



**NATURE CENTER**  
AT SHAKER LAKES

Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023–AUGUST 31, 2024

# Discovering Your Third Place

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

# Dear Friends

As the vibrant colors of fall fade, we now embrace the winter season in Northeast Ohio—a time filled with snow, joy, and warmth of community. For our team, this season also brings reflection on the past year and excitement as we plan for a dynamic 2025 filled with robust offerings to our visitors and program attendees.

This fall, we celebrated the ceremonious transfer of the Board Chair seat from Meg Hunter to Justin Croniser. The dedication of our leadership and Trustees continue to inspire our team. 2024 was a strategic planning year for our Board and Staff, and with an exciting and ambitious direction, we are honored to embrace our oasis in the trees and honor what a special place it is for all.

This past year was a record-breaking one for the organization in many ways. What stands out the most is the joy of seeing my “second space” (work) and my “third space” in life come together. The progress we’ve made this year will enhance the experiences of everyone who considers the Nature Center their own third space. From full scale stream restoration projects and robust tree canopy plans to elevating our annual Nature at Night event, we’re excited to share this journey with you over the next 12 months.

In the cold months ahead, know you have a warm place and hot cocoa waiting for you here at the Nature Center. If that means visiting for a quiet winter hike or attending one of our Winter Warm Up series programs, we hope to see you soon!

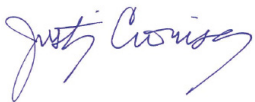
YOURS IN NATURE,



**PETER BODE**  
President & CEO



**MEG HUNTER**  
Past Chair



**JUSTIN CRONISER**  
NCSL Board Chair



## TRUSTEES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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\*as of 11/5/24

# Opening Doors for Grant Funding

At the Nature Center, we are more than a destination—our goal is to become a true “Third Place” for all in our community. Beyond home (the first place) and work (the second place), a third place is where people gather to recharge and build connections; it’s top of mind when searching for meaningful and tangible peace, spirit, and fellowship. We invite everyone to make this natural space their own, where learning, relaxation, and inspiration coexist in an inviting environment. Whether you’re exploring the trails, joining in on workshops, or simply warming up inside by our fireplace, we are here as a welcoming third place for all.

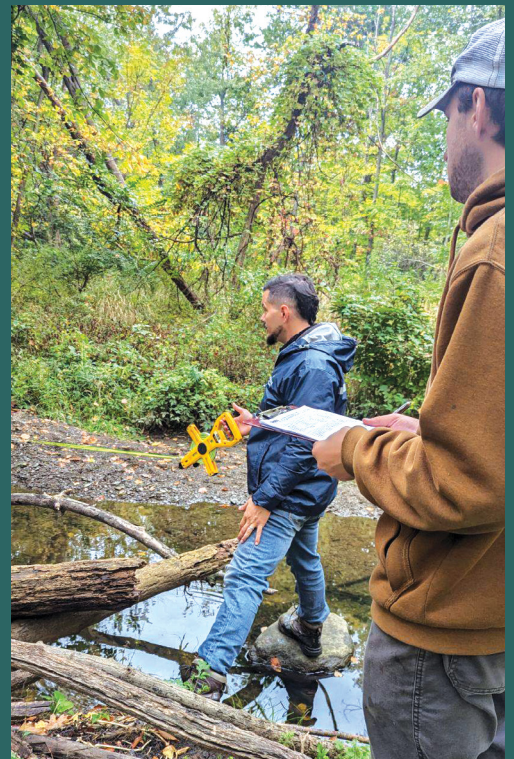
In 2023, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (NCSL) entered a new chapter, one marked by its first foray into government grant funding. Historically, public funds had not been leveraged, but with President & CEO Peter Bode’s vision, opportunities emerged to apply for government grants that align with the expanding vision. The shift has opened doors to a new era of growth and collaboration in the community.

With the full-time dedication of Maria Asher, Director of Grants & Foundation Relations, the Nature Center has been able to explore and secure key funding sources, both private and public. Notably, NCSL received its first-ever arts grant from the Ohio Arts Council’s ArtSTART program, as well as support from the Nord Family Foundation. The ArtSTART grant supports Summer Wednesdays and other seasonal arts programming, allowing deeper community engagement through the intersection of arts and nature.

The expansion into government funding, however, goes beyond arts programming. The receipt of Cuyahoga County’s Healthy Urban Tree Canopy (HUTC) grant marks another first for the organization. This grant enables the Nature Center to conduct essential tree inventory, risk assessment, invasive species removal, and to plant 234 native trees along West Park Boulevard. The HUTC grant is an essential part of countywide efforts to promote a healthier, more sustainable tree canopy.

In addition to these grants, the Nature Center was awarded OhioEPA Large Scale Restoration Grant funding through the Ohio 319 Program, part of a national initiative to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect Ohio’s surface water resources. With this funding the organization will restore 1,500 linear feet of stream. This grant is a vital part of NCSL’s commitment to restoring local ecosystems and preserving water quality.

Securing government grants not only provides critical funding but also helps the Nature Center tell its story to new audiences and potential funders. These grants have opened doors for future opportunities, expanding the impact on community, environment, and beyond. Improvements made possible through grant funding ensures your third place continues to be protected and offer dynamic experiences. Through both public and private funding, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is poised for continued growth and success.



## MEET MARIA ASHER DIRECTOR OF GRANTS & FOUNDATION RELATIONS

In an effort to place more focus on fundraising and development initiatives to support the organization’s strategic initiatives and mission, the Nature Center recently restructured the development office. One of the key changes was to create this position. Through this newly elevated role and focus, Maria Asher has stepped in and identified key funding sources that will have a positive and lasting effect on the organization.

# Optimizing Resources to Inspire Future Environmental Stewards

The Nature Center's education team works diligently to stretch donor dollars and grants to maximize impact. In 2024, we provided 800+ school programs within 180 school days using only four classrooms on site. While we prefer hosting students at the Nature Center, in addition to classroom limitations, transportation can also be a barrier. As a result, the education team built several creative ways to reach students. Multiple modes of delivery help us maximize reach, especially during our busiest seasons. Regardless of the program format, our goals remain the same: to inspire young environmental stewards through science-based educational curriculum and incorporate nature into their daily routine.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**826** PROGRAMS TO **15,035** PEOPLE

The education team delivered 826 programs to 15,035 people (students, teachers, and parent chaperones).

**180** LEARNING DAYS

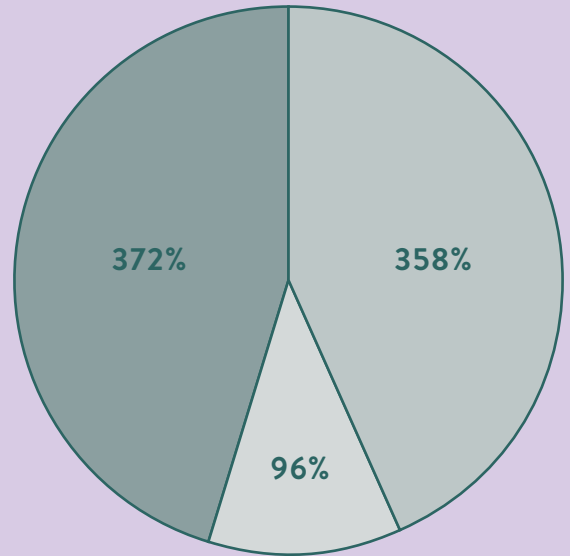
The majority of school districts have 180 learning days and with limited classroom space, we offer both virtual and offsite programming to maximize reach.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FUNDING

**358** WERE FUNDED BY SCHOOLS

**96** OFFERED AT DISCOUNT WITH GRANT SUPPORT

**372** WERE FREE WITH GRANT SUPPORT

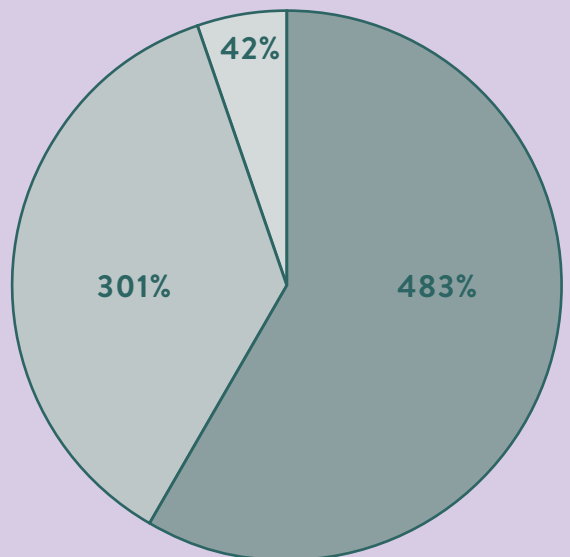


## METHOD OF DELIVERY

**483** IN-PERSON AT NCSL

**301** IN-PERSON ALTERNATE LOCATION

**42** VIRTUAL



## HERE IS WHAT EDUCATORS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR RECENT SCHOOL PROGRAM

*"The students were so excited to see birds they read about in class in their natural setting."*

*"My students really enjoyed the activities and talked about going outside and looking for animals. They also seemed to want to explore nature more when outside on nature walks directly after the program."*

*"One of my autistic students became captivated by worms and forests after visiting. The next day I took him out to an area near our school to find worms and we have done a few virtual forest visits as well."*

# Cultivating a Welcoming Third Space for All

In 2024 the Nature Center expanded programming to reach new audiences and welcome visitors to our space. Community outreach is a strong way for the Nature Center to utilize new channels and build partnerships, which invite first-time visitors. Embodying our role as a Third Place means all feel welcome and encouraged to enjoy nature.

Expanding the Community Engagement Manager position and strengthening our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee, has increased opportunities to reach community members with diverse interests. Summer Wednesdays, Natural Resources and unique program themes were noticeable areas of growth for our programming calendar. The focus was to combine nature themes with interesting formats to create innovative programs.

Especially successful programs included Winter Warmup Whiskey Tasting, Historic Homes Tour, Seed Collection Workshops, Drag in Bloom (pictured below), and Boozy Birding—a casual and welcoming introduction to the world of birding!

## DEIA COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

### REFLECTIONS

The DEIA committee began FY24 with a goal of looking inward. The committee's goal was to reflect on the history of our community, challenge assumption, and implement strategies throughout various departments.

### RETREAT

In October 2023, the staff and board attended a two-day retreat led by Lance Bennett of L.E.B. Partners. Lance led the team through the personal work of self-reflection and incorporating observations into daily strategies.


### IN THE COMMUNITY

In June, the committee toured Rid-All, an urban farm, and shared a delicious farm-to-table meal. Despite its proximity, most of the group hadn't been to Rid-All. This highly-anticipated trip was beneficial as the organization looks forward to future partnerships.

### ACTING AND PLANNING

Work was focused on integrating DEIA initiatives throughout the organization and its departments. The committee hosted meetings in which staff and board celebrated achievements and developed methods to deepen our impact.





*"I was excited to see continued growth of underserved students and campers receiving financial aid dollars."*

—  
**HUNTER HAMMIL**  
Outdoor Adventure  
Camp Manager

*"Visitation has doubled over the past 20 years, the Duck Pond gift shop now includes more local vendors. I've noticed increased routine groups of adults with special needs."*

—  
**RACHEL WELLER**  
Visitor Services  
and Office Manager

*"It was inspiring to attract and engage diverse audiences through dynamic arts, social, environmental exploration, family-friendly, and health related programming. I enjoyed collaborating with so many new community partners."*

—  
**NIA TURNER**  
Community  
Engagement Manager

# Expanding Natural Resources Capacity through AmeriCorps

This past year was the first time the Nature Center was able to welcome an AmeriCorps service member to our staff. AmeriCorps provides support to organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities through funding and people power. Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) is an AmeriCorps program funded through ServeOhio and sponsored by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, serving northeast Ohio.


NOWCorps places service members with local conservation organizations, helping expand capacity for ecological restoration, educational outreach, volunteer management and more. Service members receive a monthly stipend and upon completion of their year of service, an educational award that can assist with expenses. Members also receive training, networking and experience as they make their way into these career fields. The host organization covers a portion of the program costs and in return receives a full-time service member for one year.

In our first year with NOWCorps, Miranda Luse (pictured right) joined our team. Her work with the Natural Resources team was invaluable in educating, connecting, and inspiring school groups and volunteers. Her vast knowledge of environmental science and past experience with the Nature Center made her an especially ideal fit for the role.

Along with the Natural Resources team, environmental stewards, and volunteers, Miranda supported invasive plant and bug removal, trail maintenance projects, and revamped our incredibly popular seed library program. She created the "What's in Bloom" guide and similar signage for visitors, and implemented other enhanced educational signage in the exhibit space. We are grateful for the talent, creativity, and knowledge Miranda brought to this role!

We are excited to continue the NOWCorps partnership, which expands the capacity of our natural resources team and the scope of our educational programming.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky and water are filled with warm, golden-orange light. In the center of the image, a bird, possibly a heron or egret, is captured in mid-flight, its long neck extended upwards. The water's surface is covered in gentle ripples that reflect the vibrant colors of the sky.

*"Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, this year we were able to successfully remove over 24,000 square feet of invasive species. This included replanting with native species that will help to promote more biodiverse habitats for years to come."*

—  
**KYLE WARREN**  
Natural Resources  
Technician

*"Our volunteers are real force multipliers for our small Natural Resources department. Their passion and hard work help us make immediately visible improvements to our habitats. We were also so lucky to have the support of our AmeriCorps conservation specialist this year. Miranda helped increase our capacity and grow our public programming and outreach. With community support we can do so much more!"*

—  
**NICK MIKASH**  
Natural Resources  
Manager

RESURGENCE IN

# Birding





Backyard birding, once considered a niche hobby, has seen a notable rise in popularity across the U.S., especially in regions like Northeast Ohio. This increase is partly due to the pandemic as more people sought ways to engage with nature in their own backyards. Birdwatching offered a peaceful escape and a way to connect with the outdoors without leaving home.

At the Nature Center and surrounding areas, this new level of interest is noteworthy. The Shaker Parklands is home to eight unique habitats including forests, wetlands, and urban green spaces, which serve as a crucial stopover for migratory birds and is home to a variety of species year-round. The boardwalk and Stearns Woodland Trail offer prime viewing locations and experts like Julie West provide guidance that further fuel the interest in birdwatching.

One driving factor behind the growing popularity is accessibility. Birding doesn't require a lot of expensive equipment—many enthusiasts start with a pair of binoculars and a guidebook, on a guided walk, or using an app like Merlin ID. The hobby is also

family-friendly and accessible to people of all ages, making it appealing to a broader demographic. Traditionally associated with older generations, birdwatching has seen an influx of younger birders, drawn by the tranquility of nature and the opportunity to participate in citizen science through apps like eBird. Parents are often seen engaging with their kids in our bird observation area inside the Nature Center.

The Nature Center has increased the visibility around our birding programs through an online calendar to showcase upcoming programs, such as bird banding and guided walks (usually two each month, one of which is accessible). ASL interpreters welcome all abilities to join and learn!

The Nature Center embraces birdwatching because for many, birding can be an opportunity to encourage bird-friendly, mission-based practices such as planting natives and reducing pesticide use, as well as increasing awareness about conservation efforts. It is our commitment to ensure your third place remain a vibrant birding destination and habitat for years to come.

# MEET OUR RESIDENT EXPERT **JULIE WEST** HONORARY BOARD TRUSTEE

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How did you become interested in birding?

Growing up, we had bird feeders in our yard, so I knew the common birds from a young age: robins, blue jays, and cardinals. We often spent time in the Metroparks and took annual camping vacations, so I expanded my bird knowledge along the way.

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Bird banding has been a part of the Nature Center for over 20 years, can you share how that came to be?

Gary and I started joining the Nature Center bird walks back in the late 1980's. In 1996, after observing bird banding at Point Reyes Bird Observatory field station in California, I signed up for a bird banding training session in Pennsylvania and then started volunteering at the Black Swamp Bird Banding station in Oak Harbor, Ohio. I eventually qualified for a banding sub-permit which enabled me to band on my own. After retirement in 2001, I started bird banding at the Nature Center with a focus on spring and fall migration. This was made possible with Gary's support, Laura Gooch who has helped daily since his passing, and many dedicated volunteers over the years.

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Your volunteer time and expertise are immeasurable! Could you tell us a little more about your role in expanding birding programs at the Nature Center?

Gary and I valued the Nature Center since we first discovered it through the Audubon Spring Bird walks. I refer to it as "an oasis in the middle of suburbia." In 2005, Gary and I started "The Big Sit" at the Nature Center, an event that occurs annually on the second weekend in October around the world. Additionally, I introduced Project FeederWatch to the Nature Center community. Around that time, I joined the Board of Trustees and served the maximum number of terms. After Gary's passing, I continued to lead Audubon Spring Bird Walks until a few years ago. More recently, I joined the Natural Resources Committee, the External Affairs Committee and the DEIA Committee.

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Have you observed a resurgence of birding at the Nature Center?

During the pandemic, there were more people who joined bird walks. Some became regulars, while others joined occasionally. Many came as beginners and once they gained some knowledge, started to branch out on their own. I see this pattern continuing today. Increased banding station visitors often stop by to watch and learn more.



## WE ASKED JULIE WEST:

Do you have a Spark Bird?

What really captured my attention was when my partner, Gary, took a Birding 101 class and introduced me to warblers, in 1988. They were so colorful and included different species. We were hooked and started going on guided bird walks, many at the Nature Center, and planned our vacations around birding.



HOODED MERGANSER



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH & JUNCO



NORTHERN CARDINAL

## WHAT IS A SPARK BIRD?

In birding, a “spark bird” is the bird that first ignites a person’s passion for birdwatching. It’s typically a species encountered in an unexpected or meaningful way that captivates someone, drawing them into the world of birding.

This concept was recently featured in an episode of *This American Life*, where expert birder Noah Strycker describes how a turkey vulture became his spark bird. Watching the vultures over several days, Strycker was mesmerized by their behavior, drawing him into a deeper fascination with birds. He explains that a spark bird is one that “grabs you in a way that you haven’t been grabbed before” and awakens a new understanding or appreciation of birds and nature. Birders often discuss their spark birds as pivotal moments in their birdwatching journeys.



WOOD DUCK



RED-TAILED HAWK

# THE NATURE CENTER: A VIBRANT BIRDING DESTINATION

## Important Bird Area

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a designation by the Audubon Society (and BirdLife International globally) for regions that are essential for the conservation of bird populations. These areas are identified based on scientific criteria that consider the presence of significant populations of endangered, threatened, or endemic bird species, as well as key habitats that are crucial for breeding, migration, or wintering. The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is considered an IBA.



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

## Get involved with the birding programs at the Nature Center

- **GUIDED BIRD WALKS** •  
Ongoing
- **BIRD BANDING** •  
Seasonally
- **BIG SIT** •  
Second Sunday in October
- **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** •  
December
- **PROJECT FEEDER WATCH** •  
Fall & Winter
- **AUDOBON BIRD WALKS** •  
Spring

## LOCAL BIRDING ORGANIZATIONS

The Cleveland area is home to a number of local bird organizations with excellent birding opportunities:

**NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES • KIRKLAND BIRD CLUB  
AUDUBON SOCIETIES • CLEVELAND METROPARKS  
COUNTY PARK SYSTEMS • CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK  
BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY**

## LISTEN

TO THE FULL EPISODE OF  
THIS AMERICAN LIFE ON BIRDING:



## LEARN MORE

ABOUT BIRDING ON OUR SITE:



## VIEW

PROGRAMMING CALENDAR  
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!



GREEN HERON



TUFTED TITMOUSE

*“Over the past 9 years, I have seen or heard 152 species of birds around the Nature Center (including Lower Lake).*

*For the last 20 years, a group of us has seen or heard an average of 48 bird species from the Marsh Overlook on the second Sunday in October during an international event called the “Big Sit.” During the 2020 “Big Sit,” we observed 70 species.”*

—  
JULIE WEST



AMERICAN REDSTART



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

# You Can Help Further our Impact!

## MEMBERSHIP

Become a member by giving a 100% tax-deductible gift at one of our six levels ranging from \$50–\$1,000+, and receive a sense of pride knowing that your membership supports community, conservation, and education. Members qualify for special benefits, including early and discounted program registration, 10% off our Duck Pond Gift Shop, invitations to members-only events, and more.

## ANNUAL FUND

Already a member? The Annual Fund is a year-round effort to raise additional funds necessary to support the daily operations of our organization, including the maintenance of our trails and facilities. Gifts of any size are appreciated and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## HERON SOCIETY

The Heron Society recognizes our dedicated donors who annually give \$1,000 or more. In addition to a host of membership benefits, Heron Society patrons enjoy access to exclusive events.

## PLANNED GIVING & EVERGREEN SOCIETY

Making a planned gift is one of the most impactful ways to invest in the Nature Center and to create a legacy of conservation and environmental education. You may designate your gift for a specific purpose or offer broad support through an unrestricted gift. There are many ways to make a planned gift, including bequests, charitable trusts, and gifts of appreciated securities.

## STOCK, IRA & DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Your contribution can be made in the form of a gift of appreciated assets such as IRAs, stock, or securities. We also welcome gifts from donor-advised funds.



## CONTACT US

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR  
RANGE OF GIVING OPTIONS

**KIMBERLEE JONES**  
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY  
216.321.5935 EXT. 223  
[JONES@SHAKERLAKES.ORG](mailto:JONES@SHAKERLAKES.ORG)

**CARA ANDERSON**  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE  
216.321.5935 EXT. 232  
[CARA@SHAKERLAKES.ORG](mailto:CARA@SHAKERLAKES.ORG)

*The Nature Center is and will always be a transparent organization that is thankful for the gifts our community members bestow upon us to further our mission. As the only independently-operated nonprofit nature center in northern Ohio, your gift is vital and will ensure that we remain free and open to the public, connecting future generations to nature.*

# Volunteers of the Year

100+ NEW VOLUNTEERS

420+ TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

9910+ TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS COMPLETED

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SUE STRAUSS began volunteering at the Nature Center shortly after moving back to Cleveland in the 1990s. It began with working once a year at the plant sale and later on the plant sale committee. In 2018, she became a co-chair of the committee and continues to chair today. In recent years, along with Mary Gannon and Nick Mikash, she established the Native Seed Library and works with this team to support this resource.

During the past eight years, Sue has worked with the Friends of Lower Lake, a group that meets weekly to perform stewardship around the lake. Working with FLL led working with other local steward-ship groups such as Friends of Cain Park, Friends of the Bradford Cinder Path and support on several No Mow sites in Shaker Heights. Sue also works with the Audubon/Shaker Garden Club project: Nature in my Backyard. She has been a Cuyahoga County Master Gardener since 2014.

Sue is a retired business consultant and lives near the Nature Center.

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NEKO TIEN has been volunteering at the Nature Center through the Youth Stewardship program every summer since 2022. Neko has always been passionate about nature and environmental conservation, and saw the Nature Center as a great opportunity to help preserve local wildlife. As a youth steward, Neko has worked hard to help remove invasive plants, plant native plants, and maintain the Nature Center as a flourishing natural space that brings joy and wonder to visitors. She loves working at the Nature Center because of the opportunity to make a difference in protecting the environment and the amazing people she gets to work with (plus the popsicles!). Neko has loved the Nature Center since she was a little kid at Outdoor Adventure Camp, and, in addition to stewardship, likes to participate in Nature Center events, such as the annual Hike & Run. Aside from her environmental interests, Neko enjoys reading, writing, art, hiking/camping, and soccer. She is junior at Shaker Heights High School, and is interested in pursuing a career involving nature in the future!

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HAILEY SEIFERT started volunteering at the Nature Center during the summer of 2023. She started volunteering because she loves working with the younger grades at school and wanted to try being a camp counselor. Hailey worked with 4<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders this past summer and loved playing games with them. One of her favorite activities while volunteering was going on field trips. She loves to introduce new environmental experiences to kids outside of the Nature Center. Hailey is a sophomore at Shaker Heights High School and enjoys participating in theater productions. She can't wait to come back next year!



**SUE STRAUSS**  
ADULT VOLUNTEER



**NIKO TIEN**  
YOUTH VOLUNTEER: STEWARDSHIP



**HAILEY SEIFERT**  
YOUTH VOLUNTEER: EDUCATION

NATURE CENTER STAFF\*

**CARA ANDERSON**  
Development Associate

**TIFFANY ANDREOLI**  
Birthday Party Educator

**MARIA ASHER**  
Director of Grants & Foundation Relations

**TOMMY AQUILANO**  
Facilities Technician

**SHELLEY BENDER**  
Environmental Educator

**PETER BODE**  
President & CEO

**CHRISTI CARLSON**  
Rentals & HR Coordinator

**ADDY GOODRICH**  
Environmental Educator

**LISA GOLBA**  
Environmental Educator in  
Residence Program Manager

**ERIC GREGORCHIK**  
Director of Operations

**MILAN GUTIERREZ**  
Visitor Services Associate

**CHRISTOPHER HALL**  
Director of Finance and Administration

**MICHELLE HALL**  
Accountant Bookkeeper

**HUNTER HAMMIL**  
Outdoor Adventure Camp Manager

**EMMALINE HANNAN**  
Visitor Services Associate

**KATRINA HEINZEN**  
Environmental Educator  
& Birthday Party Educator

**SARAH HOLDEN**  
Environmental Educator

**KIMBERLEE JONES**  
Director of Philanthropy

**WILFREDO LOPEZ**  
Environmental Educator

**TAMI MASUOKA**  
Visitor Services Associate

**NICK MIKASH**  
Natural Resources Manager

**LAUREN MILLER**  
Visitor Services Associate

**MEGAN MILLISOR**  
Volunteer Manager

**ERICA PRANGE**  
Director of Education

**CATIE ROBINS**  
School Programs Manager

**KATIE ROSS**  
Birthday Party Educator

**MERI RUBLE**  
Environmental Educator

**GREG SABIN**  
Volunteer Services Assistant

**LAUREN SCHMIDT**  
Environmental Educator

**PAULA ST. JOHN**  
Visitor Services Associate

**NIA TURNER**  
Community Engagement Manager

**SYDNEY TURNER**  
Visitor Services Associate

**KYLE WARREN**  
Natural Resources Technician

**ANDY WEISS**  
Visitor Services Associate

**WENDY WEISS**  
Visitor Services Associate

**RACHEL WELLER**  
Visitor Services and Office Manager

**MELISSA WHITTEN**  
Birthday Party Educator

**TANIA YOUNKIN**  
Director of Marketing  
& Community Engagement

**ALEXANDRIA YUOSKO**  
Marketing Content Manager

**RACHEL LASSO**  
AmeriCorps Staff Member  
*not employed by NCSL*

*\*as of 10/22/2024*

VOLUNTEERS

<b>200+ HOURS</b>	Caroline Keefe	Vivian Clement	Delaney McNair	Barbara Walker	Natalie Konrad
Laura Gooch	Amelia King	Jennifer Cohen	Lilly Moran	Bob Wellman	Seohyun Kwon
Thomas Prior	Daphne Kollin	Mike Dudzynski	Jane Murphy		Helen Mathias
Marilyn Singer	Sophia McCarthy	Maeve Ewen	Madeleine	<b>20-49 HOURS</b>	Aleksey Mezentser
Norma Storer	Reece Moylan	Merci Ewen	Nowakowski	Ekko Armstrong	Pritismita Mohapatra
Sue Strauss	Margaret Poutasse	Ellis Freer	Andrew O'Neill	Charie Babcock	Alexander Padilla
Julie West	Hailey Seifert	Mina Goldenburg	Ella Petre	Cormac Benard	Emma Petre
	Benjamin Tepley	Parker Gorlet	Tessa Petre	Joy Bridy	Niklas Reisch
<b>100-199 HOURS</b>	Max Victoroff	Leela Gunder	Monique Posner	Stephanie Clark	Jillian Runnels
Larry Anderson		Nicholas Hackney	Stella Price	Ellis Freer	Adam Sheetz
Natalie Bier	<b>50-99 HOURS</b>	Samara Hall	Joshua Ricchetti	Lisa Gannon	Aimee Sheetz
Andrew Carpenter	Avah Amir	Lynn Hoffman	Jan Rybka	Juliana Gentile	Parisa Tendulkar
Pat Ferrara	Tahmasseb	Engel	Kathy Smachlo	Jeff Gueulette	Neko Tien
Megan Fraser	Karen Ault	Annaya Jain	Jacob Strainic	Kathy Hayes	Leio Treier-Jackson
Mary Gannon	Emma Batt	Tim Kalan	Karin Tanquist	Minseong Hong	Maia Tritt
Matt Goldman	Steve Cagan	Zora Kansal	Jessie Tien	Conner Karakul	Betty Turpin
Penny Harris	Amelia Chase	Samuel Lake	Freya Turner	Celia Konrad	Avalon Woconish
Gabe Juli					

## OUR SUPPORTERS

### INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (23)  
Debbie Abdalian Thompson  
Tom & Abby Abelson  
Louise Abrams & Robert Fuerst  
Mark & Cathy Acker  
Albert T. Adams  
Eleonore Schippers Adams  
Nancy A. Adams  
Sawsan Alhaddad  
Janet Alter & Kevin Lovas  
Murray & Connie Jean Altose  
Chace & Josie Anderson  
Judy & Dan Anderson  
Mark Anderson & Fey Parrill  
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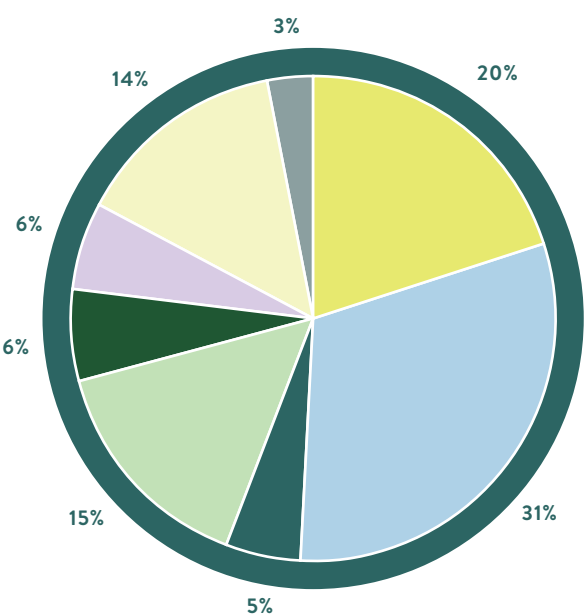
## REVENUE

Individuals	\$392,984
Corporations/Foundations	\$629,110
Government	\$99,788
Events (Net of COG - Plant Sale/Art on View)	\$299,199
Plan Gifts	\$112,355
Endowment (Distribution)	\$120,480

## REVENUE

Program Fees	\$282,139
Facility Rentals/Merchandise (NET)	\$66,251

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$2,002,306**

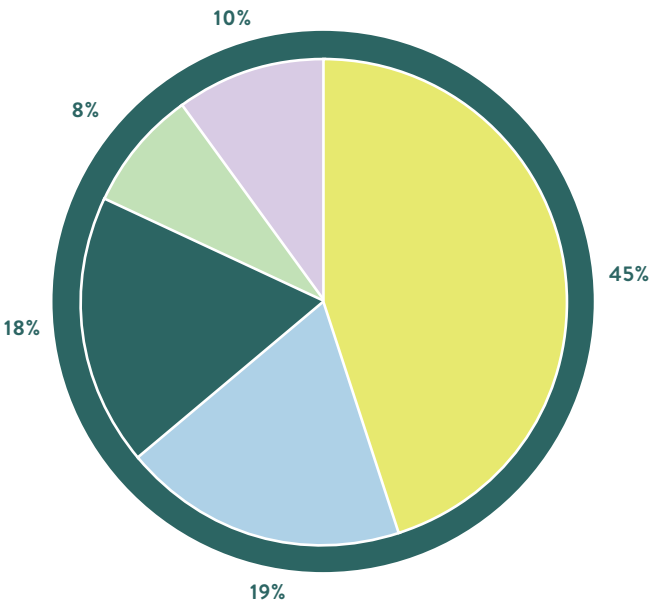


## EXPENSES

Education and Outreach	\$895,637
Facilities and Land Management	\$378,158
Fundraising	\$358,255
Marketing	\$159,224
Management and General	\$199,030

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$1,990,304**

**NET OPERATING REVENUE\*\*** **\$12,002**



\*excludes depreciation and other y/e adjusting entries.

In fiscal year 24 the Nature Center continued its two prong approach to fundraising. While continuing to seek out donations and grants to fuel its growth in community outreach, education programming, and natural resource management activities, it was able to secure over \$1 million in planned giving gifts to grow the Leadership Fund in Honor of Kay Carlson. In fiscal year 25 it plans to continue this strategy while also looking for opportunities from federal grants.



# NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

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Cleveland, Ohio 44120

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