Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.
Summer 2009



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Akron Field Office
34 Merz Blvd., Suite G
Akron, Ohio 44333
Phone: (330) 836-2271



Eddie Dengg
Field Director

Land conservation is always about partnership and human relationships.

We do our work because of the natural resources, scenic and productive farmland, and to protect water quality, but we do this work with people, and for people. Each piece of land that is preserved for future generations is the result of at least one partnership – between the landowner and the Land Conservancy.

Many times, however, land is protected in more com-

See DENGG page 2

Greenway work starts in Akron

A partnership between Lockheed Martin and the Land Conservancy may pave the way for a publicly accessible greenway along two streams in southeast Akron.



Both Haley's and Adam's runs feed the Little Cuyahoga River.

The Land Conservancy, in cooperation with Lockheed Martin, owns or has agreements to acquire about 9 acres along Haley's Run. Lockheed Martin financed the entire acquisition. The area is just west of Adam's Run, where the Land Conservancy owns property.

Lockheed has started remediation of soil contamination along Haley's Run. The work is expected to be completed by October.

Akron Field Director Eddie Dengg said the Land Conservancy's vision is to create a public greenway from Triplet Boulevard along Haley's Run to Archwood Avenue, where the greenway and trail would head east to connect with Adam's Run, then north to the confluence of the Little Cuyahoga River.

To the north and west, this greenway would eventually connect to the Ohio and

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 30,** 1-3 p.m. – Kickoff for Metro Parks, Serving Summit County's 46th annual Fall Hiking Spree at Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park, 5779 Riverview Road, Peninsula.
- **Oct. 10 –** Save the date! Our Medina Summit Chapter's Hoot 'n' Harvest at the Hill 'n' Dale Club in Montville Township.

EverGreen EverBlue

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009
White North Stables
Hunting Valley
For more information, call (440) 729-9621 or e-mail kbihler@wrlc.cc

He sees conservation, economic development link



SPOTLIGHT
Chuck Keiper

Chuck Keiper understands that land conservation is an essential component to economic development. The Portage County commissioner, who holds a master's degree in business administration from Kent State University, has been a strong proponent of land preservation.

"He realizes the integral nature of protecting land and helping the local economy. He understands that the preservation of natural areas is linked to economic development," said Eddie Dengg, the Land Conservancy's Akron area field director.

In the early 1980s, Keiper was a co-founder and vice president of the Ravenna Development Corporation. He helped move Portage County from a community that received very little federal and state grant monies to a flagship community for innovative community development programming.

See KEIPER page 2

Volunteers needed

Can you spare a few hours a week to help at our office, lead a hike or work at one of our events? We'd love to talk to you. Contact Kim Bihler at kbihler@wrlc.cc or (440) 729-9621, Ext. 112 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Join the Land Conservancy!

See back page for details.

Dengg

From page 1

plex ways that require multiple partnerships and cultivating good relationships with many interested parties.

The urban greenway described in this newsletter is a great example of a partnership between an outstanding corporate citizen in Akron, Lockheed Martin, the Land Conservancy, the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Division of the National Park Service, numerous other conservation partners, and the owners of dozens of parcels that will become a ribbon of green flowing through a community that currently does not have adequate access to parks and open spaces.

"(A partnership is creating) a ribbon of green flowing through a community that currently does not have adequate access to parks and open spaces."

The Land Conservancy itself is a partnership. It is a combination of skilled land protection practitioners, finely honed tax and legal experts, a very strong corps of volunteer leaders, and our members, without whom none of our work would be possible. Thank you for your support. Your devotion to our regional mission makes all the difference.

Keiper

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Keiper later worked for the Area Agency on Aging.

In addition to his public service work, Keiper is a noted local singer-songwriter.

"I grew up listening to James Taylor, Jackson Brown, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Harry Chapin, Cat Stevens, John Prine, Janis Joplin and Crosby, Stills and Nash. I wore out my 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' album. I used to buy two albums a week, one new one and one replacement for an album I wore out," he said.

Greenway

From page 1

Erie Canal Towpath Trail, creating an opportunity for bicyclists or hikers from this neighborhood to access the regional system of trails being created across northern Ohio.

To the south, this greenway would lead to the Springfield Lake area. From there, trail users would have access to greenways being created to the east in Portage County, and in Stark County to the south.

These paths are on the Summit County Trail and Greenway Plan

Dengg said even though Adam's Run is now in less-than-pristine condition and most of it is privately owned, children in the neighborhood still use it for fishing and exploring nature.

"It is the only available open space for these children," he said.

Haley's Run is a small tributary of Adam's Run, which in turn is a tributary of the Little Cuyahoga River. Located within the Akron city limits, these streams flow through an urbanized mixture of residential, commercial and industrial land.

Steelhead Spectacular



U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, above left, was one of the more than 40 anglers taking part in the April 18 Steelhead Spectacular, a joint effort by the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders and the Land Conservancy. OCBS members served as volunteer guides on the Grand River, Chagrin River and Conneaut Creek. Here, Voinovich gets a hand from guide and OCBS member Jerry Darkes.

Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?

Few contributions will have a more lasting impact than those that forever preserve our natural areas. Please consider a testamentary gift to Western Reserve Land Conservancy. For more information, contact Jean Gokorsch at (440) 729-9621 or jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

Give a buck a week and support our work

You can support the work of the Land Conservancy with a donation that will barely dent your wallet.

The Land Conservancy is teaming up with EarthShare of Ohio on a workplace giving program in which employees can have as little as a buck or two taken out of their checks each pay period. Giving just a dollar a week would add up to a $52 annual donation to the Land Conservancy.

More than 79 Ohio employers ranging from the state of Ohio to Walmart are now in the program. If your employer is participating, you can designate Western Reserve Land Conservancy as the beneficiary on a pledge form or make a donation to EarthShare that will be shared by dozens of leading environmental and conservation organizations. Check with your company's payroll office to see if your employer is participating in the EarthShare of Ohio payroll donation program.

To inquire about getting your employer involved in the program, contact Earth Share of Ohio at info@earthshareofohio.org. For more information about the Land Conservancy's participation, contact Jean Gokorsch at jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

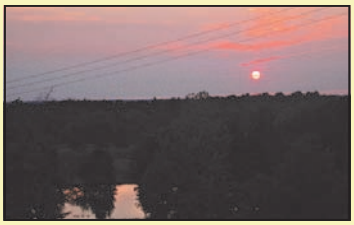
Honoring conservation heroes

June 24, 2009, Orchard Hills Park/Patterson's Fruit Farm



Land Conservancy President/CEO Rich Cochran presents a hand-carved walking stick to Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award winner Jim Spira, right, as Morris looks on.







Live music, above, was followed by a gorgeous sunset at Orchard Hills. At lower right, Rich Cochran and Dick Grimm, right, present the Grimm Family Conservation Medal to Evelyn Frohring and her brother, Ernie.



Daiber receives YWCA award

In May, Charlotte E. Karson Daiber, president of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the YWCA of Medina County's 2009 Women of Distinction Awards at Weymouth Country Club. In addition to her excellent work with the Land Conservancy, the retired nurse has volunteered her time with Hospice of Medina County, the Medina County Sheriff's Department and the YWCA. She has also preserved her own 60-acre property in Medina Township.

Bird walk receives some expert attention

The Land Conservancy's June 27 bird walk at Camp Bradlo Club in Richfield Township was led by an accomplished nature filmmaker and attended by *The Plain Dealer's* birding expert.

About 30 people attended the morning walk.

Wildlife filmmaker Miles Reed, the producer of "The Natural World Around Us," a Northeast Ohio cable television show about native plants and animals, led the walk for the Land Conservancy. One of the attendees was PD reporter Jim McCarty, who later wrote about the walk and



his visit to another Land Conservancy-protected property in Bratenahl, in his birding column. The Land Conservancy extends its gratitude to both Reed and McCarty for helping to draw attention to the importance of land conservation.

Camp Bradlo Club, a 78-year-old Slovak fraternal organization, is located on the East Branch of the Rocky River. There are also three small creeks on the property, which is at the Medina-Summit County border.

The 89-acre Camp Bradlo Club property is adjacent to two existing conservation easements – one in Richfield Township, the other in Hinckley Township – and a section of the Cleveland Metroparks' 2,200-acre Hinckley Reservation.

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Land Conservancy

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Yes, I want to join the Land Conservancy.

Please check your membership level:

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The Land Conservancy is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

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Our mission, our vision

Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio. We want to help create a network of interconnected natural areas, working land and green space throughout the region. We envision northern Ohio as a stunningly beautiful and healthy place to live, work and play.