



# THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

[www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org)

Spring 2014

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### Spring at Last!

Tim Sisson

Finally! I wrote in our last newsletter that winter had really hit us. Little did I know that this was just the beginning. It managed to hit us over and over with very cold temperatures and lots of snow as the winter months went by. Even now in mid March as I write this, it is snowing hard outside and the temperature is predicted to drop to 14 degrees by morning!

But, spring really is just around the corner, and Western Wildlife Corridor has a jam packed schedule of events planned for your enjoyment, including:

- **April 11** - 8<sup>th</sup> annual Wildflower Festival at the College of Mount St Joseph.
- **April 19** - spring hike and trail dedication at Bender Mountain.
- **April 26** - 10<sup>th</sup> annual Flower-a-thon in the corridor.

See more about these in the events section of this issue. All of them will give you an opportunity to enjoy the amazing sights of spring in the Western Wildlife Corridor. The color pictures you see here give just a few examples.

I hope you can join us for some of these events to see for yourself how glorious spring in the Western Wildlife Corridor can be.

See Back Cover For More Photos!



*Celandine Poppy*



*Redbud*



*Spiderwort*



*Bloodroot*



*Greek Valerian*



*Wild Hyacinth*



## UPCOMING EVENTS - Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor - Learn why it's so important!

Pam Pitre



Pam Pitre



Pam Pitre



### Friday, April 11, 6 pm to 9 pm Eighth Annual Wildflower Festival College of Mt. St. Joseph

Spring is just around the corner and to celebrate, Western Wildlife Corridor is holding our 8th Annual Wildflower Festival. The festival, which promotes education and awareness of area wildflowers, will be from 6-9 pm on Friday, April 11 in the College of Mount St. Joseph's Harrington Center.

Admission is FREE! There will be many activities for children and adults to enjoy. Local organizations like Hamilton County Parks, The Civic Garden Center and The Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society will be there, plus many more. We will offer native plants and wildflowers for sale, raffles, a family-friendly class presented by the Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society (6:30 pm), and a wildflower painting class at 7:45 pm (\*pre-registration requested). There will also be nature art, pottery and jewelry for sale and many great educational activities for kids. Tasty food may be purchased in the college's food court. A wildflower poster (2x3 foot mounted) will be on sale as well as a laminated field guide/placemat.

For more information about the April 11th Wildflower Festival, contact Rebecca Sisson at 859.512.1983 or [rsisson654@zoomtown.com](mailto:rsisson654@zoomtown.com).

\*Western Wildlife Corridor's artist in residence Sally Anderson will demonstrate how to paint a single large flower. The class is free, but people should register before the festival. Call Sally at 513.353.2708.

For the latest information about the festival or other Western Wildlife Corridor events, visit [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org) or our Facebook page.

Pam Pitre



Pam Pitre



Pam Pitre



## UPCOMING EVENTS - Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor - Learn why it's so important!



### Saturday, April 19, 2 pm Wildflower Hike Bender Mountain



The "Mountain" is glorious in the spring! Hillsides here are covered with many species of beautiful spring wildflowers. Our expert guide, Denis Conover, will be identifying these for us, as well as many tree species that live in this beautiful forest. As an added treat, we will have a dedication of our new trail system on Bender Mountain before the hike. 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 [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net), or John at 513.941.4877 or [john.kleinp2@yahoo.com](mailto:john.kleinp2@yahoo.com).



### Saturday, April 26, half day or all day Tenth Annual Flower-a-thon



It's a quest in search of beautiful wildflowers throughout the Western Wildlife Corridor. It's a day of hiking the beautiful forested hillsides of the Ohio River valley. These and much more are included in Western Wildlife Corridor's 2014 Flower-a-thon on April 26!

Enjoy the company of fellow wildflower enthusiasts around the fireplace with a bagel breakfast from 8 to 9 am at Embshoff Woods. Following breakfast, wildflower experts will lead groups through the forest at Embshoff and the Delshire Preserve to identify wildflowers and trees. At 1 pm there will be hikes on Bender Mountain trails to identify additional wildflowers and trees and to enjoy its fabulous forest and panoramic views of the Ohio River Valley. Additional hikes will be offered in other nature preserves throughout the day. Hike leaders will include experts Dan Boone and Denis Conover. This will be a great opportunity to spend time in nature with the family and to get unique photos!

At 5 pm we will gather at EarthConnection on the campus of the College of Mount St. Joseph for a lasagna dinner and to swap stories about our adventures. After dinner, Brian Jorg, Manager of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, will make a presentation on wildflowers. Displays will provide additional opportunities to learn the wildflowers of southwest Ohio.

A donation of \$15.00 per person is requested to cover the cost of the breakfast, hikes and dinner. Additional tax-deductible donations are also accepted. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Western Wildlife Corridor. To register, please visit [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org). For more information, contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net).

Tim Sisson



Tim Sisson



### Habitat Restoration:

**Saturday, April 12, 9 am to noon**  
**Habitat restoration at Sister's Hill**  
Leader: Greg Lang at 513.404.5250 or [gfl2376@gmail.com](mailto:gfl2376@gmail.com)

**Saturday, May 3, 9 am to noon**  
**Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace Preserve**  
Leader: Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net)

**Saturday, May 24, 9 am to noon**  
**Habitat restoration at Shady Lane Preserve**  
Leader: John Klein at 513.941.4877 or [john.kleinp2@yahoo.com](mailto:john.kleinp2@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, May 31, 9 am to noon**  
**Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods Preserve**  
Leader: Greg Lang at 513.404.5250 or [gfl2376@gmail.com](mailto:gfl2376@gmail.com)

**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 [tssison@fuse.net](mailto:tssison@fuse.net) for more information.

Habitat Restoration

## Calendar of Events

|  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <div><div>April 11, 6 pm to 9 pm</div><div><div><div>Eighth Annual<br/>Wildflower Festival</div><div>College of Mt. St. Joseph</div></div></div></div> | <div><div>April 12, 9 am to noon</div><div><div><div>Habitat Restoration</div><div>Sister's Hill</div></div></div></div>         | <div><div>April 19, 2 pm</div><div><div><div>Wildflower Hike<br/>and Trail Dedication</div><div>Bender Mountain</div></div></div></div> | <div><div>April 26, half day or all day</div><div><div><div>Tenth Annual<br/>Flower-a-thon</div></div></div></div> |   |
| <div><div></div></div>   | <div><div><div>May 3, 9 am to noon</div><div><div><div>Habitat Restoration</div><div>Buckeye Trace</div></div></div></div></div> | <div><div><div>May 24, 9 am to noon</div><div><div><div>Habitat Restoration</div><div>Shady Lane</div></div></div></div></div>          | <div><div><div>May 31, 9 am to noon</div><div><div><div>Habitat Restoration</div><div>Whitetail Woods</div></div></div></div></div>  | <div><div></div></div> |

## DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES

By Sally Sisson Anderson  
 WWC Artist in Residence

You will be lucky to find Dutchman's Breeches in bloom when we are all on the Flower-a-Thon in April.

This spring ephemeral blooms and sets its seeds before the leaves come out on the trees. The name refers to the two spurs on the flower which look like trousers hung out to dry. This small delicate plant has arching stems and drooping flowers. The gray-green leaves are basal and finely cut like ferns. Only bumble bees have a mouth part long enough to sip nectar from this flower. Other insects may make a hole to get to the nectar. After blooming it will develop seedpods. In early summer it goes dormant.

Another name that is used for Dutchman's Breeches in the mountains is little boy plant. The genus for this family of plants is Dicentra. It comes from a Greek word meaning two spurred. The plant is in the big Fumitory family along with Squirrel Corn and Bleeding Heart. While on the Flower-a-Thon, we may find Dutchman's Breeches growing on well-drained slopes in rich woods such as Bender Mountain. The fern-like leaves of this species can hardly be distinguished from Squirrel Corn leaves, but I think they are a little lighter in color, plus the

flowers are different. Both Dutchman's Breeches and Squirrel Corn can multiply into large groups.

Dutchman's Breeches can be found from North Dakota, east to the Atlantic, south through Ohio to the Smoky Mountains and on through Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia. The flowers bloom in March or April.



Besides the beauty of this little plant, it has another great quality. Deer will not eat it because Dutchman's Breeches is a poisonous plant. It is a good choice for rock gardens, and shady gardens. However, this spring ephemeral blooms for only two weeks, and even its pretty foliage withers away by June.

Dutchman's Breeches do best in filtered sunlight with light shade. They prefer rich soil. Plant the cluster of white tubers four inches deep, keeping as much soil around them as possible. Rodents could be interested in the roots; a covering of wire mesh, a hole in middle, would be wise. Tamp soil down, and water well. Dutchman's Breeches are one of the easiest wild flowers to grow, and will spread rapidly.





## Create Your Legacy At WWC



### Bequests – Simple and Safe Gift Planning

You may feel a strong desire to support Western Wildlife Corridor while not feeling comfortable making an outright gift.

Deferred gift vehicles, such as bequests in wills or revocable living trusts, life insurance, deferred compensation plans, offer appealing alternatives.

Thoughtfully crafted gift plans offer benefits to the donor as well as to Western Wildlife Corridor.

For more information on how to accomplish your goals and leave a lasting gift for nature, please contact WWC at 513.922.2104 or [tsisson@fuse.net](mailto:tsisson@fuse.net).

## New Board Member

### Welcome Board Member Mary Perkins

Hi, I am a native Cincinnati who grew up hiking the hillsides of the Western Wildlife Corridor. After graduating from UC, I was a research scientist for 30 years at UC and P&G. I met my hubby Chris when we worked on a drug he invented called Actonel that treats osteoporosis. I also invented test tube methods to replace animal testing, and was an executive communication expert for the Chief Technology officer at P&G. Since retiring, I paint, garden, travel and volunteer.

**Artist in Residence:** Sally Sisson Anderson

**Constant Contact Administrator:** Joyce Richter

**Facebook Administrators:** Pam Pitre and Mary Perkins

**Events:** Roselyn Schloss and Rebecca Sisson

**Fundraising:** Greg Lang and Tim Sisson

**Land Stewardship:** Tim Sisson

**Membership:** Walt McBeath

**Newsletter:** Katie Clark, Bob Nienaber and Mary Uhlenbrock

**Photographers:** Pam Pitre, Mary Perkins and Tim Sisson

**Website coordinators:** Jeff Doering and Mary Perkins

## Please indicate how you would like to help!

### JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2014-2015

☐ 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!*



PO BOX 389077  
Cincinnati, OH 45238-9077

513.921.WILD (9453)  
[www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org)  
Email: [wwc7@yahoo.com](mailto:wwc7@yahoo.com)

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### WWC Board of Trustees

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Take a look at these Western Wildlife Corridor event photos! See inside events page for more details.