

Gray Fox Gazette



MAY 2024

Brukner Nature Center

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Interpretive Center:

5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH
Monday – Saturday, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, 12:30 – 4:00pm
Phone: (937) 698-6493

Wildlife Rehab Unit:

Please call to schedule a drop-off!
Seven days a week!
Phone: (937) 698-6493

River's Edge Wildlife Preserve

3909 Calumet Rd., West Milton, OH
**Trails are open from sunrise to
sunset at both locations!**

Annual BNC Member's Meeting and Robert F. Heidelberg Wildlife Conservation Lecture Thursday, May 16, 7:00pm



As you all know, Brukner Nature Center is a privately-funded, nonprofit organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through education, preservation, and rehabilitation. We are governed by you, our members and your support, opinions and advice are important to us. Please join us at our Annual Member's Meeting and enjoy the Robert & Joan Heidelberg Wildlife Conservation Lecture to keep you informed of the amazing discoveries in the field of wildlife research and to support those good works. I think Bob and Joan would have liked that!

Our featured speaker this year is Dr. David Russell, biology professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Dave gave BNC staff our first glimpse into bird banding and research. As a Master Bander, Dave has introduced hundreds of students to field research through his banding station at Hueston Woods and field research in Alaska. This research is important because birds are indicators of environmental health, if they are having problems then other species, including us, could be in trouble.



“As future leaders, we think it is important that students experience the environment, first hand. If they understand how things work they will make better financial decisions that support and protect the environment. You can't appreciate something you don't know.”

This is a BNC Member's only event, so please join us as we share our love of wildlife and our vision for the future. Hope to see you all there! Please RSVP by calling 937-698-6493 by Tuesday, May 14, if possible – but feel free to just show up at the last minute, too – we wouldn't want you to miss this!



BNC will be closed for Memorial Day!

BNC's Interpretive Building will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. Our trails, however, will remain open from sunrise to sunset so gather your family and friends and come out and hike the beautiful woodland trails!

A Note from the Director...



Dear Friends,

The warblers are coming!! We've spotted a few early spring migrants along the BNC trails and are eagerly awaiting more! The diversity and variation in spring warblers can be overwhelming for a beginner. When you see a new bird, enjoy the view! Note what they are doing and try to jot down a few notes about their throat color, the presence or absence of light colored bars on their wings and if you hear a song. Focus on the brightly colored males and enjoy each new discovery! You won't be able to identify them all and that's ok! Not many can!

The Ohio Division of Wildlife publishes a terrific field guide on warblers as well as a CD of their songs! These are our tax dollars at work and you can request a copy for yourself! Or stop in – we have a few copies here to share! Searching for spring warblers is a fun and rewarding hobby! I hope you take the opportunity this year!

As always, thanks for being a BNC Member and for your support of this amazing place we call Brukner Nature Center!

Deb

Welcome New BNC Members!

Membership dues provide valuable operational support for our mission of wildlife conservation through environmental education. Did you know that your BNC membership allows you free admission at other nature centers around the country? Visit www.natctr.org for a list. The benefits of a BNC membership are many, so please encourage your family and friends to join our growing family!

Individual: Mary Anne Evans, Janet Gerace, Adelynn Rich, Bryan Wogoman, Layne Wogoman. **Family:** Brandt Baker, Chrissy Bowers, Abby Greenfield, Zach & Emily Ihle, Brian & Tracy Maslowski, Jennifer McComb, Maureen O'Keefe, Andrew & Haley Rue, Jared & Casey Stout, Kaylie Wingard & Casey Carpenter Sr., Andrew & Brook Wirrig. **Family+1:** Ginger Heuker. **Patron of Education:** Nicholas & Victoria Halter.

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Biodiversity Begins at Home

Saturday, June 15

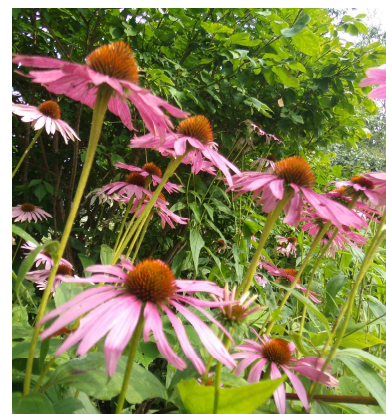
Native Plant Workshop

9:00am – 10:00am (\$20/person due by June 14)

Vendors & Events

10:00am – 3:00pm (Free for everyone!)

Why should you plant natives in your home's landscaping? The reasons are almost too numerous to list! Native plants are beautiful, adapted to our soils and climate, and



valued for their role in the ecosystem. They don't need extra chemicals to thrive and once established their water needs are in balance with what nature provides. Native plants feed native insects that feed a great diversity of native wildlife, forming an intricate web of life. We are excited to offer this new event to help every one increase the biodiversity of their own back yards!

- REGISTER for the Native Plant Workshop, led by Deeply Rooted Landscapes garden designer Courtney Denning. This workshop will focus on attracting birds by providing food, shelter, and water through gardening with native plants. Call 937-698-6493 or email info@bruknaturecenter.com by Friday, June 14 to register.
- MEET three local plant vendors who will not only have a variety of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for sale, but can also provide valuable advice for your native plant gardens!
- TAKE a selfie with our new monarch butterfly sculpture created by Doug Drieling!
- ENJOY a self-guided hike to learn more about our native plants and the wildlife they support!
- MEET our wildlife ambassadors and discover their connection to native plants!
- SHOP local artisans to further enhance your landscape with one-of-a-kind pieces of art!

The Big Sit

Saturday, May 11, 6:00am – 6:00pm

Come join intrepid BNC staff, Bird Club Members and volunteers as we sit in a 17 foot circle in the parking lot and tally every bird species seen or heard from that small island! This annual 12-hour fundraising event is held to share the fun and excitement of birdwatching, to encourage an interest in this lifelong hobby and to raise funds for our Wildlife Ambassadors. Did you know that you can see over 400 different bird species in the state of Ohio!! How cool is that?!



We typically record 50-60 species in this one day! Amazing!! Every pledge helps, no matter the amount, so please call 937-698-6493 today to make your pledge for wild birds!

"We are by nature observers, and thereby learners." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

What we did in March



Nature Programs: Approximate participated in BNC programs! PEEP, 60; Home-school Nature Club, 85; Young Birders Club, 2; Volunteer Breakfast, 64; Night Hike, 16; Spring Wildlife Encounter, 35.

Wildlife Rehab, 58 patients received in 2024!

Stats for March: 17 died, 9 euthanized, 1 placed, 4 released, 15 pending. *Birds:* 1 downy woodpecker, 1 house finch, 2 mourning doves, 1 northern cardinal. *Mammals:* 1 American mink, 2 big brown bats, 11 eastern cottontails, 21 eastern gray squirrels, 1 fox squirrel, 2 Virginia opossums, 1 woodchuck. *Reptiles:* 1 Eastern musk turtle, 1 midland painted turtle.

Volunteers: 73 Adults contributed 349 hours and 18 Junior Volunteers contributed 79 hours.

Thank you for all your generous help in March!



Adult Volunteers: Tony Adams, Erica Adler, Josiah Allan, Sean Allen, Ginny & Mike Beamish, Theresa Bellflower, Haley Bloom, Marlene Borton, Ruth Bowell, Vickie Brewer, Kathy Bryant, Dave Cobb, Sharon Cooper, Dinah Crawford, Ben Dehus, Jane Delcamp, Alex Easton, Carrie Emerick, Jeff Ferrell, Audrey Flannery, Kim Fowler, Kay Fulker, Andrea Fullenkamp, Connie Galey, Mandy Goheen, Judy Hartman, Chris Heckaman, Donn Hellinger, Bert Hensel, Lisa Hoblit, Alex Horne, Ginger Hueker, Michelle & Simon Ireton, Cheryl Japikse, Lynn Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Trinetta Kelley, Melissa & Tom Kleptz, Caroline Krisa, Jennifer Kross, Ron Kuckuck, Terry Lavy, Dave Lindeman, Rynn Malarkey, Jenni Marlow, Jen McCormick, Glen McMurry, Chris Miller, Steve Miller, Alley Morgan, Amber Nichols, Pam Oexmann, Kellie Parsons, Al Pennington, Teresa Peters, Carol Pierce, Ben Poeppelman, Dani & Kyle Richey, Mary Beth Robertson, Erin Rogers, Vicki Sendelbach, Sally Simonis, Molly Slack, Bill Stump, Pattie Taylor, Dick Wagar, Jackie Watkins, William Willet, Donna Wirz.

Junior Volunteers: Ayla Bayer, Sarah Carney, Avery Cooper, Jhett Curtis, Jordan Flora, Chloe Gillig, Adrienne Houk, Gabrielle Madden, Felix McClain, Charli McCormick, Kaitlyn Morgan-Day, Skylar Oaks, Matteo Rench, Devin Schwartz, Abby Trimble, Owen Woodruff, Kameron Workman, Zella Younce.

www.bruknernaturecenter.com

#itsaboutwildlife

Follow us on Facebook



Wildlife questions?

Do you questions about Ohio's wildlife? You're in luck! BNC staff have developed 13 species-specific wildlife brochures identifying ways to help you live with the wildlife in your own backyard! Check out all of our brochures at: <http://bruknernaturecenter.com/living-with-wildlife-brochures.html>.

Featured Monthly Vendor!

Forever Reclaimed



Forever Reclaimed is owned by Jessica and Travis Utz. We create home/office decor, customized floral arrangements, and wedding florals. Jessica began working with wood flowers in 2017. Wood flowers make great everlasting gifts that are also eco-friendly. Each piece is unique and some decor pieces include repurposed items. Check out our website at www.ForeverReclaimed.com for more information.

Prices range from \$10 – \$100

BNC Members receive a 10% discount.

Spring Equinox Art Exhibit

“Ohio’s Forest Floor...”

by Faith Ritchie

We hope you can stop out and see our Spring Art Exhibit featuring the works of Faith Ritchie. Faith is an artist, nature photographer, and mushroom enthusiast



based out of Dayton, Ohio. She takes a subtle approach to her subject matter, creating simple but magical scenes with her use of perspective and natural lighting. Faith also playfully creates self-portrait photo collages and short videos showcasing the beauty of Ohio nature, especially mushrooms!

Faith’s art will be on sale in the Heidelberg Auditorium through June 16. Thanks to the generosity of our artists, 25% of each sale is donated to support BNC’s mission of wildlife conservation!



Young Birders’ Club

Geared just for students in 5th – 12th grade, who are members of Brukner Nature Center and have an interest in birding. High quality binoculars and field guides are provided for meetings and field trips!

Sunday, May 5

Join the Young Birders as we take the time to enjoy one of the most exciting birding events of the year known around the world as “The Biggest Week in Birding” at Magee Marsh in northern Ohio. This event is highlighted by the small yet brilliantly colored warblers making their way back toward Canada for nesting season. These birds use the area as a refueling spot before crossing Lake Erie causing a large number and variety of birds in a fairly small area increasing our chances of finding something cool!

Please contact Brian for more detailed information at brian@bruknernaturecenter.com!

Order your BNC Rehab T-shirt

Show How Much You Care!

Deadline for orders is Wednesday, May 15



We are currently taking orders for those interested in purchasing a BNC Wildlife Rehab t-shirt. All purchases will help support our Wildlife Rehab Unit with purchasing necessary supplies for the care of our native Ohio wild-

life. Shirts are available in youth (small – large) and adult (small – x-large) sizes. Thank you for supporting our wildlife!

Cost is \$20 (*BNC members receive a 10% discount*)

BNC Bird Club Meeting

Visitors are welcome to attend these meetings held at Brukner Nature Center.

Monday, May 20 at 7:00pm and June 17 at 7:00pm. Contact Steve Moeckel, 937-335-6653 for info!



River's Edge Explorers

@ River's Edge Wildlife Preserve
Wednesdays, May 1
2:00 – 4:00pm

Sign-up your 12–17 year-old homeschooled student for an afternoon of discovery by calling 937-698-6493 or emailing info@bruknernaturecenter.com! Staff naturalists have developed hands-on educational and awe-inspiring lesson plans, using outdoor exploration!

BNC Members: \$5/child each month
Nonmembers: \$8/child each month



Creek Life!

Wednesday, May 1, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Are your kids itching to get outside this time of year? Then join us as we explore Cascades Creek at our River's Edge location for stream and riverbed wildlife, like snakes, toads, and salamanders! We'll also be meeting and learning about a super cool reptile as well! Please dress for the weather as we will be spending all of our time outside. Fun fact: did you know many salamanders can regenerate whole body parts like the heart, tail and limbs if they're lost to a predator? Neat!

Pre-registration Guidelines:

- Call Monday – Friday at 937-698-6493 or email info@bruknernaturecenter.com.
- **WAIT** for an email to confirm you are pre-registered for your chosen time/months (see above).
- You will then have **5 days make your payment CASH OR CHECK IS PREFERRED!** Mail payments to: Brukner Nature Center, 5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH 45373. *If payment is not received within 5 days, your child's spot will open for another child.*
- You may register and pay for one month at a time or for several sessions at once.
- All program fees are non-refundable.
- We follow Troy City Schools for cancellations due to weather. Please call 937-698-6493 with any questions!

"A creek or river would also change the texture of his spirit, so that staring into the moving water would make his brain tingle as it had in his childhood when wonder is nothing special but an everyday event."

Jim Harrison, The Great Leader

Homeschool Nature Club

10:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00 – 3:00pm
3rd Wednesday of the month
(September – May)



Did you know that studies have found kids who spend more time in nature are generally healthier, happier, and test better in school than those who don't? Sign-up your 5 – 11 year-old homeschooled student for a morning or afternoon of discovery! Staff naturalists have developed hands-on fun and educational lesson plans, using live wildlife and outdoor exploration! This is a drop-off program.

BNC Members: \$5/child each month
Nonmembers: \$8/child each month



"Water Exploration"

Wednesday, May 15

Did you know that some creatures are more sensitive to pollution than others? We can actually

study the health of our aquatic ecosystems by looking to see what living things are present! Become a scientist this month as we study the health of our creeks, rivers, and pond. Who knows, we may even capture some crazy critters like mayfly larva, water pennies and more!

Our pre-registration date for the 2024-25 school year will be announced in our July GFG.



Round-up for Wildlife Baby Bat Incubator – Goal \$275

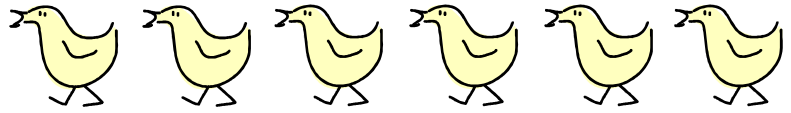
Our Wildlife Rehab Unit is in need of an incubator for the baby bat season. This incubator will be a vital tool in their recovery and provide a better chance of release. Anyone making a purchase in May will be asked at check-out if they would like to "round-up" their purchase. This is completely optional but an easy way for making every penny count towards our goal! Thank you in advance!!

PEEP Summer Session

Session 1 runs from June 3 - July 12

Session 2 runs from July 22 - August 30

Pre-registration begins for everyone on Monday, April 29 – you may pre-register for 1 or both sessions.



Come join the PEEP class in exploring the great outdoors this summer. Have you ever wondered what lies beneath a rotting log? What fun it is to lift the log and find a village of animals living underneath! Wiggling worms to make you giggle, an army of ants marching along and don't forget the amazing acrobatics of the eight legged spider, all hiding beneath the rotting log. Sign up your preschooler for a summer filled exploring the great outdoors and meeting amazing critters!

Preschoolers meet once a week for six weeks and will discover a different nature-related topic as we share stories, encounter wildlife and explore the outdoors! Class sizes are limited to 10 children. Classes last 1.5 hours of mostly outdoor activity, so always dress your child for the weather – rain/winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, etc. PEEP is geared specifically for children ages 3 – 5 years old, who are potty-trained (no pull-ups) and not attending Kindergarten (or being homeschooled for Kindergarten).

Classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00am and Thursday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:30pm.

Cost for each PEEP Summer Session:

\$55 per child for BNC Members • \$75 per child for nonmembers

Pre-registration guidelines below:

- Email info@bruknernaturecenter.com and provide your child's name, age, birthdate, and your phone number. Also, list your top 3 choices for class day and time (see options above).
- **WAIT** for an email to confirm your child is pre-registered and which day they will be attending.
- You will then have **5 days to make your payment – cash or check preferred. If payment is not received within 5 days, your child's spot will open for another child.**
- **Withdrawal Policy:** Reimbursement of payment is not available for PEEP cancellation within two (2) weeks of the start of PEEP. Any cancellation occurring more than 2 weeks prior to the start of PEEP, will receive a 50% refund.

Please call 937-698-6493 with any questions!

Brokner Nature Center receives no tax dollars but is supported by memberships, admission, program fees, contributions, grants and investment income from our Endowment Fund held by The Troy Foundation.

Individuals can make contributions to this fund at any stage of life, allowing us to meet new challenges through financial flexibility and a self-sustaining income stream. For more information, please contact The Troy Foundation at 937-339-8935.

Brokner Nature Center is a non-profit, privately-funded organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.



-Adopted January 18, 2012, by the BNC Board of Trustees

Summer Fun at Brukner Nature Center!

BNC's Summer Camps...For kids entering grades K-5th

Camps run from 9:30am – 11:30am

Please dress for the weather as campers will spend a large amount of time outside.

“Strive to Survive”

(choice of 2 weeks/pick one from below)

July 8 – 12 or July 15 – 19



Did you know that the “warts” on a toad are not really warts, but are bumps filled with bad-tasting liquid to deter predators? Have you ever heard that blue jays make warning calls to alert other birds of nearby danger? Or that striped skunks can spray their stinky spray up to 15 feet away for defense!? Join us this July as we hike through the woods to explore the lives of wildlife, meet wild ambassadors to learn about their amazing adaptations, use binoculars to find birds in nature, and wade through a creek to find the creatures that call it home. All of these activities, and more, will help us learn about the wildlife that survives and thrives in Ohio!

“Wild Like Me”

(choice of 2 weeks/pick one from below)

July 29 – Aug. 2 or Aug. 5 – Aug. 9



Have you ever wondered what wildlife lived in your own backyard? Or what creatures call Ohio home? Do you know how these animals live their wild lives? Some wildlife can be so secretive that we don't even know they are our neighbors. For example, did you know that while rarely seen, the southern flying squirrel is actually the most common squirrel species in Ohio!? Join us this July/August to learn more about our furry, feathery, scaly, and slimy neighbors! We will meet some of these amazing wild creatures, explore the woods in search of wildlife, learn what it takes to be a wild animal, go creek stumping, and so much more. Through these activities, we will understand our wild neighbors a little bit better!

COST FOR EACH SUMMER CAMP:

\$75/child for BNC Members • \$100/child for nonmembers

Deadline to register is the Wednesday before each camp begins

New T-shirt design for kids will be available this summer!

We will be featuring a new youth T-shirt design that will be available to order beginning in May. Sizes will be available in toddler and youth. Consider ordering a t-shirt for your PEEPer, camper, or child to wear while visiting BNC this summer. **Watch for details in our May newsletter!**

BNC's Stillwater Adventure...

River float for kids entering grades 6th-12th

Tuesdays, June 18, or July 16, 9:30am – 1:00pm

BNC has a variety of habitats and diverse wildlife in part because we're next to the scenic Stillwater River. Known for its slow moving, clean and clear water, the Stillwater River is home to many pollution-intolerant fish and macroinvertebrate species. Join us as we explore while tubing the calm and cool waters; along the way we'll use nets to catch critters, wear snorkeling masks to observe the underwater habitat and watch for mammals and birds along the shorelines! Maximum of 8 kids each day. Please follow registration guidelines on the right.

\$30 for BNC Members • \$40 for non-members



Pre-registration is open!

Summer Program Guidelines:

- Please email info@bruknernaturecenter.com or call Monday – Friday at 937-698-6493 to pre-register your child for our Summer Camps or Stillwater Adventure River Float.
- Wait for an email to confirm pre-registration and follow payment details provided.
- Withdrawal Policy: Reimbursement of payment registration is not available for any program cancellation within two (2) weeks of the start of a program. Cancellation occurring more than 2 weeks prior to the start of a program, will receive a 50% refund.