

# Tryon Farm Institute 2022-2023





**TRYON FARM INSTITUTE: 2022-23 Board of Directors**  
Director list and contact information

**Sean Tomlins** (President & Treasurer ‘16)  
[sean.tomlins@gmail.com](mailto:sean.tomlins@gmail.com)

**Martin Balogh** (Vice-President pre ‘07)

**Kathleen Gillespie** (Secretary ‘18)

**Non-Officer Board Members:**

Dan Beck (‘18)  
Jill Fekete (‘14)  
Kristina Isabelle (‘15)  
Tim Kominiarek (‘16)  
Patti Messina (‘18)  
Ellen Waite-Franzen (‘18)

**Governing Members:**

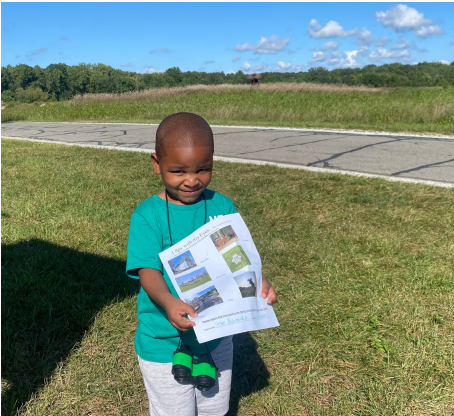
Sharon Burdett (‘22)  
Ted Burdett (‘22)  
Joanne Day (‘16)  
Kathy Dennis (‘07)  
Robin Eisen (‘16)  
Betsy Elsaesser (‘15)  
Deanna French (‘22)  
Ray Ginsburg (pre ‘07)  
Greg Houston (‘21)  
Laurel Rundle (‘13)

**Committee Chairs:**

Barn Committee - Dan Beck  
Education & Outreach – Jill Fekete  
Fund Raising - Marty Balogh  
Natural Resources - Patti Messina

**Grounds Management:**

Tim Kominiarek







# 2022 Accomplishments

## Grant Status:

- DNR - Barn restoration kick off – received \$50k Grant in August. *Actively fundraising.*
- EQIP - April 22 planting of 6 acres with native grasses and wildflowers
- IWF - Secured contractor to restore Werner Pond – to take place in Feb23

## Land Management:

- West Meadow & New Property – Invasive species removal (Autumn Olive, Callery Pear, Black Locust, Multiflora Rose, Oriental Bittersweet) - work will continue.
- Pollinator garden expansion – Phase 3 implemented this year, work to continue.
- Continued to add to the shrub layer, planting 9 varieties throughout the property with a concentration near Bailey Pond.
- Continue to partner with farmer Zach Scherf in managing the front field. The sorghum this year was fun to watch grow!

## Education & Outreach:

- Dear Human project – TFI collaborated with Christa Donner (Chicago area artist) to create a 7 station sensory experience with sound clips from the perspective of nature. Check for a formal unveiling in spring of 23.
- Tree ID signage project. Look for the little black signs!
- IWF partnership – Additional education signs (woodpeckers, oak trees, frogs) – Hike the front meadow and find them.
- Head start back to school event, trunk or treat and several field trips and nature hikes
- Nature in the Arts - TFI partnered with the Shirley Heinze and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts on a make your own field guide project
- Running - Crazy Legs running race day – Congrats to Tryon neighbor Sharon Burdett for finishing the 8 miler with the best time!





# 2023 Priorities

## Grant Status:

- Barn restoration work begins in Spring 23!
- Tryon Prairie (Ebbies Meadow) - Monitor and report on 1<sup>st</sup> year of planting
- Huff Trust Grant – Werner Pond restoration

## Land Management:

- Project Wingspan Partnership – Collect seed from native prairie plants
- Woodchip all trails in 5k trail that need it
- West Meadow & New Property – Invasive species eradication work continues
- Front Prairie – Remove woodies and plan for a burn
- Pollinator garden expansion – Continue to expand native plantings in barnyard area
- Expand shrub layer throughout the 120 acres TFI manages

## Education & Outreach:

- Niemann Head Start – Continue children's program expansion
- Expansion of tree ID signage
- Crazy Legs Running Series returns to the farm 9/23/23

## Other:

- Fundraising dinner or possibly an Emina lakeshore cruise
- Firewood and Candles for sale











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