



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Summer 2010

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Bender Mountain Arrives!

By Tim Sisson

Yes, the Bender Mountain Preserve, owned by Western Wildlife Corridor and Delhi Township, is a reality. Here are the major accomplishments this spring that brought this about:

- ♥ WWC completed the purchase of 14 acres at the end of the mountain.
- ♥ WWC and Delhi Township signed a Memorandum of Understanding to manage the preserve jointly. We thank the Delhi Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Manager very much for their vision and support for this nature preserve.
- ♥ The first phase of a trail into WWC's property was completed. This was an Eagle Scout service project - more about this in the next issue of The Steward.
- ♥ Removal of the dreaded garlic mustard was completed on the north slope of the mountain.

Taken together, this means that now we have a large area in Delhi with natural hiking trails in an area that provides us the rare opportunity to enjoy a beautiful forest without the masses of alien plants encountered in most other places. This will also provide an excellent site for education on: native versus non- native plants, the benefits of removing invasive alien plant species and the identification and study of wildflowers and trees.

This summer and fall we will be organizing several hikes in this new preserve. I'm sure we will also be visiting the preserve spontaneously at other times as well (call us at 921. 9453 for details). Please join us on one of these and see this wonderful new nature preserve for yourself. ♥

Calendar of Events

July 31, 9am

Hike at Bender Mountain

September 26, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Great Outdoor Weekend

Whooo's Watching Whooo?

Story Woods Park, Delhi

Hikers enjoying Bender Mountain last winter.



Tim Sisson

2010 Flower-a-thon and Festival : Successful Again!

By Mary Uhlenbrock

The Wildflower Festival grows bigger and better every year. This year we had additional native plant vendors with a wide variety of plants for sale. There were two classes this year: the popular wildflower watercolor painting class and a new tree identification class. The children's area attracted a large and lively group who enjoyed the fun nature activities.

The weather was a big factor in the Flower-a-thon this year. The day started out with light rain and this reduced the number of participants. However, seven teams ventured out, the heavy rain held off until late afternoon, and we found an amazing number of wildflowers. Because we had such a warm spring, species were blooming earlier than usual, so we counted species that we didn't find blooming in the past. The Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society team reclaimed the Golden Trillium Award; team members Rob Repasky, Marjie Becus, Christine Hadley and Jim Mason identified 112 species.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and made donations. Pledges are still coming in; over \$4000 has been raised!



Yes, it was raining at the start, but this team was having a great time anyway at the Flower-a-thon!

Tim Sisson

**We also wish to sincerely thank the following sponsors.
Without their help the festival would not have been possible.**

Kiwanis Club of Riverview - Delhi Hills
Delhi Township Parks and Recreation
Sally Sisson Anderson
PNC Bank - Cleves branch
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PNC Bank - Delhi branch
Jeff's Drive-Thru and Carry Out
Merrilees Hardware Company
Nancy McGary



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

View from Bender Mountain Ridgetop.



Tim Sisson

Saturday, July 31
9 am
Woodland Hike
Bender Mountain Preserve

We've had spring hikes and winter hikes; now's your chance to see the new Bender Mountain Preserve in the summer. There will be some summer wildflowers and the forest will be lush and green. We'll also hike to the ridge top to see the stunning view of the Ohio River valley.

For more on this event, please contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Saturday, September 25
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Great Outdoor Weekend
Story Woods Park

We will begin with family activities including: education on the importance of natural habitat, areas to help children identify plants, animals and fossils and displays of Native American technology and ethnobotany.

At dusk, we will then hike deep into the woods searching for clues of wildlife. Be prepared for anything as we enter the nocturnal world.

For more information, call Leesa Miller at 513.284.1046.



Tim Sisson

Kids enjoying WWCs display last year at the Great Outdoor Weekend



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Sunset over the Western Wildlife Corridor.

America's Greenest Metropolitan Area

By Stan Hedeem



Tim Sisson

In Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1854 description of Cincinnati as "the Queen of the West in her garlands dressed on the banks of the beautiful river," the garlands were deciduous trees and the river was the Ohio. Today, an airborne observer will see that deciduous woodland still covers the Southwestern Ohio-Northern Kentucky-Southeastern Indiana region of the Ohio River Valley. Impressive stands of old-growth trees continue to flourish in a number of area parks and nature centers. The heavily wooded Cincinnati park system has been identified by USA Today as being one of the three best in the nation, and the 1,600-acre Cincinnati Nature Center in Clermont County is one of the largest nature centers in the country. Significant natural communities are preserved by ten local land trust organizations, including Western Wildlife Corridor that is working to protect Ohio's wooded hill-sides along the Ohio River from near downtown Cincinnati to the Indiana border.

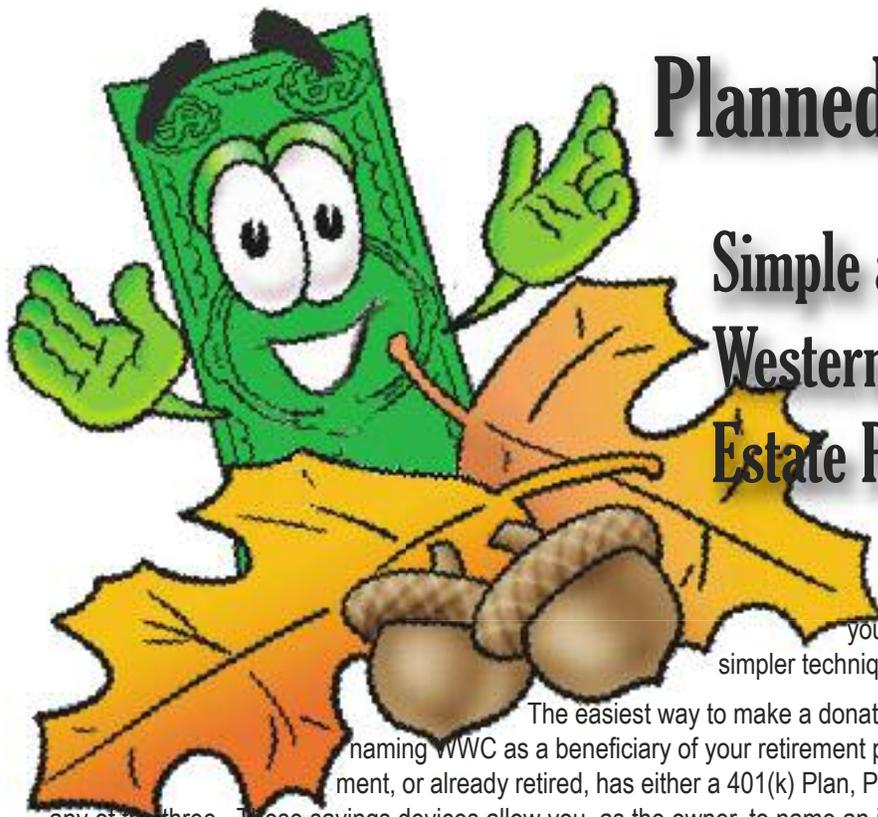
On the shoreline of the Ohio River, Newport Aquarium educates the public about aquatic life and the importance of stream preservation. Employees of the USEPA Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center, the largest freshwater research facility in the world, annually partner with the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition to present one of the nation's largest Earth Day programs on the Cincinnati riverfront. The city also serves as the headquarters of the Ohio River Foundation and ORSANCO, the eight-state compact that oversees water quality throughout the Ohio River watershed. About 2,000 people participate in Cincinnati's annual Paddlefest, the nation's largest canoe event, to celebrate the natural environment of the Ohio River. Active citizen groups effectively protect each of the Ohio River's six major tributaries in the region, the best known of which is the Little Miami River. Of the approximately 250,000 rivers in the United States, the Little Miami is one of the 165 exceptional waterways that comprise the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Stream channels cutting into the region's bedrock expose the world-famous marine fossils that have caused Cincinnati's name to be appropriated for one of North America's geologic time spans - the Cincinnati Epoch of the Ordovician Period. Equally famous is Big Bone Lick, the "Cradle of American Paleontology" located in Boone County. Since 1739, the sediment surrounding the Lick's salt springs has yielded the world's first known fossils of the mastodon and four other extinct Ice Age mammals. Past and present species of the region are investigated and displayed by the Cincinnati Museum Center, continuing a tradition of environmental studies that began in 1819 with the hiring of John James Audubon, the first employee of the institution that eventually gave rise to the Museum Center. Collections of local species and fossils are also displayed and interpreted at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington and the Hefner Zoology and Limper Geology Museums in Oxford.

Numerous investigations of terrestrial and aquatic ecology are carried out by local colleges and universities, three of which operate field research stations in the area. There are regional natural history interest groups for the study and conservation of trees, wildflowers, birds, fish, and amphibians and reptiles. The area's fauna and flora have provided subject matter for locally-based nature writers such as George Laycock (North American Wildlife), John Tallmadge (The Cincinnati Arch), and Pulitzer Prize winner Josephine Johnson (The Inland Island), nature photographers such as Ron Austing and the Maslowski family, and nature artists such as Charley Harper and John Ruthven, winner of the 2004 National Medal of Arts. The regional public appreciation of animals and plants is reflected by the annual visitation of 1.2 million people to The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, the second oldest zoo in the United States.

Because of its forested landscape and river setting, Winston Churchill named Cincinnati "the most beautiful city inland in the Union." Visitors to the Queen City region are repeatedly impressed by its extensive woodlands, free-flowing streams, abundant fossils, and nature-loving citizenry. Through the ongoing efforts of individuals, governments, and organizations such as Western Wildlife Corridor, Greater Cincinnati will continue to reign as the greenest metropolitan area in the nation. ✓

Stan Hedeem is Professor Emeritus of Biology, Xavier University and author of Big Bone Lick: the Cradle of American Paleontology, The Natural History of the Cincinnati Region and The Mill Creek: an Unnatural History of an Urban Stream.



Planned Giving:

Simple and Easy Ways to Include Western Wildlife Corridor in Your Estate Planning!

By Adele Grout

In the last newsletter we listed several ways that you can support Western Wildlife Corridor by including our organization in your estate plan. In this issue we'd like to expand on the simpler techniques for giving.

The easiest way to make a donation to Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC) after your death is by naming WWC as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. Nearly everyone who is employed and saving for retirement, or already retired, has either a 401(k) Plan, Pension Plan, Individual Retirement Account or a combination of any of the three. These savings devices allow you, as the owner, to name an individual, a charitable entity, or BOTH as the beneficiary to receive the funds after your death. You will also designate the percentage of the amount you wish to leave to your beneficiaries. For a very small retirement plan, you could name WWC as the beneficiary of the entire plan amount. If you have a large plan, you could designate a percentage of your plan to go to WWC.

Another option would be to designate WWC as beneficiary of an insurance policy. Many people own small policies that they purchased many years ago and these policies would make a perfect donation to WWC. Your insurance agent could assist you with the proper forms to designate WWC as the beneficiary. Same as retirement plans, you can also designate a percentage of your policy to WWC.

Finally, you could make a bequest of real estate, securities or cash through your will or trust to WWC. Your attorney would be able to assist you by writing a codicil to your will or an amendment to your trust to add WWC as a beneficiary to your current estate planning documents.

Please know that any gift in any amount that you make to WWC, whether a current gift or a future gift as indicated in the examples above, will be greatly appreciated. All donations are used toward our goal of preserving land for future generations. If you have any questions, please call Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104. ✓



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.

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