

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 2024 – December 2024

This has been an exceptionally early blooming year for wildflowers, which required me to make last minute travel changes to ensure some orchids were met in bloom, instead of fruit. I met wonderful folks along the way and found several sites that may become annual pilgrimages. Hopefully many of you have gotten to experience new places and plants as well, and by visiting your favorite places. And that you could engage with Nature via the numerous in person nature events, and presentations by local, state and national groups and societies.

Many of us have experienced some changes or losses this year and most recently I have heard that Max Medley passed away. Unfortunately, I never met him, but many of you may have known him from Kentucky state records, herbaria or other works. We are very fortunate to have so many amazing naturalists and botanists in the tri-state area. I hope that one of my grandchildren will be as delighted as I am with wildflowers and nature.

The Society thrives on volunteers and networking. Do you have an interest in joining the board or taking a chair position? Know any dynamic speakers or someone with website skills? Please share any interests that you have or want to have 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 that is being presented. A couple of our upcoming field trips are from member requests, and I appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Hope to see you on the trail or at a future event.

For the Society,

Angela Carter, President, wildflowerfieldtrips@gmail.com

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. *There are more details about our events on our website, and in email reminders.*

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 2024 -----

Friday, September 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm: Members' Photo Sharing Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

Please bring your photos on thumb drive to share with friends, or present from home by Zoom. We will have a 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 more information or check our website for more details.

**** Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 at 10 am: Betsch Fen, Ross County, OH**

Betsch Fen is a member favorite, and this is a great opportunity to visit the 90 acre permit only state nature preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. The fen meadow contains *Sanguisorba canadensis*, Canada Burnet; *Symphotrichum puniceum*, Purple Swamp Aster; *Oligoneuron ohioense*, Ohio Goldenrod; *Spiranthes incurva*, Sphinx Ladies' Tresses; and *Gentianopsis virgata*, Lesser Fringed Gentian, amidst other wetland treasures. Consider bringing snacks and/or lunch as well as rubber boots and a possible walking stick due to a potential creek crossing and uneven terrain. Please RSVP to Angela Carter at wildflowerfieldtrips@gmail.com or 513-300-2787 by Friday, September 20th. We will meet off I-35 and caravan and/or carpool depending on interest and number of attendees. Driving directions will be provided following registration and a confirmation email to all participants.

----- October 2024 -----

Friday, October 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (and Zoom)

"Exploring Ohio's Sedges" presented by Andrew Lane Gibson

Join Division of Natural Areas & Preserves field botanist Andrew Lane Gibson as he delves into the world of Ohio's sedges. What makes a sedge a sedge? How diverse and specialized a group are they? Are sedges really that intimidating and challenging to learn? Their difficult reputation may precede them but sedges truly are some of our most beautiful, diverse, and inspiring plants well worth your attention. Gibson hopes to help shed the air of frustration and introduce these plants in a new light and inspire others to become fellow sedgeheads.

Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 9 am–noon: Give Back Day, 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 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 and we have been removing invasives and planting natives to assist with this project.

Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or christinehadley@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 at 10 am: Pine Mountain State Park, Bell County, KY

Sunday, Oct 20, 2024 at 10 am: Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve,

Please join Dave Kuehner and Angela Carter in search of fall color, flora and fungi starting with roadside botanizing through Kentucky's 'first' state park in 1924. *Gentiana decora*, Appalachian gentian, is our main target for Saturday. Plan on meeting at the Pine Mountain State Resort Park lodge at 10 am on Saturday.

Sunday will take us to Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve that protects 3,124 acres of old-growth and second-growth forests and over 400 different species of plants. If the weather conditions are favorable, we hope to find *Corallorhiza odontorhiza*, autumn coralroot; *Epifagus virginiana*, Beech-drops; *Monotropa hypopitys*, Pinesap; green stain mushrooms and red efts on the 0.5 mile foot trail along Watts Creek. Folks will have an option to do part or all of the moderate to strenuous loop trails to Knobby Rock, Sand Cave and the Maze. Plan on packing water, snacks and a potential lunch since this is approximately 2.5 hours from Cincinnati.

Please contact Angela Carter, wildflowerfieldtrips@gmail.com or 513-300-2787, if you have any questions.

**** Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 9 am-noon: Give Back Days, Honeysuckle Blitz at Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gorge Tail Water Area, Warren County, Ohio**

Join the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, Cincinnati Wild Ones, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and supporters as we sponsor Ohio's largest volunteer effort to help remove that invasive alien, bush honeysuckle, from the Caesar Creek Lake Spillway Tail Water area & the Caesar Creek Gorge SNP. Come help your friends and kindred spirits continue the protection of this natural treasure. Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve was the third property acquired under the newly formed natural areas program in 1972. One of the preserve'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 preserve area, which features heavily wooded hillsides above the gorge of beech, maple, hickory, oak and a luxuriant herbaceous-flora-covered floodplain. Rare plants occurring here include sweet Indian-plantain, large summer bluets, glade mallow, and Carolina willow. The Cincinnati Wild Ones have been working in these areas for over ten years with a very positive impact to wildflower diversity.

This is going to be 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 safety equipment 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 to the parking lot. We'll meet near the gorge shelter. (Note: Google Maps knows our meeting area as "Caesar Creek Fishing Pier"). DO NOT go to the state nature preserve area off Corwin Road.) Look for signs directing you to the event.

----- November 2024 -----

Friday, November 8, 2024 at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (and Zoom)

"Aldo Leopold, the Land Ethic, and A Sand County Almanac: The makings of a movement" presented remotely by Buddy Huffaker.

Join us for a virtual presentation from the director of the Aldo Leopold Center. While Aldo Leopold's impact on the conservation movement is broad and deep, he is mostly known as the author of the now classic *A Sand County Almanac*. Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2024, "*A Sand County Almanac*" has been translated into sixteen languages and serves as one of the foundational texts for anyone that cares about people and places. But becoming a classic doesn't happen overnight, it requires great writing, and often a few twists of fate. Buddy will provide a quick biographical sketch of Aldo Leopold (watch *GreenFire*, the Emmy winning documentary, for a full biographical profile of Leopold for free at <https://www.aldoleopold.org/teach-learn/digital-resources/#Green-Fire>) and then focus on the people and events that have kept "*A Sand County Almanac*" and the call for a Land Ethic as relevant as ever.

Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 9 am: Give Back Day, Hazelwood Botanical Preserve

Join us to help eradicate invasive bush honeysuckle in the preserve. Volunteers need to bring their gloves, loppers, and other implements of destruction. Spray bottles with glyphosate will be furnished. Dress appropriately for the weather.

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. The address is 10840 Deerfield Road, Montgomery, Ohio. Driving time from downtown Cincinnati is 20 minutes.

****Saturday, November 23, 2024 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). For information about this and the following event, contact Bob Bergstein at 513-477-4438 or Bergstein123@gmail.com

----- December 2024 -----

****Saturday, December 7, 2024 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).

Sunday, December 8, 2024 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 8, 2024 at 7 pm: Lecture, Gathering at Northern Hills (and Zoom)

"Forests, Wetlands and Flamescapes of the Dayton Region: 1800 and Today" presented by Dave Nolin
Dave's talk (about his new book) 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.

Next Newsletter will be available in January 2025