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## YELLOW SPRINGS WRITER TACKLES URBAN SPRAWL

In 1999, Auctioneer Gene Klingaman, of Indiana-based Schrader Real Estate, said Yellow Springs, Ohio did something he'd seen no other community do in his twenty years of doing business. In about six weeks, villagers raised and spent one million dollars at the auction of Whitehall Farm—and walked away without owning a single acre—to save the land on its border from possible commercial development.

Sinclair Community College Professor and author Ed Davis confronts the controversy currently raging over land use in America in his latest novel, *The Measure of Everything*, based on true events of six years ago.

“When auction signs went up along Whitehall’s borders, we panicked,” Davis says. “If the farm had been bought by developers, the village might’ve doubled in size, changing our small-town character forever. Some even feared that zoning might be changed to allow stores like Wal-Mart to be built at our borders.”

The village took its stand and, with the help of Tecumseh Land Trust, raised over a million dollars. On the night of February 22, 1999, over 500 people in the ballroom of Springfield’s Holiday Inn witnessed two Dayton lawyers partner with the land trust to buy Whitehall Farm. The money raised purchased the easement rights, insuring the farm would forever remain a farm.

Davis's novel dramatizes the fight for the soul of fictional Shawnee Springs through conflicted activist Billy Acorn; his best friend, Ira; his old flame, Bonnie; and the mysterious stranger, Elizabeth "Seth" Abel. As these flawed characters strive to save endangered farmland for future generations, they also struggle with their inner landscape, working out who they are and will be in the future.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

West Virginia native Ed Davis has been a writing teacher at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio since 1978. He is the author of four poetry chapbooks, including *Healing Arts* (Pudding House, 2005); the novel *I Was So Much Older Than* (Disc-Us Books, 2001); as well as many published stories and poems in anthologies and journals. His story "The Boys of Bradleytown" was awarded first place in *The Best of Ohio Writer's* 2005 annual contest. He lives with his wife and two cats in the village of Yellow Springs, Ohio.

*The Measure of Everything* by Ed Davis, Plain View Press, November 20, 2005, trade paperback, \$\$. Available at Epic Bookshop, --- Dayton Street, Yellow Springs,

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