



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Spring 2016

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Kirby Nature Preserve - The Dream is Becoming a Reality

By Tim Sisson

We are making real progress in our goal to create a new nature preserve and nature center in the Western Wildlife Corridor. Here is a quick update.

New donations bring us closer to funding the project. Breaking news - Walt and Susan McBeath have pledged to donate the funds needed to construct the great room, bathrooms and kitchen and to purchase the furniture for the offices. This is estimated to cost from \$ 20,000 to \$ 25,000. Because of this donation we are now assured of having the nature center open and ready for business this summer. Thank you Walt and Susan!

Also earlier this year, the Oxbow awarded WWC a grant of \$ 2,000 to develop the prairie and the Schlinkert family donated \$ 300 for signage at the preserve. These are in addition to an anonymous grant of \$ 30,000, a grant of \$ 10,000 from the Earl and Florence Simmonds Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and a donation from Christine Hadley and James Mason of \$ 250 received last year for development of the nature center. We are very, very grateful for all of these generous donations.

Volunteers help with deconstruction. Last year we had five large projects to clean up and remove debris from the house in preparation for the major work by the contractor. In the spring trash was removed and every window, wall and floor was scrubbed. Last fall and winter volunteers removed all of the kitchen appliances, cabinets and walls! In addition they removed the tub and part of a wall in the bathroom and most of the wall alongside the living room. It was hard work, but they really enjoyed it. A total of 33 people helped with this. The accompanying pictures show a view of the doorway into the kitchen before deconstruction and the view from the same location after deconstruction. You can see that after our volunteers were done, there was no kitchen!

Building permit issued. WWC was fortunate to engage the services of a very experienced architect to design the house conversion and to create the drawings needed to show the contractors the details. This was Ted Johanson, who has completed similar projects for Great Parks of Hamilton County. A committee was assembled to review possible design features and make recommendations to our Board. The result is an excellent design that will provide a very nice facility while at the same time preserving the character of our 116-year-old house. (Continued on page 2.)



Tim Sisson



Tim Sisson

President's Journal Continued...

After Ted did a careful study of the Code requirements and detailed the design, it was approved and our building permit was issued by the Village of Addyston.

Contractor selected. This is really breaking news. We have just decided on the contractor to do the main portions of the conversion of the house to a nature center. This is John P. Tumlin & Sons. This company has worked on similar projects designed by Ted Johanson for Great Parks. Because of this and the overall competence they displayed in the bid process we are confident they will do an outstanding job.

More funding is needed. We have made tremendous progress in the past year, and as you read this, construction by the contractor will have started at the Kirby Nature Center. We have a major part of the funding in place, but we don't have all the funding we need yet.

Our dream for the Kirby Nature Preserve includes:

- A Pollinator Prairie of native plants to attract birds and insects and as part of an educational playscape for children
 - A Nature Observatory with bird feeders, nesting boxes for bats, squirrels and birds
 - A Rain Garden that will teach the use of recycled grey water and rain barrel water
 - A Nature Playscape using all natural materials for education, fun and creativity for local children to enjoy
 - A Walnut Grove Picnic Area
 - Hiking trails in the forest above the nature center
- and much more!

The Kirby Preserve will be the new home for Western Wildlife Corridor with an office, events center and educational outreach facility to benefit the people of the Cincinnati area. Any help you can provide to make these dreams a reality, be it funding, materials or volunteer labor will be greatly appreciated! Please contact me at 922-2104 to discuss ways you could help make our dream a reality.

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

Saturday, April 30, 9 am to 6 pm
Twelfth Annual Wildflower Extravaganza
Kirby Nature Preserve



We are combining our Flower-a-thon and Wildflower Festival into a true Extravaganza this year. The Flower-a-thon hikes will give you a great chance to learn about the wildflowers of our region. Experts will lead us on hikes through several preserves in the corridor, showing us the amazing variety of plants there.

Have fun and learn about nature at the Kirby Nature Center. A native plant sale, hand-crafted items for sale, displays by local environmental organizations, and activities for children will all be included. Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

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.

Habitat Restoration plus:



Saturday, May 14, 9 am to 1 pm
Habitat restoration and rubbish cleanup at
Kirby Nature Preserve

Leaders: John 513.941.4877
and Ed 513.919.5186

Saturday, May 28, 9 am to noon
Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods and
Black Walnut Gorge

Leaders: John 513.941.4877
and Gary 513.941.5414

Saturday, June 11, 9 am to noon
Habitat restoration at Shady Lane

Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104
and Robert 859.572.9661

Habitat Restoration

Hiking The Buckeye Trace Trails

By Richard Jones

My wife Marie and I, members of the Western Wildlife Corridor, took an adventurous hike Sunday 28 February on the Buckeye Trace Trails. The weather was great, considering the date. We began our journey at 12:40 pm and my FITBIT read .01 miles. We headed up the hill, following the driveway that had been constructed by a previous owner of the property. The sharp elevation change was what we were immediately aware of. There were no steps or creeks to cross at this point, although some gullies needed to be forded. As we approached the top, we encountered a large tree that had fallen across the trail which we crawled over. On the horizon above could be seen the back of many homes, probably on Bradford Court, however the second-growth forest all around us made us feel as if we were far removed from civilization.

Then I observed a broken lawn mower partially buried on the top of a pile of brush. Reality sunk in. As we continued through the meadow near the top we looked up into a perfectly blue winter sky. Maybe at this point we became so distracted by all the natural beauty about us that we missed the turn-off to the Box Turtle Trail. I checked my FITBIT and it read 1:30 and .52 miles. We meandered through brush and honeysuckle mostly downhill. Three times we crossed bridges over probably the same creek, so we must not have been walking a straight course.

Somewhere in our wandering, I came across a Wiffleball bat leaning against a tree and numerous plastic bottles and cans. Marie often stops on hikes to look around and near the base of the hill she spotted a bright yellow patch back up the hill a few yards off what we believed to be the trail. Curiosity got the better of me, so I traipsed up the slope to discover two Miracle-Gro (40 lb.) bags that had been gnawed open by some critter. I opened them and dumped the contents; I put the bags in my pockets and we continued on our journey. I wonder what will be growing there next summer; hopefully not honeysuckle or garlic mustard.

We continued along the base of the hill just above yards that abutted the preserve property until we came back to the main trail where we had begun our climb. Here we discovered what had been concealed by grasses and the angle of our ascent; the crossing of a shallow gully and a trail leading to an area of small mounds which at first mystified us until we realized these were sand mounds, remnants from the time the sand mine was in operation.

We circled back to the Meadow Trail and began walking back to our car, noting a large vernal pond along the way near the parking area. The hike was strenuous but satisfying and, even though it was too early for wildflowers to be blooming, we could see the possibilities for a glorious spring.

Artist in Residence:

Sally Sisson Anderson

Constant Contact Administrator:

Joyce Richter

Facebook Administrator:

Mary Perkins

Events:

Rebecca Sisson

Fundraising:

Tim Sisson

Land Stewardship:

Tim Sisson

Membership:

Walt McBeath

Newsletter:

Katie Clark

Bob Nienaber

Mary Uhlenbrock

Photographers:

Tom Malone

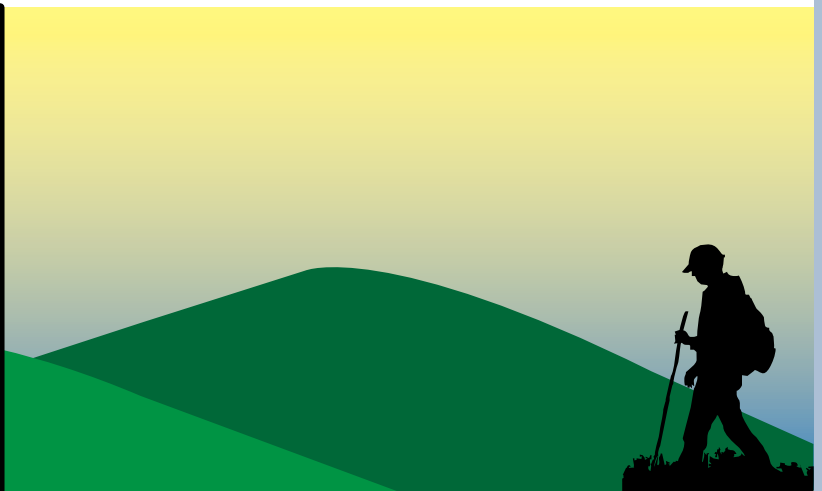
Mary Perkins

Tim Sisson

Website Coordinators:

Jeff Doering

Mary Perkins



2016 Wildflower Extravaganza - Saturday, April 30th

We are excited to hold the 12th annual Flower-A-Thon this year on the same day as our 10th annual Wildflower Festival. This Wildflower Extravaganza will allow you to enjoy both events.

The focus of the Flower-A-Thon spring wildflower event is education and fun. This is also our biggest fundraising event each year, and helps us in our mission to protect and preserve the native woodlands, plants and animals in our area. It's also 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.

Start time is 8 am, with Panera's bagels and coffee at the shelter at Embshoff Woods. We will then head out into other nature preserves where you can join hikes led by experienced wildflower enthusiasts. Here you will have the opportunity to observe uncommon wildflowers like the shooting star, drooping trillium, blue-eyed Mary, the delicate fern-leaf phacelia, and with a little luck, the elusive green dragon. Some of these flowers are shown on the back of this newsletter.

You can then enjoy the Wildflower Festival held this year at our new Kirby Nature Preserve at 2 Main Street in Addyston, Ohio. There will be lots of vendors offering nature-themed art, jewelry, products and plants as well as representatives from local nature conservancy organizations. Food trucks will also be on site to provide lunch.

The per person fee is \$15 which includes breakfast and lunch. The Flower-a-thon is an excellent opportunity for you to increase your knowledge and appreciation of our native wildflowers while supporting the WWC's important mission. We would love to have you join us. You can pre-register by filling out the form in this newsletter (see page 7).

For more information, please call Tim Sisson at (513) 922-2104.

Fun and Educational



Arts and Crafts



Wildflower Festival

Creative Activities



Face Painting



Membership Donations - Thank You!

Black Walnut Tree of Honor

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their gifts of \$1,000 and above.

Jeff and Michelle Ginter
Charles and Diane Herweh
Walt and Susan McBeath
Dave and Denise Miller and Family
David and Ally Nurre
Mark and Julie Rudemiller
Tim Sisson

Red Oak Tree of Honor

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their gifts of \$500 to \$999.

Bob Bergstein
Bill and Beth Burwinkel
Tom Schuler



Beech Tree Steward Recognition

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their gifts of \$200 to \$299.

Mark and Marcia Alexander
Tom and Mary Croft
Christine Hadley and James Mason
Mary and Chris Perkins
Gary and Norma Rapien
Robert and Pam Thomas

Paw Paw Steward Recognition

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their gifts of \$100 to \$199.

Marc and Barbara Alexander
Rick Auberger
Susan Auel
Mary Jo and Fritz Bazeley
Jack and Elaine Berninger
John and Betsy Betagole
Donald Blaney
Barbara Brown
Anita Buck and Stephan Pelikan
Jim Chapman
Bruce and Ronnie Cortright
Susan Frede

Paw Paw Steward Continued...

Cynthia Grant
Don Horak
Carol and Carl Huether
Carolyn and Lee Hughes
Ed and Judy Krautter
Thomas Malone
Bob and Liz Maxwell
Arlene Mendel
James and Patricia Neidhard
Jim and Kim Neil
John Obermeyer
Steve and Darlene Radcliffe
Dusty and JoAnn Rhodes
Ted Ridder
David Rudemiller
Bob Schaefer
Bob Temple
Janet Torok
Heidi and Gary Voss and family
Wayne Wauligman
Jim and Kathy Wohlfrom

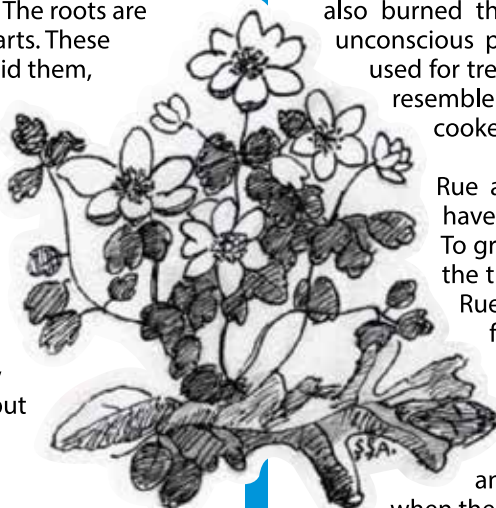
Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following for their generous support.

Sisters of Charity Ministry
Foundation

Rue Anemone By Sally Sisson Anderson

The rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) is in the buttercup family. It blooms in April and May, showing white flowers with yellow stamens and delicate leaves that dance in the wind. Some leaves form a whorl below the blooms. While its leaves are like the other anemones, this plant is not a true anemone. The petals are actually sepals which last longer than flowers. The roots are small tubers with thick and fibrous parts. These plants are toxic and most animals avoid them, but once the plant is cooked it is no longer poisonous.

The rue anemone is native to the eastern United States. Its habitat is rich open woods. It is found on slopes, not on bottom lands. Bees and flies pollinate the flowers. It often reproduces by underground roots. The anemone is a plant often mistaken for other flowers. They grow in the same area as wood anemone, but the rue anemone has clusters of flowers while the wood anemone sends up only one flower.



Rue anemone leaves also resemble those of the meadow rue.

Native Americans used the rue anemone for medical purposes. They made a tea as a treatment for boils, congestion and eye problems. North American Indians also burned the seeds to make a smoke to revive unconscious people. Rue anemone roots were also used for treating diarrhea and vomiting. The roots resemble small potatoes and can be eaten when cooked.

Rue anemone is a beautiful little plant to have in a shaded garden, or in a rock garden. To grow the anemone in your garden, plant the tubers one inch deep in summer or fall.

Rue anemone can also be propagated from seeds, but the plants grown from seeds will not bloom for three years.

This plant needs a woodland environment, for it grows best in light shade. The small tubers of the anemone can be divided in late spring when the plant becomes dormant.

WWC Is Grateful For The Following Donors And Their Generous Gifts

In Memory of Raymond Sisson

Donors:

Richard and Marie Jones
Daniel Sellet
Jeanne Sisson
Tim Sisson
Pam and Robert Thomas
Sharon Weatherford

In Memory of Thomas C. Hoffman

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Karen Brinkman
Tonya and Bill Cavanaugh
Tom and Joyce Davoran
Joyce Hoffman
Leah and Jim Hoffman and Tonya
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In Memory of Joe Kappa

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Linda and James Bertke
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Bethesda Oak Lab, Chemistry Lab, Processing
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Beverly Sanders
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Robert and Kathleen Seitz
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Mary Ann and Gil Stadtmiller
Butch and Rose Stertz
Patricia and Luke Walker
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Marleen Wall
Mary Ellen and Tom Watts
Wayne Wauligman DDS
John Weber
Donald Wedig
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Ralph Weis and Jan Stetter Weis
William and Barbara Welch

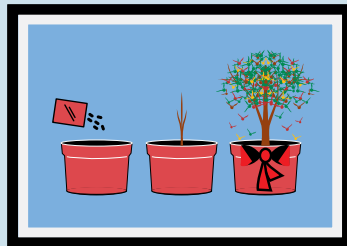
Create Your Legacy At WWC

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 or tsisson@fuse.net.



Flower-a-thon Registration Form

Registration for Western Wildlife Corridor 2016 Flower-a-thon April 30, 2016

Tax-deductible contribution for Flower-a-thon (\$15 per person)

Total _____

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Please return registration form and payment 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!* WWC is an IRS certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Membership Form



Western Wildlife Corridor 2015 - 2016 Membership

All donations \$ 100 or more will receive a special recognition in the WWC STEWARD.

\$ 500 or more will be prominently displayed on the TREE OF HONOR located in the Kirby House Great Room
- A Lasting Memorial!

- ☐ \$ 25 Individual Hiker
- ☐ \$ 35 Family Pathfinders
- ☐ \$ 55 Organization Trail Blazer
- ☐ \$ 75 Mountain Climber



WWC STEWARD RECOGNITION:

- ☐ \$ 100 Paw Paw
- ☐ \$ 200 Beech
- ☐ \$ 300 Sycamore
- ☐ \$ 400 Sugar Maple



TREE OF HONOR:

- ☐ \$ 500 Red Oak
- ☐ \$ 1,000 and up Black Walnut

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation:

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Add My Additional Donation for Land Acquisition : \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Visa or Mastercard Number: _____
Name on Card: _____
CSV _____ Expiration: _____ Zip _____ \$ _____

- Volunteer! May we contact you with volunteer opportunities? YES (Circle)
- Donate online with **PayPal** ! www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Thank you for supporting the Western Wildlife Corridor's mission to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!

WWC is an IRS certified 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Please return form and payment to:
Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.
PO Box 389077
Cincinnati, OH 45238



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