



Terrell grandchildren play while the hay is being baled & stacked.

TECUMSEH LAND TRUST



Fall 2020

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Meadowcreek Farm Preserved at Last

When Mark and Elaine Terrell, and Elaine's sister and her husband, Louise and Dennis Beach, first met with TLT Executive Director Krista Magaw at Merchants Bank 7 years ago, they were clearly ready to do what it took to preserve their family farm. Introduced to the land trust by friends, the couples had attended several TLT events, including a Julia Cady Society reception at the Pauley's preserved Prairie's Edge property, near their farm.

The farm they wanted to protect had been purchased by Elaine and Louise's entire family in 1991, including their parents and brother. But after their parents passed away, their brother was no longer interested in keeping the farm intact. Mark and Elaine decided to purchase 45.5 acres of the farm, and built a house there. The remaining 389.58 acres was purchased by Meadowcreek Ltd. -the sisters and their spouses were willing to take on considerable financial liability to keep the farm a farm.

The Terrells and the Beaches remained motivated throughout the long process to acquire easement purchase funding for both the Meadowcreek Farm and the Terrell farm. The combination of cropland, hay ground, woods, and riparian corridor along the Beaver Creek made the farm beautiful and unique, but it did not score well in the competitive Clean Ohio easement purchase program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) when they first applied.

Finally the localized option of ODA's program allowed TLT to add weight to the stream miles traversing the property and both applications were a success. Due to some delays from both funding sources, the process strung out an additional 2 years. But Elaine says to others facing similar challenges "Delays are not a denial. Stay the course." Every day when she comes home, she says "I know we are where we are supposed to be."

31,886 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

Landowners Enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Don and Peggy Grigorenko own a farm near South Charleston, in Clark County. They were first involved with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) when they signed up for a five-year Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to remove honeysuckle from 14 acres of their woods. Over those years, they also cleaned their forest floor and planted 400 native hardwood trees – all while learning a lot along the way. Once the Grigorenko’s EQIP contract was successfully completed, they applied and were accepted into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with help from the District Forester. CSP provides farmers and landowners technical assistance and payments to maintain and build on existing conservation efforts and to add additional conservation enhancements.

Since the Grigorenko’s CSP contract started in 2018, they have maintained the 14 acres they had cleared of honeysuckle and cleared another 6 acres in their woods. This spring the Grigorenko’s will plant 300 trees in the woods. They plan to implement other enhancements such as adding flowering trees and bushes including 30 red buds and 120 red twig dogwood bushes to sequester carbon, and adding four pollinator plots along their creek including one plot of milkweed for monarch butterfly habitat. Don and Peggy Grigorenko said, “the support they have received, and the results” from their participation in EQIP and CSP “have exceeded their expectations.”

For more information, contact your local NRCS District Conservationist located at your county Soil and Water Conservation District office. In Greene County, contact Meghan Moser (937- 347-8124) and in Clark County, contact James Tillman (937-521-3880). See if your farm qualifies for CSP-- Tillman said “everyone should inquire about CSP.”

If you have a good conservation story, please share it with us at the Land Trust! Also send us your CSP and EQIP questions, and we will try to answer them in our next newsletter.



*Left photo:
Native trees
planted inside
the blue tubes.*



*Right photo:
Midway into
the restoration
area.*

Could you utilize CSP funds on your property?

Violations Happen!

As a holder of 193 conservation easements, it is Tecumseh Land Trust's charge to monitor those easements annually to ensure compliance with the terms of the easement. Should any of those terms be violated TLT is obligated to take action. The terms of every easement can be different from those in other easements, so a violation on one easement may not be a violation on another. The staff at TLT have to look at each easement and the alleged violation to determine how to proceed.

Easements can be violated by the landowner or a third party. TLT has primarily seen violations by third parties, including neighbors or companies hired by neighbors. The most common third party violations happen because property boundaries were unknown or not respected. Timber harvesting and trash dumping are the most common third party violations.

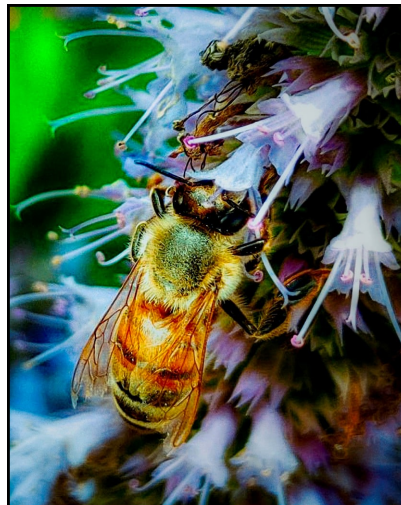
TLT has a process and procedures in place to handle easement violations. So, if you own preserved property and know of or suspect a violation, notify the land trust immediately, regardless of how minor it is. It is critical that violations are addressed in a timely manner. It is also important that the landowner does not negotiate any compensation for the violation outside our enforcement process. If the land trust follows standards set out by the Land Trust Alliance, resolution of the violation and restoration of the property's conservation values is likely to be successful, even if it involves legal action.

Conservation easements protect land in perpetuity. TLT is committed to honoring the wishes of those who protected their land by keeping our promise to safeguard that land forever.

Backyard Habitat Photo Contest Winners



1st place-Cynthia Wilson



2nd place — John Beasley

Greeting cards with this year's winners will be available for purchase in December.

TLT protects properties in perpetuity

Greene County Plan

What are your hopes and visions for Greene County? Where do we need more job growth or housing development? What areas of farmland, wetland, and woods are most important for our agricultural economy, food security, and environmental benefits? At a time of uncertainty, wise use of our natural resources and tax dollars are more important than ever. Your voice, and that of your family and friends, is needed for Prospective 2040, the Greene County Comprehensive Plan. So far, fewer than 150 people have weighed in on these questions, not enough for a plan that will guide policy and growth for many years to come. Go to:

www.co.greene.oh.us/1659/Perspectives-2040

to find out more about the current demographics and land use in the county, and to register your priorities. Devon Shoemaker, Greene County Planner, and the facilitators from Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, seek your input, and are seeking ideas on how to expand citizen input during this challenging time of pandemic. Let them know if your group would like a Zoom Tutorial on the planning site, or submit a letter with your priorities for the future of the county.

Yellow Springs Certified Wildlife Community

Almost three years ago, TLT and the Unitarian Universalist Church hosted Catherine Zimmerman's film "Hometown Habitat" at the Little Art Theatre on a December Sunday afternoon. Our Wittenberg student helped promote the event with posters challenging "Save Pollinators. Save Water. Save the Earth. Build an army of "habitat heroes." The show sold out!

Yellow Springs Environmental Council, the Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions, native plant landscaper Nadia Marlarkey, Glen supporters, and many talented local gardeners were all on a similar path, and their numbers were growing. This spring and summer these efforts culminated in a 45387 wide effort to become a Certified Wildlife Community through the National Wildlife Federation. Thanks to numerous public and private efforts, we are now certified. Events are in the works this winter and spring as you plan your home, place of worship, or business garden or landscaping for 2021. Learn more at the YS Wildlife Habitat Community site on Facebook and www.nwf.org/WildlifeHabitat/.

Jacoby RCPP -EQIP Update

Meghan Moser, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) new District Conservationist for Greene County, has been helping to implement the four top ranked projects that received funding this year through the Jacoby Partnership's special pot of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. EQIP is an NRCS cost-share program that provides landowners and farmers financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices on their land.

This summer two farmers received EQIP contracts through the Jacoby Partnership to plant cover crops for two years and implement grassy waterways. Both practices improve soil health and water quality. Cover crops help to build organic matter and increase water retention in soils. Grassy waterways help to prevent erosion by slowing the flow of water. Two land-based nonprofits also received EQIP funds, the Glen Helen Association and Agraria. The Glen Helen Association will use EQIP funds to remove honeysuckle along the Birch Creek. Honeysuckle is allelopathic. It suppresses the growth of other plants by the release of toxic substances. Removing it will allow a greater diversity of plants to grow in a wooded area and strengthen the creek's riparian zone. Agraria received EQIP funds to improve their agricultural operation, helping strengthen the local food system. The organization will use EQIP funds to convert cropland to pasture starting in 2021 through 2022, this will include fencing, prescribed grazing, and forage planting. Additionally, a hoop house and two wells will be installed before the end of the year. The hoop house will aid the organization in forming a collaborative CSA and will extend the growing season.

There will be another round of ranking for EQIP funds in the Jacoby Partnership area next year. So far, ten EQIP applications for conservation practices in the project area have been made. Interested landowners should contact their county's Soil & Water Conservation District to explore the possibility of additional funding opportunities.



New grassy waterway & drainage rock structure on 9-17-2020 on a property in the project area.



Grass taking hold on 10-22-2020. The farm is located on Dayton-Yellow Springs Road across from Agraria.

Jacoby Partnership Project

CALENDAR

December 11, 2020

9th Annual Solstice Poetry Reading

7 p.m.

via Zoom

See article on page 8.

April 2020

Native Plant Month

We're already at work on several activities, with our many conservation, sustainability, and resilience partners. Keep an eye out for announcements as specific plans are confirmed. Earth Day is April 22nd and we plan to collaborate with the Glen, Agraria, and the YS Habitat Community in Yellow Springs and the greater Dayton and Springfield communities. Among events being planned in Yellow Springs for the weekend after Earth Day, are our **Native Plant Swap** at the Glen and a barn screening of **"Hometown Habitat" at Agraria**. 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.

Growing Green 2021 Preview

"Growing Green Saturday Series" will be a series of online discussions on Saturdays in February and March. The talks will focus on ways of strengthening our local food system and healing the climate using healthy soils. Mark the dates listed below on your calendar, and check TLT's website for more info. This series will be hosted by TLT and Community Solutions. This conference is part of the Jacoby Partnership funded by NRCS, local & state partners.

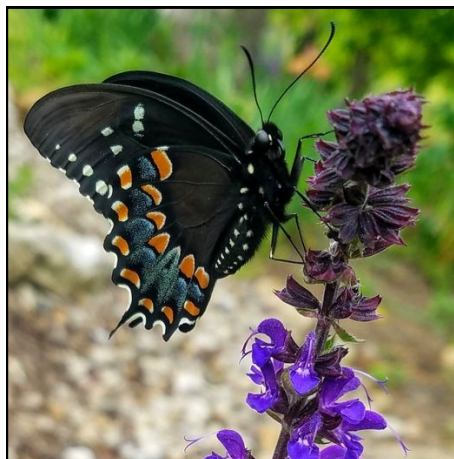
February 27, 1:00-2:30 - Climate expert, Dr. Aaron Wilson, and local farmers will discuss the impacts of climate change and COVID19, and what can be done and has been done to overcome these challenges.

March 6, 10:00-4:00 – Regional food system successes will be shared, and worker-owned cooperative business efforts such as the Gem City Market will be highlighted. Agricultural economist Dr. John Ikerd and Leslie Schaller with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks will discuss shifts needed in the food system.

March 13, 1:00-2:30 – Susan Jennings and farmer Jason Ward will share insights from Agraria's business model, use of EQIP, and the farm's transition to organic.

March 20 1:00-2:30 – Cheryl Rice and Meghan Moser of Natural Resource Conservation Service will discuss the supports available to implement conservation practices on local lands. Dr. Subburayalu, Professor of Soil Science and Agronomy at Central State University, will discuss his work studying the benefits of conservation practices.

May or June (dates TBD) - Guided tours of Agraria.



3rd place — Julie O'Loughlin

March 7, 2021

Sugar Shack with Flying Mouse Farms
2 p.m.



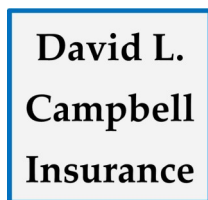
Watch for details at tecumsehlandtrust.org & [facebook.com/tecumsehlandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/tecumsehlandtrust)

TecumsehLandTrust

Great family event to learn how maple syrup is produced.

Thank You to Our 16th Annual Harvest Auction Sponsors!

*The auction was highly successful due to our great sponsors,
fabulous bidders & generous donors.*





Kevin Davidson's Pike Township Farm



Jody York's Pike Township Farm

Pike Township Easement

Pike Township in Clark County is the newest hotspot for farmland preservation. After many years of not being competitive in the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), farms in Pike Township have finally risen to the top.

Farmland preservation often has a domino effect – once the first farm gets protected it is much easier for others to qualify. In 2017, Greg Kaffenbarger made application for an 158 acre farm, located on Troy Road and it was accepted into the program. Prime soils and strict township zoning were key factors in a competitive score for this farm. When asked why he wanted to protect his farm, Greg said, “because we lose more and more productive farmland every year and it will never come back into production. The funded easement programs are good for landowners because they are compensated for not developing their farm while ensuring the land will be available for future generations.”

Then, in 2018, five farms in Pike Township were approved for agricultural easements through LAEPP. A critical mass of applicants and now proximity to other protected properties helped to boost these applications in addition to the prime soils and township zoning. Tecumseh Land Trust and ODA have now closed three of these projects. Jody York's 81 acres on Dayton-Lakeview Road was the first to close. A TLT volunteer filed an Ohio Historical Inventory, which documents historical features on a farm, on the York farm to help get more points on this application. James and Linda Davidson's 65 acres on Dayton-Brandt Road, with a long history of cover crop use was also completed. Finally, Kevin Davidson's 60 acre farm on Addison-New Carlisle Road, which is a mixture of row crops and greenhouse produce has been permanently protected.

Two other farms received both ODA funds and funds through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. They have not closed yet, but will within the next 6 months - Greg Kaffenbarger's 195 acre farm on Troy Road and Eric Kesler's Century Farm and historic John Black farm of 288 acres on Dayton-Lakeview Road will also be permanently protected. And that's not all! There is more to come from both the 2019 and 2020 funding rounds.



*Kaffenbarger Farms
in Pike Township,
Clark County*



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Fall 2020 Newsletter

With support from



9th Annual Winter Solstice Poetry Reading



The pandemic will doubtlessly cancel some holiday traditions—but *not the annual Solstice Poetry Reading!* While about 100 folks have gathered for the past eight years at the Glen’s Vernet Ecological Building, this year we’ll cozy up to our computer screens with snacks and drinks to be entertained and inspired. The ninth annual Solstice Poetry Reading, co-sponsored by Tecumseh Land Trust and Glen Helen, will be held via Zoom on **Friday, December 11, at 7:00** p.m. Eight scheduled Ohio poets, including State Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour, will imaginatively interpret this year’s theme: “Solstice: The Healing Earth.” You can read all about this year’s poets, and how to tune in, on the TLT website! For more information, call 937-767-9490 or email cathy@tecumsehlandtrust.org.