



## **BUILDING FUND**

*Giving to  
Conservation Education*



Owned & Operated  
by the  
Seneca Soil & Water  
Conservation District



Miller Conservation Farm  
5670 East Adams Township Road 138  
Tiffin, OH 44883

Owned and Operated By :

Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

## Mission

“To preserve the cultural and historical integrity of the Miller Conservation Farm as a place to afford scientific research, develop conservation education, demonstrate conservation farming practices, and emphasize the conservation and preservation of trees and wildlife.”

### Farm Facts

\*The Farm is home to the MSBO (Maynard Stonebraker Bird Observatory) Bird Banding Station, which traps and bands birds for the USGS and MAPS bird monitoring programs. We band local birds, neotropical migrants, and various owls. Our birds have been found as far north as Canada and as far south as Central and South America.

\*Annual Education Programs include county 6th Grade Conservation Tours, Birding Demonstrations, Outdoor Skills Workshops, School Field Trips, and Teacher Workshops per request.

\* We offer the Annual Harvest Fest, which involves families hiking the woods on a big candy treasure hunt through the learning trails. The day also includes outdoor skills sessions, watershed learning games, petting zoo, and lunch over the fire. Last years event drew 600 family members to the great outdoors and to the farmers local produce market.

\*Hunting and Fishing Opportunities include Guided Youth Hunts for Turkey and Rabbits, Fishing Derbies, and Archery opportunities. Adult trapping and muzzle-loader hunts drawings are held. We are also home to one of the very few assisted wheel chair deer hunts in the state of Ohio. All events are open to public participation.

## History of the Farm

The late Maynard P. and Gladys Mae Stonebraker donated their 80 acre farm to Heidelberg College. Heidelberg donated it to the Seneca SWCD in 1994. The farm was requested to be kept as a memorial to Sidney & Deloria Miller. The Miller's opened their home during the early 1900's to three orphaned children; Jay Erb, Naomi Monroe and Maynard Stonebraker. Maynard also set forth in his will that the Farm be “maintained and preserved as a natural setting with emphasis on conservation and preservation of trees and wildlife.”

## Investing in the Farm's Future

### BUILDING FUND

	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Namesake Membership	\$20,000
Structure will be named after your namesake.	

Name posted inside building on donor plaque:

<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership	\$5000
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership	\$2500
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Membership	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Copper Membership	\$500

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Check

Will pay in increments as follows

Cash

I understand that by signing below, the funds collected will be used for the outdoors service center at Miller Conservation Farm. Any funds collected above that needed, will be rolled over to the 2010 building project, which is to build an Education Building capable of holding sixty students in classroom fashion.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to become a Friend of Miller Farm, please complete the form and enclose the correct amount of cash or a check, or call for payment arrangements and send to Seneca SWCD/Miller Farm at 3140 South SR 100, Suite D, Tiffin, OH 44883.

### Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

Miller Conservation Farm  
5670 East Adams Township Road 138  
Tiffin, OH 44883

Phone: (419) 447-7073

## Help Us, Help the Public Get Outdoors!

We need to be able to continue our 10 year tradition of offering outdoors programs to everyone, regardless of physical and/or mental disabilities or age. With the programs that our volunteers have come up with, we have been able to do that effectively in previous years. But, since the loss of our barns, we have been limited in offering suitable accommodations. We have proven that people are willing to get outdoors. We have helped people who haven't been in the woods for 18 years due to being confined to wheel chairs after some debilitating disease or accident. We have helped hospice patients hunt for one last time. We have helped blind and special needs children get to the deepest part of the woods to enjoy the screech of an owl at night or the beauty of the wood ducks on the creek, or go fishing or shoot archery for the first time. We have helped hundreds of kids learn outdoor skills that will last them a lifetime. These events require the use of specialized equipment that needs a secure place at the farm. It also requires a meeting/registration area at the entrance of the farm where we can fit them with whatever gear is needed to get them into the woods.

### *How you can help...*

Please consider your tax deductible contribution to the Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District to help build a small barn to be used as the Outdoor Service Center. The Seneca SWCD is drafting grants to be used to help with this project, but we are in need of cash dollars to be used as match to get the grant.

We are seeking cash donations of \$500 or more toward the purchase of this building. We have multiple giving levels in hopes that if you are able, you may consider giving at the Gold, Silver or Bronze sponsor levels as well. Any of these contributions will be recognized by donor plaques labeled by giving level, on the inside of the building.

We are also looking for sponsors who may want to give at the Namesake level. Any Private Individual, Business, or Organization is welcome to give at this level. If a contribution is made at \$20,000 or above, the sponsor will be allowed to name the building after their namesake. We highly encourage anyone who can make this kind of contribution to contact the SWCD for more details. Contribution can be made in lump sum or be given in increments designated by the sponsor over the course of six months. All funds will be utilized as matching funds towards grants and foundation requests.

## *Outdoors Activities Without Limits*



With the help of the Tiffin-Seneca Izaak Walton League, a deer hunt for wheelchair-bound hunters is conducted every fall at the Miller Farm. This event gives hunters the opportunity to enjoy a quality experience in a prime location. Transportation to and from the hunting blinds is provided by a specially built trailer (above) and four-wheeler. The blinds are enclosed and have a shingled roof. The group also has in the past provided a central deer camp for hunter to come in and get warmed. We have had 10 years of successful hunts.



Kids of all ages use the farm for guided hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, and archery. The SWCD owns archery and fishing equipment which can be borrowed, but it is currently housed offsite due to loss of our barn. We also host organized high school contests such as the Envirothon shown above with 500+ participating.



School of Opportunity, a school for special needs and physically and mentally disabled kids takes advantage of the farm and what it has to offer. Twenty disabled children were assisted in this picture on a simple birding hike through the woods.

# OUTDOOR SERVICE CENTER



- 30' X 48' SERVICE CENTER NEXT TO PARKING AREA
- ALL WEATHER USE
- AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT COMPLIANT
- OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ONSITE
- BUILT WITH LOCAL FUNDS



**PROBLEMS:** The original barns (shown here), inherited in 1994, needed to be taken down due to poor foundations causing safety concerns. Now we do not have any all weather shelter to offer disabled hunters, youth hunters, or youth hike program participants, nor the equipment area it takes to offer these programs efficiently. The one pole shed we have left is at the bottom of a large hill which is not accessible to people with disabilities trying to enter the farm for program registration. It is used for our mower and lawn equipment storage.

Currently, we actually wrap half of our picnic shelter in sheet plastic and staple it up using 2' x 4's (shown below) in order to provide a temporary wind shelter during our winter and spring programming. The plastic is then torn down off the shelter after each event. We realize this is not the best way to do programming, but it is the best we can do with what we currently have.



All equipment is currently housed offsite and has to be brought in each time we have a program, which is labor and time intensive. Many times we need to cancel events due to temporary inclement weather conditions.

## 2009 GOAL:

Raise \$85,000 to build a 30' x 48' barn with concrete floor and entrance ramp to house outdoor programming registration, disabled sportsmen's ATV trailers, a wagon used for hayride programs, fishing equipment and archery equipment for use by public. Building would be both meet/registration area and a place to house the needed equipment to hold these specialty events.

