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



Farmland protection is rewarding



Scott Hill
Eastern Field Director

More than 30 years ago, I was making maple syrup with Harry Modroo one evening. As was our custom, we went back out to the woods after dinner and put wood in the stove under the evaporator so the maple sap would continue to boil down over night.

The sugar house was a good quarter mile from the house, and Harry and I would often have a great talk while walking. Harry told me that soon farms would become very scarce, especially those close to big towns.

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Partner input

Land Conservancy starts county meetings to help determine preservation priorities



Trumbull and Mahoning counties were among the first in the region to host meetings designed to help the Land Conservancy and its conservation partners preserve key natural areas and species.

We are asking our partners to identify high-quality natural areas that should be preserved but are not on our priority list.

Scott Hill, one of the Land Conservancy's eastern field directors, said the meetings, which will be held in each of the 14 northern counties in the organization's service area, are designed to "get local knowledge from the local experts." Officials from park districts, conservation organizations, state and county agencies, watershed districts and other groups are being invited to the meetings.

"We really want to hear from our partners," Hill said.

The Trumbull County session was on June 22 in Warren, while the Mahoning Valley meeting was held on July 26 in at Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. Other sessions have been held in Cuyahoga and Summit counties, with more scheduled for later this year.

The Land Conservancy is asking its partners to identify any

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Together, groups fight invasives



Brett Rodstrom
Eastern Field Director

Conservation is the sum of many parts. It's a complex melting pot of preservation, restoration, public education, habitat management, sustainable land use practices and water resource protection.

It is equally true that the *conservation community* is the sum of many *partners*. Organizations dedicated to conservation efforts often evolve into specialists to address specific natural resource goals in the most efficient way possible and

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She has a love of outdoor education



SPOTLIGHT
Amy Reeher

In 2000, Mercer, Pa. native Amy Reeher joined Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District as an intern with a title that might have sent others scurrying: manure nutrient management specialist.

"Not a glamorous job," she says with a laugh.

Reeher, then fresh out of Chatham (Pa.) University, worked with farmers to help them manage waste and prevent local streams from being impacted by nutrient loading. As a result of her work, she was hired by the district as a watershed coordinator, a position she still holds today.

Reeher, who lives in a cabin at the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, handles a bevy of different pro-

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MILL CREEK

SANCTURARY WALK

June 10, 2010, Mahoning County



About 40 people hiked the property near Canfield in this event sponsored by Mill Creek MetroParks and the Land Conservancy.

Reeher

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jects at Trumbull SWCD ranging from education sessions to watershed grants to the county's storm water program. She was one of the coordinators of the successful District 2 Envirothon competition, which the Land Conservancy helped sponsor.

"The job is a good fit for me – I don't do the same thing every day," Reeher says.

Reeher, who grew up loving the outdoors and still enjoys camping, hiking, fishing and gardening, once contemplated a career as a physical therapist. Then she remembered the words of her mother, Linda Rogers.

"She asked me, 'What makes you happy? What do you enjoy?'" Reeher says. "I knew I wanted to be outdoors."



Students move from station to station at this year's District 2 Envirothon competition in Chardon.

Reeher says she gets particular satisfaction out of educating young people about the wonders of the environment. "You are changing people's lives and, hopefully, the way they behave," she says.

Hill

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"Most kids don't seem to want to work on a farm any more, and with the current costs small farmers will be hard pressed to survive," he told me. Harry wasn't much for showing emotion, but he was one of the best men I ever met. He understood that when property values go up, farmers sell out and the land gets developed.

Fortunately, Ohio has realized the importance of farming, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture has formed a Farmland Preservation office. This year, the Land Conservancy has partnered successfully with ODA to protect more than 1,000 acres in Huron, Geauga, Portage, Trumbull and Ashtabula counties. I recently stopped to talk with one of the farmers whose property was recently accepted into the program. We talked about his kids, 4-H and how his corn was doing. We watched an eagle flying over Pymatuning Creek.

It has been several years since I was a pallbearer at Harry's funeral, but I think about him whenever a farm gets protected. I wish I could tell him that there are still some kids who want to farm. Maybe, just maybe, there are still some old men who are willing to mentor young men and teach them all the important things in life – like making maple syrup.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sept. 10, 2010

EverGreen EverBlue

Our annual fundraising event

Partners

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high-quality natural areas that should be preserved but are not currently on the organization's priority list.

The Land Conservancy, which preserves the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio, has protected more than 350 properties and more than 21,900 acres.

The Land Conservancy, in conjunction with the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership, also wants partners to list important species in their regions that may be threatened.

Rodstrom

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the most successful recognize the benefits of collaboration.

An excellent example of the rewards of collaboration can be found with the recent award of a landmark $843,000 Great Lake Restoration Initiative grant for comprehensive invasive species control in the Grand River watershed. This idea was flushed out of group discussions at the quarterly Grand River Partnership meeting and brought to life by six local organizations, including the Land Conservancy, with The Nature Conservancy taking the lead on the application and grant coordination.

Although the Land Conservancy is by no means a specialist in the field of invasive species control, it recognizes the importance of this branch of conservation. This collaboration will provide us the expertise and the means to effectively treat invasive species on Land Conservancy properties by using minimal staff time and almost no financial resources. As a result, critical on-the-ground stewardship will be implemented on properties such as the Land Conservancy's Ashcroft Woods Conservation Area in Ashtabula County.

By recognizing our strengths and to some degree, our weaknesses, we are often able to collaborate to accelerate the momentum of a common conservation goal and that spells success for everyone.

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

- **Saturday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.** — Summer Sizzle & Family Fun Day, Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center, 520 W. Main St., Cortland.
- **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. 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.

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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.