Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.
Summer 2009



Landline

A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter celebrating land conservation in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties

Western Reserve Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 314
Novelty, Ohio 44072
Phone: (440) 729-9621



I would like to thank the entire Land Conservancy family for making my transition fun and exciting.

Andy Kirkpatrick
Land Protection Director

The culture here is unique and excellence is more achievable when your colleagues are truly experts in their respective areas. The learning curve flattens a little more every day since I joined the Land Conservancy in April.

The Land Protection team is in the middle of a very busy time and the energy is notable.

See ANDY page 2

Cold-water stream protected

The Land Conservancy and the city of Solon have joined forces to permanently protect property along a high-quality headwaters stream with the potential to support breeding populations of brook trout.



Sulphur Springs is a natural gem.

The Land Conservancy purchased the 14-acre site, which is on the west side of SOM Center Road in the headwaters of the South Branch of Sulphur Springs, from Valerie Maresh and immediately transferred the parcel to Solon, which plans to create a passive park.

The city and the Land Conservancy have been working on the project since 2003.

The Maresh property is one of the few relatively large undeveloped parcels in Solon and an important one in terms of maintaining water quality in the Chagrin River. Sulphur Springs, which flows into the Chagrin River, is one of only a handful of Cuyahoga County streams with the prospect for native brook trout reintroduction.

Valerie Maresh, who inherited

See STREAM page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 12,** 10 a.m. — Euclid Creek stream cleanup, Wildwood State Park, Cleveland. Volunteers needed. For more information, call (216) 524-6580, Ext. 16.
- **October 3,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – Steelhead Expo, Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted. Free. Sponsored by the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders.

EverGreen EverBlue

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009
White North Stables
Hunting Valley
For more information, call (440) 729-9621 or e-mail kbihler@wrlc.cc

He went against the grain to preserve family farm

Carter Wilmot treasures his family farm.

So much so that when homes began sprouting up all around his 89-acre property at West Boston and Broadview roads in Broadview Heights, he resisted offers from developers and permanently protected 75 of those acres with conservation easements.

"I realized that if I went ahead and developed (the land) I would be violating the desires of all the family members who came before me," Wilmot said. "I definitely made the right choice."



SPOTLIGHT
Carter Wilmot

The farm was established by Henry Carter in 1850 and was one of the first settlements in the Western Reserve. Wilmot, who in 1985 retired as the president and owner of Prince & Izant, a metal brazing alloy company in Parma, grew up doing chores on the farm. The chores became the foundation for his love of the outdoors and conservation.

See WILMOT page 2

Volunteers needed

Can you spare a few hours a week to help at our office, lead a hike or work at one of our events? We'd love to talk to you. Contact Kim Bihler at kbihler@wrlc.cc or (440) 729-9621, Ext. 112 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Join the Land Conservancy!

See back page for details.

Steelheaders help make fishing event a huge success

The Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders teamed up with the Land Conservancy to make the April 18 Steelhead Spectacular a huge success. OCBS members served as volunteer guides for the more than 40 anglers who signed up for the steelhead event.

The event was based at Harpersfield Dam on the Grand River in Ashtabula County, but the guides took anglers to other hot spots such as the Chagrin River and Conneaut Creek.

"We would like to thank all of the members of OCBS for their expert assistance in guiding our guests at the first steelhead fishing event," said Scott Hill, the Land Conservancy's Eastern Field Director. "For over a century, sportsmen have led the charge for conservation, and April 18 was no exception. By calling attention to the steelhead fishery, we are calling attention to the need for increased access."



U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, above left, gets a hand from volunteer guide Jerry Darkes.

More than 20 OCBS members served as river guides. The guides for the day included club President Joe Moravec, Vice President Tom Blotzer and directors Jeff Liskay and Jerry Darkes.

Hill said the Land Conservancy is committed to preserving more land along northern Ohio's rivers and increasing access for anglers. OCBS is a 25-year-old association dedicated to the protection and promotion of steelhead sport fishing.

Stream

From page 1

the property when her mother, Mildred, passed away last year, said she wanted to preserve the property as a legacy to her parents and grandparents. The land has been in the Maresh family since 1903, she said.

"I think it's going to be a great legacy for the future generations of Solonites to have some green space and see just how pretty this area really is," Maresh said.

Solon Mayor Kevin Patton praised the preservation effort. "Solon is delighted to have this wonderful environmental asset," he said.

Wilmot

From page 1

Today, Carter and his wife, Genevieve, live in a house they built on the property. One of their sons, David, now runs the 78-acre farm, which is used for timber, sheep and hay, and lives in the historic farmhouse there. David is also the president and owner of Prince & Izant.

Carter Wilmot, who graduated from Miami University with thoughts of becoming a high school football coach, saw those hopes derailed when he was drafted into the military and served tours in Korea and Japan. After a stint at a Cleveland YMCA branch, he entered industrial sales, rising from a salesman to owner of the company.

Andy

From page 1

Numerous public funding/grant deadlines are approaching (Clean Ohio, among others) and our deal pipeline is full with high quality conservation projects. Stay tuned as our funding and grant writing efforts gain more clarity.

Again, thanks to all of you who have welcomed me, and I look forward to working with you and on behalf of our mission.

Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?

Few contributions will have a more lasting impact than those that forever preserve our natural areas. Please consider a testamentary gift to Western Reserve Land Conservancy. For more information, contact Jean Gokorsch at (440) 729-9621 or jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

Give a buck a week and support our work

You can support the work of the Land Conservancy with a donation that will barely dent your wallet.

The Land Conservancy is teaming up with EarthShare of Ohio on a workplace giving program in which employees can have as little as a buck or two taken out of their checks each pay period. Giving just a dollar a week would add up to a $52 annual donation to the Land Conservancy.

More than 79 Ohio employers ranging from the state of Ohio to Walmart are now in the program. If your employer is participating, you can designate Western Reserve Land Conservancy as the beneficiary on a pledge form or make a donation to EarthShare that will be shared by dozens of leading environmental and conservation organizations. Check with your company's payroll office to see if your employer is participating in the EarthShare of Ohio payroll donation program.

To inquire about getting your employer involved in the program, contact Earth Share of Ohio at info@earthshareofohio.org. For more information about the Land Conservancy's participation, contact Jean Gokorsch at jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

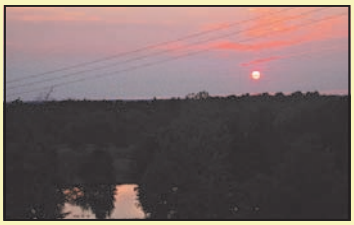
Honoring conservation heroes

June 24, 2009, Orchard Hills Park/Patterson's Fruit Farm



Land Conservancy President/CEO Rich Cochran presents a hand-carved walking stick to Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award winner Jim Spira, right, as Morris looks on.







Live music, above, was followed by a gorgeous sunset at Orchard Hills. At lower right, Rich Cochran and Dick Grimm, right, present the Grimm Family Conservation Medal to Evelyn Frohring and her brother, Ernie.



From left, plant walk participants Roma Witkowich, Joyce Burke-Jones, tour guide Thomas Samplinger, Judy Henschel, Beau Daane and Ava Peterson.

Bratenahl walk spotlights plants



Hikers visited a rare estuarine environment on the Lake Erie coastline.

An April 26 plant walk was held at two properties preserved through Land Conservancy easements — the 8-acre Bratenahl Bird Sanctuary and a nearby 12-acre parcel. The walk was led by Thomas Samplinger of the Native Plant Society.

Triple Tap draws crowd of 150



Cousins Will and Graham Outcalt enjoy the festivities.

About 150 people flocked to Patterson's Fruit Farm in Chester Township for Triple Tap, Western Reserve Land Conservancy's annual celebration of the maple syrup season.

The March 14 event featured a potluck dinner with a wide variety of salads and homemade goodies, tractor- and horse-drawn wagon rides to the sugar bush to see the sap flowing and an afternoon of toe-tapping music featuring the Land Conservancy's own Pete McDonald.

Children enjoyed riding ponies and making maple stirrers.

Kim Bihler, the Land Conservancy's manager of membership and special events, said there were a lot of new faces at this year's Triple Tap in addition to many familiar ones.

"We were really excited to have some new families who had their first experience with the Land Conservancy," she said.





Festival-goers, above, enjoy a little down time in front of an old wagon at Patterson's Fruit Farm. Pony rides, left, were a big hit with the youngsters attending Triple Tap.

Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 314

Novelty, OH 44072

Address Service Requested

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 on Facebook!

If you would rather get 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
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

#_____ 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.

Central Office
P.O. Box 314
Novelty, Ohio 44072
Phone: (440) 729-9621
info@wrlc.cc
www.wrlc.cc

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.