

## Taking Time to Be With Nature

by Ariannah Lambert

Hello all of you wonderful people. I hope you are doing well and staying healthy. All of our living situations are different, but one thing we can all do is take time to be observe and experience nature. I have found that I can listen to the birds while I am inside working or can get a close up look at plants while I go on a walk.

With the fortune of the season change, my husband and I have been getting out and walking regularly, despite the rain. As we walk around our community, we can see flowers in bloom, trees beginning to bud, birds flying around and filling the air with their songs. Nature is acting as an escape from the uncertainties of the world. When I am walking, I am breathing slower and taking in the smells of forests with each deep breath.

If you can, take time for yourself on a nice day to get out, let yourself be surrounded by the natural world you live in. Notice the flowers popping out of the ground and the splash of green that spring has brought. If you can't get outside, place your chair near a window to watch the birds, or let the rays from the sun fill you with warmth.

There are a lot of things that you can use to make this time more precious.

- Download the [iNaturalist](#) app on your phone and take part in citizen science projects.
- Get crafty: Paint a picture of your favorite flower, make confetti out of leaves with a hole puncher, paint your favorite insect or character on a rock and set them in your front yard for color
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Play a board game with your family
- Go for a bike ride
- Start a nature journal
- Plan a picnic on a nice day
- Finish your favorite puzzle
- Do your workout outside
- Take a free class online

Share your ideas! Have you and your family tried something out that you think would be fun for others? Share pictures or videos of your experience on social media with your friends. This is a great opportunity to spread happiness.



Yellow Trout Lilly — Bender First 2020

Tim Sisson



Wild Phlox — Kirby First 2020

Tim Sisson



White Trout Lily - Delshire First 2020

Tim Sisson

# Western Wildlife Corridor is now a member organization of Community Shares of Cincinnati!

On February 12, the Board of Directors of Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati has voted to accept the Western Wildlife Corridor for membership for 2020! So just what exactly is Community Shares? As a 501(c)(3), Community Shares has been in existence for 23 years, has 30 non-profit memberships and is in 13 workplaces. Community Shares works with non-profit member organizations to promote their work, mission and support its member organizations through workplace giving campaigns. WWC is a great fit under the "Environment and Nature" category at Community Shares. During the 2020 Fall Fundraising Campaign, workplace employees can pledge donations to WWC via payroll deduction. Some of the workplaces include the University of Cincinnati, City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Schools, Hamilton County, Miami University, Cincinnati State and Northern Kentucky University. This supports our outreach program with exposure to well over 30,000 employees! It's our opportunity to educate workplace employees about who WWC is and what we do! Donations will come to WWC each quarter starting in 2021. WWC's annual

donations should increase each year as we get more and more exposure. In addition to generating unrestricted funds, WWC will have opportunities to learn from other member organizations and find ways to partner and collaborate on future projects.



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## 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, but please contact a project leader to make sure it hasn't been cancelled. For more information, please go to <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/habitat-restoration/> and read the document *Habitat Restoration Frequently Asked Questions*.

**Saturday, May 9, 9:30 am to 12:00pm**

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104 and Gary R. 513.304.4303

**Saturday, May 16, 9:30 am to 12:00pm**

Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve. Leaders: Matt 513.604.6728 and Jeff 513. 451.1737

**Saturday, May 23, 9:30 am to 12:00pm**

Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104, Matt 513.604.6728, and John 513.304.2310

**Saturday, June 6, 9:30 am to 12:00pm**

Habitat restoration at Shady Lane Preserve. A martial arts training organization will attend this event as well! Leaders: Matt 513.604.6728 and Ed 513.919.5186

## Mid-week hikes

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](mailto:hikertim419@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list.

# Information Regarding WWC Events and COVID-19

With great sadness, we have decided to cancel all of our events, indoor and outdoor, throughout the month of April. That includes our most cherished event of the year, our Flower-a-thon. Though we are sad that we will not get to see any of you, we know it is what is best for the health and well-being of our members, guests, and volunteers. We will carefully monitor developments related to COVID-19 and orders from the State of Ohio and will adjust our schedule accordingly. We are grateful for your patience and support throughout this time.

For information on events in June, July, and August, keep an eye out for our emails, follow us on Facebook @ westernwildlifecorridor, or head to our calendar of events on our website! We will do our best to keep you updated.

## Bird Walking for World Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 9; 7:00am – 9:30am

Kirby Nature Preserve

Calling all early birds! The WWC is happy to offer a beginner's bird walk for migrant warblers and returning resident birds on Saturday, May 9, at 7:00am. This is an early morning walk because right after sunrise is the best chance of hearing and seeing these birds. As it happens, World Migratory Bird Day is on May 9th. Come join us to learn about birding, celebrate their return and help raise awareness about conservation and birds! The leaders of our expedition will be Kathy McDonald, Ned Keller, and John Klein. This will be an outdoor walk, held rain or shine. Binoculars recommended- there will be a few available for loan. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on the Kirby trail and the gravel parking lot.

## Coyotes of the Western Wildlife Corridor

Wednesday, October 7; 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Kirby Nature Center

Although rarely seen up close, we know that many coyotes live in the Western Wildlife Corridor. We see their tracks in the snow, hear them from afar, and have pictures of them on our trail cameras. Join us for an interesting indoor / outdoor program on coyotes, led by John Klein, who is a retired Land Manager for the Hamilton County Park District, and who is a member of the Board of Trustees for Western Wildlife Corridor. We'll start off inside the Kirby Nature Center for 30-45 minutes for the program and questions, then we'll take a short walk outside to the prairie to listen for our resident Coyotes.

**Cost:** Free, but registration is required as seating is limited. A link for registration will be available in August!

## Solarize Cincinnati: Installing and Living with Solar

Power at Home by Rob McCracken

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Western Wildlife Corridor is excited to offer a program on solar power, which has become a mainstream way of generating clean energy, with more than two million systems installed just in the U.S. The Solarize Cincinnati initiative strives to make purchasing solar panels simple and more affordable by providing unbiased advice, connecting homeowners with qualified solar installers, and offering discounted pricing on high quality equipment. Join us for our upcoming workshop where we will review the economics of solar, discuss how solar works, hear from a homeowner that has invested in solar, and answer your questions. Solarize is a project of the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance, a regional nonprofit for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Our presenter will be Robert McCracken, Director of Operations for the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance. We hope you can join us!

**Cost:** Free; registration is required because seating is limited. Registration: <https://forms.gle/KE7JmGPQ2FVzzCY78>.



Tim Sisson

Virginia Bluebells — Turkey Haven First 2020

# THE MAY-APPLE

Sally Sisson Anderson - Artist in Residence

Years ago when we lived in Sayler Park there were several plants that kept coming up in our front yard. We kept mowing them down, and they kept reappearing every spring. Finally we learned that they were May-apples and we moved them to another area. The May-apple is a very sturdy plant! It is a native plant of the woodlands that is widespread across most of eastern North America, from western Quebec to Minnesota south to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.

In the spring, the May-apples unfold their leaves like umbrellas in the woods. You can find them at Bender Mountain, at the Delshire Preserve, at the Kirby Preserve, and other WWC



preserves. They are a ground cover, but they are taller than most, and when they first come up their leaves are tightly rolled. They remain that way until the plant reaches its full height of twelve to eighteen inches. Then a single leaf opens or two leaves open. The leaves will shade a solitary white flower, which is in the fork between the two leaves. Plants that have only one leaf will not bloom. All parts of the plant except the fruit are poisonous, containing a poison called podophyllotoxin. It was used by Native Americans as a medicine. Deer and rabbits will not eat May-apple because of the bitter taste and because it is poisonous. The yellow-green fruits are edible but bland, similar to an over ripe melon in taste. They are sometimes used in jams or jellies. The fruits are eaten by box turtles and possibly by opossums, racoons, and skunks. The seeds are distributed in the feces of these animals.

May-apples are perennials, and spread rapidly by creeping underground rhizomes. The white flowers are showy, however they are short lived and hidden by the leaves. They are visited by bumble bees and other long-tongued bees. These insects collect the pollen and nectar. The larvae of certain flies feed

on the leaves. Thrips have been found eating the leaves.

May-apples prefer dappled sunlight to shade, and a moist rich loamy soil if you are thinking of growing them in your garden. They are found primarily in deciduous woodlands. They often form large dense colonies in the wild. The plant is easy to start from rhizomes, and will adapt well to garden areas under deciduous trees. It may spread aggressively in some areas.

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**The yellow-green fruits are edible but bland, similar to an over ripe melon in taste.**

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# Membership Donations – Thank You!



## Black Walnut Tree of Honor

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

Jeff & Michelle Ginter

## Red Oak Tree of Honor

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

Bob Bergstein  
Donald Blaney  
Linda Graviss  
Mary Perkins



Tim Sisson

Dutchman's Breeches – Delshire First 2020

## Beech Tree Steward Recognition

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

Anita Buck and Stephan Pelikan  
Jim and DJ Dolle  
Susan Dorenkemper  
Ed and Judy Krautter  
David Rudemiller

## Paw Paw Steward Recognition

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

Fernbank Garden Club  
Anonymous  
Steven Warman  
Louise & Gary Bruemmer  
Jeff Craig  
Monica and Marty Dechering  
Mary and Bob Finn  
Diane Halpin  
Carol and Carl Huether  
Roland and Clare Johnson  
Thomas Malone  
John Obermeyer  
Ronald Rothhaas  
Jim and Kathy Wohlfrom  
Western Hills Garden Club  
Dick and Kathy Hellman  
Mel Artmayer



Tim Sisson

Purple Cress at Kirby



Tim Sisson

Frozen Waterfall – Buckeye Trace

**Thank you for helping Western Wildlife Corridor protect, restore, and preserve natural habitat and to provide education to foster connection with nature.**



## Western Wildlife Corridor 2019–2020 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](http://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

## Winter Fundraising Event at 13 Below Brewery a Huge Success!



On February 28th, the Western Wildlife Corridor held its first Winter Fundraiser at 13 Below Brewery. Turnout for the event was beyond expectations. We sold a lot of WWC merchandise such as hats, t-shirts, bird pictures and signed up 5 new members. Both 13 Below Brewery and Incline Smoke Shack donated 10% of all beer and food sales to the Corridor! We want to thank all the people who came out for an evening of dinner and drinks to support a great cause. Stay tuned for more fundraising events later this year!



Tim Sisson

“Weird set of roots found next to the Bender Valley Trail. What does it look like to you - a hand right!”  
— Tim Sisson

# Meet Our Newest Board Members!



**Steve Johns** is the Planning Services Administrator for the Community Planning Division of the Hamilton County Department of Planning + Development. Steve holds degrees in Community and Regional Planning; Civil Engineering; and Economics.

Steve most recently served as the Sustainability Coordinator in the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environmental & Sustainability. He previously served as the Executive Director of Citizens for Civic Renewal (CCR) – a non-profit dedicated to empowering citizens and serving as a catalyst for civic action in Greater Cincinnati.

Steve is a native of Wilmington, Delaware. He now lives in East End neighborhood of the City of Cincinnati with his wife, Kristen, and two daughters. His interests include travel, gardening, and good food and drink. It's become a family tradition to hike WWC's Bender Mountain Preserve the afternoon of Christmas!



**Mary Ann Rozum** is a native of the east side of Cleveland and grew up playing a block from Lake Erie and hiking the Cleveland metroparks. She studied natural resources at The Ohio State University and worked for the US Department of Agriculture for ten years in Ohio and the last 30 in the DC area. Mary Ann retired to the west side of Cincinnati near her sister in 2018. She discovered the Western Wildlife Corridor at the Great Outdoor Weekend and was invited to join the grants committee and help with the nature playscape. She just attended the first national land trust k-12 education summit with 27 other land trust staff and volunteers. She is interested in training the next generation of land trust stewards and getting kids into the outdoors.



**Richard Stoll** is a life-long Westsider. I grew up fishing and hunting with my father and he taught me to appreciate the outdoors and the importance of conservation. I have a degree in Information Technology from the University of Cincinnati. After leaving the corporate world as an IT manager, my wife Jennifer and I are able to spend more time pursuing our passion restoring wildlife habitat at our farm in Indiana. It's an ongoing process planting native prairie grasses\wild flowers and shrubs to create pollinator and Quail habitat which are in steep decline. When I'm not down at the farm, you can find me on the pickle ball court or doing Handyman work for folks on the Westside or organizing a fundraising event for the Western Wildlife Corridor which I truly enjoy.



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Address Correction Requested



Garter Snake — Buckeye Trace March 2020

Tim Sisson



Spring Beauty — Bender First 2020

Tim Sisson



False Rue Anemone — Bender First 2020

Tim Sisson

**WWC Contributors**

**Artist in Residence**  
Sally Sisson Anderson

**Constant Contact Administrator**  
Joyce Richter SC

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**Events**  
Jeffrey Ginter, Kathy McDonald

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