JULIA CADY SOCIETY DONORS WILL TOUR JULIA’S FAMILY FARM

“It was my privilege to be trained, as the first executive director of Tecumseh Land Trust, by Julia Cady,” says Executive Director Krista Magaw. “Julia’s skills are wide ranging and her perseverance and patience are an inspiration to me. But one of the unique gifts she brought to the land trust’s work was her relationship to her family farm. That relationship changed the land trust’s perspective in several important ways,” remembers Magaw.

Neighbors know Julia and her family, and many knew her father, Folger Howell, for whom the farm is named. Although Julia grew up on the farm, she has lived off farm as an adult. Yet over the years, she has remained involved with the neighbors and the farm community. She understands and respects landowners and appreciates the difficulty of the decisions they must make about management of and planning for their land.

Julia also understands a stewardship ethic among farmers that was new to some early TLT supporters. The grassy creek banks, streamside forests, woodlots, and historic Farm structures are all part of farms. Her knowledge opened the door to a different type of conservation easement, one that allows for the real economic enterprise of farming, alongside historic preservation, and the conservation of water resources, native species, and prime soils.

Julia and her two siblings donated an easement on their 450 acre farm in south central Clark County in 1995. They made this decision after much study of their estate planning and preservation options. Their decision, to preserve the entire farm intact, and then to create a family partnership to manage the farm, reflected their respect for the history of the farm itself and for the well being of the larger landscape and environment of which it is a part.

What better place for our Julia Cady Society members (donors who give $500 or more annually to TLT operating support or $10,000 over their lifetime) to gather this year than at the Folger Howell Farm? The Epiel House, featured in our Spring 2010 newsletter will be a part of the traditional farm walk for the Society members. This event is on June 26th at 4pm. Above - 3 generations of the Howell family.
FIRST GENERATION FARMER JOINS TLT BOARD

We are pleased to announce that Jim Clem has joined our board of trustees. Although, no one in his family ever had a connection to agriculture, Jim said, "I liked the land and machinery, and someday being my own boss." After graduating from the Agricultural Technical Institute in 1979 Jim began farming “against family wishes and most advice.” Although he had full-time job commitments, he continued to farm part time until 1988. By then he had rented enough land to allow him to become a full-time farmer.

In 2007, Jim’s son, Brian, a graduate of Diesel Mechanics College, joined the family business and Jim added more acres to his operation. Among the properties they farm are Whitehall farm and Folger Howell farm.

Because these two farms are protected by TLT conservation easements, he feels comfortable with doing long-term planning.

Jim believes that all working farmers would profit by becoming members of the land trust and learning how they could benefit from TLT’s successful farmland preservation program.

GROWERS EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH COMMUNITY

New this season, the Grower’s Exchange creates a way for seasoned growers to share expertise with novice gardeners about how to grow healthy food. The idea for the Grower’s Exchange began this past winter at a gathering between local farmers and organizers of the Yellow Springs neighborhood garden plots. The project is a collaboration between the growers and organizers, with support from Community Solutions and Tecumseh Land Trust.

On every second Saturday, from 2:00-5:00 pm throughout the growing season (April-November), different local farms will host a workshop ranging in topic from mushroom inoculation, soil building, no-till gardening, heritage livestock management, barn building, to extending and preserving the harvest. In exchange, the farmers will receive volunteer labor for the afternoon when they host a learning session. For more information and to register for these free workshops, call Jenny Haack at 937-322-7450 or email her at haack@gmail.com.
CAESARSCREEK FARM PRESERVED THROUGH UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

Tracy Young describes his farm as the most beautiful farm in Greene County, saying “it has a spring fed creek, Caesar Creek, tillable land, woods, it has everything.” The property also has a rich history, including “Breakfast Rock” listed in the Ohio Historic Registry as the place where Daniel Dean, one of Xenia’s early settlers, ate breakfast. As a horse trainer, Tracy has raised and boarded horses here as well as grown alfalfa and hay. “I just always hated the thought of seeing it developed; there is a tremendous amount of wildlife.”

Tracy approached the Tecumseh Land Trust in 2002 about protecting his land, but at that time no funding was available that fit his farm. In 2009, the time was right for Tracy because the Clean Ohio Open Space Fund was available. TLT was planning to apply to the program for Tracy, when Krista Magaw, director of the Land Trust, talked to Chrisbell Bednar, director of the Greene County Park District. As it turned out, the Park District was interested in adding Tracy’s property to an adjacent park. The two organizations and Tracy agreed that it would be a better fit for the land to be preserved through the Park District. “This was the first time our organizations partnered on a project like this,” says Magaw.

The farm was purchased by the Park District with the help of the Clean Ohio Open Space Fund in November 2010. “It looked like it wasn’t going to work out, due to limited funding for the program, but everything came together and it was a win-win situation” says Tracy.

Tracy now plans to move to Florida and will continue teaching classes on how to train horses. He says the land will be used for horse trails, possibly including overnight camping sites, “I got to enjoy this beautiful place for 15 years, now everyone will enjoy it.”

Selling Mineral Rights?
Dig Below the Surface

Recent interest in Ohio by mining companies has many local landowners considering leasing mineral rights. Before you do, consider the following:

- Obtain legal council to fully understand and negotiate your lease to protect you and your property.
- Several fact sheets are available from OSU Extension and Ohio Farm Bureau.
- Hydraulic fracturing involves injecting large amounts of fresh water, sand and chemicals into the earth to release natural gases.
- Hydraulic fracturing has been around since the 1940s, but high volume (slick water) hydraulic fracturing has only recently been developed. The impacts have not been studied thoroughly.
- As drills extend deeper into the earth, they can release naturally occurring pockets of methane, uranium, and other chemicals, that may cause environmental hazards and damages to the health of your family, livestock or crops.
- While leases may appear to last for a few years, terms can be automatically extended under many circumstances, even without your approval.
- Successful mining in this area has not yet been established, you may incur property damage with little reimbursement.
- Contact our office for more information.
New River Keepers Group Protects Little Miami

Steve Knopp and I are neighbors who often see each other enjoying the Little Miami River. When he asked me to join him in starting a volunteer group to help keep the river clean, I jumped at the idea because the Little Miami River is a tremendous recreational asset to Greene County.

We asked friends, Sugarcreek Township officials, local park districts, and others, to join the effort and organized a cleanup day in 2010 for Sugarcreek Township’s section. We took nearly 1000 pounds of shoes, bottles, cans, tires, pipes, TVs, plastic, styrofoam and even a washing machine from the Little Miami River that day.

We realized there was still more, and what ended up in Sugarcreek Township washed downstream, especially in high water! We dream of a clean and totally navigable river.

With the help of groups like TLT, we are organizing a total river cleanup for July 9, 2011.

We need volunteers to clean 2-3 mile sections from John Bryan State Park to Fort Ancient on July 9. Please visit our website www.lmriverkeepers.org. Email lmriverkeepers@yahoo.com to join this collaborative effort. See you July 9th!

- Hope Taft
former First Lady of Ohio

TLT MAKES DREAM COME TRUE

On November 4, 2010, a dream came true for Barbara McNally. She signed an easement that day to permanently preserve the 150 acre farm that had been in her family since her great, great grandfather purchased it in 1843. When Barbara and her brother inherited the land they didn’t see eye to eye about what to do with it. She went to Tecumseh Land Trust to learn more about her options. She learned that the farm’s stretch of the Lisbon Fork, its hydric soils, 33 acres of woods, and prime crop ground made the property a candidate for a combination of conservation funding – the Clean Ohio Open Space program and the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

Barbara took out a loan to buy her brother’s share of the property and worked closely with the land trust to make applications to the programs. Barbara says she wanted to preserve the farm because “there is so much development on farmland right now.” This land is particularly important to her because her grandmother and her children grew up here. Now that the easement is on the land, Barbara says “I can’t explain the feeling you get knowing your land is saved forever.”

CLEAN OHIO HELPS PRESERVE CAESAR CREEK HEADWATERS

At the end of 2010, John and Kathy Saunders finalized the first TLT-assisted easement in Caesarscreek Township, preserving their 117 acres from encroaching residential development. “Tecumseh Land Trust is an excellent program,” said John. “If you’re interested, don’t put it off. It’s a long process.”

In the Saunders’ case, it took three and a half years to finalize the easement with the help of the Clean Ohio Open Space Fund and Farm and Ranch Protection Program. “I didn’t want to see it all grown up in houses. I’ve farmed all my life, farming is my life.” That legacy can now continue unabated into the future.
BEST FARMING PRACTICES PROTECT WATER

The corn and bean stubble left in Southwest Ohio farm fields has become a familiar sight, evidence of "No Till" farming practices, implemented to reduce soil erosion. Success of the practice is especially evident in the high waters of spring when far less topsoil makes its way into our streams, heading toward the Gulf of Mexico.

But do the efforts of conscientious farmers, OSU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation districts and Tecumseh Land Trust really do anything to protect the water itself from the nutrient and chemical run-off of fertilizers and herbicides? There is very good evidence that they do!

In Yellow Springs, two recent studies have shown water quality to be high.

One, developed by Ellis Jacobs and supported by the Village of Yellow Springs, evaluated the village water supply for a wider variety of herbicides than that mandated and conducted by the Environmental Protective Agency. Tests run each week from the end of April through early June showed safe or undetectable levels of every chemical tested for.

The other study, conducted by TLT volunteers during 2006 and 2007, and supported by the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, found low levels of nitrogen and phosphates, evidence of well managed nutrient application, in Jacoby Creek. They also found an abundance of macro invertebrates – May Flies and other wiggles – in the creek, another sign of good stream health!

An additional benefit of current TLT farm easements is the requirement to use a "Whole Farm Conservation Plan." Nutrient management is an important part of every plan.

June 5, 2-4pm
21st Annual Meeting
Vanderglas Farm
6187 Garrison Road
Enon, Ohio
Join us for our annual member meeting and property walk on a diverse protected farm. Refreshments provided.

June 18, 8am
Athens Local Food Trip
Snowville Creamery, Farmers’ Market, Village Bakery, ACEnet
Spend the day with TLT touring local foods related businesses in Athens, Ohio. Reservations required.

June 26, 4pm
Julia Cady Society Dinner
Folger Howell Farm
2825 Collier Road
Yellow Springs, OH
Our major donor celebration at the home farm of Julia Cady will include a farm walk and picnic dinner.

July 9, 8:30am-12:30pm
Little Miami River Cleanup
Location TBA
Be a part of this major Little Miami River clean up. Sign up with Krista, krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org

July 22, 10am
Local Foods Tour-Urbana
Join us for a visit to Michael’s Vegetable Farm and Freshwater Farms in Urbana. Meet at the Bryan Center parking lot at 10am. Bring a sack lunch.

August 1, 5, 5:30, 7:30, 8pm
Local Foods Dinner
The Winds Cafe
Yellow Springs, OH
Enjoy a five course meal made from locally grown ingredients and dine with the farmers who grew it. Reservations required; seating is limited.

August 6, Time TBA
Wilmington Local Food Trip
Wilmington is emerging as a leader in local food based economic development. Join us for a tour of several local food operations.

September 17 & 18
Local Farm Tours
On Sept. 17 at 5pm, tour Four Sisters Farm. This family farm operation and CSA is permanently preserved with a TLT easement. On Sept. 18, tour Flying Mouse Farms’ certified organic vegetable and fruit operation at 1pm or 3pm. New Liberty Farms will open at 11am and 3pm for tours of their new chicken operation. Reservations required and small fee for non-members.

September 30, 6-10pm
7th Annual Harvest Auction
Hollenbeck Bayly Creative Arts and Conference Center
Springfield, OH
Get ready for TLT’s big fundraiser at our elegant new venue. Live music, beer & wine, hearty appetizers, and plenty of auction items to bid on await you. Tickets are $35/advance, $40/door

November 5, 8:30am-4:30pm
Food Power Conference
Location TBA
The Greater Dayton Local Food Summit: Food Power will bring together people interested in economic development through local food enterprises. Will Allen of Growing Power will headline with insights about urban farming and economic growth.

Visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org for more information or to register for any of these events.
ENJOY THE FLAVORS OF SUMMER
AT THE WINDS DINNER

Creating a five course meal from all locally grown and produced food is no easy task, but for the 7th year in a row, Mary Kay Smith and Kim Korkan from the Winds Café have done just that. TLT’s Local Foods Dinner was a huge hit last year with 2 sold out seatings. Diners enjoyed chilled Tuscan-style tomato soup, corn gratin with heirloom tomato herb salad or grilled chicken with Winds succotash, a summer vegetable salad, Houtz cheese with honeycomb, and a fresh peach tart with crème fraîche. The Local Foods Dinner is a perfect way for TLT to help its members make connections to farmers, who dine with you, and gain greater access to local food.

This year’s dinner will be held on August 1, 2011. Check our website for more information and look for your invitation in the mail.

FOOD POWER SUMMIT
FEATURES WILL ALLEN

Two land trusts work hard to preserve land so that it is available to produce food for future generations, TLT and BW Greenway Community Land Trust. Both organizations also hope to see the whole food business grow and diversify in the area. “Too many people don’t get access to enough healthy vegetables and fruits,” says B-W’s Food and Farm Team leader Doug Christen. “At the same time, more and more young people here need jobs. So bringing Will Allen to the area for the Food Power conference just made sense to us.”

Will Allen’s Growing Power, an urban farming operation in Milwaukee and Chicago hires 180 workers at their 6 farms. Allen will headline the conference on November 5th, sponsored by the Dayton Foundation’s Conservation Fund, which will examine a variety of economic and nutritional models. Check out Allen’s website, growingpower.org to learn more and TLT’s site for conference registration information.

FARMING INSPIRES NEW FARM OWNER

Amy Batchman, an energetic young farmer, not yet 30 years old, is well known to those who frequent the Yellow Springs Farmers Market, where she sells delicious cheeses and produce. She recently purchased a seven acre farm in Clark County, and now faces the daunting challenge of making it the diverse and healthy operation she has longed for. Where to begin?

Amy immediately wondered what advice Mark Shepard would have for her. A successful “tree farmer” from Wisconsin, he talks and writes about his innovative interplantings of trees, perennials, and annuals, topped off with chickens, cattle, and hogs on his high production farm.

In an ecopreneurial brainstorm, Amy planned a fifty people workshop to defray the cost of bringing Mark here for a consult. Problem solved! She pulled together an intensive weekend that provided the consult she needed for her “Radical Roots” farm.

On August 13th, Amy will share her construction skills by hosting a Barn Building workshop through Growers Exchange. Find more information on TLT’s website.
Mark Rose (left), FRPP Program Director and Matt Harbage (right), FRPP State Director met with TLT's Associate Director Michele Burns in Yellow Springs. This photo was taken and article written by Megan Bachman and originally published on the Yellow Springs News Web site (www.yssnews.com) on November 25, 2010.

TLT REGARDED ONE OF NATIONS TOP LAND TRUSTS

The director of the largest federal funding source for farmland preservation stopped in Yellow Springs to visit Ohio’s top recipient of federal funding, the Tecumseh Land Trust, which he praised as one of the nation’s top land trusts.

“They’re at the top of every category in how fast [ easements] get closed and managed and monitoring the easements for properties,” said Mark Rose, director of the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In 2010, the Tecumseh Land Trust applied for and received $1.2 million from Rose’s department to purchase five farm easements in Greene and Clark counties — the most money received by any of the state’s more than 40 land trusts. Greene County was the largest recipient of these federal funds, at around $843,000.

“They’re very good at prioritizing the best land,” said Matt Harbage, the state’s Farm and Ranch Land Preservation Program manager, adding that land is evaluated based upon soil quality, conservation practices and riparian areas. “And they’re good at putting together the whole package from different funding sources.”

Various state and local funding sources provided matching funds for easements last year, the former Fogg farm just northwest of Yellow Springs and the Semler farm on Snypp Road, home of the Jacoby Creek headwaters. Others preserved were the Camp Birch Boy Scout camp on Swimming Pool Road, a farm in Caesars Creek south of Xenia, and a farm in Cedarville Township.

Rose was in Ohio to attend a statewide farmland preservation conference in Columbus, where the Tecumseh Land Trust’s executive director Krista Magaw was named an Ambassador of Ohio Agriculture by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for her nearly 10 years as director of one of the state’s most successful land trusts. She also received the honorary title, one of three ever awarded, for advising the state on farmland protection policy and championing smaller land trusts throughout Ohio.

“It was a recognition that although she serves two counties, she really helps the whole state,” said the land trust’s Associate Director Michele Burns.

Local Food Field Trips

With support from Antioch University Midwest (AUM), TLT’s year of Local Food Field Trips is underway! Over 200 people have participated so far in a broad series of events, including a tour of Young’s Dairy cheese making operation. The milk from their Jersey cattle is used to make several varieties of cheese that are sold at a higher value than the milk itself could command, hence “adding value.”

In the cold of February, a dozen local growers gathered at AUM to learn how growers can connect to buyers through the Market Maker website. Through this interactive, real time website, restaurants and distributors can find local growers willing to deliver. A grower with 8 extra bushels of tomatoes at the end of market day can even post an ad to find ambitious canners interested in a good deal! Visit oh.marketmaker.uiuc.edu to learn more about this resource.

The maple sap was still running for the tour of Flying Mouse Farms in March, where lush greens were growing in wood heated hoop houses and fresh maple sap was boiling in the sugar house.

A master gardener talk at the Yellow Springs Library and “spring start-up farm tours” were featured in April, as well as talks and demonstrations by farmer Mark Shepard, who uses permaculture techniques for a 330 acre high production farming operation.

DVDs are available of these tours through the Greene County Library. Stay tuned to TLT’s website for more events!
ANNUAL MEETING AT BEAUTIFUL VANDERGLAS FARM

Once again the Tecumseh Land Trust will hold its annual meeting of members on June 5, 2011 at 2pm. This is a celebration of our year's accomplishments and a way to showcase one of the properties we have helped to preserve. This year we will gather at Nancy Vanderглас' property on Garrison Road in Mad River Township. An incredibly diverse landscape, this property boosts a fen, hardwood forests, and cropland. Vanderглас donated a conservation easement on her property late last year. We encourage all of our members and friends to join us for a brief business meeting followed by a walk and refreshments. The farm is located at 6187 Garrison Road. To bike to the property with other TLT members, meet at the Bryan Center at 1:15pm.

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.

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.

There are other ways to support TLT:

Give to our Endowments
Springfield Foundation
Contact Horton Hobbs at 324-8773
Yellow Springs Foundation
Contact Virgil Harvey 767-2655

Make a Planned Gift
Join the Tecumseh Circle
Contact Krista Magaw 767-9490

Preserve a Property
Find out more about easement programs and how they might work for you.
Contact Michele Burns 767-9490