



*Headwaters of the Little Miami River—a state & national scenic river*

### **Additional Farmland in Madison Township Preserved**

At the intersection of Urbana-Lisbon Road and South Charleston Pike in Madison Township lies one of the most productive farms in Clark County. All of the soil types on the farm are considered prime or locally important. The boundaries of the farm follow headwater streams to the Little Miami River - some 17,000 feet of streams, including Lisbon Creek. Native hardwood trees buffer the stream on the east side of the property, while grassed waterways buffer the rest, helping to filter impurities before they reach the streams. So, when Marty and Carolyn Spears approached the land trust about the possibility of preserving this farm the answer was a resounding yes!

TLT staff secured state and federal funding through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program and the USDA's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to pay the Spears a portion of the agricultural easement value. TLT has preserved thousands of acres using these funding sources since they became available in the early 2000s. Michele Burns, TLT's Executive Director, says, "it is so important for farmers and landowners to receive some compensation for giving up their development rights. The majority of the time that money is reinvested back into the farm." The Spears are not new to these programs. In 2007, they closed their first easement, then closed another one in 2009. Their two sons, Kevin and Greg, have both preserved nearby farms. Marty says, "it would be a shame if this land were anything but farmland. I wanted to preserve this land for my grandson who wants to farm with his dad, Kevin, some day." For multi-generational farm families these purchase programs are a huge help to keeping land available for the next generation. For TLT, this farm marks over 5,000 acres of land preserved in Madison Township!

# TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



## Fall 2021

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Annual Poetry Reading

**33,733 acres  
preserved**

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*"Protecting local farmland, water, and natural areas forever."*

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## Tecumseh Land Trust

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Jenny Randolph, *Office Assistant*

Founded in 1990, we are a private non-profit conservation organization serving Clark and Greene counties and surrounding areas.

Our mission is to preserve agricultural lands, natural lands, water resources, and historic sites in voluntary cooperation with landowners, and to educate the public about permanent land preservation.

To learn more contact us at:  
937-767-9490  
tecumsehlandtrust.org

*TLT does not solicit in states in which it is not registered as a charity.*



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



*Jereme Best ( left ) &  
Roger Wright*

## Soil Health—Cover Crop Innovations

On a beautiful day in September, a crowd of people gathered in Roger Wright’s field of cover crops in Clark County. The fourteen species mix of cover crop included clover, radishes, sunflowers, buckwheat, kale, and more. Roger shared his experiences experimenting with cover crops over the last ten years, which weren’t always successful. Roger explained that although he has not yet decreased phosphorus and potassium, he “saw no nitrogen deficiency throughout the growing season” and “reduced nitrogen on one farm.” Roger will know his fertilizer reduction result once he harvests his corn crop.

Jereme Best from the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District performed a water retention simulation by pouring water on two soil samples, one from Roger’s cover crop field and one from a field with a conventional two-crop rotation. The sample from the conventional field was full of soil, however the sample from Roger’s field was clear – highlighting the water retention capability in the soil due to cover crops.

In the spring, Roger will plant corn directly in the multi-species cover crop mix before running a roller crimper over the cover crop blend. Studies show that this practice can double cover crop biomass, reduce surface runoff and soil erosion. Once the corn comes off, Roger hopes “to seed cereal rye as a cover ahead of soybeans that will be planted in the spring of 2023.”

At the national level, there is a big push toward improving soil health. More resources are available than ever to help farmers and landowners implement various practices with this goal in mind. American Farmland Trust, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Health Partnership and others are all putting out information on soil health. TLT plans to have more workshops to highlight innovative conservation practices in 2022. Check our website or social media regularly for updated events. Tune in every Saturday starting in December to our Facebook page for “*What’s in the Horizon,*” which will feature various links to soil health resources.

*Cover crops are a growing field of interest.*





## Preserved Properties can be Wildlife Havens!

In 2020, TLT partnered with the Village of Yellow Springs (VYS) to certify the 45387 zip code as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). While this effort usually takes several years, the VYS completed it in 7 months with over 50 properties individually certified. Publicly accessible properties protected by TLT easements including Agraria, Glen Helen and Glass Farm Conservation Area were among those certified. The VYS became the third community in Ohio to be NWF-certified after Dublin and Medina County. Mayor Pam Conine also joined over 600 mayors in the NWF Mayors' Monarch Pledge. TLT will continue partnering with the VYS as it manages annual NWF recertification and related Climate Action and Sustainability activities, including diverting excessive, polluted rainwater runoff from entering the Yellow Springs Creek, Little Miami River, and municipal sewer system. Any property owner, not just those residing in VYS, can start the process of sustainable landscape management ( <https://www.nwf.org/certify>). TLT recognizes the importance of native trees and plants as vital food sources for the survival of declining populations of birds and pollinators. The removal of invasive plants protects the health of such native food sources. Resources for adding native plants to landscapes can be found at "Ohio Native Plant Month" ( <https://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org>) and by using the NWF Native Plant Finder by region ( <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>).

*Preserved properties are part of an area-wide wildlife habitat community*



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

## TLT Accredited Through 2025!

Every 5 years, the Tecumseh Land Trust is reviewed by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission to evaluate sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship practices.

TLT welcomes the in-depth accreditation process because it strengthens the organization, engages our board & staff and ensures we stay current with best practices. All of this puts TLT in a better position to defend and steward the land entrusted to our oversight.

With over 450 accredited land trusts in the US, we are part of an outstanding network that preserves 5 times more land, has 8 times more money set aside for stewardship & defense, has 55% more financial supports and attracts 3 times as many volunteers than unaccredited organizations. That is great company!

## 17th Annual Harvest Auction...a Great Success!

Once again, the Harvest Auction results were above our expectations due to our generous item donors, our fantastic bidders and especially, our outstanding sponsors! Thank you.

### Silver Tractor Sponsors

Alliance Ag, LLC  
KOVA of Ohio—Mike Erwin  
Ohio Real Estate Consultants  
Shawnee Farm & Harmony Farm  
Tecumseh Land Trust Board of Trustees



### Bronze Tractor Sponsors

Community Health Foundation  
Pentaflex, Inc.  
Pullins Drainage & Excavating LLC  
Vision Investment Planning of Raymond James  
WYSO - Media Sponsor



### Green Tractor Sponsors

David L. Campbell Insurance Agency  
Scott T. Clark & Jeanine A. Clark  
Blair & Kat Cornell  
Dan & Judy McGregor  
Honeycomb Digital LLC  
Miami Conservancy District  
Old Springfield Farm  
Reichley Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Xenia Foundry  
Young's Jersey Dairy



### Red Tractor Sponsors

Tom Florence - HER Realtor  
Craig Mesure - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Professional Realty  
Village Automotive



## Tecumseh Land Trust Plein Air Paint-outs By Libby Rudolf



*Plein Air Paint-out by Laura Truitt*

A wonderful opportunity came my way when Krista and Michele of Tecumseh Land Trust asked if I would help set up four paint-outs. TLT has preserved many beautiful properties in Yellow Springs and surrounding areas. Many of the lands are privately owned so generally they are off limits to a plein-air painter (creating art on site). The opportunity to visit several properties with other artists was tempting and I leapt in.

We started at the Howell Farm. Its winding lanes, woods, barns and outbuildings along with vast fields gave the artists many choices for the perfect site to create their work. Next we visited Prairie's Edge in South Vienna which had a prairie, wetlands and woodland to inspire us. We planned to paint at the Glass Farm in July but the weather wasn't cooperative. We finished the series at Glen Helen's Camp Greene. It is a lovely property with old growth trees, a winding lane that goes past a picturesque building from its Girl Scouts' Camp days. Several artists painted in the large field with huge trees that overlooks the Little Miami River.

I have been painting since I was knee-high to a grasshopper beside my artist-grandmother. She encouraged me to paint the impression of what I saw, to be spontaneous and appreciate the variety of colors and shapes in creating artwork. I walk daily in Glen Helen (a property TLT helped protect) and deeply appreciate the opportunity to walk along the trails.

We hope to have a show of the artwork that participating artists created. We will advise once it has been arranged and perhaps, we will do these paint-outs again in 2022!

# CALENDAR

**December 10, 2021**

## 10th Annual Solstice Poetry Reading

7 p.m.

via Zoom

See article on page 8.

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**Starting Dec. 4, 2021**

## “What’s In the Horizon”, a series about soil health on TLT’s Facebook page Every Saturday

Learn about new and interesting soil health practices.

[www.facebook.com/  
TecumsehLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/TecumsehLandTrust)

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**Jan. 21 – Feb. 14, 2022**

## Seed Sale

Online Flower & Vegetable  
Seed Sale

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**Feb 1 – April 17, 2022**

## Mulch Sale

Presale Ordering  
Pick-up & delivery around  
April 23, 2022

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**March 6, 2022**

Sugar Shack with  
Flying Mouse Farms



2 p.m.  
Watch for details at  
[tecumsehlandtrust.org](http://tecumsehlandtrust.org) &  
[facebook.com/](http://facebook.com/)

**TecumsehLandTrust**

Great family event to learn how  
maple syrup is produced.

## Growing Green 2022 Preview

The “Growing Green Saturday Series” is back in 2022! Hosted by TLT and Agraria, presentations will focus on resources available to fund conservation practices and ways institutions can support the local food system. Mark your calendar now and check TLT’s website for more info! Some presentations will be virtual, and some will be in-person.

### February 26

~Conservation practice cost-share assistance on private lands presented by NRCS.

~Jacoby Creek Water Team will discuss water quality data from local creeks, and present a map showing where conservation practices could make the biggest impact.

### March 5

~Local foods in our institutions.

### April 2

~Private Lands Biologists with Ohio Division of Natural Resources’ Division of Wildlife will discuss their work providing free consults with landowners.

~Efforts by the Habitat Team to promote wildlife friendly landscaping in Yellow Springs and beyond will be shared.

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**April 23, 2022**

## Earth Day Activities

**Native Plant Swap** at the Glen Helen’s Vernet Building Parking Lot. Please start thinking about plants you might have to donate or swap. Let us know - we’ll be happy to do pick-ups the week before the Swap.

Additional Earth Day activities are being planned.

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**May 21, 2022**

## Enhancing Your Woodlots using EQIP & CSP

2 p.m.

### South Charleston Area

Learn from the Grigerinkos on how they have improved their woodlot using funding from the two programs.

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## Ales for Acres!

12/2/2021, 1/6/2022, 2/3/2022, 3/3/2022,

4/7/2022 & 5/5/2022 *305 Walnut Street, Yellow Springs*

Join us every first Thursday at the Yellow Springs Brewery and hoist a brew for land conservation! \$1 from every beer sold between 7-9 pm will be donated to TLT.





## Welcome to Our New Board Members!



### Emma Peifer-Burns

Emma Peifer-Burns joined the TLT Board of Trustees in June 2021. Emma is a partner in her family-owned business, Peifer Orchards. The orchard produces apples, peaches, berries, and pumpkins, while selling other locally sourced produce and value added products. Emma has significantly raised the business' visibility since joining her dad in 2018. Increased marketing, and the addition of events and event space have really helped the family business grow. Emma says she joined the TLT board because, "as a lifelong Yellow Springs resident and second generation local farmer I have always been inspired and appreciative of the work the Land Trust does. She is serving on the Development Committee and plans to help staff with new marketing approaches. Emma graduated from Wright State University with a degree in Liberal Studies. Emma lives in Miami Township with her husband, Sam, and their dog, Jay.

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### Ben Young



Ben Young is TLT's newest addition to the Board of Trustees. Ben is a lifetime dairy and Christmas tree farmer, as well as the Human Resources Director for Young's Jersey Dairy. After graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in agriculture, Ben returned to the family business. Ben and his wife Pam also own and operate Young's Christmas Tree Farm.

Ben enjoys traveling and hiking with Pam and spending time with their three children and five grandchildren. Ben joined the TLT board because of his interest in farming and protecting our local farmland.

Ben will join the personnel committee and will be instrumental in the board's upcoming strategic planning process.

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*Left to right: Office Manager Cathy Holcomb, Retired Executive Director Krista Magaw, Current Executive Director Michele Burns & Land Preservation Specialist Lauren Gjessing*

### Krista Magaw Recognized for Her Dedication

The Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment presented Krista Magaw, retired TLT Executive Director, with their Lifetime Achievement Award for her accomplished career at Tecumseh Land Trust. Krista's colleagues from across the Miami Valley praised her dedication to land preservation, ability to collaborate, and leadership statewide for natural resource protection. TLT staff and a number of board members enjoyed the festive evening at Sunwatch Village, celebrating Krista with so many of her peers.

## EQIP Application Deadline January 14, 2022



Attention landowners: it's time to schedule a visit with your county NRCS District Conservationist! Applications to apply for cost-assistance for conservation practices through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) are due **January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Based in the county Soil and Water Conservation District offices, District Conservationists will help plan conservation practice implementation and can check your eligibility to apply for funding. In Greene County, contact Meghan Moser 937-347-8124 and in Clark County, contact James Tillman 937-521-3880. Conservation practices could include invasive species removal, grassy waterway installation, or cover crops.

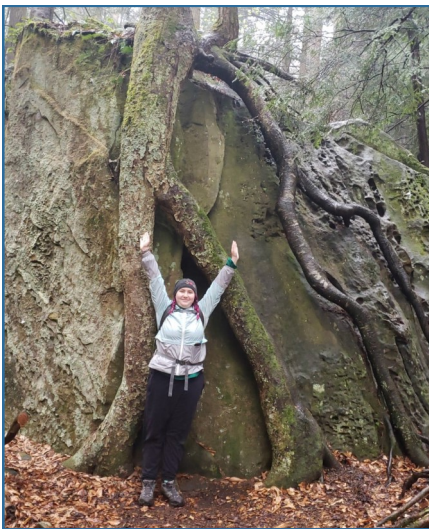
Greene Co. District Conservationist Megan Moser (left) and TLT's Land Preservation Specialist Lauren Gjessing recently visited a landowner and her very friendly chickens, to discuss possible funding via the EQIP program.

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## New Conservation Stewardship Committee

The Conservation Stewardship Committee was started over the summer and includes landowners, farmers, and TLT staff. The committee is tasked with providing resources and making connections for land managers (including landowners, farmers, and others that make land management decisions) that will enhance a property's conservation values and practices. Keep an eye out for resources and workshops sponsored by this committee!

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## Meet Sophie Singer, Antioch College Miller Fellow

My name is Sophie Singer. I'm a fourth year student at Antioch College, majoring in Environmental Education and Communication. I am currently on co-op as a Miller Fellow at Tecumseh Land Trust! When I'm not on campus or at the TLT office, I'm probably spending my time living on and taking care of a small family farm near Jamestown.

For almost as long as I can remember, my grandfather worked as a ranger in several national parks. Visiting and learning from him has instilled in me a deep appreciation for our environment and natural spaces as well as for all the work that goes on behind the scenes in order to preserve and maintain these spaces in the long term. Throughout my studies and work experiences, I have discovered my passion for land conservation, sustainable agriculture, and creating more accessible outdoor spaces for everyone. I have co-oped at Glen Helen's Trailside Museum, and at

Whiterock Nature Conservancy in Iowa, doing a combination of livestock management, invasive species removal, and web design. Before working at TLT, I also worked part-time on the Antioch Farm. Through these adventures, I gained a better understanding of stewardship, taking care of and conserving both natural and agricultural lands for the benefit and use of future generations.

I am so excited and grateful to be working with such an amazing organization during my final year at Antioch. My experience here so far has been so lovely and truly educational and I cannot wait to see what the rest of my time at Tecumseh Land Trust will hold.



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## Fall 2021 Newsletter

*With support from*



### 10th Anniversary Winter Solstice Poetry Reading



*Sacred Ground*

### **“Sacred Ground”: A Virtual Poetry Reading** December 10 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Tecumseh Land Trust and Glen Helen invite you to celebrate the Winter Solstice Poetry Reading’s tenth anniversary! Special guest, Helen Birch Bartlett, poet and Glen Helen’s namesake (embodied by local actress Louise Smith), will kick off the evening’s event. Following Smith’s performance, eleven Ohio poets will each read original poems on the theme “Sacred Ground.”

To register or to view the poets' page, please visit TLT’s home page at:

[www.tecumsehlandtrust.org](http://www.tecumsehlandtrust.org).

Registrants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Registration must be completed by Thursday, December 9.