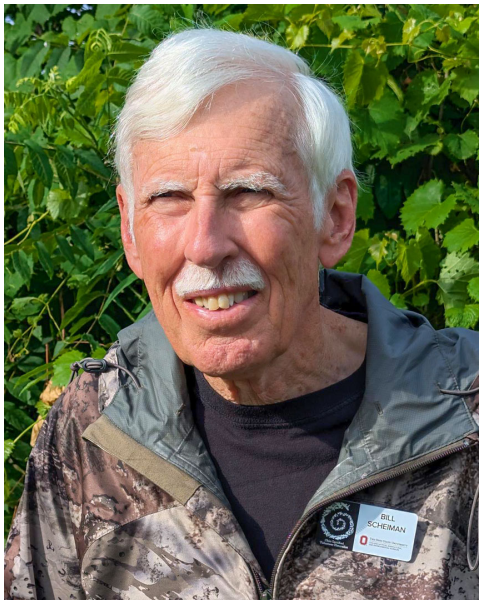




Issue 42 | July 2026

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!



Taking Back Your Town

Article by Tracy Vonder Brink

We can help protect the places we love through local civic engagement, but it's not always an easy path. Bill Schieman has spent decades of his retirement years on this path. With generosity of time and talent, Bill is quick to help others who seek advice on land and water protection.

Read on to learn from his experience!

[Click to Read More](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

Are you Brave Enough to Host a Barbeque?

If you wish people were more civil and connected but aren't sure how to help, the Builders Movement has an idea. This summer, they are inviting Americans across the country to be part of the Builders BBQ Challenge. Host a gathering which includes people who are different from you, celebrate commonalities, and help reduce harmful polarization among fellow citizens. There are lots of free resources to get started.

[Click to Learn More](#)

Data Center Mayhem: Beyond All of Nothing

Perhaps you've heard about a citizen petition intended to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot to ban hyperscale data centers in Ohio. While the required number of signatures was not collected in time, there are many people still working to make things better. The Ohio House unanimously passed a bill to create a data center study commission, and moratoriums have been popping up locally. Meanwhile, Wilmington Residents for Responsible Development are gathering signatures for a citizen initiative to require their city to adopt a 32 page carefully crafted set of guidelines for data centers they have developed.

For those looking for guidance, the [Ohio Environmental Council's policy platform](#) offers a compromise for both economic development and community benefits related to data centers. They also offer a [playbook](#) for addressing data center proposals in any Ohio community. In typical OEC fashion, they emphasize relationship-building and respect throughout the process. Compromise might be more useful than all-or-nothing thinking as data centers continue to seek sites to build and people continue to see benefits in AI.

Make Five Calls

If you believe that the best way to help our environment is through legislative action for systemic change, then you need to know about 5 Calls. [5Calls.org](#) is the easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact. Simply type in your address and search for "environment" and you'll see which national issues need your attention. This week, one of them is opposing oil & gas drilling exemptions to protect endangered species!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Data Centers and Communities

Wednesday, July 15, 12 pm

Cincinnati Public Radio is inviting people to join a special live Cincinnati Edition on July 15 as part of the studio audience. You'll have an opportunity to talk with decision makers about the future of data center development in our communities.

[Click to Register](#)

Mosquito Bucket Challenge

Wild Ones is inviting everyone to help spread awareness about the problems with chemical mosquito control by joining the mosquito bucket challenge.

[Click to Register](#)

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, 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.

[View All Upcoming Session Dates](#)

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!](#)

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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