

February 2012



Contact
Black Swamp
Conservancy

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BSC Receives Grant for Youth Workshops

The Toledo Community Foundation has generously made a \$4,000 grant to Black Swamp Conservancy. We will use the grant money to establish an education program for young people about land conservation.

Preparations for the first workshop are already underway. The program is being offered to area Boy Scouts as a way for them to earn their "Soil & Water Conservation" merit badge.

The workshop will be held at Pearson Metropark Wetlands (land the Conservancy protects with a conservation easement) on Saturday, July 14. While there, the Scouts will learn concepts and benefits of conservation practices.

The Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District, Metroparks of the Toledo Area and Nature's Nursery are all partnering with the Conservancy to present the workshop.

"By offering this program to area young people," said Kevin Joyce, "we hope to reach members of the community who might otherwise not have many opportunities to experience nature, first-hand."

BLACK SWAMP CONSERVANCY NEWS

Protecting and Preserving Natural and Agricultural Lands
for the Benefit of Future Generations

2011 - A Year of Milestones

2011 was another exciting year at Black Swamp Conservancy.

We added 12 new properties, all agricultural, in six different counties. 6 farms in Seneca County near Tiffin. Two near Delta in Fulton County. One farm in Hardin County outside Kenton. A farm and woods near Oak Harbor in Ottawa County.

A 603-acre farm west of Fremont in Sandusky County is our single largest protected property. A farm near Liberty Center is our first protected property in Henry County.

1752 acres in all. A very productive year, one of our best ever.

We passed the 10,000 and 11,000-acre milestones, and ended the year with 11,171 acres permanently protected since our founding in 1993.

We launched a new farmland preservation plan at our Agricultural Land Preservation Summit in September. A diverse group of agriculture experts and community leaders learned more about our efforts to protect agricultural land from development and brainstormed the future of farmland preservation in northwest Ohio.

Our farmland preservation efforts got a big boost as a result of a partnership we recently entered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We have signed a cooperative agreement with the NRCS that will bring over \$1 million to northwest Ohio to ensure that some of our richest farm ground stays in agriculture, forever.



Ottawa County Woods



Myers Family Farm Event



Sandusky County Farm



10,000 Acres Photo Exhibit

In partnership with our friends Art Weber and Karen Pugh at the National Center for Nature Photography, we celebrated reaching the 10,000-acre mark with a display of scenic photos of our conserved lands at the Center's gallery during May through August.

If you happened to miss the photo exhibit last summer, make plans now to stop in at the Main Library in downtown Toledo, where these stunning images will be on display through February.

A beautiful – and unusually warm – Sunday afternoon in early November was the setting for another celebration of 10,000 acres. We spent a day at the Myers farm near Swanton, which has been in the family *for nearly 200 years!* Many thanks go out to our hosts John and Valerie Myers.

And, most importantly, Linda, Rob and I were pleased to welcome Sarah Brokamp as Advancement Coordinator, the fourth member of our staff.

Sarah hit the ground running, quickly obtaining a grant from the Reed Fund at Toledo Community Foundation. The grant will fund a hands-on conservation workshop for young people that we'll present for the first time this summer.

We want to extend our thanks to our many outstanding conservation partners and supporters. You made our success in 2011 possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

-Kevin Joyce
Executive Director

Please Consider a Donation to Black Swamp Conservancy Today!

I am pleased to help protect and preserve natural and agricultural lands in northwest Ohio with my gift to the Black Swamp Conservancy of:

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

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- I would like information on planned giving
- I have included BSC in my estate plan
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with BSC

*You may also donate through PayPal at:
www.blackswamp.org/main/donate-now/*

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming Conservancy Events

Now through February 25

10,000 Acres: Preserved Forever Photo Exhibit
 Main Branch Toledo/Lucas County Library
 Gallery open during all public library hours

Saturday, March 31

Blue Grass & Green Acres
 A Benefit for the Black Swamp Conservancy
 Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Nazareth Hall, Grand Rapids

Saturday, April 28

BSC Wildflower Walk
 Forrest Woods Nature Preserve,
 Paulding County
 Led by John Jaeger & Lloyd Jones



May 4 - 11

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