

***What's Inside:***

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## Greetings, Friends!

Given our recent deep freeze, and while it seems like the only thing growing is the record number of inches of snow accumulation, this might provide a new opportunity for you to connect with nature by trading your usual focus on plants and “What’s Growing”-- to ‘reading the trail’ of “Who’s Visiting?”. As the world turns quiet and white outside, the fresh snow becomes a blank page inviting us to experience the hidden stories of nature through the tracks left behind.

Have you ever seen unfamiliar tracks in the snow and wondered who was visiting? You can test your observation skills on a winter walk by searching for signs of wildlife and identifying tracks in the snow (along with the help of a handy field guide with photographs) that can tell the silent autobiography of nature. Even the slightest increase in temperature can coax ‘fluffed up’ birds back to the feeders.

Often recalling the famous quote from Percy B. Shelley “if winter comes, can spring be far behind?”, our 2026 Winter Garden Seminar on February 21, co-sponsored with the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown, inspires our dedicated gardeners to get a jump start on a great garden season. In addition, plans are already in place for several lectures and presentations sponsored through the Andrews Educational Endowment including workshops entitled ‘Hands on Bonsai’ and ‘Your Herb Garden Was Mint to Be’. See our website for details. We also look forward to enjoying the summer season with our “Wine on the Terrace” events scheduled into the early fall. And last, but not least, it’s not too early to ‘save the date’ for our Annual Summer Garden Party scheduled for Friday July 31, 2026.

We are excited to present this preview of the upcoming year’s events and to welcome you back to another beautiful season at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

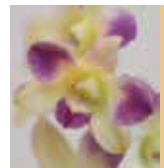
Warmest regards,  
Denise

### The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens

**Newsletter Editorial Team:** Denise Stewart, Lisa Frederick and Kathleen Krantz

**Cover and inside photos:** by Scott Lanz and Lisa Frederick

**Friends Office:** Contact Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens: [info@friendsoffellows.org](mailto:info@friendsoffellows.org)



**To become a member of Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, visit [www.friendsoffellows.org](http://www.friendsoffellows.org).**

### FRIENDS OF FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Since 1988, the Friends have been dedicated to the promotion, improvement and preservation of Fellows Riverside Gardens, a free public garden, through advocacy and fund raising. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, the Friends are independent of the Gardens and Mill Creek MetroParks, yet work in steady collaboration with them to sponsor events and programs and to fund large-scale garden projects.

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# Board Member Spotlight: Nick DuBos

By Lisa Frederick

Nick’s love for Mill Creek Park and Fellows Riverside Gardens runs deep, and so does his pride in being from the Youngstown area—specifically Campbell. Although he grew up here, he spent nearly 30 years living elsewhere, including time in Marietta, Ohio; Jersey City, New Jersey; Alliance, Ohio; and most recently Pittsburgh, where he lived for 22 years. When he moved back to Youngstown in 2022, it felt like coming home in every sense of the word.

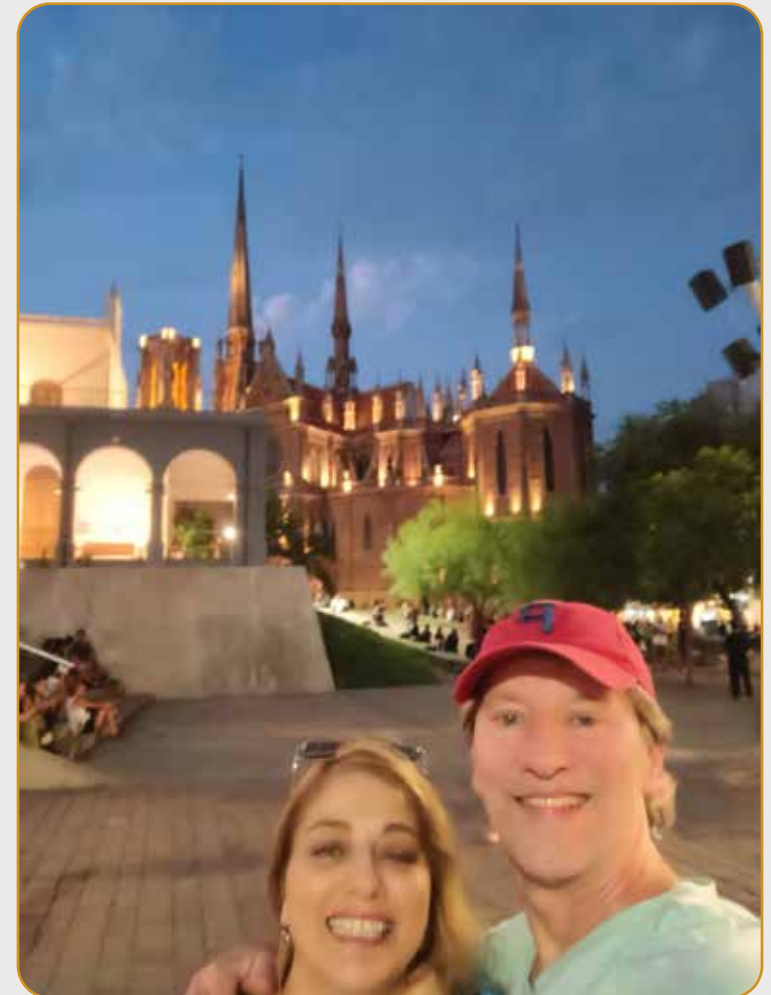
Soon after moving back, Nick and his wife, Silvia, began attending On the Terrace at 5! and other programs at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Through these events, Nick came to appreciate not only the beauty of the setting but also the dedication of the people behind the scenes. After getting to know several board members and learning more about Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, he was honored to be asked to become involved. He has served as a Friends Board member since May 2023.

Nick currently serves on the On the Terrace at 5! and Members’ Annual Meeting committees. He especially enjoys working alongside others who share a strong passion for Mill Creek Park and the gardens and is continually inspired by the board’s commitment to keeping the gardens a welcoming place for the community.

Community involvement has always been important to Nick. Since returning home, he has become a committee member for the Simply Slavic Heritage Festival, held each summer in downtown Youngstown, where he oversees the basket raffle. He has also served as President of the St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Civic Club in Campbell, a more than 90-year-old organization that hosts several annual events, including its largest fundraiser, Night at the Races, each winter.

Professionally, Nick works at Youngstown State University in the International Programs Office as an International Student & Scholar Advisor. He advises the International Student Organization (ISO) and the Pakistan Indian Student Association (PISA), helps coordinate several large campus-wide programs, and organizes monthly coffee hours that connect the university with local businesses and nonprofits. Supporting international students and seeing them succeed is especially meaningful to him, as they face many challenges while pursuing their education in the United States, and seeing them succeed is incredibly rewarding.

Nick holds a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from YSU and has long had interests in history, geography, travel, and downtown revitalization. Even while



living in Pittsburgh, he remained connected to Youngstown and helped launch the Downtown Summer Movie Series.

Nick’s wife, Silvia, was born in Córdoba, Argentina. She came to the United States in 2006 to study cello performance at Duquesne University, earning both an artist diploma and a master’s degree. She teaches private lessons, performs with the Youngstown Symphony, and serves as principal cellist with the Washington, PA and Greenville, PA symphonies. She is also a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the St. Michael Civic Club.

Together, they share a passion for travel and take advantage of every opportunity they have to explore beyond the United States. Being back in the Youngstown area and giving back through Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and other community organizations has been incredibly meaningful to them, and they are grateful for the chance to help support places that mean so much to our region.

# A Heartfelt Farewell. . .

By Denise Stewart

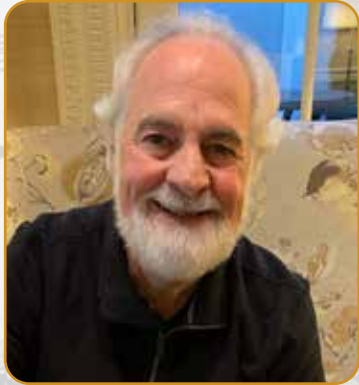
It is with deep appreciation that we express our gratitude to four outgoing board members for their dedication and service to the board of Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens. We are fortunate to have the wisdom and leadership of board members who provided a solid foundation for the growth and sustainability of our organization. We thank you for devoting your time and talents to make Friends of Fellows a strong, independent nonprofit organization.



**JIM HOUCK.** Using his background in marketing and public relations, Jim often introduced creative and thoughtful ideas that enhanced the value and visibility of our Friends' organization. He served as chair of the Newsletter Committee, contributing his expertise to the development of interesting and engaging articles in our quarterly newsletters. In addition to serving as Vice President, he was an active participant on the Board Development Committee, Finance Committee, and Executive Committee. He regularly supported Friends activities attending "On the Terrace" events, annual Garden Parties, and MetroParks special events.



**PATRICK RUSSO.** Patrick shared his expertise as a Wealth Advisor in the financial services industry, serving as chair of the Finance Committee. He regularly participated in trustee account reviews and Finance Committee meetings, providing prudent financial oversight as a judicious steward of our organization.



**GENE PUSATERI.** Gene's love of Mill Creek MetroParks is evident in his interest and enjoyment of the Fellows Riverside Gardens and other Park facilities. As a Park enthusiast, he was often able to provide a big picture look at Park events and issues. He volunteered his service on our Marketing and Membership Committee and assisted the Garden Party Committee Planning Committee as needed.



**MARYANN NAVARRO.** MaryAnn served as a volunteer on the Newsletter Committee, Marketing and Membership Committee and the Garden Bus Tour Committee, acting as board liaison with a very active group of volunteers who plan the bus tours. She was always willing to lend a hand at Friends' special events and readily assisted whenever needed.

# Holiday Garden Programs End the Year with Cheer

By Kathleen Krantz and Carol Anne Knock

## Holiday Floral Class

On November 20th, the FFRG Horticulture team and 25 eager amateur enthusiasts attended a floral design class led by Mark Green, owner of Green's Floral in Hubbard Ohio.

Each participant was provided with a glass bowl and a reusable grid, called a flower frog, to hold the stems upright while developing their arrangement. Participants selected from sprays of holly, fresh pine, hemlock, balsam, and Fraser fir, along with red carnations, to create their unique arrangements. Glittering red ornaments and red and green plaid ribbon along with guidance to create a bow allowed everyone to complete their arrangement. As added plus, Mark emphasized to the class that the bowl and flower frog can be used again and again with any fresh floral stems for all seasonal displays.

## A Taste of Christmas

Our final garden class of the year was held December 10<sup>th</sup>. Using their special culinary skills, our holiday elves Becky Bucco and Mary Lou Jarrett returned to treat our participants to a holiday spread of appetizers and desserts that are simple to prepared while full of flavor. We started with white cheddar cut in the shape of a tree and a pretzel stem adorned with dill. Other appetizers prepared for the tasting were cheeseburger bombs, a delicious filling of beef, cheese and pickle in a fluffy biscuit along with southern chicken skewers with an orange, jalapeno and ginger glaze and a super sausage dip. Desserts included waffle cookies, butter pecan praline poke cake, Kahlua dip and the Woolworth cake which was a light and airy cheesecake. Recipes were provided to each guest to create these holidays dishes at home to enjoy with family and friends.



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# Waiting for Spring: Life Beneath the Snow

By Lisa Frederick

Winter in the Gardens is traditionally a season of quiet hibernation, and this year has been no exception. Persistent frigid temperatures and repeated snowfalls have settled over the landscape, blanketing the grounds in white and slowing visible growth. While the Gardens may appear dormant to visitors, the winter months are among the busiest times for the dedicated Gardens crew, whose behind-the-scenes efforts ensure a successful transition into spring.

Snow removal has been a near-daily responsibility, with staff carefully shoveling and clearing the main pathways throughout the Gardens as well as the sidewalks surrounding the Davis Center to maintain safe access. In addition to managing winter weather challenges, the crew uses this time to conduct a thorough inventory of tools, materials, and supplies. This process ensures that everything is organized, accounted for, and fully compliant with OSHA safety standards. Winter is also when routine maintenance and repairs are completed on equipment, allowing staff to address wear and tear before the demands of the growing season begin.

Despite the cold outdoor conditions, life and color are quietly taking shape inside the growing tunnels. Pansies are warming in preparation for spring, sharing space with a variety of tropical plants. Maintaining stable temperatures inside the tunnels has been particularly challenging due to extreme cold snaps. On the coldest days, small propane space heaters are used to supplement warmth, while sunny winter days provide welcome natural heat. These careful adjustments help protect young plants and ensure healthy growth. Beginning sometime in February, the Gardens crew will start planting seeds for the herb and dahlia gardens. Additional plantings include alonsoa, salvia, purple shamrock, and red impatiens—early signs of the vibrant season to come.

Head gardener Marcy Dubec has already set the tone for Spring 2026 with a thoughtfully curated color palette designed to enliven the Gardens after winter's retreat. Visitors can look forward to sweeping displays of pinks, purples, and yellows showcased through a diverse selection of perennials planted throughout the grounds. At the same time, Marcy is actively ordering and preparing for the annual plantings that will fill the Gardens during the summer months. In honor of America's 250th birthday, the Gardens will feature a bold and celebratory planting of red, white, and blue annuals. These patriotic displays will serve as both a visual highlight and a meaningful tribute, reflecting Marcy's creative vision and careful attention to detail.

Beyond planting and maintenance, long-term planning continues throughout the winter. Preparations are underway for the loan of the four life-size sculptures, representing the seasons, created by Dr. Richard Murray and Joe Ronci, which

are anticipated to be exhibited at Oberlin College sometime next year. The Indiana limestone sculptures, gifted by Dr. Murray in the summer of 1966, symbolize the stages of life and have long been an integral part of the Gardens' landscape. Situated at the north end of the Long Mall, the sculptures—Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter—each carry distinct meanings: promise, fulfillment, reflection, and dormancy. Their upcoming exhibition offers an opportunity to share this important artistic legacy with a wider audience.

There is also exciting progress on infrastructure improvements within the Gardens. MCMP is currently finalizing the Design Development and Construction Preparation for the Gardens

NW Phase III: Service Area. The new service building, to be constructed north of the existing facility, will enhance operational efficiency and support ongoing maintenance needs. According to Justin Rogers, Planning and Operations Director, contract bids are expected to be released within the next two months. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year, with completion targeted for late 2026.

Finally, steady progress continues on the long-awaited Children's Garden project. Construction across all phases is expected to be completed by mid-2026. While winter weather has limited certain activities, work continues whenever conditions allow. Major infrastructure elements—including concrete walkways, irrigation systems, sandstone walls, and the planting of large woody trees and shrubs—have already been completed. As spring approaches, crews will focus on installing perennials and ornamental trees, constructing a pergola, completing the elevated boardwalk, adding fencing,

and finishing additional stonework. Each milestone brings the project closer to opening, and anticipation continues to build.

As Mother Nature continues to blanket the Gardens with glistening snow and icy temperatures, the promise of renewal quietly takes shape behind the scenes. With careful planning, dedicated staff, and thoughtful design, the Gardens are preparing to emerge from winter stronger and more vibrant than ever. Until then, we look ahead with hope—and a collective wish—for an early and gentle spring.



# Shop in the Gardens *By Kathleen Krantz*

We are very grateful to the Shop in the Gardens staff and volunteers for their many hours of dedication and support. This past December they took time out on a wintry Monday to enjoy lunch and fellowship hosted at the home of our Shop Manager and buyer Jeanne Simeone. They also took a few moments to remember our friend and longtime volunteer Charlene Reed who passed away in July of 2026. Her giving spirit lives on in the shop and in our hearts. Thank you team for your energy and commitment to Friends of Fellows. It is through the dedication and teamwork of staff and volunteers like you that we are able to open our doors and serve our customers.

The Shop in the Gardens is transitioning from the winter holidays into the bright joy of Spring. Make time to stop in to browse our selection of unique floral sprays, seasonal wall art, colorful bunnies and more décor items to welcome longer sun filled days and bring the freshness of spring to your home. We also have a nice selection of gifts for the bride and groom and baby gifts to welcome new arrivals. Back by popular demand is a tasteful collection of jewelry pieces recently selected by our buyer for casual everyday wearing or add to the elegance of a night on the town.



# Horticulture Programs 2026

*By Kathleen Krantz and Carol Anne Knock*

While the winter weather has brought us lots of snow and record-breaking low temperatures our horticulture chairperson Carol Anne Knock has been "red hot" planning interesting and fun programs for our members for this year.

Our opening program is "Spring into Flavor" a tasting of fresh recipes for spring to be held Wednesday March 11 in the D.D. and Velma Davis Education Center at 11 a.m. Our talented chefs Becky and Mary Lou are returning to showcase appetizers, small plates, petite main dishes and desserts full of seasonal freshness. Take home recipes will be provided. If you are a return guest or new to this program, we welcome you to be part of this celebration of community, creativity and the simple joy of sharing food together. This class is so popular it is already sold out.

Our next program invites you to get a head start on your spring gardening by attending our April 1st program: Your Herb

Garden is "Mint to Be". Our instructor is a familiar face to many local gardeners, Dennis James from D. J.'s Greenhouse and Gardens located in Transfer PA. You will be provided soil, container and 3-4 herb plants to take home. D.J. will guide us in choosing, planting and tips for caring for herb plants both indoors and outdoors. There will also be information shared on simple everyday use of herbs in dishes or in cooking. The cost of this class is \$45 for members and will also be held in the Education Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens at 1 p.m. Class size will be limited to 25 participants.

We are very excited for our final class for April as it is something we have never offered before. "Hands on Bonsai". Our instructor for this program will be Daniel White who is the founder of Black River Bonsai. Daniel is an Ohio Certified Nursery Technician (Grower) and brings a profound depth of knowledge and skill to the art of bonsai. He specializes in guiding beginners into the captivating world of bonsai, perfect for those starting their bonsai journey. He has

made it his mission to simplify the art, offering resources and guidance that make cultivating these miniature masterpieces seem easy and enjoyable. This class will be held Sunday April 12 at 1 p.m. also at the David Education Center. The cost for the class will be \$50 for members and includes a tree to take home. Class size will be limited to 20 participants. Registration will open March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Watch your email and social media posting for more announcements on programs and lectures being held this year. We also welcome ideas for topics or hands on activities that may be of interest to you by sending an email to [info@friendsoffellows.org](mailto:info@friendsoffellows.org)



# Member Spotlight: Patricia Murphy

By Lisa Frederick

Patricia Murphy's interest in joining Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens began in 2025, when she collaborated with Kathleen Krantz and Deb Metzger on the joint Winter Seminar Educational Project between Friends and the Greater Gardeners of Youngstown. The experience introduced her to the many ways Friends supports the Gardens and inspired her to become a member. She especially enjoys the access to special events, educational workshops, the summer garden party, On the Terrace at 5 and shopping discounts at The Shop in the Gardens. Patricia has been a member for a little over two years.

A lifelong Mahoning Valley resident, Patricia grew up in Boardman, lived in Howland for about 20 years while raising her daughters, and returned to the Boardman–Poland area approximately ten years ago. She considers Fellows Riverside Gardens and Mill Creek MetroParks to be truly a special community asset, offering beautiful spaces for people to connect with and enjoy nature.

Patricia serves on the board of the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown and is an OSU Master Gardener who actively volunteers in programs and projects. She also volunteers with Project MKC (Making Kids Count) and serves on the Guiding Circle for the Fund for Women and Girls. She earned her undergraduate degree from Youngstown State University and completed her graduate work at Kent State University, where she received a master's degree and certification as a rehabilitation counselor. Currently, Patricia works part-time as an independent contractor and expert witness for Social



Security Disability hearings and also assists Ohio employers in developing return-to-work programs through Bureau of Workers' Compensation grants.

In her free time, Patricia enjoys tending her flower garden, reading, traveling, and spending time with friends, but her favorite moments are spent with her 21-month-old grandson.

## Donors and Memorials

Friends would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their donations and or memorials the past four months to support Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens:

*In Memory of Barbara Andrick*  
By Beth Carson



# Winter Garden Seminar 2026

By Kathleen Krantz

“Anyone who believes gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year, for gardening begins in January with a dream”. *Josephine Neuse*

On Saturday February 21 over 80 home garden enthusiasts gathered together to plan and dream for their 2026 gardens in a full day seminar sponsored by Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown. GOGY President Pat Murphy and FFRG Horticulture Chair Carol Anne Knock welcomed attendees enjoying continental breakfast and fellowship with new and old friends.

The opening speaker was Mike Madar, owner of the 303 Mushroom Company. Mike and his wife recently bought a farm in Streetsboro Ohio a few years ago and restored the home and barn which included finding a child's civil war boot in the wall. Mike shared with us growing techniques he learned from the Cornell University Small Farm Program. In his barn he has created the properly controlled sterile conditions to provide a consistent high quality, sustainably grown product. Mushrooms belong to the fungus family and it was interesting to learn that they will grow on a variety of media including cardboard and plant-based husks and grains. His operation produces about 40 # per week which are sold to local restaurants. Varieties include oyster, shitake and lion's mane.

Our next speaker was Lee Beers, Asst. Professor of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Trumbull Co. OSU Extension office. Lee's topic, "Setting up your Garden for Success" focused on best practices for reducing pest pressure and the reliance on chemicals, which should always be the last resort. He stressed the importance of the disease triangle, host, pathogen and environment, with the host being the what the gardener has the most control over. For NE OH gardens plants and shrubs grown for disease resistance and in zone 5 or lower is key along with avoiding "all in one" products. He also stressed the importance of reading the labels of any product and that the "label is the law".

Following a buffet lunch our next topic was "Plant Propagation for the Home Gardener" presented by Joe Tychonievich, professional gardener, author and speaker and self-proclaimed "plant nerd". We learned that some of the best perennials are often found in your back yard or those of a fellow gardener. Most of us love a bargain and your wallet will benefit in growing from seed in horticultural vermiculite with dollar store aluminum cake pans. You don't need a greenhouse – any cool LED white bulb can help young seedlings move to individual pots and then to your garden. We also learned best practices

for starting new plants from tip cuttings.

We wrapped up the day with Terry Lanker, faculty emeritus from OSU who shared her extensive experience in floral design. Did you know that a garden foam block can hold 2 quarts of water to sustain your fresh floral arrangement? Terry created several displays using "grocery store" bouquets along with items found at your local hobby store and twigs and vines from your backyard. Her vegetative style design included adding some fresh fruit items with fresh flowers.

We will begin planning next year's program soon and hope to see you there!



**Note:** For more information on any of these events or classes or to register online please go to [www.millcreekmetroparks.org](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org) or call 330-740-7116 and speak to a receptionist.

**Please note** – Registration is required for many of the classes in this listing – check the specific event for drop-in class availability.

## EXHIBITS

**Mill Creek MetroParks History**  
Ongoing | Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens

The Melnick Museum offers the visitor a peek into the unique history of Mill Creek MetroParks. Look back and discover how Volney Rogers garnered property and how that land has grown into Mill Creek MetroParks. Learn about the generosity of Elizabeth Fellows that was the beginning of Fellows Riverside Gardens. And take time to learn about the early days of McGuffey and his boyhood homestead located in Coitsville and now known as the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Coffee With the Birds: Woodpeckers**  
Ford Nature Center  
3/1 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.

This month we explore the world of woodpeckers. Savor a hot cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate with a woodpecker themed mini lesson. Then enjoy guided birdwatching at the feeders outside Nancy's Nook at the Ford Nature Center. Registration required; space is limited. Register/pay by 2/27, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. Ages 12+. \$5

**Coffee With the Birds: Woodpeckers**  
Ford Nature Center  
3/15 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.

This month we explore the world of woodpeckers. Savor a hot cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate with a woodpecker themed mini lesson. Then enjoy guided birdwatching at the feeders outside Nancy's Nook at the Ford Nature Center. Registration required; space is limited. Register/pay by 3/13, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. Ages 12+. \$5

## HEALTHY LIVING

**Yoga Basics Course**  
Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Program Classroom  
Sundays. 3/8 – 4/26 | 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Yoga promotes harmonious and skillful living, while developing awareness and practical tools for navigating the physical, emotional, mental, & spiritual challenges of daily life. You are invited to join our mutually supportive and noncompetitive group. Karres leads the class, sharing the ancient wisdom teachings of Yoga, while drawing upon decades of experience. Note\* Wear comfortable clothing, & bring a mat, light blanket &

pillow register online or call 330.740.7116 ext 230. \$96-8 week course

**T'ai Chi Basics for Beginners Course**  
Fellows Riverside Gardens  
Wednesdays, 3/19–5/21 | Noon -1 p.m.

Learn this classic art of energy balancing while developing coordination, flexibility and leg strength. Designed for beginners, this course includes warm-ups, breathing exercises and the first steps of a classic T'ai Chi form. Learn to flow through your day feeling centered and attuned! Register online or call 330.740.7116 ext 230. \$120

## HORTICULTURE / NATURE

**Hike with a Naturalist**  
Bears Den Field  
3/21 | 9-11 a.m.

Join a Park Educator on an educational exploration of the Bears Den area of the Park. What we encounter is based on the seasonal goings-on of life in the Park. Difficulty: moderate. 1.5mi - muddy/uneven terrain. Ages 13+. Registration required. Register by 3/19, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. No pets. Rain or shine. FREE

**Walk with a Geologist**  
Bears Den Cabin  
3/21 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Join a Park Educator at Bear's Den Cabin to learn about the geology of Mill Creek Park. After a brief talk (approximately 30 minutes), we will hit the trails to explore the area around the cabin to learn the history and see the geology close up. Approximately 1 mile, moderate - difficult terrain (climbing up steep slopes and across rocks). Dress for the weather, wear proper hiking shoes. In the event of inclement weather, an alternative date will be provided. Register/pay by 3/19, online or call 330.740.7107 ext. 129. No walk-ins, no pets. FREE.

## KIDS & FAMILIES

**Forest Babies**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/4 | 10-11 a.m.

Join Park staff for Forest Babies, a program for your youngest ones, ages 1-3 years old. Enjoy bonding time together while exploring the trails at Ford Nature Center and then creating a simple nature craft or completing an activity to take home. Please be sure you and your little one are dressed for the weather as this program will include outdoor nature time. Register/pay by 3/2,

online for your Forest Baby (adults need not register) or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Only registered children may attend. Please do not bring unregistered children to this program. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5 per child

**An Evening in Nature: National Day of Unplugging**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/6 | 6-7:30 p.m.

In celebration of National Day of Unplugging, join a Park Educator for a stroll around the All People's Trail and then warm up around the Ford Nature Center firepit with a warm beverage (provided). Enjoy one hour away from being 'plugged in!' Bring your own lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, an alternative date will be provided. Register/pay by 3/4, online or call 330.740.7107 ext. 129. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5 per person.

**Think Green Pop-In**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/14 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

In celebration of upcoming St. Patrick's Day, pop into the Education Building located beside the Ford Nature Center (840 Old Furnace Rd.) to create a nature-themed 'think green' craft! Family friendly, supplies provided. Registration requested but not required, register online or call 330.740.7107 ext. 129. No pets. FREE

**Ready, Set, GROW Gardening Program**  
MetroParks Farm  
3/26–8/27 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Ready, Set, GROW is a weekly gardening program for a child and an adult partner (Children must be in Grade 2 or older). The duo will join Park educators to learn the basics for growing their own garden. Each duo will have their own 3'x 10' raised garden bed to plant, tend, and harvest all summer long at the MetroParks Farm in Canfield. This program meets on Thursdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm from March 26th through August 27th and includes lessons on basic gardening skills, hands-in-the-dirt time in your own garden, cooking, and other garden-related activities. At the first session on Thursday, March 26th you will be introduced to gardening by planting your own seeds to take home. All materials (garden bed, plants, seeds, tools, etc.) will be provided. Registration required. Register/pay by 3/19, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. \$150 for each adult/child pair.

**Creature Feature: Family Owl Pellet Dissection**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/28 | 2-3:30 p.m.

Learn about the secretive world of owls! Bring the family to enjoy an educational, interactive program about

Northeast Ohio's owls. Then, dissect an owl pellet and get up close in personal with an owl's lunch. Family members of any age are welcome, however due to small parts only ages 6+ may dissect an owl pellet. Register/pay by 3/26, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5

**"Winter Talks" - Where Are the Bears?**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
2/21 | 10-11 a.m.

The Ford Nature Center "Winter Talks" series asks: "Where are the Bears?" Did bears ever live in the Bear's Den area of the Park? If so, where did they go? Could bears ever return to Northeast Ohio? Park Educator Emily Greve will discuss the ecology of black bears, the history of their extirpation from our state and potential for return in Northeast Ohio. Coffee and hot chocolate provided. Ages 16+. Register/pay by 2/19, online or call 330-740-7107 x 129. \$5

**"Winter Talks" - Bats: Flying Fiends or Furry Friends?**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
2/21 | 1-2 p.m.

The Ford Nature Center "Winter Talks" series presents "Bats: Flying Fiends or Furry Friends?" Bats remain one of the most misunderstood creatures on Earth. Ford Nature Center is out to change that! Join Park Educator Emily Greve and use science to bust bat myths in this presentation focusing on bat behavior, physiology, and ecology. Coffee and hot chocolate provided. Ages 16+. Register/pay by 2/19, online or call 330-740-7107 x 129. \$5

**Throwback Thursday: Yellow Creek Park**  
Yellow Creek Lodge  
2/26 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join a Park Educator as we travel back in time this Throwback Thursday to learn and explore the area of Yellow Creek Park. Did you know that the local iron industry's history was started here? Enjoy learning about the people, events, and geology of area while enjoying a warm beverage (coffee, tea, and hot chocolate provided). Registration required. Register/pay by 2/24, online or call 330.740.7107 ext. 129. Recommended for adults. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5 per person.

**"Winter Talks" - Youngstown - The Story Behind Bruce Springsteen's Tale of Our Hometown**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
2/28 | 10-11 a.m.

The Ford Nature Center "Winter Talks" series invites you to join Eric Simone, Lanterman's Mill Manager, to enjoy a morning in the warmth and bright lights of our Education Building as we dive into Bruce Springsteen and the history behind the tale of his song "Youngstown" and its connections to Mill Creek Park. Coffee and hot chocolate provided. Registration required. Register/pay by 2/26, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults 16+ years and older. \$5

**"Winter Talks" - The Winter Sky and Beyond**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
2/28 | 1-2 p.m.

Join Curt Spivey, Planetarium Engineer at Youngstown State University, for the Ford Nature Center's "Winter Talks" series! Discover what's visible in the winter night sky and catch up on the latest news and discoveries from the world of space and astronomy. The program will also include a telescope Q&A session. Coffee and hot chocolate provided. Register/pay by 2/26, online or call 330-740-7107 ext. 129. Adults 16 years or older. \$5

**Throwback Thursday: Mill Creek Park North End**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/19 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join a Park Educator as we travel back in time on this Throwback Thursday to learn and explore the northern area of Mill Creek Park. Did you know that there is evidence of an ancient river channel here? Or that this area is home to the second oldest building in Mahoning County? Enjoy learning about the people, events, and geology of area while enjoying a warm beverage (coffee, tea, and hot chocolate provided). Registration required. Register/pay by 3/17, online or call 330.740.7107 ext. 129. Recommended for adults. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5 per person.

**Science Class (For Adults!): Owl Pellet Dissection**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/8 | 2-4 p.m.

Why let the kids have all the fun? The Science Class series invites ages 18+ to dig in to their natural curiosity and explore the living world with a Park Educator through hands on learning. Think of a seventh grade science class for adults! This season we're focusing on owls. Take a hike into known barred owl habitat to look for signs of these stealthy predators. Then warm

up inside with a mini lecture on owls while you sip coffee and cocoa. We'll finish up our owl adventure by dissecting owl pellets and classifying the bones of their prey. Register/pay by 3/6, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5

**A Paranormal Investigation of Ford Nature Center**  
Ford Nature Center  
3/14 | 8-11 p.m.

Join Park staff and the Collective Paranormal Research Society for a paranormal investigation of Ford Nature Center. Past investigations have been very interesting! Bring your own ghost hunting equipment if you like. Registration required. Register/pay by 3/12, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults only; 18 and older. No walk-ins. \$40

**Rock Talk**  
Ford Nature Center Education Building  
3/22 | 2-4 p.m.

Do you have a favorite rock sitting around your home? Not sure what it is? Bring it to Ford Nature Center to meet with a Park Educator to learn how to identify your rock and how it was formed. Please bring a rock! Park Educator will be on site from 2 - 4 pm to answer your questions about your rock and have others on display for you to learn about. Walk-ins welcomed. No registration required. FREE

**Traveling Naturalist**  
Lily Pond  
3/27 | 2-4:30 p.m.

Our Traveling Naturalist is back on the road! Stop by the Lily Pond for a wildlife touch table and Q&A with a Park Educator. Hot chocolate available first come first served! All are invited to stop by to chat. Call 330.740.7107 x 129 for details. FREE



**Mill Creek MetroParks - Fellows Riverside Gardens**

Free and open daily, dawn until dusk

**D.D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center**

Information Desk 330.740.7116

Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm

Closed: Mondays

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

**Shop in the Gardens**

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday - Noon - 5 pm

**Garden Café**

Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

General inquiries about Fellows Riverside Gardens

*email:* [info@friendsoffellows.org](mailto:info@friendsoffellows.org)

*Visit:* [FriendsOfFellows.org](http://FriendsOfFellows.org)

[millcreekmetroparks.org](http://millcreekmetroparks.org)

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# Save the Date

## Your Herb Garden was "Mint to Be" Class

Wednesday April 1 – reservation required

## Hands on Bonsai Class

Sunday April 12 – reservation required

## Annual Member Dinner

Thursday April 30 – reservation required

Brochures will be mailed to all current members with details

## Shop in the Gardens Spring Open House

Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>

## Annual Outdoor Summer Garden Party

Friday July 31

Invitations will be mailed to all members