

FALL/WINTER 2013

ON THE GROUND

For Tennesseans. For Families. For Land Lovers. For YOU.



www.LandTrustTN.org

Connecting You to the Land We Love



PHOTO: NANCY RHODA

The Land Trust for Tennessee protects our natural and historic landscapes for you and your family to have places to bike, hike, fish, farm, eat locally, play, relax, be healthy and breathe deeply... forever.

RADNOR LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA GROWS INTO THE FUTURE

The Land Trust for Tennessee and The Friends of Radnor Lake recently worked together to score a major victory for Nashville thanks to funding from The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation [with assistance from The Conservation Fund].

The partnership resulted in the purchase of 40 additional acres for Radnor Lake State Natural Area, including the last unprotected hilltop overlooking the lake.

This fall, Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory hosted 40 hikes in 40 days to celebrate the addition of the 40 acres and to highlight the next phase that is currently underway. The partnership just placed an additional 23.5 acres along Oman Drive under contract, which will add land for trails, scenic enjoyment and wildlife habitat to this treasured park, and protect more land for community use... forever. The protection of this oasis of natural resources located in the heart of the city is one example of projects we take on in urban centers across the state.



This landmark expansion preserves an iconic Nashville treasure by protecting critical natural resources. However, this success means more than environmental protection alone. *(Continued inside...)*



*Ah, let my heart
beat true to thee,
And swell with
pride for Tennessee.*



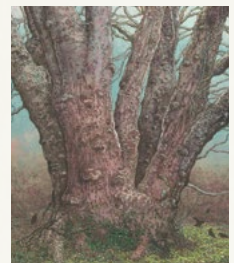
FALL EVENT REPORT ...

CHARLES BRINDLEY + GLEN LEVEN FARM NOVEMBER 2013

Renowned artist Charles Brindley unveiled his year-long study of the award-winning trees and historic architecture of Glen Leven Farm, capturing the roots of Nashville's history in his breathtaking work.

A percentage of sales are being donated to support our working landscapes.

For details or to purchase art from the "Glen Leven" series: kobryan@landtrusttn.org.



ONCE IN A BLUE MOON OCTOBER 12, 2013

The extended Land Trust family came together on a protected property in Williamson County to celebrate the 90,000 acres we've protected in Tennessee since 1999 and to raise money for the protection of many more.

A warm thank you to all!



TO SEE ALL OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS & FULL SLIDESHOW OF BLUE MOON PHOTOS: LandTrustTN.org

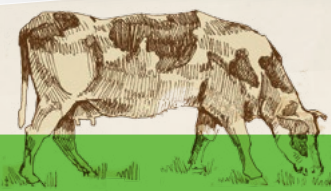
Dear Friends,

The Land Trust exists to conserve the special places you love—the land that says “home.” We do it with you and with our many partners including private landowners, communities and fellow conservation organizations. Most importantly, we do it *for you*.

So at this time of sharing, we want to give you just a small look into what we have been up to, along with some gifts we will open soon, on behalf of all Tennesseans.

These are only a few examples of the over 90,000 acres we have protected, totaling 265 projects in 54 counties completed (at press time!), and we will protect dozens more in your backyard with your help. We invite you in to think about which ones spell “home” and family to you. Whether “home” is your memories of a family farm; or of an outdoor experience hiking, biking or fishing in our waters; or of the taste of fresh, local food; or of places for wildlife and wildflowers and wild trees to thrive, we know Tennessee ground connects us all. We invite you to be a part of this work... for you and for the future of Tennessee.

— Jeanie Nelson,
President, The Land Trust for Tennessee



On The Horizon...

WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TO PROTECT:

100 acres of farmland in Jefferson County & the site of The Civil War's Battle of Mossy Creek

30 acres in the Mill Creek watershed (protecting habitat for endangered Nashville Crayfish) in a highly developing area of Williamson County

250 acres of Sandhill Crane habitat in SE Tennessee

200 acres of public parkland on Signal Mountain

1,000+ acres of prime agricultural soils in Robertson & Sumner counties along the Red River

A new urban park in the fastest growing, most underserved area in Davidson County

310-acre cattle farm that buffers Ft. Campbell in partnership with the Department of Defense

...and so much more!

(Stay tuned for updates in ON THE GROUND, Spring 2014.)

Our Team

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President & Chief Executive Officer

Christine Bass Burk
Glen Leven Farm Facilities Coordinator

Jenessa Casey
Administrative Coordinator

Jéan Cheveallier
Middle Tennessee Field Coordinator

Michelle Dodrill
Database Manager

Meredith Hansel
Land and Stewardship Coordinator

Janet Henderson
Chief Operating and Financial Officer

Alice Hudson
Development Manager

Audra Ladd
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Liz Edsall McLaurin
Glen Leven Director +
Senior Advancement Officer

Caitlin Mello
Communications and Executive Coordinator

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Middle Tennessee Project Manager

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Director of Conservation Programs

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(Continued from page one...)

RADNOR LAKE

With over 1 million annual visits, many count on parks like Radnor to fit exercise into their busy schedules. Growing Nashville's parks also promotes children's health, as research directly links the percentage of park area in a child's neighborhood to his or her level of physical activity and emotional well-being.

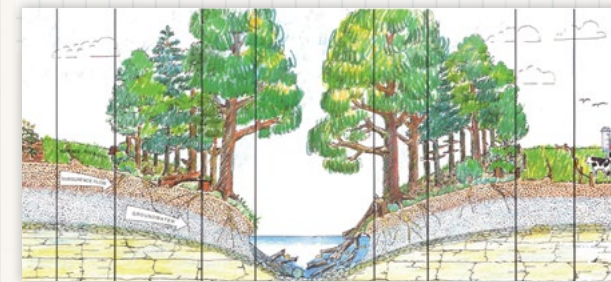
Green space in Nashville is integral to our quality of life and is responsible, in part, for attracting tourists and businesses that boost our economy. Adding this significant land to Radnor Lake marks a major milestone in Nashville's Open Space Plan, aiming to create more green space in Davidson County. Between 2000 and 2012, Tennessee's population grew by 14 percent, whereas the nation's grew by just 10 percent. The South's growth outpaced any other region in the U.S. (14.3 percent). Research shows that businesses consider quality of life as the main reason for choosing an area for relocation, with park and open space the most important element of a city's quality of life.

To balance our growing city and welcome increasing prosperity, Nashville must add urban green space and protect the places we treasure. They are integral to our love of this great city and its southern roots. Only 3 percent of Davidson County land is currently protected as parkland, as compared to growing hubs like Austin with 16 percent of its land in parks.

Since 1973, Radnor has grown from 747 to 1,301 acres counting the 40 acres added in 2013. Protecting lands is important to maintaining water quality and scenic views.

RIPARIAN BUFFER:

A vegetated area (a “buffer strip”) near a natural water source which helps shade and partially protect from the impact of adjacent land uses. It plays a key role in increasing water quality by filtering pollutants.



However, as Nashville grows, Radnor's window of opportunity is shrinking. Undeveloped land around this park is quickly disappearing.

We now have a rare opportunity to protect 23.5 more acres of critical land around the park in early 2014.

The Frist Foundation, The AWC Family Foundation, The Cal Turner Family Foundation and The State of Tennessee stepped up to make generous leadership donations to the project, but we are working hard to raise the remaining \$60K to acquire this additional tract. This multi-phase project is truly a team effort of organizations that all recognize and value the significant impact of Radnor Lake State Natural Area on public health and the spirit of the community, and its role in fostering Nashville's growing economy. (Call Alice for more info: 615.244.LAND)

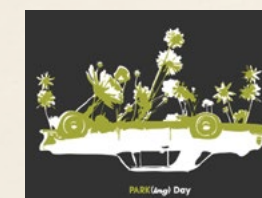
PARK(ing) DAY PROMOTING URBAN PARKS

On September 20th, The Land Trust joined 30 other like-minded groups to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: makeshift public parks along the famous honky tonk lined Lower Broadway in the heart of downtown Nashville. International “PARK(ing) Day” is celebrated in more than 162 cities, 35 countries and six continents.

By interacting with locals, tourists and surrounding businesses, this creative concept raises awareness and emphasizes the importance of having parks nestled in our urban centers.



Mayor Karl Dean took the time to visit each “mini pop-up park” in support of our shared mission to make Nashville a greener place through his initiatives, The Green Ribbon Committee and The Nashville Open Space Plan. (Incidentally, our “Boots & Birds” parklet won “Best Overall Park.” Thank you to The Garden Club of Nashville, The Mathews Company and the creative mind of Brooks Mathews.)



“SHIFTING THE PARDIGM” for PARK(ing) Day by T-SHIRT DESIGN WINNER, MAKI KAWAGUCHI

ON THE PLATEAU...

MOUNTAIN GOAT TRAIL

The Land Trust for Tennessee and The Mountain Goat Trail Alliance are working together to add nearly 23 miles to the Mountain Goat Trail, a rail-to-trail community outdoor recreation project to convert an abandoned railroad bed to a multi-use recreational corridor between Grundy and Franklin counties on the Cumberland Plateau. The trail will connect local communities to natural areas like Fiery Gizzard and other scenic and recreational sites.

We currently have 2.5 miles of the trail between Monteagle and Tracy City under contract. Next spring, construction is set to begin to connect Sewanee and Monteagle, and this new acquisition will allow the trail to continue on to historic downtown Tracy City in coming years.

The Mountain Goat Trail also promises benefits for the local economy. A study by Sewanee's Babson Center for Global Commerce shows the trail will add \$1.2 million in annual revenue to the economy of the South Cumberland Plateau. The supporting data includes studies of other rail-trail projects, local demographic statistics, and formulas for



calculating effects of tourism on a local economy. "The construction of the trail benefits the local communities in many ways ranging from offering a habitat for better outdoor education for local schools to offering community members a place to exercise," the report concludes.

The Mountain Goat Railroad was constructed in 1853, carrying coal and passengers to and from the Cumberland Plateau. The Mountain Goat was decommissioned in 1985, but with your support, we can bring it new life and extend recreation, health, and economic opportunities to the region. *(For a link to the Babson Study, a video about this exciting project and ways to support efforts to connect the remaining pieces of the trail, please go to LandTrustTN.org.)*



Approximately \$1.35 is created and retained within the community for every dollar spent in the tourism industry.



"You see this view out my front door? Well that's the way I will still get to see my farm when I look down from heaven after my family has spent decades of hard work and sweat." - John Goodman

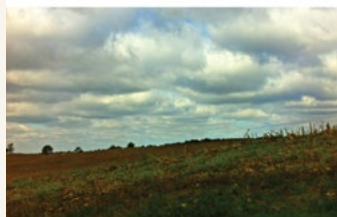
THE GOODMAN FARM PROTECTED: OCTOBER 2013

The members of the Goodman family aren't the only ones who will benefit from the conservation easement that will keep this 160 acres of land beautiful, open and productive farmland. Robertson County boasts the richest and most productive soil in the state, according to a 2012 report by the Department of Agriculture. Ensuring that this and other prime agricultural lands are protected helps to keep our communities supplied with local products, supports family farming and keeps the agricultural economy thriving.

Apart from critical farmland, the property also contains an important piece of our state's history. The interior of the family's home dates back to 1781 and was the birthplace of Ezekiel Polk, grandfather of President James K. Polk. The property also recently received a designation from The State as a certified Century Farm.



The balance of 17 essential elements relates directly to soil productivity and crop growth.



GLEN LEVEN FARM STABILIZATION



Susan M. West bequeathed Glen Leven Farm, her family's 65-acre estate to The Land Trust with the notion that we would preserve this historical landscape and the legacy of her family forever. The home dates back to 1857 and

its stories and generations permeate the legends of Nashville's history—traced all the way back to West's great-great-great grandfather, Thomas Thompson, one of the city's first settlers. The epic journey of this land will continue forever thanks to efforts to protect it... and new chapters are continuously unfolding.

In 2012, we took on the task of stabilizing the home in order to preserve it's rich history and bring this landscape to life as an educational community resource. With the help of 170 generous donors, 2,000 volunteer hours and in-kind work from professionals enthralled by this project, we were able to meet our goal. Land Trust Board Member Ridley Wills II led the charge to raise the money to make this possible, and historic general contractor George Clements gave his blood, sweat and tears purely for the satisfaction of playing a part in the monumental importance of this project. **"I'm doing this simply because it matters. Like family and good health matter. Because a city experiencing such growth and flux especially needs a place like this as a guiding light and reference point—to remember how we are rooted and why," Clements says.** We still have so much more to do, but this Phase I success is a major milestone for the entire southern region. *(For more details on the project go to LandTrustTN.org.)*



Glen Leven Farm is a dynamic outdoor classroom with resources unlike any in our area—including a honeybee sanctuary, an educational garden, a pumpkin patch, an arboretum, shorthorn cattle and a historic home.

HARVEST + HISTORY

This year we opened up Glen Leven Farm for school visits, giving students the unique hands-on opportunity to learn from nature's classroom. The program follows lesson plans designed to meet state standards for grades K-8 and allows children to step outside the tech world and connect with history and the great outdoors.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Introduces site-specific study of the historical significance of agriculture, the settlement of Nashville, The Civil War and the concept of history as a continuum of constant change.

SCIENCE – Experiences around the farm centering on "the five senses" encourage hands-on observation.

VISUAL ART– A scavenger hunt challenges children to identify shapes in nature and architecture.



LEFT: Marriage of Conn Harris to Robert West (Susan's parents) on Glen Leven Farm in 1934. Stay tuned for the historic photo gallery coming online soon



ABOVE: Glen Leven Home & Model T in early 1900s.

"Among the many places that define our capitol city, Glen Leven is one of the most special. You can tell much about a community by how it takes care of its special places. Due to the stewardship and vision, Glen Leven will be conserved now and forever—and we all should thank The Land Trust for commitment here and across Tennessee. Glen Leven powerfully speaks to our values and futures as Tennesseans."

*- Dr. Carroll Van West,
Tennessee State Historian*

THE JENNINGS FAMILY FARM

up on Crumpton Creek

Legacy. This was the motivation for A.C. Jennings to conserve his farm in Coffee County. This was our first donated conservation easement in the county, a project made possible by support from The Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund, The Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Bonnaroo Works Fund.



While Jennings has ensured his beloved home and fields of corn, wheat and soybeans are protected, the domino effect reaches far and wide.

This picturesque landscape stretches out over 275 acres between Manchester and Tullahoma, and backs up to the breathtaking Rutledge Falls, a spectacular natural waterfall commonly highlighted as a point of interest in Tennessee vacation guides. The property hosts diverse wildlife habitat and has over a mile and a half of frontage along Crumpton Creek. This creek is the primary headwater source for Normandy Lake, a 17-mile reservoir of the Upper Duck River essential to the community for drinking water, irrigation, recreation and economic prosperity.

Mr. Jennings has been the steward of this land all his life, and he chose The Land Trust for Tennessee as a partner to see that his family's vision is carried into the future. "My grandfather passed this land down to my father and I am the last generation committed to safeguarding this land. It would please my grandfather to know we are still doing our part to keep agriculture thriving. I want this farm growing crops and the trees still standing for the Rutledge Falls community. This land is our legacy," Jennings says. Thankfully this land will never be developed, allowing the many natural and cultural resources to remain as they are for the coming generations.

{FACT}: CONSERVATION EASEMENT:

The landowner continues to own the land and can live on it, sell it or pass it to heirs with the agreement remaining in place. The property will stay protected open green space forever.

SOYBEANS



- 98 percent of the soybean and livestock farms in the country are still family farms.
- Soybean oil provides an environmentally friendly fuel for diesel engines.
- The soybean is the highest natural source of dietary fiber.



Margaret & Dan Maddox



Dan and Margaret Maddox started their Charitable Fund

to support nonprofit organizations with a passion for making a difference in the lives of young people and/or **promote the conservation of**

wildlife habitat in support of hunting and fishing.

According to Art Rebrovick, Chairman of the Grants Committee, "Dan and Margaret left a charitable legacy in Middle Tennessee. The Fund is pleased to support strong nonprofit organizations with effective programs," he said. The Land Trust for Tennessee was one of the fortunate programs picked to carry on the mission of The Maddox Family and has paid it forward in helping the Jennings and many other families to conserve habitat in Middle Tennessee.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." - John Muir

THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



PHOTO: ERIC DEWSEY

In partnership with The State, the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, Cumberland Trail Conference, and the Lyndhurst Foundation, The

Land Trust has added more than 20 miles to the Cumberland Trail since 2009, and we recently reached some key milestones in this ongoing project.

This winter, The Land Trust is acquiring three additional miles of new trail in Cumberland County that will nearly connect Ozone Falls State Natural Area to the Black Mountain Unit of Cumberland Trail State Park.

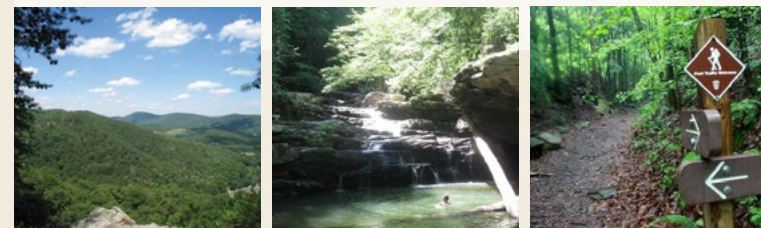
In addition, a donation of 113 acres adjoining Laurel Snow State Natural Area in Rhea County will add one very scenic mile to the Cumberland Trail.



Mile by mile we are working with State Parks' staff to engage landowners who own the critical tracts along the route, encouraging them to protect, allow access or donate small portions of their land to complete this once in a lifetime project.

Combined with acquisitions along the Trail in Rhea, Bledsoe, and Hamilton counties this past spring, we added more than 13 miles of trail in 2013 alone... and we aren't done yet!

Upon completion, the Cumberland Trail will be 300 miles, cutting through 11 Tennessee counties from the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park on the Tennessee-Virginia-Kentucky border to Signal Point near Chattanooga. This significant path will provide a unique opportunity for hikers to experience some of the most beautiful scenic areas of Tennessee.



NOBLE SPRINGS DAIRY

Dustin and Justyne Noble found each other through their love of goats at a national goat show in Iowa. Far away in Franklin, Tennessee, Calvin and Marilyn Lehwé signed a conservation easement to protect their farm. Marilyn and Calvin were looking for someone to lease their land, with the stipulation that it must be used sustainably (Marilyn also happened to love goats!). Fates aligned and in 2009, Dustin and Justyne moved their furry family to that 233-acre farm minutes from downtown Franklin and followed their dream.

A Dutch cheese maker helped the couple turn hobby cheese making into a commercial business that now produces a product synonymous with creamy and delicious, and is sold in Whole Foods, local groceries, restaurants and markets across the state.

We asked Dustin and Justyne: **Why is the Lehwés' protected land important to your business and your family?**

"A lot of times when you ask a young child where cheese comes from his answer is 'the store'. With our farm's close proximity to Nashville we are able to bring children from urban areas and teach them about the importance of farming and where food comes from. Consuming local food is not only healthy; it provides landowners with a source of income that alleviates the pressure to sell to developers.

We are grateful to have the Lehwés as friends and cannot ever thank them enough for allowing us to use their farm to carry out our dreams of operating a goat dairy operation. It is important for us that The Land Trust protects this farm because many farm operations are uprooted by urban sprawl. There is a time and place for development and also a need to protect farmland. We never take for granted the amazing opportunity that we



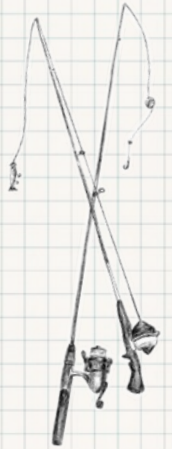
When land is put in a conservation easement, it enables that land to be kept and used as farmland like it has for generations.

have been blessed with to work and live on such an amazing farm and provide Tennesseans with a tasty local product."

(www.noble-springs.com)

Sid You Know...

- Jackalope Brewing Company grows its hops and The Capitol Grille has an heirloom garden on our Glen Leven Farm. The Farm is also a certified arboretum that includes the largest mass Yellowwood tree in the U.S.!
- The Duck River, running entirely in TN, is the most biologically diverse inland freshwater ecosystem in North America. We have 30 conservation easements protecting over 10,000 acres within the Duck River watershed.
- An insect was recently discovered by a visiting entomologist, Ernest C. Bernard, in a cave on the protected Kimmons Property in the Sequatchie Valley. It has never been found anywhere else; it will be named after the family.
- The protected Beasley Family property holds ancient Native American burial mounds given a rough chronology of the 1300s up to the early 1400s CE. Statues excavated from the site are now part of the Smithsonian Institution collection.
- A Century Farm is a farm that is owned by the same family with continuous agricultural production for 100 + years. We protect 17 of them across Tennessee.
- The Land Trust works both with private landowners using conservation easements to protect their land **and** with communities looking to expand and enhance public land for all Tennesseans and visitors to enjoy.



4 Simple Ways To Get Involved

Go to www.LandTrustTN.org or call 615-244-LAND to find out HOW!

- 1. DONATE YOUR TIME**
- 2. PROTECT YOUR LAND**
- 3. DONATE YOUR FUNDS**
- 4. CONNECT ONLINE + SHARE**



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