

Gray Fox Gazette



APRIL 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!**

Run Wild for Wildlife!

a 5K Run/Walk for Wildlife Conservation
Saturday, April 27 at 9:30am



If you enjoy running or hiking on woodland trails, you'll love BNC's 5K Run Wild for Wildlife on Saturday, April 27! The race winds through blooming woodlands along trails with steep hills and rough terrain – a challenging and beautiful course! Held rain or shine.

PRE-REGISTRATION EVENT ONLY!

ENTRY FEE with a cool T-shirt – Deadline: Tuesday, April 9

- \$25/person for BNC Members • \$30/person for nonmembers
- Must be postmarked by Thurs., April 4 or in drop-box by Tues., April 9.

ENTRY FEE with NO cool T-shirt – Deadline: Tuesday, April 23

- \$20/person for BNC Members • \$25/person for nonmembers
- Must be postmarked by Thurs., April 18 or in drop-box by Tues., April 23

If you are registered to run/walk but cannot attend our morning event, we invite you to run/walk on your own any time after 1pm, April 27 through Sunday, April 28! Simply stop in our Interpretive Building for a course map and cookies and do your part for wildlife!

Registration forms are now available! Visit <http://bruknernaturecenter.com/assets/5k-run-registration-form.pdf> or simply e-mail us at info@bruknernaturecenter.com and we can email you one. Encourage your family & friends to join you and make it a day to remember!

Wishlist... please call for the most up-to-date list!



Wildlife: gift cards to Lowes, Tractor Supply, Rural King, or Petco, plain Cheerios, Clorox wipes, Lysol spray, live mealworms, black oil sunflower seed, mixed bird seed, suet cakes, 33 gal. force flex trash bags, live crickets, live mealworms, *he* laundry detergent strips, bleach, paper towels, cotton balls and eggs.

Nature Education: gift cards to Kroger, Meijer or Jay & Mary's Book Center, clear hand soap refills, tissues, yellow or white felt squares, Band-aids, awesome volunteers and individually wrapped candy to keep those awesome volunteers happy.

Amazon wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OUG1AK44M07R?ref_=wl_share.

Chewy wishlist: <https://www.chewy.com/g/animal-shelters-and-rescues>. Type "Brukner Nature Center" in the "Find a Rescue" box.

A Note from the Director...



Dear Friends,

I can't believe it's April!! March sure went by quickly! We are all super excited to open our Rehab Building near our entrance on Tuesday, April 2. But please ALWAYS call us first at 937-698-6493 before bringing in a wild patient!! And help us spread that word!

Our 5K Run Wild for Wildlife is evolving! No longer do we draw the elite speedsters, we're growing into a laid back event, fun for everyone, especially families! Please don't let your lack of speed keep you from signing up. And if you're not available on the morning of the race, you can still come out that afternoon or Sunday and follow the map, enjoy the view at your own pace and even get your cookies!! Deadline for a cool, eco-friendly BNC T-shirt is April 9th and who doesn't want a cool T-shirt?!

I can't thank you all enough for all the support – from the surprise gifts from our Amazon and Chewy wishlists, to the hours of volunteer help and the generous financial contributions. We couldn't do it without you!

As always, thank you so much for your support as a BNC Member!

Deb

"I am not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world."

~ Mary Anne Radmacher



Solar Eclipse Update for April 8

By now you've all heard about the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8! We're not sure what to expect that day, so for the safety of our wildlife, as well as for staff to observe this once in a lifetime event with their families, BNC's entire grounds (Interpretive Building and all trails) will be closing on Monday, April 8 at 1:00pm. We hope everyone has the chance to observe the eclipse at one of the many events in Miami County. Remember to wear your protective glasses!

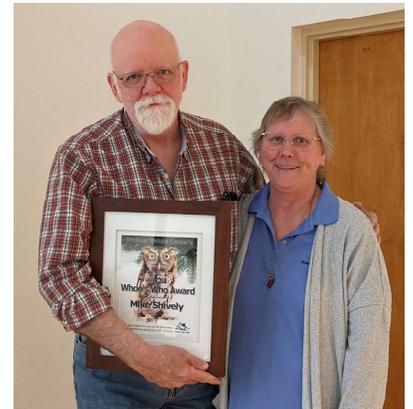
Volunteer Breakfast Recap

Big shout out to those who were able to come to BNC's Volunteer Breakfast. It was great to see so many volunteers relaxing and enjoying each other's company. Our locally grown meal was followed up by a very educational talk on our Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit. Did you know that we accepted over 1,300 patients last year?! We couldn't have done it without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

Awards presented:

5 years – Olivia Douglas, Britney Hayden, Donn Hellinger, Karen Katzfey, Rynn Malarkey, Michelle Matthews, Katelyn Neff, Erin Rodgers; 10 years – Mike Barhorst, Scott Bloom, Vickie Brewer, Barbara Caruso, Dave & Carol Cobb, Joanie Gutermuth, Bert Hensel, Wendy Houghton, Josh Kessler; 15 years – Laura Ayres, John Keys, Peggy Wolke; 20 years – Sharon Cooper, Jeff Ferrell, Ruth Walsh; 25 years – Doug Drieling, Jenny Fuller, Jeannie Spicer; 30 years – Judy Hartman; 40 years – Lynn Johnson; and the Who's Who was presented to Mike Shively!

What greater joy to share what you know and love with others. We can't thank you enough for sharing your knowledge, passion and friendship with us!



Kroger Community Rewards Program

Register your Kroger Plus Card for the Kroger Community Rewards Program and help Brukner Nature Center earn money when you shop and it doesn't affect your bill or Kroger Plus points! Please visit www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards to sign up! BNC's organization number is IC098.

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/membership/reciprocal-program for a list. The benefits of a BNC membership are many, so please encourage your family and friends to join our growing family!

Individual: Adrianna Worden. **Family:** Dan & Kate Alexander, Angie Armstrong, John & Lucinda Black, Jake & Heather Borchers, Allison Champ, Devon & Kennedy Coulter, Kara Daniel, Andrew & Abby Fuddy, Paul & Tabitha Gibson, Austin & Margaret Halsey, Mike & Laura Heffner, Morgan Ivey, Gary & Rita Johnson, Chase & Katherine Johnston, Gerald & Sandra Klosterman, Todd & Rachel Lampley, Brian & Susan Latta, Gary & Pam Laughlin, Michael & Lauren Link, Dave & Katie Mason, James & Susan Matson, Cyndi Pahud, Justin & Serena Persky, Carolyn Risner, Abigail Scheib, Tom & Karen Sheehan, Lauren Shuttleworth, Lauren Stager, Ryan & Rachael Sutter, Carly Witmer & Ryan Goodin. **Family+1:** Richard C. Pock, Shawn & Carol Walker.

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!

Thank you, volunteers, for your generous help in February!

Adult Volunteers: Tony Adams, Erica Adler, Josiah Allan, Sean Allen, Susan Angle, Ginny Beamish, Theresa Bellflower, Haley Bloom, Marlene Borton, Vickie Brewer, Dinah Crawford, Jane Delcamp, Alex Easton, Carrie Emerick, Jeff Ferrell, Audrey Flannery, Kim Fowler, Kay Fulker, Andrea Fullenkamp, Connie Galey, Mandy Goheen, Judy Hartman, Chris Heckman, Donn Hellinger, Bert Hensel, Brian & Lisa Hoblit, Alex Horne, Wendy Houghton, Simon Ireton, Cheryl Japiksi, Lynn Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Trinette Kelley, Caroline Krisa, Jennifer Kross, Terry Lavy, Jenni Marlow, Jen McCormick, Chris Miller, Alley Morgan, Amber Nichols, Pam Oexmann, Al Pennington, Teresa Peters, Carol Pierce, Bev Puthoff, Dani Richey, Erin Rogers, Vicki Sendelbach, Sally Simonis, Molly Slack, Pattie Taylor, Dick Wagar, Jackie Watkins, William Willet, Donna Wirz.

Junior Volunteers: Ellie Ayres, Ayla Bayer, 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, Elzie Sparks, Abby Trimble, Owen Woodruff, Kameron Workman, Zella Younce.

www.bruknernaturecenter.com

#itsaboutwildlife

Follow us on Facebook

What we did in February...

Nature Programs: Approximately 1,526 people participated in BNC programs! PEEP, 60; Homeschool Nature Club, 79; Young Birders Club, 3.

Wildlife Rehab, 12 patients received in 2024! Stats for February: 3 died, 1 euthanized, 1 released, 3 pending. *Birds:* 1 American robin, 2 house finches. *Mammals:* 4 eastern gray squirrels, 1 Virginia opossum.

Volunteers: 56 Adults contributed 286.75 hours and 19 Junior Volunteers contributed 79 hours.

Featured Monthly Vendor!

Renaissance Glass Studio

Sam Grillmeier established Renaissance Glass Studio in 1987 and was joined by his wife Angela, who owns Fiber and Fusion Studio in Vandalia, in 2016. "Our art is a combination of stained glass, fused, and slumped glass.



We also design and build art glass windows for residential and commercial application."

Sam was accepted as a Life Member of National Registry of Who's Who of American Artists on 2001. Sam and Angela are also members of the Yellow Springs Arts Council and Tipp City Arts Council.

Prices range from \$25 – \$195

BNC Members receive a 10% discount.

"Not all those who wander are lost."

~ J.R.R. Tolkien



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>.



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!

BNC Bird Club Meeting

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

Monday, April 15 at 7:00pm. Contact Steve Moeckel, 937-335-6653 for info!

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR BRUKNER NATURE CENTER

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD | 4-8PM
1934 W MAIN ST, TROY, OH, 45373

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **TLVXFR**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



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!

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 - 11:00am

As waterfowl migration begins to wind down the warmer temperatures often bring in the smaller migrants! Many of the songbirds arriving early in this month wintered in the southern parts of the country including tree swallows, hermit thrushes, and yellow-rumped warblers while later in the month we see the arrival of some of the first neotropical species including various vireos, warblers and orioles! Join us as we hike the BNC woods keeping our eyes high in the trees where many of these species like to rest on their journey north. **Please contact Brian for more detailed information at brian@bruknernaturecenter.com!**

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



“Animal Transformers” Wednesday, April 17

Did you know that many of our insect species spend part of their lives in the water? They transform through a process called metamorphosis where they look and live very differently depending on what stage of life you find them in! Lots of insects hatch from their eggs ready to swim and eat aquatic plants. Join us this month to discover more about these transformative creatures!

Currently taking a waiting list for 2023-2024!

E-mail info@bruknernaturecenter.com to be added to our waiting list. Please provide your child's name, age, AM or PM preference, and phone number. We will contact parents if any spots open.



Get your Coffee...

Brukner Blend was developed by Winans with BNC's values taken to heart. Guatemala and Honduran beans were sourced for Brukner Blend because of conscientious environmental practices are used in every step of this coffee's processing.

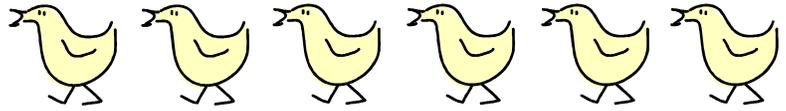
**Available in ground or whole coffee beans.
\$8.75 (8 oz. bag) or \$16.50 (16 oz. bag)**

Pair it with one of our Charley Harper mugs (15 oz.) for an additional \$25!

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 stomping, 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...

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.