



Issue 12 | May 2023

Just as ripples spread when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching impact. *The Ripple* is a special newsletter created by Cincinnati Nature Center for people who want ideas, insights, and inspiration to act in support of nature and the environment.

Wouldn't it be great if everyone had better information about ways to act (and inspire others to act) for conservation? **Take a minute to share this electronic digest with your friends**—They'll thank you for it!

If someone forwarded you this newsletter and you want to become a regular subscriber, [click here](#).

## GET INSPIRED!



### Meet a Networker for Conservation

JoAnne Allen has a superpower—networking! Just as trees rely on underground networks of mycelium and roots to support forest health, people who interact with and influence one another have more impact on conservation.

When JoAnne started volunteering to help Cincinnati Nature Center find homeowners willing to display their native gardens as part of the annual **Garden Tour: Noteworthy Natives**, she discovered neighbors joining together to plant native habitat in their own residential landscapes.

[Read the full story](#)

## LET'S COLLABORATE!

**We Want to Hear From You!**

Share what you know, what you wonder, and what you'd like to discuss with other Cincinnati Nature Center members. If you have content you want us to consider for this section, please email Connie O'Connor at [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org).

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### **Third Act: Ohio Working Group**

The Third Act is a community of Americans over the age of 60 determined to change the world for the better. Together, they use their life experiences, skills, and resources to build a better tomorrow.

[Click to Learn More](#)

TAKE ACTION!

### **To Mow or To Mow Less? That is the Question!**

Consider the "Lazy Lawnmower" approach with this research to back you up!

[Click to Learn More](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE



### **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Program**

Hosted by Cincinnati Nature Center in collaboration with OSU Extension in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, the mission of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program is to "promote awareness and citizen stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service." The program emphasizes 40 hours of education on natural resources followed by 40 hours of volunteer service.

Contact [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org) to be put on the notification list when registration opens for new cohorts.

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### **Public Speaking for Nature Lovers**

Wednesday, May 17, 5 pm on Zoom

Have you ever wanted to speak at a public meeting but were uncomfortable doing so? Join others who want to practice more effective communication as we meet with a representative from Toastmasters, a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Let's see if there is enough interest to start a conservation-focused club right here at Cincinnati Nature Center!

*Note that people who are not members of the Nature Center must pay daily admission.*

To RSVP, email Connie O'Connor at [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org) by Monday, May 15.

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## **Sometimes Less is More**

Click here to learn what NOT to do when trying to give a convincing argument.

[Click to Listen](#)

YOU'RE INVITED!

Below you will find invitations from Cincinnati Nature Center members who are hosting meet-ups around topics and skills that might positively impact conservation. This section of The Ripple helps people find each other because we are better together!

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### **Climate Conversations for Caregivers**

**Saturday, June 10, 9-10:30 am**

Are you a parent or caregiver interested in connecting with others in climate change conversations and actions? Join a small group of parents and caregivers at Cincinnati Nature Center Nature PlayScape on June 10, 9-10:30 am. Children of all ages are welcome!

To RSVP, contact Kim at [kim@regenerativerelationships.org](mailto:kim@regenerativerelationships.org).

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### **Vegetarian Potluck**

**Wednesday, June 21, 11:30 am at Groesbeck Estate Dornette Room**

If you've considered reducing your meat consumption for environmental, health, and/or ethical reasons, you might enjoy trying new recipes and meeting others with similar goals. We'll start with a brief community-building exercise followed by sharing a dish. Please bring your own utensils, plate, and beverage.

For this month's lunch, please bring a meatless dish that can be prepared in an hour or less with eight or fewer ingredients.

*Note that people who are not members of the Nature Center must pay daily admission.*

To RSVP, email Bob and Beth Staggborg at [bethstag@gmail.com](mailto:bethstag@gmail.com) with the subject line: Vegetarian Potluck.

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## Seeking Nature Lovers in Symmes Township

Building community is an important part of the Cincinnati Nature Center movement to bring more individuals into the world of conservation activism. JoAnne Allen is a Symmes Township resident who is striving to create a more conservation-oriented culture in this northeastern Hamilton county suburb. Many invasive plants, lack of municipal interest, and an oriental landscape stronghold exist where the majority of residents are not aware of how their landscape can contribute to healthier ecosystems.

JoAnne is hoping to network with nature lovers who want to help create new conservation norms in her community. Share this invitation with anyone you know in that area. We are better together!

Please contact JoAnne at [joannelallen70@gmail.com](mailto:joannelallen70@gmail.com) or (513) 720-3889 if you are from Symmes Township and want to join with others to learn about invasive removal, tree planting, the importance of native plants, conservation education for families, or how to become closer to our natural world.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Cincinnati Nature Center** is calling on volunteer writers to help create content for the *Now in Nature* weekly newsletter. These should be short, informative, interpretive articles. For more info, contact Marketing Manager Tracy Smith at [tsmith@cincynature.org](mailto:tsmith@cincynature.org). If your piece is used, you can count the time to write it as volunteer credit for your OCVN certification hours.



Cincinnati Nature Center is also looking for Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists who graduated through a Cincinnati Nature Center cohort to lead hikes and help train future OCVNs. Contact Connie O'Connor at [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org) for details.

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## Clermont County School Donation Drive Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3

Clermont County Schools' end-of-school-year donation drive has taken off quite a bit this year and they are in need of helping hands. Volunteers are needed to help sort through the boxes of donated goods and then weigh everything so a report can be made on how much of each material (paper, plastic, metal, etc.) was diverted from the landfill.

If interested in volunteering, please email Katheryn Zelak at [kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov](mailto:kzelak@clermontcountyohio.gov).

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## OCVN Volunteers Needed for Ohio State Fair

OCVN graduate volunteers are needed at the ODNR Natural Resources Park, Ohio State Fair, for their kayak pond and camper village. If interested, please

contact Rob Lucas at [robert.lucas@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:robert.lucas@dnr.ohio.gov) for more details.

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### **Rain Garden Planting**

**Saturday, May 13**

OCVN graduate Stacy Creamer is rehabbing the rain garden at the Clermont County fairgrounds for the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District. If you're interested in volunteering to help with planting, please contact Stacy at [screamer@gmail.com](mailto:screamer@gmail.com) for details.

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### **Volunteer with Western Wildlife Corridor**

Western Wildlife Corridor has opportunities for volunteers to help with restoration work. No special skills or registration is required! If interested, please contact a project leader to make sure it hasn't been canceled. [Click here](#) for more information and to read the document on Habitat Restoration and frequently asked questions.

Volunteers are needed on the following dates:

#### **Habitat Restoration at Whitetail Woods**

**Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am-12 pm**

The leaders for this event are Gary (513-304-4303) and Tim (513-922-2104)

#### **Habitat Restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve**

**Saturday, May 13, 9:30 am-12 pm**

The leader for this event is Matt (513-604-6728)

#### **Habitat Restoration at Buckeye Trace**

**Saturday, May 20, 9:30 am-12 pm**

The leaders for this event are Tim (513-922-2104) and John (513-304-2310)

#### **Habitat Restoration at Shady Lane**

**Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am-12 pm**

The leaders for this event are Matt (513-604-6728) and Ed (513-919-5186)

For the locations and directions on where we will meet for the habitat restoration projects, please check the [Western Wildlife Corridor calendar](#).

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### **Keep Cincinnati Beautiful**

[Click here](#) to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities available.

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### **Regular Volunteers Needed at Valley View**

Close to Cincinnati Nature Center is a lovely natural area called Valley View. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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### **Civic Garden Center**

Civic Garden Center is doing great work and needs your help! [Click here](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

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### **Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve**

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve in Yellow Springs is in need of volunteers to help staff the nature center on weekends. Duties include greeting visitors, answering questions, feeding animals, and light cleaning.

Knowledge of trail systems of this preserve as well as John Bryan State Park and Glen Helen Nature Preserve would be helpful. Knowledge of local flora and fauna is also desired for this position.

If interested, contact Michelle Comer at [michelle.comer@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:michelle.comer@dnr.ohio.gov).

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### **Volunteers Needed for B's Junior Gardeners**

B's Junior Gardeners, an Ohio Association of Garden Clubs registered Junior Garden Club, serving students at two schools in the Princeton City School District, is in need of volunteers.

If you live near Springdale, Ohio, pollinator and tree maintenance volunteers, weekly waterers and harvesters of the food gardens, and photographers for the ongoing iNaturalist projects at both schools are needed.

If interested, please contact Brandy Blaylock at [bsjrjgs@gmail.com](mailto:bsjrjgs@gmail.com)

## SHARE & SUBSCRIBE

### **Give Us Your Feedback**

You're receiving this action-oriented newsletter because either you signed up for it, because you are a graduate of the Nature Center's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program, or because you have completed The Ripple Effect online course.

If someone forwarded you this newsletter and you want to become a regular subscriber, [click here](#).

If you have suggestions for content or have other input, contact the Director of Applied Learning, Connie O'Connor at [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org).

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