

# TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



**Fall 2015**

**HARVEST AUCTION  
GETS  
RAVE REVIEWS**

**TWO  
CLARK COUNTY  
EASEMENTS SIGNED  
AND RECORDED**

**OHIO EASEMENT  
PURCHASE  
PROGRAM FUNDED**

**TLT HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE**

**2015 - 2016  
CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**



*Glen Helen Nature Preserve along the Little Miami River.*

*photo by David Fisher*

## **GLEN HELEN FOREVER**

On August 10, 2015, the final phase of permanently protecting Glen Helen Nature Preserve was completed. The Tecumseh Land Trust, Glen Helen Ecological Institute, and The Trust for Public Lands partnered to secure funding to purchase conservation easements on all 973 acres of the preserve. After almost 10 years, we can happily say Glen Helen is and will forever be a nature preserve.

Glen Helen has been a huge attraction to Yellow Springs for generations. Many people have a history with the Glen. Students grow up taking environmental classes with the naturalists at the Glen and some even later join the Glen Helen community for a career.

Because of these deep connections to this natural treasure and the uncertainty surrounding Antioch College when it closed in 2008, it became apparent that long-term protection for the Glen was needed. Its preservation is important to the whole Yellow Springs community. It is rich in its history and losing the nature preserve would be like losing part of their own backyard for many Yellow Springers.

TLT was eager to get involved with permanent protection. "There is no greater treasure here than Glen Helen,"

said TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw. "It is the ecological and spiritual anchor for the Miami Valley. It's an honor to do our part to protect it, for today and for future generations."

In 2009, TLT obtained a grant from the Ohio EPA to preserve 563 acres of riparian corridor along the Little Miami River. This easement was completed in 2013. Meanwhile, TLT was securing funds from multiple funding sources, including Clean Ohio Open Space, Farm and Ranch Protection Program, the Village of Yellow Springs, and The Upper River Fund, to protect the remainder of the Glen. Persistence did in fact pay off, and now the entire property is preserved.

Glen Helen Ecology Institute Director Nick Boutis said, "We've hit a major milestone here. Though people have been trying to establish enduring protection for the Glen for the past 90 years, nothing like this in the history of the preserve has ever been done."

The two conservation easements with Tecumseh Land Trust, and the additional easement on the former Camp Greene purchased by the Glen in 2014, preserves all 1,000 acres of Glen Helen. We can now celebrate that the Glen Helen will be unchanged forever!

## Tecumseh Land Trust

### Staff

Krista Magaw, *Executive Director*  
Michele Burns, *Associate Director*  
Cathy Holcomb, *Office Manager*  
Carol Simmons, *Events Coordinator*  
Jenny Randolph, *Web Master*

### Stewardship Team

Douglas Bailey - Documentation  
George Bieri, James  
Blumenschein, David Flowers,  
Mike Haubner, Jim Holcomb, Ben  
Silliman, Richard Zopf - Monitors

### Board of Directors

Rosalie Beers, *President*  
Susan Miller, *Vice-President*  
David Neuhardt, *Secretary*  
Jim Timmons, *Treasurer*

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Jim Clem  
Chuck Dolph  
Charles Swaney  
Jim Timmons  
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Julia Cady  
Greg Kaffenbarger  
Linda Parsons  
John Ritter  
Bill Runyon  
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Andy Elder  
Evelyn LaMers  
*Volunteer:* Bob Barcus  
Gene Barnett  
Ilse Tebbetts

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Kate Anderson  
Ed Davis  
Anne Randolph  
Carolyn Smith  
*Volunteers:* Jim Campbell  
Dennie Eagleson  
Bonnie Wilkenson  
Mickey Wilkenson

### Finance Committee

Evelyn LaMers  
Jim Timmons  
*Volunteers:* Dave Baird  
John Vitaliti  
Richard Zopf

**Newsletter** Evelyn LaMers

## DAYTON NATIVE PURCHASES YELLOW SPRINGS FARM

The road to TLT was a long one for Kate Anderson. Sharing a passion for the environment, Barbara Rion, former TLT board member, introduced her to the organization 15 years ago. However, it wasn't until Kate was looking for farmland, that her path crossed with TLT. While the location of a future property was unclear, what was clear is that Kate wanted a farm with a conservation easement and was interested in prairie restoration. To learn more, she met with TLT's Associate Director, Michele Burns. Months later, Kate purchased the Bean family farm on Snively Road, just outside Yellow Springs, where she now resides with her partner, Greg Lightbourn, and her two children, Isabel and Ian.

Having grown up in the 1970s, Kate recalls driving across the country see-



*Kate Anderson, new TLT board member.*

ing farmland transition to subdivisions and strip malls. She aims "to reverse the trajectory, creating a sense of place AND space that not only celebrates history and habitat, but allows a quiet corner for learning and reflection."

## VOLUNTEER INVESTS IN TLT'S VISION

John Vitaliti and his wife, Connie, retired anesthesiologists, moved to Ohio to be closer to their children. The Vitalitis lived for 20 years in Virginia, where Dr. Vitaliti served as head of an anesthesiology practice outside of Washington, D.C.

John then served as an adjunct professor at Cedarville University, where he met TLT board member Chuck Dolph on the racquetball court. Chuck introduced John to natural habitat maintenance and the work of TLT.

In 2011, the Vitalitis were successful bidders on farmland in Caesarscreek Township. The farm includes 126 tillable and 35 wooded acres and in the 19th century was owned by Godfrey Brown. Brown, a former Virginia slave who had earned his family's freedom, purchased the property in 1822. He established a farming community of over 100 homes, a school, and the Middle



*John Vitaliti at Peacefield Properties.*

Run Baptist Church, where he served as pastor. Prior to the Civil War, this community served as part of the Underground Railroad.

With his interest in preserving farmland and his practical experience in financial management, John now serves on the TLT Finance Committee.



*Marty and Carolyn Spears' farm on left; Greg Spears' farm down the road on the right*

## TWO GENERATIONS PRESERVE THREE FAMILY FARMS

Some people say families who farm together stay together. At TLT, we say families who preserve their land together stay in farming. The Spears family certainly do both.

In 2007, Marty and Carolyn Spears preserved their 361 acre farm on Dolly Varden Road, just outside of South Charleston. Their land was permanently preserved through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program and the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Farm and Ranch Protection Program.

For Marty and Carolyn this was a process to look into the future. Their wishes for the easement fell in line with their estate planning goals. "The easement was a way to ensure the farm would remain in agriculture and maybe one of our grandchildren will farm it some day," says Marty. Two years later, Marty and Carolyn preserved another farm in the area. This one was a bit smaller, yet no less important to protect. The easement was placed on the 89-acre farm in 2009 using the same easement programs. Marty said, "preserving the farms provides more opportunities for our family."

Not long after this easement was signed, Marty and Carolyn's son Greg contacted TLT to discuss an easement on his 98-acre farm just across the road from his parent's first farm. Being so close to already preserved land is a boost when applying to these funding programs. Greg's score was competitive, so TLT submitted his application in 2012.

Unfortunately there wasn't enough funding to purchase an easement in that year, but Greg was persistent. TLT submitted again and when it wasn't accepted in 2013, Greg asked what he could do to get his farm funded in 2014. TLT staff worked with Greg to find areas of the application where more points could be gained.

Greg put in a lot of hours and legwork to create an Agricultural Security Area and he met with the District Conservationist in Clark County to update his Conservation Plan and thus received maximum points.

His efforts paid off. In 2014, his farm was accepted into the program. This farm was one of the last unpreserved farms in TLT's largest block of preserved land, with over 3,500 acres preserved in Madison Township!



## YOU ARE INVITED TO TLT'S HOLIDAY PARTY!

Help TLT welcome the holiday season at our 2nd Annual Open House at our new office on Whitehall Farm.

We work hard all year, so on December 18 from 3:30-5:30 let's celebrate and enjoy each other's company.

Delicious treats, seasonal music, and great conversations will highlight the party.

Not to worry, you can also do a little holiday shopping while you are here. Handmade and unique items will be for sale and the proceeds benefit TLT.

We have beautiful notecards which make great stocking stuffers, and some decorative items handcrafted by TLT interns and volunteers.

Shopping for the person who has it all? Give them an acre of preserved farmland! It's a gift that gives not just all year, but forever.

And all TLT volunteers should stop by. We have a special thank you gift for all of you who have donated your time and talents to our organization. We couldn't do all that we do without your support.



*The McCulloch's 1830s home.*



*Brenda Bertrand and Bill McCulloch.*

## “WE’RE PART OF A BIGGER PROCESS, PART OF THE ECOSYSTEM AND WE’RE JUST CARETAKERS.”

Bill McCulloch spent 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana, fighting fires and overseeing the planting of new trees in burned areas. Now, he’s back home on the Clark County farm where he grew up.

At the annual TLT Local Foods Dinner last August, Bill signed a conservation easement on the farm, as instructed by his late mother, Jean McCulloch, in her will. “She’d been thinking about it for 20 years or so,” Bill says, “but I think she wanted me to finalize it.”

Bill’s dad, Rudy, a local physician, and his mother moved to the property, between Clifton and Pitchin, when Bill was 10 years old. Rudy maintained his practice in town while Jean managed the farm and pursued her passion for raising and showing horses. “She had one National Champion named Cinders,” Bill notes with pride. Bill lives in the 1830s house with his fiancée, Brenda Bertrand, who shares Jean’s interest in horses.

The farm was carved from a huge property owned at one time by General Benjamin Whiteman. The General built the large brick farmhouse for his son — “at least, that’s the story,” according to Bill. Aside from the addition of some modern conveniences,

“not much has changed,” Brenda says — not the high ceilings, not the four working fireplaces, and not the beautiful wooden floors, now wavy with age.

“Actually,” Bill adds, “most of the buildings on the property, including the barn with its old hand-hewed rafters intact, have been preserved in their original state.” One of the reasons he was enthusiastic about putting the easement on the property was his interest in “keeping the past alive by preserving the historical old buildings.”

Although the buildings haven’t changed much, parts of the farm have. The 113-acre farm is situated among rolling agricultural land and wood lots as far as the eye can see. A meandering

stretch of the Little Miami River flows through the farm. In the 1960s all of the bottomland was pastured. But over the last 25 years, the river bottom has been allowed to return to nature. The cows no longer graze this area, which has now returned to a natural wetland and marsh.

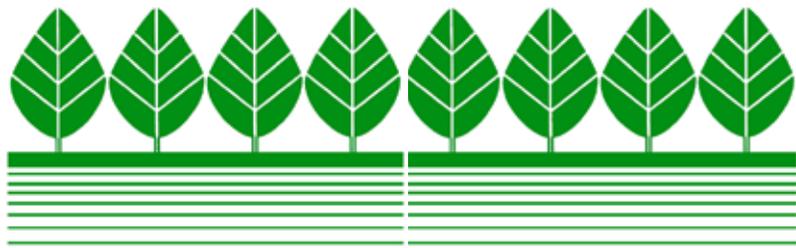
Bill and Brenda continue to raise grass-fed Black Angus cattle and hay to feed them. They sell the meat to neighbors but have plans to expand that operation to a commercial level.

TLT was pleased to assist the McCulloch family and extend Jean’s passion for her farm beyond her own life.

*Quote, photos courtesy of Renee Wilde*



*The Little Miami River flowing through McCulloch’s Fen Run Farm.*



## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 11, 7pm**

**Winter Solstice Poetry Reading**

*Glen Helen Vernet Building*

*405 Corry St.*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

Welcome the solstice with poets from the Miami Valley who will share their work in a beautiful evening celebration of the season.

**Dec. 18, 3:30-5:30pm**

**TLT Holiday Open House**

*TLT Offices, Whitehall Farm*

*4627 U.S. 68*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

Ring in the holidays with TLT staff - seasonal cheer, light refreshments, and purchase some holiday items that benefit the land trust.

**Jan. 7, 7-9pm**

**Thirsty Thursdays**

*Yellow Springs Brewery*

*305 N. Walnut St.*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

Meet us on the first Thursday of each month at the YS Brewery as they donate \$1 for every beer sold from 7-9 p.m. to TLT's 1% for Green Space program. Reoccurring on **Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1**

**Monthly (mid-week days TBD), 4pm**

**TLT Book Group Discussion**

*Yellow Springs Library*

*415 Xenia Ave.*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

Join the discussion each month when a topical book is selected and read. Check the TLT website for dates and books.

**March 13, 2pm**

**Sugar Shack Tour**

*Flying Mouse Farms*

*100 E. Fairfield Pk.*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

Take a tour of Flying Mouse Farms and learn how maple syrup is made. Dress for the weather and muddy conditions.

**June 5, 2-4pm**

**26th Annual Meeting**

*Location: TBA*

Everyone is invited as we celebrate 26 years of preservation. Live music, refreshments, and children's activities will be part of the afternoon's festivities.

**Aug. 8, 5:30, 6, 7:30, 8:00pm**

**Local Foods Dinner**

*The Winds Café*

*Yellow Springs, OH*

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.

**Sept. 16, 6pm**

**12th Annual Harvest Auction**

*Hollenbeck Bayley*

*Conference Center*

*Springfield, OH*

Treat yourself to a night out on the town with great food, drinks, and live music with friends while bidding on more than 100 exciting auction items. Tickets go on sale in mid-August.

**Date TBA**

**Julia Cady Society Gathering**

*Location: TBA*

Become a major donor and enjoy a lovely gathering of TLT supporters over wine and hors d'oeuvres.



## TLT MOVES TO A NEW HOME!

We've really appreciated the use of Dave and Sharen Neuhardt's Whitehall Farm Carriage House for our office over the last eight years! Every view is good and it's been great to work on such a beautiful, preserved farm.

But soon the TLT office will make a short move to the larger "farm manager's house." The house offers more space, parking, and storage. We're so excited! We'll be able to better accommodate our interns and volunteers and finally provide our Office Manager with her own office.

If you'd like to help with moving or re-painting and cleaning our old space, please contact Cathy Holcomb at 767-9490 or [cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org](mailto:cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org). We'll also need a few things for our new space - lamps, area rugs, side tables, comfy chairs etc. Again give Cathy a call if you have something to donate.

Finally, we'll have on-going needs for tending the flower beds around the house once spring comes. So if you enjoy gardening we'd love to have your help. Stay connected via our website and Facebook page for more updates.

With more space, we're looking forward to more volunteer activities! Let us know if you'd like to be more involved with TLT.



“Why do I love the TLT auction? First, because it is fun! I see many friends, enjoy delicious food, bid on novel experiences and items from around the world, and every cent of what I spend goes to a cause I deeply care about. Besides, how else might I get to ride in a combine and learn about the nuances of corn farming and futures markets? How else might I learn to tie flies?”

*-Mary T.P. White*

“What’s not to like? It’s a great event. From the perspective of a Springfield resident, it’s a great way to interact with diverse communities, but out of your regular routine and mingle with hard-core agriculturalists, land preservationists, and city slickers, all in one place. It’s a great time.”

*- Ross McGregor*



The auction offers an opportunity to work with a well-organized team for a wonderful cause as we pull off one of the best social events of the season. What a terrific way to achieve that sense of purpose that is probably the basis of all volunteering!

*- Kim Iconis*

**TLT Harvest Auction!**  
**It takes a village to throw a great party.**



**Don't miss out next year.**  
**Mark your calendars for**  
**September 16, 2016 at the Hollenbeck**  
**Bayley Center in Springfield.**

## ANTIOCH & WITTENBERG INTERNS

This fall we welcomed new interns to Tecumseh Land Trust. Myriah Neal-McKenzie is in her third year at Antioch doing a self-designed major in World Cultures in Translation. Her career goal is to be an interpreter and translator for Chinese and Spanish. “It is so wonderful to work in such a beautiful place and for a great organization,” she says.

Also from Antioch College is Tyler Clapsaddle. He is a first year student and comes to us through the Miller Fellow program. Tyler is passionate about land preservation after watching unchecked development around his hometown near Portland, Oregon.

Lexi Barlow comes to us from Wittenberg University where she is majoring in biology and minoring in marine science and chemistry. She hopes to become a researcher in the field of marine pharmacology, with a particular interest in designing treatments for Alzheimer’s and cancer.



*Myriah Neal-McKenzie & Tyler Clapsaddle.*

Jamison Shriver, a senior at Wittenberg, is majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Geology. He conducts research on Eastern box turtles. After graduation, Jamison plans on going to graduate school to study game species management.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OHIO EASEMENT PURCHASE

TLT works with various funding sources to purchase easements on private property. The funding source with which it works the most is the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. You may notice the “local” part of this program - it is new. Now in its second year, this program works more like a block-grant program. Any organization which applies to receive funds gets a portion of the total allotment.

What this means is that landowners are now only competing with other applicants for which our organization is making application. Gone are the days of competing regionwide. This has allowed applications that didn’t score well under the previous scoring to have a chance to be funded.

So, if you have applied in the past but



*Michele Burns, associate director*

were not accepted, please contact Michele Burns before January. It is possible that you could be funded in 2016. Even if your application isn’t selected in this round it may in the next.



### Let’s Talk! TLT Can Help Make Connections

You are reading this newsletter, so you probably know a good bit about the farms and natural areas we protect in Clark and Greene counties. You may even have recommended a friend or family member call us. But suppose your cousin Sara from Illinois calls, at a loss about what to do with her family farm – she wants to sell, but also to honor the hard work of her parents on that land. Or suppose your Uncle Bill is looking to buy some nice hunting land in West Virginia to take refuge now and then from his busy law practice. What on earth could Tecumseh Land Trust do to help?

We may well be able to connect Sara to a local land trust in her area that could help her explore the possibility of putting a conservation easement on the farm before selling it. Local land trusts often know landowners in their area who might be interested in selling some nice hunting land to Uncle Bill. Once he’s purchased it, a donated conservation easement through that local land trust may help him lower his tax bill as well.

We love to hear from our members, so go ahead and give us a call! Whether you’re looking for a caterer who sources locally, or interested in new farming practices, we’re happy to try to connect you to the people and answers you need.

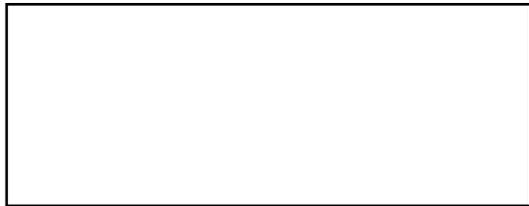
Tecumseh Land Preservation Association  
P. O. Box 417, Yellow Springs, OH 45387  
www.tecumsehlandtrust.org  
937-767-9490



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## Fall 2015 Newsletter

*With support from*



2015 Sunflower Photo Contest entry by Angie McDonald.

## 300,000 SUNFLOWERS!

"I love coming to the sunflower field, it reminds me of France," says Libby Rudolf from Yellow Springs Arts Council. The Whitehall Farm sunflower field has been in existence for 12 years and attracts visitors from all over. Sharen Neuhardt first planted the sunflower

field in 2003 to show the beauty of owning and preserving agricultural land. Each year sunflowers are usually planted in late July and bloom in the early fall. The Tecumseh Land Trust office is truly lucky to be located on a farm with such beautiful views.

### 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.

#### Volunteer

#### Give to Our Endowments

#### Put TLT in Your Will

#### Preserve a Property

To learn more contact us at 767-9490.  
*TLT does not solicit in states in which it is not registered as a charity.*