



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Summer 2011

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Bender Mountain Discoveries

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors.
We borrow it from our children.*

-Native American Proverb

I was reminded of this proverb recently when I found two historical artifacts on our property on Bender Mountain. They illustrated vividly to me the earlier inhabitants that had been here before.

The first is a spear point. Ken Tankersley, the archeologist from UC, told me that it was made by Native Americans from the early archaic era, which extended from 7000 to 9000 years ago. Imagine - here was an object that was used by Native Americans, thousands of years before Europeans arrived on this continent, at a time when unbroken forest extended from the Atlantic to the central plains.

The spear point is incredibly well made, with very fine notches for the binding that held it to the shaft and a quite uniform shape. It was carefully shaped by a real craftsman.

The second artifact is a hub cap from a Model T Ford. This is not as significant in a historical context, but it was interesting to me because I myself own antique cars, including a 1929 Model A Ford.

This type of hub cap was made between 1917 and 1927. It was undoubtedly on a car chugging along Old Rapid Run road, which traversed our property. How it came to be buried in the mud several feet from the old road is probably an interesting story in itself. When the Model T crossed our property the forest in North America did not extend in an unbroken fashion through our region, but there was still a lot of forest left.

This brings me back to the Native American proverb. We at Western Wildlife Corridor are the ones who are making sure that the beautiful forests in the Ohio River valley are protected. With the

help of all of you, our supporters, we will continue to do that, so our children and grandchildren have forests to enjoy and preserve. 🐾



Tim Sisson



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Exploring the Corridor: PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat., Oct. 1, 9 am to noon: Honeysuckle Clearing at Shady Lane Preserve

We are teaming up with a new organization, Connecting Community Conservation Volunteers (CCCV), to organize a large honeysuckle clearing project. The first 30 volunteers will receive a t-shirt and all participants will enjoy pizza and drinks. We hope to have 50 volunteers and to clear a large area. CCCV's mission is to connect volunteers in the Cincinnati-Dayton area with the locations in which invasive plants will be removed and train volunteers to eradicate invasive plants. The website is www.cccv.us.

Sat., Oct. 22, 1 pm: Sign Dedication and Hike at Bender Mountain

Join us as we showcase our new sign and hike up the trail created by Eagle scouts. Participants will have two options: a strenuous hike to the top where you will be treated to a beautiful view of the river, or if you prefer, a more leisurely hike on the lower part of the trail. The woods will be colorful this time of year.



Another Wildflower Success!

By Mary Uhlenbrock

Over 400 people attended the Wildflower Festival this year - the most ever! Many local conservation groups had displays. There were a variety of items for sale including paintings, locally-made honey, t-shirts and native plants. People enjoyed the wildflower watercolor painting class and a spring ephemerals 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 - it was gorgeous. After endless days of rain, everyone was eager to see what the world looked like with the sun shining! Eight teams ventured out, and found an amazing number of wildflowers.

At the banquet, a first for our Flower-a-thon was announced - there was a tie for first place. The Wildflower Huggers and the College of Mt. St. Joseph team both identified 101 species. Another first at the banquet was food from Arnolds, the restaurant in downtown Cincinnati. It was a splendid feast.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and made donations. Pledges are still coming in; over \$5,000 has been raised.



Ray Owens

Look at this great artwork.



The vendors enjoyed the festival too.

Ray Owens



The winning teams were tired, but happy at the end of the Flower-a-Thon.

Tim Sisson

Thank you to the following sponsors who made generous donations to the Festival and Flower-a-thon:

- Kiwanis Club of Riverview - Delhi Hills
- Jason & Delphine Evenchik
- Sisters of Charity
- John P. Tumlin & Sons Ltd.
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- Siemer Jewelers

Planned Giving

By Adele Grout

Giving monetary gifts to Western Wildlife Corridor through planned giving is a fabulous way to preserve our western Hamilton County hillsides! A "planned gift" made either during your lifetime or at your death to Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC) as a part of your financial or estate plan can help make this hillside preservation vision a reality.

A donor may use cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, art-work, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc. to make a planned gift to WWC. The benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both donor and charity. So, what are the tax benefits of planned gifts?

First, donors can contribute appreciated property, like securities or real estate, receive a charitable deduction for all or part of the market value of the asset, and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.

Second, donors who establish a life-income gift receive a tax deduction for the full, fair market value of the assets contributed, minus the present value of the income interest retained; if they fund their gift with appreciated property they pay no upfront capital gains tax on the transfer.

Last, gifts payable to charity upon the donor's death, like a bequest or a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement account, do not generate a lifetime income tax deduction for the donor, but they are exempt from estate tax.

The Most Popular Planned Gifts:

Bequests

Donors include a provision in their will directing that a gift be paid to WWC after their death or the death of one of their survivors.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

This trust pays income to the donor and/or other beneficiaries for life or a term of years and then pays the remaining balance to WWC. Income is paid as a fixed percentage of the unitrust's value - which is revalued annually. Income and appreciation in excess of the required payments to the beneficiaries are held in the unitrust to allow growth.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust

This trust pays the donor and/or other beneficiaries a fixed-dollar amount of income for life or a term of years and then pays the remaining balance to WWC. Unlike income from a unitrust, payments from an annuity trust do not fluctuate during the term of the trust.

Charitable Lead Trust

This trust pays income to WWC for a term of years or for the lifetime of the donor. When the lead trust terminates, the remaining balance is returned to the donor or to the donor's heirs.

Life Insurance

The death benefit of a life insurance policy can be paid to WWC as a charitable gift. You can contribute a fully paid-up policy or can contribute a policy where some premiums remain to be paid. You can also name WWC as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Retirement Plans

Donors can name WWC as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of all or a portion of their IRA, 401(k), or other retirement accounts.

No plan should be considered without the advice of a financial professional or attorney. If you have questions, please contact Tim Sisson at 513-922-2104. 🦋

Many, many varieties of plants were for sale.

Ray Owens

Ray Owens

Crafts were a hit with the kids.

The Festival was crowded all night.

Ray Owens

Everyone, of all ages, enjoyed the fine weather at the Flower-a-Thon.

Tim Sisson



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Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution at the following membership level:

___ \$20 Individual ___ \$30 Family ___ \$75 Supporting
___ \$50 Organization ___ \$100 Patron ___ \$500 Sponsoring
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*Thank you for supporting the Western Wildlife Corridor's mission
to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!*

Tim Sisson

Sunset over the Western Wildlife Corridor.