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.

See HILL page 2

New park eyed

Lampson Reservoir may become public preserve in Ashtabula County

A joint project involving Ashtabula County, its park system, a sportsmen's organization and the Land Conservancy may result in the creation of a new 92-acre park just west of Jefferson.



Lampson Reservoir may become a public park as a result of a joint project involving the Land Conservancy and Ashtabula County Metroparks.

The Land Conservancy has an agreement to purchase the Lampson Reservoir property from the county within the next two years and then transfer it to the Ashtabula County Metroparks. The Ashtabula Sportsmen's Recreational Land Conservation League and Ashtabula County have each contributed $40,000 toward the down payment on the property.

If the Land Conservancy is able to secure the remaining funding and complete the purchase, the land will become a county park. Park officials have indicated the property could be used for fishing, horse trails and even regulated hunting.

Twenty-two-acre Lampson Reservoir was the drinking water source for Jefferson Village until about 20 years ago, when the village water system was sold to Ohio Water Service. OWS transferred the property to the county with the under

See PARK page 2

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 the most successful recog-

See RODSTROM page 2

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She connects kids with the outdoors

SPOTLIGHT
Katie Nainiger

When she was a child, Katie Nainiger loved playing in the river, going camping with her family and learning everything she could about the various critters her dad would bring home.

"I try to pass that on as best as I can to my kids," she says.

Nainiger, who grew up in Lake County and lives in Madison, was referring to her and husband Eric's own sons, Austin, 12, and Aiden, 4. But she could also have been talking about the thousands of schoolchildren who have benefited from her work as conservation education coordinator for the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District. Nainiger was one of the organizers of the recent District 2 Envirothon

See KIDS page 2

GRAND RIVER CANOE CLEANUP



The May 22 cleanup was sponsored by Ashtabula Metroparks, Lake Metroparks, the Ashtabula and Lake soil and water districts, the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders Association, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Scenic Rivers and the Land Conservancy.

Kids

From page 1

competition held at Camp Wise in Chardon.

Nainiger designs and coordinates education programs that focus on Geauga County's natural resources and makes sure they are "aligned for what the (classroom) teachers are looking for." She is on the Ohio Department of Education Science Range Finding Committee and is a council member for Western Reserve Resource Development and Conservation.

Nainiger, who holds a degree in wildlife management and interpretive services from Hocking College and in the 1990s was the youngest person ever to win a wildlife conservation award from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, previously worked for 12 years as wildlife education coordinator for Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center. She joined Geauga SWCD about five years ago.

Nainiger says she is always looking for ways to connect kids with the outdoors and show them why it is important to respect our environment.

"If we can provide some little peek into the natural world, they will care," she says.

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

Park

From page 1

standing that it would be developed into a park.

The property straddles Mill Creek, a major tributary to the Grand River, and contains a high-quality wetland complex. For more than a decade, the park system has wanted to purchase the property but has not had the funds to buy it or to maintain the lake's dam, which needs repairs.

In order to assess the dam's condition, the county has agreed to lower the water level in Lampson Reservoir before transferring the property to the Land Conservancy.

The county will also contribute up to $10,000 toward engineering work related to the dam.

Eddie Dengg, a Land Conservancy vice president, said the organization has launched an effort to secure funding for the project from public sources and foundations.

Rodstrom

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nize 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.

Hill

From page 1

"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.

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.
- **Friday, Aug. 20, 5-9 p.m. —** Grand River Day open house at the Land Conservancy's field office, 70 South Park Place, Painesville.
- **Sunday, Aug. 22, 8 a.m.** — The Land Conservancy's second Yoga on the Preserve, location to be determined.
- **Monday, Aug. 30** — Annual Grand River Chapter event at Spring Hill Winery in Geneva.
- **Friday, Sept. 10** — EverGreen EverBlue, Western Reserve Land Conservancy's annual gala, at the Lake House in Hunting Valley.
- **Sunday, Oct. 17** — 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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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.