

FALL / WINTER 2026 ROOKERY



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

SHAKERLAKES.ORG

216.321.5935 · naturecenter@shakerlakes.org

**SHAKER
LAKES**

HIKE & RUN

**SUNDAY
9.13**

**7AM
CHECK IN
OPENS**

Registration (Now–September 12)
\$27.50 1-Mile Fun Run & Family Hikes
\$35 5K & All Other Hikes
\$40 10K

Day-Of Registration (September 13)
\$30 1-Mile Fun Run & Family Hikes
\$40 5K & All Other Hikes
\$45 10K

**REGISTER EARLY
AT
SHAKERLAKES.ORG
&
SAVE**

All children ages 3–12 may
register for any race,
any distance throughout
the registration period for
\$20

REGISTER HERE
Find Course Maps
& Packet Pick Up Info



**8:30AM
5K & 10K
DEPARTS**

**8:35AM
1-MILE FUN RUN
DEPARTS**



**8:45AM
GUIDED HIKES
DEPART**

1–2-Mile: Easy
Pet-friendly, family-friendly ADA hike
through NCSL & surrounding parklands
with environmental educator, Shelly Bender

2-Mile: Easy
Botany Hike led by Joe King
of Rust Belt Riders

4-Mile: Moderate
Leo Deininger Memorial Rim
of the Gorge Hike with
Greg VanNiel

5-Mile: Strenuous
Gorge Hike with environmental
educator, Katrina Heinzen

*Ages 0–2 free. Registration includes a t-shirt** and post-race refreshments. Members receive a \$5 discount off any registration.
Contact cara@shakerlakes.org to become a member or request your discount code. **Day of registrants are not guaranteed a tshirt. First come, first served.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

BakerHostetler



Key Private Bank



MORGAN
LITHO

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Marsh Restoration 2009–2012

Invasive species threaten the balance of natural environments, often outcompeting native plants that are necessary to keep a balanced ecosystem. The Nature Center's marshlands were overgrown with invasive species, mainly cattails (see photo), so in 2009, our Natural Resources team began a multi-year marsh restoration project, spraying invasives with herbicide and planting native species in their place, primarily colorful native swamp rose mallow. Today, the marsh is thriving with native birds, insects and plants.

To learn more interesting facts about the Nature Center's history, visit our new interactive timeline in the lobby or online at timeline.shakerlakes.org.



DEAR FRIENDS,

September has always felt like a season of transition. The air turns a little cooler, the leaves begin their quiet transformation, and the Harvest Moon rises to mark the changing season. Nature reminds us that every ending is also the beginning of something new.

This year, those rhythms feel especially meaningful.

On September 15, the Nature Center celebrates its 60th anniversary—a milestone few organizations ever reach.

As we mark this anniversary, I've found myself thinking less about the number and more about the countless people who have made these six decades possible. Every volunteer who helped restore a habitat, plant a tree, or care for this place, every child who discovered a new living creature for the first time, every educator who sparked curiosity, and every member, donor, visitor, and neighbor who helped write the story of this place.

For 60 years, the greatest gifts we've received have never fit inside a box. They've been your generosity, your time, your advocacy, and your belief that everyone deserves access to nature and our outdoor classroom.

As we begin our seventh decade, we're guided by the same purpose that inspired our founders while embracing new opportunities to expand environmental education, restore habitats, improve accessibility, strengthen community partnerships, and welcome even more people into nature.

I hope you'll celebrate all these things with us this fall. Whether you become a member, volunteer, make a gift, spend an afternoon wandering the trails, cheer on participants or race in our annual Hike & Run, or celebrate this milestone with us at AutumnFest: Harvest Moon, you're helping shape the Nature Center's next chapter. Every visit is a reminder of why this place matters.

The Harvest Moon has long been a symbol of abundance and gratitude, which is especially fitting for the organization at this time. With your continued support, the brightest chapters are still ahead. Thank you for being part of our story. Here's to the next 60 years of discovery, stewardship, and community beneath one moon.



With gratitude,

PETER BODE
President & CEO



Birding

GUIDED BIRD WALKS

Ongoing | See website for dates & times, two offered each month | Nature Center
Join a guided walk through the Shaker Parklands looking and listening for birds. The first walk of each month begins on our ADA accessible boardwalk and moves to dirt trails throughout the Parklands. The second walk of each month is fully accessible and includes an ASL interpreter. For all hikes, meet in the Nature Center parking lot. **Binoculars are available to borrow. Rain or shine. Registration required. Free. \$5 suggested donation.**



ANNA GOES OUTSIDE BIRD WALK
Sunday, October 18 | 8AM | Nature Center

Local birder & wildlife educator Anna Henry (@annagoezoutside) will join Julie West for a fully accessible guided bird walk exploring the Shaker Parklands which have been designated as an Important Bird Area since 2003. Anna leads her walks with curiosity and excitement, encouraging questions along the way. This walk will utilize the ADA accessible boardwalk and includes an ASL interpreter. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot. **Binoculars available to borrow. Rain or shine. Registration required. Free. \$5 suggested donation.**



FALL BIRD BANDING

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday | August 17–October 30 | Nature Center
Meet Julie West at the table near the right side of the driveway to observe migratory birds as they are banded. Generally, the timing is from 30 minutes after sunrise to 12PM. **Weather permitting. Free. All ages and abilities welcome to observe and learn.**

THE BIG SIT

Sunday, October 11 | Pre-dawn until dusk | Nature Center
The Big Sit, also known as the ultimate tailgate party for bird watchers, is a 24-hour period of birdwatching. Pledges and donations are accepted to support bird banding research and bird-related projects at NCSL. Free. **No registration required. Pledges can be made in-person at the Big Sit or by email to Julie West at jwest@ameritech.net.**

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 19 | All day | Nature Center
The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. Count and tally the number of birds you can see or hear throughout the day. **No registration required. Contact sabin@shakerlakes.org for more information.**

Junior Naturalist

BIRDING BINGO with Kirtland Bird Club

Saturday, October 3 | 11AM–1PM | Nature Center
Join the Nature Center and the Kirtland Bird Club for our first ever Bird Bingo. This event will be a great opportunity for beginner birders to learn about the birds that can be found in the Shaker Parklands. **Registration required. \$10 members/\$12 non-members.**

WELCOME DESK CRAFTS

Celebrate the Nature Center's 60th Anniversary with Birthday themed crafts including: a moon & star pennant, decorate a birthday card and “frost” a cake with colorful tissue paper.

Arts & Literature

CLE GALS BOOK CLUB:
Silent Audiobook Walk

Tuesday, October 6 | 6–8PM | (Rain Date Wednesday, October 7)

NATURALIST NOTEBOOK:
Great Black Swamp

Sunday, November 15 | 1–3PM | Loganberry Books
13015 Larchmere Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44120

Great Black Swamp: Toxic Algae, Toxic Relationships, and the Most Interesting Place in America that Nobody's Ever Heard Of by Patrick Wensink tells the story of what was once a highly ecologically-diverse area covering over 300 million acres in NW Ohio (and NE Indiana and SE Michigan bordering on Lake Erie) until it was dredged in the mid to late 1800s. Wensink's writing is part memoir, part history, part ecological reporting. Book available at Loganberry at 10% off. **Registration required. Free. Donations welcome.**

SHAKER ARTS CIRCLE

First & third Tuesdays | 5:30–7PM | Nature Center
The Shaker Art Circle is a bimonthly gathering of artists and creatives to come together to sketch, draw, paint, and connect in a relaxed, supportive environment. Sponsored by the Shaker Arts Council (SHAC), this group is open to adults of all artistic levels—from beginners to professionals—who are interested in making art in community and finding inspiration in local spaces like the Nature Center. **More details from Shaker Arts Council shakerartscouncil.org.**

ART ON VIEW

Ongoing | Business Hours
Upstairs Viewing Area at Nature Center Welcome Desk

Discover local art inspired by nature in our year-round Art on View gallery. Featuring a rotating collection from multiple regional artists, the exhibit is continually refreshed as artwork is sold and new pieces are added throughout the year—making every visit a little different. Every purchase supports both local artists and the Nature Center, with a portion of proceeds benefiting our mission. Visit during Nature Center business hours to explore the latest collection in person.



Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all the volunteers who supported the Nature Center's Spring and Summer programs and events!

SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

The Nature Center has a variety of volunteer opportunities this fall including:

Hike & Run: Sunday, September 13	Fall Perennial Plant Sale: Saturday, October 17	For information and to sign-up contact Jeff Gueulette at gueulette@shakerlakes.org or 216.321.5935 x246.
Public Lands Day: Saturday, September 26	Stewardship Saturday: Saturday, October 31	
AutumnFest: Saturday, September 26	Winter Solstice Luminary Walk: Friday, December 18	

Health & Wellness

TREKKING TOGETHER:
Fall Hikes with GirlTrek Cleveland

Select Saturdays September 19, October 31, November 21 | 10–11AM

Join Jo Ratliff of GirlTrek Cleveland for our monthly hikes. We invite you to move and appreciate the beauty of nature on these beautiful autumn mornings. The trail will be of natural surfaces (paved and dirt trails) and sidewalk. In the case of inclement weather, the hike will be cancelled with notification. **Registration required. Free. Donations welcome.** **Learn more about GirlTrek here: GirlTrek.org.**

Environmental Exploration

FALL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 17 | 10AM–3PM
Member preview 9–10AM | Nature Center Friend's Pavilion

Fall is for planting. Join us for the last native plant sale of the year. A diverse selection of native Ohio species, featuring perennials, trees, and shrubs will be available. **Attendance is free and proceeds benefit the Nature Center.**

SEED COLLECTION WORKSHOP

Thursday, September 10 | 5:30–7PM | Nature Center
Saturday, September 19 | 10–11:30AM | Nature Center

Fall is a great time to collect native seeds. Participants will walk the trails and learn the steps needed to identify, collect, clean, store, and stratify seeds for future planting. Help contribute to our native seed library! **Registration required. \$5 per person.**

60TH ANNIVERSARY FALL EQUINOX HIKE

Tuesday, September 22 | 7–8:30PM | Nature Center

Continuing our popular night hike series, join our Natural Resources team as we hike into Fall on the Autumnal Equinox. We'll take in the fall color and search for nocturnal wildlife under the waxing moon. **Registration required. \$5 per person.**

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 26 | 10AM–1PM | Meet at Lee Rd & South Park Blvd

Volunteers of all ages are invited to join us in planting native trees and plants and removing invasives. Volunteers should come dressed for the weather. **Tools and gloves provided. Registration required.**

SUPER MOON NIGHT HIKE

Monday, November 23 | 7–8:30PM

Join us for the last of our 2026 night hike series under the Super Moon. Listen for the crunch of leaves in the crisp Autumn air as we take in the sights and sounds of the night. **Registration required. \$5 per person.**

• ONLINE BIRDSEED SALE FUNDRAISER •
OCTOBER 1–OCTOBER 31 | [SHAKERLAKES.ORG](https://shakerlakes.org)

Support the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and your feathered friends! Fall is a great time to stock up on birdseed to help our winter bird populations and enjoy winter birdwatching. Visit 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 Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7. Thanks to Dave Pretnar, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Mayfield Heights, for partnering with us to offer high-quality seed and products. **Members receive \$10 off per order.**



Featured Events

MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

OCTOBER 12–18, 2026

Our members make it possible for us to sustain our ongoing operations and achieve our mission. To show our gratitude, we're celebrating our 6th Annual Member Appreciation Week with special members-only perks, including:

• FREE MEMBERS-ONLY RAFFLES •

• 25% OFF DISCOUNT •

At our Duck Pond Gift Shop (excluding consignment and food items)

• HERON & HOPS ANNUAL RECEPTION •

For Heron Society Members

• AND MORE! •

Stay tuned for more information and details being sent directly to members soon! Contact Cara Anderson, Development Associate at cara@shakerlakes.org with any questions. Not a current member? Review member perks and join today at shakerlakes.org/membership.

Winter Solstice
LUMINARY WALK
- & -
HOLIDAY MARKET

FRIDAY
12.18

5:30 TO
8:30PM

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WITH THE BIRDS



Saturday, February 13 | 8AM–12PM | Nature Center

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 \$8 (\$5 members). Adults 11+ are \$15 (\$10 members). Family Rate: 2 Adults & 2 children \$40 (Each additional child \$8) Tickets on sale December 1.**

winter warmup

Tuesday, December 4 | 7:30–9PM | Nature Center

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, refreshments, and popcorn available. **Free. \$10 suggested donation. Registration required. Additional Winter Warmup dates coming December 1. Select Fridays all Winter long.**

Save the Date
NATURE AT NIGHT ANNUAL BENEFIT
SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2027

AUTUMNFEST: HARVEST MOON

A 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | SATURDAY 9.26 | 3–7PM

HARVEST TABLE*

- Food Trucks
- Donuts
- Fritters
- Cider
- Fireside Toasted Moon (S'mores)
- Hot Cocoa

FREE ACTIVITIES

- Share a Birthday Wish on the Wish Wall
- Moonlight Music & Games with DJ
- Moon Dust Play Zone: Bubbles & Sidewalk Chalk
- Wish Makers Wand Craft with Shaker Library
- Moon (seed) Pods with NEORSD
- Meet Luna the Wish Fairy
- Nature Center Birthday Photo Booth
- Birthday Trivia and Raffles
- & MORE

TICKETED ACTIVITIES*

- Harvest Pumpkin Painting
- Little Lunar Builders Corner
- Reach For the Moon: Tree Climbing
- Spin the Moon Prize Wheel

ADULTS ONLY GAZEBO
LUNAR LOUNGE

- Moonrise Tavern* & Acoustic Music Lounge with Charlie Mosbrook (bring a chair)

Any and all costumes encouraged: Dress celestial or 60's inspired to help us celebrate!



Enter our 60th Anniversary Birthday Cake Decorating Contest. Scan QR code to learn more.

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

Join us beneath the Harvest Moon as we celebrate 60 years of connecting people with nature. Gather your friends and family for an evening filled with festive fall traditions, birthday surprises, moonlit adventures, music, food and activities for all ages.

Bring a birthday card for the Nature Center with your special message and receive 6 free activity tickets.