Embracing the future
Our mission

Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio.
Embracing the future
Hope in a world of Fear

Beginning in October 2008 a strange thing happened in America; it seemed that our collective psyche was gripped by fear; the stock market crashed, falling more than it has since the Great Depression, iconic companies like Lehman Brothers failed, and a pervasive sense of dread swept across our great country, blowing the debris of a tumultuous time from Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between. It was and remains a challenging time. And it is with respect for the struggle that many face around the country and around the world, and across our beautiful Western Reserve, that we write to you with a profound sense of hope, hope based on an understanding of history and hope based on the Land Conservancy’s vision for today and tomorrow.

History tells us that we repeatedly face cycles of economic intemperance followed by periods during which unintended consequences eat all of the excess for lunch. Once the painful process of digestion is over, our excess is gone and, like a hopeful spring season, a new cycle begins. Happily for the Land Conservancy, we have enjoyed of late our most rewarding results ever. Fiscal year 2008, ending 30 June 2008, was by all measures a breakthrough year for the Land Conservancy.

Below we share with you a few highlights of the year ...

**Land protection results:** We preserved almost 4,000 new acres of beautiful, sacred land. This remarkable performance represents more than a 100 percent increase over last year and last year represented a 100 percent increase over the previous best year ever. The projects we worked on represented almost $13 million of public funding we have secured to advance our mission.

**Conservation Planning and Stewardship:** We completed the first-ever parcel specific conservation plan for northern Ohio, which we call the Anchor Strategy. It generated a list of 1,200 critical properties across all 14 counties. This is the first iteration of our vision for a 400,000-acre network of interconnected preserves woven throughout the fabric of our entire region. And, to honor all of our conservation partners, we visited all of our conservation easement properties, and we intend to maintain this exceptional record of stewardship now and forever.

**Financial results:** During FY2008 our net assets grew from $5.3 million to $5.6 million. This change occurred due to total revenue of approximately $12,500,000 (a 35 percent increase over last year) and total expenses of approximately $12,200,000. As always, the vast majority of our expenses related to the cost of conservation property. Of the $12,257,000 we spent during FY2008 in pursuit of our mission, $11,517,000 of it, or 92 percent, was due directly to mission or program related expenses while only 8 percent could be attributed to administration or fundraising expense. Of the 8 percent devoted to non-direct program related items, only 2 percent was devoted to fundraising cost.

**Fundraising results:** In terms of fundraising for our operations, we had another excellent year during which we raised a little more than $2 million (a 9 percent increase over last year in terms of donations to our operating fund). This represents growth of 170 percent since 2003.

These results represent a very hopeful vision for our region; a vision for the future that has inspired our donors to invest in an effective organization that makes a difference now and forever. Our work enhances our quality of life today and will enrich the world our great-grandchildren inherit. Just imagine the extreme level of Hope that our mission and our work implies; we hope for a healthy and better world for our successors, and we know that if we do not preserve land today, then our heirs will not have land to celebrate and enjoy. This is our hopeful choice to make, not theirs. Like a tree we plant today with the hope our children will sit in its shade, our system of preserves must be created today so that our successors will have natural areas to enjoy.

While the Land Conservancy is but one little part of our region and our world, it does represent many of the things we cherish: the breathtaking natural beauty of our region; the relationships we have with land, with local foods, and with nature-loving people; the fresh water that supports our lives; and the love we feel for our children and their children, and the need to leave for them a sacred place that serves them. Please join us in celebrating another wonderful year, and please reflect on and embrace our hopeful vision for the future of our region and world.

James C. Spira  
Chair  
Richard D. Cochran  
President and CEO
Ryan Van Deusen grew up loving the land. Van Deusen, 18, an Eagle Scout and member of Brunswick Troop 407, lives on a farm in Medina County’s Hinckley Township and says, “I don’t think I could live in a city – everything is too crowded.” So it is not surprising that Van Deusen enjoys staying at Camp Firelands Boy Scout Reservation, the sprawling 453-acre patch of fields, forests and wetlands along the Vermilion River in Lorain and Erie counties.

“It’s a great place, more outdoor-oriented than a lot of other camps,” he says. “There is a lot to explore and the trails are very nice. We’ve all had a great time camping there.”

Scouts will always be able to camp there, now that the property has been permanently preserved by a land protection agreement – also known as a conservation easement – that is co-held by the Land Conservancy and Lorain County Metro Parks.

Operating deficits were forcing Scout officials to consider selling portions of the property. The Land Conservancy enabled the Scouts to keep the land intact and continue camp operations by purchasing a conservation easement – essentially purchasing the development and timbering rights to the property, enabling the Scouts to realize the equity in the land without selling it or sacrificing the natural resources that make it so valuable as a camp.

The Land Conservancy was able to secure $880,000 from the state’s Clean Ohio Conservation Fund for the easement and another $600,000 in federal funding through the efforts of U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur. Barry Norris, executive director of the Boy Scouts of America Heart of Ohio Council, praises the land-preservation project.

“A Scout’s charge is to leave that which is entrusted to him, better than he found it. This is the essence of good stewardship,” he says.
1,018 acres protected

The single largest project in the Land Conservancy’s history was completed when the Babcock family protected 1,018 acres in Lorain County. This project preserves both agricultural and natural resources in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture via its Agricultural Easement Protection Program. Steven Babcock, who now manages and operates Babcock Farm, is the sixth generation to work and steward the land.

Preserving history

Above, Leo Summers, Melissa Summers, Land Conservancy trustee Dick Grimm and Garry Summers stand on the Summers family property. Garry and Leo Summers donated conservation easements totaling 245 acres for the Land Conservancy’s first land-protection project in Stark County. The land has been in the Summers family for five generations, and the original homestead deed is signed by President James Madison.

Largest donated easement

Lucia Nash made the largest conservation easement donation in the Land Conservancy’s history when she agreed to permanently protect a 762-acre tract in Geauga County. The easement protects a mixture of forests, wetlands and agricultural land, as well as part of the Chagrin River and its numerous headwater streams. Sandstone and Sharon conglomerate ledges on the property are part of a series of rock formations extending from Geauga County to Portage County.

Ashtabula milestone

The first project completed by the Land Conservancy in Ashtabula County was a conservation easement on 286 acres owned by Dick Thompson. A stretch of Pymatuning Creek runs through the property in Ashtabula and Trumbull counties.
A record year for preservation

In fiscal year 2008, the Land Conservancy protected more land than ever before, completing a total of 31 projects and preserving 3,815 new acres—a 300 percent increase in the number of acres protected from the previous year.

The year was also notable in that we expanded our land-protection reach by preserving property in four new counties: Ashtabula, Erie, Huron and Stark.

By the end of our fiscal year, we had 226 properties and 13,625 acres.

The Land Conservancy was formed in 2006 by the merger of eight local land conservancies. At the time of the merger, it had taken those eight organizations 19 years to preserve 8,340 acres. In the two years since the merger, the Land Conservancy, as one entity, has preserved an additional 5,285 acres—a nearly 65 percent increase over a two-decade total.

The eight merged land conservancies had preserved a combined average of 439 acres per year before joining forces. Since the merger, the Land Conservancy, as one organization, has preserved an average of 2,269 acres per year. Therefore, the average number of acres we preserve per year has increased by more than 400 percent since the merger.

The results fulfill the promise of the merger: that we could preserve more land in less time by working together as one entity. These results also move us closer to creating the world class natural resource infrastructure that is necessary to making sure our communities, economy and families flourish and prosper in northern Ohio. Our water is cleaner, more farmland is protected and more public parks have been created.
The Land Conservancy has reached a milestone in its mission to preserve green space, farmland and natural areas in the 14-county Western Reserve region of northern Ohio.

Nearly 1,200 parcels in the region have been identified as key properties for preservation. The list was developed through the Land Conservancy’s Anchor Strategy, a parcel-level, GIS-driven plan that is praised by other conservation groups.

Land Conservancy staff members, trustees, advisory council members and volunteers have now started ‘ground-truthing’ each location — verifying the accuracy of our data and results.

“Focusing on the anchors and corridors allows us to connect the natural and working landscapes to create the greatest ecological, agricultural and scenic benefits and the most manageable goals for land protection,” said Anne Murphy, the Land Conservancy’s director of stewardship and conservation resources.

There are 83 properties in each county on the priority list. Properties are first evaluated on a number of factors ranging from their proximity to other protected land to the presence of rare species on the site. The sites ranked highest for their conservation value are placed on the priority list.

Preservation isn’t limited to the parcels on the list — the Land Conservancy continues to work with landowners to protect additional property.

The Land Conservancy has used a variety of means to protect more than 13,700 acres. One way is through a land protection agreement — also called a conservation easement — in which the owner retains full ownership but voluntarily agrees to certain restrictions on the use of the land. The Land Conservancy also buys property for park systems and communities, and has a conservation buyer program for owners who want to sell their land but also see that it is permanently protected.
These greens will remain green

Melissa MacDonald and Matt Seitz of Mayfield Heights hike down one of the paved cart paths at the former Orchard Hills Golf Course, pausing every so often to take in the view.

“There aren’t enough scenic places open to the public,” MacDonald says.

Orchard Hills – the name pays homage to the adjacent Patterson Fruit Farm in Geauga County’s Chester Township – is now one of those picturesque places that everyone can enjoy. The Land Conservancy is now helping the Geauga Park District purchase the property and has worked out an agreement allowing the land to be used by the public.

The Land Conservancy stepped in after a residential development was proposed for the old golf course, which closed at the end of 2006, and the park district didn’t have the funding to compete against the developer’s bid. The move effectively preserved the 246-acre site – now known as Orchard Hills Park – in Geauga and Lake counties.

Sean McGinnis of Chester Township, walking with his daughter Megan, 3, says passive parks are particularly important “out here, where there is little in terms of government services.”

Keith McClintock, deputy director of the park system, says Orchard Hills “has rapidly become one of our most popular parks.” He says this is a rare instance in which a golf course is being returned to its natural state rather than developed for housing or commercial use.

The Land Conservancy is continuing to seek grants and private funding to complete the purchase of the property, which is on Caves Road.

We can never have enough of nature.
-HENRY DAVID THOREAU
Blake McFarland is a prodigy in a sport dominated by the experienced: fly fishing. At 15, he has hand-tied more than 300 flies and has casting skills that usually take decades to master.

Today, he is unable to coax a single steelhead trout to take one of his flies while fishing in the Chagrin River in Willoughby Hills. All he has to show for his efforts is a five-inch chub.

“I think this will be a really good spot around December or January,” he says, pointing to the shallow water and the gravel streambed. “We’ve got to come back.”

He will always be able to do just that. The stretch of river on which he is fishing has been permanently protected by the Land Conservancy, the Ohio Department of Natural Resource’s Division of Wildlife and Lake Metroparks. The acquisition of the 77-acre former Warner Nurseries property will open nearly a mile of prime Chagrin River frontage for fishing.

It is one of seven public land projects in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Portage and Lake counties that the Land Conservancy completed during fiscal year 2008. These projects added 271 acres to county park districts and local community parks. Other park projects included the 64-acre Molly Luce Preserve in Portage County and the 246-acre Orchard Hills property in Geauga County.
Making sure land remains protected

At the Land Conservancy, we hike with a purpose. Our stewardship staff walks every protected property each year in order to check for any significant changes and to maintain good relationships with the wonderful people who own these beautiful parcels. With 226 properties and 13,625 acres preserved at the end of fiscal year 2008, the Land Conservancy has an awesome responsibility to ensure these properties are protected forever.

Stewardship represents the last step in our land protection process. We identify priority parcels, use a variety of tools to protect them and monitor preserved properties in perpetuity.

We also worked with several communities and park districts on trail projects for newly acquired passive parks. The Munson Township Scenic River Retreat in Geauga County, Forest Ridge Preserve in Cuyahoga County and Seneca Ponds Park in Portage County are passive parks that are now open to the public. The Land Conservancy, in partnership with the Munson Township Trustees, Moreland Hills Village and Portage Park District, is working to develop trail systems through these magnificent parks so that the general public can enjoy all of the unique habitats and features of each property.

In addition, we developed new signs for landowners to place on their protected properties and updated many baseline inventories of these parcels to include new maps, photos and ecological narratives. We don’t always do it alone: We appreciate the work of numerous volunteers who have helped us clean up properties, plant trees and accompany us on monitoring visits. The Land Conservancy extends a big thanks to everyone who gave us a hand this year.

We’re looking forward to completing our latest monitoring season this fall. Next spring, we’ll lace up our hiking boots and start all over again.
Land Conservancy honors 2008 conservation heroes

The Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award: Lucia Nash

A Geauga County woman who chose to preserve her 762-acre tract was the recipient of the Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award for land conservation. Lucia Smith Nash, who was described by presenter Steve Morris as “the ultimate conservationist,” received the award at the Land Conservancy’s annual Conservation Celebration at White North Stables in Hunting Valley.

Mrs. Nash in 2007 donated a conservation easement to protect her beautiful fields, woods and farmland in Russell and Newbury townships. It is the largest property the Land Conservancy has protected in Geauga County. Mrs. Nash’s father, Kelvin Smith, assembled much of Cossycavan Farms after World War II.

The Grimm Family Conservation Medal: Garry and Leo Summers

Two brothers whose Stark County property has been in their family for five generations are this year’s recipients of the Land Conservancy’s highest award for conservation. Brothers Garry and Leo Summers were named the 2008 recipients of the Grimm Family Conservation Medal presented by Dick Grimm.

Grimm, a Land Conservancy trustee, said “cherishing the land” was part of the Summers family legacy. The brothers have preserved 245 acres because of their love of the land and the family history there. The original homestead deed is signed by President James Madison.
Our vision

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 clean 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, Medina and Bay Village and, as needed, in new areas that promote lasting, 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.

The Land Conservancy inspires citizens throughout our region in the effort to protect land and water for the benefit of all of our communities; to create a habitat that serves people. We envision a healthy 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, and commercial development that supports the people of our region now and forever.
The three steps to land preservation

Identify.
Western Reserve Land Conservancy first evaluates what properties in northern Ohio should be protected, then finds ways to preserve these parcels — as well as others connected to them. The Land Conservancy’s Anchor Strategy serves as our guide.

Protect.
A landowner may donate land and receive a tax deduction or grant a land protection agreement, also called a conservation easement. The person voluntarily agrees to restrictions on the use of the land but retains ownership.

Sometimes we are able to find a conservation buyer interested in owning a permanently protected property. Or we will buy land for park systems and then work with governments to secure funding.

Steward.
What’s the point of preserving all this land if no one makes sure it stays protected? The Land Conservancy makes annual stewardship visits to check the land’s use and to protect its conservation value.
Reaching out, making connections

The link between people and land is a strong one.

The Land Conservancy embraces that connection by offering events and volunteer opportunities that bring people to preserved properties – in most cases, parcels we have helped protect. At Seneca Ponds Park in Portage County, volunteers cleared hiking trails. In Chagrin Falls and Medina, we sponsored fall festivals. In Geauga County, moms, dads and children caught critters and splashed around at our 10th annual Kids in the Creek event. In Akron, volunteers helped clean up Adam’s Run.

In Erie County, we organized a canoe trip on Old Woman’s Creek, one of Ohio’s few remaining natural estuaries. In the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, kids and parents were drawn to a Land Conservancy event featuring hawks, owls and eagles rehabilitated by the Medina Raptor Center.

We love to hike, too. We organized numerous walks on protected properties and in other places throughout the region, visiting everywhere from the spectacular Lake Erie coast to our mature forests to our prime agricultural lands.

Land Conservancy staff members and volunteers also spread the word about our mission at community events such as Burning River Fest, the Lorain County Fair, the Great Geauga County Fair, the Tinkers Creek Watershed Festival, the Trumbull County Fair and the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

Our own events included our annual Conservation Celebration, honoring our current and past trustees at White North Stables, and Summer Breeze, a gathering at historic Breeze Hill Farm near Wakeman that was attended by more than 170 people.
Future Fund will launch a new era

The Land Conservancy has embarked on an initiative designed to diversify our fundraising and funding mix while allowing us to pursue our strategic aspirations -- preserving green space, natural areas and working lands in northern Ohio.

The Future Fund, which seeks to raise $2 million, is another way we seek to maximize the return on your investment in our organization. We are already adept at leveraging the investment made by donors: last year, we preserved $40 million in land with a $2.5 million operating fund. The Future Fund will enable the Land Conservancy to develop new revenue sources and reduce our reliance on philanthropy from nearly 90 percent to 50 percent by 2012.

We will invest $2.7 million -- $2 million from the Future Fund and another $700,000 from reserves or new monies as we diversify -- over a four-year period to develop new revenue sources, including funding from memberships, corporate sponsorships and land protection fees. By developing all of this additional capacity pursuant to the plan, we will generate at least $1.3 million of annual net new revenue on a going-forward basis. An endowment stream of the same amount would have required a fully funded endowment of at least $26 million -- 10 times the investment needed under the plan we adopted.

This plan maximizes the efficiency of donor funding, and, unlike an endowment, will also add professional capacity while enabling us to pursue our important mission.

It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours.

-John F. Kennedy
Statement of financial position
June 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>June 30, 2007</th>
<th>Changes</th>
<th>June 30, 2008</th>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4,622,376</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,343,390</strong></td>
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<th>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</th>
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<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>5,314,546</strong></td>
<td><strong>270,133</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,584,679</strong></td>
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| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | $ 7,721,014 | $ 4,622,376 | $ 12,343,390 |
# Statement of revenue and expenses

*July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>FY2008</th>
<th>% Revenue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of Conservation Property</td>
<td>$7,585,473</td>
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<td>Program Related Revenue</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>634,800</td>
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<td>Individual Donations</td>
<td>3,503,646</td>
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<td>Special Events Net Ticket Revenue</td>
<td>16,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Investment Revenue</td>
<td>120,498</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,536,631</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>11,517,143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>256,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>492,525</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,266,498</strong></td>
<td><strong>98%</strong></td>
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| REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES                 | $270,133 | 2%       |
Forging fiscal partnerships

In fiscal year 2008, the Land Conservancy secured more than $12.8 million in funding from federal, state, local and private sources for land protection projects in northern Ohio. This is money set aside specifically for land preservation projects – the acquisition of property or the purchase of conservation easements – and is separate from operating funds.

One example of partnership was the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve project on South Bass Island. The Land Conservancy worked with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to secure a $1.8 million federal grant, more than $385,000 from ODNR and the Clean Ohio Fund and $561,000 in private donations.

This funding partnership produced big dividends for the public.

On Aug. 16, the Land Conservancy and its partners officially dedicated the new 9-acre park at the eastern tip of the island. The nature preserve is now open for hiking, fishing and bird watching.

The Land Conservancy will continue to pursue funding collaborations like this one to protect more parcels throughout northern Ohio at an even faster pace. And we use these funds efficiently: Last year, we preserved more than $40 million worth of land on a $2.5 million budget, leveraging $16 worth of land protection for every dollar of operating support.

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

-Aldo Leopold
Here are ways you can support the Land Conservancy

- Invest in our mission by making an outright gift. These might include cash or appreciated securities in the form of a memorial gift, a matching gift, an online donation or participation in a monthly giving program. For more information, contact Leah Whidden or Jean Gokorsch at 440-729-9621.

- Ask about becoming a member. For membership information, contact Kim Bihler at 440-729-9621 or kbihler@wrlc.cc, or check our Web site, www.wrlc.cc.

- Donate a conservation easement or land to Western Reserve Land Conservancy to protect the character of your property.

- Consider planned gifts, such as life income plans, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead annuities or unitrusts.

- Make deferred donations, including testamentary gifts, retirement plan benefits, life insurance and life estates.

- Attend Land Conservancy activities and become a volunteer.

- Tell your friends about the Land Conservancy.

- Get outside and enjoy our beautiful region.
The beauty of the natural world is something we all enjoy. Wildflowers in the spring, a babbling brook in the summer, the sounds and smells of the forest in the fall and the quiet solitude of the woods in winter. What would our lives be like if this were gone forever?

You want your children and grandchildren to enjoy the wonders of the outdoors and to share some of your fondest memories. Ensure that they will with a charitable gift annuity with Western Reserve Land Conservancy. You will receive the benefit of tax savings, the financial stability of a fixed income for life and the comfort of knowing that you are protecting precious open space for the enjoyment of generations to come.

For more information on how you can help, please visit our Web site at www.wrlc.cc or contact Jean Gokorsch at 440-729-9621 or jgokorsch@wrlc.cc.

Help keep the joy of nature in her future.
Thank you!
The Land Conservancy is deeply grateful to those whose donations make our work possible. Your support is vital to our mission, and the money you invest with us will be put to good use.
Did you know...

…At the end of fiscal year 2008 – June 30, 2008 – the Land Conservancy had preserved 226 properties and 13,625 acres throughout northern Ohio?
Our gratitude to the following individuals for becoming members of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy Founders Society.

Anonymous (7)
Ames Family Foundation (The)
Dr. Jay Arkeney & Dr. Julie Clayman
Mr. Edward Baker & Dr. Anna Van Heeckeren
Mr. & Mrs. W. Douglas Bannerman
Barbara & Mike Bass
Jerry & Janet Bender
Marion Berkich III
Mark & Melanie Biche
Jean Astrap Faubel Blanche
Rob & Peg Bodel
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bolton
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bowen
Denis & Laura Bowler
Vikki & Peter Broer
Barbara Brown & Steve Ward
Mr. & Mrs. C. Richard Brubaker
Gail & Don Butler
R. Bruce & Jane Campbell
Mary Alice Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Chamberlin, Jr.
Mrs. Walter M. Charnam, Jr.
Mr. Richard & Dr. Jennifer Cochran
The George W. Codrington Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth P. Colebrook
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Colligan
Mrs. Rita Conway
Mr. & Mrs. William Conway
Roger & Fran Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Evan R. Corr
Mr. & Mrs. John Corogin
Patrick G. Coy & Karin L. Tanquist
Margaret E. Cummins
The Cyrus Eaton Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. deConining, Jr.
Dolphin Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. deConining, Jr.
FirstEnergy Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Eppig
Diane & Warren Farr
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Eppig
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We apologize for any omissions. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Leah Whidden at 440-729-9621 or lwhidden@wrlc.cc.
EverGreen EverBlue: An evening of country charm

More than 740 friends of Western Reserve Land Conservancy attended the fifth annual EverGreen EverBlue on Sept. 6 at the 280-acre English country estate of Charlie and Julie Bolton in Mentor.

The largest-ever benefit on behalf of the nonprofit Land Conservancy netted $425,000. More than half of the EverGreen EverBlue guests also purchased special tickets to a prelude party that included a tour of the exquisite Bolton home and gardens.

The celebration of conservation included welcoming remarks by James Spira, chairman of the Land Conservancy Board of Trustees, and President/CEO Richard Cochran, who thanked supporters for helping preserve “special places” in the Western Reserve.

A morning shower gave way to clear skies, and the setting sun provided a gorgeous backdrop for guests who sipped vintage wines, walked the stately property and took rides in wagons drawn by Percheron draft horses brought in by the Boltons from their farm in southern Ohio.

Paddles for Preservation, the auction held at the event, raised $325,000, which will help the Land Conservancy preserve at least 650 acres throughout the region.

Cochran thanked those who made the event possible, including the Boltons, who were the honorary chairs; chairs Sarah Hollington and Debbie Weber; presenting sponsors Kinetico Incorporated and Huntington Bank; corporate sponsors The CJR Group, Inc., Baker Hostetler, The Lake House of Hunting Valley, BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Fifth Third Bank, Jones Day, Primus, Key Wealth Management, Lorain National Bank, Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista, Clanco Management Corp., Thompson Hine, National City, Oswald Companies, Solon Manufacturing Co., Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer, Dealer Tire and Western Reserve Partners; and the EverGreen EverBlue Committee.

Committee members were: Anna Adams, Alice Armstrong, Siri Benjamin, Karen Brubaker, Laura Christie, Nancy Gilkeson, Lydia Harrington, Andrea Hill, Patty Hridel, Sally Hollington, Margaret Juergens, Barb Jung, Kathy Leavenworth, Pat Leech, Kitty Makley, Holley Martens, Claire McMillan, Fran Meyers, Meg Mueller, Amy O’Neil, Faith Pescatore, Kris Rogers, Eliza Saada, Marci Schwab, Connie Searby, Lorie Smith, Nicole Twells, Renee Van de Motter, Monica Wagner and Mary Weber.

Corporate committee members were Owen Colligan, Ron Harrington, Dick Hollington and Scott Mueller.

The Land Conservancy also extends a special thanks to Great Lakes Brewing Company and the Pattie Group.
In Honor of

Mr. Willard P. Acheson
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Ms. Maia Balogh
  Mr. & Mrs. Steven Balogh
  Mr. & Mrs. Mark Eisele
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