



Issue 22 | March 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!



Citizen Activism is Key

Many times, a shared problem will unexpectedly bring strangers together for the greater good. Such an opportunity occurred when a local housing developer planned to buy 109 acres with woods and historic farmland to build 209 homes in Loveland, Ohio. To preserve and protect this natural space, an organic, widespread, and dedicated group of people organized themselves and moved swiftly to prevent this development.

Click below to read the full article!

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!

Help Us Gauge Interest in a New Program

Environmental problems are complicated and best addressed when citizens and their elected officials work together. But a lack of knowledge can be a

huge barrier to civic engagement. Cincinnati Nature Center is considering ways to remove this barrier by teaching a 16-hour basic civics course.

We'd collaborate with experts to help citizens understand the roles and responsibilities of public officials, components of municipal budgets, theories of economic development, location of public meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes, how to draft motions and petitions, ways to bring concerns to public officials, and even how to run for office or support those who do.

Would you take this course?

Yes

No

Maybe

Creative Technical Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers who have experience with converting scripts into short-form, animated educational videos using [Powtoon](#) or [Vyond](#). If interested, please contact Connie O'Connor at coconnor@cincynature.org.

It's a great way to get volunteer hours while helping with the creation of new educational material!

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

Podcast: Why Our Brains Don't Fear Climate Change Enough

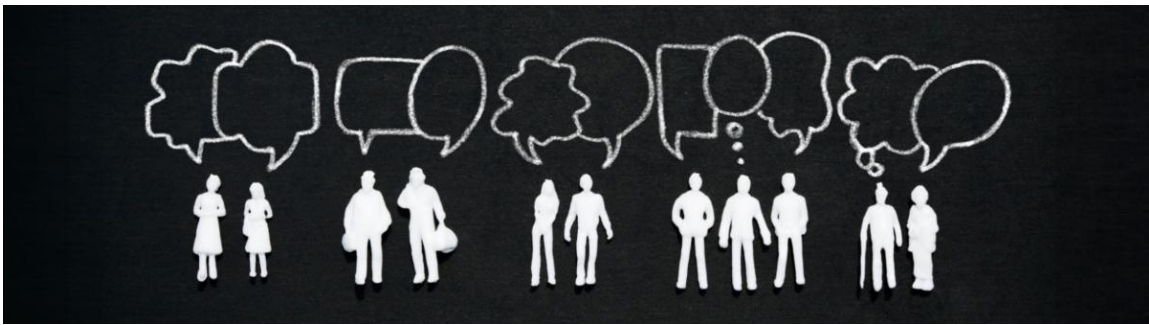
Humans aren't wired to address problems like climate change. So what can we do? Listen to this compelling episode of *The Happiness Lab* with Dr. Laurie Santos featuring social psychologist Dan Gilbert, then share your thoughts in the next *Ripple* e-newsletter by writing to coconnor@cincynature.org.

Click to
Listen

10 Ways You Can Help Fight the Climate Crisis

There are plenty of articles offering advice on actions you can take for climate change but not all are accurate and some are downright misinformed. This is one of the good ones, and advocates a mix of consumer and collective action.

Click to Learn
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](#)



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 Saturdays (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 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](#)

For Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists: Being a Naturalist in the 21st Century

[Zoom Panel Discussion on Wednesday, March 27, 4–5:30 pm](#)

Join this FREE Zoom panel discussion to explore the experience of being a naturalist with four Ohio naturalists whose work weaves in the core capacities naturalists will need in the future such as fostering inclusivity, inspiring stewardship, observing and documenting, connecting social and ecological justice, and excellence in education. Each panelist will share their personal and professional journey connecting with the natural world, what has helped them, and their vision for the future.

[Click to Learn More](#)

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.

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!

Native Plant Club Greenhouse Tour: Join your fellow club members on **Saturday, March 16, 1:30–3 pm** as Native Plant Propagation Program Manager Jake Sberna gives a talk and tour of the Rowe Woods Greenhouse and discusses the ins and outs of native plant production at Cincinnati Nature Center. After the greenhouse tour, there will be a short hike around the Groesbeck Estate to see what spring wildflowers are up and flowering.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Plant-Rich Lunch Club

Thursday, March 21, 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: 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. **Registration required by March 2.** 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.



OCVN Sunday Land Stewards

Cincinnati Nature Center is dedicated to creating a space for OCVN graduates to continue bonding with each other and earn service hours toward their certification. On Sundays, Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Garlock will take a group of OCVN graduates into the woods to remove non-native species and restore habitat for natives to thrive. This opportunity is exclusive to OCVN graduates so come earn some hours and meet new people, or catch up with old cohort friends.

Upcoming dates:

- Sunday, March 10, 2–4 pm
- Sunday, March 17, 2–4 pm
- Sunday, March 31, 2–4 pm

For questions, please email the volunteer services team at volunteer@cincynature.org or by phone at 513-965-3348.

Click below to complete the OCVN Sunday Land Stewards waiver.

[Click to Sign Up](#)

Stream Monitors Needed

The Izaak Walton League seeks volunteers to help monitor stream quality throughout the region via a program called Saturday Stream Snapshot.

Monitoring occurs on the second Saturday of each month, March through November. Volunteers can participate in two ways: collecting stream samples at sites near their communities, or processing samples in the lab in Loveland.

“Both activities are fun, rewarding, and require no prior experience—the program provides free training and volunteers can help on as many or as few Saturday mornings as they choose,” according to Chris Hall, Program Coordinator.

Contact volunteer@saturdaystreamsnapshot.org for more information or visit SaturdayStreamSnapshot.org.

Loveland Learning Garden Seeking OCVNs

As a volunteer-run nonprofit, Loveland Learning Garden relies on individuals to share their talents in supporting educational programming, garden and trail maintenance, and special projects. Individuals who are effective at facilitating interactive, fun, and engaging lessons with primary and elementary students are particularly needed to support our program.

OCVN graduates can support us by:

- Being a Nature Educator - lead fun sessions for kids as part of our school day program (lesson plan and materials provided)
- Leading a 1-hour activity for our afterschool "Outdoor Adventures"
- Joining our Nature Trail core team to assist with trail maintenance tasks
- Taking on role as Nature Trail Manager to direct maintenance work

For more information, email info@lovelandlearninggarden.org or visit www.lovelandlearninggarden.org.

Mill Creek Alliance: Water Quality Monitoring

Mill Creek Alliance needs volunteers for water quality monitoring and their Adopt-a-Spot program. Citizen scientists collect water samples and test them in the lab. Training Provided. No experience is required.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Educational Volunteers Needed

Saturday, May 4, 9 am–3 pm

Volunteers are needed to run a conservation-themed event as part of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) State Convention held at the Mt. Healthy Chapter (3504 Bevis Lane, 45251 near Northgate Mall).

There are several activity stations scheduled for the day including fly fishing, fly tying, outdoor cooking, fire building, a self-guided soil trailer, and archery to name a few. The hope is to have 50 participants during each session.

OCVN assistance is needed to help with a nature scavenger hunt and a mammal skull and pelt activity, or a themed station of your own. Each station should occupy participants for approximately 30 minutes. The morning session runs from 9–11:30 am and the afternoon session from 12:30–3 pm.

Sign up to help for the full day or just for one session. Full-day assistants will be provided a hot lunch. Snacks and drinks are provided to half-day helpers. Contact **Erin Morris** at 513-659-5291 or morriserin2016@gmail.com.

The Arc of Appalachia

The Arc of Appalachia is seeking volunteers to help host their Appalachian Forest Museum at the Highlands Nature Sanctuary in Bainbridge. Museum hosts work alongside Arc staff to welcome visitors, answer questions, and orient them to the Sanctuary's trails, and the mission of the Arc of Appalachia. A museum host training day will be held Saturday, March 23, at the Appalachian Forest Museum from 10 am–2 pm.

If interested in being a museum host for the 2024 season, please contact

arcpreserveinfo@gmail.com. It is not mandatory to attend the training day but is recommended if you are interested in volunteering as a host.

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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