

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Landowners can learn more about conservation easements at March 7 public meeting

Landowners can learn how to permanently preserve their land at a March 7 informational meeting at the Wakeman Community Library.

The meeting, hosted by the nonprofit Western Reserve Land Conservancy, will take place from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7 at the Wakeman Community Library located at 33 Pleasant Street, Wakeman, OH 44889. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Andy McDowell, vice president of western operations for the Land Conservancy, will be the featured speaker. McDowell has overseen the preservation of thousands of acres of farmland and natural areas in Lorain, Huron, Erie, Medina, Ashland, Richland, Summit, Stark and Wayne counties. He will discuss the merits of conservation easements, the differences between donated and purchased easements and the workings of the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Landowners will also learn how they may receive income- and estate-tax benefits for donated easements.

A conservation easement preserves land by prohibiting or limiting future development. While it is voluntarily granted by the landowner, the easement is permanent and runs with the land. Landowners can realize significant tax benefits from granting easements on their property.

“We are seeing more and more landowners understand the value of conserving their land,” shared Andy McDowell, vice president of western field operations for Western Reserve Land Conservancy. “While some landowners find value in preserving family farmland or natural areas; others find value in the significant federal income tax benefits having a major, positive impact on their bottom lines.”

To find out more information on the meeting, email amcdowell@wrlandconservancy.org or call 440-774-4226.

About Western Reserve Land Conservancy: Western Reserve Land Conservancy provides the people of our region with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration. The Land Conservancy preserves natural areas and working farms in 17 counties in northern and eastern Ohio; its urban program, Thriving Communities, works statewide to clean and green urban centers devastated by the foreclosure crisis. To date, the Land Conservancy has permanently preserved more than 700 properties and more than 52,000 acres; worked with municipalities to create more than 150 public

parks and preserves; led the efforts to create nearly 50 county land banks across Ohio; and planted nearly 4,000 trees in the City of Cleveland.

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