SMART GROWTH FOR A SMALL TOWN

The first weekend of April saw the town of Yellow Springs come alive with the Smart Growth Weekend, sponsored by 21 Yellow Springs community organizations, including the Tecumseh Land Trust. This event was part of a series of educational events for Yellow Springs and Miami Township that focused on the community’s concern about growth.

Approximately 500 individuals attended throughout the weekend, taking part in whichever offerings interested them. Tom Hylton, author of Save our Land, Save our Towns, gave an inspirational speech on Friday evening, which highlighted the many strengths of dense and walkable towns, and pointed a direction for the future of Yellow Springs. His message was simple: Yellow Springs is at a turning point, and has the resources to grow in a positive way that will strengthen the economy, and preserve the environment. His examination of the roots of sprawl framed the problem for the 250 attendees, forcing an examination of the ways daily life has changed over the past 50 years.

Despite freezing rain and driving winds, Saturday was filled with activities aimed to help villagers look at the town of Yellow Springs with new eyes, and to explore opportunities for growth that would increase revenues for the village. Smart Growth experts Clark Tibbets and Dr. Jim Segedy explored ways for Yellow Springs to exploit its strengths, including attracting alternative industries, which would be drawn to this pro-

(continued on page 3)

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 5TH ON NEWLY PRESERVED FARM!

This year’s annual meeting, Sunday, June 5th, at 2 p.m., will be held at the Harmony Farm Market, the direct sales outlet of Darwin and Maureen Murray’s Clark County farming operation. Their 442-acre farming operation is at the heart of this market, and, after conducting the business of the meeting, and touring the market, we will all head out to their home farm, which was accepted into the 2005 round of the AEPP program. This unique Clark County farm is adjacent to Charlie and Susie Brougher’s 260 preserved acres, and contains a section of the glacially deposited “esker,” which provides a beautifully varied backdrop to their successful farming operation.

Over recent years, they have brought several interesting events to their barn-style farmers’ market, including the Bicentennial Wagon Train and the world’s fastest pumpkin carver.

The Tecumseh Land Trust protects land IN PERPETUITY. Your gift can, too. Bequests, charitable remainder trusts, and other planned giving can help continue our stewardship of the land long after we’re all gone. Professional consultation is available through our partnership with the Yellow Springs Community Foundation and U.S. Bank. Since we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization, many tax advantages and even lifetime income may be available to donors. For more information: 937-767-9490 or krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org.
15TH ANNIVERSARY HARVEST AUCTION SEPTEMBER 10TH!

What better way to commemorate TLT’s 15th anniversary than an auction, that form of tried and true rural live entertainment? TLT’s auction planning committee has been hard at work assembling some fabulous silent auction items and a few special items to be auctioned live by Todd Woodruff. See page 4 for some tantalizing examples.

The event will be held on September 10th from 6-10 p.m. at the Clark County Heritage Center. Kate Bush, who is co-chairing the organization of this auction, says, “This is a wonderful opportunity for supporters of the land trust to get together and reminisce about TLT in a setting dedicated to celebrating our rural past, while raising money to ensure an equally prosperous future.” Any and all individuals interested in helping can contact Kate at kate@tecumsehlandtrust.org.

JULIA CADY SOCIETY ANNOUNCED!

This year, TLT has established recognition for those individuals and families who support the TLT mission with an annual gift of $500 or more, or a cumulative gift of $10,000, by inviting them to join the Julia Cady Society. It is a privilege to be able to celebrate the work of the woman considered by many to be the most persistent and effective land trust volunteer in Ohio—Julia Cady. After donating an easement on her family farm in 1995, Julia has never stopped working on land preservation projects, both here with TLT, and mentoring other land trusts state-wide to encourage the growth of farm conservation.

Each year, Julia Cady Society members will be invited on a special walk, property tour, and picnic. This year’s tour of historic land recently preserved in Xenia Township, Greene County, will be at Shaun and Suzzanne Lowry’s farm on Sunday, October 2.

Please consider whether you can provide continuing support at this level for our important work. There is no greater tribute to Julia’s tireless spirit and unflagging generosity than your continuing membership in the Julia Cady Society.

We Need You!
If you haven’t already renewed your membership for 2005, please do so today.

DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL SITE CHOSEN IN SPRINGFIELD

Tecumseh Land Trust and 33 other Coalition partners got great news on March 17, when Community Mercy Health Partners’ Site Selection Committee recommended that Clark County’s merged hospital go downtown. The Coalition for a Downtown Hospital formed in the fall to encourage the site committee to choose a downtown site over a greenfield site outside of town. The downtown location will help retain existing businesses and attract new commerce to the city, rather than push development into the countryside.

The City of Springfield is working hard with private organizations and government officials at every level to finance the project downtown, including relocation of current residents with the assistance of Neighborhood Housing Partnerships. Community Mercy Health Partners have made their site decision contingent on the city’s ability to quickly assemble the land and financing for the additional up-front costs of urban redevelopment. Once the project is completed, however, the $283 million dollar healthcare complex will generate significant revenues associated with job and commercial growth within the city.

Additionally, the downtown site will save the public the ongoing expense of maintaining the new roads, water, sewer, and other human and public services that would have been associated with extending development into the countryside.

Thanks to all who wrote letters, sent e-mails, made calls, and attended meetings to encourage selection of a downtown hospital site. You made a difference!

MEET EVE GUENDERKLINE, TLT HIGH SCHOOL INTERN

How do we support the next generation of conservationists? We put them to work! TLT’s education committee raised funds from the sale of native trees to launch a high school scholarship contest to engage young people on the topic of farmland preservation. This year, the committee decided a paid internship would be an even better way to involve young people, and, potentially attract them to do conservation work in the future.

Eve Gunderkline won the internship this year with her essay on how she could assist the land trust and how the experience would benefit her. Naturalists at Glen Helen and the experience of a friend whose family farm has been eroded by development have spurred Eve on to get involved. She’ll be working a few hours each week through the summer—please give her a warm welcome!
On March 18 and 19, members of the TLT Board, local activists, and land trust supporters from across the state gathered to learn about putting a local funding initiative on the ballot. This workshop was funded by generous grants from the Land Trust Alliance and support from the Turner Foundation, which allowed us to bring in several knowledgeable individuals to provide the training. Two land trust directors, Dulcie Flaharty and Tom Kerr, both with experience running successful ballot campaigns in Pennsylvania, related their experiences, while Matt Erickson and Martin Hamburger, of Hamburger and Legeuns Strategies in Washington, D.C., gave a top-down view of running all types of campaigns. The 26 individuals who attended learned about the steps of creating a ballot campaign, from polling the public and developing a message to creating ballot language and attracting grassroots support. This training was the first step in assessing options to secure funding through local sources in Clark or Greene Counties. Currently, funding for purchasing easements is available in only one township, and also through the statewide AEPP program (which ends in 2008), and through the Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program

Smart Growth Weekend, continued

gressive town. Dan Burden, director of the nationally recognized Walkable Communities, Inc., concluded Saturday’s events with an eye to increase walkability in Yellow Springs, and make it more accessible.

Sunday morning brought together public officials and members of the community for a brunch and discussion that looked back at the weekend, and forward to the next steps to ensure effective and efficient planning in Yellow Springs and Miami Township.

The next step for the community is to proceed with a visioning process, recommended by all the speakers, which will provide priorities for a comprehensive plan revision for the village. The “visioning process”—evaluating the desires of large numbers of the residents of Yellow Springs and Miami Township—is integrated into the activities of this year’s Community Roundtable. For more information about the visioning process contact Len Kramer, of the Village Mediation Program, at 767-7701.

In the meantime, local organizers of the event hope to hold at least one walk each month to visit a property and explore its potential with the owner. Contact the TLT office for further information on walks.

SUCCESS FOR CLARK AND GREENE COUNTIES IN THIS YEAR’S AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM!

Landowners in Clark and Greene Counties were again top contenders in the 4th round of the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP), which pays landowners for part of the value of an easement on their property. In Clark and Greene Counties, TLT staff and volunteers considered over 130 possible applicants, submitting applications for 24 of the highest-scoring properties. TLT secured awards to preserve 1,132.691 acres through the AEPP this year, out of a total of 16 projects funded (and 3,423 acres) statewide. Once all projects funded in 2004 and 2005 are complete, TLT will have 8,239 acres under easement! Below are our successful AEPP applicants.

Darwin and Maureen Murray
Pleasant Township, Clark County, 442.01 acres
Darwin and Maureen Murray have built a wonderful farm, farm market (the Harmony Farm Market, at the intersection of routes 70 and 40, east of Springfield), and fresh local produce wholesaling business.

Ralph Waymire & Laura Cheney
Madison Township, Clark County, 88.62 acres
Ralph and Laura recently bought this property adjacent to Laura’s family farm. With the addition of this easement and that of the Harbages (described below) we will have preserved a nearly contiguous block of 1,367.62 acres to the west of South Charleston. ALL these properties have been AEPP participants. Ralph’s self-contained cattle and grain operation recycles manure and plant byproducts under a specialized conservation plan.

The Tecumseh Land Trust of Greene and Clark Counties is a private, not-for-profit conservation organization. Its purpose is to preserve agricultural land, open space, and historic structures in voluntary cooperation with landowners and their heirs, and to educate the public about methods of private land conservation.

For more information, call our office at 767-9490, e-mail us at krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org, or visit our web site at www.tecumsehlandtrust.org.

Darwin Murray on his farm, recently preserved through AEPP.

Brian & Jennifer Harbage, Madison Township, Clark County, 62 acres
Brian and Jennifer’s farm encompasses a historic farm house. Brian farms with his family and raises hormone-free beef. He is president of the Clark County Farm Bureau and he and Jennifer were “Young Farmers of the Year” in 2004.

Madeline Schmidt
Ross Township, Greene County, 136.3 acres
Madeline is the sister of David Harper, whose adjacent property was selected in AEPP last year. The addition of this easement will protect 456.3 contiguous acres. Neighbors hope to protect over 1,100 more contiguous acres.

Charles Leach
White House Farms, Silvercreek Township, Greene County, 403.761 acres
This Century Farm will be our first project in Silvercreek Township, an outstanding farming area near Jamestown. Chas Leach farms his family land, owned by a family trust that also includes his mother and siblings.
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR:

Sunday, June 5, 2 p.m.: Tecumseh Land Trust Annual Meeting. It doesn’t get any better than this! Meet at the Harmony Farm Market (4760 E. National Rd., NW of I-70 off the Rt. 40 exit). We will conduct our business on the back porch of the Murray family’s farm market and then depart, en masse, for a tour of their recently preserved 440+ acre farm.

Saturday, September 10, 6–10 p.m.: 15th Anniversary Harvest Auction. Join us at the Clark County Heritage Center for a celebration of our past and a rally for our future! Items to be auctioned include fine art, antiques, services (massage, anyone?), and trips. You would like a sampling of our items? 4 box seats for the Buckeyes game on September 17th (complete with tailgater picnic basket), Horse Trekking, an antique rocking chair, and several hours of garden work are just a few of the great items that we will offer for sale. For a complete list, and more information, check out the page dedicated to all things auction at www.tecumsehlandtrust.org (available in early July).

Monday, October 24, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.: Winds Local Food Dinner. Ask anyone who attended last year—this event is not to be missed! We have expanded to two seatings to accommodate demand, and anticipate another delicious experience. Check out our website in late summer for more information.

November 19 and 20: Agriculture in the Arts: Our Fields, Farms, and Families. The Springfield Symphony Orchestra will perform this program, which synchronizes photography and music into an art form known as photochoreography, at the Kuss Auditorium in Springfield. All photos shown have been submitted by Clark County families, and showcase local agriculture, while emphasizing conservation, the beauty of the land, and the farm family way of life. For ticket information contact the Kuss Auditorium Box Office, 937-328-3874.

Tecumseh Land Preservation Association

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www.tecumsehlandtrust.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Officers: Jim Campbell, president; Jim Timmons, vice-president; David Neuhardt, secretary; Trustees: Dave Baird, Bob Barcus, Eugene Barnett, Gordon Cowperthwaite, Burley Grimes, Don Hollister, Bob Huston, Evelyn LaMers, Ron Lewis, David Miller, Branson Pyles, Anne Randolph, Tom Ruetenik, Charles Swaney.


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