



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Spring 2013

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Calendar of Events

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

April 14th, 2 pm
Wildflower Hike
Delshire Preserve

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

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

May 4th, 9 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Beekley Preserve

May 18th, 9 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Voss Preserve

June 8th, 9 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Anders Court Preserve

June 15th, 9 am to noon
Habitat Restoration
Buckeye Trace Preserve

Squadron of Turkeys By Tim Sisson

As I started out my hike on Bender Mountain that snowy afternoon, I met Ed, another WWC member, coming down the Eagle Scout Trail. Ed mentioned that he had seen fresh turkey tracks on the slope toward the east end of the preserve. After a brief discussion about other goings on at the Mountain, I decided to see if I could get a glimpse of the big birds, so I wandered over that way. A bit past Paw Paw Gap I found the tracks - yes, a flock of turkeys had passed that way. I followed to see if I could catch up with them.

There are five subspecies of wild turkeys. The ones we see are the eastern wild turkey subspecies (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*). To the Native Americans in what became the United States, they were just another wild animal to hunt. But they were domesticated at least 2000 years ago by the Aztec in what is today central Mexico. They were taken back to Europe by the Spaniards where many different breeds were developed.

The wild turkey was the largest ground-nesting bird found by the first European settlers. Early reports indicate they were quite abundant in those years. As time went by, hunting of the birds (they were an important food source) and destruction of habitat caused their numbers to decline. By 1920 they had completely disappeared from 18 of the states, including Ohio, where they had originally been common. But then they came back. They were introduced in several places in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the early 1980s (but not in Hamilton County). By the late 1980s they were being spotted in Hamilton County. According to John Klein, some were seen flying over the Ohio River from Kentucky to get here. Apparently they realized that Hamilton County was a great place to live and moved in on their own.



My ramble following the turkeys took me to the edge of the preserve, so I decided to break off my search and continue up to the ridge trail. But then I saw movement ahead - the turkeys had doubled back too. There were 8 of them; I got a good look at them against the background of snow. As usual, they stayed on the ground and trotted ahead of me along the ridge trail. They weren't really running away from me, but I could see they were nervous by the way they were eyeing me.

Turkeys are strong, but short winded flyers and will stay on the ground unless suddenly startled or unduly pushed. Well, when they came to the steep slope leading down to Paw Paw Gap, they decided enough was enough and took off. What a glorious sight they were - the squadron of turkeys gliding through the tree tops as they soared over the Rapid Run Creek valley.

Yes, I know that wild turkeys aren't rare, but that flock gliding down the valley was certainly a special, uncommon treat for me!

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

Contributed by Mary Ann Perkins

***If you have Cabin Fever -
The 7th Annual Wildflower Festival
for 2013 is the Cure!***

Throw off the winter doldrums and join us at the 7th Annual WWC Wildflower Festival from 6-9 pm in the gymnasium at the College of Mount St. Joseph. This "new and improved" Western Wildlife Corridor event celebrates the joys of Spring and has it all going on:

- * More vendors, with a big selection of native plants, hand-crafted items and nature organizations to check out.
- * You'll learn how to attract butterflies to your garden and be able to purchase flowers and plants that will entice these beauties to your yard.
- * We'll also offer a variety of native wildflowers for your home garden to create a woodland paradise for those hard to grow shady areas.
- * For the children there will be a variety of fun games, hands on crafts and other activities to stimulate your child's interest in the natural world.
- * To bring out your inner artist you can learn how to paint wildflowers and cute chipmunks at a free watercolor workshop given by our artist-in-residence, Sally Sisson Anderson.
- * Learn everything you ever wanted to know about chipmunks, but were afraid to ask, at a special lecture by John Klein, a retired Land Manager for the Hamilton County Parks System.

The Wildflower Festival will again be held at our bigger and better venue at the College of Mount St. Joseph in the Gymnasium. Ample parking will be provided nearby. The college is at the junction of Neeb and Delhi Roads in Delhi Township.



*Won't you join us for what promises to be
our best Wildflower Festival ever!*

**Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 or
rsisson654@zoomtown.com**

**to learn more about this enjoyable event or to
inquire about participating.**



Watercolor Painting Class



Western Wildlife Corridor is presenting a free watercolor workshop at the Wildflower Festival on Friday, April 5th at 7:30 pm. Sally Sisson Anderson, WWC Artist in Residence, will be demonstrating how to paint wildflowers and chipmunks. She will be basing the class on the wildflowers in the painting below. In addition, John Klein, retired Land Manager for Hamilton County Parks, will give a short presentation about chipmunks. Please call 513-353-2708 to register.



**Sunday, April 14th, 2 pm
Wildflower Hike at 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.



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

Contributed by Mary Ann Perkins



**"The Earth laughs in flowers."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Join our celebration of Spring as WWC presents the 9th annual Flower-a-thon on Saturday, April 27th. This year's "wildflower quest" includes a flexible menu of nature walks, food and fun for the whole family. Our veteran wildflower enthusiasts will guide you to woodland sites adrift with native species including Shooting Star, Drooping Trillium, Blue-eyed Mary and many others. This is also an excellent opportunity for you to see some of the many WWC nature preserves.

Join us at 8 am for a Panera bagel breakfast at Embshoff Park and a wildflower walk. We will then take wildflower hunting walks at other locations including our beautiful Delshire Preserve. A 1 pm walk on "Bender Mountain" trail will give you an opportunity to observe, not only beautiful native wildflowers, but also panoramic views of the Ohio River Valley and Kentucky hillsides. After meeting on Bender Road, we will also hike at other great locations in the afternoon.

To round out the day please join us at EarthConnection, on the campus of Mount St. Joseph College, at 5 pm to enjoy a lasagna buffet. A wildflower presentation will be given by Denis Conover, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you on April 27th!

A \$15 fee pays for the breakfast and the evening dinner.

Flower-a-thon
Flower-a-thon
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Flower-a-thon



Flower-a-thon
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**This is our biggest fund raiser of the year!
Donations will enable us to continue our important mission to purchase, preserve and protect precious hillside habitat along the Ohio River now, and for future generations.
For more information on this event (e.g., reservations, donations and accessibility) please call: 513.922.2104.**



Dutchman's-
Breeches
Flowers
Ohio
Buckeye
Flowers
Cream
Violet



Join Us For Habitat Restoration!

Saturday, April 20th, 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!

Saturday, May 4th, 9 am to noon

Beekley Preserve

Leader: Tim Sisson 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net

This project will be a little different - the main target will be winter creeper, an invasive vine that is threatening many trees in the forest here.

Saturday, May 18th, 9 am to noon

Voss Preserve

Leader: Greg Lang 513.404.5250 or gfl2376@gmail.com

We'll continue with honeysuckle and garlic mustard removal on this property we protected last year.

Saturday, June 8th, 9 am to noon

Anders Court Preserve

Leader: Greg Lang 513.404.5250 or gfl2376@gmail.com

Another good old whack the honeysuckle project.

Saturday, June 15th, 9 am to noon

Buckeye Trace Preserve

Leader: Tim Sisson 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net

This will be your first chance to whack honeysuckle on a property we just acquired.

We may even have refreshments afterwards to celebrate!

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.



Native Tree Workshop

Saturday, June 1, 2013, 9 am to 4 pm

This will include presentations by Dr. Bill Fountain, Extension Professor in Arboriculture & Landscape Management at University of Kentucky; Brian Jorg, Manager of Horticulture, Cincinnati Zoo; Janet Creamer Martin, Naturalist, Indiana Parks. Keystone Flora, (www.keystoneflora.com), native plant nursery, will have a tree planting demo and offer a variety of native plants for sale.

Tim Sisson will lead a hike through the Bender Mountain Preserve to identify trees in the field.

Pre-registration and payment required (\$30.00 Includes lunch).

Send name and contact information, along with your check, **no later than May 15, 2013.**

**To: Kathy McDonald,
1912 Devils Backbone Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233.
Questions can be directed to: whocooksforyou@gmail.com.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

If you are one of the participants in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, you must reregister beginning April 1st so that Western Wildlife Corridor can receive a reward check from Kroger. Last year, we received over \$1,000 from Kroger with only a small percentage of our membership participating. If you shop at Kroger, please sign up for the Community Rewards Program. It only takes a few minutes to sign up, and every time you use your Kroger Plus Card, WWC receives a percentage of your purchase amount. It's an easy way for us to raise money.

To sign up beginning April 1st, have your Kroger Plus card handy and go to krogercommunityrewards.com. Our organization number is 80442.

We also have reloadable Remke bigg's gift cards for those of you who shop at bigg's. We get a percentage of the amount you load on the gift card. Contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net to get a Remke bigg's card.

WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR IS ON FACEBOOK



"Like" us on Facebook.

We encourage you to join us on Facebook.

Please look up "Western Wildlife Corridor", "Like" our page and you will begin to receive event and project announcements, nature quotes and photos taken in the corridor and during events in your newsfeed. There are several administrators who contribute to the page, including Mary Perkins and Pam Pitré.

We enjoy hearing from our membership and this is another means of amplifying our outreach in the 21st century.

Artist-in-Residence: Sally Sisson Anderson

Facebook administrators: Pam Pitré and Mary Perkins

Fundraising chair: Rebecca Sisson

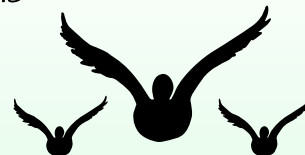
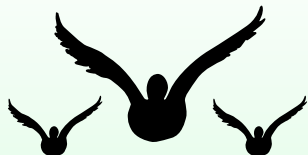
Land Stewardship chair: Tim Sisson

Newsletter: Katie Clark and Mary Uhlenbrock

Outreach chair: Leesa Miller

Photographers: Pam Pitré, Mary Perkins, 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

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

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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!*