



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Spring 2010

Calendar of Events

April 9, 6 to 9pm

Fourth Annual Wildflower Festival
Delhi Senior Center

April 10, 10am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project
Bender Mountain

April 17, 8am

Early Spring Birds and Blooms Hike

April 18, 1pm

Wildflower Hike at Delshire Preserve

April 24, all day

Sixth Annual Flower-a-thon

May 1, 9am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project at Shady Lane

May 8, 10am to 12:30pm

"Space Invaders" of the Green Kind
Delshire Preserve

May 15, 9am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project at Vista View

May 29, 9am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project at Delshire

June 12, 9am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project
Bender Mountain

June 26, 9am to noon

Habitat Restoration Project
Whitetail Woods

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Is Opportunity Knocking?

Recently I got a call from someone who wanted to donate land to Western Wildlife Corridor. It turned out that the land was on Hillside Avenue in the Western Wildlife Corridor and definitely qualified for our protection. One of our friends at Delhi Township referred this lady to us. Without this recommendation, we would not have had the opportunity to protect this property.

We need you to help us learn about opportunities like this and more generally, to help us keep up to date on what is happening in our corridor.

If a for sale sign goes up on a forested parcel, we want to know about it. If a neighbor or friend mentions that they love their property in the WWC and would like to see it remain undeveloped, we want to know about it. If you see an interesting sight in the corridor, like a bald eagle flying over, we want to know about it. All of these things have happened in the last few years; and WWC has done a better job because someone told us about them.

So, if you see that bald eagle flying in our corridor, or you receive a hot tip on property, let us know by mailing us (PO Box 389077, Cincinnati, OH 45238), calling us (513.921.9453) or emailing us (wwc7@yahoo.com).

Your information may lead to the protection of our next special property, or you may provide us valuable information that enhances our knowledge of the Western Wildlife Corridor.

Larkspur on Mrs. Beekley's property. We were able to protect this beautiful forest because of a tip from a friend.

Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor

Friday, April 9, 6 pm to 9 pm **Fourth 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 at rsisson654@insightbb.com or 859.512.1983 to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

Saturday, April 17, 8 am **Early Spring Birds & Blooms Hike** **Bender Mountain**

By mid-April, songbird migration will have begun, although it will still be far from its peak. But we will have a good chance to find early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Brown Thrasher, House Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a few warblers and vireos also should have returned.

We will walk out the trail to Bender Mountain. This trail follows the ridge top, and gives easy views of treetop birds. There will be plenty to see looking down, too, as the trail passes through a mature forest with a carpet of spring ephemeral wildflowers. The first part of the walk is fairly level, but it becomes quite steep later on. You will have the option to walk the whole trail, or just part of it, as you prefer.

Directions: Take Delhi Road to where it deadends, past Bender Road, west of the College of Mt. St. Joseph. Take the last driveway on the left, and follow it past the Sisters of Charity motherhouse to the large parking lot.

For more details, call Ned Keller or Kathy McDonald at 513.941.6497, or email one of us at keller@one.net or kmc@one.net.

Sunday, April 18, 1 pm **Wildflower Hike** **Delshire Preserve**

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, which is also a "tune-up" for contestants in our Flower-a-thon, contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.



Saturday, April 24, all day **Sixth Annual Flower-a-thon**

In this exciting event, participants compete to identify the wildflowers of the region and learn more about them. Participants ask family, friends and businesses to pledge an amount per species found to raise money for the WWC. The day 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 cap off the day with an awards dinner, a prize raffle and will choose a wildflower plant to take home.

The team identifying the most wildflowers will receive the event's coveted Golden Trillium Award. To register, (fee of \$10 per person required), contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Saturday, May 8, **10 am to 12:30 pm** **"Space Invaders"** **of the Green Kind** **Delshire Preserve**

Bring the family to this free event to learn about "green invaders", the alien plants that are threatening our natural "space". We'll play an interactive game about these invasive plants, then head off to the woods in search of the enemy: garlic mustard. Learn about the harm done by garlic mustard and how to remove this threat from our nature preserves with a fun, hands-on experience. We'll see many wildflowers that have already returned from these efforts the past few years.

This family-friendly event is designed for kids ages 7-12 to attend with an adult. Wear sturdy shoes like gym shoes or hiking boots,

Learn why it's so important!

as we will be walking on uneven ground and hills. Long pants are recommended. Bring work gloves if you have them. Some gloves will be available to use. After our battle with the "green space invaders," we'll rebuild our energy with some refreshments.

Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are also invited to attend as a group with a registered leader being responsible for the group.

Contact Leesa Miller at 513.284.1046 or momshine2000@yahoo.com with questions and any weather-related issues the day of the event.

Meet at Delhi Swim Club parking lot: 202 Felicia Road 45238. To get there, take Pedretti Ave., south from Delhi Pike. Follow Pedretti as it jogs at Mt. Alverno Rd (turn right, then left). Take a left on Felicia which is the second left after Pedretti turns south at Mt. Alverno.

This educational project was made possible thanks to a grant from Ohio River Way.

Leesa and Katie, a mother-daughter honeysuckle clearing team.

Tim Sisson

Learn to Paint Wildflowers in Watercolor!

Western Wildlife Corridor is presenting a free watercolor workshop at the Wildflower Festival on Friday, April 9.

Sally Sisson Anderson, WWC artist in residence, will be teaching watercolor techniques. The class will focus on a scene with wildflowers and will run from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

The Wildflower Festival will be held at Delhi Township Senior Center at 647 Neeb Rd. in Delhi Township. Call 353-2708 to register and to get the supply list.

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.

Saturday, April 10, 10 am to noon at Bender Mountain

Help us as we start clearing a new area on the "mountain" that WWC just purchased.

Saturday, May 1, 9 am to noon at Shady Lane Preserve

In addition to honeysuckle, the Shady Lane Preserve is being invaded by the dreaded garlic mustard. Today we will be fending off attacks by both of these!

May 15, 9 am to noon at Vista View

Today we will begin clearing garlic mustard from another new property. This one is in Miami Township.

May 29, 9 am to noon at Delshire

You guessed it, garlic mustard removal. But you'll be able to enjoy an amazing display of wildflowers too.

June 12, 9 am to noon at Bender Mountain

We will continue clearing honeysuckle in the newly acquired area of Bender Mountain.

June 26, 9 am to noon at Whitetail Woods

Since this will be our last spring project day, we're going to provide pizza and drinks for all the volunteers. Join us to celebrate another successful season restoring our preserves.

A Wildflower

Six years ago, when my brother Tim came to me with the idea of a Flower-a-Thon as a fundraiser for WWC, I thought it was the nuttiest idea I had ever heard. I had heard of marathons, walk-a-thons and bird-a-thons, and he said, why not a wildflower-a-thon? So, I humored him, we put our plans in motion, and on a chilly April morning, 60 people showed up to march into the woods and count wildflower species. They raised over \$4500 from pledges. Who would have guessed?

That was the beginning of our annual fundraiser, now expanded into two separate events, the Wildflower Festival and the Flower-a-thon.

The Wildflower Festival will be held again this year at the Delhi Senior Center on **Friday, April 9th, 6 pm to 9 pm**. The festival has expanded to a number of interesting and educational vendors and presenters. **Native plants** are the most popular items for sale, along with **local honey**, **wildflower prints and cards**, and an excellent **bake sale** by the Girl Scouts. Children's activities are a big part of the evening, engaging the youngsters in **games**, **face painting** and many other raucous pursuits. The Cincinnati Zoo and the Hamilton County Park District are among the many area organizations that will have **informational tables**.

This year, in addition to the **wildflower watercolor painting class**, offered by our artist-in-residence,



Extravaganza

By Rebecca Sisson

Sally Sisson Anderson, we will have a [tree identification class](#) taught by Kris Stone, of the Boone County Extension Service. There is no cost for either class.

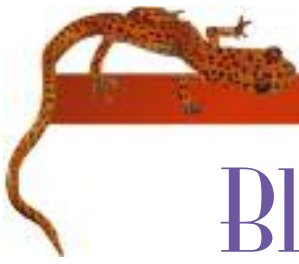
[Pizza by the slice and drinks](#) are available for sale throughout the event. It is an interesting evening for all ages and admission is free.

[The Flower-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, April 24th.](#) The Flower-a-thon is an all-day event, but you can come when you want and leave when you want. We meet for a continental breakfast at Embshoff Woods in the morning. By 7:30 am, the coffee will be perked and a roaring fire will be burning. By 8:30, we will break into our teams and head off into the woods to start our count. The idea is to find as many different species of flowering wild native plants as possible, including any wildflower, bush or tree that is flowering on that day or has flowered in the current season. Participants ask friends, family members and businesses to pledge an amount per species of wildflower found. Last year, the winning Imago team spotted 105 species.

There are many teams that would enjoy having new members, so don't be shy if you would like to come along. Each year we learn more species and increase our counts, but most of us started out as novices. Depending on the team and the individual members, the count may take you into the afternoon, or all the way to the awards dinner at 6:00 at Earth Connection. The team that finds the most wildflower species is awarded the coveted Golden Trillium Award. Everyone at the dinner receives a wildflower plant to take home. There is a \$10 per person fee to register for the Flower-a-thon.

Please join us for both events. We hope to see you there! 🐝





Bloodroot – an Early Wildflower

by Sally Sisson Anderson, WWC Artist in Residence

Bloodroot is one of America's favorite wildflowers, but you must get out in the woods very early to see it, because it pushes through the old leaves while the ground is still cold. The attractive white flower has eight, sometimes twelve petals and is one to two inches across. It is one of the first signs of spring, along with the tiny Harbinger of Spring plants. The lovely white bloom of Bloodroot is such a welcome sight in the barren brown landscape of March.

The large rounded leaf of Bloodroot tends to hug the flower, and when the weather turns cold, this leaf will completely enclose the bloom to protect it from freezing. A few warm days is all it takes, and the petals fall; leaving a light green capsule that will grow to hold twenty five brown seeds at maturity. Ants and wind will disperse the seeds.

Indians used the red juice in the stems, rhizome, and roots of Bloodroot as a dye and as war paint. A drop on a sugar cube was an old time cough remedy, but I wouldn't try it, for Bloodroot is said to be poisonous. The Latin name, *sanguinaria*, means bleeding, describing this red juice. Many cultures have used it as a dye and as an insect repellent. Picking the bloom of Bloodroot may kill the plant; also, the petals will quickly fall off. Under the plant if you remove the soil is a rhizome that looks something like that of an Iris.

Cultivation might be fun for you to try. To harvest the seeds, look

for the swollen capsules and the enlarged leaves of Bloodroot in April. The leaves greatly enlarge after the bloom has faded. Seeds will be ready about four weeks after blooming. Open a capsule, and if the seeds are turning brown or darkening, it is time to collect the seeds. Collect the seedpods into a small bag with some moist soil in it to keep seeds from drying out. As soon

as all the capsules have opened, sow the seed and soil mixture. Storage of Bloodroot seeds has not been successful. Sow them in a rich, humus soil 1/2 inch deep in a shaded wooded area. You will have to be patient, as plants will probably not emerge until the following spring. Keep the seedbed moist during the growing season. You might find the tubers or plants for sale at a nursery for wild plants or at the Western Wildlife Corridor Wildflower Festival!!

Once established, the big bold leaves of Bloodroot will grow almost all summer and can make an interesting display in a shade garden along with Christmas ferns, Wild Ginger, Phacelia, Wild Bleeding Heart,

and Woodruff.

Bloodroot can be found growing along streams and on wooded hillsides from Quebec to Florida, and westward to Kansas and Texas. 🐸



Have You Considered Planned Giving?

By Adele Grout

We are pleased to announce that we are investigating ways that our supporters can help further our mission by incorporating "planned giving" techniques into their estate plans. Some of those techniques are very simple and are listed below:

1. Name WWC as the beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or Pension Plan.
2. Name WWC as the beneficiary of an insurance policy.
3. Make a bequest of real property, securities or cash through your will or trust.

More complex ways of giving could include the following:

1. Charitable Gift Annuities
2. Charitable Remainder Trusts
3. Charitable Lead Trusts

The techniques shown directly above will require the assistance of an attorney to draft and execute these documents and your attorney will be able to determine which one is right for your situation.

In future newsletters we will be exploring in more detail the deferred giving ideas listed above, and how these might fit into your estate plan. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 and we will assist you in getting answers to your questions. Please consider how you might be able to help WWC in the future by utilizing one of the planned giving ideas shown above.

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World-famous
naturalist/artist John

Ruthven has generously donated a
limited-edition print of wood ducks to
Western Wildlife Corridor.

We are happy to be offering raffle tickets
for this beautiful print. Tickets are \$1 each
or six for \$5, and will be sold at the Wild-
flower Festival, Flower-a-thon and the
WWC Holiday Party.

The drawing will be held at the
Holiday Party in
December.



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***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 pre-serve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!

Leesa Miller

WWC property, made possible through generous donations.