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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conservation Organizations Receive Strategic Alliance Partnership Grant

Perrysburg, Ohio (May 6, 2008) – Black Swamp Conservancy and Oak Openings Region Conservancy have been awarded an \$8,800 grant by the Strategic Alliance Partnership.

The grant is to be used to establish a strategic alliance between the two conservation organizations. The money will pay for consulting fees to clarify and enhance the relationship between the two conservancies and create a model that can be used for effective collaboration between conservation organizations.

Oak Openings Region Conservancy and Black Swamp Conservancy have worked together as partners in the Green Ribbon Initiative, a grass-roots effort to protect habitat in the Oak Openings region by creating a biological and recreational corridor of preserved land – a “green ribbon” of natural beauty, rare plant and animal species, and quality recreation opportunities. The organizations expect their strategic alliance to enhance Oak Openings habitat conservation and the Green Ribbon Initiative.

Oak Openings Region Conservancy is a grassroots volunteer organization providing a citizen voice in support of preservation of natural areas in the Oak Openings community. OORC was formed through the merger of two similar organizations in 2005. The organization has always had a strong focus on education and on-the-ground stewardship. Although OORC is a volunteer organization, its members have extensive expertise in the identification and management of the many rare plant communities of the Oak Openings region.

Black Swamp Conservancy is a land trust whose mission is to encourage conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in northwest Ohio for the benefit of future generations. BSC has permanently protected over 7,000 acres of northwest Ohio farmland and natural areas since its founding in 1993. The land trust owns property or holds voluntary land conservation agreements with landowners on property in eleven northwest Ohio counties and in southeast Michigan.

According to the Toledo Community Foundation website, The Stranahan Foundation, United Way of Greater Toledo and Toledo Community Foundation formed the Strategic Alliance Partnership to challenge themselves and community institutions to find ways to work together in order to meet the challenges of today's environment. The partnership's mission is to support strategic alliances that will enable Toledo area nonprofits to enhance program delivery and/or achieve more effective and efficient use of financial and human resources.