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

Spring 2011

Landline

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

Spring is a time for renewal



Bill Jordan
Associate Field Director-Medina

It's that time of the year. Spring is still more rumor than fact, but the signs of change and renewal are not hard to find. Birds that we haven't heard in months are singing everyday, a prelude to the nesting season that is to come. Small green shoots, hidden until recently under a blanket of snow are beginning to emerge.

And so it goes with land conservation. There is clearly a renewed interest in preserving land through a variety of tools available to landowners. At a recent

See JORDAN page 2

Rocky River land may be preserved

The Land Conservancy is working with a property owner, Medina Township and a state agency to preserve 91 acres off Fenn Road along the banks of the West Branch of Rocky River.



The property contains high-quality wetlands and habitat for several rare species.

The property, which has been labeled the Medina Marsh Preserve, is home to two threatened birds – the Red-Headed Woodpecker and the Northern Flicker, both on the Audubon Society Watchlist – and a rare moth that has been found only one other time in Ohio.

The Skullcap Skeletonizer Moth had never been spotted in northern Ohio before it was seen on the Medina Marsh property by Judy Semroc of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

More than a third of the land – some 32 acres – is rated as high-quality wetlands.

The Land Conservancy holds an agreement to purchase the property but will do so only if the project is funded by the Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program.

The site, which is between the City of Medina's 226-acre Reagan Park and Medina County Park District's 41-acre nature preserve, would add to a growing corridor of protected land along the West Branch of the Rocky River.

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

- **April 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Medina Earth Day, Medina County Park District's Buffalo Creek Retreat, Guilford Township.
- **April 19:** Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair, Wooster.
- **April 30, 9 a.m.-noon:** Adam's Run/Haley's Run greenway cleanup in Akron. For more information, call Peg Bobel at (330) 864-6033 or Andrea Irland at (330) 657-2378.
- **May 14**: Spring Bird and Wildflower Walk and garlic mustard pull.
- **May 21:** Conservation Rocks at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern in Cleveland.

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

Contact Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Medina Field Office::
Bill Jordan, Associate Field Director (330) 722-7313 or bjordan@wrlandconservancy.org

Firelands Field Office:
Andy McDowell, Western Field Director (440) 774-4226 or amcdowell @wrlandconservancy.org

He helps others see the value of nature



SPOTLIGHT
Travis Crane

Travis Crane grew up enjoying the natural world.

As a boy, he had free run of Sleepy Hollow Lake, a family owned campground and outdoor recreation park in Medina County's Brunswick Hills Township. His dad, now-retired Brunswick Safety-Service Director Greg Crane, and grandfather encouraged him to explore nature, while mother Linda, a teacher at Brunswick's Memorial Elementary School, volunteered for the Medina County Park District at nearby Plum Creek Park.

"I had access to the outdoors, so I could do so many of the things you should do as a kid," Crane said.

See CRANE page 2

Cochran receives conservation honor



Rich Cochran, who started as the lone employee of what is now Western Reserve Land Conservancy and now heads an organization that has preserved nearly 23,000 acres in northern Ohio, has been named the recipient of the 2010 Conservation Award by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Cochran, the president and CEO of the Land Conservancy since 1996, was honored during an awards ceremony. He was presented with the award on behalf of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Good news: Tax incentives renewed



The Land Conservancy is applauding the renewal of a federal tax incentive for private landowners – especially working family farmers – who protect their land with a voluntary conservation easement.

The Land Conservancy endorsed the move by Congress to renew the incentive, which had expired at the end of 2009. The tax incentive has helped the Land Conservancy work with willing landowners in our community to preserve about 23,000 acres of productive agricultural lands and natural areas.

Conservation-minded landowners now have until December 31, 2011 to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for donating a voluntary conservation agreement to permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their land. When landowners donate a conservation easement, they maintain ownership and management of their land and can sell or pass the land on to their heirs, while foregoing future development rights. For more information, call (440) 729-9621 or send e-mail to info@wrlandconservancy.org.

Jordan

From page 1

meeting hosted by Copley Feed & Supply and the Summit County Farm Bureau, more than 40 people learned about donated easements and potential income and estate tax benefits. They also heard about the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program or AEPP which is administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and pays cash to qualifying farmers for the value of their development rights.

A similar program was held in Medina and hosted by the Land Conservancy, the Medina Soil and Water Conservation District and Ohio's Office of Farmland Preservation. The focus again was on potential tax benefits and cash payments for development rights.

In between these meetings, the Land Conservancy mailed postcards to landowners throughout our service area. They served as a reminder that at the end of 2010, Congress extended enhanced tax benefits to people who preserve their land through donated conservation easements.

These tax benefits and easement purchases can be financially significant. But they can sometimes mask the true motivation of many landowners for protecting their land. In conversations following the meetings and in response to our postcard mailing, it was apparent that many people were already committed to protecting their land. Their reasons were familiar. Some people understood their generation was the last one with a legitimate opportunity to protect their land. In many cases, subsequent generations were separated from the land by distance and interest. Other landowners were motivated by a desire to honor those that came before them, or perhaps as a gift to future generations. In most cases, it was simply the right thing to do.

Regardless of motivation, it will be our pleasure to work with those who make lasting gifts to the landscape of our region.

Crane

From page 1

Today, Crane, president and owner of TGC Engineering in Granger Township, is helping give others the same opportunities he had as a child. Crane just started his second three-year term as a Medina County Park District commissioner and completed his first year as a member of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter.

Crane became acquainted with the chapter through his friendship with Land Conservancy Trustee Jeff Holland.

> "I had access to the outdoors, so I could do so many of the things you should do as a kid."

"I think the two missions (of the park district and the Land Conservancy) really go hand in hand," Crane said.

Crane, who has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Lafayette College and a master's degree in civil engineering and construction management from Clemson University, started his company in 2001.

The firm does civil engineering, surveying, land development, stream restoration work, storm water management and environmental projects.

Crane and his wife Ruth, who have been married for 15 years, have three sons, Ryan, 12, Ben, 9, and Gavin, 4. They live in Granger Township.

The park district was formed in 1965 and opened its first park in 1972. It currently manages approximately 5,100 acres, about two-thirds of which were acquired since 1995.

Hoot and Harvest Festival

October 16, 2010

Hill 'n' Dale Club, Montville Township



A hayride attracted participants of all ages.







Clockwise, from above left, the potluck dinner was a big hit; the fire pit provided warmth on a chilly night; chapter president Dan Miltner doubled as a cook; and Laura Jordan of the Medina Raptor Center showed off a few big-eyed friends.



Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?

White Oak LEGACY SOCIETY

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.

NEWS FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY

'Conservation Rocks' is May 21



Mark your calendars for May 21, when the Land Conservancy will stage its second "Conservation Rocks" concert at Cleveland's Beachland Ballroom and Tavern. This year's event will feature musicians who also work in the field of conservation in northern Ohio, including our own Pete McDonald (pictured).

Visit www.wrlandconservancy.org for more information.

Two join Land Conservancy





Koonce **Gay**

Director of Development Robert Koonce and Manager, Corporate and Foundation Relations Erin Gay are the newest members of the Land Conservancy team. Robert, a Cleveland native, and Erin, who is from Houston, both worked for University Hospitals Health System before joining the staff.

In addition to a wealth of fundraising experience, Robert brings a love of the outdoors and a sense of humor. He and his family live in Cleveland Heights.

Erin, who lives in Shaker Heights, was a senior communications specialist at UH before joining us. Her work here will combine her passions for writing and the environment.

Moreland Hills mulling HQ plan



The Land Conservancy is seeking permission from the Village of Moreland Hills to put an addition on a Chagrin River Road home and move its headquarters there. The property is adjacent to the village's Forest Ridge Preserve and across the street from the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Fields. We will keep you posted as the project progresses.

Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 314

Novelty, OH 44072

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 1

Printed on Recycled Paper

Our members make our land protection efforts possible.

We thank you for supporting our mission.

Become a fan of Western Reserve Land Conservancy group on Facebook!

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:

O $15 Student
O $25 Introductory
O $50 Supporting
O $100 Donor
O $250 Contributing
O $500 Sustainer



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

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, ZIP:_____

E-mail address:_____

Phone:_____

Payment Method: O Check enclosed, payable to
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

O Visa O MC O AmEx O Discover

#_____ Exp:_____

Signature_____

Please return to: Western Reserve Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 314, Novelty, Ohio 44072

The Land Conservancy is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Medina Field Office
141 Prospect Street, Medina, Ohio 44256 (330) 722-7313
bjordan@wrlandconservancy.org
Firelands Field Office
P.O. Box 174, Oberlin, Ohio 44077 (440) 774-4226
amcdowell@wrlandconservancy.org

www.wrlandconservancy.org

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.