



The Bartram Foundation

Winter 2025 Digest



Coming Soon!

Grand Opening This Spring - The Bartram Nature Center!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming opening of our brand-new **Bartram Nature Center** — a space designed for learning, exploring, gathering, and growing. This center will serve as the heart of our mission, offering opportunities for individuals, families, and classrooms to engage directly with our natural world.

What to Look Forward To:

- Interactive workshops
- Hands-on conservation programs
- Guided nature hikes
- Seasonal retreats
- Youth science classes
- Community volunteer days
- Pollinator and native gardens
- And much more!

This opening marks a major milestone for our foundation — and we can't wait to welcome you through the doors!



Why It Matters

Every preserved acre, every planted seedling, every workshop taught, and every child inspired is an investment in a healthier, greener future. Together, we are building a legacy that honors the past while protecting tomorrow. Please Consider Donating to The Bartram Foundation today and help continue our mission of *Preserving Today for Their Tomorrow*





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Top Story!



Submitted photo: PJ Amarillo

Aurora Over Ohio

By Bea Mills

A Rare Night of Magic Above the Buckeye State

As autumn settled in this month, Ohioans were treated to a breathtaking surprise: streaks of shimmering green, soft pink, and faint red drifting across the night sky. This unusual sighting of the Northern Lights was the result of a strong geomagnetic storm — the kind of cosmic event that very rarely reaches this far south.

While the show lasted only a few hours, the glow touched the horizon like a watercolor painting, leaving light chasers, photographers, and wide-eyed families standing beneath the quiet spectacle. Events like this remind us how alive our skies truly are, even when nature decides to keep her wonders hidden most nights.

Sky Watching Tips:

- **Best Time:** Late evening to early morning, when the skies are darkest.
- **Lighting:** Go somewhere away from street lights for the clearest view.
- **Be Patient:** Night-sky phenomena ebb and flow — give your eyes time to adjust.
- **Bundle Up:** Cooler temperatures can help reduce haze, but it gets chilly fast!

Whether you captured it with a camera or simply paused to soak it in, this celestial display was a gift — one we hope to see again as solar activity continues through the season.





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Top Story Continued



Storeria dekayi, commonly known as De Kay's brownsnake

Fall Fades Into Winter

By Bea Mills

Ohio's Colors Shift as the Season Turns

This year's transition from fall to winter has been as dramatic as it has been beautiful. Leaves shifted early in some regions and lingered late in others, creating a patchwork of rust, gold, and fading greens across the state.

As temperatures begin to drop, many trees have already shed their leaves, preparing for the quiet stillness of winter. Others — especially stubborn species like beech — cling to their foliage, rattling softly in the wind as though reluctant to surrender to the cold.

Outdoor Tips for Cooler Weather:

- **Layer Up:** Morning and evening hours cool rapidly.
- **Watch the Wind:** Gusts make temperatures feel much colder on trails and overlooks.
- **Bring Gloves & Warm Headwear:** Your extremities lose heat first.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Cold weather masks thirst, but your body still needs water.
- **Plan for Early Dusk:** Sunset arrives quicker — keep track of trail times.

As the last leaf falls and frost begins to glisten on fields and branches, Ohio's natural world enters a new season of reflection, rest, and quiet beauty.





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More good things!

Winter Hiking Tips and Tricks!

With the Winter temps coming - don't forget to dress for wintry success while out there getting your nature on! And, remember to always bring hydration!



<https://americanhiking.org/resources/col-d-weather-hiking/>

Calendar of Events Coming Soon!

Stay tuned as we continue working hard opening our NEW location! Look forward to new programs, workshops, classes and courses to really immerse yourself into our great outdoors! Family and Kid friendly programs will be available in addition to our more challenging adventures. To Join our E-Mail list, please notify us at bartramfoundation@gmail.com

Submissions WELCOME!



Have you been up to some ninja type amazing nature work? Have a great story about a project or something you've learned? Or maybe have some fantastic pics to share - email

bartramfoundation@gmail.com

MentionWorthy:

Happy Birthday, Albert Einstein

From the Good to the Bad.. Easy to spot Invasives in Ohio during Winter



Spring and Summer are not the only times to battle the invasive plants - late Fall thru early Spring are a great time to spot these troublesome creepers! Here's a really nice article from In Vivo Bonsai at TurtleHead Cave in Strouds Run, Athens! (Great place to check out!)

<https://www.invibonsai.com/2024/04/winter-invasive-plant-id-at-turtle-cave.html>

Nature has gone to the BIRDS!



Winter bird counts are coming and EVERYONE is invited to help! Monitoring our birds helps conservation efforts with proper counts, it just takes dedicated volunteers - like us! Join us this winter on location, or check out the link below with county contacts in your region.

<https://ohiobirds.org/resources/winter-counts/>





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Our Vision:

To protect Ohio's natural areas, restore native ecosystems, and inspire people of all ages to connect with the outdoors—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

What We Do:

- **Preserve Land & Wildlife** – Safeguarding forests, fields, waterways, and habitats for the plants and animals that call them home.
- **Restore Native Ecosystems** – Reclaiming and renewing land through native plantings, habitat restoration, and sustainable stewardship.
- **Inspire Outdoor Exploration** – Encouraging hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, gardening, and stargazing to foster a lifelong love of nature.
- **Provide Education & Skills** – Hosting workshops, classes, and retreats that teach environmental science, land management, and outdoor skills.
- **Support Conservation Research** – Collecting field data to guide future conservation efforts and possibly rediscover lost or undiscovered species.
- **Build Community Connections** – Bringing together families, schools, volunteers, and partner organizations to create a united force for nature.

Why It Matters:

We believe every person—especially children—should have a safe, welcoming space to experience the wonder of the outdoors. By preserving land and teaching the value of nature, we are planting the seeds for a healthier, greener, and more connected future.

Join Us:

Volunteer, participate in our programs, or help preserve land for the next generation. Every effort, big or small, keeps the promise of nature alive.

Who It Matters To:

Our President, George Bartram—descended from John Bartram, America's first botanist—continues a family legacy of exploration and stewardship. The foundation's work reflects that ongoing commitment to preserving the natural world for generations to come.

[CLICK TO DONATE TODAY](#)

