Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter for Portage, Stark, and Summit counties.

# LANDLINE

www.wrlandconservancy.org

Spring 2012

FROM THE FIELD

## Big and small, farms make a difference



**Andy McDowell**
Western Field Director

2012 saw the biggest year to date for the Land Conservancy in terms of acres preserved.

Naturally, the lion's share of those acres comprised a large amount of farmland on large family farms all across our region. With the world's population at seven billion people, the need to preserve large tracts of farmland is obvious to me, although there are many other reasons beyond the fact that everyone needs to eat.

But it's my 3-year old daughter who indirectly reminds me of the need to preserve smaller tracts of land closer to our urban and suburban areas. In 2012, the Meyfarth family in Macedonia preserved what remains of their family's historic farm. Although currently not a farm, the easement preserving the 18-acre property – at the request of the Meyfarths – allows for farming if a future owner chooses to do so.

see Farms page 2

## Win getaways and more!

Details on page 3, or go to our Facebook page to enter the Spring Fever Sweepstakes.

## Family preserves farm in Macedonia

Sally and Philip Meyfarth are making a lasting commitment to land preservation and farming in Macedonia, a community that has seen considerable development in recent years.

Working with the Land Conservancy, the Meyfarths have donated a conservation easement on their 18-acre family farm on Shepard Road in Macedonia. A conservation easement is a legal instrument permanently restricting future development of a property while allowing the donor to retain ownership. It runs with the property.

The 18-acre parcel is what remains from a 160-acre farm owned by the Meyfarth family since the 1940s. The property includes a beautifully maintained 1850s Greek revival farmhouse, and language in the agreement provides a level of protection for this important structure.

The Meyfarths are advocates of locally grown food and connecting consumers with their food sources. They envision their property being used in the future for urban agriculture and educational programs, and their easement supports these types of activities.



Phillip and Sally Meyfarth at home.

Andy McDowell, western field director for the Land Conservancy, said the Meyfarths moved back to Ohio about 25 years ago to take care of both an aging parent and the farm. "They're taking care of it again with an easement that will ensure the farm can be enjoyed by future generations," he said.

Bill Jordan, associate field director for the Land Conservancy, said in the context of a largely built-out community like Macedonia, the 18 acres preserved is not insignificant. "In addition to the agricultural areas on the property, the easement also protects natural areas that provide critical bird and wildlife habitat," Jordan said.

Take a Hike

## An escape from the bustle



Just south of the Ohio Turnpike, nestled in bustling Streetsboro industrial area, is an oasis of woods, wetlands and wildlife.

The Portage Park District's 48-acre Seneca Ponds Park offers more than a mile of hiking trails for those who venture off the beaten path. Six years ago, the park system acquired the

see Hike page 2

# We mourn the loss of a treasured friend



Dick Grimm

The Land Conservancy – and conservation – lost a transforming leader and true friend with the recent passing of Dick Grimm. Mr. Grimm served on the boards of Chagrin River Land Conservancy and its successor, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, from 1998 until his death last month, and his honest, direct and passionate approach to conservation will benefit future generations in northern Ohio.

His love of the natural world is embodied in the Grimm Family Conservation Medal, which he awarded annually to "a conservationist, possessed of a deep and abiding passion for our mission, who has preserved land in a charitable manner, who views land as a precious resource and not as a commodity, and who has forgone significant financial value to preserve land."



Photo by Connie Oney

## Farms

from page 1

Living in North Ridgeville, my family frequently stops at a small local farm that has a roadside stand during the season. I am always surprised how often our daughter speaks about what we call the "Blue Barn Farm Market". It makes me realize how in built-out areas like North Ridgeville and Macedonia, these small local farms have an importance that goes far beyond providing a local source of fresh produce.

# Land added to Hiram's field station



The protected property includes these wetlands.

A partnership between Hiram College and the Land Conservancy has enabled the college to add 152 acres of protected woodlands and wetlands property as part of its James T. Barrow Field Station east of the college's main campus.

The property, which was formerly owned by Isaac Yomtovian and is adjacent to the Field Station, was acquired as part of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program. The transfer expands the Field Station property to nearly 550 acres.

The college and the Land Conservancy worked for almost two years to secure the property, which will allow for the protection of sections of Silver and Eagle Creeks plus the restoration of about 1,630 linear feet of Eagle Creek – work that is expected to benefit the Village of Garrettsville, which sits downstream from the protected property.

"We are pleased to accept this land, and to assume the responsibility of stewardship," said Thomas V. Chema, president of Hiram College. "Not only will it ensure that these two water resources and the forests and wetlands through which they flow be protected, but it will expand the opportunities for our students to research, study and take an active role in preserving the natural resources of the area."

Work on the restoration of Eagle Creek will be managed by the Davey Resource Co., and the Land Conservancy will continue to monitor progress and usage of the land as part of its annual stewardship responsibilities. Hiram students and faculty will be able to access the property as part of their environmental studies, biology and other courses.

# Join us for concert, film festival



Pete McDonald belts out a tune at the 2011 Conservation Rocks! concert.

The Land Conservancy resumes its love affair with the arts this year by organizing the third annual Conservation Rocks! concert on June 8 and by partnering with the Cleveland International Film Festival.

The concert, which features local musicians who work in the field of conservation, will again be staged at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern, 15711 Waterloo Road, Cleveland. In 2011, the event attracted more than 250 people. Lineup and ticket information will be available shortly.

The Land Conservancy will also give introductory remarks and provide other information at the Cleveland International Film Festival's showing of "Women With Cows" at Tower City Center. Show times are 7:40 p.m. March 27, 1:50 p.m. March 28 and 11:40 a.m. March 29.

## Hike

from page 1

parcel through a partnership with the Land Conservancy, which holds a conservation easement on the property.




Seneca Ponds, which is in the Tinkers Creek portion of the Cuyahoga River watershed, has several small lakes and two vegetated wetlands. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted in the park.

The southern part of the property contains a young forest with red maple, ash, hawthorn, black cherry, beech, white oak, red oak, shagbark hickory, musclewood and slippery elm trees.

Seneca Ponds Park is located at 515 Mondial Parkway, Streetsboro.
For more information, visit www.portageparkdistrict.org

# Hoot ‘n’ Harvest Festival

October 15, 2011

Hill ‘n Dale Club, Montville Township



Hayrides were popular at this year’s festival, which was attended by about 150 people. The event is organized by the Medina Summit Chapter.





Above, Medina Raptor Center volunteer Annette Piechowski with Boris, a Barred Owl. Pumpkin-painting, left, gives children a chance to show off their creativity.



Bill Lamb serves hot chocolate to fellow Medina Summit Chapter members Ray Jarrett, left, and Curt Keal

## CONSERVATION CALENDAR

**Triple Tap**
3-6 p.m. Saturday, March 31
Patterson Fruit Farm, Chester Township

**Medina Earth Day**
Saturday, April 21
Buffalo Creek Retreat, Seville

**Flower Walk with Miles Reed**
Saturday, April 28
Westfield Township, Medina County

**Adam’s Run Cleanup**
Saturday, April 28
Akron

**Champion Creek cleanup**
10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 9
Medina

Visit www.wrlandconservancy.org for details.



## Enter ‘Spring Fever’ drawing for overnight getaways, dinner

Go to Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Facebook page to find out how you can enter our Spring Fever Sweepstakes and be eligible to win one of several great prizes, including overnight stays at The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake and The Inn on Kelleys Island, dinner at the new Spice Kitchen+Bar or a cool bicycling package. Other prizes include canoe and kayak trips, concert tickets, a guided rattlesnake hike, an up-close look at birds of prey and a one-year subscription to Edible Cleveland. Just ‘like’ us on Facebook and click on Spring Fever Sweepstakes to enter. It does not cost anything to enter. The deadline for entries is May 10.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.
P.O. Box 314
Novelty, Ohio 44072

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

# Landline expands with news online and in print

Starting with this edition, Landline will be published four times per year – twice in print and twice online. The print version of the newsletter will be published in the spring and fall, while online editions will be sent in the summer and winter. If we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to gpausch@wrlandconservancy.org or sign up at our website, www.wrlandconservancy.org, to ensure you receive all editions.



Photo by David Liam Kyle

Our mission: Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio.

Our members make our land protection efforts possible. We thank you for supporting our mission.

## Contact Western Reserve Land Conservancy



### Central Office

P.O. Box 314
Novelty, Ohio 44072
(440) 729-9621 or
info@wrlandconservancy.org

### Firelands Field Office

P.O. Box 174
Oberlin, Ohio 44077
(440) 774-4226
Andy McDowell, Western Field Director
amcdowell@wrlandconservancy.org

### Eastern Field Office

P.O. Box 114
Orwell, Ohio 44076
(440) 773-5582
Scott Hill, Eastern Field Director
shill@wrlandconservancy.org

Like us on Facebook

twitter

LinkedIn

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based inks.