



# 2025

Ohio annual report

# Dear friend of conservation,

Traveling throughout Ohio this year, I've witnessed firsthand how The Nature Conservancy is weaving the threads of partners, supporters and staff to achieve conservation like never before. From large-scale land protection plans in southern Ohio, to ecosystem-level coastal restoration on our northern Lake Erie shores—the scale of preservation and restoration is awe-inspiring.

Despite any headwinds, we see signs of unity and hope for a better tomorrow. Generations to come are counting on us to make wise use of natural resources and guide new policies that build toward a sustainable future.

Working toward enduring solutions, teams have supported statewide coalitions to maintain public investment in freshwater restoration. We're seeing results: protecting riparian corridors, slowing erosion, reducing sediment and absorbing excess nutrients. In 2025, we celebrated the 10th year of the Ohio Mitigation Program. We've also championed a renewal of prescribed fire capacity

in Ohio, improving land management on more than 3,000 acres regionally.

With grateful hearts, we've seen the generosity of dedicated donors who share our vision and hope to support it. Collectively, we all have a common purpose and desire to be a part of the solution. We know that by working together—we will find a way.

In gratitude to our conservation community,



*Shana Byrd*

**Shana Byrd**

Ohio Conservation Lead  
The Nature Conservancy

- |   |                                |    |                             |
|---|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 4 | <b>TNC's global 2030 goals</b> | 10 | <b>Climate</b>              |
| 6 | <b>Land</b>                    | 12 | <b>Our year in photos</b>   |
| 8 | <b>Water</b>                   | 14 | <b>Conservation support</b> |

**COVER PHOTO** Male Common Yellowthroat sings among the prairie flowers in Ohio. © Jordan McLeland/TNC Photo Contest 2023; **THIS SPREAD** Shana Baird © TNC; Cedar Falls at The Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. © Rick Conner





**THE NATURE  
CONSERVANCY IN**

**Ohio**

**State Director**  
Bill Stanley

**Board of Trustees**

Chair, John O'Meara, *Columbus*  
Vice Chair, Nancy Gotfredson, *Akron*  
Vice Chair, Aditi-Thapar-Grohe, *Columbus*  
Vice Chair, Jay Woodhull, *Dayton*  
Jim Crosset, *Cincinnati*  
Dr. Bob Eckardt, *Lakewood*

Mayor Doug Franklin, *Warren*  
Emily Keller, *Cleveland*  
Brian King, *Columbus*  
Jeff King, *Columbus*  
Don Laubacher, *Richfield*  
Laura Lederer, *Akron*

Neil Mortine, *Columbus*  
Jim Samuel, *Lynx*  
Joan Steidl, *Andover*  
Marta Stone, *Chagrin Falls*  
Dr. Prabjhot Singh, *Columbus*



## The Nature Conservancy's global 2030 goals

In collaboration with partners throughout the world, TNC is protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change. The following are our 2030 goals and how the Midwest is helping build a future where people and nature will thrive. *Together, we find a way.*



Climate  
mitigation

3Gt

We will avoid or sequester **3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions** (CO<sub>2</sub>e) annually: the same as taking approximately 650 million cars off the road every year.

**In the Midwest:** Our science-based “3C” approach—which considers climate, conservation and communities—can reduce the amount of land needed for clean energy installations by half while ensuring that solar and wind projects are sited in areas with the least impact, accelerating the renewable energy transition throughout the Midwest.



Climate  
adaptation

100M

We will help **100 million people** at severe risk of climate-related emergencies, such as floods, fires and drought.

**In the Midwest:** Our work grounded in nature-based solutions, such as supporting city greenspaces and restoring floodplains and stream corridors, is helping both urban and rural communities throughout the Midwest become more resilient to climate impacts, such as flooding and heat waves.



Healthy  
lands

1.6B

We will conserve **1.6 billion acres of lands**, such as forests and grasslands—an area twice the size of India.

**In the Midwest:** Through collaborations and acquisitions, we're building a connected network of resilient lands and waters to help the Midwest's unique landscapes, wildlife and communities adapt and thrive in a changing world.



Healthy  
oceans

10B

We will conserve nearly **10 billion acres of ocean**—more than 10 percent of the world's ocean area.

**In the Midwest:** We are protecting the rivers and lakes that feed marine habitats in the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf through collaborations with farmers who implement nature-friendly agriculture, which reduces nutrient runoff that affects waterways, as well as floodplain restoration efforts.



Healthy  
fresh water

74M  
620K

We will conserve more than **74 million acres of lakes and wetlands and 620,000 miles of river systems** (enough river length alone to stretch around the globe 25 times).

**In the Midwest:** With a broad array of partners, we're helping to conserve, protect and restore the Great Lakes, one of the world's most vital freshwater ecosystems, as well as the great rivers and floodplains throughout the Mississippi River Basin.



People

45M

We are supporting the leadership of **45 million people** from local and Indigenous communities whose well-being and livelihoods depend on healthy oceans, fresh water and lands.

**In the Midwest:** We're growing collaborations with partners—including Indigenous nations and communities, farmers, foresters and fishers, as well as government agencies, local organizations, businesses, universities and more—to support community-driven conservation initiatives that benefit people and nature throughout the Midwest.



By supporting our efforts, generous donors like you are driving positive impacts that extend far beyond your local community. Visit [nature.org/MidwestWins](https://www.nature.org/MidwestWins) to learn about our biggest successes in the Midwest region from the past year.



## 2025 AT A GLANCE

### The Nature Conservancy in Ohio

-  Preserve Open to Public
-  Preserve Closed to Public
-  Easement
-  Ohio Mitigation Project
-  Partner Project
-  TNC Office



**State endangered Little Blue Dragonlet found**  
Kitty Todd Preserve  
Swanton, Ohio (Page 12)

**Flagship preserves offer more extensive visitation experiences and amenities for visitors.**



**Sandusky Bay Restoration Work**  
Sandusky, Ohio area  
(Page 9)

**Walborn Reservoir Ohio Mitigation Project**  
Alliance, Ohio  
(Page 8)



**Prescribed burn**  
Edge of Appalachia Preserve  
West Union, Ohio (Page 7)

**Edge of Appalachia Preserve, Flagship**



# LAND

## Supporting farmers in conservation

Throughout 2025, TNC has supported farmers in adopting regenerative practices with programs like Farmers for Soil Health and Farmer Advocates for Conservation.

Through partnerships, TNC brought USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers program, Farmers for Soil Health, to Ohio to help farmers implement cover crops. The program has a goal to reach 65,000 acres of cover crops by 2028. So far, 2,976 acres have been enrolled—with direct outreach to 3,100 people.

Our Farmer Advocates for Conservation project focuses on farmer-to-farmer mentorships and farmer peer groups. With funding from U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the program was launched in the Maumee River watershed in 2020.

A key aspect of the program is meeting farmer mentees where they are with conservation practices and providing space for change. Through this project, our team learned farmers are open to learning from peers, but they might not actively seek their advice. By facilitating these mentorships, our team trained 26 advocates who manage 20,000+ acres. Additionally, we directly engaged over 9,500 farmers through workshops, field days, meetings, women's learning circles and one-on-one interactions. This work has influenced management practices on 1 million acres.

From 2020 to 2024, the Farmer Advocates for Conservation project helped nurture conservation among farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin by training and empowering early adopters of sustainable practices to mentor other farmers. Today, TNC has been playing a key role in continuing the mentorship sparked by the grant by encouraging statewide meetings around regenerative agriculture. While our agriculture team has helped facilitate this process, we've stepped back to allow farmers to lead these

conversations peer to peer. These Ohio farmer leaders are moving forward with a statewide board to expand the mentorship program.

Matt Burkholder, an early Farmer Advocate for Conservation and now a TNC employee, shares, "When I began conservation practices, I had no mentors available, and I struggled by trial and error. Now I can help expand the soil health movement by hosting field days and answering questions from interested farmers."



**THIS PAGE** Farmer Field Day: Matt Burkholder and Brent Nicol use a rainfall simulator to demonstrate the positive impact of cover crop roots for soil health and water quality. © David Ike



## Partnering in prescribed fire

Prescribed fire is used to rejuvenate landscapes and enhance biodiversity. This year, prescribed fire in Ohio has benefited from partnerships with other TNC states and regions, as well as federal agencies like United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

New positions at TNC in the Midwest division and Appalachians program have led to these partnerships. One of these includes Brian Winters, Ohio and Michigan's prescribed fire manager, who started last fall. His position is split between TNC and USFWS. Sasha Berleman, Appalachians Fire Director, also began at TNC last year. Although both are recent additions to TNC's team, they are already making strides in collaboration.

This past spring, Berleman supported professional development at the Edge of Appalachia preserve by leading interior ignitions, as well as mentoring a squad boss trainee through the two burn units that Winters led. Winters and Berleman are looking forward to continuing to innovate, including investigating use of drones down the line.

Michael Hall, Appalachian Forest Manager in Ohio, has been focused on prescribed fire partnerships at the Edge for many years and recognized the need for more investment in this critical tool. In the past, Hall has worked alongside other TNC states like Kentucky and Indiana, and their teams have helped with prescribed fire at the preserve. Now, with Winters' and Berleman's positions, Ohio looks forward to building partnerships to enhance how we plan prescribed fires on TNC's preserves, as well as partners' preserves.

"You can see the difference Brian is making in Ohio by mobilizing partnerships and planning out a strategic, thoughtful implementation of fire," says Berleman.

## Now protecting more land at the Edge

This year, we've had two additions at Edge of Appalachia. In the winter, we expanded by 70 acres—enhancing connectivity between the preserve and Shawnee State Forest. This summer, we added another 41 acres, featuring Appalachian hardwood forest, the state-threatened purple wood sedge and a headwater tributary of Tracy Run.

### STAFF HIGHLIGHT

#### Terry Seidel

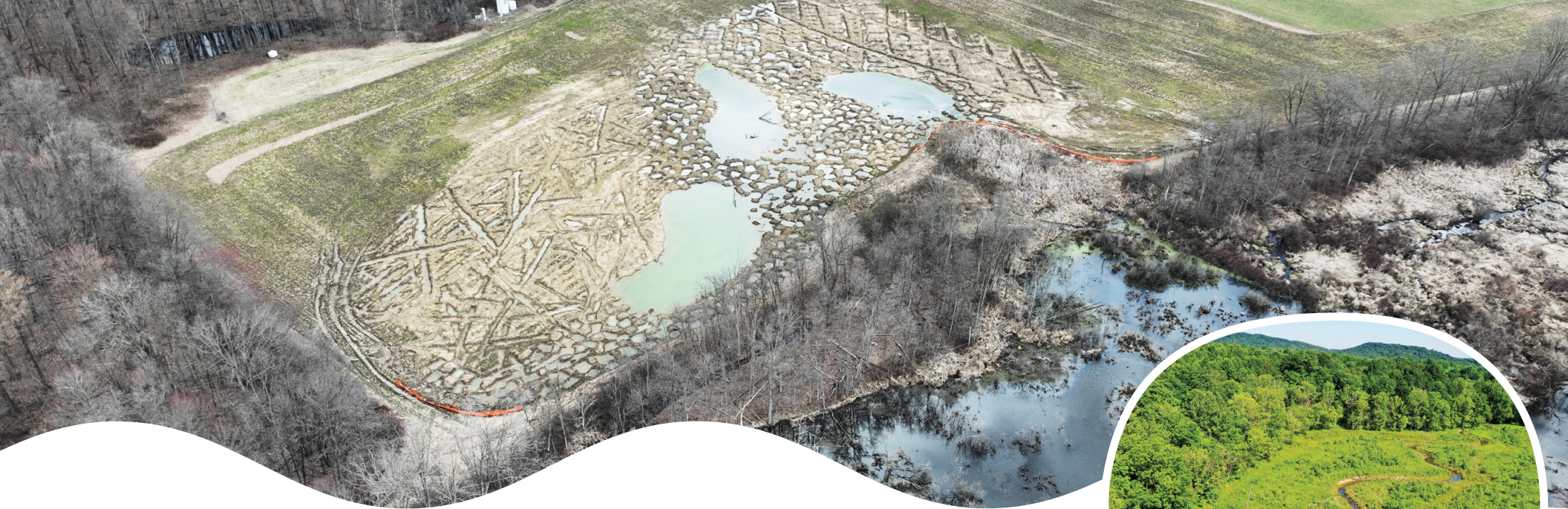
From exploring a stream at home to visiting mountains out west, Terry Seidel's childhood was spent immersed in nature. Now, as the Director of Land Protection for TNC Ohio, Seidel does what he loves every day—protecting land.

For 35 years, Seidel has worked for TNC Ohio in a few roles, but the majority of his time has been as the Director of Land Protection for 25 years. Seidel is responsible for acquiring lands of high conservation value, including the recent land protection project with Athens Conservancy of 2,973 acres in Southern Ohio. Throughout his career, he has helped protect nearly 24,000 acres across Ohio.

He shares, "I believe there is an urgency to protect more land. Ohio is experiencing a lot of growth and development. What used to be remote is becoming less so. It is urgent we protect as much as we can."







# WATER

## Restoring wetlands at Walborn Reservoir

In Alliance, Ohio, 53 acres of Walborn Reservoir was recently managed as a hay field. The landscape needed to be restored to its original state—wetlands that benefit both people and wildlife. That’s where our Ohio Mitigation Program (OMP) team came in.

OMP was founded on federal and state laws to restore wetlands and streams that have been damaged from land use activities. By combining funds from small, permitted impacts, the team implements restoration projects with high chances of ecological success. Restoring Ohio’s wetlands and streams is critical, as wetlands serve as vital habitats, provide flood control and improve water quality.

Construction to restore Walborn Reservoir at Stark County Parks began in September 2024. The process involved creating wetland pools, treating invasive species, planting more than 30,000 native trees and shrubs, and removing the tiling system that kept water off the land. Currently, the project is in its first year of 10 years of maintenance and monitoring.

The community benefit of this restoration includes improving water quality in Deer Creek, creating trails for visitors and increasing native species. “We’ve already seen an increase in amphibians on site. Native forbs, or wildflowers, have also really taken off,” shares Jennifer McDonald, restoration ecologist at TNC.



### BY THE NUMBERS

**Since its beginning in 2014, OMP has...**

**26**

Restoration projects completed in 22 counties

**16.6**

Miles of streams restored

**378**

Acres of wetland restored

**839**

Acres of improved management achieved





*"This is a testament to TNC's ability to advance large, innovative projects, from beginning to implementation."*

RESTORATION ECOLOGIST ASHLEE DECKER

## Large-scale restoration in Sandusky Bay

Located where the Sandusky River and Lake Erie connect, Sandusky Bay is an important waterbody in northern Ohio with valuable coastal wetlands. Today the Bay and its surrounding watershed look far different than they did hundreds of years ago. Many of the waterways have been rerouted, and wetlands have been tiled and drained for agriculture. Another change has been shoreline hardening with rock, which reduces critical quality nearshore habitat and disrupts ecosystem processes. Rock shorelines ricochet wave energy back out to the Bay, which churns up sediment and prevents vegetation growth. Agricultural runoff, hardened shorelines and a loss of wetlands all contribute to recurrent algal blooms.

But TNC is working with partners to change course. Thanks to the creation of the Sandusky Bay Initiative, large-scale plans are under way to

restore ecosystem function and habitat in Sandusky Bay. This work is made possible through funding from H2Ohio, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and private donations, as well as involvement of numerous partners and stakeholders.

In 2023, the Pickerel Creek Riparian project at ODNR's Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area was one of the first projects implemented as part of this initiative. It reconnected the creek to its floodplain and restored 44 acres of wetland habitat.

Last year, Raccoon Creek marked another project completed. This project restored more than four acres of coastal wetlands by using an innovative nature-based shoreline restoration approach that provides an improved, alternative way to manage shorelines in this landscape. A portion of another

project down the shoreline, Pickerel Creek West, was also finished this fall and significantly scaled up this innovative approach by eight times. Currently, Pickerel Creek East is another nature-based shoreline project in progress, and depending on funding, our team will expand this work in the future.

TNC Ohio looks forward to continuing to ensure the quality of these critical natural resources. "We can't put things back exactly the way they were, but we can restore high-quality habitat and improve Sandusky Bay," says Alexis McCarter, TNC Natural Infrastructure Director.



# CLIMATE

## Mining the Sun

This past spring, TNC applauded Gov. Mike DeWine, along with the rest of the Ohio Legislature, for helping the state navigate a changing landscape of increasing energy demand by signing House Bill 15 into law.

The new energy package allows county commissioners to designate Priority Investment Areas, or PIAs, steering energy development to brownfields and protecting our agriculture and critical habitat acres.

“Ohio residents face a real risk of energy shortages and rising energy prices in the future,” says Rebecca Mellino, climate and energy policy associate with TNC in Ohio. “House Bill 15 will help incentivize renewable energy siting on some of Ohio’s least usable land, including former industrial sites, landfills and abandoned mines.”

Avoiding conflict with agricultural and forested areas in Ohio is an important part of building a clean energy future. To help accomplish this throughout the United States, TNC is helping to identify ideal areas for wind and solar energy

development through mapping projects like Site Renewables Right and Mining the Sun. These tools, along with supportive policy measures, will help developers steer clean energy projects toward lands like brownfields and former mines and away from natural areas like forests and areas where high impact to wildlife might occur. Learn more at [nature.org/miningthesun](https://nature.org/miningthesun).



**THIS SPREAD FROM LEFT** When it came to the Elizabeth Mine, the local community and U.S. EPA partnered together to clean up the contaminated copper mine and create a plan that would allow for a future solar project to be developed. © StoryWorkz; Xiaoqiang Liu demonstrates cascading waterway monitoring during a Williams County Ag Tour. © Rachel Cochran; Xiaoqiang Liu staff photo © TNC







## Cascading waterway as edge-of-field solution



Less frequent but more powerful storms in Ohio are putting the productivity and profitability of working lands at risk. When excess stormwater flows off agricultural fields, the soil and costly fertilizers are often carried away, too.

For two farmers in Ohio, an innovative edge-of-field practice addressed their concerns about this severe soil erosion. Thanks to funding from an Ohio EPA 319 grant, the farmers partnered with Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District and TNC to install a 3,000-linear-foot cascading waterway. This waterway functions by directing water to flow through a series of shallow basins to store and filter runoff. The basins help slow the flow of water to reduce erosion. This project was successful in resolving drainage issues for both farmers.

Xiaoqiang Liu, lead on the project, shares, “Our edge-of-field work at TNC not only helps landowners with practical water management concerns but also in partnership with OSU researchers develops the science necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these practices and their potential to address water issues at scale.”

At TNC, our edge-of-field solutions mimic natural areas by creating a buffer to capture, store and filter water. These solutions help protect farms from flooding, while reducing the amount of soil and nutrients lost from heavy rains.



# Our year in photos

## 1. Prescribed fire at Kitty Todd

This spring, our Ohio team completed several successful prescribed burns across the state, including our Kitty Todd and Edge of Appalachia preserves. This photo is from a burn near the Cactus Loop trail at Kitty Todd in Swanton, Ohio. Many of the habitats on our Ohio preserves are fire dependent. Prairies, meadows, wetlands and forests need fire to thrive.

© Peter Blank

## 2. Monitoring wildlife during restoration

Partnering with Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), we're using devices to listen and watch wildlife during wetland habitat restoration funded by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. Autonomous recording units and AHDriFT camera units are monitoring wildlife's response to the restoration of 600 acres in the lower Cuyahoga River watershed. This rat snake was captured by an AHDriFT camera.

© Emily Finch

## 3. Wannemacher Reserve event

In April, the Ohio Mitigation Program (OMP) team and Miami County Parks celebrated the completion of a stream and wetland restoration project on Wannemacher Reserve. The event served as both an open house and a tree planting. Community members, as well as TNC and Miami County Parks Staff, planted more than 300 additional trees on the north side of the park.

© Brian Gara

## 4. State-endangered dragonfly at Kitty Todd

In July, this little blue dragonlet was found at Kitty Todd Nature Preserve by a volunteer. It was near a pond surrounded by wet flatwood habitat. This dragonfly is state-endangered, and there have been limited sightings of the species in Ohio. This is an exciting find!

© Jackie Riley

## 5. Brood XIV cicadas at the Edge

Brood XIV periodical cicadas visited Edge of Appalachia preserve this summer. This cicada spends the majority of its life underground, emerging after 13 or 17 years to transform, reproduce and ultimately die in just a few weeks. We won't see these types of cicadas again until 2042, so we were excited to observe them on our preserve.

© Martin McAllister

## 6. Volunteering at Big Darby

In June, volunteers built five overland flow control structures at Big Darby Headwaters. These structures help with erosion control along the public trail. At the preserve, beavers have created additional pools and wetlands that support plants and wildlife. This ponded habitat has also been deemed suitable for reintroducing three fish species, which have been extirpated from the area.

© Ashley Yockey





1



2



3



4



5



6



# Conservation support

The Nature Conservancy in Ohio is deeply grateful to the many individuals, corporations and foundations that have generously supported our conservation efforts, both locally and globally.

The following supporters contributed \$5,000 or more to TNC between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. The list reflects gifts received during this time and does not include the full value of multi-year pledges. Although space does not permit us to list all gifts to TNC, each contribution, no matter what size, has a direct impact on our critical work to protect people and nature.

## **\$10,000,000–\$50,000,000**

Anonymous

## **\$5,000,000–\$9,999,999**

Arhaus Furniture

Honda

## **\$1,000,000–\$4,999,999**

Anonymous

The Wilson Family

## **\$500,000–\$999,999**

Bread Financial

## **\$250,000–\$499,999**

Anonymous 3

Amazon Web Services

Battelle

Bath & Body Works Foundation

David & Jina Bohl

Joyce Foundation

Kohler Trust for Clean Water

Kathleen and Thane Maynard

Nationwide Foundation

Ryan Companies U.S., Inc.

## **\$100,000–\$249,999**

Advanced Drainage Systems

American Electric Power Foundation

Crane Family Foundation

Lou and Steven Mason

L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation

Martin and Fiona Riant

John and Katherine Schmid

Tadd C. and Nancy Seitz

Jay and Joanne Smale

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation

David and Ginger Warner

## **\$50,000–\$99,999**

Anonymous 1

Ernest J. Abele Fund of The  
Columbus Foundation

Marcelle Arak Charitable Gift Fund

Ashland, Inc.

Sondra A. Caldwell

Mr. Guy Cameron Ph.D. & Ms. Megan  
Balterman

Jeffrey W. and Lisa A. Edwards

The George Gund Foundation

The Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste  
Foundation

Linette Kuy

The Jean Thomas Lambert  
Foundation

Anne F. McIntyre

Gail D. Nelson

Ken and Pat Schug

The Kelvin & Eleanor Smith  
Foundation

Mary Ann Watrous

## **\$25,000–\$49,999**

Anonymous 3

Joan L. Bergstein Memorial Fund of

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Cleveland Foundation

Debbie Daniels and Constantine  
Vagnone

Estate of Lucile & Richard Durrell

Kevin Eigel and Marcia Miller

Alex Grim

Carl Haefling and Pamela Johnson

Jim Heflich and Patty Kellner

The Huntington Charitable Foundation

Linda B. and Andrew M. Jergens

The Noon Whistle Fund at The  
Chicago Community Foundation

The Nord Family Foundation

John and Helen O'Meara

The Perkins Charitable Foundation

Janet L. Peterson

France Stone Foundation

Marcia A. Thomas

Top Family Foundation

Waite-Brand Foundation

YOT Full Circle Foundation

## **\$10,000–\$24,999**

Anonymous 12

Sandra Doyle-Ahern and Michael Ahern

The Andersons Inc. Charitable  
Foundation

Ann E. Beck

Terri M. Bierdeman

Frances Bylow

Tom Carpenter and Lynne Lancaster

Dr. Julie A. Clayman

Dr. Luca Conte and Ms. Diana Parker

Beth Crane and Richard McKee

James M. Crosset

Crosset Family Fund

Gregory A. Cunningham

Jeanette Dehus

Marilyn M. Edwards

Richard and Carol Fencil

The Char and Chuck Fowler Family  
Foundation

Drs. Thomas J. & Mary Beth Hall

Lisa Hanauer and Sue Spiegel

Hanes Family Foundation

Maralyn T. Houser

Robert G. Huber

Harry Kangis and Julia Hawgood

Bailey Lamson Family Foundation

Mary K. Lazarus and Trip Lazarus III

Patricia E. Liebchen

Lois Logan

Angelo J. Magistro

William D. Martin

Mrs. Dorothy H. McDowell

Dr. Helen J. Michaels &  
Dr. Michael A. Tamor

The Montei Foundation

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation

Mary Lou Motl

Marcia Neundorfer

Martha and Austin Nobunaga

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

Debra and Richard Oliver

Charles L. Pack Charitable Trust

Thomas V. Pearson Fund of  
The Dayton Foundation

Henry S. Perkins

Connie and Herbert Pierce

A. W. Ritchie

Reed & Marion Robertson

Laurie & Dan Roche

Carol E. Roston

Robert H. Roth

David C. and Rebecca L. Rubin

Thomas N. and Sally Ruggles

Emily & Bob Rutherford

James Schiff & Elizabeth York Schiff

Dr. Thelma Schoonover Fund of the  
Columbus Foundation

Marty Sedluk

Norma J. Setteur

Ruth F. Sherbon

Peggy Steffel

George & Tressie Stevens

Marta King Stone

Tortoise and Snap Fund

Mark M. Ulicki

Dave and Nanci Westrick

Richard B. and Jane R. Whitehead  
Foundation

John J. and Jane Winch

Wodecroft Foundation

The Wohlgemuth Herschede  
Foundation



## \$5,000–\$9,999

Anonymous 2  
American Farmland Trust  
Carol Andreae and Jim Garland  
Androse Foundation  
David Arters  
Rita A. Au  
David and Esther Battle  
Susan and Paul Belanger  
John Bolan  
Dr. and Mrs. William Carey  
Christopher Carr  
James Chester  
Jim and Karen Chester Paula Chmielewski  
Dave and Jacquelyn Clark  
Michael and Paige Crane  
William and Donna Darlage  
Daniel M. and Deborah Dawley  
Patricia Dwight  
Dr. Lin Emmons  
Portia N. Flewellen Fund  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Foster II  
Grace A. Franklin  
Dr. Ann D. Geddes  
James M. Glenn  
Ted Goertzel and Linda Lawton  
Nancy Reymann Gotfredson  
Elizabeth P. Graham  
Michael B. Griffith  
Bernadette S. Guest  
Diane S. Harry  
Carol Hays  
Mr. Fred M. Hipp II  
Lizbeth Kohler  
Dr. Mary I. Kubera  
Linda and Robert Lakemacher  
Julian G. Lange Family Foundation #1

Andrea S. Leszek and Ali Shamsi  
M9 Charitable Fund  
Mrs. Sigrid Mann  
Debra H. Marsh  
David Martin and Cathy A. Suever  
William D. Martin  
Lynne Mathews  
Carol V. Miller  
R. Allen Miller & Linda Miller  
Dr. Rohini Mulchandani  
Ram Murthy  
Edward A. Myers  
Jonathan Neal  
Jonathan F. Orser  
Arvid S. & Marianne B. Peterson Fund  
David Ramge  
Melissa Richmond & William Watterson  
JoAnn C. Rogers  
Ann M. Ruchhoft  
Dennis and Pat Sheidler  
Shaune M. Skinner  
Dr. Kathy Smachlo & Mr. David Kaplan  
Gregory K. Stephens  
Elizabeth D. Stoehr  
Dale M. Uetrecht  
R. Alan Walter  
The Robert Weiler Co.  
Robert G. Welbaum  
Jeff L. & Missy Wert  
Barbara E. Wilks  
Brian D. Williamson  
Brian R. Williamson  
Dr. Roy Wayne Wolfram  
Dr. Mark D. Womble  
Stephen & Jan Young

## New or Increased Planned Gifts

Anonymous 2  
Susan and Paul Belanger  
Nancy and Kenneth Bliss  
Phyllis Bossin and Robert Strauss  
Mary Louise Braun Huber  
Alan S. Brody  
Elizabeth Bucchieri  
Paula Butterfield  
Lisa S. Cellura  
Gay A. Christensen-Dean and Russell A. Dean  
Ellen Cordar  
Karl Criss  
John F. Deatrick  
Anthony Di Stefano  
Lynne Dufenetz  
Michael A. Farmer  
Grace Franklin  
Michael R. Hall  
David and Cynthia Iden  
Meredith Johnson Snyder  
Kirk J. Kavanaugh and Jo Ann Monsey-Kavanaugh  
Daniel K. Luciano  
Jane M. Lynch  
Bruce E. Mcpherson  
Frank and Susan Metheney  
G. Anthony Meuser  
Alan Nemeth  
Rhonda J. O'Reilly  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rainger  
David Ramge  
Sue and Mark Real  
Karen L. Schemmel  
Thomas A. Schock  
Ronald and Carol Swart  
Ellen Vohsing and Matthew Gambrill  
Anne Watts

## DONOR HIGHLIGHT

### A Real Commitment to Conservation

In 2019, TNC and several partners opened a new 16-mile section of the Buckeye Trail within the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. At the time, Sue and Mark Real had already visited most of the U.S. national parks, so it was only fitting that they were among the first to hike the new trail at its grand opening.

Long before life's blazes brought them together, the Reals had both fostered special connections to nature. While Sue's family traveled to national parks on summer vacations, Mark spent many years hiking and camping as an Eagle Scout. Eventually, Sue and Mark's shared love for the natural world led them to support TNC's mission with their philanthropy.

Like the Buckeye Trail's expansion, TNC's most successful programs often leverage public funding and close partnerships across sectors. In 2025, TNC's scientific expertise, global footprint and bipartisan response to shifting federal priorities inspired the Reals to give a gift to our ongoing U.S. policy defense campaign.

"TNC has been really successful at building partnerships with like-minded people," Sue shares. "And the key is to continue advocating for fact-based strategies that celebrate success stories without minimizing the challenges faced along the way," Mark adds.

Combined with their broader support of Ohio conservation programs, the Reals' generous gift to TNC's timely advocacy efforts is clearing a path to a more hopeful future—one where every child can experience the wonders of nature, no matter who they are or where they live.



*We regret any errors or omissions and ask that you bring them to the attention of the Development Department at 380-206-2172 or [ohio@tnc.org](mailto:ohio@tnc.org).*





**[nature.org/ohio](https://nature.org/ohio)**

**The Nature Conservancy  
Ohio Chapter**  
6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 100  
Dublin, OH 43017

**FACEBOOK**  
[facebook/OhioConservancy](https://facebook.com/OhioConservancy)

**INSTAGRAM**  
[instagram.com/nature\\_oh](https://instagram.com/nature_oh)

**LINKEDIN**  
[nature.org/linkedinOH](https://nature.org/linkedinOH)