

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Spring 2009

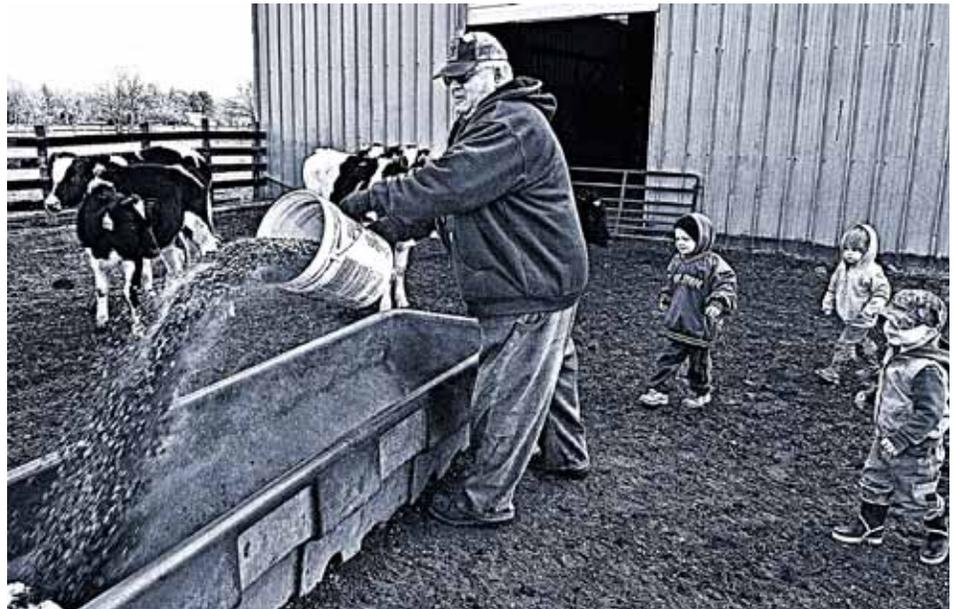
ANNUAL MEETING
AT
WHITEHALL FARM

SWITCHGRASS
AND
MAPLE SUGAR

LITTLE MIAMI
RIVER FARM
PRESERVED

INN KEEPERS
SUPPORT
1% FOR GREEN
SPACE

2009 CALENDAR
OF EVENTS



Jim Timmons, member of TLT Board and Clark County Farmland Preservation Workgroup, with grandchildren on his Clark County farm. Photo courtesy of Springfield News-Sun, Marshall Gorby

AGRICULTURE AT FOREFRONT OF CLARK COUNTY ECONOMY

Market value of Clark County farm products grew from \$71,910 in 2002 to \$137,045 in 2007. Imagine a 90% increase in revenues in just five years not including revenues from restaurants, food processing businesses, and multiple agricultural industries. What does this tell us during these challenging economic times? Agriculture is here to stay. The bigger a role it can play in the economic recovery, the better.

How aware are Clark County residents of the economic importance of agriculture? In a recently released public opinion survey, funded by OSU's Center for Farmland Policy Innovation and the Springfield Foundation, and conducted by Wright State's Center for Urban and Public Affairs:

91% of those surveyed think agriculture is an important force in Clark County

67% of respondents said they had bought food directly from farmers

69% said they'd support a farmland preservation program costing every household \$20 a year

87% said officials should enact programs to protect agricultural land

94% said protecting farmland was an important factor for Clark County

TLT's Executive Director, Krista Magaw, and members of the Clark County Farmland Preservation Workgroup met with Clark County Commissioners to discuss these findings. The commissioners devoted considerable time to the candid discussion of options to fund farm-related job development and farmland preservation. They encouraged the workgroup to explore funding options further with the County Auditor, the Farm Bureau, and Township Trustees and to return for further discussion of specifics, perhaps leading to a ballot initiative. Options for stimulus monies for agricultural job creation will also be explored with area legislators.

Please contact the TLT office if you would like to be involved in upcoming meetings and presentations on agriculture and farmland preservation in the Clark County economy.

Tecumseh Land Trust

Staff

Krista Magaw, *Executive Director*
Michele Burns, *Associate Director*
Cathy Holcomb, *Administrative Assistant*

Stewardship Team

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

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Rosalie Beers, *Vice-President*
David Neuhardt, *Secretary*
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Volunteers: Julia Cady
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Anne Randolph
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Volunteers: Susan Miller
Elisabeth DeForest

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Ron Lewis
Carolyn Smith
Volunteers: Sherry Chen
Steven Conn
Ed Davis

Finance Committee

Dave Baird
Jim Timmons
Richard Zopf

Newsletter

Evelyn LaMers

P.O. Box 417
2647 Rt. 68 North
Yellow Springs OH 45387
Phone: (937)767-9490
fax: (937)767-7420
krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org
burns@tecumsehlandtrust.org
www.tecumsehlandtrust.org

SOUTH CHARLESTON FARMER JOINS TLT BOARD

After graduating with an agronomy degree from Virginia Tech in 1979, Fred Berge, along with his wife Daphne, moved to Ohio to work on his aunt and uncle's cattle and corn/soybean farm in Clark County.

When asked what motivated him to join TLT's Board, he responded, "I was disgusted by the massacre of land in the DC area due to sprawl." So he passed on a job offer in Virginia in order to return to Ohio and the land where his mother was raised and where he'd worked summers as a boy.

He encouraged his aunt to join Tecumseh Land Trust, and now their 750-acre farm has been forever preserved with an easement obtained through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Office and held by TLT. Fred also serves on Clark County's Soil and Water Conservation Board. When asked about his other interests, Fred



Fred Berge at TLT office

said, "A farmer with hobbies is rare," before admitting he's an avid hiker.

Said Krista Magaw, Executive Director, "I'm delighted Fred joined the Board. He's farmed land with a TLT easement for four years, so he knows what he's getting into. I know he'll steer us in the right direction." We welcome your contributions, Fred!

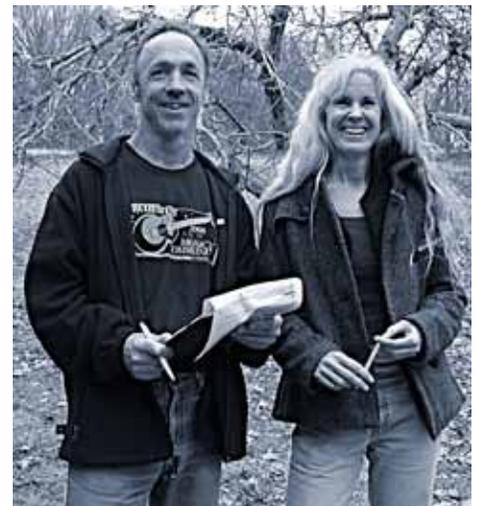
TLT VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

In any community event involving volunteers, there are always those who play key roles. The success of this year's TLT barn dance was due in no small measure to the organizing skills of Ali Thomas and Rick Walkey. Ali and Rick helped find musicians, callers, and the location, and publicize the event.

Ali and Rick were also key in gathering support for a \$100,000 allocation to the Yellow Springs Greenspace Fund, recently delivering 300 petition signatures to Village Council.

When asked about their interest in land preservation they stated "We believe it's important to maintain one of Ohio's and, our country's, greatest assets: farmland. After it's developed, when all the topsoil is removed, it is

nearly impossible to reclaim. It is at the very least, forward thinking." Thanks to Rick and Ali for all they do.



Rick Walkey & Ali Thomas collecting signatures at TLT event



Margaret Silliman and Lamar Spracklen at Yellow Springs Country B&B

YELLOW SPRINGS INN KEEPERS PROTECT GREEN SPACE

Visitors to Yellow Springs anticipate an interesting village in a beautiful natural setting. Now several of the businesses who host visitors to Yellow Springs are taking steps to preserve our rural environment by participating in TLT's 1% for Green Space program.

Charter member Eric Clark says when his motel guests ask what a land trust is he has them turn around and look outside. "From the vantage point of the Springs Motel it's all farms and fields. People get it."

Susanne Oldham, owner of the Arthur Morgan House B&B reports that, "Customers all love it. They feel good about giving. It enhances the image of

my B&B and guests like the experience of participating in the local self-reliance reputation of our community."

Yellow Springs Country B&B, owned by 6th generation farmer Lamar Spracklen, is the newest hospitality addition. He says it's a perfect fit because the 1828 house is surrounded by over 250 acres of farmland. Margaret Silliman, manager, states, "It's an easy sell. It's only about 90 cents per guest and 99% of the folks are very supportive."

Perhaps this is the future of ecotourism in Ohio – let your overnight stay help preserve the natural beauty you came to enjoy!

Yellow Springs 1% for Green Space Businesses

Adoption Link	Garden of the Goddess	Toxic Beauty
Arthur Morgan House	Glen Garden Gifts	Village Greenery
Asanda Imports	Greenleaf Gardens	Wavelength Salon & Spa
Basho	House of Ravenwood	Williams Eatery & Gathering Place
Bentino's of Yellow Springs	Ken Simon Framing	Yellow Springs Country Bed & Breakfast
Brother Bear's Cafe	Little Art Theatre	Yellow Springs News
Carlos Computer Service	Living Green	Yellow Springs Psychological Center
Chen's Asian Bistro	Miami Valley Pottery	Yellow Springs Sock Shop
Cozy Critter Pet Sitters	Peifer Orchards	Zephyr Studio
Current Cuisine	Pass It On Kids	
Curves	Rita Caz Jewelry	
Dolbeers Cleaners	Selwa's Hairstyling	
Earth Rose	Springs Motel	



Commemorating Whitehall Farm

On February 22, 1999, all 940 acres of historic, Whitehall Farm went up for auction in 34 separate tracts. Relive the extraordinary efforts of the little village that could with the **10th Anniversary Whitehall Farm collection featuring a documentary and book.**

The documentary, **Yellow Springs and the Whitehall Farm: A Celebration of Community**, produced by Patti Dallas, features footage from the actual auction ten years ago. Dave and Sharen Neuhardt and other community members reflect on their experiences.

The book, **The Whitehall Story: A Grassroots Effort to Save a Community**, tells the story of the Whitehall auction through text and photographs. Al Denman provides a foreword and Krista Magaw wrote the afterword. Thank you to all of the book sponsors:

Bob Baldwin Jr.,
Jim Clem Farms
YSI

Community Solutions
Miami Township Trustees

Security National Bank

Lamar Spracklen

ReMax Resources

Real Living Realty - Gene Barnett

Merchant's National Bank

The DVD is \$15 and the book is \$10 or buy both for \$20. Call, visit our website, or purchase at the Annual Meeting.



Food filled table at Julia Cady Society Dinner

MAJOR DONORS ENJOYED PAULEY PRAIRIE

Rolling hills, native prairie, and a beautiful wetland comprise the farm that was the 2008 site for the Julia Cady Society dinner. Owners John and Lynda Pauley have put a great deal of time and energy into restoring the prairie on their preserved property in Clark County.

Julia Cady Society members were given a guided tour of the property by the Pauleys and learned much about the large wetland that houses beavers and many bird species, as well as prairie

restoration.

Following the walk, attendees dined under a tent on a delicious meal prepared by Evelyn LaMers, Krista Magaw and TLT volunteers. Many thanks to the Pauleys and all of the TLT volunteers who made this event a success.

This year's dinner will be at Mud Run Farm in Clark County on October 18, 2009. Join TLT at the Julia Cady Society level and enjoy this historic farm with steep cliffs and beautiful bluffs.



Debbie Colon of Changling playing music with baby Lily

WHITEHALL FARM CELEBRATION

Going Once! Going Twice! Sold to two angels of land preservation! The now famous 1999 Whitehall Farm Auction "heard around Ohio" resulted in the saving of 940 acres from residential development.

The tenth anniversary of this historic auction was celebrated in February 2009 with a variety of Yellow Springs events.

We had a chance to remember all the positive energy that was focused on saving a farm and, at the same time, saving a small community. Music Friday night at The Emporium began the celebra-

tion. Saturday evening a premiere of the Whitehall documentary was shown during a community potluck dinner, followed by a panel discussion on preserving Whitehall. Later supporters moved to Mills Lawn Elementary for a community barn dance with live music provided by Changeling.

Throughout the week bids were accepted on silent auction items handmade by local artists commemorating the Whitehall auction. The weekend was a fitting tribute to the preservation of our rural assets and farming heritage.



Ohio's summer bounty

A TASTE OF SUMMER IN OHIO

For the past six years, The Winds Café in Yellow Springs, has opened its doors on their "night off" to host a very special dining experience as a fundraiser for the land trust. The Local Foods Dinner brings together land trust supporters and area farmers for a meal made from locally grown food. Kim Korkan and Mary Kay Smith, owners of The Winds, always deliver creative, delectable dishes for this event.

Last year, participants enjoyed Char-moula Aromatic Chicken or Vegetable Crepe Gateau with a mixed green salad,

and garlic soup. For dessert, cheese and pears or apple cake. The dinner featured food from Morning Sun Farm, Orion Organics, Peach Mountain Organics, Peifer Orchards, Oakvale Farms, Ed Hill, and Anderson Farm.

This year, the dinner has been moved from October to August 3 to take advantage of the many vegetables and fruits that are in season in the summer. Come out and enjoy the Local Foods Dinner this year and get a taste of an Ohio summer.



Piatt and Minton farm in Green Township, Clark County

LIVING ON THE LAND IN TRUST

In 2005, Cindy Minton and I fell in love with a 25 acre property in the country; nestled within a 110 acre bean and corn field, all of which had been put under easement with the Tecumseh Land Trust by the previous owners. We met with the realtor, who quite proudly stated that the land was under easement, that it had restrictions, and that the land would always be preserved as agricultural land.

Even though we have lived in and around Yellow Springs for over 30 years, growing up as 1950s suburbanites gave us wide eyes to think we could be a part of preserving our land's most valuable resource. We purchased the place that week!

Part of living and maintaining property with TLT, is an annual visit from one of the good people from the land trust to monitor the condition of the farm. Over the years TLT monitors George, Branson, and Mike have visited the farm and passed on some of their valuable knowledge and encouraged our improvements.

Eradicating honeysuckle from a three quarter acre thicket, a task that took

some three winters, received much praise.

The need to build a 'water retention structure' for the run off from a spring fed stream running through the thicket was identified to promote good stewardship of the land. With a little research and farm folk's assistance, the stream no longer runs off into the field and we have a sweet little pond!

Living, surrounded by farm land, certainly gives one a different sense of being. Watching farmers maintaining the land, disking, planting, harvesting is quite an experience. Being surrounded by beans and corn, popping through the ground and soon mature, the beans a sea of green in the wind and the corn nine feet tall is a gratifying and wonderful sight.

We have fallen in love 'with the land' and with the Tecumseh Land Trust, knowing their hard work will help keep this joy forever and forever.

Thanks to all—Steve Piatt



Calendar of Events

June 7, 2-4 pm
Annual Meeting & Farm Tour
Whitehall Farm
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Join us on the historic, 940 acre Whitehall Farm to celebrate 10 years of preservation. Live music, refreshments, and children's activities.

August 3, 5:30pm and 8pm
6th Annual Wind's Dinner
The Wind Cafe
Yellow Springs, Ohio

This year, enjoy a taste of summer in Ohio at the Wind's Local Foods Dinner. Diners will be delighted with a variety of locally produced food during the peak of the season and have the opportunity to eat with the farmers who grew it. Reservations required.

September 11, 6-10:30pm
5th Annual Harvest Auction
Springfield Museum of Art
Springfield, Ohio

Treat yourself to a night out on the town with great food, drinks, live music, and friends. Don't leave empty handed—our silent and live auctions will have many exciting items. Tickets are \$30/advance or \$35/door.

October 18, 3pm
Julia Cady Society Dinner
Mud Run Farm
Green Township, Clark County
Become a major donor and enjoy a lovely dinner on this historic farm with gorgeous cliffs and bluffs.

For information on any of these events, please contact the TLT office at (937) 767-9490 or visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org



Wittenberg Students Intern at TLT Office

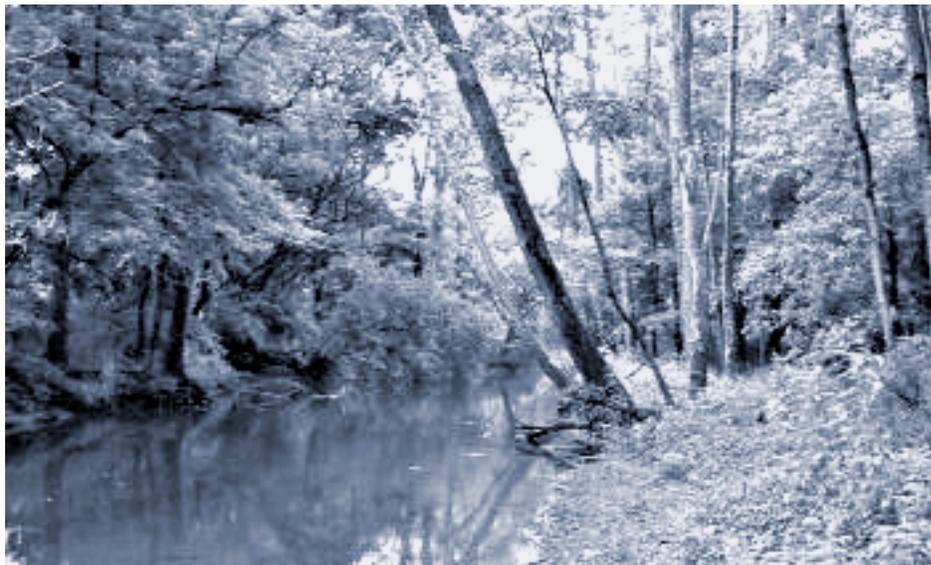
TLT has been fortunate to have five great interns this semester from Wittenberg University, through the Office of Community Service. TLT is happy to have the extra hands and heads around our busy office and the students are learning about land preservation and conservation easements.

Carl Coburn and Paul Abst tagged along on a farm visit to better understand how a family makes the decision to place an easement on their land.

Carl and Natalie Davidson revived the Jacoby Stream Team program with Lisa Dawn from the Xenia Drinking Water Plant. They waded in icy water collecting samples that will provide an indication of the water quality of the Jacoby Stream.

Megan Vallandingham and Ray Davis forged ahead to bring TLT into the modern age of communication by creating a Facebook page for us.

All of the interns said they enjoyed serving the community. As Paul stated "Yellow Springs is a popular destination for many Wittenberg students, and it feels good to contribute to preserving the village and area's distinctive character."



Craig and Lori Skillings' 129-acre farm in Green Township, Clark County

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND PRESERVES LITTLE MIAMI RIVER FARM

Since Craig and Lori Skillings have young children, their sights are already fixed on the future of their farm in Clark County. After two tries, their application to Clean Ohio's Conservation Fund succeeded in 2007.

The 129-acre Skillings farm borders the Little Miami River, which made it eligible for this particular state fund, dedicated to protecting water and wildlife. While the Skillings cultivate most of the land, some is in woodlands.

According to biologist Walt Tulecke, who assessed the conservation values of the property, these forested areas contain "both unique and diverse habitat of high quality. Preservation of this property would assure that the quality and diversity of habitats would be available for generations to come."

The money granted was used to purchase a conservation easement on their farm, which ensures that the habitat will remain protected and that there will never be any commercial cultivation in the riparian areas or wooded land. It also eliminates the possibility of building outside of a clearly delin-

eated homestead area, which already has existing structures.

Clean Ohio, the basket of protective conservation programs renewed by Ohio voters last year, includes a number of separate funds. Many of TLT's other easements have been obtained through application to the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program aimed specifically at preserving agricultural land.

More recently TLT has secured easement funds from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund for properties that encompass rivers and streams. Another of the land trust's latest acquisitions are funds for a conservation easement on land that also borders the Little Miami River and is directly across from the Skillings' property.

Krista Magaw, Executive Director, says "we can do more good by preserving farmland that buffer our rivers and streams. We are making headway along the Little Miami River in Clark County."



Switchgrass on Burly Grimes' and Debbie Hill's farm in Clark County

SWITCHGRASS – PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

With an eye to the future and an interest in biofuel development, Burly Grimes grows large tracts of switchgrass on his 365 acre farm in Clark County.

Switchgrass is a native, perennial grass that once covered most of the Great Plains. Cellulosic ethanol from switchgrass contains more net energy and emits fewer greenhouse gases than ethanol made from corn. Burly grows it for the seeds, which he sells to a distributor in Kentucky.

The use of native prairie grasses helps avoid many of the risks associated with other forms of biofuel production, such as reduced biological diversity and conversion of food crops into ethanol fuel crops. Also, switchgrass fields provide habitat for many animal species, including deer, rabbits, and ground nesting birds.

So a well-deserved salute to Burly whose efforts help to soften the carbon imprint that threatens our global environment.

MAPLE SUGAR HARVEST AT ORGANIC FARM

February is the start of maple syrup season in Ohio. During a sugarshack open house, sponsored by TLT, syrup lovers gathered in Flying Mouse Farms' sugarshack to learn how thin, clear sap is transformed into thick, rich syrup.

In early February when days are warm, but nights stay cold, the sap begins to flow. From every sugar maple hangs three buckets in which the sap is collected. It is then fed into a wood fired evaporator and boiled down into maple syrup.

With a ratio of 40 gallons of sap for every 1 gallon of syrup, John DeWine hauls a lot of buckets during the season. Visitors to the open house



John DeWine boiling sap into syrup

toured the farm and enjoyed a taste of the sweetest treat to come from a tree.



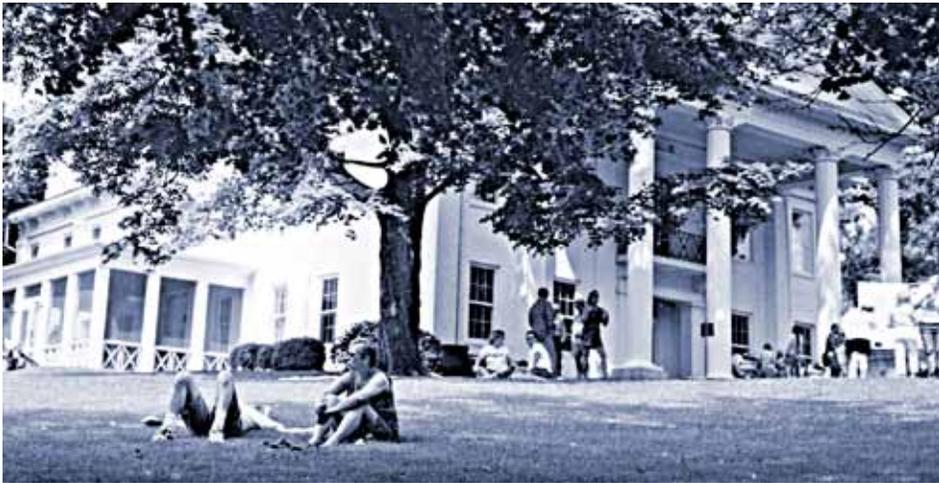
Pleasant Township Enacts Pro-Agriculture Policies

TLT first heard from Pleasant Township officials in 2004 about their desire to improve zoning in order to provide protection for agricultural land. In 2007, Pleasant Township adopted the highest acre per residence standard of any township in the state—one house to 45 acres. The Township also became a member of TLT, which helps further our preservation efforts.

From the time the first round of Clean Ohio's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program was announced in 2002, Pleasant Township farmers have been actively pursuing farmland preservation. Two family farms have qualified for the program and are adjacent to another preserved farm, creating a block of 762 preserved acres.

Six more neighbors are making application to the Ohio Agriculture Easement Purchase Program this year. Some of whom are already enrolled in a ten year Agricultural Security Area, a pact with the township, county and state to refrain from development or constructing infrastructure for ten years.

Spring 2009 Newsletter



2004 Annual Meeting at Whitehall Farm

ANNUAL MEETING AT WHITEHALL FARM

This year is the 10th anniversary of the preservation of Whitehall Farm, the historic 940-acre farm just north of Yellow Springs. In 1999, the entire farm went up for auction, threatening Yellow Springs with development. But thanks to the extraordinary efforts of community members, businesses, local governments, Dave and Sharen Neuhardt, and TLT the farm was purchased and a conservation easement was placed on it to ensure it remain farmland forever.

To continue our "Save the Farm" celebration, Whitehall will be the site of TLT's 19th Annual Meeting and Farm

Tour. Following a business meeting, Dave and Sharen will lead a tour of the historic agricultural buildings as we stroll in the pastures around the farmstead.

Come out with your friends and family on Sunday, June 7 from 2-4pm to enjoy this beautiful farm, and listen to live music by Stuffed Possum and Cornbread. Refreshments provided.

The farm is located at 4627 U.S. 68, between Young's and Peifer Orchards. Take the lane off of U.S. 68 and follow the signs to parking.

Tecumseh Land Trust

Founded in 1990, we are a private non-profit conservation organization serving Clark and Greene Counties. Our mission is to preserve agricultural lands, open spaces, and historic structures in voluntary cooperation with landowners and their heirs, and to educate the public about methods of private land conservation.

TLT is a member-based organization. We rely on our members to support our annual operations.

Become a Member!

Land Champion	\$10,000
Guardian	\$5,000
Agrarian	\$1,000
Julia Cady Society	\$500
Preservationist	\$225
Conservationist	\$110
Supporter	\$55
Friend	\$25

If you are interested in placing an easement on your property, or making a bequest to TLT in your will, please contact us at 937-767-9490.