



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Fall 2011

Calendar of Events

October 1, 9am - noon

Cleanup and Habitat Restoration
(t-shirts and lunch provided)
Shady Lane Preserve

October 8, 7pm

Night Hike
Story Woods

October 15, 9am - noon

Habitat restoration
Whitetail Woods

October 22, 1pm

Hike and Sign Dedication
Bender Mountain

October 23, 2pm

Day Hike
Sister's Hill and Bender Mountain

November 5, 9am - noon

Habitat Restoration
Bender Mountain

November 19, 9am - noon

Habitat restoration
Shady Lane

Another Habitat Restoration event we support:

October 29

Habitat Restoration
Caesar's Creek
(organized by CCCV)

The Western Wildlife Corridor gratefully acknowledges the donation in honor of the 11 women celebrating their Golden Jubilee as Sisters of Charity this year.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

NEW SIGHTINGS IN OUR PRESERVES By Tim Sisson

Recently I saw a creature that reminded me once again of the value of protecting natural areas. This was a mink that was near our new properties on Sister's Hill. Mink (*Mustela vison*) are not rare, but since they are nocturnal and small, they are not seen very often. I'll bet most of you didn't even know they lived among us here in the Western Wildlife Corridor. They, unlike our other nocturnal neighbors, raccoons and opossums, need natural areas to roam through, so they wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the forests that we are helping to protect.

It is much more normal to see the great diversity of plants in our corridor. Scientists tell us that diversity is essential to a healthy environment (indeed it is essential to a healthy world!). Well, the Western Wildlife Corridor is much richer in diversity because of the properties we have protected. An excellent example is Whitetail Woods, which we purchased two years ago.

On my initial visit there, I was secretly dismayed at the way very large Amur honeysuckle totally blanketed it. Now, it is being transformed. I was delighted this spring when a friend of mine returned from a visit there and exclaimed at the abundance of Jack-in-the-pulpit and Larkspur that he saw. I've also heard people from Sayler Park say how much better the forest looks as they drive by on Hillside.

Then there's the tremendous diversity we've encouraged on Bender Mountain. For example, as I write this (in late July), wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*) are blooming. This is usually a down time for wildflowers in the forest, but there they are, little white puff balls swaying in profusion over the forest floor.

A plant that we don't see much in our area was brought to mind when I saw a Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) recently on Bender Mountain. The host plants for this swallowtail are members



The flower of the wild leek is very complicated if you look closely.

Tim Sisson

Continued, p. 2

of the citrus family. "We don't have any citrus plants up here," you say. We certainly don't have many, but there is one member of this family that I found just this spring on Bender Mountain - the Hop Tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*, also called Wafer Ash. There are several of them in an area that, up until last year, was covered with honeysuckle. Now that we have cleared the area, they are looking quite robust and have produced masses of fruit, as you can see from the accompanying photo.

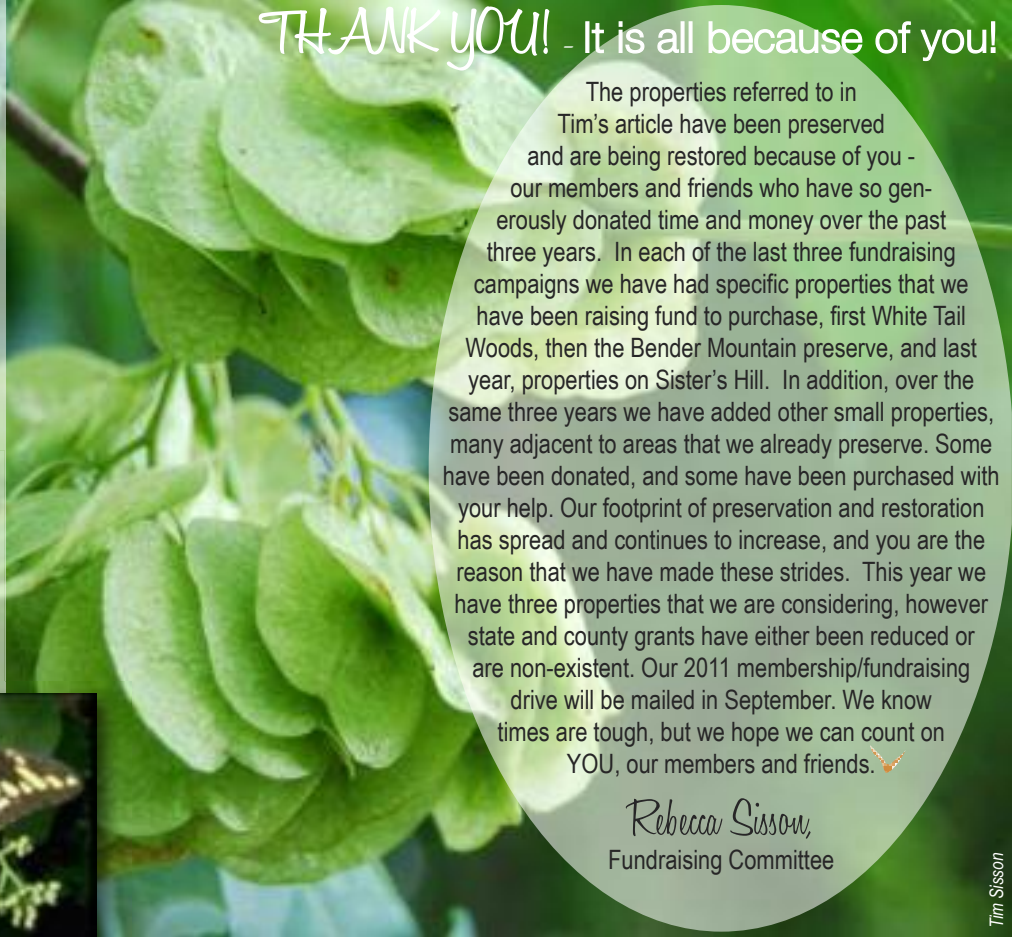
So you see, with our new properties we are making a real difference in our world. Because of the protection provided by our new nature preserves, the Western Wildlife Corridor is a much more interesting, more attractive and healthy place. ✓



Julia Malakate/AP file



ClipArt.com



THANK YOU! - It is all because of you!

The properties referred to in Tim's article have been preserved and are being restored because of you - our members and friends who have so generously donated time and money over the past three years. In each of the last three fundraising campaigns we have had specific properties that we have been raising funds to purchase, first White Tail Woods, then the Bender Mountain preserve, and last year, properties on Sister's Hill. In addition, over the same three years we have added other small properties, many adjacent to areas that we already preserve. Some have been donated, and some have been purchased with your help. Our footprint of preservation and restoration has spread and continues to increase, and you are the reason that we have made these strides. This year we have three properties that we are considering, however state and county grants have either been reduced or are non-existent. Our 2011 membership/fundraising drive will be mailed in September. We know times are tough, but we hope we can count on YOU, our members and friends. ✓

Rebecca Sisson,
Fundraising Committee

Tim Sisson

NATURALIST'S CORNER

GOLDENROD - NOT THE ALLERGY CULPRIT!

By Sally Sisson Anderson, Artist in Residence, WWC

The golden color of this plant is often copied in fall clothing. Goldenrod (*Solidago*) is a common autumn plant, often seen in roadside patches from Canada to Florida. It reproduces by seed and by sending up new plants from roots, spreading eight to thirty feet. There are over 100 types of Goldenrod, a native plant of America. Yet most Americans do not appreciate this plant. This can probably be traced to a long-standing, but misplaced belief that Goldenrod causes hay fever. Goldenrods bloom at the same time as Ragweed - the real culprit!

Goldenrod has heavy harmless pollen carried by flies, bees, butterflies, ants, and birds; but not by wind. Ragweed (*Ambrosia*) has dozens of tiny green flowers on finger-like stems, plus fern-like leaves on a knee-high to thigh-high plant. Its flowers produce hundreds of seeds and pollen grains. Birds eat the seeds, and its pollen is spread far and wide by wind. Chances are that if you look along the edges of your property, you will find Ragweed.

Whereas Ragweed is unattractive and causes lots of discomfort, Goldenrod is a beautiful perennial. There are so many varieties! There is Bog Goldenrod and Seaside Goldenrod. There is Canada Goldenrod. There are three prairie Goldenrods. The prairie Goldenrods are called Stiff Goldenrod (the sap of which Thomas Edison hoped to use to make a rubber substitute), Gray Goldenrod, and Showy Goldenrod. Showy Goldenrod is said to be the most attractive of the Goldenrods. Then there is one woodland Goldenrod called Zigzag Goldenrod. This is the only Goldenrod to grow in the forest. The stems of this one bend back and forth at each leaf attachment where the flowers also bloom. This is a nice plant for a shady garden.

Most Goldenrods bloom from August until October. Their bright yellow flowers mix well with Asters for a fall bouquet. European gardeners and florists appreciate the ornamental possibilities of Goldenrod much more than Americans do. They use them in gardens as a fall blooming perennial and as a cut flower in bouquets. A friend of mine used them combined with other flowers on the tables at her wedding.

After the yellow flowers fade, the stalks will become covered with fluffy, grayish bristles. Near the time of the first frost, the seeds among the bristles will mature. In mid October, you can pick several of these stalks. Shake and brush them over a newspaper or into a paper bag. You will catch plenty of seeds. The seeds can be planted as soon as collected or stored in the refrigerator until March.

Germination is often poor with Goldenrod, so sow the seeds thickly. A cold frame is a good place to start them or inside near a sunny window. When the rosettes have four leaves, you can plant them in pots. Then, in spring after the last frost, move the plants to the garden. Plant Goldenrods in the rear of a sunny area where a taller plant is needed. This perennial will reward you for years to come! ✓

Ragweed

Goldenrod

Shady Lane Project on October 1, 2011

By Adele Grout

Western Wildlife Corridor, partnering with Connecting Community Conservation Volunteers, is pleased to invite you to our Second Annual Shady Lane Fall Clean-Up Event. This event will take place on October 1, 2011 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Shady Lane Preserve in North Bend, Ohio. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come out and help. Ongoing habitat restoration activities, continually taking place at the site, assure that the habitat is being improved as well as preserved for all of the inhabitants.

Participants will be involved in removing honeysuckle from the wooded area and picking up trash along the roadsides. We will give free t-shirts to the first 30 attendees, and all who help with the clean-up work will receive a free pizza lunch at the end of the event. We will furnish work gloves and ask that the participants dress appropriately for the weather. Food and shirts are being furnished through a community grant from the Miami Heights Civic Association.

Join us at the wide grassy area opposite the house at 3005 Shady Lane, .6 mile from River Road (this is the house that has two deer statues in the front yard). Parking is available on Aston Lakes Dr., which goes off Shady Lane a little bit past 3005 Shady Lane, and on your left as you're coming from River Road. For more information on the event, contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or at christinehadley@earthlink.net.

Saturday, October 8, 7pm Night hike at Story Woods

Join John Klein as he leads us along a new woodland path that opens a new area of forest for hiking. If we're lucky we may hear creatures of the night calling out to us as we have in years past. This is just past the full moon, so we should be able to see the night-time forest well. Contact John at 513.941.4877 with questions.

Saturday, October 22, 1 pm Sign dedication and hike at Bender Mountain

Last year Western Wildlife Corridor purchased property on Bender Mountain to expand the nature preserve owned by Delhi Township. We have since cleared a lot of the dreaded Amur honeysuckle from the property and have constructed a trail to the top. Today we will dedicate a new sign on the property and have a hike on the new trail to show everyone the outstanding forest we have preserved. Contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for details on this major event.

Sunday, October 23, 2pm Day hike at Sister's Hill and Bender Mountain

The trees should be at the peak of fall color, so this is your opportunity to see them if you can't be at the hike on Saturday. Meet at the barrier at the end of Delhi Pike near the College of Mount St. Joseph. The first part of the hike will be on the portion of Delhi Pike that was closed years ago due to hill slippage, but still makes a nice hiking path (commonly called Sister's Hill). The second (optional) part of the hike climbs a strenuous new trail we've recently blazed up from Hillside Avenue to the top of Bender Mountain to reach old-growth forest and a nice view of the Ohio River. Contact Bruce at 513.451.5549 with questions.



The hike up Bender Mountain is strenuous but exhilarating.

Habitat Restoration

Why habitat restoration? Sometimes the biggest threat to our preserves is invasion by alien plant species. Plants such as Amur (or bush) honeysuckle, euonymus and garlic mustard can produce such a dense cover of foliage that native plants cannot survive. We've been told that Amur honeysuckle even secretes a toxin that kills native plants! When we restore the habitat in one of our preserves, we remove these invasive alien plants so native plants and animals can thrive.

October 1, 9am - noon Shady Lane Preserve

Cleanup and habitat restoration (t-shirts and lunch provided, see full story at left).

October 15, 9am - noon Whitetail Woods

November 5, 9am - noon Bender Mountain

November 19, 9am - noon Shady Lane

Anther Habitat Restoration we support:

October 29 Caesar's Creek

WWC is partnering with CCCV for our October 1 Shady Lane project. We ask you to participate in this project of theirs. Contact Christine at 513.850.9585 or at christinehadley@earthlink.net for more information. (Organized by Connecting Community Conservation Volunteers).

Contact Tim at 513.922.2104
or tsisson@fuse.net
for more information.

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Everyone has a great time
at our Shady Lane projects



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Please indicate how you would like to help!

JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2011-2012

New Membership Renewal

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution at the following membership level:

__ \$20 Individual	__ \$30 Family	__ \$75 Supporting
__ \$50 Organization	__ \$100 Patron	__ \$500 Sponsoring
_____ Other	_____ / month	Guardian

DONATE TO THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for the land acquisition fund \$_____

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES

Help with Habitat Restoration Help with Outreach and other needs

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

**Please mail to:
Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.
PO Box 389077
Cincinnati, OH 45238**

*Thank you for supporting the Western Wildlife Corridor's mission
to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!*

Tim Sisson

Sunset over the Western Wildlife Corridor.