



Western Reserve Land Conservancy
OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

Spring 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1



A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter celebrating land conservation in Medina and Wayne counties

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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I have the good fortune of working for two great organizations. My day job, with the Land Conservancy, affords me the opportunity to work with an incredibly gifted professional staff who is committed to our mission of preserving the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio.



Bill Jordan
Land Protection Coordinator

As importantly, I am able to meet and work with the people in our communities who sustain our mission through their generous donations of time, money and land. It's a privilege to work with people who have the vision and willingness to look beyond self-interest toward the larger

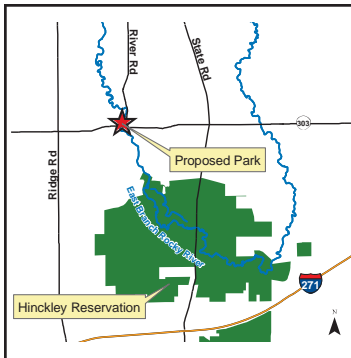
See **JORDAN** page 1

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

Hinckley haven

Land Conservancy-preserved site on Rocky River to become township park

A 30-acre parcel at the northwest corner of River Road and Route 303 may soon become a Hinckley Township Park.



The Land Conservancy is working with township trustees to permanently protect the tract, which is located on the East Branch of the Rocky River. The township would manage the area as a passive park with a loop trail, a small parking lot and a picnic area.

Farming would continue on a small agricultural area at the site,

according to Eddie Dengg, director of the Land Conservancy's Akron Field Office. Dengg says bird-watching is expected to be one of the

primary activities in the new park.

In addition to the agricultural land, the property has riparian woods and includes about 2,600 linear feet of Rocky River. The site is about a mile north of the Cleveland

See **HINCKLEY** page 3

Accomplished potter has a passion for conservation

Elaine Lamb says she was raised by "accidental environmentalists" — frugal parents struggling to survive the Depression.

"They taught us 'accidentally' how to respect what we used from the earth," says Lamb, a potter and 43-year Medina resident. "We turned lights off when not in a room. We cut our paper napkins in half for dinner and only had hot water

SPOTLIGHT



Elaine Lamb

at night for dishes."

Today, Lamb, an active member of the Land Conservancy's Medina Summit Chapter, is a passionate voice for conservation, the environment

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 18**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — 13th Annual Medina County Earth Day, Buffalo Creek Retreat on Hubbard Valley Road in Guilford Township, next to the Medina County Park District's Hubbard Valley Park.
- **Aug. 7** — Save the date: The Medina Summit Chapter of the Land Conservancy and friends will gather at the former Firestone Estate in Bath Township. More details to come.

Create your own economic stimulus package.

Act now before tax incentives expire! See page 2.

and historic preservation.

"I can be an advocate for the earth and pay it forward, as did my mother and father, teachers and Girl Scout leaders," she says.

Lamb grew up in Barberton, an industrial city where, as she says, "nature was at a premium." She says she learned to appreciate the outdoors.

See **LAMB** 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.



Wooster grads bolster Land Conservancy

College of Wooster graduates Julia Musson and Pete McDonald are playing key roles in the Land Conservancy's efforts to protect our region's natural resources.



Musson

Musson, a 2000 Wooster graduate who majored in biology, last year helped the Land Conservancy secure more than \$12.8 million in federal, state and local grants, mostly for parkland acquisition and farmland protection.

"Wooster's varied liberal arts curriculum was good preparation for a job that combines science, real estate transactions, a lot of research



McDonald

and writing," Musson says.

McDonald, a stewardship specialist who graduated from Wooster in 2001, uses his GIS and field biology background to document the natural features and other conservation values of properties preserved by the Land Conservancy. He is part of a team that makes annual visits to more than 230 protected properties. "Getting to know the landowners and the properties that they love is my favorite part of the job," he says. "I'm lucky to be able to see some of the most beautiful places in the region on a regular basis."

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.



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 Con-

servancy 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."

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 Medina 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 in Montville Township, included dinner, pumpkin painting, hayrides, a campfire and a visit from rehabilitated hawks and owls from the Medina Raptor Center.



Roasting marshmallows over an open fire is the best way to top off an evening.



Celeste Brayer, above, of Medina, adds an artistic touch to her pumpkin. For festival-goers, left, it turned out to be a perfect evening for a hayride.



Hinckley park may be haven for the bird-watchers

From page 1

Metroparks' 2,000-acre Hinckley Reservation.

Township Trustee Martha Catherwood has led the push to create the new park. The township has been working with the Medina County Prosecutor's Office to make

the park a reality.

The township operates the Commons and Brongers Park in the center of town.

Rising Valley Park, about two miles to the east, has sports fields, shelters, wooded areas, trails and extensive wetlands.



The property includes about 2,600 linear feet of the East Branch of Rocky River.

Lamb

From page 1

Lamb says she has made a point of sharing her love of nature with her three daughters and her grandchildren.

"I know I must give voice to the earth," she says.

The Ohio State University graduate owns Mud Mothers Pottery Studio, which she operates from her Century Home in Medina. Her highly ac-

claimed work is regularly on display at art shows and exhibitions.

Her husband Bill, a former Medina mayor, is a middle school teacher at Lippman Day School in Akron.

Jordan

From page 1

good.

My other "job" is working with my wife and her crew of more than twenty volunteers at the Medina Raptor Center. The raptor center is a rehabili-

tation facility for injured birds of prey. The goals at the center are to return injured birds to the wild, and to provide educational programming about the important role that raptors play in our ecosystems.

The missions of the two organizations intersect at the need to protect habitat. Many

of the injuries treated at the raptor center are the result of unfortunate interactions between raptors and people, usually as the result of shrinking habitat. Protecting those habitats for the wildlife that depends on them is part of our obligation and gift to future generations.

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.



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We thank you for supporting our mission.

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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
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- \$50 Supporting
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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.