

For Immediate Release

January 10, 2012

Information: Larry Frimerman 513-524-2150

Miami's Russell, New ODNR Division Chief Headline Upcoming Three Valley Annual Meeting Feb. 4

Ornithologists David and Jill Russell and ODNR's Karl Gebhardt will be the keynote speakers at the Three Valley Conservation Trust's 17th Annual Meeting, being held on Saturday, February 4th, 5:30pm, at the Marcum Conference Center, at Miami University, Oxford. Miami University's Dr. David Russell and Dr. Jill Fentz Russell will share recent experiences with boreal owls "the ghosts of the north" and perhaps a fine feathered friend for the first time at a Three Valley event. Karl Gebhardt, recently appointed to be the Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil and Water Conservation, will share his thoughts on the complementary roles that land trusts and soil conservationists play in preserving the environment in southwestern Ohio and environs.

There will be recognition of elected officials, and presentation of the fifth annual Wallace I. Edwards Conservationist award.

The Trust will also honor other conservation stars and retiring Three Valley Conservation Trust Board members Ben Jones, Ron Stewart, and Frank House as well as other local heroes and organizational partners.

In addition, Three Valley Conservation Trust conservation easement donors will share inspirational stories about why they have protected their farms and open space. To date, 109 easement donors have stepped up to forever protect properties covering 13,730 acres of ground with the Three Valley Conservation Trust in the Trust's watersheds.

The Three Valley Conservation Trust Annual Meeting will include a brief summary of its accomplishments, and its plan for the coming year. Beautiful music by Treva Boardman will be followed by a Marcum Center-catered meal. Finally, the organization will conduct its election of candidates for the group's Board of Trustees.

Dinner and event are \$20 per person. Please call the Trust office, (513) 524-2150 to reserve a place at the table. Reservations must be received by January 30, 2012.