

Gray Fox Gazette

November 2020

Brukner Nature Center

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**Interpretive Center hours
for November:**

Monday - Friday, 12:30 - 4:30pm
Closed Saturday & Sunday
Phone: (937) 698-6493

River's Edge Wildlife Preserve

3909 Calumet Rd., West Milton, OH
Open sunrise to sunset!

www.bruknernaturecenter.com



Fall Art Gallery

Featuring the quilt work of Lisa Hoblit
Exhibit opens Monday, November 2

Lisa Hoblit is a self-taught textile artist who has been transforming fabric into quilts for more than twenty-five years. Using traditional quilting practices as a foundation upon which to build, she has been expanding her artistic vision and exploring more intuitive, organic shapes as a means of self-expression. The natural world often serves as inspiration to create her own designs. Sometimes the fabric tells her what it wants to be, letting an art piece grown into itself much like a sculptor carves away rock to reveal the figure hidden inside. Other times she will dig into her fabric stash and creatively interpret a piece already on hand to fit a particular image.

Reusing, repurposing, and recycling fabric remains a key interest. Much as previous generations of practical quilters did, Lisa will salvage fabric from discarded cotton button-down shirts, damaged cotton bed sheets, discontinued upholstery samples, and leftover scraps from previous projects. While the use of scavenged materials is challenging, it satisfies a need to use available supplies in a productive, creative, and meaningful way. Like artists of all mediums, Lisa has enough ideas, sketches, and designs to last for the next twenty-five years, although there is always room to explore fresh ideas prompted by the surrounding natural world.

The exhibit is free with paid admission. **Hours are Monday – Friday, 12:30 – 4:30pm or by appointment.** Exhibit will run through Sunday, December 20 with pick-up beginning Monday, December 21 - just in time for Christmas! All sales of the artwork will support our mission of wildlife conservation.



BNC will be closed for Thanksgiving!

BNC's Interpretive Building will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving. Our trails, however, will remain open from sunrise to sunset so bundle up and come hike with family and friends!!

A Note from the Director...



Dear Friends,

I sure hope you all got a chance to take a hike in October. I'm not sure I've ever seen the trees in such glory! It was simply spectacular. I just wish it lasted longer! Check out this amazing video of our healthy, diverse woodlands shot by our friends at From Above Aerial here: <https://www.facebook.com/613100242403030/videos/348426613037692>. It's a jaw-dropper!

One of the cool things I love about living at Brukner Nature Center is the rare opportunities afforded to glimpse wildlife. We have been seeing a red fox prowling our parking lot at night for the past several weeks. One evening I popped on the parking lot lights to catch him calmly sniffing the ground at the top of the steps from our house to the Center! The light didn't seem to bother him as he proceeded to walk down the steps, hunting, then right past our door! I was breathless!

We seem to be getting more calls from concerned homeowners, in the suburbs primarily, worried about foxes living in their neighborhoods. I wish they could see them from our perspective and understand the privilege of sharing a moment with them. They do not pose a threat to you or your property as long as you take precautions. We have developed some awesome brochures for living with wildlife of all types here in Miami County. They are on our website if you ever need advice!

Hope to see you out on the trails this fall! Thanks so much for your support of BNC!

Deb

Wildlife questions?



We have developed 13 species-specific brochures to help you live with the wildlife in your backyard! Check out our website with all of our brochures at: <http://bruknernaturecenter.com/living-with-wildlife-brochures.html>.

The Art of Nature Success!

The Art of Nature fundraiser was a such a big success this year and I wanted to publicly thank all of those involved – from our hard-working staff to our awesome Board of Trustees, from the featured artist to the support of our community, from our donors and new Lead Sponsors! Together we were able to raise approximately \$32,000 to support our mission – to promote the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation!

The Art of Nature is centered on our commitment to be a contributing part of our local community, supporting local artists and local businesses whenever we can. This year's featured artist



was Naysan McIlhargey, a potter from Yellow Springs! A total of 47 people joined the online auction, 37 local businesses sponsored the event and we were able to support our local retailers with participant swag bags full of goodies and gift certificates! It felt so good to be able to give back to those that have supported us over the years!

Thank you so very much!



Adopt-an-Animal

BNC has a great gift idea called Adopt-an-Animal. Your donation helps to pay for the food and husbandry the individual animals needs to survive, from individualized diets to specialized cage improvements and daily enrichments. You will receive a special certificate of adoption featuring a photo of your adopted Wildlife Ambassador. We have various gift amounts to choose from and forms are available on our website at <http://www.bruknernaturecenter.com/assets/adopt-an-animal-brochure.pdf>.



Thanks for your help!

We would like to recognize these September volunteers and to express our sincere appreciation for their help:

Adult Volunteers: Mike & Susan Barhorst, Mike Beamish, Elaine Bolte, Marlene Borton, Vickie Brewer, Gabby Buchanan, Laura Cain, David Cobb, Ron Corbett, Ben Dehus, Jeff Ferrell, Sharon Fetters, Ellen Goldstein, Bert Hensel, Terri Heberling, Wendy Houghton, Michelle Ireton, Lynn Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Josh Kessler, John Keys, Tom Kleptz, Terry Lavy, Dave Lindeman, Rynn Marlarkey, Caroline Maslowski, Glen McMurphy, Rachel Mescher, Freddy Meyers, Amie Miller, Steve Miller, Amber Nichols, Christina O'Connell-Carne, Norval & Rita Oexmann, Al Pennington, Teresa Peters, Ben Poeppelman, Mary Beth Robertson, Vicki Sendelbach, Molly Slack, Mollie Sorg, Annette Stein, Bill Stump, Dick Wagar, Jackie Watkins, Susan Weidel.

Junior Volunteers: Katalaya Brandenburg, McKenna Downing, Eli Fettes, Issac Gluck, Gwen Harris, Mary & Sarah Lins, Jack Meyer, Aiden Miller, Olivia Petty, Keilie Slattery, Maggie Stewart, Ella Thomas, Summer Wheelock, Spencer Yates.

"If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows."

~Rev. Henry Ward Beecher

Combined Federal Campaign Contributions can be made to BNC!



Brukner Nature Center is happy to announce that we are a participating agency in the Combined Federal Campaign of both the Miami Valley Region and the Heart of Ohio region (CFC #25234). If you are a federal employee, please look for us in this year's Charity Guide and encourage your co-workers to donate to Brukner Nature Center and support our mission of environmental education and wildlife rehabilitation!



What we did in September

Nature Programs: Approximately 177 people participated in BNC programs! Homeschool Nature Club, 88; PEEP, 40.

Wildlife Rehab, 1689 patients received so far in 2020! Stats for as of October 20: 7 euthanized, 2 pending, 2 released, 8 died. *Birds:* house finch, great blue heron, eastern screech-owl, mallard, Canada goose, 2 mourning doves, northern cardinal, white-breasted nuthatch. *Mammals:* big brown bat, 2 eastern chipmunks, eastern cottontail, 5 eastern gray squirrels, southern flying squirrel. **Volunteers:** 47 Adults contributed 321 hours and 15 Junior Volunteers contributed 56.5 hours.



Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card for the Kroger Community Rewards Program and help BNC earn money when you shop. Visit www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow to sign up! BNC's organization # is IC098.



Welcome New Members!

Membership dues provide valuable operational support to benefit our mission of wildlife conservation through environmental education. The benefits of membership are many, so please encourage your family and friends to join our family!

Family: David & Penny Buffenbarger, George Bradley Carol Gibson, Allison Drieling & Eric Hoefler, Ryan & Cheryl Flora, Jeff & Emilia McMaken, Teresa Lennartz & Ben Bemus, Alexa Miller, Chris Meyer, Kevin & Stevie Myers, Amy Rayess, Amy Schmidt, Mandy Tegtmeier, Brooke Terrian, Amy Toft, Casey Wegner, Victoria Weiss. **Family+1:** Frank & Gail Douglas, Laurie Fenstermacher, Brandi Weller.



Bat Month Thanks

We missed many familiar faces during our Haunted Woods event, but were glad to see so many of you that took advantage of our Bat Month Celebration. Whether you were out hiking the trails, adopting our ambassador big brown bat or throwing a 'like' up on one of our many Facebook and Instagram posts we want to say thank you for going 'batty' with us in October. We also want to send a very big shout out to the sponsors of our Bat Month Celebration – Troy Noon Optimist Club!

Project FeederWatch

November – March in the Tree-top Vista!

Brokner Nature Center staff and volunteers collect data each winter for Project FeederWatch, an international citizen science project under the guidance of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Based on nearly a quarter-century of FeederWatch data, scientists document fluctuations in bird populations that could be the result of climate change, habitat destruction, disease or other environmental factors. Project leader David Bonter said, "These are large-scale changes that we would not be able to see without the massive amount of data from participants. Keeping an eye out in your own backyard can make a difference." All levels of birders are welcome, so contact us for a schedule of our FeederWatch dates and get involved with citizen science! Get all the info you need to be a FeederWatcher too, at www.feederwatch.org!

"The future of life depends on our ability to see the sacred where others see only the common."

~John Denver



**Join Us for
Benefit Night!**



Bring this ticket to Skyline Chili at

1775 West Main Street

11/12/2020 from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

20%

of the night's sales will be donated to

Brokner Nature Center

Valid at this location only!

1775 West Main Street

Troy, OH 45373 (937) 335-7005

BNC Special Interest Groups Meetings

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

Brokner Bird Club, 3rd Monday, No meeting in November. Contact Steve Moeckel, 335-6653

Miami Valley Beekeepers Assoc., 1st Monday, No meeting in November. Contact Chrystal Reese, 506-8713

Brokner Society of Nature Carvers, 2nd Tuesday, No meeting in November. Contact Tom Gustafson, 773-2278

Wild Gardens Club, 3rd Monday, November 16 at 7:00pm - Location TBD. Contact Ruth Bowell, 216-6855



Young Birders' Club

Geared just for students in grades 6-12 with an interest in birding, membership in the YBC is just \$10/year, plus high quality binoculars and field guides are provided for meetings and field trips!

Saturday, November 14

9:00 – 11:00am

As our winter bird residents continue to find their way into Ohio and settle in for the long cold weather ahead, we can take advantage of the open sight lines brought about by the trees' loss of leaves to observe some of these species. Join us as we discuss white throated sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, tree sparrows and other common winter species. Please contact Brian for more detailed information on when and where at brian@bruknernaturecenter.com!

"I never for a day gave up listening to the songs of our birds, or watching their peculiar habits, or delineating them in the best way I could. "

~John James Audubon

Scout Fall Nocturnal Adventure!

Co-ed scout program for boys & girls



Friday, November 13

7:00 – 9:30pm

Join us for a fun and educational evening adventure for your troop or pack and their friends or siblings who are also in grades 1st – 4th! Discover the awesome and unique adaptations of Ohio's wildlife as you encounter BNC's wildlife ambassadors! Evening will consist of wildlife games, a night hike with head lamps, and the chance to get up close with live native Ohio wildlife!

The program fee is just \$20/child & \$10/adult (cash, check, or credit card). The deadline to register and pay is 5:00pm on Wednesday, November 4!

To keep everyone safe, we will have staggered drop-off times and face masks will be required when inside the building.

***Patches may be purchased for \$4/each in advance.*



Homeschool Nature Club

9:30 - 11:00am OR 2:00 - 3:30pm

(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 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! **The fee for these innovative programs is only \$3 for BNC Members and \$6 for non-members per class.** *We will be following state health and safety guidelines for Covid-19 - currently all kids in grades K - 12 are required to wear a face mask.*

"Exciting Ecosystems"

Wednesday, November 11 (openings - sign-up now!)

Wednesday, November 18 (FULL)

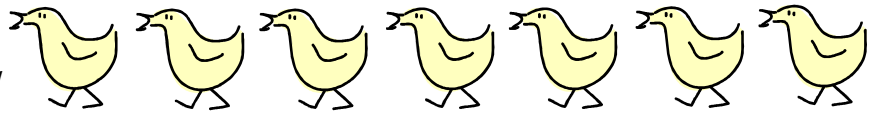
Thursday, November 19 (1 PM spot open)

An ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that work together. There are so many different exciting ecosystems out there to explore like the forest, creek, wetland and more! Join us this November as we discover more about these unique places and the animals that call them home!

Registration Guidelines:

- To pre-register: call 937-698-6493 or email info@bruknernaturecenter.com.
- **WAIT** for an email to confirm you are pre-registered for your chosen time (see above).
- You will then have **3 days to mail a check or drop off payment in our new outdoor dropbox (CASH OR CHECK ONLY).** Please note: If payment is not received within 3 days, your child's spot will open for another child. Final deadline to register and pay is the Monday before class.
- **Mail payments to:** Brukner Nature Center, 5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH 45373
- You may register and pay for one month at a time or for all sessions at once.
- All program fees are non-refundable.

Winter PEEP Session 1



Give the child in your life the gift to play, learn and grow with nature! Let them experience the outdoors using their imagination, free to climb trees and crawl over logs.

Open registration for Winter PEEP Session 1 will begin Monday, November 23 for children currently not enrolled - see details below!

We are planning our Winter PEEP Session 1 as an in-person class with a few changes! Class sizes will be limited to 10 children and the classes will be 1.5 hours of mostly outdoor activity (always dress for the weather - winter coat, boots, gloves, etc). PEEP is geared specifically for children ages 3 – 5 years old, who are potty-trained and not attending Kindergarten or being homeschooled. We will be following the state guidelines for covid-19.

Sessions are offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00am, or Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:30pm. Winter PEEP Session 1 will run from January 4 – February 12.

Cost for Winter PEEP Session 1:

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

(CASH OR CHECK ONLY)

Please follow this NEW registration process:

- Email info@bruknernaturecenter.com and provide your child's name, age, birthdate, and phone number.
- List your top 3 choices for class (see options above).
- **WAIT** for an email to confirm your child is now registered and which day they will be attending. If we do not have the minimum number of kids registered for a particular day, your child may be moved to your second or third choice of class.
- You will then have **3 days to mail a check or drop off payment - CASH OR CHECK ONLY!** If you are dropping of payment, you may leave payment in the drop-box by our front door. If payment is not received within 3 days, your child's spot will open for another child.
- **Mail payments to:** Brukner Nature Center, 5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH 45373
- Medical Consent Forms: Must be completed prior to the start of PEEP if one isn't already on file. Forms can be found online at bruknernaturecenter.com/assets/bnc_medical-consent-form.pdf.
- 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.



Memberships are the gift that keeps giving!

Looking for a way to share the cool opportunities offered at Brukner Nature Center? Gift memberships are the perfect option and members are admitted free of charge every day of the year, with the opportunity to enjoy the trails and have a wildlife encounter! Members also receive discounts on programs, 10% off all sales in our Nature Shop, invitations to member's only events and reciprocal benefits at over 160 nature centers across the United States! Come support wildlife conservation!

Winter Vacation Camps

Monday, December 23

9:00am - 12:00pm

"Winter Wildlife Myths"

Monday, December 21 and

Tuesday, December 22

Kids in grades K-5th

9:30am - 11:30am



When the air turns frigid and the frost settles on the windows, children fill with anticipation of winter vacation. Sign your child up for a morning of exploration and fill their new found free time with fun and learning. **Register today for one or both days; Monday's topic is mammals and Tuesday's topic is birds!** During this winter vacation we will investigate the truth behind some popular wildlife myths! Do all birds migrate for winter? Do squirrels really hibernate? Come meet our wildlife ambassadors and learn what's fact and what's fiction!

PRICE PER DAY OF CAMP:

\$15 for BNC Members • \$20 for non-members

(may register for 1 or 2 days)

cash or check

Deadline: Wednesday, December 16 by 5:00pm

Matching Gifts Make a Difference



Did you know that many companies sponsor a matching gift program? Employees can make a donation to a non-profit organization and their company will match, double or triple the donation! A few companies that participate in this type of program are: Abbott Laboratories, Cargill, Caterpillar, Collins Aerospace, Dannon, Emerson, and Illinois Tool Works. We encourage you talk to your HR department about the donation requirements as most have a minimum and maximum amount that they allow. Check-out your employer's online matching gift portal or mail a hard copy form if you would like to participate - you will also receive a tax letter for your records! We can't thank you enough!

Wishlist...



Wildlife: Lysol disinfecting spray, Clorox wipes, disposable non-latex exam gloves (size M/L), Cheerios (plain), timothy hay, fresh fruit & vegetables, moist & dry cat food, dry dog food, *He* laundry detergent pods, bleach, 30 gallon force flex trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, live mealworms, live wax worms, packaged hard-shelled nuts (acorns, walnuts, etc), black oil sunflower seed, mixed seed, gift cards to Rural King, Lowes, Tractor Supply and Petco.

Nature Education: Gift cards to Kroger, Amazon, and Jay & Mary's Book Center, jumbo clear hand soap refill, jumbo hand sanitizer refill, sanitizer wipes, washable markers, tissues.



AmazonSmile: Log-in to Amazon, go to the upper right of the screen and click on the Wish List menu. Scroll down to "find a wish list". Enter the our e-mail address: info@bruknernaturecenter.com, click "add to cart" to purchase an item. Done!



Coffee Fridays...

Brukner Blend was personally and specifically developed by Winans with Brukner Nature Center's values taken to heart. Order your Brukner Blend, bird-friendly coffee, by calling 937-698-6493 or emailing info@bruknernaturecenter.com.

Available in ground or whole coffee beans.

\$7.50 (8 oz. bag) and \$14.00 (16 oz. bag)

****Pair it with one of our mugs for an additional \$25**

Brukner 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