

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLACK SWAMP CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES DR. DONALD R KNEPPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Fremont, OH - The Black Swamp Conservancy, in partnership with Sandusky County Community Foundation (SCCF), is pleased to announce the launch of the Dr. Donald R. Knepper Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship has been funded in perpetuity by an estate gift to the Conservancy by Dr. Knepper. Dr. Knepper was a well-loved veterinarian by the community that held a passion for conservation. He put this passion into action by permanently protecting his family's farm in Gibsonburg so that it may continue to grow food, provide habitat for wildlife and serve as a cultural heritage site for the betterment of future generations. This scholarship will help those future generations continue the spirit of the work he did for conservation and his farm as they traverse their own path in the environmental field.

About the Scholarship

This scholarship will be housed and administered by the SCCF. The Dr. Donald R. Knepper Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to one (1) graduating high school senior per year pursuing a degree related to the mission of the Black Swamp Conservancy. Degrees considered for the scholarship include those in the environmental field, such as biology, environmental science/policy, agriculture, etc. Students must be a graduating high school senior from the 12-county northwest Ohio service area of the Black Swamp Conservancy and can apply toward an environmental degree from any university or college.

The scholarship will award \$1,000 per year to an eligible graduating high school senior and will be renewable by eligible scholars for a maximum of four (4) years. To be eligible for renewal, the scholar must maintain a 3.0 GPA and remain in a program related to the Conservancy's mission. In addition to the \$1,000, scholars will receive four (4) free tickets to the Black Swamp Conservancy's annual fundraising event and are eligible (but not obligated to) for a spot on the Black Swamp Conservancy's paid seasonal field crew during summer breaks.

About Black Swamp Conservancy

Black Swamp Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to protecting natural habitats and family farms, now and for future generations, through land conservation agreements. The Conservancy does this to preserve the rural heritage, unique natural habitats, and streams of northwest Ohio.

Founded in 1993, the organization permanently protects more than 21,000 acres of woods, wetlands, and family farms in northwest Ohio. By protecting the region's valuable land and water resources, the

Conservancy supports healthy communities with strong, sustainable economies including agriculture and ecotourism.

About the Sandusky County Communities Foundation

The Sandusky County Communities Foundation was established in 1998 to enhance the well-being of the people and communities of Sandusky County by managing permanent investments for philanthropic goals. The Foundation provides an efficient, effective structure for linking charitable interests with important programs and services and offers several options through which gifts can be made to benefit Sandusky County communities and organizations. Since 2009 more than \$1,000,000.00 has also been awarded to non-profit organizations through the Community Grant Program

To learn more, or to donate, visit our website at www.sanduskyccf.org or contact Andrea Gibson at 419-334-6299 or director@sanduskyccf.org