

A Volunteer's Solace in Nature

by Ariannah Lambert

Everyone's experience throughout the pandemic has been different. For some, the pandemic has created a barrier for social interaction. For others, it has brought families home and under one roof. The truth for all of us, is that we are having to deal with the change in our lives and have been finding different ways to occupy our time.

One member of Western Wildlife Corridor, Tom Malone, has been filling his time volunteering to restore habitat at our preserves. Tom has been a member and volunteer to WWC for several years and can often be found whacking honeysuckle on the midweek hikes and Saturday projects, as well as frequently taking pictures of the many species found in our preserves. Beautiful examples of Tom's photos can be found throughout this newsletter.

At the beginning of the year, WWC began the Savannah Restoration Project and cleared several trees with the goal to increase habitat diversity at the Kirby Nature Preserve. This project has highlighted the open woodland

that is often overlooked. With the large trees now cleared, there were several smaller branches and piles of sticks left at the savannah. At first, the volunteers from midweek hikes were clearing the large debris, but as the pandemic continued

Tom told me that he found a certain solitude going out and clearing the ground area. With the intent to help and an appreciation for having access to nature, Tom managed to clear practically the entire area by himself. He explained his time as being peaceful on the side of the hill and a fun workout as he dragged the branches from the slope to the prairie. Tom says that he is grateful to be able to continue to volunteer throughout the pandemic and is grateful to be involved in something greater than himself.

It is the work of volunteers like Tom Malone that have given hope to younger generations, such as me.

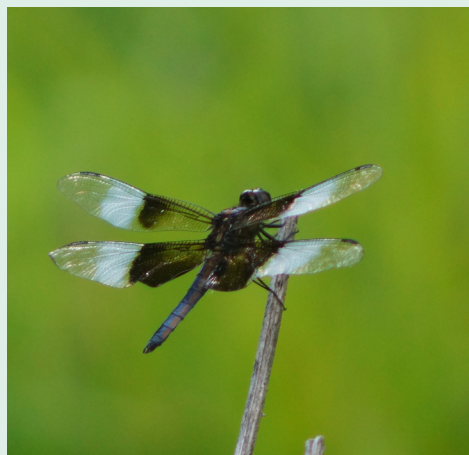
Their actions have showed us the importance of stewardship and equal access to nature. Thank you, Tom, your efforts are an inspiration!



Tom Malone



Gold Finch — Kirby



Skimmer — Kirby



Blue Swallow — Kirby

Western Wildlife Corridor and Community Shares

Western Wildlife Corridor is a member of Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati, our regional federation of charities working in the fields of environmental sustainability/conservation, social/economic justice, and animal welfare. Community Shares helps its 28 member charities by providing training for capacity building, networking opportunities, advocacy, and fundraising through annual workplace campaigns. If your place of business would like to discuss offering an annual workplace campaign, where employees may choose payroll deductions for gifts to support specific Community Shares member charities or even write-in any charity they like, please contact their CEO T. Duane Gordon at 513-724-4483 or dgordon@cintishares.org.

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. If your employer participates in Community

Shares, we encourage you to consider making a pledge to the Western Wildlife Corridor during the Fall 2020 Fundraising Campaign. Simply look for the 2020 Community Shares Pledge Form distributed by your employer this Fall. Making a pledge is easy and is done through payroll deduction and your donation may be tax deductible.



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, September 5, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104 and Matt 513.604.6728

Saturday, September 19, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

Habitat restoration at Bender Mountain. Leaders: John 513.304.2310 and Jeff 513.451.1737

Saturday, October 3, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve. Leaders: Gary 513.304.4303 and Tim 513.922.2104

Saturday, October 24, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

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

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Gary 513-304-4303 and Tim 513-922-2104

Saturday, November 21, 9:30 am to 12:00pm

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

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

WWC Hosts Butterflies with Dr. Glenn Crisler

Tuesday, August 18; 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Zoom Event

Join Western Wildlife Corridor for an hour as Dr. Crisler teaches us about different butterfly defenses. Admired the world over, butterflies are treasured for their beauty and grace. Many animals including lizards, birds, spiders, and other insects view butterflies as a potential meal. As a result, butterflies have developed a wide range of physical and behavioral adaptations to increase their odds of survival. This talk will discuss many of these defense mechanisms including camouflage, confusion, startle, fright, poison, mimicry, and speed. This presentation will exclusively feature butterflies found in the Eastern United States - many of which are well documented in Ohio.

Dr. Glenn Crisler is a professor of chemistry at Mount Saint Joseph University and published in the journal *Lepidoptera*, which is the order of butterflies and moths. He has been photographing butterflies at the Bender preserve and other local parks.

Cost: Free, but you will need to register as it is an online event.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/113696138210>

Fall Foliage Fest and Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 17, 9:30am – 5:00pm
Kirby Nature Preserve and Bender Mountain Preserve

Join us on Saturday October 17 for a day of hiking, education, and fun, and a native plant sale at the Kirby Nature Center! Enjoy the trails, and learn to identify the trees and wildflowers of Western Wildlife Corridor.

10:00am -Noon Morning hike at Kirby Nature Preserve

2:00pm – 4:00pm Afternoon Hike at Bender Mountain Preserve (we will meet at the parking lot on Bender Road)

9:30am to 5:00pm will be a Native Plant Sale at Kirby Nature Center

Admission fee is \$10

Register online today at website under the Calendar of Events Tab: <https://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org/2020-fall-foliage-festival/>

Questions: Are you curious about the Flower-a-thon and want more information? Contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104. Interested in knowing more about the native plant sale or how to get involved? Contact Richard Stoll at 513.377.3213.



Fritillary — Kirby

Tom Malone

Fossil Hunt with Jack Berninger

Saturday, November 14; 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Kirby Nature Center and Preserve

Get ready for some family fun with WWC, where your family will go on an adventure discovering all the interesting fossils in our dry creek bed at our Kirby Nature Center. This outdoor program will start with a short explanation by Jack Berninger, and each child will be given a special fossil at the start of the program!

Admission is free

Register for this event online today at our website under Calendar of Events

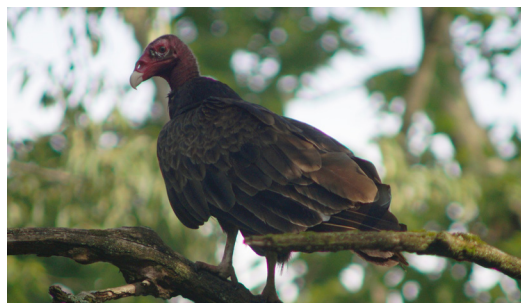
<https://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org/calendar/>

Cost: Free, but registration is encouraged so we can plan appropriately. A link for registration will be available in August!

Great Outdoor Week

Saturday, September 19 — Sunday, September 27, 2020
Various locations in Hamilton County

Breaking news! Green Umbrella has just announced that this year's Great Outdoor Weekend will be expanded to nine days, September 19-27, 2020, with partner organizations offering in-person physically-distanced events, or provide information and activities for self-guided exploration. Since this is breaking news WWC has not had a chance to identify if or how we will participate. Check out www.greatoutdoorweekend.org for more information as it becomes available.



Turkey Vulture — Kirby

Tom Malone

THE PILEATED WOODPECKER

Sally Sisson Anderson - Artist in Residence, Western Wildlife Corridor

We had a pair of pileated woodpeckers coming to our suit feeder off and on all winter. They are a magnificent bird; the biggest woodpecker found in North America. They are as big as crows. The way to tell the male and female apart (if you are lucky enough to see them close by) is that they have two stripes along the side of the head — on the male the lower stripe is red. On the female both stripes are black. Pileated means capped. They are both crowned with a big red crest on top of their heads.

This bird favors large mature forests, and wooded parks. They prefer both hardwood forests and coniferous trees. The pileated woodpecker is quite adaptable. Its ability to survive in many habitat types has allowed it to survive human habitation of North America much better than the ivory-billed woodpecker which has probably gone extinct. Pileated woodpeckers have a large population size and are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Act; although they do not migrate. The large birds help control many insect populations, especially tree beetles.

Their breeding habitat is forested areas across Canada, the eastern U.S. and parts of the Pacific coast. The population of this bird has increased since 1966 by greater than 1.5 % through the northeastern U.S., the Ohio river valley, and around the Great Lakes. The pileated woodpeckers have a typical life span of 12 to 13 years; mate for life, and repeatedly occupy territories of about a thousand acres year-round.

The pileated woodpeckers mainly eat insects, especially carpenter ants, other ants, and wood boring beetle larvae. They also eat nuts, wild berries, including poison ivy berries, greenbrier, hackberry berries, sassafras berries, blackberries, sumac berries, dogwood, persimmon, and elderberries. They eat insect pests such as budworm, termites, and other bugs by creating large holes in dead trees, stumps, and fallen logs. They lap up ants and insects by reaching in with their long tongues into crevices. They like vertical tree sides, but seem awkward while feeding on small branches or on the ground. Their holes can become so large that they can attract small animals such as owls, swifts, ducks, bats, pine martins, and even raccoons. These woodpeckers do forage on the ground sometimes around fallen dead trees where they find a variety of insect life.

When mating, these woodpeckers excavate a large nest in the cavity of a dead tree. In April the hole made by the male attracts a female. They mate and, then, the female lays three to five eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs during the day. The male incubates the eggs at night. They raise their young every year in a hole in a tree. The chicks hatch after about 18 days. Once the brood is raised, the woodpeckers abandon the hole, and do not use it the next year. These holes make good homes for many song birds, owls, and ducks. The entire woodpecker family is important to the well-being of many bird species.

The pileated woodpecker pair stays together in their territory all year round, and do not migrate. Drumming is used to proclaim their territory. You may hear this drumming out in a wooded area or in a Western Wildlife preserve. This drumming display consists of a burst of 11 to 30 taps delivered in less than a second. The pileated woodpecker has been seen in the Bender Mountain preserve, and also at the Buckeye Trace preserve.

The oldest known pileated woodpecker was twelve years and eleven months old. They have few predators, but can be taken by cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, great-horned owls, barred owls, and eagles.





Membership Donations — Thank You!

Black Walnut Tree of Honor

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

Jaqualine Brumm
Jeff & Michelle Ginter
Anonymous
Mary Ann Rozum



Baby Birds — Turkey Haven

Tom Malone

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
Steve Johns
Ed and Judy Krautter
David Rudemiller



Fungi — Kirby

Tom Malone

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

Paw Paw Steward Recognition

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

Mel Artmayer
Louise & Gary Bruemmer
Jeff Craig
Monica and Marty Dechering
Virginia Eversole and Dan
Mary and Bob Finn
Fernbank Garden Club
Teresa Gilligan
Diane Halpin
Carol and Carl Huether
Christina Jeffers
Roland and Claire Johnson
Cathy Kappa
Tom Malone
John Obermeyer
Ronald Rothhaas
Steven Warman
Wayne Wauligman



Male Cardinal — Kirby

Tom Malone

Special Thanks

Western Wildlife Corridor would like to give special thanks for the Memorial of Joseph Vonderahe received in May 2020.



Western Wildlife Corridor 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 PayPal 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

An Easy Way You Can Help!



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](#)
- Sign in to your (or create a new) online Kroger account
- On the right side of the screen, click either your name or your account for a the account dashboard to appear
- Choose the "Community Rewards" under "My Account"
- Search for "Western Wildlife Corridor" (or our organization number TQ695) and select us as your preferred organization to receive Community Rewards, by clicking on enroll
- Within ten days of enrolling, our organization's name should be listed at the bottom of your receipt

For more information check out our website at www.westernwildlifecorridor.org or email staff@westernwildlifecorridor.org

Habitat Protected Near Kirby Nature Preserve

by Jeff Ginter

Western Wildlife Corridor is thrilled to announce the completion of a new conservation easement, thanks to members Nancy and Timothy Gates! A conservation easement (CE) is a legal agreement between a landowner and another entity, such as Western Wildlife Corridor. This new CE covers approximately 1.5 acres of forest adjacent to the Kirby Nature Preserve. Through the Gates' generosity, the easement permanently protects this beautiful property, and extends the protected wildlife habitat up the valley. Under the terms of the CE, the property will be permanently held in its natural state, and no additional development will be allowed on the property. It also grants Western Wildlife Corridor access to the property to remove invasive plants.

Led by Trustees Mark Rudemiller, Tim Sisson and Molly Hunter, Western Wildlife Corridor began discussions with the Gates Family in 2018. This culminated in the signing of the paperwork in July, 2020. With this completed, we can work to remove invasive plants, such as Amur honeysuckle.

We sincerely thank the Gates Family for their generosity and support of the mission of Western Wildlife Corridor. The new conservation easement is one more piece of the puzzle to protect and preserve this beautiful natural area for generations to come.



Nancy and Tim Gates

The Gates Family conservation easement is a great illustration of how a beautiful natural area can be permanently protected. We encourage readers to contact WWC if they have property, or know of property, in our corridor where a CE might be appropriate. Please email info@westernwildlifecorridor.org if you have an idea for a potential conservation easement.



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WesternWildlifeCorridor.org

Email: info@westernwildlifecorridor.org

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Lance-leaved Coreopsis — Kirby



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Wild Petunia — Bender First 2020



Tom Malone

Fawn — Kirby

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