

# 2017 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series



Medina County  
Park District

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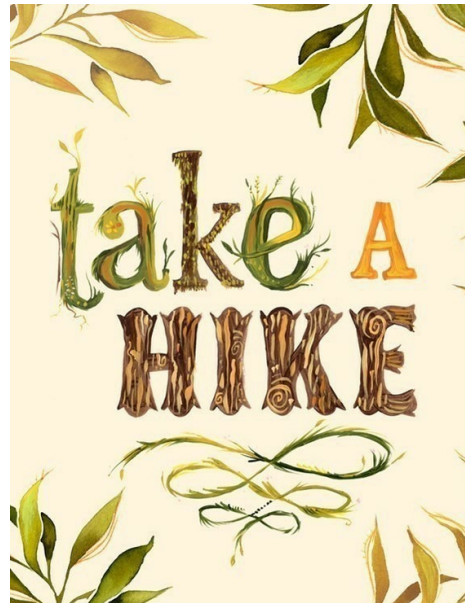
## The Natural Discoveries Program

*Please note new procedure for awards*

Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Hikes take place on Sundays at 3 p.m. Nature through the Seasons hikes also count toward this program and are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. No pre-registration is required.

The first time a participant completes ten hikes in a calendar year, he or she will receive a wooden hiking staff. For each year that five (5) hikes in a calendar year are completed, the participant will earn a completion patch.

Hikers wishing to claim awards should present their forms to the naturalist leading the program to demonstrate eligibility.



## Participant Information

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

Only the hikes listed below will count toward the 2017 awards.

Hike Leader's Initials		
Jan. 4	Schleman Nature Preserve	
Jan. 8	Medina Marsh	
Feb. 1	Chippewa Rail Trail	
Feb. 12	Wolf Creek	
Mar. 8	Lake Medina - Rt. 18 entrance	
Mar. 19	Chippewa Inlet Trail North	
Apr. 5	Allardale East	
Apr. 9	Green Leaf Park	
Apr. 30	River Styx Park	
May 10	Susan Hambley Nature Center	
May 14	Chippewa Inlet Trail South	
June 7	Plum Creek Park South	
June 11	Letha House Park West	
July 5	Hubbard Valley Park	
July 9	Allardale West	
July 23	Killbuck Lakes	
Aug. 2	River Styx Park	
Aug. 13	Princess Ledges Nature Presv.	
Sept. 6	Buckeye Woods Park	
Sept. 17	Hidden Hollow Camp	
Oct. 4	Letha House Park East	
Oct. 22	Plum Creek Park North	
Nov. 8	Green Leaf Park	
Nov. 19	Schleman Nature Preserve	
Dec. 6	Wolf Creek	
Dec. 17	C.L. Mudge Park	

- Hiking stick earned (one time only)**  
-Ten hikes required/only one stick per person
- Completion patch earned**  
-Five hikes required/only one patch per person

## NATURAL DISCOVERIES HIKES

All hikes are on Sundays at 3 p.m

### Small Mammals



**January 8 - Medina Marsh**

Mice, moles, voles, and shrews may look similar but actually belong in a variety of different families. Discover the importance of these little creatures as we explore their lives and habits.

### Love is in the Air

**February 12 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center**

Ahh February, the month dedicated to romance and love! We all know it's complicated, even in the animal kingdom, so let's take a closer look at the mating practices of some of our most familiar ... and maybe not so familiar ... wildlife. We are rating this hike as PG-13, participant discretion is advised!

### Waterfowl Migration



**March 19 - Chippewa Inlet Trail North**

March is a great time of year to observe waterfowl including ducks, geese, and swans as they pass through Ohio on their way to Canada to nest. Please bring binoculars and bird ID books. Several spotting scopes will be set up for viewing waterfowl at a distance. Please dress for the weather.

### Follow the Water

**April 9 - Green Leaf Park**

Lend your eyes and ears as we hike past a pond and weave around a wetland in search of the sights and sounds of some of our earliest spring visitors – amphibians!

### Spring Wildflowers



**April 30 - River Styx Park**

Join us in early spring when weather is warm, but the trees haven't leafed out yet. This window of time is excellent for viewing the wildflowers that take advantage of the sunlight.

### A Salute to Mothers!

**May 14 - Chippewa Inlet Trail South**

Humans aren't the only ones who take extraordinary steps to protect, nurture and raise their young. On this hike, we will celebrate and examine some of the amazing "child"rearing practices of local wildlife.

### Late Migrants

**June 11 - Letha House Park West**

Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from a naturalist as you search field and forest for both late migratory song birds and summer residents that have made this park their home for the breeding season.

### Damsels and Dragons



**July 9 - Allardale West**

While dragonflies and damselflies are beautiful to look at, they also have fascinating lives before they ornament our ponds and meadows. Come learn some dragonfly basics and search for them as we hike.

### Fish On!

**July 23 - Killbuck Lakes**

What species of fish live in Killbuck Lakes? How do these fish behave at different times of the year? What are anglers using to catch these fish? We'll answer these questions and more as we hike around the lake.

### Talkin' Trees

**August 13 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve**



We'll take a leisurely approach to tree identification. Princess Ledges has a variety of trees to use as specimens on our hike.

### Spiders

**September 17 - Hidden Hollow Camp**

Spiders are very beneficial in nature and are creatures we should not fear. Learn about the different species of spiders that live in this area and some of their amazing adaptations that include their ability to spin silk. After a short presentation inside, we'll take a hike to look for some of these arachnids.

### All Things Autumn

**October 22 - Plum Creek Park North**

This time of year means different things to different people: fall harvests, hunts, colors and more. Learn about nature's take on these topics: autumnal preparations, true hunters/predators, and the colors of the season.



### Foxes

**November 19 - Schleman Nature Preserve**

Foxes have a reputation for being sly and intelligent. On this hike, we'll discuss some of the incredible ways these beautiful creatures survive and thrive.

### Surviving Winter



**December 17 - C.L. Mudge Park**

The cold temperatures and scarcity of food in winter can be challenging for plants and animals. Find out different strategies in nature for surviving the winter. Discover who stays active and who hibernates.

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## Nature Through the Seasons Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature throughout the seasons.

January 4 - Schleman Nature Preserve

February 1 - Chippewa Rail Trail

March 8 - Lake Medina – Rt. 18 parking lot

April 5 - Allardale East

May 10 - Susan Hambley Nature Center

June 7 - Plum Creek Park South

July 5 - Hubbard Valley Park

August 2 - River Styx Park

September 6 - Buckeye Woods Park meet at shelter pond

October 4 - Letha House Park East

November 8 - Green Leaf Park

December 6 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center

*In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks. - John Muir*