



Issue 40 | March 2026

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!



Get Inspired: Start with a Marigold

Article by Tracy Vonder Brink

Alison Pifer is the Executive Director of the Little Miami Watershed Network, and she's also an advocate for urban homesteading, the practice of growing food in suburban or city environments. Alison isn't afraid to get her hands dirty—literally—to improve her community. Read more to find out how you can do the same.

Click below to read the full story!

[Click to Read More](#)

YOU'RE INVITED!

Neighbors in the Know



A Series of Online Talks for a Strong Clermont



Neighbors in the Know: A Series of Online Talks for a Strong Clermont

Upcoming Sessions: Wednesdays, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, September 16, October 21, and November 18, 6–7:30 pm

Want an easy, no-stress way to learn about how local government works within Clermont County? Curious about how local decisions are made that impact your life?

Join hosts from Clermont Chamber of Commerce and Cincinnati Nature Center as we talk with guests who have answers. There are talks on eight different topics—you can choose to register for as many as you'd like for \$10 per session.

Session 2: Show Me the Money!

Wednesday, March 18, 6–7:30 pm

Guests Jennifer Ekey (Miami Township Economic Development Director) and Kris McClintick (Clermont County Director of Community and Economic Development) will discuss where money in our communities comes from, how it is spent, and who decides.

Expect information with no political angle or agenda. These are listen-only online talks; sit back and watch from home. If you have a question, type it into the chat—no speaking needed. Everyone will also get a link to the recording of sessions for which they register.

Per Session: Member adult \$10; nonmember adult \$10.

[Register for Upcoming Session](#)

[View All Upcoming Session Dates](#)



The Ripple Effect Course: Unlocking Our Power to Protect Nature (In-person)

Wednesday, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 4–6 pm at Rowe Woods

Through five in-person sessions and self-guided online resources like podcasts, videos, and articles, we'll pool collective knowledge, grow our optimism, and explore which actions have the greatest potential to protect nature. We'll discuss how to have conversations about conservation that foster understanding rather than polarization.

"If there's one course you take this year, this is the one!" - Hope Taft

Connie O'Connor, Cincinnati Nature Center Director of Applied Learning, invites 24 dedicated nature lovers to register for this special course as we learn together, grow our impact, and plan ways to make a real difference for the natural world. **The journey begins on Earth Day 2026!**

Preregistration required. Member adult \$125; nonmember adult \$135.

[Click to Register](#)



Greater Good Reunion and Salon

Thursday, May 14, 6–7:30 pm at Rowe Woods

This gathering is FREE and open to anyone who is subscribed to *The Ripple* or who has participated in one of our Conservation Civics programs, including: *The Ripple Effect Course*, *Civics 101*, *Greater Good Gatherings*, *the Conservation Civics Salon*, or *Neighbors in the Know*.

It's an opportunity to re-connect with your peers and to meet others who want to make a difference. You'll see a short video introducing Cincinnati Nature Center's Conservation Civics efforts and have the opportunity to discuss what keeps you engaged. We'll then enjoy a pizza dinner and divide into topic-specific groups to help one another brainstorm ways to increase our effectiveness in protecting nature.

This event is FREE for members and nonmembers! Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 12 via the link below.

[Click to RSVP](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

Addressing Polarization

To protect nature and our own health and well-being, we need to work together. But the words we use and the way we engage with one another often pull us apart. Here are some resources to help:

How To Talk Across Differences

[PACE's](#) newly updated *How to Talk Bridgey 2.0* guide examines fresh national data from over 5,000 voters, tests new civic terms, and offers practical language guidance for this high-stakes moment. The 2025 findings show surprising common ground: "Community," "Freedom," and even "Democracy" still resonate broadly across partisan lines, and communicators who understand how language lands can build wider coalitions without compromising their values.

[Download the Guide](#)

Polarization Detox Challenge

Overcome the toxic polarization harming your health, your relationships, and our country's ability to thrive, starting with one short exercise a day.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Getting a Handle on Data Centers

As citizens and their representatives hurry to understand the ramifications of data centers in their communities, a growing number of resources exist to help.

- [Learn More on Innovation Ohio](#)
- [Learn More on Halt the Harm Network](#)

Don't Be Fooled, Fact Check!

With the advent of deep fake videos and propaganda posing as “news,” it’s important to do our own research on issues we care about. Click below to learn how to avoid getting fooled on the facts.

[Click to Learn More](#)

OCVN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: As *The Ripple* e-newsletter evolves, all future volunteer opportunities and OCVN announcements will now be shared via the [OCVN Cincinnati Nature Center Facebook Group](#). Please request to join to see or share content within this private group.

[Click to Join!](#)

NOTES FROM OUR READERS

Trail Improvements at Landen-Deerfield Park

In-person Open House • March 12, 6–7:30 pm
Deerfield Township Fire Station 57

Online Meeting via Google Meet • March 25, 6 pm
[Click here to join!](#)

Trail improvements at Landen-Deerfield Park will occur in Summer–Fall 2026 to enhance sustainability, simplify navigation, and ensure the park remains safe and enjoyable for decades to come. Residents, park users, and neighbors are encouraged to attend a public meeting to learn more about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback.

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](#).



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

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