



Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Newsletter for June through September 2010

[Http://CincyWildflower.org](http://CincyWildflower.org) (or search on Cincinnati Wildflower)

Southwestern Ohio Chapter

Ohio Native Plant Society

"June is busting out all over". We've already had several well-attended spring hikes, including Halls Creek Woods, Burnet Woods, and A. J. Jolly County Park. The trip to farther-away Kingdom Come State Park (and Bad Branch State Nature Preserve) had only three attendees. This is one reason that we have **CHANGED** our originally planned June Weekend trip to North East Ohio to a hike closer to Cincinnati. See the hike description below for our **new June 5 event**.

Our remaining hikes this year will all be good too. On June 19, we will visit Strait Creek Prairie Bluffs, a Nature Conservancy Preserve in Adams County. Take this opportunity to see this preserve that is not open to the public. Jim and Jean Husbands are having their July picnic and hike again this year, which is always fun. I'm looking forward visiting several Kentucky locations for the first time; Blue Licks Battlefield State Park on a trip led by Vic Soukup, and Laurel River Lake on a trip led by Stan Lockwood. We also have a new and exciting trip to our Society member Ron Powell's Pawpaw Farm. Denis Conover and Wayne Waulighman will co-lead the Society's hike in the Great Outdoor Weekend event in late September as we walk down Howard's Creek in Miami Whitewater Forest looking for plants, birds, snakes, frogs and more. You will enjoy this walk.

At our March meeting, the members re-elected Rob Repasky, Steve Slack and me to the Society's nine-member board. The officers of the Society will be chosen by this board later this summer. The Board will also decide our lecture and hike schedule for the following year. Please let me know if you have ideas or suggestions for these events.

The Society approved a contribution at the March meeting of \$500 to send two students to the Edge of Appalachia Science Camp. Earlier in the Season the Society donated a larger sum to the Western Wildlife Corridor to help purchase additional acreage at the Bender Mountain Nature Preserve in Delhi Township. This project has been helped by the Clean Ohio Fund as well as the Hamilton County Park District.

On April 24 several members helped sow (throw?) the seeds for a future prairie at Avon Woods Nature Preserve. Part of the cost the seeds was paid for by a Society Contribution. This area is on your right, as you drive up to the Nature Center.

Also on April 24 a Wildflower Society team led by Rob Repasky won the annual Flowerathon by seeing 104 different species of flowers blooming in one day. The team consisted of Rob, Marjie Becus, Christine Hadley and Jim Mason.

If you know you are coming on a field trip, please be sure to call the trip leader ahead of time. This not only helps leaders plan the trip, it means we will wait for you at the trailhead an extra 5 minutes! If you decide to attend a field trip at the last minute, you can probably call me at 513-477-4438 (depending on cell coverage) for directions. Please call me if you have concerns about hike location or hike difficulty.

Visitors are welcome at all events and members are encouraged to invite their friends to an event. **If you want to join now as a new member**, your membership will not expire until October **2011**. An individual membership is \$12 and a family membership is \$20. The check can be written to "Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society" and mailed to Rob Repasky, Treasurer, 488 Crestline Avenue #2, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45205.

Many members have signed up for e-mail reminders of our society events. If you would like to receive (or discontinue) these, please email me at BBergstein@fuse.net Remember that the newsletter, schedule and details of all events are on our website <http://CincyWildflower.org> (or you may google search on Cincinnati Wildflower)

For the Society,

Bob Bergstein

513-221-3070 (home); 513-477-4438 (cell); email is BBergstein@fuse.net

Summer 2010 (page 2)

Saturday June 5, 2010, 10:00 SHARP Meeting Place Versailles State Park, Ripley County, Indiana, near town of Versailles, Indiana

Originally we had planned a weekend trip for this date. Instead, we are going to meet in Versailles State Park in front of the booth where you would pay to enter the park. From here we will shuttle several miles to see a very unusual habitat (which Vic calls a "glade") on the edge of the State Park. The plants here including clubmosses are **UNUSUAL** and I believe are influenced by the underlying geology. Several of us visited this location last year and are enthusiastic about revisiting the site in a different season. Who knows what we shall see? And of course it's always nice to see something new!

Please call Vic Soukup (513-761-2568) or Bob Bergstein (513-477-4438) if you know you are coming. Please bring a lunch and water.

Directions: From I-275 on the western side of Cincinnati, take Exit #16 (Lawrenceburg, Aurora Exit). Get onto Route 50 West. Drive 26 miles to the park entrance and turn right into the park. Drive up near to the entrance booth and park on right side of Road. Do not pass through the booth which will charge a park fee. Google driving time is about 65 minutes from downtown Cincinnati.

Saturday June 19, 2010 10:00 am Strait Creek Prairie Bluffs Preserve, Pike and Adams County, Ohio near town of Sinking Spring, Ohio

Dave Minney of the Nature Conservancy has kindly agreed to guide us on our walk through this large preserve which is generally closed to the public. We will be walking mostly off-trail, and the walk includes some steeper areas. I think the walk will be about 3 hours. Bring a lunch and water!

"This preserve is one of several remnant prairie communities persisting along cliff edges, narrow ridges, and forest openings on un-glaciated Cedarville dolomite. These dry-adapted prairie communities are thought to predate white settlement and are considered climax communities, originating in the region during conditions that prevailed 6,000 - 8,000 years ago." This Preserve is on the edge of an ancient crypto-explosion which affected the local geology. There are 520 native plant species, including 30 rare plants, which grow in this 614 acre preserve. These include American Bluehearts, Glade (or Darlington's) spurge, Spiked lobelia, Hoary Puccoon, Indian Paintbrush, and Milkvine (genus *Gonolobus*).

Directions: We will be meeting at 10:00 am in the Town of Sinking Springs, Ohio at the convenience store at the intersection of Route 41 and Route 124. From I-275 on the Eastern Side of Cincinnati. Get onto Route 32 East. Drive 50 miles east and turn left (North) on Route 41. Drive 11 miles north to Route 124 (in the town of Sinking Springs). Park in the convenience store lot at the intersection. We will shuttle from here to the Preserve, since parking is limited. Google driving time from Downtown Cincinnati is **1 hour and 35 minutes**.

Sunday July 11, 2010, 12 noon: Picnic and Short Hike, Jim and Jean Husband's Woods, Dearborn County, IN (Indiana Gazetteer page 53)

Come join long-time members Jim and Jean for good food, good conversation and a nice hike. Guests welcome (but please RSVP). This annual event is very casual, and all are welcome. Our hosts provide the food, but please let them know if you would like to bring something (812-576-2138).

Directions: From Cincinnati, take I-74 west to the St. Leon/Route 1 exit (Indiana exit #164). Turn south (left) on Route 1, cross back over the highway, and turn right at the first road, Schuman Road (opposite the BP station). Continue one mile to Dogridge Road (the first stop, just past the school). Turn left onto Dogridge. Turn right at the next stop sign. Then continue on this road as it twists and turns until you reach a T intersection. Turn right and continue a short distance to 26323 Dogridge. Travel time about 45 minutes. Festivities begin at noon (Cincinnati time). RSVP to the Husbands (812-576-2138).

Summer 2010 (page 3)

Saturday July 31, 2010, 10:00 am. Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, Robertson County Kentucky, Five miles south of Town of Mount Olivet, Kentucky

"This large park is located along the Licking River. It includes a 15 acre nature preserve containing a cedar glade. This glade was previously maintained as an open area by the large numbers of herbivores, such as bison, elk, and woolly mammoths who frequented the area. Today much of the glade has transitioned into forest, but the remnant areas are being maintained by controlled burns and removal of Eastern Red cedar. These remnants are home to the federally endangered Short's goldenrod and the state threatened Great Plains Ladies'-tresses." This park was the scene of the last battle of the American Revolution in 1782. The salt deposits in the parks were used by animals and later became a mineral springs and spa for humans. Bring a Lunch and Water.

Directions: From the I-471 bridge in Cincinnati, drive South on I-471 for 6 miles. Merge onto Route 27 South and drive 4 miles. Turn right onto exit ramp to South (east) Route 9(=AA Highway). Drive 47 miles to Maysville. Turn Right on US 68 and drive 20 miles. Turn Right into the Park and follow signs to the Nature Center and Pioneer Museum and Gift Shop. Park in the lot. Google driving time from downtown Cincy is **1 hour and 45 minutes**

Saturday August 7, 2010 10:00 am. Ron Powell's Pawpaw Farm, Adams County Ohio. Four miles northeast from town of Aberdeen, Ohio

Wildflower Society Member and President of the Ohio Pawpaw Grower's Association Ron Powell will give us a tour of his Pawpaw farm. "Pawpaws are seeing a resurgence in popularity, in part due to the local food movement. And the pawpaw tree, which grows as an understory tree in the wild, has attracted landscapers' attention with its low maintenance, natural resistance to bugs, purple blooms and bright yellow fall foliage." "You can get flavors of mango, papaya, banana, with aftertaste of melon, vanilla, or cinnamon," said Ron Powell of Cincinnati, President of the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association (<http://ohiopawpaw.com>), which has an estimated 100 members. "It kind of overwhelms the mouth with all these flavors coming through at once. Some people can't handle it." The pawpaw is the only known host of the zebra swallowtail butterfly. Chilled pawpaw was a favorite dessert of George Washington. Bring a Lunch and water!

Directions: From I-275 on the Eastern Side of Cincinnati get onto Route 32 East. Drive 20 miles and turn Right onto Route 68 South. Drive 25 miles to Route 52 (in Ripley) and Turn Left (south east). Drive 8 miles (into Aberdeen) and turn left (North) on Rt. 41. Drive 4/10 mile and turn slight right on Fishing Gut Rd. Drive about 3.5 miles to Fox Road. (yellow ranch house at corner). Turn Right. You can only turn Right onto Fox Rd, in fact, all other roads also turn to the right off of Fishing Gut Rd. but only Fox road has a house at the corner. (There is a small pond on the left side of the road). Once you turn Right onto Fox Road, you must park in the field on Fox Road (which Ron will mark for us) on right side of lane and be shuttled to the farm. **If you DO have an SUV or truck though you may continue on this very rough road to his farm.** Yahoo maps shows Fox Road but doesn't seem to allow it as a destination. This very short road is actually on the border of Brown and Adams Counties.

Ron says Driving Time is about 2 hrs though Google says 1 hour and 11 minutes from Eastgate mall. Dress for rugged conditions. No electricity or running water! Ron's cell phone: 513-382-9031 but reception not good on cloudy days. Please RSVP to Ron or Bob Bergstein (513-477-4438, bbergstein@fuse.net) if you are know you are coming to this event.

Summer 2010 (page 4)

****Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 6, 7, 8: Midwest Native Plant Conference (not a Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society event) Montgomery Co., OH (in and around Dayton, Ohio).**

This three day event has many speakers as well as a variety of field trips. Full weekend is \$150 which includes most meals. Day passes available for less. For more info go to <http://cincinnatiwildflowers.com/mwnp/>

Saturday August 21, 2010, Noon, Laurel River Lake, Daniel Boone National Forest, near London, KY. (note: later than usual meeting time!)

Unless there's a consensus to see the lake, we probably won't actually see the lake. We will be visiting an acid seep near the lake. This is a habitat that we have not experienced in any recent years. This habitat supports plant communities that are unique to those that we usually see. In fact, this is an opportunity to see several species that many of us have never seen, such as *Pityopsis graminifolia*, *Elephantopus tomentosus*, *Lycopodiella appressa*, *Trichostema dichotomum*, and *Platanthera integrilabia* as well as several others. Access to the seep will be a hike of about ½ mile in, and then back out with no significant change in elevation. After we visit the seep, we will proceed to a second roadside site where we should see *Silphium lasiocarpum* which is another plant which has been seen by only a very few people.

Directions: Go south on I-75 to the second London, KY exit #38 at Rt. 192. Turn left (east) on 192. This is about 2 ½ hours from downtown Cincinnati non stop. Add any time you want for stops. Plan to meet at 12:00 in the parking lot of the Frisch's on the east side of the exit #38 interchange. Allow time to eat lunch before we meet and car pool to the hike site at 12:00. There are several other restaurants next to Frisch's. Do not be concerned about any construction delays on I-75. If there are any delays, we will all be late, and we will adjust the start time accordingly. From the Frisch's parking lot we will need to car pool due to limited parking at the seep. If you are attending, call trip leader Stan Lockwood at 513-385-8650, so that we will know to account for you.

Friday September 10, 2010, 7:30 pm: Photo Sharing Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

This is first program of our 2010-11 season at our usual meeting place on the west side of Paddock Road (south of the Norwood Lateral) . Please bring the photos (on Chip or CD) and slides from your summer trips, to show your friends. We will have digital projector and computer, and cookies and coffee, too. Come early, at 6:30, and bring a picnic dinner, if you like. Call Bob Bergstein (513-477-4438) for computer information. Let me know if you have more than 10 minutes of slides, so I can allocate time to everyone.

Directions: Avon Woods Nature Center is a Cincinnati City Park at 4235 Paddock Road, Cincinnati 45229. From the Norwood Lateral (SR #562), drive 9/10 mile South on Paddock to the Avon Woods Park driveway. Turn sharp right and go to the lodge at the end of the long dark drive.

Sunday September 26, 2010, Great Outdoor Weekend, Howard Creek Walk at Miami Whitewater Forest, Hamilton County Ohio (details next newsletter)

**The next newsletter (and annual schedule for the coming year) will arrive in late August 2010
Remember you can get this and other info on our website, <http://CincyWildflower.Org>**