



# THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

[www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org)

Fall 2009

## Calendar of Events

**September 19, 9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration

Whitetail Woods

**September 26, 5:30 - 8:30 pm**

Great Outdoor Weekend

Whooo's Watching Whooo?

Story Woods Park, Delhi

**October 3, 9 am - noon**

Cleanup and habitat restoration

Shady Lane Preserve

**October 4, 1-4 pm**

Bender Mountain Scavenger Hunt

Meet @gravel pull off

**October 17, 10 am**

Hike at Delshire Preserve

**October 24, 9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration

Bender Mountain

**November 7, 9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration

Whitetail Woods

**November 21, 9am - noon**

Habitat restoration

Sister's Hill

**November 29, 1 pm**

Sister's Hill hike

Meet at the barrier at end of Delhi Pike

### Other community event:

**October 10, 10-4 pm**

Sayler Park Harvest Festival

Nelson Sayler Park Square

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

### Cliff Road Property Protected with Conservation Easement

I first met John Obermeyer at a meeting in Miami Township. At once I could see we had many common interests. He loved hiking and camping and the outdoors in general. He owned property that had a lot of forest on it, and was interested in keeping out the dreaded honeysuckle. I found out later he had owned a British sports car and had paddled the upper Missouri River in Montana - also like me.

And then he told me that he was interested in keeping the forest on his property, preserving his property in a natural state. I immediately mentioned that the best way to ensure this was a Conservation Easement. After looking into this, he and his wife Sylvia agreed. Thus it is with real pleasure that we announce that Western Wildlife Corridor has signed an agreement with the Obermeyers that will protect their property on Cliff Road from development forever.

The property the Obermeyers own is on top of the ridge bordering the Ohio River; starting at Cliff Road and continuing northwest, following creeks where water ultimately winds up in the Great Miami River. It is in between Shawnee Lookout Park and the park at Harrison's tomb, thus forming another link in a corridor between them. The property is mostly covered with mature hardwood forest, has a small pond, and three streams meander through it. Many, many types of animals and wildflowers have been seen here. Truly this is the type of place that Western Wildlife Corridor was founded to protect.

As we have said in previous issues of our newsletter, a Conservation Easement is a signed contract between a landowner and a suitable organization such as a land trust or government agency that spells out what activities are permitted and what activities are not permitted on property in order to preserve conservation values.

The Conservation Easement on this property prohibits additional development of the property and preserves the wooded portion. In addition, WWC has the right to remove invasive alien plant species, especially garlic mustard and Amur honeysuckle that are beginning to invade the area. The goal is to eventually return the protected portion of the property to a truly natural state where native plants and wildlife can flourish.

The Obermeyer property has now become another important link in the emerald chain of pre-

serves stretching through our Western Wildlife Corridor. Our grand vision is to restore this property to a natural state as a wildlife preserve. If you know of any land owners who may also be interested on protecting their property in this manner, please have them contact me at 513.922.2104 or [tsisson@fuse.net](mailto:tsisson@fuse.net). We are always happy to talk to people who may want to include their place in our emerald chain through the Ohio River corridor. ✓



Mr. & Mrs. Obermeyer are thrilled to add their property to the Western Wildlife Corridor's emerald chain of preserves.

# WWC Loses One of its Best

By Tim Sisson

Those of you who are regular readers of this newsletter may remember pictures of the Sisters' Hill cleanup and the picture of the Bobcat hauling oil drums or the picture of a huge tire being taken out of Shady Lane preserve. We were very saddened to learn that the man in those pictures, Carl Ackerman, passed away on August 13.

Carl will be remembered as one who was always ready to help us with the toughest jobs. At the Shady Lane cleanup he volunteered to drag all the tires out of the woods and up to the road. One of these was a very large truck tire that must have weighed 100 lb (see the picture of him in our last newsletter). Carl brought his Bobcat to Sisters' Hill and took many loads of trash up from our preserve there to the road. After storms, he used his chain saw to clear fallen trees from the paths so that people could hike their favorite trails.

And then, of course, Carl always was ready to eliminate honeysuckle with his chain saw. He must have cleared thousands for us in the last several years! Thanks to Carl's hard work, we are able to enjoy wildflowers that thrive where the honeysuckle has been cleared.

Carl was an all-around good person who was always ready to help WWC, his neighbors and his community. **Carl, we'll miss you.** ✓



Leesa Miller



Tim Sisson

## WWC RECEIVES GRANT

by Leesa Miller and Christine Plepys

We are very happy to announce that in June we received a grant for \$500 from Ohio River Way that will provide funding to cover the costs of materials for our "Space Invaders of the Green Kind" project.

The Space Invaders project brings children, ages 7 to 12, outdoors to the hillsides of the Ohio River to learn about protecting this vital greenway corridor. Three sessions will take place in spring 2010, at the height of the garlic mustard season. Participants are welcomed from all over, with the focus being on targeting children and families living on Cincinnati's west side.

We thank Ohio River Way very much for this grant, making possible a program that will teach children about the harm done by garlic mustard, an invasive plant, and the beauty that comes from removing it.

Check your winter Steward for details about these events, and plan now to bring your children, grandchildren or neighbor's children to learn the importance of removing green invaders to help protect our forests and fields. ✓

## The 2010 Entertainment Books are here!

by Rebecca Sisson

This year Western Wildlife Corridor is selling the Entertainment Book. In case you are not familiar with it, the Entertainment Book provides a card and coupons for restaurants, activities, services and travel. This year's Cincinnati book has over \$16,000 of savings that you can use on your everyday purchases.

Want to have lunch at Perk on the Pike? There's a coupon. Want to order a pizza or sub from Domino's, have dinner at Vitor's on Harrison Avenue, or the Market Street Grill? Get a haircut, drop off dry cleaning, play a round of golf? There's a coupon.

The last time I bought an Entertainment book, it cost me \$35, but the 2010 books (good now until November 1, 2010) are only \$20.

With this fundraiser, everybody wins. Fifty percent of the purchase price of each book comes directly to WWC. There are two ways to order:

1. Log on to [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org) and click on the Entertainment Book button.
  2. Call Rebecca at 859.512.1983 or Tim at 922.2104 and we will get your books to you right away!
- Please email your friends and relatives with this great offer. Let's save money and help WWC at the same time. ✓



**373 Dining Discounts**  
**149 Attraction Discounts**  
**233 Shopping Discounts**  
**Over \$15K in Travel Discounts**  
**Movie Ticket Discounts**  
**And Much More!**



## Help Us Welcome Our Newest Board Member!!

by Adele Grout and Tim Sisson

Adele Grout joined the Board of Trustees of Western Wildlife Corridor this spring. Adele and family live in Miami Heights, Ohio, near Cleves and they have lived in the area for over 15 years. Husband Bob works at Cincinnati Mechanical and is involved in church and scouting activities.

She has two boys, Connor, age 14, who attends Taylor High School in the 9th grade and Logan, age 12, who attends Three Rivers Middle School in grade 7. Both boys are active in Boy Scouts, School Band and various other school and church activities.

Adele works for Johnson Investment Counsel in Monfort Heights and has been employed there for over 13 years as a Portfolio Manager Assistant.

She was a character coach for two first grade classes at Cheviot Elementary School this past year with the Winners Walk Tall program, and volunteers at the Zion United Methodist church, where she and her family attend services. In addition, she and Bob volunteer at the boys' school activities.

She is also a member (and past board member) of the Queen City Sampler Guild, a needle-working organization devoted to the study of antique needlework. Adele is interested in all things outdoors, including camping, hiking, backpacking, snow skiing, water sports and star gazing. She also enjoys needlework, music, reading and knitting in her rare "sitting-down" time.

When elected to the Board, Adele told us, "I have such a great love for the outdoors! It is my hope that I can make a difference by helping this organization continue to pursue its mission of protecting our local natural green spaces for all of us to enjoy in the future."

Welcome Adele! With such capabilities, enthusiasm and boundless energy, we're sure you will be a very important addition to our Board. ✓



Tim Sisson, President  
Bruce Cortwright, Vice President  
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Leesa Miller, Secretary  
Dr. Donald Blaney  
Marianne Brater  
Susan Frede  
Joan Gillespie  
Adele Grout  
John Klein  
Bob Nienaber  
Joyce Richter, SC  
Rebecca Sisson

### Committee Chairpersons Land Stewardship:

**Tim Sisson**  
513.922.2104

**Outreach**  
Leesa Miller  
513.941.1628

**Fundraising**  
Rebecca Sisson  
859.746.8671

**Newsletter:**  
Mary Uhlenbrock  
513.382.8683  
Jennifer Doerger  
513.469.6380



# *The New England Aster*

by Sally Sisson Anderson

It is such a treat this time of year to come upon a clump of brilliant purple asters along the road side or the trail. The deeply-colored ones will always be the New England aster (*aster novae-angliae*). Although the color can range from pink to lavender, blue, or white, it is usually a deep purple. The stems are hairy, and the central disk is golden yellow. It is a tall plant with stems ranging from three to six feet tall. Butterflies and honeybees like the blossoms. Migrating monarchs also feast on the New England aster.

There are dozens of native asters, with some twenty four native to Ohio and twenty eight native to Kentucky. I have a closely related cultivar in my garden that produces clouds of purple blooms every fall. The famous Michaelmas daisies are actually hybrids of our native asters. You can find New England aster in the catalogs, plus many hybrids; or you can grow them from the wild plant yourself.

To cultivate the wild plant, gather the compact brown seed heads

in the fall after a couple of frosts. This is when the rows of seeds loosen from the head, become dry, and are easily plucked. Allow the seeds to air dry a few days and then refrigerate until sowing. Sow the seeds heavily, because not all seeds have embryos in them. Sow them in an outdoor bed or cold frame. When the plants have three or four leaves on them, plant them in pots, then later into the garden in a sunny location.

New England asters are members of the daisy family as are all the other asters. There are also many closely-related wildflowers that bloom in summer and fall, such as the thistles, the fleabanes, and the goldenrods. Out in the west, you find the beautiful golden asters, of which there are several species - the prairie aster and the grass-leaved aster - to name two. These native plants have

evolved with insects. The thistle provides food for the painted lady caterpillars and the New England aster is eaten by the pearl crescent butterfly caterpillars. We have this one in our garden. It is a very small orange butterfly with lacy black markings on its wings. ✓



*This pen and ink drawing of a bunch of New England Asters was done by Sally Sisson Anderson.*

## Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor ... Learn why it's so important!

**September 26, 5:30-8:30 pm**  
**Great Outdoor Weekend**  
**Whooo's Watching Whooo?**  
**Storey Woods Park**

**694 Pontius Road, 45233 in Delhi**  
WWC partners with Delhi Township Parks and Recreation to offer a family outdoor educational program and night hike opportunity.

**Sunday, October 4, 1-4 pm**  
**Scavenger Hunt**  
**at Bender Mountain Preserve**

Bring the family and explore Bender Mountain Nature Preserve. You won't have to stay on the trails. There aren't any man-made trails here! Hop rocks to cross the creek, look for animal signs, see how many different autumn leaves you can find. These are just a few of the possibilities. Just wander around and get in touch with nature. Volunteers will help you learn about what you find.

We'll meet at the gravel pull off on Bender Rd. one half mile from Hillside Ave.

Contact Leesa Miller at 513.284.1046 or momshine2000@yahoo.com with questions.

**Saturday, October 17, 10 am**  
**Fall hike**  
**at Delshire Nature Preserve**

This easy hike has become a tradition at WWC. We'll take you through a nature preserve with large areas of beautiful restored old growth forest. The fall colors should be at their peak! Contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for details.

**November 29, 1 pm**  
**Sister's Hill Hike and More**

Meet at the barrier at the end of Delhi Pike near the College of Mount St. Joseph.

Hike the part of Delhi Pike that was closed years ago due to hill slippage, but still makes a nice hiking path (commonly called Sister's Hill). We'll then climb 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 Cortwright at 513.451.5549 with questions.



## Join us for Habitat Restorations!

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 that native plants and animals can thrive.

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

**September 19**  
**9 am - noon**  
**Whitetail Woods**

**October 3**  
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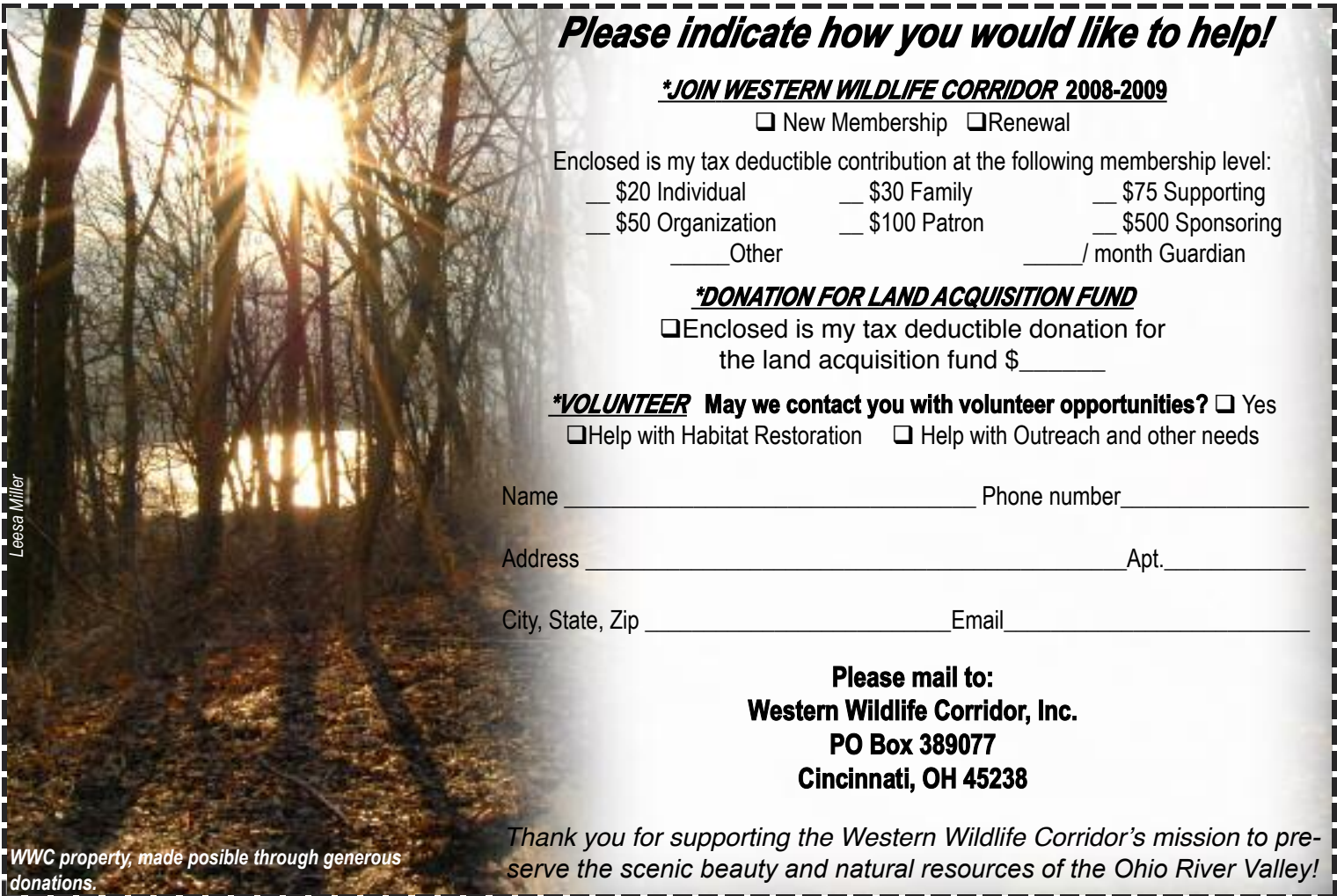
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***Please indicate how you would like to help!***

**\*JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2008-2009**

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

**\*DONATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION FUND**

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

**\*VOLUNTEER** May we contact you with volunteer opportunities?  Yes

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!*

Leesa Miller

*WWC property, made possible through generous donations.*