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



The sum is greater than the parts



Eddie Dengg
Vice President

Our region is rich in biological diversity. We are blessed with a bountiful variety of habitats, both rare and common, that enrich our lives and lend meaning to the work we do. Our region is equally well endowed with many nonprofit, for-profit, governmental and individual partners that share a common vision.

Some of these partners help advance conservation in common ways. Some partners are more rare. They see and then elucidate for others the in-

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Hudson project to get $2 million

The Land Conservancy has secured a $2 million state grant to preserve the undeveloped portion of the former Cuyahoga County Youth Development Center property in Hudson.



The land on the north side of Hines Hill Road is undeveloped and may become a public park.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has informed the Land Conservancy that it is awarding the funding for conservation restrictions on nearly 300 acres of undeveloped land on Hines Hill Road. The Land Conservancy applied for the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) funding with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as the sponsor.

In 2009, the Land Conservancy agreed to help the city of Hudson secure public and philanthropic funds for the acquisition of the 428-acre former youth development center. One of the Land Conservancy's goals is to ensure that the site's natural acres are permanently preserved.

In August 2009, Hudson agreed to purchase the property from Cuyahoga County for $6.9 million, a move that was designed to ensure that the undeveloped land at the site did not become a housing development. Hudson Mayor William Currin said it was "crucial that we preserve this very large tract

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Finding meaning in our mission



Ken Wood
Communications Manager

When I worked as a newspaper journalist, it was important to me that we were doing something important — delivering community news and keeping watch on government bodies no one else was watching.

I felt my job mattered.

So when I started a second career, perhaps my biggest concern did not revolve around pay, benefits, working conditions or 401(k) plans. I worried I might end up doing something that

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River watchdog's legacy is a job well done

In Northeast Ohio, no fewer than six streams – the Chagrin, Grand, Ashtabula and Upper Cuyahoga rivers and Conneaut and Little Beaver creeks – are designated as State Scenic Rivers. As one of Ohio's four regional scenic river managers, Steve Roloson helped protect those high-quality waterways.



SPOTLIGHT
Steve Roloson

And doing so gave him tremendous satisfaction.

"I love rivers, and, to me, (permanent protection of those watersheds) is something very lasting and significant," Roloson said.

In August, Roloson, who worked closely with the Land Conservancy on a number of

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River

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land-protection projects, retired after 32 years with the state, the last 18 as manager of the Scenic Rivers program in Northeast Ohio. He was recently honored by the Land Conservancy's Grand River Chapter for his work in protecting the region's rivers.

Even though Northeast Ohio has nearly half of the state's designated Scenic Rivers, the quality of local streams is not widely recognized. Roloson, who grew up in the Columbus area and worked in northwest Ohio before moving here in 1982, said the rivers here are exceptional.

"I never saw a clear stream until I came to Northeast Ohio. It was an eye-opener," he said.



The Upper Cuyahoga River is one of six designated State Scenic Rivers in Northeast Ohio that Steve Roloson helped protect.

Roloson worked with landowners, government officials, community groups and organizations such as the Land Conservancy to protect the wild and scenic rivers in this part of the state. Since land features, such as floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, riparian forest buffers and headwater tributaries play a role in protecting the health of a river corridor, it is important to purchase or permanently protect these key properties.

Roloson and his wife, Nancy, live in Rootstown Township in Portage County. Their son Michael, 18, is a freshman at Kent State University majoring in zoology and pre-veterinary medicine.

Roloson said he hopes to remain involved in conservation and "helping those people who love their land and want to protect it."

Dengg

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terconnections implicit in nature. They inherently understand the connection that all humanity has for the natural world. They see how their best interests are tied to the best interests of others. They reach out and touch are lives in deep and meaningful ways, bring us value worth more than the sum of the individual components they contribute.

Stories of partners like these are sprinkled across each page of this newsletter. Cleveland Yoga knows that land conservation, parks and yoga go hand in hand. The great success of the partnership between that group and the Land Conservancy speaks for itself. Geauga Park District, which allowed Cleveland Yoga and the Land Conservancy to turn Orchard Hills into a giant outdoor yoga studio, has been an extraordinarily great partner in conservation. The park district recognizes that partnerships are more powerful than individual effort.

Events like Kids in the Creek are really a partnership between our members and our staff where the kids are exposed to first hand natural experiences while they hear and are surrounded by the ethic of conservation espoused by their parents, our volunteers, staff, and all other participants in the event.

Partners like the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and their staff members like Steve Roloson are rare and exceptional as well. Going well above the call of duty, Steve has been a steady force of stream and river conservation for decades. His efforts, in partnership with the the Land Conservancy and many other conservation groups, will be imprinted upon the landscape forever.

We can't accomplish our mission without the help and support of many, many people, donors, partners, and friends. But with them, great things are happening. Check out some of them in this edition of *Landline*.

Wood

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paid the bills but had little impact on the larger community. My community. Those fears were erased when I joined the Land Conservancy, an organization that truly makes a difference in northern Ohio.

I know. I'm supposed to say that, right? I do work for the Land Conservancy.

But my feelings, in this case, go well beyond what I am paid to do. At the Land Conservancy, I work with an unbelievably passionate and intelligent staff. My coworkers know what they are doing and believe in our mission — preserving the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio. Each day I believe I am doing something to make our region a better place.

More important, we are part of a larger conservation community, one that is increasingly understands the need for collaboration. The Land Conservancy's goal is to — in concert with our conservation partners — permanently preserve 400,000 acres in northern Ohio. New parks, protected farmland and other preserved property add to this total. It does not matter who gets "credit" for protecting the land. It is the preservation that matters.

And for me, that is meaningful.

Funds

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of land, and the facilities on it, for future generations."

The property, which spans both sides of Hines Hill Road, includes streams that drain to the Cuyahoga River. Hudson is now seeking public input for the developed portion of the site, which resembles a small college campus with academic and athletic facilities that include a large auditorium, gymnasium and a full cafeteria. A committee studying possible uses for the site is chaired by John Debo, a Hudson resident and former superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.





Cleveland Yoga instructors led the outdoor class at Orchard Hills Park.



Yoga on the Preserve

August 29, 2010

Orchard Hills Park, Chester Township

More than 450 people took part in the second Yoga on the Preserve at Orchard Hills Park. The event, which included a 75-minute yoga class and a guided nature hike, was cosponsored by Cleveland Yoga and the Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy would like to thank Cleveland Yoga, the Geauga Park District, Master Pizza, Pete McDonald, Patterson Fruit Farm, Marni Task and Enchanted Hearts for making the event such a big success.

Photos by Amanda Skingel-Synecky



A guided nature hike, above, preceded the yoga session, below.





Family members of all ages splash around in the creek.

Kids in the Creek

July 25, 2010, West Geauga Commons



The Land Conservancy's 12th annual Kids in the Creek event attracted about 75 children, parents and grandparents to the banks of the Chagrin River.

The popular family event helped reinforce the vital connection between children and their natural surroundings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **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 Parks at the Bath Nature Preserve, 4240 Ira Road, Bath. There will be hayrides, a pumpkin patch, children's activities and prizes.
- **Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 p.m.** — "A Magical Historical Ride Down River Road: The Untold Story" with local historian and storyteller Dan Ruminski at the newly remodeled White North Stables, 3160 Chagrin River Road, Hunting Valley. Cost is $25 per person, credit cards only. Call (440) 477-4695 for reservations.
- **Saturday, Oct. 16, 5-8 p.m.** — Medina Summit Chapter's annual Hoot and Harvest Festival, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Montville Township. Bring a potluck dish to share. Activities: hayrides, an owl walk, pumpkin painting and birds from the Medina Raptor Center. Free. RSVP to kbihler@wrlandconservancy.org or (440) 729-9621.
- **Sunday, Oct. 17, 1 p.m.** — Firelands Fall Foliage Hike at Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve in Huron County. Free. RSVP to kpilacky@wrlandconservancy.org or (440) 774-4226.
- **Sunday, Oct. 17, 3-6 p.m.** — The Land Conservancy's annual Fall Festival at the Geauga Park District's Sunnybrook Preserve , 12474 Heath Road, Chester Township. Games for children and a hike around the park. Hot dogs, fixings and s'mores will be provided; bring a dish to share. Free. RSVP to kbihler@wrlandconservancy.org or (440) 729-9621.

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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.