



NEWSLETTER

A Publication for Members and Friends

Fall 2009

Seeking to preserve, protect and enhance land in perpetuity for the public benefit

20 Year Anniversary Celebration

By Candi Moore, Board Chair

Happy Birthday to us! The Licking Land Trust is hosting a 20 Year Anniversary Celebration, Tuesday, October 27, at Bryn Du Mansion in Granville. Festivities will kick off at 6:30 p.m. and will include the usual annual meeting potluck dinner, a special dessert treat, some remembrances and recognitions and musical entertainment by the Denison Bluegrass Band. The Licking Land Trust invites all its members, former Board members and all easement and property donors and their guests to the celebration.

Twenty years ago on October 27, 1989, the Licking Land Trust got its start when Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Ohio Secretary of State creating the Granville Land Conservancy. Among the purposes for the corporation were:

1. To hold title to conservation easements and properties in trust for the benefit of the general public;
2. To identify important natural, scenic, historic, recreational land and water resources;
3. To preserve and safeguard open space areas; and
4. To serve as a resource for individuals interested in land conservation.

Katherine Larson, Theresa Overholser and Flo Hoffman were the initial trustees of the new corporation.

The Granville Land Conservancy received its first conservation property in 1991 from Bob and Deb Harnden. This 7.5 acre parcel known as the Harnden Mill Pond Preserve was the start of the Conservancy's Raccoon Creek Greenway Project. The goal of the Greenway Project is to create and preserve a woodland strip at least 150 feet on each side of Raccoon Creek from Johnstown to Newark.

As time passed, the Granville Land Conservancy Board recognized that the need for greenspace preservation went beyond Granville's environs and that dwindling farmland was becoming a greater concern. Thus, in December 2001, the Board amended the corporation's Articles of Incorporation to change its name to the Licking Land Trust and added preservation of farmland to its purposes.

Continued on page 2



Panoramic view across the hills and woods of the Bieberbach farm

A Childhood Paradise, Recreated

By Linda Habig, Trustee

In this Fall of 2009, with rain gently whispering against the leaves of a grove of trees, Marian Bieberbach talked with Trust representatives about why she saved her 115 acres with an easement five years ago. "I love it here, and that's why I stay here," Marian told trustee Linda Habig and volunteer Kathy Standley, as they started the Trust's annual inspection of Marian's bucolic Franklin Township farm in the southeastern part of Licking County. The farm was preserved forever with an agricultural easement granted to the Licking Land Trust in November, 2004.

"I grew up in West Haven, Connecticut and as a girl rode my bike through the wide-open countryside there," Marion reminisced. "Now that area is what I call house-to-house – solid housing developments. I didn't want that to happen here, and so I did the easement to save it as natural country forever." As a result of Marion's action, her farm, comprising about 65 acres of crops, 15 acres of permanent pasture, and 35 acres of woodlands, will always remain as pristine agricultural and natural space.

The farm is beautiful, with hills rolling downward to glorious woodlands and a stream, all with breathtaking views across adjoining natural areas. A peaceful pond near Marion's house completes the picture. Marion allows a farmer to cut hay in several large fields, and pastures a neighbor's three friendly horses, all of whom followed Linda and Kathy across the fields during their inspection. Neighborhood children swim and fish in the pond, and a neighbor hunts deer occasionally, all under Marion's watchful eye and with her permission. Another friend

Continued on page 2

PAGE 2

20th Anniversary – Continued from page 1

Over the 20 years since its inception, the Licking Land Trust has preserved over 1,000 acres in 11 different townships or cities. It has educated and informed elected officials, landowners, farmers and the general public on land preservation in general and conservation easements in particular through newsletters, brochures, published articles, seminars, meetings, Hartford Fair booths, field trips and its website. It has helped other conservation organizations get started and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for various preservation projects.

The 20 Year Anniversary Celebration honors the successes of our past with an eye to the future.


Childhood Paradise – Continued from page 1

helps with cutting up fallen trees. All of these activities are permitted under the easement terms.

Accompanied by Marion's energetic, long-haired dachshund Woody, Linda and Kathy took a look at the gas well which has recently been drilled near the northern boundary of the farm. This well is providing some royalty income to Marion, which she plans to use to maintain the farm and improve fields for haying. The gas drilling leases pre-dated the grant of the easement and thus are specifically permitted in the easement.

Marion's love of the land is apparent as she talked more about it, pulling out wildflower manuals to illustrate her points. "I'm trying to bring butterfly weed from the fields to plant by the house, to encourage monarchs to lay their eggs. And I'm going to plant wildflower seed in a meadow that now has some nasty, thorny locust trees," she told us. Her farm is just minutes north of Routes 40 and 70, and preserving it with an agricultural easement is saving this lovely property from development which may creep northward from those highways, or southward from Newark. Marion has truly recreated her childhood paradise – beautiful open space that a child or adult can forever bike past and never see house-to-house development.

The Legacy Club: An Opportunity to Make a Lasting Impact



Is land conservation in our community important to you? Do you want your children and future generations to continue to enjoy and experience open spaces? Have you considered how you want to continue to make your mark on the world after your lifetime?

Several members of The Licking Land Trust have supplemented their annual membership gifts by naming the Trust as a beneficiary in their estate plans – by will,

trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. We welcome your consideration of a gift through your estate to support the important work of the Land Trust in the years ahead.

When naming the Land Trust as a beneficiary, the correct legal designation is "The Licking Land Trust, a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio, with current principal business address of 128 South Main Street, PO Box 196, Granville, OH 43023; and dedicated to the conservation and protection of

green space and natural landscape in and around Licking County, Ohio."

We encourage you to contact us to learn more (with no obligation on your part) or to share your plans and discuss any specific preferences you may have for the use of your gift. Licking Land Trust Board member Greg Sharkey will be pleased to assist you with questions/issues related to including the Land Trust in your estate plans. Greg may be reached at gsharkey@tnc.org or (614) 787-4739.



Licking Land Trust Booth at the 2009 Hartford Fair

By Mary Fitch, Trustee

For the third year in a row, the Licking Land Trust hosted a booth at the Hartford Fair. Several Land Trust members volunteered for a shift at the booth, where they handed out information and answered questions about the Land Trust. This invaluable assistance once again helped the Land Trust to spread the word about the important role it plays in local farm and land preservation.

A new interactive feature was incorporated into the 2009 fair booth. A large aerial photograph of Licking County (and beyond), on which Land Trust protected properties were indicated, was added to the booth. Over the course of the fair, hundreds of folks stopped by to find their homes on the aerial and add a pushpin to mark the spot. Many showed a good deal of interest in the Land Trust and took a brochure or signed up to receive more information. All in all, the Land Trust board concluded that the 2009 fair booth was the most successful booth to date.

By Greg Sharkey, Trustee



*Spring Valley Pool area,
before wildflower planting.*



Trust members at the Spring Valley Pool area with wildflowers in bloom, summer 2009.

From Pool to Prairie at Spring Valley

By Doug Spieles, Trustee

For over 70 years, the Spring Valley pool was a beloved summer destination in Licking County. So many children learned to swim in that cold water, and so many wonderful memories were made there. There really was no other place like it. It was difficult for many former patrons to hear that the pool was being demolished a few years ago. It was the end of an era...but with every end there is a new beginning.

With financial help from the Granville Foundation, the Licking Land Trust has seeded the former pool area with native prairie forbs and grasses. And this summer, for the first time ever, the Spring Valley pool was in bloom! Black-eyed Susan, big bluestem, purple and prairie coneflower, sunflower, and goldenrod added a new splash of color to the beautiful park. It was a great start to a work in progress. More plantings are to come as we determine what will and won't thrive in this environment. At times it may look a little rough—but please bear with us. After all, it is not a lawn or a garden, it is an ecosystem! Visit often and enjoy its development along with us. We hope you'll agree that it's still true: there really is no other place like it.

The 45 acre Spring Valley Preserve, located just south of Granville, is owned by Granville Township Trustees and protected by a conservation easement granted to the Licking Land Trust in 2007.



Fast and Easy: Online Membership Renewals & Donations

By Mark Roth, Trustee

The Licking Land Trust has updated its website to let members and donors renew memberships and donate to the Trust online through PayPal.

PayPal is a global leader in online payment solutions. The Trust chose to use PayPal to process payments so that members and donors would be as secure as possible when paying online. PayPal is easy to use and well-known; many of our members and donors already have PayPal accounts.

PayPal processing costs to the Trust are low with just a very small processing fee on each transaction which is paid by the Trust. There are no start-up costs, membership fees or monthly fees to the Trust. Note that there is no charge to the donor. The donated amount is deducted from the donor's bank account or charged to their credit card.

To pay a membership or make a donation using PayPal, simply access our website at www.lickinglandtrust.org and click the "Membership and Donations" button. Then click the type of membership you wish to purchase or the general donation button. This brings you to the PayPal screen when you can fill in your existing PayPal account information or fill in a short form to create a PayPal account. Confidential financial information goes only to PayPal and not the Trust, which only receives the membership fee or donation amount in its PayPal bank account.

If you have any questions about the PayPal payment option on the Trust's website, please contact the Trust's office for assistance. Please consider this payment option when renewing or sending an additional donation; it simplifies the Trust's recordkeeping, and provides an easy and convenient tool for you, our members.

Additional Contributions Welcomed!

Yes, I'd like to help the Trust with its conservation activities by contributing an additional amount for 2009, in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please detach and mail this completed form to
the Licking Land Trust
P.O. Box 196 • Granville, OH 43023
along with your additional donation for 2009.
or
access the trust's website to donate online.
www.lickinglandtrust.org



1989-**20**09
YEARS

Seeking to preserve,
protect
and enhance land
in perpetuity
for the public benefit



Trust members hiking at the conserved Fryman and Harnden properties, 2009.



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The mission of the Licking Land Trust is the preservation and permanent conservation protection of our central Ohio green spaces—wetlands, woodlands, farmlands, riparian corridors, and scenic vistas, and education about the importance of green spaces and their conservation, all for the public benefit.