



# THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

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

Summer 2009

## Calendar of Events

### July 22

WWC Volunteer Appreciation Cookout  
The home of Rick & Diana Veid  
4318 Eaglepoint Ct., Delhi Twp.

### July 24-26

Midwest Native Plant Conference  
Learn about the important role that native plants have in supporting our natural environment.  
Hope Hotel, Dayton, Ohio  
Visit [cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp/](http://cincinnatibirds.com/mwnp/) for more info.

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

### Land Donated to WWC

Western Wildlife Corridor has added even more property to the land they own on Sisters' Hill in Delhi Township through a donation by Mrs. Mary Clare Sweeney. She is very pleased that these parcels, which are next to others that Western Wildlife Corridor owns, will now be protected forever.

Sisters' Hill is the name used for the closed-off portion of Delhi Pike west of Bender Road. Much of the property that we own along the old road has been cleared of invasive honey-suckle and garlic mustard with the result that the native plants are really popping up, turning this into a very nice "natural" nature preserve. The entire area is heavily wooded (mostly hardwoods) and contains a number of large oaks and Ohio buckeyes. It is situated on the steep hillside facing the Ohio River and is a classic example of wooded land in the Western Wildlife Corridor.

We thank Mrs. Sweeney very much for this generous donation of land that will add to the nature preserve we are creating on Sisters' Hill. ✓



### Do you buy groceries??

The Kroger Gift Card Program is an easy way for you to help WWC raise money.

You have to buy groceries anyway, wouldn't you feel good about 4% of the dollars you load onto your gift card going to protect woodlands in the Western Wildlife Corridor?

Thanks to the people who have been using their Kroger gift cards, we have been receiving checks from Kroger on a regular basis.

If you don't have a WWC Kroger gift card and would like one, please call 513.921.9453.



Mrs. Mary Clare Sweeney signs the paperwork to donate her property.

# 2009 FLOWER-a-THON AND FESTIVAL a HUGE SUCCESS!

By Mary Uhlenbrock

The fifth annual Flower-a-thon was fun, competitive and educational, and raised almost \$4000 for the Western Wildlife Corridor. Pledges are still coming in; it's not too late to send yours.

Fifty-nine intrepid individuals on 9 teams scoured the hillsides on a beautiful spring day to find as many flower species as they could. The winning team, Imago, found 105 species! The Sisters of Charity Bluebells were a close second with 103 species. Participants enjoyed a breakfast in Embshoff Woods and a banquet at EarthConnection.

The third annual Wildflower Festival attracted over 300 people. There were 14 information tables by area conservation groups, 6 vendors with items for sale, a wildflower painting class, a craft and game area for children, a raffle of a Charlie Harper print and a Baptisia plant donated by the Zoo, and Girl Scout bake sale. Among the things people could do were: purchase native plants, sample pawpaw cookies, learn about bee-keeping and taste a variety of honey, and look at wildflowers under a microscope provided by the Cincinnati Park Board.

Children were given passports which they could have stamped at a dozen games and crafts. They had fun while learning about plants. ✓

Face painting was a popular activity at the Wildflower Festival.



WWC Volunteers Marianne Brater, Mary Uhlenbrock and Rebecca Sisson enjoyed greeting people arriving at the Festival.



The Hamilton County Park District team enjoyed Flower-a-thon.



## Benefits of a Market Downturn

These difficult economic times present challenges, but also some timely opportunities for WWC. The current real estate market gives us a chance to acquire parcels of land that would fit nicely into our existing protected areas, at lower prices. If you can give to the WWC land acquisition fund, now is the time. No dollar amount is too small and will be greatly appreciated. Help us achieve our goal of protecting land within WWC.

## WWC Volunteer Appreciation Cookout

If you have volunteered for WWC in any way in the past year - helped at a display, whacked honeysuckle, picked up litter, assisted with a mailing or the Flower-a-thon or Wildflower Festival - please join us at our volunteer appreciation cookout on Wednesday, July 22 starting at 6:00pm.

The cookout is being hosted by Rick and Diana Veid at their home overlooking our beautiful Delshire Nature Preserve. This is at 4318 Eaglepoint Court in Delhi Township. (Please call 513.922.2104 for directions). After dinner we will take a hike in the preserve - if it doesn't storm like last year.

The menu will include grilled hot dogs, metts, hamburgers, drinks, some side dishes and a dessert - all graciously provided by the Veids. Additional potluck dishes are welcome.

All of you who have helped us out in the past year, here's our way of saying thanks; a nice meal in a great setting, plus a chance to enjoy one of the preserves that is so beautiful because of your efforts. Please plan on joining us.



## FLOWER-a-THON & FESTIVAL THANK YOUS



### **We would be remiss if we didn't thank the following people for all of their help during the Flower-a-thon:**

Rebecca Sisson, for chairing the Flower-a-thon committee; Steve Selhorst, for preparing the delicious breakfast; Hamilton County Park District for the use of the shelter at Embshoff Woods; Bruce Cortwright for making the fire; Sisters of Charity for the use of EarthConnection; Riverview Community for heating up the lasagna in their ovens; Marianne Brater for preparing the banquet and raffle items; and everyone who participated and made donations.

### **And the Wildflower Festival would not have been a success without the contributions of:**

The following organizations who set up educational displays:

Boone County Arboretum, Carriage House Farm, Cincinnati Zoo Horticulturalists and Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Park District, Delhi Civic Association, Delhi Floral Paradise, Extension Educator for Junior Master Gardeners, Hamilton County Park District, Imago, Northside Greenspace, Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association, Oxbow and the Sierra Club.

Thank you, Sally Sisson Anderson, for the wildflower painting class.

Thank you, leader Cathy Dezarn, and the Girl Scouts from Riverhills Service Unit Troop 48564 for the yummy baked goods.

Finally, thank you to all the following people who volunteered at the Festival:

Rebecca Sisson, co-chair, Joan Key, co-chair, Leesa Miller, publicity, Marianne Brater, volunteer coordinator, Laura Luken and family, children's games and crafts, Barb Alexander, Melissa Alexander, Gene Anderson, Lindsey Audretch, Peggy Berninger, Mary Jo Berry, Beth Cortwright, Bruce Cortwright, Debbie Duebber, Susan Frede, Joan Gillespie, Jennifer Johnson, Debbie Lutkenhof, Matt Maley, Tim Sisson, Roselyn Schloss, Debbie Scudder, Joe Stickrod, Pam Thomas, Robert Thomas, Mary Uhlenbrock, Peggy Wannamaker.



# Turkey Haven Prospers With Removal of Invasive Plants

The Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), has a flower similar to the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, but the spadix is different. →

Photo by Tim Sisson.



Two recent sightings of unusual wildflowers at Turkey Haven nature preserve demonstrate the value of removing invasive plant species so that native plants can prosper.

During Flower-a-thon, the Sisters of Charity Bluebells team found an unusual form of Toadshade Trillium (*Trillium sessile*). Instead of the usual 3 leaves and 3 sepals, this plant has 7 leaves and 4 sepals.

A few weeks later, Tim Sisson was elated to find a Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), which is a very interesting relative of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Its flower is similar, but it has a long thin spadix that extends up from the flower. This is the first report of a Green Dragon in a Western Wildlife Corridor preserve.

To see how special these flowers are in living color, please visit our web site [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org).

Turkey Haven was the first of the WWC preserves to be cleared of the invasive alien plants Amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard. Habitat restoration began there in 2000. The native wildflowers, vines and trees began to prosper as soon as the invasives were removed, and each year there are more native plants.

Several of the Flower-a-thon participants remarked on the great diversity and abundance of wildflowers at Turkey Haven this year. 🦋



Joyce Richter

## 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



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

# Shady Lane Clean Up

By Tim Sisson



The long length of drainage pipe was definitely odd. I mean, why would someone throw this away? It was still perfectly usable, it looked almost new. From the picture above you can see that it was a good 30 or 40 feet long.

**Carl Ackerman with large truck tire that made its way into the creek with Jack Rininger, Miami Township Trustee, who provided strong support for the project.**



Other than this, we encountered mostly the usual stuff of roadside cleanups when we removed the trash along the side of the Shady Lane Nature Preserve in Miami Township: cans, bottles, tires, odd-shaped metal objects, fast-food throwaways. In total, there were 51 (large) garbage bags of assorted trash and recyclables and 15 tires plus bunches of other objects that wouldn't fit in bags. By the way, we did separate out the recyclables and Miami Township did process them appropriately.

Here are some other scenes from the day:



It wasn't all drudgery - while looking for litter near the creek, the volunteers in the picture above enjoyed the wild flowers all around them.



**Part of the group setting up separation of the recyclables.**

We want to thank the Miami Township Trustees very much for approving the agreement which allows Western Wildlife Corridor to establish a nature preserve on their property on Shady Lane. And, thanks to the many people who helped us work out this agreement.

Thank you also to the over 30 volunteers who helped with this cleanup: the Taylor High School students, Miami Township residents and other WWC members who really worked hard that day. It was truly a great start to the restoration of this property — restoration of another brightly shining jewel in the emerald chain of preserves in the Ohio River valley.



**Taylor students modeling the special t-shirts supplied by the Miami Heights Civic Association. (They were really having fun collecting litter).**



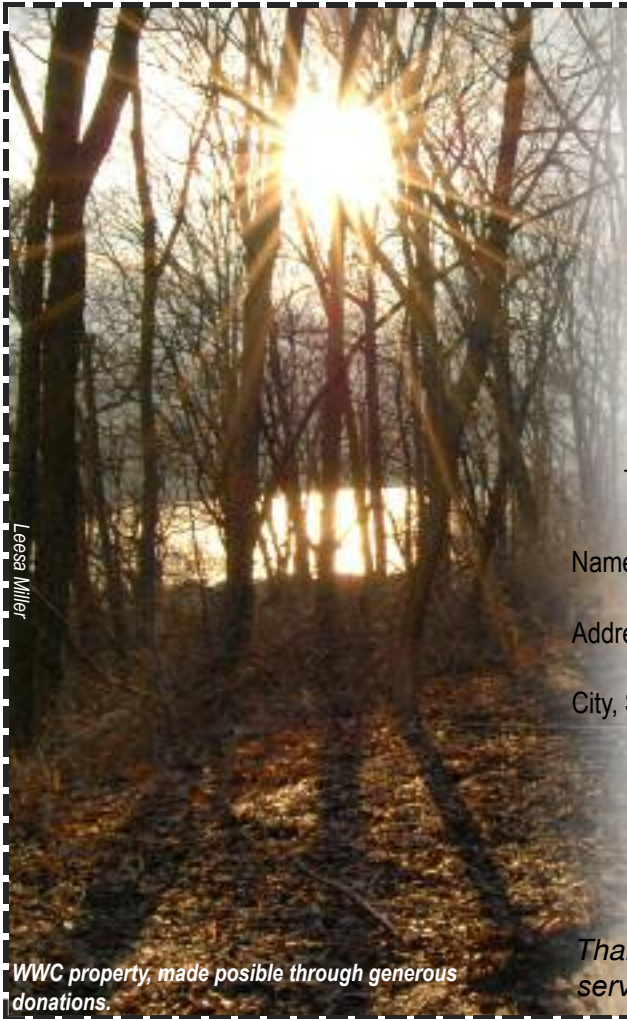
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Leesa Miller

***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:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> / 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!*

*WWC property, made possible through generous donations.*