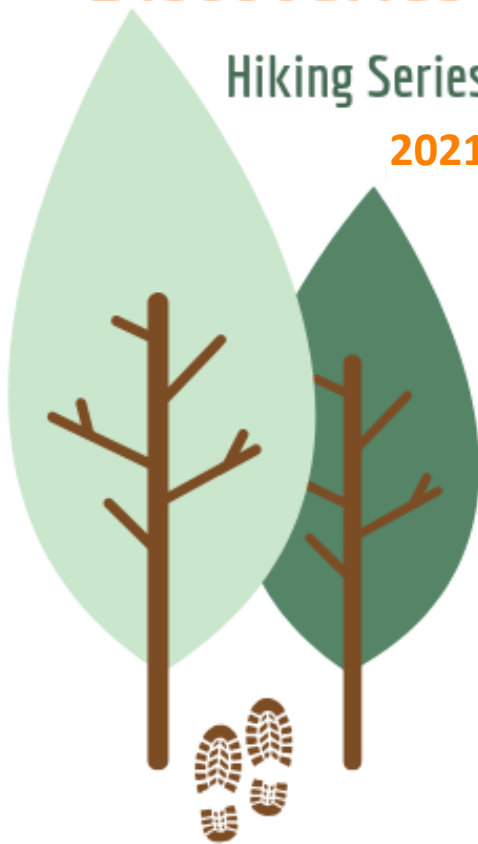




# Natural Discoveries

## Hiking Series

2021



# Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's Initials  
or Code Word

- \_\_\_\_\_ Snowflakes (self-guided) - Brunswick Lake
- \_\_\_\_\_ Love is in the Air (self-guided) - Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Medina Marsh
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Jays (self-guided) - River Styx Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Killbuck Lakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spring is in Full Swing! (self-guided) - Bluebell Valley
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Lake Medina
- \_\_\_\_\_ No Bones (self-guided) - Schleman Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Bluebell Valley
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chasing Dragons (self-guided) - Killbuck Lakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Letha House Park West
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lightning Bugs (self-guided) - Buckeye Woods Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Buckeye Woods Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Snakes (self-guided) - Letha House Park East
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plant Foes (self-guided) - Allardale West
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Chippewa Inlet Trail North
- \_\_\_\_\_ Opossums (self-guided) - Green Leaf Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Color Hike (self-guided) - Hubbard Valley Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - River Styx Park
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocks & Fossils (self-guided) - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal Discoveries (naturalist-led) - Alderfer/Oenslager Wildlife Sanctuary

The popular Natural Discoveries award-based hiking program will continue to be provided in a revised format as long as COVID restrictions are in place. For the 2021 season, a hybrid-program will be offered, with both self-guided and in-person hike options. Natural Discoveries is best suited for ages seven to adult.

Self-guided hikes consist of a series of informational signs on a nature topic displayed along designated trails at specific park locations. Visit the listed park to hike the trail, read the signs, and collect a code word for your form.

In-person hike dates are listed on this brochure and on the park district's website. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.

First-time participants who complete any ten hikes in a calendar year earn a hiking staff (one time only). For each year that five hikes in a calendar year are completed, participants will earn a completion patch. Awards are free for Medina County residents. Non-residents pay \$15 for a hiking stick and \$3 for a patch.

Use the checklist provided to keep track of all hikes completed. When completing a self-guided hike, write down the code word collected from the hike on your form. When completing an in-person hike, have the naturalist initial your form. Until park district facilities reopen, awards can be claimed during in-person hikes or during designated pick-up days. Pick-up dates will be listed on the park district's website and social media once they have been scheduled.

**Forms are due by December 31, 2021.**

### Participant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age:  over 16  7 to 16

**Medina County Resident:**  Yes  No

**Awards are free for Medina County residents. Non-residents pay \$15 for a hiking stick and \$3 for a patch.**

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

**Completion patch**  
-Five hikes in a calendar year



## Snowflakes

**Saturday, January 9 through Sunday, January 24**  
**Brunswick Lake - 1473 Parschen Blvd.**  
**Brunswick, OH 44212**

The small and often underappreciated snowflake is one of the little wonders of winter. Walk the nature trail behind the nature center at Brunswick Lake to learn more about what makes them so fascinating.

## Love is in the Air

**Saturday, February 6 through Sunday, February 21**  
**Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park - 4985 Windfall Rd.**  
**Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)**

Ahh February, the month dedicated to romance and love! We all know it's complicated, even in the animal kingdom, so take a walk along the All-Purpose Trail to learn about the mating practices of some of our most familiar . . . and maybe not so familiar . . . wildlife. This hike is rated as PG-13, participant discretion is advised!

## Seasonal Discoveries

**Wednesday, February 10 at 10 a.m.**  
**Medina Marsh - 4266 Fenn Rd.**  
**Medina, OH 44256 (Medina Township)**

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

## Blue Jays

**Saturday, March 6 through Sunday, March 21**  
**River Styx Park - 8200 River Styx Rd.**  
**Guilford Township, OH (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)**

Blue jays are noisy, quirky songbirds. Their blue feathers and larger size make them easily recognizable. Do you know that blue jays are excellent mimics? Walk the paved trail to learn more about this and other interesting facts.



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## Seasonal Discoveries

**Wednesday, March 10 at 10 a.m.**  
**Killbuck Lakes - 7996 White Rd.**  
**Burbank, OH 44214 (Westfield Township)**

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

## Spring is in Full Swing!

**Saturday, April 10 through Sunday, April 25**  
**Bluebell Valley - 8500 Richman Rd.,**  
**Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)**

Spring is always a welcome sight after a long, cold winter. Our senses delight in the sight of spring wildflowers, the smell of tree blossoms, and the sounds of croaking frogs and singing birds. Enjoy a stroll along the natural trail to discover the wonders of spring.



## Seasonal Discoveries

**Wednesday, April 14 at 10 a.m.**  
**Lake Medina - 3733 Granger Rd.**  
**Medina, OH 44256**

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

## No Bones

**Saturday, May 8 through Sunday, May 23**  
**Schleman Nature Preserve - 6701 Wedgewood Rd.**  
**Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)**

Many animals have skeletons on the inside, and insects have them on the outside, but there's a whole group of animals that live without skeletons. Walk the Yellow Trail to learn about soft-bodied animals like worms and slugs.

## Seasonal Discoveries

**Wednesday, May 12 at 10 a.m.**  
**Bluebell Valley - 8500 Richman Rd.**  
**Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)**

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

*Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, details regarding the remainder of 2021 hikes will be made available in late spring.*