

A Highlight on GMLC Honorary Director, Thomas Liederbach

The impact of Tom's wisdom and legacy has not only helped shape the Gates Mills Land Conservancy, he has been an instrumental force within our greater community. He taught management and business classes at Cuyahoga Community College, and lectured at Michigan University, Case Western Reserve University, Akron University and Cleveland State University. For the past fifteen years he has taught first grade religion classes at St. Francis School.

Tom served for twenty years on the Gates Mills Planning and Zoning Commission. He is active in the Gates Mills Players and in the Improvement Society, and has served as president of these organizations. Today, Tom is an Honorary Director of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy.

Tom's love for Gates Mills and the Chagrin River began as a child, "When I was 10 years old, my twin brother and I used to take the bus here for fun. The river was the whole thing. The dam was good for kids, because we could walk across the top. Near the other shore it was deep enough that you could jump off the dam into the river. We used to swim in the river upstream of the dam. The police would come down River Road with their spotlights, so we crawled over the fallen trees and hid from them. It was like WWII hiding from them."

"We moved here in 1966. My wife and I dated for about seven years on and off, and I figured that couldn't go on forever. So, two days before Christmas around midnight, we parked near the Wilson Mills Road bridge. Immediately a police car pulled up and said, "Get out of here.", and in my euphoria I said, "But officer, Ginny and I just got engaged." ... About ten seconds of silence, then he said, "That's nice, now get out of here.""

Tom and his wife Ginny raised their five children in Gates Mills, and have fourteen grandchildren. We are all beneficiaries of Tom's hard work and contributions to our community and to the Gates Mills Land Conservancy. We cherish his wisdom, grace, and gentle and kind demeanor, and we are all very proud to call Tom our dear friend.