



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Fall 2012

Calendar of Events

September 22, 9:30 am and 10 am
Great Outdoor Weekend
Forest hikes
Bender Mountain

September 29, 4:30 pm
20th Anniversary hike
Bender Mountain

September 29, 6:00 pm
20th Anniversary picnic
Fernbank Park

September 30, 5:30 pm
20th Anniversary banquet
Deer Run Country Club

October 6, 9 am - noon
Habitat restoration
Voss Preserve

October 14, 2 pm
Fall Color Hike
Sister's Hill and Bender Mountain

October 20, 9 am - noon
Habitat restoration
Bender Mountain

October 27, 9 am - noon
Cleanup and habitat restoration
Shady Lane Preserve

November 3, 9 am - noon
Habitat restoration and possible
trail construction
Delshire Preserve

November 4, 2 pm
Forest hike
Delshire Preserve

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Land Protection Success

Another vital chunk of land in the Western Wildlife Corridor was protected this spring when we signed an agreement with Gary and Heidi Voss for a Conservation Easement that will protect a property they own from development forever.

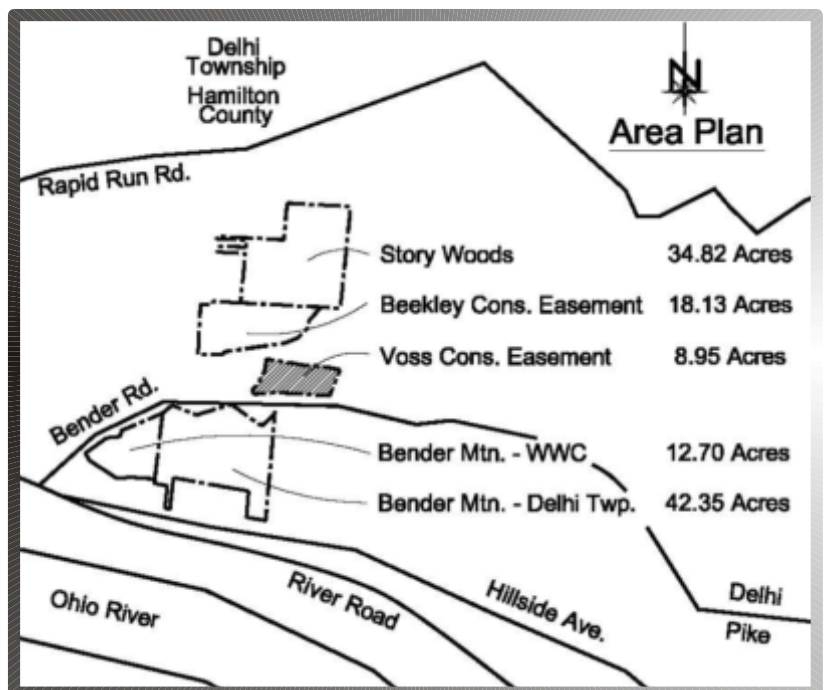
This property is on the slope to the north of Bender Road, opposite Bender Mountain. It is very close to the Bender Mountain properties of WWC and Delhi Township, as well as Story Woods and the Beekley property that we also protect with a Conservation Easement (see map).

As we have said in previous issues of our newsletter, a Conservation Easement is a signed contract between a landowner and a suitable organization such as a land trust or government agency that spells out what activities are permitted and what activities are not permitted on property in order to preserve conservation values.

The Conservation Easement on this property prohibits development and preserves its forested character. In addition, WWC has the right to remove invasive alien plant species, especially garlic mustard and Amur honeysuckle that are beginning to invade the area. The goal is to return it to a truly natural state where native plants and wildlife can flourish.

The Voss property has now become another important link in the emerald chain of preserves stretching through our Western Wildlife Corridor. Protection of it is significant because of its proximity to other protected parcels. It is always better to protect a large area of land to provide good habitat for wildlife, as opposed to smaller, separated parcels.

If you know of any land owners who may also be interested in protecting their property in this manner, please have them contact me at 513-922-2104 or tsisson@fuse.net. We are always happy to talk to people who may want to include their place in our emerald chain through the Ohio River corridor.



Saturday, September 22, 9:30 am and 10 am
Great Outdoor Weekend

For this annual fall event, WWC is hosting two hikes at Bender Mountain – strenuous and moderate. The strenuous hike will start at 9:30 am with a climb through a beautiful forest on our new Eagle Scout Trail. At the top we will be treated to a spectacular view of the Ohio River Valley. We will then hike along the ridge top trail to Paw Paw Gap for the return to the trailhead. The moderate hike will start at 10 am and will meander along the slope of Bender Mountain through an equally beautiful forest. We will also hike at Paw Paw Gap and with a little luck will be able to sample that delectable fruit. For both hikes meet at the gravel parking area on Bender Road about ½ mile from Hillside. Contact Bruce 513-452-5549 or corts5097@aol.com or Tim 513-922-2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for details.

Saturday, September 29, 4:30 pm
Twentieth Anniversary hike on Bender Mountain. See story in this issue of The Steward for details.

Saturday, September 29, 6 pm
Twentieth Anniversary picnic at Fernbank Park. See story in this issue of The Steward for details.

Sunday, September 30, 5:30 pm
Twentieth Anniversary banquet at Deer Run Country Club. See story in this issue of The Steward for details.

Sunday, October 14, 2 pm
Fall Color Hike at Sister's Hill and Bender Mountain
The trees should be at the peak of fall color, so this is your opportunity to see them. Meet at the barrier at the end of Delhi Pike near the College of Mount St. Joseph. The first part of the hike will be on the portion of Delhi Pike that was closed years ago due to hill slippage, but still makes a nice hiking path (commonly called Sister's Hill). We'll then climb a strenuous new trail we've recently blazed up from Hillside Avenue to the top of Bender Mountain to reach old-growth forest and a nice view of the Ohio River. Contact Bruce 513-452-5549 or corts5097@aol.com or John at 513-941-4877 or john.kleinp2@yahoo.com with questions.

Sunday, November 4, 2 pm
Fall Color (maybe) hike at Delshire Preserve
We hike at our Delshire Preserve every spring to see the wildflowers. We thought it was about time we scheduled a hike here in the fall too. With a little luck we'll still see some color, but even if we don't, the forest here is always a delight. Contact Tim at 513-922-2104 or tsisson@fuse.net with questions.

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, September 15,
9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration and
trail construction
Delshire Preserve

**Saturday, October 6,
9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration
Voss Preserve

**Saturday, October 20,
9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration
Bender Mountain

**Saturday, October 27,
9 am - noon**

Cleanup and
habitat restoration
Shady Lane Preserve

**Saturday, November 3,
9 am - noon**

Habitat restoration and
possible trail construction
Delshire Preserve

IRONWEED

By Sally Sisson Anderson, Artist in Residence, WWC

When my mother was young, she had to milk the cow. Her folks lived on a small farm in Green Township. First she had to find the cow. Who hid. (It didn't want to be milked. It hid behind the ironweed, the brambles, the trees.) Then she had to drag it home and milk it, being careful not to get kicked.

Ironweed's flowers are perhaps the brightest purple of all the wild flowers. However, dairy farmers are not fond of them. Cows will not eat the bitter foliage of the ironweed, so it increases in pastures, crowding out grasses, clover, and other plants that cows will eat. Mowing has no effect on stopping the regrowth of roots.

The flowers attract honey bees, as well as other wild bees, butterflies, and skippers. Caterpillars of several moths feed on ironweed. Some bore into the roots.

Ironweed is named for its tough rigid stem. The genus name *Vernonia* honors William Vernon, an English botanist and explorer of the 17th century. There are three types of ironweed throughout the eastern half of the country:

The New York Ironweed is six feet tall and is found from New York through Ohio and south. It likes wet areas, fields, stream banks and blooms from August through October.

Tall Ironweed likes rich wet soil. The leaves are downy on the underside, and it can be up to ten feet tall. It is found in Missouri, Illinois, plus in Michigan and on south. It blooms from August through October.

Western Ironweed has flower clusters that are smaller than the others and flatter. Leaves are smooth and very numerous. It is also shorter, and blooms in prairies. This ironweed is found in Minnesota, Wisconsin to Ohio and south. It blooms from August through September.

The plant is found throughout the world, but the ones here in America are native. Native Americans used ironweed root to relieve pain. But it is very difficult to dig this plant up with a shovel.

If you wish to plant ironweed in your garden, it is best to start from seed. Find a plant while it is blooming, then go back in October to collect the nutlets. They will be a rich buff brown color. Store the nutlets in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Store quite a few, as all will not be viable. Sow seeds in June or July in an outdoor seed frame. Transplant seedlings to single pots when three or four leaf clusters have developed.

Place Ironweed at the rear of the garden, because it gets quite tall. It will contrast nicely against goldenrod, Black Eyed Susan and asters. It is stunning as a cut flower, but discard the leaves as they will wilt.

An old country tale has come down through the years - when the ironweed blooms it is six weeks until frost. Soon the pageantry of goldenrod, asters, and colored leaves will begin. ♡



Western Wildlife Corridor 98; Garlic Mustard 2

By Tim Sisson

Yes, it was that close. We almost won the garlic mustard wars, but as our window of opportunity closed, there were still some plants standing in our preserves. For those of you who aren't familiar with it, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an invasive alien plant that is always lurking on the sidelines in our forests.

Whenever there is clearing of honeysuckle, the garlic mustard moves in. It may not be as obvious as Amur honeysuckle, but it can be just as damaging - if allowed to go to seed, it will develop a dense cover so that native plants can't survive.

This year we had a group of volunteers who spent an incredible amount of time removing garlic mustard. They gave a total of 672 hours removing the plants from the preserves we own and manage! Because of their dedication, we can count on having the glorious spectacle of wildflowers that we have become famous for, and we will be sure to have the continuing diversity of trees, vines and shrubs that a healthy eco-system must have. ♡

Here, then is our honor list of the volunteers who helped with garlic mustard removal this year:

Sally Anderson
Aaron Baker
Dennis Dearwater
Eben DeMatteo
Cory Disbennett
Larry Feist
Mary Frede
Brittani Gollioax
Hannah Goubeaux
Chuck Hedges
Devin Hedges
Emily Henry
Sandy Holt
Don Horak
Richard Jones
Nolan Karwoski
John Klein
Kathy Labmeier
Greg Lang
Debbie Lutkenhoff
Matt Maley
Carolyn Meyers-Hughes



John Obermeyer
Don Otten
Pam Pitré
Gary Rapien
Leanne Reichert
Joyce Richter
Ted Ridder
Marie Salem
Tom Schuler
Jeff Siegmundt
Helen Siegmundt
John Siegmundt
Tim Sisson
Jessee Smith
Pat Tenoever
Robert Thomas
Mary Uhlenbrock
Lance Wagner
Mike Willig
Alan Weiner
Mona Weiner
Wes Wieman



This pile of garlic mustard pulled on Bender Mtn. is taller than some of our volunteers!

Thank you!

Western Wildlife Corridor would like to express appreciation for the many hours donated by Jennifer Doerger and Adele Grout. Both have had to cut back on volunteering due to family obligations.

Jennifer is a graphic artist who produced our newsletter for years. She is very dependable and creative. We were always pleased with how the newsletter looked.

She was always gracious about last minute editorial changes.

Thank you Jennifer for all the time you gave to Western Wildlife Corridor.

We wish you success and will miss you.

Adele served on the Board of Trustees for several years.

She did an excellent job preparing press releases, writing articles, working on fundraising and organizing clean-ups at Shady Lane Preserve.

She also cut down a lot of honeysuckle and pulled garlic mustard.

Thank you, Adele for volunteering for so many things and always following through.

We miss you.

WWC Welcomes Two New Board Members

We are very pleased to announce the inclusion of **Pam Colee-Pitré** as a member of our Board of Trustees. Pam has faithfully volunteered for WWC for over a year, participating in numerous projects to eliminate alien plant species in our preserves and photographing site inspections, hikes and the 6th Annual Wildflower Festival. She is also a key administrator of our Facebook (fb) page, encouraging followers and diligently working to increase WWC's membership.

Pam is among a 6th generation of Colee's born in the "oldest city" of Saint Augustine, Florida. Born in the month of May, Pam is clearly an "earth child", loving geology and natural history. She has enjoyed collecting fossil rocks and learning about the interesting history of the SW River Valley of Ohio and is passionate about WWC's mission of preserving green space for future generations to enjoy.

Pam and husband, Shawn, relocated to Delhi Hills five years ago when Shawn was recruited by Catholic Health Partners. While touring prospective homes in the Western Wildlife Corridor, deer were spotted under the deck of the first home on their short list and Pam whispered to Shawn, "This is THE ONE"! She has captured hundreds of photos of deer, turkey, raccoon and birds since purchasing their "slice of heaven" aka "The Pitré Nature Sanctuary".

In June, 2007, Pam retired from a productive, long-term career specializing in retail real estate in California and Florida. Her most recent affiliation was with Retail One, Inc., where she represented many national tenants including GNC, Mellow Mushroom Pizza, EB Games, Sally Beauty Supply, CosmoProf, Dots Fashions and Beef 'O' Brady's. She maintains a Real Estate License issued by the State of Florida.

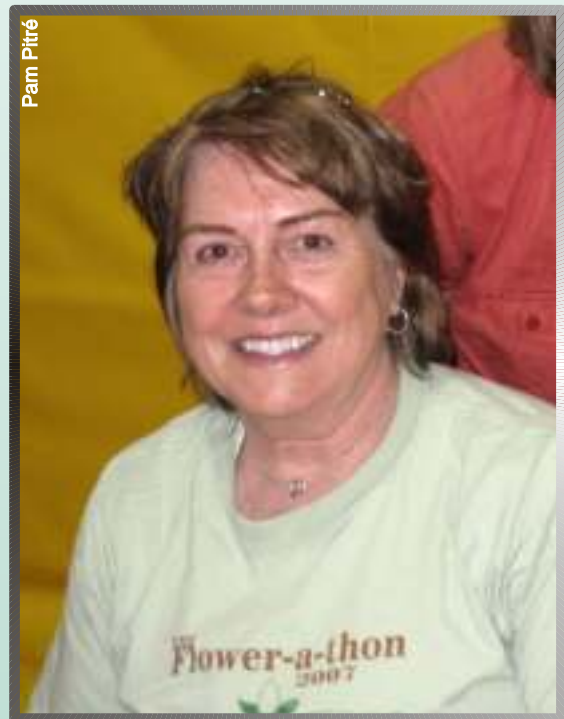
Find us on fb and please join us in welcoming Pam to the Board. ♡



Roselyn "Roz" Schloss has lived in Delhi for 38 years. She is married to Stu, an attorney and has two daughters. Both are married and Lindsey lives in Bridgetown and Stacey in Chicago. Roselyn has two terrific grandchildren and number three is on the way.

While she has not been "gainfully employed" for many years, Roz is thrilled that she has the opportunity to spend her time volunteering and doing the things she loves. She has been an active Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden volunteer for the past 24 years. There, she is a volunteer educator (docent) as well as Day Leader and CREW volunteer. For eighteen years she was an in-school presenter for the Greater Cincinnati Kidney Foundation, promoting general good health practices. In addition, she was active for fourteen years with the Oak Hills Local School District PTA where she held many offices including PTA President for the high school for two years.

Besides time at the zoo and WWC, she is the primary babysitter for her two grandsons. "Life couldn't get much better!" She hopes to be able to pass along her love for nature and the outdoors not only to her grandchildren, but to their generation and is therefore very excited about serving on WWC's board. ♡



If you get email from WWC great!
If not, we'd love to update our records.
Please send your email address to
Joyce_Richter@mail.msj.edu
with "Update WWCContact Info."
in the subject line.



Western Wildlife Corridor Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary

This year Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC) is celebrating 20 years of preserving forested areas in the Ohio River Valley. Two hundred acres are protected and maintained for future generations. Several events are planned for this milestone, including a hike and a banquet.

The details are as follows:

September 29, 2012, 4:30 pm: The general public is invited to hike up Bender Mountain to the lookout above the Ohio River. Meet at the gravel parking lot on Bender Road to join the expedition.

September 29, 2012, 6 pm: Members, guests and founders are invited to a picnic at Fernbank Park. Food and drinks will be provided along with anniversary cake.

September 30, 2012, 5:30 pm: The general public is invited to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the WWC at Deer Run Country Club. There will be socializing at 5:30 pm (cash bar) with a banquet at 6 pm. The cost of dinner is \$25.00 per person. Reservations are required and may be made by sending a check for each attendee to Western Wildlife Corridor at P. O. Box 389077, Cincinnati, OH 45238-9077. Checks must be received by September 20.

For additional information, please contact Pam Pitre at 513-429-3283.

Tim Sisson

Here is a group of happy hikers
after climbing Bender Mountain.



Two Easy Ways to Help Western Wildlife Corridor

Beginning May 1, 2012 Kroger will pay up to \$1,000,000 on a quarterly basis to participating organizations based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

Effective in May you no longer need to add \$\$\$ to your rewards card, but you must sign in on-line. It takes a few minutes, but it is well worth it! Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. Please choose Western Wildlife Organization when you sign up by entering the organization number 80442.

If you have already signed up, but are not sure if Western Wildlife Corridor is receiving rewards from your shopping, please look at the end of your Kroger receipt to see if Western Wildlife Corridor is listed as receiving 2012-2013 Kroger Community Rewards. Thank you so much! The \$\$\$ really helps us!!!

The Remke Caring Neighbors Program remains the same. Customers merely load a Remke Biggs gift card with \$\$\$ which they in turn spend in the store. Their organization will earn 4% of the value loaded. If you do not have a Remke-Biggs Card, you can receive one by calling Tim Sisson at 922-2104.



Tim Sisson

Trail building in 2010.

Artist-in-Residence: Sally Sisson Anderson
Facebook administrator : Pam Pitré
Fundraising chair: Rebecca Sisson
Land Stewardship chair: Tim Sisson
Newsletter: Katie Clark and Mary Uhlenbrock
Outreach chair: Leesa Miller
Photographers: Pam Pitré and Tim Sisson
Website coordinator: Jeff Doering



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Pam Pitre

Joyce Richter, SC

Roselyn Schloss

Rebecca Sisson



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Please indicate how you would like to help!

JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2012-2013

☐ 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

DONATE TO THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND

☐ Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for the land acquisition fund \$_____

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES

☐ 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!*