

THE RIPPLE

CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER
CONSERVATION NEWS

Issue 9 | February 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.

GET INSPIRED!



Protecting What She Loves

Story by Connie O'Connor/Bob Buring

Sheila Cox-Riley has a strong personal interest both in astronomy and amphibians. She lives near East Fork State Park, where she enjoys dark night skies through her telescope and wet spring walks to look for salamanders.

When Sheila saw that human activities were threatening what she loved, she took action as a neighbor and citizen of her community.

Read the full
story

LET'S COLLABORATE!

Speak Up For the Ones in the Back!

Do you ever feel like talking about conservation in front of a group makes you feel uncomfortable? Cincinnati Nature Center members would like to organize a club to learn and practice effective public speaking skills that create communities that come together for the common good. This club could help you feel more confident speaking at community meetings or with those who do not embrace conservation the way you do. If you have interest, thoughts or suggestions, please email Connie O'Connor at coconnor@cincynature.org.

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Spring Program

Application deadline is Tuesday, March 7

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 hands-on natural resources and environmental education coupled with volunteer service.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register for the upcoming spring program.

NATIVE PLANTS 101

online course presented by
Cincinnati Nature Center

A banner for the 'Native Plants 101' online course. The text is white on a dark green background. To the right of the text is a close-up photograph of a bright yellow flower with a dark center.

Native Plants 101 (Online, Self-Paced)

March 13-April 17

In this practical, self-paced online course, you'll discover the human and ecological benefits of planting native, learn about powerhouse native plants, and create a garden plan that fits your outdoor space and personality.

Preregistration is required by **March 8**. Member adult \$40; nonmember adult \$45.

[Click to
Register](#)



The Ripple Effect (Online)

April 24-June 5

Just as one drop in a pond creates ripples, your actions can inspire waves of positive change for people and nature. This self-paced online course will show you how. This free (donation-based) online course was designed by Cincinnati Nature Center staff with you in mind. Learn at your own pace as we take you on a science-based journey through our exploration into how individuals can have a real impact on conservation. This course is qualified for OVCN continuing education.

Preregistration is required by **April 17**. Member adult free; nonmember adult free. Donations welcomed!

**Click to
Register**

YOU'RE INVITED!

As a result of the Common Good Gatherings, a group of Cincinnati Nature Center members has formed several self-managing groups to discuss and address conservation issues. The "You're Invited!" section of The Ripple will help people find each other, as hosts extend invitations "looking for people who are looking for them."

Meatless Lunch Club

Wednesday, February 8, 12 pm at Groesbeck Estate Dornette Room

CNC members Bob and Beth Staggenborg invite you to join a vegetarian lunch club that meets to try new entrees, exchange recipes, and transition to a reduced-meat diet that supports a sustainable lifestyle. While we dine, we'll also share ideas with one another about other ways to address climate change.

Host: Bob Staggenborg; Co-host: Beth Staggenborg; Participants: Margaret Bergh, Connie O'Connor, Maria Jenkins, and hopefully you!

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

To RSVP, email Bob Staggenborg at bobstag@gmail.com with the subject line: Meatless Lunch Club.

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. If your piece is used, you can count the time to write it as volunteer credit for your OCVN certification hours.



Consider joining an exceptional group of naturalists and nature lovers by becoming a Cincinnati Nature Center Volunteer! We have new volunteer orientations scheduled for March 5 and another on April 30. [Click here to learn more about volunteering at Cincinnati Nature Center.](#)

Mill Creek Alliance: WorkPARTY in the Watershed **Saturday, February 21, 10 am-1 pm**

Join the Mill Creek Alliance for our first WorkPARTY in the Watershed to pick up litter and remove honeysuckle in Chamberlain Park in Springdale, Ohio. Contact Bennett Kottler at bkottler@themillcreekalliance.org for more information and to register.

Volunteer Opportunities with Cardinal Land Trust

[Click here](#) to learn about the many hands-on volunteer opportunities with Cardinal Land Trust.

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Continued Education Credit Opportunities in Warren County Parks **Friday, February 17, 6-7 pm, at Armco Park in Jones Pavilion**

Join us for *Beaks and Talons*, an "up close and personal" presentation from RAPTOR, Inc. featuring three live avian ambassadors. Learn about the adaptations which make birds of prey supreme hunters of the sky. The program will describe raptor diets, habitats, nesting habits, and their role in the food web, as well as other interesting topics.

Artifacts (such as wings, feet, pellets, etc.) will be available for touching, and raptor vocalizations will be played. This is an exclusive, free event for Friends of WCPD, OCVNs, and Master Gardeners. No registration is required.

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Volunteer Hours **Saturday, February 18, 8 am-12 pm, at Armco Park in Jones Pavilion** **Sunday, February 19, 3-7 pm, at Armco Park in Jones Pavilion**

Bird enthusiasts of all skill levels are welcome! Help create an official tally for Warren County Armco Park during this worldwide community science event. Choose to stay inside the heated Jones Pavilion and watch bird feeders out the windows, or join Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, staff from Wild Birds Unlimited, and members of the Birders of Warren County on a hike through the park. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

To participate, contact Shannon Russell Pennington at mothernaturesclassroom@gmail.com.

Give Us Your Feedback

You're receiving this action-oriented newsletter because either you signed up for it or because you are a graduate of the Nature Center's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program.

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, feel free to contact Director of Applied Learning Connie O'Connor at coconnor@cincynature.org.

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Cincinnati Nature Center | 4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150

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