Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.
www.wrlandconservancy.org



An alliance benefits Alliance



Eddie Dengg
Vice President

The Land Conservancy spends most of its time pursuing deals that result in permanent protection of open space. That is our core mission, and it is what we do best. To support that core mission, and to make sure we are always working on the best projects, we do a bit of planning. Over the years the Conservancy has increased our capacity for planning. We have access to cutting-edge technology and the best available data. If you have great data, add great technology and mix

See DENGG page 2

Urban milestone

Haley's Run greenway opening shows how cooperation can bolster a neighborhood

A stream remediation project by Lockheed Martin Corp. culminated in the June 30 dedication of the new Haley's Run trail and wetlands area in southeast Akron.

More than 100 people, including project officials, local dignitaries and neighborhood residents, celebrated the opening of the scenic walking trail and restored natural stream. The Land Conservancy, which plans to enhance the greenway with similar work along nearby Adam's Run (see photo on page 2), helped Lockheed Martin secure properties needed for the Haley's Run project.



From left, the Land Conservancy's Peg Bobel and Eddie Dengg, Lockheed Martin's Dave Gunnarson and Colleen Arthur and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic cut the ribbon to officially open Haley's Run, below.



Dave Gunnarson, project manager for Lockheed, said the project "created 1.2 acres of wetlands that will enhance the health of the Cuyahoga River watershed and provide a beautiful space for the community."

See HALEY's page 2

A lasting gift from my grandfather



Chris Szell
Associate Director of Regional Conservation

Who took you on your first fishing trip, your first walk in the woods, or shared with you the colors of fall or the splendor of your first butterfly?

The recent death of my grandfather provided me the opportunity to reflect back on his life and my own. Born in 1913, my grandfather (Gramps) was my earliest connection to the natural world. Gramps was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his life but also enjoyed walks in the woods and gardening.

See SZELL page 2

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Her work maintains a 'natural' balance



SPOTLIGHT
Renee Boronka

Lifelong Clevelander Renee Boronka has dedicated her entire career to the preservation of our area's natural resources.

Boronka graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management and immediately put her education to use as assistant to Dr. Jim Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. For the past 15 years, Boronka has been associate director of the museum's Center of Conservation and Biodiversity and has a number of roles, including working on land survey projects, writing and producing the Natural Areas News newsletter, organizing field trips and pursuing an interest in dragonflies and damselflies on museum preserves.

See BORONKA page 2

Haley's



Land Conservancy volunteers at this year's Adam's Run cleanup in Akron.

From page 1

Lockheed Martin first finished a voluntary environmental cleanup of the stream, which contained PCBs carried in rainwater from the nearby Airdock, which was built by Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation in 1929. Land Conservancy Vice President Eddie Dengg said that instead of doing just enough to mitigate the problem, Lockheed Martin chose to restore the stream "and turn this into a real community asset. They should be commended for that."

Boronka

From page 1

Boronka dedicates much of her time to tasks such as grant writing and fund raising, but her biggest challenge is coordinating the Natural Areas Association, an annual land conservancy conference that brings together natural resource professionals to share ideas and knowledge of resource management.

Boronka says the part of her job she enjoys the most is "interacting with the people. I'm sure everyone says that, but it's true. They make coming into the office worthwhile." She interacts with colleagues from throughout Ohio and Western Pennsylvania through the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP) and with museum members on scheduled field trips to museum preserves and other areas.

Outside of work, Boronka volunteers with the Neighborhood Orchard Project in Cleveland's Detroit-Shoreway area. Along with a dozen or more volunteers, she helps turn Cleveland's vacant lots into beautiful green spaces by planting a variety of fruit trees and grapevines.

"Sometimes I think (urban encroachment) is so overwhelming. We're losing a healthy balance of nature," she says.

Fortunately, people like Boronka are working to restore that balance.

— Amanda Skingel-Synecky

Szell

From page 1

As a child, I would follow him on his walks, picking mustard greens and dandelions. It was on these walks that he would share stories of his days when he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, a program of the Great Depression, which put many unemployed young men across our nation to work.

The CCC program is credited with renewing the nation's decimated forests by planting an estimated three billion trees; building nearly 800 public parks, working flood control projects and fighting forest fires. Because of this public works effort, we still enjoy a legacy of natural resource treasures that dot the American landscape and include the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which was home to three CCC camps – Virginia Kendall, Sand Run and Brecksville.

I mention this as a point of reflection, as a reminder that the many parks and open spaces in place today are because of the efforts of many decades earlier. Here at the Land Conservancy, we have an ambitious plan to build upon the efforts of the young men, such as my grandfather, who helped create many of the earliest public parks. These foundations of preservation, created and preserved decades earlier, are the blocks upon which we intend to create a network of interconnected parks, natural areas and working lands.

I will miss my grandfather deeply, but am profoundly grateful to him for his contribution to our nation's parks and open spaces, which we all have an opportunity to enjoy today, as well as for connecting me to the natural world.

Who was your connection? I would encourage everyone to be that catalyst to your own children, nieces, nephews and friends, and to share the wonders nature has to offer.

Dengg

From page 1

the two together with our great GIS and Conservation Planning Manager Liz Mather, you get a great result.

About a year ago, our president, Rich Cochran, and I were giving a presentation to our friends at the Ohio EPA in Twinsburg. After the presentation, Paul Anderson from the Division of Surface Water suggested that we contact the city of Alliance in Stark County to see if we could help them with some water quality issues.

Paul, knowing of our capacity and Alliance's need, put us in contact with Dr. Dean Reynolds in Alliance. Dean runs the water system there, and quickly recognized the value the Land Conservancy could provide to the city.

In partnership with Alliance and the Ohio EPA, we recently began a planning exercise that will help the city identify the sources and location of various sources of potential water pollution in the watershed surrounding their drinking water supply, as well as the funding sources available to implement our plan. The first step was to convene a meeting of local stakeholders. We were ably assisted in this process by Mark Bergman of the Ohio EPA, who facilitated the meeting. We continue coordinating with many local stakeholders and partners, and will compile a series of maps and supporting information that will help Alliance improve its drinking water through this process.

Without great partners like the Ohio EPA and Alliance, and gracious funders like the Greater Alliance Foundation, the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation, the Hoover Foundation and the Stark Community Foundation, we would have never been able to get it off the ground. With their help, we will soon complete a planning process which will ultimately increase the pace of land and water conservation in Stark County and provide cleaner drinking water for tens of thousands of people.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sept. 10, 2010
EverGreen EverBlue
Our annual fundraising event

Conservation Rocks!

May 22, 2010, The Beachland Ballroom, Cleveland



Headliner Jason White dazzles the crowd.

Cleveland rocks — and so does conservation.

About 250 people attended the Land Conservancy's first concert on May 22 at the Beachland Ballroom. Headlining the Conservation Rocks concert was former Clevelander Jason White, who now records in Nashville. Also performing were the Land Conservancy's own Pete McDonald and the Swamp Rattlers. Planning is under way for a second Conservation Rocks show in 2011.



The Land Conservancy's own Pete McDonald belts out a song.





At left, the Land Conservancy's Eddie Dengg, Lisa Pasquale and Pete McDonald relax before the show; the bill included a performance by The Swamp Rattlers, right, who opened with a rocking set.



Honoring our conservation heroes





Left photo: Rich Cochran, left, Susan Wendt and Dick Grimm. Right photo: Michael Shaughnessy, left, and Steve Morris.

A conservation-minded Lorain County couple and the man responsible for preserving historic White North Stables were presented with the Land Conservancy's highest honors on June 23 at Conservation Celebration. The late Dr. Wallace E. Wendt and his wife, Susan, who preserved their 272-acre tract in Columbia Township, received the Grimm Family Conservation Medal,, while Michael Shaughnessy won the Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award for his tireless efforts to preserve historic White North Stables. The event took place at the Lang property in Moreland Hills.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday, Aug. 22, 8 a.m.** — The Land Conservancy's second Yoga on the Preserve, location to be determined.
- **Friday, Sept. 10** — EverGreen EverBlue, Western Reserve Land Conservancy's annual gala, at the Lake House in Hunting Valley.
- **Saturday, Oct. 9, noon– 5 p.m.** — The Land Conservancy will have a booth at "Fall into Nature," an event sponsored by the University of Akron and Bath Township at the Bath Nature Preserve.
- **Saturday, Oct. 16, 5 p.m.** — Medina-Summit Chapter's annual Hoot and Harvest Festival, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Montville Township.
- **Sunday, Oct. 17** — Firelands Fall Foliage Hike at Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve in Huron County and the Land Conservancy's annual Fall Festival at the Geauga Park District's Sunnybrook Preserve in Chester Township.

Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

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To receive event notices or Landline online, e-mail us at gpausch@wrlandconservancy.org.

Yes, I want to join the Land Conservancy.

Please check your membership level:

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Member benefits: Car decal, event notices, regional newsletter, satisfaction of supporting our work plus additional benefits for those contributing $50 or more.

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Land Conservancy

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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.