

OUR MISSION IS TO CONSERVE NATURAL HABITATS, WATERWAYS, AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS
IN SOUTHWESTERN OHIO, FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS,
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Easements Are Not Shackles: A Wagyu Beef Cattle Farm

by Mark Boardman



American Wagyu at feeding trough.



Fred Voge

Yum. The beef we were eating, a cut of American Wagyu beef raised on Fred Voge's farm, was as tasty and tender as described. This was beef donated by Fred for a Three Valley Conservation Trust fundraiser - the "Elegant Dinner" - hosted by Frank House and Ann Geddes at Frank's home. American Wagyu beef is from cows created by crossing two excellent beef cattle: Black Angus and a Japanese breed called Wagyu (Kobe beef cattle are 100% Wagyu.). Voge's American Wagyu cattle grow more slowly than Angus and thus have a marbling of fat characteristic of the tastiest meat that is even more disburshed than the excellent Angus beef. Wagyu beef typically surpasses the standards of "US Grade A Prime" (Prime is better than Choice is better than Select) and is often graded as "Signature" or "Reserve". Because American Wagyu cattle grow more slowly and are smaller than Angus, the Wagyu beef is highly prized, and, of course, is more expensive.



Unusual barn design provides improved ventilation, feeding, and cleaning.

Fred Voge's American Wagyu cattle farm has an easement held and monitored by Three Valley Conservation Trust in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Several years ago, Fred Voge decided to raise these cattle, and the transition he made illustrates that **easements are not shackles to farmers**. New, improved, and different farming methods can be supported on agricultural (and conservation) easements held by Three Valley Conservation Trust - even in partnership with the regulations of the ODA and NRCS. It took some visits by regulators and some exchange of ideas and information, and, in the end, Fred is enjoying a new challenge in farming - Wagyu beef.

The barn is what first and most struck a group from Three Valley who recently visited Voge's farm in West Alexandria. The barn didn't have walled sides. Its south-facing exposure (about 30' high) was higher than the north-facing side ($\approx$ 15' high). Because of this design, there is excellent ventilation that seemed amplified. Also, the cattle have shade when they need it in the summer, and more warmth from the sun when they need it in the winter.

The concrete floor makes cleaning bedding easier and more complete. The manure-bedding mix is collected, partially composted, and spread on the nearby cornfield limiting the need for fertilizer and helping to produce the carefully controlled diet for the cattle. The centrally located plumbing for water allows good control of water use, limits water run-off, and offers a method for adding nutrients or medications if needed. Feeding troughs on the exterior allow Fred to pour feed into the trough by driving a wagon around the outside of his barn. About half-way through the tour, someone remarked that the cows were so quiet - not mooing and moaning. Fred laughed and said perhaps it was because the cows were content.

Where can one get Fred's beef? The Wyoming Meat Market. Expensive, to be sure, but good.



*Wyoming Meat Market.
513 Wyoming Ave, Cincinnati, OH
45215*



From the Board Mark Boardman

Three Valley Conservation Trust has a lot to be proud of, a lot to celebrate, and a lot to build upon.

Nearing 200 easements.

Nearing 25,000 acres being protected.

Nearing 25 years of land conservation.

Yes, next year, TVCT will celebrate 25 years of growth from a grand idea in the 1990s headed by volunteers in Wally Edwards' living room (Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Ohio in 1994) to today's fully functioning, highly credible land trust supported by hundreds of members and with a multi-person professional staff housed in the Professional Office Building in Oxford. Three Valley is the land trust chosen to partner with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conserve important acreage in Butler and Preble Counties and is the third largest land trust in Ohio (of ≈ 25 Ohio land trusts). Three Valley has become a mature, member-supported, non-profit conservation organization.

I can happily and "sappily" say that we are successful today because of the contributions of many conservation visionaries and hundreds (thousands) of volunteers and members doing the work and giving the funds to protect our priceless land by supporting Three Valley Conservation Trust. In particular, it is with deep gratitude that we remember the efforts of Wally and Marilyn Edwards. Wally, the founding visionary of TVCT, died in the late 1990s without seeing the full fruits of his ideas. With Marilyn's passing this year, they have left a legacy of conservation - Three Valley Conservation Trust.



Marilyn and Wally
Edwards

The task ahead of us is to continue to help private landowners make the best conservation use of their land, perhaps by supporting new initiatives and brave choices regarding easements and stewardship.

Easements do not restrict innovation in farming. In this issue of Valley Trust News, you will read about two easements that are now being used in new agricultural ways. You will also read about the successful stewardship efforts at the very first property given to Three Valley's care - the Ruder Preserve - including invasive species removal, native species restoration, and improved community access.



Minges and Minges: a double closing. Front Row (L to R): Larry and Christa Minges, Patricia and Robert Minges. Back Row (L to R): Jon Nerenberg, Eric Hollins, Tom Schneider, Chad Smith, Mark Boardman, Agnes Marchlewska, Susan Kroeger, and Laura Hafer (See article text for information about why so many people are involved).

Our Newest Easements

#195 and #196

In June another two families from Butler County became members of TVCT and joined our family of easement holders.

Robert and Patricia Minges own 127 acres adjacent to Governor Bebb Metro-Park in Morgan Township. The easement on their property will permanently protect about 83 acres of farmland, 40 acres of mature hardwood forest and approximately 1,700 feet of forested riparian corridor along two blue-line streams, plus an additional 10,750 ft of headwater channels.

The second family; Larry and Christa Minges own 202 acres in Reily Township located within the watershed of Kiata Creek, a tributary to Dry Fork Whitewater River. The conservation easement on their property will permanently protect about 127 tillable acres dedicated to corn and soybean production, and 67 acres of natural areas including a mix of forested land, pine plantations and meadow habitats which are primarily managed for wildlife. Additionally three ponds (3.6 acres, 1.1 acres and 0.1 acres) add wetland habitats to the natural areas.

Partnerships: Both easements are located within the Paddys Run Conservation Project (PRCP) area and were purchased using Fernald Natural Resource Damage Funds. The PRCP is administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) with funds provided to it from the federal government as part of the Superfund restoration of the Fernald uranium processing site near Ross, Ohio. Three Valley Conservation Trust is the contractor-grantee responsible for ensuring the best preservation possible for groundwater resources and land impacted by this U.S. government directed cold-war effort. Tom Schneider works for OEPA and leads the PRCP assisted by Laura Hafer. Susan Kroeger is an attorney with OEPA, and Jon Nerenberg is the land-title lawyer who handles most easement transactions in Butler County for TVCT. Eric Hollins is the director of the TVCT portion of PRCP (along with Steve Gordon not photographed). From TVCT are Chad Smith (Executive Director), Agnes Marchlewska (Land Protection Specialist), and Mark Boardman who is the Chair of the TVCT Board of Trustees.

Additionally, the Larry and Christa Minges easement was cosponsored by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through its agricultural conservation program called the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE). These funds are part of the U.S. government Farm Bill.

Eric Hollins and Steve Gordon (the TVCT-PRCP professionals) help select properties, complete application materials, and allocate funds from the PRCP to leverage other grants in order to get the most benefit (conservation) possible.



Three Valley Panel Presentation

Recent changes to the federal tax laws that affect charitable giving were presented and discussed by three local experts. **Roger Ames** (LPL Financial) shared information about how the increased standard tax deduction (\$12,000 per person) might affect giving and how giving via stock transfers is especially valuable for both donor and donee. **Michael Rudolph** (New York Life Insurance) added some very interesting and important information about the “magic” of giving using beneficiaries of life insurance policies - or splitting beneficiaries. Especially intriguing was transferring no-longer-needed life insurance policies directly to a charity. **Tara Jones** (Robinson and Jones, Co.) introduced four specific ways to donate to charities that reduce taxes: 1) a charitable gift annuity, 2) direct transfers of portions of the minimum required disbursements (MRD; those of us older than 70½ know what this is), 3) direct donation of appreciated assets, and 4) one



From the Executive Director Chad Smith



Now that the frost is finally on the pumpkin, we look back on what has been a busy and productive summer at Three Valley Conservation Trust (TVCT). Thank you to the over one hundred members and supporters who joined us at the DeWitt Log House for our annual summer picnic in June. We enjoyed each other's company as we rode E-Bikes on the OATS trail, listened to live music and presented awards to our college-bound scholarship recipients. Three Valley was active in the Oxford community this summer as a sponsor at the Oxford uptown music festival; we also handed out pollinator seeds in the Fourth of July parade as we increased the exposure of TCVT. Staff, board members, and volunteers added finishing touches on the new boardwalk at the Ruder Preserve; native plant species were also added to showcase habitat restoration at this location.

The TVCT staff members are working hard to optimize operations of TVCT. In October, the staff joined nearly 2,000 conservation professionals at the Land Trust Alliance Conference in Pittsburgh, PA to learn the latest trends in the land trust community. Our attendance at this conference, which was made possible by grants, also allowed us to learn best practices and network with fellow conservationists. Our Stewardship staff, Randy Evans and Maria Fagin, implemented new practices for the distribution of easement monitoring reports, resulting in expedited feedback for easement holders. Agnieszka (Agnes) Marchlewska assisted with welcoming the Minges family to TVCT in the form of two new easements and is also looking to close at least two additional easements by the end of the year – bringing us to a record number of 200 easements in 2019! The staff continues collaboration with the Board of Trustees and numerous other volunteers for educational and community-building efforts.

As we move into the winter months, we look forward to collaborating with Miami University for marketing of the Ruder preserve; ongoing Pollinator initiatives with the City of Oxford; and to the TVCT Annual Meeting in January. We also look forward to your participation in the Auction for Acres on November 4th. Last year the auction raised over \$28,000 to support the trust and conservation efforts; we hope to exceed that amount this year. If you're interested in donating to the auction – or to see available auction items - please visit www.3vct.org/events. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the TVCT office at (513)524-2150.

As always, thank you for your involvement with TVCT; supporters like you allow us to conserve the lands of southwest Ohio for the benefit of present and future generations.

GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP

Kroger Community Rewards: enroll via:
www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3
 just use your Kroger Plus account;
TVCT's KROGER ID number: 80803

AMAZON SMILE: enroll and shop via:
<http://smile.amazon.com/about>

amazon smile
 You shop. Amazon gives.

Enhancing a Legacy of Conservation 2019 Family Programs

For questions about any of these programs, to reserve a spot, or to suggest additional activities, we encourage you to contact TVCT by phone (524-2150) or by email (office@3TVCT.org). Also, join the TVCT Facebook page where all these programs will be updated and advertised.

Little Mudders 2019



It's been a year of adventure and excitement with our Little Mudders preschool group as they explored local parks and preserves around the Oxford area. From bugs and salamanders to farms and frogs, they experienced a little taste of it all. It was such a pleasure to get to know our Little Mudder families and as always, and it's been a joy to witness the little ones develop an invaluable connection to nature.

With the positive response for this year's program we are excited to announce that **we will be hosting Little Mudders 2019!** A big thank you to Latricia Hillman (owner of "The Loft" preschool) for coordinating the program as well as the volunteer educators and landowners who generously contributed their time and resources. She will again be leading the pack of Little Mudders. We hope to see some folks return and will welcome some new faces next year!



The tentative schedule for 2019 is as follows:

All meetings will be held from 9:30-11:30am

- Feb 9 - Meet and Greet- Hefner Museum
- Mar 9- Meet a Salamander
- Apr 13 - Plant a butterfly garden
- May 11- Birds or Fossils- TBA
- Jun 8 - Butterflies
- Jul 13- Creeking
- Aug 10- Bugs
- Sept 14 - Farms
- Oct 12 - Hiking
- Nov- TBA- weather dependent
- Dec- TBA- weather dependent

Cost- \$35(for non-members)/\$25(for members) - includes a shirt, magnifying glass, binoculars, journal, and other goodies.



*Some dates and topics may vary depending on weather conditions.

Call (524-2150) or email us (office@3vct.org) for more information/to sign up! We expect the 2019 program to be "full" just like the 2018 program.

Wonderful Wednesdays Return !

In 2018 we changed the Wonderful Wednesday programs to a more intensive Back Yard Birding program; unfortunately, that did not seem to fit with people's schedules. So we're going to return to Wonderful Wednesdays on several mornings in 2019. In late June through late July, we will have hikes and activities for school-age children and their families. Tentative dates and topics are:

- June 19 - Bike ride
- June 26 - Creeks
- critters and fossils
- July 4th week - No program
- July 10 - Back Yard Birding
- July 17 - Pond critters
- July 26 - Insects



As with Little Mudders, some dates and topics may vary depending on weather conditions, and the cost will be \$35 (nonmembers) / \$25 (members) - includes a shirt, magnifying glass, journal, and other goodies.

Look for more details in the spring newsletter!

A Celebration for Conservation

Once again, the House family produced and hosted an outstanding "Elegant Dinner" to support Three Valley Conservation

Trust. About 40 people shared this wonderful evening fundraiser hosted in their beautiful Sugar Valley Farm home. Organic, sustainably raised meats (including American Wagyu beef from Fred Voge), vegetables, fresh greens and produce were cooked to perfection by Chef Anne Kearney of Rue Dumaine in Dayton. Thank you to the House family, Ann Geddes and all who helped.



GOING ORGANIC

HOW ONE LOCAL EASEMENT OWNER AND FARMER IS TRANSITIONING HIS GRAIN OPERATION

By Amy Weber

their work is doing more than just putting food on the table. The Brunks decided to stray from what they knew and start transitioning to an organic operation a few years ago.

To sell grain as organic there is a standard established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that needs to be followed and documented. No synthetic chemicals and no GMO seed can be used. The harvested crops need to be at least 25ft from any areas that have used synthetic chemicals (including other farms). The transition time is 36 months going from a traditional operation to strictly organic. This time period is to begin breaking down latent chemicals and start to improve soil health, which takes years to accomplish. During this time farmers follow the organic standards, but are not able to market the grain as organic until the transition time is complete and they are certified.

The biggest hurdle for the Brunks was the learning curve associated with timing and management. Without the use of typical herbicides, timing tillage is essential to ensure you will not have to replant if the weeds get ahead of your crop. An organic operation also has to avoid cross-pollination with crops from other non-organic farms. To combat this, the Brunks plant later in the season to ensure that their crops won't be pollinating at the same time as GMO crops. Planting later also has the benefit of allowing the soil to warm, which helps with germination so that the weeds won't outcompete the crops. Having a mentor during this process is a great benefit to the Brunks; they recommend this to anyone wanting to make the transition.

Right now organic grain is in great demand with consumers becoming more interested in how their food is produced. This is making organic products easier to market and organic grain prices are rising compared to flat conventional prices. With higher profit from fewer acres, organic operations lend themselves well to a family-run operation, like the Brunks.

Part of Three Valley's mission is to preserve agricultural lands for the benefit of present and future generations. The Brunks' operation is a great example of how future planning (both in land preservation and sustainable crop production) can ensure a future for family farms.

Three Valley Conservation Trust holds agricultural easements on over 300 acres of the Brunks' organic operation. One of these properties was *the very first easement that Three Valley Conservation Trust acquired (2000)*, a 91.3 acre easement donated to TVCT adjacent to an eager-to-expand gravel operation. The easement was originally donated by Ralph Pontius. It is currently owned by Dr. Darrell Gitz and farmed by Roger Brunk. TVCT appreciates all of their contributions to create a better quality of life.

Converting to an organic grain operation is not for the faint of heart. In my conversation with Roger Brunk and his wife Marci, their motivation comes from a desire to avoid using toxic chemicals, improving their soil health, and ultimately ensuring a healthy environment and way of life for future families. With an organic operation taking about three times the work per acre as a conventional grain operation, one has to know



The very first easement acquired by Three Valley (2000) is now an organic farm. Gravel operation in upper left.



Handrails for gripping and bumpers to keep wheels and canes on the boardwalk contribute to accessibility. No mud, no roots. A smooth surface winds through the riparian forest.



A BOARDWALK AT RUDER PRESERVE

A FACEBOOK POST BY HAYS CUMMINS

A beautiful day for a hike on the nearly completed wheelchair accessible boardwalk at [Three Valley Conservation Trust's Ruder Preserve](#), Sept 29, 2018.

I've worked a few days but [Donna McCollum](#) and [Mark Boardman](#) have provided the leadership for the boardwalk project. [Randy Evans](#) has contributed by getting grants for native plants - thousands of flower plugs and hundreds of trees and shrubs. And many hundreds of students and community members have helped get rid of honeysuckle and plant natives. Donna also received funding from Pi Kappa Phi for boardwalk materials. It's been a huge community effort!



on an observation area at the end of the 200' boardwalk.

Volunteers building handrails.

To share the riparian forest of Ruder Preserve with more people more of the time, a boardwalk is being built with accessibility in mind. TVCT worked with Butler County's flood plain manager and designed the boardwalk to be able to withstand flooding that occurs fairly regularly at Ruder Preserve. Because of flooding, a boardwalk seemed the best choice for a limited-mobility pathway, since it does not interfere with infiltration of flood waters. Funding was provided by grants and special donations. For more information, contact TVCT (524 - 2150 or office@3VCT.org).

PRAIRIES PRESERVED and RESTORED

by Steve Gordon

Traveling through the unincorporated areas of the Miami Valley, one sees vast fields of corn and soybeans, woodlots, riparian corridors, farmsteads and clusters of new homes. Rarely seen are prairie landscapes that once covered 2.5% of Ohio. In part, this is because prairies occupied some of the richest soils in the state, so they were plowed for row crops, drained and tilled or converted into pasture.

By the 1960s, a few visionaries foresaw the need to save prairie relicts. Pioneering efforts at Aullwood Audubon Center in Montgomery County along with the work of dedicated conservationists in the Dayton area inspired others to follow their work. Most notable were efforts at Huffman Prairie, the crown jewel of Ohio prairies. Located on Wright-Patterson AFB, Huffman Prairie's story is an inspiring one of renewal. Its early association with the Wright Brothers and aviation and re-



Purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) Huffman Prairie, July 2018.
Photo by Dave Nolin

markable survival are compellingly told in Dave Nolin's new book, *Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie: Where Aviation Took Wing* (2018). Among the many inspiring accounts in Nolin's book is how a formerly mowed field was restored to a prairie that now serves as a habitat for 183 bird species and 212 native plant species [Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Nolin].

At Great Parks of Hamilton County, the state's largest native plant seed repository was established in 1992 as a seed source for the 17,000 acre park system. The 54 acre Shaker Trace property includes a prairie seed harvesting, cleaning and storage facility, prairie plots, and aquaculture ponds. The facility is staffed by Tim Osborne and a dedicated group of volunteers. Recently, the facility supplied seed to the City of Lebanon for a prairie project.

Other park districts have led efforts to showcase the benefits of prairie restoration. At MetroParks of Butler County, a major commitment has been made to remove invasive species and



Prairies attract people as well as pollinators.
Photo by Steve Gordon

where appropriate, restore or introduce prairie habitats. Joe Dumyahn, Senior Environmental Project Manager, oversees restoration at all the parks, including, most recently, Meadow Ridge, Mill Race Preserve and Timberman Ridge.

Among the area's first private landowners to establish prairies are Jon Costanzo, Hays Cummins and Donna McCollum. From 2003-2005, Ann Geddes and Frank House planted 19 acres of prairie that by 2017 had more than doubled in size. More than just restoring prairies, these visionaries see prairies as learning laboratories for students and neighboring landowners. By incorporating prairies into traditional farm operations, soil erosion is reduced and pollinator habitats increased. Admittedly, establishing a large prairie requires skill and equipment. Al Gerhart and Al Bruns are specialists in prairie seeding and site preparation. Their work ranges from Hueston Woods State Park to MetroParks of Butler County. In the Oxford area, Songbird Environmental specializes in habitat restoration on residential parcels as small as 500 square feet.

The takeaway is knowing there are alternatives to turf deserts and mowed fields. Prairies can be as large as Huffman or as small as a corner in a neighborhood yard. Take the first step. Three Valley Trust and its partners will help you get started.



Tim Osborne, Nursery Technician, Great Parks of Hamilton County.
Photo by Steve Gordon

SALAMANDER PRESERVATION IN SOUTHWEST OHIO

Conservation Easements as “Biologic Arks”

In the story of Noah's ark, animals are saved from global destruction, and the animals carried in the ark repopulate the world. Easements, too, can function as arks - refuges for preservation. Jeff Davis is an expert herpetologist and was contracted to conduct a survey for all amphibians and reptiles in the Paddys Run Conservation Project (PCRP) area (the area being addressed by the Fernald restoration efforts).

Salamanders are amphibians that are particularly susceptible to habitat degradation; so their health and species diversity will be used as a proxy for habitat health. What Jeff is finding is that easements protected by Three Valley Conservation Trust are functional biotic arks for salamanders and, by extension, also for other plants and animals. The text below is a from the letter Jeff sent to an easement landowner in southwest Ohio along with photos of salamanders in the PCRP area.

Thank you for letting us have access to your property. I have been doing amphibian and reptile surveys since I was an undergraduate student at Miami in the late 70s. As an undergrad I did an independent study project in which I surveyed Butler Co. (my home county) for amphibians and reptiles. One of the species we found on your property is known from only three counties in Ohio (Hamilton, Butler, and Adams). In Butler County, populations were known only from Fairfield and Ross Townships...until Saturday. I've looked in Morgan Township for 35 years and assumed they weren't there. I would add that the most Cave Salamanders I've seen at any of the sites in Butler Co. is four and that was for a period lasting several months combined! We got eleven in your stream during a 2 hour site visit! That is the most Cave Salamanders I've seen (outside of a spring-house) in one day (and I know I've seen more Cave Salamanders than anyone in Ohio and probably more than any-one anywhere). Cave Salamanders are endangered in Ohio, so the protection of your land and stream is doing something special for conservation.

This species spends about 90% of its time underground. And, although there aren't any caves we can crawl into in SW Ohio, there are plenty of gaps between rock strata that a 5 to 6-inch salamander can crawl into. They are limited to habitats that allow them to move around underground. When we approached the segment of the stream that had them, I noted that water was flowing, but the creek seemed to dry up, only to resurface downstream. In some streams, I can actually hear the water flowing underground. When I encounter intermittent streams like that, I know I'm in Cave Salamander country! The abandoned well near your stream also provides great access to subterranean habitat. This species breeds underground, the larvae develop underground, and as I mentioned earlier the adults are typically underground. Therefore, I usually suggest that what you see at the surface is about 10 percent of the entire population. So, there are likely at least 110 Cave Salamanders living under your stream and in the recesses under the hillsides adjacent to it.



**Adult Cave Salamander
(*Eurycea lucifuga*)**

Cave Salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*)

This slender salamander has a color ranging from orange to red. Irregular black spots pepper the body and tail. Unlike the closely related Long-tailed salamander, the spots do not form bars on the tail. The tail is long, making up 60-65 percent of the total body length (4-6 inches). These salamanders are found in and around caves, seeps, springs, springhouses, and small forested limestone creeks associated with groundwater. Cave Salamanders live in rock crevices or under rocks, logs, or other debris, and feed on insects. The Cave Salamander is protected as an endangered species by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.



**Long-tailed Salamander
(*Eurycea longicauda*)**

Long-tailed Salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*)

This is not a particularly widespread salamander in southwest Ohio, although it can be locally abundant. It is common in many other parts of the state. They inhabit rocky streams, especially those that provide some access into subterranean habitats. In adults, the tail may be twice the length of the body. It is similar to the Cave Salamander with respect to habitat preferences and the long tail. Only the Long-tailed Salamander displays the black chevrons on the tail. Cave Salamanders and Long-tailed Salamanders have never been found occupying the same ravine or stream channel.



**Southern Two-lined Salamander
*Eurycea cirrigera***

Southern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea cirrigera*)

This is a common species that lives under rocks next to small streams. It is easily identified by its small size (4.5 inches or less), banana yellow belly and the dark stripe on either side of the back.



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Auction for Acres
2018
Enjoy An Evening With
Friends
and
Support TVCT



November 4th, 2018
Oxford Community Arts Center
5:30-8:30pm

Catered by: Silver Spoon Catering
Visit our website to purchase tickets/sponsorship
@ www.3vct.org

And
A Raffle



Save the Date
Annual Membership Meeting
January 27, 2019
details to follow



Prairies, Ponds, and Pollinators coming in 2019

The five Prairie Walks led during the summer of 2018 by Eric Hollins and Steve Gordon were so successful that plans are being made for a series of walks in the summer of 2019. Details will be forthcoming in the spring Newsletter.

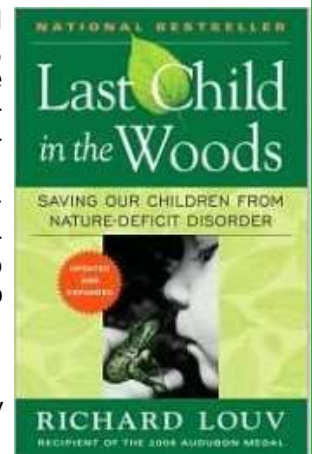
TVCT Book Club

Our first TVCT Book Club, with 2 meetings this spring and summer, was a lot of fun! We met at La Rosa's and had dinner, a few speakers, and a discussion of topics brought up in the books *Bringing Nature Home* and *A Walk in the Woods*. Everyone liked the time and place, sooo – we're going to keep it going.

Cori Yeager has volunteered to coordinate the program this year – thanks Cori! She plans to send some questions by email between meetings to keep us all on target. **People who come to the first meeting will choose the books for next year, so please join us!** Our first meeting will be:

- **Thurs, Nov 8th** - Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*

Other dates tentatively scheduled in 2019 include Feb 14th, May 8th, Aug 8th, and Nov 14th.



Three Valley Conservation Trust is a member-funded, not-for-profit, charitable organization certified by the IRS under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contribution/donation may be deductible.