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



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Medina Field Office
141 Prospect Street
Medina, Ohio 44256
Phone: (330) 722-7313



Bill Jordan
Land Protection Coordinator

This is a great place to work. Clearly, one of the rewarding parts of this job is working with landowners who share their love and passion for their land by preserving it. The experience is even better when it takes place on the land itself.

That's often the case at this time of the year when Land Conservancy staff is busy with stewardship visits. These visits serve an important purpose. We are obligated to uphold the terms of a conservation easement in

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Medina Twp. land may become park

An agreement between the Land Conservancy and Medina Township is expected to result in the creation of a 20-acre Medina County park on the West Branch of Rocky River off Weymouth Road.



The property has significant frontage on the West Branch of the Rocky River.

The agreement calls for the township to receive an 8-acre Land Conservancy-owned tract off Fenn and Pearl roads in exchange for a conservation easement on township-owned property off Weymouth Road, near Fenn.

The Medina County Park District would manage the property as a passive park with trails, picnic areas and a small pavilion. The Fenn Road property, which was acquired by the former Medina Summit Land Conservancy as part of a wetlands mitigation transaction, will also eventually be managed as a park.

The planned park is in a region along the Rocky River where the Land Conservancy already holds several conservation easements. Those easements ensure that the property will be permanently preserved even if the ownership of the land changes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 14,** 6-9 p.m. – Sample local foods from area chefs at Quailcrest Farm, 2810 Armstrong Road, Wooster. Tickets ($25) support the missions of Killbuck Watershed Land Trust and The Wilderness Center.
- **Oct. 10 –** The Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter's Hoot 'n' Harvest at the Hill 'n' Dale Club in Montville Township.

EverGreen EverBlue

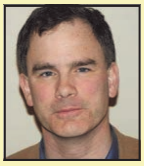
Friday, Sept. 11, 2009
White North Stables
Hunting Valley
For more information, call (440) 729-9621 or e-mail kbihler@wrlc.cc

He's a true pioneer in local land conservation

In 1990, Medina County lawyer Jeff Holland had a client who wanted to permanently preserve 23 acres.

"(The client) wanted to give it away," he said.

So Holland contacted organizations ranging from local park systems to national land trusts, trying to find a taker for the property. He was stunned to discover no one was interested.



SPOTLIGHT
Jeff Holland

"I just felt that if you live in Northeast Ohio, there has to be a means by which you can preserve your land," Holland said. "We can't just save the Rio Grande. You have to be able to act locally."

The experience prompted Holland and brother-in-law John Gresock to co-found the Medina County Land Conservancy, one of the forerunners of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, in 1991. The organization would later become the Medina Summit Land Conservancy, one of the

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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.

Jordan

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perpetuity. At lease once a year we walk all the preserved properties to make sure that neighbors and others are respecting property boundaries or other restrictions.

But these visits are often so much more than an inspection. Landowners are encouraged to join us, and when they do the visits become something special.

Some people, like Laura and Don Kalman, have a relatively short history with their land. Improvements to the property are measured in trees planted and fields left alone for nesting birds. But their passion for the land is no less heartfelt than someone like Carter Wilmot. He can close his eyes and envision the land as it was when he was growing up there as a boy, and the gift it will be to future generations. Or walking unglaciated hills and valleys with Garry and Leo Summers, knowing that during the past six generations, some of their family was born on the land, and others are resting there eternally.

Many jobs come with benefits. But how do you measure the value of time spent with the special people who preserve their land? Many did it without the need to "run the numbers." These are decisions often made at an emotional level; they don't need to be quantified or justified.

So when we dutifully record these stewardship visits with our papers, cameras and computers, we won't be able to measure the biggest thing — the owner's heart.

Steelhead Spectacular



U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, above left, was one of the more than 40 anglers taking part in the April 18 Steelhead Spectacular, a joint effort by the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders and the Land Conservancy. OCBS members served as volunteer guides on the Grand River, Chagrin River and Conneaut Creek. Here, Voinovich gets a hand from guide and OCBS member Jerry Darkes.

Pioneer

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eight northern Ohio land trusts that successfully merged in 2006 to form the Land Conservancy.

Today, Holland, who lives in Medina County's Sharon Township, is on the Land Conservancy's Board of Trustees and is one of the region's most passionate conservationists.

Holland does not just talk about land preservation – he lives it. Last year, he and his family protected 43 acres of their 72-acre Frog Hollow property in Sharon with a conservation easement. Additional acreage is expected to be preserved in the future.

Holland, who is proud to note that he can see his grade school from his office in Sharon Center, met his wife of 21 years, Marjorie Muirden, in law school in New Hampshire. Holland said the couple initially moved a lot – "I was never coming back to Northeast Ohio," he said – but decided this region was a great place to raise a family and be part of a community. "We realized we were moving around too much to make a difference in any of the places where we lived," Holland said.

Jeff and Marjorie, who have four boys ranging in age from four to 17 as well as five dogs, five cats, six horses, a beehive and fish, have also been recognized for their work in rescuing abused horses and other animals.

"Our two passions are conservation and animal welfare," Jeff said.

Holland has been spreading the land conservation message, speaking to community organizations throughout Medina and Summit counties.

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.

Volunteers make difference at Champion Creek cleanup

Kurt Schaefer of Medina walked the muddy banks of Champion Creek, stopping every few feet to pick up a stray wrapper or plastic bottle. Schaefer wasn't being paid to clean up the creek. He was a volunteer.

"I came because I wanted to," Schaefer said.

Schaefer was one of the approximately 20 people who gathered at Medina's Roscoe Ewing Park and trudged down Champion Creek, collecting everything from old cans to pieces of concrete block. The June 6 cleanup was coordinated by the Rocky River Watershed Council, Medina Councilman Mark Kolesar and Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Champion Creek is part of the Rocky River watershed. Kolesar, who organized the event, briefed volunteers on the project before handing out gloves and bags. He then headed down to the creek with residents, RRWC representatives and Land Conservancy volunteers, including land protection coordinator Bill Jordan and Dan Miltner, vice president of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter. The RRWC works to preserve, protect and restore the Rocky River watershed.









Clockwise, from left, the Land Conservancy's Bill Jordan, left, and Medina Councilman Mark Kolesar wade in the creek to pick up litter; Allie Willis, 16, shows off the results of her work; a hand-drawn sign urges passers-by to join the cleanup effort at Medina's Roscoe Ewing Park; and Dave Rohlen, wife Angie and son Drew, 3, of Medina, do their part.



Charlotte E. Karson Daiber

Daiber, Jordan honored by YWCA

Two members of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy family have been honored by the YWCA of Medina County for their outstanding volunteer work in the community.



Laura Jordan

Charlotte E. Karson Daiber, current president of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter, and Laura C. Jordan, who has exhibited rehabilitated owls, hawks and eagles at numerous Land Conservancy events, were honored at the 18th annual Women of Distinction Awards on May 14 at The Weymouth Club in Medina Township.

Jordan, the founder and executive director of the Medina Raptor Center Inc., was one of 15 women honored in the YWCA's class of 2009. Daiber, a retired nurse with a volunteer history dating back three decades, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th annual event.

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Yes, I want to join the Land Conservancy.

Please check your membership level:

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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.