Spring 2014

4,000 ACRES
NOW PRESENTED
IN MADISON TWP

NATIVE PLANTS,
PRAIRIE,
WILDLIFE CORRIDOR
FEATURED IN TWO
NEW EASEMENTS

NATIONAL
ACCREDITATION
RENEWAL SOLICITS
PUBLIC COMMENT

OHIO HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
APPLAUDS TLT

2014 CALENDER
OF EVENTS

Donated Easement Preserves Wetlands and Cropland

Mike Taylor began applying for the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Easement Purchase Program in 2009. However because of his farm’s location it never scored high enough to be accepted into the program. But because of Mike’s commitment to preserve his land he wasn’t discouraged. Mike says, “I’m a strong believer in farmland preservation because maintaining productive farmland to provide the food to feed the world is as important as ever.” So in 2013 Mike decided to donate a permanent conservation easement on his 120 acre Green Township farm.

A donated easement is a much faster process than waiting for funding and then working through the funding process once your farm is awarded. With donated easements all negotiation is between the landowner and the land trust. Tecumseh Land Trust staff started the easement process with Mike in June and had it recorded in December – just six months time.

One reason it moved so quickly was that Mike knew what he wanted to do. He had a clear vision for his farm and had discussed that vision with his children. From there it was just a matter of the land trust going through its process to complete the project.

Although his farm is not in an area with other protected property, holding an easement on it still seemed logical to the land trust board. This farm which is in row crops and pasture for sheep, contains prime soils, has 12 acres of woods, and a 5 acre wetland which is important to water quality in the area.

Mike knew it was a good fit as well. He says, “As I watch my granddaughter, the 6th generation, experience life on the farm, I am excited about providing this opportunity for future generations.”

Happy inhabitants on the Taylor farm in Green Township, Clark County.

Mike Taylor with TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw during board walk.
Our Executive Director, Krista Magaw, Board Member, Carolyn Smith, Miller Fellow, Lauren Gjessing, and four Wittenberg students – Megan Conkle, Andrew Ziminski, Nathan Dillahunt, and Carrie Schmaus – went to Columbus March 26 to talk about conservation with legislators and their staffs. The biggest goal on their agenda was securing house and senate passage of the governor’s capital bill with two years of full funding for Clean Ohio’s “Green” programs – Agricultural Preservation, Open Space, and Trails. And they got to see the house pass the bill that very day! To top it off, Representative Rick Perales asked the Speaker of the House to recognize the group and they received a round of applause from the entire Ohio House of Representatives. Now that’s some reinforcement for citizen activism!

The next week, Magaw and Clinton County farmer Jon Branstrator travelled to Washington, DC, along with 70 other land trust representatives from across the country, for the Land Trust Alliance’s Lobby Day. One highlight of this trip was the eloquent and inspiring address of Michigan’s Representative John Dingle. Representative Dingle, who will retire at the end of this year, introduced the legislation that allows landowners income tax deductions for up to six years when they donate all or part of the value of a conservation easement. Undersecretary of Agriculture Robert Bonnie also addressed the group, encouraging land trusts to pursue new conservation partnership options possible in the recently passed Farm Bill.

“It was great to get to see Jon Branstrator shake Representative Stivers’ hand and thank him for passing the Farm Bill,” said Magaw. It includes up to $1.3 billion for easement purchase programs. “There’s nobody better to talk to a legislator about farmland preservation than a constituent farmer who is preserving his own farm!”
FOUKES DONATE EASEMENT TO PRESERVE NATIVE PLANTS

Dan Fouke believes that “It should be a crime to plant invasive species.” Dan and Barbara Fouke bought their property in 1995 to restore it as a wildlife habitat. From the start it has been a struggle to stay ahead of the invasive species like honeysuckle and garlic mustard. Today, the property features a beautiful seven acre prairie, where they planted wildflowers and grasses, and eight acres of woodlands—but the fight is still on against the invasive species.

Dan Fouke’s work as a conservationist carries over at the University of Dayton where he is a professor of Philosophy and teaches Environmental Ethics and Sustainability Research. He hopes to instill a mindset of conservation in his students. At home, Dan’s favorite part about the work he has done on his property is seeing the variety of animals and insects return so many years after their habitat was destroyed.

CLEAN OHIO FUNDS PERMANENT WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Tecumseh Land Trust has brought a new property under easement. This 23 acre property, owned by Doug & Kim Joos, consists of pasture, woods, and a headwater stream. Purchased through the Clean Ohio Open Space fund and Farm & Ranch Protection Program the main purpose of this easement is to permanently preserve the woods and maintain the natural stream channel. The stream is home to diverse aquatic life; important ecosystem to conserve.

In addition to the stream, the land has 13 acres of oak-hickory forest that shelters a diverse understory of wildflowers and forbes. It is also habitat to countless animal and insect species. A neighboring property, also under easement, connects to the Joos’ woods creating a 66 acre habitat corridor - a great benefit to wildlife. This conservation easement will ensure that these ecosystems won’t be disrupted and will be available to animals and plants forever.

Easy Wording For Your Will

If you care about TLT’s mission, and regularly support TLT, have you made any plans to continue that support after you are no longer writing checks?

One way to do that is to designate TLT as a beneficiary in your Last Will and Testament. For instance, you can insert language such as “I give $10,000 to Tecumseh Land Preservation Association”, or “I give ten percent of my estate to Tecumseh Land Preservation Association.”

Another way to provide for TLT is to designate Tecumseh Land Preservation Association as a beneficiary of your IRA. By designating a qualified nonprofit organization as an IRA beneficiary, you avoid Federal and Ohio income taxes, which can add up to be 1/3 of the account value. To designate TLT as a beneficiary of your IRA, contact the IRA custodian (the financial institution that holds the IRA) to get a form to fill out, sign, and return.

Similarly, you can designate TLT as the beneficiary of a bank account, a securities account, a life insurance policy, an annuity contract, or a parcel of real estate. TLT depends on the ongoing support of its members! You can make a difference that allows future generations to know the places you love.
CREATIVE BACKYARDS ON SUMMER TOUR

Need inspiration for “going native” in your backyard? Thanks to the generosity of Yellow Springs land owners, TLT will host two free self-guided tours of backyards featuring native plantings that attract pollinators, from bees to butterflies.

On Sunday, July 13th, from 1-5 p.m. we will be featuring the gardens of Macy and Roger Reynolds, Pat Brown, and Sheryl Schooley (with Nadia Malarkey) in addition to Anne Randolph’s wildflower meadow.

On August 10th from 1-5pm, we will be touring yards belonging to Kim Carlson, Jennifer Rosengarten and Chad Runyon, Cheryl Kostic and Dan Dixon, and one of the village’s community gardens. Land owners will give a brief presentation on their plantings, with a different talk each hour and provide a written description of their plantings. A pollinator identification activity will be available for children. Please check our website for a complete schedule as the event nears.

SUMMER SOLSTICE BARN DANCE TO BE AT YOUNG’S DAIRY

Warmer days have been a long time coming, but now they are here! So join us on Saturday June 21st for our Summer Solstice Barn Dance at the Young’s Picnic Pavilion, located behind the dairy store.

Enjoy live music by the old time string band - The Tea Drinkers - along with waltz instruction and a cake walk. Other performances include local storytellers, Harold & Jonatha Wright and a preview of the Yellow Springs Kids Playhouse show “Super Human Happiness.”

Throughout the night there will be old fashioned games the whole family can enjoy including face painting, corn hole, and sack races. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children, and free for those under 10 years old. Music and dancing will start at 7:00pm and go until 10:00pm. Everyone is sure to have a great time dancing under the stars!

TLT ASKS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO RENEW ACRREDITATION

In 2009, Tecumseh Land Trust was among the first group of land trusts to achieve national accreditation, recognition of our high quality conservation practices from the Land Trust Alliance. Now we’re applying for reaccreditation and we invite you to help by commenting on the quality and effectiveness of our work.

Please take a few minutes to send your comments about our interactions with you as a member or a landowner to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission by June 1, 2014. Comments may be e-mailed to info@landtrustaccreditation.org, faxed to 518-587-3183, or mailed to Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila St, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Please make sure to note that your comment is about the Tecumseh Land Trust. Thank you!
May 25, 4-5pm
Nature Meditation
Glen Helen Outdoor Ed Center
SR 343 at the Fire Circle
Yellow Springs, OH
Back by popular demand, TLT, Glen Helen and the Dharma Center will offer walking meditations with the help of Bill Felker. Walks will also occur on June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28, & October 26.

June 1, 2pm
24th Annual Meeting
Bud & Jean Marsh Property
145 E. Hyde Rd.
Yellow Springs, OH
Come one, come all to our annual meeting. Enjoy music, refreshments, and a walk on a property. Special activities for children are planned during the brief business meeting. Wear good walking shoes and bring a chair.

June 5, 7-9pm
One Buck for Greenspace
Yellow Springs Brewery
305 N. Walnut St.
Yellow Springs, OH
Wet your whistle for greenspace at the Yellow Springs Brewery. Every 1st Thursday of the month for 2 hours only the 1% for Greenspace fund will receive $1 for every beer purchased. This will reoccur on July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4.

June 8, 12-4pm
Tour de Coop
Antioch University Midwest
900 Dayton St.
Yellow Springs, OH
Interested in raising chickens? Check out some of the finest chicken coops in Yellow Springs. Meet at Antioch University and get a map of the hen houses on this self-guided walking/biking tour. Grab lunch from Harvest Mobile before you head out. $10/adults; $5/children.

June 18, 7pm
Yellow Springs Pollinator Project
Antioch College
McGregor Hall
Yellow Springs, OH
Calling all pollinator lovers! Nadia Malarkey will lead a talk about how to make your yard pollinator friendly in an effort to make Yellow Springs a pollinator haven. Native plants can be ordered that night through Bob Moore.

June 21, 7pm
Summer Solstice Barn Dance
Young’s Jersey Dairy
Outdoor Pavilion
Yellow Springs, OH
Celebrate the solstice with foot stomping dancing and family fun. Music by The Tea Drinkers. Old fashioned games and activities. $10/adults; $5/kids; under 10 free.

July 13, 1-5pm
Backyard Stewards Tour
Birch III Neighborhood
Yellow Springs, OH
See backyards that offer an alternative to the English lawn. Landowners will be onsite to discuss plant species and how they planned their yards. Kids can enjoy a pollinator scavenger hunt. See website for the schedule.

August 4, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00
Local Foods Dinner
The Winds Cafe
Yellow Springs, OH
This fabulous dinner is a local tradition. Five course meal made from locally grown foods. Reservations required and seating is limited. Tickets will go on sale in mid June.

August 10, 1-5pm
Backyard Stewards Tour
Center of Town
Yellow Springs, OH
This is the second phase on the tour and it features 4 stops in the center of town. Check our website for schedule.

September 19, 6pm
Harvest Auction
Hollenbeck Bayley Center
Springfield, OH
TLT puts the fun in FUNdaiser with a fantastic night out in Springfield. Enjoy live music and great food and drink while bidding on exciting auction items. Tickets on sale through TLT in mid August.

October 19, 5-6:30pm
Julia Cady Society Event
Home of Krista Magaw
604 Xenia Ave.
Yellow Springs, OH
All Julia Cady Society members are invited to Krista’s home, the old Baptist Church in downtown Yellow Springs, for cocktails and appetizers. A brief talk by a local farmer on blending new & old ag.

November 28,
Yellow Friday Giving
1st Presbyterian Church
Yellow Springs, OH
Start the holiday shopping season off by supporting Yellow Springs nonprofits. They will have gifts on sale for every budget. Introducing a new tradition, nonprofits competing in “The best Thanksgiving left over receipe contest.” Come to vote on the winner!

December 12, 7pm
Winter Solstice Poetry Reading
Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry St.
Yellow Springs, OH
Coming back for the 3rd year is this very popular evening of poetry reading. Join TLT & Glen Helen for a night of poetry and refreshments.

For more information about these events visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org or Facebook.
**WINDS DINNER A LOCAL FOODS TRADITION**

When asked why do you attend the Local Foods Dinner at The Winds Café, Joe & Marilyn Dowdell didn’t hesitate to answer, “We like to support our local land trust, and its good food with good friends.” The Dowdells have been coming to the dinner for years with friends Jim and Mary Agna and Paul and Jewel Graham. Jewel Graham says “The dinner gives us a way to recognize and support the valuable work of TLT and in view of the approaching world food crisis, it is a handy way to think globally, act locally.”

A more recent addition to the dinner is the Dunphy family with 3 generations attending. Sheila (Dunphy) Pallotta says, “It is a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the absolute best local foods Yellow Springs growers provide the community.”

This year’s dinner will be held on August 4th with various seating times. Anderson’s Farm is custom raising pigs for this special night. Tickets will go on sale in mid June.

**JULIA CADY SOCIETY LEARNS GEOLGY OF AGLE FARM**

TLT’s major donors gathered last fall near South Vienna at the adjoining farms of brothers Bill and Bob Agle. It was a beautiful day with plenty of good food, but the Julia Cady Society event highlight was a talk by farmer Bill Agle and professor of geomorphology and environmental geology, Dr. John Ritter.

The landowners showed conservation practices they employ, such as no-till, grassed waterways, soil sampling, and stream setbacks, that help them keep pace with modern agriculture while being conscious of the need to protect Beaver Creek which bisects their properties. Dr. Ritter explained that because Beaver Creek is within its floodplain and has room to “meander” stream quality has improved. He showed how through these practices the creek had become less channelized and exhibits attributes of a more natural system. Everyone was thrilled to see his map of how the stream pattern has improved over time, thanks to good stewardship.

**STORYTELLING AND SUGAR MAPLES ATTRACT FAMILIES**

After a brutally cold winter, it seemed as if spring would never come. But finally, in late February the first sign of spring did emerge - the sap started to flow in the sugar maples. Flying Mouse Farms began tapping their maples this year in mid February, about two weeks later than normal. Fortunately, just enough sap flowed to fire up the boiler for the more than 100 people who attended their annual open house with Tecumseh Land Trust.

The sugar shack was steamy and warm as visitors piled in to see the sap bubbling through the evaporator and slowly turning into syrup. They were then led through the heated greenhouses where green vegetables had indeed survived the winter. Finally, a bonfire kept everyone warm as they listened to the tales of Jonatha and Harold Wright.

Families, some new to the land trust, enjoyed the afternoon at the farm and we look forward to doing it again next February – let’s just hope for a milder winter and more maple syrup!
DECADE OF CLEAN OHIO FUNDS PRESERVES 4,000 ACRES

Tecumseh Land Trust is proud to announce that we have helped to preserve over 4,000 acres with permanent conservation easements in Madison Township, Clark County. The Land Trust has been conserving land in Madison Township since May of 2004 when Marvin and Jo Berschet’s 478 acre farm was accepted into the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. After that, the block of preserved farmland outside of South Charleston quickly grew. Recent easement purchases, through the Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP) out of the Farm Bill, have brought the total up to 4,098 acres preserved in the township – that’s 18.7% of the entire township’s land area.

A conservation easement on Laura Cheney’s 69 acre farm, on the edge of South Charleston closed in 2013. Since this farm is a Century Farm it seems only fitting to preserve it in perpetuity. Now the Cheney’s have two farms under easement, permanently securing their family’s livelihood for generations to come. This block isn’t completely finished yet as interested landowners are still emerging.

In December of 2013, Tom and Juiceann Florence, along with Tom’s brother Bill, signed a permanent conservation easement on their 272 acre farm off Coapland Road. Talk about wide open spaces - the eastern part of the Township has certainly got them! When the wind blows there is very little to break it. But that makes for fantastic uninterrupted open space views. In addition to the prime soils and gobs of road frontage on this farm, it appealed to the Land Trust because it is next to a four hundred acre farm under easement.

And just north of that property lies Lady Luck farm owned by Ron and Barb Harbage. This farm also received an FRPP easement late last year. The Harbages had been applying for years for a funded easement on Barb’s family’s land and it was finally awarded along with these other projects. Now there is a new block of more than 800 preserved acres just on the township line of Madison and Harmony.

The land trust loves to see blocks of preserved property grow because that makes good sense for farming. As contiguous acres are preserved the agricultural industry in this area becomes more secure.

Yet an extra resource was added by TLT 8 years ago, with the leadership of Bob Barcus – 1% for Green Space. This program allows area merchants to collect voluntary 1% donations on purchases that go towards the preservation of green space in Miami Township.

The Yellow Springs Brewery is the newest addition and their participation will be in the form of $1 per beer for Greenspace every 1st Thursday of the month from 7-9pm.

Please thank all of the participating businesses:
With support from

Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever.

Aerial photograph of the 80 acre Marsh property in Miami Township.

24th Annual Meeting

Bud Marsh, former TLT Trustee, was a dedicated conservationist. Having grown up in Colorado he loved being in great open spaces. In 1960, he and his wife Jean, purchased a property on Hyde Road where they spent much time enjoying nature. Sadly, Bud passed away in January but will be remembered at the Annual Meeting on June 1st at the Marsh’s Hyde Rd. property. A champion for TLT and for land preservation everywhere we were honored to know him. Join us at 2pm at 145 E. Hyde Rd. 1/2 mile west of US 68, south of Yellow Springs. Look for Miami Valley Pottery & TLT signs.

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.

Volunteer

Give to Our Endowments

Put TLT in Your Will

Preserve a Property

To learn more about how you can help contact our office at 767-9490.