



Issue 21 | February 2024

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 looking for ideas and support in their efforts to protect nature.

GET INSPIRED!



Paying It Forward

After retirement and as a new Nature Center volunteer, Steve English found his current passion; it stoked his propensity to activism and shaped him as an influencer of, and mentor to, others.

As leader of the Nature Center's butterfly monitoring team, he provides gentle encouragement for both new and veteran group members and applies his knowledge about how people learn and how he can best teach them.

Click below to read the full article by *The Ripple* author Barbara Moss.

[Click to Read More!](#)

Do You Know An Influencer?

We are always looking for new people to feature in *The Ripple*. If someone you know has been impactful in their action for conservation, please email **Connie O'Connor** at coconnor@cincynature.org with details.

LET'S COLLABORATE!

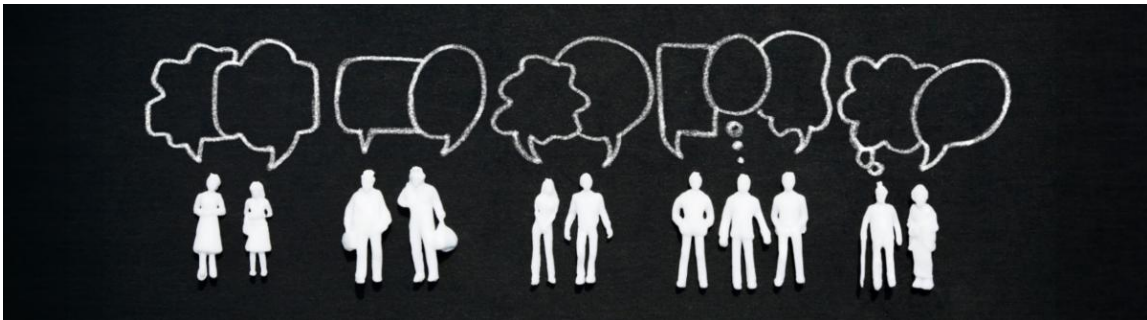
Are We Making a Difference?

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. But are we on the right track? We want to know if/how this monthly newsletter is serving your needs and how we can improve.

*This survey was previously included in the April 2023 newsletter. **If you have already taken this survey and provided your feedback, no need to do so again.** Thank you!*

[Take the Survey](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE



Conversations à la Carte

Thursdays on Zoom from 6-7 pm on March 7 & 14, and May 16

Imagine a book club without books. Your own think tank. A circle of friendships, deepening through discussions about social and environmental topics you each bring to the table. Imagine you and others in a small group sharing experiences, knowledge, questions and perspectives in conversations over dinner that leave you feeling enriched and better informed. Join us to learn more!

This free program is offered as a pilot—we need your feedback to gauge its value. *This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

[Click to Register](#)



Curious About Litter?

Decades ago, it was discovered that the largest demographic of litterbugs in Texas were anti-authoritarian young men. See how an entire anti-litter campaign was designed to tap into their values to create new anti-litter social norms. This is a reminder that while you can't change other people's values you can tap into them for a common goal.

[Click to Learn More](#)



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Spring Course

Registration now open! Our Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) spring cohort, hosted by Cincinnati Nature Center, is a mix of both live, in-person classes and virtual, online instruction. All virtual classes take place via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays (April 2–May 14) from 6-8 pm. In-person classes take place at Rowe Woods on two Sundays (April 13 and April 27) from 9 am–6 pm.

The application deadline is **Monday, March 18**, but spots fill fast so don't delay!

[Click to Register](#)

OCVN ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCVN Name Tag Update!

Anne Robinson is handling orders for OCVN name tags and t-shirts as part of her volunteer hours for OCVN. She apologizes for the delay in getting them to you and is committed to getting everyone their name tags very soon.

Please complete the form below by February 15 to either order a name tag for \$12 or to remind us that you are waiting for one that you have already ordered.

[Click to Order](#)

Warren County Park District Job Opening!

Warren Country Park District is seeking a part-time Naturalist who will split time between remote work, in-office meetings, and in-the-field programs and meetings. This position will assist the Naturalist and Communications Coordinator with nature education programs, community events, volunteer programs, and community partnerships.

[Click to Learn More](#)

OCVN Quarterly Alumni Meet-Ups

[Wednesday, March 20, 6–8 pm](#)

If you're a graduate from an *Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist* (OCVN) course hosted by Cincinnati Nature Center, we welcome you to this group which meets quarterly. Preregistration required. **Space is limited!** Drop-ins are not permitted—register today! These offerings are designed exclusively for graduates of Cincinnati Nature Center's OCVN program: CNC members free; nonmembers \$10.

Reasons to join us:

1. Practice your presentation and/or interpretive hike skills while earning volunteer hours toward annual OCVN requirements,
2. Learn about natural history topics from your peers while getting continuing education hours toward annual OCVN requirements, and
3. Enjoy meeting old friends from your cohort as well other OCVNs who share your passion for nature.

If you are interested in giving a brief talk or walk during one of our meetings, please contact **Bob Buring** at bburing@cincynature.org.

To see all upcoming meet-up dates, [click here](#).

[Click to Register](#)

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!

Please note, all event participants who are not members of the Nature Center must pay daily admission.

Use Your Voice For Nature

Toastmasters Clubs are internationally known for helping people become more engaging, effective, and comfortable public speakers. There are two local clubs to consider joining:

- The Miami Township Civic Center's meeting is on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7–8 pm. For more info, please contact Jerry Lawson at **(317) 696-5837**.

- Cincinnati Nature Center will also have meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 12-1 pm. Ours is a nature-themed Toastmasters Group for volunteers and staff. For more info, please contact Connie O'Connor at coconnor@cincynature.org.
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Native Plant Club

Thursday, February 1, 7-8:30 pm

Thursday, March 7, 8-8:30 pm

Are you passionate or simply curious about native plants? If so, join us as we set the foundation for sharing knowledge, supporting one another's efforts, and helping get more native plants into the community. Whether your interests lie in native landscaping, ecosystem restoration or keeping the wild...wild, this group is for you!

Don't want to join a club? Perhaps you might have interest in earning OCVN volunteer hours by giving a talk about some aspect of native plants for the group. Please contact **Connie O'Connor** at coconnor@cincynature.org to inquire about that option.

[Click to Register](#)

Book Discussion Group: How to Know a Person

Wednesday, February 7, 7 pm via Zoom

Mike Lacinak will lead a one-night discussion about the book *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks. Purchase your own book and start reading! Be prepared to complete the book prior to the discussion. To participate, please email **Mike Lacinak** at mlacinak@me.com.

Plant-Rich Lunch Club

Thursday, February 15, 11:30 am-1 pm

People have many reasons for reducing or foregoing meat: ethical, environmental, and physical. Whatever your goals, join with others to try new recipes and discuss your journey. Bring your own plate, utensils, and beverage, and a vegetarian or vegan dish to share. Hosted by Nature Center members, for Nature Center members. Preregistration required. Member adult free, nonmember adult \$10 (includes daily admission).

[Click to Register](#)

Book Discussion Group: Food is Climate

Saturday, February 24, 10 am-12 pm

Do you want to eat better for your health and for the environment? Cincinnati Nature Center member and Certified Wellness Nutrition Educator Chris Christensen recommends the book *Food is Climate* by Glen Merzer. She invites you to join her to discuss your thoughts on the book. Pick up the book [here](#) and read it before attending the discussion. Free for members; non-members \$10 (includes daily admission).

Click to
Register

Book Discussion Group: Regeneration

March 6,13,20,27, and April 3 from 7 pm–8:30 pm on Zoom

Join Nature Center member Jennifer Goldschneider to share thoughts about the book *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*. It offers a visionary new approach to climate change, one that weaves justice, climate, biodiversity, equity, and human dignity into a seamless tapestry of action, policy, and transformation that can end the climate crisis in one generation. It's the first book to describe and define the burgeoning regeneration movement spreading rapidly throughout the world. You'll need to obtain your own copy of the book. Members free; nonmembers \$25 (includes daily admission for the series).

Click to
Register

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Cincinnati Nature Center is still on the lookout for short-form article submissions to be featured in the *Now in Nature* bi-weekly newsletter. These should be seasonally appropriate or evergreen topics that are informative and interpretive.

For more information, please contact Digital Marketing Coordinator Megan Mahon at mmahon@cincynature.org. If your piece is used, you can count the time to write it as volunteer credit for your OCVN certification hours.



Become a Nature Center Volunteer

Volunteer applications now open!

Please visit our website to review our opportunity directory and, if interested, complete an application to attend an orientation in early March, late April, or early-August. All volunteers are required to attend an orientation/onboarding session. Orientations are hosted during times of the year to coincide with upcoming programs and opportunities.

When completing your application, please chose one of the following dates:

- March 3, 1–3 PM: Community Science Focused
- April 28, 1–3 PM: Plant Native Focused
- August 4, 1–3 PM: Special Event Focused

We thank you for your interest and hope to meet you soon! Please email the volunteer services team at volunteer@cincynature.org or by phone at 513-965-3348.

[Click to Learn
More](#)

Warren County Park District: Upcoming Event Volunteers

Warren County Park District is looking for OCVNs to help with their Winter Workshop (suet cake making) and Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, February 17.

Please contact Shannon **Russell Pennington** at mothernaturesclassroom@gmail.com for more details.

Mill Creek Alliance Citizen Science

Our dedicated volunteer citizen scientists visit 57 sites throughout the Mill Creek Watershed on the second Saturday of every month, March through November.

Some water quality monitoring volunteers collect water samples and make stream observations in the field, while others receive the samples at the laboratory and analyze for eight parameters: nitrates, total phosphorus, conductivity, turbidity, pH, E. coli/coliforms, temperature, optical brighteners, and InVivo Chlorophyll a. Training is provided. Click below to get involved!

[Click to Learn
More](#)

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Click below to explore the many volunteer opportunities available with *Keep Cincinnati Beautiful!*

[Click to Learn
More](#)

SHARE & SUBSCRIBE

Give Us Your Feedback

You're receiving this action-oriented newsletter because 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.

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](#).

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

If you want to unsubscribe, please [click here](#).



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