

## Another Important Purchase

by *Tim Sisson*

Western Wildlife Corridor recently purchased another property that is a great addition to our preserves. This property is on Rapid Run Road in Delhi Township, close to Rapid Run's beginning in Saylor Park. It contains 11.2 acres of forest with many large hardwoods such as Wild Cherry, Black Walnut, Chinquapin Oak, Sugar Maple, Slippery Elm and Hackberry.

The new property is part of a large area of land that we own, which started out with the purchase of Whitetail Woods in 2008. By itself, Whitetail Woods was very nice, with a mature forest and many wildflowers. It was also the first property purchased by Western Wildlife Corridor. With a lot of perseverance and a bit of luck, we added property and property over the years, resulting in a total of 16.7

acres in one continuous forested area at Whitetail Woods. In the attached map (*next page*), the parcel highlighted in blue is the new property. The notations "WWC" indicate Whitetail Woods properties we already own.

When the Rapid Run property came up for sale in

2017, I really lusted after it. You see, it was next to these other properties, and was such a beautiful forested area. However, it turned out that WWC, at that time, did not have the resources to make an offer, so it was bought by a developer. I was very disappointed, but still hoped that we might get lucky and eventually buy it.

It was with great delight that in the summer of 2022, I saw a listing to sell it by the developer. It turned out that the property was not suitable for the large-scale development they had planned, so they were trying to sell it as a site for a single-family home. We immediately got in touch with the realtor and started negotiating and negotiating, and eventually we were able to agree on a price.

We were elated, but still had a lot of work to do. You see, we needed to be able to obtain a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund from the State of Ohio to afford it. After much searching, I found a consultant, Kendra Cipollini,

who helped us put together the grant application. She did a wonderful job, and we succeeded — so now we own this wonderful property!!

Western Wildlife Corridor was founded with the goal of creating a corridor of greenspace along the Ohio River valley. As we work to achieve that goal,



Huge Chinquapin Oak at the top of the slope at Rapid Run

Tim Sisson

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# Another Important Purchase

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an important step along the way to establishing a corridor is to connect properties together, creating large blocks of property that are protected. Wildlife love and are most healthy in large areas of connected greenspace. This new property owned by Western Wildlife Corridor is an important step in achieving both of these goals, expanding the area of our preserve here to 28 acres. Just as important is the fact that we now own an expanse of property along the hillside that extends close to three quarters of a mile from north of Rapid Run Road almost to Bender Road.

Now the fun begins. We will be exploring the new property over the next few months to see what plants occur there. We'll also begin to clear the evil invasive plants. Let me know if you would like to join in on the fun and I'll add you to the e-mail lists for these activities.

With perseverance and a bit of good luck, Western Wildlife Corridor will continue to protect important areas within our corridor such as this one stretching along Rapid Run Road.



Tim Sisson

Cut-Leaved Toothwort – one of many wildflowers found on the property



Tim Sisson

Dwarf Larkspur just starting to bloom.



The parcel highlighted in blue is the new property. The notations "WWC" indicate Whitetail Woods properties we already own.



*Western Wildlife Corridor appreciates the Clean Ohio Conservation grant program and the financial support of the Ohio Public Works Commission.*

# Upcoming Events

## Spring Wildflower Walks

Sunday, April 16 — 10:00 a.m. Bender Mountain - Register <https://secure.givelively.org/event/western-wildlife-corridor-inc/spring-wildflower-walk-bender-mountain-april-16th>

Saturday, April 22 — 10 a.m. Earth Day Spring Wildflower Walk at Delshire Nature Preserve - Register <https://secure.givelively.org/event/western-wildlife-corridor-inc/earth-day-spring-wildflower-walk-delshire-preserve-april-22>

Saturday, April 29 — 10:00 a.m. Kirby Nature Preserve - Register <https://secure.givelively.org/event/western-wildlife-corridor-inc/spring-wildflower-walk-kirby-nature-preserve-april-29th>

As Spring approaches and nature brings new life to our landscapes, most of us will be ready for a hike or two. We are offering a series of wildflower hikes on properties owned and managed by Western Wildlife Corridor, an organization with a mission to protect, restore, and preserve natural habitat, and to provide education to foster connections with nature. WWC nature preserves offer some of the best places in Hamilton County to view our spectacular native Ohio wildflowers. We could see Cut-Leaved Toothwort, Sessile and Drooping Trillium, Wild Ginger, Woodland Poppy, Blue-Eyed Mary, Greek Valerian, Dutchman's Breeches, Wild Hyacinth, Miami Mist, Fernleaf Phacelia, and many more. In addition to wildflowers, as a result of the good work WWC has done to remove invasive species, our native trees and shrubs will be leafing out among an abundance of wildlife. You will likely see a migrating warbler or two! Cost: Free. Please register for your preferred hike: [Bender, April 16](#), [Delshire, April 22](#) or [Kirby, April 29](#).



Catalpa Bloom — Kirby Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson



Rue Anemone —Delshire Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson



Virginia Bluebell —Bender Mountain Nature Preserve

Tim Sisson

## Amur Honeysuckle: Its Rise and—Hopefully—Future Decline with Professor Richard Boyce

Tuesday, April 25th — 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

Professor Richard Boyce will talk about what is known about Amur honeysuckle effects, in general, then look at how the forest understory responded when honeysuckle was removed. He will also mention some work he did that showed how honeysuckle increases transpiration in forested wetlands, and how this can have bad effects on amphibians. Professor Boyce will then talk about the native fungal pathogen, honeysuckle leaf blight, its recent emergence, and what he's discovered about how it affects Amur honeysuckle.



Professor Boyce received a BA from Williams College in Astrophysics, then a Masters of Forest Science and a Ph.D. from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (now the Yale School of the Environment). After a postdoc at Dartmouth College he was an assistant professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Denver. Professor Boyce came to the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Kentucky University in 2002. He is now a full professor, and has served on NKU's Board of Regents as the faculty representative. He works primarily with woody plants in forested ecosystems. At NKU, much of his work has centered on the invasive shrub, Amur honeysuckle. He has looked at the recovery of the understory after honeysuckle removal, as

well as the increase in transpiration that occurs when honeysuckle invades a forest. After widespread occurrences of honeysuckle leaf blight, a native fungal pathogen, began in 2012, he studied the effects on leaf blight on Amur honeysuckle. He is also studying the affects of the invasive Callery Pear.

Cost is free, but registration is required: [https://secure.lgforms.com/form\\_engine/s/yUm!SycufUtD-P7TvV-akQ?t=1680182862](https://secure.lgforms.com/form_engine/s/yUm!SycufUtD-P7TvV-akQ?t=1680182862) Meet at Kirby Nature Preserve, 2 East Main Street in Addyston, Ohio.

## Here, There be Tigers: Ohio Tiger Beetles with Jessee Smith

Saturday, May 20, 2023 — 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

If you go for a hike in WWC's preserves, you're likely to encounter tigers on the trail—tiger beetles, that is! Learn more about these fierce, fascinating little predators during a presentation that will introduce you to Ohio's tiger beetle species and describe their role in our local ecosystem. Then we will take to the trails for a short hike (weather permitting) to see if we can spot some of these beauties in the wild. Bring your butterfly binoculars for a closer look! *(Continues next page)*

## Upcoming Events - continued

### Here, There be Tigers: Ohio Tiger Beetles with Jessee Smith

Saturday, May 20, 2023 — 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve



Jessee J. Smith, a Cincinnati native and Mount St. Joseph University graduate, is a copyeditor, layout designer, and metalsmith with a passion for insects. She has worked as the copyeditor of *American Entomologist* for over 20 years and has designed several field guides for the Ohio Biological Survey. She has co-authored peer-reviewed papers on tiger beetles, periodical cicadas, and cultural entomology. Her Etsy shops, SilverspotStudio and SilverspotMetalworks, showcase designs that reflect Jessee's interest in insects through the medium of handmade jewelry and wearable art. In her spare time, Jessee enjoys hiking and whacking honeysuckle. Jessee will present two programs this summer. The second will be on Summer Singers: Annual Cicadas of Ohio on July 15, 2023. See information on that program below and join us for both of these informative programs. Cost is free, but registration is required. For the **Here, There be Tigers** presentation, register here: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/\\_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg)

[https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/\\_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg)

### Ohio Fireflies: New & Familiar — Presentation by Matthew Speights

Tuesday, June 6 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

Nearly everyone has watched fireflies flash for a brief second on warm summer nights. Many know that fireflies flash to find mates, but fireflies flash for other, "darker" reasons. The common Big Dipper Fireflies (*Photinus pyralis*) advertise both to potential mates and to predators, signaling that they are poisonous to eat. Non-poisonous fireflies can flash in Batesian mimicry to imitate poisonous fireflies, and some female non-poisonous fireflies (*Photuris* sp.) flash to attract male poisonous fireflies, which they then devour to obtain their poisons! The flashing frequency, flight patterns, and colors of fireflies allow a careful observer to determine what species they are. One of the most distinct flashing patterns among fireflies was never seen in Ohio—before last year. The males of the tiny Blue Ghost Firefly (*Phausis reticulata*) glow a ghostly bluish green for 10–20 seconds as they hover around the forest floor, while the flightless females never stop glowing. Although officially reported from the Southeast up to Tennessee, last summer they were sighted for the first time near Cincinnati. Amateur naturalist Matthew Speights will be doing this presentation, followed by two hikes on June 23 and June 24. Cost is free, but registration is required: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/jj9gOKuAPDI6XW5SyPIBog](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/jj9gOKuAPDI6XW5SyPIBog).

### Blue Ghost Firefly Hikes

Friday, June 23 — 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 24th — 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Bender Mountain Nature Preserve

Matthew Speights will lead hikes after dark on Bender Mountain to see the newly discovered Ohio population of Blue Ghost Fireflies. Hikers will need a red headlamp/flashlight to preserve their night vision, as well as sturdy shoes/boots to hike steep trails in the dark (fireflies will not come out until approximately 10:00 p.m.). A limited number of hikers will be taken each night. Cost is free, but registration is required. For June 23, register here: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/qvP7KCGdgrcJmFv6PXBBeJw](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/qvP7KCGdgrcJmFv6PXBBeJw) and for June 24, register here: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/YnBho\\_21UfZOj6QvyupaCA](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/YnBho_21UfZOj6QvyupaCA). This event is weather dependent.

### Blue Ghost Firefly Citizen Science Project

April – June 2023

Since their discovery last year, no one knows how widespread the Ohio population of Blue Ghost Fireflies is. Matthew Speights is putting together a group of citizen science volunteers to gather data on their range, population, behavior, and habitat. Beginning in April, volunteers will check local sites and record data to help scientists better conserve these fireflies. If interested in volunteering, please email at [matthewspeights@gmail.com](mailto:matthewspeights@gmail.com).

### Summer Singers: Annual Cicadas of Ohio, Jessee Smith

Saturday, July 15 — 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

By now, we're all pretty familiar with the periodical cicadas that emerged en masse in 2021. But what about the ones we hear all summer long? This presentation will introduce you to our local annual (or "dog-day") cicadas—often heard, but not so often seen. Just like birds, many of these cicada species can be recognized by their distinctive calls, adding a new dimension of nature observation to your summer hikes. We will cover the local species of annual cicadas and compare their calls before heading out into the preserve (weather permitting) to see who's singing! Cost is free, but registration is required. For the **Summer Singers** presentation, register here: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/\\_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_AnXFtQR0l-hnX91kDW8Wg)

# Upcoming Events - continued

## On the Wing: Butterfly Walk at Kirby Nature Center with Glenn Crisler II

Saturday, August 5, 2023 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve,

Admired the world over, butterflies are treasured for their beauty and grace. This walk will focus on finding and identifying butterflies on the various plants found at Kirby Nature Center. You will learn how to best attract them to your yard too. Cost is free, but registration is required: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/E9QqF5rXkWH38Gt-3nQuEg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/E9QqF5rXkWH38Gt-3nQuEg)

Dr. Glenn Crisler II, PhD., is an amateur lepidopterist who hails from Brookhaven, Mississippi. He moved to Cincinnati, OH after completing his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry in 2019.

In addition to being an Analytical Chemist, Glenn is also passionate about nature and lends his expertise with others by leading outdoor naturalist hikes and delivering lectures for various state parks and societies. Some of Glenn's work is published in the journal *News of the Lepidopterist's Society*, a journal dedicated to the study of Lepidoptera.



## The Long-Term Value of a Small Restored Woodland with Carol Trosset, Ph.D.

Tuesday, August 29 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Kirby Nature Preserve

In the 1950s, the Trosset family began restoring an acre of woodland in Evendale, Ohio. Over time, the property came to host a great diversity of wildflowers and birds. Using 40 years of data collected by Ruth Trosset, Carol will describe the ecological value of this forest fragment and discuss their research on how the coming of spring has changed in Cincinnati over the decades. Cost is free, but registration is required: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/zG14XoKq1HbvlojBtM9UOw](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/zG14XoKq1HbvlojBtM9UOw)

Carol Trosset is a lifelong amateur naturalist and the author of *The Woods: The Natural History of an Acre in Southwestern Ohio*, recently published by the Ohio Biological Survey. She grew up in Cincinnati and received training from a number of well-known local naturalists. Now retired from

a career as an anthropologist studying institutional effectiveness in higher education, she has returned to Cincinnati where she co-manages the Trosset Wildflower Sanctuary at Gorman Heritage Farm in Evendale.



## 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, April 15**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Tim 513.607.2599 and Gary 513.304.4303
- **Saturday, April 22**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Habitat restoration at Bender Mountain. Today's event is one of the locations for the Elder High School Mark Klusman Day of Service. Meet at the gravel parking area on Bender Road about ½ mile from Hillside. Leaders: Jeff 513.451.1737 and Roger 513.446.1790
- **Saturday, May 6**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods. Leaders: Gary 513.304.4303 and Tim 513.922.2104
- **Saturday, May 13**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve. Leader: Matt 513.604.6728
- **Saturday, May 20**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Habitat restoration at Buckeye Trace. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104 and John 513.304.2310
- **Saturday, June 3**, 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. E-mail Tim Sisson at [hikertim419@gmail.com](mailto:hikertim419@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list.

# THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

Sally Sisson Anderson — Artist in Residence, Western Wildlife Corridor

The Western Wildlife Corridor has dozens of White-Tailed Deer. We see them often at Kirby, also at Whitetail Woods, and at Buckeye Trace Preserve. There was a time when the White-Tailed Deer populations were much reduced at the turn of the century due to over-hunting, but now they have become quite common.

The North American Indians hunted White-Tailed Deer for food and for clothing, making buckskin leather, which they fashioned into moccasins, leggings, and other clothes. The Indians knew only a few kinds of deer. Today mammologists have identified about 45 species of deer around the world, and several in the Americas. We have only one species here in Ohio, but in other parts of North America, there are Moose, Elk, Mule Deer, and in Florida, the tiny Key Deer.

All male White-Tailed Deer display antlers that began growing in April or May with a layer of velvety fur on them. In August, the antlers shed this covering for the mating season. The antlers fall off in January and are regrown again the next year. Male deer can weigh between 150 and 300 pounds, and females can weigh between 90 and 200 pounds.

In Europe and in Asia, there are some deer that have spots throughout their lives. We love to see the spotted fawns in late spring. In summer, they lose their spots and become various shades of brown. Deer don new coats twice a year; heavy and warm in winter, light and cool for summer. In winter, their coats are the same light dun color as the weeds on our back hill.

White-Tailed Deer are herbivores or plant eaters. They confine themselves to browsing or grazing in spring and summer, but they can develop an appetite for tomatoes, corn,

apples, roses, and impatiens from time to time. They seem to draw the line at onions. There are some deterrents for deer; the one we use is called Critter Ridder. You can get it in a liquid or in a powder. This will keep the deer from eating your plants and flowers. It is wise to enclose a bed of tomatoes or green beans in a high fence. Deer like to feed in the early morning hours and in the evening at twilight. A deer's diet changes depending on its habitat and the season. They will eat green plants in spring and summer. In the fall, they will eat acorns, corn, apples, and other nuts. In winter, they eat buds and twigs of woody plants, and they will also eat birdseed.



The deer is a ruminant. It has a four-chambered stomach for digesting food. Cows, sheep, goats, camels, and giraffes are also ruminants.

The White-Tailed Deer can be found from the Arctic Circle in western Canada south to Peru and Bolivia, and most of the U.S. except for the southwest, California, Alaska, and Hawaii. A deer's range is about a square mile. Deer collect in small groups of a mother (doe) and her fawns. The males may stay in small groups also, except during mating season, then they are solitary. In some areas, overpopulation is a problem.

Wolves and mountain lions hunt them, but now these predators are gone from most of the country because of human development. The only predators left to control the deer in our area are dogs, coyotes, and humans. Early settlers hunted them for food. There are several kinds of deer that I have not covered here, for instance the Caribou, and the Reindeer found in Alaska and Canada. Exact counts of the number of White-Tailed Deer have not been made, but there are probably between and eight to fifteen million on this continent.

# Our Incredible Volunteers!

by Matt Taylor

The Western Wildlife Corridor has many dedicated volunteers who put in countless hours removing invasive plants, building trails, raising funds, organizing events, etc. For the last three years, the Western Wildlife Corridor has carefully kept track of volunteer hours in service to the Western Wildlife Corridor. We now have the hours for last year, 2022, and can compare the last three years. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Here are the hours for last three years:

2022: 4,546

2021: 4,692

2020: 5,242

WWC volunteers have been consistently putting in about 4,500 hours/year. That's a lot of hours! And dedication.

Let's put another perspective on all these hours. A full-time person works about 2,000 hours/year (50 weeks/year x 40 hours/week = 2,000 hours/year). Each year, our volunteers (>4,500 hours/year) are the equivalent of more than two full-time persons! We "pay" in self-satisfaction, wildlife, flowers, trails, the outdoors, socializing, camaraderie, and fun.

The first seven volunteers listed below **in bold** have put in at least 100 hours of volunteer work for each of the past three years. The other volunteers below have put in at least 100 hours of volunteer work for one or two of the past three years. We have such super-duper volunteers!

- Tim Sisson**
- Molly Hunter**
- Jeff Ginter**
- Gary Rapien**
- Matt Taylor**
- Joyce Richter**
- Tom Malone**
- John Klein
- Sally Anderson
- Mary Perkins
- Kathy McDonald
- Walt McBeath
- U.C. Students
- Roselyn Schloss
- Debbie Lutkenhoff
- Ted Ridder
- Jeff Doering
- Mark Rudemiller
- Roger Auer
- Davie Rudemiller
- Jessee Smith



UC students honeysuckle project — Kirby Nature Preserve

Matt Taylor



Some more of our incredible volunteers!

Matt Taylor



Molly Hunter knee-deep in Bluebells —  
Delshire Nature Preserve

Matt Taylor

The volunteer hours are roughly split 50-50 between "outdoor" work (habitat restoration, trail work, etc.) and "indoor" work (meetings, newsletter, fundraising, event coordination, etc.). So whatever kind of contribution you want to make, you can do it at the Western Wildlife Corridor!




**GOOD FOOD,  
GOOD BEER,  
GOOD CAUSE!**

**TUESDAY, MAY 9TH 4PM- 9PM  
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

Join us for a fun-filled evening to support the Western Wildlife Corridor! Enjoy music, raffle, and community. A portion of all food/drink sales will be donated to support our conservation efforts.

Thank you to our hosts:




[www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org)  
7391 Forbes Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45233

## Please Help Us Reach Our Goals!

Western Wildlife Corridor would like to expand the real estate we own, and we'd appreciate your help. Western Wildlife Corridor was founded with the goal of creating a corridor of greenspace along the Ohio River valley. As we work to achieve that goal, an important step along the way to establishing a corridor is to connect properties together, creating large blocks of property that are protected. Wildlife love and are most healthy in large areas of connected greenspace.

**It's easy to make a donation for Rapid Run Road here: (<https://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org/Rapid-Run-Purchase>)**

**To make a donation for Lowland Road here: (<https://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org/Lowland-Purchase>)**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

## Bluebird Nest Monitoring by Ned Keller

For the third year, volunteers have monitored our bluebird trail at Kirby Nature Preserve, and we are now beginning our fourth season. The trail consists of twelve numbered bluebird boxes, which are designed and constructed to meet the needs of Eastern Bluebirds. The size of the boxes, size of the entry hole, height of the box, and box placement are all designed to satisfy the needs of bluebirds. Nest boxes are crucial for them, because naturally occurring nest sites have become scarce. They require open areas for feeding, but holes in tree branches or wooden fence posts for nesting. Eastern Bluebirds were once fairly common around farm homes, but as farming practices have become more industrialized, those habitat requirements have become more difficult to find.

Several other native cavity-nesting species also use the boxes, including Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, House Wrens, and Tree Swallows. While we have designed the bluebird trail primarily for Eastern Bluebirds, we welcome those other species as well. We do discourage House Sparrows from using the boxes, in a non-lethal manner, by clearing out their nests as soon as we see them starting to use a box.

Volunteers check the boxes at least monthly (more often when volunteers are available). They record activity at each box, including whether nests are under construction, whether eggs or nestlings are present, and whether nestlings have fledged. Volunteers also clear out used nests after the birds abandon them, so that the box is ready for the next brood. Bluebirds often nest two or three times in a season, and used nests frequently become infested by ants or mites, so it is important to provide a clean nest site for the next nesting attempt.

At the end of the nesting season, we leave old nests in place until spring. During the winter, the used nesting material provides needed insulation against cold for roosting birds, as well as for mammals such as White-footed Mice and Flying Squirrels. Eastern Bluebirds are subject to significant mortality during very cold winters, and having a relatively warm place to roost helps them to survive.



# 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  
Anonymous

**Red Oak Tree of Honor**  
Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their support of \$500 to \$999:

Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society  
Randy & Jan Johnson  
Kenn & Susan Peterson  
Tim Sisson



Tim Sisson

Squirrel Corn – Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve

**Beech Tree Steward Recognition**  
Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their support of \$200 to \$499:

Daniel & Rebecca Frondorf  
Natalie Keirn  
Ed & Judy Krautter

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

Allen & Katherine Bornemann  
Timothy Browe  
James & Linda Eger  
Fernbank Garden Club  
Ian Gillespie  
Linda Graviss  
Diane Halpin  
Janet Haneberg  
Dave & Denise Miller  
Kathy McDonald & Ned Keller  
Monfort Heights Garden Club  
Bob Rice  
Meredith & Tom Wells  
Robert & Jean Willis



Tim Sisson

Yellow Buckeye – Kirby Nature Preserve Nature Preserve



Tim Sisson

Flowering Dogwood – Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve

**Special Thanks**  
Western Wildlife Corridor would like to give special thanks to Connie & Bob Heintz in memory of William Kluesener; Barb & Roger Ertel in memory of Jon Sieve; and Linda Thompson in memory of Bob Ruchoft.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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 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

## Barred Owl Nest Box

When I heard that a Barred Owl nest box had been donated to WWC, I knew exactly where it should be installed — at our Buckeye Trace preserve. Barred Owls had been seen (and heard) there many times, and we even have a picture from our trail camera of a Barred Owl catching prey there.

To install it, John Klein recommended that we attach the box to a pole and then raise that up and attach it to the tree, thus avoiding the need to drag a large ladder up into the woods. Using that as our basic plan, we gathered together tools and fasteners and the nest box.



I had found a large Red Cedar that had a nice long opening where the box could be attached. I also found a small, mostly dead Cedar that would serve as an ideal pole for the box to be attached to. In mid-January, there was finally a break from the snow and cold, and we set off up the hill at Buckeye Trace with the nest box and all of our gear.

Within a fairly short time, we had the pole ready, and using some large bolts, the nest box was attached to it. In the accompanying picture, you can see us swing the nest box up to the tree. After the pole was attached to the tree with some very long screws, the job was completed. Thank you very much, Mark Rechsteiner, Gary Rapien, and Roger Auer, for your help!



## Welcome New Board Member!



Sarah Kent is the current outreach manager for Great Parks Nature Center at The Summit, located in Roselawn. She has worked as a nature interpreter since 2008 in the form of the nature center director in Colorado for the Boy Scouts, a high ropes course facilitator and garden manager on Orcas Island, Washington, and leader of insect tours at a butterfly garden in Costa Rica. She is the recipient of Cincinnati's 30 Under 30 award, the National Recreation and Park Association's 30 Under 30 award, National Association of Interpretation Outstanding New Interpreter Award (both national and regional), and has won awards for the creation of various programs in the city. She was officially published in 2022 for her cicada research. Sarah is also an artist (@keepitwildcreations), avid gardener, and forager, and enjoys Cincinnati's music and food scene.

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Tim Sisson

Bender Mountain Nature Preserve

***For more information, check out our website at [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org) or e-mail [staff@westernwildlifecorridor.org](mailto:staff@westernwildlifecorridor.org)***



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- Welcomers Administrator:** Matt Taylor

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