



Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Newsletter for September through December 2010

>>>> Our website is <http://cincywildflower.org> <<<<

Southwestern Ohio Chapter

Ohio Native Plant Society

Welcome to the 2010-2011 season of the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society. The year past has been filled with many great field trips, and fine lectures. The coming year looks excellent too. Our program chair Anita Buck has lined up excellent speakers. Vic Soukup has again agreed to be our field trip coordinator. We will visit a variety of interesting places and have a variety of leaders on these hikes. Our financial situation is good. Jim Husbands is brewing coffee, and the cookies at the meetings are, as always, delicious.

Our Society is small, but I am proud of the both the quality and quantity of the events we provide. This is due to the contributions of our field trip leaders, our chairpersons, and officers; and of equal importance, the interest and support of our members. If you hadn't noticed, our events are *better* than the events of much larger groups. The speakers are great and the setting allows much more personal interaction during and after the meeting (and the food and coffee are excellent). The hikes are slow and questions may be asked *and* answered. If you have attended the hikes, you have been privileged to go to the most amazing and exotic locations with leaders who know and care about what they are experiencing.

For the last couple years (and having been President for 6 years), I have felt that it is good for any group to have new leaders. **I was pleased at our summer board meeting that Christine Hadley expressed an interest in the becoming President. Christine has come to many lectures and hikes, and is enthusiastic about the group. I'm sure she will do a great job as President.** You may contact her by phone at 513-850-9585 or by email at ChristineHadley@earthlink.net. I will remain as Vice-President of the Society.

The challenges to our Society are many: Finding new members, finding new leaders (who will know as much as our old leaders), educating kids into the world of nature, educating politicians to protect nature that they know little about, many more. If you have energy and ideas about these questions, the Society certainly would like your input.

Though most of our officers and board members will remain the same, our board member Steve Slack has agreed to be our Conservation chairperson. Steve (co-owner of the Keystone Flora, a local native plant nursery) is naturally interested in conservation issues such as invasive plant control and most recently, keeping our local park trails bicycle-free.

We welcome visitors and guests, but would like to increase our membership. An individual membership is only \$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 OH, 45205.

If you hadn't received the news, the Society's previous President Ruth Neupauer passed away on August 13, 2010. Ruth was a wonderful person and will be missed by all of us.

The "Great Outdoor Weekend" takes place September 25th and 26th, with free nature-oriented events held all over town. Our Society is represented by Dr. Denis Conover and Dr. Wayne Wauligman leading a walk *in* Howard Creek at Miami Whitewater Park. Having been on this hike many years ago I know this will be great. Details below.

Also don't miss the non-society lecture about Cincinnati Naturalist Karl Maslowski at the Museum Center on Thursday September 23. Details below.

If you haven't been to our programs before, most Friday lectures are held at Avon Woods Nature Center (a Cincinnati city park), 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.

Our dinner meetings in December and March (with lecture after potluck dinner) are held at the Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, Cincinnati 45231.

Finally, please remember that the motto on our program reads: "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.

For the Society,
Bob Bergstein, Vice-President
513-221-3070; 513-477-4438 (cell); Bbergstein@fuse.net

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

This is the first program of the season. Please bring photos and slides from your summer trips to show your friends. We will have a slide projector, digital projector and computer, and cookies and coffee, too. Come early, at 6:30, and bring a picnic dinner. **Call Bob Bergstein (513-477-4438)** for computer information. See above for directions to Avon Woods.

Sunday, September 19, 2010 1:00 pm: Field Trip, Sharon Woods, Hamilton County, Ohio

Join our hike leader Vic Soukup for a nice September walk at beautiful Sharon Woods Park, which is one of the fine parks in the Hamilton County Park System. There is much to experience here, it is one of the area's most popular parks. From our meeting place, we may either hike in the 90-foot-deep gorge or drive to some other less-familiar trails. There are many nice picnic areas in the park as well as the quite interesting Heritage Village of historic buildings. Any questions, call Bob Bergstein, 513-477-4438. For a park map go to <http://www.greatparks.org/parks/sharonwoods.shtm>

Directions: From I-275 on the northern side of Cincinnati, take exit #46 and get onto Route 42 South. Drive 1/2 mile and turn left (east) on Kemper Road. Drive 6/10 mile to the park entrance. Turn right (south) into the park at the Park sign, and drive 2/10 mile to the long rectangular parking lot on your left (having passed the larger Harbor parking lot). The lot is at the Southwest corner of Sharon Lake before you come to the T-intersection. (Note: When you enter the park you must pay a day fee of \$2 at the entrance gate.)

****Thursday September 23, 2010 7:30 pm: "Karl Maslowski-A Naturalist Afield-Reflections on Cincinnati Nature," presented by Steve Maslowski, Reakirt Auditorium at Cincinnati Museum Center (**Non-Society Event, Lecture is free and open to the public)**

A devoted conservationist and dedicated naturalist, Karl Maslowski (1913-2006) wrote a weekly nature column for the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for nearly 50 years. He gave thousands of film lectures attended by more than one million people. These lectures awakened countless young people to our environmental problems, inspiring them to pursue careers in education, wildlife management and conservation. Karl's son, Steve Maslowski, will share remembrances about his father's life and career in honor of the recently published *A Naturalist Afield*, a collection of Karl's columns from the *Enquirer*.

Sunday, September 26, 2010, 10:00 am: GOW hike event, Miami Whitewater Forest's Howard Creek

This three-hour event is our Society's contribution to the Great Outdoor Weekend, an entire weekend dedicated to a Cincinnati nature events. This walk is NOT on the trail maps. You get to walk in the creek bed just as a kid would, but will see much more. Don't miss it!

"Kids or Adults will enjoy this wonderful walk *in* Howard Creek with our guides Botanist Denis Conover and Herpetologist-Birder Wayne Wauligman as we explore all plant and animal life. We will identify plants, turn over rocks, see birds, reptiles, butterflies, amphibians and fish. We are walking *IN* the creek and on rock so wear sneakers or other appropriate shoes. You will feel like you have gone up the Amazon!" If you have any questions please contact Bob Bergstein, 513 477-4438, or bbergstein@fuse.net.

For info about other GOW events go to <http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org>

For a park map, go http://www.greatparks.org/aboutus/pdfs/mwf_map.pdf

Directions: From Cincinnati, drive west on I-74 to Ohio Exit #3 (Dry Fork Road). Turn right (north) at the bottom of the exit onto Dry Fork Road and drive 1 mile. Turn right (east) on West Road and drive 2/10 mile. Turn left (north) on Timberlakes drive (as you pass the park attendant booth, say that you are "free" for a GOW event) and drive 7/10 mile. Turn left on Harbor Ridge Drive and drive 4/10 mile. Turn right in the large Visitor Center Parking Lot, where we will meet. We will then shuttle 10 minutes by car to the hike location. Driving time from downtown Cincinnati is about 35 minutes. If you have questions on the day of the event, call Bob Bergstein at 513-477-4438.

Friday, October 8, 2010, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

"The Silence of the Clams"

Dr. G. Thomas Watters, Curator of Molluscs, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity

If asked to name the most imperiled group of animals in North America, few of us would name freshwater mussels—yet an estimated two-thirds of extant species are at dire risk, and scores of the species that once siphoned and spawned in pristine waters are already extinct. Join us for this overview of mussels in our ecosystems, their historical numbers and the threats they face today.

(Note by Bob B- Last year I attended the Mussel Workshop at the Edge where Tom taught us so much in a very casual and entertaining way. It was a great experience. Tom is the co-author of the authoritative and well-received *"The Freshwater Mussels of Ohio"* published last year.)

Sunday, October 31, 2010, 12 noon: Halloween Walk/Drive, Spring Grove Cemetery, Hamilton County, OH

At this time of year when so many cultures commemorate their dead, we'll combine a fall foliage trip with visits to some of the many notable naturalists and scientists buried in Spring Grove, including Daniel Drake, F. W. Langdon, Worth Hamilton Weller, and the Society's own E. Lucy Braun. We'll meet at the parking lot described below and carpool from there. Trip leader, Anita Buck, 513 681-2574.

Directions: From I-75, take the Mitchell Avenue Exit (exit #6). Drive 2/10 mile west. Turn left onto Spring Grove Avenue and drive 1/2 mile (just past Winton Road) to the gate on your right. Turn right through the stone gate and immediately turn right, drive a short distance and park.

Alternately, you can drive down (south on) Winton Road till it dead-ends. Turn right onto Spring Grove Avenue and drive 1/4 mile. Turn right at the first driveway through the stone gate and turn immediately right again. Drive a short distance and park. Driving time from downtown Cincy is 10 minutes.

Friday, November 12, 2010 7:30: Hands-on Identification Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

"An Evening with the Graminoids"

Dr. David Brandenburg, Dawes Arboretum

It's a grass! It's a sedge! It's a rush! O.K., which is it?

With the aid of magnifying lenses and a modicum of patience, participants will explore the salient morphology of these fascinating plants. Our tour guide will be David Brandenburg, botanist at the Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio and longtime student of the Poaceae and Cyperaceae. Caution: reproductive parts of grasses are smaller than they appear!

Dr. Brandenburg is also the author of the *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Wildflowers of North America*, published this past spring, and will have some copies with him available for purchase. Dr. Brandenburg was a student and colleague of the late great local botanist Dr. John Thieret with whom he traveled over 65,000 miles.

Sunday, November 14, 2010 1:00 pm: Field Trip, Cincinnati Nature Center

Take this opportunity to make a FREE VISIT (prepaid by the Society) to the Cincinnati Nature Center (Rowe Woods location on Tealtown Road). This private nature preserve is one of the natural treasures of the Cincinnati area. The park has 16 miles of trails through 1,025 acres of fields, forest, ponds and streams (and a very nice gift shop). Become a member to enjoy this preserve year-round. For more info, go to <http://www.cincynature.org/rowewoods.html>.

Directions: From I-275 on the eastern side of Cincinnati, take #Exit 59 toward Hillsboro. Whether coming northbound or southbound on I-275, as you follow the signs east toward Hillsboro (which is far east of Cincinnati on Route 50), you will briefly be on expressway-like eastbound Route #450 for less than one mile. In either case, at the first traffic light, turn right onto US 50 east (toward Hillsboro) and drive for two miles (to the UDF and traffic light). Turn right onto Roundbottom Road and drive for 1/2 mile. Turn left onto Tealtown Road and drive uphill for 1/2 mile. Turn right into the driveway of Cincinnati Nature Center (Rowe Woods) and continue to the entrance gate. Tell the attendant that you are with the Cincinnati Wildflower Society for free admission. Driving time from downtown Cincy is about 35 minutes.

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 3:00 pm: Annual Hardy Souls Hike, Harris M. Benedict Nature Preserve aka Hazelwood Botanical Preserve (followed by the holiday potluck and program)

The Harris M. Benedict Nature Preserve 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. It is owned by the University of Cincinnati and is not generally open to the public. Interestingly, Harris Benedict was the chair of the UC Botany Department at the time of his death in a collision with a streetcar in 1928. Benedict was E. Lucy Braun's doctoral advisor. Braun studied Hazelwood.

We will be visiting the area that had extensive damage from the deadly April 9, 1999, F4 tornado. Many of the mature trees were destroyed, drastically altering the landscape. Although our members have successfully removed honeysuckle here for 15 years, the honeysuckle experienced a great resurgence after the tornado opened the forest canopy to more sunlight.

Check out the adjoining Johnson Nature Preserve website at http://www.montgomeryohio.org/discover/recreation/johnson_nature_preserve.htm to see the aftermath of the tornado compared to what the area is like today. Once on this website, click on "Johnson Rebirth" from 2001 and "Rebirth Update 2006" to see the photographic tours of the dramatic changes since the tornado. Or for some botanical news go to http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2000/05/13/loc_seedlings_appearing.html. Our hike leaders will be Christine Hadley and Jim Mason. Call 513-850-9585 if you have questions.

Directions: From I-71, take exit #15 (Pfeiffer Rd). Drive east for 7/10 mile. Turn left (north) on Deerfield Road for 8/10 mile to the "T". Turn left (west) STILL on Deerfield Rd. for 1/10 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.

After the hike you may proceed to Northern Hills Fellowship at 460 Fleming Road for Wine and fellowship at 5:45; dinner at 6:15. This is a managed rather than a random potluck, so in an ideal world attendees would call Vic Soukup, 513 761-2568, for a potluck assignment. Attendees who do not call Vic however are urged to just show up with a covered dish, appetizer, salad, dessert, or wine or other beverage, rather than not participate in the dinner. The program follows the holiday potluck dinner.

Sunday, December 5, 2010 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Northern Hills Fellowship
"In the Footsteps of E. Lucy Braun"

Martin McAllister, Southern Ohio Regional Preserve Manager, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

This is the story of how the ODNR staff used detective skills and hard work to find that which had been long lost. They successfully relocated Lucy Braun's "Agave Ridge" transect from her 1928 publication "The Vegetation of the Mineral Springs Region of Adams County, Ohio." It includes historical photos taken by Braun, contrasted with modern photos taken in the exact same spot. The program demonstrates how successful (and sometimes unsuccessful) prairie restoration can be.

Don't miss this talk, as Martin brings great enthusiasm and humor to the podium. He is passionate and serious though about the great importance of the preservation of the natural areas in Ohio.

Our next newsletter will be mailed in Early January, 2011