

# Environmental Speaker Series

**Wolf Creek Environmental Center**  
**6100 Ridge Road in Sharon Center**  
**7 p.m. No registration required. Free.**  
**Ages 10 to adult.**



## Thursday, February 23 *Glaciation of Northeast- ern Ohio*

The Ice Age, or Pleistocene Epoch, is characterized by numerous glacia-

tions over the last 2.6 million years, but only the effects of the most recent glaciation are apparent on the surface. Dr. John Szabo will share how these glaciers have created the present landscape of Northeastern Ohio and how profoundly the creation of Niagara Falls influenced Lake Erie and the drainage pattern of our rivers and streams. Dr. John Szabo has been a professor of geology at the University of Akron for 37 years and the chair of the Department of Geology & Environmental Science for 15 years. During that time, he has advised several Masters of Science students on topics related to geomorphology, glaciation, and groundwater hydrology.

## Thursday, March 8 *Spiders: Weaving Your Way to Dinner*

A single spider can spin up to seven different kinds of silk -- some are sticky glues, others are as strong as steel, or even as stretchy as a rubber band. While many scientists aim to emulate spider silk's incredible properties in synthetic polymers, spiders depend upon their silk to survive by spinning webs that catch their food, help them find mates, shelter their young, and even "fly" through the air. Come learn about how spiders' silk "tool kits" help to make them dominate predators of insects from the depths of the tropical rainforests to arid deserts to your own basement. Todd Blackledge is the Leuchtag Endowed Chair of Biology at the University of Akron. He has studied the evolution and ecology of silk use in spiders for seventeen years. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

## Thursday, March 15 *Status of Bob- cats in Ohio*

Bobcats were once found throughout Ohio. As swamps and lowlands were drained and forests cleared to make way for settlements and cropland, the bobcat population declined. By 1850, they were considered



extirpated from the state, and from 1850 through the 1960s, there were only occasional reports. Since 1970, there have been 464 verified reports of bobcats in southeastern Ohio, of which 94 percent occurred since 2000. At present, the bobcat is officially classified as an Ohio endangered species and provided full protection under the law. Come and learn about the life history of this beautiful animal and the ongoing research that is being conducted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Suzie Prange received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. She completed post-doctoral training at the Ohio State University and is currently employed at the Ohio Division of Wildlife. She serves as the state's furbearer biologist and also monitors threatened and endangered forest wildlife species. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

## Thursday, March 22 *Wildflowers of Our Forests*

In spring, Ohio's forests come alive with a spectacular display of beautiful wildflowers. Rick Gardner will talk about common wildflowers and a few rarities that you will find in our forests in April and May. Besides providing characteristics to help identify the wildflowers, he will talk about their folklore, ecology, importance to wildlife, and medicinal uses. Mr. Gardner has been studying Ohio's flora for nearly 20 years. He has worked as an ecologist and botanist for the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He currently works for the Ohio Division of Wildlife tracking rare plants for the Ohio Biodiversity Database. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

## Thursday, March 29 *Natural Landscaping for Beauty and Harmony with Nature*

If you would like to reduce the time and care of your landscape; lighten your impact on earth; and help restore fast-disappearing wildlife habitat while, at the same time, increase your enjoyment and satisfaction; then landscaping for beauty and harmony with nature is for you. Join Landscape Architect Richard Heaton while he shares various tips and ideas for transforming your yard into a naturalistic, low-maintenance sanctuary attractive to birds, butterflies, and people. Richard Heaton is the landscape architect for the Medina County Park District. Mr. Heaton has over 30 years of experience as a landscape architect working for agencies that include the city of Cleveland, Cleveland MetroParks, and private sector firms in Ohio and Texas. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.



**Medina County Park District**  
**[www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com)**  
**330-722-9364**