



Brickel Creek Organic Farm

FarmHers & Land Preservation

According to the USDA’s 2017 agricultural census data, 26% of Ohio farms are owned and operated by women – that is 26,569 Ohio women at the helm! This year, Tecumseh Land Trust has had the pleasure of working with two extraordinary women who, not only are dedicated to their farming operations, but also to preserving their land and legacies.

Brickel Creek Organic Farm was founded in 2007 by Sue Borton. The 68 acre farm was the original farmstead for the Brickel family in Ross Township, Greene County. The farmhouse dates back to 1890 and is surrounded by an organic fruit, vegetable and herb operation with high tunnels and greenhouses. The other acres beyond the farmstead are cultivated in row crops. Over the years, Sue has enrolled in various conservation programs to protect the stretch of Brickel Creek that runs through the farm and to promote wildlife habitat. The farm is located in an area of Ross Township that was hit hard by rural residential development. In an effort to prevent more sprawl on this very productive farm ground, Sue worked with TLT to purchase a permanent agricultural easement. That easement closed earlier this year, protecting this fertile and diverse land for generations to come.

Organic row crop farming isn’t an easy business, but Maryann Burr has persevered since moving back to Madison County and taking over her father’s farms. Maryann has donated easements on all four of her farms over the years, most recently a 401 acre farm on Old Xenia Road in Paint Township. Madison County is home to some of the finest soils in the country and, so it’s TLT’s great pleasure to protect those soils in perpetuity. Maryann is proud of her commitment to organic farming and conservation. She finds comfort in the heron that has resided on this farm for 8 years now. As Maryann observes the lovely bird she wishes, “to be so graceful & take only one’s daily needs,” as a way toward a simpler life.



Walnut Run on Burr Farms

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Fall 2022

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**35,715 acres
preserved**

“Protecting local farmland, water, and natural areas forever.”

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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.



Saunders Farms in early Spring

Organic Farm in Clark County Preserved

Alongside South Houston Road in Harmony Township resides over 110 acres of certified organic farmland. Since its initial purchase in 1951, the Saunders Farms has grown a variety of crops on the land with rich soil that is important for the ecosystem. When Dave Saunders approached Tecumseh Land Trust to help preserve this farm, which not only has been organic since the 1980s, but also has deep roots in the Saunders family, TLT was happy to start working on easement applications to the state and federal easement programs.

Dave grew up on this now protected farm and has spent his whole life on this land. Dave shared the responsibilities of the farm operation with his parents and then later his sister, Mary Schlemmer. Dave worked as the farm's primary caretaker while his sister managed the fiscal aspects of the farm. Over the years, Dave became concerned about potential effects of agricultural chemicals on human health - especially for kids. As a result, he embraced the transition to organic farming and has been successfully farming organic row crops for 42 years.

Dave continues to expand his understanding of agriculture and hopes more farmers will transition to organic. But, now coming to the end of his career as a farmer, he spoke of his greatest concern: the use of prime farmland for residential lots. "Most of my life we half-joked that, eventually, Dayton and Columbus are gonna meet," Dave said. As the metropolitan area expands outward and people attempt to find solace from it in the countryside, the city's influence continues. Dave's family has wanted nothing more than to sustain what natural land can be and provide accordingly. All he asks is that the next generation do something similar and appreciate what's there. Dave has been mentoring a young farmer, Chris Roe, to continue the organic operation that he has established. Now that the farm is forever protected, Dave plans to transfer ownership of Saunders Farms to Chris and partially retire from farming – a planned and thoughtful transition to the next generation.

Easement used to help transition land to the next generation

Welcome to Our New Board Members!



Sandy Kalfas

Sandy relocated to Yellow Springs four years ago and recently retired from Federal Service. She has been married for almost 40 years with two grown children and one not so grown, very sweet dog. Sandy has always been a devoted gardener learning from her father at an early age. This has led her to logging many volunteer hours at school land labs, planting trees, removing invasives, planning gardens, teaching kids about gardening as well as spending numerous hours in gardens at present and past homes. It is no surprise she is a Master Gardener. Her other passions include hiking, wherever and whenever possible, bicycling, yoga and spending time with family and friends. Sandy traveled extensively for work and observed multiple countries with absolutely no farmland making her so very thankful for an organization like TLT and is honored to be a Board Member.

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Linn

Harson

Linn and her husband, Rich Silliman, own a historic home outside of Clifton on approximately 11 acres. They appreciate protected land and historic structures, and moved a timber frame barn to their property a number of years ago. Linn currently serves as an in-house corporate lawyer. Welcome to the Board and Finance Committee, Linn.

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Meet Our Spring Semester Wittenberg Community Service Student

Hello! My name is Eleanor Boru and I am volunteering with the Tecumseh Land Trust this semester. As someone who is passionate about the environment and the conservation of it, I am very excited to work with the land trust.

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to Provide Funding for Agricultural & Conservation Programs

\$8.45 Billion
Environmental Quality
Incentives Programs
(EQIP)

\$4.95 Billion
Regional Conservation
Partnership Programs
(RCPP)

\$3.25 Billion
Conservation Steward-
ship Program (CSP)

\$1.4 Billion
Agricultural Conservation
Easement Program
(ACEP)

These programs pay landowners to place conservation easements on their lands or implement conservation practices to improve soil and water quality. Funding will also be available to help farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage in soil and woods and make their operations more productive.

18th 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

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 M.H.Eby
 Harvey Plus
 Ohio Real Estate Consultants
 pentaflex, inc.
 Pullins Drainage & Excavating LLC
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Bronze Tractor Sponsors

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 Old Springfield Farm
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 Reichley Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Xenia Foundry



Red Tractor Sponsors

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 Friends of the Land Trust
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 Craig Mesure - Berkshire Hathaway
 HomeServices Professional Realty



Thank you to our participating 1% for Green Space businesses!

The 1% for Green Space program was adapted for TLT by Bob Barcus after a trip to Crested Butte, CO where he noticed that local businesses were supporting land preservation efforts by collecting a small fee from patrons. Because part of the charm of Yellow Springs is the rural character that surrounds it, the 1% program allows visitors to easily contribute to the protection of that open space. Over the years, this program has been very successful and has assisted in preserving hundreds of acres in Miami Township, most recently the farm owned by Agraria.

Like so many things, 1% took a necessary backseat during the pandemic, but we are ready to fire it back up! So, first things first, thank you to all of the businesses who have continued their strong commitment to land preservation.

If you would like to start or restart participating in 1% for Greenspace please contact Michele Burns at michele@tecumsehlandtrust.org or 937-767-9490. It's easy to get started!

- Adoption Link
- Arthur Morgan House
- Asanda Imports
- Current Cuisine
- House of Ravenwood
- Peifer Orchards

CALENDAR

December 7, 2022

Ohio No Till Conference

Der Dutchman Restaurant

445 US Rt 42

Plain City

[https://](https://ohionotillcouncil.com/2022/09/19/ohio-no-till-conference-slated-tickets-on-sale/)

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[sale/](https://ohionotillcouncil.com/2022/09/19/ohio-no-till-conference-slated-tickets-on-sale/)

December 9, 2022

11th Annual Solstice

Poetry Reading

7 p.m.

See article on page 8.

February 26, 2023

Sugar Shack with Flying Mouse Farms



2 p.m.

Watch for details at

tecumsehlandtrust.org &

[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/tecumsehlandtrust)

TecumsehLandTrust

Great family event to learn how maple syrup is produced.

Date to Be Announced

Spring Plein Air Paint Out

Everyone enjoyed the Plein Airs in 2022 so we are planning additional painting opportunities in 2023.

June 4, 2023

Annual Meeting

Mark the date on your calendar.

Growing Green 2023 Preview

As we wrap up our Jacoby Partnership, we will host one last conference to dive into cover crops, water quality and The Nature Conservancy's wetland restoration at Agraria. Dates and speakers to be announced.

April 22, 2023

Earth Day Activities

Native Plant Sale at the Glen Helen's Vernet Building Parking Lot. Please start thinking about plants you might have to donate. Let us know - we will be happy to pick-up the week before the Sale.

Many more activities are in the planning stage.

April 23, 2023

Yellow Springs Community Earth Day Celebration

Rain date April 30

More info will be available closer to the date.

Beauty of Water Photo Contest

Winner Bruce Goldsmith

Thank you to everyone who entered the contest. We had a tough time selecting a winner. Look for other beautiful contest photos on our Facebook page and website.





Jon Branstrator leads a field trip at his farm for the recent Grain School.

Heritage Grain Markets are Growing in Ohio!

Back in the 1970's Jon Branstrator grew soft wheat and sold flour to local costumers such as Ha Ha Pizza in Yellow Springs. Jon later moved away from his fifth-generation farm in Clinton County, however his mill stayed put. Jon has since returned to the farm, and over the years has grown commodity grains and produce. Five years ago, Jon's interest in milling was rekindled after his old mill reminded him of his days milling wheat. He started growing heritage grains including red fife wheat and corn varieties such as Ohio Blue Clarage and Leaming Yellow Corn.

Little by little Jon has found markets for his grain through partnerships with passionate bakers including James Lockett of Blue House Bread in Yellow Springs, and Andy Fisher of Good Hands Bread Company at Dayton's 2nd Street Market.

Jon said "nurturing a local supply of [heritage] grains is like security and revitalization." Jon is not alone – there's a growing number of farmers growing these grains. Jon is a part of an Ohio grain hub group with other farmers. The group helps with seed and supply sourcing, seed cleaning, milling, marketing, and most importantly it provides encouragement. The growing excitement around heritage grains was evident during *Grain School* in August. The three day program was offered in partnership with Agraria, Antioch College, Tecumseh Land Trust, and the Appalachian Staple Foods Collaborative. In fact, Jon was able to connect with Greg Tizzer of Dorothy Lane Market and Dan Lauro of Carillon Brewing Company. Jon's grains will soon be available at both of those businesses!



James Lockett, far right, discusses his use of heritage grains in his delicious breads.

Growing heritage grains is increasing in popularity in our region



Approximately 30 participants enjoyed a morning of learning about invasives species control in order for native species to flourish. The Xarifa Farm has been protected with a conservation easement since 2001.

Increasing Conservation on Working Lands

Not all landowners are farmers. Not all farmers are landowners. Yet both groups often share similar interests, such as improving soil health for increased agricultural production, protecting woodlands, improving water quality, reducing erosion, or creating wildlife habitats. With this in mind, TLT formed a new Conservation Committee, aiming to provide learning opportunities and resources that bridge farming and conservation efforts.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are two flagship Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) initiatives designed to help landowners and farmers integrate conservation into working land. On Monday September 12th, the new committee conducted a “Walk and Talk” tour at Xarifa Farm in Miami Township. With the help of two EQIP grants, the landowner has removed over 48 acres of honeysuckle and other invasive species from its mature forest, with another 18 acres in progress. The farm also just completed a new CSP pollinator habitat, seeding over 25 native flowers. Approximately 30 participants attended, witnessing the “before and after” of such efforts and how this work truly transforms the land. For more information about these programs, contact your District Conservationist at your local NRCS office. They are there to help and will guide you through the process.

Carbon Storage

Cover crops and no till practices help you and the environment!

Tillage releases carbon into the environment and removes it from soil.

No till practices and cover crops keep the carbon in the soil and reduces runoff which makes the soil more productive for crops.

According to a 2021 report from Purdue University, farmland currently managed as no-till or low-till sequesters 52 million metric tons of carbon/year = removing 11 million passenger vehicles from the roads.



Additionally, acres currently planted in cover crops in the U.S. stores 5.5 million metric tons of carbon per year = removing 1.2 million passenger vehicles from the roads.



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Fall 2022 Newsletter

With support from



Tecumseh Land Trust and Glen Helen invite you to celebrate the Winter Solstice at this year's poetry reading, *Open Air*.

This in-person event will feature a night of nature-inspired poetry by both invited readers and open mic along with a wine and cheese reception.

Suggested donation to benefit both organizations is \$10.

December 9 at 7 p.m.
Glen Helen's Vernet Ecological Center
405 Corry Street
Yellow Springs

Sun and Shadow, Wood and Stone will be on sale. The 10th Anniversary anthology is a collection of poems from 61 poets who have participated in this poetry reading over the last decade.