



Danny Bingamon's farm permanently protected in 2022

Bingamon Family Preserves Two Farms

Danny Bingamon first approached TLT about participating in the agricultural easement purchase program in 2004, just the 3rd round of the Clean Ohio Fund program! His persistence finally paid off. After almost 20 years, one of Danny's farms was accepted into the program and the easement closed last year. Thanks to Danny's encouragement, his son, Josh, also protected his farm which is adjacent to his dad's. Both properties are located off of Cherry Grove Road and Wolford Road on the border of Ross and New Jasper Townships just north of Jamestown. These easements, along with a neighboring farm, create a continuous block of 321 protected acres that includes no-till farmlands, organic farmland, as well as a wooded riparian corridor along Brickle Creek, an important tributary of Caesars Creek. Preserving the natural state of wooded riparian corridors is extremely beneficial for many reasons: it prevents erosion which in turn decreases the intensity of flooding, it prevents waterways from filling with sediment, it filters pollutants and contaminants from runoff which in turn protects water quality, and it provides important habitat for wildlife. The organisms that thrive in the stream in turn support those that thrive by the water's edge, which in turn supports the wildlife all around us. Protecting land that contains various natural resources is exactly what TLT does best!

Both Danny and Josh understand the importance of the work the Tecumseh Land Trust does. This particular part of Ross Township was hit very hard by rural residential development in the past, cutting up farmland into 3-10 acre lots. Because of the dedication of the Bingamons and their neighbors these farms will be forever protected.

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Spring 2023

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**35,759 acres
preserved**

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

Tecumseh Land Trust

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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.



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

Beginning Farmer Program

The average age of an Ohio farmer is 65 years old, which means land is going to start changing hands very soon. However, the startup costs of agriculture can be quite high. Highly productive farmland can sell for upwards of \$10,000/acre and there are the high costs to operate the farm including, inputs, equipment, labor, etc. In an effort to bridge this gap the Ohio Department of Agriculture developed the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program to incentivize transferring assets to young farmers. House Bill 95, which was signed into law and enacted this year, helps both those looking to get into the business of agriculture as well as those looking to retire from it via tax credits. It is ideally poised to assist retiring farmers with creating a legacy for the future by assisting with the costs of transferring land and equipment to beginning farmers looking to build a life in Ohio. This program will enable younger farmers to take advantage of the ideal environment that Ohio has to offer for agriculture. Additionally, it will ensure that Ohio can provide for local, state, national, and even global food needs for the foreseeable future.

Watershed Planning for the Little Miami River

TLT was awarded a grant by the Ohio EPA to create non-point source pollution watershed protection plans for two watersheds in the Little Miami River: Upper Little Miami and Buffenbarger Cemetery. These watersheds encompass the area northeast and southwest of South Charleston in Madison and Green Townships in Clark County. TLT is working with an environmental engineering firm to create the plans which must be approved by the Ohio EPA before the end of the year. Once approved, the plans can be used to leverage EPA 319 money to fund projects in the watersheds to improve water quality, such as stream restoration, wetland restoration, grassed waterways, two-stage ditches, and more. The planning process kicked off on April 20, 2023 with a stakeholder meeting at the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation office, who is a partner on this grant. Another stakeholder meeting is being planned for early summer. If you would like to be involved please reach out to our office, 937-767-9490.

Rainbow Run - an H2Ohio Project

Earth moving is a bumpy business, or so we are finding out on our first major wetland restoration project thanks to a grant from the H2Ohio Fund. The ground breaking has begun and mucky doesn't even begin to describe these incredible hydric soils. It's a strange feeling to watch excavators and bulldozers, equipment normally used to deconstruct nature, creating what will be 9 acres of high quality habitat and water quality improvements. This summer we expect another round of H2Ohio funding to become available for the Ohio River Basin. If you think you may have a water or wetland restoration project give TLT a call. We'd like to start evaluating projects now, so we will be ready when the next funding round opens!

Programs to benefit farmers & landowners

Tecumseh Circle - Leave Your Legacy

Last year, TLT was the beneficiary of a bequest and several memorial gifts that provided a boost of unexpected revenue. Those funds gave us the opportunity to purchase “big picture” items, rather than everyday items. After much thought and planning some of those funds are going toward technology upgrades and equipment that will improve the efficiency and quality of our work while the remaining will be invested for the future. TLT is so grateful for the people who left a legacy for us, by believing in our work and trusting we will be good stewards of their gift. If you have made a planned gift to TLT, please let us know so that we may thank you now. Your gift will have a long-term, meaningful impact to this organization. If you would like more information on how you can make a planned gift, please contact Michele Burns at 937-767-9490 or michele@tecumsehlandtrust.org.



Students observing a nesting box

Operation Bluebird Takes Flight Once Again!

Tecumseh Land Trust is excited to announce that we re-launched the Operation Bluebird conservation education program this year. Earlier this month, McKinney Middle School seventh graders conducted nest box research at Xarifa Farm in Yellow Springs. Over a 2-week period, students carefully observed nest box activity, recording their findings, such as bird species, the number of eggs laid, or successful fledglings. Once the students are back in the classroom they enter their findings into the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Nest Watch which is used to track bluebird populations. The students are making meaningful contributions to science at a national level! “It’s a joy to witness learning in action,” says Kate Anderson, owner of Xarifa Farm and TLT board member. Operation Bluebird is a true community collaboration, and we can’t do it without the help of the many volunteers who assist at each nest box! Thanks also to the Ohio Bluebird Society. Their support has allowed TLT to actively engage young Citizen Scientists in meaningful inquiry regarding their natural world.

Thank you to our sponsors!



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Donated Easement in South Vienna & the How an Income Tax Deduction Can Help

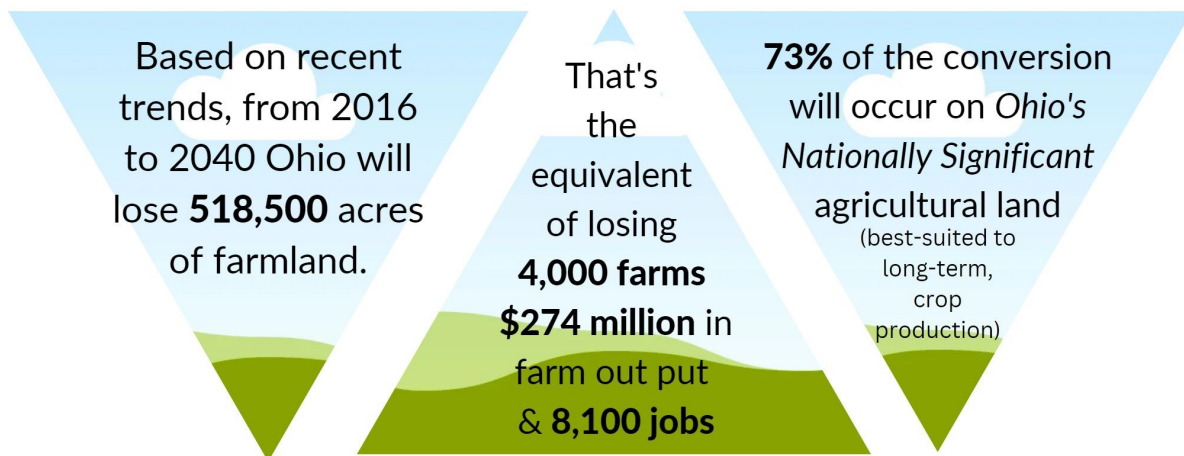
Greg Powell recently donated a conservation easement on his Pleasantview Farm near South Vienna. The property consists of 131 acres of farmland and 12 acres of mature woodland. The majority of the soils on the farm are considered prime or locally important by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, making this very productive land. Pleasantview Farm is contiguous to 877 acres of other protected property and not far from Buck Creek State Park, which is exactly the land preservation model TLT strives for. Greg said that he chose to protect the farm because “I just wanted to leave it to my grandkids and didn’t want it to be developed by the city.” Multigenerational family farms are the heart of the heartland and we’re happy to help protect these critically important soils!



12 acres of woodland and 131 acres farmland

With the increasing pressures on the rural countryside to convert farmland to other uses, it’s ever more important to continue supporting those who wish to maintain their way of life and preserve the natural beauty that surrounds them. Donating a conservation easement is a simple way to do just that. Donating a conservation easement involves the landowner and the land trust, without the requirements of state and federal funding sources. By foregoing being paid the value of the easement, the landowners receives a tax benefit for donating the easement. The landowners can deduct 50% of the appraised easement value against their AGI for 16 years. Qualifying farming and ranching landowners can deduct 100% of the appraised easement value against their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for 16 years. TLT receives 1-2 donated easements per year, but would certainly like to do more. “Protecting land through donated easements is faster and easier than using the purchase programs,” says TLT’s executive director, Michele Burns. The process is more streamlined and there are fewer parties involved, which in and of itself makes it simpler. TLT is ready to assist any landowner, like Greg, who wants to discuss land preservation opportunities.

American Farmland Trust has released **Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future**. To read the full report go to farmland.org/project/farms-under-threat. Explore the interactive maps section provides interesting information by state and county.



The above information is from AFT *Farms Under Threat 2040 Future Scenarios Ohio*

CALENDAR

June 4, 2023

TLT Annual Meeting

2 p.m.

See page 8 for details.

June 21, 2023

Wright Patt Pollinator

Expo 2023

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wright Brothers Memorial

2380 Memorial Rd, Dayton

Organizations from across the state, including TLT, will be onsite to highlight their work to preserve pollinator populations and their habitats. This fun and informative family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

August 7, 2023

Local Foods Dinner at the Winds Cafe

Invitations will be mailed at the end of June.

December 8, 2023

Winter Solstice Poetry Reading

7 p.m.

Glen Helen

405 Corry St., Yellow Springs, 45387

Enjoy nature inspired poetry in a peaceful setting.



July 11, 2023

Rain Date July 12, 2023

Cover Crop Seeding with Drones Field Demonstration

9:30 a.m.

Shawnee Farm -- 6453 Neer Road, South Vienna, 45369

Join presenters Ryan Moore of Becks Hybrids and New Limits Ag, LLC Eric Stegbauer and Nathan Luke. See a demonstration of actual seeding of a field with cover crops by drone.

Shawnee Farm - a protected farm since 2016

Sept. 19, 2023

Rain Date Sept. 21, 2023

H2Ohio Wetland Restoration

9:30 a.m.

7507 Old Clifton Rd., Springfield, 45502

TLT received a grant from the H2Ohio program to restore a wetland along Rainbow Run, a headwater stream of the Little Miami River.

We will tour the wetland and talk about the program with all the partners involved.

Growing Green 2023: Cover Crop Opportunities

As we reach the end of our five-year Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the Jacoby Partnership, we had our final Growing Green event in February called “Growing Green 2023: Cover Crop Opportunities” at Antioch College. The event started with a presentation by Jim Hoorman of Hoorman Soil Services on the three main types of cover crops: legumes and clovers, grasses, and brassicas. Mr. Hoorman shared his vast knowledge on this subject including how to get started with cover crops, seeding rates, and how to terminate. Afterwards, Joe Campbell and Leo Deiss of One.Two.FiveBenefit Corporation presented a new RCPP called Financing Climate Smart Agriculture in Ohio’s Miami Valley. This new RCPP will provide financial and technical support to implement conservation practices on both urban and rural farms in Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Greene, Miami, and Montgomery counties. Partnering with TLT, One.Two.Five Benefit Corporation will evaluate the potential for soil carbon storage and pay farmers for soil carbon capture through implementation of specific conservation practices. More information about this new RCPP is forthcoming! To catch the recording of this event, check out TLT’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/pgfK67ilyj0>.



Jim Hoorman presenting

Earth Day 2023 - Native Plant Sale & YS Habitat Earth Day Celebration



*Above: Plants are ready for the Native Plant Sale
Below: Shoppers selecting some plants to benefit local pollinators*



*Above: Lauren & Michele ready to answer questions about TLT
Below left: Retired Ex. Dir. Krista Magaw still advocating for the environment as a volunteer with Ohio Environmental Council.
Below right: TLT Antioch Miller Fellow John picking up literature*

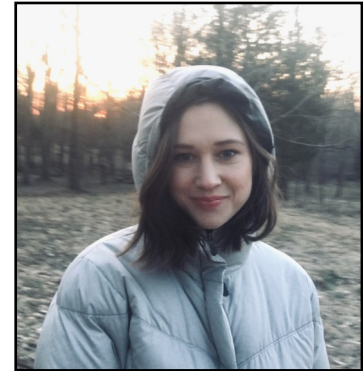


New Faces Around the Office



Doug Christian - Monitor

Doug grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota. He has a degree from Ohio University and operates Smaller Footprint, a vegetable farm in Clark County. He enjoys hiking, camping and kayaking with his wife Kat and two children.



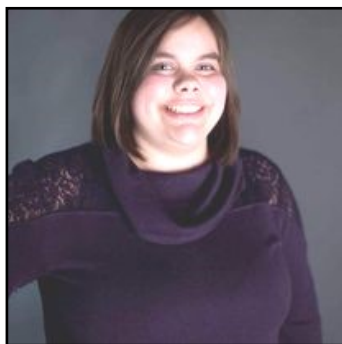
Alex Klug - Monitor

Born in Cincinnati, Alex moved to Greene County in 2011 to learn more about farming and conservation in SW Ohio. With a B.S. in agriculture, she spent over a decade working in and around the Dayton community for organizations addressing environmental and food justice issues, with a specific focus on food apartheid. When Alex is not enjoying her time monitoring easements with TLT she works full-time for Hall Hunger Initiative and will begin her Master's in Environmental Policy later this year.



Grace Smith - Monitor

Grace is a Greene County native from Xenia. She graduated from Wilmington College in May of 2022 with a degree in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science. She is currently working at Greene County Parks & Trails as a programmer.



**Sarah Mouton Daulton
College Intern**

Sarah Mouton Daulton joined us through Wittenberg University's Civic Engagement Through Service program. She is studying environmental science. She created social media posts to share the interesting activities of TLT.

**Johnathan Telin
Antioch Miller Fellow**

John has quickly gotten into the groove at TLT and has learned you do a little bit of everything at a nonprofit. He has assisted at our events, helped with land preservation funding applications, and is currently digging into some research topics for us. Welcome John. We greatly appreciate the Antioch Miller Fellow program.



Kassi Eskeldson - College Intern

Kassi is an Environmental Science major at Cedarville University and is graduating this spring. Her interest in agricultural conservation and agroecology led her to a semester internship with TLT. She is from Colorado and loves the outdoors! Kassi was a great help as a volunteer at Sugar Shack and in completing the 2023 applications for the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

Tecumseh Land Preservation Association
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Spring 2023 Newsletter

With support from



33rd Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 4 @ 2 p.m.
Camp Hugh Taylor Birch
Scout Camp
4057 Swimming Pool Road
Yellow Springs, OH 45387



The Tecumseh Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Tecumseh Land Trust protected Camp Hugh Taylor Birch with a conservation easement in 2011. Since then, the Scouts have worked to improve the camp and conservation values. After a brief TLT business meeting, we will learn about and tour the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funded projects.

We will meet at the Turner Building near the entrance of the camp. There is plenty of parking close by. This is a family friendly event. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Wear sturdy shoes for the walk. Light refreshments will be served. Visit tecumsehlandtrust.org or call 937-767-9490 with questions.