



Bluebird

New Bluebird Trail at Kirby Nature Preserve

by John Klein



Fall color at Bender Mountain

A new feature at the Kirby Nature Preserve are 6 additional bluebird boxes thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited in Western Hills! The new boxes and poles were installed in or near open areas throughout the preserve. These nest boxes will be monitored routinely by volunteers as part of a nationwide program to increase numbers of bluebirds.

As colorful harbingers of spring, eastern bluebirds begin showing up in our area in early spring to look for nest sites. As cavity nesters that utilize open habitat, they require hollow tree branches or fence posts which were once common in our area. Today most wooden fence posts have been replaced by metal ones and dead branches in orchards and backyards are trimmed to promote healthier trees.

In response to declining bluebird numbers, nest boxes have been installed throughout parks, cemeteries and golf courses since the 1960's to replace natural cavities. Today, bluebird numbers have made an amazing comeback, but the work is not done. Numbers are still low in many areas due partly to fierce competition from other cavity nesters (mostly non-native house sparrows and starlings)! Installing nest boxes benefits many other species of cavity nesting birds as well. Monitoring boxes at local parks has revealed that 10 species of birds will use bluebird boxes, depending on where they are placed. Some may even be used by flying squirrels, white-footed mice and other assorted critters. Since increasing biodiversity is our goal at the Kirby Nature Preserve, we hope to attract more than just bluebirds! Tree swallows, Carolina chickadees and house wrens will likely use the boxes, as well as possibly some less common species!

Nest box monitoring volunteers will be trained so that they can identify the species using these new

boxes and keep detailed records. Cleaning and maintenance of the boxes will also be the responsibility of these volunteers to increase success rates. Bluebirds can nest up to three times per year, so the monitoring season can be 7-8 months long!

With the addition of the prairie at the Kirby Nature Preserve, we are already seeing the biodiversity of plants and animals increase dramatically! This new habitat will attract more insects which will provide more food and improve the success rate of nesting bluebirds as well. Keep an eye out for updates in future newsletters!



Tim Sisson

One of the new bluebird boxes at Kirby Nature Reserve

Meet Our New Staff Person

by Ariannah Lambert

With each year we have found the Western Wildlife Corridor growing, and this year we made the decision to hire a part-time staff member. Meet Ariannah Lambert. Ariannah is an aspiring conservation biologist, loves and appreciates the environment around her, and as of a few weeks ago, eagerly joined our team. In the past, Ariannah has earned her associate degree in environmental studies and her bachelor degree in environmental biology. Now she is working towards her masters in biology, with an emphasis in conservation, through the Advanced Inquiry Program at Miami University and Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Besides her education, she has been married to her best friend, Josh Lambert, for four lovely years and has two spirited and adorable furbabies (Cosmo and Fry). Ariannah - *"I am incredibly ecstatic and grateful for the opportunity to work with such passionate and hardworking people. This position is a huge step for me in terms of professional, educational, and personal development, as such, I will take it very seriously and be the best staff member I can for this team and the corridor. I look forward to collaborating and learning from you all to make Western Wildlife Corridor the best it can be."*



Ariannah Lambert

Habitat Restoration plus:

What's our habitat restoration all about? It's one of the most important things we do! If you've never done one of these before, we encourage you to join us, as it doesn't require any special skills. No registration is necessary, just show up! If you have never done one of these, go to <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/habitat-restoration/> and read the document *Habitat Restoration Frequently Asked Questions*.

Saturday, October 19, 9:30 am to noon

Habitat restoration at Shady Lane. Leaders: Ed 513.919.5186 and John 513.304.2310.

Saturday, November 2, 9:30 am to noon

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Gary 513-304-9303 and Tim 513-922-2104.

Saturday, November 16, 9:30 am to noon

Habitat restoration at Bender Mountain. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104 and Jeff 513.451.1737.

For the locations and directions on where we will meet for the habitat restoration projects, please check the WWC calendar: <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/calendar/>.

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.

Upcoming Events: October – December, 2019

by Various WWC Volunteers

What programs do we have coming up? Highlights for the events scheduled by press time can be found below. More events are under consideration. For the latest information about everything we have planned, check the WWC website calendar: <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/calendar/>.

Fall Color Walk

Sunday, October 27; 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Kirby Nature Center

Join us for a hike in our successional and mature forests at the Kirby Preserve! The trees will be at their peak colors, and our new meadow should have some nice color too. It will be a perfect time to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Typically, this moderate hike lasts 1 to 1.5 hours. Contact Ariannah for more information at 618-889-9767.

There is no cost or registration for this event.

Location: Kirby Nature Center is located at 2 Main Street, Addyston, OH 45001, just off River Road.

Nature Art Show

Saturday, November 23, 3:00pm – 6:00 pm

Kirby Nature Center

For the second year in a row, we will host a nature art show at the Western Wildlife Corridor's Kirby Nature Center. Exhibitors include Sally Sisson Anderson, Jessee Smith, Mary Ann Perkins, Lori Vogel and David Garza. Bring your friends to enjoy an afternoon of early holiday shopping and see some great art reflecting our natural environment. Light refreshments will be served.

See the article on page 5 for more information. Call 513-921-9453 for questions.

Location: Kirby Nature Center is located at 2 Main Street, Addyston, OH 45001, just off River Road.

Annual Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Kirby Nature Center

2019 has been a year of fantastic accomplishments for Western Wildlife Corridor and what better way to celebrate those achievements than by having a party! Just like last year, instead of a sit-down dinner, we will have a more relaxed setting – so that you may sit where you wish, and/or move around the room to enjoy one another's company!

This event is for members only. Registration is required as seating is limited. Register for the event [here!](#)

MENU: Drinks, snacks, heavy appetizers, and desserts.

For more information contact Ariannah at 618-889-9767.

Location: Kirby Nature Center is located at 2 Main Street, Addyston, OH 45001, just off River Road.



As Western Wildlife Corridor continues to grow and meet their mission, we are finding ourselves in need of knowing how many hours our volunteers are investing in the organization. Recording hours will let us recognize volunteers for their efforts, track the amount of time being put into our preserves, and use the information when seeking grants. To help us through this transition, we have signed up as an organization through the Welcomers Community Volunteer Network. To start tracking your hours you will need to create a profile on the Welcomers website and then apply to volunteer for Western Wildlife Corridor. This can be done by going to <https://www.cincyusa.com/welcomers/> and clicking the red arrow that is labeled 'click to get involved'.



There's an app for that!

After you have successfully created your profile and your application has been accepted, look for the My Impact app in your app store and start tracking your hours without being near a computer!

We will be sending out a how-to document, which will walk you step by step through the process via email. Additionally, we will be holding a few how-to sessions at Kirby Nature Center for anyone who would like help throughout the process. The dates will get posted on the events calendar on our website, on Facebook, and will be sent out in an email.



Tom Malone

Volunteers with new trail sign at Buckeye Trace

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Sally Sisson Anderson - Artist in Residence, WWC

All summer, the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fly around the country. They breed throughout the eastern United States and also in Canada. Darting from flower to flower through woodlands and across fields. They beat their wings so rapidly all you may hear is a hum, a high-pitched squeal, or a chattering. The Ruby-throated hummingbird is the species who sip the nectar from yours or my hummingbird feeder. The male hummingbird has a throat of a deep red or orange. The female has a white throat, and her back is dark green.

Males arrive in the spring and establish a territory before the females arrive. Courtship is very brief. Once mated, the female builds a nest made of grasses, plant fibers, and lichens held together with spider silk and lined with thistle or dandelion down. Few people have ever seen a hummingbirds' nest. The female lays two pea-size eggs and produces one to two broods a summer. She alone cares for the baby birds, feeding them on insects. Standing on the side of the nest, she thrusts her beak repeatedly into the wide-open upraised bills of the baby birds. After 20-22 days, the fledglings try their first flight.

These birds sip nectar from flowering trees, thistles, jewelweed, trumpet vines, and other blossoms. However, a large part of a hummingbird's diet consists of spiders, insects, gnats, and mosquitoes. If the hummingbird arrives too early in the spring to find enough flowers in bloom, it may steal sap from sapsucker holes in trees.

The male hummingbird is said to be solitary except for the short courtship ritual, but we have seen a male stay all summer with two females. If a new hummingbird approaches his feeder, fighting will ensue. Defending his territory keeps the male very busy.

A variety of animal's prey on hummingbirds because of their small size. They are vulnerable to sharp skinned hawks, kestrel, and merlin. These birds are likely to take the hummingbird while it sits or sleeps on its perch. Lizards and bird-eating snakes may also prey on hummingbirds. Blue jays are common predators of the nest, stealing the eggs.

The hummingbird is the smallest bird known to humans, with a weight of less than 2 to 6 grams. The toes and feet are very small. Hummingbirds are fast and agile with a heartbeat that can be over 1200 beats per minute.

Because of all this energy expenditure, the little bird has to feed constantly during the day. They conserve energy by entering torpor at night.

The oldest Ruby-throated Hummingbird to be banded was nine years old. All older hummingbirds of seven years have been females. Males do not survive past five years old because of the high mortality rate during breeding and migration.

When the days of September and October begin to cool, these birds begin to eat abundantly to get ready for their long migration which may go as far as Central America and the West Indies. These tiny travelers may double their weight before their departure. Some birds embark on the non-stop 900-mile journey across the Gulf of Mexico. Though others may stay in Florida or other gulf states.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird's range goes as far as Canada into Alberta, Nova Scotia, and south to Texas. They can breed throughout the eastern United States including Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other states. It is the most common hummingbird seen east of the Mississippi River in North America. I for one, hate to see them leave!

We at Western Wildlife Corridor are wondering exactly when the hummingbirds leave in the fall. Wouldn't it be interesting to survey when this is most likely to happen? Please email us at sallysart@fuse.net to let us know when they leave your neighborhood and become part of this interesting survey. Look for the results of this survey in the next newsletter.



THANK YOU BRUCE CORTRIGHT

We wanted to take the time to thank Bruce Cortright for all of his years as a board member with Western Wildlife Corridor. Not only was he the 2nd longest-running board member, but he is a guy we can rely on for solid ideas and hard work. Particularly when it came to building the Kirby Nature Center, Bruce was someone we could depend on to step forward and take action. Further, whether he is working with a weed eater, chainsaw or chipper, his affinity for power tools makes him an ideal honeysuckle whacker! Some of his proudest moments at WWC include clearing honeysuckle at Bender Mountain and Sisters Hill, and if you have gone out there to hike you can see why. Don't worry, Bruce won't be leaving us for good. He will still work an occasional Saturday Project, but we will no longer be seeing him on the board. Thank you for all of your time and dedication toward WWC. It is because of volunteers like you that we are reaching our organizations mission!



Bruce is standing with his wife Rhonda at the 20th Anniversary of Western Wildlife Corridor Party

November Nature Art Show

We are having an art show about nature on November 23 from 3 PM to 6 PM at the KIRBY NATURE CENTER located at 2 East Main Street, Addyston, near South Road and Cleves Warsaw. Last year's show was quite successful and well attended. This is a great place to look for Christmas presents. This year we have four artists and one photographer:

Sally Sisson Anderson has been drawing and painting all her life. She studied under Charlie Harper while attending the Cincinnati Art Academy, and she is artist in residence at for Western Wildlife Corridor. Earlier she was the illustrator for the Great Parks of Hamilton County, and illustrated an Indian museum for them at Shawnee Lookout Park. One of Sally's illustrations was featured International Artist Magazine. She also illustrated a children's book, and a cover for a national magazine - the Herb Companion.

Jessee Smith has been making jewelry with beads since she was 12. Jessee learned basic metal working techniques in her course work at Mt Joseph College, and experimenting with lost wax casting in 2002. She likes working with her hands, and that is reflecting in her jewelry and sculpture pieces. She doubled majored in art and in natural science with a focus on entomology. Most of Jessee's inspiration comes from the insects and butterflies that she loves.

Mary Ann Perkins After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, she was a research scientist for 30 years. Then she was a video writer for an international corporation. When she retired, she got interested in the creative process and in the wide variety of animals at the zoo. Then, as a self-taught artist for two years, she began to paint animals and other themes. She loves to play and experiment with colors in diverse media in a way to make something interesting and fun.

Lori Vogel is a Cincinnati native who received her BFA from Mt. St. Joseph College. Currently living in Bright, Indiana, Lori paints and draws full time in both acrylic and colored pencil. She depicts the local wildlife on wood, stone and canvas. Lori hopes to bring a bit of nature into other's lives, and give them

an appreciation of nature that many never see. Lori's work can be found in the Pendelton Center, at the Cincinnati Nature Center, and in homes across the area.

David Garza This photographer has an interest in nature subjects and abandoned human made objects and structures which nature is quick to reclaim. Recently, he has been experimenting with home-made pinhole lenses. David has been a local photographer for music scene for the last 20 years, getting much of his inspiration from the documentary end of the craft. His work has been used by musicians and bands for their album covers and promotional material.

For more information, contact Pam Thomas at rpt268@fuse.net.



Bluebells

Sally Sisson Anderson



Membership Donations – Thank You!



Fall color at Bender Mountain

Tim Sisson

Red Oak Tree of Honor

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

Matt and Jeanne Taylor

Paw Paw Steward Recognition

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

Lawrence Brassie
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Jim and Eileen Schenk
Larry and Jan Tepe
Cathy Kappa
Donna H. Johnson
Edward Beckman
Monfort Heights Garden Club
JoAnn Dirr

An Easy Way You Can Help!

Check the bottom of your Kroger receipt for "Western Wildlife Corridor"



Kroger Community Rewards offers a simple way for you to help raise money for Western Wildlife Corridor. When you [enroll](#) with the Kroger Community Rewards program and select Western Wildlife Corridor, you help us receive quarterly donations from Kroger based on your eligible purchases!

It's easy to enroll in the rewards program:

- Go to the [Kroger Community Rewards page](#)
- Choose the "View Details" button under "I'm a Customer"
- Sign in (or create a new) Kroger account, then choose "Western Wildlife Corridor"
- Within ten days of enrolling, our organization's name should be listed at the bottom of your receipt

More information about the Kroger Community Rewards Program can be found on their [FAQ page](#). You can also [contact Kroger's Customer Service](#) if you have questions.

Thank you for helping Western Wildlife Corridor protect the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!



Western Wildlife Corridor 2018–2019 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

Looking to make a gift for our organization's future?

Support Western Wildlife Corridor's mission by making your annual gift last for years to come through charitable planned giving. Thoughtfully crafted gift plans offer benefits to the donor as well as to Western Wildlife Corridor.

Planned giving can range from giving gifts of assets such as property, adding a bequest statement to your will or estate plan, or giving a deferred gift by transferring a specific percentage of money from your trust to WWC. The best part about planning a strategy to give is that you decide how you would like to help the organization and when.

For more information on charitable giving or how you can leave your legacy contact WWC by phone at (513)-922-2104, email at tsisson@fuse.net, or check out our website westernwildlifecorridor.org under the Giving tab.



Raccoon baby at Bender Mountain

Tim Sisson



Orb-weaver spider at Bender Mountain

Tim Sisson



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November 2018 hikers at Bender Mountain



Deer at Buckeye Trace



Garter snake at Buckeye Trace

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