

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Spring 2016

**ENHANCED
FEDERAL TAX
BENEFITS
FOR EASEMENTS**

**TLT WELCOMES
NEW
EASEMENT
MONITORS**

**YELLOW SPRINGS
MERCHANTS
PROVIDE FUNDS
FOR GREENSPACE**

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS !**

**2016
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**



552-acre Bowman farm, Pleasant and Union townships, Clark and Champaign counties.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES HAVE GUIDED SHAWNEE FARM

The Bowman family has a rich history of farming in Clark and Champaign counties. The family owns several farms, but the land known as Shawnee Farm has always been near and dear to Sam Bowman's heart. Shawnee Farm, located in Pleasant Township on Neer Road, was purchased in 1910 by Border Bowman, Sam's great-uncle. The old farmhouse that sits on top of the hill overlooks 552 acres of prime farmland, pasture, and healthy woods. Two miles of Buck Creek and its tributaries run through the farm.

The variety of natural resources on the farm, make it an interesting place to manage. Sam's vision has been conservation minded. To implement his ideas he put together a management team. John Trimmer and Travis Kelly of Alliance Ag, LLC manage the farming operations. The woods are strategically managed by Jim Bartlett, a retired state of Ohio forester, to control invasive species and nurture the long-term growth of native hardwoods. John said of Sam, "He not only believes in good stewardship and conservation, he put words into action by creating filter strips along streams, planting hundreds



TLT Board walk with farm manager, Travis Kelly.

of trees, sowing cover crops, preserving the buildings, installing kestrel boxes and martin houses, and undertaking many other projects to preserve the farm for future generations."

After obtaining Century Farm status through the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2011, Sam was ready to pursue an agricultural easement. In January of this year, the easement was signed and recorded. Preserving the farm for future generations is the ultimate tribute to those generations coming before Sam.

Tecumseh Land Trust

Staff

Krista Magaw, *Executive Director*
Michele Burns, *Associate Director*
Cathy Holcomb, *Office Manager*
Carol Simmons, *Outreach Coord.*
Jenny Randolph, *Office Assistant*

Stewardship Team

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

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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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Linda Parsons
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Bill Runyon
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Andy Elder
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Dennie Eagleson
Mickey Wilkinson

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Volunteers: Dave Baird
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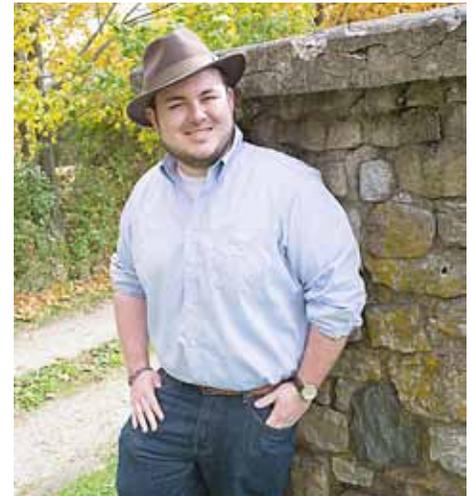
Newsletter Evelyn LaMers

EASEMENT ON GRANDPARENTS' FARM INSPIRES NEW MONITOR

As a graduate of Wittenberg University's Geology Department, James Blumenschein has an affinity for conservation, preservation and the outdoors.

His geologic and environmental interests include watershed management, surface water hydrology, and soils. In the interest of conservation, his family farm is in the process of becoming permanently protected through a conservation easement. A father of two and husband to a wonderful wife and mother, James and his family enjoy camping, hiking, canoeing, nature photography, and other outdoor recreation activities.

James also runs a unique and up and coming blog, MidwestAdventures.net, where he shares their adventures, along with tips and insight into the outdoor



James Blumenschein

recreation industry. The outdoors is James' passion and monitoring properties for the land trust is one way he can help to preserve it.

LONG TIME VOLUNTEER JOINS STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Some of you may have seen Jim Holcomb helping at various events over the years. A TLT volunteer since 2008, he has been a bartender at the Harvest Auction, staffed the information table at TLT annual meetings, and has showed off his grilling expertise at a Julia Cady Society event.

TLT recently tapped him to join the Monitoring Team due to his work experience as a Property Reviewer at Tyler Technologies' Tax Appraisal Division. Jim enjoyed his first season as a monitor because he met a great group of landowners and got to hike many beautiful preserved properties.

Jim noted that his training session with experienced monitor Ben Silliman at a Greene County farm was very interesting and helpful in learning the ropes. He is looking forward to another busy season with the land trust.



Jim Holcomb on his farm in Springfield.

When Jim isn't working, he is tending the animals on his own two-and-a-half acre slice of heaven, and tinkering in the old milkhouse that his wife Cathy, calls his man cave.



Great blue heron fishing in the wetland at Glass Farm. Photo by Scott Stolsenberg

RESTORATION BRINGS NEW LIFE TO GLASS FARM WETLAND

Nestled between neighborhoods on King Street and Fairfield Pike in Yellow Springs, lies a small wetland area adjacent to several neighborhood garden plots. Known as a part of Glass Farm, this village land is important for the drainage of many upstream neighbors. Over the years, it has also become home to a colony of beavers and scores of bird species, observed daily by neighbors who stroll around the property and mow paths to allow gentle access to this evolving habitat.

Tom Dietrich, a member of the Yellow Springs Environmental Commission, reached out to the land trust last year seeking help to improve the habitat on this property. Specifically the commission wanted to remove the invasive callery pear trees and honeysuckle and plant native species that provide good food for the beavers.

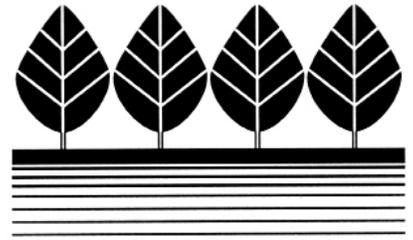
The land trust made a successful application to the Clean Ohio Open Space fund and has been coordinating the project with the village, volunteers, and neighbors. Within two years, the natural area will be permanently preserved through a conservation easement with Tecumseh Land Trust. Removal of in-



Prairie in September. Photo by Scott Stolsenberg

vasive plants has begun this spring, and native plantings will begin soon.

“Neighbors have already done so much, and we have opportunities for more volunteers to help as well. Naturalists who are volunteering their time with TLT are studying how best to restore this land to provide high quality habitat for the beavers and the birds already living on the land,” says Michele Burns, TLT Associate Director. Call 937-767-9490 or e-mail burns@tecumsehlandtrust.org if you would like to lend a hand.



FEDERAL TAX BENEFIT PERMANENT

In the final days of 2015, the U.S. Congress passed a bill to essentially triple the tax advantages of conserving private land. In this very newsletter you have read about our past trips to Washington D.C. and on each trip we’ve gotten a little more commitment from Ohio legislators, tempered by sobering information from their aides about the unwieldy process of getting legislation to the floor for a vote. But thanks to letters and visits from citizens like you and land trust staff, the income tax incentive for donating conservation easements is permanently expanded.

What does this mean? Suppose you seek to protect your 400-acre farm by donating a conservation easement, valued at \$800,000. Under the previous rules, a landowner earning \$50,000 a year could take an income tax deduction of \$15,000 a year for 6 years, totaling \$90,000. Now that same landowner can deduct a total of \$400,000 over 16 years. Landowners who earn more than half their income from farming can take up to \$800,000 in deductions over 16 years.

Since farming income can vary significantly from year to year, this law is especially helpful for farm families. Their commitment to protect farm ground to feed future generations provides a real economic benefit for them today.



Office Manager Cathy Holcomb keeps us on the good side of the post office.



Bob Barcus, TLT volunteer and former board member, and Myriah McKenzie-Neil, Antioch College intern, meet to discuss 1% for Greenspace.

A NEW HOME FOR TLT!

TLT staff and board members couldn't be happier in our new space on Whitehall Farm. There's room for plenty of activity, and space for quiet concentration. Now more than ever we have room for more volunteers, social gatherings, and events.

A big heartfelt thank you goes out to Dave and Sharen Neuhardt for their continued support and generosity. Stop by for a visit when you're in the neighborhood!



Board members Kate Anderson, Ed Davis, and Jim Clem at the board retreat.



Krista Magaw, Executive Director, at her desk.



Jenny Randolph, web-master, keeps us current on social media.



Board members Dave Neuhardt and Charlie Swaney and Krista Magaw review an easement during Executive Committee.

BATH TWP ZONING A MODEL FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Driving through Bath Township, you may not know agriculture is still an important part of this heavily developed part of western Greene County. But in fact, agriculture is a key component of the township's economic base. As housing developments continue to encroach on farmland, the township trustees decided to take action.

In 2012, Bath Township trustees created a new zoning district called Prime Agriculture (PA). The zoning resolution that was passed states, "The intent of the Prime Agricultural District is to recognize the long-range physical, social, and economic needs of the larger scale agricultural community within Bath Township." Land zoned PA is subject to the highest minimum acreage per house in the state, 80 acres per one house. This strict zoning is designed to reduce and/or eliminate the

conflicts that can arise when residential development is in close proximity to farming operations while also preserving farmland.

The area zoned PA lies primarily to the east of Fairborn, allowing for plenty of room for the city to grow in other directions. The PA zoning protects hundreds of acres of prime farmland that continues to be viable for farming. This zoning is good for both the township and the City of Fairborn.

In an effort to support the local government's decision to actively preserve farmland through zoning regulations, TLT has begun working with several farmers in the township who would like to preserve their farms through agricultural conservation easements. Stay tuned, we hope to have a story soon about a specific property!

\$75,000 RAISED OVER 10 YEARS BY YELLOW SPRINGS MERCHANTS

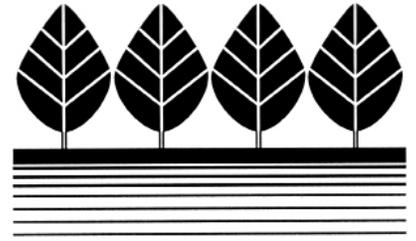
Ten years ago the Land Trust began a program with Yellow Springs businesses to help preserve the rural landscape of Miami Township, which surrounds the village. Businesses agreed to collect 1% of each transaction or donate a similar amount themselves specifically to be used to establish easements on properties surrounding the village.

"One Percent for Green Space has been a win/win proposition for the land trust and businesses alike," says program manager Bob Barcus. "It helps preserve the natural beauty that attracts people to visit Yellow Springs in the first place."

Business owners report that when customers learn about the donation they are impressed by the social responsibility shown and often say they wish their town had something like it. In fact One Percent has inspired other land trusts, and Bob has consulted with

those land trusts to establish similar programs, just as we were assisted by a land trust in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Ten years and \$75,000 later, One Percent for Green Space helps preserve Miami Township and Yellow Springs, with just one penny out of every dollar. So far, 5 properties have been protected using this fund, including Yellow Springs' natural treasure, Glen Helen Nature Preserve. For more information visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org.



YOGA, ART, & FOOD WORKSHOPS

You care about the land trust because you love nature. In our larger office and surrounding grounds, we have space to spread our wings and experience nature. Volunteers are working with staff to offer several nature oriented workshops that will also raise funds to support TLT. All workshops are \$25 for members or \$50 for non members, which includes one annual membership. Scheduled so far are:

"Yoga on the Land," May 21, with Molly Lunde – introductory and medium skilled yoga mix with mindfulness on Whitehall Farm.

"Shop Local/Cook Local," June 18, with Krista Magaw and Anna Carlson – shop at the YS Farmers' Market and come back to Whitehall to enjoy cooking and eating local, while planning some menus of your own.

Workshops that are developing:
"Where to Start in Your Own Backyard" – learn to identify the basic friends and foes in your garden and gain courage to nurture an earth friendly and beautiful environment.

"Channel Your Inner Artist" – Try your hand at some non intimidating art forms that help you see new possibilities.

Visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org for registration information.



Dessert with locally grown fruit.

ANNUAL WINDS DINNER SUSTAINS LOCAL FARMERS & TLT

Every August, for the past few years, I have been invited to photograph the Local Foods Dinner at The Winds Café, sponsored by the Tecumseh Land Trust. The event showcases area growers of pastured meat, dairy, and fruits and vegetables. The menu changes every year based on seasonal availability and the creative inspiration of the great Winds chefs.

My camera lens captures the sculptural arrays of the hor d'oeuvres and then follows the softening light from

the front windows to catch the parade of salad, entrees, the intermezzo of cheese and honey, to the final dessert. The true joy of the event is the gathering of friends and family, farmers and food-lovers who come to enjoy this gourmet meal.

I get to enjoy the food myself in the company of the farmers and TLT staff. The tickets for this year's dinner, scheduled for August 8 will be available in mid-June. Come join us!

- Dennie Eagleson



Janet Ward, Krista Magaw, and Susan Miller at Birch Manor.

JULIA CADY SOCIETY CELEBRATES 25TH YEAR AT BIRCH MANOR

From our interns to our land trust's founding mothers and fathers, the importance of protecting Glen Helen forever, was uppermost on everyone's mind at our 2015 Julia Cady Society celebration. In October 2015, founders Janet Ward and George Bieri addressed TLT major donors at the Hugh Taylor Birch House in the Glen, speaking about how far we've come in 25 years and how important our work remains.

Janet shared a quote from Susan Vreeland's book, *Lisette's List*, "Isn't there a hunger in every human being to

find a place in the world that gives to him so richly that he wants to honor it by giving back something of worth?"

If you're not already a Julia Cady Society member, please consider joining with a land trust contribution of \$500 or more this year. Or call Krista at 767-9490 to discuss how a legacy gift through your will or other means can make a difference for your special place. You can also contribute to TLT through endowments at the Yellow Springs, Springfield, and Dayton Foundations.



Tomatoes from Dennie Eagleson's garden.

GROWING FOOD IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

How can we be resilient as climate change affects our food supply? That's the question the Yellow Springs Resiliency Network (YSRN) Food Group is exploring. Macy Reynolds, the group's coordinator, explains that the group is looking at a variety of issues. These include supporting our local farmers who feed us, using locally grown produce, engaging kids in gardening and healthy eating, setting up donation stations for

excess produce, and using food vouchers and benefits at the farmers' market. TLT's mission to preserve area farmland goes hand-in-hand with the group's focus.

Watch in the coming months for many fun, educational activities: garden tours, classes on cooking local produce, fermenting vegetables, organic gardening, composting, planting to attract pollinators, and more!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

TLT is so fortunate to have wonderful volunteers! We want to thank all of our volunteers. Our apologies if we overlooked someone. Please let us know if we did.

Storytelling

Harold & Jonatha Wright, Eric Wolf

Walking Meditation

Katie Egart, Bill Felker, Ellen Guest,
& Kathy Robertson

Harvest Auction

Andrew Armstrong, Jane & Jerry Benham, Angela Brintlinger, Marianne Britton, Bradley Campbell, Jim & Sara Campbell, Chris Chaffee, Gayle Gyure, Jenny Haack, Kim Iconis, Bethany & Jordan Gray, Inger Neighbors, Christine Myers, Linda Parsons, Steve Piatt, Brian Potts, & Beth Rubin

Neighborhood House Parties

Brian Housh, Barb McNally, & Barbara & John Rion

Artful Signage, Bob Huston

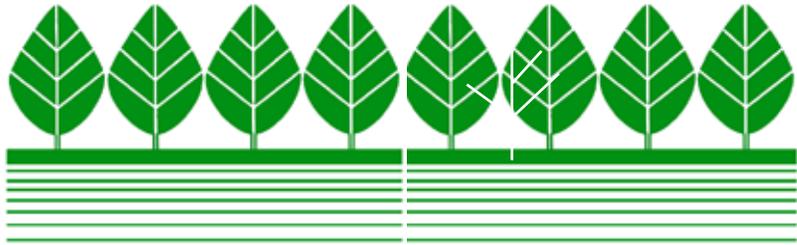
Events and Tours

Lori Askeland, Daphne Berge, Mike Blevins, Amy Blue, Andy & Anna Carlson, Mary Clem, Steve Conn, Elizabeth DeForest, Scott Geisel, Natanah Finley, Robin Heise, Tess Holcomb, Matt & Deb Housh, Tom LaMers, Robin & David McCall, Peggy Nestor, Sharen Neuhardt, Charlotte Pulitzer, Cheryl Qualters, Angus Randolph, Sam Reich, Francis Reppenger, Jennifer Rosengarten, Chad Runyon, Barbara Schenck, Mickey Wilkinson, Karen Wintrow

Office Assistance

Carl Champney, Chris Glaser, Shayne Grey, Shirley Kristensen, Jane & Bob Scott

*Board and committee members are not included in this list.



Calendar of Events

May 21, 9am-12pm

Yoga on the Farm

Whitehall Farm

4633 US 68 N

Yellow Springs, OH

Yoga taught by Molly Lunde will be mixed with mindfulness and meditation. Register with TLT.

May 26, 4pm

Walking Meditation

Location TBA

Rest your mind and connect with nature with TLT, and the Dharma Center. Walks reoccur on **June 27, July 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, and Oct. 30.**

June 2, 7-9pm

Thirsty Thursdays

Yellow Springs Brewery

305 N. Walnut St.

Yellow Springs, OH

The YS Brewery will donate \$1 for every beer sold from 7-9 p.m. to TLT's 1% for Green Space program every first Thursday. Reoccurring on **July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1**

June 5, 2-4pm

26th Annual Meeting

Lowry Farm

1851 Stevenson Rd.

Xenia, OH 45385

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

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.

June 18, 9am-12:30pm

Shop Local, Cook Local

Whitehall Farm

4633 US 68 N

Yellow Springs, OH

Shop at the Yellow Springs Farmers' Market with Krista and Anna and return to Whitehall to eat lunch and plan menus with local foods. Register with TLT.

Aug. 7, 2-4pm

Fun in the Barnyard

2538 Stewart Rd.

South Charleston, OH

Bring the family to explore a variety of barnyard animals and a 65 acre woods on the Schutte's 113 acre farm.

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

Local Foods Dinner

The Winds Café

Yellow Springs, OH

See the enclosed card for details. Tickets go on sale in mid-June.

Sept. 16, 6pm

12th Annual Harvest Auction

Hollenbeck Bayley

Conference Center

Springfield, OH

See the enclosed card for details. 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.

For information visit www.tecumsehlandtrust.org or call 767-9490.

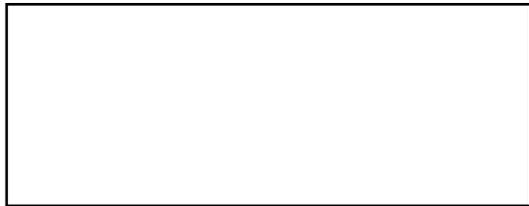
Tecumseh Land Preservation Association
P. O. Box 417, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
www.tecumsehlandtrust.org
937-767-9490



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Spring 2016 Newsletter

With support from



150-acre Lowry farm, 1851 Stevenson Rd. Xenia, OH.

ANNUAL MEETING - XENIA TWP

Shaun and Suzanne Lowry will graciously host our 26th Annual Meeting on June 5th at 2pm. With a newly restored covered bridge and beautifully preserved historic home resting on 150 acres along Massie's Creek, this is a gathering you don't want to miss. A

walk of the property will follow a brief business meeting. Refreshments and children's activities will be provided.

Evelyn LaMers, board member, will lead a nine-mile bike ride to the property departing from the Bryan Center at 12:30 p.m.

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.