



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Summer 2008

Calendar of Events

WWC EVENTS:

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 10am

Bender Mountain Hike

OTHER EVENTS:

June 27-28

Paddlefest

Coney Island

Visit WWC's booth on June 27

September 27-28

Great Outdoor Weekend

Come to WWC's Whooo's Watching Whooo Program & Hike

Sept. 27, 5:30-8:30pm

Story Woods Park

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Announcing Two New WWC Property Projects

Sometimes things happen all in a rush - which is exactly what happened this past month. We finalized a purchase agreement for a wonderful property in Sayler Park literally at the same time that we were reaching the agreement with Miami Township described below. This after both projects had been in the works for at least a year!

Sayler Park Property

The property in Sayler Park is exactly the kind of land that Western Wildlife Corridor was founded to protect; nine acres of mature forest on the hillside in the Ohio River valley.

Wildflowers at the Sayler Park Property



When our inspection team first visited the Sayler Park property last year, they were delighted to find it completely covered with large trees including Slippery Elm, Basswood, Hackberry and both Northern Red and Chinkapin Oak. This spring we were delighted to find a large number of wildflowers such as Cut-Leaved Toothwort, Wild Leek, Toadshade Trillium, Spring Beauty, Dwarf Larkspur, Virginia Bluebells and False Rue Anemone growing there as well.

This property is also important because it is very close to others that have been protected: the Beekley property where we have a Conservation Easement, Delhi Township's Story Woods Park and property on Bender Mountain that Hamilton County Park District bought. Thus a significant area of land where Rapid Run Creek joins the Ohio River is protected.

Now we come to the next important phase of this project - raising the money needed for the purchase. If you are interested in the protection of natural areas, here is a project that clearly deserves your support. By sending your check to Western Wildlife Corridor now (for deposit in our land purchase account) you will be helping with the protection of a beautiful property that will benefit wildlife and human beings in our corridor forever.

Miami Township Property

We are also very happy to announce that the Miami Township Trustees have approved a plan whereby Western Wildlife Corridor will help them manage a property they own. WWC volunteers will remove trash and clear invasive alien plants such as Amur Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard, changing the property into a beautiful natural nature preserve.

This property is on Shady Lane Rd just north of the Ohio River. Approximately 60 acres in size, it follows the east side of Shady Lane for almost a mile. It is covered with mature forest, except for a small area cleared for a power line.

Research indicates that nature preserves contribute to livability, health and physical well-being. Property values increase near nature preserves. Thus this is very clearly a win-win agreement. WWC will advance its vision of creating an emerald chain of natural nature preserves in the Ohio River Corridor and the residents of Miami Twp will have a natural feature to be proud of. 🐦



Wild turkeys enjoying Shady Lane property

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**Committee
Chairpersons**

Land Stewardship:

Tim Sisson
513.922.2104

Outreach

Leesa Miller
513.941.1628

Fundraising

Rebecca Sisson
859.746.8671

Newsletter:

Leesa Miller
513.941.1628

**WWC'S MONTHLY
GUARDIAN OF THE CORRIDOR**

Giving a Pledge for a Greener Future.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

**I am committing a tax deductible
monthly contribution of \$_____**



*Each new monthly giver will receive a
wildflower print by Sally Sisson Anderson.
Be sure to mention this when you begin
your Guardian of the Corridor Contributions.*



John Klein inspects the Shady Lane Property.

**June 21, 10am
Hike Bender Mountain**

Meet at the gravel pulloff on Bender, approximately 1/4 mile from River Rd.

This is a somewhat strenuous hike because of the long hike uphill and uneven ground. At the top is a spectacular view of the Ohio River and Kentucky.

Call Bruce for more info 513 451-5549

**June 27-28
Paddlefest**

Visit WWC's booth on June 27

**Sept. 27, 5:30-8:30pm
WWC's**

**Whooo's Watching Whooo in
the Nighttime Forests?**

Story Woods Park, 694 Pontius Road

Explore animal sounds, scents and tracking with activities and a night hike!

Presented by Delhi Township Parks & Recreation Dept., Western Wildlife Corridor and R & R Animal Trackers. Info: 513 921-WILD or 513 451-3300 or www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Also be sure to check out www.CincyGreatOutdoorWeekend.org to find other programs to attend in Greater Cincinnati during this outdoor sampler weekend September 27-28.

ANNOUNCEMENT-HELP MAKE LAND PURCHASE POSSIBLE

WWC is excited to announce its opportunity to purchase a great piece of native habitat near Sayler Park, as mentioned on the first page of this newsletter. Since grants currently being pursued would not cover the entire purchase price, it is time to appeal to WWC supporters to help out. We can't let this opportunity slip by.

This is a special opportunity for you to make a difference with your financial contribution. You can help make this important native habitat addition to the Corridor possible.

More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, contact Tim Sisson at 513 922-2104 for more information and contributions for land acquisition should be mailed to Western Wildlife Corridor, PO Box 389077, Cincinnati, OH 45238.



WANTED!



**CORRIDOR NEWS,
STORIES & PHOTOS**

Deadline for articles for the
Summer issue of The Steward
is April 7, 2008

Contact Leesa Miller
at 513-941-1628 or
Momshine2000@yahoo.com
if you have something
for the newsletter.

**Western
Wildlife
Corridor
Board of Trustees**

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Hamilton County Parks Team Wins Flower-a-Thon 2008 Award

By Leesa Miller

The rain stayed away and the Golden Trillium Award finally changed hands this year. For the first time since the first Flower-a-thon, the award for the most species found was awarded to the five-member Hamilton County Park District Team, breaking the three year winning streak of the Cincinnati

Flowering trees like this Redbud are also counted in the Flower-a-thon.

Wildflower Preservation Society team.

When asked how competitive they were, team member Tim Sisson said, "Sure we were competitive, but all the teams were very unselfish too in helping each other. We helped the Sierra Club identify a Yellow Corydalis at Delshire Nature Preserve and the Sisters of Charity team helped us find the Fernleaf Phacelia at Harrison's Tomb, for example. Did they have any secrets to share? One of their strategies was to do advance scouting of the preserves and parks, which Tim said that he and Steve Selhorst did a lot of in the weeks leading up to the event. Steve works for the Hamilton County Park District and everyone knows how Tim probably spends more time in the WWC preserves than any other human being. Besides removing invasive plants, he's been photographing all the spring wildflowers this year with the new WWC camera.

Interestingly, not all the team's members were from Hamilton County Parks. Delhi Parks and Recreation horticulturist Joan Gillespie was on the team, along with her teen son, Patrick. Joan and Steve spent the day doing a friendly little "battle of the parks" comparison of their respective park facilities. Patrick Gillespie, the youngest on the team, was headed to his Senior Prom later that night, so understandably missed the lasagna dinner and awards presentation. If there were an award for the team member that traveled the farthest, it would go to Dennis Dearwater, who lives in Akron, OH, and attends WWC events while visiting family in the Cincinnati area.

One of the most rewarding finds that day for the team was the Shooting Stars they found at Shawnee Lookout. The team found over 80 species of blooming wildflowers that day.

Reports from all the teams revealed that some of the locations visited were Delshire Nature Preserve, Turkey Haven Nature Preserve, Story Woods Park, Bender Mountain Preserve, Embshoff Woods, Imago Earth Center, Sister's Hill, Congress Green and Harrison's tomb, all on the west side of Cincinnati in the Ohio River Corridor.

Thank you to all the teams, who were all winners because of the funds they helped raise for WWC to continue to protect these natural areas! 🍷



Allie and David Nurre get into the wildflower spirit at the dinner.



Bruce Cortright gets painted with wildflowers at the festival by Deanna.



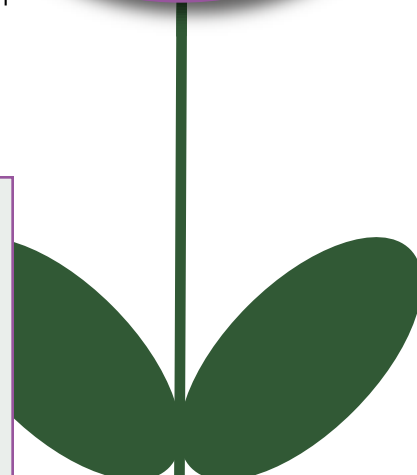
The Hamilton County Park District team found the most species: Dennis Dearwater, Tim Sisson, Joan Gillespie, Patrick Gillespie, Steve Selhorst.

2008 Wildflower Festival & Flower-a-thon Donors

Thank You to the following groups and businesses that supported the 2008 Wildflower Weekend with donations, monetary or otherwise.

Brett Harper
Cheviot Savings Bank
Cincinnati Reds
Riverview-Delhi Hills Kiwanis Club
Frisch's

Jim Mundy - Nature's Ark Photography
National City Bank
PNC Bank
TNS Employees
John P. Tumlin & Sons

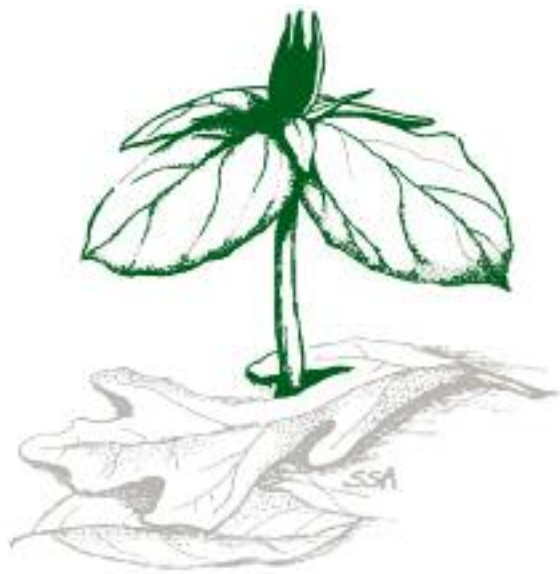


Wildflower Festival a Success!

Thank you to the Flower-a-thon
and Wildflower Festival Committee!

The WWC Festival and Flower-a-thon all went so well because all of the festival committee are very conscientious. **Marianne Brater** came up with lots of volunteers to help set up and take down. And she had lots of favors and mystery gifts ready for the raffle.

Joan Key pulled together all the details for the booths and the festival food. **Rebecca Sisson** did a great job on really fun raffle, plus getting the banquet food together. **Leesa Miller** did a wonderful job on the posters and the publicity, and she helped all the children to have lots of crafts to do.



Joanie Gillespie brought 35 wild flower potted plants, and helped with the children's activities. **Sally Anderson** contributed a nice free Jack in the Pulpit drawing for the posters and the bags and had a great watercolor class of nine students. She also sold three paintings!!!! And talked her husband **Gene** into lots of behind the scenes work!

Steve Selhorst put on a nice outdoor breakfast with wonderful hot coffee and bagels. Thanks to **Bob Neinaber** for his books for the wildflower book sale.

Tim Sisson worked so hard the whole two days that he was very tired, but a good Host to the last. We were all tired, but it was great fun!! Wildflowers can be great fun! Now, on to the destruction of hundreds of garlic-mustards!

Thank you also to the rest of the many volunteers who showed up and pitched in part of all of the time, helping with the kids games and at the WWC booth. Many helped with the food service and clean up. 🙌

Girl Scouts Help Wildflowers



Delshire was a little less covered with Garlic Mustard after 14 Girl Scouts and their leaders from Rainbow Hill Service Unit finished their Service Project on May 10. The girls learned about how invasive Garlic Mustard is and how to remove it to help wildflowers return.



Help is still urgently needed in removing Garlic Mustard as these Girl Scouts demonstrate as they are surrounded by it.

GARLIC MUSTARD ALERT

Western Wildlife Corridor needs help with habitat restoration projects!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the highly invasive garlic mustard may be about ready to go to seed. It is critical to remove as much of it as possible from native habitat areas before this happens. Every single plant can produce thousands of seeds. When you walk through a park or nature preserve this summer and see masses of 2-3' high garlic mustard plants, you can multiply what you see by 1,000 to get the number of seeds that will be dropped for next year. That is a grim prospect for native wildflowers.

Delshire Nature Preserve was virtually cleared last year, but the seeds which can survive for up to seven years will continue to challenge us for quite awhile. But we won't give up and intend to keep working in order to have healthy native populations in our preserves.

The forest on Bender Mountain has become a real crown jewel in Delhi. It has a beautiful old growth forest that (like Delshire) is well known for the myriads of gorgeous wildflowers that bloom there every spring. Well, those wildflowers are also threatened by the dreaded Garlic Mustard. During the past few weeks we have made real progress removing it, but

there's a lot left. The work will not be very strenuous - so please join us if at all possible, to help us out and enjoy a couple of hours in the forest.

Wear work clothes and work shoes and bring plenty of water to drink. Please join us. You will really enjoy seeing this wonderful area and helping the beautiful spring wildflowers.

Booth Volunteers Needed

We're getting the word out, but need volunteers to help with booths at local events this summer and fall. Scheduled booths are:

Paddlefest at Coney Island

Fri., June 27

Help with kids activity 10am-2pm
and help with booth 5-9pm.

Delhi Park Concerts

Thurs., June 19 Rusty Griswolds

Thurs., July 10 Cody Taylor

Tues., Aug 5 National Night Out

All are 6:30-9pm

Harvest Home Fair in Cheviot

Sept. 4-7

Great Outdoor Weekend

Whoo's Watching Whoo Program & Hike

September 27, 5:30pm-8:30pm.

Volunteers needed for setup, program,
hike assistants and cleanup.

Sayler Park Second Saturday Concerts

in summer

Sayler Park Harvest Festival

in October

To volunteer for any of these, or if you know of another opportunity where WWC could have a booth, please call Leesa Miller 513 284-1046 or 513 941-1628.

INVASIVE PLANTS OF OHIO

Fact Sheet 3

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata

DESCRIPTION:

Garlic mustard is a non-native, biennial herb that grows 5-46 inches tall. The first-year plant is in the form of a rosette with kidney-shaped leaves that remain green throughout the winter. The second year, a flowering stem is produced with triangular-shaped leaves that are sharply toothed. Crushed leaves emit a garlic-like odor. The flowers bloom in a cluster at the end of the stem. Each small flower has four white petals and blooms from May to June. The fruits are long, green capsules that become brown as the seeds mature, making it easy to identify.

HABITAT:

Garlic mustard generally prefers some shade and can be found in upland and flood plain forests, savannas, yards, along roadsides, and occasionally in full sun. This plant invades forests first at the edge, then progresses to the interior along streams and trails.



Division Photo



John Watts

DISTRIBUTION:

Garlic mustard originated in Europe and was introduced to the United States for herbal and medicinal purposes. It was first recorded in the United States in 1868 in Long Island, New York. By 1991, garlic mustard had invaded 28 Midwestern and northeastern states. Garlic mustard can be found throughout the state of Ohio.

PROBLEM:

Garlic mustard aggressively out-competes native species in the understory of forests and woodlands. This plant begins growth in early spring and ends growth later in the season than most native species. As a result, garlic mustard shades out native wildflowers and out-competes native seedlings. Garlic mustard grows in dense clusters and can displace most herbaceous native plants within 10 years. Large quantities of seed are produced and can remain viable in the soil for up to 7 years. The seeds are dispersed by wind, water and transported by animals and humans.

CONTROL:

Mechanical: Mechanical controls of garlic mustard include hand-pulling and cutting, and are most effective on smaller infestations. Hand-pulling of plants can be very effective, although labor intensive. Care must be taken to insure that the entire plant is removed and that all plant materials are bagged and moved off-site. A plant can continue to mature and produce seeds even if it has been pulled up. Hand-pulling and removal must continue until the seed bank is exhausted (at least 7 years). Cutting populations of garlic mustard is effective for medium to large concentrations of plants. Stems may be cut by mowing, brush-cutting, or by hand when the plants are in flower. This can result in total mortality of the plants, however it does not affect the seed bank. Cutting must continue every year until the seed bank is exhausted. Prescribed fire can be an effective control agent in controlling garlic mustard given the proper location and fire intensity. Repeated, effective burns over several years are necessary.

Chemical: Foliar application of herbicide can be used to control populations of garlic mustard where mechanical methods may not be effective, such as large infestations. Roundup® or Glypho® are effective herbicides to use, however they are not selective so non-target species in the vicinity of the application may be affected. Herbicide should be applied to the first year rosettes during the late fall and early spring when non-target species are dormant.

Biological: Currently there are no programs in use, however research is being conducted to find a potential biological control agent.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

Bartlow, J., K. Johnson, M. Kertis, T. Remaley, S. Ross, E. Simet, T. Smith, D. Soehn and G. Taylor. 1996. Tennessee Exotic Plant Management Manual. Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Nuzzo, V. 1994. Element Stewardship Abstract for *Alliaria petiolata*, Garlic Mustard. The Nature Conservancy.

Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources. 1992. Invasive Species Control Manual. Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*.

March 2001

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
1889 Fountain Square Dr., Bldg. F-1
Columbus, Ohio 43224
(614) 265-6453 www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/dnap/dnap.html



The Nature Conservancy, The Ohio Chapter
6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 50
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 717-2770 www.tnc.org



Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 W. Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081
(614) 891-0700 www.metroparks.net

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**Mark your
calendar!**

**Hike Bender Mountain
Saturday June 21,
10am**

**Urgent help needed
with Garlic Mustard!
See p. 5**

**Please help the Western Wildlife Corridor
protect the Ohio River corridor.**

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

___ \$20 Individual ___ \$75 Supporting
___ \$30 Family ___ \$100 Patron
___ \$50 Organization ___ \$500 Sponsoring

\$___ Other donation

\$___ Monthly Guardian of the Corridor

May we call you for support? ☐ Yes

Would you consider donation land or a conservation easement?
☐ Yes

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

Please mail check to:
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CINCINNATI, OH 45238