

CINCINNATI
WILD FLOWER
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

110 Years
1917-2027



Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society

Founded 1917

Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant
Society

www.cincywildflower.org

Newsletter for September – December 2026

Greetings Wild Flower Friends!

Summer is winding down and fall is almost here. While I certainly enjoy summer's bounty of blooms and the quiet starkness of winter I think my favorite times are spring and fall, when we can watch our local plant communities changing almost daily. In a few weeks the remnants of fall's foliage will be crunching underfoot, and we can refresh ourselves after that walk with fresh-pressed local apple cider. (I'll spare you my unpopular views on pumpkin-pie-spiced-everything.) And the end of summer also brings our new annual events calendar.

Your Board has been hard at work assembling a great lineup of speakers & field trips for the coming year. We made special effort to have more short-drive trips, with visits to Cincy Parks, Great Parks & Cardinal Land Trust properties. But we'll also be visiting our traditional haunts of Adams County and surrounding areas, with Marjie Becus & Ann Geise taking us to Cliff Run in the spring, and Dave Kuehner leading us to Strait Creek & Cedar Bog in the summer. Our fall & winter speaker lineup includes presentations by Carol Mundy, Rick Gardner and "John Uri Lloyd". Check our schedule for the full lineup and mark your calendars!

Fall is also prime honeysuckle-eradication season, and we have several events targeting this invasive. Our two big events at Caesar Creek include lunch afterwards, and our work at Avon Woods not only helps the parks but also gets us free use of the nature center for our meetings. Absent this year is our event at Hazelwood Preserve; we will continue to monitor activity at this site and may return in the future.

There were many interesting field trips last summer, including off-trail hiking in the Deep Woods of Hocking County, The Arboretum in Lexington, and more off-trail exploring through a chert barrens near Fredericksburg, Indiana. The highest-attendance event was our visit to Sky Haven Prairie, a private prairie-creation project near Cincinnati's Mt. Airy Forest.

We also had a public outreach event back in June. The Goshen Branch of the Clermont County Library screened the documentary "A Force for Nature" about the life & work of Dr. E. Lucy Braun. Since Dr. Braun was such a prominent part of our Society, Christine Hadley & I set up a table with Society information, history, etc. Out of the 20 or so nature-active program attendees a grand total of ZERO were aware of our organization's existence or had ever heard of us. This tells me we need to improve public awareness of our group, which I plan to work on in the coming year.

Note that 2027 marks our Society's 110th anniversary. You may also notice a slight tweak to our masthead logo. Many thanks to Ann Geise for updating our logo to reflect that new milestone.

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 lectures.

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 (or at 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

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 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.

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. We also have a Facebook page.

----- September 2026 -----

Friday, September 11, 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.

Saturday, September 19, 10:00am: Saturday Field trip

Shaker Trace Nursery, Miami Whitewater Forest, Hamilton Co., OH

Join us for a tour of the recently renovated Shaker Trace Nursery. Located within Miami Whitewater Forest, this facility produces native seeds and plants for habitat restoration efforts throughout Great Parks of Hamilton County. Established in 1992 and reopened in 2026 following significant renovations, this site is used to cultivate, harvest, and propagate over 200 species of native plants with a special focus on prairie and wetland plants. This tour will explore the nursery's history, its role in regional conservation efforts, and how the nursery is opening its doors to the public like never before to educate and inspire the next generation of native plant enthusiasts.

Group size is limited to 30 due to space constraints within the facility's processing areas. Please RSVP to Mike Jagoditz via email (President@Cincywildflower.org) or text (513-709-0920) before Friday 9/18.

Directions: Shaker Trace Nursery is located at 8667 New Haven Road, Harrison, OH 45030. Most routes including exit #7 from I-74, do not pass through the Parks entrance booths and so avoid the Park day fee. Google Maps knows this location name and address.

Driving time is about 30 minutes from downtown Cincy. If you have RSVP'd, and need detailed driving directions, please contact me. (Or if you are late or lost.)

----- October 2026 -----

Friday, October 9, 2026 at 7:30pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center (Zoom available also)

"Wildflowers in the Woods of Home" by Ed Soldo

Join Ed Soldo as he discusses some of the spring blooming species most familiar to those who live in the northeast and midwest. In a sampling of a world too rarely seen this presentation will touch upon the evolutionary development of our forests and their essential continuity over geologic time.

Ed Soldo taught high school biology and field biology for 30 years. He served as a National Park Service seasonal ranger for 15 seasons in 6 park areas acting as an interpreter/photographer. He worked as adjunct faculty at Miami University for a duration of 25 years. He taught on the Hamilton and Oxford campuses, as well as 21 years at Miami's Geology Field Station in Dubois, Wyoming.

****Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am–noon: Give Back Day, Caesar Creek Nature Center, Warren County, Ohio – Please RSVP if possible!**

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. We will be working in a spectacular area in a beautiful, mature forest overlooking the lake.

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

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

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: The Caesar Creek Nature Center is at 4006 Pioneer Village Road, Waynesville, OH 45068. Drive on past the Nature Center driveway and park at the very end of Pioneer Village Road. (Please note that this event is at the Caesar Creek Nature Center, NOT the Caesar Creek Lake Visitor Center.) 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. Drive on past the Nature Center driveway and park at the very end of Pioneer Village Road. Google maps knows "Caesar Creek Nature Center."

****Sunday, October 25, 9:00 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, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and supporters as we sponsor this volunteer effort in its 18th 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 17 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.

Friday, October 30, 2026 at 10:00am, Friday Field trip

Hilltop Farm Nature Preserve, Dearborn Co., IN

Formerly a family farm, today Hilltop Farm Nature Preserve (owned by Cardinal Land Conservancy) offers a haven for hiking and nature observation. The 1.3-mile Upper Loop trail meanders through a beautiful woodland featuring native trees and shrubs such as Spicebush, Shagbark Hickory, White Oak, and Black Walnut. The 1.6-mile Lower Loop trail encircles a large meadow featuring summer wildflowers that offer an important food source and cover for songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other native insects.

Directions: From Cincinnati travel I-74 West to Indiana. Take the Brookville-Metamora exit (exit 169), turn right onto US-52 (Harrison-Brookville Rd.). After 2 miles turn left on to Stout Rd. The preserve is about a mile up the road on the left side; there will be a small semi-circle gravel parking area. If you pass Kocher Rd. you've gone too far. Address is 28797 Stout Rd, West Harrison, IN 47060.

----- November 2026 -----

Friday, November 13, 2026, at 7:30 pm: Lecture Program, Avon Woods Nature Center

"A Visit from John Uri Lloyd (1849-1936)" by John Uri Lloyd

John Uri Lloyd: renowned scientist and pharmacist; co-founder of famous drug manufacturer Lloyd Brothers, Pharmacists; Professor to the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati. Experience a captivating living history performance by John Uri Lloyd himself, stepping out of the 19th-century lab to share his extraordinary life's work. From his pioneering breakthroughs in plant medicine and the founding of Cincinnati's world-renowned Lloyd Library to his 1895 subterranean sci-fi novel *Etidorhpa*, discover how one of Ohio's greatest polymaths bridged the gap between rigorous science and pure wonder. Professor Lloyd will have a display of pertinent photographs and memorabilia of the Lloyd Brothers and their company.

Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 9:00 am: 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).

----- December 2026 -----

Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 9:00 am: 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 6, 3:00 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. We will traverse 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 our potluck dinner.

Sunday, December 6, 5:00 pm: Potluck Dinner, The Gathering at Northern Hills

Join your fellow Society members & guests for our very popular potluck dinner, followed by our evening program. Please bring a dish to share- appetizer, main, side or desert. Coffee and tea will be provided.

5:15 – Appetizers, wine & fellowship

5:45 – Potluck dinner

Sunday, December 6, 7:00 pm: Lecture Program, The Gathering at Northern Hills

"The Unintended Legacy of Ohio's 18th Century Land Surveyors: Ohio's Frontier Vegetation and Today's Remnants of the Past" by Rick Gardner

Join Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), for an update on ODNR's ongoing project to develop a digital map of the natural vegetation documented in the original land surveys of the Northwest Territory from about 1785-1835, plus a deeper dive on remaining places to see this vegetation in southwest Ohio.

Rick Gardner serves as Chief Botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, where he leads the Ohio Natural Heritage Section in tracking rare plant species and unique plant communities across the state. In this role, Rick oversees vegetation surveys, assists with land protection projects, and provides scientific expertise for habitat restoration and conservation planning. He has spent most of his career with DNAP and previously worked for the Division of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy in Ohio. Rick's research focuses on Ohio's flora, including invasive species, xeric limestone prairies, oak barrens, and rare sedges, and he has authored or co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles. He also serves as a visiting scholar at The Ohio State University Herbarium. Rick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany from Miami University.

The next Newsletter will be available in January 2027