



Friends of Scioto Brush Creek

Helping maintain and improve the water quality of Scioto Brush Creek through education, awareness and the involvement of local residents.

Wild Cats in the Watershed

Coming Events

February 17th

Annual meeting at Union Township Community Center @ 10 a.m.

March 3rd

Chalet Nivale Preserve
Snow Trillium Hike
@ 1 p.m.

March 17th

Adopt-a-highway clean up,
business meeting, potluck
luncheon @ 9 a.m.

April 7st

Gladys Riley Golden Star Lily
Preserve Hike @ 1 p.m.

April 21st

Business meeting & newsletter
mailing @ 10 a.m.

April 2018

Tree City Celebration,
Tracy Park, Portsmouth
Date TBA

May 19th

SBC Sweep Canoe Cleanup
Reservations required
Call 937-544-1010

June 16th

Business Meeting @ 10 a.m.

July 21st

Adopt-a-highway clean up,
Business meeting, newsletter
mailing & potluck luncheon
@ 9 a.m.

August 4th

Lynx Prairie Hike
@ 10 a.m. Meet at Cline Rd.
Parking area

Meeting location at
Otway Community Church
St. Rt. 73, Otway, OH
unless otherwise noted

More and more people are beginning to catch a glimpse of an elusive cat living in the forests of the Scioto Brush Creek watershed. Hunters are capturing video and photos of bobcats on game cameras and some are lucky enough to view the cats while perched high overhead in a tree stand.

If you'd like to learn more about Ohio's bobcat population then please join the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek as we welcome Cheryl Mollohan to be the 2018 annual meeting guest speaker.

Cheryl is a certified wildlife biologist who completed her undergraduate and graduate education in Arizona where she lived and worked for 18 years. While in Arizona Cheryl worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department and helped capture, radio collar, and study Black Bears and Merriam's Wild Turkeys.



Ohio Bobcat fitted with radio collar



Researcher
Cheryl Mollohan

As a student in her first wildlife job in 1979 working on a mule deer and mountain lion study on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, she got to help capture and radio collar a female mountain lion. This experience served only to intensify a lifelong desire to work on wild cats.

Cheryl and her husband moved to SE Ohio in 1995 where they both taught at Hocking College for several years in the Wildlife Resources program. During this time they also researched the Allegheny Woodrat in Ohio which is ongoing.

In 2012 Cheryl left Hocking College to work as a full time volunteer on an Ohio Division of Wildlife Bobcat research project with Dr. Suzie Prange. From 2012 to 2015, 11 different bobcats were captured in Vinton County and fitted with radio collars.

Cheryl will share her experiences tagging bobcats in Ohio while working with the ODNR Division of Wildlife bobcat research project. Her program will focus specifically on female bobcat habitat use and selection during the birth and rearing of kittens. Since Cheryl is passionate about cats, both wild and domestic, she will also cover cat adaptations and the current status of the mountain lion in Ohio.

Please join the FoSBC on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 10 a.m. for our annual meeting held at the Union Township Community Building, next door to the fire department on St. Rt. 73.

Editors note: the previous newsletter's "Mystery Animal" was the bobcat. Have you seen a bobcat or captured a photo of one on your trail cam lately? If you have, the Division of Wildlife wants to hear about it! You can report your bobcat sightings at here: <http://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/speciessighting/>





FoSBC Now a Landowner in the Watershed

Dayton Power and Light company recently deeded two parcels of land in the watershed to the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek. Totalling 335 acres, these parcels were purchased by DP&L as part of a mitigation plan related to the construction of their landfill in Carter Hollow in Sprigg Township, Adams County.

Many coal-fired power plants have installed “scrubbers” on their smokestacks over the past several years. These scrubbers are used to “desulfurize” the flu gas to prevent sulfur dioxide from entering the atmosphere. This is very good news for the environment as sulfur dioxide can cause a number of environmental problems. A byproduct of the desulfurization process is gypsum, an inert substance that can be found in nature and is used to make wall board or “drywall” for the construction business. The gypsum produced by the scrubbing process is occasionally sold to wallboard manufacturers, but it is often produced faster than it can be used. Therefore it has to be land-filled. Thankfully, it could be mined at some time in the future if the demand for gypsum increases.

DP&L needed to build a landfill to hold this gypsum, the construction of which would destroy a certain amount of ephemeral stream (streams that only carry water after a recent rain.) In order to secure the necessary permits to destroy these small waterways, DP&L was required to “mitigate” the damage. In other words, they needed to permanently protect streams elsewhere to make up for the ones lost in the construction of the landfill. They purchased 335 acres, placed permanent conservation easements on the ephemeral streams and then sought an appropriate non-profit environmental organization to which they could transfer the land for ownership. DP&L approached the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek about accepting the land and the Board agreed. Recently, FoSBC finally received title to the land.



Churn Creek

One 128-acre parcel is located on Churn Creek in Jefferson Township and the other parcel of 207 acres is located in Franklin Township in the headwaters of the mainstem. As the new owners, FoSBC is free to do anything it wishes with the property so long as the terms of the conservation easement are not violated. Basically, this involves protecting the small streams on the property from degradation. Prohibitions include channelizing the creek or removing gravel, adding fill, driving vehicles in the creek or cutting trees from the banks, as well as any other action that could degrade the water quality. Most of the property is currently forested with some, not close to the stream, being in agricultural production. Moving forward the FoSBC will decide whether to retain the property, lease it or sell it outright – all of which are permitted so long as the conservation easement is not violated. For now, FoSBC plans to leverage the capital in the property in ways that will result in even greater conservation in the watershed.

Honoring Our Lifetime Members

The Friends of Scioto Brush Creek, Inc. would like to thank the following people for their support by choosing to become lifetime members of the FoSBC. As Mother Teresa once said, *“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”*

Thank you for your lifetime of support.

William and Barbara Burke

Norvel Davis

Martin McAllister and Jody Newton-McAllister

Cynthia McClay

Arch Moore

Jake Orlett

Marsha Phillips and family

Deb and Hans Raidel

Dave and Patsy Todt

Art and Nyla Young

FoSBC sincerely thanks all of our members and volunteers!



Helping maintain and improve the water quality of Scioto Brush Creek through education, awareness and the involvement of local residents.

Snow Trillium Hike at Chalet Nivale

If you have cabin fever by the time March rolls around then come join us as we take a hike to see one of Ohio's earliest blooming wildflowers at the Arc of Appalachia's Chalet Nivale Nature Preserve. The dolomite cliffs and valleys of the preserve are home to the rare and diminutive snow trillium, *Trillium nivale*. *Trillium*, from the Latin *tri*, refers to the flower parts occurring in threes, and *lilium* from the Latin *liliaceous*, refers to the funnel-shaped flower. *Nivale*, from the Latin *nivalis*, pertains to snow, referring to its occasional flowering while there is still snow on the ground.

Arc of Appalachia naturalist Fern Truitt will guide us on a leisurely one mile hike through dolomite outcroppings located in the pristine headwaters of the Scioto Brush Creek watershed in Adams County. The Arc of Appalachia's Chalet Nivale Preserve protects 106 acres of property



that is named after the *Trillium nivale*, snow trillium. This early blooming spring wildflower can indeed be found peeping through a late winter snow.

The hike will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 3rd. Dress for the weather, wear waterproof footwear as we will be walking on rocks to cross a small stream and a hiking stick may be useful. Don't forget your cameras, binoculars and field guides as well. Parking can be found at 1272 Bacon Flat Rd., Peebles, OH 45660. For more information about Chalet Nivale go to <http://arcofappalachia.org/chalet-nivale-preserve/>.



Golden Star Lily Hike at Gladys Riley Preserve

The 186-acre Gladys Riley Golden Star Lily Preserve in Scioto County near the village of Otway, Ohio features three miles of wooded trails and spectacular displays of spring wildflowers, including the endangered Golden Star Lily. The golden star lily grows in significant numbers on the lower run of the Rocky Fork tributary in the Scioto Brush Creek Watershed.

Please join the FoSBC for a guided nature hike led by Arc of Appalachia naturalist Fern Truitt to see the golden star lilies and other spring wildflowers in bloom. We will meet at the preserve parking lot on Tick Ridge-Koenig Hill Rd, Otway, Ohio on Saturday, April 7th at 1 p.m. Wear sturdy footwear and bring your hiking sticks and cameras. The preserve is open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. Trail map and visitor information can be found at www.arcofappalachia.org.



Orchid Hike at Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve

On Saturday, May 12, 2017 from 10:00AM – 12:00 PM come join preserve manager Josh Deemer as he leads a guided hike at Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve to look for native orchids in bloom. Yellow and Pink Lady Slipper as well as showy orchis should be in peak bloom as well as many other spring wild-flowers. For more information you can call (740)-285-5971 or email josh.deemer@dnr.state.oh.us

Special Note: Please dress according to weather. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Total hike distance 3/4 miles. No registration is required. Meet at the main parking lot on Davis Memorial Rd.



Josh Deemer shows visitors a yellow lady slipper in bloom



Showy Orchis



Yellow Lady Slipper Orchid



Pink Lady Slipper

Lynx Prairie Hike



American Bluehearts

If you're interested in prairie wildflowers one of the best places to view them in southern Ohio is the E. Lucy Braun Lynx Prairie Preserve. It is named after legendary botanist Dr. E. Lucy Braun who studied botany and geology. Lynx Prairie and Adams County, OH were among her favorite places to study due to its rich biodiversity of plant life.

Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1967, Lynx Prairie was created to protect the last remaining remnants of a once extensive prairie or cedar barrens ecosystem that could be found in Ohio during a warmer and dryer time period. The bluegrass region of southern Ohio still contains small partials of land which contain grassy areas surrounded by woodlands. Lynx Prairie Preserve is a great example of cedar barren.



Dr. E. Lucy Braun

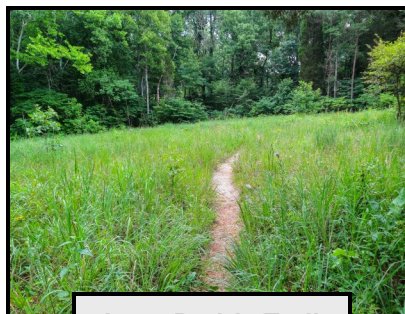
Due to the rareness of the cedar barren habitat in Ohio there are many species of rare, threatened and endangered species of plants growing within them. Join FoSBC member and naturalist Martin McAllister as he leads us on a guided tour of Lynx Prairie on Saturday, August 4th at 10 a.m.. Meet at the Cline Road parking area. Prairies can be quit hot so wear sun protection and comfortable walking shoes. The trail is 1.3 miles long on relatively flat terrain. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged.



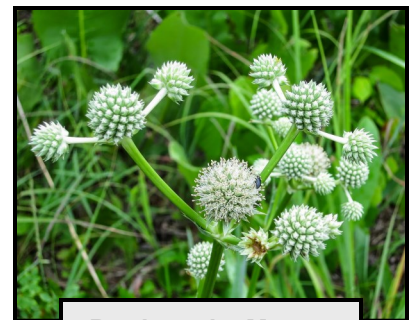
Prairie Dock



Gray-headed Coneflower



Lynx Prairie Trail



Rattlesnake Master

20 Years of Service 1997 –2017

2018 begins a new year and water conservation efforts are needed more than ever. The Friends of Scioto Brush Creek, Inc. hopes you will continue to support our mission to maintain and improve the water quality of Scioto Brush Creek through education, awareness and involvement of local residents. Your membership dues and volunteer hours are important to the future health of the stream and will help the FoSBC to continue to make a positive impact for posterity.

Below is a membership renewal form for your convenience

Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Membership Rates: ☐ \$10.00 Individual/Family ☐ \$25.00 Business

☐ \$250 Lifetime

Additional Donation: _____



Mail form to:
FoSBC
P.O. Box 157
Otway, OH, 45657



Become involved! Join us on Facebook to learn more about the FoSBC's projects and events. Share your photos and Join the Conversation. Learn More About Your Watershed!
www.facebook.com/friendsofsciotobrushcreek