



THE BLUEGRASS *Conservancy News*

Conserving the Bluegrass forever...

FALL, 2004

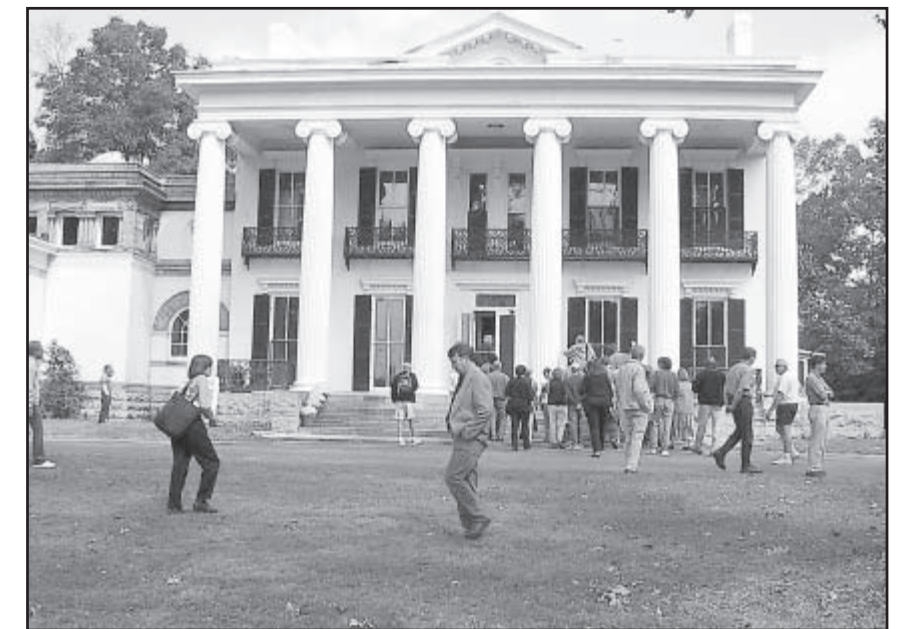
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ENJOY A TASTE OF THE BLUEGRASS

“Great tour! Very interesting historic sites and good information on conservation easements.”

—Tour participant

grounds, paddock, library, and historic Keene Ellis House and enjoyed breakfast in the clubhouse. Nick Nicholson, Keeneland President and CEO, and Dr. Dennis Domer, Director of the Center of Historic Architecture and Preservation, spoke to the group about Keeneland's preservation projects. At Woodburn Farm, Bluegrass Conservancy Vice-Chair Libby Lloyd Jones hosted a tour of the historic Woodburn Mansion. Guests enjoyed lunch and the scenic beauty of Woodburn's front lawn, dry laid stone fences, and old growth trees. Finally at Woodford

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Preservationists enjoy touring the historic Woodburn Mansion.

Bluegrass Conservancy's field session, *A Taste of the Bluegrass*, was a roaring success at the 2004 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, *Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads*. The Conservancy was selected from approximately 75 applicants to lead 1 of 30 field sessions during the annual conference which was held in Louisville, Kentucky from September 28 to October 3, 2004. Approximately 2000 preservationists from across the country attended the week-long National Preservation Conference. Margaret Graves, Executive Director, and Mackenzie Royce put on their tour guide hats to lead 2 buses of over 70 preservationists.

The tour included 2 National Historic Landmarks, Keeneland Racetrack and Brown Forman's Woodford Reserve Distillery, and the historic Woodburn Farm in Woodford County. At Keeneland, preservationists toured the

SAVE THE BLUEGRASS SAVE THE DATE

Fifth Annual Farmland Conservation Auction
April 2005
WinStar Farm

Do you have race tickets, vacation spots,
or any other exciting live auction items?

If you or anyone you know would like to **donate much appreciated auction items for the event**, please contact Margaret Graves by email at mgraves@bluegrassconservancy.org or by phone at (859) 255-4552.

Bluegrass Conservancy
For further information about current projects, please contact the Bluegrass Conservancy at (859) 255-4552.
The Bluegrass Conservancy is a non-profit regional land trust. Our mission is to promote the conservation of Bluegrass farmland. The Bluegrass Conservancy's Board of Directors include:
Helen Alexander, Chair,
Libby Jones, Vice-Chair,
Lucy Breathitt, Lendy Brown, Michael Burns, Robert Clay, Douglas Dean, Laurel Garrett, Hopper Henon, Nancy Lampton, Boo McDonald and John Phillips. The Conservancy currently holds 2,396 acres of Bluegrass farmland.

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PROFILES IN CONSERVATION: Jack and Betsy van Nagell

Jack and Betsy van Nagell donated a conservation easement to the Bluegrass Conservancy in 2000 on 565 acres of Brookfield Farm.

What is the history behind Brookfield Farm?

Brookfield Farm has been in our family for a number of years. It is located in Fayette and Clark Counties, and is in the northern part of the Iroquois Hunt Country. Historically, it has been part of a large beef cattle operation which continues to the present time. It is made up of grassy meadows interspersed with wooded areas which serve as a natural habitat for a variety of wildlife.



Why did you decide to donate an easement on your farm?

We decided to donate an easement on Brookfield Farm to the Bluegrass Conservancy in order to preserve this land as an agriculture and wildlife sanctuary for future generations to enjoy. Central Kentucky has uniquely beautiful and fertile farm land which helps define this area. It is shortsighted to lose more and more of this land to unrestrained development. Once development occurs, our land and many aspects of our way of life are gone forever.

Do you have any advice for landowners considering donating an easement on their farm?

We would encourage other landowners to place a conservation easement on their land for a variety of reasons. First, you can give a priceless gift to future generations by preventing unique agricultural land from being developed. Second, there are financial advantages to placing a conservation easement on your property, either by receiving direct payment as provided in the Fayette County Purchase of Development Rights Program, or from tax advantages provided by donating an easement to the Bluegrass Conservancy. Finally, a conservation easement allows preservation of land as a natural habitat for wildlife, both now and in the future. The Bluegrass Conservancy, and Margaret Graves, its Executive Director, are valuable friends in assuring that our land will be placed in the specific type of easement you desire.*

**The Iroquois Hunt Club and the Bluegrass Conservancy have been recently nominated for the Hunting Habitat Conservation Award sponsored by the Masters of Foxhounds Association and the Chronicle of the Horse.*



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Bluegrass Conservancy was sad to see both Claudia Miller and Tara Loyd recently leave our office. As a part-time Office Manager and Executive Assistant, Claudia was a big help with our annual conservation auction and her artistic flair will be missed. Tara's tireless efforts and enthusiasm as Development and Public Education Coordinator were a true gift. Although we miss her dearly, we applaud her efforts to help AIDS orphans in Lesotho, Southern Africa.



Debbie Fisher, Office Manager



Mackenzie Royce, former Bluegrass Conservancy summer intern, has joined our staff.

It is a pleasure to welcome Debbie Fisher, Office Manager, to Bluegrass Conservancy. Debbie and her husband moved to Lexington in January 2000 when her husband accepted a position as Plant/Operations Manager for a local manufacturing facility. Previously, Debbie worked as Executive Secretary and Office Manager for the City of Cadillac in Michigan. In Cadillac, Debbie worked closely with the Planning Board on planning and zoning issues, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Mayor and City Council. More recently in Lexington, Debbie served as Administrative Secretary to the Fayette County Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education. We are grateful for Debbie's hard work and glad to have her as a member of the Conservancy's team.

Additionally, Mackenzie Royce, former Bluegrass Conservancy summer intern, has joined the staff. Mackenzie was raised in Lexington and received a Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics from the University of Kentucky. More recently, she obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vermont. Mackenzie participated in a full time externship with the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development's Department of Housing and Community Affairs and Division for Historic Preservation. Mackenzie gained valuable community development, land use, and historic preservation experience in and out of the law school classroom and we are extremely fortunate she has chosen to dedicate her considerable skills to conserving the Bluegrass.

Bluegrass Conservancy staff would like to congratulate Margaret Graves, Executive Director, for receiving a 2004 Honor Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Margaret was presented this award in recognition of her significant contributions to the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources and in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. We are extremely proud to have such a world class conservationist leading our efforts!

Are You Looking for a Guest Speaker?

Executive Director Margaret Graves welcomes the opportunity to speak to groups interested in farmland protection. The Bluegrass Conservancy has developed a power point presentation about its rural preservation efforts and is eager to spread the word to interested audiences. "Public education is an important part of our mission. We now have the technology to give presentations which show the progress we are making in protecting the Bluegrass. We can tailor our presentation to the audience and its interests." said Margaret Graves, Executive Director of the Bluegrass Conservancy. For further information, please contact the Bluegrass Conservancy offices at 255-4552. Groups of all sizes are welcome.

Watch for the upcoming winter issue of Keeneland Magazine which will feature an article on the Bluegrass Conservancy.



PRESERVATION CONFERENCE



Helen Powell, Mackenzie Royce, Board Vice-Chair and Hostess Libby Jones, and Margaret Graves talk about the tour.

Reserve Distillery, the birthplace of Bourbon in the 1830s, tour participants learned about the evolution of the bourbon making process and enjoyed a taste of bourbon.

Margaret and Mackenzie led discussions on farmland preservation in the Bluegrass as the buses traveled over designated Kentucky scenic byways, through rural historic districts, and amid some of the world's finest rolling farmland. The tour guides focused on the importance of public/private partnership techniques to preserve our treasured Bluegrass farmland, including easements held by the Bluegrass Conservancy, Fayette County's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program, and Kentucky's Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (P.A.C.E.) Program.

Bluegrass Conservancy would like to thank its partners, Keeneland and Woodford Reserve Distillery, for their help in providing national preservationists a true taste of our splendid Bluegrass landscape. The Bluegrass Conservancy staff would also like to express its appreciation to Board Member Nana Lampton for housing the weary tour guides.

Another participant noted that the most valuable thing they learned during the session was, "the success and passion of private preservation efforts."



CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Bluegrass Conservancy proudly acknowledges our Conservation Society. Members have given the extraordinary gift of a conservation easement on their land. These leaders in conservation deserve thanks on behalf of all associated with the Conservancy.

Please contact Margaret Graves for information about donating a conservation easement on your land by email at mgraves@bluegrassconservancy.org or by phone at (859) 255-4552.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONORS:

- Helen C. Alexander
- Joseph and Mary Carter Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Clay
- Mr. and Mrs. Leon Creek
- Mr. and Mrs. Hoppy Henton
- Governor Brereton C. Jones and Elizabeth Lloyd Jones
- Alice Kinhead
- Mike and Jeanne Owens
- Anne J. Parker
- John & Kristina Penn
- Dr. and Mrs. John van Nagell
- Dr. & Mrs. Smiser West
- Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson

2,396 Acres Protected by Conservation Easements Held by the Bluegrass Conservancy

- Woodford County: 1,107 acres
- Fayette County: 910 acres
- Clark County: 56 acres
- Jessamine County: 190 acres
- Bourbon County: 133 acres

10,702 Acres Protected by Conservation Easements Held By the Fayette County Purchase of Development Rights Program

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

2004 National Conference

Farming on the Edge: Meeting the Challenge

November 15-17, 2004 • Lexington, KY

Americans treasure our working landscape—the farms, forests and ranches that sustain us. Yet, economic, environmental and land use conflicts increasingly challenge the future of these lands.

Farming on the Edge: Meeting the Challenge brings a diverse group of talented and experienced people together to address these issues. They will share success stories and creative approaches to land conservation, economic development and community planning. The conference will also set the stage for a discussion of U.S. farm policy by reviewing the impacts of current policies and exploring alternatives that could re-shape farm programs for the 21st century.

American Farmland Trust's national conference is a great opportunity to network, to learn a variety of tools, find out what has worked and what hasn't, and engage in debate about priorities. This year, the conference will be held in historic Lexington, Kentucky!

For more information visit the AFT website at www.farmland.org or contact Doris Mittasch at dmittasch@farmland.org or (413) 586-9330.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Avoid the hassles of holiday shopping by making a contribution to help protect the farmland that makes this area unique.

We accept donations in honor of birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, and other holidays as well as donations in memory of loved ones.

The honoree or their family will be notified of your contribution, so please include a clearly written address.

Please contact Margaret Graves for more information at: mgraves@bluegrassconservancy.org or 859-255-4552.