



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Winter 2013

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

After six years of trying, Western Wildlife Corridor has signed an agreement to buy an absolutely gorgeous property in Saylor Park. This property is exactly the kind of land that we were founded to protect; 15.7 acres of mature forest in the Ohio River valley. It sits on the hillside above Hillside Avenue a bit north of Rapid Run Road.

When our inspection team first visited the Saylor Park property (which we are now calling Buckeye Trace), they were delighted to find it almost completely covered with large trees including white ash, hackberry and both northern red and chinkapin oak. Another big plus was the gravel road which formed a great trail to the top of the property. Here they were treated to a magnificent view of the Ohio River valley. The photo shows Marianne and Joyce on this trail near some very large trees.

This property is also important because it is close to others that have been protected: the Beekley and Voss properties where we have Conservation Easements, Delhi Township's Story Woods Park and Bender Mountain. Thus we will again expand the area of land protected near Rapid Run Creek and Saylor Park.

Now we come to the next important phase of this project – raising the money needed for the purchase. If you are interested in the protection of natural areas, here is a project that clearly deserves your support. By sending your check to Western Wildlife Corridor now (for deposit in our land purchase account) you will be helping with the protection of a beautiful property that will benefit wildlife and human beings in our corridor forever.



Tim Sisson

Calendar of Events

January 27, 2 pm
Winter Adventure Hike
Bender Mountain

March 12, 7 pm
Winter Membership Meeting
EarthConnection

March 23, 10 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Whitetail Woods

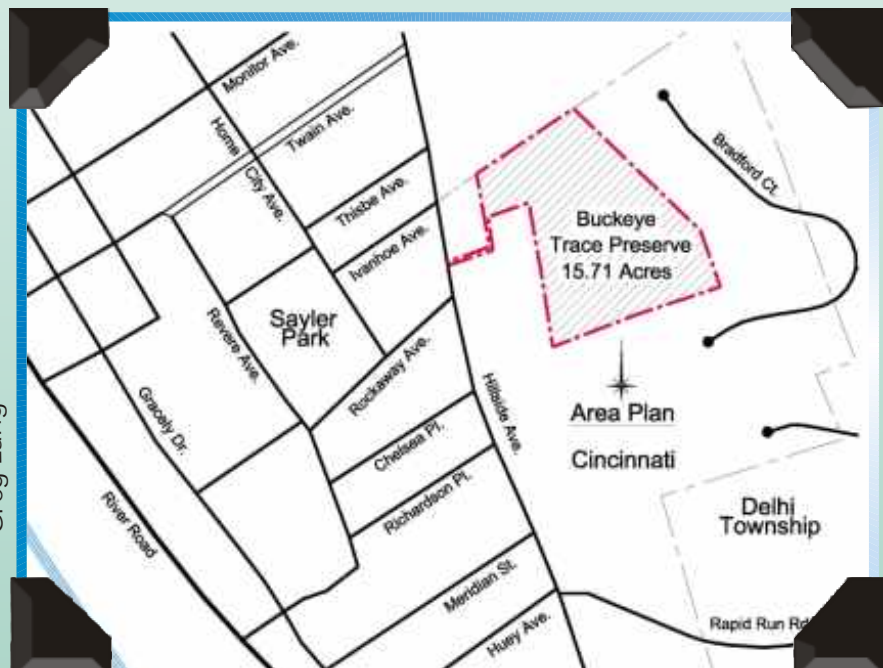
March 30, 10 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Bender Mountain

April 5, 6 pm to 9 pm
Seventh Annual Wildflower Festival
College of Mount St. Joseph

April 14, 2 pm
Wildflower Hike
Delshire Preserve

April 20, 9 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Shady Lane Preserve

April 27, half day or all day
Ninth Annual Flower-a-thon



Greg Lang

Membership Meeting: By Mary Perkins

Members and Non-Members Invited!

Where: Earth Connection
When: March 12, 2013 at 7 pm



Guest Lecture by Award Winning Wildlife Authors/Photographers Judy Burris and Wayne Richards

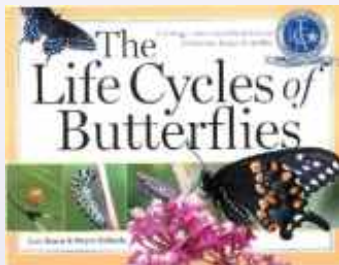
The Magic of Bugs - Learning Today to Care About Tomorrow

Northern Kentucky naturalists, Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, are a sister-brother team who took their childhood passion for nature and transformed it into a career.

"We were raised to have a strong respect for the natural world and always enjoyed spending time on hiking trails looking for animals and trying to identify the trees, wildflowers and insects that we saw. We have been intrigued with butterflies since we were children."

As adults, Judy's and Wayne's childhood interest translated into a nearly full-time devotion to gardening, initially to support butterflies in every stage of their development. The siblings created wonderful photographic diaries of the miracle development of the butterfly, from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis stage and finally through the almost magical emergence of the adult butterfly.

Their first book based on this work, ***The Life Cycles of Butterflies***, won two Teacher's Choice awards, and is a national nature-category best seller.



Over the years, Wayne and Judy have also documented the life cycles of many other insects, including lightning bugs, giant silk moths, ladybugs, lace wings and praying mantis.

Judy and Wayne, along with Wayne's photographer wife Christina, have authored numerous award-winning books^{1,2} that are aimed to inspire kids of all ages. Their philosophy "**Learning Today to Care About Tomorrow**" emphasizes that the sharing of natural wonders with children creates a special bonding experience. A bonus is that it sets a foundation for a life-long interest in the natural world, and importantly, its conservation and preservation.



"We enjoy teaching others about flower gardening, nature photography and insect life cycles. We encourage everyone to give more serious thought to natural habitat conservation and responsible, chemical-free management of their own backyards to support native flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy."

We cordially invite all our members, as well as non-members interested in the Western Wildlife Corridor, to join us at what promises to be a fun and interesting evening!



1. Creative Child Magazine's "Preferred Choice Award" for Kids Educational Books.; Mom's Choice Awards GOLD seal for "best in family-friendly products" and FIRST PLACE for the Royal Dragonfly Book Award

2. Other Books by Christina Richards, Wayne Richards and Judy Burris: Butterfly Field Guide; 50 Beautiful Butterflies; 50 Marvelous Moths; What's that Caterpillar?; The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies

Meet the Wildflowers of Western Wildlife Corridor at Flower-a-thon 2013!

By Leesa Miller



For 2013, WWC's annual spring wildflower quest is Saturday, April 27 and blends the best of years past with improvements sure to make a fun and educational event for all. Choice of two start times and small groups led by experienced wildflower enthusiasts are two newer features. We'll still have some traditional teams for those who wish to register their favorite group.

All are invited to a lasagna dinner and presentation by Denis Conover, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at UC, at our banquet at the end of the day. There's sure to be sharing of amazing photos and tall wildflower stories.

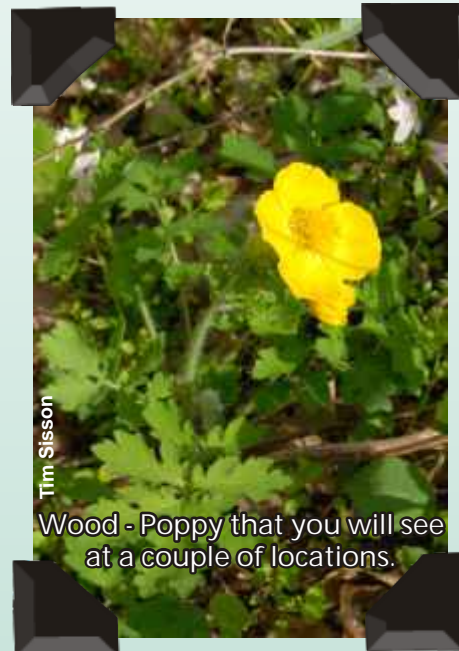
Our new focus is to help increase everyone's knowledge and appreciation for wildflowers, no matter what their starting point is. Everyone is welcome. Regarding accessibility, please contact us to explore options.

Start times are 8 am with Panera's bagels and coffee at the shelter at Embshoff Woods, and 1 pm at the gravel lot on Bender Road. This is an excellent chance to see all of WWC's nature preserves and many local parks. Team leaders will show you uncommon flowers like Shooting star, Drooping trillium, Blue-eyed Mary and the state-endangered fern-leaf phacelia. We have some folks who have attended every year and have much to share, and we are excited about our new first timers.

Per person fee is \$15, which includes breakfast and dinner. Teams and individuals are encouraged to collect donations in advance just like we've always done, but it's not required. This is still our biggest fundraiser event, after all! Donations enable us to preserve and protect precious hillside habitat along the Ohio River. More information on our mission and projects is available on our website, www.westernwildlifecorridor.org



An excited group ready to start out.



Wood - Poppy that you will see at a couple of locations.



Blue - Eyed Mary grows in profusion on Bender Mountain.

Wildflower Festival 2013

By Tim Sisson

Western Wildlife Corridor's Wildflower Festival at the College of Mount St. Joseph last year was a resounding success! People loved the larger facility and big parking lot. The increased number of vendors gave everyone a bigger selection of native plants, hand-crafted items and organizations to check out. Children enjoyed the games, crafts and activities in the bigger space.

Since the festival last year was a big success, we will be having it at the College again this year with all of these attractions as well as classes on painting and natural history. It is a great way to find plants for your yard that will increase the birds and butterflies that visit.

Come to the Wildflower Festival! Mark your calendar now. Don't miss this big event happening on April 5, 2012 from 6 to 9 pm at the College of Mt. St. Joseph, 5701 Delhi Road.

Here are some of the sights from last year – be assured that this year's festival will be just as splendid!



Join Us For Habitat Restoration!

Why habitat restoration?

Many times 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, March 23,
10 am to noon
Whitetail Woods

Leader: Greg Lang 513.404.5250 or gfl2376@gmail.com
We will be clearing honeysuckle from this preserve in Sayler Park.

Saturday, March 30,
10 am to noon
Bender Mountain

Leader: John Klein 513.941.4877 or john.kleinp2@yahoo.com
Help us continue clearing honeysuckle from the south side of the "mountain".

Saturday, April 20,
9 am to noon
Shady Lane Preserve

Leader: Tim Sisson 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net

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!



Sunday, January 27, 2 pm
Winter Adventure Hike
Bender Mountain



Shake off the winter blahs by joining our annual winter hike. 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). Those who prefer moderate hiking can turn around at the end of this part and return to our meeting place.

Those who are interested in a strenuous hike can continue on a trail we've blazed up from Hillside Avenue to the top of Bender Mountain to reach old-growth forest and a nice view of the Ohio River. Signs of the meanderings of wildlife in winter will probably be found – especially if there's snow on the ground! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. Contact Bob at 513.251.5352 or rnkn@fuse.net or John at 513.947.4877 or john.kleinp2@yahoo.com for other details.



Adventurous hikers setting out on Bender Mountain.

Tuesday, March 12, 7 pm
Winter Membership Meeting
EarthConnection

Guest speakers Judy Burris and Wayne Richards will present "The Magic of Bugs - Learning Today to Care About Tomorrow". See the article in this newsletter about this award-winning photographer/author team.

A brief review of Western Wildlife Corridor's plans for the coming year will also be given. Light refreshments provided. The public is invited. Contact Pam at 513.227.3564 or cincynaturegirl@gmail.com for more details.

Friday, April 5, 6 pm to 9 pm
Seventh Annual Wildflower Festival
College of Mt. St. Joseph

This family event will feature nature games and activities for children, a wildflower plant sale, hand-crafted items for sale, a painting class, and presentations by local environmental organizations. See article for more details. Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 or rsisson654@zoomtown.com to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.



Sunday, April 14, 2 pm
Wildflower Hike
Delshire Preserve

Delshire is glorious in the spring! Hillsides here are covered with many species of beautiful spring wildflowers. For more on this event, which is also a "tune-up" for participants in our Flower-a-thon, contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.



Hikers at Delshire may see this carpet of wild hyacinth.

Saturday, April 27, half day or all day
Ninth Annual Flower-a-thon

This will be a great chance for you to learn about the wildflowers of our region by hiking through the forests and learning from experts. See article for more details. Contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for more information.



The Western Wildlife Corridor gratefully acknowledges the donation in honor of the 3 women celebrating their Golden Jubilee as Sisters of Charity this year.

Artist-in-Residence: Sally Sisson Anderson

Facebook administrator: Pam Pitre

Fundraising chair: Rebecca Sisson

Land Stewardship chair: Tim Sisson

Newsletter: Katie Clark and Mary Uhlenbrock

Outreach chair: Leesa Miller

Photographers: Pam Pitre and Tim Sisson

Website coordinators: Jeff Doering and Mary Perkins



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Please indicate how you would like to help!

JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2013-2014

☐ 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

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Please mail to:

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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!*