

THE RIPPLE

CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER
CONSERVATION NEWS

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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 "The Garden Lady"

Brandy Blaylock volunteers for two elementary schools in the Princeton City School District, where approximately 150 students a year learn through her gardens about how to live with nature, explore it, grow it, and even eat some of it. Children love eating what they grow, and by focusing on food security in small gardening spaces alongside our native pollinator gardens, she hopes to encourage families to protect nature while growing their own food.

Click below to learn more about Brandy's program and get inspired to volunteer in a community garden.

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.

Join the Nature Center's OCVN Facebook Page!

If you are one of the 500+ people who have graduated from one of Cincinnati Nature Center's [Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist](#) courses, there is a Facebook group just for you! Facilitated by OCVN alumni, Emma and Shiloh, this Facebook group provides a ton of great opportunities to meet like-minded people and share information about nature and continuing education.

Click Here to
Join

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.

Click to Take the
Survey

TAKE ACTION!

Are You Up for the EcoChallenge?

Earth Month (throughout April) is fast approaching and if you'd like to try something new to protect nature, Cincinnati Nature Center has a team on EcoChallenge.org where you can record your efforts.

Take the
Challenge

What Actions Can You Take Right Now?

Feeling motivated to take action but are not sure where to start? The Union of Concerned Scientists' new [Climate Action Button](#) covers it all, from little things you can do right now to big things you can do in the long term.

Push the
Button

Taking the time to talk to others about the actions or behaviors you decide to adopt is equally important. People are most influenced by those they know and trust. **Who will you influence during Earth Month this year?**

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

We Are Better Together!

Environmentalist Bill McKibben, is interviewed in a recent episode of the podcast, [Nature Guys](#). McKibben discussed his new book, [We are Better Together](#), which celebrates the amazing things people can do when they cooperate for a common goal. The book offers an inspiring message that encourages us to act collectively to protect our beautiful, fragile world.

Listen to the
Episode

Free Online Summit for People, Planet, and Future [Thursday, April 20-Wednesday, April 26](#)

Explore how to be a healing force amid the climate crisis and join an extraordinary group of 50+ speakers and teachers as well as leaders worldwide who care about the thriving of people, the planet, and our future in the free [One Earth, One Health, One With - 2023 Online Summit](#).

Click to Learn
More

Cincinnati Climate Change & Sustainability Forum [Monday, April 24](#)

The impact of climate change continues to grow worldwide. Right here in Cincinnati, we are already seeing changes in our weather patterns and agriculture. What can you do to help? Explore evidence-based approaches with experts and organizations that are actively working to answer that question.

Doors open at 5 pm for food and engaging conversations with nonprofit vendors and panel discussions start at 6:30 pm.

Ticket price of \$15 includes food and support for science education and outreach in Cincinnati. Cash bar available separately.

Click to
Register



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Summer Program **[Application deadline is Tuesday, May 30](#)**

The OCVN program emphasizes hands-on natural resource and environmental education coupled with volunteer service. Coursework includes training in geology, plants, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, ecology, stewardship, and interpretation. The summer cohort is the only one offered at Cincinnati Nature Center that is entirely in person! In-person classes take place on select Tuesdays in June and July from 9 am-5 pm.

People who are interested in volunteering for Warren County Parks may be able to earn \$100 off of their OCVN course fees! To learn more, contact Shannon Russell Pennington at mothernatureclassroom@gmail.com.

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!

Public Speaking for Nature Lovers **Saturday, April 29, 9 am**

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 met 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!

Coffee and donuts provided. After a short meeting, feel free to enjoy the plant sale and hike our trails.

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 by Friday, April 28 at 9 am.

Vegetarian Potluck **Wednesday, May 3, 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 Staggenborg at bethstag@gmail.com with the subject line: Vegetarian Potluck.

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.



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 for details.

Crane Hollow Nature Preserve

Crane Hollow in Hocking County, Ohio, is a private, nonprofit preserve whose is to foster "preservation, understanding, and appreciation of the plants, animals, and ecology of the hollow and surrounding area." [Click here](#) to browse upcoming volunteer opportunities.

The Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition

The Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition produces an annual Earth Day celebration to bring conversations regarding environmentally-friendly practices, sustainability, and eco-consciousness to the forefront through family-friendly, accessible education. [Click here](#) to volunteer for their Earth Day event.

Loveland Learning Garden

Loveland Learning Garden is seeking volunteers to: Teach kids as part of our school day program (lesson plan and materials provided), lead a one-hour activity for our afterschool "Outdoor Adventures," help design and host a community event in our garden or nature trail, or assist or lead projects like invasive honeysuckle removal and propagation of native plants.

[Click here](#) or email info@lovelandlearninggarden.org to learn more!

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful strives to empower all Cincinnatians to build community and create a positive future through revitalization, education, and mobilization. [Click here](#) to find ways to help this organization.

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve is in need of volunteers to staff the nature center. The center is open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-4 pm from April through October. Duties include greeting visitors, answering questions, feeding animals, and light cleaning. Knowledge of the trail systems in 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.

Please note that this opportunity and other volunteer positions are now listed in the Announcements section of the OCVN certification website, on the right-hand side once logged in.

To inquire, contact ODNR West Regional Preserve Manager Michelle Comer at michelle.comer@dnr.ohio.gov.

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.

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