Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Fall 2009



Landline

A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter celebrating land conservation in Summit, Portage and Stark counties

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Eddie Dengg
Field Director

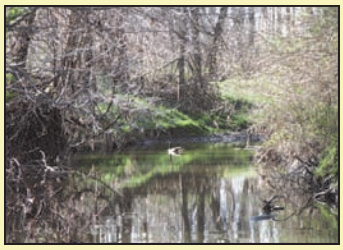
As fall arrives and the leaves begin to turn, the animals are putting on layers of fat to see them through to spring, or storing up hoards of acorns to nibble on during their long winter hunkered down.

The natural world is readying for a period of dormancy. While we love nature, the Land Conservancy is far from going dormant at this time of year. Our volunteers, trustees and chapter members get even busier in fall. This is the time of the year when landowners are motivated to complete land deals. Whether they would like to donate a conservation easement and have it finished before the holidays, or whether they need to complete the protection of their land before year's end to take advantage of the enhanced federal income tax incentives which expire on Dec. 31, 2009, the fall and early winter is a vibrant, busy time for the Land Conservancy. Without the help

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Land Conservancy to raise YDC funds

The Land Conservancy has agreed to help the city of Hudson secure public and philanthropic funds for the acquisition of the 428-acre former Cuyahoga County Youth Development Center.



The campaign will help ensure that the undeveloped portion of the YDC property is preserved in a natural state. To help contribute, contact Jean Gokorsch at (440) 729-9621, Ext. 124 or jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

The Land Conservancy's involvement is expected to ease the potential burden on Hudson taxpayers and ensure the site's 365 natural acres will be permanently preserved. In the past year alone, the Land Conservancy has secured more than $8.4 million in public funding and more than $1.6 million in private donations for land-protection projects in the region.

"It takes unusual foresight and great leadership for a community to undertake a land acquisition of this size and importance," said Eddie Dengg, the Land Conservancy's Akron field director. "The Land Conservancy applauds the city's leadership and looks forward to helping the city raise non-city funds for preservation of this regionally significant asset for present and future generations."

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Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 10, 5 p.m. –** The Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter's annual Hoot and Harvest at the Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Montville Township. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children 4-12, no charge for those 3 and under.
- **Oct. 24, 2 p.m. —** Canal and Quarry History Hike, Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park, 5779 Riverview Road, Peninsula. Take a trip back to the 1800s with naturalist Dee Casteel and examine the remains of an old sandstone quarry and part of the Ohio & Erie Canal. A 1.2-mile hike.

A 'true friend to conservation' gets top state honor

Retired math teacher Larry Rosche can add the state's top conservation award to his list of accomplishments.

Rosche, a field researcher for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Conservation Outreach Program who has done numerous natural resources surveys for the Land Conservancy, received the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Cardinal



SPOTLIGHT
Larry Rosche

Award for Conservation. The award honors individuals and organizations that demonstrate exceptional awareness and concern for the wise use and protection of our natural resources.

"He is a true friend to conservation and is very deserving of the (award)," ODNR Director Sean D. Logan said.

After being frustrated by his inability to identify species of dragonflies, Rosche took it upon himself to change that and wrote a book, "Dragonflies

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GRP, Land Conservancy to merge

Members of Grand River Partners have unanimously endorsed an agreement to merge with Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The voice vote took place at an Aug. 31 membership meeting at The Winery at Spring Hill in Geneva.

The merger, which is expected to become official in November, joins northern Ohio's two largest land conservancies.

"We are humbled to have the opportunity to integrate Grand River Partners' land conservation portfolio into our stewardship program, and we are very excited to merge their staff and office into our operation," said Rich Cochran, president and CEO of Western Reserve Land Conservancy. "This will lead to more land protected more quickly. It is an example of the power of multiplication: While five plus five equals 10, we all know that five times five equals 25. Before this merger, we were engaged in addition, where our work and GRP's work produced incremental gains. The merger will produce a transforming multiplication effect that will result in greater mission accomplishment."



The Grand River is considered the cleanest stream that empties into Lake Erie.

Grand River Partners' office in Painesville will become a Western Reserve Land Conservancy field office staffed by three full-time employees who have been working for GRP.

The Land Conservancy has preserved 251 properties and 15,390 acres.

Grand River Partners, which was formed in 1994, currently holds or co-holds 33 conservation easements and owns eight preserves in the watershed for a total of almost 3,700 acres of permanently protected land.

YDC

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Dengg said the Land Conservancy will be reaching out to residents, local businesses and government agencies for funding. In August, Hudson City Council agreed to purchase the property on Hines Hill Road from Cuyahoga County for $6.9 million, a move designed to ensure the undeveloped land becomes a park instead of a housing development.

"It is crucial that we preserve this very large track of land, and the facilities on it, for future generations," Hudson Mayor William Currin said. "It is incumbent that we all step up now to take advantage of the opportunity to give back by protecting the 428 acres that make up the YDC property. By doing so we say volumes about what is truly important to our town of Hudson and the region. In 1995 the citizens of Hudson demonstrated amazing generosity by working together and acquiring 400 acres of land and now we have it for every one to share in its use. Now it is our turn to demonstrate equal vision, leadership, and generosity."

The Land Conservancy is launching a fund-raising campaign to help cover the cost of purchasing the property, which includes streams that drain to the Cuyahoga River. Hudson is now seeking public input for the developed portion of the site, which resembles a small college campus with academic and athletic facilities that include a large auditorium, gymnasium and a full cafeteria.

Join the Land Conservancy!

See back page for details.

White Oak LEGACY SOCIETY

Make a lasting gift to our beautiful land.

Join the Land Conservancy's White Oak Legacy Society, whose members make a permanent commitment to land protection through wills, trusts and other estate-planning tools. For more information, contact Jean Gokorsch at (440) 729-9621, Ext. 124 or jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

Rosche

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and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio." The book laid the foundation for other field guides to be written, aiding naturalists and citizens in identifying these species.

When conducting surveys, Rosche, of Kent, and fellow researcher Judy Semroc will often visit the same property four or five times, spending several hours there on each occasion. It is not uncommon for Semroc to take 200-400 photos per visit.

"It's pretty interesting how you focus on habitat rather than just rushing through," Rosche said.

He called his association with the Land Conservancy "a great partnership."

Rosche is an expert on birds and wrote field guides on the nesting, distribution and migration of Neotropical species. He has also updated numerous digital maps including range maps for Eastern Birds, Eastern Butterflies, Hummingbirds of North America, and Reptiles and Amphibians.

Dengg

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of volunteers like Jim Gerspacher, Peg Bobel, Bill Hlavin, Rick Hawksley, Karen Wise and many others, we would never be able to complete this massive mission. Likewise, without the help of partners like the city of Hudson, Ohio EPA, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Lockheed Martin and the Portage Park District, much work would be left undone. I hope our collective mission becomes yours.

A fabulous evening at Firestone

Western Reserve Land Conservancy's "Evening at the Historic Firestone Farm" on Friday, Aug. 7 drew a crowd of more than 170 people to the Bath Township property.

The event, which introduced the regional land-protection work of the Land Conservancy, took place at Oak Hill Farm, which was formerly part of the Firestone estate. Raymond Firestone, son of Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. founder Harvey S. Firestone, began building the 1,500-acre estate in the 1940s.

Today, more than 400 acres of the original estate has been permanently protected as the Bath Nature Preserve.

Event hosts were Dedee and Rory O'Neil of Seville, John Farber of Hudson, Elaina E. Goodrich of Bath, Grant G. Goodrich of New York, Teresa and Mark Davey of Bath and Dick and Sue Abbott of Kent.



From left, Grant G. Goodrich, Elaina Goodrich, George Goodrich and Carina Van Vliet.



Above, Land Conservancy President and CEO Rich Cochran, left, talks to Richey and Sandra Smith of Akron; at right, Elaine and Greg Droba of Bath Township were among those enjoying the pastoral setting.



Many people helped make event a success

The Land Conservancy would like to extend a special thanks to all those whose extra effort made "An Evening at the Historic Firestone Farm" a night to remember.

We want to thank Teresa and Mark Davey for being such gracious hosts, and their children — Tess, Shannon, Chris, Kathleen and Thomas, as well as friend Chris Beal — for being so helpful. In addition, our gratitude goes out to Carrie Sloan, Lynn Metzger and Rory O'Neil. Thanks!



Ron Manus, left, of Akron with Laura and Bill Hlavin of Richfield.

The property retains the agricultural feel of the era when the Firestone family owned it.



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Land Conservancy

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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@wrlc.cc.

Yes, I want to join the Land Conservancy.

Please check your membership level:

O $15 Student
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Member benefits: Car decal, event notices, regional newsletter, satisfaction of supporting our work plus additional benefits for those contributing $50 or more.

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

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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.