

Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Founded 1917

Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society

www.cincywildflower.org



Newsletter for January–May 2014

We received a very nice thank you letter from Ohio Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director, Glen Cobb, for organizing the November 2nd Honeysuckle Blitz at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. With about 180 volunteers, the blitz was the largest volunteer event that the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has ever had, and they were very appreciative. I can't wait to visit this spring to see what an impact it is making.

There is a parcel of wooded land that is going up for sale next to the Harris M. Benedict Nature Preserve, aka Hazelwood Botanical Preserve, owned by the University of Cincinnati Department of Biological Sciences. The preserve was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1977 by the Department of the Interior for the study of plants and animals in eastern deciduous forests. This preserve, unique for its location and diverse habitat, has a wonderful mature forest. The Society's co-founder, E. Lucy Braun, was instrumental in preserving Hazelwood and therefore, it is a very special place to us. Theresa Culley is working with the UC Foundation to set up an account specifically for the purchase of the parcel. Contact me or Theresa Culley for more information if you are interested in donating to support this fundraising project.

We had a great turnout of about 80 people for Jeff Belth's talk on butterflies at our last meeting.

We have some excellent hikes and events scheduled for this year. Participants of all levels of expertise, from amateur to expert, are welcome, which makes our events so educational and fun.

I'd like to thank our new Secretary, Steve Slack, for the informative and interesting minutes he's been recording. He's doing a great job and had some big shoes to fill after Steve Albert. Also, I especially want to thank our Vice President, Bob Bergstein, for letting us know about other programs we will like, and for the reminders he sends out for our events.

Remember, the Society does not cancel events due to inclement weather.

Hope to see you on the trail soon!

For the Society,
Christine Hadley, President

General Notes

We welcome visitors and guests. If you're not already a member, please consider joining the Society. Individual memberships are \$12 and family memberships are \$20. Not only would we love to have you belong, but these modest fees provide our operating budget for the year. Write the check to "Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society" and mail to Randy Johnson, Treasurer, 947 Volterra Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45206 or bring it to the February or March meeting. Thank you!

If you would like to receive e-mail reminders of events, write this on your membership form or email bbergstein@fuse.net.

Our Friday evening lectures are held at Avon Woods Nature Center (a Cincinnati city preserve), 4235 Paddock Road, Cincinnati 45229. From the Norwood Lateral (SR #562), drive 0.9 mile south on Paddock to the Avon Woods Park driveway, which is in the middle of the Avon Field golf course. Turn sharp right onto the drive next to the park sign (on the west side of Paddock) and go to the lodge at

the end of the long dark drive. If you're coming the other way, the driveway is 0.4 mile north of Paddock's intersection with Reading Road.

The March 14 annual meeting will be held at Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati 45231.

Please remember our motto: "Enjoy: Do Not Destroy." It is up to Society members to set the standard for the rest of the public: respecting all rules at the places we visit, staying on trails when required, and not collecting seeds or plants without permission or permits.

Events

Note: Events identified with ** are sponsored by or with other organizations.

Remember that all event information is up to date and available on our website, www.cincywildflower.org, with map links to all events.

----- January 2014 -----

Saturday, January 25, 10 am: Indoor Field Trip CREW at the Cincinnati Zoo, Hamilton County, Ohio

Tour led by Dr. Valerie Pence, Director of Plant Research at the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), internationally recognized as a leading expert on plant tissue culture techniques in the areas of plant propagation and cryopreservation.

CREW is a state-of-the-art research facility, the first of its kind, dedicated to saving endangered plants and animals from extinction. CREW's renowned scientists form critical partnerships with other leading conservation and governmental and non-governmental organizations in working towards its mission.

Because this is a guided tour in a small facility, **please RSVP** to Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net. Special parking instructions will be given when you RSVP.

Directions: Take I-75 to exit 6 (Mitchell Ave.), heading southeast on Mitchell. Turn right onto Vine Street. Travel about 0.8 miles on Vine, then turn left onto Forest Avenue, traveling about 0.3 miles to the gated but unmarked drive on the right. (You've gone too far if you reach Dury Avenue.) There will be someone located here to give you exact directions where to park. Watch for the Cincinnati Wildflower signs. Note: This is *not* the Zoo's main parking lot.

----- February 2014 -----

Friday, February 14, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center "Ohio's Last Great Places" Andrew Lane Gibson

Andrew Gibson is a botanist for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, an overall naturalist proud of his Ohio roots who likes to share his experiences, both at work and at play, in our fine state. Andrew will be presenting on a number of Ohio's best natural features from all four corners of the state and in between, including natural history, flora, fauna, and geology. These last great places are sure to remind everyone just how diverse and beautiful Ohio truly is!

Saturday, February 22, 10 am: St. Anne Convent, Campbell County, Kentucky

Judy Komorowski will lead us through this old growth forest. St. Anne's is a convent established in the early 20th century to provide a home and comfort for the elderly clergy. The small forest on this property has some old growth trees such as tulip and yellow buckeyes. It is a short in-and-out path (not a loop) so this hike won't be a long one. There are also some old hemlocks planted near the cemetery.

After the hike, we will warm up with lunch at a local restaurant. Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

Directions: From Cincinnati, take I-71 south. Stay right to continue on I-471 south into Highland Heights, where it turns into US 27. Stay on US 27 (Alexandria Pike) heading south to Route 1998 (Industrial Road). Turn left onto Route 1998 and go 2.1 miles, where it dead-ends at Route 8. Turn right onto Route 8 and follow for 2.3 miles, then turn right into St. Anne's Convent. Go up the road, bypassing the one-way sign, and follow the arrow to Move Center. Make a slight veer to the left and you will see a sign for the visitor's parking lot, where we will meet.

****Saturday, February 22, 2:30 pm: Cincinnati Wild Ones Program, Caesar Creek Visitors Center "If you restore it, they will come. Amphibian Re-Colonization at Caesar Creek Lake" by Jim O'Boyle, Park Manager at Harsha Lake (former manager at Caesar Creek)**

3:30 pm: Tour of vernal pools at Caesar Creek

4:30 pm: Dinner - potluck

Sunset (5:30 pm): Woodcock and salamander adventure for children at heart (that's US!)

Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net for more information.

Directions: From I-71, take the Wilmington Road exit (exit 36). Head east onto Wilmington Road (right if you were heading north on I-71). Take the first left onto Olive Branch (crossing over I-71), take first right onto Jeffery Road. At first stop sign, jog right onto Oregonia Road, then jog left onto Clarksville Road. Follow Clarksville Road across the dam, turn right into the Visitor Center, 4020 N. Clarksville Road, Waynesville, OH 45068.

----- March 2014 -----

Friday, March 14: Potluck, Annual Meeting & Lecture, Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Come to any part or all of the annual meeting.

5:45 pm Appetizers and fellowship

6:15 pm Covered dish potluck dinner

7:30 pm Annual Meeting and Program

"Cedar Bog: A Study in Contradictions"

Robert C. Glotzhober, Curator Emeritus, Ohio Historical Society

Bob Glotzhober recently retired from the Ohio Historical Society. He will share the political and natural history of Cedar Bog State Nature Preserve, where he will lead a field trip for us later this year. Bob will tell how it was protected, as well as talk about the many rare plants and animals and its diversity. He will also discuss his amazing experience in Ohio wetlands, along with his foray into biological control of the Emerald Ash Borer.

----- April 2014 -----

Saturday, April 5, 10 am: California Woods Nature Preserve, Hamilton County, Ohio

Marjie Becus will lead us on our first spring hike to one of our favorite local preserves, California Woods. California Woods needs no introduction to most Cincinnati area botanical and nature enthusiasts. This deeply wooded park of 113 acres has a primeval atmosphere, with parallel deep ravines leading down to Lick Run Creek. It represents one the best examples of old-growth forest remaining in Hamilton County and includes 53 varieties of trees and 200 herbaceous plants. It is a great park to visit and revisit during any season. Of course many birds, mammals (including mink), and amphibians also enjoy this refuge.

Plan to hike several of the somewhat steep trails within the preserve, as we observe the rich displays of spring ephemerals associated with this mixed mesophytic forest type. There are picnic tables available if you would like to bring a lunch.

Directions: California Woods Nature Preserve has a listed address at 5400 Kellogg Avenue, Cincinnati, 45230. From I-275, take exit 72 (Kellogg Avenue). This exit is in Ohio, just north of the Ohio River, on the eastern side of Cincinnati. Drive northwest (toward Cincinnati) on Kellogg Avenue for 1.3 miles to the preserve entrance. Turn right into the preserve and drive 0.4 miles on the narrow park drive to the parking lot at the end.

Driving time from downtown (I-471 to I-275 to Kellogg) is about 15 minutes.

****Friday, April 11, 6-9 pm: Western Wildlife Corridor Wildflower Festival, College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio**

A great family event will feature nature games and activities for children, a wildflower plant sale, hand-crafted items for sale, a painting class, and displays 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.

****April 11-13: Wildflower Pilgrimage at Highlands Nature Sanctuary, Southern Ohio**

A major weekend event, the Wildflower Pilgrimage features naturalist and botanist guided hikes to botanical hotspots in the Highlands Nature Sanctuary and surrounding area (southern Ohio) at the peak of wildflower season. Call 937-365-1935 or go to www.arcofappalachia.org/events/wildflower.html for more information.

****Saturday, April 19, 2 pm: Bender Mountain, Hamilton County, Ohio**

This will be a joint hike between the Society and Western Wildlife Corridor. The "Mountain" is glorious in the spring! Hillside here are covered with many species of beautiful wildflowers. As an added treat, WWC will dedicate the new Bender Mountain trail system before the hike. For more on this event, contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net.

Directions: Take US Route 50 west from Cincinnati. Stay on Route 50 (River Road) for about 9.5 miles. Turn right onto Bender Road and travel for about half a mile. Meet at the gravel parking lot on the right side.

****Saturday, April 26, Half Day or All Day: Western Wildlife Corridor 9th Annual Flower-a-thon, Delhi, Ohio**

Sponsored by Western Wildlife Corridor. Choice of two start times and small groups led by experienced wildflower enthusiasts are two new features. Contact Tim Sisson at 513-922-2104 or tsisson@fuse.net for more information.

----- May 2014 -----

****Saturday, May 3: Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, Greene County, Ohio**

Tim Snyder, previous Clifton Gorge SNP Preserve Manager, will lead an excellent and very educational hike sharing the geology, wildflowers and history of this fantastic preserve. This is an ONAPA sponsored event. See www.onapa.org for more information.

Saturday, May 10, 10 am: Scioto Brush Creek State Nature Preserve, Scioto County, Ohio

Rick Gardner, Ohio Chief Botanist, will lead this hike at Scioto Brush Creek State Nature Preserve, a 30-acre preserve protecting a significant stretch of this highly diverse stream, home to 69 species of fish and federal and state-listed mussels. The preserve has a nice diversity of spring wildflowers, plus a number of rare and state-listed plants, including the Federal threatened Appalachian spiraea, *Spiraea virginiana*, and the state endangered Appalachian quillwort, *Isoetes engelmannii*.

Directions: From Cincinnati, take State Route 32 east to State Route 73. Turn right (east) on State Route 73 through Otway and then after a few miles turn left on Arion Road, which is directly across from the State Route 371 junction (Lombardsville). Travel for about 2 miles until you reach the railroad overpass; there will be a road on your right. Turn right and follow this road until it intersects Wrights Run Road (the next intersection) and turn left. Follow this road and at the next intersection turn left to cross over the creek and the preserve will be on your right, marked by a preserve sign. There is a small parking lot.

****May 12-13: Lakeside Daisy Workshop and Field Trip**

Flora-Quest and ONAPA (Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association) are teaming for a workshop and field trip to the Lafarge Alvar Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve with Jennifer Windus, Cheryl Harner, Guy Denny, and Tim Snyder. See www.flora-quest.com or call 419-683-8952 for more information.

Saturday, May 17, 9 am–noon: Give Back Day, Garlic Mustard Pull at Caesar Creek Gorge Nature Preserve, Warren County, Ohio

Join us to pull the invasive garlic mustard plant, which is easy to recognize and yank up. No experience is necessary. We want to help DNAP's (Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves) limited resources and preserve this lovely area where so much work has already been done on the bush honeysuckle. Bring gloves and enthusiasm. We'll furnish bags. Hope for good weather. Of course, you can relax and take a nice walk after pulling garlic mustard!

Caesar Creek Gorge is a wonderful preserve of 461 acres with a variety of spring ephemerals. The gorge walls, rising 180 feet above the river, were formed by glacial meltwater, exposing Ordovician limestone and shale rich in fossils. The preserve contains diverse habitat including floodplain and hillsides heavily wooded with beech, maple, hickory, and oak.

Note that we will be working at the Caesar Creek GORGE STATE NATURE PRESERVE and NOT the nearby Caesar Creek STATE PARK. Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

Directions: From I-71, take the Wilmington Road exit (exit 36). Head west onto Wilmington Road (left if you were heading north on I-71). Travel for 1.7 miles on Wilmington Road down the steep hill, into the river valley. At this point, stay on Corwin Road, which follows along the east side of the Little Miami River. (DO NOT turn left, which continues as Wilmington Road and crosses the river). Approaching the town of Oregonia, jog right, then a quick left to stay on Corwin Road, passing the post office and Hall's Market. Drive another 3 miles north of Oregonia and the preserve (and parking lot) will be on your right, the east side of the road. Meet in the parking lot.