

# BLACK SWAMP CONSERVANCY NEWS

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

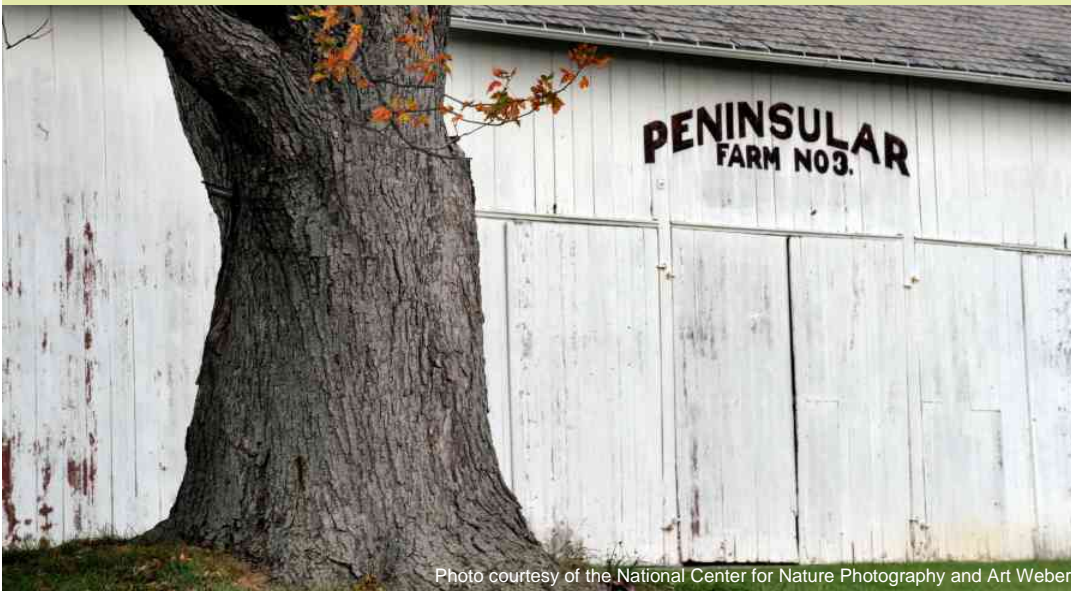


Photo courtesy of the National Center for Nature Photography and Art Weber

## Black Swamp Conservancy Hosts Agricultural Land Preservation Summit

On September 8, Black Swamp Conservancy (BSC) convened a group of agricultural experts and community leaders for the purpose of advancing agricultural land preservation through knowledge sharing.

Attendees included representatives of the U.S. and Ohio Departments of Agriculture, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, county soil and water conservation districts, and local farm owner-operators.

Bob Wagner, Senior Policy and Program Advisor of American Farmland Trust (AFT), began the meeting by giving a national and international perspective on the need for farmland preservation. According to AFT, Ohio loses over 30,000 acres of agricultural land each year to development. That's more than four acres every hour. Mr. Wagner brought the issue into perspective by stating how detrimental farmland loss is to northwest Ohio, where soil productivity, infrastructure, and location are ideal for agriculture.

Shane Farnsworth, Development Director from the Fairfield County Economic Development Office, and Krista Magaw, Executive Director of Tecumseh Land Trust, also spoke to the group. Both emphasized the connection between agriculture and jobs. Mr. Farnsworth noted that "agriculture has to be included in talks about economic development."

Kevin Joyce and Rob Krain of BSC presented

an overview of our new Agricultural Land Preservation Plan. The plan highlights preservation priorities in northwest Ohio and will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of BSC's agricultural land preservation initiative.

A discussion was then held by all those in attendance. Small groups formed to discuss questions related to the future of agricultural land preservation. Answers were then shared with the entire group.

When asked how the people attending the Summit could help, Ms. Magaw suggested, "Join your local land trust, and talk to your neighbors about the importance of land preservation." We couldn't agree more.

BSC would like to thank everyone who attended our Summit. We hope that by bringing together such a diverse group, we can better understand the challenges and opportunities we face in protecting agricultural land.



October 2011

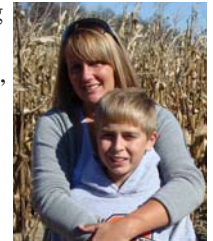


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## BSC Hires Advancement Coordinator

We are happy to announce the hiring of Sarah Brokamp, in the newly created position of Advancement Coordinator.



Sarah will spearhead our outreach and marketing efforts, as the Conservancy continues to grow.

Sarah is a recent graduate of BGSU with a degree in Environmental Policy and Analysis. In addition to her non-profit and volunteer management experience, Sarah brings a love of the outdoors and a passion for conservation.

Sarah and her husband Neil live in Haskins with their two children.

## Thank You!

A sincere thank you to  
Entelco Foundation  
The Andersons, Inc.  
for their generous financial  
support of the Summit!

## Notes from the Field: Forrest Woods Nature Preserve



*Twinleaf Jeffersonia  
in bloom this May*

With summer behind us once again, the nights are getting chillier and the days shorter. Autumn's colors streak across the tree lines as the late summer prairie flowers turn brown and fade into the grass. Area farmers climb into their combines and comb the landscape, reaping the benefit of the year's harvest - twelve months of hard work and worry. It is at this time that I find myself thinking of the ways that the land defines our lives, providing a sense of place and signaling the passing of time. For me, the dynamic natural communities of Forrest Woods Nature Preserve and our efforts to preserve and enhance them best exemplify this sentiment.

In April the snow broke, giving way to chilly rains, woodland wildflowers, neo-tropical birds and the various amphibians and reptiles that inhabit Forrest Woods. As spring temperatures inched upwards, we were excited by reports of

interior nesting warblers returning to the forest, sandhill cranes passing through on their way north and the appearance of a new bald eagle nest just a few hundred feet away on the Maumee River!

Once the seasonal rain (finally) let up, management of our restoration fields resumed. We mowed the grasses to disperse seed and encourage new growth. We sowed wildflower seed, propagating native species such as: coneflower, prairie dock, rattlesnake master, great lobelia, dense blazingstar, lanceleaf coreopsis and butterfly weed.

Throughout the summer, prairie species that we'd planted in 2008 flourished in the restoration fields. Local naturalist and frequent preserve visitor Terri Gorney reported dramatic increased populations of grassland birds, including dickcissels, bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows. Her butterfly list grew to 35 species, indicating that our restoration efforts are working to enhance habitat value on the preserve. Chris Collier, an intern studying environmental science at BGSU, and I spent long, hot summer days installing bluebird and wood duck boxes that students from Penta Career Center had built for us last winter. We also put up a sign acknowledging the generous contributions of the landowners who sold the property to us: the Forrest, Harper and Shaffer families.

As summer wound down, we spent time in the restoration fields working on invasive vegetation management, especially teasel, a particularly pesky plant that thrives in the Paulding Clay Basin. As we worked, squirrels scurried about the forest securing reserves of acorns, hickory and beech nuts

from the old growth trees.

Soon the lowland wetlands will again freeze over and a blanket of snow will cover the forest floor. Our resident wildlife will settle in for a Midwest winter and the forest will quiet as migratory birds seek warmer climates. In 2012, our Conservancy hopes to acquire another 40 acres at Forrest Woods, which would grow the preserve to 292 acres. Grant requests to support the purchase are pending.

**by Rob Krain**  
*Conservation Director*



*Ambystomid hybrid  
salamander*



*BGSU intern Chris Collier  
poses with our new sign.*

### The Clean Ohio Fund - Why is it so important?

Clean Ohio is a \$400 million state bond issue first approved by Ohio voters in 2000 and overwhelmingly renewed in all 88 counties in 2008 with strong bipartisan support from the executive and legislative leadership.

The Clean Ohio Fund supports farmland preservation, brownfield cleanup, creation of trails, and conservation of open spaces.

Here in northwest Ohio, we at Black Swamp Conservancy have used Clean Ohio to permanently protect thousands of acres of rich farmland, woods, wetlands and stream corridors. These protected lands help support a vital economy, including the \$100 billion Ohio agriculture industry, create open space for healthy outdoor recreation, contribute greatly to a high quality of life and

protect the drinking water of thousands of northwest Ohio families.

But the future of the Clean Ohio Fund may be in jeopardy. So if you agree that Clean Ohio is important, here's what you can do to help:

- Write your State Representative and Senator. Urge them to support a capital appropriation for all of the programs of the Clean Ohio Fund.
- Email us at [bsc@blackswamp.org](mailto:bsc@blackswamp.org) to let us know you would like to receive updates about the Clean Ohio Fund.
- Share this information. Let your friends and family know why the Clean Ohio Fund is important and what they can do to help.

# You're Invited

## Join the Black Swamp Conservancy for a Celebration of 10,000 Acres

Over 10,000 acres of farmland, meadows, wetlands and woods are now permanently protected by the Black Swamp Conservancy.

Help us mark the occasion with an afternoon for the entire family at one of the properties we have helped preserve.

**Sunday, November 6th  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**The Myers Family Farm  
920 N. Lathrop Rd.  
Swanton, Ohio 43558**



10,000 acres is quite an accomplishment. But, we could not have done it alone.

With your support, The Black Swamp Conservancy can continue to protect agricultural land and natural areas, now and for future generations.

The event is free, but you can help us continue our conservation efforts by pledging a \$10 gift with your RSVP to this celebration.



### Activities include:

- Wagon Rides
- Farm Tours & Hands-On Equipment Displays
- Bonfire
- Refreshments



*Please join us...*

RSVP to  
419.872.5263 or  
sbrokamp@blackswamp.org  
by November 1



### **Black Swamp Conservancy Private Label Wine** ... Another way to Celebrate with Us

Black Swamp Conservancy private label wines are available in four varieties:

Cabernet  
Chardonnay  
Merlot  
White Zinfandel

Purchase BSC wine at any Toledo-area retail location of The Andersons.

The Andersons pays our Conservancy \$2.00 for each bottle sold. Pick up a case and receive a 10% discount.



**SCENIC  
OHIO**

### **BSC Receives Award**

BSC is the recipient of a 2011 Scenic Ohio Award. This award recognizes communities, public agencies, private corporations, non-profits, individuals, and others who preserve or enhance Ohio's scenic resources through programs, projects, improvements, legislation, public awareness, and resource management.

"Through their efforts, special landscapes that define the scenic quality of northwest Ohio have been recognized and protected," said Gary Meisner, chairman of Scenic Ohio.

Former Ohio first lady Hope Taft presented the award on Saturday, October 15th, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus.



*Sarah Brokamp of BSC, with  
Hope Taft and Gary Meisner*

**Support the 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Preservation Council (\$500 or more) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish for my donation to remain anonymous

Please return to: Black Swamp Conservancy, P.O. Box 332, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552  
*The Black Swamp Conservancy is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization.*

**Payment Method:**

- Check Enclosed  
 Payable to: Black Swamp Conservancy

- MC     Visa

#: \_\_\_\_\_

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- I would like information on planned giving  
 I have included BSC in my estate plan  
 Please send me information on volunteering with BSC

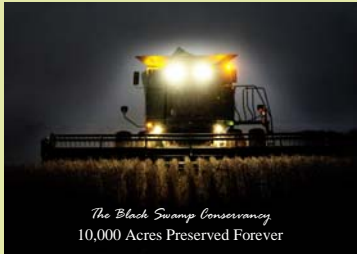
*You may also donate through PayPal at:  
[blackswamp.org/BSC\\_You.html](http://blackswamp.org/BSC_You.html)*

**10,000 Acres Preserved Forever**  
**Book of Scenic Photographs of The Black Swamp Conservancy**

Experience this land through the lenses of some of our area's best photographers, notably nationally renowned nature photographer Art Weber.

The thirty images featured in this book comprise our recent exhibit at the National Center for Nature Photography located in Secor Metropark.


All proceeds from the sale of this book will support our efforts to protect and preserve natural areas and farmland in northwest Ohio, now and for future generations.



Makes a Great Gift!

Cost is \$85.00 plus S&H

Call 419-872-5263 or email [sbrokamp@blackswamp.org](mailto:sbrokamp@blackswamp.org) to order your book today!



**12th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit**

*Farmland Preservation: We Mean Business*

Thursday, November 17, 2011

at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on the campus of The Ohio State University

Highlights this year include a welcome and reception with Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Jim Zehringer; a morning keynote by Jon Scholl, president of American Farmland Trust, who will discuss the upcoming Farm Bill; breakout sessions including topics such as: estate planning, farmland protection tools, energy resources and farmland preservation, growing farm businesses and much more!

Interested in attending?

Please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture Office of Farmland Preservation at 614-728-6210



**BSC on FACEBOOK**

Black Swamp Conservancy has a new Facebook page! If you have joined us in the past, or have never followed our page, please take a moment to "Like" us. We will be posting events, photos and updates on our land conservation efforts.

Help us save time, money and trees!  
 Receive this newsletter via email.  
 Contact us at [Sbrokamp@BlackSwamp.org](mailto:Sbrokamp@BlackSwamp.org)



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