



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

## **Riparian Zones** **A Crucial Part of Land Stewardship** **By Randy Evans and Donna McCollum**

Each of us can probably recount in detail a meaningful visit to a stream. Maybe it was to fish, to listen to the sound of the water flowing over rocks or birds singing, to turn over rocks and catch crayfish, or watch a family of ducks play in quiet pool or a fawn silently slip down for a cool drink. Perhaps we were using it for transportation, for swimming, or throwing a stick for our dog to retrieve. We, like all species, are naturally drawn to the water. These surface waters are the key to all life. They help recharge our aquifers, irrigate our fields, water livestock, provide clean energy, and provide a source of food. Scientists explore space for any sign of water, not infrastructure, to indicate life may have existed there. Access to clean water is important to every species on earth but for some reason we, as humans, tend to ignore the most important feature ensuring these waters remain clean...riparian zones.



*Riparian habitats in Butler County*



*Four-Mile Creek in Butler County*

Riparian corridors are the strips of land that border rivers, streams, and other water bodies. They provide a buffer between human activities and the water body, helping to filter pollutants and nutrients that could otherwise enter the water and harm aquatic life. These buffer areas can help to mitigate the effects of flooding and other natural disasters. Vegetation along the water's edge helps to slow down and absorb water, reducing the likelihood of flash flooding and erosion events which cause sedimentation, introduce contamination, and reduce water clarity. Riparian zones also help to protect nearby communities by providing a natural barrier against floodwaters.

They are also critical habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna and play a vital role in maintaining that biodiversity. These corridors provide essential resources and shelter for a variety of species as well as important pathways for their movement. They are important bird stopover habitat for resting and

foraging during long migration journeys between breeding and wintering grounds. The array of habitats provided by riparian corridors can support species that are not found in other ecosystems as they are often rich in food resources such as insects, fruits, and seeds providing many species with the energy they need to thrive. In short, riparian plants and trees provide important food and habitat for many species of insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles.

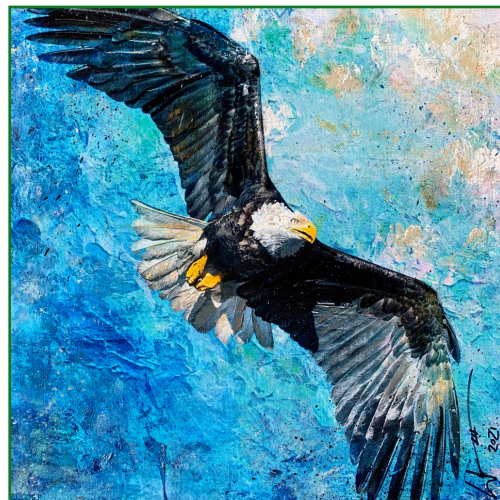


**Tom Vogel, Board Chair**

## It is Not Only an Easement; It is Habitat!

Over the many years I have been involved with easements on my own properties, one of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of creating, or in some cases, re-creating habitat. Unlike most of the Staff and Board members of Three Valley, I have a limited science background. But with the assistance of scientists and ecologists, I have been able to better understand the value of habitat to the well-being of plant, animal, and human life. Once I understood its value and opportunities for nurturing such, I have become a real zealot for promoting habitat.

To me, the most exciting example of habitat restoration can be seen with the proliferation of the bald eagle in Ohio. By the late 1970s, Ohio had only four nesting pairs of bald eagles. Today, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' most recent count indicates there are 824 nesting pairs of eagles in the state. In fact, there are over 20 nesting pairs in the counties in which we have easements. This is not a coincidence. Obviously, the banning of DDT has had a huge impact in their comeback. But habitat restoration has had much to do with this wonderful proliferation of the nation's symbol. I am aware of at least one eagle nest on an easement in Preble County. It would not shock me that we have others. But the key point is that our easements provide either permanent or temporary habitat for these great birds...and you as landowners and members are supporting such habitat!



We at Three Valley are not only called to create easements, but we also strive to improve both the habitat and biodiversity of our protected properties. I believe there are times we as Staff, Board members, landowners, and supporters only think we are "conserving land." We are doing much more than that. We are conserving and restoring habitat for the fundamental species of plants, animals, and birdlife that make our planet tick. We would be failing our landowners and supporters if we only established easements and then walked away. Our mission is to not only establish easements, but to monitor and enhance them for the benefit of our landowners, members, and our neighbors in southwestern Ohio. Our lives can only flourish when our local environment flourishes... and our landowners and members are critical to fulfilling our mission.

You as a landowner, member, or supporter of Three Valley Conservation Trust should be recognized for the role you are playing in habitat conservation and restoration. Generations to come will look back at you with a sense of great appreciation for the legacy of land and habitat that you have left for them and their future generations. Your Board and Staff are riveted to these endeavors every day of our lives.

*continued from page 1*

### **Riparian Zones: A Crucial Part of Land Stewardship**

They also play an important role in regulating the local climate by reducing the impacts of wind and solar radiation. For example, many fish species require cool, clear water found in streams and rivers for their survival. Similarly, amphibians like frogs and salamanders depend on the moist, shaded environment provided by riparian vegetation for their reproduction and survival. The complex network of vegetation in these corridors provides a range of microhabitats that support a diversity of life forms.

Overall, riparian zones play a crucial role in maintaining the health and ecological integrity of all water bodies in Southwest Ohio. Despite all the services they provide, riparian corridors are facing a range of threats, including habitat fragmentation, invasive species, water pollution, and climate change. It is therefore important that we prioritize conservation efforts to protect these important ecosystems and ensure their long-term sustainability. By preserving riparian corridors, we can not only protect biodiversity but also safeguard the critical services and values they provide to society.

To learn more about the resources available to establish, protect, and maintain healthy riparian zones, please contact Three Valley Conservation Trust. To view a riparian zone undergoing restoration, please visit the Three Valley Ruder Preserve in Oxford, Ohio. We would love to provide a tour and discuss our mutual interest in conserving these essential habitats.



## Executive Director's Report

Can you believe we are almost halfway through spring? We have so many wonderful things happening at Three Valley Conservation Trust that at times it seems overwhelming as time progresses so quickly. During these temperate months, our staff primarily focuses on our annual property visits, walking properties with landowners considering an easement, and compiling data for our next round of applications for federal and state-funded easements. Central to all of this is our work to conserve and steward land. Land means many things to many people. For some it means home, for others work and livelihood; for some recreation, and for others it means the wealth bestowed by nature including lakes, streams, wetlands, and woodlands. While we may sometimes disagree with other agencies on the best use of land, there is no disagreement that our supply cannot be increased. This is one especially critical reason to conserve what we have.



**By Randy Evans  
Executive Director**

In Southwest Ohio, we are experiencing two trends that threaten our quality of life and our future. First, climate change is affecting every ecosystem with unpredictable precipitation patterns leading to more frequent and intense storms. This can cause flooding and erosion, which can damage habitats and alter the distribution of plants and animals. Climate change also alters seasonal events, such as the timing of migration, flowering, and leafing out of trees. These changes disrupt the delicate balance between species and affect the availability of food for animals and people. Second, we are seeing a sustained push for development, which is making land protection more difficult and expensive. Both trends threaten our Three Valley mission but more importantly, the very ecosystems that provide us with clean water, clean air, and healthy soil. What we choose to do with these lands really matters, maybe not always immediately to us, but certainly to the generations that come after us.

For Three Valley, these trends highlight an urgent need to protect more land but also increase our efforts to help steward our permanently protected lands. In response, we are deliberately, but slowly building up our organizational capacity in land stewardship, conservation, development, and communications. While we are making the strategic decision to broaden the organization's mission to include better stewardship of our properties, we also want to connect more deeply with our community to raise awareness and ensure they have effective tools for their conservation work. You will read about many of these efforts throughout the pages of our spring newsletter and we hope they inspire your continued organizational support. Your membership, advocacy, and donations are the only way to ensure the long-term sustainability of our impact and our legacy as a conservation land trust.

Our goal, in the end, is to become the organization our community needs us to be. And while we can't know exactly what the future holds, one thing is clear: if we don't address these trending issues now, we will never know what could have been accomplished or the consequences for our ever-more-fragile environment. Now is the time for Three Valley to take a leadership role in the community — but we need your help. Please join us in the important work ahead as we continue to conserve and protect the lands that make Southwest Ohio such a special place to live, work, and play.

Semper Gratus,

Randy



### Welcome Madison Perry, Stewardship Technician

Madison Perry began working for TVCT in January. She graduated from Miami University, where she studied Geography and Sustainable Development and Geographic Information Sciences. She is ready and eager to make her mark on preserving Southwest Ohio's natural areas and creating a greener future. When she's not in the field monitoring, or completing reports, she has been working on map creation, database management, and facilitating the transfer of data to a new platform to store all the monitoring information.

She is passionate about the mission of Three Valley, protecting our natural world, and connecting with landowners and Three Valley members.

# Land Protection and Stewardship

by Caitlin Brown, Stewardship Manager

## Protecting Land:

Since our last newsletter, Three Valley has closed two donated easements in Butler County, bringing us to 220 easements (24,654 acres) across seven counties. In addition, we currently have five pending easements totaling 568.73 acres, which will bring us to the achievement of protecting over 25,000 acres. Protecting this land would not be possible without the help of our partners; Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Fernald Preserve Trustee Council.

### Molson Coors Trenton Brewery Wetlands



Our last conservation easement of 2022 was a 3.04 acre mitigation wetland owned by the Molson Coors Beverage Company. In 2022, the Ohio EPA released the project to proceed toward the final mitigation step, permanent protection. This exciting new relationship allows TVCT to utilize its knowledge of wetland ecosystems to aid Molson Coors in the maintenance of the wetland site.

### Daffodil Hill Farm and Preserve



The first conservation easement of 2023 was Rebecca Evans' 75 acre farm located in Oxford, Ohio. Rebecca grew up on the property, which she has named Daffodil Hill Farm and Preserve due to the abundance of daffodils that can be found throughout the property. The property is comprised of roughly 24 acres of tillable land, 47 acres of forested/natural areas, and over 15,000 feet of blue-line streams.

## Soil Health Initiative:

It is important to Three Valley to support landowners in enhancing the conservation value of their properties. That is why we are excited for the opportunity to continue to develop our Crop and Soil Health (CASH) program thanks to an additional \$10,000 grant provided by Land Trust Alliance (LTA). Our Stewardship Team created a soil health survey that was mailed to our current agricultural landowners to get a better understanding of current farming practices and what resources our farmers are utilizing. All landowners that responded were placed in the running for a \$500 micro-grant to be used towards the purchase of cover crop seeds. The \$500 micro-grant was awarded to Ernst Schlichter at the 2022 Annual Meeting. As we continue to develop our CASH program, we plan to have a soil health resource page on our website, develop additional case study sites, provide additional grants to help offset the cost of integrating regenerative agricultural practices, and to continue to build partnerships that will allow us to better support our farmers.

## Upper Twin Creek Nine-Element NPS-IS Plans

On April 20, 2023, Three Valley Conservation Trust (TVCT) hosted a public meeting with various stakeholders to introduce the three Ohio EPA funded Non-Point Source Implementation Strategy (NPS-IS) nine-element plans in the Headwaters Twin, Millers Fork, and Swamp creek watersheds. TVCT is the sponsor of these plans, following the success of three previous approved plans (Paddy's Run, Howard Creek-Dry Fork and Beals Run-Indian Creek). Approximately 30 landowners, partner agency employees, and other stakeholders attended the Lewisburg public meeting and participated in a lively discussion about water challenges in the area. Participants heard an introduction to the NPS-IS planning process and provided input -- and some also invited partners to visit their properties to view the problems they are facing. These visits, along with the Agriculture Conversation Planning Framework GIS work, will occur over the next few months, as well as finishing up data research for the three watersheds. Stay tuned to the plans' progress by visiting <https://www.3vct.org/events-activities-news>



# New Life for a Remnant Wetland – A Brief History

by Jeff Davis

Prior to my life as a consultant biologist, I was a high school science teacher. My favorite course to teach was Zoology and in that course my favorite topic was amphibians. One of the labs in the course was “Local Amphibian I.D.” Students used copies of ODNR’s **Amphibians of Ohio Field Guide** as they circulated around the room identifying species



*This American Toad was crossing Morgan Ross Road on March 19, 2020 on its way to look for a mate in the ephemeral wetland at Henshaw’s corner.*

of live salamanders, frogs, and toads held in containers on the lab tables. Several species of frogs and salamanders lived in my classroom, but I had to collect some to reach the 20 or so species for the lab and subsequent test (the animals were returned after we borrowed them). A particularly reliable collection site was a small ephemeral wetland at the intersection of Morgan Ross Rd. and State Route 126 near Shandon. To most it would look like a wet depression at the corner of a corn field. According to my field notes from 1996 until I retired in 2017, there were Cope’s Gray Treefrogs, Spring Peepers, Blanchard’s Cricket Frogs, American and Fowler’s Toads, Northern Leopard Frogs, and Green Frogs using the tiny vestige of a wetland as a breeding site.

Fast forward to 2019. Three Valley Conservation Trust contracted with me to do amphibian and reptile surveys on the properties protected as part of the Paddys Run Conservation Project, an effort to protect properties in the Paddys Run Drainage. Little did I know, until I saw the property map, that the little wetland I had visited so many times was among those properties. The landowner, Stanley Henshaw who now lives in Virginia, grew up in Cincinnati but spent time on the farm (his family’s retreat) as a child. One day, when Stanley was in town, I shared my history with the wetland. He explained that he had inquired about having it drained but it wasn’t possible because it would require installing drainage under State Route 126. I told him how pleased the frogs and I were that he couldn’t drain it! Eventually, I shared the story with Randy Evans and Tom Schneider. Tom is the Ohio EPA administrator who worked with 3VCT on the Paddys Run Project.



*These Cope’s Gray Treefrog tadpoles hatched from eggs deposited in the ephemeral wetland at Henshaw’s Corner.*



*Jeff Davis and Tom Schneider (OEPA administrator)*

After a couple of years of applying for grants and permits, planning for wetland restoration, and a global pandemic, an agreement was reached between 3VCT and the landowner to not only preserve the little wetland I had visited so many times, but to turn the entire 8-acre parcel, which we now endearingly call “Henshaw’s Corner,” into a wetland preserve. It’s not huge, but on April 24<sup>th</sup> ground-breaking occurred on what will provide amphibian breeding habitat that is farther away from the road than the remnant wetland that is currently there and it won’t be as susceptible to drying up during drought years. Local amphibian populations will benefit from the vast improvement to breeding habitat!

A remnant wetland in neighboring Warren County I’ve visited annually for 20 years is used by the same frog and toad species as the one at Henshaw’s Corner plus four species of *Amphispelma* salamanders. I have found all four of these salamanders within ½ to ¾ of a mile of Henshaw’s Corner (on other 3VCT protected properties). Sadly, the wetland in Warren County is about to be lost to development but as a result the efforts of 3VCT, Henshaw’s Corner will not be lost, but will provide important amphibian breeding habitat that will outlive us all. And with any luck, those four salamander species will find it.



*“Drivers” of the Henshaw Wetland project: Caitlin Brown, Laura Hafer, Tom Schneider, Randy Evans, Eric Hollins, and Steve Gordon.*



*Shelby Croft (OEPA chief of staff) and Stanley Henshaw at Henshaw Wetland Ceremony*



## Pollinator Paradise

by April Hamlin

It is easy for the average person to become discouraged when it comes to saving the environment. Just in the last few months there have been train derailments, fires, and explosions leaving lasting damage on our planet. Without deep pockets or large swathes of property, we can be left asking, "What can I do that could make an impact?"

This past July, the beloved monarch butterfly officially became listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Habitats and milkweeds are being replaced with lawns and pesticides, subdivisions and shopping centers. Pollinators are the first to feel the destruction. A decline in pollinators can disrupt an entire ecosystem. People and wildlife suffer the loss.

Motivated to save the pollinators and fueled by the desire to create a conservation community mindset, Three Valley Conservation Trust launched the Seed Library and Stewardship initiative. Small libraries, similar to those of the Little Free Library movement, will be filled with free pollinator-friendly seeds and placed in areas throughout the county to encourage people to establish pollinator friendly yards and gardens. Each library will be closely monitored and stocked with the goal of having each library adopted by a resident or group for long term stewardship. Information on the seeds and their



## Seeds for the Birds and the Bees

Welcome to Three Valley Conservation Trust (3VCT) Seed Library. This Library is sponsored by Three Valley Conservation Trust and was funded by a grant from the Christine Humphreys Fund at the Northern Cincinnati Foundation.

Please select a seed packet for your garden.

Plant the seeds, grow the flowers, create a pollinator garden. If you know of a group who would like to "Adopt a Seed Library", please reach out to [www.3vct.org](http://www.3vct.org).

Happy planting and growing our seeds to bring the pollinators! Send your pictures to [www.3vct.org](http://www.3vct.org).



A QR Code with Planting Instructions will be available soon.



care will be included. Seed libraries will be located in public places like parks and community centers. Ruder Preserve will be home to the first completed seed library.

The Seed Library and Stewardship project is supported by a \$20,000 Christine Humphreys Impact Grant from the Northern Cincinnati Foundation. As a result, seed libraries and stewards will be established throughout Butler County. Once the seed libraries are established, they will serve the community for years to come and offer additional opportunities like seed harvesting days.

If you find yourself asking what can be done, remember the monarch. The Seed Library and Stewardship initiative makes conservation accessible and doable, saves the pollinators, improves green spaces, and promotes community involvement. Even the smallest flowerbed can blossom into a pollinator paradise. If you are interested in donating seeds or becoming a steward, please email Teri at [office@3vct.org](mailto:office@3vct.org).



## Hoffmann Wetland and Stream Restoration

A year ago, we held the official groundbreaking for the Hoffmann Wetland and Stream Restoration project funded through an Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) H2Ohio grant. If you have driven by the site south of Oxford recently, it may seem like the project has stalled. Things are happening and we are making progress, but the permitting phase has delayed us until we complete a costly archaeological survey ensuring we do not impact the protection and preservation of cultural and historic resources. We have secured additional funding and awarded the contract, so the survey work should begin in early May.

Meanwhile, Jeff Davis completed a comprehensive herpetological survey needed to establish a species baseline. The Ohio EPA visited the project site three times to perform fish and macroinvertebrates surveys. The H2Ohio project monitoring team completed an initial soil characterization report while the Davey Resource Group personnel made several site visits to eradicate invasive species. Finally, our partners at the Miami Conservancy District continue the pre-construction stream flow measurements to compare with post construction measurements. The visits are coordinated with our project management team

partners, Monica Rakovan and Agnes Marchlewska, at Environmental Solutions AQ, LLC.

These restoration projects are truly a team effort, and we are grateful to have so many amazing partners on the team. Keep watching for updates. If the archaeological survey reveals no cultural resources at the project site, we expect to have equipment on site quickly and complete the project on schedule at the end of 2023.



*Indian Creek on Hoffman property prior to restoration efforts. Note severely eroded stream bank on left side of photo.*



*OEPA fish survey*



*OEPA fish survey*

## Welcome New Board Members

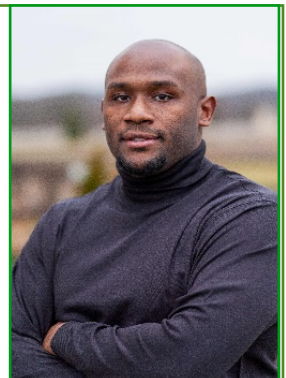


**Meg Maloney** is the Sustainability Specialist at the City of Dayton, and an avid environmentalist! Meg is originally from Chicago and moved to the Dayton region to complete her undergraduate and graduate degree at the University of Dayton. Meg's research focused on creating a new method to sample stream salamanders and the impact of the invasive Callery pear on prairie restoration at Five Rivers MetroParks.

Meg is excited to join the board of 3VCT to continue her passion of protecting natural areas, increasing the biodiversity of the region, and enhancing native areas within our region.

**Adam Brown Sr.** is a researcher and community advocate. He attended Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. He founded ClinArk to help small and large life science companies with community engagement by implementing community-based participatory research approaches to build awareness around community health. Adam served as a board member at the Trenton Community Improvement Corporation and The Conscious Connect Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Adam is deeply passionate about helping improve communities in ways that will enhance and address the quality of life and health outcomes for residents.





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[www.3vct.org](http://www.3vct.org)**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tom Vogel, Chair  
Sarah Dumyahn, Vice Chair  
Ed Teets, Treasurer  
Amy Sullivan, Secretary  
Mark Boardman  
Adam Brown, Sr.  
LaTricia Hillman  
Cathryn Loucas  
Megan Maloney  
Donna McCollum  
Julie Primack  
Mark Rentschler  
Ryan Schwegman

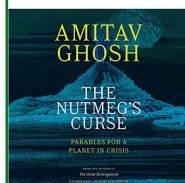
### STAFF

Randy Evans  
*Executive Director*  
Caitlin Brown  
*Stewardship Manager*  
Teri Wickham  
*Office Manager*  
April Hamlin  
*Grant Writer*  
Madison Perry  
*Stewardship Technician*  
Steve Gordon  
*Paddys Run Contractor*

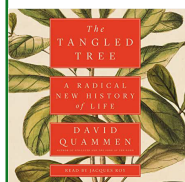


*Valley Trust News,  
the newsletter for members  
of Three Valley  
Conservation Trust,  
is published twice a year.*

**The 3VCT Book Club** has completed its first two books of 2023, but has 4 great reads to come. All meetings are **bimonthly at 7:00 pm** on the **2nd Thursday** of the month, and are held **online**. Lest anyone wonder whether the book club is doing any "conservation good", it is! While at the guided hike last week, Nadia noted she has changed her Springwood yard, removing honeysuckle and and planting a prairie envied by many neighbors, because of her association with the book club. Please join us for delightful conversations, *usually* spurred by the books we read!



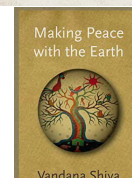
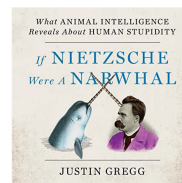
**The Nutmegs Curse** by Amitav Ghosh  
- May 11th. Leader is Ben Mattox.



**If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal** by Justin Gregg  
- July 13th. Leader is Karl Mattox.

**The Tangled Tree** by David Quammen  
- Sept. 14th. Leader is Hardy Eshbaugh.

**Making Peace with the Earth** by Vandana Shiva.  
- Nov. 9. Leader is Marcia Schlichter.



## 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](http://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

**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.**

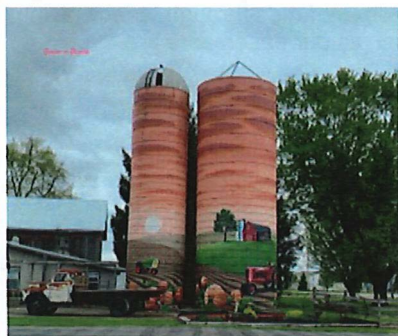


**Save the Dates!** **3VCT Book Club - see back page** (just too many good things going on!)

## Celebrate Fathers' Day with 3VCT's first ever **BOURBON TASTING!**

**Saturday, June 10th 5 to 8pm Cost \$60/person**

If you like good Food, good Stories, good People, good Music, and of course, good Bourbon, join Three Valley friends for a fun evening of food and festivities. Hear about each bourbon you will taste, as well as the history of bourbon in this area, from Oxford's bourbon aficionados,



### **Mike Crowder and Steve Darby!**

The event will start with appetizers and a light cocktail, and proceed for about two hours to include more substantial snacks and desserts, all while tasting and learning about the 4 selected bourbons. As Mike Crowder says, "Every bourbon has a story!"

Also enjoy the history of the family-owned  
**BARN-N-BUNK FARM MARKET**  
3677 Wayne Madison Rd., Trenton, OH



*Music by the InkBirds*

### **We Need a Head Count !**

Please sign-up on the 3VCT website at: [www.3VCT.org](http://www.3VCT.org) or call 3VCT office at 513-524-2150.

## Don't Miss the Last Spring Guided Hike!

We've lassoed our own extraordinary historian **Stephen Gordon**, curator of the McGuffey Museum, into explaining another way Three Valley helps preserve land through the story of the **Angst Farm**. This beautiful property in Wayne Township has become the newest Butler County Metropark through their partnership with 3VCT and, thus, the family who farmed it for the last century.

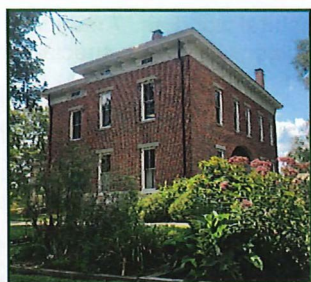
**Date:** Thursday, May 25

**Time:** 6-8 pm

**Location:** Angst Nature Preserve, 4050 Trenton-Oxford Road,



To support Three Valley and get your own "Hike for Acres" t-shirt, bring along some cash or credit. T-shirts were donated, so all proceeds go to support Three Valley. Buy a T-shirt for \$35 or get a T-shirt and household membership for \$65. Help support your trust with your presence and your wardrobe!



## **3VCT Annual Picnic**

**Saturday July 29 11 am - 4 pm**

Enjoy fun with the whole family at the 2023 Three Valley Annual Picnic at Butler County Metropark's Chrisholm Historic Farmstead.

**Petting Zoo  
Historic Home & Barn  
Nature Playscape  
Free Food!**



Other highlights include: 11 am to 1 pm - **Music** by Judy and Warren Waldren

1-2 pm - **Tour of Farm w/ Discussion of The Area's History:** Jeff Lehman, Chrisholm director

**3VCT will provide:** Hamburgers and Veggie Burgers on the Grill  
Ice Tea, Lemonade, and Water

**Please Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to Share** if you can



## What have members been doing lately?

### 3VCT Annual Meeting - March 5, 2023

By Julie Primack  
Photos by Julie Primack

The annual meeting was held on March 5, 2023 at the Knolls in Oxford to update 3VCT members on all that was accomplished in 2022. This lovely facility was perfect for a night of fun and information.

**George Ironstrack** gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Myaamia Tribe, their historic ownership and life in this area and their current situation. He has an amazing ability with the Myaamia language and was very knowledgeable about the culture and their history.

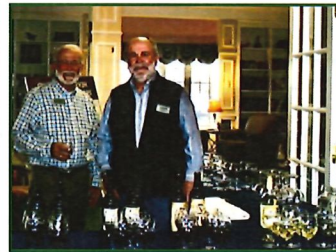
**Aaron Ames**, of the Ames Financial Advisors Group, provided a thorough description of how Legacy Funds can be provided in wills. We thank you for that informative talk, Aaron. Donations to the endowment funds through legacy giving will be an important piece of Three Valley's effort to be financially stable in perpetuity, as our easements are.

We were able to congratulate **Ernst Schlichter** for winning the Soil Health Survey micro-grant made available through a \$10,000.00 grant from Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and awarded to our Stewardship manager Caitlyn Brown. The money Mr. Schlichter received will be used toward cover crop seeds.

Changes to the 3VCT Board of Trustees for this year include the retirement of two exceptional women. **Sandi Woy-Hazelton and Barbara Hamilton**, both very competent, organized and knowledgeable board members, will be missed greatly! Sandi was one of the founding members of Three Valley Conservation Trust in the mid 1990s and Barb has been on the Board for the last 3 years, including as the Vice Chair during 2022. They often worked together to organize cherished fund raising/ socializing events. When you see them, please join the current board in thanking them for their years of service.

The Board is excited to welcome two newly members elected, Adam Brown Sr. and Meg Maloney. (See pg. 7)

And a tremendous thank you to all the people (right) who made our Annual Meeting such a success!



### Three Valley Spring Guided Hikes

By Donna McCollum  
Photos by Teri Wickham, Julie Primack

Last spring the outreach committee launched a Hike for Acres program in hopes of raising funds to support Three Valley. As part of that effort, we scheduled four guided hikes. Although the Hike for Acres did not raise a huge amount of money, we were encouraged to continue the guided hikes. So, this spring we've done two guided hikes at easement properties and have one more coming up in May (see back of this sheet for more on that). Here's what we did!

**March 30th at Silvoor Preserve**, 20+ people were introduced to Silvoor Preserve and its natural wonders. Amanda Bentley Brymer, curator of Silvoor, gave a brief history to explain why it is so special, complete with pictures of the large lake that used to be in the center of the preserve! Who knew! Kara Strass, from the Myaamia cultural center, then described the strong connection between the Myaamia people who used to live in this area and how their lives were guided by the cycles of nature. Both of them then identified plants along the pathways, both flowers and trees, and some of the significance of each species.



**April 27th at the Edge of the Farm Conservation Area**, home of Donna McCollum and Hays Cummins, another 20 people came out for an adventure. We all brought food to eat at a campfire in the "back forty". After leaving Julie Primack and Ben Mattox near the fire pit to get hot coals ready for cooking, the rest of us hiked the prairies and "East Woods", finding spring wildflowers and diverse stands of 75-100-year old trees, and talking about why keeping these habitats free of invasive species is important for native species to flourish.



What a wonderful way to introduce people to some conservation efforts enabled by Three Valley easements! Celebrate by joining us for the next guided hike - check out the back of this page for details. **The hikes are free and open to members and nonmembers, so what's stopping you?!**

