

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Fall 2011

GREENE COUNTY
CONSERVATIONIST
STRIKES
TWICE

HARVEST AUCTION
MOST
SUCCESSFUL EVER

FARMING
ON THE
EDGE OF
DEVELOPMENT

GLEN HELEN
EASEMENT
IN PROCESS

2012 CALENDAR
OF EVENTS



Kingsley Semler (left) and Jim Semler (right) with red holstein Scarlett. This photo and article by Megan Bachman was originally published on the Yellow Springs News Web site (www.ysnews.com) on August 4, 2011.

DAIRY FARM PRESERVED AS PART OF YELLOW SPRINGS GREENBELT

Since the 1970s the Village of Yellow Springs has had a vision to create a greenbelt around the western edge of town that would protect its drinking water source – the Jacoby Creek. To turn this vision into action the Village established a Green Space Fund to which Village Council contributes money to help preserve key properties from development. This year, that fund was put to good use to help preserve the Semler farm on Snypp Road, which contains the headwaters of the Jacoby Creek.

The Semler farm is one of four remaining dairy farms in Greene County. This 171-acre farm, with lush pasture, rolling hills, woods, and row crops, was purchased in the early 1950s by Paul Semler. It was then farmed by his son, Kingsley, and today is still in production with around 80 cows by Kingsley's son Jim. With many family members still living on the farm, and all having a strong connection to the land the Semler family had a deep desire to see it forever preserved.

In 2007, the family approached TLT about preserving their land. They had a few projects to complete before the

easement could be done, but by 2010 they were ready. TLT staff quickly sprang into action to secure funds from the Village of Yellow Springs Green Space Fund, TLT's own 1% for Green Space Fund which is funded through Yellow Springs merchants, and the Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program funded through the Farm Bill. "Finding a project that meets the goals of all three of these funding sources can be tricky, but this project did and it has been a great success," says Michele Burns TLT Associate Director.

The Village was able to secure its first purchased easement along the Jacoby Creek and the Semlers have been able to reinvest that money into the dairy operation to help ensure its profitability in the long run.

Although some funding sources are currently at risk with the budget cuts to local governments, TLT is hopeful it can still secure a few more projects along the Jacoby Creek. Burns says, "this is an interesting time for land preservation but we are marching ahead to do the best we can with the dollars that are available."

Tecumseh Land Trust

Staff Krista Magaw, *Executive Director*
krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org

Michele Burns, *Associate Director*
burns@tecumsehlandtrust.org

Cathy Holcomb, *Office Manager*
cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org

Stewardship Team

Douglas Bailey, *Documentation*
George Bieri, *Monitoring*
Mike Haubner, *Monitoring*
Ben Silliman, *Monitoring*

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Newsletter

Evelyn LaMers

VOLUNTEER BRINGS TALENT TO LAND PRESERVATION & AUCTION

Linda Parsons has always had a deep connection to the land. A native of Colorado, Linda is happiest riding her horse in a beautiful natural place. So, when Linda moved to Clifton three years ago, what better way to learn and connect to her new home than to join Tecumseh Land Trust? The first TLT event Linda attended was the Harvest auction. She appreciated the unique items and experiences offered there and volunteered to help find and create items for the next year's auction.

After a job for the 2010 census allowed Linda to meet many rural Miami Township residents and learn more about the history of this place and its people, she was also recruited for the TLT Land Preservation Committee. Recently Linda has taken on a new mission for the committee – designing and marketing a program for conservation



Linda Parsons on her horse, Ugs.

buyers. You can reach Linda through the TLT office (767-9490) to find out more about the program.

100% FOR 1% - PRESERVING GREEN SPACE IN MIAMI TOWNSHIP

One hundred businesses. I counted. I have called on 100 Yellow Springs businesses since 2005, the year I began preparing TLT's 1% for Green Space program. Some I visited a dozen times or more. 1% for Green Space raises funds dedicated to preserving the glorious greenbelt around Yellow Springs.

I learned a lot about patience. I learned how difficult running a small business is and how owners often want to help but are struggling in challenging conditions.

Nearly half the businesses I visited signed up and 1% got up and running in 2006, raising now over \$40,000, a penny-to-the-dollar at a time. Now we're embarking on our eighth year, wonderfully supported by village businesses and with plans afoot to streamline operations and improve outreach.



Bob Barcus, 1% Program Manager.

At times I've felt a bit like Don Quixote or Captain Ahab, men obsessed by a dream. But ultimately I'm Bob (Action Man's the nom de guerre): Grateful to be 100% for 1%.



Rick Miller, farmer and preservationist.

FARMING ON THE URBAN EDGE WHILE PRESERVING LAND

Rick Miller got his first job, working for a Bellbrook area farmer, at 14. He is still farming today and plans to keep at it, as does his son. Rick, like many area farmers, owns some farmland, but rents even more – most of it on the urban edge in Beavercreek and Xenia townships. Does he see a future for farming here, even with sprawling residential and commercial development continuing in western Greene County? Miller says “ Yes, farming will remain viable here as long as we preserve enough farmland.”

Rick is no stranger to farmland preservation, having first heard of the concept almost 20 years ago at a meeting at the Greene County Fairgrounds, sponsored by OSU Extension agent Jerry Mahan. When landowner Janette Knick was considering the possibilities for preserving her family farm in Xenia Township, Miller suggested she find out more from Julia Cady, an active volunteer with Tecumseh Land Trust and a landowner with a permanent conservation easement on her own family farm. Julia was the perfect person to talk to the Knick sisters about how Tecumseh Land Trust uses easements to preserve prime farmland in Greene and

Clark Counties. Many years after the Knick easement was completed, Rick and Barbara Miller purchased the 294 acre preserved property.

This year the Millers added even more conservation protection to an 80 acre wetland on the property by selling it to Little Miami Inc. TLT’s original easement on the property did not allow for breaking up the farm for the purpose of selling separate parcels, but TLT’s board was willing to amend the easement to allow a sale that would achieve this higher level of conservation. It would remain under easement, but LMI would take the 80 acres out of cultivation and plant it with native wetland plants.

The Millers rolled the money from the sale into the purchase of a well-drained neighboring farm. Interestingly, the farm they purchased had been platted for development! The Millers have no plan to sell for development, however. Says Rick, “We’ve seen a lot of people sell for big money and then live to regret it. They have enough money to build a big new house, but then they complain about the neighbors, noise, and trash and how it’s not like home anymore.”



TLT Farm Market

Give the gift of land preservation!

TLT’s alternative gifts offer a “one-size fits all” answer to your holiday gift giving. Every dollar you spend in our store goes directly to farmland preservation in Clark and Greene Counties.

On Sale Now

- Gift Memberships
- Preserve-an-Acre Certificates
- Polo Shirts
- Hats
- Bumper Stickers
- Shopping Bags
- Will Allen’s Food Power Keynote Address DVD
- Whitehall Farm auction 10th Anniversary Book & DVD
- Preserving Family Lands by Stephen Small

www.tecumsehlandtrust.org

follow the farm market link
or

call the TLT office

937-767-9490.



The Future For Farm Preservation Funding

Good farmland is one of the best investments available for Ohio and for our nation. It's critical to let state and federal legislators know NOW about the importance of the two conservation-funding programs that make a huge impact on Ohio.

Farm and Ranchland Protection

Please take a minute to let our federal legislators know that full funding of the Farm Bill's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) is critical to the future of conservation farming in Ohio and the nation. Senators can be reached by mail at:

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Brown can also be reached at (202)224-2315 or www.brown.senate.gov/contact. Senator Portman can also be reached at: (202)-224-3353 or www.portman.senate.gov/public/index. Find your US Representative through www.house.gov. The mailing address for all representatives is:

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Clean Ohio

Let your state representative know how important it is to include Clean Ohio bonds in a capital bill this fall or in early 2012. The Clean Ohio "green side" bonds (for farmland and open space conservation and trails) must originate in the House. Your Ohio Representative can be located through www.house.state.oh.us. Their mailing address is:

77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6111



First ever Greater Dayton Area Local Foods Summit.

POWER OF FOOD STRENGTHENS LOCAL GROWERS & COMMUNITIES

In November, the Tecumseh Land Trust convened *Food Power: How Local Growers Can Change the Economy & the Way We Eat*. The day-long summit held at Fairborn High School was attended by more than 200 farmers, food distributors, policymakers, and students from across Ohio.

The summit featured keynote speaker Will Allen. Allen excited the audience with an impassioned call-to-action emphasizing the need for communities to build sustainable food systems that are equitable and ecologically sound, in order to create a just world where everyone may access healthy food.

For many involved in the local food movement, Allen's Growing Power is unrivalled. At their headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thousands of pounds of sprouts are grown for snacks at grade schools. Many types of fish, as well as nearly every variety of vegetable imaginable, are distributed throughout the area year-round. By providing locally-grown food, Growing Power provides jobs as well as good access to healthy food. They have been an asset to every community in which they work starting in Milwaukee and Chicago and now reaching even Kenya and Rwanda.



Will Allen, founder of urban agricultural organization Growing Power.

Other speakers shared perspectives on, and resources for, distribution systems and community gardens. Chuck Dillbone, business manager for the Granville City Schools, worked with a food service vendor to source locally. This process, he added, makes meals that 50% more students are eating.

Sponsoring organizations

Greater Dayton Conservation Fund of The Dayton Foundation, Antioch University Midwest, Clark County OSU Extension, Fairborn High School, Five Rivers Metroparks, and The Ohio State University Center for Farmland Policy Innovation.



View of the 99 acre Betty Shank Farm in Mad River Township, Clark County

SHANK FARM EASEMENT ADDS TO KEY PRESERVATION AREA

Landowner Betty Shank is one of the most recent landowners to protect her property through an easement with Tecumseh Land Trust. Her 99 acre farm off Rebert Pike adds to an almost contiguous 1200 acres of TLT permanently preserved farm land.

The Shank family bought what is known as the Taylor farm in 2000. Betty recalls the purchase as a sentimental buy for her late husband Raymond, who had his eye on the property for a number of years.

Betty had heard about Tecumseh Land Trust over time. Her friend since grade school, Julia Cady, a TLT volunteer, helped Betty get involved in preservation of her own land. Originally Betty wasn't so sure about the idea of a conservation easement, but as she got older, she decided that it was the thing to do.

The actual process of getting the easement funded and completed took a few years, including garnering the support of Mad River Township. The township has worked for many years to preserve its rural nature including instituting a new rural zoning code and, in 2009 began dedicating \$10,000 a year to farmland preservation.

Betty says Julia and TLT “made the process very easy and pushed when I needed to be pushed” to meet the timelines of the Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP). FRPP which funded the majority of the easement along with the donation the township gave to TLT.

Very few structural or landscaping changes have been made to this farm since the Shanks purchased it. It is mostly tillable land, with no farm buildings.

The Shanks' two sons farm their family properties as well as other rented acreage. Betty says it is becoming harder and harder to come by enough rented farm ground to make a living. They purchased this farm to increase the land security of their farming operation.

At this point, Betty says she is leaving the farming operation, research, decision making, and credit to the next generation: her grown children Peggy, Michael, and Gary.

Betty adds, “an 86 year old widow has no business on the farm,” but she remains involved in the basics on her homestead – weeding, trimming, and doing a little gardening of her own.



Calendar of Events

January 21, 10am-12pm
Volunteer Orientation

Whitehall Farm
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Learn more about TLT and how to get involved with our organization.

March 4, 2-4pm
Sugar Shack Open House

Flying Mouse Farms
100 E. Fairfield Pk.
Yellow Springs, OH

Join us for an afternoon of maple syrup production (weather dependent) and tour of this organic farm. Dress in warm clothes suitable for muddy, cold conditions.

March 12, Time TBA
Midwestern Classics

Meadowlark Restaurant
5531 Fall Hills Ave.
Dayton, OH

There's nothing like classic mid-west food to warm you up on a cold March evening. Join us for this great new fundraiser at the Meadowlark's new location. Reservations required.

May 15, 6-9pm
Spring into Seasons

Seasons Bistro & Grille
28 S. Limestone St.
Springfield, OH

Enjoy an evening at Seasons Bistro with live music and hearty appetizers made from local food all to benefit TLT.

June 3, 2-4pm
Annual Meeting

Glen Helen
Business meeting & walk

Visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org for more information or to register for any of these events.



TLT board member and farmer, Jim Clem giving a combine ride to winning auction bidder Tom LaMers.

HARVEST AUCTION BRINGS TOGETHER TOWN & COUNTRY

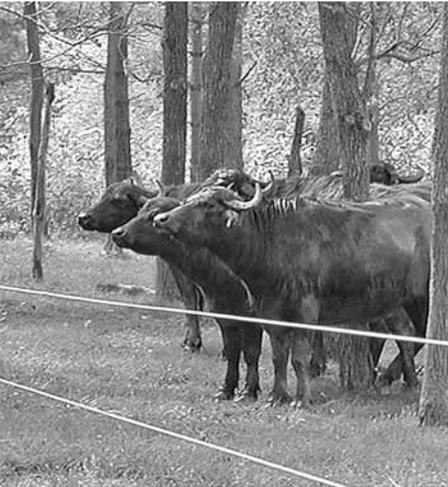
More than 200 people attended TLT's 2011 Harvest Auction fundraiser held at the new Hollenbeck Bayley Conference Center in Springfield. Once again, Current Cuisine catered a unique selection of food that was enjoyed by attendees, while the local band "Wildwater" provided music.

Auctioneer Mike Brown, from Jamestown kept the audience entertained and competitively bidding throughout the live auction. What sets this event apart

from others is the offering of many items for auction that are one of a kind, whimsical, practical, useful, or in some instances, simply a lot of fun.

The Land Trust made over \$28,000 at this year's event - our major fundraiser. Many who attended, however, also felt it was one of the major parties of the season. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers, staff, sponsors and donors who contributed to making this year's event so successful.

FARM TOURS CONNECT US TO THE LAND



Water buffalo at New Liberty Farm in Mad River Township, Clark County.

TLT's annual farm tours were held on September 17 and 18 in conjunction with the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's annual tour series. Flying Mouse Farms in Yellow Springs had about 30 visitors, who enjoyed a short tour of this 24-acre, certified organic farm.

Visitors to Four Sisters Farm in Clark County, which raises a wide variety of vegetables for sale at the Springfield Farmers Market and through a Community Supported Agriculture(CSA) system, included

the mother of a local professor visiting from China.

At New Liberty Farm north of Yellow Springs, owners Kat Krehbiel and Richard Taylor showcased their water buffalo, chicken, pig and turkey-raising operation.

Capturing the day's spirit, Flying Mouse owners Michele Burns and John DeWine said, "We love participating because it gives us a chance to share what we're doing here to help feed our family and neighbors."

TLT INTERNS BRING ENERGY!



TLT interns (from left to right) James Russell, Antioch College, John Gruber and El Aldridge, Wittenberg University

TLT staff and volunteers are enjoying the help and fresh observations of four Wittenberg University interns at present, as well as one of the new Antioch College Miller Fellows.

"I'm passionate about my work at Tecumseh Land Trust because it is dedicated to preserving natural resources in a way that also helps land owners!" says John Gruber, Wittenberg senior. "The Land Trust's use of easements provides an economically viable model of conservation."

Ed Aldrich, also a Wittenberg senior, says "TLT has a mission that I can proudly stand behind! I'm learning and making a positive difference!"

Miller Fellow James Russell, from Houston, says, "As a city boy, working out of my element here is at once challenging and rewarding."

Our other two interns from Wittenberg this semester are Emily Spellmire and Mo Zajak.



Gene Kavanaugh(left) with Former Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Robert Boggs.

GENE KAVANAGH PRESERVES FARM AND NATURE

The late Eugene Kavanaugh, born and raised in rural Ross County, spent his life as an educator, seldom very far from the fields and woods he loved. A former school teacher and retired Superintendent of Schools in Greene County, Kavanaugh left a legacy that will go on serving children for many years to come.

The 77-acre Eugene and Dorothy Kavanaugh Wildlife Farm, already a working farm, is currently under development as a wildlife sanctuary as well. Scheduled to open next spring, it will offer area school children tours of the farm and woods in horse-drawn buggies, driven by volunteers who will help children “see” the land.

Longtime friend, neighbor, and now manager of the new wildlife farm Nova Brown finds herself busy seven days a week. Feeding stations and a new pond to lure wildlife back to the farm, as well as trails for the buggies are all in the works.

The large barn, which will house the four teams of draft horses is almost complete. “The horses are certainly going to live in comfort,” Brown says, laughing. The roomy stalls are complete with elegant feeding stations,



Nova Brown, Manager of new wildlife farm.

padded stall mats, heated water for freezing days, and fans for hot days.

“Gene wanted to show children that there’s something other than concrete and pavement,” Brown says. “You’d be amazed how many of them living in nearby towns and cities don’t know anything about country life—can’t even recognize a pig.”

Plans are to keep the property completely natural, according to Brown. Kavanaugh’s 1,000-acre home farm, protected by a TLT conservation easement, is adjacent to the new center. “He was very definite about what he wanted,” she says. “So, the protections for all this land are written in stone.”



Endow Your Passion

What motivates people to make a planned gift? TLT Director Krista Magaw, Assistant Director Michele Burns, Office Manager Cathy Holcomb and TLT board member Susan Miller visited Western Reserve Land Conservancy in Cleveland in September to find an answer to this and other questions.

Finding a donor’s passion is key, according to Krista. Donors’ passions can be eclectic and run the gamut from wanting to endow educational efforts to focusing on benefitting certain geographical regions. Planned giving fulfills interested donors’ impulses to protect land for the future health of an area’s water and soil.

Stories of people who made a planned gift to Western Reserve revealed their ties to the organization and highlighted how donors are often beneficiaries as well through evolving relationships with a land trust.

Though donors of planned gifts don’t always tell organizations of their intention to leave a bequest, doing so can ensure that their vision will be faithfully carried out.

Krista invites anyone who has a passion for the land and an idea for a project they would like to fund to call her at the TLT office anytime. She looks forward to talking with you, perhaps during a walk on a nice sunny afternoon!



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Fall 2011 Newsletter



Waterfall at 1000 acre Glen Helen Nature Preserve

PROTECTING GLEN HELEN

Many people in the greater Dayton area are bonded with Glen Helen. With year-round public access to Antioch College's thousand acre nature preserve, memories of family hikes, Ecocamp overnights, weddings, and bird walks are a staple of life here.

The leadership of Tecumseh Land Trust and Antioch College are not, however, taking the Glen for granted. They are working, along with The Trust for Public Land and the Ohio EPA to make sure that the Glen's natu-

ral beauty and biological diversity, as well as, the clean water resource of the Little Miami River, remain forever protected with a conservation easement and a permanent clean water covenant.

"There's no place like home," reflects TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw, "We're not taking the nature preserve in our own back yard for granted! Visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org to learn about a series of walks and talks designed to celebrate Glen Helen and the natural world during 2012."

Tecumseh Land Trust

Founded in 1990, we are a private non-profit conservation organization serving Clark and Greene Counties and surrounding areas. Our mission is to preserve agricultural lands, natural lands, water resources, and historic sites in voluntary cooperation with landowners, and to educate the public about permanent land preservation.

How Can You Help?

Become a Member!

TLT is a member-based organization. We rely on our members to support our daily operations -- making us available to consult with landowners.

Give to Our Endowments

Make a Planned Gift

Preserve a Property

Find out more about easement programs and how they might work for you.

Contact our office at 767-9490