

Conservator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO / NOVEMBER 2006

CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY HOSTS ANNUAL MEET

► *You're invited!*

**Meeting held Fri., Nov. 10 7-9 PM
at Cincinnati Astronomical Society**
5274 Zion Rd. in Miami Twp., Hamilton County

DIRECTIONS: I-74 to Rybolt Rd. Exit #11.
Go down **Harrison Ave.** (N) 2 mi. to Wesselman.
Turn **Left** (S) and go 1 mi. to **Buffalo Ridge.**
Turn **Right** (W) and go 1.75 mi. to **Zion Rd.**
Turn **Left** (S) and go 1/4 mi.—past Mitchell
Memorial Forest entrance on Right—to **CAS
entrance** on Left. Look for sign. Parking on site

The Land Conservancy's **7th Annual meeting** is set for Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 PM at the headquarters of the **Cincinnati Astronomical Society** in Miami Twp., western Hamilton County. We'll hold election of Board members whose three-year terms are up, and report on the work of our committees. And, we will bring you up to date on recent land protection activities, including working with Green Township to win two Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grants to preserve scenic land in the I-74 Greenway.

Message from the President

The Land Conservancy is beginning its eighth year of preservation work in Hamilton County. This all-volunteer organization is grateful for your support. Because we operate from a solid base, we are growing into a force for preservation

Continued on other side ...

► **Featured presentation by CAS astronomer Jon Jennings:**

STARGAZING IN CINCINNATI:

from the Birth of American Astronomy to Observing in the Space Age

Located atop a major ridge in western Hamilton County just east of the Great Miami River, the **Cincinnati Astronomical Society (CAS)** is one of America's oldest stargazing societies.

The remarkable history of CAS dates back almost a century, when members' quest for a permanent home led to Miami Township.

The Land Conservancy is honored to be guests of Cincinnati Astronomical Society, and to hold our **Annual meeting on Fri., Nov. 10, 7 - 9 PM** at the group's headquarters building on CAS property, 5274 Zion Road, just S of the entrance to Mitchell Memorial Park.

Expand your horizons

In "Stargazing in Cincinnati," **CAS member Jon Jennings** will tell the amazing story of the birth of American astronomy in Cincinnati in the mid-1880s, and the important role the **Cincinnati Astronomical Society** has played through the years. This includes the saga of the grand Observatory planned by Society founders.



Today's CAS members pursue classical amateur astronomy. And, they share their knowledge by introducing the public to observing. Jon Jennings will give us the basics, after which we will be invited outdoors to take a look at the night sky through telescopes at the site — with guidance from a CAS member.

One of our guides will be **Ralph Goldsmith** (left),

shown preparing the 16 in. Cartlidge reflecting telescope for observing.

"A magnificent viewpoint"

In 1914, the Society chose the Miami Township site because of its prominence (885 ft. above sea level) and distance (12 miles) from Cincinnati's polluted skies.

They acquired three parcels of farmland totaling 142 acres—including a farmhouse and peach orchard—at a cost of \$11,200.

Today, CAS retains six windy ridgetop acres. It is a short walk from the new CAS headquarters to the telescopes secured in modest outbuildings on the grounds.



Palomar's dome?

No — it's a domed observatory at the Society's Miami Township headquarters. Inside is the storied 8-1/4 in. Alvan Clark reflecting telescope, built in 1880, and in use at the site since 1924.

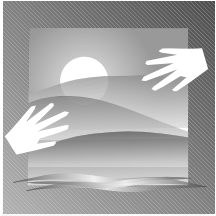
The majority of land from the original purchase is now in the protective hands of the Hamilton County Park District.

Come, wonder with us

Jon is hopeful— if the autumn skies are clear on Nov. 10— that we could see celestial features including Orion and its nebula, the Andromeda galaxy, the Ring nebula, and the globular cluster M-13, as well as a third-quarter moon.

The Land Conservancy of Hamilton County, Ohio is a member-supported, nonprofit land trust that helps families preserve their lands, and works to protect our County's natural heritage to benefit the quality of life of all citizens.

www.LandConservancyHC.org



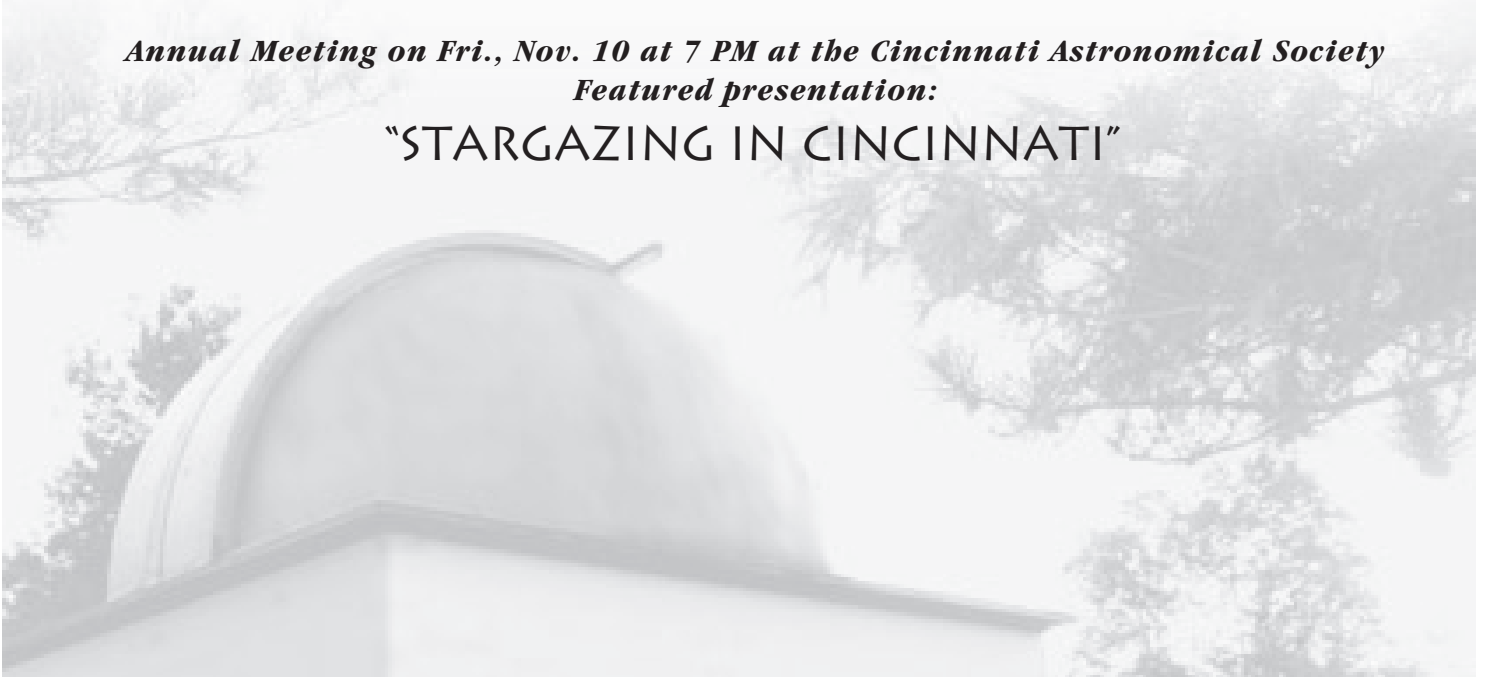
THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

TEL (513) 574-1849 www.LandConservancyHC.org
5200 Race Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45247

Annual Meeting on Fri., Nov. 10 at 7 PM at the Cincinnati Astronomical Society

Featured presentation:

“STARGAZING IN CINCINNATI”



Continued from other side—

of Hamilton County’s great natural assets. Some day, we will look back on this period, and say these are the “early years.”

At our annual meet, we’ll learn the fascinating story of the **Cincinnati Astronomical Society**. Back in 1911, members decided to realize their dream to photograph the heavens. Thus began their quest for a site away from the city for a new observatory. Their search led to Miami Township—and the brand new science of astrophotography.

The next 100 years

What will the Land Conservancy have to report at our 100th anniversary in 2099? What impact will our work have made?

Will the natural character of Hamilton County be anything like it is today? Will agricultural lands east and west of the Great Miami River still produce? Will the Little Miami River be scenic? Will the Mill Creek flow to the Ohio River free of its concrete banks? Will our defining hills and valleys survive?

Witnessing the loss of precious land and farms in Hamilton County to development at an accelerating pace, the future doesn’t look too promising.

Public policies: in whose best interest?

Current land use policies in Hamilton County do not support conservation. While other counties are taking steps to preserve their natural heritage, Hamilton County is working to

make it easier to convert ridgetops, farmland, stream valleys and neighborhood greenspaces into subdivisions and strip malls.

In the long run, it will take great public support — and a change in public policy — to alter the course of the inevitable direction in which we are headed.

Make conservation a priority

The Land Conservancy will continue to encourage and work with families who choose to legally protect their precious lands. And, we will fulfill our promise to watch over these lands to keep them safe for posterity.

We want to say—in 2099—that we helped bring a life-affirming conservation ethic to Hamilton County.

For this to happen: ■ We must make certain that every person in Hamilton County truly understands how connected we are to the natural world we live in, and how it defines and determines our quality of life.

■ We must become one strong voice that calls for protection of our great natural heritage.

■ We must insist that our elected officials make conservation of our land and water resources a priority.

Meaningful conservation won’t happen unless we demand it and support it. In time, we will bear witness to what we do now, or don’t do. **Our work has just begun. Join us.**

— Roland Johnson, President **574-7256**
The Land Conservancy’s Board of Directors

