUR PARK:

Situated in the heart of the larger Shaker Parklands, our grounds, trails, and habitats have remained free and open to the public. A community asset, visitors come from all over northeast Ohio to enjoy and take advantage of the outdoor recreational opportunities we offer: walking, hiking, viewing nature, or just sitting and enjoying the quiet respite of the outdoors. Throughout the last year, we have seen more and more people seeking the solace and safety of outdoor recreation and stepping foot onto our trails.

The Nature Center as YOUR PRESERVE:

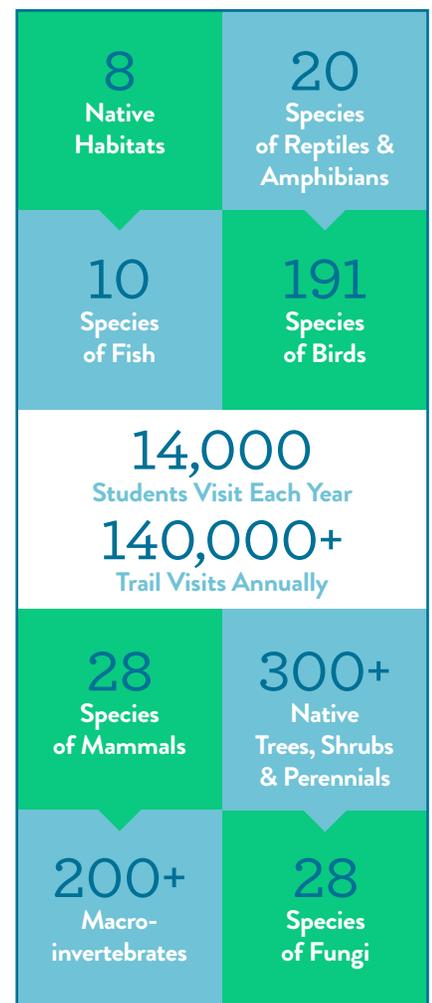
In addition to offering an outdoor greenspace nestled in a beautiful and eclectic community, the Nature Center in its true form is a nature preserve; an area of native habitats that are conserved and managed, where animals and plants are protected—with few buildings or homes. This makes us truly unique, especially within an urban setting such as Cleveland. In addition to offering select recreational activities, we provide educational opportunities and programming, which are rooted in environmentalism and science. Our eight biodiverse habitats allow us to serve the community and create an outdoor classroom where the lessons of conservation come to life as visitors connect with the beauty and inspiration of nature. Contrary to our name, the 20-acres of conserved habitats we manage do not include Lower or Horseshoe Lakes, which are instead part of the greater Shaker Parklands and are managed by the cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, along with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. We partner with various volunteer and city groups to ensure the entire parklands remain a beautiful place for our community of neighbors and visitors.

Now, as we enter our fourth and final phase of *Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: The Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes*, our hope is that you will share in our vision to protect and enhance YOUR PARK as we create more access, more education, and more opportunities for visitors and guests to connect with nature while we preserve our legacy—for YOUR FUTURE and the future of our community.

To learn more about how you can be involved in *Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: The Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes*, visit: shakerlakes.org/outdoorclassroom.



ENHANCING YOUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
CAMPAIGN for THE NATURE CENTER at SHAKER LAKES



IN THIS ISSUE: A FOCUS ON POLLINATORS!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Happy spring! As the weather warms, I look forward to the “buzz” of early pollinators, such as bees and flies, as they search for the first fresh blooms of spring across our 20 acres.

The delicate relationship between plants and pollinators is fascinating to me. In addition to the obvious signs of warmer weather, springtime reminds me that pollinators are critical to our nature preserve and greater ecosystem. Nearly three-fourths of all flowering plants need pollination, most of which come from insects such as bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, and beetles. Taking time to observe pollinators helps me appreciate that it takes a diverse group of organisms to help our ecosystems thrive.

Spring signifies a time for new beginnings and reflection. It is hard to believe that it has been a year since the Nature Center building temporarily closed to the public due to COVID-19. Like so many small businesses, nonprofits, and cultural institutions across our region, this global pandemic has had a significant economic impact on our operations. While our trails and outdoor spaces remained open, our staff transitioned to working remotely, moving much of our programming online. However, the elimination of in-person gatherings resulted in decreased revenue. This fiscal year, we had to make significant cuts to the budget which resulted in reductions in staff hours and executive compensation. Sadly, these decisions have impacted our most valuable asset—our staff.

Like nature, we are resilient. We remain committed to our employees as well as the preservation and management of our 20 acres, while building and sustaining a solid future for our region. Much like the mutualistic relationship between plants and pollinators, we relied on you to help us through this difficult time and in return we have remained here for you—a welcoming and accessible nature preserve for all. I have been so humbled by and am grateful for the way our community has supported us.

As we develop a reopening plan with your health and safety in mind, we welcome your continued visits to our newly renovated trails, attendance at our programs and the upcoming 39th Annual Plant Sale and Homegrown Sale, which includes our online plant sale beginning March 22. I hope you will join me in purchasing native perennials and beautiful annuals that will support our local pollinators. I also hope to see you at our annual benefit, Nature at Night, on June 5. Watch for more details soon.

See you on the trails!

Kay Carlson

Kay Carlson, President & CEO



VOLUNTEER NEWS

We would like to thank all our volunteers—individuals and groups—for their continued support of the Nature Center. Volunteers assist with education, land management, and special events.

To sign up or inquire, please email volunteer@shakerlakes.org or visit shakerlakes.org/volunteer.



YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR NATIVE PLANTS!

SATURDAY, MAY 8 | 9:30AM–1PM

39th ANNUAL PLANT SALE

39TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 8 | 9:30AM–1PM

Shop and choose from a beautiful and ever-growing variety of hard-to-find native plants, perennials, affordable herbs, vegetables, annuals, and hanging baskets selected by a local team of experienced gardeners. Experts will be available throughout the day offering selection guidance. Parking is available on nearby streets and curbside assistance with purchases is provided.



ONLINE PLANT SALE

March 22–April 17 | shakerlakes.org

Online sales with convenient home delivery (within a 20-mile radius) will be available! Download and print your plant sale catalog beginning in mid-March, or visit the website to use our online store for secure ordering.

Note: Online selection may differ from Plant Sale Day.

HOMEGROWN PLANT SALE

Sunday, June 13 | 11AM–3PM

Our popular Homegrown Sale, featuring plants grown and donated by local gardeners, is now a stand alone event! A perfect way to fill in gaps after the garden has had a chance to grow. Experts will be available to answer your gardening questions.

MEMBERS ONLY PLANT SALE PREVIEW

Saturday, May 8 | 8:30–9:30AM

We invite Nature Center members to join Plant Sale Day ahead of the crowd. Enjoy first pick of sought-after offerings while you safely mingle with fellow garden enthusiasts and get planting advice from our knowledge-able staff and volunteers.



Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep

Saturday, April 17 | 1–3PM

See programs listing for more details.

Plant Sale Volunteers

Pick Day | May 5, 6, 7

Sale Day | Saturday, May 8

Shifts Vary

Assemble orders, curbside pick-up, sale check-out and other tasks as needed.

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

April 17, May 22, June 26,
10AM–12PM | NCSL Pavilion

Calling all volunteers 8 years (with a guardian) and up! Gloves, tools, marsh boots (if needed), water and a light snack provided. Individuals and groups are also welcome.

FREE.

SPRING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

GUIDED SPRING BIRD WALKS

Select Sundays: March 14, April 4, May 23 | 8-10AM | NCSL

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Physical distancing between non-family participants will be required. Masks required. Binoculars not available. **\$5 donation. Registration required. Note: Our building (and restrooms) remain closed to the public. Please plan accordingly.**

DOAN BROOK ANNUAL STREAM SWEEP & WEED PULL

Saturday, April 17 | 1-3PM | At the Corner of Fairhill and E. 127th St.

Celebrate Earth Day with Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and the Nature Center as we clean up winter trash and pull invasive plants in the Doan Brook corridor and surrounding parklands. Individuals, groups, and all ages welcome! **FREE. Register at doanbrookpartnership.org/stream-sweep.**

BRINGING NATURE HOME SERIES

Select Dates Through March and April | Zoom

Join us for free talks about ecological gardening inspired by Douglas Talamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home." Learn strategies for plant selection, garden design, and more as you discover why native plants are beneficial for garden habitats and what to do with the invasives that threaten them. In partnership with the NCSL Plant Sale Committee, the Barber Restoration Fund and Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. **FREE. Full schedule, presenters and topics online: shakerlakes.org/spring-programs.**

ADULT CAMP: ARCHERY

Select Sundays, May 1, May 22, June 19 | 1-3PM | NCSL

Why should kids have all the summer fun? Bring up to 5 friends for an afternoon of archery! Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow and end your group's lesson with a series of challenges and competition. Light snacks provided. Only 1 group of 6 per event date. **Fees support the Camp Scholarship Fund. \$200 for a group of 6.**



NATURALIST'S NOTEBOOK DISCUSSION: ENTANGLED LIFE BY MERLIN SHELDRAKE

Sunday, May 16 | 1-3PM | Zoom

From their medicinal uses, to edible delicacies, to their ability to decompose just about everything, mushrooms have found a place in all aspects of human life. In *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape our Futures*, Merlin Sheldrake explores these organisms. Join Loganberry Books, the Nature Center, and a fungi specialist to talk about this book, provide tips on mushroom hunting, and share some of the lore that surrounds this enormous Kingdom. **\$5 suggested donation.**

SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME SERIES: RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 20 | Sessions at 5:45 & 6:30PM | NCSL

Make your own rain barrel and save more than water! We supply the barrel, parts and tools and show you how to construct a closed, 55-gallon rain barrel system. In collaboration with Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. **Workshop fee, including barrel and parts, is \$60. Space is limited and advance registration is required by May 1.**

NATURE AT NIGHT: CONSERVE, CONNECT, CELEBRATE!

A Benefit to Support the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Saturday, June 5 | Evening Virtual & Hybrid Event

Save the date and kick off summer with the Nature Center to support your local gem. Celebrate and support the conservation and environmental education programs shared by more than 14,000 children throughout the year. Tickets available online. Additional details forthcoming.

To register, visit shakerlakes.org/spring-programs. Note: All onsite programs and events require 6' of physical distancing and face masks.

JUNIOR NATURALIST

Spring is a time of change as the weather warms and the daylight hours get longer. Plants are also waking up with new buds, flowers, and leaves. Some smaller critters have an important job to help our plants around us. We call these animals POLLINATORS, and they help plants to make fruit and seeds. Bees, butterflies, and moths do this by moving pollen, a fine powdery substance, from flower to flower, so that flowers can continue to make seeds for the next year.

Go explore and look for flowers on the ground or in trees. Can you find pollinators flying from flower to flower?

WANT TO MEET MORE POLLINATORS AND PRINT POLLINATOR-THEMED ACTIVITIES? VISIT [SHAKERLAKES.ORG/JRNAT](https://shakerlakes.org/jrnat).

VIRTUAL NATURE STORY TIME: GARDENS

Select Mondays | 4:30-5PM | Zoom | \$5 per family

Children ages 3½ to 7 years of age with an adult are invited to join the Nature Center on Zoom to read a story. This season, characters in the stories will teach us how plants grow and how one garden can impact the whole community. The activity modeled after each reading shows how you can join in the fun.

MARCH 15

How Do Plants Grow?
(Young Scientist Series)
by G.A. Sealy

APRIL 12

Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood
by Tony Hillery

MAY 17

Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies
by Deborah Hopkinson

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Perfect for teens 13-17

Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC) Assistants

Spring Break Camps | March 29-April 2

Minimum commitment: 2 days

Summer Camps | June 7-August 13

Minimum commitment: 2 weeks

Youth Stewardship Assistants

June 15-August 5

Minimum commitment: 2 weeks

CREATURE FEATURE:

WHO AM I?

- I am a pollinator of the night
- I have a fuzzy body that is great for picking up pollen
- I like fragrant and white flowers that bloom at night
- I can be smaller than a pencil tip or bigger than a songbird!

Answers: Moths





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

216.321.5925 · naturecenter@shakerlakes.org



NATURE
at **NIGHT**
Conserve. Connect. Celebrate.
SATURDAY, JUNE 5

A benefit to support the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes



**SUMMER
OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE
CAMP 2021**

LESS SCREEN, MORE NATURE · JUNE 7–AUGUST 13

Join us this summer and become inspired by the outdoor world! Virtual and limited contact options now available.

Need spring break plans?

We offer a spring break camp, too! Register for one day, or up to all five. March 29–April 2.

Visit shakerlakes.org/camp to register today. Don't delay, camps will sell out quickly due to limited group sizes.

Family Adventure Pack: SPRING BREAK CAMP

Pick up select Wednesdays: March 17 or April 14 | 3–6PM

Step away from the screen with a Family Adventure Pack. This season's activities focus on using your senses to observe how the natural world reacts to the new season. We've included some of our favorite crafts and games from our traditional Spring Break Camp to add extra fun! Each kit is curated by our education staff.

\$25 member, \$35 non-member per pack. Register for the pick-up day that is most convenient for you. Pre-purchase required. Recommended for grades pre-K–4. Activities vary by grade level.