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



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Eastern Field Office
P.O. Box 114
Orwell,, Ohio 44076
Phone: (440) 773-5582



Scott Hill
Field Director

The past few months have reinforced my belief that we could not carry out our mission without the help of great partners.

In April, members of the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders were instrumental in the success of our Steelhead Spectacular. About a month later, the Land Conservancy received word that the folks at Conneaut Community Foundation had awarded us a $10,000 grant to help purchase land along Conneaut Creek for Ashtabula County

See HILL page 2

Museum partnership preserves 294 acres



The project will help protect the watershed of the Grand River, which is the cleanest stream that flows into Lake Erie.

The Land Conservancy and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History are working to preserve a 294-acre property in a region inhabited by Black Bears, Bald Eagles and bobcats.

The land, which is located in northern Trumbull County near the state's Grand River Wildlife Area, contains swamp forest and wetlands, open sphagnum ponds, beaver ponds and button bush swamps that contain habitat for migratory birds, according to Eastern Field Director Scott Hill. He said 10 rare species have been found on the site, known as the Sparks property, and that bears, eagles and bobcats are known to frequent the region.

"This is an ecologically diverse property, and we thank the museum for its efforts to preserve it," Hill said.

Under the partnership, the museum will negotiate the purchase of the property and secure all funding. The Land Conservancy will hold a conservation easement on the land.

The property is on Bristol

See MUSEUM page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 22-23 –** Ashtabula Wine and Walleye Festival at Walnut Beach and the Ashtabula River in Ashtabula. Visit www.wineandwalleye.net.
- **August 29,** 2-4:30 p.m. – Kayaking on the Newport wetlands at Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. Meet at the East Newport Boat Launch. Reservations: Call (330) 740-7107.

EverGreen EverBlue

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

Talented landscape architect helps Mill Creek thrive

It's a good thing Justin Rogers likes to run.

Rogers, 29, who regularly competes in distance races and triathlons, is sprinting to stay on top of his increasing responsibilities at Mill Creek MetroParks. The park system's landscape architect recently added the role of planning manager, a job that involves everything from capital improvements to land acquisition.



SPOTLIGHT
Justin Rogers

"Being able to see a project through from beginning to end while respecting the historical and cultural aspects of it is very satisfying," said Rogers, a Cardinal Mooney High School and Ohio State University graduate.

Rogers, a registered landscape architect who has been with the park system for eight years, said Mill Creek is a source of pride for Youngstown residents. "I think people look at us as a stable organization that is still growing," he said.

See ROGERS 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.

Museum

From page 1

Champion Townline Road, just west of state Route 45 and about six miles northwest of Warren. Mud Creek, which flows through the property, is part of the upper headwaters of the Grand River, the healthiest river entering Lake Erie on either side of its borders.

The history museum has secured funding for the purchase through a combination of Clean Ohio and North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.

The collaboration between the museum and the Land Conservancy is creating new opportunities for land conservation. The museum has done several dozen biodiversity surveys for the Land Conservancy in the last few years.

Hill

From page 1

MetroParks.

At the same time, we were finalizing a plan with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to preserve a 294-acre site in Trumbull County. Then in June, we were privileged to join Mill Creek MetroParks in presenting "A Celebration of Conservation: Stewardship through Partnership" in Youngstown. It was a first-class event.

We thank our partners. Conserving the region's land is a big job, and no one can do it alone.

Rogers

From page 1

Rogers, who lists the MetroParks Bikeway as his favorite part of Mill Creek, is a member of the Land Conservancy's Eastern Advisory Board. He has also been a member of the Alliance for Watershed Action and Resource Education since 2002, and served as AWARE's chair since 2006.

Rogers, who lives in Boardman Township, runs in the annual Mill Creek Distance Classic Half Marathon each March. He finished this year's grueling 13.1-mile race in 1:53:21. In addition, he bicycles and plays indoor soccer, bocce and softball.

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.

Mahoning Valley honors Centofanti, conservation

Two of Ohio's top land conservation organizations joined like-minded Mahoning Valley residents on June 18 to celebrate the protection of this region's natural wonders.

"A Celebration of Conservation: Stewardship through Partnership" was organized by Mill Creek MetroParks, the oldest park district in the state, and the Land Conservancy, which has preserved more than 14,200 acres in northern Ohio. It was held at the park district's D.D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown.

James Centofanti, who has worked tirelessly to help the park preserve land, received the Volney Rogers Legacy Award at the event.

The park district and the Land Conservancy have formed a partnership to preserve land in Mahoning County.

Hosts for the event were Nancy and Bruce Beeghly, Diana and Dominic Marchese, Jackie and William Motsinger, Marilyn and John Pogue and Susan and Jay Yerian. "A Celebration of Conservation" was partially underwritten by Farmers National Bank and Farmers Trust Company.



James Centofanti accepts the Volney Rogers Legacy Award from Land Conservancy board member Susan Yerian and Mill Creek MetroParks Executive Director Dave Imbrogno.







Clockwise from above, an approving crowd; the proud Centofanti family; and attendees Joel Ratner of the Wean Foundation, Kim Bihler of the Land Conservancy and Mill Creek's Linda Kostka.

Thanks!

The Land Conservancy sends a special thanks to Mark Graham, Keith Kaiser, Linda Kostka, Arlene Lanz, Lily Martuccio and Susan Yerian for their efforts on "A Celebration of Conservation: Stewardship through Partnership." You helped make this event a huge success.

Foundation invests $10,000 in Conneaut project

The Conneaut Community Foundation has awarded the Land Conservancy a $10,000 grant to help with the purchase of a 35-acre parcel adjacent to 79 acres already owned by Ashtabula County MetroParks.

Purchase of the Conneaut property that will provide greater public access to Conneaut Creek and protect the stream. It will help create a 114-acre county park along the creek.

"In accordance with our mission, The Conneaut Community Foundation is pleased to offer assistance to Western Reserve Land Conservancy," said Jim Furman, the foundation's president. "By preserving and protecting Conneaut Creek and the surrounding areas, this project will have far-reaching effects on the community for years to come."

Scott Hill, the Land Conservancy's Eastern field director, praised the foundation for its forward-thinking approach.

"Not many people realize how local support can impact funding efforts in land conservation," he said. "This generous gift from the Conneaut Community Foundation will help the Land Conservancy show state and federal funding sources that the people of Conneaut are serious about conservation in their community and that they are willing to support conservation efforts financially. I wish more communities had this kind of local understanding and support."

Both the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders are supporting the purchase. Conneaut Creek has been designated a State Wild and Scenic River.

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Land Conservancy

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Western Reserve Land Conservancy
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Novelty, OH 44072

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We thank you for supporting our mission.

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Yes, I want to join the Land Conservancy.

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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.