

# 2019 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series



Medina County  
Park District

## Participant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age:  over 16  7 to 16

Hike Leader's Initials		
Jan. 9	C. L. Mugrage Park	
Jan. 20	Allardale West	
Feb. 6	Susan Hambley Nature Ctr.	
Feb. 17	Princess Ledges Nature Pres.	
Mar. 6	Hidden Hollow Camp	
Mar. 10	Wolf Creek Env. Center	
Apr. 3	Chippewa Inlet Trail South	
Apr. 7	C. L. Mugrage Park	
Apr. 28	Schleman Nature Preserve	
May 8	Hubbard Valley Park	
May 19	River Styx Park	
June 5	Killbuck Lakes	
June 23	Letha House Park West	
July 10	Letha House Park East	
July 21	Green Leaf Park	
Aug. 4	Killbuck Lakes	
Aug. 14	Lake Medina/Rt. 18	
Aug. 18	Medina Marsh	
Sept. 4	Allardale East	
Sept. 15	Plum Creek Park South	
Oct. 2	River Styx Park	
Oct. 20	Chippewa Inlet Trail North	
Nov. 6	Chippewa Rail Trail	
Nov. 17	Hubbard Valley Park	
Dec. 4	Plum Creek Park South	
Dec. 15	Wolf Creek Env. Center	

### Award earned:

- Hiking stick (one time only)**  
 -Ten hikes in a calendar year
- Completion patch**  
 -Five hikes in a calendar year

**Wednesday hikes begin at 10 a.m.**

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the Medina County parks.

- January 9 at C.L. Mugrage Park
- February 6 at Susan Hambley Nature Center
- March 6 at Hidden Hollow Camp
- April 3 at Chippewa Inlet Trail South  
Chippewa Rd. trailhead
- May 8 at Hubbard Valley Park
- June 5 at Killbuck Lakes
- July 10 at Letha House Park East
- August 14 at Lake Medina, Rt. 18 trailhead
- September 4 at Allardale East
- October 2 at River Styx Park
- November 6 at Chippewa Rail Trail
- December 4 at Plum Creek Park South

Medina County Park District

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## Natural Discoveries Series

Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. Themed hikes are held on Sundays, and hikes that explore seasonal happenings are offered on Wednesdays. No pre-registration is required.

First-time participants who complete ten (10) hikes in a calendar year receive a wooden hiking staff (one time only). For each year that five (5) hikes in a calendar year are completed, participants will earn a completion patch. Hikers can claim awards by presenting their forms to the naturalist leading the program to demonstrate eligibility.

**Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.**



### Winter Tree ID

**January 20 - Allardale West**

Looking at leaves makes it easy to identify trees, but what about when the leaves have fallen and are covered with snow? We'll identify trees by bark and twig on this winter woodland walk.

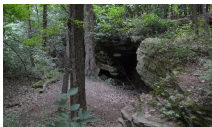
### Rocks and Fossils of Medina County

**February 17 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve**

From an ancient sea to massive glaciers, Ohio's geologic past is quite

fascinating. It's hard to imagine that sea creatures, giant dragonflies, dinosaurs, and woolly mammoths all lived here

at one time. At this program, we'll talk about the geology of the area as well as the pre-historic animals that once lived here.



### The Ants Go Marching In



**March 10 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center**

If it can lift twenty times its own body weight, fight to the death, live with thousands of its sisters, and hear through its feet . . . it's likely an ant! Learn about ants' sophisticated lives and adaptations while we search for their homes.

### Egg-citing Egg-sploration

**April 7 - C. L. Mudge Park**



'Tis the season where things that crawl, hop, wander, and fly are all working on finding suitable homes and laying eggs. Meander through the park in search of these animals and their neat seasonal behaviors.

### Spring Wildflowers

**April 28 - Schleman Nature Preserve**

Only a brief window of time exists each year when woodland ephemerals are in their glory. Join us for a hike at Schleman Nature Preserve to witness the spectacular array of spring wildflowers.

Prepare for muddy trails, and bring your wildflower guide if you have one.

### Moss Mosey

**May 19 - River Styx Park**

Mosses are things that stay in the background, but if you pay attention, they are in the background nearly everywhere you look. Bring mosses into focus as we hike along learning some basics of moss biology and how to distinguish some of the common moss groups.

### Dragonflies

**June 23 - Letha House Park West**



Explore ponds and wetlands in search of these high-flying, stunt-diving, aerial acrobats of the natural world. As the sun peaks in the late afternoon, so, too, does the activity level of dragonflies and damselflies, so expect some impressive maneuvers. Bring a net if you have one.

### Perfect Pollinators

**July 21 - Green Leaf Park**

Summer wildflowers are buzzing with pollinators – bees, butterflies, beetles, and more! Explore the wildflower meadow at Green Leaf to learn about some of the important pollinator species and their special relationships with the plants they visit.



### Sounds of Summer

**August 4 - Killbuck Lakes**



Summer wouldn't be summer without hearing the amazing sounds of insects. Learn about which insects are producing sounds and how they produce them.



### Beetles

**August 18 - Medina Marsh**

It is estimated that there are over 300,000 species of beetles in the world. Although we don't have that many species here in Medina County, you may be surprised by what does live here. Join us to learn more about these plentiful creatures as we hike in search of beetles.

### Fungus Among Us

**September 15 - Plum Creek Park South**



Have you ever been curious about mushrooms but don't know where to start? Hike with a naturalist to pick up a few mushroom ID tips and enjoy the colorful variety of fungi.

### Creepy Crawlies

**October 20 - Chippewa Inlet Trail North**

As Halloween draws near, we invite you to join us on this hike in search of the cool creepy crawlies of the parks. Don't worry, though, our naturalist will debunk some of the myths surrounding these critters along the way.



### Dumpster Divers

**November 17 - Hubbard Valley Park**

We have interesting backyard animals that we might think of as just dumpster divers or pests. Learn how skunks, opossums, and raccoons fit into our ecosystem and about the adaptations that make them truly amazing.

### Winter Weeds 101

**December 15 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center**

The winter landscape may seem to offer less interest to plant lovers, but winter plant identification makes getting out in the colder months fun, and it can be beneficial to those who enjoy learning about plants. Join us as we walk among the weeds.