



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Fall 2016

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Terrific Volunteer Help at the Kirby Preserve

By Tim Sisson

In recent newsletters, I've told you about our plans for developing the Kirby Nature Preserve and have briefly mentioned our progress. This issue I'd like to fill you in on another all - important aspect of the Kirby project - our volunteer help. In a nutshell, our volunteers have just been awesome over the last six months helping with the renovation! I'll list just a few of the activities here to give you an idea of how much they have helped.

February 6 - make and install banner.

This was our big announcement to the world - a nature preserve is coming!

April 2, 16 and 23 - trail building.

We've got a great start on an extensive trail network at the Kirby Preserve. During April we built much of it with our volunteers and with help from several Eagle Scout service projects. The picture to the right shows a group of hikers trying out the Cedar Glade trail in May.

May 14 - clearing honeysuckle.

We had a huge project this day where we had the help of a large contingent of volunteers from the Go Cincinnati organization.

Banner Installation



Mark Rudemiller

Hikers trying out the new Cedar Glade trail



Tim Sisson

Volunteers at the May 14th Project



Tim Sisson

President's Journal Continued...

June 18 – digging drainage ditch.

We dug a ditch to allow water from a low area next to the house to drain away. Ted relocated this garter snake to an area away from its home by the house.

June 25, July 2, 9, 16 and 23, Aug 8 and ongoing – plastering, stripping paint, priming, final paint.

Here's where the heavy lifting was done, making repairs and getting paint on all the interior walls and trim. In our spring issue I showed you two pictures inside the house giving a before and during renovation. Here's another picture showing the progress we've made since then.

I want to thank all of our volunteers very much for the help they've given us. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Jeff Doering for managing the project and for working tirelessly day after day on the nature center.

But, the work isn't finished, we still have much to do. We're working there most Saturdays. Please stop by if you have some time and can help us out.



Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 24, 9:30 am and 10 am
Great Outdoor Weekend at Kirby Preserve

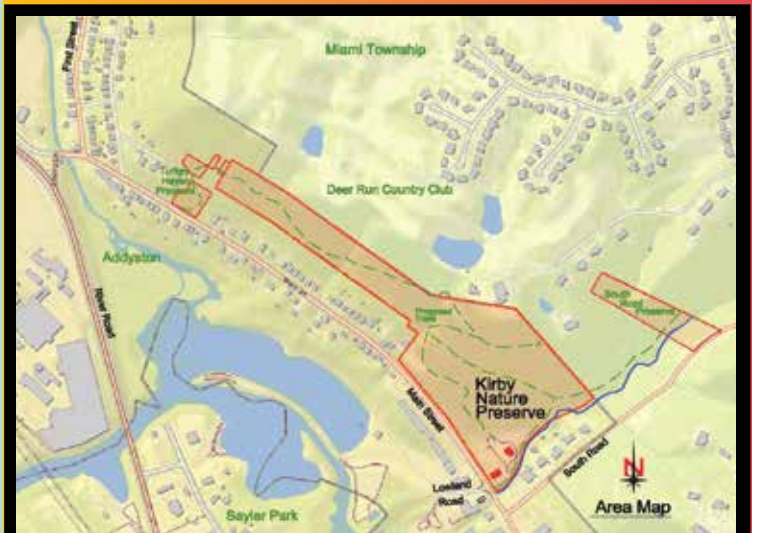


For this annual fall event, WWC is hosting two hikes at the Kirby Preserve – strenuous and moderate. The **strenuous hike will start at 9:30 am** with a stroll through a beautiful cedar glade. We will then climb through a very nice mature forest to a hillside limestone quarry where we'll be treated to a view of the Ohio River Valley. We will then return to the trailhead. The **moderate hike will start at 10 am** and we will also explore the cedar glade before hiking up a creek valley through an equally beautiful forest. For both hikes meet at **2 E Main Street, Addyston, OH.**

Contact Tim 922-2104 for details.



Great Outdoor Weekend



Kirby Nature Preserve

Calendar of Events Continued...

Sunday, October 23, 2 pm Fall Color Hike at Bender Mountain



The trees should be at their peak of color, so this will be an enjoyable hike.
Contact Tim 922-2104 for details.

Habitat restoration and trail work



Saturday, September 10, 9am – noon Habitat restoration at the Kirby Nature Preserve.

We will also offer a refresher session of our training for project leaders, but everyone is invited to attend to learn how we do habitat restoration and trail construction.

Leaders Tim 922-2104 and
Robert 859-572-9661.

Saturday, September 17, 9am – noon More habitat restoration at the Kirby Nature Preserve and, we will have a chipper to cut up the honeysuckle from the last couple of projects.

Leaders John 941-4877 and
Bruce 451-5549.

Saturday, October 1, 9am – noon Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace.

Leaders Gary 941-5414 and Tim 922-2104.

Saturday, October 15, 9am – noon Habitat restoration at Shady Lane.

Leaders Ed 919-5186 and Robert 859-572-9661.

Saturday, October 29, 9am – noon Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods.

Leaders Gary 941-5414 and John 941-4877.

Saturday, November 12, 9am – noon Habitat restoration at Delshire Preserve.

Leaders Tim 922-2104 and Robert 859-572-9661.

Hiking on Bender Mountain



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 922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for more information.

We Are Grateful For These Donations

In Memory of Joe Kappa

Donations By:

James & Ellen Malicki

Jan Sheaf

Nancy Brokamp

Carol Jane Neu

Geralee & Spencer Clott

Rick Lisi

Patricia & David Herdeman

Michael Wagner

Sue & Joe Sedler

James & Patricia Cleary

Terri & Jeff May

Norma & Paul Krusling

In Memory of Tom Hoffman

Donation by: Nancy & Gary Hoffman

Membership Donation - Thank You!

Black Walnut Tree of Honor

Donation by Mary Perkins in honor of Robert and Elda Wessler.

Trumpet Vine

By Sally Sisson Anderson - Artist in Residence, WWC

The Trumpet Vine (*Campsis Radicans*) is also known as Trumpet Creeper or the Cow Itch Vine. It is a fast growing perennial that occurs commonly in the south east. It is native to woods and thickets in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and most Mid-Atlantic States; including Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, and Kentucky. The vine blooms in June and July, and on into the fall. The beautiful trumpet-shaped flowers vary in color from yellow to orange or red, and are a favorite of hummingbirds. Many types of birds like to nest in the dense foliage including wrens and cardinals. We have a number of birds, including hummingbirds, that frequent the trumpet vine on our lattice patio cover. The five or six hummingbirds will stay all summer. We provide them sugar water as well as the trumpet vine blooms.

This vine is easy to grow in either sun or partial shade, and is resilient enough to grow in any soil. The long bean-like seed pods develop during the summer. In autumn these pods produce numerous winged papery seeds. A single pod will contain all the seeds you will ever need. Seeds can be stored dry in the refrigerator for later planting. However, the best method for growing the seeds is to plant them in an outside bed right after picking and look for new plants in the spring. If you wish to wait until spring to plant the seeds, it is best to place them in a bag with moist vermiculite; then refrigerate for a month prior to planting. This should bring them out of dormancy. Pot the seedlings in four inch pots and move them to their permanent location when they become well rooted. It will take a year or so before the vines flower. If trumpet vine is planted in full sun, the blooms will be more profuse. If you wish to confine the vine to an area or shape them; prune branches in fall or winter, the flower buds are only formed on new growth in the spring.

It is best not to plant this vigorous vine too close to the house due to the vine's creeping roots and tendrils that will grab onto every available surface. They can work their way under shingles and also cause damage to the house foundation. A trellis or fence works well as a support. Do not allow trumpet vine to climb trees as this can lead to strangulation of the tree! Contact with trumpet vine can sometimes cause a rash on some people; this is why it is also called cow-itch vine. The compound leaves are shiny, dark green with serrated edges, with seven to eleven segments on each leaf. In the fall, the leaves will turn a bright yellow.

In southern states trumpet vine is commonly found on pine trees, and is sometimes thought of as a weed. However, trumpet vine can also be used as ground cover to conceal an old stump or other eyesore. In the country-side, the vine is often seen growing upon fences or fence posts along the highway. Trumpet vine can be beautiful when cascading over a stone wall or on a fence. Just remember to keep an eye on this rambunctious vine!



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Sally Sisson Anderson

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Mary Perkins

Hunters in our Forest

By Bob Nienaber

The preserves owned and managed by the Western Wildlife Corridor provide habitat for the forest predator, the Cooper's Hawk. These hunters can be heard during the breeding season vocalizing a monotone (kek...kek...kek...kek...kek) or seen darting through the forest after their prey, song birds.

Cooper's Hawks are bluish gray birds with reddish underparts. Adults have red eyes, and black caps. One feature that separates the Cooper's Hawk from other hawk species is its long, narrow tail. Like other hawk species, females are larger than the males.

The Cooper's Hawk breeds in forested areas like our Delshire preserve and Bender Mountain preserve to name a few. They build their nests (made of sticks) in large trees about half way up and along a branch. Usually this puts their nests about fifty feet above the forest floor. A typical nest contains 3 to 5 eggs. In about 30 days the chicks emerge covered with white down. They fledge in about 2 weeks but return to the nest until they become independent, which takes about 8 weeks.

So the next time you go for a hike in one of our preserves keep an eye out for these fascinating local residents.

Membership Form



Western Wildlife Corridor 2016 - 2017 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 ☐ Visa or Mastercard Number: _____

enclosed 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:
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Printed on recycled paper.

Take a look at these spectacular fall colors!



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