

# Ripples

A Publication for Members and Friends  
Killbuck Watershed Land Trust

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## Failed recruitment attempt got great result

About a decade ago, Maryanna Biggio phoned the Big Prairie home of Dave and Linda Bush. Her goal was to recruit Dave, then the owner of Adena Construction in Mansfield, as a Holmes County representative to the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust Board of Trustees.

Unfortunately, Dave had so many other commitments that he said no.

Fortunately, his wife Linda said, "I'll do it!"

The resulting relationship has been fruitful for all parties involved. For Linda and Dave, their 80 rustic acres a long stone's throw from Odell Lake is now protected by a conservation easement. For KWLTL, Dave donated materials and the use of heavy equipment to create a parking area at

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**IT SHOULD BE** no mystery to Linda Bush why birds sometimes avoid the multi-feeder station that husband Dave built in their Big Prairie yard.

## Change of seasons has been a delight

Dear Friends,

Most of the acres preserved through conservation easements with KWLTL are farms in the six counties which we serve. The counties include Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Richland, Tuscarawas and Wayne.

Farming is hard work and rewarding at the same time. Weather conditions play such an important part in the success or failure of a farming season - spring sowing, summer growing and fall harvest with winter

months devoted to the maintenance of machinery and keeping livestock happy and healthy.

We've been extraordinarily blessed this fall with almost perfect weather conditions. Most cropland is clear and tilling is underway. The leaves delighted us with brilliant and unusually long-lasting autumn colors.

It is late November and there is a forecast for colder weather, but right now the sky is deep blue and the sun is warming. We have had our

"Indian Summer" three times.

The National Weather Service defines Indian Summer as weather conditions that are sunny and clear with above normal temperatures and usually occurring after a killing frost. We noted at least two hard frosts in our area in October and then again in November.

After each frost we had stretches of warm, shirtsleeve days and balmy nights. It was warm enough for our cat to stay out for the nights and

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*Promoting, protecting and preserving our natural heritage*

## Hawk Farm is tribute to couple's grandparents

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the KWLTL-owned Brinkhaven Oak Barrens property in southwestern Holmes County and also got Linda's continuing service as KWLTL co-secretary.

Dave and Linda bought what would become Hawk Farm in 1974 with the dream of a rural life like their grandparents had enjoyed. Their purchase included 50 acres of woods and 30 acres of farmable land with a bank barn and a century-old house.

They recently purchased an adjacent five-acre property with a house for a farm manager to oversee the land while the Bushes enjoy retirement travel.

Dave has fond memories of his grandfather's farm near Washington Court House. Its flat fields were very unlike the rolling terrain of Hawk Farm, or of Linda's grandfather's farm south of Shreve where they lived in a mobile home years ago before buying their own place.

"So many farms have been chunked off into building lots. We didn't want that to happen to our place," says Linda, recalling her relief in learning about conservation easements through her KWLTL involvement.

Her vision has always been to own a 100-acre self-sustaining farm – not that Linda and Dave plan to ride around on tractors all day. The current livestock count includes four head of cattle (future freezer beef for the extended Bush family), a spacious coop of happy, bug-scratching chickens and some pigs on the farm manager's land.

Their woods is a resource, both for occasional tree harvest through their forestry plan and for venison harvested by their son Matt from several tree stands. They buy produce and meat from The Shepherd's Market, a CSA (community supported agriculture) farm down the road that also sells through Local Roots in Wooster. The market owner, who farms "just the way I would," Linda says, makes hay on the Bush property.



**LINDA AND DAVE** Bush pose with canine companion Tucker at their rural home near Big Prairie.

There's a strong sense of history everywhere at Hawk Farm. Inside, photos of son Matt of Columbus and daughter Kristi Brooks of Hocking Hills and their families share space with shots of earlier generations.

Among Linda's prized antiques is the base from an anvil of the long-gone blacksmith shop that once did business nearby.

No doubt Linda and Dave's most ambitious history-related project was dismantling and moving to Hawk Farm a log cabin and parts of two other crumbling cabins from nearby Long Lake. The main cabin, said to have been constructed in

1753, was rebuilt in 1935 and used by the Shreve Club (a group of area businessmen) as a gathering place.

Even with all of Dave's resources and abilities as a former construction company owner, the project ("I thought it would be done in a weekend," Linda remembers) took five years. But all that work has resulted in Linda's prized "quiet spot," a pristine one-room cabin perched near the top of Crow Hill. Inside, the loft is a popular sleepout spot for the four Bush grandchildren.

Linda notes that not far down the back side of Crow Hill is Fern Valley, the diverse 56-acre property donated by KWLTL co-secretary David Wilkin and his wife Betty to The College of Wooster (see Ripples Fall 2011 issue).

Having a young couple on site as their property managers allows the Bushes to pursue their favorite pastime of cruising the Great Lakes, the Atlantic coast and beyond on their 65-foot Fairline yacht, Sea Hawk III (see Ripples Winter 2012 issue).

The Bushes are actively involved in Wooster's First Presbyterian Church, and Dave serves on the Ashland University Board of Trustees.

*Melody L. Snure, Ripples editor*



**LINDA BUSH** enjoys the tranquility of the historic cabin, five years in the move and rebuilding, that now commands a view of Hawk Farm from a high point at the edge of the woods.

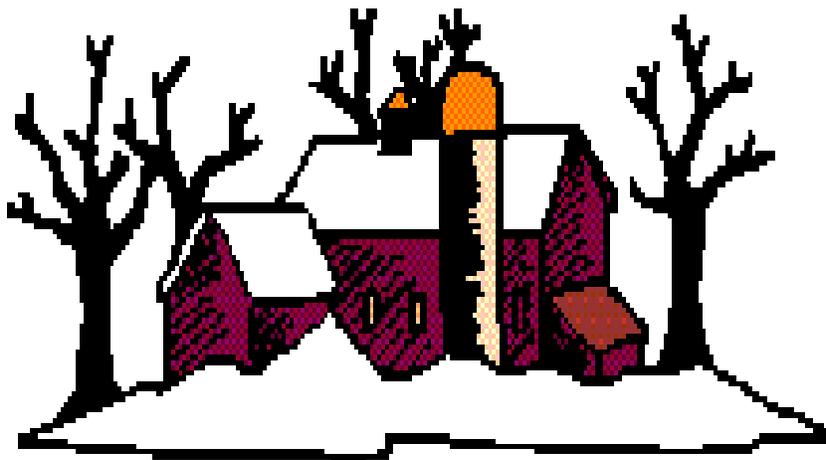
# Order in the stable as winter nears

We are at that time of the year when the animals assembled in the barn remind us of the manger scene so long ago. While perhaps not displaying the love and companionship of the animals in that little Judean inn stable, ours have gotten along reasonably well, except for the winter we had a goat running with the dairy herd.

The pygmy goat, Bill, was bought by our son and daughter-in-law sometime during the summer as a kid for their children's enjoyment. As things tend to turn on farms, at least ours, Bill grew into adulthood and became a part of the cow herd. And over the course of the winter he became my pet.

At that time our herd was kept in loose housing — very loose, I used to call it, and it took tons of straw to keep them clean. It was always my job to bed the shed (threshed straw) every evening and morning.

Before our children reached adulthood they took turns helping me. Each took a turn for the full winter. But by the time Bill came to live with



us, our children were grown and I was back to doing it on my own, that is, until Bill became my friend.

Up until Christmas Bill remained aloof. While he followed me around with my fork full of straw, he stayed a good ten feet away. I longed to pet him. Not until I got down on hands and knees and we looked at each other eye to eye did he come closer. Finally he got the courage to nibble my hat brim, and then he allowed me to scratch his head and our friendship was sealed.

For the rest of the winter he was always by my side, tight against my leg, as we strawed the forty- by eighty-foot loafing area. The goat was

my guardian. If a cow got too close or in our way, he would butt her in the ribs and he would remember for several days to give the transgressor a head butt or two. I found out that goats not only get mad, they also get even.

As the winter progressed, Bill became a bit quarrelsome with the other animals in the barn. He jumped into the feed boxes of the calves

and horses, then leapt out and darted between the horses' legs and was long gone by the time the Belgian's hoof lashed out. He enjoyed harassing the cats and dogs, especially while they were drinking milk. If the dogs gave chase he hopped up on the box stall wall and with those strange yellow eyes stared down the dogs.

Sometime the next spring or summer Bill found a new home and left our farm. While we don't have a goat to liven up this winter's barn, it is far from a dull place. Cats come and go. A new Jack Russell — with the help of the grandchildren — now has run of the milking stable and keeps the cats annoyed. All but one — Old White, our best rat-killing cat — is fearless. If the dog gets too close she gives him a good clawing and that's that. The stable din settles and the barn becomes a peaceable kingdom for a while.

Winter barns are wonderful with their animal smells and sounds. As an Alberta Clipper bears down on us it is nice to have the beasts comfortable and cared for, and as we leave we close the doors against the arctic blast. It is akin to quietly closing the door of the bedroom after having covered the child with a warm blanket and we all settle in for a long winter's night.

*David Kline, KWLТ trustee*

## Your KWLТ membership helps to conserve area lands

Your membership in the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust helps to maintain the rural atmosphere that has made our area a desirable and unique place to live. Your 2016 membership dues will be used for:

- Conservation education
- Public outreach
- Land acquisition and management
- Legal action to monitor and maintain conservation easements

Annual membership levels are:

Friend, \$50

Steward, \$100

Conservator, \$250

Protector, \$500

To become a new member or to renew your membership for 2016, write a check payable to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. Mail it to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, 133 S. Market St., Wooster, OH 44691. Killbuck Watershed Land Trust is a tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations are tax deductible.

# Indian Summer goes by many names around the world

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present us with “gifts” of mice and moles at the back door in the early morning hours. Not so lucky for those critters.

Who coined the expression “Indian Summer”? Although the exact origins are unknown, it was perhaps so-called because it was first noted in regions inhabited by Native Americans based on the warm, hazy conditions in autumn when native Americans hunted. Similar weather conditions exist in other parts of the world. A warm period in autumn is called “old women’s summer” in parts of Europe and “grandma’s summer” in Russia, Serbia and Croatia. (I am an old woman and a grandma so I appreciate the association).

In temperate parts of South America such as southernmost Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, the phenomenon is known as “little summer” and usually occurs in early autumn between late April and mid-May. Its onset and duration are directly associated with the occurrence of El Nino. In some of these countries it is connected to autumnal name days or saint days.

Whatever the case, we are most grateful for the lovely weather we have experienced in the fall of 2015. Now the back porch is stacked with firewood and we are anticipating cranking up the woodburning stove and settling back with a good book. Cold winter is a good season, too!

\* \* \* \*

With this issue of *Ripples*, the last quarterly for 2015, we are making our annual appeal to our friends and landowners

to consider a donation to KWLTL when you are deciding how to share your end of the year philanthropy dollars. In an address during the Wayne County Community Foundation annual dinner, Ron Holtman, KWLTL Treasurer, expressed that charitable giving is the heart of the nation and on a local level it is the heart of a community. It is an opportunity for us to make a commitment about those things that have an impact on our lives.

The dedicated all-volunteer board of trustees of KWLTL relies on the monetary support of our friends who see the value of sustaining and protecting the natural beauty and economic stability of our communities. The challenge and importance of protecting farmland for the future grows greater every year. That is what we do, and we feel we do it well. We hope you agree and that you will continue to assist us financially.

Please make your check payable to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. Mail it to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, 133 S. Market St., Wooster, Ohio 44691. We are a tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Thank you!

**Maryanna Biggio, President  
KWLTL Board of Trustees**

## Monarch articles draw feedback from our readers

Thank you to everyone who responded to the two articles in the last issue of *Ripples* on monarch butterflies. We learned from Stephani Hinden and her daughter Deborah the caterpillars eating dill in the herb garden were (or would have been) swallowtails. Fortunately we had many swallowtails enjoying the rest of the season feeding off parsley, dill and fennel and we left them alone.

Swallowtails are not as shy as Monarchs when it comes to close encounters with humans; we've had them land on our shoulders, and they are very accommodating to close-up photo opportunities.

Skip Nault, former KWLTL board member and retired OARDC entomologist, wrote to say that back in 1991 when he was president of the Entomological Society of America, one



of the ESA committees was lobbying Congress to make the monarch the official national insect, but nothing came of it.

However, this past winter the U.S. government announced the first federal pot of money for rescuing monarchs, with the Fish and Wildlife Service earmarking \$3.2 million for the effort. We will follow up on that and have more information in the May, 2016 issue of *Ripples*.

We met author and butterfly specialist Christopher Kline (no relation to David) at the Buckeye Book Fair this fall. Christopher expressed mixed feelings on naming the monarch as the national insect. He claims doing so would place too many prohibitions on how we backyard gardeners and nature lovers would be able to enjoy the life-cycle of the monarch. More on that in the spring issue.

Thanks to new KWLTL members Lynn and Aaron Hayes for sharing an article from *Birds and Blooms* listing top flower picks for attracting butterflies. Please send us your garden successes for inclusion in the May issue. On our winter reading list are “Chasing Monarchs” by Robert Michael Pyle and “Chrysalis” by Kim Todd.

**Maryanna Biggio, President  
KWLTL Board of Trustees**