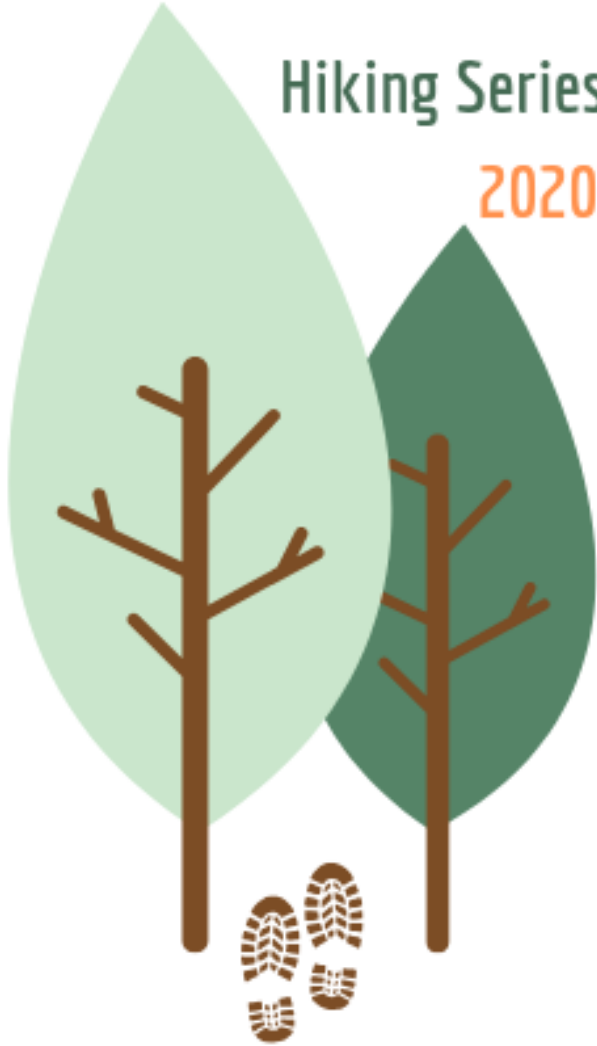


Natural Discoveries

Hiking Series

2020



**Medina County
Park District**

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's
Initials

___ January 8	Plum Creek Park South
___ January 19	C. L. Mugrage Park
___ February 5	Hidden Hollow Camp
___ February 16	Allardale West
___ March 8	Chippewa Inlet Trail North
___ March 18	Lake Medina/Rt. 18
___ March 29	Green Leaf Park
___ April 8	Chippewa Rail Trail
___ April 19	Killbuck Lakes
___ May 6	Hubbard Valley Park
___ May 17	Wolf Creek
___ June 3	Letha House Park West
___ June 21	Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
___ July 8	Susan Hambley Nature Center
___ July 19	River Styx Park
___ August 2	Medina Marsh
___ August 12	Chippewa Inlet Trail South
___ August 23	Letha House Park East
___ September 2	Lester Rail Trail
___ September 13	Hubbard Valley Park
___ October 14	Killbuck Lakes
___ October 25	Plum Creek Park North
___ November 4	Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park
___ November 22	Susan Hambley Nature Center
___ December 2	Allardale East
___ December 20	Wolf Creek

Participant Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Age: over 16 7 to 16

Award earned:

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

Natural Discoveries Hiking 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 (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.

Surviving Winter

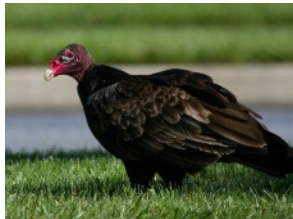
January 19 - C. L. Mugar Park
4985 Windfall Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Granger Township)

Cold temperatures and scarcity of food in winter can be challenging for plants and animals. Learn about different strategies in nature for surviving winter. Discover who stays active and who hibernates.

Winter Tree ID

February 16 - Allardale West
401 Remsen Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Granger Township)

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.



Benefits of Buzzards

March 8 - Chippewa Inlet Trail North
5803 Lafayette Rd.
Medina, OH 44256
(Lafayette Township)

Buzzards, or vultures as they are officially called, get a bad rap because of their scavenging habits, but they are key components to maintaining healthy

ecosystems. Join us on this hike to learn about the benefits of these fascinating birds and which vultures are commonly seen in our parks.

Frog Chorus

March 29 - Green Leaf Park
1674 S. Medina Line Rd. Sharon Township, OH
(use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)



From the wooded wetland of Green Leaf Park come the calls of male frogs including spring peepers, wood frogs, and western chorus frogs. Join us as we listen to this spring chorus and discover the life history of these amazing amphibians.

Swifts and Swallows

April 19 - Killbuck Lakes
7996 White Rd. Burbank, OH 44214
(Westfield Township)

It's not unusual to see swallows swooping around our barns and fields after insects, but do we know which kind we are seeing? Take a hike searching for swifts and swallows, and learn what makes them amazing.

Ants Go Marching In

May 17 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
6100 Ridge Rd. Sharon Township, OH
(use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

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.



Lichen Hikin'

June 21 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Ave.
Brunswick Hills, OH
44212

Lichens are things that are often seen but seldom noticed. Learn about the

delicate balance of this dual organism as we hike the wooded trails of Princess Ledges Nature Preserve.

Stinging Insects

July 19 - River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Rd. Guilford Township, OH
(use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

Bees, wasps, and yellow jackets are notorious for their stings. Learn about the self-defense mechanism many people fear, the importance of these insects, and their other amazing adaptations.

Butterflies!

August 2 - Medina Marsh
4266 Fenn Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Medina Township)

There are 137 species of butterflies and skippers recorded in Ohio. Which species do we find in our parks? We'll learn about the common and not so common butterflies found at Medina Marsh and talk about the volunteer butterfly surveys being conducted in several of the county parks to monitor the butterfly populations in the area.



A Water Wander

August 23 - Letha House Park East
5745 Richman Rd. Spencer, OH 44275
(Chatham Township)

Take a wander into the water with us on this creek walk experience. As we explore the creek, we will search high and low for all of the creatures, both big and small, that make this habitat unique.



Fruits of Field and Forest

September 13 - Hubbard Valley Park
8600 Hubbard Valley Rd. Seville, OH 44273

As fall approaches and summer flowers begin to fade, a variety of fruits and seeds in a spectrum of colors and textures are beginning to form. We will hike along the trails at Hubbard Valley to find and identify the fruits of field and forest.

Camo on the Creek

October 25 - Plum Creek Park North
2390 Plum Creek Pkwy. Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

During fall, forests turn into splendid rainbows of color that can make it tricky to see some of our best camouflaged animals. On this hike, we will explore the forest of Plum Creek Park to see if we can spot any of these masters of disguise.



Photo by: Jan Clark

Winter Birds

November 22 - Susan Hambley Nature Center

1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212

Many species of birds call Ohio home during the winter months.

These species of birds are either resident birds that stay here all year long or winter visitors that just spend the winter in Ohio before migrating back to Canada for the breeding season. We'll watch the birds from inside the building and then hike around the park's trails.

Industrious Animals

December 20 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
6100 Ridge Rd. Sharon Township, OH
(use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

When is the last time you built a bed, home, retreat,



or place to store food? Our animals are constantly building, even during winter. On this hike, look for signs and examples of these industrious animals at work.

Wednesday hikes begin at 10 a.m.

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

January 8 at Plum Creek Park South

2500 Plum Creek Pkwy. Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

February 5 at Hidden Hollow Camp

8672 Richman Rd. Lodi, OH 44254
(Harrisville Township)

March 18 at Lake Medina; Rt. 18 trailhead

Rt. 18 (Yours Truly address 3725 Medina Rd.)
Medina, OH 44256

April 8 at Chippewa Rail Trail

5700 Chippewa Rd. Medina, OH 44256

May 6 at Hubbard Valley Park

8600 Hubbard Valley Rd. Seville, OH 44273
(Guilford Township)

June 3 at Letha House Park West

5800 Richman Rd. Spencer, OH 44275
(Chatham Township)

July 8 at Susan Hambley Nature Center

1473 Parschen Blvd. Brunswick, OH 44212

August 12 at Chippewa Inlet Trail South

6105 Chippewa Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Lafayette Township)

September 2 at Lester Rail Trail

3654 Lester Rd. Medina, OH 44256 (York Township)

October 14 at Killbuck Lakes

7996 White Rd. Burbank, OH 44214
(Westfield Township)

November 4 at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park

4985 Windfall Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Granger Township)

December 2 at Allardale East

141 Remsen Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Granger Township)



Photo by: Jon Slayton



Medina County Park District

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on social media.



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