

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](http://www.cincywildflower.org)

### Newsletter for May – August 2026

Greetings Wild Flower Friends!

I hope everyone has been able to get out onto a trail or into the woods these past few months to experience Ohio's bounty of spring blooms. It could just be my imagination but it seems everything happened a little earlier this year. Somehow I missed getting to my usual spots to greet the new season's skunk cabbage, snow trillium, bloodroot & hepatica. But a friend & I spent several days hiking at Red River Gorge where we encountered both pink & yellow ladies slippers, and the mountain laurel was just starting to bloom. A single flame-orange azalea bush stood out in the woods like a hunting vest. Our Society has held field trips at the gorge in the past (last in 2019), so maybe it's time to schedule a return trip.

Well as usual, I'm behind in making the newsletter. Our annual meeting with potluck dinner was held in March and was very well attended (we almost ran out of room). Jessica Spencer and I were re-elected to three-year terms on the board. One position of our nine-member board remains open. We will meet over the summer to develop a strategy to help keep our society relevant today and plan a course for the future. Once we have a basic plan, we'll recruit a board member with a skillset to help us achieve that plan. Annual donations of \$500 each were made to Cardinal Land Conservancy, Western Wildlife Corridor, Nature Conservancy, Arc of Appalachia and GroundWorks Ohio River Valley. Each of these organizations is acting locally in support of our Society's mission of nature education and conservation.

Bob Bergstein has graciously transferred his collection of Society archives to me for cataloging and storage. The archive consists of articles, correspondence, minutes, photos and other ephemera dating back to 1922. Included is a complete set of "Wild Flower" newsletters, published nationally by our Society from 1924 to 1936, with many articles penned by Dr. E. Lucy Braun. My goal is to digitize as much as possible & make it available to our members.

Our 2026 field trip season has started strong with hikes at California Woods and Devil's Backbone, both of which were very well attended. We also hosted two garlic mustard pulls to help control this noxious invasive. The rest of this season's trips and activities are detailed later in this newsletter.

We are still 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.

Remember our Society exists through the active involvement of our members. If you are interested in taking on a role, or if you have suggestions for hikes or programs, or just have comments, please contact me at [president@cincywildflower.org](mailto:president@cincywildflower.org) (or at [jagoditz@fuse.net](mailto:jagoditz@fuse.net)), or talk with me at one of our meetings or activities.

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.cincywildflower.org). We also have a Facebook page.

## ----- May 2026 -----

### **Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 10:00am: Saturday Field Trip**

*Joan Jones Portman Trail, Adams Co., OH*

Join Marjie Becus in exploring the Edge of Appalachia's trail, the Joan Jones Portman Trail. This trail passes through young cedar woods, prairie openings and then older woods up to an overlook of the Ohio Brush Creek valley. We expect to see shooting stars and other late spring wildflowers. Portions of this 0.8 mile trail are steep. Then we can continue on the Buckeye Trail, stopping to eat our lunches along the way, or return to the Ohio Brush Creek overlook to have lunch.

Contact Marjie Becus at 513-378-5812 or [marjieb1@gmail.com](mailto:marjieb1@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Directions:** From 1-275 take exit 63 towards Batavia and continue on Route 32 into Adams Co. Turn right on Route 247 to West Union. In West Union, turn east on State Route 125 and continue for 5.8 miles. Turn right (south) on Waggoner Riffle Road for 2.3 miles to the gravel parking area on the right behind the board fence. Meet at the George Rieveschl Jr. Creek's Bend Overlook located on the west side of Waggoner Riffle Road. Additional parking is across the road.

### **Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 9:00am (till noon): Saturday Give Back Day**

*Garlic Mustard Pull at Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve (on Corwin Road), Warren County, Ohio*

Join us to pull the invasive garlic mustard plant, which is easy to recognize and yank out of the ground. *No experience necessary, we can show you what to do.*

Bring enthusiasm, and gloves if you have them. Or we have gloves if you need them. We'll furnish bags for the garlic mustard.

Afterwards, you can relax and take a nice walk! Or you can join us for lunch and a beer at a nearby Little River Bar and Grill. A very pleasant day.

**Note-** We will be working at the Caesar Creek Gorge STATE NATURE PRESERVE and NOT the nearby Caesar Creek STATE PARK. Contact Christine Hadley at 513-850-9585 or [christinehadley@earthlink.net](mailto:christinehadley@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

**Directions** - Google Maps knows the parking lot location where we are meeting as "Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve, 4080 Corwin Rd, Oregonia, OH 45054". If you need specific driving directions, contact Christine. Drive time from Cincy is 50 minutes. Small PDF map is [https://caesarcreeklake.net/Maps/cckGorge\\_map.jpg](https://caesarcreeklake.net/Maps/cckGorge_map.jpg)

### **Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 9:30am: Saturday Field Trip**

*Hueston Woods Blue Heron Trail, Butler Co., OH*

Join Ohio DNR naturalist Katalaya Brandenburg on a hike around the Blue Heron Loop trail at Hueston Woods State Park. The Blue Heron Loop traverses some of the highest quality remnants of the old growth beech-maple forest at Hueston woods. The understory of this woods is quite intact. We should experience some summer wildflowers in the understory; the bloom times seem to be advanced this year. We may also find puttyroot orchid in bloom, which is abundant here. The preserve also contains the contested tallest tulip poplar in the state (it may be only the 2nd tallest).

**Directions:** We will meet at 9:30am at the Blue Heron trailhead off Main Loop Rd., on the west side of Acton Lake. Google Maps knows "Blue Heron Trailhead". From Oxford, go north on North College Ave, Continue onto Brown Rd. Continue north on Brown Rd. for 4 mi; turn right onto Main Loop Rd. After about 400ft turn left into the Blue Heron trail lot. Drive time is approx. 1hr from downtown Cincinnati.

Trail and Road Map:

<https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ohiodnr.gov/documents/parks/parkMaps/huestonwoodshikingmap.pdf>

----- June 2026 -----

### **\*\*Sunday, June 7, 2026 - From Noon till 4pm (Lunch at 1pm): Potluck Picnic with Northside Greenspace Inc. and CWFPS**

*Keystone Flora in Wooden Shoe Hollow, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio*

Join us at native plant nursery Keystone Flora, located in historic Wooden Shoe Hollow, whose greenhouses and truck farms once provided fresh produce to urban Cincinnati. There will be informal tours of the nursery, prairie, bioswale, and some of the properties that have been purchased by the native plant conservationists who are slowly colonizing the neighborhood.

Bring a chair, your favorite beverage and a dish to share. Contact Keystone Flora at 513-961-2727 if you get lost.

**Directions:** From either direction on I-75, take the Mitchell Avenue exit (exit 6). Head north on Mitchell Avenue (left if you were on 75 north; right if you were heading south). Turn left onto Spring Grove Avenue (the first major intersection). Turn right onto Winton Road (at second traffic light). Turn right onto Kings Run (at third traffic light). Turn left onto Winton Ridge (at first intersection). Veer left onto Wooden Shoe Hollow Lane (about 1000 feet from the turn onto Winton Ridge). Follow Wooden Shoe Hollow Lane for 0.3 miles. The lane goes straight, then curves to the right, and goes straight again until it enters a wooded canopy area curving left. The address for Keystone Flora is 5045 Wooden Shoe Hollow Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45232. Google Maps knows the both the name "Keystone Flora" and the above street address.

**Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14, 2026: Weekend Field trip (event times are Central Daylight time!)**

Saturday, June 13 at 10:00am CDT: Hosah Prairie, Lake Co., IL (North of Chicago)

Sunday, June 14 at 9:00am CDT: Chiwaukee Prairie, Kenosha Co., WI

Please join CWFPS and Kathleen Marie Garness on a field trip to Hosah Prairie, (<https://www.illinoisplants.org/hosa-park-a-hidden-jewel-under-threat/>), on Saturday, 6/13/26 at 10am CDT; and then explore Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area, ([Chiwaukee Prairie](#), [Chiwaukee Plant List](#))

On Sunday 6/14/2026 at 9am there's an optional trip to Beulah Bog, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/statenaturalareas/BeulahBog> with leader Angela Carter.

Leader Kathleen is a member of the northeast chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, Science and Conservation affiliate for the Morton Arboretum and the Field Museum, and the natural areas steward for Hosah Park. She has contributed to several publications, exhibited her botanical artwork, and won several awards.

This will be a weekend filled with diversity and rare plants including dwarf birch (*Betula pumila*), rock sandwort (*Sabulina michauxii*), prairie-smoke (*Geum triflorum*), wild calla (*Calla palustris*), and carnivorous plants.

**RSVP** to Angela Carter at 1-513-300-2787 or [OhioWildflowerWanderer@gmail.com](mailto:OhioWildflowerWanderer@gmail.com) who may have ideas on carpooling and accommodation.

**Directions-** Hosah Prairie is approximately 5h 45m from Cincinnati and an hour from Chicago. Plan on bringing water, snacks and a possible lunch each day since we may have additional suggestions for botanical destinations or local dining closer to the date.

Hike Locations- Hosah Park, 100 Shiloh Blvd, Zion, IL 60099

Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area, Al Kampert Trail, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

Beulah Bog State Natural Area, 9192 Stringers Bridge Rd, East Troy, WI 53120

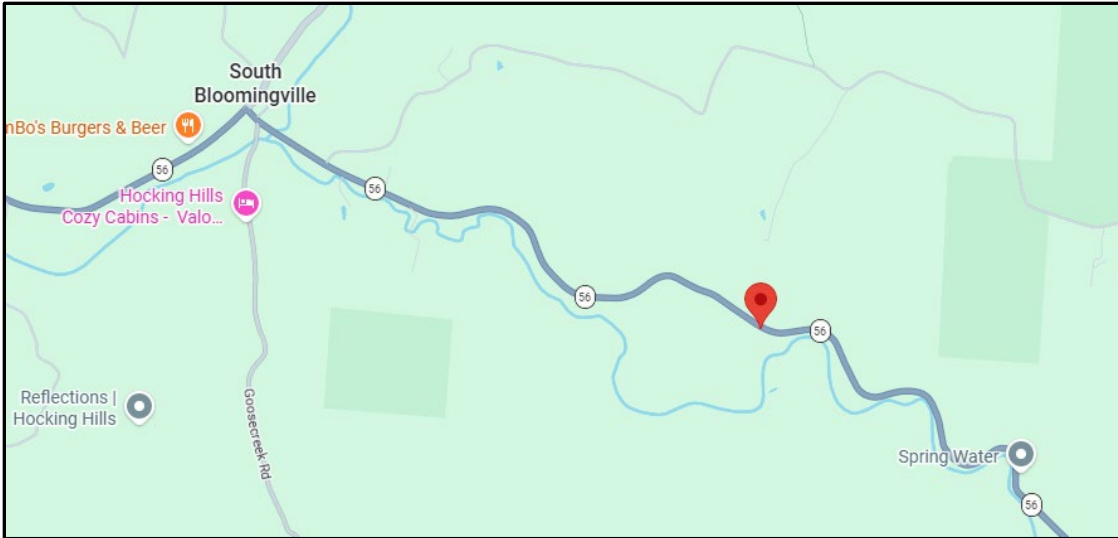
**Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 10:00am: Saturday Field Trip**

*Deep Woods Preserve*, Benton Twp, Hocking Co., OH

Bob Klips will lead our hike into the Deep Woods Preserve in Hocking County. Deep Woods is a privately owned 282-acre nature preserve managed by Deep Woods, Inc. Within Deep Woods is a rich variety of habitats representing many natural communities typical of the Hocking Hills area, including extensive mature oak-hickory forest on ridges and beech-maple-hemlock forest in ravines, along with a narrow riparian forest corridor along the East Fork of Queer Creek. There are also seral stages ranging from mowed fields through weedy "old fields" to young forest, along with microhabitats including ravines with waterfalls and sandstone ledges, some of which include damp recesses rich in bryophytes. This hike will emphasize ferns and bryophytes. Highlights will include seeing the Appalachian shoestring fern (*Vittaria appalachiana*)- a fern that exists only in the gametophyte form- and the globally rare but regionally common sword moss (*Bryoxiphium norvegicum*). We'll keep an eye out for butternut trees, round-leaved catchfly, and cow-wheat.

**Directions:** Car-pooling is encouraged. The entrance to Deep Woods is marked by a sign located on the west side at S.R. 56, 1.5 miles south of South Bloomingville. (As you drive eastward from S. Bloomingville, you will see the small sign and driveway on your right). Turn into the driveway to the grassy area where Bob Klips will be waiting for us.

The address is 24835 OH-56, South Bloomingville, OH 43152. The coordinates are 39°24'34.5"N 82°34'29.8"W. Drive time is approx. 2hr 15min from downtown Cincinnati. (see map on next page)



**Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 10:00am: Sunday Field Trip**

*The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, Fayette Co., KY (in Lexington, KY)*

*“The Weird and the Rare at The Arboretum”*

This quirky walk will focus on a variety of either weird or rare native tree and shrub species at The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. Some are not commonly seen in the region. Others have fun botanical features that help nature-curious participants to remember their identities.

The 100-acre arboretum, located in the middle of Lexington, has an impressive collection. Nearly all of Kentucky’s 120 native tree species are represented, and they are arranged along a two-mile paved path according to the seven physiographic regions of the state. Trees are metal-tagged, geo-located with a GPS device, and have publicly accessible photos on The Arboretum’s website. It’s a one-of-a-kind tree “library” that you can “check out” on June 28.

If the trip is canceled due to weather, information will be posted at <http://Cincywildflower.org> (as is our usual practice)

**Directions:** Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot. The Arboretum is located at University of Kentucky, 500 Alumni Dr, Lexington, KY 40503. Drive time is approx. 1hr 30min from downtown Cincinnati.

More info at <https://arboretum.mgcafe.uky.edu/>

----- July 2026 -----

**Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 10:00am : Saturday Field Trip**

*Mount St. John Nature Preserve at Mount St John Campus (The Preserve is adjacent to the Bergamo Center), Greene County, OH (6 miles east of Dayton, Ohio)*

The Mount St. John Nature Preserve covers more than 100 acres of oak-hickory woodland, natural and created wetlands, restored Eastern tallgrass prairie, and meadow. This diversity supports an impressive variety of plant and animal life, including an estimated 425 plant species, nearly 60 butterflies and more than 100 birds.

The Marianist brothers farmed the land until the mid-1960s. In 1985, Interstate 675 was constructed across the old farm, and 75,000 cubic meters of sand and gravel was excavated from a large borrow pit for the new highway’s substrate. The 17-acre, 40-foot deep pit reached all the way to the groundwater, and was devoid of all soil and vegetation.

The late Don Geiger, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Dayton, led the restoration effort on the prairie that now bears his name. Today this prairie is one of our region's most successful restored prairies, home to a variety of grasses and forbs, wet seeps and a pond. Denis Conover assisted in this restoration and together they co-authored a paper on this work. You can find out more at <https://meec.center/nature-preserve> or see the nice pdf trail guide with good map (showing Parking Lot C) at [https://meec.center/files/attachments/section/Nature\\_Trail\\_Guide.pdf](https://meec.center/files/attachments/section/Nature_Trail_Guide.pdf)

**Directions:** The Mount St John Campus contains several facilities including the Bergamo Center, the Marianist Environmental Education Center and the Nature Preserve. One can drive into the campus either from Shakertown Road or from Patterson Road.

We are meeting at Parking lot C which is the lot closest to the snakelike earthworks and trailhead. Google Maps knows the meeting location as "Parking Lot C, 4435 E Patterson Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45430"

----- August 2026 -----

**Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 10:00am: Saturday Field Trip**

*Base Line Barrens Nature Preserve*, Washington Co., IN

Join INDR botanist Scott Namestnik for a hike through the Base Line Barrens Nature Preserve. This preserve, owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, is situated on a karst sinkhole plain and protects examples of open woodlands and chert barrens, with a glade-like area of exposed limestone bedrock. The barrens are dominated by prairie species on shallow, rocky soil with widely spaced trees, whereas the open woodlands are dominated by post oak and black oak. We will move slowly through the barrens and woodland and should expect to see plant species such as hairy sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*), downy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), scaly blazingstar (*Liatris squarrosa*), pale spiked lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), Appalachian ragwort (*Packera anonyma*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). There are no trails through the preserve, so vegetation will be brushing against your legs throughout the hike. The vegetation may be wet, but the ground will be dry and solid. Terrain is generally flat to slightly rolling. There are no restrooms or water facilities at the preserve. Expect and prepare for ticks to join us on the hike.

**Directions:** Car-pooling is encouraged due to limited parking. The preserve is just north of Fredricksburg, IN, at the intersection of W Bullington Rd & SW Washington School Rd. Park along the underground pipeline right-of-way on the west side of the property, on SW Washington School Road, approximately at 38.465442, -86.207664. Drive time is approx. 2hr 10min from downtown Cincinnati.

**Saturday, August 15, 2026 at 10:00am: Saturday Field Trip**

*Sky Haven Prairie*, Hamilton Co., OH

Bob Myers planted his Sky Haven Prairie in 2015 after a Hamilton County Land Conservancy (Cardinal Conservancy) meeting in Miamitown. At this meeting there was a presentation by Solomon Gamboa showing many examples of Ohio's native prairie plants, and how they can be used in our area to replace traditional lawns. Solomon assisted in planting the first one-acre plot. The first growing season was 2016 and the prairie is now flourishing in its 11th growing season.

**Directions:** The prairie is at 4919 Shepherd Creek Rd, Cincinnati OH 45223. From downtown, take Colerain Ave. north past Mt. Airy Forest, turn right on Shepherd Creek Rd. After 0.8mi turn right onto the private drive. Park at the end of the common drive. Drive time is about 15 minutes from downtown Cincinnati.

**The next Newsletter will be available in September 2026**