



THE WILDERNESS CENTER

Wilderness Connections

Winter 2022/23

Winter Tips *from the Executive Director*

Winter is coming. While some of us may hear that with dread, others-like me-love the colder months and look forward to the wild-life viewing opportunities winter brings. The change of seasons is all about adaptation whether it be us adapting our wardrobe via sweaters or wildlife adapting to the change in available resources. With the combined stress of loss of habitat and the change in season, our native Ohio wildlife is facing increased challenges. There are steps we can all take to help wildlife endure the stresses of winter, without having them fall victim to habituation. Our backyards can become viable refuges for our wildlife throughout the year and can be especially important in winter.

Here are a few tips on how to winterize your yard for wildlife while offering you and your family great opportunities for birdwatching and wildlife viewing:

Go Native. Including even just a few native plants in your garden increases the habitat value by offering several benefits to our native wildlife, including winter food and shelter.

Give Them Shelter. Another way to help wildlife in winter is by leaving a few logs or organic debris piles in place. Log piles can make great cold-weather nesting spots for overwintering animals such as chipmunks and beneficial insects. Pick a corner, make a small pile of sticks and logs, and allow some leaf litter to build up and presto! You have a backyard micro-habitat.

Supplement With Seed. Just like many of us, birds and other wildlife are stressed in winter. Their food sources decrease, and they must work harder to keep warm, fed, and hydrated, and still have to avoid predators, which are also under increased stress. Supplementing with high-quality bird seed is a great way to attract birds to your yard

and offer you an entertaining winter view. Just remember to make sure to put the feeders in a safe, predator-free spot. Once you start feeding the birds in winter, you should make sure you offer food all winter long, and get the best

quality birdseed you can, such as safflower seed, sunflower seed, or peanuts.

Defrost the Water. Did you know that some birds are able to melt snow if they really need a drink? They can, but it takes a lot of energy for them to do so. Just like us, birds and other wildlife can become dehydrated in winter. By providing clean, drinkable water, limited energy can be used elsewhere. Heated birdbaths are widely available, or you could place a brick heated from your oven into a birdbath for temporary frost-free drinking.

*Picture: Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) is another native, dioecious shrub that offers great winter feeding and shelter options for native wildlife. Native evergreens and even rhododendrons (yes, there are native species of rhododendrons) offer needed winter resources for our wildlife.*



*Winterberry holly, (*Ilex verticillate*), a native shrub that offers brilliant red berries in winter and can be a stunning addition to your garden as well as serving wildlife in the form of high fat berries.*



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Education

Time to Connect With Nature

As another year comes to an end, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the past year and setting goals for the coming year. During this process, I encourage you to make one commitment in 2023: to regularly enjoy nature. Research shows that engaging with nature helps with physical fitness, cognition and memory, anxiety, depression, and social skills. This is why enjoying nature should become part of your lifestyle.

For the Education Team, our reflection process resulted in two goals:

1. Provide programs that inspire engagement in conservation
2. Provide programs relevant to our community and to support community needs

While we will not be able to mark these goals complete in 2023, the Education Team is excited to have the opportunity, through a grant from The Stark Community Foundation, to begin the work with a project to bring 2 nature-based education pilot programs to the Canton City School District. These programs will provide educational green spaces to the host schools, and train faculty to effectively utilize the nature-based education spaces and equipment.

TWC Education will also add more community programming. Look for new programs, including Nature Fit and Healthy classes, and expanded programming and resources to teach how each of us can support wildlife in our everyday lives, including protecting our Dark Skies and creating habitat-based landscaping at home.

This winter, the Education Team is excited about the work ahead, and we hope that it will make a difference: to our wildlife and our community. Remember to gift yourself a regular dose of nature, and let us know how we can help.

Jennifer Simmons
Jennifer Simmons
Director of Education



Tips for Connecting with Nature

Interacting with nature is easier than you think! While visiting a park or nature center is certainly encouraged, nature is all around you, even in your own yard.

Spend time searching on, around, and under the plants in your yard. You can take photos of your backyard wildlife to track the number of species you find. Using apps like iNaturalist, you can identify your backyard wildlife and learn more.

Substitute a nature hike for a trip to the gym. Not only is this a great way to add variety to your fitness routine, but seeing nature while getting your exercise is mentally restorative. You can increase or decrease the intensity by changing pace and using natural elements such as hills. Invite friends or family to make it a social activity, too!

Develop a wildlife project in your yard. Start by choosing your interest: helping birds, trees, monarch butterflies, native plants, or fighting light pollution are just a few examples! Next, learn the Dos and Don'ts to make a difference. Finally, become a part of the solution by putting your plan into action in your own yard.

2022 Conservation Highlights

This has been an exciting year for the Conservation Team at The Wilderness Center. One project that is nearly complete is the restoration of a portion of Fox Creek that runs through TWC's Pioneer Farm Preserve. The first part of the project (Fox Creek 1.0) started in 2016 and focused on a portion of the creek at our main site, just west of Alabama Avenue. Fox Creek 1.0 restored 800 feet of stream and 6 acres of wetlands. All construction work on "Fox Creek 2.0" is finished and tree and shrub planting will take place in spring 2023. This adds an additional 1,200 feet of restored stream and 14 acres of wetlands to the watershed of Fox Creek.

Project highlights:

- Improved instream structure providing important habitat for a variety of aquatic species.
- Increased amphibian breeding habitat.
- Removal of sediments from Fox Creek providing clean water.



Funk Bottoms

We are excited to announce another major conservation project in Wayne County in Funk Bottoms. Through a partnership with the H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, TWC was able to purchase a 27 acre parcel right in the town of Funk and adjacent to the existing Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area. The parcel was previously farmed but left fallow for many years due to its tendency to flood and remain wet. Our intention is to remove the drainage and restore it to its historic wetland habitat. After the initial restoration, we will create a raised earthen berm that will be accessible to visitors and school groups, offering a high vantage point for birdwatching, classes, instruction, and active outdoor educational programs.

Other highlights of the project:

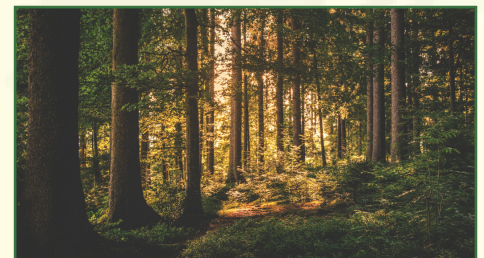
- Increasing the wetland area of the Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, helping to filter nutrient run-off from nearby fields and improve the watershed of the Mohican River.
- Increasing the habitat area for state-listed species like trumpeter swans and sandhill cranes.
- Creating additional tourist sites. The Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area is a known destination for birders and will also enhance the annual Shreve Migration Sensation.



Photo by
Emily Speelman

TWC Consulting Forestry

TWC's Consulting Forestry service continues to be a consistent revenue stream for The Wilderness Center, helping to fund our mission of conservation, while providing over 30 landowners with sustainable advice on land management and best practices. If you are a landowner in need of a management plan or just interested in how you can make wise, ecological choices for your property, scan the QR code or visit WildernessCenter.org/conservation/twc-consulting-forestry/.



2022 Community Highlights

What a wonderful year of building community through events, adding accessibility to our site, and humbly accepting your generosity in support of Education, Conservation and Community!

EVENTS

We love inviting you to The Wilderness Center to enjoy outdoor activities like our *Run Wild!* race and Nature Fest Artist's Market!



Did you know? This year's event was almost entirely solar powered!



THE ENCHANTED FOREST

Thank you to the over 1,000 attendees, over 50 volunteers and many sponsors and supporters who made this beloved event such a success in 2022.



NATURE PLAYScape UPGRADE

Thank you to Visit Canton, The Gannett Foundation, and so many others for providing the funding to update our Nature Playscape (including all of you who donated through A Community Thrives)! It is now complete with a fully accessible trail and features. A Grand Opening will be in spring 2023, but we were honored to have a soft opening in partnership with the Akron Children's Palliative Care Unit in September.



GF GANNETT FOUNDATION

a community thrives
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Visit CANTON

CLUBS

As always, our clubs provide a great opportunity to connect through activities, meetings, and events, including geocaching events, birding activities, astrophotography workshops, star watches, botany hikes, book discussions, and offsite hikes.



The 28th Annual TWC Nature Photo Club Foto Fest Awards



The Wilderness Center Woodcarvers hosted their 38th Annual Woodcarvers Show in September.

Remembering a True Advocate for Nature...

Herb Broda, long-time TWC supporter and board member passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family in September 2022.

Herb's award-winning career in education spanned over 50 years. This included positions as a 6th grade teacher and principal (Apple Creek Elementary); elementary supervisor, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and interim superintendent (Tri-County ESC); professor of education (Ashland University); and student teaching supervisor (The College of Wooster). Herb's ideas are the root of the way so many places like The Wilderness Center, Camp Nuhop, and Barnes Preserve in Wooster operate.

He is perhaps best known for his work and passion in the field of outdoor education and was known to some of us here at TWC as "The Great Encourager," giving us the tools to do the work, showing us how to use them, and then encouraging us to make them our own. His approach always encouraged connection with nature rather than just teaching.

Herb felt Environmental Education went well beyond just teaching the names and functions of natural components. He believed in building a connection with nature. One of his favorite methods that he pioneered and incorporated into his outdoor education programs was the "change of pace and place" method. While on the trail, he would encourage participants to stop, then pass out green paint chip cards and have everyone find something natural that matches their card. That simple activity gives participants a chance to explore and observe on their own, and that's what builds connection.

He was instrumental in the original construction of our Nature Playscape (where he

is pictured here with his wife, Janet). Countless educators continue to embody his "change of pace and place" philosophy of integrating the outdoors into all aspects of the learning experience. Thank you, Herb, for your work and support of TWC and for helping thousands to connect with nature. You will be greatly missed.



Tree of Life

DONATIONS MADE JULY 2022-SEPTEMBER 2022:

When you lose 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. Each year, the proceeds from Tree of Life gifts support a significant conservation project at TWC, often planting trees to reforest old fields. Honor a loved one with a Tree of Life gift by visiting [WildernessCenter.org/Give](https://www.wildernesscenter.org/give). Your thoughtfulness today will benefit future generations tomorrow.

in memory of **Thomas J Alderton**
John and Denise

in memory of **Ken Alexander**
Larry and Ginny Ricer

in memory of **Una Anderson**
the Sojourners Class

in memory of **Dianne Andrick**
Johnny and Marla Neiss

in memory of **Frank Balogh**
Bettie and Lori

in memory of **Art Barnby**
Judy and Mick Kerry

in memory of **Carolyn A. Bartley**
*OGI Retirees Lunch Club,
The Sojourners Class,
Jack & Jo Wucinick*

in memory of **Amanda Conklin Beckwith**
Scott & Linda Wendling and Hallie

in memory of **Greg and Michelle Beebe**
Erica and Mike Soehnen

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Kim Caldwell - Edward Jones

in memory of **Chris Belloni**
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in memory of **Paula Benson**
The Staff of Fulton Drugs

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June Davidson,
Barb Slivinsky,
Nancy Bodnar,
Carolyn Vogenitz,
Dianne McCarthy,
Ann Riegler,
Neatzie Samples*

in memory of **Jeff Berkhouse**
Herb and Janet Broda

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Wayne and Daphne Trent

in memory of **Bo**
Mark and Irene Weaver

in memory of **Louise Bowen**
Bethany Nursing Home

in memory of **Barbara Bowman**
Janet and Greg

in memory of **John Bowser**
Pam and Dennis Close

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Mary Evelyn and Bob Rudy

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Jane Potshner

in memory of **Herb Broda**
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Rosalie (Lee) Dolan,
Sarah Harkey Douglas,
Louise Fleming-Dufala,
Gennie Johnston,
Al & Brenda Leist,
Raymond Leisy,
David Lenze,
Gordon & Margaret Maupin,
The Garcia McBride Family,
Arlene Nussbaum,
Mark & Sandy Rabadoux,
Bob & Karen Rodda,
the Board, Staff, Volunteers,
& Wildlife of TWC,
Karen Zaleski*

in memory of **Marjorie L. Brown**
Tom and Jane Ferguson

in memory of **Al Budash**
Irene and Mark Weaver

in memory of **Nancy Cardinali**
Kim and Barb

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Rob & Deissy Houmard

in memory of **Jill Marie Cashner**
*Kayla Fox, Susan Harding,
Bob and Cheryl Hughes*

in memory of **Karan Sue Christman**
Cathy A. Colley

in memory of **Karan Christman,**
our colleague and friend
Ruby Newcomer and Elizabeth Tully

in memory of **Roy Cinowalt**
Pattie and Walt

in memory of **Clifford "Butch" Clark**
The CHS Class of '66

in memory of **David Cochran**
Polly Limbach

in memory of **Lidio Collecchi III**
Larry and Darlene Kaczmarek

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Travis and Karen

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Kathy & Ted Lockmyer*

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Norwada, Scott, Jennifer, and Piper Croskey

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Pam and Dennis Close

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Robert & Carolyn
Caitlin, Noah, Carly, Cara, Cass, & Khalil*

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Rosalie Dolan

to honor **James Charles Donohue III**
Gust Callas

to celebrate, the marriage of
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Bob Macak, George Wolfe & Kris Bosley

in memory of "Duchess"
Arthur and Miriam Grin

in memory of **Helen "JoAnn" Eckroad**
the Trotter Family

in memory of **Judy Edwards**
Joni Ochman and Steve Ochman

to celebrate **Alana and Eric Elavsky's**
5th Wedding Anniversary
Amy and Mike Humrighouse

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Barb Abbott

in memory of **Cory DeVaughn Erskine**
Marty & Marilyn Kuboff

in memory of **Rich Esber**
Shafeek Jr., Patricia, and Roman Shaheen

in memory of **Roy Estep**
Jerry Norton

in memory of **William J. Etue**
Stephen Altman, Jim Behnke, Marcia Bonta,

to honor **William J. Etue**
Tony Casasanta

in memory of **Sandra Lee Evans Deyarmon**
Les & Tonya

in memory of **Thelma Fahrni**
Timothy and Jean Markey

in memory of **Doug Fahrni**
John and Marla Neiss

in memory of **Fr. Bill Faustner**
Patricia A. Slowikowski

to honor **Randy Fearon**
Don and Fran Gerber

in memory of **Jerry Felland**
Joyce and David Apel

in memory of **James "Jim" Ferguson III**
Frances & Gary Jervis

in memory of **Joseph Ferrall**
*Patricia Yingling,
Karla Holland,
Kevin McAfee*

in memory of **Edward P. Finan**
John and Carole Cummings

in memory of **Mr. Augustus Foster**
Nina Hillery

in memory of **Joyce Ann Fowler**
Marina Rae Colombo

in memory of **David Freilich**
the Schoonover Girls

in memory of **James Freisen**
Keith Shumaker

to honor **Joan Frost**
Kim Caldwell

in memory of **Anna Mae Furguele**
Brittany Caldwell

in memory of **David Gang**
Mike and Liz Miller

in memory of **David A. Gault**
Frank and Judy Provo

in memory of **Dean Ellis George**
Amy and Mike Stewart

in memory of **Rambo Girardot-Krause**
Sonja Clark

in memory of **Linda Gramoy**
Ron Blackledge

in memory of **Linda Gramoy**
Frances and Gary Jervis

to honor **Father Mike Gribble**
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Marina Rae Colombo

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Bill, Patty, and Austin Weller

in memory of **Ken Hall**
Joni Ochman and Joe Pisano

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Tim and Melody Smith

in memory of **Charles Hannen**
Jeff and Gretchen Glasgow

in memory of **Lucille Haren**
Dave & Carol Blocher

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Barb Limbacher

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Evelyn Fichter and Family

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Mrs. Ruth Anderson

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Johnny and Marla Neiss

in memory of **Jim and Edith Hillhouse**
Nancy Ruhl (and Ron in Spirit)

to honor **Donna Hoover**
*Don & Nancy Esway
and Bob & Penny Harper*

to honor **Rick Horst**
Connie Jo and Scott Lehman and family

in memory of **Gladys Hostetler**
John and Marla Neiss

in memory of **Kathy Hufstetler**
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Ruth Robinson

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Ed and Nancy Hare

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Shauna Deetz

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Dick and Barbara Gercken

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Randy and Cathy Karl and Family

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Suzanne & Ruth
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Brooke Himmelstein,
and Raymond Lofink*

in memory of **Robert Lanzi**
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in memory of **John Lawrence**
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to celebrate **Carol Leasure**
Susan Trumble

in memory of **James Lehberger**
*Mary Daiger
the Dr. Roach Outdoor League, Inc,
Gina & Steve Veigel*

in memory of **William Leskovec**
Joseph A. Pisano

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Patsy and Chuck Slowikowski

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Richard and Barbara Gercken

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Tim, Rita and Dolly

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M. Susanne Bourquin

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Gary Bresson

in memory of **Rev. Edd Mataka**
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Gayle Harter and Rick Hahn*

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Danny Santarelli, and
Rick & Sharon Rembielak*

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Marina Colombo

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Mike & Deb Biss

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Rebecca Banner and family

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Dave Valentine

to celebrate the life of **Benjamin Melnichenko**
Julia, Kathy, and Ted Lockmyer

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Mary Ann & Russ Poling*

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Mike and Amy Stewart

in memory of **Levi S. Miller**
Johnny and Marla

to celebrate the life of **Mallory Winifred Moss**
*Jennifer & Joe Chenelle,
Christopher & Whitney Manse,
& Beth Manse*

in memory of **Edna Neff**
Tina Loibl

in memory of **Kathy Sue Ott**
Vicky Farber

in memory of **Andrew (Andy) Paul**
Mary Ann and Russ Poling

in memory of **Les Peine**
Ed and Nancy Hare

to honor **Dale and Joyce Pfeiffer**
Dale Pfeiffer

in memory of **Rev. Richard Plant**
Jacque and Jim McMillen

in memory of **Gary Poling**
Edward and Joyce Streb

in memory of **Ross Pusateri**
*the Paula Dickey and
Patricia Shaheen Families*

in memory of **Marian Sarah Reed**
Garden Club of Rittman Friends

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Shauna Deetz

in memory of **June Lively Richmond**
Marilyn Kuboff

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in memory of **Larry Rodgers**
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Rick & Amy Henkel*

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Ray & Mary

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Carol Marino

in memory of **George Sadey**
Sly Steffen and Family

in memory of **Tina Savage**
Jim & Judy Sabo and Family

in memory of **Irene Schiffner**
Bethany Nursing Home

to honor the life and legacy of **Melissa Shearer**
Carrie Powell

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Pam McFarland

in memory of **George A. Sliffe**
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to honor **Sloan**
Shauna Deetz

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Friends at Sandy Cove Ministries

in memory of **Russell Glenn Snyder**
Augy

in memory of **John Sopko**
Kathy, Taylor and Hunter

in memory of **Sami Spiezio**
Vicki Schroeder

in memory of **William "Bill" Cyril Steinmetz, Jr**
Cathy Colley

in memory of **Giuseppe "Joe" Stelluto**
Dan Fettes, Jo Ann Klingaman

in memory of **Hector Stephen**
Sonja Clark

in memory of **Tom Bo Streb**
Edward and Joyce Streb

in memory of **Elden Thomas**
Matt and Jill Kohler

in memory of **Timmy, a wonderful companion dog,**
Ray & Mary at New Philly Plumbing

in memory of **Roy Tipton**
Rose Zahler

in memory of **Gloria De-Haven Tish**
*William, Patricia,
and Austin Weller*

in memory of **Matt Tullis**
*Dave,
Sandi,
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in memory of **Alice Woodring**
Mike and Francine Sheil

in memory of **Beth Wrenn**
Daphne Trent

in memory of **Lorrie Young**
*Joe, Leanne, and Marlowe (Bailey) Asbury
The Ram Group,
Karen & Emily Geizer
The leftchannel Team*

in memory of **Shirley Zimmer**
The Tolin's

in memory of **Orion Zurcher**
the family of Vernon and JoAnn Zurcher

Give the gift of Membership!



This year, provide your loved ones with the ability to connect with nature by giving them an annual membership.





THE WILDERNESS CENTER

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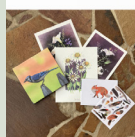


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THE WILDERNESS CENTER

Gift Shop



Nov-Feb: Art Sale! 15% off
all prints, cards, canvases,
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Home for the Holidays



THE WILDERNESS CENTER

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WildernessCenter.org



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