



*Associate Director  
Michele Burns &  
Executive Director  
Krista Magaw on a  
farm walk*

## Passing of the Torch

Krista Magaw, TLT's Executive Director since 2001, announces her retirement September 1, 2021. When asked about how the organization will move forward, Krista responded, "Local support has translated into our permanent preservation of over 33,400 acres and 44 stream miles. Key to this success is actively monitoring local land use issues and staying engaged with our community on how best to steward our land. Luckily, the next leader is already in our organization, Associate Director, Michele Burns." The TLT Board of Trustees is in full agreement with Krista on Michele's promotion.

A little history to set the stage for this personnel change... After TLT's founding in 1990, the all-volunteer organization accomplished much in its first 10 years. Soon after the successful preservation of the 940 acre Whitehall Farm, Ohio voters passed the Clean Ohio initiative, providing funds for land preservation. TLT's board decided to raise funds to hire professional staff to expand their work. Krista began working for TLT in November 2001, and has stayed busy ever since! Kate Bush joined the team in a one-year fellowship position in 2002, which morphed into an Associate Director position in 2005. Cathy Holcomb was hired part-time in 2007 to organize records and apply for land trust accreditation. Over time, Cathy's position evolved to become a full-time Office Manager. When Kate departed to begin law school in 2008, Michele joined the TLT team in August as the Associate Director. With prior work experience with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and environmental non-profits, as well as holding degrees in Natural Resource Management, Michele came to the organization with years of conservation experience. In 2019, Lauren Gjessing was hired as the Land Preservation Specialist.

Now after almost 13 years with TLT, Michele looks forward to leading this small but mighty organization, bringing it ever closer to preserving 50,000 acres in each of Clark and Greene counties.

Krista looks forward to devoting her time to painting, gardening and rehabbing the farmhouse she shares with her husband, Andy Carlson, on 22 acres of preserved woods. Enjoy your well earned retirement!

# TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



## Spring 2021

### Inside This Issue

Donated Easement in  
Cedarville Twp

Jacoby Partnership  
Update

Earth Day Photos

Growing Green Wrap-up  
Calendar

Plein Air Paint-out

New Board Members

Carbon Markets

Easements along the  
Little Miami River

Auction & Local Foods  
Dinner Announcement

33,414 acres  
preserved

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

# Tecumseh Land Trust

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## Staff

Krista Magaw, *Executive Director*  
Michele Burns, *Associate Director*  
Lauren Gjessing, *Land Preservation Specialist*  
Cathy Holcomb, *Office Manager*  
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



## Conservation Easement Donated in Cedarville Township

Peggy Barinholtz grew up on a farm on Cortsville Road in Cedarville Township with her parents and 5 siblings. Then, it was a busy dairy with 50 Holsteins. Peggy’s job, along with one of her sisters, was to care for the baby calves. She remembers, “I loved that. I saw them born, chose one, fed and cared for it, and then showed it at the county fair.” Peggy’s dad also raised a variety of crops including wheat, corn, oats, and alfalfa.

As an adult, Peggy moved to Chicago, but visited the farm every summer with her husband, Alan, and two sons. The boys loved running around the farm “discovering a very different world than the one they were used to,” said Peggy. However, after Peggy’s mom passed and her dad could no longer farm, Dr. Kyle, who owned the land, gifted the farm to Cedarville College. The land was plotted off into lots and was going to auction. Fortunately, one of Peggy’s sisters alerted her to the auction. Peggy and Alan decided to drive in from Chicago to attend. Peggy says, “In a very spontaneous decision that totally rearranged our lives- we bought 61 acres. I just couldn’t bear seeing it all go into development knowing the work my family had put into it.”

In fact, the farm is just on the opposite side of US 42 where the newest housing developments are being built in the township. TLT holds conservation easements on 1,643 acres in Cedarville Township, primarily to the east of Cedarville. Many of the easements have stretches of Massie’s Creek. “This donated easement was a wonderful addition to the preservation efforts in the area, particularly because of the varied land uses and historic farmhouse,” said Krista Magaw, TLT Executive Director.

After a labor of love remodeling the old farmhouse where Peggy grew up, she and Alan live full-time in the house now. Last year, they decided to donate an agricultural conservation easement on the 61 acre farm to forever protect the farmland, pastures, and meandering stretch of Massie’s Creek. Although Peggy doesn’t believe her sons will ever move to the farm, they are happy to know it will always stay a farm.



*Massie’s Creek running through the Barinholtz Farm*

## Good News from the Jacoby Partnership

**EQIP Funding**—Tecumseh Land Trust is the lead partner in the Jacoby Partnership, a five-year Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The goal of this program is to improve soil and water quality of the Jacoby Creek and Yellow Springs Creek, both tributaries of the Little Miami River. The Jacoby Partnership uses the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help landowners and farmers in this watershed to improve their land management practices. This cost-share program provides financial and technical assistance to plan and implement conservation practices.

Four top-scoring conservation projects have received pre-approval in the 2021 round of RCPP-EQIP. These applications scored high based on many factors including proximity to the Jacoby Creek or Yellow Springs Creek, soil characteristics, and impact of planned conservation practices on water quality. They all involve brush management which can include removing invasive species such as honeysuckle. Honeysuckle does a poor job of holding soil in place due to its shallow root system. This conservation practice improves water quality by preventing erosion and allowing a greater diversity of plants to grow - including plants that are better at holding soil in place.

**Water Quality**—Xylem, a water instrument company in Yellow Springs, will install two sondes in the Jacoby Creek and Yellow Springs Creek this spring. A sonde is an instrument probe that automatically transmits information about its surroundings. The equipment will collect water chemistry measurements such as pH, conductivity, and turbidity. In the future, Yellow Springs Middle School students will be able to assess the health of the creeks by collecting data on macroinvertebrates and reviewing the data from the sondes.

**Stream Health**—The Nature Conservancy's Jacoby Creek re-meandering project at Community Solutions' Agraria will start later this year. This project will slow down the flow of the water and increase the quantity of water in the creek. It involves stream and wetland restoration and invasive species removal.

**Easement Purchase Funding**—In addition to the completed conservation easement at Agraria, 4 other easements in the project area are funded and in are in various stages of completion.

**Special Funding**—The Jacoby Partnership still has funding available for conservation practices and conservation easements. Please call the Land Trust office to learn more about these opportunities! Don't delay, only 2 more years left in this special 5 year partnership. Applicants for this special funding are only competing against other projects in this watershed.

*Jacoby Partnership continues to produce results.*

## Earth Day 2021 Activities



TLT Native Plant Sale & Swap was an outstanding success this year! We were cleared out of plants after just 1 hour. Join us next year around Earth Day. Mark your plants now to share at the swap next year.



*The Habitat Team sharing information & plants at the Earth Week celebration*

The Habitat Team will continue outreach efforts on wildlife friendly landscaping. Check out the new Yellow Springs Wildlife Habitat Community website: <https://www.ysnwf.com/>.

## Growing Green Presenters’ Contact Information

### **Climate Change and Agriculture**

*Dr. Aaron Wilson*, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center and OSU Extension, <https://u.osu.edu/wilson.1010/>

### **Expanding Local Food Production and Economy**

*Dr. John Ikerd*, Agricultural Economist, <https://www.johnikerd.com/>

*Vic Thorne*, Origin Malt, <https://originmalt.com/>

*Paul Dorrance*, Pastured Providence, <https://www.pasturedprovidence.com/>

*Dave Martin*, Blue Grass Farms of Ohio, <http://bluegrassfarmsohio.com/>

*Leslie Shaller*, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, <https://acenetWORKS.org/>

*Cherrell Gardener*, Co-op Dayton, <https://www.coopdayton.org/>

*Lela Klein*, Gem City Market, <https://gemcitymarket.com/>

*Terry Traster*, Economic and Community Development Institute, <https://www.ecdi.org/>

*Dana Hilfinger*, Richland County Grow-op and Central State University Agricultural Extension Specialist for Southwest Ohio, <https://richlandgro-op.com/> and <https://www.centralstate.edu/academics/cse/agriculture/>

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### **Resources for Conservation in Ohio Agriculture**

*Cheryl Rice*, NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Coordinator, OH Rice, email [cheryl.rice@usda.gov](mailto:cheryl.rice@usda.gov)

*Meghan Moser*, NRCS Greene County District Conservationist, call the Soil and Water Conservation District office 937- 347-8124

*Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu*, Professor of Soil Science and Agronomy at Central State University, email: [ssubburayalu@centralstate.edu](mailto:ssubburayalu@centralstate.edu)

## Growing Green Conference Highlights

Over four Saturdays in February and March, Tecumseh Land Trust and Community Solutions’ Agraria co-sponsored a series of online presentations for landowners, farmers, and local supporters. The series is part of the Jacoby Partnership project. Over 500 people have listened to some part of the virtual series, and you can too, by accessing recordings of the sessions at [www.tecumsehlandtrust.org/connecting-to-nature](http://www.tecumsehlandtrust.org/connecting-to-nature).

**Climate Change and Agriculture**— In the first session, Ohio State University climate expert Dr. Aaron Wilson explained the effects of the changing climate on Ohio – including warmer temperatures generally, greater precipitation in all seasons, and extreme variations in weather patterns. Local farmers Doug Christen, Bryan Thompson, and Roger Wright joined the discussion and described some of the conservation strategies they are using to build resilience on their lands to meet the challenges the climate is presenting.

**Expanding Local Food Production and Economy**— Keynote speakers John Ikerd and Leslie Shaller addressed “Leveraging a Local Shift in Food and Farming Systems,” at the state regional and local levels. Each speaker shared how the pandemic has both exposed vulnerabilities in our local food and farming system and spurred on many innovators. The speakers were then joined by food and farm innovators who shared their experience with changing practices in Ohio, resulting in increased profits for producers and a more diverse and resilient food system.

**Agraria: Ohio’s First Center for Regenerative Agriculture**— Partners at Community Solutions celebrated four years since purchasing the property known as Agraria by presenting on their food and farming work. Farmer Jason Ward discussed transitioning the land to organic by planting sun hemp, cereal rye wheat, and soybeans, as well as plans to implement rotational grazing. Exciting upcoming projects include a training program for beginning black farmers, and a partnership with Springfield Ohio Urban Plantfolk to buy land in south Springfield to expand urban agriculture and food access.

**Resources for Conservation in Ohio Agriculture**— The last session focused on supports available for conservation systems to help farms be profitable and productive. Representatives from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, a federal agency focused on environmental conservation, presented on the technical and financial assistance they provide to farmers. Later, Professor of Soil Science and Agronomy at Central State University, Dr. Sakthi Subburayalu discussed the assistance Central State University can provide for landowners and farmers interested in monitoring the effects of conservation practices on water and soil quality.

# CALENDAR

**TBD**

**TLT Annual Gathering  
the Marianist Environmental  
Education Center**

**4435 East Patterson Rd.  
Beavercreek, 45430**

Join us for a guided walk on this beautiful reclaimed land that TLT holds a conservation easement on.

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**August 2, 2021**

**Local Foods Dinner at  
The Winds Café  
215 Xenia Ave.**

**Yellow Springs, 45387**

Reservations are required.  
Limited tickets.

Two seatings of 50 diners.  
Invitations will be mailed  
to TLT members in June.

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**September 17-24, 2021**

**17th Annual Harvest  
Auction ~ Virtual Event**

The auction committee is  
gathering exciting items  
for you to bid on!

Watch your mail in  
August for more  
information!

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*Coming this summer...*

**Land Stewardship  
Workshops & Tours-**

Learn from local farmers  
about new conservation  
practices they are using.

Updates at

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

## **17th Annual Harvest Auction**

### **Here's how you can help!**

**Would you like to be an auction sponsor?**

We have sponsor opportunities from \$100 to \$1,000 for businesses or for individuals. Gain exposure for your business or show your support of the land trust at the auction.

**Do you have an item to donate?**

We are always looking for unique items to auction off at our biggest fundraiser of the year. Especially popular with our friends and members are food baskets, restaurant outings, vacation stays, wine and beer selections. We always say, "The best items are food, booze & indulgences!"

Last year, we had several people buy services, such as a CSA to Benham's Farms, then the buyer donated the service to TLT as an auction item. The buyer was able to support a small, local business and TLT at the same time. Scott & Jeanine Clark did this in 2020. As Scott says, "he was happy to complete the *virtuous circle*."

If you own a vacation cabin or home, please consider donating a 1 week stay to TLT to support protecting local farmland and natural areas close to home.

Email [cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org](mailto:cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org) or call the office at 937-767-9490 if you would like to become a sponsor or donate an item.



## **Plein Air Paint Out on Preserved Properties**

Calling all artists! Here is your opportunity to paint at some of our prettiest preserved properties.

**9:30-12:30**

**June 26:** Howell Farm

**July 17:** Glass Farm Conservation Area

**August 7 or 8:** TBD

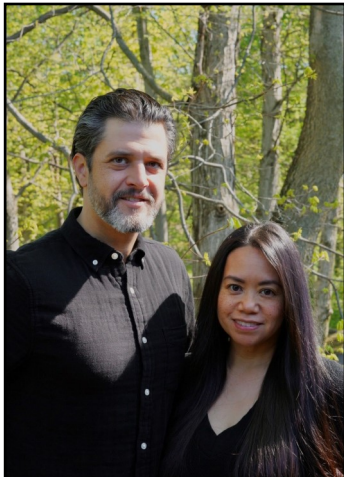
**October 16 or 17:** TBD

Donations accepted. Supplies not provided.

**Registration required. Limited number of spaces.**

Call the office at 937-767-9490 with questions.

## Welcome Our New Board Members



Poetry inspires! After Matt Birdsall read his original poetry at our annual Solstice Poetry Reading in 2015, he and partner Melissa Bautista became education committee volunteers. Now, TLT welcomes Matt and Melissa, as new co-board members, sharing a single position. They've also collaborated for years to produce Dayton's premier literary magazine, *Mock Turtle Zine*. With Matt's background in education and publishing, and Melissa's in science, business and art, their technical expertise was crucial to the success of this year's on-line version of the annual poetry reading last December. While a big believer in technology as a tool, Matt says, "I believe that face-to-face interaction is more powerful through the establishment of deep, meaningful, and lasting relationships." These talented new additions to TLT's board will be contributing for some time to come. And speaking of additions, Matt and Melissa recently welcomed their second child, Sybil, who joins Sophia, 8, at their Beaver Creek home.



Cathy Crompton has a degree in entomology and is a semi-retired dentist whose practice is in Springfield. Growing up, Cathy's family had a small farm in Hocking Hills that they visited mainly on weekends. Her experiences on the farm gave her the background she needed to become the co-trustee for Shawnee Farms in Clark and Champaign counties. In 2016, Tecumseh Land Trust closed an easement on Shawnee Farms with then trustee, Sam Bowman. Shortly after finishing the easement, Sam passed and Cathy took over management of the farm. Following in Sam's footsteps, Cathy is very committed to improving conservation on the farm both to increase farm productivity and to benefit the environment. She has spent a great deal of time researching various practices including cover crops, wetland restoration, and crop rotation as well as sustainable management of the woodlands on the farm. Now that she has joined the land trust board, Cathy is able to connect with other landowners and farmers that are doing the same. Cathy is passionate about ornithology and enjoys being outdoors. She believes, "people today will not appreciate our earth unless they get exposed to nature and play outside."

## Carbon Markets in Agriculture

Farmers, looking for a way to make additional income? If a conservation practice is right for your farm, new private carbon market companies, such as Indigo Ag, will act as an intermediary between companies which want to off-set emissions and farmers who apply greenhouse gas sequestration practices- such as cover crops and no-till. This is an example of how carbon markets can work to reduce greenhouse gases in the air by putting a price on the release and sequestration of these gases. Other companies are also in some phase of launching carbon market programs, including Bayer Crop Sciences and Land O' Lakes. Some area farmers have already participated in this kind of program and have shared the pros – among them soil quality improvements that could increase productivity over time - and cons – paperwork to demonstrate compliance with the conservation practices contracted for.

Check for updates about the Growing Climate Solutions Act in Congress that could create a nationwide USDA third-party conservation practice verification system that would help ensure that farmers receive a fair distribution of the revenue. U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-IN), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) recently reintroduced the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act, which will break down barriers for farmers and foresters interested in participating in carbon markets so they can be rewarded for climate-smart practices. The bill has broad, bipartisan support from 43 Senators and over 70 agricultural and environmental organizations.



*Little Miami River running through Kevin & Melissa Spears' farm*



*Little Miami River running through Greg Spears' farm*

## Key Properties Along the Little Miami River Protected

Preserving farms with stretches of the Little Miami River or its headwater streams has long been a goal of Tecumseh Land Trust. “It only makes sense to protect our water resources within preserved farmland with healthy buffers,” says Krista Magaw, TLT Executive Director. One key property in Green and Madison Townships that would connect TLT’s largest block of preserved farmland with other protected properties along the river was unattainable for years. But in 2015, the land trust’s luck changed when the property was sold in two parcels one to Greg Spears and the other to Kevin and Melissa Spears. The property has some 6,500 feet of the Little Miami River with healthy wooded buffers, tillable acres, and woodlands. After the purchase they both got in touch with TLT to discuss options for selling a conservation easement. Greg said, “having the opportunity to qualify and enroll my farms into the Tecumseh Land Trust was very important to me. I’m very proud to know that my farms, along with other farms to next me will keep their same appearance and will continue to be managed as productive farmland for years to come.”

As luck would continue to have it, a funding source specific to protecting the Little Miami River and its tributaries, The Upper River Fund at the Dayton Foundation, had just enough money remaining in the fund to use as match for the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Agricultural Land Easement program. TLT staff went to work putting together the applications and securing funding for the 326 acres needed to connect the block of preserved properties.

After some years of working through the process the easements on these two farms closed in January 2020. The two parcels bring TLT’s largest contiguous block of preserved farmland to 3,929 acres and a total of 50,000 feet of riparian corridor. For Greg and Kevin, these farms not only add to their tillable acres, they also provide a space to enjoy the outdoors with their families in the woods and along the river. “Hunting and fishing have always been great passions of mine, and these farms offer the opportunities to take advantage of those activities as well. So knowing that my boys and future families will always have a great place to enjoy the outdoors is extremely comforting to me,” Greg said.

TLT wants to continue to preserve the riparian corridors of all sizes throughout Clark and Greene counties, be it on farmland or natural lands. There are funding sources available for both so get in touch with staff if you have a property you would like to protect.

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*Preserving farms along the Little Miami River is a priority for TLT.*

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**Tecumseh Land Preservation Association**  
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937-767-9490

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## Spring 2021 Newsletter

*With support from*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**SEPTEMBER 17-24, 2021**



**TECUMSEH LAND TRUST**  
**17TH ANNUAL**  
**HARVEST AUCTION**  
A Virtual Event



**The Local Foods Dinner at  
The Winds Café for  
Tecumseh Land Trust returns!**

**AUGUST 2, 2021**

A limited number of tickets will be sold. TLT members will have the first opportunity to purchase the tickets. Details will arrive in the mail in June.