

## Where Did Tim Sisson Go? He's Right Here!

Our new president, Jeff Ginter, is doing a terrific job. In 2021, he took over from Tim Sisson, who served as our president for 18 years!

Tim led a lot of growth at Western Wildlife Corridor (WWC) through those years, increasing the properties we own and manage from about 30 acres to 300 acres. A key endeavor of Tim's is restoration of our properties, which has become a hallmark of WWC. Through our very capable volunteers, we lead the entire community of land trusts across the county in removing invasive species.

Tim and Walt McBeath, another Board member, oversaw donations that included the Kirby Nature Center and Kirby Nature Preserve, which is now over 50 acres. Tim sees the potential to increase that even more.

The Kirby Nature Preserve is a treasure with many habitats, including prairie, savannah, cedar grove, riparian area, native wildflower garden, and wetlands! It's a wonderful resource for those who already love nature and, importantly, for children (young and old) to learn about the great variety of lands, birds, stream life, and geology in our area. Later in 2022, the prairie will welcome more visitors because it will have a trail for people with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Tim also established positive working relationships with local governments—

Addyston and Miami and Delhi Townships—and numerous nature-oriented organizations, like Great Parks of Hamilton County, Sierra Club, and with the Hamilton County Planning Commission and Elder High School. These relationships have brought skilled and experienced new Board members to WWC.

Tim and Board members Sister Joyce Richter and Matt Taylor have attracted additional volunteers through Mount Saint Joseph University and the University of Cincinnati, among other groups.

### Rest on his laurels? No!

After all these accomplishments, we might expect Tim to sit back and relax. Far from it, he works in one or another preserve most

days and continues to lead some of WWC's most crucial efforts. He is Chair of the Land Stewardship Committee, which oversees management and restoration of all the properties we already own or manage and acquisition of more land for us to protect and preserve.

Tim also continues to supervise our part-time staff person and serve on the nominating and playscape committees. He is on the steering committee for this year's Flower-a-thon coming up on April 30, and provides background information and advice on things as varied as grant applications and speakers for WWC programs.

**Thank you, Tim!**



# The Ginter Family Donates Property to Western Wildlife Corridor

We are pleased to announce that WWC members Jeff & Michelle Ginter have donated to Western Wildlife Corridor a property on Hillside Avenue, near the WWC Delshire Nature Preserve. Jeff purchased this property at auction in August 2021, knowing that the property was of interest to the WWC Board.

This one-acre property had previously held a house that had been demolished and removed. The area where the building stood is now overgrown with weeds, but above that is the typical mature forest with grape terraces and honeysuckle that is commonly seen above Hillside Avenue. While the property was mostly in a natural state, there was still some trash near where the former house stood, including large metal and plastic sheets, and much of it buried. The Ginters worked during the fall of 2021 to dig up much of the trash and properly dispose of it. They also cleaned out a small concrete parking area at the front of the property, which can be used by WWC volunteers when working in the vicinity.

Many of the properties now protected and managed by WWC were donated by folks like Jeff & Michelle, who want to see natural habitat permanently protected. If you would like to make a gift of land to WWC, contact us by phone at 513-921-9453 or email at [info@westernwildlifecorridor.org](mailto:info@westernwildlifecorridor.org).

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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 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Gary 513.304.4303 and Tim 513.607.2599

**Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve. Leader: Matt 513.604.6728

**Saturday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace. Leaders: Tim 513.607.2599, Matt 513.604.6728 and John 513.304.2310

**Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Habitat restoration at Shady Lane. Leaders: Matt 513.604.6728 and Ed 513.919.5186

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

# Upcoming Events

## The Secret Life of Birds with Adam McCosham

Wednesday, May 4 — 8:00 a.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

No matter if you are learning to ID birds, or want to learn how they nest or how they migrate, one way to learn more is to observe a bird banding session. Bird banding is the practice of safely applying a band or tag to part of the bird, usually the leg, for data collection and individual identification. Banding birds allows researchers to learn the migration patterns, life span, breeding territory, and feeding areas of different bird species. Identifying these patterns and behaviors within bird populations plays a critical role in designing and implementing conservation programs for different species of birds. But not just anyone can place bands on birds; you must have the required permits and approvals. Banding offers an intimate glimpse into the behavior of birds.



Join us for this interactive outdoor program for a chance to watch bander Adam McCosham in action, while getting a chance to see various bird species up close and personal. You will learn how to identify birds in the hand as well as see how bird banders age, weigh and sex the birds as well as how they affix the band.

Adam is currently a Conservation and Parks Manager with the Great Parks of Hamilton County. He has a degree in Natural Resource Management. Adams has spent the last four years training to band birds and loves passing on his knowledge of natural history to others.

**Cost:** Free, but registration is required at <https://secure.givelively.org/event/western-wildlife-corridor-inc/the-secret-life-of-birds>. (Attendee limit 25)



## 17th Annual Flower-a-thon Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**



We are very excited to announce the 17th Annual Flower-a-thon fundraiser on April 30, 2022 that includes guided hikes, a pizza lunch, shopping vendors, and socializing—all for a donation of just \$25.00!

Expert naturalists will guide you to see the best places in the WWC preserves to find and learn more about Spring wildflowers as well as anything else you might find along the way! Most importantly, your dollars help us to conserve and protect critical habitat! Trips run morning and afternoon, with details on the registration page.

For the first part of the day, you will meet your trip leader between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. at the preserve of your choice and depart for a hike at 10:00 a.m. Please be on time so you aren't left behind!

After the morning hikes, we'll gather at WWC headquarters, the Kirby Nature Center and Preserve, at noon for lunch. Artists Ann Geise and Sally Sisson Anderson will have wildlife artwork and other items for sale, along with native plants for purchase by Scott Peak of Wildscapes. After lunch, some will depart for the afternoon wildflower hikes that will leave from the preserves promptly at 2:00 p.m. You are welcome to hang out at Kirby for the rest of the afternoon and visit the Bluebird trail, learn about the native butterfly garden, and walk the trails on your own.

Your generous donation enables us to preserve and protect precious habitat along the Ohio River valley. If you choose not to hike, you can still take part by joining us for lunch. Everyone is welcome!

[www.WesternWildlifeCorridor.org/calendar/flower-a-thon-fundraiser](http://www.WesternWildlifeCorridor.org/calendar/flower-a-thon-fundraiser)

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/291299212787>

# SOLOMON'S SEAL

Sally Sisson Anderson — Artist in Residence, Western Wildlife Corridor

There are only two species of Solomon's Seal in Ohio, Smooth Solomon's Seal and Hairy Solomon's Seal. We have only one of them in our area—Smooth Solomon's Seal. Hairy Solomon's Seal is found in eastern Ohio. You can find Smooth Solomon's Seal blooming in April and May at Bender Mountain.

This graceful plant has arching stems and oval, pointed, alternate leaves that are heavily veined. The creamy flowers hang under the leaves in pairs or sometimes three or more. The nodding flowers can be white or greenish-white and bell-like in shape. Bumble bees like to pollinate the flowers. These flowers also attract butterflies. Later in the season, blue berries replace the flowers. Birds like to eat the berries. Don't eat the berries—they are toxic to people. Symptoms include vomiting and diarrhea.

Smooth Solomon's Seal is in the asparagus family. The European lily of the valley is what we have in our gardens and is another species. The range of Smooth Solomon's Seal is from Manitoba south to Michigan, to Ohio, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Native Americans and colonists used the starchy rhizomes of this plant as food. The roots are consumed by wild animals. Young shoots of Smooth Solomon's Seal can be boiled and served like asparagus. Shoots can also be cut up and put into salads. The roots or rhizomes can be cooked and added to stew and eaten like potatoes.

Smooth Solomon's Seal begins to emerge in late March. With their spreading root systems, they form colonies, but they are not invasive if planted in your garden. They are easy to grow and could make good cover for woody areas. They might take a while to come up, maybe not coming up till the following spring. They prefer shaded landscapes with well-drained soil. The rhizomes of Smooth Solomon's Seal are jointed. After spring is over, the leaf stalk breaks away from the root, leaving a distinctive round scar that is said to resemble the seal of King Solomon—hence the name Solomon's Seal.

The False Solomon's Seal, which can be also found at Bender, is a different species but is also in

the asparagus family. It has creamy white flowers on the terminal end of the plant. They are like a plume—very small flowers. The alternate leaves are much like Smooth Solomon's Seal, and are followed by reddish purple berries in June.

Smooth Solomon's Seal and False Solomon's Seal like to inhabit mature forests and hillsides. Smooth Solomon's Seal is a perennial that makes a wonderful addition to a woodland garden, and they are good food for the bees that have been diminishing. Bees and other flying insects need our help.



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***Smooth Solomon's Seal  
is easy to grow and  
could make good cover  
for woody areas.***

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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:

- Cecilia & Tom Kloecker
- Jeff & Michelle Ginter



Dutchman's Breeches – Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson

## Red Oak Tree of Honor

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

- Carl & Carol Huether
- Joe & Trish Baker
- Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society
- Randy & Jan Johnson

## Beech Tree Steward Recognition

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

- Jim & DJ Dolle
- Ed & Judy Krautter
- Sedlack Bischoff Family Fund

## Paw Paw Steward Recognition

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

- Sonia Lee Shively
- Al & Debbie Duebber
- Fernbank Garden Club
- Chuck Geraci
- Mary Kay Gilbert
- Toby & Judi Heile
- Bob Schaefer
- Sisters of Charity
- Ed Tedtmann



Blue Eyed Mary – Bender Mountain Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson



Wood Poppy – Bender Mountain Preserve

Tim Sisson

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



## 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–\$199 Paw Paw
- \$200–\$499 Beech

### TREE OF HONOR

- \$500–\$999 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 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

## Create Your Legacy at WWC



### Make Your Annual Gift Last Forever

Perpetuating your annual support can be as simple as adding a bequest to your estate plan, naming Western Wildlife Corridor beneficiary of a life insurance policy or of a deferred compensation plan, or via some other deferred gift vehicle that designates a certain amount or percentage from your estate to Western Wildlife Corridor.

Thoughtfully crafted gift plans offer benefits to the donor as well as to Western Wildlife Corridor.

For more information on how to accomplish your goals and leave a lasting gift for nature, please contact WWC at 513.921.9453



Tome Malone

Volunteers installing new sign at Bender Mountain Nature Preserve

# Welcome New Board Members



**Roger Auer** — For many years, the Western Wildlife Corridor has inspired my admiration. Only recently have I had the time to dedicate my energy to its continued success. I am proud to be the newest member of the board of The Western Wildlife Corridor. I retired from Elder High School after a delightful 37-year career. Being in charge of Community Service at Elder, I have had a long relationship with WWC over the years and have watched numerous students increase their respect for nature because of their involvement with the organization. I know something about board membership after having been board chairman of Over-the-Rhine Community Housing for almost 40 years. It still breaks my heart to see a homeless man or woman on the side of the road, knowing they need far more than a few dollars for their next meal. OTRCH addresses the multiple reasons for why a person becomes homeless. For the same reason, I became a member of WWC. By myself, I could pick up some litter and kill a few honeysuckle bushes. Being a member of WWC enables me to be part of a team that confronts wildlife degradation on numerous levels. I am thankful to be part of both organizations.

I am lucky to have Mary, my wife for 37 years, 3 lovely daughters, and 5 grandchildren who all live out of town, except of course for Mary. I love to do all sorts of outdoor stuff and play my guitar when it's bad out.



**Mary Jo Bazeley** — Price Hill resident for the past 35 years. I joke that I'm a professional volunteer; many of my activities are on an as-needed basis, but the long-term favorites are: Cincinnati Zoo (retired after 40 years), Cincinnati Parks (35+ years), West Price Hill Community Council (since I moved here), Carson School, Price Hill Garden Club, and the Thanksgiving Day Parade.



**Mary Perkins** — A native Cincinnati, I grew up camping, hiking, gardening, and having many outdoor adventures. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, I was a research scientist and then a communication expert for the Chief Technology officer at P&G.

After retiring, I became very interested in preserving and protecting woodlands and joined WWC and served on the board. I started a project with WWC to create a Nature Playscape where children can play, learn, and appreciate nature. I am so happy to be asked to be back on the board.



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[WesternWildlifeCorridor.org](http://WesternWildlifeCorridor.org)

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### WWC Board of Trustees

- Jeffrey Ginter, President
- Molly Hunter, Treasurer
- Steve Johns, Secretary
- Roger Auer
- Mary Jo Bazeley
- John Klein
- Debbie Lutkenhoff
- Walt McBeath
- Mary Perkins
- Gary Rapien
- Joyce Richter SC
- Tim Sisson
- Jessee J. Smith
- Richard Stoll
- Matt Taylor

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### WWC Committees

- Events:** Kathy McDonald (Chair), Joyce Richter SC, Debbie Lutkenhoff
- Executive:** Jeff Ginter (Chair), Molly Hunter, Steve Johns
- Fundraising:** Richard Stoll (Chair), Steve Johns, Tim Sisson, Joyce Richter SC, Walt McBeath
- Kirby Property Management:** Jeff Doering (Chair), Beth Warmuth, Debbie Lutkenhoff, John Klein, Tim Sisson, Jessee J. Smith, Matt Taylor
- Land Stewardship:** Tim Sisson (Chair), Jeff Ginter, Steve Johns, Roger Auer, John Klein, Gary Rapien, Joyce Richter SC, Richard Stoll, Matt Taylor
- Trail Construction and Maintenance Subcommittee:** John Klein (Chair), Matt Taylor, Joyce Richter, Roger Auer, Mark Rechsteiner, Tim Sisson, Bruce Cortright
- Membership:** Walt McBeath (Chair), Roselyn Schloss
- Nominating Committee:** Jeff Ginter (Chair), Steve Johns, Tim Sisson
- Playscape:** Debbie Lutkenhoff
- Website Coordination:** Jeff Doering (Chair), Jeff Ginter, Joyce Richter SC

### WWC Leaders

- Constant Contact Administrator:** Joyce Richter SC
- Facebook Administrators:** Jessee J. Smith and Kathy McDonald
- Gardening/Native Plants:** Debbie Lutkenhoff
- Habitat Restoration Project Leaders:** Tim Sisson, Matt Taylor, Molly Hunter, Jeff Ginter, Gary Rapien, Ed Lottman, John Klein, Jeff Shaw
- Human Resources:** Jeff Ginter
- LTA Accreditation:** Molly Hunter
- Mail Processing:** Roselyn Schloss, Molly Hunter, Marie Finn
- Preserve Monitors:** Matt Taylor and Tim Sisson at Kirby; Molly Hunter at Delshire; Joyce Richter, Jeff Ginter, Roger Auer, Jeff Shaw and Rich Helmchen at Bender; Tim Sisson at Buckeye Trace; and Gary Rapien at Whitetail Woods
- Welcomers Administrator:** Matt Taylor

### Newsletter Contributors

- Artist in Residence:** Sally Sisson Anderson
- Editing, Design, and Production:** Marie Finn, Jessee J. Smith
- Photographers:** Tom Malone, Tim Sisson, Jessee J. Smith, Joyce Richter SC