

CINCINNATI
WILD FLOWER
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

100 Years
1917-2017



Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Founded 1917

Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant
Society

www.cincywildflower.org

Newsletter for January – April 2026

Greetings Wild Flower Friends!

I hope everyone had a wonderful & peaceful Holiday to finish out 2025, and are looking forward to a nature-centered 2026! I was highly disappointed that we had to cancel our December hike & potluck due to adverse weather, but our speaker Dave Nolin gave an enlightening presentation via Zoom. (The recording will be available on our website.) We have three more Friday presentations, including the always-popular March potluck dinner, before starting our field trip season in March. Read on for additional event details and check out our events calendar for the full listing.

Have you ever considered taking on a more active role in our Society? We have several opportunities for involvement. We are currently seeking a member to fill the role of Programs & Publicity Chair. This person will work with the Board to coordinate our roster of amazing speakers and schedule the presentations for our Friday lecture meetings. We are also embarking on a much-needed redesign of our web site, to give it a fresh look, improve usability and expand content. If you have web skills (or just keen interest) we welcome your help. A longer-term project is to compile a comprehensive history of our century-old Society, including its founding, activities, and notable members. I think many people have bits and pieces, but we need to preserve this history to share with our members, and the public. Our Society exists through the active involvement of our members. If you are interested in lending your talents and enthusiasm to any of these tasks, please contact me at President@cincywildflower.org (or at jagoditz@fuse.net), or talk with me at one of our meetings or events.

I'm looking forward to seeing you out on the trail or at a future event.

For the Society,

Mike Jagoditz, President, President@cincywildflower.org

General Information

We welcome visitors and guests. If you're not already a member, please consider joining the Society. Individual memberships are \$12; family memberships are \$20. Not only would we love to add you to our membership, 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. There is now an option to join or renew your membership online at cincywildflower.org and thank you for your support!

If you would like to receive e-mail reminders of events, write this on your membership form or email bergstein123@gmail.com.

Most 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 Fields 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 December and March dinner programs will be held at the Gathering at Northern Hills, 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 -----

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. We also have a Facebook page.

----- January 2026 -----

Friday, January 9, 2026 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (Zoom available also) *"Lichens!"* by Bob Klips

Aptly described as "fungi that invented agriculture," lichens are dual organisms that epitomize symbiosis. Being small, desiccation-resistant and requiring very little nutrition, lichens are found in environments that are generally too stressful for most plants to grow. They are a delight to find on bark, rocks, and barren ground. We will explore their different growth forms and methods of reproduction, and learn how to identify the most common Ohio species. Special attention will be paid to ones that were discovered here or are named for Ohio lichenologists.

Robert Klips is an associate professor emeritus in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State University (OSU), where he taught for over twenty years. He currently manages the bryophyte and lichen specimen collections in the herbarium at OSU's Museum of Biological Diversity. Skilled in botanical macrophotography, Klips served as the photographer for the Ohio Division of Wildlife's 2017 *Common Lichens of Ohio Field Guide* (ODNR publication #5473) and has contributed images to dozens of books, periodicals, and websites. In 2022 Klips published *Common Mosses, Liverworts, and Lichens of Ohio*. He frequently conducts fieldwork and educates nature study groups about the identification, ecology, and distribution of Ohio plants and lichens. You may find the lichen guide and others on the [ODNR website](#).

See "General Information" above for driving directions. For Zoom link, contact Bob at Bergstein123@gmail.com

----- February 2026 -----

Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (Zoom available also)

"Wildflowers Through the Year" by Tom Hissong

Migratory birds and colorful wildflowers are the essence of the Spring season in Ohio! Protected under the soil as roots, bulbs, tubers and seeds, wildflowers survive the cold harshness of winter to await the warmth of the coming Spring. If you are a nature enthusiast and are particularly anticipating the Spring wildflowers you will want to come to this program. Join Tom Hissong, retired National Audubon Society naturalist, as he leads you on a PowerPoint walk along the trail looking for our favorite wildflowers. Tom will share his personal photos of his favorite Spring wildflowers such as Skunk Cabbage, Snow Trillium, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Virginia Bluebells, Jack-in-the Pulpit, Large-flowered Trillium and many more. Tom will talk about the natural history of each wildflower and maybe some Spring migratory birds along the way.

See "General Information" above for directions. For Zoom link, contact Bob at Bergstein123@gmail.com

February date and time TBD: Indoor Field Trip, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, OH

Tour of UC's Laboratories, Greenhouse and new Herbarium- Check our website soon for details of this event.

----- March 2026 -----

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 5:15 pm: Potluck Dinner, The Gathering at Northern Hills

Join us for our potluck dinner & annual meeting to be held at The Gathering at Northern Hills, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati Ohio. We will have wine and fellowship **at 5:15**, followed by dinner **at 5:45**. Bring a dish of your choice (appetizer, main, side or desert) along with any needed serving utensils. Plates, cups, utensils, etc will be provided.

See "General Information" above for directions. For Zoom link, contact Bob at Bergstein123@gmail.com

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm: Annual Meeting & Lecture Program, The Gathering at Northern Hills (Zoom available also)

Our Annual Meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and last about 30 minutes, to be followed immediately by the lecture. *"Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Ohio"* by Greg Lipps

Ohio is home to an impressive diversity of amphibians and reptiles, including 24 salamanders, 14 frogs, 11 turtles, 4 lizards, and 25 snake species. Yet many are in decline, driven by habitat loss and the increasingly fragmented patchwork of natural areas across the state. Conserving them requires a holistic, collaborative approach that tackles complex and overlapping threats. This presentation will highlight two recovery efforts: one for the prairie-dwelling Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake and another for the stream-dwelling Eastern Hellbender salamander. While their habitats, ecologies, and challenges differ greatly, the strategies used to secure their future offer lessons that can guide conservation programs for wildlife and wild places throughout Ohio.

Greg Lipps is the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Coordinator at Ohio State University's Ohio Biodiversity Conservation Partnership and the Conservation Biologist at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. He was an editor and contributing author to both the *Amphibians of Ohio* (2013) and the *Reptiles of Ohio* (2021). Born and raised in Cincinnati, Greg is a lifelong resident of Ohio who has conducted herpetological research throughout the state. He currently resides in northwest Ohio, where his front yard of Oak Openings Region native plants was established 20 years ago.

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 10:00 am: Saturday Field Trip

California Woods Nature Preserve, Cincinnati, Hamilton County OH

California Woods, one of Cincinnati Park's Nature Preserves, is a mixed mesophytic forest community, with a dissected landscape of steep hills and valleys nestled near the confluence of the Little Miami and Ohio Rivers. California Woods is the only forest in Hamilton County registered with the Old Growth Forest Network. As such it contains unique forest features indicative of old, undisturbed botanical growth. Under the canopy of some of the largest specimens of trees in both Ohio and the nation, California Woods is known locally as a hotspot for spring ephemeral wildflowers. Greg Torres will lead a guided hike along these wooded slopes and ravines to see the brilliance of flowers that represent what old growth Ohio used to be like.

Location: California Woods Nature Preserve is part of the Cincinnati City Parks, located at 5400 Kellogg Ave., Cincinnati OH. The preserve is about 20 minutes from downtown Cincinnati.

----- April 2026 -----

Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 10:00 am: Saturday Field Trip

Devil's Backbone Preserve, Camden, Preble County, OH

Join Tom Hissong, retired National Audubon Society naturalist, for a nature walk on the wild side. Spring wildflowers will be the topic of the walk with a search for Spring wildflower favorites such as Bloodroot, Harbinger of Spring, Large-flowered Trillium, Sessile Trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and many more. Devil's Backbone Reserve is a beautiful old growth forest with many special features to experience. Be sure to put this walk on your calendar.

Location: The Herbert & Patricia Wagers' Devil's Backbone Park is part of the Preble County Park District, located at 1301 OH-725W, near Camden, Ohio. The park is about 65 minutes from downtown Cincinnati.

The next Newsletter will be available in May 2026