



Issue 17 | October 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!



Connecting People to Protect Nature

If you've ever had the pleasure of talking with Bob Rack, you'll have noticed the deliberate, thoughtful, and respectful way he connects with others. Because he is a retired Chief Circuit Mediator at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, his communication skills may come as no surprise. What is surprising is the extent to which he has chosen to act on his environmental and civic-minded values. His actions are examples of what it can look like to apply your strengths and skills to issues that matter to you.

[Read the full story](#)

LET'S COLLABORATE!

Clermont SWCD Job Announcement

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District is hiring a full-time **Education and Communications Coordinator**. The Education Coordinator will collaborate with community partners to inspire and empower audiences of all ages to take individual and collective action for conservation in Clermont County. [Click here](#) to learn more about the position and apply!

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

Many people are uncomfortable with conflict, and that holds them back from using their voice for conservation. Consider how techniques that reduce conflict over differences in political ideologies can be used with talking at a zoning board or homeowners' association meeting about conservation issues.

Intellectual Humility Reduces Polarization

How can we make politics less hostile? A new study finds that when we practice intellectual humility, we have less animosity toward the "other side" of political debates.

[Click to Learn More](#)

How to Disagree Without Having a Debate

Stanford students are coming together to discuss political differences with their peers across the country.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Civic Action Comes in Many Flavors

The Civic Circle[®] helps individuals connect to opportunities and understand that doing good comes in many forms. It is a framework that represents your power to lead, lend support, and take action for causes you care about so that you can drive real and sustained change.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Canadian Parks Perspective: Mountains of Change

Ted Bergh recently traveled to the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park and had a memorable experience. Part of this experience included how open the Canadian parks were about climate change and the future effect on the parks.

"Some park visitors come to see glaciers before they're gone. If there is no change in climate-altering behaviors, then this prediction will be true," Ted says. "I am saddened to think that my 2-year-old grandson may not experience glaciers but will experience the extreme effects of climate change. Scientists tell us that the next decade is critical so perhaps the people who are alive right now are most able for meaningful change. But what can be done?"

He recommends watching *Mountains of Change*, prepared by the Canadian Parks staff, to learn more about the causes and effects of climate change.

[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.

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



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**](#)

Mill Creek Alliance Volunteer Opportunities

Multiple opportunities available now!

There are a variety of environmental education and outreach programs available throughout October via the Mill Creek Alliance. Click below to review the available slots and sign up.

[**Click to Learn
More**](#)

Upper Mill Creek Cleanup

Saturday, October 28, 9 am–1 pm

11th Annual UMCCU confirms Mill Creek Alliance commitment to completed restoration project sites by engaging volunteers and the community in cleanup, maintenance, and education efforts. This year's work will take place along the Mill Creek in Evendale, at Evendale Commons, near 2789 Cunningham Drive, 45241. Volunteers will clean up by land and water and participate in an impactful service projects. Tools and instructions will be provided at the event. Lunch will be provided.

[**Click to Learn
More**](#)

West End Community Garden Workday

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 am–12 pm

After a long season of growing, it's time to start putting the garden to rest. Tasks for this workday will include clearing garden beds of summer plants, laying cardboard and wood chips, and weeding along the fence line of the garden. All are important for ensuring an easy wakeup call in the spring!

Please come prepared wearing closed toed shoes and long pants. Bring a reusable water bottle and gloves if you have them; we will provide extras if needed. There is free parking in a small lot next to the garden.

Please email Kaela at volunteer@civiggardencenter.org with any questions!

[Click to Learn More](#)

NOTES FROM OUR READERS



The Ripple Mixer Experience

"Thank you for the Ripple Mixer on Saturday. It was a rewarding day and great company with so much heart and in the perfect setting—nestled in nature with people who care about the environment (inside and outside) on a beautiful day." -Ted Bergh

Thank you to everyone who joined us at The Ripple Mixer! We invite all our readers to share their thoughts and perspectives with us from this collaborative experience this past weekend.

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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