

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 September 2025 – December 2025

Greetings Wild Flower Friends! I think it's been a lovely, if somewhat dry, summer here in Cincinnati. I hope everyone has been able to experience our wealth of natural offerings, both local and not-so-local. I've been doing some camping and have attended several workshops, on wildlife, plants, and fireflies! While September ushers in a change in the seasons and in our local plant communities, it also brings some changes to our Society. Angela Carter has decided to step back from the role of President, but will remain an active part of the Society (and will hopefully help get me acclimated to the job!) We also welcome two new board members, Lisa Haglund and Greg Torres, who are both active in our community and in local nature organizations. I offer a hearty "Thank You" to Angela Carter, and outgoing board members Barb Slavinski and Donna Coyle for their dedication and hard work in supporting our Society.

Included with this September newsletter is the 2025-2026 Events Schedule. Your Board has been hard at work creating an outstanding calendar of speakers, presentations, activities and field trips to help us experience nature's wonders in the coming year. I encourage everyone to attend a lecture, give-back day, or hike to experience everything our Society has to offer. Some of our upcoming field trips are member requests and I appreciate any feedback and suggestions.

Our Society thrives on our members, volunteers, and networking. Do you have an interest in serving in a chair position or leading a hike or field trip? Know any dynamic speakers or someone with website skills? Please share any interests that you have, or would like us to present in future meetings. So many of us have skills and interests that we frequently overlook by our focus on the amazing biodiversity around us.

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

For the Society,

Mike Jagoditz, President, President@Cincywildflower.org

General Notes

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. Our reminders include the actual Zoom link for all of our lectures.

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

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. We also have a Facebook page.

----- September 2025 -----

Friday, September 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm: Members' Photo Sharing Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

Please bring your photos (on thumb drive or CD) and slides to share with friends. We will have a digital projector and computer, tea, and snacks, too. Come early, at 6:30 pm, and bring a picnic dinner, if you like. Call Bob Bergstein at 513-477-4438 for computer information or for Zoom Link.

----- October 2025 -----

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (or by Zoom)

"Muck Mats, Sand Flats and Coastal Plain Marshes: Coastal Plain Disjunct Plants in Indiana"

Indiana's diverse flora has relicts and influences from many regions that surround the Hoosier State - the tallgrass prairie to the west, the boreal forests to the north, the eastern deciduous forests to the east, the Appalachian Mountains to the southeast, and the Mississippi Embayment to the southwest. Of great interest to botanists and ecologists, though, are the plants that are found hundreds of miles away from the core of their ranges on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coastal plains that occur in northern Indiana; these are our coastal plain disjunct species. These species are found in natural communities referred to as muck and sand flats (sometimes occurring floating on glacial lakes) and inland coastal plain marshes. How did they arrive here? What is in store for them in the future?

Learn more about these intriguing plants from Indiana's state botanist, Scott Namestnik, during this virtual presentation.

**** Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 9 am–noon: Give Back Day, Honeysuckle Blitz at Caesar Creek Nature Center, Warren County, Ohio**

Janet Lasley was one of the founders of the Dayton Area Wild Ones and its first President. Her sudden and unexpected death in January of 2023 was a tremendous loss to our community. Janet was involved in our community in many ways, but what gave her the most satisfaction was the volunteer work she did at the Caesar Creek Nature Center. To honor her memory, a major renovation of the grounds at the Caesar Creek Nature Center is underway. Join the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, the Dayton Area Wild Ones and other supporting groups as we remove invasives to assist this project. Lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net.

Directions: Meet at the Caesar Creek Nature Center at 4006 Pioneer Village Road, Waynesville, OH 45068. Take I-71 to Wilmington Road (exit 36). Head east on Wilmington Road. Take the first left onto Olive Branch Road (crossing over I-71). Take the first right onto Jeffrey Road. At the first stop sign, turn right onto Oregonia Road. Turn left onto Pioneer Village Road following the signs to the Caesar Creek Nature Center.

The Society works in several locations in the Caesar Creek Area. Google maps knows this location as Caesar Creek Nature Center.

Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 1 pm: Culberson Woods State Nature Preserve, Clinton County, OH

Join Dan Boone through this swamp forest dominated by red maple and pin oak with substantial stands of shagbark hickory, shellbark hickory, swamp white oak, American elm and sweet gum. We should be seeing some fall color in this 280-acre preserve that is one of the largest remnants of the distinctive "Wet Beech Forest". Our hike leader Dan Boone is well known as one of the best botanists in our area.

Contact Angela Carter, 513-300-2787 or wildflowertrips@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending or carpooling since there is limited parking at the preserve located at 8865 State Route 730, Clarksville, OH 45113.

**** Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 9 am-noon: Give Back Day, 17th Annual Honeysuckle Blitz at Caesar Creek U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gorge Spillway Tail Water Area, Warren County, Ohio**

Join the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and supporters as we sponsor this volunteer effort in its 17th year to help remove that invasive alien, bush honeysuckle, from the Caesar Creek Lake Spillway Tail Water area.

Come help your friends and kindred spirits continue the protection of this natural treasure. One of the area's prime features is a gorge formed by glacial meltwaters cutting down through the bedrock. Steep walls formed, rising 180 feet above the river, with more than two miles of Caesar Creek flowing through the gorge. We will be working in the diverse habitat of this natural area, which features heavily wooded hillsides above the gorge of beech, maple, hickory, oak and a luxuriant herbaceous-flora-covered floodplain. The work done in this area for the past 16 years has had a very positive impact to wildflower diversity.

This is a terrific social, educational, and work activity, with a great lunch provided.

Your RSVP would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585, or email christinehadley@earthlink.net, for more information. Chainsaw & steel blade trimmer operators must be pre-registered.

Bring your favorite tools: gloves, pruners, loppers, saws, trimmers, and protective gear for power equipment. We will provide tools and gloves to volunteers new to honeysuckle removal. Stump treatment will be furnished.

Directions: Meet at the Gorge parking lot off Clarksville Road. Take I-71 to Wilmington Road (exit 36). Head east on Wilmington Road. Take the first left onto Olive Branch Road (crossing over I-71). Take the first right onto Jeffrey Road. At the first stop sign, take Oregonia Road; jog right and then jog left onto Clarksville Road. Follow across the dam, turn left at the gorge sign, and drive one mile downhill to the parking lot. We'll meet at the gorge shelter, next to the parking lot.

The Society works in several locations in the Caesar Creek Area. Google maps knows this location as "Caesar Creek Fishing Pier". Look for signs directing you to the event.

----- November 2025 -----

Friday, November 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (and by Zoom)

"Beetles Like It Spicy" by Greg Torres

Beetles are among the oldest pollinating insect Orders, and as such have worked with some of the oldest flowering plants to forge a symbiotic relationship over millions of years. Some ancient flowers exhibit characteristics that hint at their relationship with beetles. "Beetles Like it Spicy" highlights some key features of ancient plants, how those flowers show special adaptations to accommodate beetles and showcases examples of this relationship in some of our native plants.

Greg Torres, one of the Society's new Board members, has a long experience in natural history. He attended UC, worked in Florida's parks, is former President of Northside Greenspace and currently works in Natural Resources for one of our local park systems.

Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 9-noon am: Give Back Day, Hazelwood Botanical Preserve

Join us to help eradicate invasive bush honeysuckle in the preserve. Volunteers may bring their gloves, loppers, and other implements of destruction, or they will be provided. Beginners may work with someone who can apply herbicide to the cut stumps.

The Harris M. Benedict Nature Preserve, aka Hazelwood Botanical Preserve, owned by the University of Cincinnati Department of Biological Sciences, 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. Interestingly, Harris Benedict was chair of the UC Botany Department at the time of his death in 1928, when a streetcar struck his auto. Benedict was E. Lucy Braun's doctoral advisor. Braun studied Hazelwood.

Many of the mature trees were destroyed by the lethal April 9, 1999, F4 tornado, drastically altering the landscape. Although our members have successfully removed honeysuckle here for 16 years, the honeysuckle experienced a great resurgence after the tornado opened the forest canopy to sunlight.

For more information, contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net.

Directions: From I-71, take exit #15 (Pfeiffer Rd). Drive east for 0.7 mile. Turn left (north) on Deerfield Road for 0.8 mile to the "T". Turn left (west) STILL on Deerfield Rd. for 0.1 mile. Meet at the Johnson Nature Preserve parking lot on the right. (Johnson Preserve is adjacent to Hazelwood Preserve.) The Google address for our meeting location is Johnson Nature Preserve, Montgomery, Ohio. Driving time from downtown Cincinnati is 20 minutes.

****Saturday, November 22 at 10am: Give Back Day, Avon Woods Nature Preserve**

This preserve is only 15 minutes from downtown Cincinnati. Your assistance on this project directly benefits our Society, since we now have a written agreement allowing our use of Avon Wood Nature Center for five meetings per year in exchange for our volunteer hours working in Avon Woods (and other Cincinnati Parks). You may set up a volunteer account with Cincinnati Parks or just show up. Google maps knows this location as Avon Woods Nature Center.

----- December 2025 -----

****Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 10am: Give Back Day, Avon Woods Nature Preserve**

This preserve is only 15 minutes from downtown Cincinnati. Your assistance on this project directly benefits our Society, since we now have a written agreement allowing our use of Avon Wood Nature Center for five meetings per year in exchange for our volunteer hours working in Avon Woods (and other Cincinnati Parks).

(Note- Sunday Dec 14 is the correct date for this day's events, previously incorrectly shown as Dec 7)

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3 pm: Annual Hardy Souls' Hike, William Harbin Park, Butler County, Ohio (followed by the holiday potluck and program)

Join us for a winter hike at Harbin Park, a Fairfield City Park. Angela Carter will lead us on the 1.8-mile moderately easy Green Trail that takes you on 196 ft of elevation gain. We will meet at William Harbin Parking, 1365 Hunter Rd, Fairfield, OH 45014

After the hike you may proceed to the Gathering at Northern Hills, at 460 Fleming Road for wine and fellowship **at 5:15; dinner at 5:45**. Bring a dish of your choice: appetizer, main or side dish, or dessert.

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 7pm: Lecture, Gathering at Northern Hills (in person and by Zoom)

"Forests, Wetlands and Flamescapes of the Dayton Region: 1800 and Today" by Dave Nolin

This talk will illustrate the outstanding records of early surveyors documenting what the region was like in 1800, discuss the importance of land management by American Indians, and the challenges of taking care of the scraps that remain today.

Dave Nolin is a major figure in conservation in the Dayton Area. He served as director of conservation of Five Rivers MetroParks for many years. He helped found the Beaver Creek Wetland Association in 1988 which has preserved large areas of wetlands east of Dayton. He has been instrumental in restoring Huffman Prairie and is author of the excellent book "Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie: Where Aviation Took Wing"

Next Newsletter will be available in January 2026