



Issue 16 | September 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 looking for ideas and support in their efforts to protect nature.

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 Relationship Advocate!**

Kim Fulbright promotes climate-change action, but she does it by building human relationships and fostering joy.

At the University of Cincinnati, where Kim's "real" job is in conflict resolution, she guides people to manage, reduce, or even eliminate their disagreements and disputes. But as an avocation, it is her intention to help her fellow humans take action to solve the climate crisis, or at least to find ways to make some small but meaningful changes in their lives.

[Read the full story](#)

TAKE ACTION!

**New "Office Hours" for Advocates**

Are you hoping to influence people in your social circles to take action for nature but are not sure what steps to take? Join Director of Applied Learning Connie O'Connor and Climate Change Coach [Kim Fulbright](#) to discuss where you might be stuck. This is a FREE service to help you think about ways to influence others you know to protect nature.

Dates for open discussion are:

- Wednesday, September 13, 5 pm via Zoom

[Click Here to Schedule](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

## Insights into Conservative Environmentalism (The Eco-Right)

Did you know there are a variety of resources available to people who identify as conservative, Republican, or right-wing? Environmental protection should be a non-partisan issue, and there are many ideas for how to protect nature. Even people who don't consider themselves to be conservative might find it useful to listen and understand different perspectives. It might lead to good conversations with others—the beginning of finding common ground for nature. **Below are some resources that might be of interest to you or someone you know:**

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- [RepublicEN.org](#) helps conservatives navigate the treacherous climate conversation with confidence because, they say, "Nobody should sacrifice their conservative values to protect the environment and our future. Our conservative values are not only part of our identity, they are key to effective climate solutions."

This organization also produces a podcast called [EcoRight Speaks](#) featuring "conservative weekly climate news and guests."

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- [The American Conservation Coalition](#) is committed to "building the conservative environmental movement" and aims to mobilize young people around environmental action. It was founded in June 2017 by a group of Millennials who saw an ideological gap in the environmental movement preventing necessary bipartisan action. There are lots of courses and resources from this perspective on their website.

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- Two other conservative climate groups offer solutions from an innovation and technology perspective: [Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions](#) and [ClearPath](#).

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- [Fusion Capitalism: A Clean Energy Vision For Conservatives](#) is a compelling book written by Cincinnati businessman Steve Melink in October 2020.

# 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.*

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## Join Us for The Ripple Mixer

**Saturday, September 16, at 10 am in Rowe Woods Auditorium**

Join us as we brainstorm ways to improve nature within our communities with local author and community leader **Peter Block**. We invite you to bring your hopes, doubts, experiences, and unique self to this collaborative and inclusive event. You don't need any special knowledge or experience to attend.

We are looking for people who are looking for one another; those seeking connection and meaning around their shared love of nature.

[Click to Register](#)

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## 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 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](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org).
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## Vegetarian Potluck

**Wednesday, September 13, 11:30 am-1 pm**

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.

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

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## **Native Plant Club**

**Wednesday, October 4, 6:30-8 pm—Inaugural Meeting**

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 are in gardening, foraging, or ecosystem restoration, this group is for you!

Preregister by Monday, October 2. Member adult free; nonmember adult \$10 (includes daily admission).

[Click to Register](#)

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## **Conversations That Ripple - Common Good Gatherings**

**Wednesday, October 11, 18, and November 1, 6-8 pm**

We are each looking for impactful ways to protect the environment, but we can't accomplish it alone. Bypass the small talk with others and begin meaningful conversations that lead to real change.

Join Cincinnati Nature Center members and other local nature lovers for three sessions with community organizer and local civic advocate Peter Block. You'll be given the means to build support for ideas that are important to you.

So join us as we invent together what relationship-based action will look like. Feel free to bring a friend, neighbor, or colleague who may also be interested. Click below to RSVP by September 30.

[Click to RSVP](#)

## 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.



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## **Sunday Land Stewards**

**Sundays from 2-5 pm at Cincinnati Nature Center**

Cincinnati Nature Center is dedicated to creating a space for OCVN graduates

to continue to bond with each other and earn service hours towards their certification. Every Sunday from 2-5 pm, Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Garlock will take a group of up to 10 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, meet new people, or catch up with old cohort friends.

Click below to complete the OCVN Sunday Land Stewards Waiver.

[Click to Learn More](#)

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## **Civic Garden Center: Fall Native Plant Sale** **Saturday, September 9, 8:30 am–4 pm**

Volunteers needed to ensure our first-ever [Fall Native Plant Festival](#) runs smoothly. Each role has two shifts: AM (8:30 am to 12:30 pm) and PM (12 pm to 4 pm). We need people in the following roles: Plant Check-Out, Plant Check Attendant, Greeter, Floater, Information, Food and Beverage, and Activities.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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## **FREE Pollinator Palooza Family FUNestival** **Sunday, September 24, 2–5 pm**

This event takes place at the Izaak Walton League 7 Mile Chapter in Hamilton, OH. Volunteers needed to help with meadow tours, pollinators themed crafts, and assisting at educational booths.

[Click to Learn More](#)

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## **Women Sharing the Outdoors**

Women Sharing the Outdoors has several educational workshops this fall that female OCVN participants/graduates can attend or provide assistance:

- [Kitchen Spices to Botanical Bliss](#) on September 24
- [Intro to Bushcraft and Outdoor Survival Skills](#) on October 7

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).

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

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