



# THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

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

Winter 2008-2009

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

*By Tim Sisson*

Western Wildlife Corridor recently acquired two important properties: land on South Road donated by Mark and Juli Rudemiller and Whitetail Woods on Hillside Ave. Both make great additions to our Emerald Chain of nature preserves in the Western Wildlife Corridor.

The Rudemiller property sits astride two creek valleys that sweep up the hillside facing the Ohio River valley. It is heavily forested with mixed hardwoods and in spring has a large variety of the beautiful wildflowers native to our region.

When the first pioneers ventured into the Ohio River valley, they encountered an unbroken forest, a forest that would take your breath away with its splendor. Taken all together, the Rudemiller property is very reminiscent of these early forested hillsides. Because of the generosity of the Rudemillers, we can be assured that it will remain that way into the foreseeable future. We thank them very much for this donation.

Whitetail Woods is also on a hillside facing the Ohio River valley. As you can see from the map of this property (on page 2), it is in the form of a strip of land (almost one mile long) above Hillside Avenue. It is also completely covered with mature forest. This property is quite near others that have already been protected (Bender Mountain, the Beekley property and Storey Woods) thus giving us the opportunity to protect a very large continuous area in the future.

Western Wildlife Corridor was able to purchase this property because of funding assistance (\$34,300) from the ForeverGreen Fund of Hamilton County Park District and donations from over a hundred individuals and foundations. We thank all of them very much for their donations.

But, the job is not done. We still need to raise the balance of the money, \$20,000, which was borrowed from our general operating fund to allow us to purchase the property. If you would like to make a contribution for the purchase of Whitetail Woods, we would be so grateful. A donation form for this purpose can be found in this newsletter.

What's next? As those of you who are familiar with our activities know, the next important phase of these projects will soon begin -- restoration of the habitat to a more natural condition. In both cases, this initially will mean the removal of the Amur honeysuckle bushes that have invaded. Once this has been accomplished, we will need to fend off other invasive aliens such as garlic mustard that will immediately attempt to rush in.

These newly protected properties now join the growing list of nature preserves that we own and manage in the region. They, like Bender Mountain, Delshire Nature Preserve and Turkey Haven Nature Preserve have become sanctuaries in the Ohio River valley; sanctuaries for the plants and animals, sanctuaries that all of us can enjoy and be proud of. 🐦



All wildflowers pictured on this page are common at Whitetail Woods and the Rudemiller property.

### Calendar of Events

#### January 25

Hardy Hikers walk on Bender Mountain.

#### February 3

Winter membership mtg at EarthConnection.

#### March 28

Habitat restoration project at Whitetail Woods

#### April 3

3rd annual Wildflower Festival at Delhi Senior Center.

#### April 5

Wildflower Hike at Bender Mountain

#### April 11

Habitat restoration project at Shady Lane

#### April 18

Habitat restoration project at Whitetail Woods

#### April 25

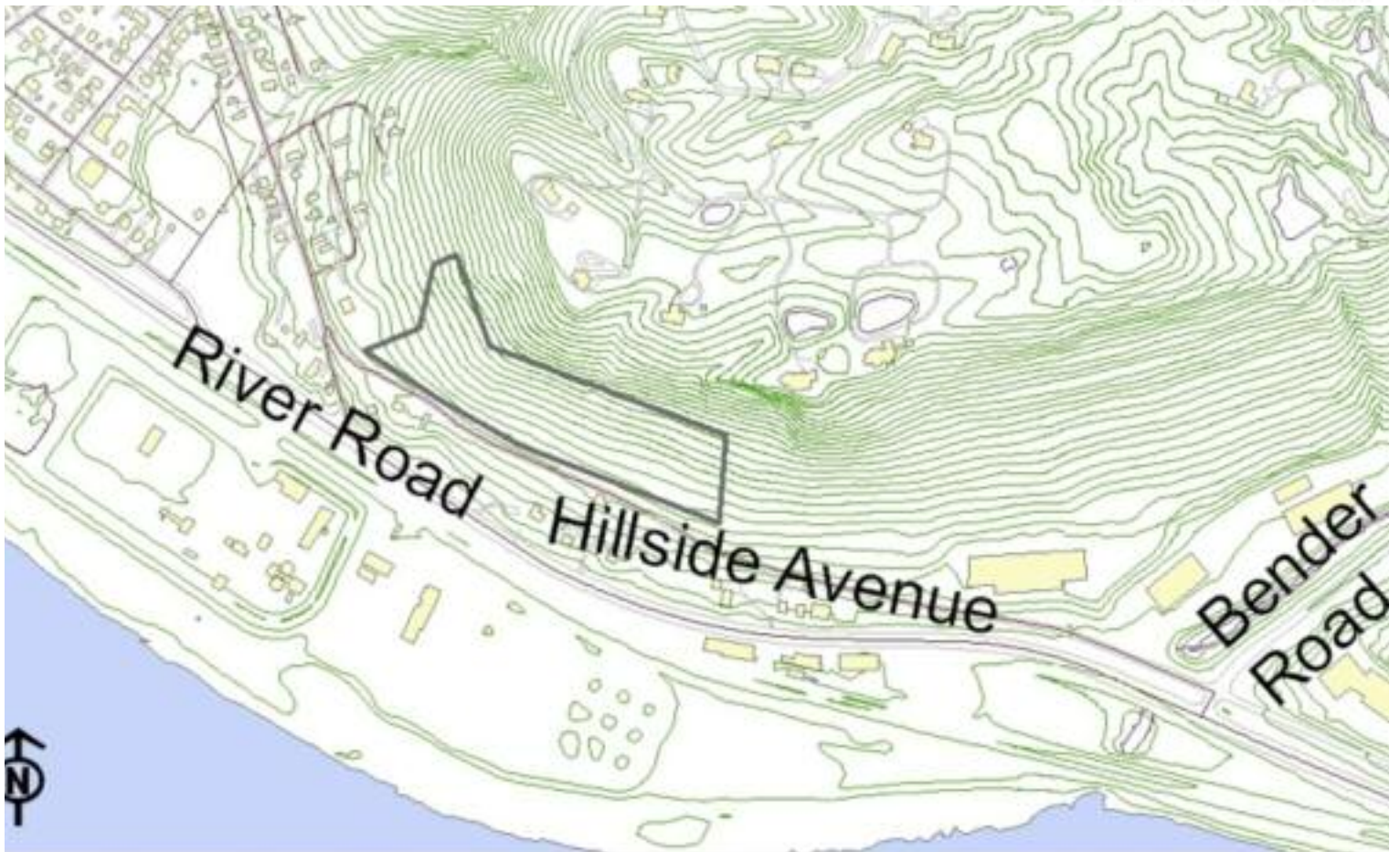
5th annual Flower-a-thon



Maps that correspond to President's Journal from p. 1



Rudemiller Property



Whitetail Woods

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

**Sunday, Jan. 25, 1 pm**  
**Hardy Hikers Walk**  
**Bender Mountain**

The "Mountain" will warm you up for sure on this winter day. We'll wander up its side to the top, where the view of the Ohio River valley is spectacular. Signs of the meandering of wildlife in winter will probably be found - especially if there is snow on the ground!

Contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net) for meeting place and other details.

**Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 pm**  
**Winter Membership Meeting**  
**EarthConnection**

WWC is pleased to host a presentation by Stanley Hedeem, a local author, whose books highlight our natural resources. Learn from his extensive research and experiences what makes some of the natural areas in our corridor so unique and special. A brief review of Western Wildlife Corridor's plans for the coming year will also be given, and light refreshments will be provided.

Contact Leesa Miller at 513.941.1628 or [momshine2000@yahoo.com](mailto:momshine2000@yahoo.com) for more details.

**Friday, April 3, 6 - 9 pm**  
**Third Annual Wildflower Festival**  
**Delhi Senior Center**

This family event will feature nature games and activities, a wildflower plant and seed sale, a painting class, wildflower educational material, food, presentations by local environmental organizations and educational games for children.

Contact Rebecca Sisson at 859.746.8671 or [rsisson654@fuse.net](mailto:rsisson654@fuse.net) to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.



View from Bender Mountain, 2007

**Sunday, April 5, 1 pm**  
**Wildflower Hike**  
**Bender Mountain**

If you want to see wildflowers, this is the time and the place. The hillsides here are covered with many species of beautiful spring wildflowers.

For more on this event, contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net).

**Saturday, April 25, all day**  
**Fifth Annual Flower-a-thon**

In this exciting event participants compete to identify the wildflowers of the region and learn more about them. It begins with a breakfast around the fire at Embshoff Woods Park. Teams will then set off to explore the Ohio River valley, to search for and identify wildflowers. Flower-a-thon participants will also receive a gift and an awards dinner with a prize raffle to cap off the day. The team identifying the most wildflowers will receive the event's coveted Golden Trillium Award.

For more on this event, or to register (fee of \$10 per person required), contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net).



Happy Flower-a-thon Team, 2006

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, euonymous 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 Sisson at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net) for more information.

**Saturday, March 28**  
**9 am - noon**

**Location: Whitetail Woods**

**Saturday, April 11**  
**9 am - noon**

**Location: Shady Lane**

**Saturday, April 18**  
**9 am - noon**

**Location: Whitetail Woods**

## Sister's Hill Cleanup

by Tim Sisson; photos by Leesa Miller



Assorted trash on old Delhi Road waiting to be loaded on Carl's Bobcat.



Robert and Christine bringing old bedsprings up to the road.

On November 8 we had great fun cleaning up a whole bunch of trash on our Sister's Hill properties. Way back when Delhi Road was open to Hillside Avenue, there were several houses on the hillside there. The same landslides that caused the road to be closed destroyed the houses. Apparently, the people had to leave in a hurry because they left things like bedsprings, televisions and children's toys, plus the usual assortment of tires and other car parts when they moved. This is certainly not what we had in mind for our nature preserve, so this trash had to go. We are happy to say that this fall we were able to clean the area up quite nicely. Thanks very much to all the volunteers who helped with this. It was hard work, but certainly very rewarding! 🙌



Carl taking trash to the end of the road where it could be hauled away to a dumpster.

*Thanks to all who help us achieve our mission!*

### Western Wildlife Corridor Board of Trustees

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**Leesa Miller**  
513.941.1628

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**Rebecca Sisson**  
859.746.8671

#### Newsletter:

**Mary Uhlenbrock**  
513.921.WILD

# JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT ~ ARUM FAMILY

*By Sally Sisson Anderson, Artist in Residence, WWC*



The first time I painted Jack-in-the-pulpit, I was on a hillside over South Road under an oak tree. My legs got very cramped from perching there, but working at the site and from the real flowers makes for more valid art.

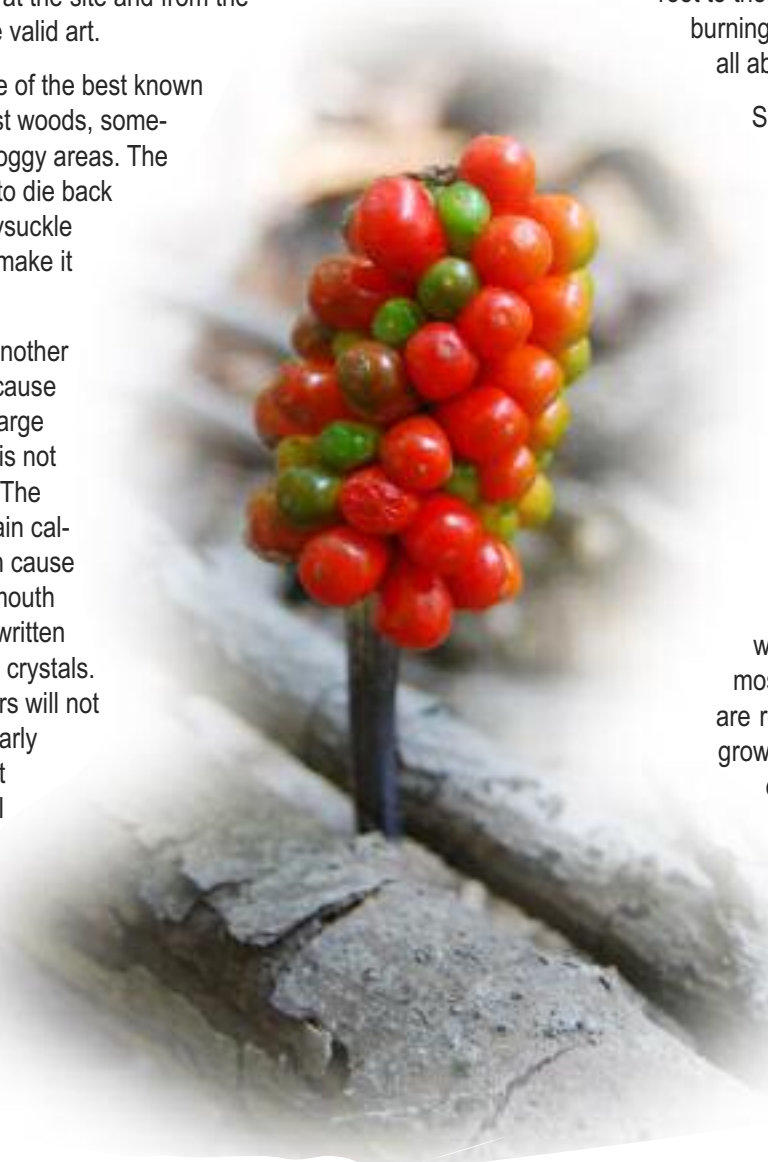
The Jack-in-the-pulpit is one of the best known wildflowers. It grows in moist woods, sometimes along streams or in boggy areas. The droughts and heat cause it to die back and being overrun by honeysuckle bushes and garlic mustard make it rarer.

The Jack is also called by another name, the Indian turnip, because Indians used to gather the large corms for food. However, it is not considered an edible plant. The plant, root and berries contain calcium oxalate crystals, which cause a burning sensation in the mouth and throat. It is sometimes written that cooking removes these crystals. But boiling the plant for hours will not take away the biting acid. Early American Indians found that prolonged drying for several months made the Jack edible. They ground it into flour, then it could be made into cakes with nuts and seeds, or bread. It was also used it as a

counterirritant, an expectorant, and for coughs. Some Indians used it for headaches. They applied the freshly ground powdered root to their foreheads. This caused sweating and burning so excruciating that the poor Indian forgot all about pain on the inside.

Shortly after the Jack withers in summer, a cluster of green berries appear. By September, the berries have turned bright red. This is the time when you want to pick the berries for seed. Seed cleaning should be done before the berries dry out. If seeds dry out they may not germinate. To clean the seeds, remove them from the cluster, then place them in several pieces of newspaper on the floor. Walk on them with soft soled shoes. Wear plastic gloves to remove them from the paper, then place them in a sieve and rinse until all the pulp and skin are removed. Be sure to keep your gloves on while working with the seeds. Put them in damp moss in the refrigerator for sixty days. Now they are ready to plant. Plant them where they are to grow, deep enough so the birds will not eat them, or plant them in a seed tray and keep moist.

The corms of Jack in the Pulpit can sometimes be found in nurseries or seed catalogues. Be sure to choose a shady, damp spot in your garden for planting, and incorporate peat moss and humus into the soil. Plants should flower the third season. Jack in the Pulpit looks beautiful in the garden, and will endure for many years. ✓





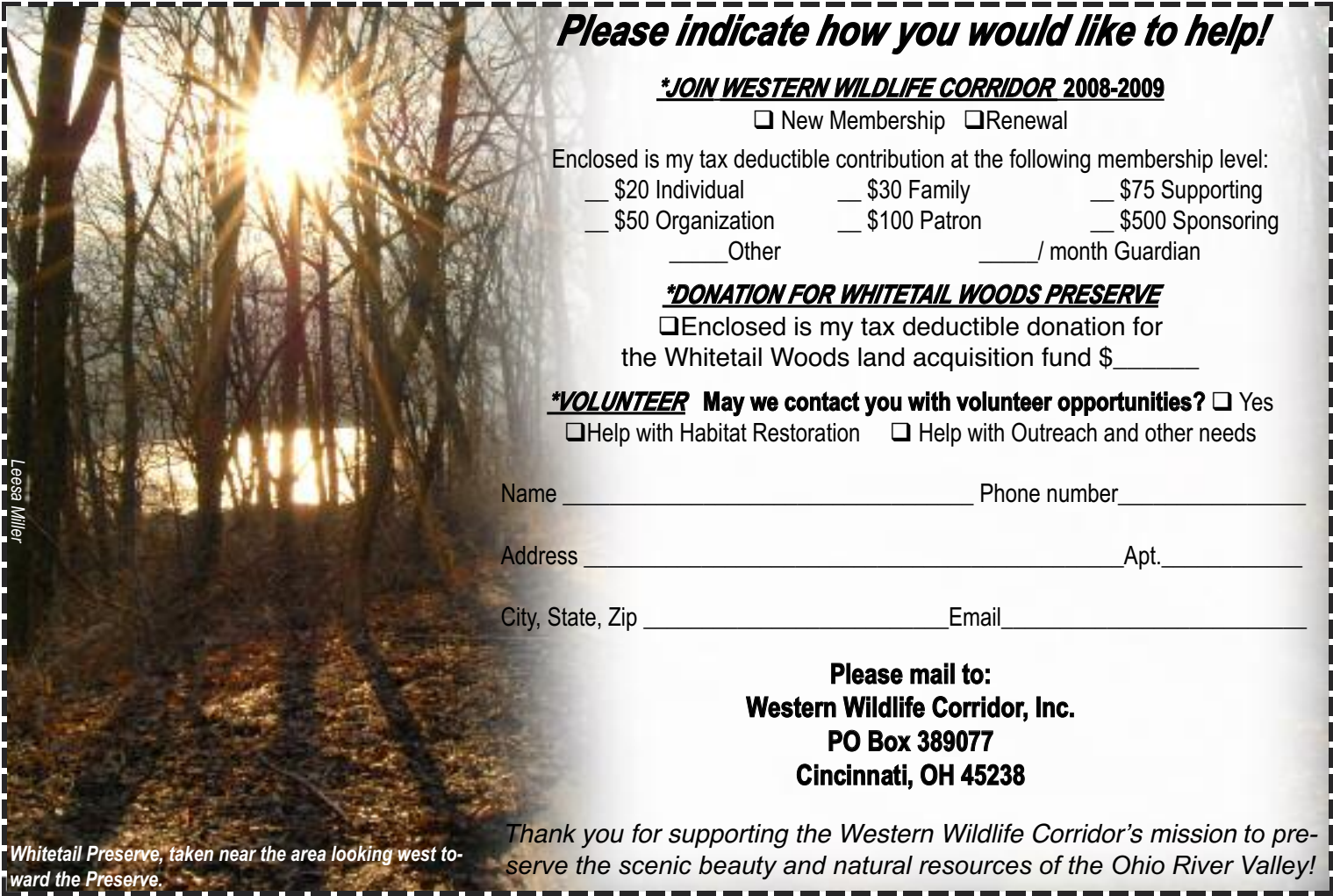
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Leesa Miller

Whitetail Preserve, taken near the area looking west toward the Preserve.

***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 WHITETAIL WOODS PRESERVE**

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for the Whitetail Woods 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!*