Protecting Ohio’s Rivers

Hope Taft, former First Lady of Ohio and member of the Tecumseh Land Trust, will be a guest speaker at our annual meeting on June 3 on a preserved property located along the Little Miami River. The 50th anniversary of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Act, the first scenic rivers act in the nation, will be the focus of Hope’s talk.

Hope is passionate about protecting the river. In part because the Little Miami River and its valley is a source of pleasure and comfort for her. She now understands what Glenn Thompson, Editor of the Dayton Journal Herald and chief motivator of the Scenic Rivers Act, meant when he said “someday a corridor of green will stretch from one end of the river to the other. Individuals and families will enjoy peace and quiet and restoration of the spirit that comes with clean water, birds, and trees.”

Where Hope lives on the Little Miami River near Bellbrook the river usually flows at a lazy rate between the banks lined with sycamore trees. She has learned to read its moods. Hope says, “it rages with indignation when the rains bring flash floods full of sediment and pollutants cutting away at its banks and smothering the mussels and macroinvertebrates on the bottom. Sometimes, it covers the floodplain in front of our house and I say that I live on Lake Bellbrook. Other times the river is so low that you can see the fish on the bottom.”

TLT’s mission is to preserve land and water resources. Krista Magaw, TLT’s executive Director believes, “buffering our rivers and creeks with preserved land is much better for water quality because you reduce the amount of runoff from impervious surfaces.” Hope very much agrees. She says, “if the land in the Little Miami Watershed grows houses instead of food, our quality of life and health suffers. Land trusts like Tecumseh provide hope. They preserve land for agriculture and prevent development, and protect the water supply through conservation easements along waterways. They take the long term view that water and food will always be necessary, and that both can be ruined beyond recovery if we do not work today for their protection.”

“Protecting local farmland, water, and natural areas forever.”
Jim Doyle is not a farmer, but he cares deeply about the Clark County farm which has been in the Doyle family for close to 150 years. It’s one reason he placed a conservation easement on 218 acres of his farm with TLT and the Ohio Department of Agriculture last year.

It all began in the mid 19th century when his great grandparents, Cornelius and Honora Doyle, fled the potato famine in Ireland and found their way to Clark County. Cornelius worked hard in other people’s fields for some 25 years until saving up enough money to buy—and eventually expand—his own farm. Jim’s grandfather, Neal, raised livestock and grain on the land, but Jim’s dad, one of Neil’s three surviving sons, headed off in another direction. Dr. J. Frederick Doyle spent most of his professional life serving as a well-loved general practitioner in nearby South Vienna. That’s where Jim grew up.

In 1949 Dr. Doyle bought out his two brothers, altered the general farming operation to a then state-of-the-art dairy operation that carried on for over 40 years. In the early 1990’s, the operation was switched to running beef cattle and raising corn, soybeans and hay.

Jim and his wife Sharon built their current home on the farm 12 years ago. Surrounded on two sides by woodlands, rimmed by pine trees Jim has planted over the years, the views in the other two directions are of rolling farmland as far as the eye can see. And Jim and Sharon want to keep it that way.

“Actually, I had two reasons for putting an easement on this property,” Jim says. “I wanted to preserve the beauty and utility of this agricultural land. I also wanted to make it economically feasible for the families that have been farming it to eventually own it.”

While retired, Jim from a career of running manufacturing plants and Sharon from teaching school and selling insurance, they remain deeply engaged in their community. Among other activities, Jim is in his 21st year as a trustee of Clark State Community College. Sharon is a mainstay of the Open Hands Free Store Mission in Springfield.
Remembering Tecumseh on his 250th Birthday

March 9th was the 250th birthday of one of Ohio’s most notable Native Americans, Tecumseh. The Little Miami River was important for Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. The Shawnee leader navigated along rivers and creeks with agility, through forests the likes of which we have never experienced. After European settlement, land use changed rapidly and radically. Ohio’s old growth forests were cut. Rivers and streams were managed to create more tillable land and more land for houses and industry. Most of the wild areas, such as the Great Black Swamp that covered a third of western Ohio, were lost. So why is Tecumseh Land Trust named after this historical figure?

Several community members in the Yellow Springs area founded the land trust in 1990, spurred on by discussions that began in 1988, as the Village of Yellow Springs made plans to sell a village property known as Sutton Farm to a nutritional supplement company. The land had been purchased with federal Open Space funds, but the requirement to preserve the land as open space was removed during the Reagan Administration. Janet Jenks Ward and Tia Huston were particularly concerned that the village’s plans were proceeding in absence of actual knowledge of the land, and why it might still be worth preserving as a natural area. They organized a walk to find out!

What they found was a re-emerging hardwood forest along two branches of the Birch Creek, important headwaters of the Little Miami River that join the river in Glen Helen Nature Preserve. After the loss of so many trees and wetland areas, they saw a need to protect some natural areas that would someday approach the quality of woods and streams Tecumseh experienced. The name stuck and the Sutton farm was protected. Then, in 2002, Janette Knick decided to preserve the very land on which Tecumseh organized a confederacy of tribes in the late 1700s, near his birthplace, in what is now known as Old Town. “What a great privilege for us,” says TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw, “to watch over the very land and river Tecumseh travelled!”

Sell a country! Why not sell the air, the clouds, and the great sea, as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children? - Tecumseh

SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Have you considered...

A Gift in Your Will-Designating TLT in your will is simple, flexible and versatile.

Beneficiary Designation-Adding TLT as a beneficiary to an IRA or life insurance policy is a great way to support TLT.

Life Insurance-You can donate a life insurance policy that is no longer needed.

Charitable Gift Annuity-If you are 65 or older, you can make a gift of cash or other low-yielding assets and receive a guaranteed, fixed income for life. TLT will work with one of our local community foundations to set this up for you.

Real Property, Appreciated Securities or Other Low-Yield Assets-These donations can be tax deductible.

Or maybe something a little more immediate...

Become a Member-this provides TLT with day to day funds

Kroger Card-Visit kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow. We are #82576.

Combined Federal Campaign-TLT’s number is 97774.

Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbors Program-TLT is organization #664 Visit our 1% for Green Space Merchants

smile.amazon.com-designate TLT & we receive 0.5% of the purchase price
Jacoby Creek Partnership Launched

Nearly a year after the Jacoby Creek farm auction, Tecumseh Land Trust has received a five-year Regional Conservation Partnership Program award from the National Resources Conservation Service. As one of 70 such awards nationwide, the land trust and its partners will be able to offer area landowners consultations on best conservation practices as well as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) dollars for putting those practices in place. Farm Bill and partner funding is also available to purchase permanent conservation easements on properties in the area depicted above.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity to wrap up protection of key properties in the Jacoby Creek and Yellow Springs Creek sub watersheds,” says TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw. “And to actually enhance the conservation values of those properties, right in the area where we got our start in 1990!” Partners bring many skills and resources, from The Nature Conservancy’s stream restoration expertise on Community Solutions’ Agraria, to state of the art soil analysis by scientists at Central State University, our local land grant university.

Please call the land trust if you are a land owner in this watershed area and would like to talk about opportunities available to you. This is a great time to consider your options as we head toward a formal application period in the fall, both for easement purchase dollars and for awards to install conservation practices such as cover crops, buffer strips, and pollinator habitat.

A “Land Owner Resource Fair” at the Bryan Center on September 29 is being planned. In addition to information on our partnership programs, a variety of legal and financial professionals will be on hand to assist you with planning for your land, your farming operation, and your future!


Monies available to increase conservation practices in the Jacoby Creek and Yellow Springs Creek Watersheds
June 3, 2018
Annual Meeting
2 p.m.
Fen Run Farms
7391 South Pitchin Road
Springfield 45502
Business meeting, property walk, refreshments
See article on page 8.

August 6, 2018
15th Annual Local Foods Dinner
The Winds Café
215 Xenia Ave.
Yellow Springs, 45387
Reservation information will be available in June.

September 29, 2018
Landowner Resource Day
Bryan Center
100 Dayton Ave.
Yellow Springs, 45387
Schedule TBD

Ales for Acres
Yellow Springs Brewery
305 Walnut St.
Yellow Springs
7-9 pm
June 7    July 5    Aug. 2
Sept. 6    Oct. 4    Nov. 1    Dec. 6

$1 of every beer sold between 7 & 9 pm goes to the 1% for Green Space Fund

Land Trusts Advocate for Conservation Programs in Farm Bill

TLT’s Krista Magaw was among six Ohio representatives in Washington DC for the Land Trust Alliance’s Advocacy Days April 9 – 11. Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs in the Farm Bill were a high priority for the delegation, as land trust representatives celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, with NRCS officials, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, other legislators, and key staff. Thanks to this program, TLT has been able to preserve over 15,000 acres of prime agricultural land in Clark and Greene counties.

Another key issue in front of Congress is renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, applying some revenues associated with off-shore oil drilling leases to conservation. Representative Steve Stivers of Ohio’s 15th District signed on as a sponsor of this legislation in late April.

Photo credit: DJ Glisson, II
Learning Through Service

Kyle Van Dyne is a senior environmental science major at Wittenberg University who has been volunteering with the Tecumseh Land Trust since mid-February. His duties have ranged from data entry to assisting with events such as the Sugar Shack tour. This has been possible because of Wittenberg’s Community Service Program. The program provides students with opportunities to serve, connect with the community, and reflect on the service experience to better understand themselves and their responsibility in advancing the common good. The belief in community service is so strong at Wittenberg that it is a requirement that must be met in order to graduate.

See you at the 14th Annual Harvest Auction!

Do you enjoy a night out with good friends, but sometimes need a little motivation to make it happen? Well, TLT’s annual Harvest Auction is a fantastic reason to gather a group and head to downtown Springfield. For thirteen years the land trust has been hosting one heck of a party all the while raising about one-third of its operating budget! The money that is raised in this one night directly pays for the land preservation and water protection work of the organization. TLT staff and auction volunteers pay close attention to the attendees so the auction items are always interesting and unique. Current Cuisine will once again cater the event with a delicious spread of heavy appetizers that definitely feel more like dinner. Resident charity auctioneer extraordinaire, Jeff Harvey, will be conducting the live auction! So come out this year on September 14 at 6pm to the Hollenbeck Bayley Conference Center. Tickets include food, drinks, and live music. Bid generously, enjoy great conversation, and most of all show your support for the TLT! Every bid does make a difference.

Clark County Bicentennial Farms

Clark County turned 200 this April and TLT is using this milestone to celebrate the county’s rich agricultural heritage. Throughout this bicentennial year, Krista Magaw and the Bicentennial Commission will highlight some of the oldest farms in the county. Several are bicentennial and century farms, a designation given to farms that have remained in the same family for at least 200 or 100 years. One preserved bicentennial farm is the Wallace Farm owned by Donald and Ellen Wallace. The deed to the farm dates back to 1802, making this Clark County’s oldest. When Donald Wallace’s father passed away, there was uncertainty over the fate of the farm. Don was insistent that the farm stay in the Wallace family and in the end, he bought the entire property and returned to the house where he was born.

The Hillcrest Farm, another bicentennial farm, was established in 1805 by William Hendricks and Samuel Lafferty, ancestors of the current owners David and Brenda Stickney. After Brenda’s parents passing, Dave and Brenda worked tirelessly to keep the farm in the family. Dave said, “I never dreamed of doing anything but farming.” This passion for farming as well as grandchildren who love the farm led to the signing of an agreement that guarantees the farm stays in the family. Dave decided this was the last time the land would ever be bought.

Tour information will be posted on www.tecumsehlandtrust.org this summer.
Conservation Finance & Soil Preservation Conference

During two snowy days in early March, Tecumseh Land Trust (TLT) and the Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions partnered to host a two-day conference on land conservation and regenerative agriculture at Antioch College.

The charge of the conference was, in part, to prepare Tecumseh Land Trust for the five-year Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant that was recently awarded to the organization from the National Resources Conservation Service. This grant will make available easement purchase and conservation practice funding for land in the Jacoby Creek and Yellow Springs Creek sub watersheds of the Little Miami River. Additionally, the conference was designed to help TLT and Community Solutions forge new partnerships and develop new strategies to achieve conservation and regeneration goals.

TLT’s first day event, “Conservation Funding 2.0,” hosted speakers on conservation finance options, working with lenders and foundations to leverage conservation buys, and partnerships for landscape-scale conservation. Executive Director Krista Magaw, Community Solution’s Susan Jennings, and Sandy Hollenberg, Manager of the Yellow Springs Credit Union opened the conference with a presentation outlining how the sudden auction of a Jacoby Creek Farm last winter led to continuing conservation partnerships.

Attendees listened to speakers from the Miami Valley and beyond. Leigh Whelpton, program director, at the Conservation Finance Network in Washington, D.C. presented about a variety of private and public conservation funding options as well as borrowing opportunities for land trusts and landowners. Andrea Ferri, operations manager at The Conservation Fund in Arlington Virginia, which is a partner of the Conservation Finance Network, discussed bridge financing, different types of lender, and questions every borrower should ask a lender. Devin Schenk, mitigation program manager, at The Nature Conservancy of Ohio presented TNC’s in lieu fee mitigation projects, including the Jacoby Creek Restoration Project. Finally, John Guidugli, CEO of the Hamilton County Community Foundation wrapped up the day, sharing multiple redevelopment projects funded through impact investing.

The second day of the conference hosted by Community Solutions had similar success. Presenters spoke on how regenerative soil practices build healthy ecosystems, increase resilience to drought and pests, improve productivity, counter climate change, and enhance environmental and human health. Yellow Springs resident and regenerative garden and landscape designer Nadia Malarkey explained how suburban yards can be transformed to healthy native habitats.

The conference was another successful partnership between TLT and Community Solutions and happened to be held almost exactly a year after the auction purchase of Agraria, which is a great demonstration site for the conservation work of TLT and the regenerative land use education work done by Community Solutions.
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.

To learn more contact us at 937-767-9490.

TLT does not solicit in states in which it is not registered as a charity.

Join us for the 2018 Annual Gathering and Meeting at Bill McCulloch & Brenda Bertrand’s “Fen Run Farm” at 2 pm on Sunday, June 3rd. A tour of the property, including woods and wetland areas, will begin at 3pm. Families are welcome, with child-friendly activities, light refreshments, and music by Wild Rumpus. Hope Taft, will be the guest speaker discussing the 50th anniversary of Ohio’s Scenic Rivers Act. The Little Miami River was the state’s first designated scenic river and it borders the farm.

The location of the farm is: 7391 South Pitchin Road, Springfield, OH 45502. The farm is preserved through a conservation easement with Tecumseh Land Trust. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket and wear appropriate shoes or boots for walking in muddy areas.