



CONSERVATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF CARDINAL LAND CONSERVANCY / AUGUST 2018

Issue VI

New in Clinton County: Todd's Fork Nature Preserve

The Clean Ohio Green Space Fund has helped Cardinal Land Conservancy purchase a 221-acre property consisting of mature woods and broad meadows—with a fork of the Little Miami River running through it.

Protected forever

Cardinal was recently awarded Clean Ohio Green Space funding to work with the conservation minded owners to purchase their land — and protect it forever.

The property is located at Center Rd. and Nelson Rd. in Wilmington, Union Twp. in Clinton County, Ohio.

Now known as Cardinal's **Todd's Fork Nature Preserve**, these 221 acres will undergo a great deal of restoration in the coming years.

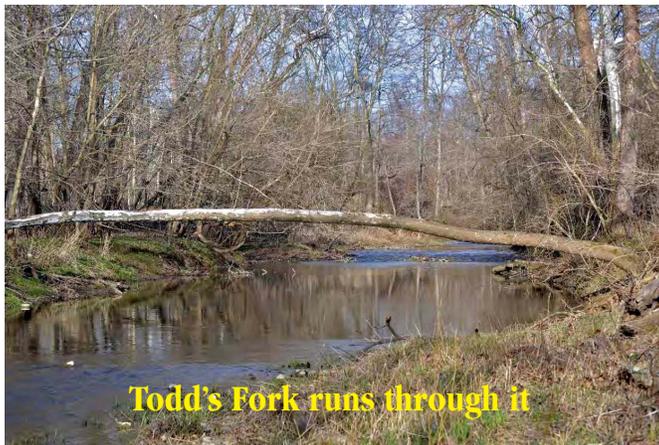
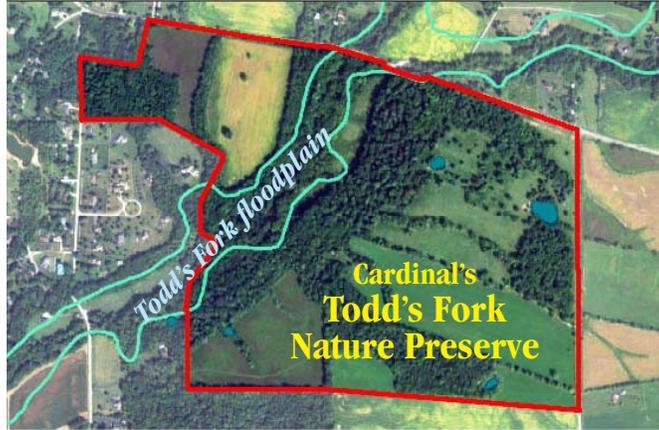
A green gem will stay forever wild

The property has long been considered a nature preserve by its former owners. Thanks to their conservation ethic, it will be for future generations. Todd's Fork of the Little Miami River runs through this land. The water quality in this section is excellent. It hosts myriad fish and mussel species.

This preserve is also a known location where Indiana bats raise their young. The female bats need to find homes in loose bark and tree cavities in full sun so they can conserve energy by keeping themselves and their young warm.

A conservation plan for the long run

Planned is a 1-mile mowed hiking trail that will offer excellent opportunities to experience nature first hand. The plan



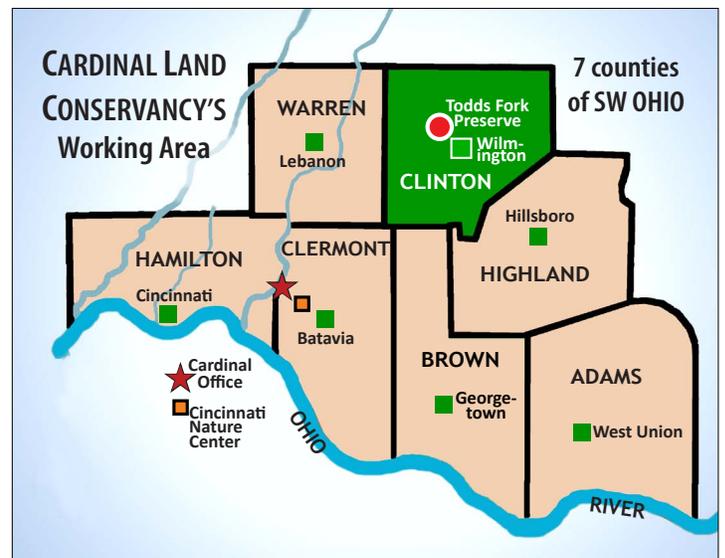
CLEAN OHIO FUND

Since 2000, it has restored, protected and connected Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and cleaning up brownfields.

The fund's **Clean Ohio Green Space** program funds preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors.

This program is dedicated to environmental conservation including acquisition of green space, and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors.

Grant recipients agree to maintain the properties in perpetuity so that they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.



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Ag Easement Field Day at Hiatt Farm



Farm owners Richard and Kim Hiatt

Cardinal's Eastern Area Council volunteers held an "Agricultural Easement Field Day" on Aug. 16 at the farm of Kim and Richard Hiatt in Highland County near New Vienna.

More than 50 people attended to learn about what is entailed in the easement process. Speakers described how Cardinal works with the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) to protect their farms from future development, and how an easement from Cardinal — purchased or donated — could benefit them.

Speakers included accountants Patricia Herron and Donnie Davis, as well as landowners Kim Hiatt and Jeff Hoak, who described their experiences with these programs.



Farm owner Jeff Hoak



Field Day attendees learn from Kim Hiatt

Todd's Fork Nature Preserve

(continued from front page)

includes restoring 50 acres of meadow or native prairie, and 50 acres of bat-friendly trees. Also, habitat boxes will be installed—for bats, tree swallows, wood ducks and prothonotary warblers. Cardinal is fortunate to work with Great Parks of Hamilton County to purchase locally grown and harvested wildflower and grass seed for the restoration.

These 50 acres were planted this spring by Andy Dickerson, Richard Hiatt and a portion by Walter Dickerson.

We will work with volunteers to put in the habitat boxes this fall. The trees will be planted in cooperation with Taking Root—a subsidiary of Green Umbrella in Greater Cincinnati. The tree species include local oaks and hickories, sugar maple and tulip poplar, selected to benefit the Indiana bat.

A Letter from the President—

Bee-lieve in the Land

With the return of bird song and pollinators, I find myself once again contemplating the bees. In his book, "Keeping the Bees," Laurence Packer explains the relationship between pollinators, particularly bees, and food production.

While domesticated European honey bees are essential to crop pollination, wild bee species are just as important. USDA-NRCS estimates that 4000 species of wild bees help the U.S. produce its crops (2014 Farm Bill—Pollinator Programs Directive). Research is showing that wild bees are essential to crop pollination, in addition to being the exclusive pollinators of some crops.



Living in Southwest Ohio, we see many forest fragments near farm fields. These woods that dot the rural landscape are not only home to frog and salamander species, birds, and other wildlife, but are essential as places for wild bees to live. Most wild bees are solitary and make their homes in the ground, in dead trees, or even between stones. A fun project to do with kids is to create dwellings for these solitary bees. Drill a lot of holes in round logs and set outside for your very own "bee hotel."

*So make room in the forest, Cardinal, for the wild bees also serve as a symbol of what we do as a land trust —protect valuable farmland **and** natural habitats. By preserving our forested natural habitats, we ensure that we can feed ourselves and the world.*

Yours truly,

Laura Curliss, President

In addition, Cardinal will restore native plum thickets that were reported in the region by the famous botanist Lucy Braun. The plums have white flowers and are believed to attract insects that are lighter in color. This increases the chance of feeding success by Indiana bats.

Campaign for the Land You Love

Cardinal Land Conservancy has a rich history of land protection throughout Southwest Ohio dating back to 1999. In 2015, Cardinal was formed by the merger of three small land trusts seeking to increase their impact and ensure their future. In January 2017, Andy Dickerson became the first Executive Director.

On our way

To date, Cardinal protects 4,720 acres through easements and outright ownership, receiving over \$5 million in grant funding to protect land. We established local Area Councils to aid our work in the seven counties of our service area. Cardinal was also accepted into the Accreditation process administered by the Land Trust Alliance. This certification will assure donors and partners that we operate by a set of professional standards



A perennial stream flows through Cardinal's Laurelridge Preserve in Hamilton Co.

recognized by the Land Trust Alliance, the Internal Revenue Service, and the general public.

Our land, our future

Cardinal seeks to grow its capacity to respond to the increasing interest in land conservation in our region. New land protection projects that uniquely fit Cardinal's mission are arising at an increasing rate. In 2017 alone, Cardinal

received more than 30 inquiries for assistance.

Protecting land has a cost! We seek to support our professional staff as they respond to the growing demand to protect green space in Southwest Ohio. Your gift is needed to sustain this work and grow Cardinal's footprint to serve generations to come.

Please help

Cardinal has a fundraising goal of \$500,000 over three years that will

help us preserve and protect the Land You Love. Please consider making a gift to Cardinal that will help us not only take care of the thousands of acres we already steward, but ensure that we are able to take on new projects.

Contact Andy Dickerson, Executive Director, to talk about how you can protect the land you love in Southwest Ohio.



You're invited!

Annual Meeting

at ARROWHEAD FARM
790 Garfield Ave., Milford, OH 45150

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018

Meeting starts at 5 pm

Enjoy light refreshments

Join us for Cardinal Land Conservancy's Annual Meeting, held at our office in the historic farmhouse (shown) at Arrowhead Farm. It is located in Valley View's 200-acre nature preserve, located just outside Milford's downtown.

Learn more about Cardinal's exciting land preservation work. We will give an update on our year's work, and discuss plans for the future.



Connect with Cardinal Land Conservancy

Our Mission: Preserve natural habitats, waterways, agricultural lands and open space we love in Southwest Ohio by working with individuals, families and communities.

Website

www.CardinalLandConservancy.org

NOT YET A MEMBER?

Join quickly through our secure Website:
www.CardinalLandConservancy.org

Facebook

Facebook.com/CardinalLandConservancy.org

E-mail

andy@CardinalLandConservancy.org

Mailing & Office Address

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790 Garfield Ave.

Milford, Ohio 45150

Telephone 513-752-2828

Affiliations

Land Trust Alliance: www.lta.org

Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts:

www.ohiolandtrusts.org



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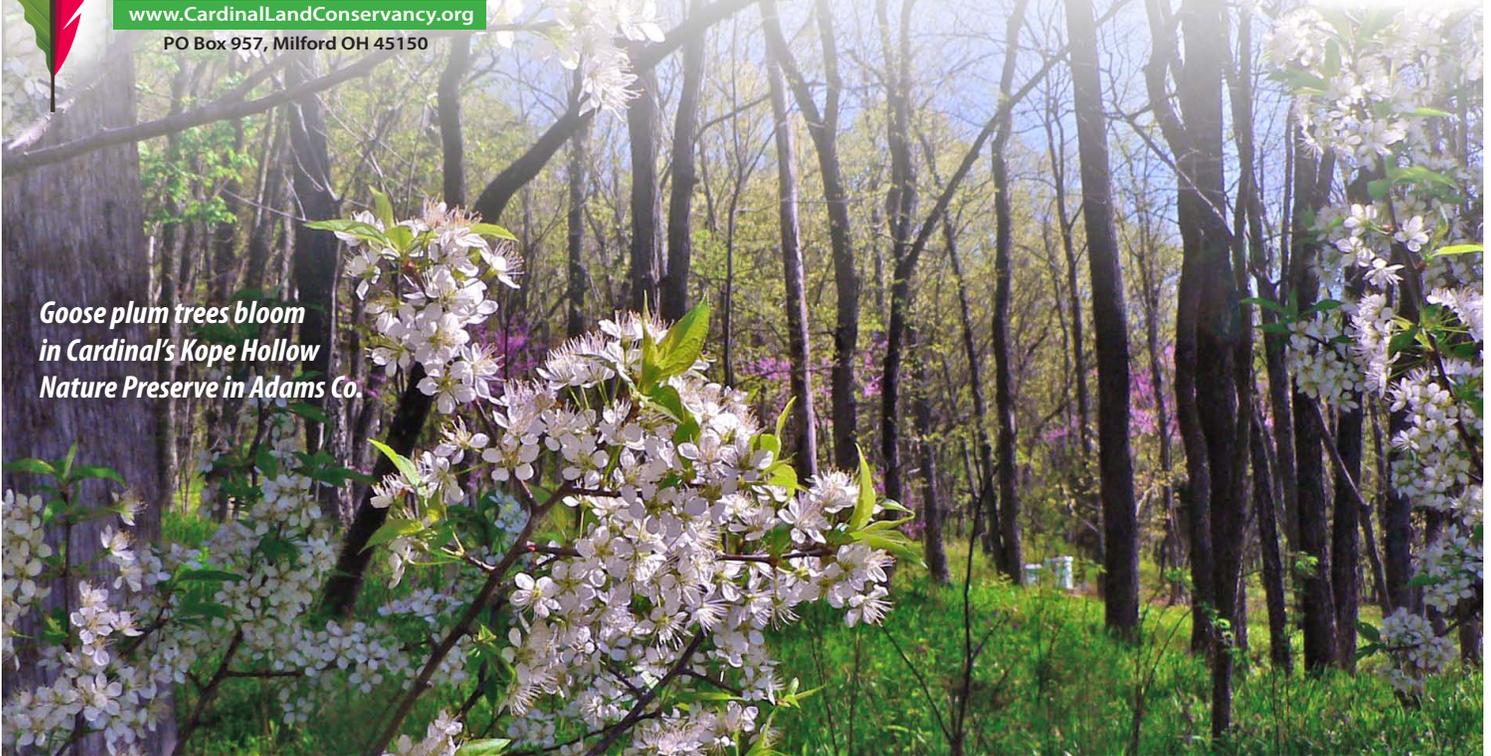
PO Box 957, Milford OH 45150

A land trust working in the 7 counties of SW Ohio:

■ Adams ■ Brown ■ Clermont ■ Clinton
■ Hamilton ■ Highland ■ Warren

Strategic Conservation Partner: Cincinnati Nature Center

*Goose plum trees bloom
in Cardinal's Kope Hollow
Nature Preserve in Adams Co.*



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News of Cardinal's Area Councils

Clermont County Area Council

How can Cardinal Land Conservancy help maintain the rural character of Clermont County? That's the question Clermont Area Council is asking leading citizen and government groups in our Agenda for the Future. To that end, council members Bill Hopple, Jim Meyer and Andy Dickerson made presentations to the *Connect Clermont* Board of Directors and Clermont Co. Township Trustees Association. Andy Dickerson also presented at the Clermont Co. Parks Alliance Grant Funding Workshop.

These presentations help increase Cardinal's visibility in the community, build beneficial partnerships and collect information on how we can more effectively accomplish our mission.

Eastern Counties Area Council (Adams, Brown and Highland counties)

Eastern Area Council volunteers from Highland, Brown and Clermont counties were hard at work this summer to organize the "Agricultural Easement Field Day" which took place at the Hiatt family farm on Aug. 16. Speakers included land-

owners Kim Hiatt and Jeff Hoak, and accountants Patricia Herron and Donnie Davis.

Cardinal's Board member Patrick Hornschemeier and Executive Director Andy Dickerson gave overviews of Cardinal's help to facilitate the conservation easement process. For a brief report on the program, see write up on page 2.

Hamilton County Area Council

You are invited to attend our Council's Fall meeting to be held Fri., Oct. 5, 6:30-8:30 PM at **White Water Shaker Village in Crosby Twp.** Join us for a tour of the historic property. In May, we welcomed Cardinal members and the public to our Spring meeting held at Fernald Preserve in Crosby Twp.

Our Council's ongoing outreach to landowners in Cincinnati and Hamilton County is getting results. We walk the land with the owners who respond, and discuss their conservation options.

For the 8th year, Council members are taking part in the Great Miami River water quality study, collecting samples every second Sat. through Nov. Like to help? Call Roland Johnson at (513) 574-7256.