

2016 OCVN State Conference

AGENDA



Friday October 7_Pre-Conference workshop 'Wading Into Wetlands'
12 noon to 4:00pm **\$20**

Black Fork Wetland
Environmental Studies Center
2628 Ashland Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Friday October 7_Networking Dinner and Earth Science Teaching Demos
5:00pm-8:00pm **\$20**

Spring Mill Learning Center
21200 Nestor Drive
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

Dr. Patricia Saunders, Professor, Ashland University, will first highlight the latest findings from her wetland research. Experienced outdoor educators, Herb Broda and Janet Ellsworth, will then help you try out easy to lead activities that will incorporate the research and quickly engage your audience in a wetland discovery! Wear non-slip footwear for board walk and bring hip waders if you plan to enter wetland as well as extra clothes in case you get wet. Fee includes lunch and materials.

Join us for a catered dinner and science education demonstration at the state of the art Spring Mill Learning Center. Spring Mill is a STEM based facility of the Mansfield City Schools. Network with OCVNs around the state, get a tour of this state of the art STEM facility while learning about earth science lessons you can take home with you.



Full Day Conference

OSU Mansfield,
1760 University Drive
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
\$35

OSU Mansfield

Julie Zickefoose,
writer, artist,
naturalist, is our
keynote speaker!

Nestled among 640 acres of scenic woodlands, The Ohio State University at Mansfield has become a destination of choice for aspiring Buckeyes throughout Northeast Ohio. The conference will begin in Ovalwood Hall.

8:00-9:00am Coffee and light breakfast in Ovalwood Hall

9:00-9:15 Welcome

9:15-9:30 Awards Ceremony

9:30-10:30 Key note—Julie Zickefoose, Natural History Writer/Artist/Naturalist *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016) is perhaps the ultimate self-guided natural history exploration. Author/artist Julie Zickefoose describes her path in bringing it to publication including formative books and amazing experiences, raising nestling birds from hummingbirds and swifts to thrashers, for study and eventual release.

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-noon Breakout Session I, Classroom_Ovalwood Hall

1) Findings from Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II: Translating breeding bird research into education and interpretative programs - Matthew Shumar, Research Associate, The Ohio State University

Matthew will share key findings from the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II and share tips on how observing breeding behavior in birds can lead to exciting insights about species' distributions and their relationships with the natural world.

2) Photography: Its role in Environmental Education/ Interpretation and Conservation - Nina Harfmann, Photonaturalist

Join Nina for a presentation of her Little Pond Project, The Seasons of a Vernal Pool as she helps us appreciate the value of photography in conservation of the natural world. Then, Nina, with Tim Daniel, ODNR, will share tips and techniques for capturing the intricate beauty of nature in a photograph.

3) Meeting Current Challenges to Ohio's Forests - Kathy Smith, Program Director Forestry, OSUE

Our forests are changing in Ohio due to pressures from invasive species. We will explore how you can help audiences understand how to manage and protect our forest resources. We will start inside with an overview of invasive species and their impacts. We will end the session outside with a walk in the woods to get a hands on look at what is happening in Ohio's forests.

4) Herpetology - Josh Dyer, Naturalist Crawford Parks

Josh will share his techniques for igniting the joy of discovery through herpetology.



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Noon – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00-2:00pm Panel Discussion on State Level Priorities and Need for OCVNs

This panel will highlight some strategic priorities and volunteer needs of major conservation organizations in Ohio to help you learn more about key areas of natural significance as well as to learn more about how to match your knowledge and skills with some high impact service opportunities. Bill Stanley, The Nature Conservancy Ohio Chapter. Mindy Bankey, Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Jennifer Windus, Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association.

2:00-3:15 Breakout Session II, Classrooms Ovalwood Hall

1) Climate Change Information & Educational Resources Jason Cervenec and Aaron Wilson, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, State Climate Office of Ohio

For more than two and a half decades, peer reviewed science, government agency reports, and international panel publications have described the science and impacts of climate change. While the underlying physics and chemistry of the greenhouse effect are straightforward, details of climate change and the impacts of these changes on infrastructure and populations are more complex. This session will provide an overview of the greenhouse effect, outline climate change impacts already being experienced in Ohio, and share a number of reliable science resources for further reading. In addition, this session will discuss a growing body of online climate change education resources and the importance of teaching the nature of science. Time will be provided at the end of the session for questions.

2) Sustainable Pollinators Partnerships: Plant Lessons to Last Beyond the School Year - Colleen M. Sharkey, is environmental educator and naturalist for Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

Discover what makes native pollinator conservation such an effective way to engage students and teachers in hands-on science exploration. This workshop will explore a case study, focusing on steps needed to create lasting, successful pollinator gardens with schools and other community organizations. Participants will learn basics in bee identification and behavior, try out activities curated from several published curriculum guides, and take away garden schedules, plant lists, and example garden designs.

3) Tips and Tricks for Working with Kids. Herb Broda, OCVN, Professor Emeritus, author, outdoor education specialist.

Join us for a lively session focusing on effective ways to design energizing outdoor learning sessions for children from grades Pre-K to 8th grade. We will focus on the nuts and bolts of outdoor learning, some grade level specific tips, and a suggested template for an outdoor session.

4) Citizen Science: Getting involved in Ohio's Credible Data Program - Jared Burson, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Credible Data Program.

The Ohio EPA has established a program where watershed groups, community associations, educators, local government organizations, and private sector businesses can collect water quality data to help monitor and assess the health of our state's streams and rivers. Come learn how the Credible Data program operates, how you can get involved in surface water monitoring and what current opportunities are available. Following the talk we will make our way down to the creek for a stream side demonstration.

3:30-3:45 Closing comments and evaluation