



Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

www.wrlandconservancy.org

Landline

A Western Reserve Land Conservancy newsletter celebrating
land conservation in Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties

Opportunity is worth seizing

It's not often we truly get to have our cake and eat it too.



Brett Rodstrom
Northeastern
Field Director

In fact, most of the time when an opportunity presents itself that seems too good to be true, we often dismiss it as a scam or just automatically assume there is some fine print lurking in the dark somewhere.

Fortunately, this is not the case for conservation-minded landowners who have considered protecting their land but have been waiting for the right time or opportunity to do so.

As part of the 2010 Federal
See TRUE page 2

60 acres preserved in Geauga County

The efforts of four organizations over more than a decade have paid off in the permanent preservation of a 60-acre tract in Geauga County.



The family installed two man-made ponds on the property solely for the promotion of wildlife habitat.

Harry L. Davis III, who lives in Crown Point, Ind., has donated a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy on the family land that he owns on Madison Road in Montville Township. This property has been in the hands of the Davis family for several decades and is located just west of the Geauga Park District's 700-acre Montville Swamp.

Earlier work done by Grand River Partners, which merged with the Land Conservancy at the

start of 2010, the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service paved the way for the easement.

Brett Rodstrom, the Land Conservancy's northeastern field director, said much of the groundwork on the project was done by John Niedzialek, a NRCS representative working on behalf of the WRRC&D Council.

The wooded parcel contains two headwater streams feeding Phelps Creek, a cold-water tributary to the Grand River.

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

- ◆ **March 19, 3-6 p.m.:** Triple Tap, the Land Conservancy's annual celebration of spring, at Patterson Fruit Farm, 8765 Mulberry Road, Chester Township. Bring a potluck dish.
- ◆ **April 7:** Grand River Chapter open house, 70 South Park Place, Painesville.
- ◆ **May 14:** Grand River Canoe Cleanup. RSVP to George Warnock at (440) 357-4837.
- ◆ **May 21:** Conservation Rocks at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern in Cleveland.
- ◆ **June 4:** Blue Herons and Blooms Walk, Ashcroft Woods Preserve, Rome Township, Ashtabula County.

For more details, go to:
www.wrlandconservancy.org

Contact Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Painesville Field Office:

Brett Rodstrom, Eastern Field Director (440) 357-4837 or brodstrom

@wrlandconservancy.org

Eastern Field Office:

Scott Hill, Eastern Field Director (440) 773-5582 or shill@wrlandconservancy.org

Premier birder helps guide Lake Metroparks

In 1991, John Pogacnik came to Lake County as a park ranger.

Today, he still patrols the 7,000-acre Lake Metroparks system, its two state wild and scenic rivers and its public land along Lake Erie. But these days Pogacnik does so as the park system's biologist, conducting



SPOTLIGHT

John Pogacnik

wildlife surveys and developing management plans.

"I always wanted to work by the lake, and I've been able to do that," said Pogacnik, who holds a degree in wildlife management from Ohio State University. "Here in Lake County, you have everything – Lake Erie, all the different topography. It is outstanding."

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Cochran receives conservation honor

Rich Cochran, who started as the lone employee of what is now Western Reserve Land Conservancy and now heads an organization that has preserved nearly 23,000 acres in northern Ohio, has been named the recipient of the 2010 Conservation Award by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Cochran, the president and CEO of the Land Conservancy since 1996, was honored during an awards ceremony. He was presented with the award on behalf of the Museum's Board of Trustees.



Good news: Tax incentives renewed

The Land Conservancy is applauding the renewal of a federal tax incentive for private landowners – especially working family farmers – who protect their land with a voluntary conservation easement.



The Land Conservancy endorsed the move by Congress to renew the incentive, which had expired at the end of 2009. The tax incentive has helped the Land Conservancy work with willing landowners in our community to preserve about 23,000 acres of productive agricultural

lands and natural areas.

Conservation-minded landowners now have until December 31, 2011 to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for donating a voluntary conservation agreement to permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their land. When landowners donate a conservation easement, they maintain ownership and management of their land and can sell or pass the land on to their heirs, while foregoing future development rights. For more information, call (440) 729-9621 or send e-mail to info@wrlandconservancy.org.

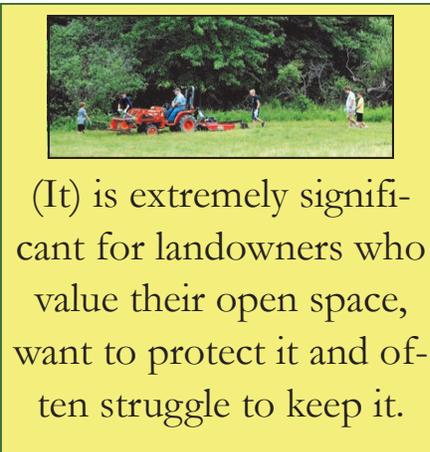
True

From page 1

Tax Bill passed by Congress in late December, landowners and farmers will now be eligible for *extremely* lucrative federal income tax deductions for entering into voluntary conservation or agricultural easements with the Land Conservancy.

I'm not a farmer; in fact, I'm not even a good gardener. But if I were, I could only imagine what the impact of potentially not paying *any* federal income taxes for the next 16 years would have on my family.

And this program isn't just for farmers.



(It) is extremely significant for landowners who value their open space, want to protect it and often struggle to keep it.

Anyone owning property, whether it is the land around their home, a hunting camp

or a few acres out in the country, is potentially eligible for a deduction of *half* of their federal income taxes for the next sixteen years.

Think of the savings you and your family could realize by taking advantage of this opportunity.

At the end of the day, this incentive program is extremely significant for landowners who value their open space, want to protect it and often struggle to keep it.

So if you're a landowner who farms, camps, hunts or just simply enjoys nature and the outdoors, then protecting your land can, in fact, be like having your cake and eating it too.

Guide

From page 1

Before coming to Lake County, Pogacnik was a ranger for the Ohio State Parks at Hocking Hills and Crane Creek.

In 1995, he left the law enforcement field but stayed at Lake Metroparks, becoming the park system's expert on wildlife habitats and natural areas.

Pogacnik is considered one of the top birders in the state and has recorded the first Ohio sightings of several species, including

the Ross's goose, cave swallow and Heermann's gull. In October, he spoke at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Ohio Ornithological Society in Eastlake. Pogacnik has also become adept at identifying dragonflies and damselflies.

Pogacnik, wife Lisa and son Shaun, 15, live – you guessed it – right on the shores of Lake Erie in North Perry.

With all the time he has spent surveying each park in the system, which one is his

“Here in Lake County, you have everything – Lake Erie, all the different topography. It is outstanding.”

favorite? It's the 704-acre Hell Hollow Wilderness Area in Leroy Township, a park that has been designated by Audu-

bon Ohio as an Important Bird Area and offers impressive views of a 360-million-year-old Chagrin Shale cliff above a river valley.

“It's huge,” he said. “You get back there and you can't even hear the traffic from the street.”

Kids in the Snow

January 23, 2011
The Rookery, Munson Township



The Land Conservancy's Scott Hill discusses the basics of identifying animal tracks.



Clockwise, from above, a lesson prompts a question from one child; sure signs of beaver activity; the fire-place became a popular spot as the day wore on; and trekking across the footbridge.



NEWS FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY

'Conservation Rocks' is May 21



Mark your calendars for May 21, when the Land Conservancy will stage its second "Conservation Rocks" concert at Cleveland's Beachland Ballroom and Tavern. This year's event will feature musicians who also work in the field of conservation in northern Ohio, including our own Pete McDonald (pictured).

Visit www.wrlandconservancy.org for more information.

Two join Land Conservancy



Koonce Gay

Director of Development Robert Koonce and Manager, Corporate and Foundation Relations Erin Gay are the newest members of the Land Conservancy team. Robert, a Cleveland native, and Erin, who is from Houston, both worked for University Hospitals Health System before joining the staff.

In addition to a wealth of fundraising experience, Robert brings a love of the outdoors and a sense of humor. He and his family live in Cleveland Heights.

Erin, who lives in Shaker Heights, was a senior communications specialist at UH before joining us. Her work here will combine her passions for writing and the environment.

Moreland Hills mulling HQ plan



The Land Conservancy is seeking permission from the Village of Moreland Hills to put an addition on a Chagrin River Road home and move its headquarters there. The property is adjacent to the village's Forest Ridge Preserve and across the street from the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Fields. We will keep you posted as the project progresses.

Have you remembered the Land Conservancy in your will?



Find out how you can make a lasting commitment to future generations by including Western Reserve Land Conservancy in your estate planning. For information on our White Oak Legacy Society, call (440) 729-9621, e-mail rkoonce@wrlandconservancy.org or visit www.wrlandconservancy.org.



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P.O. Box 314

Novelty, OH 44072

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We thank you for supporting our mission.

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To receive event notices or Landline online, e-mail us at gpausch@wrlandconservancy.org.

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Painesville Field Office

70 South Park Place, Painesville, Ohio 44077
(440) 357-4837

brodstrom@wrlandconservancy.org

Eastern Field Office

P.O. Box 114, Orwell, Ohio 44076 (440) 773-5582
shill@wrlandconservancy.org

www.wrlandconservancy.org

Our mission, our vision

Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio. We want to help create a network of interconnected natural areas, working land and green space throughout the region. We envision northern Ohio as a stunningly beautiful and healthy place to live, work and play.