



THE WILDERNESS CENTER

Wilderness Connections

November | December 2021

Letter From the Executive Director

On behalf of everyone at TWC, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all of those that assisted in our Strategic Visioning process. **More than 200 members** of the community participated in the process via the engagement sessions or answered our in-person or emailed questionnaires. We asked for your help in forming the vision for The Wilderness Center of the future, and more than 200 of you gave your time and talents to do just that. Many of you reached out to share how much TWC means to you, and how much peace you find by sharing our preserves and believing in our mission. **Thank you.**

The Strategic Visioning process highlighted four pillars to guide us through the process, all based on our mission and our work: **Conservation, Education, Community, and Visitor Experience.** Those four pillars helped guide the process each step of the way and helped our extended community create a vision for TWC that includes expanded access to TWC preserves, educational opportunities, outreach programming, and onsite features that will help engage, educate, and enlist the participation of the community. With your help, and guided by experts in their field, we are in the process of designing your future nature center and outdoor recreational opportunities. The process has thus far highlighted **ten projects** from which our future work will grow. A true vision requires many eyes, many ideas, and many voices. Thanks to this committed community, we are building a strong foundation for your future nature center and outdoor classroom.

We will be unveiling the project concepts from the Strategic Visioning process in early 2022. But while we've been busy planning for our future, we've still been serving our community through education and conservation. Take a look inside to see our accomplishments in 2021, **made possible by YOU** - our members and supporters!



Jeanne M. Gural



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WILDERNESSCENTER.ORG



2021 Education Highlights

Despite a year of ups and downs and uncertainties, our Education Team rallied to impact the lives of **more than 2,000 students** including children, adults, and families. The team adapted to programming completely outdoors and thought of creative ways to teach important conservation concepts. **Without your support, TWC would not be able to host such a dynamic and committed team!**

2021 WAS A WONDERFUL YEAR OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE EDUCATION TEAM INCLUDING:

- **Readings in Natural History/Sense of Place** course with the Montana Audubon, Environmental Learning Center in Florida, and Pajarito Environmental Education Center in New Mexico.
- **Backyard Explorations** series connecting art, music, and nature with the Canton Symphony and Canton Museum of Art.
- **Virtual interview** with YouTube personality Coyote Peterson in partnership with the Buckeye Book Fair.
- **The Dark Sky Conference** in partnership with the International Dark Sky Association.

Because so many conferences and workshops were online this year, we were able to participate and present at a variety of state-wide and national conferences including those presented by Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA), Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO), Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), National Garden School, Native Plant Society of Northeast Ohio, and Richland County Park District's Ohio Women in Science.

Children of all ages enjoyed classes and programs with our Animal Ambassadors, rescued and rehabilitated animal friends who have knowledge to share. Other programs included topics such as ecology, respect for wildlife, how to safely explore the outdoors, plant and animal identification, the importance of safe habitats, and so much more!



This year's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist class included 9 students and was held in a hybrid online/ in person format. The program includes training in geology, plants, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, ecology, stewardship and interpretation.

The Dark Sky Initiative really took off this year and stresses that the night sky is for everyone to enjoy. The program aims to teach people and businesses about the detrimental effects of light pollution and simple changes they can make in their behavior and buildings.



Photo Steve Upperman



Photo Steve Upperman

This year's Enchanted Forest was a huge success and taught attendees about the importance of Animal Super Powers! When families learn how cool these nocturnal creatures are, they are more apt to think carefully about how their day-to-day choices affect wildlife.

2021 Conservation Highlights

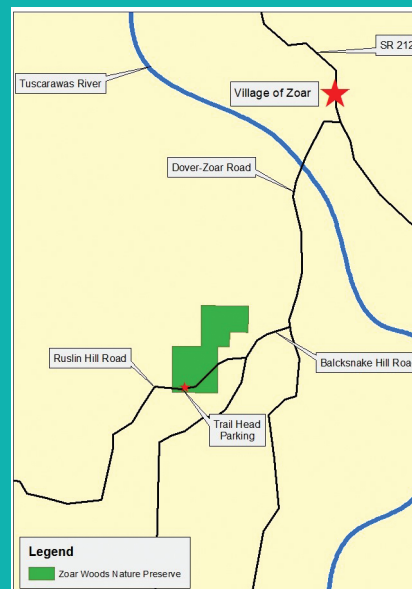
Look at the impact of your support in 2021!

Fox Creek 2.0

Stream and Wetland Restoration: This project in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and Enviroscience is moving right along. Surveys, wetland delineation and stream sampling and measurements have been completed. As of early October invasive plant species removal pre-restoration has begun. The project is scheduled to be completed in the late summer or early fall of 2022.



Restoring the natural curvature of the Fox Creek in addition to native plantings will reduce erosion and create more suitable habitat.



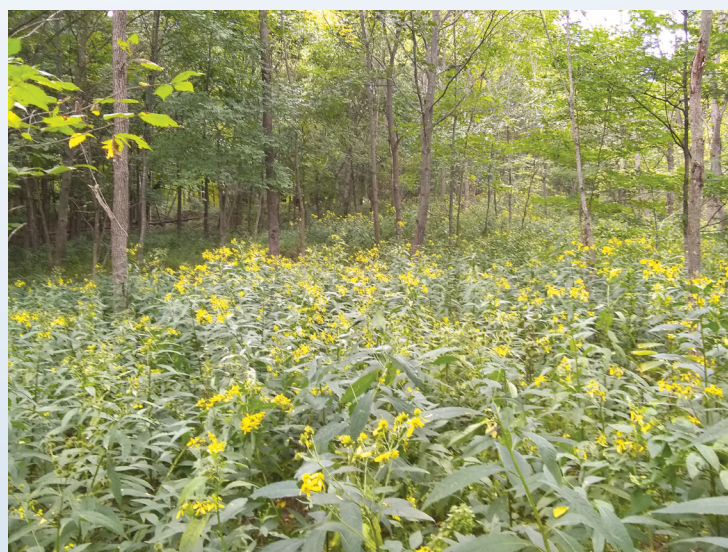
Zoar Woods

We completed a new access trail at our Zoar Woods Nature Preserve with new signage and new parking area. Access to the trail from the parking lot is now located on Ruslin Road.

Conservation Reserve Program Fields:

We have 45 acres under contract with the USDA to enhance/restore several habitat types. The mid-contract review was completed this year showing great progress.

Walnut and wingstem area. This site was planted in walnuts, but a heavy infestation of raspberry and autumn olive (an invasive spp), dominated the shrub and ground layers. Removal of these two spp and the wingstem has proliferated.



TWC Consulting Forestry aided 24 private landowners with the implementation of sustainable timber harvesting practices on their forest lands in 2021. We also developed long term forest management plans that affect 3,175 acres in the past year. Through the implementation of long term management planning our clients qualify for multiple tax program in the state of Ohio. These programs save the landowner thousands of dollars in property taxes over the life of the forest management plan, as well as creating and protecting valuable habitat.

**T.W.C.
CONSULTING
FORESTRY**

2021 Community Highlights

Because of YOUR support, TWC shared new adventures and new events with new friends this year!



Our first annual Outdoor Family Movie Night was so much fun! Families enjoyed educational activities, a scavenger hunt, and the movie "The Lorax" under the stars.



The Annual Run Wild! Race was attended by over 200 runners to celebrate Earth Day and welcome spring!



Volunteers are the backbone of TWC. Thanks to over 2,400 hours of work by 150 volunteers, we are able to provide amazing services, programs, and events to our communities.



This year's Nature Fest Artists' Market was held outdoors for safety, but that meant the event could grow! It featured over 30 artisans and our Education Team facilitating nature-themed crafts for children and adults.



The Backyard Habitat Initiative conducted eight public programs in spring 2021 with online and in-person options. Two demonstration rain gardens were completed by the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District with donated help from Beaver Excavating. Stark SWCD conducted a rain garden display on May 1 during the Native Plant Sale pick-up.

Foxfield Preserve Updates

New Member Joins the Team

The Foxfield Preserve staff is growing! Hannah Mann joined the Foxfield team in October of 2021. A graduate of Hiram College, Hannah received her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Humanities in 2020. She is expected to graduate from NEOMED in the spring of 2022 with her Master's in Medical Ethics & Humanities. What Hannah values most in her educational background has been the opportunity to listen and share stories with the goal of creating more empathetic care providers.

Prior to joining the Foxfield team, Hannah's experience includes working with the ACLU of Ohio on youth healthcare rights, Advocates for Youth and the effort to expand healthcare education at the federal level, and a variety of social services in the death care and youth development sectors.

When she isn't studying or working, Hannah enjoys reading, painting, and playing Dungeons & Dragons with her friends (fun fact: her group has been playing for nearly 9 years).

Learn more about Foxfield Preserve at our next Virtual Info Session: Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7 pm
In-person Guided Tours will resume in April, 2022.



*A beautiful resting place.
A meaningful legacy.*

Virtual Info Session:
**Thursday
November 18 @ 7:00pm**
Register online

FOXFIELDPRESERVE.ORG

2021 Photo Fest Awards

The TWC Nature Photo Club's 27th Annual Photo Fest was held at The Wilderness Center on July 24-25, 2021. Judging was by ballot of attendees and professional judges. Awards were announced at the regular meeting on August 28th.

Best of Show:

Levi Keim

Animals:

Jordan Kercheff – 1st Place
Levi Keim – Judge's Choice

Anything Goes:

Rick Hannegan – 1st Place
Roger Banfield – Judge's Choice

Birds:

Andy Stein – 1st Place
Richard Patrick – Judge's Choice

Flowers:

Michelle Wittensoldner – 1st Place
Mark Archibald – Judge's Choice

General Nature:

Levi Keim – 1st Place
William Roloff – Judge's Choice

Insects:

Dan Lux – 1st Place
Richard Patrick – Judge's Choice

Landscapes:

Jordan Kercheff – 1st Place;
Judge's Choice

Pictorial:

Levi Keim – 1st Place; Judge's Choice

Wilderness Center:

Levi Keim – 1st Place
Richard Patrick – Judge's Choice



Wildlife:

Michelle Wittensoldner – 1st Place;
Judge's Choice

Youth:

Trek Imhoff – 1st Place;
Judge's Choice

Tree of Life

The Wilderness Center's Tree of Life Program supports a significant conservation project at TWC each year. Often, these projects include planting trees in order to reforest old fields, provide wildlife habitat, and protect our natural waterways. As they grow, the trees will add beauty to The Wilderness Center and will be enjoyed by thousands of people.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to acknowledge one of life's special moments?
Visit wildernesscenter.org/donate to learn more.

in memory of **Thomas J. Alderton**

Denise & John Allen

in memory of **Carol Atkinson**

Gail Pukys

in memory of **Caroline Avey**

Jeff & Gretchen Glasgow

in memory of **Janice Baker**

Leslee Burman

in memory of **Elizabeth (Betty) Baker**

Gary & Carol Sliffe

in memory of **Mary Jo Barr**

Bethany Nursing Home

in memory of **Bella**

William Stallings & Jill

in memory of **Beloved dog, Bella**

Bob & Tammy Brothers

in memory of **Benny**

Nick & Mary Santarelli

in memory of **Andrew Best**

Jan & Bryan Webler

in memory of **Earl Blazer**

Bethany Nursing Home

in memory of **Dave Boettcher**

Anita & Denny Bagnola

to celebrate **the Life of Kenneth Bolender**

Carrie & Codie Powell & Family

in memory of **Edwin Booth**

Pattie Cinowalt & Walt Mavracic

in memory of **Amelia Botean**

Shafeek, Patricia & Roman Shaheen

in memory of **Trevor Buehler**

The Book Club & Friends: Chris Se-Ashley, Janet Ladrach, Zoe Ann Kelley, Dana Mears, Berit McMillan, Lori Schaffer, Pat Rhem, Carol Miller, Mary Jo Gavin, Renee Miskimmin, Betsy Pringle & Darya Robertson Ivan & Flo Vinkovich. His upbeat outlook & friendship is sadly missed

in memory of **David Callicoat**

Ann Spagnola

in memory of **Collin Robert Carrick**

Gary, Kristi, Emily & Debbie Liknes

in memory of **August Grace Carrier**

Sojourner's Class, Church of the Lakes

in memory of **Ethel A. Cesare**

The Wilderness Center Staff & Board

The Wilderness Center Astronomy Club

in memory of **Terrell Clarke**

Kim Caldwell

in memory of **Leroy Cline**

Mike Holdford & Lisa Stamford with Edward Jones

in memory of **Jeffrey Collins**

Susan DiNarda

in memory of **John Edward Cooper**

Scott & Linda Wendling

in memory of **James V. Corona**

the Kurpyl & Facella Families with sincere condolences

in memory of **Jim Cotton**

Gina Betti- Edward Jones

in memory of **John A. Cramer Jr**

Joni Ochman & Joe Pisano

in memory of **John "Jack" D Walencewicz**

Harry & Scott Fichter

in memory of **Dad, on his birthday**

Shauna & Tim Deetz

in memory of **David P. Dannemiller**

Your Edward Jones Branch Team

in memory of **Mary Davis**

Tom, Diana & Adam Davis

in memory of **Leonard Davis**

Ann Spagnola

to honor **the 60th anniversary of Vicente &**

Catherine deGuzman

Theresa & Alan, Brian, Anthony & Meg, Bill & Denise & all the grandchildren & Linda

in memory of **Scott Denton**

Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Robert Van Derzee**

EW Church of the Palms

in memory of **Albert James Drury**

Nancy Drury

in memory of **Sandra Ann Duda-Buss**

Ray & Mary at New Philly Plumbing

in memory of **Helen Eckroate**

Patrick & Marian McCarthy

in memory of **Sandy Aldridge Efinger**

Cheryl Heckman & Rick Mellinger Sr

in memory of **Frank Eggleston**

Wayne & Daphne Trent

in memory of **Patricia Eisinger**

Rev. Jacqueline McMillen

in memory of **Gary Fair**

Michele Kring & Robin Broseus

in memory of **Christopher Falconer**

Barbara Gercken

in memory of **LaDeane Fetters**

Ruth A. &erson

in memory of **Justin Fields**

Mallory Davis

in memory of **William "Bill" Fisher Sterling Jr.**

Niles W. Keeran

in memory of **Judy C. Fockler**

Mary M. Owens

in memory of **Jane & Fred Fox**

Virginia Cutter

in memory of **David J. Fox**

John & Joann Vecchione

in memory of **Michelle "Micki" Freeze**

- Yoder

Frankie & Cin Carpinelli

in memory of **Gary Geig**

Joyce Cirignano & Sharon Rospo

in memory of **Samuel "Jay" George**

Cheryl J. Heckman

in memory of **Don Glick**

David & Bonnie Dourm

in memory of **Margaret Granchi**

Gregory Fox

in memory of **Gray Gray**

the best cat ever

Ray & Mary Demattio BonGini

in memory of **Cassie's "Grandma Great"**

Thomas & Jean Paddock

in memory of **Barry A. Guster**

Roxie Bader & Kelli Martin

in memory of **Emery Lee Hall**

Stacy & James, S&Y, Jessie & Luke "The Shilling Clan"

in memory of **Marjorie Hall**

Fran Lehotay

in memory of **Wilma Harter**

Robert & Marianne Gooding

in memory of **David C. Hayes**

Suzie Schaffer

in memory of **Ted Hexamer Jr.**

Annette & George Prokop

in memory of **Helen Hockenberry**

Edward Jones Investments

in memory of **Phillis A. Hohman**

Jean Sinclair

in memory of **Alyson R. Holl&**

Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Leo Hoover**

Mike, Heidi & Owen Hoover

in memory of **Ronald Horrisberger**

Marion & Ginger Pfister

in memory of **Eric Howell**

Kelly Elliff-McNulty

in memory of **Fredrick J. "Rick" Indorf**

Debbie Davis Lil & Cindy

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long

in memory of **Earl W. Johnson**

Ray & Mary at New Philly Plumbing

in memory of **Lorenz Johnson**

Tom & Jane Leonard-Hathaway

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, ACKNOWLEDGE
LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS WITH
A GIFT OF THE

Tree of Life

When you have lost someone dear or when you want to celebrate a birth, anniversary, accomplishment or other occasion, a gift to The Wilderness Center's Tree of Life program honors that moment in an impactful way.



In 2021, *Tree of Life* trees were planted just north of the Sigrist Woods at The Wilderness Center. This year's planting included white and red oaks...someday to tower over a replenished forest floor.



in memory of **Terry Lee Jones**
Richard & Barbara Gercken

in memory of **Paul Kapinos**
Patsy & Chuck Slowikowski

in memory of **Bridgett Nicole Keim**
Carol Watson, Lisa & Emma Davis

in memory of **Todd R. Kirby**
The Nicholas & Koskovich Families

in memory of **Tom Knouff**
Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Donald A. Knowlton**
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Mikel

in memory of **Jean Ann McCain Koons**
Linda Goudy Logan

in memory of **Geoffrey Lambert**
Mr. Tony Casasanta

in memory of **Ann Lavelle**
Lisa Graziano & Jennifer O'Dell

in memory of **Joseph Lesho**
Canton Palace Volunteers

in memory of **Sue Lewis**
Don & Fran Gerber

in memory of **Neal Libster**
Bethany Nursing Home

to honor **James Macey**
Carrie Powell (Shearer's HR)

in memory of **John Manse**
Nick & Mary Ann Santarelli

in memory of **Richard Marquardt**
Ron & Peg Kindy, Barry & Desiree Kindy, Laurie Kindy, Matt Kolarik

in memory of **Blanche M. Marsh**
Robert Lee Long
Thomas Shelt

in memory of **R.G. (Bob) McDade**
Frank & Judy Provo

in memory of **Dana Mears**
TNS Insurance

in memory of **Dana Mears**
Employees of the Parkway Auto Group
Anthony Pastore

to celebrate **Joanne Meese**
Brenda Meese

in memory of **Carol Miller & her love of wilderness**
Thomas & Jean Paddock

in memory of **Laura Mottice**
Lucinda Lash

in memory of **Sophia Lynn Myers**
Wayne & Daphne Trent

in memory of **Catherine Greco O'Neill**
Mike & Deb Biss

in memory of **William Owens**
Dennis & Pam Close

in memory of **Jean Pageler**
Jeff & Patti Watson

in memory of **Lena Pilla**
Celeste Sinistro

in memory of **Tommy P. Piolata**
Larry & Darlene Kaczmarek

in memory of **Joseph J Pitko**
Mike Holdford & Lisa Stamford,
Edward Jones

in memory of **Matthew Pol&**
Pol& Family

in memory of **Gary Francis Prosser**
Mike & Amy Stewart

in memory of **Lula Rafealedes**
Bethany Nursing Home
G.L. Bresson

to honor **the Chris & Annie Ratay furbabies & Family**
Frankie, Cin & Lacey

in memory of **Stacy Renninger**
Ed & Linda Wesie

in memory of **Irene Rhoton**
JoAnne Guenther

in memory of **Geri Ricketson**
Wendy Patrick

in memory of **Brian Roderick**
Shane, Amy, Ben & Olivia Hurtt

in memory of **Jodi Routt**
Pat Routt

in memory of **Marie Josephine Salmon**
Gust Callas

in memory of **John Sandy**
Mary McCoy

in memory of **Richard J. Schabel**
Jim Moore & LeAnn Hemberger

in memory of **John Schuler**
Kathryn Kirshner

in memory of **John Schuler**
Betty Schuler

in memory of **Debbie Shahan**
B&C Communications

to celebrate **Mike & Carol Shaheen**
Patricia Shaheen & Family

in memory of **Floyd & Evelyn Shutt**
The Shilling Family

in memory of **Joy Slabaugh**
Tom, Diana & Adam Davis

in memory of **Dorothy Slagle**
Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Toni Marie Smith**
Teresa & Larry Stiner & family

in memory of **Elizabeth Anne Smothers**
Connie & Scott Tissot

in memory of **Ronald Snow**
Julie & Jim Martin

in memory of **Scott Spagnola**
Ann Spagnola

in memory of **Shirley Sponsler**
Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Richard "Chef" Stauffer**
Hans & Valeri Wolf

in memory of **Ralph C. "Bud" Steigerwald**
Shirlee Krane

in memory of **Paul Stergious**
Sonia Y. Meck

in memory of **Fay Sturm**
Carrie Powell & Kids

in memory of **Andrew Summer**
Patricia Shaheen & Family

in memory of **Elsie Summers**
West View Healthy Living

in memory of **the Life & Legacy of Stanley G. Surmay**
Carrie Powell

in memory of **Pam Suttman Powers**
Carol Smith

in memory of **Gary Swogger Sr.**
Raye & Karis Hashman, Mickey Frank

in memory of **Laura Tabacchi**
Holly Mansager

in memory of **Robert Reed Tate**
Wayne & Daphne Trent

in memory of **Frank Ack Taylor Jr.**
Debbie Siers Hill, WHS 1973

in memory of **Dan Thewes**
Hans & Valeri Wolf

in memory of **Michael S. Thorne**
The Knish Family

in memory of **Burton Vander**
Niles & Michelle Hostetter

in memory of **William "Butch" Vargo**
Michele Kring

in memory of **George John Vellios**
Gust Callas

in memory of **Jackie Verda**
Jim Moore & LeAnn Hemberger

in memory of **John Andrew Vidziunas**
Gina Betti

in memory of **Greg Vlahoc**
Ann Spagnola

in memory of **Evelyn Weaver**
Bethany Nursing Home

in memory of **Donald Weig&**
Nancy Drury

in memory of **Porter "Pete" Welch Jr.**
Lynette & John Kocab,
Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **David & Glenda Wielinski**
David & Susie Koffel

in memory of **Frank LePera**
Ed & Louise Mahoney
the Ted & Michelle Mahoney Family.

in memory of **Mike & Tina Suttle**

in memory of **David & Glenda Wielinski**
Ed & Nancy Hare

in memory of **Jeffrey Scott Wilson**
Wayne & Daphne Trent

in memory of **Marie Wood**
Darlene & Larry Kaczmarek

in memory of **Zachary Wright**
Ray & Mary at New Philly Plumbing

in memory of **Zachary Wright**
Dave & Cheryl Saylor

in memory of **Micki Yoder**
Keeley Kandle

in memory of **Steve Zepp**
Pat Reiger & Barb Webster



THE WILDERNESS CENTER

Thanks to your support,
we reached our Annual
Campaign goal for 2021...
will you help us reach that
goal again for 2022?
Look inside to see all the
ways that YOU supported
Education, Conservation, and
Community through TWC!



Connecting you with nature.

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Club News, Programs, & Upcoming Events

Nature Photo Club

Meetings at TWC (Buckeye Room): Nov. 20, 9:30am
Photo Club Breakfast Holiday Party (Amish Door Restaurant):
Dec. 18, 11am
Visitors welcome. Come see what a photo club is about! Monthly
photo contests and guest presenters.

Botanizers Club

Special event at TWC (Buckeye Room): Introduction to Mush-
rooms and their Ecological Role, Nov. 6, 10am.
Dave Brumfield, a retired naturalist from the Summit County
Parks, has made a study of mushrooms and is very knowledge-
able. Everyone is welcome who would like to learn more about
mushrooms in the wild.

Wilderness Center Woodcarvers

Meetings at TWC: 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month, 9:30am

Backpackers' and Dayhikers' Club

Meetings at TWC: Nov. 19, Dec. 17, 7pm
Meetings frequently feature club members discussing recent
hiking trips they've taken around the globe!

TWC Readers Club

Book Chat at TWC: Nov. 13, 2pm
*The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We
Go from Here* by Hope Jahren.

Astronomy Club

Star Watches at TWC (Astronomy Building): Nov. 5, Dec. 3,
7:30pm
We'll share the night sky with you in the observatory and we'll
also point out some constellations and tell a few star stories.
Cancelled if cloudy.

Meetings at TWC (Astronomy Building):

Nov. 26, 7:30pm
Join us for a member presentation on an astronomical topic
followed by a short business meeting and observing if the sky
is clear.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Registration required for many programs and events! Register
online at wildernesscenter.org or call 330-359-5235

Autumn Wildlife Hike. For families.
Nov. 5, 1pm. \$5 for per child for non-members. Free for
members.
Registration required.

Wine and Wilderness: Dark Matters. At Troutman Vineyards in
Wooster.
Nov. 5, 6:30pm. \$10 includes program and 1 glass of wine.
Registration required! Space is limited.

Dark Sky Conservation Conference. Online. All ages.
Nov. 6, 9:30am-4:00pm
Registration required to access link.

Storytime Sprouts: My 5 Senses. For preschoolers.
Nov. 9 and Nov. 23, 11am. \$5 per child for non-members. Free
for members.
Registration required.

Night Hike to Telescopes. All ages.
Nov. 12, 8pm. \$5 per person.
Registration required.

Plastics in the Environment. Adult.
Nov. 13, 10:30am. \$5 per person.
Registration required.

Playscape Playdate: Birding Day. For preschoolers.
Nov. 20, 12pm. \$5 per child for non-members. Free for
members.
Registration preferred.

Happy Hibernators. For Families.
Nov. 21, 11am. \$5 per child for non-members. Free for members.
Registration required.

Under the Night Sky. Online. All ages.
Nov. 26, 7pm. Free.

Wildernesscenter.org



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