

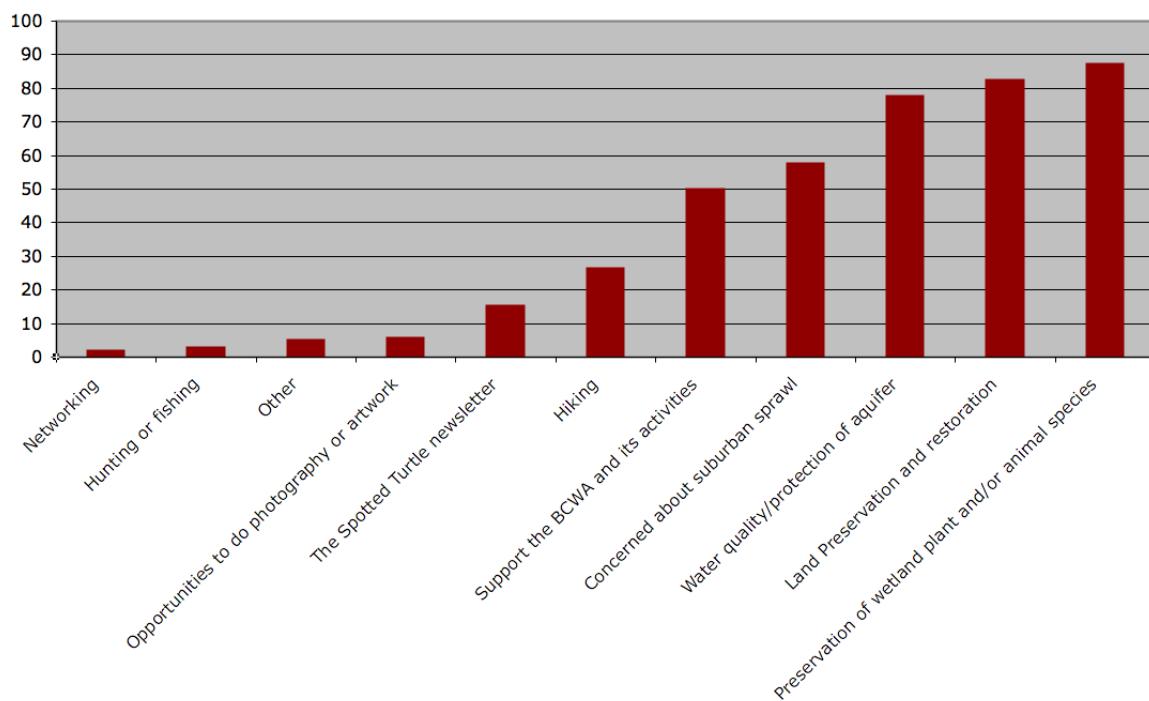
2009 Membership Survey

What follows is all about YOU – the loyal members of Beaver Creek Wetlands Association! This organization relies on your membership renewals, your donations, your volunteered time, and word-of-mouth news about BCWA that you pass on to friends and family. To get to know you better, we sent a survey with your 2009 membership renewal letter. A big “THANK YOU” goes out to all 217 members who responded! That’s an eleven percent response from a mailing of 1980 letters.

210 of you helped to rate the quality of our activities. You gave us good marks for managing wetland areas – 55% excellent; 38% very good; and 6% good – and similar ratings for our protection of wetlands. The number of answers as well as quality ratings declined somewhat for forging community partnerships (43% excellent; 39% very good; 15% good; 2% fair), providing public education (34% excellent; 43% very good; 20% good, 2% fair), and conducting special events (35% excellent, 38% very good, 23% good, 3% fair). Some of you were unaware of our community partnerships, public education programs, and special events; therefore, we will try to communicate more about these activities. We see that there is room for improvement in our outreach efforts.

Every respondent answered the question, “What interested you in joining BCWA?” The majority of your responses were about preservation and protection of wetlands and their inhabitants, and many members expressed concern about suburban sprawl. It’s also good to hear that you want to support BCWA, hike our trails, read our newsletter and take advantage of other activities! The numbers represent the percent of respondents who checked the area of interest, and many people checked more than one area.

Interest Areas in BCWA

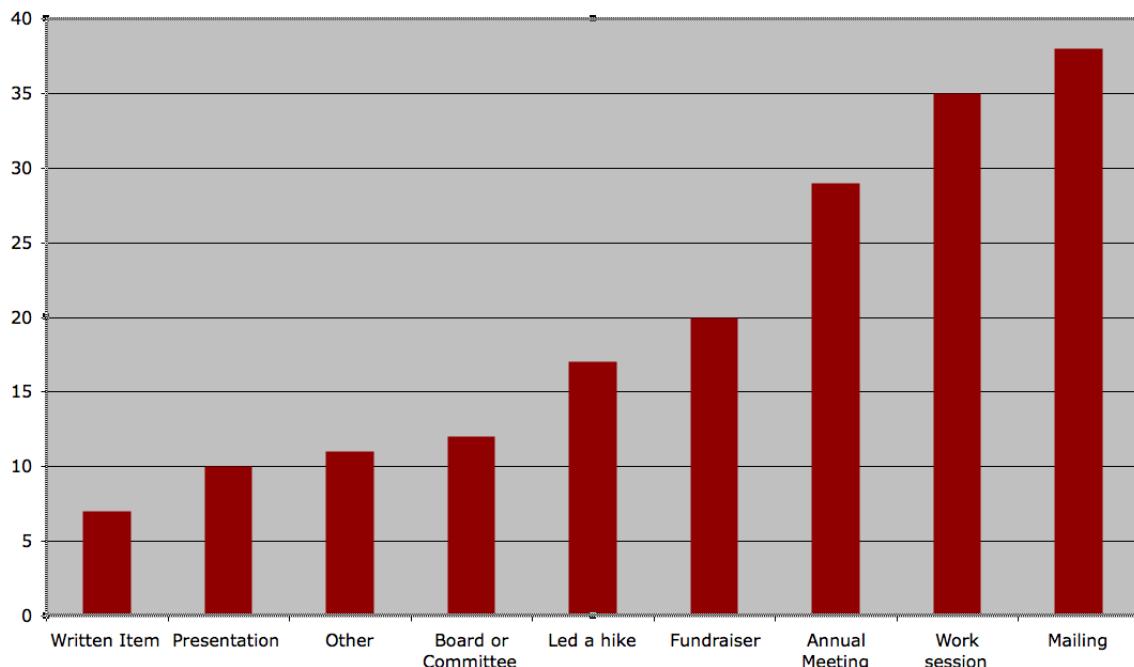


Of 210 people responding to the question about their length of membership in BCWA, 84 were members for *more than 10 years!* The next largest group was 54 members with more than 5 years. 27 members reported 3-5 years, and 27 reported *20 or more years!* The remaining 18 folks were relatively new to BCWA, with membership from less than a year up to 2 years.

We asked about activities with BCWA. A third attended an annual meeting, a quarter reported attending a presentation or activity, and a quarter had a guided visit to the wetlands. Just under a quarter attended a fundraiser, and 4 percent have been to a dedication. Many mentioned volunteer activities, too—the subject of the next question.

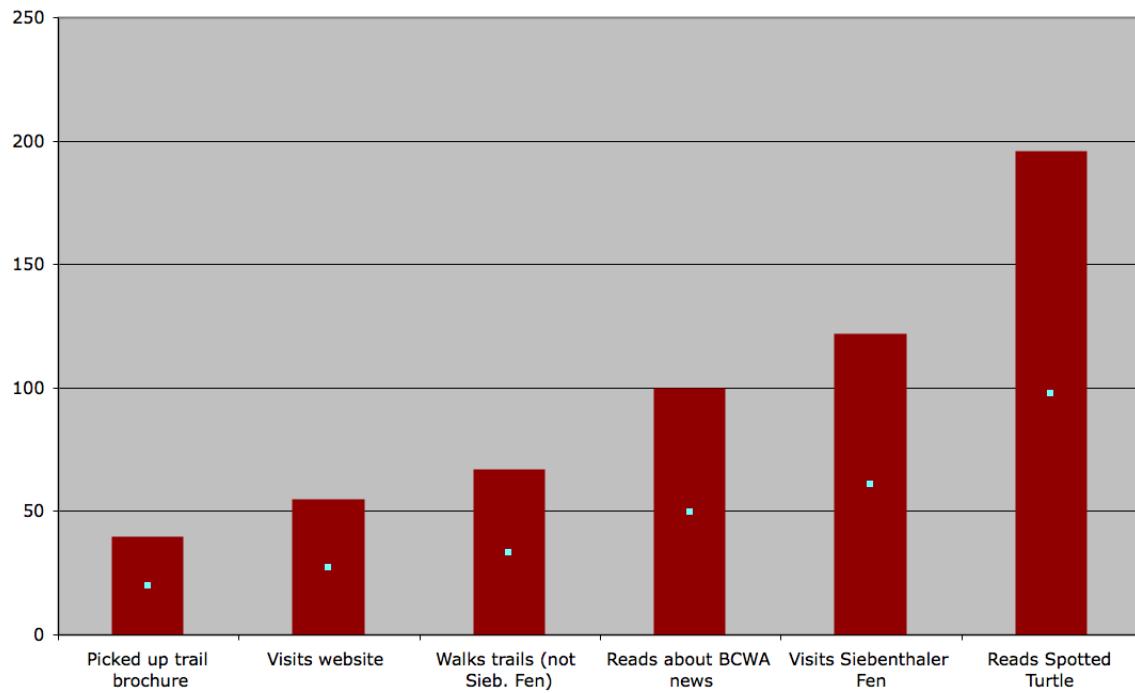
Many of our members are volunteers. The chart shows numbers of people reporting various volunteer activities.

Volunteering for BCWA



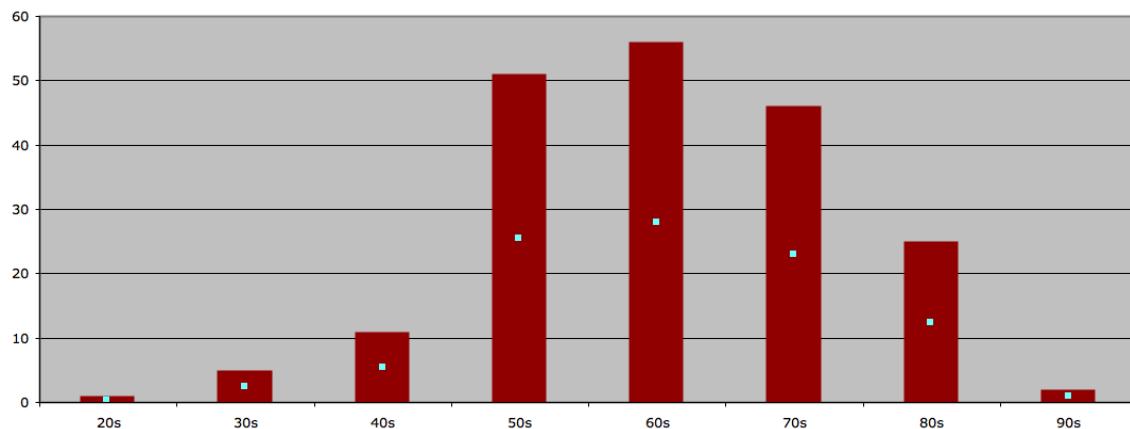
We asked about your visits to our natural areas, as well as your visits to our web site. And we asked whether you read our literature, or news items about us. We are pleased to know that a majority of you read *The Spotted Turtle*!

Knowledge of BCWA

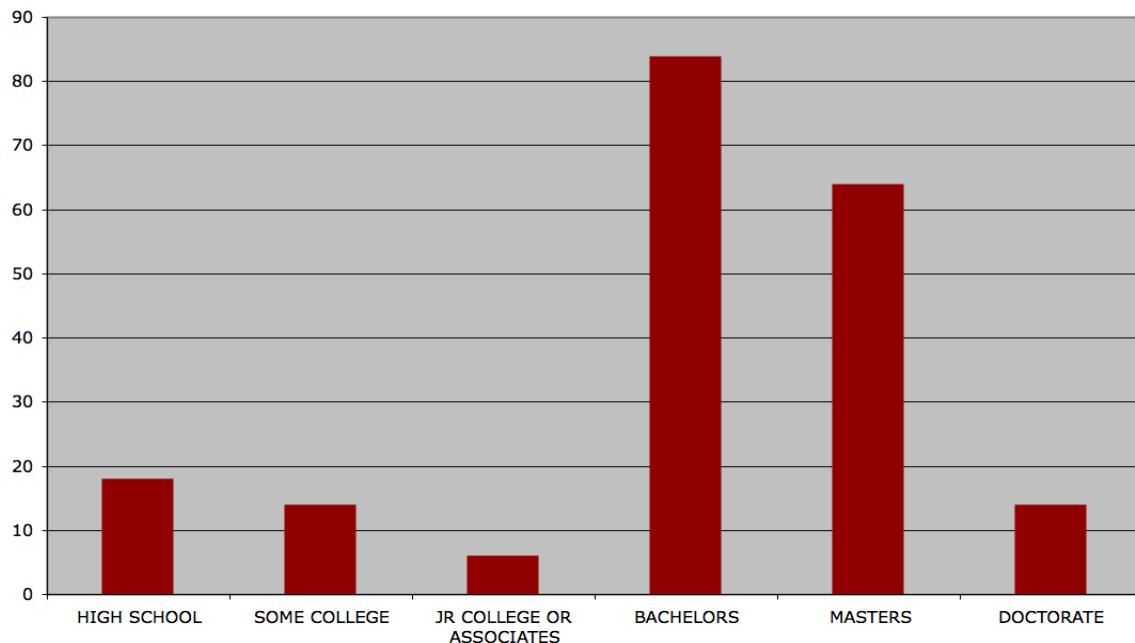


Our demographics questions were optional, but many of you took time to answer. There were 95 female respondents and 105 male respondents. You'll notice from the charts that our membership is mature, and well educated. The majority of our members are from zip codes in Beavercreek, Yellow Springs and Fairborn, but several loyal members are staying in touch from an out-of-state address.

Age of Membership



Education Level



We really enjoyed and appreciated your written remarks, too. Here is a brief selection, but we hope to have all of the survey results posted on our web site in the near future!

Q: What interested you in becoming a member of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association?

- Family has been in this area over 200 years.
- We have it – let's keep it!
- I live on the edge of the wetlands.

Q: I have attended a BCWA activity ...

- My dog Belle and I visit your wetlands several times a week.
- 17 Birdathons - \$2,352.00!

Q: What about the Beaver Creek Wetlands is most important to you?

- It protects our water quality.
- Saving a piece of nature in my backyard.
- I am glad that BCWA exists, to preserve what is left of a fractured ecosystem and to help regenerate it. The function of wetlands in the fresh water cycle is important, and must be maintained.
- Preservation of the land, the splendid boardwalk trail through the Siebenthaler Fen.
- The wetlands provide a high-quality “escape” to nature for me, and it is close to home. I have observed and learned a lot about nature there.
- That it exists and continues to grow.