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

Summer 2011

Landline

A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter celebrating land conservation in Medina and Wayne counties

Farmers plow through tough times



Bill Jordan
Medina Associate Field Director

The dictionary defines resilience as the "ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change."

That certainly describes our collective experience as a nation this year. From flooding along major rivers to killer tornadoes in the heartland to wildfires in the southwest, the country has had more than it's share of "misfortune or change."

Nowhere is that more true than right here in the farmlands of the Western Reserve. Starting in late winter and continuing well into

See RESILIENCE page 2

Community helps Hinckley Twp. park

River Woods Nature Preserve is now more accessible to the public, thanks to a series of improvements made by community groups and Hinckley Township.

The Land Conservancy helped the township create the park in 2009 and holds a conservation easement on the property, which is located on the north side of Center Road (state Route 303), just west of River Road.



This sign is one of improvements made over the past two years at River Woods Nature Preserve in Hinckley Township.

Since then, local Boy Scouts have planted seedlings on the land in honor of Scouting's 100th anniversary. In addition, three Scouts have made improvements there as Eagle Scout projects: Vince Matia (bluebird boxes), Travis Baiera (information kiosk) and Zach Dadante (two park benches). Two local 4-H groups, the Backyard Buzzards and the Spunky Spurs, planted flowers and a butterfly garden at the preserve.

The township has installed a sign, driveway and parking lot at the preserve. Township Trustee Martha Catherwood worked closely with the Land Conservancy to make the project a reality.

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

- **Aug. 14, 9 a.m.:** The third annual Yoga on the Preserve, sponsored by Cleveland Yoga and the Land Conservancy. Join us at the Geauga Park District's Orchard Hills Preserve. Free.
- **Sept. 9:** EverGreen EverBlue, our annual benefit, in Hunting Valley. For details, visit www.evergreeneverblue.org
- **Oct. 15:** Medina Summit Chapter's annual Hoot and Harvest Festival at the Hill 'n' Dale Club in Montville Township. Potluck dinner, owl walk, pumpkin painting and more.

For more details, go to:
www.wrlandconservancy.org

Contact Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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He's keeping watch over the Rocky

In order to protect the Rocky River, Jared Bartley must pay close attention to its lifeblood – tiny feeder streams that are often negatively impacted by development.



SPOTLIGHT
Jared Bartley

The health of small waterways such as Baldwin and Abram creeks in southwestern Cuyahoga County and Plum Creek in Medina County is often overlooked when assessing the quality of the Rocky.

"The smaller the creek, the easier it is to ignore," said Bartley, who works for the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and serves as the Rocky River Watershed Coordinator.

See ROCKY page 2

Land Conservancy's new home will be in Moreland Hills

The Land Conservancy plans to add a wing to a restored Century Home in Moreland Hills and relocate its headquarters there in 2012. The Village of Moreland Hills has approved a conditional use permit for the project on Chagrin River Road, across from the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Fields. Construction will start later this year.

The go-ahead for project was made possible by the generosity of a Land Conservancy donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Other friends have provided additional support for the project.

Conversion and expansion of the existing historic home — the core of which was built in the 1830s as one of the first one-room schoolhouses in the Connecticut Western Reserve — will take place on one portion of the 22-acre parcel. Another piece will become a village park, while yet another portion will be added to the adjacent



Forest Ridge Preserve, which the Land Conservancy helped preserve.

Land Conservancy President and CEO Rich Cochran said the building will use cost-effective green technologies. Renowned architect Tony Paskevich is designing the entire project. The former owners, the Lang family, helped make the project possible.

Resilience

From page 1

June, we experienced an almost unprecedented amount of rainfall. Driving through the rural areas of our region, you could see where floodwaters reached levels not seen in decades. Lakes appeared and persisted in fields that should have been fitted for spring planting.

In a year where even the outdated standard of "knee high by the Fourth of July" won't be achieved, our local farmers have again shown remarkable resilience.

Harvests may be late, and yields might be down this year, but farmers will look forward to a better year next year. They always do. And it's because they have the ability to take a long-term view of things.



Harvests and yields might be down this year, but farmers will look forward to a better year next year. They always do.

This makes farmers excellent stewards of their land, and wonderful partners in our land preservation work. With pride, they tell us that they are the fifth generation on the land. And they are working with us to ensure the land will be there for the sixth generation and beyond.

The resilience our farmers have shown over the years is the same trait that enables them to see beyond this year's crop, beyond this year's weather and beyond this year's events to a time when their unselfish acts of preservation will be treasured.

Rocky

From page 1

Bartley, a southwestern Ohio native who holds a geology degree from Case Western Reserve University, is responsible for a multitude of conservation initiatives in the Rocky River watershed, a 294 square-mile network of neighborhoods, farms, forests, parks, roads and streams that stretches from Medina to Lake Erie. He works closely with the Rocky River Watershed Council, which is chaired by Dan Miltner, president of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter.

Bartley said the Rocky River's main stem, West Branch and East Branch "are in pretty good condition," particularly in Cleveland's western suburbs, where Cleveland Metroparks property protects about 28 contiguous miles of the stream.

A group that includes Medina, Medina Township, the Land Conservancy and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is now working on protecting a section of the West Branch in Medina County.

"We work with our partners whenever we can," Bartley said.

Bartley served a two-year agroforestry stint in the Peace Corps in El Salvador and worked on watershed plans in western Maryland and West Virginia before joining CSWCD in 2007.

He and his wife Christy have three sons, Jeffrey, 5, Ryan, 3, and Sam, who is two months old. They live in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood.

Conservation Rocks!

May 21, 2011

Beachland Ballroom, Cleveland



An all-star jam capped off the memorable evening.

More than 260 people turned out for the second Conservation Rocks! concert at the Beachland Ballroom. This year's show featured the music of those who work in the field of conservation: the Land Conservancy's Pete McDonald, who performed with Pete McDonald & the Black Oaks.; The Swamp Rattlers (featuring staffers from Geauga Park District), Fat City (with Harvey Webster of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History) and Drake Hollow featuring Steve Madewell (Lake Metroparks) and Al Bonnis (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service).



Pete McDonald on stage.



Envirothon team training

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's John Katko led the Brunswick High School Envirothon team on a May 10 walk on the Hal Rohlik property in Brunswick Hills Township. Katko shared his knowledge of the natural world with the students.





Adam's-Haley's Run cleanup

April 30, 2011, Akron



Participants gathered for a group photo.

Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?

Find out how you can make a lasting commitment to future generations by including Western Reserve Land Conservancy in your estate planning. For information on our White Oak Legacy Society, call (440) 729-9621, e-mail rkoonce@wrlandconservancy.org or visit www.wrlandconservancy.org.

White Oak LEGACY SOCIETY

Hike leaders sought

The Land Conservancy is looking for people who are willing to serve as volunteer hike leaders. You do not have to be a naturalist to be a hike leader, just a willingness to help organize walks in your region. The Land Conservancy is also considering formation of a hiking club. To volunteer as a hike leader, please e-mail kbihler@wrlandconservancy.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

EverGreen EverBlue

Sept. 9, 2011

Chagrin River Road

Hunting Valley

For more information, call (440) 729-9621

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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.

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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.