

NATURE NOTES

WELCOME NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS



KATHERINE HOLMOK

Practice Builder/Professional
Landscape Architect at
Kimley-Horn Consultants



REBECCA L. MORGAN

PhD, MPH Health, Research
methodologist and epidemiologist,
at Case Western Reserve University



ERIN KENNEDY RYAN

Chief Legal & People Officer,
Secretary to the
Board of BBQ Holding, LLC



GREGORY STOUP

Vice President of Strategy
and Institutional Progress at
Cuyahoga Community College

A WARM THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING TRUSTEE AND FORMER BOARD CHAIR
KAREN KIDWELL

FEATURED EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Saturday, February 21 | 8AM–12PM

Join the Nature Center and the Rotary Club of the Heights of Greater Cleveland for a homemade Pancake Breakfast With The Birds! Learn about the habits and habitats of birds, enjoy a craft at the front desk, take a guided nature hike and meet live birds. Gluten free options available. **Advance tickets:** Children under 3 are free. Children ages 4–10 are \$7 (\$5 members). Adults 11+ are \$13 (\$10 members). Tickets on sale December 1.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FEEDERWATCH

November–March | 2-hour shifts weekdays or weekends

Citizen scientists needed! Help us count the birds visiting our bird feeders as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. Volunteers of all birding abilities are welcome. Training is provided

WINTER SOLSTICE LUMINARY WALK & HOLIDAY MARKET

Friday, December 12 | Shifts available from 3:30–9PM

Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, wayfinding, activities, or clean-up.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

Saturday, 2.21 | Shifts available from 7:45AM–12PM

Volunteers are needed to assist with wayfinding, parking, crafts, and hikes.

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

Ongoing | Monthly Meetings

Do you enjoy gardening or learning about native plants? Support and grow our Annual Plant Sale through community outreach, logistics, and more. Please contact Aaliyah at muhammad@shakerlakes.org.

Sign-up to volunteer or view the volunteer calendar at shakerlakes.org/volunteer. For more information, contact us at volunteer@shakerlakes.org or 216.321.5935, ext. 237.

SUMMER & SPRING BREAK OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

PLUS NEW NATURE PRESCHOOL

JUNE 8–AUGUST 7

(*No camp the week of July 4.)*

Full day camps for children kindergarten to grade 9 & half-day camps for ages 4 to kindergarten. Themes vary each week, with two semesters of repeating themes. Campers may sign up for a max of 4 week-long sessions, not to duplicate a theme across each of the two semesters. Financial aid and member discounts available.

Register early: Camp sessions often sell out quickly! **Member Registration December 2 at 12PM, Public Registration January 6 at 12PM.**

SPRING BREAK CAMP

March 23–27

NEW WEEKLY NATURE PRESCHOOL: PRE-K EXPLORERS

Pre-K Explorers is a semester long 10 week class, meeting Thursdays from 8:30–10:30AM. Spring semester 2026 begins February 5 to April 30.

Fall semester 2026 is September 17 to November 19, and Spring 2027 is February 4 to April 15. Spring 2026 students will have priority registration for fall and spring 2026–2027. Registration for all upcoming semesters open now.



SAVE THE DATES 2026

ONLINE NATIVE PLANT SALE – March 16–April 3

PLANT SALE DAY – Saturday, May 9

NATURE AT NIGHT: MOONBEAM – Saturday, May 30
Celebrating 60 Years of NCSL

HOMEGROWN PLANT SALE – Saturday, June 6

HIKE & RUN – Sunday, September 13

AUTUMNFEST: HARVEST MOON – Saturday, September 26
The Nature Center's 60th Birthday Celebration

WINTER PROGRAMS



BIRDING PROGRAMS

GUIDED BIRD WALKS

ONGOING | Select Sundays 8–9:30AM

Sunday, December 14 & 28*, January 11 & 25*, February 1 & 8*

Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands exploring the sights and sounds of the birds that migrate through or make the Parklands their home. The first walk of each month begins on our ADA-accessible boardwalk and moves to dirt trails throughout the Parklands. All walks meet in the Nature Center parking lot. Binoculars are available to borrow. Snow or shine, though the walks will be canceled in the event of severe storms. **Free. \$5 suggested donation. Registration required.** **The second walk of each month is fully accessible and includes an ASL interpreter.*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 20

The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. Come help us count our resident winter birds. We will be out until noon or later, but feel free to join us for only part of the time. Dress warmly for a slow stroll looking for birds! Meet the group in the Nature Center’s parking lot at 8 AM or alert the front desk of your arrival if you come later and they will inform you of the group’s whereabouts. **Free. Registration required.**

ARTS & LITERATURE

NATURALIST NOTEBOOK:

Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape

Sunday, February 15 | 1–3PM | Loganberry Books

Join the Nature Center and Loganberry Books to discuss Lauret Savoy’s award-winning memoir, Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape. Lauret Savoy is a professor of Environmental Studies and Geology at Mount Holyoke and, through the lens of her own multiracial heritage, brings together the layers of place and history that impact us all in as many ways as the rocks hidden beneath our feet. **Free. Registration required.**

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION

WINTER SEED SOWING

Saturday, January 10 | 1–3PM or Thursday, February 12 | 6–8PM

Starting your garden in the winter can bring plenty of benefits. An excellent way to kick off this green garden initiative is by sowing native seeds in January. The seed sowing workshop will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to sow seeds effectively. Jumpstart your winter garden to enjoy a lush, native landscape come spring. No prior experience necessary. Great for all ages! **Registration required. \$8 non-members, \$5 members.**

NATIVE PLANT BINGO

Thursday, January 22 | 6–8PM

Join us for Native Plant Bingo—a fun night of learning about native plants. Participants will play 8 rounds of BINGO, each with a native plant theme. Participants will have the opportunity to win gift certificates for our annual Native Plant Sale in May. Your ticket includes three (3) beer or mocktail samples from Midnight Owl Brewing Company and Verbena Free Spirited. Registration required. **\$12 non-members, \$10 members**

BUILD-A-BIRDFEEDER WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 28 | 1–3PM

Back by popular demand! Build your own birdhouse (and bring your own beverage!). Join us with your family and friends for a fun, winter craft—a gift that keeps on giving back to nature! We’ll be creating sturdy birdhouses that provide safe havens for local bird species and learning the role they play in supporting our feathered friends. One birdhouse can be worked on by an entire family or group of friends. **Registration Required. \$35 for non-members, \$30 for members. Price per birdhouse, includes all materials, instruction, and presentation.**

BRINGING NATURE HOME LECTURE SERIES

Sessions: January–May | Save the Date

Learn about topics such as native plants, plant selection, garden design, deer resistant planting, and invasive removal. **Registration required. Free. Donations welcome. Additional themes, dates, and times may be added. Check shakerlakes.org for most up-to-date programs, lecture information, and registration for our FREE series.**

HEALTH & WELLNESS

TREKKING TOGETHER: Winter Hikes with GirlTrek Cleveland

Select Saturdays: January 24*, February 28 | 10–11AM

All are invited to join Jo Rattiliff of GirlTrek Cleveland for our monthly hikes. GirlTREK is a global organization that is made up of over a million Black women united by a movement for health justice and whose mission is “to increase the life expectancy of Black women by 10 years in 10 years.” We invite you to bundle up, get active, and appreciate the beauty of nature on these crisp, calm, and quiet winter mornings. The trail will be of natural surfaces (paved and dirt trails) and sidewalks. In the case of inclement weather, the hike will be cancelled, and an email will be sent to registrants. **Registration required. Free. Donations welcome.** *See Immersive MLK Legacy Celebration.



BREWVIES: DOCUMENTARY FILM NIGHT

Friday, December 5 | 6–8PM

Embrace the warmth of the Nature Center and settle in with an inviting evening of ecological-focused documentary films and discussion led by the Natural Resources team! Hot cocoa, beer tastings, and popcorn provided. **Registration required. Free. \$10 suggested donation.**

WINTER SOLSTICE LUMINARY WALK & HOLIDAY MARKET

Friday, December 12 | 5:30–8:30PM

Celebrate nature and the beginning of winter! All are invited to stroll the illuminated, ADA-accessible All Peoples’ Trail boardwalk. Keep warm at a bonfire in the heated pavilion where there will be warm alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages for sale, or inside at our nature-inspired Holiday Market and Duck Pond Gift Shop. **Free. Donations welcome. Market items, food, and beverages available for purchase.**

1ST ANNUAL ART ON VIEW MULTI-ARTIST RECEPTION

Friday, January 9 | 6–8PM

Join us for our new and improved Art on View exhibit and reception. Several artists of diverse mediums, backgrounds and disciplines will display their art together in our Art on View exhibit space throughout 2026. Our large artist’s reception will be a can’t-miss event with food, drinks, and conversation. Stay tuned as we announce our 2026 cohort of Art on View artists! Learn more at shakerlakes.org/artonview/. The reception is free to attend and view. Art is available for purchase with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Nature Center.

BRINGING NATURE HOME LECTURE & LIBATIONS

Friday, February 6 | 6–8PM

This February session of Bringing Nature Home will include light refreshments and wine. See Bringing Nature Home section for more details.

UPCYCLE AND REPURPOSE WORKSHOP: MAKE YOUR OWN DISH SCRUBBERS

Friday, March 6 | 6–8PM

Protect our environment by reusing household items! Karen Ault will lead this workshop on how to make dish washing scrubbers out of used orange and onion plastic mesh bags. Registrants are encouraged to bring their own bags, though one will be provided to start. **All ages welcome. Registration required. \$12 non-members, \$10 for members.**

IMMERSIVE MLK LEGACY CELEBRATION

Saturday, January 24 | Hike 10–11AM | Lecture 11AM–12PM AND

Tuesday, January 27 | Seed Washing 6–8PM

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn about the importance of connecting people of all backgrounds through meaningful, restorative action in nature while centering racial equity in our efforts. Experience the beauty of our grounds in winter on a guided hike with local GirlTREK member, Jo Rattiliff (featured on page 5 of Annual Report), who will highlight the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor activity year-round. Afterwards, warm up with refreshments and enjoy an informative lecture from Yvonka Hall, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, on environmental justice.

Attendees return on January 27 to work with our Natural Resources team for a seed washing workshop. Learn about the value of native plants and how to process seeds, which helps replenish our Native Seed Library and supports local native gardening efforts by reducing the cost of entry. Registration required. Free.

JUNIOR NATURALIST

STARRY NIGHT PAJAMA PARTY

Saturday, February 28 | 4–6PM

Join the Nature Center and Terri Stefanko from Light the Wild for a star-studded story time and pajama party! Kids will cozy up with hot cocoa and popcorn as they read from A Friend Made of Stars and craft their own star friend.

Best for children aged 5–10. Registration required.

\$15 per non-member child under 13, \$10 for members, adults free.



All programs located at NCSL unless noted otherwise. For more information and registration visit shakerlakes.org/calendar. For member discount inquiries contact cara@shakerlakes.org. Accommodations may be available upon request.