

Contact: Kevin Joyce
Executive Director
Black Swamp Conservancy
Phone: 419-872-5263
Email: kjoyce@blackswamp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northwest Ohio Land Trust Hires Stewardship Manager

Perrysburg, Ohio (February 1, 2008) – Black Swamp Conservancy has hired Robert Krain as stewardship manager.

Mr. Krain, a native of Annapolis, MD, received a degree in environmental policy and analysis from Bowling Green State University in 2006. He managed the conservancy's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program on a contract basis from December 2006 through May 2007.

"Our conservancy is pleased to have Rob join our staff," said Kevin Joyce, the conservancy's executive director. "Rob has a real passion for land conservation and did a great job running our agricultural easement program last spring."

As stewardship manager, Mr. Krain will work with landowners interested in conserving their property. He will also prepare detailed reports on the condition of newly conserved properties and visit each location at least once a year to assure that the terms of its land conservation agreement are fulfilled.

The hiring was made possible by a \$50,000 grant from Toledo Community Foundation to employ a stewardship manager. \$30,000 of the grant was awarded outright, with the remaining \$20,000 to be released when the conservancy receives an additional \$20,000 in matching funds.

"The Toledo Community Foundation grant will benefit land conservation throughout our region. With an additional person on staff, we will be able to increase the pace of land conservation and focus on the locations in our service area that are most important to protect," said Mr. Joyce.

Black Swamp Conservancy, a non-profit land trust based in Perrysburg, OH, was established in 1993 to conserve farmland and natural areas in northwest Ohio. The land trust grew by 50% during 2007 and has now permanently protected over 7,000 acres of open space.

According to The Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization, the benefits of land conservation include:

- Attracting businesses and trained employees in search of a high quality of life.
- Increasing the value of nearby property and, with it, property tax revenue.
- Attracting tourists and boosting recreation spending.
- Reducing health care costs by supporting recreation and exercise.
- Helping safeguard drinking water, clean the air and prevent flooding, services provided much more expensively by other means.
- Farmland usually contributes more money to a community than the cost of the services it requires.

Black Swamp Conservancy protects land in perpetuity through permanent land conservation agreements on farmland and natural areas – such as woods, meadows and wetlands – in eleven northwest Ohio counties and Monroe County, MI. The conservancy also acquires ownership and maintains land in its natural condition.

For more information on Black Swamp Conservancy or how you can support its community efforts, please call the conservancy at 419-872-5263 or visit the conservancy's website at www.blackswamp.org.