

Number 75
Fall 2022



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

Perpetual Protection Is Not Enough

By Donna McCollum and Randy Evans

You may have noticed in the last few newsletters that Three Valley Conservation Trust (3VCT) has assisted on wetland projects, put on conferences for educating land owners about soil health, and even promoted growing native plants like milkweed. Also, when you read Jeff Davis's Natural History Moment in this newsletter, you will find it focuses on the importance of not only protecting land, but being good stewards of it. 3VCT will continue to help landowners protect their land forever through easements; however, as we are becoming increasingly aware, that is not enough – we also need to help landowners be effective stewards.

We have many examples of ways we support stewardship. In 2021, we partnered with ODNR on the first-ever H2Ohio grant to be given in southwest Ohio at the Hoffmann easement property. This project will expand the Indian Creek floodplain by restoring a 12-acre wooded wetland, as well as reduce erosion by restoring 600 feet of Indian Creek stream bank. In 2022 we received a grant for the Henshaw project, which is expected to break ground in early 2023 and establish a 7.5 acre wetland designed to expand an existing small amphibian breeding habitat. Grant agencies generally require the landowner to partner a conservation organization; 3VCT has been happy to help these landowners get funding to be good stewards of their land.



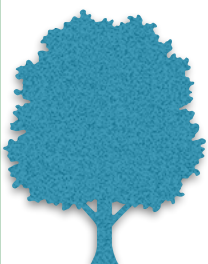
Randy checks on milkweed orders

We have not stopped at helping people build wetlands. Ruder Preserve is an outstanding example of forest stewardship earning attention for an innovative approach that includes restoration, education, and accessibility. In 2017, we began removing honeysuckle from this 13.5-acre tract, donated to 3VCT in the mid-90s by Helen S. Ruder's daughters. We chose to do the work with volunteers, using each outing to inform our workers about 3VCT, why invasive species are a problem, how planting native species can help restore woodlands, and how to restore our forests. We've also made the woods available to all community members by building ~425 feet of ADA-compliant boardwalk and are currently exploring how to make more of an educational impact with signage.

Our staff, particularly Maria and Caitlin, have been involved in many efforts to help landowners be good stewards. In August, 35 people participated in a soil health workshop, where they heard from Dave Brandt about using regenerative farming practices that keep soil communities healthy. Working with our professional grant writing consultant, April Hamlin, they recently secured an additional \$10,000 grant from the Land Trust Alliance to expand the soil health program. On October 15th, at Hueston Woods, they are coordinating a workshop focusing on controlling woodland invasive species, in conjunction with hosting the second meeting of the SW Ohio Woodland Association. Both Caitlin and Maria also have pursued professional development, maintaining FAA licenses as drone pilots and becoming Certified Interpretive Guides through the National Association for Interpretation. (Maria and Caitlin thank Jan Taylor for funding this opportunity.)

All in all, 3VCT is thrilled to have been given, and has taken full advantage of, opportunities to expand conservation beyond perpetual protection. Remember, for 3VCT to continue its success in land conservation and protection, we depend upon the enthusiasm and patronage of members and the community. So, thank you all for the support you have shown, and will continue to show, for 3VCT!

LEAVE A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION - Planned Giving / Estate Planning



With more than 215 easements, annual memberships are not enough to make 3VCT financially sustainable; we need to increase our endowment. Planned giving is any major gift made during your lifetime or at death as part of your overall financial and/or estate planning. It 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. This type of planning requires the assistance of knowledgeable legal and financial professionals.

To learn more about planned giving and leaving a legacy to 3VCT, contact us at giving@3vct.org



Tom Vogel, Board Chair

Another Perspective on “Sustainability”

In today’s world, the discussion of sustainability often centers on environmental sustainability. This view is certainly important to Three Valley Conservation Trust (3VCT), as establishing and monitoring easements is vital for enhancing our physical environment. Fortunately, we have an abundance of scientific talent on 3VCT’s staff and board to address most aspects of environmental sustainability. However, with my background in business and economics, I view the issue of sustainability a bit differently, as sustainability of the organization. A first-rate land trust must be able to sustain itself for generations to allow our mission of creating and monitoring critical open spaces to be perpetual.

Three Valley’s staff and board all recognize that if we are going to successfully carry out our mission, we must build an organization that endures and grows over time, as do our easements. This is not an easy task in today’s world of rapid social, economic, and technological change. So, what will be 3VCT’s keys to long-term success?

A common view in the organizational world is that strategy is the key to longevity. No doubt, strategy is an extremely important facet of organizational durability. But Peter Drucker, the now-deceased “father of modern management,” had a different perspective on the key to organizational success. He often stated that *“Culture eats strategy for breakfast.”* First and foremost, then, one key is creating a culture of success and growth among staff and board members. Lori Fauce’, CEO of the 160-year-old Firemen’s Fund Insurance Company, stated *“Culture is the glue that holds an organization together.”* The cultural glue that holds 3VCT together is our unshakable commitment to land conservation in this region of Ohio. I can assure you that every staff and board member is absolutely committed to the long-term growth and sustainability of your Trust.

Building on these two views of organizational culture, I have adopted the saying that “culture matters!” It is indeed the glue that holds an organization together, and organizational history has corroborated Mr. Drucker’s comments on the subject. Three Valley is a durable organization because we are all bound together by the same culture of land conservation, today and into the future. Everything we do at 3VCT is centered on this principle.

We are not overlooking strategies for future success; culture is more important, but strategy is a close second. We are currently developing strategies for our future success. These center on such items as building our endowment for financial durability, expanding our geographic footprint further into adjoining counties, encouraging improved stewardship of our existing easements, building stronger relationships with businesses and members, and finally, improving our financial position and professional growth via grants and partnerships.

In summary, we take the words “in perpetuity” very seriously. You can rest assured that 3VCT is building a sound future to meet those words, today and in the future.

Congratulations to our GIS Intern, Hannah Wilson!

Three Valley would like to congratulate our GIS intern, Hannah Wilson, and her instructor, Robbyn Abbitt. Their map of Miami University Natural Areas received a First Place award at the 2022 Ohio GIS Conference hosted at the Ohio State University campus. Robbyn Abbitt is the GIS Coordinator, GISci Certificate Advisor, and Assoc. Dir. Geospatial Analysis Center in Miami University’s Department of Geography.

Robbyn also serves on the Three Valley Conservation Trust Land Protection & Stewardship Committee. Hannah has been working as a GIS intern with the Three Valley staff since June 2022 and quickly became a valued member of our team.



About 55 people came out to help pick up trash along 4 Mile Creek on September 17. For many year’s 3VCT has contributed to the Clean Sweep event organized by Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District. On that day, there were volunteer teams at 18 sites from Franklin to the Ohio River where people turned out to do their part, collecting trash from their section of the watershed. Thanks to all and to Soil and Water!

Executive Director's Report

Fall is my favorite time of year. I relish slowing down and traveling behind trucks hauling grain or a combine moving from one field to the next; it provides the opportunity to really take in the views and smells associated with harvest season. As I travel through our region visiting easement properties, I feel great gratitude for our agriculture producers who made the commitment to permanently protect these lands and carry on their farming traditions. I wish you all a safe and bountiful harvest!

Since I last had the opportunity to speak with you, I've visited with landowners who are just starting to explore the idea of donating a conservation easement, as well as with some of our most seasoned landowners who trekked down the conservation road almost 25 years ago. You likely won't be surprised to hear they still speak proudly about protecting their properties. I've spoken with our partnering conservation organizations, and I can see and feel the respect Three Valley has earned through its commitment toward land conservation and stewardship. I've met with, and been humbled by, land trust members who express their joy in providing the financial means to support 3VCT and its commitment to protecting the landscape we all love. Many have included 3VCT in their wills, which will leave a legacy of local conservation and support the efforts of the next generation to carry our work forward. All these experiences are punctuated by the fact that 3VCT is on the cusp of protecting another 500 acres of land in the next six months. These new conservation easements will put 3VCT at over 25,000 acres of land protected. I have the feeling you are as excited as our entire staff and board at the prospect of meeting that milestone.

However, the true measure of our success is not just in closing easements, but also in the ways we work to establish and continue our legacy of land stewardship. My grandfather was fond of saying, "*take care of the land and the land will take care of you*". In that very simple refrain is the fundamental principle of land stewardship. When we accept the perpetual responsibility of stewarding an easement, the Three Valley staff and board feel the weight of this commitment, not just on ourselves, but on the future generations that will carry on our work. We continually search for ways to more effectively meet those obligations and expand our services to our greater community within the staffing and budget restraints so many nonprofits encounter. The addition of April Hamlin to our staff as a contracted grant writer has exponentially increased our ability to source and secure grants for those purposes. Our new office manager, Teri Wickham, brings years of experience in community service, a continuity in community communications, and a passion for conserving and stewarding greenspace. April and Teri, together with Maria and Caitlin, are making wonderful progress toward establishing new land stewardship programs focusing on improving soil health and expanding the diversity of native plants throughout our region at minimal cost to our operational budget.

Recently, Three Valley has accepted the role as host organization for the newly reorganized Southwest Ohio Woodland Association (SWOWA) and began coordinating regional meetings on a quarterly basis. SWOWA members range from landowners with small back yard woodland lots to professional state foresters. All are working together to address threats from invasive species and establish a network of support as we work to increase the health of these woodland habitats. Our regional conservation and government agency partners are working with us to effectively increase water quality throughout SW Ohio, which you will read about in other newsletter articles.

To say we have many wonderful things happening at 3VCT would be understating the overwhelmingly positive impact we have on the health of our natural landscapes and resources. All this happens because of you, our members. As the benefactors of our trust, I can assure you that your financial support is solely committed to meeting these missions. We value every dollar you provide and every minute you spend with us at events, workshops, and hikes offering words of encouragement and advice. On behalf of the staff and board, I offer our humble thanks and appreciation for all you do to make this work possible.



**By Randy Evans
Executive Director**



Farmer Appreciation Day at Chrisholm Farm. Photo by Caitlin Brown.

3VCT Farmer Appreciation Day By Maria Fagin

3VCT partnered with MetroParks of Butler County on July 10th for "Calling all Farm Hands, a Farmer Appreciation Day" at Chrisholm Historic Farmstead in Trenton, Ohio. This event was a component of 3VCT's Soil Health Initiative Program. Three Valley sponsored and participated in an afternoon of farm fun, offering guests the opportunity to explore and experience life on the farm through games and activities. The turnout on Sunday showcased admirable support for our farming community, with about 90 guests in attendance! We'd like to give a big thank you to Lara Askill and the staff at Metroparks of Butler County for hosting the event and partnering with Three Valley to share such an important message.

Land Protection and Stewardship Committee

By Randy Evans, Executive Director

Since our last newsletter, Three Valley has closed one easement bringing us to 218 easements in seven counties. On May 13, 2022, the 89-acre Sunnymede Farms property became Three Valley's 218th easement. Owner, Jason Miller, became a second-generation farmland preservationist following the work of his parents, Duane and Susan Miller who protected their nearby 82-acre family farm in 2016. Duane and Susan always impress our staff with their outstanding land stewardship practices, and we know Jason will carry on that legacy of preservation. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jason and his entire family for partnering with Three Valley and expanding land conservation in Preble County.

Besides closing the easement above, 3VCT also submitted ten applications to the 2022 National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) program. One was selected for funding, the 190-acre Gary Gerber farm on Somerville-Jacksonburg Road in Wayne Township. This property adds to the 1057 acres his parents, Jerry and Cleo Gerber, protected and helps build on the Gerber family legacy of protecting prime agriculture land in SW Ohio.

Three Valley also submitted 12 applications to the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) in 2022. In June, two of our applicants, Fred Voge (Preble County) and Jeff Truster (Butler County) were selected for funding. Like the Gerber family, Fred Voge and the Voge Family have a long history of protecting farmland with 3VCT. The Voge family currently protects 1069 acres across eight properties near West Alexandria, Ohio. Fred will be adding another 83 acres to this family legacy of land protection. The Trusters are a new addition to the 3VCT family as they place an easement on their 71-acre farm on Cotton Run Road in Wayne Township. Jeff Truster has been associated with Three Valley through farming the Angst Farm outside Trenton, Ohio. You might remember this property was donated by Helen Angst to establish a new Butler County MetroPark with a 3VCT easement. This is the last year for farming on what is now MetroPark's Angst Nature Preserve and the Truster Family wished to continue partnering with us to protect farmland.

In addition to these funded easements, we are currently working to close two very exciting, donated easements. First, we are partnering with the Molson-Coors corporation to permanently protect their 3-acre mitigation wetland outside Trenton. This restoration wetland, established in 2012, was constructed and monitored by Jackson Environmental Consulting Services and the Davey Resources Group. In 2022, the Ohio EPA released the project to proceed toward the final mitigation step, requiring permanent protection via a 3VCT easement. Another donated easement is being offered by Rebecca Evans. This 75-acre family farm off Hwy 73 east of Oxford hosts several wetland features and an incredible 15,221 linear feet (nearly three miles) of streams feeding into Coulters Run and the Four Mile Creek watershed. We are thrilled to partner with Rebecca to protect this amazing property in perpetuity.



Pictured from L to R: Tom Vogel (3VCT Board Chair), Caitlin Brown (3VCT Land Protection Manager), Maria Fagin (3VCT Stewardship Manager), and Jason Millar (Sunnymede Farms Owner)

Congratulations!

The Three Valley Family would like to congratulate our Land Protection Manager, Caitlin, and her husband, Adam, on the arrival of their son. Zeke was born on August 24, 2022. We hope his big brother AJ and big sister Kaia are adjusting well to this newest addition and the entire family is happy and healthy. We can't wait to meet you, Zeke!

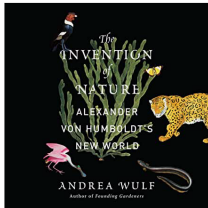
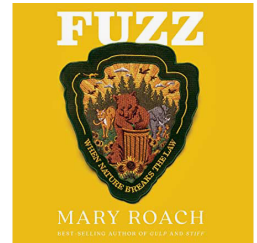


One more note of congratulations! On September 21, 2022, Caitlin was recognized at the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment Fall Awards banquet as a graduate of their 2022 Leadership co-hort. This year-long training program selects ten early-career community members per year to learn about local, state, and federal environmental issues, challenges and opportunities to develop leadership and collaboration skills while building strong networks of support. Well done, Caitlin!



Outreach and Education Committee - Book Club

The last two books for our 2022 Book Club are a little different from our regular topics. On Oct. 13th, we will be discussing "*Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*," by Mary Roach. Like Roach's other books, *Fuzz* is a series of amusing tales about human-wildlife conflict.



Our final book of the year, on Dec. 8th, will be "*The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World*," by Andrea Wolf. This is a biography of the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed how we see the natural world, and in the process created modern environmentalism.

All of our meetings are via Zoom, the second Thursday evening from 7:00-8:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Ben Mattox at: benmattox50@yahoo.com. I will send you the Zoom link.

If you'd like to be involved next year, be thinking about books you'd like our conservation-minded community to read. In a few months we will be choosing our 2023 books from the suggestions made by our book club members. So join our conversations now and be part of our decisions of what to read next year!

Are you hiking for a cause yet?

It's not too late to support 3VCT by getting out there and hiking! It's simple, **register on the 3VCT website** (www.3VCT.org) for the Hike for Acres:



- Your registration fee of \$35 gets you this t-shirt, access to the group hikes that show different ways 3VCT works with property owners, and - for the first 30 to register - a Hike for Acres steel water bottle.
- Set a goal for how much you expect to hike through October 31st.
- Ask your friends and family to donate to 3VCT to support your efforts.
- Then get out and hike and enjoy the fall weather!

Next group hike is: **Sunday, October 9, 9-11 am, at Salamander Run Preserve**, 4821 Layhigh Road, Hamilton. The hike will be led by Steve Gordon, one of the contractors who helped restore the preserve's habitats.

Save the Dates!

Saturday, October 15, 10-11:30am - Invasive Management Workshop - Hueston Woods State Park

This is a great opportunity to improve your woodland management skills.

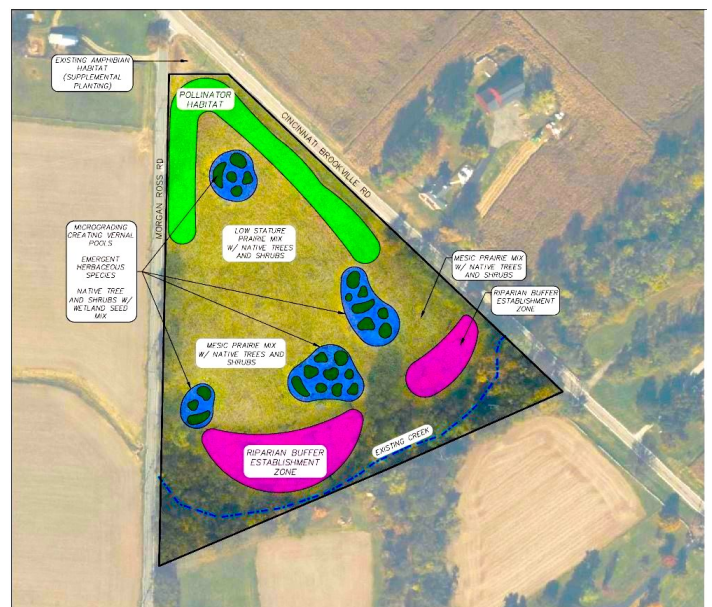
Saturday, December 3 - Wine tasting - Cru wine bar - Oxford, OH

Join the fun for wine and nibbles to support 3VCT's mission. Details will be available soon at www.3VCT.org



Updates on the Henshaw Wetland

We would like to share the wonderful news that funding for the Henshaw Wetland has been approved by our Paddys Run Conservation Project partners, the Fernald Preserve Trustee Council. Three Valley has secured a 50-year project site parcel lease from landowners Stanley and Charlotte Henshaw who are excited about the opportunity to expand amphibian habitat along Paddys Run in SE Butler County. Davey Resource Group (the same company doing the wetland and streambank stabilization on the Hoffmann H2Ohio project site) has been awarded the contract for the project. The work on this 11.2-acre project site will commence following the 2022 soybean harvest. At right is the conceptual site plan prepared by the Davey Resource Group. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/threevalley> or visit our website www.3vct.org for updates as the project progresses.



What have members been doing lately?

3VCT Annual Picnic - June 26, 2022 - by Julie Primack

Al & Mary Bruns shared their beautiful easement property with nearly fifty 3VCT members and guests!

The day included good friends and a choice of fun outdoor activities including hiking the woodland and prairie trails, taking a farm tour with Al Bruns in his ATV, fishing, playing chess, and listening to the music of the amazing John Kogge. Thank you to all for joining us! Special thank you to Al and Mary Bruns for hosting, to Mary Bruns for sharing her photos, to John Kogge for the music and LaTricia Hillman for organizing this event!



Rain Couldn't Keep Trust Members Away from the 2022 Farm to Table Dinner - by Sandi Woy-Hazleton



Despite a steady drizzle (left), nearly 60 people enjoyed an evening of cheerful socializing and locally-sourced foods at Ann Geddes' Indian Creek Preserve. Jim and Amy Leedy donated beef and Tom and Maria Rodeffer donated chicken. We would especially like to thank Ann Geddes and Frank House for offering her lovely farm as our venue. Their combined bountiful gardens of vegetables and deliciously prepared appetizers paired well with the bubbly Prosecco. Ann and Frank, your hospitality was truly only surpassed by your generosity. Food was prepared on-site by Celebrity Chef Courtney Brown (in apron below). Salads and entrees were paired with wines selected and discussed at the event by Jack Keegan (right below).

Three desserts completed the meal, along with coffee, compliments of Bob Thurston of the Oxford Coffee Company. Three Valley staff and the Event Committee thank everyone who attended our first major fundraiser in two years. All who purchased tickets, sponsored the event, set up and cleared up, and provided personal items necessary for a successful evening are much appreciated!



Ruder Preserve Update

By Donna McCollum, Ruder management team, Photos by Mark Boardman

It's been a productive time at Ruder Preserve since our last newsletter. Mark Boardman (below right) and Ed Teets took the lead over the summer: they finished the entry kiosk (complete with signs), finished the boardwalk ramp near Four Mile Creek (right), and built a bridge (below left) over a ravine on the footpath to replace one that washed away a few years ago. Thanks to you both for all your efforts to make Ruder available to all members of the community!



Also this summer, Jack Heitger completed his Eagle Scout project at Ruder. He planted purple coneflowers along the fence and penstemon around the entry sign, then built a privacy fence to obscure our equipment from the entry view. Another scout, Trevor Ogilvie, is doing his Eagle Project there this fall. Trevor is adding the next sections to the boardwalk, beginning our trek southward toward the low-head dam. Both of them have been great to work with and a real asset to the community of volunteers who have done ALL the work at Ruder.



There's more to come: Donna McCollum and Steve Gordon are working again with Dr. Jacqueline Daughtery's philanthropy service learning class on Thursday mornings, 9-noon. This group is concentrating on removing Asian bittersweet, whose seeds flourished after we removed bush honeysuckle. We also have other service groups coming almost ten times this semester. Contact Donna Mccollum (mccollds@miamioh.edu) for information - we'd love your help!

(continued on last page)

Natural History Moment - The Importance of Stewardship and Habitat Protection

Article and photos by Jeff Davis

Stewardship is defined as *“the job of supervising or taking care of something.”* Three Valley Conservation Trust’s (3VCT) mission includes *“conserving natural habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.”* That means protecting land, either through purchase or a conservation easement, before it’s lost to development or ends up in the hands of someone whose passion is not stewardship. But the task of conservation doesn’t end with protection. Often, the land must be restored to its natural state, or something that approaches it, and then managed to keep it that way. Several examples of the importance of good stewardship stand out from my years of consulting on reptiles and amphibians throughout Ohio.



This Morgan Township stream, situated under a mature canopy, flows intermittently, and has a significant Cave Salamander population. It is located on a property protected by Three Valley Conservation Trust.

Since the mid-1990s I’ve monitored a population of Eastern Massasaugas, a small rattlesnake that is endangered in Ohio, on an 88-acre Clark County site owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1995-96 and again in 2005-06 there were many Massasaugas at the site and the population appeared stable. In 2011, I visited again and found a stream I stepped across in the past was now 15 feet wide due to a beaver dam downstream. When I checked out the field where approximately 80% of my Massasauga encounters had occurred, it was mostly underwater, with snapping turtles swimming where Massasaugas had populated a meadow.

The dam was eventually breached and the beavers trapped out. However, the muck soil, which once supported warm season grasses mixed with a wonderful diversity of prairie forbs, remained saturated and became a virtual lawn of thousands of giant ragweed plants. These created a canopy unsuitable for any Massasaugas that might have survived the flood, or for meadow voles, their primary prey. The team that manages the site eradicated tens of acres of ragweed by cutting the stems when the ragweed was in flower so none would set seed, an amazing feat. Unfortunately, the habitat damage was already done and our search for Massasaugas was fruitless. One that was found in a garage a half mile away, was moved back to the site but was never found again. The pre-flood Massasauga population has never recovered; in recent years we found one in 2018, zero in 2019 and 2020, one in 2021, and none in 2022 as of September 5.

The point is that habitats on small parcels must be managed. Stewardship is essential. During those intervals between surveys, we assumed everything was fine, but on such a small tract, a natural event like a family of aquatic rodents moving in and building a dam can alter the environment, having a negative impact on other species. The lesson learned - resources must be spent every year for stewardship at that site.



The Cave Salamander, an Ohio endangered species lives at the northern edge of its range in Butler and Hamilton counties.

The Cave Salamander, another Ohio endangered species, occurs from Virginia to Oklahoma, and from Georgia north to southwest Ohio. The northernmost known populations of this salamander were at three sites in Ross Township and one in Fairfield. Unfortunately, one population was lost when the Ross Trails Girl Scout Camp was sold and turned into a housing development. A second Ross population exists on a still-intact parcel already sold for development; it’s just a matter of time before it is gone. The Fairfield site was destroyed when the landowner re-routed his driveway.

To be a good steward is to manage habitats effectively, so it helps to know what species are present and what habitat characteristics they need. That’s why species lists, like those made in the amphibian and reptile surveys I did in 2018 to 2020 on many properties under 3VCT protection, are important. Remarkably, I found six previously unknown Cave Salamander populations in Butler County, one in Ross Township and five in Morgan Township.

Another was found in neighboring Crosby Township in Hamilton County.

Finding these populations and protecting the land is just the beginning of protecting the species, though. Salamanders are delicate creatures that inhabit damp woodland environments. One of the most detrimental things for salamander populations is the establishment of Amur honeysuckle. It draws water from the soil for more months each year than native understory plants, resulting in soil compaction. A recent study by University of Dayton ecologists found stream segments shaded by honeysuckle had far smaller populations and less diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates than segments without honeysuckle. Stewardship will involve, or maybe even require, that honeysuckle be removed and kept out.

Thanks to 3VCT easement owners, seven populations of a beautiful Ohio endangered species will not be lost to development or rerouted driveways. Conservation easements, along with good stewardship practices, will protect them.



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Newsletter prepared by: Donna McCollum, Barbara Hamilton, Holly Wissing, Amy Sullivan



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

(continued from page 6 - Ruder Preserve Update)



Left - Jack Heitger (center) and crew work on privacy fence for equipment storage.



Trevor Ogilvie, 2nd from left, and his crew of helpers, Saturday, Sept. 24

Support Three Valley Conservation Trust

Membership - show your commitment to land conservation in SW Ohio by becoming a member, renewing your membership, or providing a gift membership. As a Three Valley member, you join people committed to conserving open land, preserving agricultural legacy, clean air and water, and habitats.

Donations - provide additional support for monitoring and protecting our 215 easements and acquiring new ones.



To become a member or to donate, go to www.3vct.org/donate or call the 3VCT office at 513-524-2150, ext. 5.

Attention current easement holders

Please remember that if you plan to transfer your property title through sale or gift, you are required by your easement to notify Three Valley Conservation Trust 30 days in advance. This insures that new owners of the property are aware of the easement.

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 or working on restoration at Ruder Preserve. Another way to help is to join one of the ongoing committees. If you would like to help in any way, contact the 3VCT office at 513-524-2150 for information.

Outreach and Education - recruits the next generation of 3VCT supporters and educates current ones, plans and executes fundraising events

Land Protection and Stewardship - evaluates properties proposed for easements

Property Management - makes decisions about activities at Trust-owned properties

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

Finance - keeps track of accounts, formulates the budget and informs the board on all financial matters

Ruder work days 2022: 9-noon Oct. 8,9, 29: 4-6pm - Oct. 27: 1-4pm - Oct. 29

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 tax deductible.