AFFRICAN PROVERB

“The world was not left to us by our parents. It was lent to us by our children.”

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 314 · Novelty, Ohio 44072 · Phone: 440-729-9621 · Fax: 440-729-9631
e-mail: info@wrlc.cc · www.wrlc.cc

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34 Merz Boulevard, Suite G, Akron, Ohio 44333 · Phone: 330-836-2271 · Fax: 330-836-2272

Medina Field Office
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DONOR REPORT · JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007

On the cover: photo by Connie Oney
Who Is Our Customer?

Dear Friends,

Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) recently engaged in a debate to answer the question, “Who is our customer?” All businesses need to constantly clarify who their customer is, and yet so often we get caught up in the thick of thin things and neglect this critical task. This year, we took the time to engage in this discussion, and it produced excellent results. Everybody had a different answer. Some people said, the communities we serve. Others said the landowners with whom we work. Some said, our donors and members. Another said, why nature, of course! No one customer on our list stood out as a concept around which we could focus our work. So we expanded our thinking and ultimately produced a more focused answer. We decided that our customer is your great-great granddaughter.

Your great-great granddaughter is a person you probably will not know, but if you live a long life you will probably know her mother, your great granddaughter. Consequently, it is entirely possible for you to think of her as a person important to you, a person you would treasure and love if you were lucky enough to know her. As close as she is to you, your great-great granddaughter also represents a distant future. If you view great-great granddaughters in terms of how many years of a family’s generational history they represent, they symbolize 100 years, give or take.

Imagine the world of your great-great granddaughter. Imagine the world of 2050 or 2100. Your great-great granddaughter will wake up in a home somewhere in the Western Reserve. She will have selected this home. She will choose some form of transportation to get to her job. Her job will be a position that she will pick for herself. After work, she will walk along a beautiful forested parkway from her home into a natural area along a beautiful glacial river that flows into Lake Erie. She will breathe deeply; she will relax; her worries will slip away. She will be nourished by this natural area only if her great-great grandparents choose to save it for her.

She is our customer, because if we do not serve her today, she won’t be well-served in the future. It is difficult to serve a person who does not yet live. Consequently, we have to serve a lot of interim customers to be effective. But by understanding who our real customer is, we can make better decisions, we can achieve more focus, and we can ultimately have a transforming effect on our region.

You are one of our interim customers. You may be a donor, you may be a partner, you may be another kind of constituent, but one way or another we view you as an important (albeit interim) customer of ours. Without you, we cannot serve your great-great granddaughter, and without us, you may not be able to serve her. The mutual benefit aspect of our work is powerful. A donor once said to us, “I cannot advance my personal values and goals without WRLC, but by supporting your work I can. I want to thank you for advancing my values.” This attitude is humbling and also farsighted. Against that backdrop, we wish to introduce the 2007 Annual Report to our Donors.

We are grateful to report that WRLC once again enjoyed a remarkable year. (Our fiscal year ends on June 30th each year, so fiscal year 2007 ended on June 30, 2007.) Our results appear on the following pages, so we will not burden you with a recap here. But we do wish to recognize a few people before we close. As you know, our mission is about nature, but our work is about people. Our logo (and indeed our organization) represents the nexus of nature and people. Our customer is a person who does not yet live, and yet she is partnering with people who live today, the nexus of past and present.

We therefore wish to thank all of the conservationists who have come before us, most notably William Stinchcomb who founded Cleveland Metroparks 100 years ago, and whose example proves that you can transform the lives of your great-great grandchildren. Second, our professional staff who work so hard and produce excellent results, always with a smile and laugh, no matter how tough it gets. Third, our board of trustees, who govern us, lead us, and inspire us. Fourth, all of our donors and partners, without whom we would not exist, and with whom we can serve our customer, advance your values, and help to transform our landscape.

Thank you!

James C. Spira, Chair

Richard D. Cochran, President and CEO
MISSION STATEMENT

Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character, and natural resources of Northern Ohio.

VISION STATEMENT

There is nothing more beautiful than a crisp fall day in Northern Ohio: the sun shimmering on our great Lake Erie; the red and yellow leaves of a beech maple forest; the long views of crop and pasture land framed by towering forests; and the gentle murmuring rivers that run through our glacial landscape. We love the Western Reserve. It is where we rear our children and where our hearts reside.

Our vision is that today, a decade from now, and beyond the time that we can imagine, the Western Reserve will be a stunningly beautiful and healthy place. An authentic place filled with breathtaking scenic views, abundant clear rivers and lakes, miles and miles of connected trails for hiking, biking, skiing, and horseback riding; and an accessible, clean and safe great lake for world class fishing, swimming, and boating.

Development will be concentrated in historic urban areas such as Cleveland and Akron, in historic Western Reserve villages such as Chagrin Falls, Brecksville, and Bay Village and, as needed, in new areas that promote sustainable, community-oriented development. Working farms will flourish, supported by local markets that provide healthy and fresh produce that connects citizens to the land in a tangible, enduring way. Parks and preserves will provide people with a special connection to the land, a safe place where children can play, and a quality of life that attracts and retains as residents a great diversity of people.

WRLC inspires citizens throughout our region in the effort to protect land and water resources to positively impact our collective quality of life; to create a habitat that serves people. We envision a healthy, efficient, and scenic landscape, a patchwork quilt of large natural areas connected by wildlife and river corridors, a beautiful region interspersed with well-planned agricultural, residential, retail, and commercial development that supports the people of our region now and forever.

Programs

THE LAND PROTECTION PLANNING PROGRAM – This Geographic Information System (GIS)-driven program yields a set of parcels that, if protected, assures the realization of our goal of interconnected natural areas and preserves linked by protected corridors. These parcels make up our Land Priority Project List. WRLC is currently in the second year of a two-year grant from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission to create an Anchor Strategy that will be the definitive land preservation guide for WRLC and our regional conservation partners. This fluid strategy will guide our land preservation efforts forever.

THE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM – We endeavor to reach a wide variety of audiences under this program, but its focus is to educate all of the landowners on the Land Priority Project List about WRLC and conservation options available to them.

THE CONSERVATION BY DONATION PROGRAM – This program involves donated conservation easements and donated fee simple interests (outright ownership). This is our favorite way to preserve land because it is less expensive and less time consuming than other options.

THE PUBLIC LAND PROGRAM – In this program WRLC creates new public parks and nature preserves. WRLC acts as a pre-acquisition agent for public bodies and is able to handle a full range of services for these entities, including: conservation planning, acquisition of real property interests, short-term financing, long-term funding acquisition, and long-term stewardship.

THE CONSERVATION BUYER PROGRAM – With this program, WRLC purchases conservation-worthy parcels and seeks to preserve them through the sale to conservation-minded buyers.

THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – This program is perhaps the most important, as it ensures that the conservation values of the land and the terms of conservation easements are being maintained. This is accomplished through annual visits with the landowners to each protected property. In addition to regular inspections, volunteer service events are occasionally held to help clean up an area.

Finally, WRLC’s EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM incorporates education and outreach activities such as presentations to community groups, landowner education gatherings, donor cultivation/education gatherings, public agency/government entity education, and public events such as hikes and creek walks. WRLC also produces a full color journal several times a year, which we mail to our supporters.
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We apologize for any omissions. Please contact Leah Whidden at 440-729-9621 if your name has been omitted or if it is listed incorrectly. Thank you.
Planned Giving

Using Life Estates and Testamentary Gifts to Support Charitable Organizations
by Kim Van Sickler & Bob Owen

Home Is Where the Heart Is

Marguerite (Marge) and Ferdinand (Fred) Jereb and Cynthia Szunyog love their homes. The Jerebs bought their ten acres in Chesterland in 1964. The property had a cottage that they visited on weekends and then ten years later they began building their dream residence—a Frank Lloyd Wright-style marvel designed by Jerry Weiss. This field stone and stucco house is built into the steep hillside with 88 steps and a footbridge leading to a pond. Fred proudly shows us their stream, orchard, and beehives that his niece now tends, and abundant rhododendron bushes that erupt into a mantle of pink flowers every spring. The Jerebs reminisce about the tornado of 1969 and the havoc it wreaked on their forest. But after tragedy comes new beginnings. The fallen cherry, birch, and maple wood is recycled now as paneling for their house.

Cynthia Szunyog grew up in the 1850’s brick house that she still calls home. The 93 acres in Medina that she tramped around with her mom, an amateur botanist and birder, is now residence to Cynthia and her husband, two dogs and eight cats. Her property contains mature forests, ravines, wetlands and tributaries to the Rocky River. She has been solicited by realtors and developers who want her land and lumber companies who are interested in her trees. “I was horrified at the thought of my land being developed because I knew that I didn’t have total control over the future.”

The Seed for Preservation is Planted

Marge, a former NASA chief of computer systems and operations, also volunteered with the Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District. During one of the group’s meetings in the mid-1990’s, Chagrin River Land Conservancy’s (CRLC) Rich Cochran visited and talked about land preservation. The Jereb’s curiosity was piqued. There was already so much of them in their house and land—the thought of preserving it for future generations appealed to them.

Also during the mid-1990’s Cynthia Szunyog retired from her job as a French teacher for the Lakewood city schools. Around this time, she received a letter in the mail from the Medina County Land Conservancy (M CLC). The letter invited her to attend a landowners meeting where the topic would be land preservation. Cynthia was intrigued. She attended the meeting, where she met Jeff Holland, now a trustee of Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). She liked what she heard; started attending board meetings, and then was elected to the MCLC board herself. Cynthia served as president of MCLC from 1997-2001, overseeing their merger with Summit County’s Revere Land Conservancy and the hiring of the land trust’s first employee, executive director Chris Bunch.

Talk Turns to Action

The Path the Jerebs Took

Both the Jerebs and Cynthia were attracted to the idea of forever protecting the land that held such a strong connection to them. In 1998 the Jerebs granted CRLC a conservation easement on their ten acres, ensuring the property remain protected. Six months later they donated title of their ten acres to CRLC, retaining a life estate. In effect, they gave a future gift of their home and land to CRLC. They would continue to live in their home during their lives and after their death CRLC would receive full rights of ownership. Now as Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), we
will either retain ownership of the property or transfer title to another conservation group, but WRLC will always be responsible for stewarding the land. Since the Jereb’s protected their land, CRLC worked with the Geauga Park District to help them acquire an adjacent 73 acres that is now Sunnybrook Preserve.

Addressing Cynthia’s Multiple Interests

In 2002, Cynthia donated a conservation easement to the then Medina Summit Land Conservancy on the back half of her land. She split up her gift for a couple of reasons. For one, the donation of part of her land would achieve her purpose of preventing development, because according to Medina Township zoning regulations, the unprotected remainder did not have enough acreage to support a planned unit development. Cynthia also wanted to take full advantage of federal tax deductions, which at that time allowed charitable deductions for conservation easements to be spread over six years. Her plan was to donate a conservation easement on the rest of her land after the federal tax deduction ran out on the initial gift. To preserve her intention in case anything happened to her in the meantime, Cynthia revised her Will to direct that the remainder of her property was to be subject to a conservation easement as well.

As it turns out, in 2007, Cynthia herself donated a conservation easement to WRLC on the remainder of her property, in order to take advantage of the more generous 2006 and 2007 federal tax laws. WRLC now holds a conservation easement on the entire property. Her land will be protected forever. Cynthia’s Will has been revised and currently gives ownership of the land to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and the 1850’s house on a four-acre lot to a non-profit group interested in preserving historic buildings.

Shared Values Brought These Two Families to the Same Place

Conservation Easement and a Life Estate

Neither the Jerebs nor Szunyogs have children. They also share an appreciation of the value of the land they call home. They’ve both taken their own paths to a similar decision—to preserve their natural surroundings. The Jerebs granted a conservation easement on their land and donated all ownership rights to their property while retaining the right to live on the property during their lifetimes.

Conservation Easement and a Testamentary Gift

Cynthia Szunyog ultimately protected her entire homestead with a conservation easement and also used her Will, a document that she has the power to alter until her death, to specify that the new owners of the property will be two other non-profits.

Life estates and testamentary gifts are two examples of planned giving. They provide flexibility and control to the giver while also benefiting a favorite non-profit and creating a wonderful way to be remembered. WRLC appreciates these thoughtful gifts and welcomes the opportunity to answer your questions and understand your intentions in advance. For more information, contact Rich Cochran at 440-729-9621.

Life estates and testamentary gifts are excellent vehicles by which a person can make a charitable contribution upon death. Such vehicles are often preferred for the simple reason that they provide the donor with the use and benefit of the asset during the donor’s lifetime, but offers an often substantial contribution to the charity upon the donor’s death.

A life estate arises when a donor transfers his legal title (or ownership) in an asset to another person or entity but reserves for himself the right to use and possess the asset during the donor’s lifetime. The classic example is that of a homeowner who transfers title to her home by recording a deed naming a charity as grantee, but reserves the right to live in and use the house until her death. While the gift is actually irrevocably made at the time the deed is recorded, it is not completed until the death of the homeowner.

A testamentary gift, on the other hand, is a gift that a person prepares to make during his/her lifetime but is not irrevocably made or completed until the death of that person. Gifts by Last Will and Testament are testamentary gifts because the individual can plan the gift and provide for it during his lifetime by including the terms and conditions of the gift in his Will; however, since a person is free to change his Will as often as he desires during his lifetime, the gift does not become irrevocable until the person’s death.
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Stewardship Program Highlights
by Anne M. Murphy

WR LC is committed to upholding the terms of our conservation easements in perpetuity. Once we have preserved a property, our stewardship department is responsible for cultivating an ongoing relationship with the landowner and monitoring that property on an annual basis. With more than 200 properties now preserved, our stewardship staff has been busy exploring the Western Reserve region and getting acquainted with new faces and places during the past year.

While we are out in the field walking these beautiful preserved properties, we take along a sophisticated global positioning system (GPS) unit to help us locate property boundaries, a camera to capture any changes to the land since our last visit, and maps to keep us oriented. The monitoring visits help us detect any changes to the property and allow us an opportunity to touch base with the landowner. We’ve had some amazing experiences visiting these properties during the past year. We’ve been chased by goats, caught in sudden thunderstorms and the occasional blizzard, and fallen in numerous rivers and wetlands while attempting to cross – but we love it! We do and are grateful for any experience that puts us in touch with the land and the wonderful people that make our work possible. We’re looking forward to completing our latest monitoring season this fall and gearing up for another year of visits come springtime.

Tom and Katie Morley and children at the Muggleton tree planting.

South Woods/Ramsey Right-of-Way cleanup during Oberlin/Lorain County Pride Day.

Sign from the Adam’s Run cleanup event.
New Public Parks Highlights in FY2007
by Carla Macklin and Mark Skowronski

South Russell Acquires New Preserve
The Village of South Russell, in partnership with WRLC, recently acquired the last remaining farm in the Village. After a decade of planning, the majority of the 104-acre Muggleton Farm will finally be preserved as a public park. A large portion of the property will be restored from its current agricultural condition to native grasslands and mature forest. Preservation of the Muggleton Farm completes a 434-acre anchor area of protected land in South Russell and Bainbridge Township.

New South Russell parkland.

Growing the Portage Park District
In December 2006, WRLC transferred two properties to the Portage Park District for permanent preservation as parkland. The first, a 23-acre property located in Brimfield Township, contains forests and a tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The second, a 48-acre property located in Streetsboro, consists of 15 acres of wetlands that drain into Tinkers Creek.

New Portage Park District property.

New Park Created in the Village of Richfield
The Village of Richfield acquired this 28-acre property with assistance from the Clean Ohio Greenspace Fund and WRLC. The property drains into Yellow Creek and the East Branch of the Rocky River watersheds and contains vernal pools and wetlands. The area was previously farmed but will be allowed to revert back to its natural forested condition for the enjoyment of the public.

Conservation easement donor Charlotte Karson and her husband Eric Daiber on the new Richfield Park property.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

July 1, 2006 Changes June 30, 2007

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents $2,867,155 $455,475 $3,322,630

Accounts Receivable 1,797,665 (793,090) 1,004,575

Real Property 8,002,039 (4,694,105) 3,307,934

Fixed Assets 26,329 45,341 71,670

Other Assets 7,139 7,066 14,205

Total Assets 12,700,327 (4,979,313) 7,721,014

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Accounts Payable 2,334,070 (2,83,409) 50,641

Other Liabilities 5,153,531 (793,090) 2,355,827

Total Liabilities 7,487,601 (5,081,133) 2,406,468

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted 1,847,043 243,783 2,090,826

Temporarily Restricted 3,365,683 141,963 3,223,720

Total Net Assets 5,212,726 101,820 5,314,546

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $12,700,327 ($4,979,313) $7,721,014

Ron and Rita Greenbaum
Mr. and Mrs. John Finley
Dr. and Mrs. Rodney H. Finn
Ruth and Vincent Floridais
Stanley Fischer
Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Dick
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Fissel
Mr. John D. Fitzgerald
Kathleen Flanagan
Michelle D. Flanagan
Mrs. Dana Flenner
Carol Fondran
Signe and Casey Forbes
Fork and Hoe Garden Club
Louise M. Foster
Mr. Aaron Fox
Tom and Rosalie Franek
Mark Frank
Andy and Cindy Frantz
Bill Fraser
Freedom Harley-Davidson, Inc., Inc.
Mark and Margee Frey
Evelyn R. Frohring
Dr. and Mrs. William Fuchsman
Ann L. Fuller
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Fuller
James and Todd Fulmer
Stella and David Fulton
Funky Times Peace Fund
George and Lorenta Furry
Sue Gaetjens
Sean and Jam Gaffney
Garden Club of Cleveland
Garden Club of Wadsworth
Mr. Todd E. Gardiner
Rudolph H. Garfield
Bill and Judy Garvey
George J. Gauthier
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gazdag
GC Supply, Inc.
Robert W. and Helen Geibach
Mr. and Mrs. Richard GenserMe
Dr. and Mrs. Don J. German
Gertman Family Philanthropic Fund
Mr. Stuart Gertman
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Getz
Michael and Barbara Giarrizzo
Ms. and Mrs. Christopher Gibson
Charles E. Gibbon
The Gibson Network, Inc.
Ms. Linda K. Gilbert
Doris Gilbert
Charles H. & Fannie M. Giles
Memorial Foundation
Nancy S. Gilkeson
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Gilmore
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gins
Alida and Nick Giorgianni
Mr. and Mrs. David Gleason
Nancy and Ted gobie
Pamela and Richard Goetsch
Dr. and Mrs. Victor M. Goldberg
David J. Golden
Ms. and Mrs. Herbert J. Goulder
Mr. and Mrs. George J. Grabner
Susan and Chris Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gratry
Mr. Alvin L. Gray
Ann and Marty Gulbransen
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Gunton
Lainie Hadden
Corinne Hadley
Hageman Family Foundation
Clara A. Hahn
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Haibach
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hale
Richard and Prudence Hall
Mrs. Dona May Hall
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Halloran
Patrick and Melissa Hammond
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hanna
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley L. Hanover
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Hansler
Mr. and Mrs. Ann A. Hardacre
Amy Hardacre
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hardenburgh
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hardy
Mr. John Harley and Ms. Judy Ernest
Donald Harley and Holly Crabb
Mr. Ray Harriger
Martha D. Harvey
Ms. Mary Haskins
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Haskins
Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Hatch
Mr. and Mrs. William Hatch
Janet and Paul Havener
Larry A. Hawgood
Rickard Hawskley and Joan Inderhees
Lou Ann Hayes
Dorothea and John Hazen
Mr. Bruce Hearey
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Heater
Amy Hedrick
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hedrick
Ms. Mary Heffernan
Mr. and Mrs. James Heffigny
Nancy and Jeff Heinen
Mr. Wilson Helier
Preston Helier Jr.
Eleanor Helper
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hemick Jr.
Norman and Marjorie Henderson
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald G. Hendriksen
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henninger
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Herbert
Peter Herbruck and Pamela Mascio
Ann Herbruck
Mrs. George Hess
Timothy and Deborah Hess
Chip and Anne Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hetrick

Dr. and Mrs. John Fike
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Fissel
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Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henninger
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Herbert
Peter Herbruck and Pamela Mascio
Ann Herbruck
Mrs. George Hess
Timothy and Deborah Hess
Chip and Anne Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hetrick
Did you know...

of the $9,204,377 WRLC spent last year in pursuit of our mission, 91% was spent to directly advance our mission or on program-related expenses, while only 5% was attributed to overhead and 3% was related to fundraising expenses?

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>FY 2007</th>
<th>% Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Conservation Property</td>
<td>$5,298,644</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>699,250</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Donors</td>
<td>2,984,039</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Related Revenue</td>
<td>165,427</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events Net Revenue</td>
<td>12,451</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Investment Revenue</td>
<td>121,835</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,281,646</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>8,429,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>307,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>467,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,204,377</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES | $77,269 | 1% |

“Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children... let us turn to them and say, this is your inheritance: guard it well, for it is far more precious than money... and once destroyed, nature’s beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.”

-Ansel Adams
FY 2007 LAND PROTECTION TOTALS

WRLC has protected 203 properties within eight counties of the Western Reserve. The pie chart shows the breakdown, by county, of the 9,807 acres protected by WRLC.*

NUMBER OF ACRES PROTECTED BY COUNTY

858 Acres Trumbull County
1,283 Acres Cuyahoga County
434 Acres Summit County
1,387 Acres Portage County
466 Acres Medina County
323 Acres Lorain County
105 Acres Lake County
4,951 Acres Geauga County

Since 1987, WRLC has preserved 9,807 acres.* Please note that the 2007 totals are for the first half of the calendar year only.

*Just prior to printing this Report, in September 2007, WRLC crossed the 10,000-acre threshold of preserved land.
FY07 PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCES

WRLC secured $3,753,542 from local, state, and federal funding sources to fund ten land protection projects. The majority of FY2007 public funding came from the State’s Clean Ohio Fund.

FY07 PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCES

Federal - 11%
$424,921

Local - 13%
$470,527

State - 76%
$2,858,621

“Over the long haul of life on this planet, it is the ecologist, and not the bookkeepers of business, who are the ultimate accountants.”

STEWART UDALL

Autumn colors

Photo by Connie Oney
The Creation of Forest Ridge

from Charles Lang

Mark Skowronski e-mailed asking of me a seemingly simple task, “Charles, would you write in a paragraph about why you chose preservation, what your land means to you, et cetera?”

I thought that was a daunting task. Explaining our reasoning and thus answering his question would be easy, but to reduce those answers to one paragraph would be impossible. I thought of the time we have been here on Chagrin River Road and how we measure land dealings in decades. One paragraph could not do so. Yes, we could have waited until death to preserve it; but why wait? It is a wonderful feeling to part with real property knowing what its future “forever” will be. The perpetuity of this land as a passive park certainly held great appeal, for now anyone who cares can come to enjoy the land as it has been and will be. In so doing, we also know for certain that with the deed now held by the Village of Moreland Hills and a conservation easement held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy, our contribution to Forest Ridge Preserve can not be sold for development (which could have resulted in a mere 31 new monster homes popping up on those hills).

So instead, we chose ourselves to be the grantors of the preservation deeds while well alive and able to enjoy doing so. Yes, we could have waited until death to preserve it; but why wait? It is a wonderful feeling to part with real property knowing what its future “forever” will be. The perpetuity of this land as a passive park certainly held great appeal, for now anyone who cares can come to enjoy the land as it has been and will be. In so doing, we also know for certain that with the deed now held by the Village of Moreland Hills and a conservation easement held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy, our contribution to Forest Ridge Preserve can not be sold for development (which could have resulted in a mere 31 new monster homes popping up on those hills).

There is a clear charitable choice made to receive less value by preserving one’s land rather than having it sold to a developer. But if you don’t need the development value during your lifetime, one should easily be able to preserve the land with no harm to self financially, in fact only benefit. “What about your children and grandchildren, you may be asking yourself?” Ponder well that you can still give them everything else on your death—other than the ability to destroy that which should be preserved—the historic reality.

I would ultimately surmise that the certainty of our deaths, hopefully some day far in the future, caused us to decide today the eternal preservation fate of this portion of Chagrin River Road.
Ways to Give to WRLC

There are many ways that you can contribute to the financial success of Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Please contact Leah Whidden or Jean Gokorsch for more information at 440-729-9621.

Outright Gifts
- Cash
- Gift of support: a financial contribution on someone else's behalf
- Memorial gift: a financial contribution in memory of a friend or relative
- Matching gift: an additional financial contribution from your employer
  - Online donation
  - Automatic monthly giving program
  - Securities
  - Real estate

Planned Gifts
- Life income plans
- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trust
- Charitable lead annuity or unitrust

Deferred Gifts
- Testamentary gifts (see article, page 6)
- Retirement plan benefits
- Life insurance

“Have you remembered WRLC in your Will?”

Lynn P. Rebold
Mr. Robert C. Reed Jr.
Mary S. Reed
James and Esther Rehmers
The Reid Family
Lori and Doug Reigard
Pauline Reimer
Mary Reinhart
Remington Products Co.
Tim and Mandy Remington
Remington Productions, Inc.
Mike and Susan Renda
Franie Repetti
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Resch
Mr. and Mrs. A. Williams Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Don Rice
Sally and Norm Richenbacher
Jeffrey A. Riebe
Nick and Carole Rinaldi
Charles & Mabel Ritchie Memorial Foundation
Mrs. Charles Ritchie
Barbara Ro

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Salk
Bob Salmen
Frances Salmen
Jacqueline and Frank Samuel
Mr. and Mrs. David Sandberg
Steve and Anne Sanford
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson L. Sanger
Mr. and Mrs. David Sangree
Lila and Walter Sautereng
Jackie and Tom Savoca
Ms. Karen E. Sawka
Mary L. Scally
Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Schenpp
Mrs. Robert Scher
Lenore and Jim Schilling
A.C. Schmargle Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Schlang
R. Christopher Schloss
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schloss
Mr. Kenneth R. Schmetcheil
Mr. Charles Schmid
Mr. and Mrs. Juerg Schmid
Lee Ann Schmidt
Robert F. Schmitt
Ronald and Charlotte Schmidt
Betsy and Dave Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. John Schneider
Mr. Duane Schoeke
Mrs. Robert J. Schultz
Tom and Fran Schultz
Mr. and Mrs. John Schulze
Marcy and Jeff Schwalb
Anne and Douglas Schwan
Drs. Richard and Ilse Schwartz
Nancy and Shel Schwartkert
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schwinn
Mr. and Mrs. Garland Scott
Seaboom & Associates, Inc.
Sally and Larry Sears
Nancy and Bill Seelbach
Mr. & Mrs. Henry E. Seibert
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Seidellman
Tom and Tracy Sellet
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Seikel
Tom and Nancy Seitz
Jack H. and Florence F. Selby
Mr. Jeffrey Selconowski
Ken and Mary Seliga
Charles and Kristine Selis
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Senders
Eric R. Severs
Mr. Arthur Seyler
Shaker Lakes Garden Club
Sharon Center Veterinary Hospital
Sharon Printing Company, Inc.
George Richard Sharp
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Shaw
Dr. and Mrs. William C. Sheldon
Dick and Mary Lou Shellor
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shelley
Dr. Walter Shippe
Jeff and Pam Sherman
Ms. Marguerite P. Sherwin
Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Shiverick
Pat and Walt Silver
Mr. and Mrs. David Simon
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Simpson
Jeff and Celia Sinclair

Mr. and Mrs. Geo Sindelar
Glenn and Amy Singleton
Sisters of St. Dominic
Ron and Rita Skibik
G. Michael and Kathy Skerritt
Wayne and Anna Slepecky
Kay Sloan
Mr. Kenneth Sloane
Susan Slotnick and Matthew Sobel
Vince and Becky Sluszar
Roger Smalley
Miriam G. Smeal
Edward W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Patti Simpson
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Simpson
Rob and Anne Smykal

Bill and Lillian Smyser
Becky and Jeff Smythe
Snavely Excavating Company
Marc and Betty Snitzer
Snyder Tree Farm LLC
Ms. Brenda Slobiskay
Mr. and Mrs. John Solomon
Chris and Vicki Soekup
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Spahet
Dr. and Mr. Kenneth A. Spano
Bill and Missy Spellacy
Donald L. Spencer
Ms. Mary Spicer
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Spicuzza
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Spilman
Mimi and Bob Spisto

Ms. Jane Springer
Mr. and Mrs. Casella Stamm
Forrest Stanley and Nora-lynn Nemec
Thomas and Carole Stanley
Frank Stannick
William and Nancy Stark
Peter and Bridget Steck
Mr. Thomas Stockel
Ms. Cynthia Steeb
Ben S. Stefaski ll
Billie Howland Steffree Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Ira Steinberg
Ms. Tess Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stevens
Mrs. Virginia Stewart
Mr. Ray Stewart

Dr. and Mrs. Philip Stodt
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stover
Helen S. Stranz
Mr. and Mrs. James Streicher
Alliss Strugis
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Strong
Valerie Strong
Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Studsgaard
Mr. Daniel Styer
Ms. Laura Subel
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Suchorvsky
Ms. Margaret Sugar
Mike and Kathy Sugala
Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Suit
Mr. and Mrs. John Sutali
Mr. and Mrs. John Sullivan
Anchor Strategy Highlights
by Anne Murphy

The foundation of WRLC’s land preservation program is called the Anchor Strategy. The Anchor Strategy uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to identify large critical resource areas, called anchors, connected by corridors of protected properties. Focusing on anchors and the connections via corridors to other anchor properties will enable WRLC to connect the natural landscapes within the Western Reserve region to create the greatest ecological and scenic benefit and most manageable goals for land protection. Using the Anchor Strategy, we will obtain parcel-level data so that we can identify ownership of each parcel, acreage, and other assorted details that facilitate contacting landowners and developing conservation strategies for priority land.

WRLC is in the second year of our Anchor Strategy project that will create a priority parcel map and database for the more than 6,250 square miles that WRLC serves. The project is the first step in implementing our land protection program and we have already completed Phase I. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission provided $100,000 for staff salaries of the GIS team, covering the two-year period 2006-2007. The William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation provided a $50,000 grant for the purchase of a GIS server and updated software necessary to build and run our model. Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the company that developed the GIS hardware and software, also provided us with significant discounts on the overall costs.

Phase II involves developing and building a model with GIS to prioritize and score each parcel in our service area based on its ecological features and the priority ranking given by our collaborating partners. We are currently in the process of configuring our new hardware and software so that we can run the model this fall and complete the Anchor Strategy by January 1st of 2008.
WRLC Conservation Heroes for 2007

by Kim Van Sickler and Joan Demirjian

The following awards were presented at WRLC’s Conservation Celebration in June 2007.

The Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award Recipient: Franz Sauerland

WRLC’s highest honor, the Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award, was presented to trustee Franz Sauerland for his abiding love of learning and nature, significant financial support, and intellectual leadership to the land conservancy. This year’s choice of a bronze cardinal commemorative statue was in recognition of Franz’s favorite bird. The Sugar Maple Award is named after Chagrin River Land Conservancy’s (CRLC) founder, Stephen C. Morris. CRLC was one of the predecessor organizations to WRLC, which was created by a merger of eight land trusts on January 1st, 2006.

Franz served as a trustee of Chagrin River Land Conservancy, on the steering committee for the merger to become WRLC, and now as a WRLC trustee. He was instrumental in kicking off the Bridge Fund to help form WRLC and is a tireless supporter of our programs and events. Rich Cochran, president and CEO of WRLC says of Franz, “He is a wonderful human being; all heart, no pretense, a study in virtuous contrasts: selfless, driven, humble, willful and passionate.”

The Grimm Family Conservation Medal Recipient: Frances & Bob Salmen

The second award, the Grimm Family Conservation Medal, is awarded to a conservationist who has charitably preserved land that meaningfully advances WRLC’s mission, forgoing significant personal gain to do so. The award was given to Frances and Bob Salmen, a mother and son whose family has lived on their Bainbridge Township farm stretching back nearly 100 years. Bob’s income is dependent on what he earns from splitting and selling firewood and farming. Dick Grimm was impressed by the deep commitment the Salmens had to preserving their historic land, located on the Aurora branch of the Chagrin River. Bob says that developers have asked on several occasions to buy his 127-acre property. He responded by pricing it high and reports that the developers still wanted it. “He could have had millions of dollars by selling the property, but instead he placed a conservation easement on it, and he’s still content,” says Grimm. “Very seldom do people give up millions of dollars for a conservation easement.”

The wooden plaque consists of the WRLC logo, a “dancing sun” hand-rendered out of copper and nickel by WRLC’s Anne Murphy, director of stewardship and conservation resources. The Grimm Family Conservation Medal was created to honor Dick Grimm, WRLC trustee, his wife Sue and his family, who gave a generous donation to the WRLC Land Protection Fund in 2006.

WRLC is grateful for the dedication and support exhibited by this year’s award winners. They are our inspiration.
Land Protection Fund Donors

Anonymous (2)
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Andrews
Doug & Lu Bannerman Gift Fund
Mr. Joseph R. Bennett
The Estate of Joseph Berick
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blake
Mr. Roger Bleatnick
Bratenahl Community Foundation
Louise Brick
The Thomas Brick Company
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bryner
Mr. Charles Calder
Alvah Stone & Adele Corning
Chisholm Memorial Fund
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Christine Croissant and Chip Weinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Cutting
Mr. C. Beau Daane
Steve and Karen Diedrich
Phyllis Donnelly-Ingald
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Tom and Marsha Hopkins
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Jon and Mary Lee Jensen
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Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kohn
Lisa Kramer
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Mr. & Mrs. James R. Levine
Bud Lezius
Ms. Jeanne Lyons
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Mackin
Mr. and Mrs. Bassem A. Mansour
Jan and Tom Mettee
Mr. and Mrs. William Meyer
Ms. Patricia Mills
Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Moroney
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Morrison
Mr. Peter B. Narten
Ms. Bebe Ober
Mr. and Mrs. William O’Donnell Jr.
Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Russell O’Rourke and Georgia Froelich
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pappalardo
Park View Federal Savings Bank
Perkins Charitable Foundation
Faith E. Pescatore
Susan Prior
Lynn R. Reboul
The Reid Family
Mr. Harold Rohluk
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Schneider
Mr. Arthur Seyler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shaughnessy
David L. & Harriet T. Simon
Philanthropic Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Somersheid
Joyce and Greg Studen
Ms. Laura Subel
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sullivan
Hudson Community Foundation
Mr. Dominic Viscosi
Mr. and Mrs. William Weber
Ms. Martha Webster
Ms. Joanne Widak
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wolfe
Ms. Martha Webster
Mr. and Mrs. William Weber
Mr. and Mrs. Bassem A. Mansour
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Mackin
Mr. and Mrs. William Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Morrison
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Philanthropic Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Somersheid
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Land Protection Highlights

- Completed 45 land protection transactions, which was the most ever in a 12-month period.
- Preserved nearly 1,000 additional acres, bringing our total preserved acres to 9,807.
- Secured new land in 16 communities.
- Secured more than $3.7 million from ten different public funding sources at the federal, state and local levels for ten land protection projects in six counties.
- Created ten new public parks throughout our service area through the public land program, including the Muggleton Preserve in South Russell, the Forest Ridge Preserve in Moreland Hills, Eastwood in Richfield, and two parks in Portage County.
- Completed our first agricultural easement purchase through Ohio’s Agricultural Easement Purchase Program on the 461-acre Kepner Farm in Trumbull County.
- Secured funding for a 1,000+ acre agricultural easement on a farm in Lorain County, which is our largest project ever.

Land Protection Fund Donors

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Doug & Lu Bannerman Gift Fund
Mr. Joseph R. Bennett
The Estate of Joseph Berick
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blake
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Ms. Joanne Widak
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wolfe
Michael and Darlene Ziegenhagen

Land Protection Highlights from FY2007

by Carla M. Acklin, Andy M. Dowell and Mark Skowronski

FIFTH GENERATION FARM PRESERVED IN TRUMBULL COUNTY

By partnering with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Nancy Kepner has ensured that future generations of her family will be able to farm and enjoy their family land for generations to come. Most of the Kepner farm, 461 acres, was preserved with funding provided through Ohio’s Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. As a fifth-generation farmer, Nancy’s son Paul now works the land, producing corn, soybeans, and wheat. Nancy still lives in the original farmhouse where her family has resided since 1865 and Paul lives across the street. Nancy has achieved a life-long dream of preserving the majority of her family land. The preservation of the Kepner farm is as much about helping landowners achieve their conservation goals as it is about preserving the business of farming and food security. We are grateful for the Kepner’s leadership in this area and are looking forward to helping the family preserve the balance of their 636-acre farm.

LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT IS STEPPING STONE TO 1,000+ ACRE FARM PRESERVATION

The Babcock family has been farming in Lorain County since 1832. As partial interest owners in their 950-acre family farm, siblings Jarvis Babcock, Catherine Babcock Leary, and Alice Bradley wanted to make sure that their family’s farming heritage was preserved for future generations. Jarvis Babcock, who also owns another 69 acres adjacent to the family farm, saw an opportunity to leverage the preservation of his land with that of the family farm. Jarvis decided to grant a conservation easement on his 69 acres because he knew that it would help make an Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEP) grant request that WRLC was submitting on the family’s behalf more competitive. He was right. The 69-acre conservation easement ultimately
resulted in the family being awarded an AEPP grant on the balance of their land, which the family accepted. That 950-acre agricultural easement is on track to be completed by the end of 2007. This family farm protection project represents the single largest project in our history. Cathy Leary sums up the meaning of her family land this way: “Although making a living by farming was a lot of very hard work for our family, it was also a priceless gift to live so close to the earth. It is our hope that for generations to come there will be wooded places where a person can sit on a fallen log, listen to the birds, and feel at one with nature.”

**Rare Opportunity to Create New Nature Preserve in Cuyahoga County a Success**

After nearly ten years of planning and discussions with several landowners, a new 115-acre public nature preserve called Forest Ridge Preserve has been created in partnership with the Village of Moreland Hills. WRLC obtained more than three million dollars of federal, state, and private contributions on behalf of the Village to leverage their nearly one million dollar commitment towards the project. This preserve represents a local community’s dedication to preserving their rural character, water quality, and natural surroundings for their residents to enjoy. The property contains some of the last remaining high-quality natural areas in Cuyahoga County, seven state-listed rare species, and several miles of headwater streams. The first 62 acres of this project are now owned by the Village. The final parcels will be transferred to the Village by the end of the 2007 calendar year. See related story, “The Creation of Forest Ridge” on page 14.

**New Easement Results in Largest Block of Private Land Conservation in Northeast Ohio**

Frances Jackson Salmen and her son, Bob Salmen, preserved 127 acres of their property along the Chagrin River with a conservation easement. The property has been in the Jackson-Salmen family for nearly 100 years and preserving it represents their family’s dedication to private land stewardship, respect for family history, and commitment to community conservation. Their family land was a missing link that created the largest area of private land conservation in all of Northeast Ohio. The project area now totals 876 acres preserved with WRLC conservation easements and incorporates more than 2.5 miles of the state-designated scenic Chagrin River. More than 800 of those acres are owned by private citizens that granted conservation easements. This project is also noteworthy because of the large financial sacrifice that the landowners made in order to achieve their conservation goals. They had been offered millions by developers, but instead decided to preserve their land with a conservation easement. As a result of their dedication to land conservation and financial sacrifice, they were the 2007 recipients of the Grimm Family Conservation Medal. See related story, “WRLC Conservation Heroes for 2007” on page 17.

**Medina County Farm Preservation Grounded in Lake Erie Shipping History**

Joanne Hutchinson, owner of a 76-acre farm in Hinckley Township, recently preserved her family land with a conservation easement. Joanne’s father, Captain John T. Hutchinson, owner of the Pioneer and Buckeye Steamship Companies, purchased the farm in 1936. He used it as a family retreat and to raise crops and livestock, which supplied fresh food for their family, their neighbors in Lakewood, and his ships. Her family land is adjacent to Cleveland Metroparks Hinckley Reservation and contains portions of Whipp’s Ledges, a massive sandstone rock outcrop formation that defines the area. Located 15 miles north of downtown Akron, that city can be seen from the property on a clear day. Joanne says she preserved her family land because she was committed to leaving a legacy of conservation, which is rooted in her childhood memories of working on the farm.

“We are the Trustees of the Future.
We are not here for ourselves alone.”

JAMES BRUCE
Our gratitude to the following individuals for becoming members of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy Founders Society.

(as of June 30, 2007)

Anonymous (6)
Ames Family Foundation (The)
Dr. Jay Ankeney and Dr. Julie Clayman
Mr. Edward Baker and Dr. Anna Van Heeckeren
Mr. and Mrs. W. Douglas Bannerman
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Matching Gifts

I Wish I Could Do More to Help Western Reserve Land Conservancy!
by Jean Gokorsch

There is a way that you can make a larger donation to Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) now at no additional cost to you.

If you are employed by a company that has a matching gift program for their employees, you may be able to double the amount of your charitable gift to WRLC! Any company will match all or part of contributions made by their employees to non-profit organizations.

Matching gift programs are a wonderful way for you to make your charitable dollars stretch further, at no additional cost to you. For example, if you donate $500 to WRLC’s annual campaign, your company may match your donation with an additional $500. Instead of just giving $500, your total annual gift would be increased to $1,000.

Dan Miltnor, a senior vice president of KeyBank National Association and a Medina Summit chapter board member, speaks highly of his organization’s matching gift program. “I am so proud of Key for the support they show for employees who are actively involved in their community. Gifts are matched dollar for dollar which helps volunteers leverage their donations. Key Foundation also makes generous gifts to organizations when Key employees serve on Boards of non-profit organizations in their community. By the active support of both Key Bank and the Key Foundation, I know that my efforts in the community are appreciated and the leverage provided furthers the cause.”

How can you get involved with your company’s matching gift program? Simply ask your human resources office for a matching gift form. You will fill out a portion of the form and send it to WRLC along with your gift. Our development department will take care of the rest. Retirees can check with their former companies to see if they still qualify for matching gifts. If you serve on the board of other corporations, or if your spouse is employed, these companies may also be a source of matching funds for you.

Many matching gift programs will match the cash value of securities, as well as cash gifts. If your company requires that a special form be completed for a gift of securities, simply send the form to WRLC in care of the development department, and we will complete the form to assure that your gift is matched.

We have a list of companies that match employee gifts. If you would like more information on matching gift programs, please call Jean Gokorsch at 440-729-9621 or via email at jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

Marilyn and Dick Roddie protected their 100 acres in Bainbridge Township in 1997. Dick grew up on the land.
What is the Bridge Fund?

The Bridge Fund was started in 2005 when Chagrin River Land Conservancy decided to merge with seven other land trusts to form Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). The purpose of the fund is to supplement our operating budget that increased from less than a million dollars pre-merger to the more than $2.5 million projected for FY 2008, and continues to grow. It is common for nonprofits to take five years to cultivate a donor base to support their new organization and the Bridge Fund ensures that we don’t run out of operating funds as we grow to serve our expanded service area.

Through the merger, the service area of Chagrin River Land Conservancy grew by 1,580%. Our focus became the more than four million acres of land in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, Stark, Trumbull, and Wayne counties. We couldn’t possibly service that area and the more than four million people who live there with the same budgets we used as eight local land trusts (five of them were all volunteer organizations). For instance, since we’ve become WRLC, we’ve hired more essential employees and plan on hiring still more this year. We can’t preserve land without the right mix of skilled people to get the work done right.

Our goal was to raise more than $2.5 million to tide us through 2010 in a healthy manner. Our Bridge Fund campaign will culminate in FY2008 (by 6/30/08). We are currently trying to raise the last remaining $880,000 to complete this fund. We’ll let you know our results in next year’s Donor Report. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping us complete this important fund, contact Leah Whidden at 440-729-9621 or lwhidden@wrlc.cc to learn how you can help.

“If we go on as we are, we will destroy in the next century everything that the poets have been singing about for the past two thousand years”.

Fred Bodsworth

Don and Janet Peters protected their 14 acres in Russell Township with an easement in 1987 that is now held by WRLC.
EverGreen EverBlue 2006

On the evening of Friday, September 8, 2006, 470 people gathered at the Bratenah estate of Vikki and Peter Broer to celebrate their passion for conservation at WRLC’s third benefit, EverGreen EverBlue. This fund raising event netted nearly $250,000 for WRLC.

The evening entailed

- Blue and green martinis, the evening’s signature drink, an assortment of fine wines generously provided by Stew art Cellars of California’s Temecula Valley and an assortment of beer generously provided by the Great Lakes Brewing Company.
- A tour of the 16,000-square-foot lakeside home and impressive gardens of our host.
- A raptor show by Harvey Webster of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
- WRLC Board Chair Jim Spira welcomed and addressed the guests followed by an address and auction of symbolic acres of land by Rich Cochran, president/CEO of WRLC, that raised $175,000.
- Dinner under a crisp white tent at tables accented with blue and green table linens and centerpieces of water lilies, cattails, and lavender irises.
- Music provided by Chapter 11.

Our thank you to Preview Party Sponsor Edgepark Surgical and Presenting Sponsor Kinetico Incorporated and corporate sponsors: CJR Group, Inc; Nordson; MCDonald Hopkins Co., LPA; National City; and Sky Bank, Ohio Division. A special thank you to event chair Lydia Harrington.

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

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Zion, Synek & Associates
Mr. and Mrs. James Zuccaro

Harvey Webster, from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, brought a special guest.

A dining tent was erected overlooking the home and gardens of our host.

WRLC Board Chair Jim Spira thanks event chair Lydia Harrington and hosts Vikki and Peter Broer.

Guests dined al fresco on a catered dinner from Elan Catering.

Vince and Becky Siussarz
Miriam G. Smead
Ms. and Mrs. Richey Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith
Mr. Scott Smith
Chris and Vicki Soukup
Ms. Lee-Ann Spacik
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Gloria and Alan Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Yaksic
Zion, Synek & Associates
Mr. and Mrs. James Zuccaro
A Look at our Events during the Year

During the past year we’ve

- Hiked throughout the Western Reserve during each of the four seasons
- Taken to the creeks for critter searches with the kids
- Celebrated autumn with fall festivals in Medina and Chesterland
- Planted trees
- Greeted the coming of spring with a maple syrup festival
- Visited a dairy farm in Lorain County that makes milk for specialty cheese
- Celebrated our successes with a conservation celebration
- Shown our support for WRLC with fundraising events throughout the region
- Brought 470 conservationists together at the annual EverGreen EverBlue benefit
Who Are the WRLC Tributaries?

**Mission Statement**

The Tributaries (Tribs) seek to create a respect and appreciation for the out-of-doors and our natural resources through the education of young people and their families as to the benefits of nature, open space, and land conservation. We do this through hands-on activities designed to bring young individuals and families closer to nature.

If you are looking for a fun way to get involved with WRLC, consider joining the Tribs! Contact Leah Whidden at 440-729-9621 or lwhidden@wrlc.cc

“...we can find happiness in protecting the world around us not only because we cherish it for its awesome beauty, power, and mystery, but because we cherish our fellow humans, those who live today and those who will live tomorrow.”

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, 1910-1997
In Honor of

M s. M aia Balogh
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Allen
Mr. and Mrs. John Lasch

M rs. Peg Bobel
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Frey

M rs. Julia Bolton
Mrs. John Haddad, Jr.

M r. David Hersman
Mrs. Rita Conway

M s. Leslie Hiller
Mr. Arthur Seyler

M r. Dan Illes
Debra Illes

M s. Kathy K. Leavenworth
Mr. Kai Zucker

M ary Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. David Livingston

Craig Stepień
Mr. and Mrs. David Chew

Thank you to the following people on behalf of

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY AND OUR LOCAL CHAPTERS

Sue and Dick Abbott
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Ned Baker
Peter Balanek
Sigrid Bergfeld
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John Blakeman
Peg Bobel
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“The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Tiger swallowtail on joe pye.