



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Spring 2009

Calendar of Events

March 28

Habitat restoration project
Whitetail Woods

April 3

3rd annual Wildflower Festival
Delhi Senior Center

April 5

Wildflower Hike
Bender Mountain

April 11

Habitat restoration project
Shady Lane

April 18

Habitat restoration project
Whitetail Woods

April 25

5th annual Flower-a-thon

May 5

Rescheduled membership meeting
EarthConnection

May 16

Habitat restoration project
Shady Lane

May 30

Habitat restoration project
Bender Mountain

June 6

Habitat restoration project
Whitetail Woods

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Western Wildlife Corridor Signs Agreement with Miami Township

We are happy to announce an agreement with Miami Township to help them manage property they own! This agreement designates Western Wildlife Corridor as Managing Agent, in cooperation with Miami Township, to improve and maintain property on Shady Lane as a nature preserve. Why would we agree to such a deal? Why would we want to assume this kind of responsibility?

The answer is quite simple. A main goal of Western Wildlife Corridor is to create nature preserves in the Ohio River valley (and vicinity). I call these our "Emerald Gems."

We ordinarily do this through acquisition of a property or a conservation easement on it. However, this is not possible here because the property is owned by Miami Township. It sits on Shady Lane just north of Route 50. Most of it is heavily wooded with mixed hardwoods. It is approximately 60 acres in size and stretches for almost a mile along Shady Lane. We see it as the perfect location for a natural nature preserve, an Emerald Gem in the Ohio River valley corridor. This is why we at Western Wildlife Corridor feel that this project fits our mission perfectly.

What about the community? What would they get out of it? Experience in other places has shown that a nature preserve such as this is a real asset to the community. Quoting from a recent issue of the Land Trust Alliance magazine, "Increasing evidence suggests that parks and natural areas are an investment that yields important benefits, such as fiscal relief, improved public health, strengthened neighborhoods, environmental protection, and preservation of natural beauty - all of which makes communities more livable." A nature preserve on Shady Lane makes Miami Township a better place to live in!

What happens next? The hands-on work that our experienced volunteers know so well - removal of litter and invasive alien plant species. We begin this activity April 11 with our first habitat restoration project.

You have the rare opportunity to get in on the ground floor of this exciting new venture - a venture that will create a beautiful new gem in our corridor and a greatly enhanced asset for the community. If you would like to help, please join us on April 11. If you cannot be there on April 11, contact me at tsisson@fuse.net or 513.922.2104 and I will fill you in on other ways to help with the creation of this new nature preserve on Shady Lane. ✓



Do you buy groceries??

The Kroger Gift Card Program is an easy way for you to help WWC raise money.

You have to buy groceries anyway, wouldn't you feel good about 4% of the dollars you load onto your gift card going to protect woodlands in the Western Wildlife Corridor?

Thanks to the people who have been using their Kroger gift cards, we have been receiving checks from Kroger on a regular basis. If you don't have a WWC Kroger gift card and would like one, please call 513.921.9453.

Miami mist flower at Turkey Haven.

IT'S TIME F🌸r WWC'S SPRING WILDFLOWER

FLOWER-ATHON: NATURE TAKE ME AWAY, *By Joan Gillespie*

I am on the Board of Trustees for the Western Wildlife Corridor and the Horticulturist for Delhi Township Parks and Recreation. I am also a member of the Delhi Civic Association and Delhi Bloomers Garden Club. I guess you can safely say that I love the Great Outdoors.

In this stressful time with our troubled economy, isn't it calming to know that we can enjoy this beautiful and serene green earth without digging too deeply into our pockets? Yes, for a mere \$10.00 a person, you are welcome to join a team of wildflower lovers, have breakfast at Embshoff Woods, and then take a stroll or hike - easy or difficult, your choice - through the amazing awe-inspiring wooded hillsides in the Western Wildlife Corridor.

Flower-a-thon is a fundraiser, similar to a walk- or bird-a-thon where individuals or teams of individuals count the number of wildflower species seen in a day. Each participant solicits pledges from friends, relatives, neighbors, businesses or corporations for each wildflower species found during that day. Last year, the winning team found 84 species.

Even though we compete against each other to find the most wildflower species for the grand Golden Trillium Award, we do still give clues to the competition as to where they can uncover a patch of shooting stars, blue-eyed Marys, or the Jack-in-the-pulpit (my favorite). Everyone has fun and sees a lot of wildflowers.

But wait, there's more. After you've had enough fresh air fill your lungs, you finish up the day at Earth Connection for the award banquet to add those calories back on that you lost on the hike. Also for your \$10.00, you will get a useful canvas shopping bag with our resident artist, Sally Anderson's print of the Virginia bluebells on it.

But that's not all. Everyone walks out with some sort of prize whether it is a potted native plant or a packet of seeds. The best thing you'll leave with is getting to know new kindred spirits. See you on Saturday, April 25 for the 5th annual Flower-a-Thon.

To register, call 513-922-2104 or log onto www.westernwildlifecorridor.org



Mayapple is a common spring sight.



Redbuds bloom at Beekley.



2008 Flower-a-Thon winners.

FESTIVAL AND FLOWER-a-THON!

FESTIVAL CELEBRATES WILDFLOWERS IN OUR REGION

Western Wildlife Corridor's Third Annual Wildflower Festival takes place on April 3rd this year. There will be a sale featuring wildflower plants, seeds and books on wildflowers, educational games for children, a free wildflower watercolor painting class taught by local nature artist Sally Sisson Anderson, and a tree identification class taught by a staff member from the Boone County Arboretum. More than 15 local organizations will have booths. This is a great way to learn more about outdoor activities in Cincinnati, acquire some native plants for your garden and enjoy the company of nice people. A variety of food will be for sale.

Admission to the festival is free, although registration is suggested for the free painting class; call Sally Anderson 513.353.2708. The event is being organized by WWC and the Delhi Civic Association, and is being held at the Delhi Senior Center at 647 Neeb Rd.

For more information, visit www.westernwildlifecorridor.org or call 513-922-2104. ✓



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
WILDFLOWER extravaganza
ON APRIL 3,
OR TO REGISTER FOR THIS YEAR'S
FLOWER-a-THON ON APRIL 25TH,
CALL 513.922.2104 OR VISIT
OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Habitat Restoration - an Important Part of the WWC Mission

Habitat restoration is one of the most important and valuable activities Western Wildlife Corridor engages in. In fact we consider restoration of a property to a natural state to be just as important as legally protecting the property through acquisition or a conservation easement.

In our neck of the woods, habitat restoration usually means removing invasive alien plant species like amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard, so that the native plants and animals can thrive.

Removal of amur honeysuckle involves pulling the plant out of the ground if it is small enough. If that is not possible, the plant is cut off with either a saw or loppers. After cutting the plant, we coat the stump with a Roundup solution to prevent regrowth. These projects can happen any time of the year when the weather allows.

Garlic mustard is attacked either by treating the plants with Roundup, or by pulling the plants out. Treatment by Roundup is usually feasible only when they are small - in the fall or early spring. After about March, treating of the plants with Roundup would endanger adjacent wildflowers, so we begin pulling them. The plants must be pulled out before they go to seed, which happens about the middle of June. After they go to seed, pulling them out is not advisable because it spreads the seeds, so more harm than good is done.

We have two types of activities to accomplish this. The first is our group volunteer projects where we meet at a preserve on Saturday morning for two or three hours. We have six projects scheduled, which are detailed in the sidebar to the right.

After a preserve has been cleared, volunteers "adopt" a particular preserve and remove the aliens at a time that is convenient for them. Monitoring is especially important for keeping the aliens from coming back after a preserve has been restored. By removing them when they first appear, we are able to keep large areas free of invasives. We need more monitors. If you enjoy hiking in the woods and want to protect native plants, volunteer to be a monitor.

Please contact Tim (513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net) to volunteer for either of these activities.

In addition, one or more of us usually winds up going to a preserve a couple of mornings during the week to take a walk and while we are there, we just can't help whacking some honeysuckle or removing garlic mustard. If you would like to join one of these walks, also contact Tim and he'll let you know the next opportunity. ✓

Volunteers Needed!

We can use lots of help with
the Wildflower Festival and Flower-a-thon.
We need people to help with kids' activities, staff
our booth and set up and take down tables.
Volunteers for the Flower-a-Thon eat free at the
breakfast or awards dinner.
Call 513-921-WILD(9453).
Any amount of time would be appreciated!

Join us for Habitat Restorations!

Why habitat restoration? Sometimes the biggest threat to our preserves is invasion by alien plant species. Plants such as Amur (or bush) honeysuckle, euonymous and garlic mustard can produce such a dense cover of foliage that native plants cannot survive. We've been told that Amur honeysuckle even secretes a toxin that kills native plants!

When we restore the habitat in one of our preserves, we remove these invasive alien plants so that native plants and animals can thrive.

Contact Tim Sisson at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for more information.

Saturday, March 28

9 am - noon

Location: Whitetail Woods

Saturday, April 11

9 am - noon

Location: Shady Lane

Saturday, April 18

9 am - noon

Location: Whitetail Woods

Saturday, May 16

9 am - noon

Location: Shady Lane

Saturday, May 30

9 am - noon

Location: Bender Mountain

Saturday, June 6

9 am - noon

Location: Whitetail Woods

Enjoy the Western Wildlife Corridor Learn why it's so important!

Friday, April 3, 6 pm - 9 pm Third Annual Wildflower Festival Delhi Senior Center

This family event will feature a wildflower plant and seed sale, a painting class, wildflower educational material, food, presentations by local environmental organizations and educational games for children. Contact Rebecca at 859.746.8671 or rsisson654@fuse.net to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

Sunday, April 5, 1 pm Wildflower Hike Bender Mountain

If you want to see wildflowers, this is the time and the place. The hillsides here are covered with many species of beautiful spring wildflowers. For more on this event, contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Saturday, April 25, all day Fifth Annual Flower-a-thon

In this exciting event participants compete to identify the wildflowers of the region and learn more about them. It begins with a breakfast around the fire at Embshoff Woods Park. Teams will then set off to explore the Ohio River valley, to search for and identify wildflowers. Flower-a-thon participants will also receive a gift and an awards dinner with a prize raffle to cap off the day. The team identifying the most wildflowers will receive the event's coveted Golden Trillium Award. For more on this event, or to register (fee of \$10 per person required), contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 pm Rescheduled Membership Mtg EarthConnection

WWC is pleased to host a presentation by Stanley Hedeem, local author, whose books highlight our natural resources. Learn from his extensive research and experiences what makes some of the natural areas in our corridor so unique and special. A brief review of Western Wildlife Corridor's plans for the rest of the year will also be given. Light refreshments provided. Contact Leesa at 513.941.1628 or momshine2000@yahoo.com for more details.

Committee Chairpersons

Land Stewardship:

Tim Sisson
513.922.2104

Outreach

Leesa Miller
513.941.1628

Fundraising

Rebecca Sisson
859.746.8671

Newsletter:

Mary Uhlenbrock
513.921.WILD

Jennifer Doerger
513.469-6380



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Rebecca Sisson

The Return, By Wesley Paul Wiemann

Scarlet tanagers abound
Hear the distant tugboat sounds
High above (within the treetops of the hillsides)
Rest the warblers.

Come mighty migrants to the Western Wildlife Corridor.
Come from far away neotropical lands!
Waiting, resting, feeding, breeding
Many having farther yet to go

We welcome this gathering along
"Our Ohio" - so regular, so familiar
Return to the West Side
Return to these hillsides we call home.

Flower-a-Thon teams count dozens of species of flowers during the event, including this bloodroot flower.

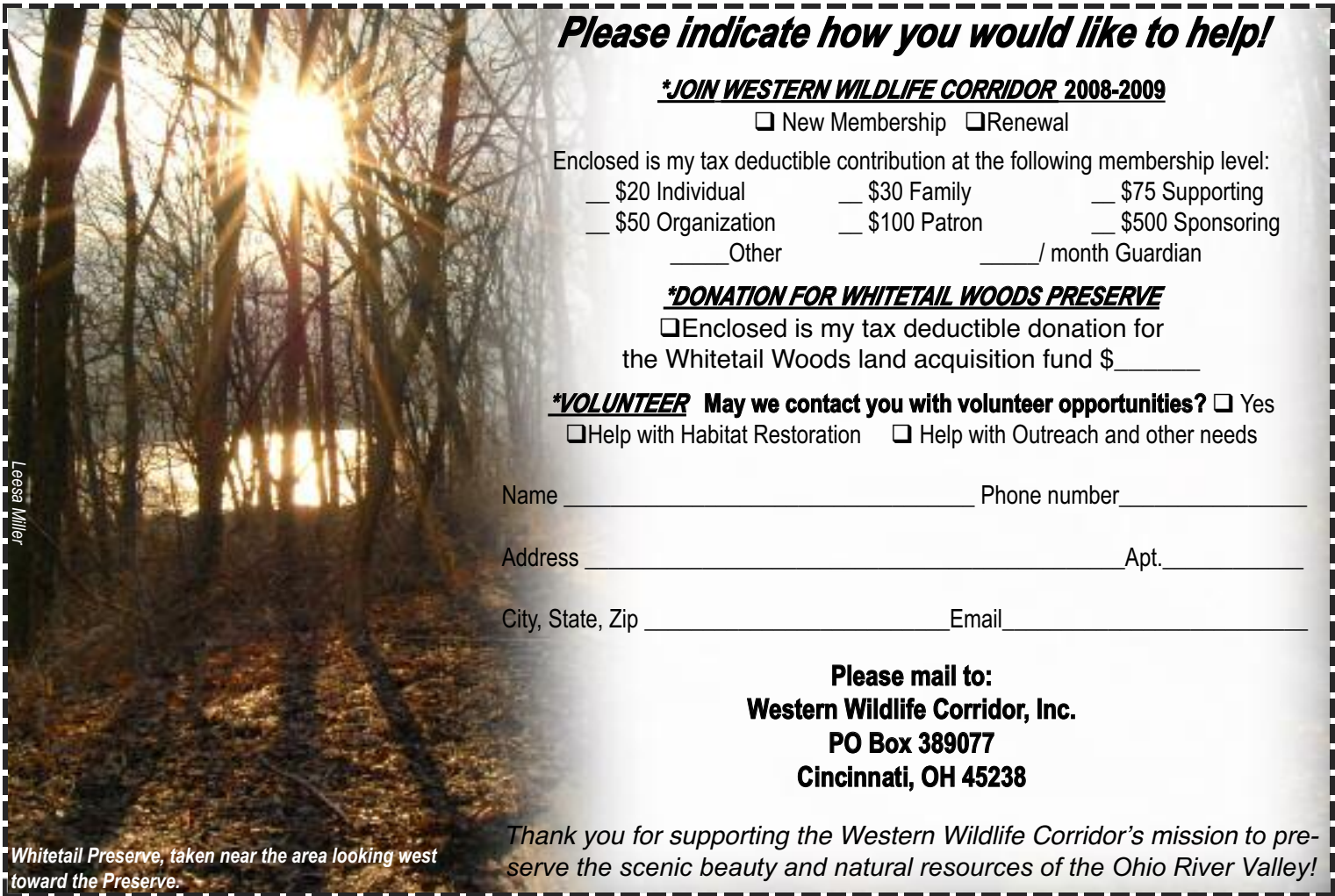




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www.westernwildlifecorridor.org
Email: wwc7@yahoo.com



Leesa Miller

Please indicate how you would like to help!

***JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2008-2009**

New Membership Renewal

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution at the following membership level:

\$20 Individual \$30 Family \$75 Supporting
 \$50 Organization \$100 Patron \$500 Sponsoring
 _____ Other _____ / month Guardian

***DONATION FOR WHITETAIL WOODS PRESERVE**

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for the Whitetail Woods land acquisition fund \$ _____

***VOLUNTEER May we contact you with volunteer opportunities? Yes**

Help with Habitat Restoration Help with Outreach and other needs

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

**Please mail to:
Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.
PO Box 389077
Cincinnati, OH 45238**

Thank you for supporting the Western Wildlife Corridor's mission to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of the Ohio River Valley!

Whitetail Preserve, taken near the area looking west toward the Preserve.