



## **Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society**

Founded 1917

Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society

[www.cincywildflower.org](http://www.cincywildflower.org)

### **Newsletter for January – May 2012**

Happy New Year! As I write this on a 54-degree day in early January, it feels like spring is in the air and we'll be seeing our spring ephemerals right around the corner. My snowdrops are already blooming!

The Society is very saddened by the loss of longtime member and friend Shirley Soukup on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Shirley was a great friend and conservationist of the Society. She was a pioneer in her field and truly a great person. At Shirley's memorial service I learned a line she would casually ask friends, "What volunteering are you doing?" Don't be surprised if you hear me starting to use that line, especially in honor of Shirley. She will be missed.

I'd like to congratulate member and dear friend of the Society, Don Geiger, on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Conservation Award of the Dayton Foundation Conservation Fund in November 2011.

How fitting that I opened a fortune cookie last year that said, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this planet." I believe this and it's our time to help pay the rent. In these times, Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) needs our help to monitor the state nature preserves. It can be as little as reporting back on the status after walking a preserve. Please let me know if you're interested and we'll get you set up!

Watch for the additional "Give Back Days" that we plan and will send out.

There are so many events of interest planned by other organizations that it's difficult to list all of them in our newsletter. Please watch your emails to be sure you don't miss them.

The Society has had great event attendance this past year. The speakers have been excellent and I'm really looking forward to our future events. Thanks to all of you who make this the especially great group it is! Thanks for sharing what you're learning and for being patient teaching all the amateur botanists, including myself.

Remember that March is our annual meeting and Board member election. Please let me know if you are interested in being, or know of someone you would like to have, on our Board.

Hope to see you on the trail soon!

Here's to another great year 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 would 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 Rob Repasky, Treasurer, 607 Rosebud Circle, Walton, KY 41094. Thank you!

If you would like to receive e-mail reminders of events, write this on your membership form or email [bbergstein@fuse.net](mailto: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 4/10 mile north of Paddock's intersection with Reading Road. For a map, click [here](#) .

The March annual member potluck and lecture program will be held at Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati 45231. For a map, click [here](#) .

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 in association with other organizations.

Remember that up-to-date event information , including any event change, is available on our website [www.cincywildflower.org](http://www.cincywildflower.org) . Clickable links of driving maps are available on this Website Version of our Newsletter, as well as in our Email Reminders.

----- January 2012 -----

### **Friday, January 13, 2012, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center "Dragonflies of Southwestern Ohio" William Hull, Ohio Odonata Society**

Damselflies and dragonflies, in addition to being some of the most beautiful organisms around, are important indicators of wetland health, a role that has made the Odonata a new frontier of citizen science. Bill Hull, an accomplished photographer, naturalist, and dragonfly expert, will give us an overview of the complex lives of our local darners, darters, dancers, dashers, skimmers, gliders, et al.

### **Saturday, January 21, 2012, 10:00 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, the first of its kind, is a state-of-the-art research facility 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](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net).

**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.) Turn in and travel for about 0.1 miles to the Safari Camp (overflow) parking lot. Park and meet here. Note: This is *not* the Zoo's main parking lot.

For a map to our lot from I-75, click [here](#) .

For a map of the Zoo itself, click [here](#) . This map shows the Safari Parking Lot at the upper left of the map, and CREW Center just below (South of) this lot.

----- February 2012 -----

**Friday, February 10, 2012, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center  
"195 Years of Cincinnati Parks" (For directions, see page 2)**

**Michael George, Director, Trailside Nature Center (Burnet Woods), Cincinnati Parks**

Dating to the creation of Piatt Park in 1817, a tremendous network of parks, greenspaces, and preserves enhances our quality of life in the Queen City. Please join us as Michael George, a longtime Park Board naturalist with a special interest in park history, explores the evolution of the public park movement here. He'll discuss some of the visionaries and officials who made the parks we love today, and share documents and images from Park Board archives.

**\*\*Sunday, February 19, 2012, 1:00 – 3:30 pm: Documentary, Civic Garden Center  
"Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time"**

Join members of CWFPS, Wild Ones and Western Wildlife Corridor for a viewing of *Green Fire*, a documentary that explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, perhaps best known as author of *A Sand County Almanac*. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped the concept of conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates Leopold's continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level.

Meet urban children in Chicago learning about local foods and ecological restoration. Meet ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working in cooperative community conservation efforts. Meet biologists who are bringing threatened species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, back to the landscapes where they once thrived. Learn how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about people and land ties these modern stories together to offer inspiration and insight for the future. RSVP to Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or email [christinehadley@earthlink.net](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net).

**Directions:** From the north: Take I-71S to exit 3 onto Taft Road. Take the first right onto Reading Road, then turn left onto Oak Street and immediately left into the CGC parking lot, which is small; nearby street parking is also available. The address for the Civic Garden Center is 2715 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45206. CGC is located between Oak and Taft on the grounds of the Hauck Botanic Garden ("Sooty Acres"). (From the south, take I-71 N to exit 2 on the left, merging onto US 42N/Reading Road, and travel 1.2 miles to Oak Street.)

For a driving map, click [here](#) . For a map of the Civic Garden Center and Hauck Botanic Garden, click [here](#) .

----- March 2012 -----

**Friday, March 9, 2012, Potluck, Annual Meeting & Lecture, Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati 45231 (For directions, see page 2)**

Come to any part or all of the annual meeting.

**5:45 pm** Appetizers and fellowship

**6:15 pm** Covered dish potluck dinner (Contact Karen Lockwood at 513-385-8650 or [lockwoodkaren@yahoo.com](mailto:lockwoodkaren@yahoo.com) for food assignment)

**7:30 pm** Annual meeting and program:

***“Botanical Detectives at Work”***

**Steve McKee, Director, Gorman Nature Center, Richland County Park District**

Learn how to find “missing” plants and listen to Steve’s stories of being a botanical sleuth in his home county of Richland. Some species, most notably the rose pogonia orchid, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, were known from historical records, but no one had been able to relocate the orchid and some other species that Steve includes. His talk charts his efforts, some successful, some not, to rediscover these plants. The program is designed to encourage the amateur plant seeker and to kindle a spirit of exploration.

----- April 2012 -----

**Saturday, April 7, 2012, 10:00 am: Field Trip, Highland Cemetery, Kenton County, Kentucky**

The Highland Cemetery is on a tract of land of more than 250 acres, half of which is presently undeveloped and used for nature trails. The facility contains three lakes, hundreds of large trees, and rolling hills, waterfalls and streams. 150 acres are currently managed to enhance wildlife habitat, with snags left in place and nestboxes added for various songbirds and raptors. There are more than four miles of hiking trails, routed to minimize disturbance.

The Highland Cemetery natural area is one of greater Cincinnati’s best places for spring ephemerals, and if current weather trends prevail we should be seeing them around their peak. The preserve is a rugged, hilly patch of land crisscrossed by streams, so it is geologically as well as botanically interesting. A few pioneer features, such as a stone springhouse, can also be seen.

Please let Christine Hadley know if you will be attending at 513-850-9585 or [christinehadley@earthlink.net](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net).

**Directions:** From Cincinnati, take I-75 south entering Kentucky to exit 188 (Fort Mitchell, Dixie Highway South). Off the exit, turn left onto Dixie Highway and drive about 0.4 mile, crossing over the highway, and turn left into the cemetery; its white gates are located directly across from Kroger and Expressway Plaza Shopping Center. Take all right-hand turns after you enter the cemetery to find the trailhead and park there. The address is 2167 Dixie Highway, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017. For a map to the cemetery, click [here](#) .

**\*\*Friday, April 13, 2012, 6-9 pm Western Wildlife Corridor Wildflower Festival, College of Mount St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Check out [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org) for more details.

**Sunday, April 15, 2012, 1:00 pm: Field Trip, Sycamore Park, Clermont County, Ohio**

Marjie Becus will lead us through this Clermont County park of 158 acres. We expect to see various species of spring flowers along the 0.54 mile Wildflower Trail. Afterwards, we will take another trail for anyone who wants a longer walk. The park is along the East Fork of the Little Miami River and contains floodplain and hills. Please let Christine Hadley know if you will be attending at 513-850-9585 or [christinehadley@earthlink.net](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net).

**Directions:** From the intersection of I-275 and St. Rt. 32 (on the east side of Cincinnati) go east on St. Rt. 32 for 5.5 miles and take the Batavia exit. Keep right at the fork to go on West Main Street. 0.6 miles later turn right at the light onto Foundry Ave./St. Rt. 132. This intersection is just before the bridge over the East Fork of the Little Miami. Approximately 1 mile down Foundry Avenue turn left into Sycamore Park and we will meet in the parking lot near the foot bridge. The Park address, 4082 State Route 132, Batavia, OH 45103 . For a driving map from I-275, click [here](#) . For a park map, click [here](#) .

**\*\* April 20-22, 2012: Southern Ohio Wildflower Pilgrimage (aka Highlands Nature Sanctuary)**

Covers the five-county Arc of Appalachia Preserve Region of southern Ohio. This major weekend event (not a Society event) has a variety of excellent hikes led by experienced naturalists and botanists. Call 937-365-1935 or go to [www.arcofappalachia.org/events/wildflower.html](http://www.arcofappalachia.org/events/wildflower.html) for more info.

**\*\*Saturday, April 28, 2012, All Day: Western Wildlife Corridor 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower-a-thon**

This fundraiser event, sponsored by Western Wildlife Corridor, features teams competing in Western Hamilton County to identify the most flowering plants in one day. Form your own team or join one. Contact Tim Sisson at 513-922-2104 or [tsisson@fuse.net](mailto:tsisson@fuse.net) for more info. Check out [www.westernwildlifecorridor.org](http://www.westernwildlifecorridor.org) for more details.

**Sunday, April 29, 2012, 1:00 pm: Field Trip, Miami Meadows Park, Clermont County, Ohio**

Dan Boone will lead us through this Miami Township park. We're hoping to see a few Ohio endangered plants, the annual *Ranunculus pusillus* (low spearwort) and *Agrostis elliottiana* (Elliott's bentgrass) as well as *Viola affinis* and various interesting plants of wetlands, pin oak flatwoods and Illinoian till plain. Please let Christine Hadley know if you will be attending at 513-850-9585 or [christinehadley@earthlink.net](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net).

**Directions:** Take I-275 (on the east side of Cincinnati) to exit 57, go east on St. Rt. 28, which becomes St. Rt. 28 Bypass and again St. Rt. 28. Turn right onto Buckwheat Road. 1.8 miles later turn left onto St. Rt. 131, traveling 0.7 miles to the park entrance sign. Turn left into the park and drive straight to the end of the street (near the dog park) and park in the parking lot. The park address is 1546 State Route 131, Milford, OH 45150. For a map from I-275, click [here](#) .

(more on next page)

----- May 2012 -----

**\*\*May 4-6, 2012: Flora-Quest**

Southern Ohio counties, including the Edge of Appalachia preserve and Shawnee State Forest. Another major weekend event with a variety of field trips, workshops, and speakers, again led by gifted naturalists and botanists. For more information, go to [www.flora-quest.com](http://www.flora-quest.com) or call 419-683-8952.

The Society's May events will be in the next newsletter coming the end of April.