



Yellow Trout Lily at Bender Mountain

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Flower-a-thon 2019 – Meet the Wild Flowers in our Corridor!

by Tim Sisson



Jack-in-the-Pulpit at Bender Mountain

Have you ever wondered where those secret places are that have a carpet of wild flowers on the forest floor? Have you wondered what the name of that not so common wild flower is? And, did you know that some of our native trees such as Buckeyes have beautiful flowers too? Well, those questions and more will be answered at Western Wildlife Corridor's 15th annual Flower-a-thon. Our Flower-a-thon, on April 27 this year, always provides an excellent opportunity to have fun while increasing your knowledge and appreciation for wildflowers. The locations for the Flower-a-thon events are also very convenient to access – just off River Road on the west side of Hamilton County.

This year we start out at 10 am with a hike at the Kirby Nature Center in Addyston. After the morning hike we will have a pizza lunch at the Kirby Nature Center starting around noon. This will be followed by a hike at the Bender Mountain Preserve. We will meet for this hike at 1:30 at the gravel lot on Bender Road. At the end of the day, around 5pm, we will return to the Kirby Nature Center where you will be treated to a grand dinner and presentations regarding wild flowers in our region.

On our hikes you may have a chance to see uncommon flowers like drooping trillium, blue-eyed Mary and fern-leaf phacelia. At the end of the day we will also have displays featuring native wild flowers and other plants. There are sure to be tall tales about wildflowers to be enjoyed as well.

Now, in case you're concerned that you wouldn't have the time or energy for a full day like this, please note that you can join us for any portion of the day, such as the morning hike and lunch or the afternoon hike and dinner or just the dinner.

Per person donation is \$20, which includes lunch and dinner. Everyone is welcome. Please join us by signing up on line at westernwildlifecorridor.com or sending in the registration form included on page 6 this issue of The Steward!



Spiderwort at Bender Mountain



Drooping Trillium at Bender Mountain

Western Wildlife Corridor Decides to Hire Paid Staff Person

by Jeffrey Ginter

The Board of Trustees of the Western Wildlife Corridor has made the decision to hire a part-time, paid staff person. As a small, locally-based non-profit organization, our income depends upon the donations of our members, grants and general fundraising. Consequently, we carefully consider each expenditure. But after careful consideration, we've decided to hire an employee as the next step in our growth, because we believe this will pay large dividends towards the fulfilment of our mission.

One of the challenges we had as we discussed this role was narrowing the list of tasks. Running an environmentally focused, non-profit land trust is a complicated undertaking, and frankly at times the workload can be taxing on our volunteers. As we discussed the role of a staff person, the temptation was to overload the position with tasks. Finally, we did refine the list to what we think are the most important

areas of focus, including coordination of volunteer activities, leading outreach efforts, and driving increased membership as well as increased support from grant-writing organizations and other entities.

The fact that we are hiring a part-time employee by no means implies that we will need our volunteers any less. Quite the contrary: our amazing volunteers with their varied backgrounds and can-do attitude will be just as essential to our success in the future as they are today. We do believe that with a staff person on board to coordinate our efforts and communicate with volunteers, that we'll be more effective and productive.

We encourage you to review the nearby help wanted ad, and pass it along if you know someone who would be a great fit for the position.

Habitat Restoration plus:

What's our habitat restoration all about? It's one of the most important things we do! If you have never done one of these, go to <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/habitat-restoration/> and read the document *Habitat Restoration Frequently Asked Questions*.

Saturday, May 11, 9:30 am to noon

Habitat restoration at Whitetail Woods Preserve.
Leaders: Gary 513.941.5414 and Tim 513.922.2104.

Saturday, May 18, 9 am to noon

Habitat restoration at Kirby Nature Preserve. Leaders:
Matt 513.604.6728 and Jeff 513.451.1737.

Saturday, May 25, 9:30 am to noon

Habitat restoration and other miscellaneous work at Buckeye Trace. Leaders: Tim 513.922.2104, Matt 513.604.6728, and John 513.304.2310.

Saturday, June 8, 9:30 am to noon

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

Mid-week hikes

Finally, 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.



Large-Flowered Bellwort

Tim Sisson

Help Wanted: Administrative Coordinator

THE OPPORTUNITY:

- Are you passionate about experiencing and preserving nature and inspiring conservation throughout the community?
- Would you like to learn about hands-on environmental protection efforts and connect with the broader community of stakeholders?
- Are you keen on evangelizing and educating the community on the benefits of conservation?
- Would you enjoy being one of the faces of an organization with community partners, donors, business leaders and volunteers?
- Are you ready to help lead an organization into its next phase of growth and community impact?

The Western Wildlife Corridor is hiring an Administrative Coordinator to help the organization fulfill its mission. This part-time, paid position will report to the President of the Board of Trustees with support of the Supervisory Committee. For more information regarding qualifications and expectations, and to apply, go to <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/jobs/>

Upcoming Events: April – August, 2019

by Various WWC Volunteers

Our events to start 2019 were very well attended, including maxed out registration for both of our programs at the Kirby Nature Center: Tara Poling's presentation on native plants for wildlife, and Dr. Stanley Hedeem's session on Cincinnati's geology and ecosystems. Our sincere thanks to both presenters for these fantastic sessions!

What programs do we have coming up? Highlights for the events scheduled by press time can be found below. More events are under consideration. For the latest information about everything we have planned, check the WWC website calendar: <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/calendar/>.

Fifteenth Annual Flower-a-thon

Saturday, April 27; see below for times
Kirby Nature Preserve and Bender Mountain

The 15th Annual Flower-a-thon is a quest in search of the beautiful wildflowers throughout the Western Wildlife Corridor. It's an opportunity for guided hiking of the beautiful forested hillsides of the Ohio River Valley, led by experienced wildflower enthusiasts. You will have a chance to see uncommon flowers like drooping trillium, blue-eyed Mary, fern-leaf phacelia and, with a little luck, the green dragon and federally endangered running buffalo clover.

The *morning hike (meet at 10am)* will be at Kirby Nature Preserve, followed by lunch (noon) at the Kirby Nature Center.

The *afternoon hike (meet in the parking lot on Bender Road just north of Hillside at 1:30 pm)* will be at Bender Mountain Preserve. *Dinner and socializing (meet at 5pm)* will be at the Kirby Nature Center.

Per person fee is \$20, which includes lunch and dinner. Attendees are encouraged to collect donations in advance just like we've always done, but it's not required. This is still our biggest fundraising event, after all! Donations enable us to preserve and protect precious hillside habitat along the Ohio River.

The Flower-a-thon is an excellent chance to have fun while increasing your knowledge and appreciation for wildflowers, no matter what your starting point is. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

Contact Tim at 513.922.2104 for more information, or go to our webpage to learn more, and to register: <http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/sign-up-for-the-15th-annual-flower-a-thon/>.

The Greenest Zoo in America

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm – 8:15 pm
Kirby Nature Center

The world-famous Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens is justifiably proud to have won many honors and distinctions over its 140+ years. In 2010 it was dubbed "The Greenest Zoo in America." Going Green refers to the effort to conserve (or sustain) our environment, which we at the Western Wildlife Corridor think is more important than ever. Our Zoo leads by example by the many ways it "goes green" and it educates visitors about how they can "go green" too. Join us for this informative program. There is no cost but registration is required, as seating is limited. Register at: <http://evite.me/JSWuvJ7t9Q>.

Invasive Plant Workshop

Saturday, August 24, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Kirby Nature Center

Hear the latest information on non-native invasive plant species and their control, including a session on a holistic approach to invasive plant management, plus naturalist-led walks at Kirby Nature Preserve. A portion of this workshop will be indoors at the Kirby Nature Center, and a portion of the workshop will include actual demonstration of techniques for control during a combination presentation/hike.

Presenters will include:

Jason Brownknight, former Director of Conservation and Stewardship for the Cincinnati Nature Center, and now CEO, Senior Landscape Ecologist, Brownknight EcoResource, LLC;

Tom Borgman, retired Natural Resource Manager for Great Parks of Hamilton County, with responsibility for controlling invasive species, wildlife management and habitat restoration.

Cost: There is no cost for this workshop.

Registration: Registration is required due to limited sitting. Please register at: <http://evite.me/trEp7stUww>.



Bloodroot at Bender Mountain

Large-Flowered Bellwort

Sally Sisson Anderson - Artist in Residence, WWC

Large-Flowered Bellwort is often found in fertile, old growth woodlands. In Western Wildlife Corridor this bellwort can be found on Bender Mountain. If you find it, please take photos only. The unusual flowers are yellow. The twisted petals hang in a way that resembles a bell. The flowers also give rise to the scientific name, *Uvularia grandiflora*, because they are reminiscent of the human uvula. *Uvularia* is Latin for the small hanging body in the back of the throat. The term *grandiflora* means large flower. Another odd thing about the bellwort is that the stem pierces the leaves. You can see this in the illustration. The bright green leaves are lance shaped, and droop downward with whitish, downy undersides. The veins of the leaves run down the leaves following the mid vein. Triangular seed pods of a reddish-brown color form after the flowers are through blooming.

Other names for the Large Flowered Bellwort are yellow bellwort, merry bells, straw-bells and, straw lily. There is a smaller species of bellwort called wild oats or small bellwort.

The large flowered bellwort provided food for early settlers and Native Americans. They gathered the roots, leaves, and stems and boiled them like we cook asparagus. The stalks could also be cut up and used in salads. The roots were occasionally used as an ingredient in drinks. This of course killed the plants. It is best to leave the plants undisturbed, and only gather for food in a dire emergency.

Bellwort has also been used for medical remedies by Native Americans and pioneers. Menominee, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi used the roots of bellwort for stomach pain and back ache. Concoctions made from the roots were used to treat canker sores and other mouth infections. It was mixed with lard to make a salve to message on sore muscles. Indians also used this plant to reduce swelling and as an analgesic. Pioneers used bellwort as a poultice for wounds, ulcers, and snake bite.

There are five species of *Uvularia*. They are all native to North America. Besides the Large-Flowered Bellwort, there is the Sessile Bellwort—also called

Wild Oats as mentioned earlier. The other three species are *U. Floridana*, *U. Perfoliata*, and *U. Puberula*. These species are found in southern states. The Large-Flowered Bellwort is found from Canada all the way down the United States to Georgia and west to Wisconsin, Minnesota, also in the mid-eastern states of Ohio, and Kentucky.

This plant is one of the first wild flowers to emerge in the spring. It is a perennial in the lily family. The flower is like a lily, but more narrow. After the flowers die, the plants remain throughout the summer. The leaves and stems become more erect, similar to Solomon's seal.

This is an attractive wildflower for a shade garden. You can depend on it to come up and bloom. The large flowered bellflower needs a moist, fertile soil. It can reproduce by seed, or by sending up shoots from underground rhizomes. This can lead to large colonies found on wild wooded hillsides. When planted in your garden, the bellwort will also reproduce. I have a bellwort in my garden, and it seems to be behaving itself (not coming up all over the place). Bellwort can be propagated by cutting up and moving clumps in the fall. It may take a few years for transplanted clumps to get re-established.



FAREWELL ROBERT AND BOB

We will miss retiring Board Members Robert Thomas and Bob Nienaber very much.

Robert served as our Treasurer for 12 years. During this time you could be sure the information on our finances would be complete and totally accurate. Robert volunteered his time in other ways too: he was one of our most active project leaders, helping with lots of habitat restoration projects. He also was right in there helping with the Kirby Nature center renovation. We wish Robert the best in his future endeavors!

Bob was one of the longest serving WWC Board members, having been on the Board since January of 2004. During that time you could always count on Bob to contribute good advice at Board meetings, especially when it came to construction or renovation projects. Bob also was a leader for our habitat restoration projects, helping teach the ins and outs of honeysuckle removal to many a new volunteer. Thank you Bob for your help and support over the last 15 years!



Virginia Bluebells at Delshire Preserve

Western Wildlife Corridor 2019 Flower-a-Thon Registration



Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for 2019 Flower-a-Thon (\$20 per person):

Number of people attending: _____
 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 _____ \$ _____

Online payment may be made with with  at www.westernwildlifecorridor.org
 If choosing to make an online payment, please select "Individual Membership" on our Membership page, and Contact Us here or via e-mail to hikertim419@gmail.com to clarify that this payment is for the 2019 Flower-a-thon.

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



Membership Donations –Thank You!

Black Walnut Tree of Honor
Western Wildlife Corridor thanks the following individuals for their membership support of \$1,000 or more:

Michelle and Jeff Ginter

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

Matt and Jeanne Taylor

Beech Tree Steward Recognition

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

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| Connie and Bob Heintz | Bruce and Mary Smith |
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Blue-eyed Mary at Bender Mountain

Tim Sisson

❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

**Big Thanks to Our
Flower-a-thon Sponsors!**

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Hyacinths at Delshire Preserve



Western Wildlife Corridor 2018–2019 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

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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 Connie Heintz at 513-310-7219 or heintzconnie@gmail.com.



Wood Poppy at Delshire Preserve

Tim Sisson



Sessile Trillium at Bender Mountain

Tim Sisson



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WesternWildlifeCorridor.org

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Cut-leaved Toothwort at Bender Mountain

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