

Steve Goodwin Award Profile

For League of Ohio Sportsmen

Steve Goodwin has been a leader in natural resource conservation and management in Ohio for over 40 years in many capacities. A graduate of the Ohio State University School of Natural Resources, Steve entered public service with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in 1972 and enjoyed a 29 year career before retiring in 2001.

Steve was a member of the original team that created and helped to build the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He was also instrumental in helping establish the Ohio Scenic River Program and worked extensively for many years as the division's real estate program administrator. In this capacity he helped to create and acquire properties for many of Ohio's state nature preserves. He also developed many of the early conservation easements acquired by the Department for the state nature preserve and scenic river programs.

During Steve's career at ODNR he was involved in the planning and designation of Ohio's three nationally-designated scenic rivers, the Little Miami River, Little Beaver Creek and Big Darby Creek. He also developed and administered a successful public relations campaign for the Ohio State Natural Areas Checkoff Program.

Following his successful career with the State of Ohio Steve began assisting the nonprofit land trust community, serving initially as a board member of the Owl Creek Conservancy in Knox County. He was an advisor in the formation of the Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA), a nonprofit community-based land trust before taking a position as a conservation consultant for AOA. Steve served as the part-time director of AOA until a full-time director was hired in 2011, at which time Steve shifted into his present role as the Land Conservation Specialist.

Steve's leadership and expertise has been indispensable to the successful growth and development of AOA's conservation program in central and southeastern Ohio. In 12 short years AOA has accumulated a portfolio of over 60 conservation properties in large part to Steve's efforts. He has worked with many land owners and developed most of the 46 conservation agreements stewarded by the organization. Steve has played a leading role in many of AOA's most prominent and successful conservation projects including the Bartley Preserve in Circleville and the Kleinmaier State Nature Preserve in Sugar Grove.

In conjunction with his nonprofit conservation sector service Steve was a founding member of the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts (COLT). He is a current member of the COLT Steering Committee, working on statewide conservation and land trust policy, practice and education issues.

Steve resides with his wife Kit Goodwin in their country home near Johnstown.