

January | February 2021

Working Toward a Healthier Community

Traditionally the beginning of a new year is a time when people choose to make changes or improvements in their lives. Many people use this time to focus on their health - a topic on everyone's mind this year. Here at TWC, our resolution is to continue to work toward a healthier community.

The physical health benefits that result from walks taken along our beautiful trails are obvious. The benefits to mental health from time spent in nature are becoming more well-known, also. However, one of the factors that can be overlooked in the work of The Wilderness Center, is how the work that we do in land conservation contributes to the physical health of our community.

Physical health has many contributing factors, referred to in the healthcare industry as social determinants of health. One of those key factors is the environment in which we live. Do we have access to clean air, clean water and healthy land surrounding us? The conservation efforts that TWC completes in the communities in and around where we live and work is contributing to our physical health.

Here at TWC, we are working to protect everything from forested ecosystems, to wetlands and streams, to grasslands and fields. The quality of those habitats impacts the water quality that we see in each watershed, while also providing cleaner air for the surrounding area. By protecting and improving these lands, The Wilderness Center is working to bring a better quality of life to everyone within our community.







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Moving into this new year, TWC is excited to invite more community members to join us in efforts to steward the land around us. Through the Backyard Habitat program of our Community Conservation Initiative, TWC will focus on educating and supporting our community to make small changes at home to support a larger conservation effort.

"No matter the size, there are small steps that you can take in your backyard to make a difference," says Executive Director Jeanne Gural. "TWC wants to be your resource and partner in making positive, healthy changes that benefit ourselves, our neighbors, our wildlife and our Earth."

You can start improving the health of your corner of the world on April 24 at a Backyard Conservation Best Practices course. Attendees will learn how to create and maintain quality habitat while also learning the practical skills that will make the work efficient, safe, and purposeful. Instructors will cover topics like invasive species identification and control, tree planting, pruning, and creating natural habitat for wildlife.

Other upcoming Backyard Habitat classes include:

Promoting Wildlife Diversity in Your Yard *Friday, February 19, 6:30 pm*

Gardening with Native Plants Friday, March 19, 6:30 pm

Naturalizing Your Yard Friday, April 9, 6:30 pm Saturday April 10, 11:00

Garden Design with Native Plants Friday, April 23, 6:30 pm Saturday April 24, 11:00

The Wildlife in Your Yard Saturday May 8, 11:00

Best Native Plants for The Birds and Bees Saturday May 22, 11:00

Director's Corner

2020 was an unusual year, but thanks to our members and caring individuals like you, The Wilderness Center (TWC) is still here working on your behalf. Each of us have faced challenges this past year. In trying times, nature can offer opportunities to quiet our minds and help us see all that we have to be thankful for. We at TWC are thankful for all of you, and we're proud that we were able to provide needed relief, exercise and engagement for so many community members, families, friends, and even a few (leashed) dogs. Our trails, which remained open and free of charge, have seen so many new visitors and old friends sharing the sunshine, birdsong, and respite. We hope we offered some comfort.

Through it all, our land conservation, sustainable forestry, community outreach, and education efforts never slowed. In fact we have a lot to celebrate this year. Our conservation team removed thousands of invasive plants from our lands and seeded these areas with native species that will offer food and nesting opportunities for songbirds, butterflies, and pollinators. We also continued protecting over 4,000 acres of habitat within our shared watershed. Our forestry staff managed hundreds of acres of woodlands for private and

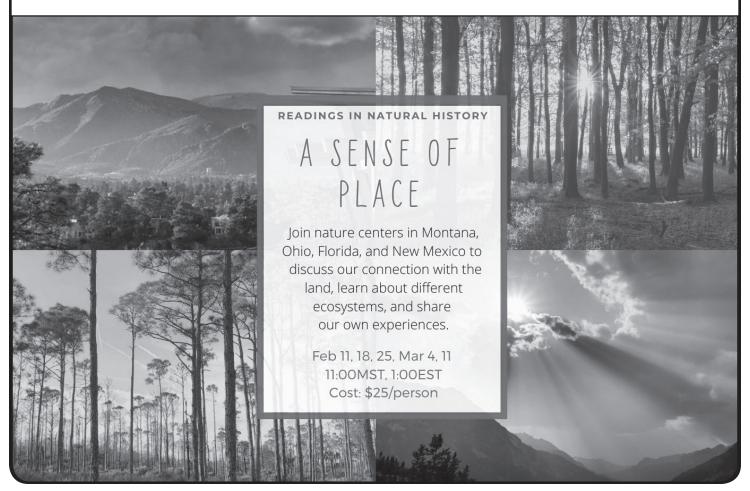
municipal owned lands in a sustainable, forward thinking manner. Our education team developed and implemented curriculum-based programs for parents with children at home and those in school. We offered adults multiple opportunities to engage with and learn from each other through our shared appreciation for wildlife and wild places. As always, our focus has been on improving lives and protecting areas for all of us who call this area Home.

As we embark into this coming year, I also want to share with you our new Community Conservation Initiative. This program couples our involvement in the International Dark Skies Initiative with our local, community-focused, Backyard Habitat program. These programs focus on how our local families, schools, and even businesses can all pitch in to make small changes that can have a big impact. Stay tuned for more to come.

Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Gural *Executive Director*

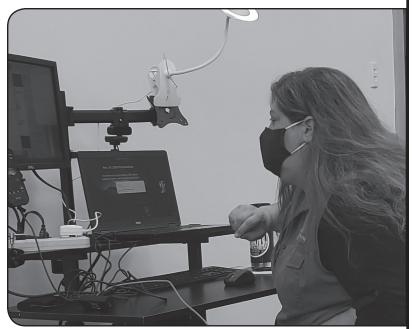


TWC Receives Grants

This fall, The Wilderness Center was grateful to receive grants from the Stark Community Foundation and the Wayne County Community Foundation. We were so pleased to be able to immediately put these funds to use in serving the students, teachers, parents and adults in our surrounding community.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges being faced by schools, TWC needed to update and adapt our educational programming to meet these changing demands. These grants have funded the purchase of needed equipment and materials to enable The Wilderness Center's STEM-based environmental education program to move to an online forum, as well as the necessary training to support our education department in this transition.

The impact of this investment can be seen in TWC's new program, Your Wild Classroom. This series of virtual courses, launched with the support of these funds, takes on a single topic of study each month and



Community Engagement Coordinator Carrie Elvey facilitates the Dark Sky Conservation Conference using equipment provided by a grant from the Stark Community Foundation.

DARK SKY
CONSERVATION CONFERENCE
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engages homeschooling and classroom students through live virtual presentations, video lessons, activities and worksheets. Parents and classroom teachers can choose to subscribe for the entire semester, or one specific lesson aligning with the current topic of study. The topics, ranging from soils and entomology, to geology and ornithology, are all designed to meet Ohio standards.

This upgrade of capabilities has also allowed The Wilderness Center to reach new audiences. In addition to offering online programs for homeschooling families and classroom teachers, TWC has been able to partner with other organizations to offer some innovative programming. One example of this is the Dark Sky Conservation Conference which was presented in partnership with the International Dark Sky Association this past November. In place of their annual Woodcarving Show, our TWC Woodcarvers Club also offered a full day of free, virtual carving classes on Facebook using this equipment. Both programs attracted people from outside the state!

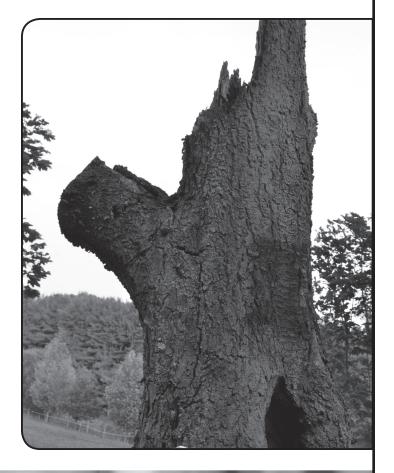
The grants were made possible by The Robert L. and Kathleen M. Polsky Foundation of the Wayne County Community Foundation, and combined contributions from The William J. Lemmon Charitable Fund, The Immediate Impact Alert Fund, The Gessner Family Foundation (Immediate Impact Alert Fund), The John B. Nolan Fund, The Wright Family Charitable Fund, and The Fenway Fund at Stark Community Foundation.

Conservation Corner

Standing dead trees, called snags, play a vital role in the life cycles of many different species of wildlife as well as the plant community.

As a nesting site in summer or cover site in winter, the insulation of a snag provides wildlife with refuge from the elements including both high and low temperatures as well as protection from wind, snow and rain. Both barred and screech owls are found nesting in these trees. Species such as the pileated woodpecker use snags as areas for both nesting and foraging sites for insects. Other bird species using areas excavated by woodpeckers include chickadees, tufted titmouse, wrens, blue birds and wood ducks. Other wildlife species such as red and gray squirrels, gray tree frogs, and white footed and deer mice also use snags for nesting and cover habitat too. Insects found along the surface of a snag provide food resources for a wide variety of wildlife such as bird, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Snags also provide excellent structure as perches for larger bird species such as raptors.

As decomposition of the snag continues, the nutrients once stored within the snag are released and made available to the surrounding plant community. So let those standing dead trees in your woodland patch remain standing (unless they present a potential hazard) and marvel at the way nature continues the circle of life.





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Our trails and Nature Playscape remain open to the public from dawn to dusk each day. Outdoor restrooms are available, and all facilities are being regularly maintained. We also continue to offer educational classes and programs for all ages virtually.

Watch our Facebook page and wildernesscenter.org for updates on our hours of operation and when we will resume in-person programming.



Under the Night Sky

Friday, January 22, 6:00 pm - Facebook

Come explore the constellation Orion, the Hunter. Learn where to look for the constellation, a myth or two and we'll explore some of the beautiful deep sky objects in this constellation.

Homeschool Thursday: Virtual "Snowday" Class

Thursday, February 4, 10:00 - 10:45

Snowed in? Bundle up and log in to learn all about snow! How does it form? Why do snowflakes have 6 sides? What is the best type of snowman snow? We'll answer these questions, learn how to draw a snowflake and share a fun winter recipe. Registration is required in order to share the Zoom code.

Cost: Free for members, \$10 per family non-members

Readings in Natural History: Sense of Place

Thursday, February 11; 18; 25; March 4 & 11, 1:00

Join nature centers in Montana, Ohio, Florida and New Mexico to discuss our connection with the land, learn about different ecosystems and share our own experiences.

Cost: \$25 per person

Promoting Wildlife Diversity in Your Yard

Friday, February 19, 6:30 pm

Learn how to create living landscapes and healthy plant communities while enjoying gardening and wildlife watching. *Cost:* \$10 per person

Nature Study Series: Lives of Birds

Tuesday, February 23; March 2; 9; 16; 23 & 30, 6:30pm

Throughout this virtual series, we'll look at how birds find mates, raise young, migrate, and adapt to their environment. Whether you feed birds in your backyard or travel chasing rare birds, this series will help you develop a deeper appreciation of our feathered friends. Cost: \$10 per class or enjoy the entire 6-part series for \$45

Under the Night Sky

Friday, February 26, 6:00 pm - Facebook
Come explore the constellation Taurus, the Bull. Learn where to look for the constellation, a myth or two and we'll explore some of the beautiful deep sky objects in this constellation.

Special Valentine's Day Edition! Night in for Nature: The Birds & the Bees

Friday, February 12, 6:00 pm

This program is a light-hearted look at the romantic lives of animals (did you know that city birds sing shorter courtship songs than country birds?). This program is rated PG-13. We're planning some delightful treats and libations to make the evening complete, so stay tuned for more details. We hope you will join us for this virtual tasting and fundraiser that will take place in the comfort of your own home! *Cost: To be announced*

Tree of Life

The Wilderness Center's Tree of Life program is a way to create a vital, living memorial that grows stronger and more beautiful with each passing year. People donate Trees of Life for a variety of life events - births, deaths, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and more.

Honor a loved one with a Tree of Life by calling 330.359.5235 or visit wildernesscenter.org/give. Your thoughtfulness today will benefit future generations tomorrow.

In memory of Sid Albert Annalee & Rob and Shelly & Mark Beard In memory of Darlene Anderson

Cathy, Tina & Pat Shaheen In memory of

Dr. Ruth Angerman Householder

Carole L. Angerman In memory of Michael (Mike) J. Arciello Marilyn Kellman

In memory of Clarence Del Armstrong Gene Amick

In memory of Elaine C. Bacopoulos Tom & Diana Springer

In memory of Ken & Mary Bailey

The John Quinn Family

In memory of Kenneth P. Bandi Susan Bandi

In memory of Vinny Baran

The Staff & Students of 4A & 4B

In memory of Dr. Rosemarie Ann Benya Elizabeth Hagen

In memory of Mitchell Wayne Binsley

The Knoch Corporation

In memory of Daniel F. Biss

Deborah Biss

In memory of Daniel & Margaret Biss

Paul & Renee Bailey

In memory of George C. Bowers

Bill Weller & Family

In memory of Bob G. Boyd - Passed away 10/08/2020 Little Rock, Ark.

Gary & Carol Sliffe

In memory of Jesse Brothers

Doctors & Staff of Oak Pointe

Veterinary Care

In memory of Stephanie Brysacz Kathy Vansickle & Cindy Skall

In memory of Dan Buss

Mary & Ray at New Philly Plumbing

In memory of Tom Byer

Evelyn Fichter & Family

In loving memory of Jo Anne Byers

Dave & Monica Maus

The Larry Shilling Family

The Philip Smith Family Reunion

In memory of Bruce Cain

Michael & Dana Daugherty

In memory of Richard A. Campitelli

Anna Martin

In memory of Bruno Carioti

Chad & Diane Smith

In memory of Robert Caster

Mrs. Sally Buffo

In memory of Tom Chiofolo

Nancy Chiofolo

In memory of Christopher

Craig & Loyd Rohr

In memory of Dac Anton Christman

Denise Blackwood, Deena Kimmel &

Deidra Harrison

In memory of Doug Close

Dennis, Pam, Kevin, Jen, Brian,

Teresa & Taylor

In memory of Gail Cochran

The Staff of The Wilderness Center

In memory of Mimi Comsia

Bethany Nursing Home

In memory of Rebecca Conery

Foxfield Preserve

In memory of Fay Cook

Frank & Judy Provo In memory of Ralph "Del" Crum

The Tully's

In memory of Tony Dangelo, JR.

Bob & Angie Alder In memory of Vincent (Jim) Del Propost

Pam Leach

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Linda & Amy Frey

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The Wilderness Center

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In memory of Dianne Callahan Dougherty

Nick & Mary Santarelli and Sharon Santarelli Rembielax

Nancy Biggerstaff, Carol Gemma,

Debbie Feichter, Flo Berger &

Kitty Stroia

In loving memory of Libby Douglas Sarah H. Douglas

In memory of Patricia J. Doyle

Paul Fischer

In memory of Mick Duvall

Kitty Johnson

In memory of Peggy A. Ebner (Luckring) Class of Brewster High School 1952

In memory of Frank V. Elavsky

Tomasina Elavsky & Family

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Wendy Thompson

In memory of Iean Eversole

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In memory of Carole Fairman

Joann Ballbach

In memory of George Finnerty III Joni Ochman & Joe Pisano

In memory of Betty BJ Fiocca Mary & Kara

In memory of Frank Fortine

Marty & Marilyn Kuboff

In loving memory of Bear - beloved cat

of Rhett & Pam Gable

Barbara Bellassai

In memory of Ann Gangl

David Valentine

In memory of Joann Garrett

Joni Ochman & Joe Pisano In memory of Carl Geib

Rich & Nancy Biggerstaff

In memory of Winnie E. German

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In memory of Edwin Gladieux

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Regenhardt

In memory of John Glen

Michael V. Demczyk In memory of Betty Gliba

Scott Beigie

In memory of

an old friend, Stevie Graham

Pam Goudy

In memory of Sunyo Hanson

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In memory of Earl J. Haren, Jr.

Jerry, Tom, Bonnie, Lesia,

Thomas & Diontae Haren In memory of Gae Harper

Gary & Pat Mitchell

In memory of Dr. Leslie Harrold

Martha Brundelet Linda Zaleski

In memory of Ida Hawkins

Joyce Jones, Debra Thomason & Steven, Marie Peters and Ken &

Darlene Peters

Joyce Jones

In memory of Beloved cat, Ebony Hayman

Mary & Ray at New Philly Plumbing

In memory of Gerda, Art, Ed & Dolores

Patty & Rich Marshall In loving memory of Morty - beloved

dog of Peggy Hegbar (and Colin)

Barbara & George Bellassai

In memory of Edith Hillhouse

The Staff of The Wilderness Center

In memory of Roger Houk Mark & Cinde Naylor

In memory of Marlene House

Wayne & Daphne Trent

Please remember

WILDERNESS CENTER



in your estate plan.

Tree of Life

In memory of Louis Hoyer Sr. Ruth & Jack Robinson In memory of Sybil R. Hughes Summa Health/Cardiovascular Leadership - Patty, Fisher, Michelle Glinsek, Barb Groh, Tawnya Nanashe, John Nichols, Scott Schuster, Mary Beth Simich & Clete Weigel

In memory of Gladys Mae Huntsberger Sarah H. Douglas

In memory of Duane G. Immel Terri, Mark & Amber Miller and Jason & Michele & Families

In memory of Claudia Davidson Irwin Steven Michael Irwin

In memory of Edna Jedlicka

Rod & Lorelei Lopick In memory of Pat Jekubik Carolyn Hamilton

In memory of Shirley Lou Kell Sandy & Fred Schuster

In memory of Marsha Kind Joni Ochman & Joe Pisano

In memory of Letha Kinnaman Gina Betti

In memory of Mary Klett

Thomas & Jane Ferguson The Abel Family Ann Byington

In memory of Samuel Kolonchuk Stacy & James Carey

In memory of Doris I. Kovacs Mike & Amy Stewart

In memory of Herbert Kuepfer Jennifer Twiddy & Dru Pachmayer

In memory of Elizabeth Kuepfer Kathy & Mike Lacko

In memory of John Lane, Sr. Bill Weller & Family

In memory of John Lane Jim & Pam Porter

In memory of John Looby Bethany Nursing Home

In memory of Jacob Love Strength &

Faith Beyond His Years

Sam & Jean Weaver In memory of Joseph Lowery, Sr. Mary & Ray at New Philly Plumbing

In memory of Esther Lowther Margy Cox

In memory of Gerald "Jerry" Mack Tim Patrick

In memory of Dawn Maibach Sarah H. Douglas

In memory of Bobby Makar Timothy Liversage

In memory of Jim Markling Holly & Ila

In memory of Marsha Marlatt

Kate Albright In memory of Greg Mattson

Nancy & Shannon Yockey In memory of Chris McBee

Robert & Sam Baum In memory of Kyoko McDonald Rob & Michell Callhoun

In memory of Dick McEntire Pattie & Walt

In memory of Mike McFadden

Don & Velma Poland

In memory of Robin Meadows

Inez & Larry Shirer

In memory of

Charles V. Meckstroth, M.D.

Dale and Roberta Angerman

In memory of Iim Miday Jack & Jo Wucinick

In memory of Paul E. Mishler Shirley Robinson

(Chek's Tax Service)

In memory of Joseph Muccuardi Mark & Mary Pirik

In memory of John Negulis; The greatest dad ever!

Mickey Frank

In memory of Mary E. Nicholls

Charles & Margaret Anderson

Mona Forbes

Thelma Geitgey

Beth Opatrny

The Wil-Burt Company

In memory of Leslie Nussbaum Ed & Nancy Hare

In memory of Raymond L. Painter, Sr.

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Mike & Amy Stewart

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Karla & Bob Hoff

Betty Wilson, Nancy Donato, Mary Trifelos, Liz Ford, Lynne Dragomier, Jackie Love, Jan Byrd, Viv Six, Moe Alters, Linda Millis &

Amy Mathie In memory of Gene Pollock Gina Betti

In memory of Shervl Powell

The Abel Family

In memory of Sheri Powell

Jack & Jo Wucinick

In memory of Doris M. Prochnow David Brandt & James Nusbaum

In memory of Joseph G. Pukys

Gail Pukys In memory of Kimberlee Pyles

Connie Fair, Kathryn Talbot & Family

In memory of Bill Renaud Kitty Johnson

In memory of Brad, son of Ruth Robbins

Nancy Weisenstine Hare In memory of LaVonne Rothacher

Winnie & Lowell Huprich

In memory of Dan Rybarczyk Mary Demattio & Ray Bongini

In memory of Erma Saeger

Ed & Donna Staver

In memory of Patricia Satow

Mike, Holly, Ava & Lauren Kemp

In memory of Kerry Saunders

Annalee & Rob and Shelly &

Mark Beard

In memory of Horst Schmidt - A devoted husband & father who loved life & people - Always a gentleman

Ivan & Flo Vinkovich

In memory of Ryan Schmidt - A wonderful young man taken too soon. He treasured life, people & family. He was loved by evervone.

Ivan & Flo Vinkovich

In memory of Norman Seifert - A devoted husband & father & honored gentleman

who loved people & life

Ivan & Flo Vinkovich Welcome to the World

George Francis Shaffer

Aunt Patsy & Uncle Chuck

Slowikowski

In honor of the

Dr. & Mrs. Kaleel J. Shaheen II

V. Rev. Fr. Basil & KH. Linda Shaheen

In memory of Kenneth Shoemaker

Bethany Nursing Home

In memory of Ethan Sibert

Janalee Croslev

Rich & Lee Croslev

Tim & Alicia Crosley

In memory of Mark A. Sidaway

T. Puckett

In memory of Dale & Carolyn Smetzer

Kathy & Mike Lacko In honor of Pastor Elden Smith

Mickey Frank and family

In memory of Hattie Smith

Chad & Diane Smith In memory of Alberta Smith

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Alison Grace Smith-Silverman

Bob and Angie Alder

In memory of Jeffrey R. Snyder

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Frances Stermer

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In memory of Mary L. Swinderman Ed & Nancy Hare

In memory of Amy Thomason Chuck & Jennien Hubiak

In memory of Richard James Torgler Terry & Shirley Robinson & Family In memory of Joseph John Traz

> Kurpyl, Emerson, Facella, Gregg, Haase, Shukis & Strah Families

In memory of Mrs. Barbara Turner Susan Trumble In memory of Rodney Dean Tyler

William Weller Family In memory of

June Schmidt Underwood

Kim Caldwell

In memory of Frank E. Vaughn The Provo Family

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In memory of Doug Wagner b. 2-24-1960 d. 8-2-2020

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In memory of Martha Flynn Ward Noreen Steffen

In memory of Bruce C. Watson

Maurita & Harold Coss In memory of Bruce Watson

Linda Haas In loving memory of David Weigand

Lois Nemeth & Family In memory of a kind & gentle woman,

Marty & Marilyn Kuboff

In memory of Roger Wilhelm

Wanda & Terry Brewer In memory of Ralph E. Willig

Cheryl & Kirk Haswell & Family

In memory of Nicky Wingert James Barnett In memory of Stan Woiciechowski

Tim Patrick In memory of Charlotte P. Wright

Fred and Kay Larson

In memory of Bob Zellefrow

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All courses will be held on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

Classes are \$10 each or enjoy the entire 6-part series for \$45. Register at wildernesscenter.org or call 330.359.5235. Series tickets are transferable.

