

MEMBER NEWS

January-March 2021



Aullwood Audubon





“One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating.”
 — Luciano Pavarotti

Director’s Corner

Alexis R. Faust
 Executive Director

The Porkiest Pork

I don’t think I’ve ever written my column about food, but I am this time. Specifically, about pork. Please wait for it — because there is a conservation story in here, I promise.

We recently, and reverently, sent our Red Wattle pigs to the butcher. They have now been returned to us as beautiful sausage, bacon, roasts, bone-in chops, and ham steaks. This particular breed of pig, the Red Wattle, is on the Livestock Conservancy’s threatened species list. Only about 300 of them are registered each year. And believe it or not, one of the best ways to preserve a heritage animal is by eating it.

Enjoying the culinary delights of this animal is one sure fire way of keeping the breed going. If people enjoy this heritage meat in their local restaurants, or on their own dinner tables, it is much more likely to stick around. It’s simply the law of supply and demand. And if we don’t save this breed, we are losing a piece of genetic history and diversity that we can never get back.

Many times — and this is definitely one of those cases — heritage meat is much more flavorful than your average supermarket meat. Red wattle pork is deep red and super delicious. As Brooklyn chef Mike Poiarkoff says in a *Saveur* article, “It’s the porkiest pork you can get, the purest expression of how a pig should taste.” Now that is an endorsement. And it’s right here, in your backyard, at Aullwood Farm.

Come in and get some before it’s all gone. And don’t forget your eggs, honey and whole milk from Fresh Start Jersey Dairy while you’re here.



The Red Wattle pig



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Director’s Corner:
 The Porkiest Pork 2
- Naturally Curious:
 The Eastern Box
 Turtle 3
- Winter Speaker
 Series 2021 4-5
- Volunteer Corner 6
- Business
 Partnerships 7
- Announcements &
 Updates 7
- Aullwood Program
 & Class Calender 8-9
- Community
 Partners 10
- Memorials/ Tributes/
 Thank Yous 10
- Aull Society 11
- Chris Rowlands’
 “Polar Bear” 12



Cover Photo:
 Barred-Owl.
 Audubon Photo. Jen-DeVos



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The Eastern Box Turtle

By Sean Mormino
Environmental Educator

“Turtles, turtles, turtles!” Aullwood staff have often heard these words from young children, eager to visit their favorite animal. It is heart-warming. People of all ages are fascinated by turtles. Their long necks, slow movements, and hard shell give them a prehistoric look.

The Eastern box turtle (*Terapene carolina carolina*), as its name suggests, is found in the eastern part of the United States. They are native to Ohio and live in various habitats all across the State. They get the name “box turtle” from a hinge located on their plastron, or the underside of their shell. This hinge allows them to completely enclose their body into their shell for protection from predators. During the winter months, a box turtle will dig into a burrow, close up its shell, and rest until spring returns.

The Eastern box turtle is typically identified by the bright orange and yellow coloration on the carapace, or top of the shell. Each turtle has its own unique patterning that allows it to camouflage easily on grounds littered with leaves, dirt, moss, and grasses. Males and females can be distinguished by several varying characteristics. Males will have a shorter, stubby tail. They also have a slight indent on their plastron while the female’s is flat. Males often have bright orange eyes; however, this is not always the case since females have sometimes shown this characteristic as well.

Don’t let the box turtle’s webbed feet fool you — this turtle prefers to live on land. They enjoy homes in marshlands, forest edges, and in deep woodlands. These habitats provide a rich environment full of their favorite foods which include mushrooms, fruit, roots, insects and worms. Aullwood’s box turtles are big fans of strawberries!

The Eastern box turtle is listed as a “species of concern” in the State of Ohio, meaning their populations are dwindling and it is unlawful to remove them from the wild. It is also illegal to use them in any form of pet trade. If you find a turtle in the wild, be sure to leave it in its natural environment where it can thrive and multiply!



Eastern box turtle



Sean Mormino



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www.facebook.com/AullwoodAudubon



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Visit us on the web
www.aullwood.org



Contact us by email
AskUs@aullwood.org

Conservation Champions – Winter Speaker Series 2021

Friends of Aullwood Board of Trustees

July 1, 2020 –
June 30, 2021

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This year's online speaker series will focus on conservation champions in a variety of communities, including our own. Individuals can have tremendous impact on their communities, oftentimes with very few resources and a life-time of personal commitment. In honor of their achievements, we have a line-up of conservation champions to share with you during this year's series. Register to join us on Zoom at <http://aullwood.audubon.org/WSS>. \$10.00 non-members, \$5.00 members.



Abinash Agrawal, Ph.D.

*Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences,
Wright State University*

January 10th • 2:30 p.m.

What are PFAS?

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances — also known as PFAS — are a group of manmade chemicals that came into use in the 1950s and 1960s in a wide variety of industries that manufacture products such as nonstick cookware, firefighting foams, fast food wrappers, and microwave popcorn containers. These chemicals are used in literally thousands of products around the globe. In 2016, communities in 27 states discovered that their drinking water was contaminated by PFAS compounds. Learn more about what these compounds are, how they get into our drinking water, and what health risks have been connected to these chemicals.

Sarah Hippensteel Hall

*Manager, Watershed Partnerships,
Miami Conservancy District*

January 24th • 2:30 p.m.

Rivers and Streams of the Miami Valley — and How Citizens can Make a Difference to Protect Them

What is more important than water? Let's talk about rivers and aquifers and how you can take some easy steps to make sure clean water is here now and in the future.



Dave Nolin

President, Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

January 31st • 2:30 p.m.

Pearl's Fen: the Protection and Restoration of a Diverse and Beautiful Wetland

The Dayton region once had many fens and wet prairies that were home to a rich diversity of life, but most of them have been lost to land development and agricultural conversion. This presentation will focus on how one of these diverse and beautiful wetlands was identified, protected, and restored to its original wonder.

Winter Speaker Series 2021

will be held on the following Sunday afternoons:
January 10, 24 and 31 and February 7, 21, and 28



Joe Brehm

*Environmental Education Director,
Rural Action*

February 7th • 2:30 p.m.

Wayne National Forest: A Forest and its Watersheds Return

Learn about Ohio's only National Forest, an area that was heavily impacted by acid mine drainage from the coal mining industry. Joe will speak on its history, current restoration and the revival of watershed communities in pursuit of a healthy ecosystem capable of supporting biodiversity once again.

Hope Taft, *Little Miami Watershed Network
and*

Bill Schieman, *Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist*

February 21 • 2:30 p.m.

Little Miami River: Ohio's First Scenic River

Zoom in to learn more about the Little Miami River. Do you know how Ohio got the country's first scenic river program and its Dayton connection? Did you know the Little Miami River once flowed north? Learn more interesting facts about Ohio's first state and national scenic river.



Aaron Rourke

*Scenic Rivers Southwest Regional Manager,
Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

February 28th • 2:30 p.m.

Surprising Success of the Stillwater River

Learn about the current state of the Stillwater River, and the conservation efforts and recent findings that make this scenic river in an urban setting so special.

**Jan. 10, 24, 31
Feb. 7, 21, 28
2:30 p.m.**

Mike Mushala





Volunteer Corner 2021

January • February • March

By Nenita Lapitan
Volunteer & Rental Services Manager

The enthusiasm of our volunteer team to collaborate with us and to take on new tasks and processes to keep Aullwood operating during these past months is downright humbling. Your dedication allowed Aullwood to open its doors this past July (one of the first Audubon Nature Centers in the Network), and to continue operating in our community — giving members and the general public a respite from the stressors of the pandemic.

We are incredibly appreciative of each of you who have stepped forward to support us during this challenging time.

A special thank you to our Birdseed Volunteers who helped us with the annual Friends of Aullwood Birdseed Sale. It was a great success thanks to the wonderful leadership of FoA Board Member Teri Shirk and the staff and volunteers who supported this important fundraising event.



Board and local volunteers make the Birdseed Sale a snap!



Buy and Donate Business Partnerships

All of these partnerships support Aullwood's high quality educational programs for children. Help Aullwood by registering today!

Kroger Community Rewards Program



You can shop till you drop and support Aullwood at the same time with only a few easy steps!

1. Visit www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com
2. Sign in or Login to your account.
3. Make Aullwood Audubon your charity of choice. Aullwood's Charity ID Number YN601.
4. Shop at Kroger as normal and a portion of your sale will support all of Aullwood's programs for local children!
5. You will know you are giving to Aullwood when you see at the bottom of your receipt: "At your request, Kroger is donating to Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm."

Dorothy Lane Market's Good Neighbor Program



Please keep in mind you must re-enroll each year for the good Neighbor Program. It's easy to join the DLM Good Neighbor Program.

1. Visit www.DorothyLane.com.
2. Click "Club DLM" in the bar across the top.
3. Click on "Good Neighbor Program."
4. Type in your First & Last Name, Email and Club Card Number.
5. Select Aullwood Audubon as your charity and click "Enroll Now."

AmazonSmile



Support Aullwood when you shop at Amazon!

1. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and login to Amazon as normal.
2. Type in Friends of Aullwood, Inc. as your Charitable Organization.
3. Aullwood will receive 0.5% on the price of eligible items purchased!

It's simple and easy and makes a big difference for Aullwood!

Call Laurie Cothran at 937-890-7360 ext. 216 for more details.

Announcements, Changes and Updates

As we continue to learn how to navigate the COVID pandemic, we are constantly searching for ways to better serve our members and our community while at the same time keeping our volunteers and staff, and you, safe. To that end, we have made some changes to our schedule in the coming months and have added some new programs and some traditional ones! Details can be found in our Program Calendar and on our website and social media channels.

New Schedule! Out of an abundance of caution, and due to the surge in COVID cases locally, our hours will be shortened in January and February. We will only be officially open to the public at the farm entrance on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nature Center Parking Lot Reopens! The Nature Center Parking Lot at 1000 Aullwood Road will reopen in January and February on Mondays-Thursdays for your hiking pleasure. The nature center building will remain closed and there will be no access to restrooms or the farm on those days of the week. Please remember that you must vacate the parking lot by 5:00 p.m. or you will be locked in!

Another Bird Seed Sale! Many of you indicated that you would like to see a second bird seed sale in February so we have added this to our offerings. If you are on our bird seed mailing list, you will receive a postcard in January for your pre-order. If you are not on our list and want to be added, please call 937-890-7360 and let us know! This sale, like the first, will be pre-order only. Place your birdseed order by visiting <https://aullwood.audubon.org/SeedOrder> or calling Aullwood at 937-890-7360.

Winter Speaker Series Moves to Zoom! Our very popular speaker series will move to Zoom this year. There will be a connection fee of \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members for each lecture.

Sugar Bush Walks are Back! We're going to be making maple syrup in the Sugar House this year! Join an environmental educator and take a walk

through our Sugarbush. Learn about photosynthesis, identify trees by bark, twig and bud, look for birds and other critters who live in the Sugarbush, observe sap collection and watch volunteers make maple syrup with a wood-fired evaporator. Check our calendar for walk times.

Rent-a-Bucket Again! After a hiatus of two years, the Friends of Aullwood is once again sponsoring Rent-a-Bucket! For a donation of \$35, (\$15 tax deductible), you can have the name of your choice attached to one of the buckets hanging from a tapped sugar maple tree at Aullwood Farm. In recognition of your support, you will receive a half-pint of Aullwood maple syrup, delicious on pancakes and waffles. Your maple syrup may be picked up in March when we are open to the public or mailed to you for an additional postal charge of \$8.00. To place your order, please go to <https://aullwood.audubon.org/RentABucket> or call Aullwood at 937-890-7360.

Pancake Brunch Becomes a Pancake Box Brunch! Worried about missing our delicious Pancake Brunch this year? Never fear, we have designed a special Pancake Brunch Box just for you and your family! You can choose from a two-person or four-person box. Each box will include pancake mix, eggs, sausage, and our special maple syrup – everything you need to recreate and cook our traditional breakfast at home. Gluten-free options are available. Pre-ordered boxes will be available for pick-up at the farm parking lot at 9101 Frederick Pike. Stay tuned to our social media for pricing and more information.

2021 Aullwood Program and Class Calendar



January 2021 Programs

Aullwood Audubon Programs: Important Information & Guidelines

Aullwood is following the recommendations from government officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Dept. of Health and the National Audubon Society. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible there are important guidelines and procedures for Aullwood programs. Guidelines are subject to change as State mandates change. The safety of our members, volunteers and staff is our top priority. Preregistration is required to attend any walks or programs. Call 937-890-7360 to preregister for programs.

Programs begin promptly at their scheduled start time, are weather dependent and are cancelled if there is thunder, lightning or heavy rain. Participants will be contacted via email should a program be cancelled.

If you or someone in your household is sick, stay home. Do not visit Aullwood if you have a fever, persistent cough or shortness of breath.

We will follow social distancing during programs and keep at least a 6-foot social distance.

Masks are required when inside any building. Masks are required outdoors, when unable to keep at least a 6-foot social distance from those not in your household.

Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after your visit.

Programs are to take place outdoors unless severe weather threatens, participants need to use the restroom or there is an emergency.

If guests are not following social distancing and other guidelines, we may be forced to cancel programs.

Aullwood has a fantastic Winter Speaker Series to chase away the winter blues; join us via Zoom to meet these “Conservation Champions” (fee applies). Due to the continuing COVID restrictions, beginning January 2, Aullwood will only be open Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adult Discovery Walks (Members Only) *These walks will now meet in the parking lot of the Nature Center.* Please note that participants will be unable to access the Nature Center. Walk along Aullwood’s trails searching for birds and other nature finds! Bring binoculars. You must preregister for walks by calling 937-890-7360 or register on Aullwood’s website at aullwood.org. There is a limit of 10 members on a walk at a time. Please be ready and waiting on the main sidewalk of the Nature Center at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the walk. The walk starts promptly at the scheduled start time and ends promptly at the scheduled end time. Adult Discovery Walks are a benefit for members and there is no cost to attend.

Project FeederWatch (Members and Non-Members) Please visit Aullwood’s website at aullwood.org for a list of dates and times for this program. Meet new people, share stories and help count birds virtually. Our bird counts help contribute to scientific studies at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Visit the Cornell website feederwatch.org for more information. There is no cost to participate in our virtual event.



January 4 & 5 – Project FeederWatch – 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

January 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 – Aullwood Audubon Open to Public



January 7, 14, 21, 28 – Adult Discovery Walk - 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Center)

January 10 – Winter Speaker Series – Abinash Agrawal, Ph.D – Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences – “PFAS” via Zoom

January 18 & 19 – Project FeederWatch – 9:30 am-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

January 18 – Aullwood Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday



January 24 – Winter Speaker Series – Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Rivers and Streams of the Miami Valley – and How Citizens can Make a Difference to Protect Them – 2:30-3:15 p.m. via Zoom

January 31 – Winter Speaker Series – Dave Nolin, Pearl’s Fen: the Protection and Restoration of a Diverse and Beautiful Wetland – 2:30-3:15 p.m. via Zoom



February 2021 Programs

Count birds for science and be inspired by people working to protect the environment. If you are ready to restock your birdseed, this is the perfect time to pre-order more as we are holding a second Birdseed Sale this month. Explore the Sugarbush and make discoveries about the woods in winter; warm up inside the Sugar House as you observe sap being boiled into maple syrup!

Self-guided Family

Activity: "Whooooo Loves Owls?" (Members and Non-Members) February is nesting time for these fascinating raptors. Can you name the eight common owls of Ohio? Find a quiz sheet from the Farm Desk and match the facts with the pictures. You will learn "owl" about them!

Great Backyard Bird Count (Members and Non-Members) Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days, people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations. You can count birds anytime during these four days, you can also join us on Monday, February 15 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. when we will combine the GBBC with Project FeederWatch. See our information about Project FeederWatch (above/ below) on how to pre-register. For more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count, go to: www.birdcount.org.

February 1 & 2 – Project FeederWatch – 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

February 4, 11, 18, 25 –

Adult Discovery Walk – 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Center)

February 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 –

Aullwood Audubon Open to Public

February 6 – Sugarbush Walks – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 7 – Winter Speaker Series – Joe Brehm, Wayne National Forest: A Forest and its Watersheds Return – 2:30-3:15 p.m. via Zoom

February 7 – Sugarbush Walk – 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 12-15 - Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13 – Sugarbush Walk – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 14 – Sugarbush Walk – 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 15 – Aullwood Closed for President's Day

February 15 & 16 – Project FeederWatch – 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

February 20 – Sugarbush Walks – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 20 – Friends of Aullwood Birdseed Sale (Preorder Only) – 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 21 – Winter Speaker Series – Hope Taft and Bill Schieman, Little Miami River: Ohio's First Scenic River – 2:30-3:15 p.m. via Zoom

February 21 – Sugarbush Walk 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 27 – Sugarbush Walks – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

February 28 – Winter Speaker Series – Speaker Aaron Rourke, Surprising Success of the Stillwater River – 2:30-3:15 p.m. via Zoom

February 28 – Sugarbush Walk – 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Farm)

March 2021 Programs

Please stay tuned to social media for changes to Aullwood's schedule for March, 2021.

Spring arrives on March 20 so it could be a wonderful time to explore Aullwood's trails and habitats to search for early spring migrants and wildflowers. Support Aullwood by purchasing a special Pancake Brunch Box filled with delicious ingredients, items and instructions on how to whip up your own pancake meal at home.

Self-guided Family

Activity: Secrets of the Wind (Members and Non-Members) There are many jobs that people do on a farm to keep it running smoothly. But have you ever thought about the weather? The sun and the rain help plants to grow, but what about the wind? Does the wind have special jobs to do also? Read the signs around the farmyard to find the answers for your self-guided "Secrets of the Wind" walk.

Pancake Box Brunch

Pickup (Members and Non-Members) Worried about missing our delicious Pancake Brunch this year? Never fear, we have designed a special Pancake Brunch Box just for you and your family! You can choose from a two-person or four-person box. Each box will include pancake mix, eggs, sausage, and our special maple syrup – everything you need to recreate and cook our traditional breakfast at home. Gluten-free options are available. Pre-ordered boxes will be available for pick-up at the farm parking lot at 9101 Frederick Pike. Stay tuned to our social media for more details and information.

Chipmunk Adventures: Catch the Wind (Members and Non-Members) How can we see the wind blow? Can we catch the wind with our hands, a bag, or a bucket? How about a kite? Come experiment with us as we "play with the wind" on an early spring day.



March 1 & 2 –

Project FeederWatch – 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

March 4, 11, 18, 25 – Adult Discovery Walk – 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Center)

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Adult Discovery Walk – 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Center)

March 7 – Pancake Brunch Box Pickup – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Farm)

March 29 – Chipmunk Adventures – 10:00-11:45 a.m. "Catch the Wind" (Farm)

March 29 & 30 – Project FeederWatch – 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom



Jennessa Piccirilli

A Special Thanks to our Community Partners

Blue Heron

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Fund of The Dayton Foundation
The Berry Family Foundation
The Dayton Foundation
DP&L Company Foundation
Englewood Friends
Estate of Francis O. Munn
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Warbler

College Women's Club of Dayton
Eabel Brady & Suttman Asset Management
Greenview Garden Club
Illinois Tool Works
Jerardi's Little Store
The Oakwood Schools Foundation
Wild Birds Unlimited

Cardinal

DHL Supply Chain
Stone House Sweets Bakery and Coffee

Memorials / Tributes . . .

In memory of Gary Brown
Richard & Mary Fulweiler

In memory of Alan Dolan
Charity Krueger

In memory of Judith
"Judy" Winters Vavul
Andy, Lori, Richard
and Michael

In memory of Clarence H.
& Constance Q. Westendorf
Katrinka Westendorf

In celebration of the
birthday of Idele Ports
Lynne Kramer

In celebration of the 50th
Wedding Anniversary of
Howard & Becky Marks
Julie M. Frazee

In honor of
Judy McCormick
Beverly Parker

Thank You . . .

Aullwood Audubon gratefully acknowledges donations from the following:

Gary & Cathy
Adler

Jean Bindeman

Mr. and Mrs.
Lawrence Brazie

Cynthia & Fred
Bruns

Richard and
Beverly Cleverly

Dollar General
Literacy
Foundation

Lisa Dorn

Col. Silas Felton

Sue & Ben Fry

Greenview
Garden Club

James Harrison

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Lyons

Judy McCormick

Michael and Amy
Parks

Pam Perilman

Julia Reichart

Beverly Rose

Doug and Sharon
Scholz

Donald Stickle

Become a member of Aullwood now!

Visit our membership page at
<https://aullwood.audubon.org/membership>
for more information or come to

Aullwood Audubon Farm

at 9101 Frederick Pike
to join between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM
on Friday or Saturday,
or between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you back to
Aullwood! If you have questions, please email
AskUs@aullwood.org

Aullwood Staff

Alexis R. Faust
Executive Director

Laurie Cothran
*Development &
Marketing Manager*

Ken Fasimpaur
IT Manager

Bev Holland
*Environmental
Educator*

Nenita Lapitan
*Manager of Volunteer &
Rental Services*

Sam Romeo
Environmental Educator

Chris Rowlands
*Environmental Educator /
Outreach*

Dalynn Sours
Database Assistant

Barbara Trick
Office Manager

Jonah VanRoekel
Farm Assistant

Ryan Walburn
Maintenance Manager

Make a Planned Gift and Become a Member of the Aull Society!

Making gifts to Aullwood from your IRA through a qualified charitable distribution or by naming Friends of Aullwood as a beneficiary of your IRA is a great way to support what you care about and help Aullwood continue to serve our community.

How It Works – Outright Giving

Sometimes called an “IRA Rollover” or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), a gift made directly from your qualified IRA can lower your taxable income.

This gift may only be made by donors age 70½ and older, from qualified IRA accounts.

Charitable giving (up to \$100,000 per tax year) counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Make sure to consult with your tax professional.

Benefits

Meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Pay no income tax on the amount withdrawn for your gift.

Give above your deductible charitable limit of 50% of adjusted gross income.

How It Works – Name Friends of Aullwood as a Beneficiary

Name the Friends of Aullwood, Inc. as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or other qualified plan. (Tax ID #31-0968010)

Designate Friends of Aullwood to receive all or a portion of the balance of your plan through your plan administrator.

The balance in your plan reverts to Friends of Aullwood after your lifetime.

Your gift to Aullwood is not taxed for income nor for the estate because the Friends of Aullwood is a tax-exempt organization.

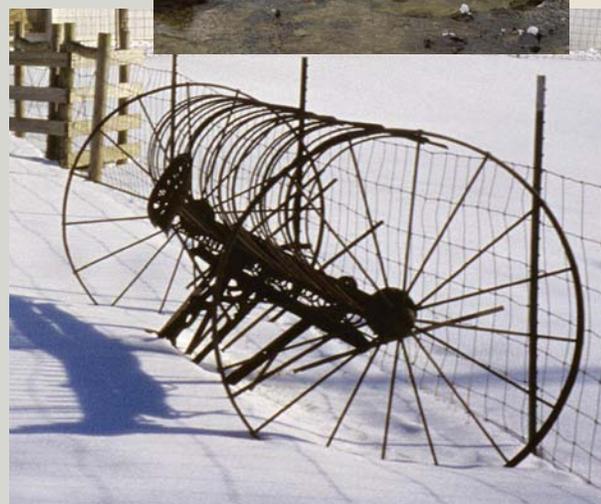
Benefits

Avoid the double taxation your retirement savings would incur if you designated your heir(s) as beneficiary(ies).

Continue to take regular lifetime withdrawals.

You can remove Friends of Aullwood as a beneficiary if your family's needs change.

We're Here To Help. Please contact Laurie Cothran at 937-890-7360 or laurie.cothran@audubon.org for further assistance.



Polar Bear

Ursus maritimus

This cute little male polar bear cub will eventually become the world's largest carnivorous land mammal. He will grow to weigh more than 1,700 pounds. A large female grows to about half that size.

A polar bear's physical adaptations are well suited to its icy habitat. The hollow outer layer of fur helps insulate the bear as well as reflect light, giving the fur a white color. Under its hollow fur, the polar bear's skin is black, helping it to absorb heat. A thick layer of fat helps it trap and hold body heat, even while swimming in cold arctic waters.



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