



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 Mugarage 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 Mugarage 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) - Letha House Park West
- _____ 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) - Oenslager Nature Center

The popular Natural Discoveries award-based hiking program will continue in a hybrid format for the remainder of the 2021 season 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 a designated trail at specific park location. Visit the park to hike the trail, read the signs, and collect a code word for your form.

In-person hike dates are listed in the Natural Discoveries brochure and on the park district website.

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 each hike on your form. When completing an in-person hike, have the naturalist initial your form.

Awards can be claimed during in-person hikes or at Oenslager Nature Center during regularly business hours.

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

Seasonal Discoveries

Wednesday, June 9 at 10 a.m.

Letha House Park West - 5800 Richman Road
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.



Chasing Dragons

Saturday, June 12 through Sunday, June 27

Killbuck Lakes - 7996 White Road
Burbank, OH 44214
(Westfield Township)

These are not the dragons of fairytales, though some of their adaptations are like something straight out of a storybook. Step out of the pages and onto the trail at Killbuck Lakes in search of dragonflies and damselflies.



Lightning Bugs

Saturday, July 10 through Sunday, July 25

Buckeye Woods - 6335 Wedgewood Road
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Summer nights might make you think of the twinkling glow of lightning bugs. Discover how they glow and why they don't all glow the same. Follow the Large Lake Loop trail to learn facts that will help you get to know these interesting beetles and how you can contribute to recording the lightning bugs in your backyard.



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Seasonal Discoveries

Wednesday, July 14 at 10 a.m.

Buckeye Woods Park - 6335 Wedgewood Road
Meet at the small shelter by the ballfields
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

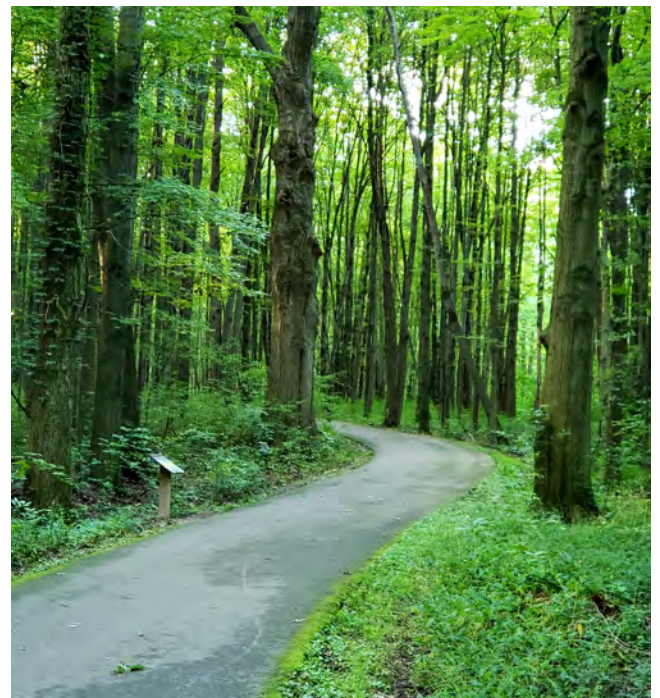
Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.

Seasonal Discoveries

Wednesday, August 11 at 10 a.m.

Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park - 4985 Windfall Road
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.

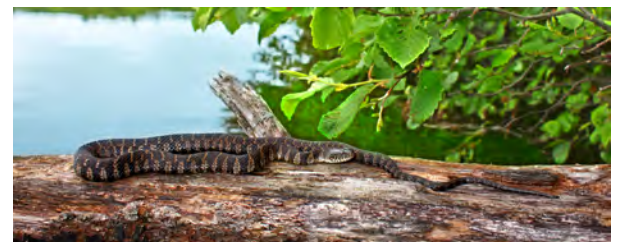


Snakes

Saturday, August 14 through Sunday, August 29

Letha House Park East - 5745 Richman Road
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

Take a walk along the trail to learn about reptiles like milk snakes, northern water snakes, and painted turtles. Learn about how they live, where they live, and the important role that these animals play in our environment.



Plant Foes

Saturday, September 11 through Sunday, September 26

Allardale West

401 Remsen Road

Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Plants are vital to our survival for many reasons, but sometimes, they can be problematic. Walk the Blue Trail to learn about plants that are itchy, scratchy, sneezy, or poisonous, and learn why they do what they do.

Seasonal Discoveries Hike

Wednesday, September 15 at 10 a.m.

Chippewa Inlet Trail North

5803 Lafayette Road

Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.

Opossums

Saturday, October 9 through Sunday, October 24

Green Leaf Park

1674 Medina Line Road

Sharon Township, OH (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

The opossum might be most famous for feigning death when near predators, but there's much more to know! Opossums have been roaming the earth for 70 million years. Learn how the United States' only marsupial is beneficial and maybe even a little cute.



Seasonal Discoveries Hike

Wednesday, October 13 at 10 a.m.

Letha House Park West

5800 Richman Road

Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.



Photo by: Natalie Dubiel

Color Hike

Saturday, November 6 through Sunday, November 21

Hubbard Valley Park

8600 Hubbard Valley Road

Seville, OH 44273

The leaves may have fallen before your hike, but that does not mean that the season of color has ended. Venture out along the Trillium Trail in search of late fall color at Hubbard Valley Park.

Seasonal Discoveries Hike

Wednesday, November 10 at 10 a.m.

River Styx Park

8200 River Styx Road

Guilford Township (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.

Rocks & Fossils

Saturday, December 4 through Sunday, December 19

Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

4361 Spruce Avenue

Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

From an ancient sea to massive glaciers, Ohio's geologic past was quite fascinating. It's hard to imagine that sea creatures, giant dragonflies, dinosaurs, and woolly mammoths all lived here at one time. On this hike, you will learn about the geology of the area as well as the pre-historic animals that once lived here.

Seasonal Discoveries Hike

Wednesday, December 8 at 10 a.m.

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Road

Sharon Township, OH (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Please note that, to keep within the guidelines for group gatherings, advanced registration for these hikes is required.