



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Spring 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1



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

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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Creating an interconnected network of protected open spaces across northern Ohio is a daunting task.



Eddie Dengg
Field Director

We envision a 400,000-acre network of public and private conserved land. From parks and nature preserves to private woodlands, to working farms that provide an important local and regional food supply, our volunteers, members, trustees and staff are busy making this vision a reality. It is a big task, but we know that by working with the more than 50 other conservation groups and agencies across northern Ohio, this vision can become reality.

The Land Conservancy's mission, while facilitated by

See DENG G page 3

Become a member of Western Reserve Land Conservancy!
See back page for details.

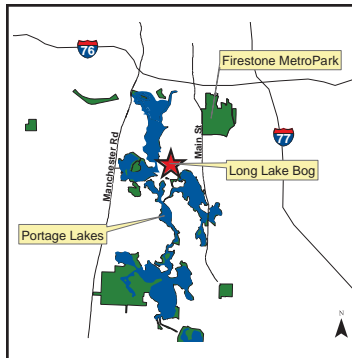
Wetlands gem

Land Conservancy, history museum help protect rare Summit County bog

The Land Conservancy and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History are teaming up to protect a 50-acre Summit County wetlands area that contains a rare-tamarack bog, a relic of the Ice Age.

The bog is located between Long Lake and East Reservoir in the Portage Lakes area in Coventry Township. It is adjacent to state-owned park land.

The property is home to eight state-listed species, including the state-endangered bullhead-lily



the Land Conservancy's Akron Area Field Office.

Conservation of the property would protect and improve water quality in the Tuscarawas River watershed, a state-designated impaired body of water.

Walking on a tamarack bog

See BOG page 3

and threatened bog birch. It has also been identified in the Summit County Trail and Greenways Plan, according to Eddie Dengg, director of

Her connection to the outdoors is a natural path

Peg Bobel blazes trails and follows them.

The Akron conservationist and her husband, Rob, helped found the all-volunteer Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council, which builds and maintains trails in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Then the former licensed social worker combined her love of writing and the outdoors to produce some of the most definitive publications on hiking in

SPOTLIGHT



Peg Bobel

Northeast Ohio.

Bobel says the link between people and the outdoors is an essential one. "As I see it, one of the greatest dangers to the future of the planet and

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 25, 9:30 a.m.** — The Land Conservancy's PLACE Chapter hosts a naturalist-led hike at Seneca Ponds Park, 515 Mondial Parkway, Streetsboro.
- **April 27, 6:30 p.m.** — Eddie Dengg talks about private land conservation to the Kent Garden Club at the Kent United Methodist Church, 1435 E Main St, Kent.
- **Aug. 7** — The Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter event at the former Firestone Estate in Bath.

Create your own economic stimulus package.

Act now before tax incentives expire! See page 2.

the future of humans is that so many people have lost the sense or the knowledge of how interconnected we all are — with the rest of nature and with each other — that we ARE nature, and so what's good for nature is generally good for humans," she says. "In the city there's less diversity, less wildness, and it's easier to get fooled into

See BOBEL page 3

Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?

Few contributions will have a more lasting impact than those that forever preserve our beautiful 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.



Partnership may protect Portage Co. land

The Land Conservancy hopes to preserve the ecologically important Upper Cuyahoga Bog in Portage County with financing help from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.



The Upper Cuyahoga Bog is an ecological gem.

NEORSD has agreed to participate in the state-initiated Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program and to sponsor seven projects in 2009, including two properties the Land Conservancy has worked to preserve, Upper Cuyahoga Bog in Shalersville Township and Orchard Hills in Geauga County.

Both tracts are to be managed by the park systems in their respective counties.

Sponsorship does not require the sewer district to spend any of its own money but does provide state funding for land-protection efforts.

“The district’s focus has always been protecting the environment,” says Julius Ciaccia, NEORSD’s executive director.

The 558-acre Upper Cuyahoga Bog contains several rare species and high-quality wetlands.

We’re talking ‘green’ with The Summit

The Land Conservancy will be among the participants in WAPS (91.3 FM The Summit) radio’s daylong celebration of “green” ideas on Earth Day 2009.



Conservancy and a host of other local groups.

James said the station’s first Earth Day event in 2008 was “a big success. This year we wanted to take it to the next level...so we decided to use our own resources to reach even more people.”

Andrew James, the station’s operations and membership manager, said the Akron station will be offering on-air tips on April 22 for listeners who want to incorporate environmentally friendly practices in their daily lives. Personalities at the commercial-free, member-supported public radio station will give “green” ideas provided by the Land

91.3 The Summit WAPS-FM is a listener supported, non-commercial public radio serving the Akron-Canton community. The Land Conservancy has been instrumental in the preservation of numerous properties in Summit, Portage, Stark and Medina counties.

Tax incentives expire after 2009

The generous tax-incentive program for farmers and others who voluntarily conserve their land is set to expire on Dec. 31 unless Congress renews it. Grantors of conservation easements may take a charitable deduction of up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income in the year of the gift. Conservation easements donated in 2009 are eligible. For more details, call us at (330) 836-2271.

Land Conservancy a semi-finalist for national award

The Land Conservancy was one of 30 semi-finalists for The Collaboration Prize, a national award for which more than 644 organizations were nominated. The \$250,000 prize was created by the Phoenix-based Lodestar Foundation to recognize non-profit efficiency.

The winner will be named in March.

Group works to bring back native Ohio brook trout

The Land Conservancy is part of a group that is helping reintroduce the colorful and threatened native Ohio brook trout into streams here.

Once found only in tiny Spring Brook in Geauga County, the trout — which need cold, clean water to survive — now live in 10 streams in Northeast Ohio, thanks to the efforts of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Brook Trout Advisory Committee.



“They’re the most beautiful fish ever.” — Anne Murphy



“This has been a very successful program,” said Anne Murphy, the Land Conservancy’s director of stewardship and conservation resources and

the committee’s chair. Member groups range from local park systems to Trout Unlimited.

Murphy said the group is now developing a Habitat Sustainability Index in the hope of finding even more streams where brook trout can live.

“Ohio brook trout seem to be a little more tolerant of stream conditions,” she said.

The group also hopes to establish a local trout hatchery and build a new exhibit at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Attendance tops 100 at fall festival

A crowd of more than 100 people attended the Oct. 18 Fall Festival and Owl Walk sponsored by the Medina Summit Chapter of the Land Conservancy. The event, held at the Hill 'n' Dale Club, included dinner, pumpkin painting, hayrides, a campfire and a visit from rehabilitated hawks and owls from the Medina Raptor Center.



Jillian, left, and Ava Morgentstern of Akron apply the finishing touches.



It turned out to be a perfect evening for a hayride.

THE LAND CONSERVANCY IN SUMMIT COUNTY

October 2, 2008, Fairlawn Country Club
Hosts: Jean Foust, Froncie and Greg Repetti



Dave Towell, left, Greg Repetti, Froncie Repetti and John Dellagnese.



Betty O'Hara and Theresa Peters were among those learning more about the Land Conservancy at Fairlawn Country Club.

Pat O'Mara, left, Alice and Lance Bergstrom were among the 50 people who attended the party, which introduced the Land Conservancy to Summit County.



Land Conservancy, museum work to protect bog

From page 1

is difficult and even dangerous — like attempting to cross a pond covered with floating cakes of ice — but one will find rare acid-loving plants such as ferns and orchids.

The tamarack, or Eastern larch, also called hackmatack,

occurs to the northern limit of tree growth in Canada, and in dwarf forms to the Arctic Ocean. Unlike most cone-bearing trees, in fall its leaves turn lemon yellow and drop off. Its bark contains tannin and was valued by the Indians for its medicinal properties.



A rare tamarack bog is located on the property.

Land Conservancy's preserved acreage tops 14,000 mark

In December, the Land Conservancy reached a milestone in its work to protect the area's natural resources.

The Land Conservancy topped the 14,000-acre mark in total protected properties when it secured conservation easements in Huron and Erie counties, according to Director of Land Protection Mark Skowronski.

The eight land trusts that merged to form the Land Conservancy together protected about 8,000 acres over a 20-year period. In the three years since the merger, we have preserved more than 6,000 acres — a 75-percent increase over a 20-year total. To date, we have preserved more than 230 properties.

Bobel

From page 1

thinking us humans can live apart from nature."

After developing several hiking-path publications, the Bobels wrote the *Trail Guide*

Handbook: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, the official trail guide for CVNP.

In addition, they produced the award-winning 2001 publication, *Towpath Companion: A Traveler's Guide to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail* and

subsequent updated editions.

Peg, the executive director of the Cuyahoga Valley Association from 1989-2001, is now a volunteer with several groups, including the Land Conservancy and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition.

Dengg

From page 1

staff and our conservation partners, is really implemented by the communities and people of northern Ohio. Landowners preserve their land and thereby leave family legacies, while also

preserving the character of our area. Our volunteers, members and trustees make a difference by keeping local leaders and community members aware of the great public benefits of a healthy environment and protected land.

We appreciate the support of our members, volunteers, trus-

tees, and conservation partners. They are all integral reasons for the success stories you will read about in this newsletter. Please consider becoming a member in order to be part of this growing movement, and to support land conservation work in our region.



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We thank you for supporting our mission.

Are you LinkedIn? Join the Western Reserve Land Conservancy group at www.linkedin.com

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:

- \$15 Student
- \$25 Introductory
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Donor
- \$250 Contributing
- \$500 Sustainer

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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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.