



Ripples

A Publication for Members and Friends
Killbuck Watershed Land Trust

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Spring 2013

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 the IRS Code.

Wildlife artist and auctions are featured at May 18 gala for KWLT in Millersburg

Renowned wildlife artist Christopher Walden will create a unique piece of art during the Saturday, May 18, fundraiser for Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. Walden's art will highlight the list of items that will be auctioned during the gala.

Tickets remain available for our Evening With The

Artist dinner and auction at Hotel Millersburg. The \$50 per person price includes a full-course meal, two tickets for beer or wine during the reception, and the right to bid on a wide array of items in the live sale led by Holmes County auctioneer Dave Kauffman and in both a silent auction and a raffle.



Door prizes also will be awarded during the evening, when Hotel Millersburg will offer a reduced room rate of \$75 (plus tax) to KWLT gala

ticketholders.

A weekend for 2-6 people on a Lake Erie yacht (far left) with owners Linda and Dave Bush awaits



the successful bidder. Linda is KWLT's board secretary.

Silent auction items include the rare 1916 "Birds of New York," a collection of 106 full-color bird plates (see above) donated by David and Betty Wilkin; David serves as a KWLT trustee.

Says Board President
See AUCTION, Page 4

Conundrums face members of KWLT board

Dear Friends,

The Killbuck Watershed Land Trust is among 19 organizations around the state designated as certified local sponsors to submit applications from interested landowners in the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation. KWLT board members Barry Cavanna and Maryanna Biggio attended a training session on April 17 to learn how to apply to the program, now known as LAEPP, on behalf of local farmland families

Our dilemma is to decide whether, as an all-volunteer land trust, we have the necessary time and expertise to adequately represent

landowners who wish to enter into this process with us. This question will be addressed at our next scheduled board meeting on April 30. Applications for the 2013 funding round open on May 1. Through the years we have formed successful partnerships with landowners in Ashland and Wayne counties with a combined total of 2,012 acres in the state program. We hope to continue to do so.

Readers from Wayne County are familiar with the story of the Gault Family Learning center being turned over to The College of Wooster as of July 1. Programs housed in the building are looking for new sites and that

See CONUNDRUMS on Page 2

Promoting, protecting and preserving our natural heritage



Annual meeting draws supporters to KWLT office

The annual meeting of Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, held Feb. 20 at our office in Wooster, drew an enthusiastic group of supporters. Speaker was KWLT trustee Robert Stutzman (photo above, seated), an attorney who discussed the status of oil and gas drilling in our region and its impact on conservation easements. Re-elected were officers (from left in photo at left) Vice President Neal Caldwell of Coshocton, Secretary Linda Bush of Big Prairie, and Treasurer Ron Holtman and President Maryanna Biggio, both of Wooster.



Conundrums face KWLT Board of Trustees

Continued from Page 1

includes KWLT. We have enjoyed a beautiful office location in the building for almost two years. We have been extraordinarily fortunate to have had Melody Snure as our executive administrator (She came with the building!).

Melody has encouraged us to operate the land trust in many more efficient ways, and she has edited this newsletter. The good news is that she plans to continue helping us edit and publish Ripples, and we have several locations we are exploring as possible office space. We should be able to report on our new address by the August issue.

We have recently completed work involved in creating a deed of conservation easement that will protect more than 850 acres of productive farmland in eastern Wayne County. We were very excited when the landowner contacted us. The family wanted to assure that these acres would always be

used for agriculture. They were very clear that donating a protective easement to KWLT was their method of choice. We love it when something like this happens. You can read more about this farm in a future issue of Ripples.

The board has been busy for months planning our first major fundraising event. It will be a dinner/auction at Hotel Millersburg on Saturday, May 18. Dewey Thompson, board member from Coshocton County, is chairman of the event.

The featured item is a wildlife painting by noted artist Christopher Walden, a friend of Dewey's. Walden will create a painting while the party is going on, and it will be auctioned at the end of the evening. Read Page 4 for a description of other major items to be offered during the auction. Please plan to attend – both to have a wonderful time and to show your support for KWLT. Thank you!

Maryanna Biggio, KWLT President

Staking your dreams: lesson from a lark

I was unloading the last of the manure when the lark took flight. Although I wanted to clean the spreader before lunch and was late already, I couldn't help but watch the show.

The male horned lark took off from the ground to my left and swiftly gained altitude. Every hundred feet or so he would circle and sing, then continue his ascent. Finally when the lark was barely visible, he alternately soared and flapped in a large circle, constantly singing a soft twittering song.

I strained to watch until my eyes watered. After maybe ten minutes of showing off his aerial and musical skills to his supposed-to-be-impressed mate somewhere nearby in the hayfield, the lark folded his wings and dropped like a plumb bob. Waiting until the last second before opening his wings and gliding to land almost at the very spot he had taken flight from, the lark really impressed me, if not his mate.



I never tire of the horned lark's courtship display. For one, it was still winter and the horned lark was already thinking spring. And spring was still several severe snowstorms and many cold nights away. But the lark proclaimed spring long before the skunk cabbage's first little notation of the season, the peepers calling from the bog, colt's foot brightening the roadsides, and robins in the dooryard.

Horned larks are the first songbirds to nest here in the Midwest. One year I found a horned lark's nest with three eggs at the end of March and showed it

to a friend. A week later an April snowstorm (20 inches) destroyed the nest. The cold and the destruction of their first clutch didn't deter the optimistic birds. They renested as soon as the snow was gone.

In favorable springs, newly fledged larks will be feeding in tilled fields by the latter part of April. Immature larks are great in confusing beginning birders — there is simply nothing in the field guide to match that nondescript bird feeding near the flock of American pipits ... is it a longspur?

To me, the pair of horned larks' optimism is the hope and promise of spring. Whenever I come across the larks' well-hidden nest in the hayfield or pasture, I think of Barry Lopez's words in *Arctic Dreams*, "In a simple bow from the waist before the nest of the horned lark, you are able to stake your life, again, in what you dream."

By David Kline, KWLTL Trustee

Chris Schmid championed protection of farmland

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely passing in February of one of our most loyal supporters and a champion of farmland preservation, Chris Schmid.

Chris and his wife Laurel had recently moved to Lakewood, Ohio, from Wooster. Chris was well known in Wayne County and all of northeast Ohio for his successful efforts to promote economic development in the area. Chris stressed that healthy economies always should focus on the agricultural industry, and he never let the development interests forget that land and productive soils are the backbone of our great communities.

Perhaps it was growing up in Germany that influenced Chris's philosophy that good agricultural land is a premium

never to be taken for granted and which must be protected. He chaired the Wayne County Farmland Preservation Task Force more than a decade ago. One of the recommendations of the task force was to form a private, non-profit land trust that would work with landowners and, at times, government programs. That recommendation was the catalyst for creation of the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. Laurel was one of our first trustees and we treasured and relied on her wise advice.

A quote from John Quincy Adams was used at Chris Schmid's memorial service: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." That was Chris, and we miss him.

Maryanna Biggio, KWLTL President

Trail events return; kids' running camp new to WMP

There will be several trail running events this summer in Wooster Memorial Park. Brian Polen, owner of Vertical Runner in Wooster, will be hosting a Fundraising Race for Lou Gehrig's Disease involving 3-person teams over a 5-15k course (proceeds to go to the ALS Society), a Kids Summer Running Camp (ages 6-12) on Tuesdays and Thursdays (1-hour each) for 6 weeks

(proceeds to be reinvested into the camp), and a 15k Fundraising Race for WMP (proceeds to go to Friends of Wooster Memorial Park). For more information, please email Brian at www.verticalrunner.com.

Jason Burgett, president of the Wooster Sweaters Running Club, is proposing another 6-week cross country race series in the Old Education

Area and old farm field (approximately 3 miles). Jason organized a similar running series last year, and raised \$300 for FWMP to benefit the park. Jason's series will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 19 to July 24.

For additional information, email Jason at woostersweaters@gmail.com.

Learn more about Wooster Memorial Park at friendsofwmp.com

Auction will feature art, getaways, and much more

Continued from Page 1

Maryanna Biggio, “We have been to many benefit auctions, all for good causes and all having great items to buy, donated by generous supporters of a particular organization. However, we don’t think we have ever seen such an exciting array of individual art pieces and weekend adventures gathered at one time and going home with the successful bidder as those included in the KWLTL dinner/auction.”

In addition to those mentioned, here are some of the other items to be featured for auction on May 18:

- Original wood sculpture of Great Blue Heron (at right) in Wayne County cherry by Tony Biggio, artist.



- Weekend for up to six people in a rustic log cabin deep in the woods on the 2009 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year in southwest Holmes County. An October weekend would be the ideal time to experience the trees in all their glory. Donated by Bob and Karen Hunter; Bob is a KWLTL trustee. See it at the website naturesretreat.net.



- “The Piney Forest” (above), a 102x102-inch conservation quilt created by KWLTL President Maryanna Biggio.
- An Italian evening for eight: Bocce, Cucina – le Madri, Tall Tales Italia – le Pappi on a Wayne County Farm that is protected by a conservation easement. Donated by KWLTL trustees Phil Mariola, Ron Holtman and Maryanna Biggio.
- Small-size dry sink painted in the Rufus Porter Style by folk artist Christopher Gurshin of Newburyport, Mass. and donated by KWLTL supporters Roseanne and Al Burger.
- One-night stay for two at Cricket Hill Cabins in the beautiful hills of eastern Holmes County. Included is an evening visit by David and Elsie Kline who will regale guests with unusual lore and legend of Holmes County secret places. Donated by Martha and Michael Kline

(Michael’s father David Kline is a KWLTL trustee). See it at the website CricketHillCabins.com.

- A day of trout fishing with former KWLTL trustee Lowell (Skip) Nault, retired OARDC entomologist who is active in Trout Unlimited.
- Small shorebird carved from Wayne County cherry by artist Tony Biggio.
- Set of three books signed by their author, David Kline, a Holmes County Amish farmer and KWLTL trustee.
- Antique inkwell in the Arts and Crafts Style from Heinte Studio, donated by David Broehl of Townsend Antiques in Wooster.
- “Nos Oiseaux” (Our Birds), a French language bird book published in 1894 and featuring essays and illustrations in color and black and white. Donated by David and Betty Wilkin.



- Carved antique barn beam (at left, in progress) by renowned wood sculptor Mike Kortan, who is manager of a protected KWLTL farm in Ashland County. He created the carousel horses for the merry-go-round in Disneyland Paris. He exhibits in several exclusive Ohio galleries including Gallery in the Vault in Wooster. See more of his

work at mikekortan.com.

This list is not complete; we continue to add new items to our auction list.

Music during the reception will be provided by The Bluegrass Reunion. Musicians David Gedalecia and Butch and Sandy Suttle are all special friends of KWLTL.

Space for our Evening With The Artist is limited. Order your tickets now by calling the KWLTL office at 330-263-8963.

Your KWLTL 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 2013 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 2013, write a check payable to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. Mail it to Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, 716 Beall Ave., 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.