Our mission
Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character and natural resources of northern Ohio.
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Field Offices

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34 Merz Boulevard, Suite G
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Phone: 330-836-2271
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P.O. Box 174
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Fax: 440-774-6409

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Except where noted, all photos by David Liam Kyle

*Pending finalization of merger with Grand River Partners
Fiscal year 2009, ending June 30, 2009, was a year of change. At the Land Conservancy it is our custom to pick a theme (usually a single word) for each year as we contemplate our results and our future. Change is a very powerful word with facets of meaning that range from positive to negative. Not all people tolerate change well; change scares them, suffocates them, and paralyzes them. Some people require change; it is the oxygen on which they thrive, it gives them energy and hope. This is a broad spectrum that presents both opportunities and challenges from the perspective of managing an organization of people.

Our Change

Last year, we changed due to our revenue diversification plan, our strategic plan and our contingency plan. Our revenue diversification plan was approved at the beginning of 2008 and represented a significant shift in our revenue strategy. We planned to implement the changes needed during a period of more than four fiscal years. Less than one year into our implementation, the economy and virtually all investments in the world collapsed in October 2008. We were deep into our strategic planning process at this point. In November we convened a contingency planning committee with four trustees and three employees. We cut $300,000 out of our approved budget, and we went into an aggressive implementation of our revenue diversification plan. In about 6 months we developed an amazing 33 percent more program support revenue than our plan called for producing in FY2012.

Our World's Change

And last year, the world changed! Our global economy collapsed, we elected our nation’s first African American President. Impossibly ... GM went bankrupt. Lehman Brothers collapsed. A man named Madoff defrauded people of $65 billion. From February 2008 the DJIA traveled from 12,600 to 6,500 in March 2009 – a 48 percent drop – and then up to 10,000 today, which is 43 percent up from the low, but 35 percent down from its high in late 2007, which is when we approved our revenue diversification plan.

All of this change led to the weakening and even the collapse of many organizations, to the psychological distress of virtually everyone in America, and to an extraordinary amount of personal and organizational stress. The Land Conservancy experienced this stress and distress, but did not experience the weakening, despite all of the external change, despite losing two of our most veteran managers, and despite the internal change of revenue mix which had to happen overnight rather than during a deliberate four-year period.

Consequently, for the 15th consecutive year we increased our net assets, we produced an operating surplus, and we both developed and implemented a new revenue strategy. This was both our most challenging and our most successful year ever.

We want to thank all of you – our donors, our friends, our partners, and all of our kindred souls – for making this organization happen, for leading it, for funding it, for envisioning it, and for governing it so well. It is a great privilege to work for the Land Conservancy, and we are filled with gratitude literally every day to have the opportunity to help advance our mission.

William C. Mulligan
Chair

Richard D. Cochran
President and CEO
Striking a note for conservation

Critically acclaimed pianist Jean Stell, who has dazzled audiences throughout the United States and Europe, chose the Land Conservancy to permanently preserve an oasis close to home.

Stell, who lives in Rocky River and has performed with such powerhouses as the Boston Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra, granted the Land Conservancy a conservation easement that will protect her 78-acre, heavily wooded plot in Ashland County. Stell and her late husband, Ed, purchased the property as a vacation home in the 1970s, and the pianist wanted to work with a local conservation group that shared her passion for the land.

“Some (groups) can be too impersonal,” said Stell, a noted pianist, teacher and founding board member of the Rocky River Chamber Music Society. “I was impressed that the Land Conservancy had the staffing to follow up and make sure everything is done right. I also like the strategy of trying to protect this entire network of land across the region.”

She said she wishes everyone in the region had the same access to parks that she does.

“I love the (Cleveland) Metroparks, and I think Cleveland is a great city,” Stell said.

Stell’s vacation home in Ruggles Township has mature forests, a shimmering 10-acre lake and a wetlands area. The property has more than 115 different plant and tree species, contains several headwater tributaries to the Vermilion River and is teeming with wildlife.

“I wanted a place where the animals can live and the green space is preserved. That is important to me,” she said.
More progress on greenway
In southeast Akron, a partnership between the Land Conservancy and Lockheed Martin has resulted in the remediation of Haley’s Run and the expansion of what may become a 55-acre urban greenway with connections to the Towpath Trail and Springfield Lake. Haley’s Run is a small tributary to Adam’s Run, where the Land Conservancy has preserved property.

Lakeshore forest is preserved
An 8-acre forest that provides habitat for eight species of rare, threatened or endangered birds, including the Red-breasted Nuthatch (above) was preserved by the Land Conservancy and turned over to the village of Bratenahl. The project preserved one of the few remaining mature forests along the Lake Erie coastline in Greater Cleveland.

A natural gem in Portage County
In Portage County, the Land Conservancy helped preserve a 504-acre property in Shalersville that will become the centerpiece of the Portage Park District. The Upper Cuyahoga Bog Preserve contains high-quality wetlands that help cleanse the 25-mile stretch of the Upper Cuyahoga River that has been designated a state scenic river.

Park to expand fishing access
The Land Conservancy partnered with Ashtabula County Metroparks to preserve a 24-acre property in Conneaut, a project that will provide much needed public access to an adjacent 79-acre park along Conneaut Creek. The park will create more opportunities for steelhead fishing and protect a sensitive riparian corridor.
Jim Spira on the Newbury Township property he preserved.
Jim Spira’s love affair with nature began with three backpacking trips to the American West in the late 1950s. Spira, then a teenager, and two friends hiked, camped and soaked up the scenery.

“It was a transformational thing for me,” he said.

Spira’s passion for the outdoors never waned. The retired president and COO of American Greetings Corp. became one of the true pioneers of regional conservation in northern Ohio, leading the largest-ever merger of land trusts in the United States before serving a four-year term as chairman of Western Reserve Land Conservancy during which the organization doubled both the number of preserved acres and the value of its assets.

“Our accomplishments were beyond anyone’s expectations – no one thought we could do this,” Spira said. “We are now gaining momentum, and we’re only getting started.”

A friend explained why Spira has been so successful.

“I believe it comes down to three simple things: Jim’s passion for excellence in all things, Jim’s passion for nature and for our mission, and Jim’s passion for and deep love of people,” said Land Conservancy President and CEO Rich Cochran, who has known Spira for 10 years.

In June, Spira received the Stephen C. Morris Sugar Maple Award for his outstanding conservation vision, leadership and support. Trustee Steve Morris presented the award at the Land Conservancy’s annual Conservation Celebration.

Spira and his wife, Myrna, who live in Shaker Heights, became part of the organization after granting a conservation easement to Chagrin River Land Conservancy – one of the eight land trusts that merged to form Western Reserve Land Conservancy – on their 103-acre property in Newbury Township. Jim Spira joined the Chagrin board in 2001 and chaired the Land Conservancy board from its inception until June 2009.

For the Spiras, the Newbury property is a special place.

“We come here every weekend,” Jim said. “It’s really a year-round retreat for us, our kids and our grandkids. That is the purpose of it.”

More acreage is preserved

In fiscal year 2009, the Land Conservancy preserved another 1,704 acres in northern Ohio.

Over the past three years, we have preserved an average of approximately 2,500 acres annually. To put our pace of land-preservation in perspective, the entire 92-year-old Cleveland Metroparks system encompasses about 20,000 acres. That means the Land Conservancy is creating the acreage equivalent of a new Emerald Necklace every eight years.

The eight individual land conservancies that merged to form Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2006 together protected about 8,000 acres over a 20-year period. In the three years since the merger, the Land Conservancy has already preserved another 7,400 acres – a 92-percent increase over a 20-year total.

Our goal is to have 400,000 acres – about 10 percent of the total amount of land in northern Ohio – permanently preserved, either by the Land Conservancy or one of our conservation partners. About half of that amount has already been protected.
An international freight airport was once proposed for a 504-acre site in rural Portage County. The airport was never built, but the threat of development hovered over the site for years.

Today, this high-quality forest and wetlands area, which protects 8,000 linear feet of a tributary to the Upper Cuyahoga River and is home to several endangered species, including the yellow-bellied sapsucker, is about to become the centerpiece of the Portage Park District, thanks to a successful partnership between the park system and the Land Conservancy.

A ten-year budget of about $200,000 and does not have its own tax levy, did not have the financial capacity to acquire the Shalersville Township property until it joined forces with the Land Conservancy, according to Christine Craycroft, who has been with the park system since 1996 and became its first director in 1998.

“We’re a tiny district without a levy, so the partnership has been invaluable,” Craycroft said. “The Land Conservancy has a full professional staff with the expertise that we just didn’t have in house. This is by far the biggest property we have acquired, and we couldn’t have done it without them.”

Craycroft cited many benefits of conserving the property, including protecting drinking water and wildlife habitat.

“Now, we’re looking forward to developing management plans and seeking community support to turn it into a park,” she said. “It’s a beautiful place, and it will provide value and enjoyment for the public for generations to come.”

The Land Conservancy continues to secure public funding for land-protection projects in northern Ohio. During fiscal year 2009, the Land Conservancy secured funding for 10 projects involving public dollars in the amount of $8,424,566 from eight separate sources.

The funding sources include state and federal grants plus local and private dollars linked to public funding projects. Sixty-five percent of the funding (about $5.5 million) came from state programs, while 24 percent (about $2 million) was secured from federal sources.

The largest single grants secured in FY2009 were state Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program awards: $1,785,000 for the Upper Cuyahoga Bog Preserve in Portage County (see story at right) and $1,725,000 for Orchard Hills Park in Geauga and Lake counties. Public funding secured by the Land Conservancy — sometimes in the name of a county or local park district — remains a vital source for new parkland in the Western Reserve.

**Ten projects get public funding**

**A partnership creates a park**

**FY 2009 Land Protection Funding Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEDERAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>$5,497,566</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCAL</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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Christine Craycroft at the Upper Cuyahoga Bog Preserve
Dontez Taylor checks out the newly preserved property in Medina Township.
More chances to enjoy nature

Dontez Taylor’s love of the outdoors was born in the inner city. Dontez, 16, of Medina, joined a Boy Scout troop when he was living in Cleveland’s St. Clair Avenue neighborhood. The first time he went on a campout, he was hooked.

“I never had s’mores before, I’d never been around a campfire and I had never slept in a tent. I found out I liked it,” he said.

Today, Dontez, a sophomore at Medina High School, is an avid camper who enjoys spending time outdoors. While he is a good athlete – Dontez is a long jumper in track, a third baseman in baseball and a small forward in basketball – he is just as much at home in nature.

“I love the smell of the campfire. The bugs, not so much,” he said with a laugh.

Dontez was happy to learn the Land Conservancy, Medina Township and the Medina County Park District had preserved a 20-acre tract on Weymouth Road (state Route 3) for a new county park. The land is just across the street from Blakslee Park, where Dontez plays summer baseball.

“That’s awesome, it really is,” he said. “I just think going to a park or being outside is better than staying inside at home, playing (video) games and doing the same old things.”

Creating a network of preserved land

The Land Conservancy’s service region extends from Sandusky Bay to the Pennsylvania border, and from Cleveland’s lakefront to the farms of Wayne County.

In fiscal year 2009 alone, the Land Conservancy preserved property in seven of the 14 counties in its service region and protected land in Ashland County, a special project area. Nine of the 20 projects we completed in FY2009 involved public land; those public-land projects represented 66 percent of the total acreage preserved during the year.

The number of counties in which the Land Conservancy has preserved property is a reflection of our regional goal of protecting 400,000 acres throughout northern Ohio. There are only two counties in the Land Conservancy’s service region without any completed projects: Mahoning and Wayne.
Opening doors to the outdoors

Northern Ohio anglers have one of the world’s finest steelhead trout fisheries in their back yard but sometimes struggle to find places along those streams where they can wet a line.

Jeff Liskay, one of Ohio’s premier steelhead fishing experts and a longtime advocate for greater river access, is applauding the Land Conservancy’s efforts to create more places to fish. Liskay, 49, of North Olmsted, said the fishing community supports the Land Conservancy’s efforts to preserve prime streamside acreage and open it to the public.

“Without Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the park systems, there would be very little land set aside for public fishing along these beautiful streams,” said Liskay, who has had a life-long love affair with the rivers, ponds and lakes of northern Ohio.

Liskay applauded the Land Conservancy’s efforts to preserve land along streams that empty into Lake Erie. The projects include the acquisition of a 24-acre parcel in Conneaut, one that is adjacent to 79 acres already owned by the Ashtabula County MetroParks. In addition, the Land Conservancy’s pending merger with Grand River Partners is expected to result in additional land-protection opportunities along that stream.

In recent years, Liskay, who helped found the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders organization and is a fly fishing ambassador for Patagonia, has focused on helping to create additional access to the region’s main steelhead fishing streams, including the Vermilion River, Rocky River, Cuyahoga River, Chagrin River, Grand River and Conneaut Creek.

Many steelhead anglers depend on public access, according to Liskay. “You can’t believe what it means to the ‘destination’ fisherman. Does he really have time to get permission slips (from private property owners)?” he asked.

Liskay was one of the volunteer guides who participated in April’s Steelhead Spectacular, a hands-on fishing event co-sponsored by the Land Conservancy and OCBS.

A key part of the Land Conservancy’s mission is preserving land for those who enjoy outdoor sports, including fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing. The Land Conservancy believes outdoor recreation opportunities are important to our region’s future.
Jeff Liskay advocates for better public access to northern Ohio’s streams
Evelyn Frohling is at home on the family farm.
Family chooses
to protect its farm

At the Frohring farm, customers buy sweet corn and eggs on the honor system – no one is there to make sure they pay. Don’t have the precise amount? Just reach into the jar marked “Change.”

“People are generally very good about it,” said Evelyn Frohring, who grew up on the Newbury Township farm, which her parents received as a wedding gift in 1947. “They’re grateful for the fresh food.”

The farm will continue to provide food for local people. That is because Evelyn, who lives in Newbury, and her brothers, Ernie of Massachusetts and Brian of Oregon, have made their parents’ dream come true by permanently protecting the family’s property. The Frohring family has donated conservation easements totaling 308 acres to the Land Conservancy.

“We have about a mile of frontage (on public roads), so if we had not done this there would probably be houses there,” Evelyn Frohring said. “Now, no matter what, it will be a farm. It makes all of us rest easier.”

In June, the Frohring family received the Grimm Family Conservation Medal at the Land Conservancy’s annual Conservation Celebration. Evelyn and Ernie Frohring accepted the award from Trustee Dick Grimm, who described the natural wonders of the Frohring property as “a cross-section of what everyone hopes Geauga County would be.”

In addition to the productive farmland, the property contains old-growth timber.

“I think preserving farmland is very important,” Evelyn Frohring said. “Agriculture is vital – we all eat food. I think it’s important to save this land whenever we can.”

Monitoring our protected properties

The Land Conservancy’s stewardship team is now visiting more than 250 protected properties per year, staying connected with property owners and the land they love.

The annual monitoring visits are made to check on the use of each protected parcel and to protect its conservation value. In fiscal year 2009, the Land Conservancy added properties – and stewardship responsibilities – in two new counties, Erie and Ashland.

The stewardship program is the third part of the Land Conservancy’s three-step land-preservation process. First, we identify what properties in northern Ohio should be permanently preserved. Second, we work to protect the land using a variety of conservation planning tools. The stewardship visits ensure that this land stays protected. Stewardship work is increasing, and the work is becoming more interesting, as the Land Conservancy preserves more properties.
Carter Wilmot leans against a tree he planted as a boy.
A family legacy of preservation

Last summer, Carter Wilmot and three of his grandchildren were driving by the family’s Broadview Heights pasture when the kids noticed a ewe and two lambs alone in the field.

It was odd that the sheep were separated from the herd. Wilmot knew it.

More significantly, so did his grandchildren. Aelish Wilmot, 19, sister Isabelle, 16, and brother John, 13, had spent many summer days at the family farm and around the lambs.

“Before I could finish talking, they were running out into the field,” Carter Wilmot said.

The kids discovered the ewe was exhausted and lying down in the pasture, unwilling or unable to move. The lambs, in turn, did not know what to do. With a little nudge from the Wilmot children, the ewe was soon up and moving. She and the lambs then rejoined the herd.

“I thought it was telling that (the children) wanted to help,” Wilmot said.

It is equally telling that Carter Wilmot, 81, and his wife, Genevieve, turned down offers from housing developers and preserved the 78-acre farm – one that was established by Henry Carter in 1850 as one of the first settlements of the Western Reserve – for his family.

“Four generations before me had sacrificed and held onto this property through good times and bad times,” Wilmot said. “I wanted to protect it from bulldozers and asphalt.”

Today, Carter and Genevieve, who are charter members of the Land Conservancy’s White Oak Legacy Society, live in a house they built on the property. One of their three sons, David, now runs the farm, which is used for timber, sheep and hay.

Aelish Wilmot said the farm will always be part of her life. “I can’t imagine this place not being here – it is so beautiful,” she said. “It would be so bad if it were sold off. You can find a (housing) subdivision anywhere, but places like this are special.”

This special group of Land Conservancy supporters have made a lasting commitment to land protection through a variety of estate-planning tools, including bequests in a will or trust, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, IRA designations or gifts of life insurance.

**Members include:**
- Dr. Jay Ankeney & Dr. Julie Clayman
- Thomas E. Baker
- Peter and Molly Balunek
- Sara Balogh
- Beau Daane
- Charlotte Karson Daiber
- Mark Frank
- Richard and Susan Grimm
- Mary Jane Hartwell
- Patricia Hazelton
- Ferdinand and Marguerite Jereb
- Stephen C. Morris
- Nora Lynn Nemec
- Hugh and Gretta Pallister
- Faith Pescatore
- Dr. George Matthew Peterson Jr.
- Dr. John Bernard Peterson
- Rose Scheeff
- Charlotte Stafford
- Herbert J. and Faith Swanson
- Jean Thompson
- Dr. Barry Walker
- Josephine Hannel Weber
- Genevieve and Carter Wilmot
- Anonymous (5)

© deceased
### Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2009

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<thead>
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<th>June 30, 2008</th>
<th>Changes</th>
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<td>12,343,390</td>
<td>(1,569,519)</td>
<td>10,773,871</td>
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| **LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE** |       |              |              |
| Accounts Payable       | 37,347 | (22,084)     | 15,263       |
| Loans Payable          | 4,551,533 | (1,556,032) | 2,995,501    |
| Other Liabilities      | 2,169,831 | (1,192,043) | 977,788      |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES**  | 6,758,711 | (2,770,159) | 3,988,552    |

| **NET ASSETS**         |       |              |              |
| Unrestricted           | 2,430,522 | 1,269,708   | 3,700,230    |
| Temporarily Restricted | 3,154,157 | (69,068)    | 3,085,089    |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS**   | 5,584,679 | 1,200,640   | 6,785,319    |

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |       |              |              |
| **$12,343,390**         | $(1,569,519) | $10,773,871 |              |
# Statement of Revenue and Expenses

## July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

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<tr>
<th>Revenue Category</th>
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<th>Revenue %</th>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,419,079</strong></td>
<td><strong>84%</strong></td>
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**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES** $1,200,640 16%
From a morning of yoga in the park to a day of steelhead fishing to a night of searching for owls, the Land Conservancy organized or took part in nearly 100 community events in the past year.

More than 300 people attended “Practicing on the Preserve: A Celebration of Yoga and Conservation,” a joint Land Conservancy-Cleveland Yoga event at Orchard Hills Park in August. In April, the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders provided expert volunteer guide services for about 40 anglers at our Steelhead Spectacular. And in October, about 90 people searched for owls at our annual Hoot and Harvest Festival in Medina.

Other events included our annual Kids in the Creek, Triple Tap, a dragonfly walk in Medina County and dozens of hikes, wildflower walks, bird releases and canoe trips.

Land Conservancy employees and volunteers also staffed booths at community festivals and made presentations to garden clubs, civic organizations and other groups.

“We are seeing more people and different people at our events. That is a good sign for our organization and for our mission,” said Kim Bihler, the Land Conservancy’s manager of membership and special events.
Western Reserve Land Conservancy Donors

Visionaries
$25,000 and over
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William Bingham Foundation
Mrs. Gerald N. Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. Evan R. Cohn
Dolphin Paul
& Maxine Frohling Foundation, Inc.
GAI Foundation
Susan & Dick Grimm
The George Gund Foundation
Herbert W. Hoover Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kilroy II
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McMannis
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kilroy II
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McMannis
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kilroy II
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McMannis
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kilroy II
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McMannis

Conservators
$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous (3)
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Guardians
$5,000 - $9,999
Anonymous (5)
Black River Auditorium
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Foundation
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Billi & Kathy O'Neill
William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Ray
Remington Products Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Scovil
The Veale Foundation
Mr. David Wilmot
Barbara & David Wolfort
Stewards
$1,500 - $4,999
Anonymous (6)
Dick & Joan Ainsworth
Jay Arkeny & Julie Clayman
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Balaneuk
Jerry & Janet Bender
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...at our rate of land preservation over the past three years (about 2,500 acres annually), we will create the equivalent of a new Cleveland Metroparks system every eight years?
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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 takes us to a bygone era

A polo demonstration, antique cars, a hot-air balloon flight and a biplane flyover helped recreate – at least for one night – a bygone era during the Land Conservancy’s sixth annual EverGreen EverBlue celebration Sept. 11 at historic White North Stables in Hunting Valley.

More than 600 friends of the Land Conservancy attended the event, which netted more than $200,000 for the nonprofit organization and helped raise awareness of its mission.

Event chairs were Anne and Bill Kilroy and Margaret and Loyal Wilson, while the honorary host chairs were Marian and Michael Shaughnessy. The event committee included Alice Armstrong, Tracy Baker, Sigrid Bergfeld, Laura Christie, Kathy Goss, Susan Greig, Nancy Heinen, Andrea Hill, Sarah Hollington, Suzy Hyde, Kathy Leavenworth, Kitty Makley, Fran Meyers, Meg Mueller, Hattie Mulligan, Katie Nook, Laura Pinnick, Mary Reynolds, Mary Karen Samar, Caroline Selman, Lynne Shiverick, Debbie Weber and Ann Wieland.

Presenting sponsors were Key Bank and The Kilroy Company. Corporate sponsors were The CJR Group, Inc., Benesch Attorneys at Law, BNY Mellon/Wealth Management, Primus, Litigation Management, Inc., enlight, Lubrizol, National City and designRoomcreative.

In the halcyon days of the Chagrin Valley equestrian community, as many as 8,000 people attended pre-World War I polo matches at historic stables, formerly Halfred Farms. Several prominent Cleveland families – the Merritts, Herricks, Mathers and Wades – owned property at the picturesque corner of Chagrin River Road and Shaker Boulevard.

Today, White North Stables have been restored and the 76-acre property is permanently protected.
Bill and Hattie Mulligan, Rich Cochran, Margaret and Loyal Wilson
Kitty and John Makley, Nancy and Neal Lavelle
Lynn Shiverick, Jim and Dale Naylor, Meg and Scott Mueller
Julie and Jay Ankeney, Charlie and Julie Bolton, Pat and John Leech, Michael and Marian Shaughnessy
Betsy Juliano, Charles and Becky McClure, Gary Schamb and Faith Pescatore
Rich Cochran conducts the auction
Sara Mansour, Victoria and Owen Colligan, Katie Outcalt
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.
Thank you to the following people on behalf of Western Reserve Land Conservancy and our local chapters:

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- Larry and Karen Bettcher
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- The Pattie Group
- Brad Phillips
- Jack Pierson
- Bridgette Poplars
- Portage Park District
- Miles Reed
- Art Ripley
- Hal Rohlik
- Judy Rosselli
- Brad Ruebensaal
- Dean Sheldon
- Carrie Sloan
- Jack Smith
- Barbara Starre
- Ray Stewart
- Dan Styer
- Congressman Betty Sutton
- Cynthia Szunyog
- Gloria Terpay
- Grant Thompson
- Kenny, Carol & Rolland Tkach, Hostile Valley Campground
- Senator George Voinovich
- Susan Wendt
- Helen Wheeler
- Robert Wheeler
- Paula Whewell
- Lee Will
- Carter Wilrod
- Steven Wojtal
- Brandon Wood