



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Winter 2015



PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Western Wildlife Corridor
Has a

HOME!



Western Wildlife Corridor is now the owner of a wonderful 30+ acre property in Addyston that includes a house, a barn and a large area of beautiful mature forest. This property, generously donated to WWC in December, will be developed into a nature preserve with a variety of uses including:

- An office where we can hold meetings and store our files and records.
- Displays about the plants and animals found in the Corridor, and other environmental topics of interest.
- An extensive trail system connecting to other properties WWC owns and to regional trails in the future. The trails will allow visitors to enjoy hiking through several habitats and to view the beautiful Ohio River valley.
- A parking lot and a large lawn with picnic tables and rain garden near the house.
- Several biological zones: mature forest, transitional second growth forest, prairie and riparian. These individual zones will be developed for education and recreation as well as to protect important natural resources.
- Exhibits detailing our purpose and giving information on our other preserves.
- The location for events such as the Flower-a-thon and Wildflower Festival.
- The location of workshops providing training and education on nature topics.
- And of course, the barn will prove invaluable for the storage of the large array of tools and equipment we have accumulated.

The property will thus play a major role along with other WWC nature preserves in the protection of the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley.



Over the last 20+ years Western Wildlife Corridor has worked hard to create a better home for the plants, animals and people of the Ohio River Corridor. Now with this acquisition, we have a new home for our organization; a home that will allow us to become a new entity. We will become an organization with our own facility for events and for activities promoting education about the natural world in the Ohio Valley.

We are so grateful for this generous gift that preserves a large parcel of greenspace. We couldn't be more excited. If you would like to volunteer to help us create our new home, please call me at 922-2104. We would love to have your help as we embark on this new undertaking.

Calendar of Events

 January 25, 2 pm Winter Adventure HIKE Bender Mountain	February 17, 7 pm Winter Membership MEETING EarthConnection	March 21, 10 am - noon Trail Construction/ Habitat Restoration At The New Preserve	March 28, 10 am - noon Habitat Restoration At Whitetail Woods
April 11, 9 am - noon Trail Construction/ Habitat Restoration At The New Preserve	 April 12, 2 pm Wildflower HIKE Delshire Preserve	April 17, 6 pm to 9 pm 9th Annual Wildflower Festival Mount St. Joseph University	April 25, half day or all day 11th Annual Flower-a-thon

Flower-a-thon 2015 - Meet the Wildflowers in our Corridor!

By Tim Sisson

The focus of WWC's annual spring wildflower event is education and fun. This year's event on Saturday, April 25, continues with last year's features and adds something new to make it even more enjoyable. We'll still have some traditional teams for those who wish to register their favorite group.

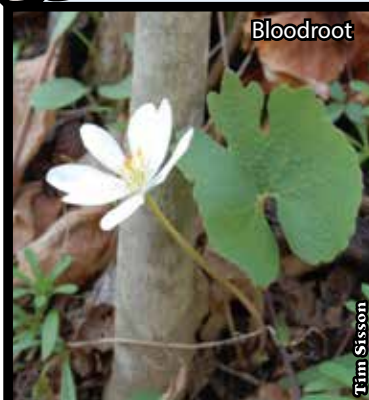
Start times are 8 am with Panera's bagels and coffee at the shelter at Embshoff Woods, and 1 pm at the gravel lot on Bender Road. When we head out into the preserves, you join hikes led by experienced wildflower enthusiasts. You will have a chance to see uncommon flowers like shooting star, drooping trillium, blue-eyed Mary, fern-leaf phacelia and, with a little luck, the green dragon and federally endangered running buffalo clover.

At the end of the day you will be treated to a lasagna dinner and presentation. We will also have displays featuring native wildflowers and other plants to allow you to review what you learned through the day. There are sure to be tall tales about wildflowers to be enjoyed as well.

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 fundraising event, after all! Donations enable us to preserve and protect precious hillside habitat along the Ohio River.

The Flower-a-thon is an excellent chance to have fun while increasing your knowledge and appreciation for wildflowers, no matter what your starting point is. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

11th Annual Flower-a-thon - April 25, 2015



**Sunday, January 25, 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 Mount St. Joseph University. 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 constructed 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 John at 513.941.4877 for more information.

**Tuesday, February 17, 7 pm
Winter Membership Meeting
EarthConnection**



Guest speaker Chris Sweigard of Wild Birds Unlimited will present a program entitled "The Secret Sex Life of Birds".

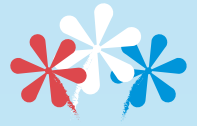
Western Wildlife Corridor's plans for the coming year, including creating a meeting place at our new 30 acre preserve in Addyston, will also be discussed. Light refreshments provided. The public is invited. Contact Roz at 513.451.4594 for more details.

**Sunday, April 12, 2 pm
Wildflower Hike
Delshire Preserve**



This preserve is gorgeous in the spring! Hillside here are carpeted 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.

**Friday, April 17, 6 pm to 9 pm
Ninth Annual Wildflower Festival
Mount St. Joseph University**



Have fun and learn about nature. This family event will feature a wildflower plant sale, hand-crafted items for sale, a painting class, displays by local environmental organizations, and activities for children. Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

**Saturday, April 25, half day or all day
Eleventh 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 listening to presentations by experts. See article in this newsletter for more details. Contact Tim at 513.922.2104 for more information.

Habitat Restoration Plus:



**Saturday, March 21, 10 am to noon
Trail construction or habitat restoration at
the new nature preserve**
Leader: Tim at 513.922.2104.

Help us as we start work at this property
WWC just acquired in December.

**Saturday, March 28, 10 am to noon
Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods**
Leader: John at 513.941.4877.

We will be clearing honeysuckle from this
preserve in Sayler Park.

**Saturday, April 11, 9 am to noon
Trail construction or habitat restoration at
the new nature preserve**
Leader: Tim at 513.922.2104.

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 for more information.

Habitat Restoration



Eastern Red Cedar

By Sally Sisson Anderson, Artist in Residence

We have all seen the red cedar growing along the roadside. They are native to the eastern half of the United States. However, this species is not a true cedar, but is actually a juniper. Its Latin name is *Juniperus virginiana*. This native tree can grow as tall as a small tree, or in poor soil, remain as a bush. It has blue berries part of the year. Many species of wildlife feed on the berries including waxwings, bluebirds, quail, wild turkey, fox, raccoons, skunks, and opossums. Deer feed on the green branches of the cedar. Have you noticed green cedar branches that start about five or six feet from the ground? This is known as the browse line.

The red cedar is unusually long lived with the potential to live over 800 years. It is one of the first trees to repopulate cleared, eroded, or damaged land. Native Americans used to burn great stretches of prairies because this kept the cedars in control. Cedar trees were engulfed in flames and did not recover.

The red cedar ranges from Nova Scotia, south to Ohio,



to northern Florida, west to the Dakotas and Texas.

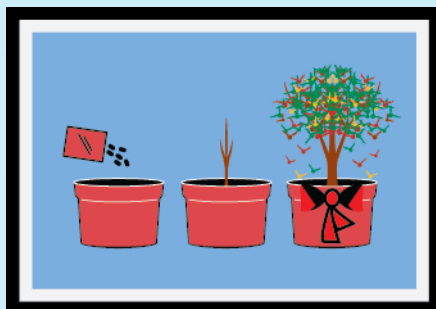
The pollen of the red cedar is a known allergen, which comes out in the early spring. There is another related species, *Juniperus ashei*, with pollen that comes out a month earlier. People allergic to one are often allergic to both. You or someone you know is probably allergic to these pollens.

Although the eastern red cedar is not considered an important commercial species, it is highly valued for its fragrance, color, and durability. Because of its rot resistance, it is often used for fence posts. The aromatic wood is avoided by moths; therefore it is used for cedar closets and cedar chests. Portions of the heartwood are used to make the best pencils. Juniper oil is distilled from the wood and twigs for use in perfumes. The cones are used to flavor gin. Native Americans used red cedar poles to mark their territories. French traders named Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Baton rouge is French for red stick - the color of the Native Americans' poles. In the west, red cedar was sometimes used as a Christmas tree.

Create Your Legacy At WWC

Make Your Annual Gift Last Forever

Perpetuating your annual support can be as simple as adding a bequest to your estate plan, naming Western Wildlife Corridor beneficiary of a life insurance policy or of a deferred compensation plan, or via some other deferred gift vehicle that designates a certain amount or percentage from your estate to Western Wildlife Corridor.



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 922- 2104.

Farewell Pam

We will miss Board Member Pam Pitré, who recently moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Pam volunteered her time to many WWC activities, including a major role in the 20th anniversary celebrations. WWC also benefited from Pam's skill in photography. Pam, we wish you happiness in Nashville.



Western Wildlife Corridor

The Western Wildlife Corridor gratefully acknowledges the donation in honor of the 11 women celebrating their Golden Jubilee as Sisters of Charity this year.

*Walt McBeath
enjoys the WWC's annual
holiday party.*



Artist in Residence: Sally Sisson Anderson

Constant Contact Administrator: Joyce Richter

Facebook Administrator: 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: Mary Perkins and Tim Sisson

Website Coordinators: Jeff Doering and Mary Perkins

Please indicate how you would like to help! JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2015-2016

☐ 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

*** NEW!! BECOME A MEMBER ONLINE! www.westernwildlifecorridor.org
DONATE TO THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND**

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

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES

May we contact you with volunteer opportunities? ☐ Yes

☐ Help with Habitat Restoration ☐ Help with Outreach and other needs

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

☐ I would like to know more about including the WWC in my estate plans.

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!
Western Wildlife Corridor is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization.*



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