

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL Best Volunteers in the World!

by Tim Sisson

Yes, we've got some of the best volunteers in the world right here in the Western Wildlife Corridor. In this issue of *The Steward* I'm going to highlight just a few of them, the volunteers who participate in our mid-week hikes. This group started out checking the status of our preserves and removing any invasive plants that were daring to come back into cleared areas. But, as you will see, it has become an activity where we do all kinds of odd jobs to make our preserves better.

To start out with the basics, here's a typical group posing by a fallen tree as we hiked down Sisters Hill:



Tim Sisson

See how we're enjoying our hike out in the forest!

Our mid-week hikers have also gotten into helping with trails on occasion.



Tim Sisson

Back on Bender Mountain Ted, Gary, Mark and Bob are shown after they installed a warning sign



Tom Malone

Here are Gary, Tom, Jack, Molly, Ted and Bob checking progress on a new trail at our Delshire Preserve.

Here are some photos showing our core activity – getting rid of honeysuckle:



Tim Sisson

Marie and Ted taking out honeysuckle on Bender Mountain



Tim Sisson

Mark removing honeysuckle at the Kirby Preserve



Tom Malone

Jessee carrying cut off honeysuckle to a pile



Tom Malone

This was a special mid-week project where we had a bunch of Elder students help us clear honeysuckle from Whitetail Woods

(President's Journal continues on page 5)

Federally Endangered Plant Discovered!

by John Klein

During the middle of July, while hiking with his two young children in Story Woods Park, Adam McCosham discovered a population of Running Buffalo Clover! Adam works for Great Parks of Hamilton County and has become familiar with Running Buffalo Clover (RBC) at Shawnee Lookout. He observed a couple plants near a stream along a deer trail. When I arrived to confirm the identity, Adam's two plants turned into five. However, we searched the entire periphery and found no more. The following week I showed the patch to Marjie Becus, a contractual researcher for the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves who works closely with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Marjie monitors the Running Buffalo Clover in our area. She is also the person who writes the official report on the finding. The next day I was able to show the plants to Tim Sisson, who was very excited! Tim was not only excited to see the plants on property we manage, but so close to additional property that we have a Conservation Easement on!

What makes this discovery so important to WWC is the fact that it was found in an area that WWC volunteers have managed for many years. And if it were not for the removal of Amur honeysuckle and other exotics as well as the maintenance work to keep them out, I'm sure the clover would not be there!

Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) is a Federally Endangered Plant. Endangered species are plants and animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. This plant was actually thought to be extinct from 1940 to 1985, until two populations were rediscovered in West Virginia in 1985. Since then, populations have been rediscovered in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Missouri. Included were several populations right here in Hamilton County! In fact, one of my jobs at the Park District was to oversee the management of several populations in our westernmost parks.

Like the European White Clover that we all have in our yards, RBC produces white flowers. The key difference is that RBC has two large opposite leaves below it on the flowering stem. The exotic



Running Buffalo Clover

Tim Sisson

European White Clover has a naked (leafless) flowering stem. To the keen observer, RBC also has a large leafy stipule growing at the base of each erect stem.

It is called Running Buffalo Clover because it produces stolons (i.e., runners) and will grow roots from the nodes along the stolon allowing a small population to grow into a larger one. It was also historically found growing at the edge between prairie and open woods along bison trails. In addition to the states listed above, it was also historically reported from Illinois, Kansas and Arkansas.

This clover is being re-discovered mostly in parks or old cemeteries where there has been some disturbance over a long period of time. Unlike most rare plants, RBC requires periodic disturbance. It also requires somewhat open habitat to successfully thrive, but cannot tolerate full sun, full shade or severe disturbance. The corridor has lots of potential habitat for RBC and it's likely just a matter of time before it is discovered on property that we actually own! So, keep your eyes open. YOU could be the one to discover the next population of this federally endangered plant!

Upcoming Events: September to November, 2018 – Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor!

Mark your calendars! We have a very nice series of events planned to start the year. Highlights for some events can be found below. For details about these events, and more, check out website calendar: <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/calendar/>.

Adventure Hikes on Bender Mountain

Saturday, September 29, 9:30 am and 10 am

For this annual fall event, WWC is hosting two hikes at Bender Mountain – strenuous and moderate. The strenuous hike will start at 9:30 am with a climb through a beautiful forest on our Eagle Scout Trail. At the top we will be treated to a spectacular view of the Ohio River Valley. We will then hike along the ridge top trail to Paw Paw Gap and beyond for the return to the trailhead. The moderate hike will start at 10 am and will meander along the slope of Bender Mountain through an equally beautiful forest. We will also hike at Paw Paw Gap and with a little luck will be able to sample that delectable fruit.

For both hikes meet at the gravel parking area on Bender Road about ½ mile from Hillside. Contact Tim 513.922.2104 for details.

Fall Color Hike at Kirby Nature Preserve

Sunday, October 28, 1 pm

The trees in our forest at the Kirby Preserve should be at the peak of their fall color. Moderate and strenuous hikes will be available. Hiking boots are recommended. For more information, contact Mary at 513.922.2104.

Upcoming Events Planning

In preparation for 2019 and beyond, we welcome your suggestions for learning opportunities, activities, speakers and events. Please submit your suggestions to www.westernwildlifecorridor.org. Select Contact Us then select General Inquiries. Accepted suggestions will be based on ease of implementation and budget. You will be notified when your suggestions have been received, whether or not they are accepted and if not accepted, the reason why. Please note, depending on the number of suggestions received and accepted your accepted suggestions may not be implemented within the following year. We are looking forward to seeing what you all come up with!

November Art Show at Kirby Nature Preserve

Saturday, November 17,, 3 pm to 6 pm

There is going to be a nature art show at the Kirby house of Western Wildlife Corridor on Saturday, November 17th, from 3pm to 6 pm. Exhibitors include Sally Sisson Anderson, Jessee Smith, Mary Ann Perkins and Harold Dreibelbis. Contact Sally 513.353.2708 for details.

Habitat Restoration plus:

What's our habitat restoration all about? It's one of the most important things we do! If you have never done one of these, go to <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/newsletter/> and see our *Frequently Asked Questions* article in the Winter 2018 newsletter.

Saturday, September 8, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve.

Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104 and Robert 859.572.9661.

Saturday, September 22, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration and trail repair at Bender Mountain. Leaders: Ed 513.919.5186 and Bruce 513.451 5549.

Saturday, October 6, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace. Leaders: Gary 513.941.5414 and Tim 513.922.2104.

Saturday, October 20, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration and litter pickup at Shady Lane. Leaders Ed 513.919.5186 and Robert 859.572.9661.

Saturday, November 3, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders Gary 513.941.5414 and John 513.304.2310.

Saturday, November 17, 9 am to 12 pm

Habitat restoration at Delshire Preserve. Leaders Tim 513.922.2104 and Molly 973.342.7921.

Mid-Week Hikes:

Finally, did you know that Western Wildlife Corridor volunteers do a mid-week hike almost every week? This is where we might do some light habitat restoration or trail building. Email Tim Sisson at hikertim419@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

Autumn Sneezeweed

Sally Sisson Anderson

Artist in Residence, Western Wildlife Corridor

Autumn Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) is a native, perennial plant in the aster family. It has abundant yellow blooms in fall and late summer. The flowers of the sneezeweed are wedge-shaped with three lobes at the outer end. These lobes make it easy to tell the sneezeweed from the Black-eyed Susan. The petals look scalloped. The center of the flower is spherical and quite protruding. The plant branches towards the top resulting in many flowers. The leaves are three to six inches long with a pointed tip and widely spaced teeth.

You are probably wondering if this flower causes hay fever. Actually, it does not; because it does not have wind-blown-pollen like ragweed does that causes sneezing and other symptoms of hay fever. It has a heavier pollen that has to be carried by insects from one flower to another. The name Sneezeweed is based on historic use of the crushed leaves as snuff. Menominee Indians used the crushed leaves in the same way. They believed that sneezing was a way to rid the body of evil spirits that caused disease.

Sneezeweed leaves, flowers, and seeds are poisonous to humans. If eaten, this plant can cause intestinal irritation, which can become fatal in some cases. The chemicals in sneezeweed can poison livestock and sheep. Sneezeweed contains Sesquiterpene Lactone. Insects, however, find sneezeweed a tasty plant and are not poisoned by it. Common insect visitors are bees, including honey bees, bumble bees, long horned bees, cuckoo bees, long tongued bees, and leaf-cutting bees. Other visitors include several kinds of wasps, butterflies, and beetles. Aphids suck the plant juices, while caterpillars of the sunflower moth, and other moth caterpillars feed on the stems.

Sneezeweed is found throughout North America. There is also purple-headed sneezeweed that is native, and is found in eastern meadows and roadsides. The habitat of sneezeweed includes moist, black soil, prairies, moist meadows in wooded areas, moist meadow areas along streams and rivers; soggy thickets, marshes and ditches. Sneezeweed prefers full sun to partial shade.

The name Sneezeweed is based on historic use of the crushed leaves as snuff.

Sneezeweed can be naturalized into most gardens, but it will need moisture, a rich soil, and sunshine. It can be grown from seeds. There are also several cultivars of sneezeweed carried by nurseries, the colors ranging from red to orange to yellow. It has winged stems which start from where the leaves end. In late fall the center disk becomes a round head of dry brown seeds. This will persist through the winter.



November Art Show

There is going to be a nature art show at the Kirby house of Western Wildlife Corridor on Saturday, November 17th, from 3pm to 6 pm.

Our Exhibitors are:

Sally Sisson Anderson is Artist in Residence for Western Wildlife Corridor. Sally trained under Charles Harper at the Art Academy, and graduated from Mount St. Joseph College. She does paintings of wild flowers, birds and nature scenes. Sally was park artist for the Great Parks of Hamilton County for ten years.

Jessee Smith is a successful artist, who started working with beads when she was only twelve. She makes silver jewelry of insects. She also does metal sculptures. Jessee double majored in art and natural science with a focus on entomology in college. Much of her inspiration comes from the natural world and the insects she loves.

Mary Ann Perkins graduated from U.C., and was a research scientist for 30 years. After retirement, she became interested in photography and nature art. She likes to use bright colors in water colors of flowers and scenes. She loves to experiment with colors and techniques in art.

Harold Dreibelbis is a local Cincinnati artist who is a long time supporter of the WWC. Harold has worked in many media including clay, acrylics, photography, digital art, watercolor and more. For our show he will be showing abstract drawings of mixed media.



Sally Sisson Anderson

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL *(continued from page 1)*

And then there's the prairie. Our mid-week group has spent many sessions preparing, seeding and weeding the prairie at the Kirby Nature Preserve.



Tim Sisson

Gary, Mary, Mark and Tom spent a lot of time breaking up seed heads for sowing.



Tim Sisson

Of course some weeds are always trying to crowd in when there's a planting. Here are Debbie, Mark and Tom pulling them out.



Tim Sisson

We also enlisted Arnold with his trusty weed eater to cut some of the weeds. Here's Tom with one of the piles we created with cut off weeds last month

As you can see, our mid-week hikers have helped in so many ways to improve our preserves and to keep them in top shape. We do a lot of work, but it is definitely not all drudgery. We always have a good time working on projects together and we always find time to do some hiking – which is many times the most enjoyable part of our day. If you are available sometimes during the week and would like to try out a mid-week hike, please send an email to WWC. I'll put you on our email list to let you know how you can join us.



Membership Donations –Thank You!

Black Walnut Tree of Honor

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their membership support of \$1,000 or more:

David Nurre

Beech Tree Steward Recognition

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their support of \$200 to \$499:

Mary Elizabeth Huey / Dan Hadley



Monarch caterpillar at the Kirby Nature Preserve

Red Oak Tree of Honor

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their support of \$500 to \$999:

Schlinkert family
Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society



Great Solomons Seal at Sister's Hill

Tim Sisson

Paw Paw Steward Recognition

Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their support of \$100 to \$199:

- Fernbank Garden Club
- Carolyn & Lee Hughes
- Mary Perkins
- Mary Jo and Fritz Bazeley
- Jim and Kathy Wohlfrom
- Alvin Wulfekuhl
- Bob Schaefer
- Kathy Kappa
- Thomas and Nancy Ward
- Monfort Heights Garden Club
- Craig and Valerie Holocher

Tim Sisson

Community Helping

There are some easy ways to help Western Wildlife Corridor just by going to the grocery store! **Kroger Community Rewards** and the **Remke Markets' Caring Neighbor Program** each offer a simple way to help raise money for Western Wildlife Corridor.

Kroger Community Rewards Please sign in to krogercommunityrewards.com and select Western Wildlife Corridor to help us receive quarterly donations from Kroger based on your eligible purchases. Within ten days of registering, "Western Wildlife Corridor" should be listed at the bottom of your receipt. Please note Kroger no longer requires annual on-line renewal; once you've signed up, you're all set!

Remke Markets' Caring Neighbor Program All someone needs to do is go to www.remkes.com, sign in to your account and choose Western Wildlife Corridor. If you have a Remke card and have never registered the card, you can do so on the same page. Your spending will automatically be tracked and our organization will receive up to 2% of your purchase totals.



Western Wildlife Corridor 2017-2018 Membership

All donations \$100 or more will receive a special recognition in *The Steward* newsletter. \$500 or more will be prominently displayed on the Tree of Honor located in the Kirby House Great Room — A Lasting Memorial!

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

- \$25 Individual Hiker
- \$35 Family Pathfinders
- \$55 Organization Trailblazer
- \$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 Member Renewal

Add My Additional Donation for Land Acquisition: \$ _____

Total charges to be made to my account: \$ _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Check enclosed (*make payable to Western Wildlife Corridor*)

Visa/Mastercard Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ Zip ____ CSV ____ \$ ____

Volunteer! May we contact you with volunteer opportunities? YES

Donate online with at www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Mail to Western Wildlife Corridor, P.O. Box 389077, Cincinnati, OH 45238-9077

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

Expanding Grant Writing Applications — Volunteers Needed!

At Western Wildlife Corridor we are fortunate to have so many supporters who generously give to our mission and we greatly appreciate this loyalty and support.

To supplement our donations, we would like to expand our grant requests and perfect our process to have a greater acceptance of these grant applications. Our goal is to supplement our donations from membership with donations from corporations.

There are monies available from organizations that support our mission such as "invasive plant" removal and "educating the community". We need to organize our efforts to be most successful.

We are looking for an active group of volunteers to work together to apply for grant monies. Knowing that working together is always better than one person working alone, we are requesting volunteers to assist with this effort. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the grant writing committee, please send a note to wwc7@yahoo.com. If you only have limited time, no worries...we can still use your help!



Nest with Cowbird Egg at Whitetail Woods

Tim Sisson



Swallows in the Barn at the Kirby Nature Preserve

Tom Malone



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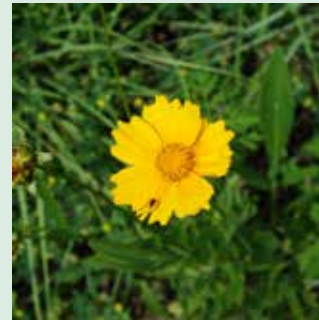
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Tiger Swallowtail at the Kirby Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson



Lance-leaved Coreopsis at the Kirby Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson



Black-eyed Susans were magnificent this summer at the Kirby Preserve prairie

Tom Malone

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