Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Fall 2009



Landline

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

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Julia Musson
Associate Director of Conservation Funding

In a few weeks, I will be participating in an event that focuses attention on an issue critical to Ohio's future: the preservation of farmland.

The 10th annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit: Planting the Seeds of Future Prosperity, which will be held on Nov. 5 in Columbus, is a chance for us to reflect on the need to protect high-quality agricultural land in the face of urban sprawl. Preserving farmland is an important part of our mission here at the Land Conservancy, and some of our most satisfying projects have involved the protection of farms that have been in families for generations.

At the upcoming summit, we're going to hear from some of those family members. I am honored to be the moderator of a panel on first-hand farmland preservation, one that will include Jarvis Babcock who

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Welcome!

GRP staffers join Land Conservancy team



George Warnock, left, Lisa Pasquale and Brett Rodstrom are joining the Land Conservancy staff.

Three members of the Grand River Partners, Inc. staff will officially become Land Conservancy employees when the merger between the two groups becomes official later this year.

Grand River Partners employees Brett Rodstrom, George Warnock and Lisa Pasquale, who are based in GRP's Painesville office, are joining the Land Conservancy staff.

The Painesville location, which is at 70 South Park Place, will become a Land Conservancy field office.

Rodstrom, GRP's land protection coordinator, was a storm water specialist with Lake Soil and Water Conservation District before joining GRP. Rodstrom, who holds a degree in environmental science from Allegheny College, said it is "exciting to be a part of the marriage of two of the most successful private conservation organization in Northeast Ohio."

Warnock's lifelong passion for environmental issues led him to Lake Erie College, where in he graduated with a degree in environmental

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Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 17, 4-7 p.m. –** The Land Conservancy's Fall Festival at Castlewood Farm, 16989 Snyder Road, Bainbridge. Games, crafts, music, cart rides around the farm and a campfire with s'mores. We will provide hot dogs, fixings and s'mores. Bring a picnic or a dish to share. As a special treat, the farm's horses will 'sign' copies of "A Bell for Justin," a new children's book by Faith Pescatore.
- **Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.** — Lake Metroparks' Astronomy Night at Girdled Road Reservation. Telescopes and binoculars provided. Free.

A 'true friend to conservation' gets top state honor



SPOTLIGHT
Larry Rosche

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 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.

Welcome

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science with a concentration in chemistry. While earning his degree, he worked as an intern at Grand River Partners and was subsequently hired by GRP as its Upper Grand River Watershed Coordinator, which involves developing and implementing a watershed action plan for the Upper Grand River Watershed.

"I am excited at the prospect of working with an elite team of professionals using innovative methods to help improve the quality of life in northern Ohio by working for the Land Conservancy," Warnock said.

Pasquale, who holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Cleveland State University, has been the media and outreach coordinator for Grand River Partners.

Before joining GRP, she operated a full-service advertising agency that helped market and produce national events.

"This merger will preserve the legacy of Grand River Partners and continue its mission with strength and integrity," Pasquale said.

Big Splash



A crowd of 85 turned out for the Land Conservancy's 11th annual Kids in the Creek event on July 26 at West Geauga Commons. Kids of all ages got a chance to explore a stretch of the Chagrin River and its inhabitants.

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.

Musson

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worked with the Land Conservancy to protect his family's 1,000-plus-acre farm in Lorain County. I look forward to hearing the first-hand testimonials of those who have permanently preserved their farms. We will also discuss their experiences participating in the state's Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program as well as donating conservation easements to land trusts.

For more information on the summit, visit http://cffpi.osu.edu.

A Grand event

Get-together celebrates merger of region's two largest land conservancies

More than 75 supporters of Grand River Partners Inc. and Western Reserve Land Conservancy got the chance to share food and fellowship at the Aug. 31 GRP membership meeting at The Winery at Spring Hill in Geneva.

After GRP members endorsed an agreement to merge with the Land Conservancy, members of both organizations joined landowners and supporters in a celebration.



Paul Belanger, left, president of Grand River Partners' board of trustees, talks with Land Conservancy Chair Bill Mulligan, center, and Land Conservancy Trustee John Leech at the Aug. 31 event in Geneva.





Above, the crowd enjoys the party; at right, Aaron Van Ostran of the Ohio Wetlands Foundation, left, and the Land Conservancy's Pete McDonald.



Bill Abell, left, Land Conservancy President/CEO Rich Cochran and Ralph Haehn.



GRP Secretary Thomas Quintrell and President Paul Belanger.



Jeff Burr, left, Bill Ginn and Grant River Partners Trustee Kristi Schmitt Burr.

More than 300 practice yoga in park



Clockwise, from right, yogis start the session with a meditation moment, assume the down dog position and do a sun salutation.



Kids also got a chance to practice.

Cleveland Yoga, which has a popular studio on Richmond Road in Beachwood, teamed up with the Land Conservancy on Aug. 23 to present "Practicing on the Preserve: A Celebration of Yoga and Conservation" at Orchard Hills Park in Chesterland. More than 300 people attended the event.





Cleveland Yoga owner Tami Schneider and several teachers were on hand to teach attendees of all skill levels. A special class for children was included. About 80 people attended a hike before the yoga session.

To view a YouTube video of the event, visit Cleveland Yoga's Web site at www.clevelandyoga.com.

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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:

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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.