The Wilderness Center Celebrates 50 Years!

A publication for our Members

Newsletter

April 2015 Vol. 8 No. 4

TWC Hires Nature Store Manager and Administrative Assistant

Debbie Casto is TWC’s Nature Store Manager. Debbie has spent her career in both education and business. She has a Bachelor of Science from Ohio University and a Masters of Business Administration from Ashland University. She has spent the last 13 years teaching various business courses for Kent State University, is a business consultant, specializing in entrepreneurship and has run various businesses for the past 25 years.

She and her husband Michael operate an artisan bread bakery and are the proud parents of five children.

Deb Erb is the Administrative Assistant for TWC. Deb has enjoyed working with the public most of her adult life in various environments such as healthcare, corporate and education. She is married to Carl and they have four children: Amanda of Nashville, TN, Josh of Brooklyn, NY, Megan of Nashville, TN, and Lucas of Navarre, OH. They also have a new black lab puppy, Jake.

Traveling and spending time with her family is high on her list of special things to do.

Sat., April 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for our Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 18, from 9 AM-4PM. We will need volunteers to help clean trails and remove garlic mustard all day! Foto Fest will also be going on on Sat., April 18 and Sun., April 19. Visit and vote for your favorite nature photos. See enclosed program guide for details.

Native Plant Sale and Gardening Seminars
Saturday, April 25, 9-4 & Sunday, April 26, 1-4

The Native Plant Sale and Gardening Seminar has become an important event for The Wilderness Center. Please join us on Saturday, April 25th! The wide selection of native plants is unique and cannot be found at nearby garden centers. Please find your plant sale flyer enclosed.

Inside:

Director’s Corner..........................................................p.2
Volunteer News..........................................................p.3
Club News.................................................................p.4
New Members............................................................p.5
Endowment Gifts.........................................................p.5
Annual Campaign......................................................p.5
ProgramGuideReg.Form............................................Insert
Tree of Life...............................................................p.6-7
Greenline.................................................................p.8
Foto Fest.................................................................p.8
Celebrate Your Greatest Supporter: Earth!

As TWC celebrates 50 years of service to the community and environment, Earth Day celebrates its 45th anniversary this April 22nd. The first Earth Day celebration occurred in 1970 and involved an estimated 20 million Americans coming outdoors to express support for planet Earth, peacefully demonstrating against widespread pollution of air, water and land and overuse of limited resources. From its beginnings, Earth Day garnered broad support from both political parties and a wide socio-economic spectrum of Americans. This immediate and powerful cultural and political success paved the way for the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990, Earth Day became an international event now observed in over 190 countries. Founding Earth Day organizer, Denis Hayes, believes it is “the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year.”

It is easy to celebrate Earth. After all, it is really quite beautiful; it provides us all a great place to live, and it is really the one and only place in the entire universe (that we know of) that will support us. What often gets overlooked about the significance of celebrating our Earth is the obvious fact that without the life-sustaining services that our planet and its ecosystems provide we simply could not exist here. Earth’s ecosystems support us with the basics of our survival: food, freshwater, fuel, minerals, wood and fiber. Ecosystems moderate environmental extremes for us by regulating climate, flooding, and diseases. And, Earth’s natural areas nurture our humanity beyond just raw survival providing aesthetic, spiritual, educational, and recreational opportunities.

It is these ecosystem services that quietly, unassumingly function all around us and even through us every day of every year and of every millennium the Earth has been around supporting life. And yet, for some reason many of its beneficiaries seem to ignore or, at best, greatly devalue these services. The total worth of our planet—its “natural capital”—is really inestimable, but a crude ballpark of the annual “dividends” provided by Earth’s services that support humankind can be approximated. And, it’s a big number! But, then again so is Earth.

How can we possibly come up with a dollar value for Earth’s annual services? Realistically, we can’t, but harkening to the concerns that spurred the founding of Earth Day in the first place some very complex attempts have been made by calculating what it would cost in human-created infrastructures and services to replace Earth’s natural services if those ecosystems were to break down. By looking at Earth through this socio-economic lens, many more of us now understand that “saving the planet” by protecting ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity is well beyond just an ethical imperative. Supporting Earth is tantamount to supporting the very foundation of every human-created enterprise on the planet, because the one obvious truth not reflected in a dollar estimate of what it would take to replace those services is the fact that we simply cannot replace those services! So, this Earth Day let us all celebrate our greatest, most indispensable supporter.

Be sure to join us here at TWC for our Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 18th. And, during our special celebration of 50 years of service to our community and ecosystems, please consider upgrading your annual Individual or Family membership to our “Supporting” level. Your extra support helps us do that much more to conserve and protect the ecosystem services provided by our little corner of Earth.

Jeff Corney, Executive Director

Thank You for Your Support, Friends – Old and New

As a special thank you for your continued support in this our 50th year, TWC would like to offer you and a friend some very special gifts.

When you upgrade your membership renewal this year to the $75 “Supporting” level or higher and recommend a non-member friend to TWC, we will send you a beautiful 50th anniversary mug featuring the panoramic artwork of local artist, Deb Grenert, and a 12 oz. package of organic Costa Rican coffee. We will also send your non-member friend a FREE, one-year “Family” membership to TWC. Already a “Supporting” member? Simply renew your membership at the “Sustaining” level or higher and recommend a non-member friend to take advantage of this 50th anniversary offer. Your non-member friend will get to enjoy all the benefits of “Family” membership; plus with YOUR membership renewal YOU will also receive a voucher worth up to $15 toward one Wilderness Center course or workshop! To take advantage of this special thank you offer, simply visit www.wildernesscenter.org/friends or call (330) 359-5235.

Thank You for Your Support,
Friends – Old and New
Volunteers of the Month
Don & Jeannie Weisgarber

Don and Jeannie Weisgarber have joined volunteering for TWC as a couple.
Don is an artist who has beautiful paintings on display at TWC and has taken on being an artisan filling the gap with the retirement of our other artisans. He has been helping Ken with plowing and trail maintenance.
Jeannie is a retired English teacher and is not only an asset as a proof-reader, but in answering phones, working in the nature store and helping with mailing and education projects.
Don and Jeannie are a great addition to TWC and we thank them for their service!

Ecuador Birding and EcoTour-Nov. 3-12, 2015

Join The Wilderness Center for its third tour to Ecuador for Birding and general nature Nov. 3-12, 2015. This is a trip of a lifetime if you are a birder and even if you aren’t! The 2011 travelers quoted, “This is the most fabulous thing we’ve ever done,” and this trip is just that good!
Join board member Chuck Jakubchak for this 10-day tour exploring South America. We will visit:
• Nov. 3 – ar. in Quito. Transfer and overnight Hotel La Carolina/Quito
• Nov. 4 - 7am departure for Yanacocha Reserve
• Nov. 5 – Birding Reserva Las Gralarias
• Nov. 6 – Milpe Bird Sanctuary and Milpe Road
• Nov. 7 – Silanche Bird Sanctuary
• Nov. 8 – Paz de las Aves and Oilbird grotto
• Nov. 9 – Mindo Valley and nighttime owling
• Nov. 10 – Return to Quito with stop at Equator Monument and continue on to Otavalo
• Nov. 11 – Otavalo Market and return to Quito
• Nov. 12 – Early morning birding at Antisana NP. Evening return to the US

Watch for an upcoming informational meeting.
If you are interested, please contact Vicki at vicki@wildernesscenter.org

Brown Bag Lunch Series
Climate Change in Our Neck of the Woods?
Earth Day-April 18, 1-2 PM

Is global climate change really happening? If so, what will change about our climate here in Ohio? And, will it change which plants and animals live in this area? Learn about the science of climate change and how it may affect our ecosystems here in the Midwest. Free, no registration.

TWC Volunteers

As we approach National Volunteer Week, we would like to thank TWC’s dedicated volunteers.
For 2014 we had 701 volunteers perform 6,295 hours. That is a lot of hours and a lot of great things happening at TWC!
At the going volunteer rate of $22.55 that is $376,452 worth of volunteer time!!!
We are very blessed to be a nature center that has so many talented and dedicated volunteers!
Thanks to each and every one of you!

Foxfield Meeting
Sat., Apr. 18, 2 PM

Staff will discuss natural burial at Foxfield, nature preserve cemetery management, restoration of the site and more. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed, small-group setting. If you plan to walk Foxfield Preserve’s trails, be sure to wear suitable shoes and clothing. If you can’t attend a presentation, personal tours of the Preserve are available by appointment. Contact Sara Brink at foxfield@wildernesscenter.org
Botanizers Club

Spring cannot come soon enough after such a long hard winter! One of the highlights for many who visit TWC in April is the Native Plant Sale. Please join Botanizers Tim and Paula Lavey on Sat., April 25, at 1 PM for a wildflower walk on one of the TWC trails. This is open and free for the public as well as Botanizer Club members. We are looking forward to enjoying the beauty of a wide variety of wildflowers blooming along the trail. Any questions, feel free to e-mail me at woodfern.22@gmail.com Sandy Smith, Club President

Geocaching Club

The Geocache Club held its annual winter event on Jan. 31 at the Center. We put out 16 new permanent caches and 16 game caches for the evening. There were 99 cachers in attendance! Great turnout and the weather cooperated, too. Big, bright moon made the trails so much fun to hike with no flashlights needed. The club purchased new pathtags and each cacher who registered that night received one. Thanks to Doug aka Smoothcacher for designing and ordering them for us. We gave out some great door prizes and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all the club members who helped in any way...can’t put these events on without you!

For more info on the club or geocaching in general, please e-mail Rita at axetowax@yahoo.com

Backpackers/Dayhikers Club

April is a great time to get out and hike. Come with us. On Sun., Apr., 12-Dayhike exploratory of TWC property at edge of Tuscarawas and Guernsey Co. (off-trail).

On Fri., Apr. 17-meeting, social time, and prepare for Earth Day demo.

On Sat., Apr., 18-Backpack demo and dayhike info. Stop by, say hi, ask questions.

On Apr. 24-26-Backpack North Country Trail, southern NY. A beautiful wooded area, mildly hilly, spring flowers, good hiking.

Details and updates at meeting or www.hikersoftwc.weebly.com Questions? Contact Larry at peachypit@embarqmail.com or 330.345.1727.

Nature Book Discussion Club

We take water for granted until...you know the rest of that, don’t you? Water in the headlines: contamination, drought, flood. Blue Future: Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever by Maude Barlow is our book for May 2. This water activist calls for preservation of our most precious resource.

We welcome drop-ins. Send questions to tallweeds2-twcbooks@yahoo.com

Needle Crafters

The Needle Crafters are meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM. Come to the next meeting, bring your project and join us!

Astronomy Club

Our Public Star Watch for the month is scheduled for Apr. 3 at 8 PM. We will have a planetarium show about the night sky followed by observing, if weather permits. Possible targets for the night include the Moon, Jupiter and star clusters. Star Watches provide guests a chance to see different types of telescopes in action. Our meet-up is scheduled for Apr. 24 at 7:30 PM. We will talk about astronomy, telescopes and observing. Both events are free and open to the public.

Bird Club News

BIRDERS welcome! The upcoming year we have some fun birding events planned. Check out and ‘like’ our new Facebook page–TWC Bird Club–for trip/event information and ask to become a member of our page.

In addition, every third Saturday of the month at 8 AM, we have a birdwalk at TWC–why not join us.

TWC Bird Club had two successful ‘indoor’ birding events in January and February with the Breakfast with the Birds and the Great Backyard Bird Count. The group went to Killdeer Plains at the end of the month.

Though winter birds are fun to chase, we are all looking forward with anticipation to seeing our spring visitors return to Ohio. Why not come with us on our next 'adventure'??

Until next month.....May you always hear the whisper of wings...

Cavers and Climbers Club

The Ohio Cavers and Climbers have been spending winter practicing with our vertical gear, climbing at the indoor climbing wall and doing lots of planning for the coming year, but we are getting excited for spring! We have a beginner cave trip planned for April 25th. We are also excited to sponsor a special caving event at TWC on May 2nd featuring Dr. Hazel Barton, co-star of the IMAX movie, Amazing Caves.

Dr. Barton will speak about her research on microbial extremophiles that inhabit caves and her exciting experiences exploring the underground. We will also offer several stations to give you a taste of what being a cave explorer is like. See a vertical demonstration, slide through our squeeze box, check out our gear and see photos of the caves we’ve explored and of our climbing adventures. Join us to learn more about caving at one of our meetings at 10 AM.

Woodcarving Club

The Woodcarvers meet Saturdays, Apr. 11 and Apr. 25 at 9 AM. Join us if you are interested!

Fly Fishing Club

The Fly Fishing Club will meet on Thurs., Apr. 9 and Apr. 23 at 7 PM at The Wilderness Center. Please join us!
In a world that feels like it’s moving faster with every passing day, so many demands are made upon us. Time is truly a precious commodity. You cannot acquire, accumulate or create time. It cannot be bought or borrowed. You have a limited amount of time for work, rest, family and for pursuing your own interests. Choosing to give up some of your time for the benefit of others demonstrates an uncommon richness and generosity of spirit. Thank you. Please know that your gift to The Wilderness Center is making a positive difference.

During National Volunteer Week (April 12-18, 2015), TWC proudly joins with other organizations across the country to celebrate the profound impact made by the work of volunteers.

TWC’s 50-year history of conservation, stewardship and education has been forged by the service of generations of volunteers. Today we still rely on the support of those who are interested in helping the environment and working with others who value nature. Last year alone, more than 700 of you gave generously of your time here at TWC. You are our advocates, ambassadors, friends and the everyday heroes that humble and inspire us.

Each single act of volunteerism, no matter how seemingly insignificant is making a difference here at The Wilderness Center, even the removal of one garlic mustard plant. Garlic mustard is considered one of the most destructive invasive plants in our state. It spreads rapidly in forests and woodlands and displaces native plants very quickly. Eradicating garlic mustard takes time—lots of time and many hands. Vigilance is critical. Garlic mustard can sprout up even when you think you’ve gotten rid of every last tiny sprout. Thanks to you, TWC Volunteers, we are winning our battle against the spread of garlic mustard on Wilderness Center lands, making them habitable for native wildflowers that in turn attract needed pollinators—making a significant impact here in our community.

All of The Wilderness Center’s volunteers exemplify the generosity of spirit and care necessary to make a positive difference. Thank you for providing information to a concerned caller about a baby bird fallen from its nest. Thank you for signing up an excited new student for a woodworking class. Thank you for making the forest come alive with enchantment every Halloween. Thank you for helping to teach young people about their connections with nature and preparing them to live responsibly in a sustainable world. Thank you for mailing out TWC’s monthly newsletter and for tackling the myriad of “other duties as assigned.” Thank you for giving the precious commodity of your time. We celebrate you during National Volunteer Week and throughout the year.

---

Endowment Gifts

In honor of the retirement of
Rebecca Cyphert
Sarah H. Douglas

Welcome New Members!

Legacy
Donald Stebbins

Family
Jacqui Hershberger
Meredith Ott
Carrie Stefan

Individual
Ashleigh Roberts

---

Barb Vitcosky, Development Director

Annual Campaign Donors

Helen L. Davis
Jane Cooper & Roger Downer
Michael Dull
Carol & Brian Finefrock
Walt & Cindy Fink
Richard & Janice Gray
Mr. & Mrs. C. Eugene Hutto
Nancy Marino
Jerry & Norene McEowen
Richard & Sandra Pech
Sarah Pinhard
Bill & Ginny Post
Mr. & Mrs. David Rankl
Eileen Rohrer
Betty K. Schuler
Mr. & Mrs. John Snively
James & Janice Spencer

Stanley & Marilyn Kamp
Barb Vitcosky
Linda Zaleski
February Tree of Life

In memory of Robert Aitken
   Ms. Peg Fitzgerald
In memory of Shirley Albaugh
   Mary Etta Cairns & Family
In memory of James Allen, Sr.
   Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Glasgow
In memory of Timmy Atherton
   Evelyn Hewett
In honor of Joann Ballbach
   Dr. Audrey & Carl Lavin
In memory of Nick Beachy
   Jenn Metcalf
In memory of Jeanette Bidlack
   Almeda Saracco
In memory of Jim Blankenship
   Judi & Tom Malinowski
In memory of Clyde Brechbuhler
   Carole Nichols & Family
   The Wilderness Center Staff
In memory of Marjorie Carpenter
   Ed & Nancy Hare
In memory of Ron Clauss
   A.Terry Hooper & Richard Genet
In memory of Lester Cook, Jr.
   Larry & Tootie Million
In memory of Vincent Dalessandro
   Sarah H. Douglas
In memory of Karen Dietrich
   Michael & Deb Biss
In memory of Betty J. Doerge
   Madalana Rukavina, Jennifer Rukavina
   Jeremy Brush
In memory of Nola Smail Edgar
   Richard & Rhea Cantleberry
In memory of Ed Edwards of East Sparta
   Mrs. Maureen Alters
In memory of Robert Engh
   Bud Baker
In memory of Alfonse Eroline
   Pattie & Walt
In memory of Jim Fagan
   The Gray Family
In memory of

Parents of Rashid Farahati
   Michael Abrams
In memory of Donna Joseph Fisher
   Roger & Margaret Riffe
In memory of Floyd Fouts
   Louise & Bill Moser
In memory of Dottie George
   Dick & Mary Ann Cook
In loving memory of
Jan Glaser, our dear friend
   Butch & Donna Conn
In memory of Beloved Friend
Oliver Turner Gordon
   Lynn Turner & Samuel Gordon
In memory of Charles Grell
   Sarah H. Douglas
   Bud & Kay Weiser
In memory of Richard Guadagno
   Bud Baker
In memory of Edward Haban
   Greg & Marlene Bray and
   Scott & Joann Kuntz
In memory of “Doc” Hanks
   Ann K. Wolf
In memory of Shy Tiger Harrold - a wonderful alpha cat
   Connelly Cats:
   Andy, Steffy and Francie
In memory of Vonnie Heinekamp
   Jane Marion and
   Bob & Jeanette Kauffman
In memory of Roger G. Higgins
   Bob & Sharla Rohrbaugh
In memory of Edna M. Hopkinson
   Michael Holdford & Lisa Stamford
In memory of Pauline Jennille
   Frances Stermer & Ken Snyder
In memory of Mary Lynne Jones
   Mike & Liz Miller
In honor of Lillian Kandel
   William & Evelyn Hewett
In loving memory of Jim Kannam
   Doug Babb
In memory of Grace Kerrigan
   Sherry & Rick Sabol

In memory of Jim Letcavits
   Larry & Tootie Million
In memory of Alice Lusk
   Robert & Angela Alder
In memory of Rita Margaret Mahoney
   Ed, Nancy & Jennifer Hare
In memory of Audrey A. Malavite
   Sarah H. Douglas
In memory of Dorothy Manley
   Michael & Deb Biss
In memory of Frank Martin
   Patrick Inc.
In memory of Dwight & Helen McFarren
   Larry & Violet Parmacott
In memory of Barbara McKnight
   Pattie & Walt
In memory of David Messerschmitt
   Wayne & Daphne Trent
In memory of Joan L. Miles
   Dr. & Mrs. Richard Fuller
In memory of Dr. George Peeples & his life of serving as a medical doctor
   Dr. Lynn Turner & Dr. Samuel Gordon
In memory of David Price
   The Wilderness Center Staff
In memory of Don Ramsey
   Emily, Karla and Bob Hoff
In memory of Miriam Reed
   Jan Schaub
In memory of Richard “Dick” Rennecker - a good friend for many years
   Calvin Simpson
In memory of Arelene Rhodes
   Vivian Zartman
In memory of Joel Rice
   Scott Ebert
In memory of Nancy Riggs
   Peg Abrams
In memory of Mrs. Blanch Runnals - wife of Tom Runnals - Good friends in Australia
   Calvin Simpson
In memory of Robert & Beatrice Schott
   John & Nancy Shemo
In memory of George Shaheen
   Joseph & Mary Cusma
In honor of Larry & Jo Shilling, with love
   Frankie, Cin, Lauren, Ricky & Lacey
In memory of Amy Slowikowski - Happy 47th Birthday, Aim!!
   Kelly Worley
In memory of Jim & Id Smith
   Don & Fran Gerber
In memory of Doug Smith
   Wayne & Daphne Trent
In memory of Daniel J. Stoll
   A. Terry Hooper & Richard Genet
   Mike & Liz Miller
In memory of Michael Vincent Sullivan
   Melinda Cavanaugh
   Karen & Rick Knight
In memory of Neel Summers
   Sarah H. Douglas
   Jeremy R. Felland
   Steve & Darlene Fox
   Michael & Carrie Molnar
   Lyn Rehm
   Stepping Stones Mothers League
   Kenneth & Doris Summers
In memory of Neel Summers - a fellow docent whose love of nature inspired so many.
   Arlene Nussbaum
In memory of Neel Summers, a dedicated volunteer who loved teaching nature
   The Wilderness Center Staff
In memory of Raymond (“Ray”) Thompson - my best friend in high school
   Calvin Simpson
In memory of David & Florence Poulson
   Shirley Marmie & Family
In memory of Lenny Ulm
   Jeff Gray
In memory of James Vargo
   Ms. Peg Fitzgerald
In loving memory of Jack Vermillion
   Patsy & Chuck Slowikowski
In memory of Robert Vigar
   Kitty & Del Johnson
In memory of Robert M. Wallace
   Jim & Barb Green
In memory of Jane “Janey” Weisgarber
   Ed & Nancy Hare
   Rex & Gina Mast
In memory of Gerard L. Wild
   Shirley A. Knish
In memory of John Zvada
   Jim & Judy Sabo,
   Jenine & Family, Mary & Francey

"Take a quiet walk with Mother Nature. It will nurture your mind, body, and soul."

To connect people with nature, educate people of all ages, conserve natural resources, and practice environmental stewardship.

President: Jeff Dafler
Executive Director: Dr. Jeff Corney
Editor: Vicki L. Whitt
Proofreaders: Barb Bartchy, Jeannie Weisgarber, Sarah Douglas, Kitty Johnson
Nature Store News

Our new Nature Store Manager Debbie Casto is featuring a display each month depicting the staff’s favorites in the store! March is Carrie Elvey, Naturalist. Here are Carrie’s favorites:

Thank You Volunteers

A big thank you to Nancy Groves and Vicki Sheppard for painting the observation room and hall. It looks great!

A thank you to the Webelos and Bears of Cub Scout Pack 4079! They built 10 wood duck nesting boxes for placement at TWC wetlands.

I go to the woods to be soothed, and healed and have my senses put in order.  

John Burroughs

Last Chance to Participate in Nature Foto Fest

The Wilderness Center’s Nature Photo Club is planning its annual April photo contest. Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, the show is a great time to show off your favorite outdoor photographs. NOW is the time to get ready! Use the cold, gray winter days to prepare your entries.

1. Choose your best photos.
2. Have them blown up to a minimum of 8” x 10”, although larger is better.
3. Purchase (or cut your own) mat to put around the photo(s).
4. Watch future newsletters...or go to TWC website...to get the Registration Form.

There are several categories in the Foto Fest, so choose a variety of nature shots—animals, birds, scenery, etc. One of the most fun aspects of the Club’s contest is that guests viewing the photos choose the winners!