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### **Three Valley Conservation Trust Signs 100<sup>th</sup> Easement**

December 26, 2011. Oxford, OH. It may be just a momentary signpost in voluntary efforts for land conservation, but Three Valley Conservation Trust's 100<sup>th</sup> conservation easement is an important milestone nonetheless. The Oxford Township based nonprofit land conservation trust signed its momentous easement last week to protect a beautiful 168 acre forested farm in neighboring Reily Township owned by the Eich family. Jeannine Eich, principal owner and family matriarch, commented, "I just wanted to make sure nothing happened to the trees."

The "Big Reily Woods Preservation Project" was made possible through a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant matched by significant landowner donation. The 91 forested acres make up the core of what is commonly referred to locally as the Big Reily Woods, and contains a rare intact mature oak-hickory forest, according to documentation provided by area scientists from Miami University's Institute of Environmental Sustainability, including its new Director, Dr. Thomas O. Crist.

This is a spectacular forest, commented Dr. Bruce Steinly, a Zoologist at Miami University. "It is the kind of place one rarely finds even within a nature preserve, let alone on private land with a working farm to help sustain its viability". "It is gratifying to be able to help landowners to achieve one of their dreams", noted Trust Board Chairman Dr. Adolph M. Greenberg, who signed the conservation easement agreement on behalf of the organization.

The Ohio Public Works Commission provided dollar-for-dollar pass-through funds through Clean Ohio to help underwrite the purchase of development rights from the private landowners to retain the significant forest, stream and diversity of habitats along a lovely stretch of Little Indian Creek in northwest Butler County near its confluence with Indian Creek.

The Three Valley Conservation Trust partners with people and communities to conserve the natural environment and cultural heritage for future generations in its service area. The group covers parts of eight counties in southwestern Ohio and Eastern Indiana, and covers much of the Lower Great Miami River Watershed. For more information, become a member, or help to protect land and stream resources, please contact the Trust at 513-524-2150, or visit its website at [www.3vct.org](http://www.3vct.org).