

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jay Steiner Jr & Rosalie Charkoff Steiner

Homer Jay Steiner and Rosalie Charkoff Steiner were longtime bath residents and dedicated conservationist. They fought hard to preserve their land, the Firestone Estate land, and environmental education. They donated their home and 23 acres of land to University of Akron—now known as [Steiner Woods](#). Mrs. Steiner was vital in the creation of the [Bath Nature Preserve](#) and she established the Nature Land Lab at Bath Elementary. In 2002 The lab was certified as a [Ohio Certified WILD School Site](#).

*The Akron Beacon Journal—
Wednesday May 8, 2002*

Homer Jay Steiner Jr.

Homer Jay Steiner Jr., 85, passed away peacefully at his home on May 5, 2002.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Rosalie; children, Maxine, Karl, and Homer III; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Homer practiced law in Cleveland for well over 30 years. Homer and Rosalie worked their entire lives to preserve the watershed that encompasses their place. On Jan. 3 of this year, with the help of the Trust for Public Land, E.P.A. and the City of Massillon, they were able to preserve their land in perpetuity. The University of Akron as stewards and full ownership of the property, is conducting research on the amphibian population, as well as conducting classes.

Cremation has taken place. In lieu of a funeral, a memorial service will be held Saturday, May 11 at 12 noon, on the Steiner premises. The Reverend Mark Frey of Bath Church will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Biology Department of the University of Akron, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, Akron, Ohio 44325, or Old Trail School, Science Building Project, P.O. Box 827, Bath, Ohio 44210.



The Akron Beacon Journal—Friday June 14, 2013 (Page B5)

Rosalie Charkoff Steiner

Rosalie Charkoff Steiner, age 92, passed away June 11, 2013, peacefully in her sleep in Franklin, Tennessee.

Born on February 16, 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio, she lived most of her life in Bath Township, where she raised one daughter and two sons, Maxine Steiner Lane, Karl Steiner and Homer J. Steiner III with her husband of 62 years, Homer J. Steiner Jr., who in turn blessed them with eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In 2012, she moved to Franklin, Tennessee to be with her youngest son and his wife.

Mrs. Steiner was well known for her involvement with water conservation, nature preservation and land management. She was recognized with several, local, state and national awards for her efforts. She worked to develop the Bath Nature Preserve, 400 acres of woods and fields. She and her



husband donated their home and 23 acres of land to the University of Akron for their use in housing visiting professors and teaching students about water pollution, Biology and related fields.

Another project she led was the development of a Nature Land Lab at Bath Elementary School to teach the students about conservation, land and water use. The Lab is still being used to this day and teaches many different grades throughout the year. Mrs. Steiner is still remembered for her out spoken views on the subject of land management and water conservation, not only locally but nationally. Her strong opinions on these and other matters often caused conflict but she forged ahead relentlessly. She died still hoping that Bath Township would adopt better plans for water conservation and sewer controls plus a senior center for all older citizens of Bath Township.

There will be a celebration of her life's service held at the old Steiner property on Saturday, June 29th at 1 p.m. Parking will be at the Bath Elementary School and shuttles will be provided to the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jay Steiner Jr & Rosalie Charkoff Steiner

Rosalie Steiner Leaves Bath with a Treasure of Kettle Bogs, Bald Eagle Nests and 23 Acres of Woodland

by Lynda Durrant

Homer and Rosalie Steiner moved to Bath in 1957. In those days, farmers still drove their tractors on the roads, and their children sold their eggs and produce in roadside stands. Barns were full with horses, cows, chickens and sheep, and Bath residents sometimes woke to the sounds of roosters crowing at dawn.

The Steiners raised their three children, Maxine, Karl and Homer Steiner III, on West Bath Road. They moved nearby into their house and 23 acres in the woods when their children were still young enough to enjoy it.

Rosalie volunteered as a 4-H advisor for 10 years. "Once a child finished his or her 4-H project, the organization gave them 200 seedlings," she said. "Homer and I could go to each child's house to make sure those 200 seedlings were planted."

It was those 4-H seedlings, painstakingly planted and nurtured, plus her family's woodlands, that gave Steiner her love of the natural world.

Her next project was the land lab behind Bath Elementary School (BES). "The elementary school is on 11 acres of trees, wetlands and fields. It was the ideal place for a land lab. Children could study the natural world in a quiet spot in the



Rosalie Steiner turned over to The University of Akron the keys to the home that she and Homer moved into in 1957 on 23 beautiful acres. Photo by K. Baldwin

school's back yard," she said.

Located just behind the tennis courts, the BES land lab is three acres of prime land for nature study. "I started the land lab in 1984 and it hasn't cost the taxpayers an extra nickel," Steiner said. "The PTA, Boy Scouts and the fire department all donated their time and effort to create the land lab. I asked the Summit County Soil and Water to publish a study on the

soils. Ohio Edison donated the woodchips for the paths and trails. Ohio Fish and Wildlife visits the school for nature talks and tours. Even Goodyear donated the bleachers so children could have a dry place to sit and study. Other groups have donated birdfeeders and birdfeed. A history teacher from Old Trail has spoken to the students about the history of Bath Township.

"It is amazing what people can do if they set their minds to it," she said.

The land lab helped Steiner prepare for the fight of her life — preserving 400 acres of the old Firestone estate as the Bath Nature Preserve. "The original 1,500 acres was given to Ohio State University upon Raymond Firestone's death in 1991. Of course, OSU wanted to make as much money as they could from it. Bath residents had to make a lot of noise just to be heard above the bidding wars," she said. "The Trust for Public Land got involved and the fight to preserve some of the property was reported in the local papers, the *Columbus Dispatch*, the local television stations, and even PBS. The Trust for Public Land worked their buns off to preserve that land."

Bath residents voted in a referendum to buy the 400 acres as a bond, which has long since been paid off. The Bath Nature Preserve saved five kettle bogs, old growth forests and meadows filled with native wildflowers and short grass prairie. Kettle bogs were formed from the receding glaciers more than 15,000 years ago. The Nature Preserve is home to Ohio wildlife such as coyotes and deer. It also provides winter habitat for the great snowy owl and bald eagles.

The Bath Nature Preserve provides walking trails, horse trails, nature hikes, stream hikes, sled runs, hayrides and University of Akron guided nature tours and habitat studies. Just to be able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the natural world makes the preserve a priceless addition to Bath Township.

The University of Akron also has their biology lab in the Bath Nature Preserve.

Rosalie Steiner walks the walk, too. When her husband died in 2002, she donated her house and her 23 acres of woodlands to The University of Akron, if they promised to preserve the land. "There are two bogs on the property. The 10-acre bog shares a boundary with the Bath Nature Preserve. The one-acre bog is being used for an amphibian study," she said.

"I've been letting students and professors live in my house for years, so they can complete their studies," she continued. "Last summer an Australian family lived here so he could finish his Ph.D. on spiders and spider webs. Another Ph.D. candidate from Wisconsin lived here so he could study bees. Students come here from all over to study water quality, am-



Longtime Bath resident Rosalie Steiner has helped with conservation efforts around the township, including the preservation of her 23-acre property, which she donated to The University of Akron. Photo by Scott Hortsman, courtesy of The University of Akron

phibians, soils, natural history, forensic sciences and many more disciplines. They appreciate having a quiet space in the woods to work.

Steiner has spent decades working tirelessly to preserve Bath woodlands, wetlands, meadows and open spaces. She is or has been a member of the 4-H, the

Bath Grange, the Bath-Richfield Kiwanis, the Bath Open Spaces Preservation, the Yellow Creek Water Conservatory, the Bath Alpha Garden Club and the Akron Garden Forum, among other conservation organizations.

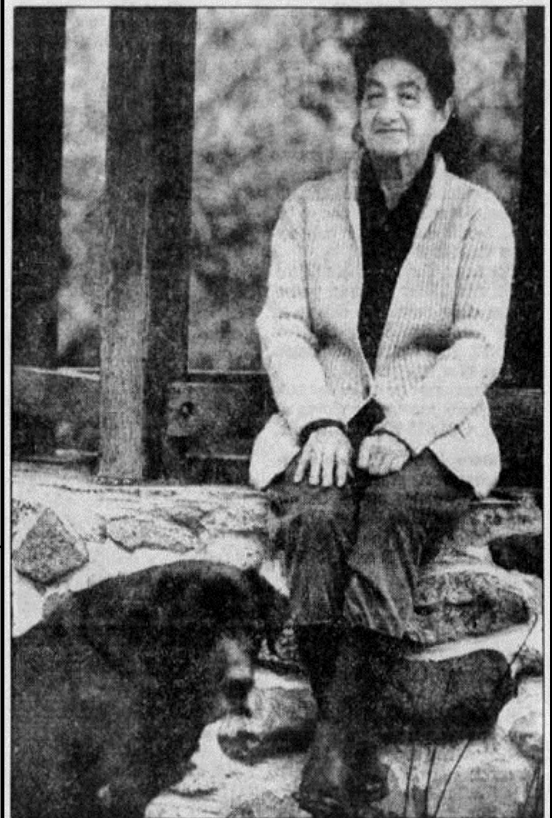
But she still sees a lot of room for improvement in Bath. "It's a crime that we don't have a senior center. There's no place for seniors to meet. I've tried to start one, but the Bath-Fairlawn Library is too busy for a monthly meeting," she said.

"We need to keep an eye on our water quality, especially now that our roads and driveways are paved. Blacktop is made from oil and oil gets into the water table," she said.

Now, after 54 years of living in Bath, Steiner is moving to Tennessee to live with her son and daughter-in-law. "The big house is just too much for me now," she said. Once she moves, The University of Akron will take over her house.

In Tennessee, Steiner said she will join the local Kiwanis and garden clubs. She said she would also like to have a Tennessee student write her memoirs as part of a thesis. "I'm not a good writer, but I have a lot of stories to tell," she said. ∞

The Akron Beacon Journal— Friday January 10, 1992 (Page 26)



ED SUBA JR./Beacon Journal

Rosalie Steiner, the moving spirit behind "Nature Day" at Bath Elementary School, at her home in Bath Township with one of her three Labrador retrievers.

Bath nature lover shares her enthusiasm with kids

Rosalie Steiner is more than energetic; she is focused in a way that makes things happen. Those things give substance to her love of nature and concern for the environment.

She pushed for and achieved a land lab on three acres north of Bath Elementary School in 1984. A year later, she organized a nature fair for fifth-graders at the school. With honors as Conservation Citizen of the Year and Bath Township Citizen of the Year behind her, Mrs. Steiner is carrying on "Nature Day" at the school with the support of the Greater Akron Garden Forum.

"It's all concentrated in one day," she said of the day that this year gave 200 fifth-graders experiences with experts on

Profile ROSALIE STEINER

AGE: 70

HOME: A Geneva native, the former Rosalie Charkoff has lived in Bath Township for almost 30 years with her husband, Homer. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

HOBBIES: Enjoys baking; serves as education chairwoman for the Greater Akron Garden Forum.

AMBITION: To make people aware of environmental issues, with the future of wetlands a major concern.

gems and stones, animals and the life forms in bogs. "I'd like to do more," she said.

— By RICHARD McBANE



Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jay Steiner Jr & Rosalie Charkoff Steiner

The Akron Beacon Journal—Thursday August 14, 2003 (Page E1 and E2)



Bath Township woman devotes life to nature

Environmentalism sells beloved land on condition it is preserved

Love of the outdoors has been a driving force in Rosalie Steiner's life.

Growing up on a farm in Ashtabula County's Trumbull Township, she learned young to appreciate nature. Her father was an early environmentalist who would never even allow a tree to be cut on the property, and his resolve influenced her own commitment to environmental activism.

She shared that interest with her late husband, Homer, and it drove them to build a house deep in the woods in Bath Township in the early 1960s and later to fight surrounding development and to work to preserve part of the neighboring Raymond Firestone estate. Rosalie Steiner has since arranged for the Steiner land to be sold to the University of Akron under the condition that it be preserved and used for environmental research and education.



MARY BETH
BRECKENRIDGE

Please see **Land, E2**

Land

UA already conducts research on property

Continued from Page E1

The Garden Club of America recently honored Steiner, 82, with a Club Conservation Certificate of Acknowledgement. The Akron Garden Club recommended her for the award, and she received the certificate at the club's annual meeting in June.

Steiner has poured years of work into environmental stewardship, partly out of a sense of responsibility and partly out of pure love. "Well, I suppose some of it is principle. I firmly believe in what I do," said Steiner, who describes herself as "a serious person." But she also just enjoys working outdoors, she said, and she's long been devoted to education.

Even Steiner's surroundings speak to her love of nature. Her house sits almost a quarter-mile from the road, at the end of a gravel drive that cuts through her 23 acres of dense woods. The living room is paneled in black walnut that her husband and two older children harvested in Ashtabula County, and over the fireplace is a 16-foot mantel they fashioned from a single piece of wood. Butternut covers the library walls, and teak flooring and English oak paneling elsewhere in the house were recycled from the Cleveland home of Myron T. Herrick, a former Ohio governor.

The house and land now belong to the University of Akron, the result of a transaction arranged by the Trust for Public Land, and eventually they'll become a research and education center. A life estate agreement allows Steiner to live out her life there, but she's already sharing it



KEN LOVE/Akron Beacon Journal

Rosalie Steiner, 82, has been instrumental in land preservation in the area.

with researchers, teachers and children from the nearby Bath Elementary School.

The property is the site of an amphibian research project headed by Peter Niewiarowski, an associate professor of biology at University of Akron. The researchers are collecting baseline data on population trends of spotted salamanders and about a half-dozen other species, as a way of determining whether they are declining or in danger of extinction, he explained.

Niewiarowski approached Rosalie and Homer Steiner about the project about five years ago, after accidentally wandering onto their property

from the adjacent Bath Nature Preserve (part of the former Firestone property) and finding a pond that was ideal for his work.

The Steiners not only agreed, they embraced the idea. During the months it took to prepare, "they kept calling me, saying, 'When are you going to get started?'" Niewiarowski remembered.

Now he has a field office in Steiner's house, and the home has also been used for educational programs. Graduate students have educated teachers from Bath Elementary on the research program so they can bring their pupils to the pond to see the work being done there.

The preservation of the Steiners' land was important, not just because of the research project, Niewiarowski said, but also because it forms a buffer for the nature preserve. Rosalie and Homer Steiner, who died last year, had been instrumental in encouraging Bath Township to buy and preserve 404 of the Firestone estate's 1,500 acres.

"If she hadn't protected that property (the Steiner land), there's no guarantee it wouldn't be snapped up for development," Niewiarowski said. The Steiner and Firestone lands are a continuous, interdependent landscape, he explained. "We tend to cut things up and imagine things (such as runoff) stop at the boundaries."

Steiner and her husband had also fought in the 1970s to stop development on property owned by her husband's family that would have filled in part of the

pond, a tributary to the Lake Erie watershed. She helped create a 3 acre land lab at Bath Elementary, was involved in the school's nature day until recent years and established a 4-H nature club that she led for about 20 years.

She also remains interested in township politics, serves on the Bath park and community boards and belongs to the Bath Alpha Garden Club and the Bath-Richfield Kiwanis.

And she still has the land where her devotion started, the 150 acres in Ashtabula County that have reverted to forest in the years since her family grew hay there.

Steiner spent three hours walking the property this summer, just before she underwent bypass surgery. She enjoyed seeing the birds, the wildflowers, the American chestnut saplings still too young to be killed by chestnut blight fungus.

She's making plans for the land, she said, although she wouldn't divulge the specifics.

But it's a sure bet the plans won't involve a housing development.

Do you know someone who makes a special effort to be helpful or inspiring to others? Nominate that person as a Good Neighbor by calling Mary Beth Breckenridge at 330-996-3756 or e-mailing mbrecken@theakronjournal.com. Please include phone numbers for yourself and the nominee.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jay Steiner Jr & Rosalie Charkoff Steiner

WITHOUT CHARGE

February 2002

Bath Country Journal Magazine



What's Wild at Bath?

out to meet the two teachers and see the lab for himself.

Applying for the award was a long-standing dream of Michelle Fling, who started using the Bath Land Lab regularly 10 years ago for a sixth grade teaching project. However, it was not until Michelle George expressed her enthusiasm with the lab last year that, together, the pair decided to pursue the award recognition in earnest.

It was one way, they thought, to repay the hard work of one individual who has been most responsible for the Bath Land Lab. And that person is Rosalie Steiner.

She was present, too, as an "honored guest" at the event. Steiner helped to establish the Land Lab and has been a tireless promoter of its teaching potential ever since.

"The award was an important milestone for Rosalie," Fling said in an interview recently.

"She has been eager to have it [the Land Lab] recognized as a classroom." For anyone who does not know it already, Fling explained: "Rosalie's goal is conservation. It's her issue. She wants everyone to be aware of the environment and protect it." The Wild School Site award is one measure of her success.

"Rosalie is just great," said Fling. "She's always giving encouragement, always saying, 'Let's try this,' and would give me ideas about ways to use the lab."

Over the years, Steiner has sought corporate donations to finance improvements to the wooded facility and has actively participated in making it a more useful learning center. She has been involved in the creation of paths through the area, overseen the installation of bleachers, bird houses and feeders and has spearheaded other improvements with the help of students, private enterprise and local civic groups.

Steiner spoke for 20 minutes on the 20-year history of the Land Lab. "The electricity from the students was very exciting," she said afterward. At the conclusion of her talk, students presented Steiner with flowers and framed color photos of their favorite amphibians. She was genuinely pleased.

Rosalie Steiner has not limited her involvement in natural resource education to the tract at Bath Elementary. Recently, she and her husband, Homer, completed the process of ensuring that their 23 acres of Bath Township property will be preserved as a wildlife habitat and study center.

With the help of the not-for-profit conservation organization, the Trust for Public Land and in partnership with the University of Akron, the wetlands and ponds of Steiner Woods have become one of Ohio's Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Projects. In this program, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency oversees land purchases to protect a variety of water resources.

The process that allows this is "win-win" for all the parties involved. It works like this: the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund makes money available to municipalities to improve water resource management. The rate charged for the low-interest loans is decreased still further for municipalities that agree to sponsor supplementary projects to preserve or restore water resources. Overall, the total cost works out the same despite the increased initial spending.

The Ohio EPA-designed projects are intended to counter the loss of ecological function and biological diversity and may be miles away from the qualifying sponsor. In this case, when the City of Massillon agreed to participate in the program to upgrade its water treatment plant, it also agreed to benefit six other water resource projects around the state.

One of these projects purchased the Steiner property to preserve and protect it from development. The lower interest rate Massillon will pay on its \$32 million loan will offset the cost of including the additional projects.

Total cost of sponsorship of the Steiner Woods project is \$725,000. The Steiners are even returning \$175,000 to Massillon for improvement of a park there.

An official Ohio EPA notice of the project states that the sponsorship will "benefit the citizens in Ohio by preserving a high quality natural area that can be studied and maintained by the University of Akron."

Under the terms of the agreement, the University of Akron will be responsible for managing the property under the Ohio EPA Plan, to see it henceforth preserved for research and education. No new roads may be cut, no excavations of minerals or topsoil is permitted, and the water resources may not be altered. Among other restrictions, no commercial or industrial development is allowed; no livestock may be kept and no motorized recreation vehicles may be used on the protected property. The Steiners may continue to occupy their residence on the property.

continued on next page

Bath Elementary Honored with Wildlife Award Steiner Woods Set Aside as Nature Preserve

by E. Brothers; photos by Julie Avant

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife recently recognized Bath Elementary School as a Wild School Site. Meriting the award was the school's Land Lab, a three-acre site on school property used as a teaching aid for a variety of subjects and for increasing students' awareness of the natural environment.

Representatives of the Ohio Division of Wildlife presented the school with a framed certificate noting the honor during an all-school assembly on January 4. Only 59 Ohio schools have received this distinction.

Accepting the award on behalf of the school and Principal Fred Tomei were teachers Michelle Fling and Michelle George, who both use the Land Lab extensively. They are enthusiastic about the site's benefits as a teaching tool and nominated the school for the Wild School Site award.

Mike Moutoux, Ohio Division of Wildlife Education Officer, explained that Bath Elementary deserved the award for "giving students a world to explore." The certificate noted that the nature area on school grounds "benefits people, wildlife and the environment." Moutoux said the exposure to wildlife at school is more empowering to students than contributing to a cause in some faraway place. "They can make a difference where they live," he said, "and see the results immediately."

Also representing the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at the ceremony was Jason Parr, Wildlife Officer for Summit County. He told the young members of the audience about his job enforcing state guidelines to protect wildlife and the environment.

Dr. Peter Niewiarowski, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Akron, also spoke. He and his college students have been conducting field studies of the wetlands in the Bath Nature Preserve. Bath Elementary students listened attentively as he described one ongoing project: the capture, marking and release of amphibians, including thousands of yellow-



Bath Elementary teachers Michelle Fling (left) and Michelle George (right) pose with the Ohio Division of Wildlife Wild School Site Award and Rosalie Steiner, who spearheaded creation of the school's three-acre land lab.

spotted salamanders.

During the award presentation, Moutoux confessed to the students who gathered in the multi-purpose room that, "I'm in love with nature, and have been since I was a kid." He told them that he cherished his connection to wild things and open spaces and said, "I hope you can fall in love with nature as I did."

During two days of classroom sessions accompanying the award ceremony, Moutoux used wildlife themes to illustrate topics relating to the students' current studies.

"Wildlife captures kids' attention," says Moutoux, "and heightens their imagination."

In addition to offering a first-hand glimpse of wildlife in a natural environment, the Bath Land Lab also serves an important function as an auxiliary classroom.

The two Michelles team-teach by taking their fourth-grade classes out to the Land Lab together each Friday, no matter the season.

"The students love it," said Michelle George, who is only in her second year teaching at Bath Elementary.

"I like it because it is more than just four walls of a classroom," she said in a recent interview. George thinks that the students "enjoy learning more and get more out of it" with their regular outdoor excursions. They also have

taken an active role in the lab's development, most recently participating in painting nature scenes on paving stones leading to the Bath Land Lab.

Lessons in the lab are not limited to biology and the other sciences. For example, an educational packet on trees features a variety of activities in several disciplines. In addition to identifying and characterizing trees, students use their math skills to measure the height and circumference of a tree and exercise their language skills by writing a poem and a story involving trees. A similar learning packet focuses on birds, appropriate since students spend the winter months filling bird feeders in the Land Lab.

Michelle Fling, a teacher at Bath School for 14 years now, calls the Bath Land Lab "a wonderful extension of the classroom." She said the teaching possibilities are endless, and she enthusiastically recounted numerous activities her students had participated in over the years.

"The bat house was a success," she said, adding to her list various art projects "from drawing to making rubbings," and story-telling sessions held around a fire made of gathered logs.

Fling knows the Land Lab is a valuable teaching tool. "As soon as you get the kids outside, their eyes light up," she said. "They're ready to go" — and they are better learners, she claims.

Other teachers have started to ask about ways to use the lab, and Fling is happy to share her lesson plans.

Bath Elementary School Principal Fred Tomei is supportive of the teachers. "He knows we are out there for the science and is happy for the school to receive the award," said Fling.

Moutoux was impressed that the lab is used regularly to teach and is not what he calls "just a place where students go to stand around a tree on Arbor Day."

According to Moutoux, the stories he heard about the students' involvement with the Land Lab and the range of activities in the lesson plans were decisive in selecting Bath School for the award. He was convinced when he came

Bath Elementary Honored with Wildlife Award continued ...

property under a lease agreement with the University of Akron.

"It's unique for the university and not too common," said Professor Niewiarowski of the stewardship program. Already, the University has an agreement to use the existing 40-acre Bath Nature Preserve, and the fact that sixty percent of the Steiner property shares a contiguous border with that land is an added bonus.

Niewiarowski has taught and done research at both Bath locations and welcomes the additional opportunities the new water resource preservation plan provides.

The professor and his students already have conducted amphibian studies around the Steiner ponds, with permission, so they are well acquainted with its ecology.

Niewiarowski says the Steiner Woods, ponds and wetlands are a good habitat for amphibians, which are especially sensitive to pollution. The presence of 13 amphibian species on the property, including a large population of spotted salamanders, is an indication that the surface water resources are of high quality.

"We have marked and released 6,000 spotted salamanders over the past three years," said Niewiarowski. He estimates there are about 5,000 to 10,000 salamanders present within a 500-yard buffer zone around the two-acre pond.

The two Michelles also look forward to visiting the site with their students, which



Dr. Peter Niewiarowski, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Akron, answers Bath Elementary students' questions as Ohio Division of Wildlife Education Officer Mike Moutoux and teacher Michelle George listen.

is only a 10-minute walk from Bath Elementary. They hope there are opportunities to share information from the university with their students about the research being done in the Steiner wetlands. Thanks to Homer and Rosalie Steiners' foresight and awareness of the Ohio EPA program — and their willingness to participate in it — a portion of Bath's natural environment will be preserved in its natural state and its use dedicated to education. It is a fitting and lasting tribute to lives devoted to protecting our area's natural heritage. ☐

Steiner Property Transferred to University of Akron

To make a long story short, the University of Akron now has title to Rosalie and Homer Steiner's 23 acres of unique wetlands and forests, which will be protected in perpetuity. The deal was orchestrated by the Trust for Public Land and involves funding coming from the Ohio EPA (ultimately the federal government) and payment to the Steiners of \$700,000 (which was the appraised market value of the property). The Steiners have a lease with the University to remain in their home. Rosalie and Homer have lovingly cared for this special property for 50 years. It abuts the Bath Nature Preserve to the north. This is the "site of the world's foremost amphibian studies being conducted by the University of Akron," according to the Trust for Public Land. Every year 5,000 spotted salamanders migrate across the property to their breeding grounds. The property has ponds and bogs and may be a potential site for a University of Akron field research station.

The salamanders are only one of the many unique features found on the property.

The University is already hard at work tagging the salamanders at the Steiners.

The biology department is also doing field work on the adjacent Bath Nature Preserve.

The funding is a result of redirected interest payments from the City of Massillon on their \$32 million sewer infrastructure loan from the Ohio EPA. Chris Knopf, director of the Ohio Trust for Public Land structured the funding and negotiated and signed the purchase agreement. ☐