



THE STEWARD

Protecting and Preserving the Ohio River Corridor

www.westernwildlifecorridor.org

Winter 2012

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 29, 2pm

Winter Adventure Hike
Bender Mountain

Sunday, February 19, 1pm

The movie "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold & a Land Ethic for Our Time" (members only)
Civic Garden Center

Tuesday, February 28, 7pm

Winter Membership Meeting
EarthConnection

Saturday, March 24, 10am-noon

Habitat Restoration
Whitetail Woods

Saturday, March 31, 10am-noon

Habitat Restoration
Bender Mountain

Friday, April 13, 6-9pm

6th Annual Wildflower Festival
College of Mt. St. Joseph

Sunday, April 15, 2pm

Wildflower Hike
Delshire Preserve

Saturday, April 21, 9am-noon

Habitat Restoration
Shady Lane Preserve

Saturday, April 28 Half Day or All Day

8th Annual Flower-a-Thon Fundraiser
Various WWC preserves

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

By Tim Sisson

Festival to be Bigger & Better

I am very happy to announce that Western Wildlife Corridor's Wildflower Festival will be held at the College of Mt. St. Joseph next year! Here we will have a much bigger facility, so we can spread out and add displays and attractions. Parking will be easier too; we will use the large lot at the end of Delhi Road.

We will be partnering with the Environmental Action Committee at the College. They will bring new displays and exciting attractions to the festival as they celebrate Earth Day with us. Of course, we will have your favorites from past years.

- * Children will still love the Wildflower Festival. There will be fun games, crafts and face painting. We get rave reviews about the children's activities and they get better every year.

- * At the Wildflower Festival, there will be a nice variety of perennials and shrubs at reasonable prices, and people who can advise you on what plants will do well in your yard. If you want to add native plants to your yard to increase the number and variety of birds and butterflies that visit, you have to attend our festival.

- * The popular watercolor painting class will again be offered by Sally Sisson Anderson, WWC artist in residence. The hour-long class will focus on a scene with wildflowers.

- * Classes on wildflowers and other natural topics are being set up. Check your next issue of the Steward and your emails to see what will be offered.

- * Many local conservation groups will be there. It will be a great opportunity to learn about outdoor activities and to find information to help you live more sustainably.

Do you have cabin fever? Would you like to make your yard more attractive to birds and butterflies? Looking for a place to entertain your kids for free? Then come to the Wildflower Festival! Mark your calendar now. Don't miss this big event, happening on **April 13, 2012** from 6 to 9pm at the College of Mt. St. Joseph, 5701 Delhi Road. 🦋



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

Sun., Jan. 29, 2pm Winter Adventure Hike Bender Mountain

The "Mountain" will warm you up for sure on this winter day. Meet at the barrier at the end of Delhi Pike near the College of Mount St. Joseph. The first part of the hike will be on the portion of Delhi Pike that was closed years ago due to hill slippage, but still makes a nice hiking path (commonly called Sister's Hill).

Those who prefer moderate hiking can turn around here and return to our meeting place. Those who are interested in a strenuous hike can continue on a new trail we've recently blazed, up from Hillside Avenue to the top of Bender Mountain to reach old-growth forest and a nice view of the Ohio River. Signs of the meanderings of wildlife in winter will probably be found - especially if there's snow on the ground!

Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. Contact Bob at 513.251.5352 or mnk@fuse.net for meeting place and other details.

Sun., February 19, 1pm Green Fire: Aldo Leopold & a Land Ethic for Our Time (for members only) Civic Garden Center

The first full-length, high-definition documentary ever made about the legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold, *Green Fire* shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about people and land continues to inform and inspire current projects across the country and around the world.

Please contact Pam at 513.227.3564 or cincynaturegirl@gmail.com to RSVP.

Tues., February 28, 7pm Winter Membership Meeting EarthConnection

Guest speaker Dr. Meg Riestenberg from the College of Mt. St. Joseph will tell us how Greater Cincinnati's geological history is documented in its 450 million-year-old bedrock, world-famous fossil assemblages, mysterious re-routed streams, over-steepened hill slopes, buried gravel deposits, and its patch-work pattern of soil. Alas, we even have the dubious reputation of being the landslide capital of the USA! Learn about our fascinating geological past and its legacy on our lives today.

A brief review of Western Wildlife Corridor's plans for the coming year will also be given. Light refreshments provided. The public is invited.

Please contact Pam at 513.227.3564 or cincynaturegirl@gmail.com for more details.

Fri., April 13, 6pm to 9pm 6th Annual Wildflower Festival College of Mt. St. Joseph

This family event will feature nature games and activities for children, a wildflower plant sale, a painting class, and presentations by local environmental organizations.

Contact Rebecca at 859.512.1983 or rsisson654@zoomtown.com to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

Sun., April 15, 2pm Wildflower Hike Delshire Preserve

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, which is also a "tune-up" for contestants in our Flower-a-thon, contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.



Sat., April 28, Half day or All day 8th Annual Flower-a-thon Fundraiser

In this fun event, participants compete to identify the wildflowers of the region. Beginners can join an experienced team to learn more about wildflowers. Each participant solicits pledges from friends, relatives, neighbors, businesses or corporations for each species found during that day.

You can begin your day at 8am with a breakfast around the fire at Embshoff Woods Park, or join us at 1pm at the gravel pull-off on Bender Road. Teams will explore the Ohio River valley to search for and identify wildflowers. A dinner catered by Arnold's and a raffle cap off the day. The team identifying the most wildflowers will receive the event's coveted Golden Trillium Award.

To register, (fee of \$15 per person required), contact Tim at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net.

Join us for Habitat Restorations!

Why habitat restoration?

Many times the biggest threat to our preserves is invasion by alien plant species. Plants such as Amur (or bush) honeysuckle, euonymus 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 at 513.922.2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for more information.

Sat., March 24 10am to noon Whitetail Woods

We will be clearing honeysuckle from this preserve in Sayler Park.

Sat., March 31 10am to noon Bender Mountain

Help us continue clearing a new area on the "mountain" WWC purchased last year.

Sat., April 21 9am to noon Shady Lane Preserve

In addition to honeysuckle, the Shady Lane Preserve is being invaded by the dreaded garlic mustard. Today we will be fending off attacks by both of these!





Tim Sisson

This year's gang of hikers posing at the top of the trail on Bender Mountain.



Ray Owens

At the Wildflower Festival, there was a great display on honey (it was for sale too)!



Ray Owens

And of course there are always lots of plants for sale at the Wildflower Festival.



This shows part of the crowd from last year's festival.

Ray Owens



FOREST

INVENTORY

By Matt Fitzpatrick

Ever since man has managed forests, there has been a need to know what exactly those forests are comprised of. The techniques and procedures for acquiring this knowledge have changed a great deal over the centuries, but the basic concept remains the same. The factors that contribute to the health of a forest are indeed numerous, and without specific knowledge of how much or how little of those things a particular forest has, one cannot really begin to properly manage it to the fullest extent possible.

A forest inventory, or a "cruise," as it is known today, is used to determine the location of timber, and estimates its quantity by species, product potential, size, quality, or other characteristics. The methods for doing this have improved greatly, thanks to advancements in technology and mathematical concepts. The original forest inventory was done by simply estimating the volume and distribution of trees by eyesight alone. As years passed, the relationships between a tree's diameter, height, and volume became better understood; this along with the inventions of sophisticated measuring devices and statistical methods of sampling allowed for more accurate assessments of the yields of large forests, and became the foundation for modern day forest inventory.

The most common type of inventory done today involves the use of random sampling, which estimates information about the stand as a whole based on the information gathered from a fraction of the forest. The size of the sample depends on a multitude of factors from stand size to the value of the timber being inventoried. In most cases the entire forest as a whole is split into several different individual "stratums," based on the similarities that the trees in those strata share. This prevents the possibility that a tree that only occurs in small numbers in the forest you are inventoring appears to be growing in large numbers throughout the entire forest, rather than just that particular stratum.

The attributes that are commonly measured during an inventory include a tree's diameter, height, age, form, and overall health. When measuring diameter, foresters typically measure at what is known as DBH (diameter at breast height) which is around 4.5 feet. When measuring height, the entirety of the tree's height is usually not taken into account, rather only the tree's "merchantable" height, or the point before any major defects occur or the diameter becomes too small, is the measurement that's taken. Once height and diameter are measured they can be used to estimate the tree's volume, or board footage, which can then be used for a multitude of other measurements.

Conducting forest inventories is in actuality a very simple activity that only requires careful pre-planning and knowledge of the tools used. It can be an exceptionally eye-opening and interesting thing to be a part of, not to mention a lot of fun. This past summer I conducted an inventory on Bender Mountain and found the results to be fascinating. According to my results, the top five most populous trees on Bender Mountain are as follows: 1. Sugar Maple 2. Buckeye 3. Ash 4. Red Oak 5. Basswood. I also found out a lot of other information that satisfied my long held curiosity. I would highly recommend that all who are reading this do some further research on forest inventory, as well as forestry in general, because just about every aspect contains some very interesting information that will make your hikes at Bender Mountain, or anywhere for that matter, better experiences overall. ♡

Editor's Note: Matt Fitzpatrick's inventory of Bender Mountain can be found at our website.

Matt can often be found clearing honeysuckle to protect the forest on Bender Mountain.



Tim Sisson

A Big Welcome to our Newest Board Member!

My name is Greg Lang. I was recently elected to the Western Wildlife Corridor Board of Trustees. I have lived in Cincinnati my entire life, attending St. Xavier High School and the University of Cincinnati. I am an Architect, now as a sole practitioner, but I did have my own firm for fifteen years. I specialize in commercial and residential architectural design and site master planning. I live in Delhi with Carla in a blended family, each of us with three children and one granddaughter. We are avid scuba divers and love to travel. I enjoy racquetball and gardening (organic vegetables and native plantings).

I am delighted to be asked and look forward to serving the Board. I am most interested in land conservation. I feel I can add to the planning, acquisition and maintenance of properties to best achieve Western Wildlife Corridor's commitment towards land stewardship. 🌱



Here's Greg helping to install our new sign on Bender Mountain.

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Jennifer Doerger
513.469-6380

Land Stewardship:
Tim Sisson
513.922.2104

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PO BOX 389077
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www.westernwildlifecorridor.org
Email: wwc7@yahoo.com



Tim Sisson

Sunset over the Western Wildlife Corridor.

Please indicate how you would like to help!

JOIN WESTERN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 2012-2013

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
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DONATE TO THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND

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

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES

Help with Habitat Restoration Help with Outreach and other needs

Name _____ Phone number _____

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