

Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Founded 1917

Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society

www.cincywildflower.org



Newsletter for September - December 2011

Welcome to the 2011-2012 season of the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society. We have quite an assortment of programs, events and hikes to choose from. Anita Buck, our program chair, has put together another fine group of speakers. We have a variety of hike leaders lined up throughout the year. We look forward to enjoying many of the upcoming events with you!

I hope several of you can join the Give Back Day on November 12th at Hazelwood Botanical Preserve when we will be removing bush honeysuckle.

We had 30 people attend another spectacular Great Outdoor Weekend event, *Wildflowers and Wildlife Along (and in) the Whitewater River*. The kids and adults loved catching crayfish, fish, and insects in the river. The combination of fish, water and land insects, birds, and of course plants makes this a great nature experience for all.

I saw many rare plants and diverse plant areas this year on our hiking adventures. We also had a diverse group of members and guests join us on our field trips this year.

Again this year the Society made a contribution to sponsor a local student at the Edge of Appalachia Science Camp. This four-day camp immerses the student in a total nature experience with plants, bugs, amphibians, reptiles, stars and much more. We received a nice thank you note from the sponsored student.

Thanks to all of you who make this such a fabulous group; the hike leaders, the lecturers, the photographers who share their experiences and of course the members who participate and make the events more educational and better than imagined! I also want to thank Vice President, Bob Bergstein, who does a spectacular job of keeping the website up to date!

It's that time of year to sit back and enjoy the show (lecture).

Hope to see you on the trail.

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.

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 9/10 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 December dinner 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 with other organizations.

Remember that all event information is up to date and available on our website, www.cincywildflower.org, with map links to all events.

----- September 2011 -----

Friday, September 9, 7:30 pm: *Member 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 cookies, and coffee, too. Come early, at 6:30 pm, and bring a picnic dinner, if you like. Call Bob Bergstein (513 477-4438) for computer information.

**** Sunday, September 25, 10 am, Great Outdoor Weekend, *Wildflowers and Wildlife Along (and in) the Whitewater River, Hamilton County, Ohio***

When other local parks are parched from drought, the Whitewater River corridor is green and alive. Starting at Campbell Lakes Preserve, our walk goes along and at times into the Whitewater, exploring the shore and the sandbars loaded with unusual plants, butterflies, dragonflies, and other insects. We'll also see herptiles, fish, and lots of birds—maybe even the eagles that nest there. Our guides, Wayne Wauligman and Denis Conover, will take us through water up to 18 inches deep in search of wildlife, so participants must be prepared to get wet.

Directions: Take I-74 to Dry Fork Rd. exit #3, turn left (south), cross over the highway, turn right on Harrison Avenue. Turn left on Kilby Road, right on Campbell Road to park entrance on left. Meet in the Campbell Lakes parking lot. For a map, click [here](#).

The address is 10431 Campbell Road, Harrison, OH 45030.

----- October 2011 -----

Friday, October 14, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center “*Reading between the Vines: Untangling the Population Biology of the Rafflesiaceae*” Dr. Matthew Klooster, Department of Biology, Centre College

Rafflesiaceae are parasitic plants endemic to southeast Asia that produce the world's largest flowers. Because these plants live embedded within large host vines in the grape family, it has been almost impossible to ascertain even the simplest elements of their life history through field

observations alone. We don't even know what an "individual" is. Recent molecular analyses have helped uncover these intriguing facets of the basic biology of Rafflesiaceae, opening exciting new outlets for future investigation. For a map to Avon entrance, click [here](#).

Sunday, October 30, 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, Worth Hamilton Weller, the Society's own E. Lucy Braun, and others we ran out of time for last year. Anita Buck, our tour leader, will welcome any botanical commentary members care to offer. Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or email christinehadley@earthlink.net if you have questions. We'll meet at the parking lot and carpool.

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, and park in that lot or along the road. Driving time from downtown Cincinnati is 10 minutes. Click [here](#) for a map to the gate.

----- November 2011 -----

Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center
"Should I Have Eaten That? Allergies, Blisters, Convulsions, Delusions, and Other Adventures with Poisonous Plants"

Dr. David Brandenburg, Dawes Arboretum

Whether native, naturalized, or cultivated, a number of toxic plants can be encountered in the United States, and every year there are people who regret their meet-up with the offending flora. An unlucky few don't live long enough to regret it. Join us as we host one of our favorite speakers, David Brandenburg, author of *The National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to the Wildflowers of North America*, for this decidedly hands-off program about how we should **not** be enjoying the plant life around us. For a map to Avon entrance, click [here](#).

Saturday, November 12, 9 am: Give Back Day, Honeysuckle Removal, Hazelwood Botanical Preserve, Town of Blue Ash, Ohio

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 collided with his auto. Benedict was E. Lucy Braun's doctoral advisor. Braun studied Hazelwood.

Many of the mature trees were destroyed by the fatal 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 more sunlight.

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

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. For a map, click [here](#) .

----- December 2011 -----

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 pm: Annual Hardy Souls' Hike, Mount Airy Forest, Cincinnati Parks (followed by the holiday potluck and program) *Please come to any or all parts of the day's events.*

Cincinnati's Mount Airy Forest is one of the city's great treasures. The largest park in the Cincinnati park system, Mount Airy is also America's largest municipal park. Established in 1911, the Mount Airy Forest covers an impressive 1,459 acres and includes natural areas, planned landscapes, buildings, structures, and landscape features. The numerous hiking trails, bridle paths, walls, gardens, pedestrian bridges, and various other improvements within Mount Airy Forest reflect the ambitious park planning and development that took place in Cincinnati in the early to mid-20th century. Conceived as the nation's first urban reforestation project, the park has developed a variety of areas and uses over the years, especially during the Depression (when its infrastructure was enhanced by a number of Civilian Conservation Corps structures) and post-World War II period. Today it still offers a large protected greenspace within the city limits where the public can enjoy the richness and diversity of nature.

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

Directions: Take I-75 to I-74 West/US-27 North. Take exit 18 off of I-74 to merge onto US-27 North/Beekman St. toward Colerain Avenue. Turn left onto Colerain Avenue and travel for about 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Blue Spruce Rd. into Mt. Airy Forest and right onto Arboretum Rd. to the arboretum. Park at the arboretum. For a map to the Arboretum, click [here](#).

After the hike, proceed to Northern Hills Fellowship for wine & appetizers at 5:45 pm and the holiday potluck dinner at 6:15 pm. Bring your favorite dish! If you'd like to be assigned a category — appetizer, entrée, etc.- call Anita Buck, 513 681-2574. (click [here](#) for general map with Northern Hills Fellowship, or click [here](#) for a map from the Arboretum to Northern Hills Fellowship.

Sunday, December 4, 7:30 pm: Lecture, Northern Hills Fellowship
"An Introduction to the Ferns of the Ohio Valley"
Dr. Raymond Cranfill

We all know Ray Cranfill's *Ferns and Fern Allies of Kentucky*, the standard work on the topic. Now, some thirty years of botanizing later, Ray is back in the Midwest and is willing to talk Pteridophytes with us: the major groups of ferns in our area, the features of ferns, and what to look for to identify the various species. If you missed the hike or potluck, please free to attend what will certainly be an entertaining and informative lecture.

Watch for your next newsletter in early January 2012.