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VALLEY TRUST NEWS

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

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS PHENOLOGY? A Report on the New Oxford Phenology Trail

By Suellen Albert and Adriane Ruther

Have you stopped by Ruder Preserve lately? Did you notice the new (and still evolving) cabinet for the Oxford Phenology Trail? We hope you have, or will, and would like to formally introduce this community science project to you here. Mostly, we want your help!

Phenology is the study of seasonal plant and animal life cycle events, including plants' flowering, ripening of fruits, insects' emergence, and birds' migration. Noteworthy conservationists, such as Henry David Thoreau, E. Lucy Brown, Aldo Leopold, and his daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley, kept precise phenological records of their world, primarily through journaling. These visionaries understood the need to document patterns and population trends of the natural world.

Today, we study and analyze phenological data to recognize patterns that may impact our local and global communities. Farmers and gardeners need to know when to plant and harvest; people suffering from seasonal allergies gauge when to take medications or not go outside. Community scientists around the world consistently collect large amounts of detailed information to enter into an online data bank for scientists' research. These data are frequently analyzed to determine the impact of climate change on natural cycles; researchers may explore phenological clues for migration or laying eggs, insect emergence, mating, and the onset of other life cycle stages. Investigations examine the impact of non-native invasive species on native species and local ecosystems. Phenology helps us understand complex evolutionary processes.

3VCT, a non-profit organization run through the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), provides a platform for community scientists to collect and report data. Information is cataloged in a way that allows research scientists to access the data they need based on time, location, species, seasons, phenological stages, etc. That's where the **Oxford Phenology Trail** comes in!



Suellen Albert and Donna McCollum show off the (still evolving) phenology cabinet at Ruder Preserve.



Design on front of Phenology cabinet
by local artist Sandra Tyler @rosiewaydesign



The Oxford Phenology Trail is a community effort to collect local phenological data headed by Suellen Albert, a 5th-grade teacher in Hamilton, and Adriane Reuther, a Talawanda High School teacher. It is sponsored by Three Valley and supported by a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. It currently includes two sites, at the Helen S. Ruder Preserve and the Erik/ Talawanda Land Lab at Talawanda High School (restarting in spring 2021), with more to come at the Edge of the Farm Preserve and, hopefully, YOUR BACKYARD!

At Ruder Preserve a "Look Inside" cabinet was built, with the phenology of a buckeye tree on the front designed by Sandra Tyler, a local artist. However, our grand opening of the trail was hindered by COVID-19; we had a masked, socially-distanced live demo of phenological data collection during July and in September set up a table to provide information during the

(Continued on back cover)



Chair's Report By Daniel Cox

Friends,

Three Valley's first (and hopefully last) virtual Annual Meeting allowed us to reflect upon the challenges all of have faced in 2020 and the progress we have made together in unprecedented times. It was so rewarding to see familiar faces that evening and to meet a few new champions of local conservation. Like many of our transitions to largely digital interactions, apprehension over how to conduct the 2019 annual meeting in a world of heightened social distancing was answered with courage, and innovation took the place of cherished tradition. If you were unable to attend the annual meeting in real time, our meeting lives on our website in perpetuity for your digital review (<https://www.3vct.org/annual-general-meeting>). You will see reflected in our primitive effort, the genuine commitment of our members, staff, and board that I have seen again and again since I assumed the role of board chair.

In this new world of COVID, all of these groups worked together to adapt. Our professional staff moved quickly in March, 2020, to safely and responsibly ensure continuity of service to our mission. Many of our technological challenges were met with generous and timely financial contributions by members that matched the efforts of our staff as we learned to engage our partners and one another safely and efficiently. Our board needed to transition from our

business-as-usual to a new reality that included virtual meetings. As board chair, my continuing priority has been to leverage the guidance of peer-networks, professional associations, and governing authorities to ensure that we could continue to conduct the business of a non-profit board of trustees most appropriately. We continued the efforts of our board, and particularly of my predecessor Mark Boardman, to formalize improvements to our policy manual that made for an efficient pivot to meetings conducted in our new remote, digital environment.

I am inspired by the tenacity and resilience reflected by each member of our staff and board. I am humbled by the patience, thoughtfulness, and generosity of our trust members and partners in conservation. Within the pages of this newsletter you will find good reason to share my inspiration for, and confidence in our readiness to meet our next challenges together.

Forward!

Faithful Pioneers By Mark Boardman

I wasn't part of the discussions that preceded selection of the Great Blue Heron as part of the logo for Three Valley Conservation Trust, but I like the image and imagery. Part of the imagery is that this heron is sustained by breeding in colonies that are revisited year after year (called site fidelity). A recent article about the Great Blue Heron ecology includes this phrase: "... a high rate of site fidelity in colony lineages may be achieved when a few faithful pioneer herons and egrets are followed by many others."

The concept of a faithful pioneer in the heron world reminded me of the pioneers of Three Valley Conservation Trust. The Trust was begun by visionaries who wanted to sustain a balanced quality of life by conserving land - the foundation of all conservation efforts. They loved the streams, woodlands, wetlands and farmlands of southwest Ohio and wanted to leave a legacy of conservation.

Twenty-five years ago, these visionaries selected conservation easements to preserve land in perpetuity. And year-after-year, faithful pioneers supported Three Valley in any manner they could - returning year-after-year to the guiding values of Three Valley.

Several Three Valley members are including Three Valley Conservation Trust in their estate planning to help sustain a vision of clean streams and air, open prairies and farmlands, and natural woodlands and wetlands. Their foresight will leave a legacy of conservation.

I have included Three Valley Conservation Trust in my estate planning because of their vision. This world is filled with incredible natural beauty, and I feel good doing what I can to keep it that way.

If you would like to join this conservation colony as a faithful pioneer by adding Three Valley to your estate plans, please let us know. If you want to discuss ways to leave a legacy, please contact the Trust at 524-2150 or giving@3vct.org



This was not how I envisioned my first year as your executive director. So many challenges have come our way in 2020; but so many of our donors provided significant help to ensure we were able to adjust, remain productive, and continue to grow professionally. As I sit down to speak with you, our incredible supporters, advocates, and members, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

I could not be more proud of the way our board, staff, and members responded to these challenges. Our staff, in particular, adapted quickly and produced tremendous results. We finished our annual property visits two months ahead of schedule, and our new Stewardship Manager, Maria Fagin, has accomplished this in her first year of accepting the responsibility. We successfully secured funding for two of four ODA Ag easement applicants, we closed seven easements so far this year, and we are currently working on four donated easements. Our new Land Protection Specialist, Caitlin Brown, accomplished this within her first year in the position. Reva Evans, our new Communications Coordinator, has only been with us for eight months. However, I think I speak for the staff and board when I say; we certainly could not have done this without her. Reva's positive attitude, efficiency, professionalism, and dedication helped each of us be more successful in these new roles. Agnes and Steve, our Paddy's Run project contractors, continue to teach and support us and their expertise ensures we protect land effectively and efficiently. They are talented conservation professionals and our team benefits greatly from their leadership. All of these individuals bring a passion for and commitment to the mission of 3VCT that is truly inspiring! I encourage you to spend some time with them in the field if you have an opportunity. I believe you will, as I have, come away with a growing confidence in the continued success of 3VCT.



**Executive Director's
Report
By Randy Evans**

I also want to thank our current board members. While many nonprofits and small businesses were looking for ways to hit the "pause" button, cutting staff, or reducing services, the 3VCT board exhibited true leadership, vision, and character. There were no spectators on the board while facing the adversities of 2020. Each of our board members dedicated extra time and resources to ensure the office remained fully staffed, our mission continued, and our service to the community grew. The relationship between our board and staff is as strong as ever, and this year I have witnessed a new level of trust, respect, and support that promises to make our organization more effective and impactful. I encourage you to send them a note of appreciation and recognition for their leadership and contributions.

We are making significant progress in protecting open spaces for a community with renewed appreciations of these resources. Our generous landowners, financial supporters, and volunteers combine to keep 3VCT's conservation work moving forward in this, our 26th year. As a local nonprofit, we depend on support from people like you – those who share our appreciation for the incredible natural landscapes of SW Ohio and a desire to preserve those for future generations. With the loss of our annual events, membership support is the most crucial element of the organization's success. Our existing members and donors are so critical to protecting the remaining green spaces. Consider what would happen if Three Valley Conservation Trust closed our doors. In SW Ohio, we are losing open space each year and the work and resources required to save them only increases. Recent conversations with prospective easement donors Barbara Wilson & Karen Bittner and Brian & Donna Wise helped remind us how important your 3VCT team is to our community. Their goals to protect land and leave a legacy of conservation in perpetuity would not happen without all of you...our members. If you ever doubt the impact of your membership, come with us on a visit with a potential easement donor or existing landowner. Their work and their stories are inspirational. It will not take long for you to realize you are essential to them and in the effort to conserve these special places. You are the Three Valley Conservation Trust and you make a positive impact every day.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION Planned Giving / Estate Planning

Planned giving is any major gift made during your lifetime or at death as part of your overall financial and/or estate planning. Planned giving may include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, retirement proceeds or cash. Planned giving can address your personal financial concerns while enhancing Three Valley's financial sustainability. However, this type of planning requires the assistance of knowledgeable legal and financial professionals. To learn more about planned giving and leaving a legacy to Three Valley Conservation Trust, contact one of our legacy committee members:

Mark Boardman giving@3vct.org
Sandi Woy-Hazleton giving@3vct.org
Cathryn Loucas giving@3vct.org

Randy Evans director@3vct.org
Reva Evans office@3vct.org

Committee Reports

Property Management Committee

By Tom Vogel, Vice-Chair

Three Valley is committed to conserve and protect land, and, almost always, the method used involves a conservation easement. However, some land is temporarily held (owned) prior to ownership transfer to other conservation-minded groups and organizations (e.g. MetroParks of Butler County). We currently hold and maintain two properties for such a purpose. One property is the Angst Farm, an 86-acre property in Butler County, Wayne Township. The second property is Fossil Creek, a 45-acre property that is part of the Paddy's Run Watershed complex in Butler County.

The Angst Farm was formerly owned by the Angst family. The property includes a house and barnyard, 50 acres of tillable farmland, with the remaining acreage in woods and pasture. Under the terms of accepting ownership, we plan to put an easement on the property and then sell the property to Butler County MetroParks, anticipated for 2021. A family member currently maintains the property in exchange for residing in the house. The 50 acres of farmland is being leased to a local farmer. The revenue from the farm lease is more than offsetting the taxes we pay on the property.



Angst farm Drone photo by Randy Evans



Fossil Creek

Photo by Steven Gordon

Three Valley's Fossil Creek woodland is a 45-acre tract given to the Trust by the Fernald Trustees as part of the Paddy's Run

Conservation Project. Under the terms of accepting this land we plan on owning it until we can transfer ownership to another conservation-minded organization. While we are holding the property, we have teamed up with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry of Southwest Ohio for hunting rights on the property. The highly honorable organization provides game meat to food charities in the area. In this way, we can control the wild game on the property while sharing the harvest with local food charities.

Three Valley also owns its prized Ruder Preserve, which is evolving into a local treasure to the Oxford community. It is our intent to hold and maintain the Ruder Preserve as a community

asset for years to come and future generations to enjoy. The 14-acre riparian forest along Four-Mile Creek has been cleared of honeysuckle (almost) and access has been improved with a small concrete parking area and a handicapped-capable boardwalk. It is an area where people of virtually any age or mobility can get out into the woods. We refer to the Ruder Preserve as our "showcase property." It is located on the edge of Oxford and is becoming a quite popular area for walking, birdwatching, and simply enjoying nature.

A Look at the Land Protection and Stewardship Committee

By Sarah Dumyahn, chair

The Land Protection and Stewardship Committee (LPSC) is one of 3VCT's standing committees and it advises the Board of Trustees on conservation easement and land topics essential to the mission of the trust. These topics span the entire conservation easement process, from approving the initiation of a conservation easement on a potential property to the monitoring and assessment of potential violations after the easement is placed on the property. The LPSC provides informed recommendations throughout the land protection

So far in 2020, 3VCT has had seven conservation easement closings. The LPSC also reviews any stewardship issues that may arise and advises when legal action is needed to protect the interests of the easement. 3VCT now holds 209 easements covering 23,657 acres. Since our easements are in perpetuity, LPSC provides guidance to ensure that the conservation values of the properties are maintained and sustained over time. The LPSC membership currently includes four community members, 3VCT's Land Protection and GIS Specialist, 3VCT's Stewardship Manager, and three board members. The expertise and perspectives of the LPSC members provides informed guidance to the 3VCT Board. LPSC meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

If you are interested in joining the LPSC or would like more information, contact Sarah Dumyahn at sarah@mojoplin.com.

Outreach and Education Committee

By Amanda Bowers



Poster created by Maria Fagin

The Outreach and Education Committee had to quickly adapt in 2020, ramping up our online presence and finding unique ways to reach people. Last April, Oxford EarthFest went virtual for a week-long Earth Day celebration. Excited to participate, 3VCT used social media to share our mission, progress, and contributions to the environment.

Fortunately, as a non-profit whose focus is the natural environment, we have the benefit of engaging people outdoors! While in-person outreach and education activities were limited in early spring, the summer and fall brought opportunities to safely involve volunteers in activities at Ruder Preserve. Volunteers started building the second ~200' section of the boardwalk this spring at Ruder, now within 25' and the resting platform of being finished! The boardwalk is a valuable asset to the Oxford community, allowing visitors a safe and accessible way to immerse themselves in nature.

3VCT had planned to offer in-person phenology tutorials in March; that transformed into a week-long virtual Phenology Week in July. Suellen Albert and Adriane Ruth prepared and posted online materials for volunteers interested in learning how to gather phenology data. Volunteers then had the option to attend a socially distanced, in-person talk with Suellen and Adriane July 25th at Ruder Preserve. Lifecycle data collected by volunteers and entered into *Nature's Notebook* will contribute local data to the USA National Phenology Network (see article, pg. 1).

In September, Green Umbrella transformed their 17th annual Great Outdoor Weekend into a Great Outdoor Week. Organizations throughout southwest Ohio, including 3VCT, hosted outdoor programs and activities at various parks, trails, and natural spaces in the Greater Cincinnati area. In addition to the phenology materials already offered at the trailhead, QR codes were posted for visitors to scan additional information. This allowed visitors to safely experience a virtual phenology tour on their own throughout the week, with Suellen and Adriane offering an in-person tour on September 26. Photo: Suellen Albert



Sara and Luna Morris found out more about the phenology trail during the Great Outdoors Week.

Every October, the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River "is an annual volunteer event focused on removing trash and restoring the health of the Great Miami River. This river cleanup is about much more than picking up trash. It's a day for communities to demonstrate their desire for clean water and healthy rivers." As part of this initiative, on October 26, 3VCT Board Member Donna McCollum organized volunteers to clean up Four Mile Creek from the Black Covered Bridge to Route 73. Gathering 20 bags of garbage, 5 tires and other debris, these volunteers showed their commitment and appreciation for their local watershed.



Students and life-long Oxford residents spread out to collect trash in Four Mile Creek during Butler County Soil and Water's Clean Sweep.

In this time of social distancing, 3VCT's outreach and education committee is searching for ways to connect with our members and community. In an effort to provide compelling and engaging topics of interest, 3VCT is preparing to offer short, online presentations and discussion sessions about various subjects related to land conservation and habitat restoration. Topics our board and members have volunteered

to prepare include global climate change, pollinator habitats, and riparian habitats. However, we'd love to hear what you would like to know more about, or if you can present and share a topic of interest. Contact us at office@3vct.org!

Would you like to help?

Three Valley has always relied on volunteers in many ways, from helping with the auction and other fundraisers to getting newsletters ready to mail to helping monitor easement properties. One way we would like to get you involved is to have you join one of the ongoing committees. If you have good ideas and would like to contribute, check out the standing committees below to see where you fit. Contact the 3VCT office at 513-524-2150 for information.

Outreach and Education - the title speaks for itself - recruiting the next generation of 3VCT supporters

Land Protection and Stewardship - see previous page for what this committee does

Property Management - see previous page for what this committee does

Development - determines strategies for developing a financially sustainable organization through key partnerships and donors

3VCT and the Community

"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."

3VCT mission statement from www.3vct.org

3VCT could not succeed in protecting land without its many partners. Below are a few. To all - - - THANK YOU!

3VCT 2020 Interns

By Reva Evans, Aidan Das, Carlie Klapper

During the summer and fall of 2020, Three Valley has been lucky to have two great young women from Miami University join us for internships. This is such a mutually beneficial partnership. The students have the opportunity to acquire valuable work experiences, and 3VCT gains from their education, expertise and sharing of new ideas. Meet Aidan and Carlie.



Aidan Das

I am a senior Biology, Environmental Science, and GIS student at Miami. This summer I had a blast interning with Three Valley. I was able to do and learn a lot in such a short amount of time. Every day was different. Some days I was out in the field monitoring properties, other days I was in the office updating monitoring reports and easement maps in ArcGIS. I also worked on some of my own GIS projects such as creating a map of the easement properties and watersheds they fall within.

Being out in the field and visiting the easements allowed me to appreciate the beauty of Southwest Ohio and its land. It was interesting to hear from landowners about why they chose to protect their land and the things they are doing to maintain it such as sustainable farming practices, invasive species removal, and restoration projects.

After school I hope to pursue a career in natural resource management and protection and work for a government agency like the Bureau of Land Management.

Thank you, Three Valley staff, for a great experience.

3VCT Serves as a Client for Miami University

By Sarah Dumyahn

The appreciation is mutual between students in Miami University's Sustainability in Practice class and 3VCT. For two semesters now, 3VCT has served as one of the clients for this project-based course. Two student teams each semester have addressed real sustainability challenges with guidance from 3VCT staff Randy Evans and Caitlin Brown, as well as some board members. This semester two teams of five students each are working with 3VCT. The students are from a wide variety of majors and bring their unique strengths and experiences to collaborate on these projects.

One project this semester is researching land trust involvement in carbon offset markets focusing on agricultural carbon credits. The team is researching the benefits, best practices, and steps for participating in a carbon offset program. With the growing interest in finding and implementing climate change solutions, looking to the soil to sequester carbon is an option that could have benefits for landowners and beyond.

The other project team is working on outreach and fundraising materials for 3VCT. Considering the cancellations and changes to outreach and fundraising events this year, the team is developing additional strategies to further connect with the community. The team is reviewing best practices for outreach and fundraising during COVID-19, in addition to learning about 3VCT and why this is an organization worth supporting.

The students find it particularly rewarding to work on projects that are helping to advance 3VCT's mission. 3VCT has helped enrich the sustainability education for these students. The appreciation is most definitely mutual!



Carlie Klapper

Interning at Three Valley Conservation Trust has been a very positive experience for me. During my time at 3VCT so far, I have been able to meet and work with amazing people who are passionate about what they do.

This experience has allowed me to utilize the GIS skills that I learned at Miami and apply them to real-world applications.

I have also been able to take part in 3VCT's field work which has been one of my favorite parts of this internship. My role at Three Valley has shown me the significance that making a positive impact in your community can have.

I am very grateful to be a part of this organization!



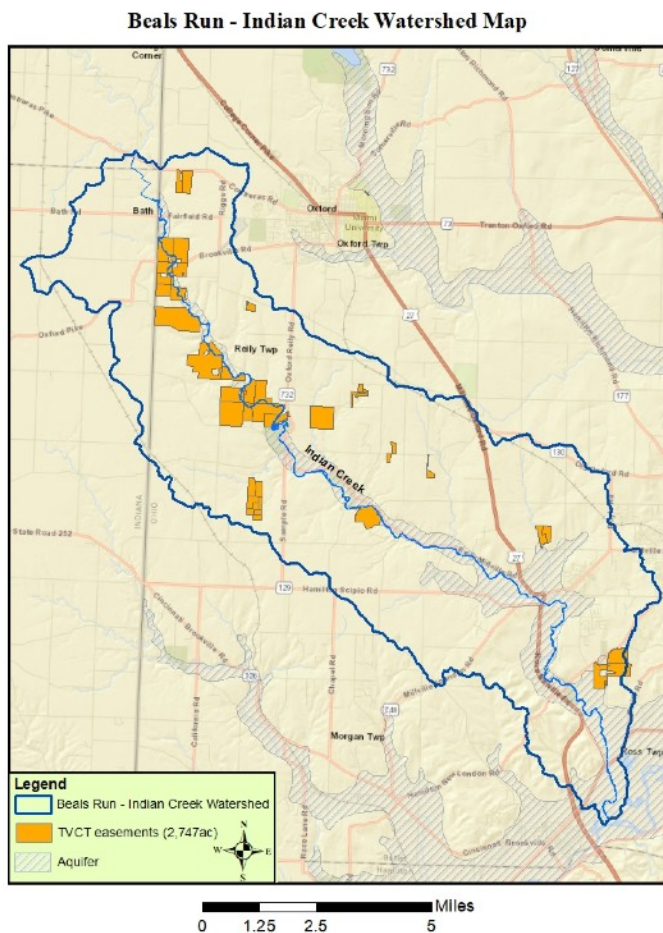
Press Release - 9-Element NPS-IS Plan Preparation for Beals Run – Indian Creek Watershed

By Monica Rakovan

The Three Valley Conservation Trust (3VCT) is pleased to announce that our land trust has been selected as one of the grant recipients for the preparation of a 9-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy (NPS-IS) plan. This 9-element plan is specifically for the Beals Run – Indian Creek watershed in Butler County, Ohio. This highly competitive grant, funded by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is one of a kind exclusively for the watersheds in the Ohio River basin.

The purpose of the 9-Element NPS-IS Plan is to improve water quality by identifying and evaluating sources of pollution (e.g. agricultural runoff, hydro modification and physical alterations to the stream channels, ditching, increased sedimentation and excessive nutrients), and determine water quality goals, restoration methods and best management practices needed to achieve pollutant reduction. The 9-Element Plan will identify and prioritize the watershed critical areas and describe restoration and management measures that target those areas. To ensure the success of the plan, the Ohio EPA encourages collaboration with local stakeholders and communities who can help to develop the watershed restoration and protection strategies and later start implementing these strategies.

3VCT will collaborate with Environmental Solutions AQ, a local environmental consulting company, in drafting the plan. The project timeframe will be from November 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. Please email Agnes Marchlewska at landpro@3vct.org for more information. Interested parties are also encouraged to visit <https://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index#120843254-319-grants> for additional information about the program and details of a 9-Element plan.



Introducing ... A Natural History Moment

One of the things most people love to hear about are cool critters, so we've decided we need to have a natural history section in each of our newsletters. In this one, there is no better way to start than to introduce Jeff Davis, state-renowned herpetologist, and a few of his finds at 3VCT easements.

Jeff, a former honor-winning Northwest High School teacher, has been working as a biological consultant since 1998. He has published at least 35 life history notes, has written >70 reports for private industry and local, state, and federal agencies, is a coauthor of the Ohio Frog and Toad Atlas, and is currently working on a similar atlas for Ohio reptiles. He is one of the leading experts on all endangered reptiles and amphibians in Ohio.

It is in this role, as a field expert in endangered amphibians and reptiles, that he was hired to survey the herps on 3VCT's Paddy's Run easements. He believes "...amphibians, in particular, are such a good group for indicating habitat quality, the fact that the properties are protected for the long haul not only ensures the protection of these species, but also offers a great baseline to which future inventories at these sites can be compared."

The first part of that statement has shown the Paddy's Run easements to be habitat of exceptional quality. He has found 34 species of amphibians and reptiles, including 6 populations of the Ohio-endangered Cave Salamander that you may have read about in the last newsletter. He will shortly be providing a full report to 3VCT, but his findings so far leave no doubt that by protecting land, 3VCT is protecting biodiversity. Next time, we'll do a deep dive on a few of the species he has found!



Cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*) Photo: Jeff Davis



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*"Valley Trust News,"
the newsletter for members
of Three Valley
Conservation Trust,
is published twice a year.*

A book review by Ben Mattox

COVID dealt our fledgling book club a blow. Although other book clubs have managed to go virtual, we're still working on this for Three Valley, partially because we've had low numbers of people interested. If you would like to do a virtual book club, PLEASE LET US KNOW and maybe we can make it happen in December. Contact Ben at benmattox50@yahoo.com. For now, enjoy Ben's review of the book we were going to talk about in May.

Timefulness by Marcia Bjornerud

Early in her first chapter, Dr. Bjornerud compares all of Earth time to a symphony. "Focusing simply on the age of the Earth is like describing a symphony in terms of its total measure count." I think she means, knowing the number doesn't give you a meaningful sense of what has happened; instead, we need to understand the details of what has happened over geologic time.

This book is about learning of the workings of Earth over vast expanses of time and putting it in the context of how humans have made an impact on these processes and on all living things. It is essential reading for anyone concerned about how we should understand the environmental problems and the existential threat we have created, and change so we can stop the path to destruction.

(Phenology - cont. from front cover)

Great Outdoors Week that gave us an opportunity to talk with several supportive 3VCT and community members.

Inside the cabinet, children can find a laminated activity book with dry erase markers to complete whatever looks like fun, then erase it so someone else can use it next. There is also a phenology scavenger hunt to try out. *Hand sanitizer also is available for before and after use. Or, if you prefer, you can print the booklet at home from naturesnotebook.org. Adult visitors can use a marker to complete the laminated phenology monitoring sheets found in the "Look Inside" cabinet. Plants to be monitored are found within 10 feet of the boardwalk and marked with labeled posts, or you can use the QR Code inside the cabinet door to see a map. Plant species were specifically chosen to range throughout the growing season, so not all plants will be visible in all seasons.

To report the data you collect, whether it be at one of the established Oxford Phenology Trail sites or in your own outdoor space (yard, park, etc.), set up an account at naturesnotebook.org. Choose "Oxford Phenology Trail" from the Partners Groups list, or if you're observing plants and animals at your own site, create your own list of species based on what is available there. Downloading the *Nature's Notebook* app is the easiest way to collect your data on a regular basis, but paper data sheets are available for printing that you can use in the field, then enter the data by hand periodically.

Please contact Adriane Ruther (ruthera@talawanda.org) or Suellen Albert (albertse@miamioh.edu) with questions or for more information. We hope you will join this national community of citizen scientists by providing local phenology data!



Adriane Ruther shows how the plants are marked with posts at grand opening in July, 2020.

Previous bookclub schedule

TH, February 13
Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens
This book has mystery, luminous prose, coming of age, and literature. You'll want to take your time and when you're done, talk about it with another reader.

TH, May 14
Timefulness
by Marcia Bjornerud
"Our everyday lives are shaped by processes that vastly predate us, and our habits ...have consequences that will outlast us by generations. Timefulness reveals how knowing the rhythms of Earth's deep past and conceiving of time as a geologist does can give us the perspective we need for a more sustainable future."

TH, August 13
The Green New Deal
by Jeremy Rifkin
While the Green New Deal has become a lightning rod in the political sphere, there is a parallel movement emerging within the business community that will shake the very foundation of the global economy.

TH, November 12
The Overstory
by Richard Powers
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. "An ingeniously structured narrative that branches and canopies like the trees at the core of the story whose wonder and connectivity echo those of the humans living amongst them."

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