



Issue 43 | September 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!



Spreading Ripples of Kindness

Article by Connie O'Connor

The Nature Center's philosophy on "Conservation Civics" is that people need to connect with one another to solve complex societal problems such as those threatening our environment, natural resources, health, and well-being. Connecting with others requires us to be kind, empathetic, and helpful. These attributes are also needed in the world of wildlife rehabilitation, and so this month's article features wildlife rehabilitator **Stephanie Carlson**, a local resident who has been an officially permitted wildlife rehabilitator for the past 12 years. Her 501(c)(3) is located at her home and is called St Mel's Wildlife Rescue.

[Click to Read More](#)

LEARN MORE TO DO MORE

Better Together

We can accomplish so much more in our communities and country when we work together with respect and goodwill. We are less divided, less extreme, and less doomed than advertised. **The following sources may help you bring your best self to every interaction.**

11 Facts That Will Change How You See US Politics

There are people who profit when we believe our neighbor is the enemy. On the "other side" sits a person who probably wants what you want, thinks you're more extreme than

you are, and is just as tired of the noise. We have a lot more in common than we've been led to believe.

[Click to Learn More](#)

How to Disagree with a Loved On

Loving someone grants you no immunity from disagreeing with them. If anything, the people closest to us are the ones we clash with most, because we actually care what they think. The real skill is learning how to approach without torching the relationship.

[Click to Learn More](#)

How Your Tiny Actions Can Help Build a Kinder Society

Learn how our individual micro-kindness can create a society better primed to solve complex problems together.

[Click to Learn More](#)

The Value of Fireflies

Learn why the small Massachusetts north shore community of Rockport recently rejected an offer of free LED lighting order to protect fireflies.

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Public Comments Matter!

Recently, many organizations, community leaders, and concerned citizens submitted over 7,000 public comments against data centers' request for a general wastewater permit that would have allowed data centers to discharge wastewater directly into Ohio streams with very little oversight. As a result of public comments, the Ohio EPA will NOT be issuing this permit. This is a win in the many water concerns data centers present, and a reminder of what citizens can achieve when they raise their voices together!

Join an environmental advocacy group of your choice to be part of the action.

From Demand Drivers to Development Partners: Data Centers that Work for Ohioans

Learn in this resource from Save Our Ohio Parks how Ohio can capitalize on the economic opportunities of data centers while ensuring that their growth benefits local communities.

[Click to Learn More](#)

YOU'RE INVITED!



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](#)

Celebrate a Successful Year of Conservation with Clermont Soil & Water!

Thursday, September 10, 5 pm

Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District invites county residents to celebrate its 83rd year of conservation on September 10 at Winemiller Farms, 6428 Taylor Pike, Blanchester, OH 45107 beginning at 5 p.m.

The event will include a homemade farm-to-plate meal sourced by multiple Clermont County farmers and prepared by Bear Creek Organic Farm. There will be live music performed by Get Down River, playing an eclectic mix of Americana Music, and drinks courtesy of Vista Grand Ranch. There is no charge to attend this year's celebration, but registration is required.

Click below to register or contact **Connie Miller** at (513) 732-7075 ext. 2 or cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov.

[Click to Register](#)

Help Plan Hamilton County's Next 5 Years

Wednesday, September 23, 3–5 pm or 6–8 pm

Help shape where Hamilton County invests in jobs, infrastructure, and growth for the next five years. Join us for two Public Engagement Sessions on the 2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

These public engagement sessions are FREE and OPEN to the public. Your voice will help identify the priorities, opportunities, and challenges shaping the County's economic future through 2032. Bring your ideas on workforce, business growth, transportation, and more.

[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



Save Ohio Parks

Notes by Melinda Zemper

Melinda Zemper from [Save Ohio Parks](#) explains why, "If we want clean air, fresh water and pristine Ohio state parks, it's time to speak and act now to end fracking."

[Click to Read More](#)

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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