

# THE CURRENT

Newsletter of River Fields, Inc.

January 2026

PHOTO BY JOSHUA CANTER, UNSPLASH

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

### GREETINGS, RIVER FIELDS FAMILY!

Happy 2026! On behalf of the River Fields Board of Trustees and staff, I'd like to express joy and gratitude for how much you supported us in 2025. We

continued the work we've done for more than a half century, protecting 2,300 acres of beautiful conservation easements and managing 65 acres for the benefit of the public. We engaged with decisionmakers on important planning issues like the hazard of data centers on agricultural land and the need for a comprehensive concept for improvement of existing parks on River Road. We

worked with dozens of other like-minded organizations to help form the Ohio River Restoration Plan.

We also laid out a master plan for Garvin Brown Nature Preserve and

a three-year renaturalization plan for our Lime Kiln property that we hope will be a model for other properties. We ran about 30 hours of nature-based programming in wondrously beautiful landscapes,

ready to roll into 2026 with lots of ambition and excitement.

We were able to do all of this because of you - our engaged and committed community. Thank you,



PHOTO BY GINGER JORDAN UNSPLASH

and started a partnership with the Home of the Innocents for teen nature education. And we welcomed two new talented and thoughtful Trustees - Eric Towell and Chris Nation. Those were just a few of 2025's milestones and we are

and let's dig into 2026 knowing that we're protecting land, water, history, and culture - together.

*Kristin Faurest*  
*President and CEO, River Fields*  
[kristin@riverfields.org](mailto:kristin@riverfields.org)

# OUT IN THE FIELDS: 2026 PROGRAMS!

## 2026 PROGRAMMING

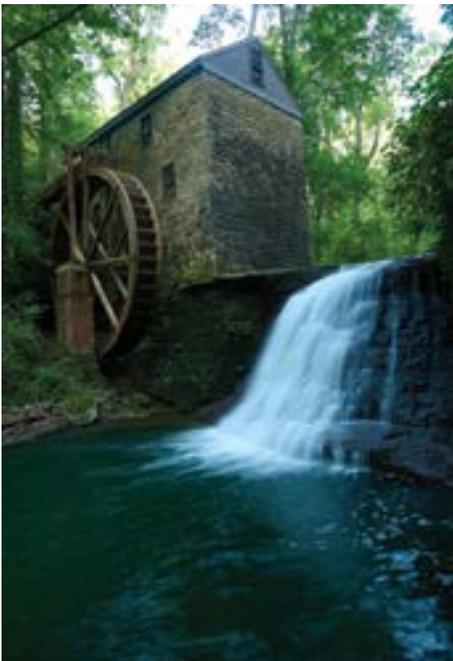
EXPLORE LAND, WATER,  
AND HISTORY WITH  
RIVER FIELDS!

Winter is, around the world, a season for preparation but also for celebration - and we're celebrating our most ambitious programming slate to date. Don't forget: when you purchase a membership so you can join our programs, you also help us provide these same programs free of charge for teenagers in foster care with the Home of the Innocents! Thanks for helping us build the next generation of stewards.



## SECRETS OF A LATE WINTER FOREST

Sunday, February 22, 10 a.m.  
Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm



Unlock the mysteries of trees in the deep winter with the marvelous Renee Frith, and find clues of how to ID trees when they aren't wearing leaves! Slow pace for about a mile with little elevation gain on a dirt trail with some uneven terrain.



## WILDFLOWER AND WILDLIFE TOUR

Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m. Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm

Follow wildlife biologist Gary Libby through the fresh spring landscape of Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm as he identifies native wildflowers. See if you can spot the once-endangered running buffalo clover. Slow pace for about a mile with little elevation gain, on an earthen trail that goes over some uneven terrain.

## BIRDING TOUR

Sunday, May 10, 10 a.m. Hays Kennedy Park and Garvin Brown Nature Preserve

Take an ornithological odyssey with the inimitable Lee Payne

through Hays Kennedy Park and our Garvin Brown Nature Preserve to seek out songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. The walk will also include a brief talk about the rich history of the neighborhood, one of the area's earliest free Black settlements. Slow-paced for about



two miles on flat, smooth terrain that alternates between earthen trail and grass field.

## EDYALMOOR ESTATE TOUR

Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m. Kingfish on River Road

Come with biologist Gina Bergner to stroll and hear stories about

the places, people, and plants that make up the historic wonder of the



private estate of Edyalmoor. Slow pace, mostly flat, for less than a mile on grass.

## **GARVIN BROWN NATURE WALK + CYANOTYPE WORKSHOP**

**Sunday, July 12, Garvin Brown  
Nature Preserve 10 a.m.**

Learn from biologist Gina Bergner about the natural history of Garvin Brown and capture your experience by making a cyanotype print from natural materials you gather there! Slow pace for about two miles on flat, smooth terrain that alternates between dirt trail and grass field.

## **PADDLING TOUR ON HARRODS CREEK + WATERWAYS CLEANUP**



**August, date TBD, Harrods  
Creek, location TBD, 10 a.m.**

**In partnership with River City  
Paddle Sports**

Get out on the water, be a good waterway steward, and have a blast! We're partnering once again with River City Paddle Sports to paddle our way down the creek while we talk about creek ecology, look for waterfowl, and do a little cleanup. This program requires getting in and out of a canoe, and paddling slowly for about two hours. Beginners are welcome: Voyageur canoes hold several people and are very stable and easy to paddle. Personal flotation devices will be provided and required.

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY ADVENTURE**



**September, date TBD, 10 a.m.  
Garvin Brown Nature Preserve**

**In partnership with Waterfront  
Botanical Gardens**

Immerse yourself in the magic of monarchs - from their astonishing migration to the plants they depend upon to their widespread cultural significance, presenter Bob Jones covers it all! We'll start with a short classroom presentation at Waterfront Botanical Gardens and then proceed to Garvin Brown Preserve, nets and tags in hand so we can track the monarchs on their epic journey. The classroom portion is fully accessible. Slow pace for about two miles on flat, smooth terrain that alternates between dirt trail and grass field.

## **FALL TREE WALK**

**Date and time: October, date  
TBD, 10 a.m.**

**Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm**



Play seek and find in the woods of Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm on our last program of 2026! This fun walk will have you looking for fall color, finding clues about how trees heal themselves, and measuring tree circumference to identify the giants in the forest. About two miles of distance over irregular terrain on an earthen path, with some off-trail walking as well.



## **PROGRAM SIGN UP**

- Programs are free and available to members only. If you're not a member, go to <https://riverfields.org/ways-to-give/> to become one. Then, to secure your spot(s), email [kristin@riverfields.org](mailto:kristin@riverfields.org) with the program name and how many guests. Reservations are required. Members can bring one guest free of charge to any programs.
- Level of difficulty/accessibility is described for each program, but please email [kristin@riverfields.org](mailto:kristin@riverfields.org) with questions!



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[RIVERFIELDS.ORG](https://riverfields.org)

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**MEMBERSHIP**



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