

Chairman's Report

Dear Friends of the Licking Land Trust,

As the Trust enters its 25th year, I am happy to report that the organization is vibrant and growing. By many measures, 2013 was a good year for land conservation in Licking County. In fact it was a good year for the land trust movement in general—today, some 1,700 land trusts protect over 47 million acres of land in the United States, and similar land protection efforts are springing up in other nations. These results are truly awe-inspiring, especially when you consider that much of that land remains in private ownership, protected by people who see the benefits of conservation and who want to share the land they love with future generations. My fellow Board members and I are honored to be part of such a movement.



This 2013 Annual Report provides details on the state of the Licking Land Trust: our membership, protected land, stewardship, education and outreach, finances and future directions. Some highlights from the year include:

- 60 more acres protected, thanks to Tom, Louise, and Suzette Beckett who placed a conservation easement on their beautiful farm in Bowling Green Township
- * An all-time high in membership, with 475 individual members and 10 business members
- A commitment to apply for National Accreditation in 2014, acquisition of a \$5,000 grant from the Land Trust Alliance and a \$1,250 grant from the Pay it Forward Initiative, both to be used toward our accreditation effort
- A sound and carefully scrutinized financial ledger, as we continue our work to grow and manage the assets of the Trust
- * Well-attended and highly enjoyable events at Spring Valley, at the Brush Farm, and at Bryn Du Mansion for our annual banquet
- The addition of two new board members, Jim Bidigare and Tom Henshaw, with thanks to Larry Bicking, Pat Deering, and Greg Sharkey whose terms ended in 2013

The upcoming year is an exciting and important one for us, as we seek to join the ranks of land trusts accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. I am pleased that we can approach this from a position of strength and confidence, thanks largely to our dedicated members, our committed Board, and our tireless office administrator, Wendy Bittel.

We continue to believe deeply in our mission: to preserve, protect and enhance land in perpetuity for the public benefit, and we thank you for your continued support. Our collective efforts to this end are being matched by thousands of similar communities around the world.

Together, we are making the world a greener place—one farm, one forest, one wetland at a time.

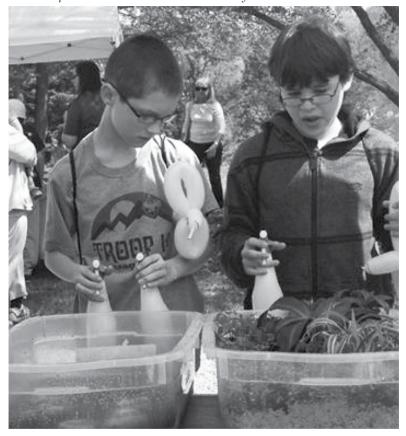
Doug Spieles - Board Chairman

Highlights

Volunteers and Community Activity

A special thanks is due to all the Licking Land Trust volunteers, including Board members, who contributed thousands of hours to Trust activities in 2013. Volunteers helped inspect and document protected properties, meet with community groups and government officials, work on the Board and its committees, meet with prospective donors and members, prepare newsletters and annual reports, man booths and sell raffle tickets.

Future conservationists assisting with the Licking Land Trust's rainwater experiment at the Dawes Arboretum Arbor Day Festival



Volunteers helped staff a booth at the Dawes Arboretum Arbor Day Festival demonstrating rainwater flow and absorption on various surfaces. Kids and adults alike enjoyed using squirt bottles to make it rain on the simulated forest, farm and parking lot and observe the related run-off.

The Trust once again participated as a named sponsor of the Licking County River Round Up event organized by Licking County Soil & Water Conservation

District to clean up trash in the Licking River and tributaries in the fall.

A Special Thank You!

Liz Bicking Bernie Brush Kevin Clouse Jim Erickson Mary Fitch Tod Frolking Andy McCall Jodi Melfi Steve Mershon Emily Pagano Tom Shafer

Stewardship

2013 was an exciting year of stewardship activity for the Licking Land Trust. Board members and volunteers visited all 27 Licking Land Trust easements and properties, and as mentioned in the Chairman's Report, we added 60 new acres to our protected properties. In the fall, Board members visited our Park Trails properties. The primary focus of this visit

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

was to complete GPS mapping of property boundaries in the area; however, we also met with concerned landowners adjacent to those properties to discuss issues related to recreational use and active management of this vital green space.

Stewardship is critical to ensuring that all easements are upheld and that properties are monitored on a regular basis. The Licking Land Trust takes great pride in maintaining positive working relationships with property owners and the greater Licking County community. Through positive outreach and timely

communication land use issues are generally resolved long before they reach a point requiring formal Licking Land Trust action.

As part of the stewardship process, we developed an improved annual monitoring reporting form that includes maps and photos for each property inspection. These additions will allow us to better track changes to our properties over time, identify potential areas of concern, and document – through images – some of the beautiful protected areas we oversee.

In addition to property inspections, the Trust continued its restoration work at Spring Valley Nature Preserve by helping to fund the addition of stairs along a steep section of trail on the northeast section of the preserve near the platform tennis courts.



Board Chair Doug Spieles with annual meeting speaker Adam Weinberg, a noted environmental socialist and the new President of Denison University

Education and Outreach

The education and outreach mission of the Licking Land Trust successfully advanced again in 2013. Two hikes featuring protected properties allowed members to soak in the natural beauty of Licking County. The spring's annual wildflower hike at Spring Valley Nature Preserve featured some friendly competition in plant identification amongst the 30 Trust members in attendance. In the fall, a dozen Trust members and volunteers learned about regional history while touring the Brush Farm in Pataskala.

Bringing the year to a successful close the November annual meeting featured keynote speaker Adam Weinberg a renowned environmental sociologist and the newly hired President of Denison University. In

2013 Licking Land Trust Board of Trustees & Staff

Doug Spieles, *Chair* (2014) Mike Mickelson, *Vice Chair* (2013) Mark Roth, *Treasurer* (2015) Larry Bicking (2013) Jim Bidigare (2015) Lyn Boone (2015) Pat Deering (2013) Linda Habig (2014) Tom Henshaw (2015)

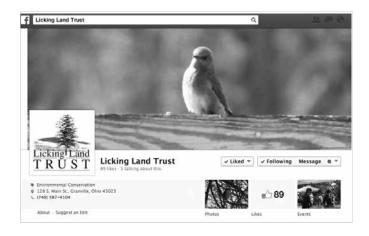
Jeremy King (2014) Candi Moore (2015) Greg Sharkey (2013) Don Wiper (2014) Wendy Bittel, Office Administrator

addition, at the annual meeting a winner was drawn for the Trust's first fundraising raffle. The winner took home a beautiful painting by local landscape artist James Young. While primarily a fundraiser, the raffle provided a venue to discuss the mission of the Trust with a growing interested population. With over 750 tickets sold, the event was quite a success.

In addition to the Trust's own activities members were active in promoting the Trust's mission through several outreach venues including the Dawes Arboretum Arbor Day Festival and the Hartford Fair. Additionally two members presented their experiences with land preservation at the semi-annual Coalition of Land Trusts (COLT) conference in Columbus.

The Trust continued to widely distribute its self-published annual report and spring and fall newsletters. Copies of each were distributed to every member, Licking County public officials, and made available at local public libraries. As a new feature this year's newsletter included a calendar of relevant regional activities, demonstrating the Trust's dedication to connecting the community to the natural environment it works to protect.

The Trust's online presence continues to draw more and more visitors annually seeing the monthly website



traffic average 196 visitors per month, a 28% increase over 2012. This trend shows steady increases since the

inception of the website in 2009 and may be a focus of future Trust outreach activity. The Trust also maintains an active Facebook page that keeps the community informed of the most current events and issues on land preservation.

In total the outreach and education activities of the Trust have reached thousands of individuals, both informing those already interested in the mission about the nuances of preservation and growing the ranks of individuals taking a new interest in the land preservation movement.



Board member Linda Habig checks out the log cabin located on the Beckett property upon which a conservation easement was placed in 2013.



volunteer hours spent by members of the Board. The Trust is grateful for these grants as well as for other support from donors, because the process of accreditation is a considerable investment not only in volunteer hours but also in the application fees and document preparation required for undergoing the review.

As of mid-2013, the process of accreditation had already begun, and it will continue with the submission of the pre-application documentation this coming July. The final application will be submitted in October of 2014. While the process of preparation for accreditation has been lengthy,

it has served as an invaluable experience, which has strengthened the organization and ensures the future of the Licking Land Trust and the services it provides to the community and surrounding region.

Accreditation

In 2013, the Licking Land Trust submitted an application for the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Lottery and was selected as a candidate for accreditation in 2014 by the independent Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission. In preparation for the accreditation process, which will take place in 2014, the Trust's Accreditation Committee worked throughout 2013 to update our land trust policies and documentation. Consultants from the Tecumseh Land Trust (TLT) aided the Committee in this effort, such assistance made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the LTA Midwest. Meetings with TLT enabled the Accreditation Committee to identify processes for improvement; to review records, procedures, and current operations; and to make recommendations for enhancements.

Recently, the Licking Land Trust received a second grant from the LTA Midwest for additional supporting funds to assist in the accreditation application process. Both of these grants required either matching funds or in-kind match, which in our case required tracking

Accreditation Checklist:

- Review Accreditation Requirements
- Draft, Review and Adopt Policies
- ☑ Document Implementation of Policies
- Raise Legal Defense Funds
- Raise Stewardship Funds
- ☑ Register for Accreditation
- ☐ Prepare and Submit Pre-application 2014
- ☐ Prepare and Submit Application 2014
- □ Receive Accreditation!

Membership & Donor Development

In 2013, the Licking Land Trust once again broke previous records and achieved its highest membership enrollment, with a total membership of 475. The membership comprised 59 individuals, 322 family members, 34 honorary members, 10 businesses and organizations, and a small number of students and governmental units.

The Committee continued its work on developing the Trust's Legal Defense Fund, a fund that must be fully constituted when the Trust applies for accreditation in the summer of 2014. The Trust must also continue to build its Stewardship Fund, also required over a longer term for national accreditation. In the interest of supporting these funds, the Committee spearheaded a fundraising raffle that raised a gross total of \$6,050. Local artist James Young, a business member of the Licking Land Trust, created and donated an oil-on canvas original farmscape, titled "Looking Ahead." A total of 777 tickets were sold to Licking Land Trust supporters in 14 states, the District of Columbia, and Bermuda.

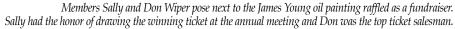
The Committee also submitted a major grant proposal, seeking assistance with building the Legal Defense Fund, to an organization that has supported the Licking Land Trust in the past. The result of this initiative is expected to be determined in the spring of 2014.

An Investment and Spending Policy Statement for the Trust drafted by the Committee is under review by the full Board, with a target of completion and adoption in early 2014. Additionally, the Committee developed and issued a Request for Proposals to various financial institutions, to begin the process of selecting an investment manager for various Trust funds.



Interviews with financial institutions are slated to take place early in 2014.

Other ongoing work for the Committee includes the development of a continuing fund-raising plan that will be used over the next five years to build the Stewardship Fund; the effort to solicit new memberships from a variety of areas, especially landowners whose property is contiguous with Raccoon Creek; and long-term discussions of modifying our membership model, and a new data base.





Financial Report

The financial condition of the Licking Land Trust remained strong during 2013 with total cash and total assets increasing during the year. The Trust continues to have no debt. Currently all cash is invested only in FDIC insured bank accounts with a local bank.

As of December 31, 2013, total assets were \$452,860 of which \$204,640 was in cash in various bank accounts and the balance of the assets of \$248,220 is the value of the land owned, easements and other miscellaneous assets, as shown on the balance sheet.

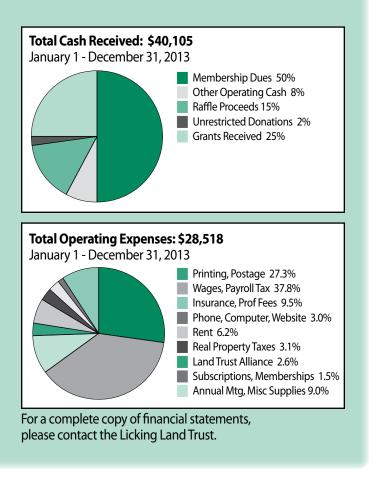
During 2013 total cash received by the Trust was \$40,105. Operating cash received, primarily dues, was \$23,055. Operating expenses for 2013 were \$28,517, thus operating expenses exceeded operating cash received during 2013. However during 2013 the Trust raised \$6,050 from a raffle of a painting donated by Jay Young

and also received unrestricted donations of \$1,000 and grants of \$10,000. The grants are restricted for preparation and other actives related to our application for accreditation with the national Land Trust Alliance.

The total cash of \$204,640 that the Trust had on hand as of December 31, 2013 is in the following accounts: \$25,462 of operating cash on hand, \$107,101 in donations and bequests, \$56, 644 in dedicated funds for stewardship and potential legal defense, \$15,074 in the Spring Valley fund, for projects at that preserve and a small tree planting fund of \$359.

The Trust's Board regularly reviews and approves the financial statements and transactions, including donations, bequests, grants and operating funds and all expenses at each Board meeting and compares them to the annual budget.

Licking Land Trust Balance Sheet Assets Cash and Bank Accounts \$ 25,462 **Operating Accounts Donations and Bequests** 107,101 Stewardship and Enforcement Fund 56,644 Spring Valley Fund 15,074 Tree Planting Fund 359 **Total Cash and Bank Accounts** \$ 204,640 Other Assets Office Equipment & Computers \$ 3,000 Books in Library (33) 660 2,380 Real Estate Tax Receivable 16 Conservation Easements: 16 (carried at \$1.00 acre) Trust-owned Land: 8 parcels, 125.7 acres 242,162 (estimated value) **Total Other Assets** 248,220 **TOTAL ASSETS** \$452,860 **Liabilities and Equity Employer Payroll Tax Due** 0 317,997 Equity **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$318,020



Licking Land Trust Protected Land

Name	Grantor	Licking County Location	Year	Ownership Acres	Easement Acres
Harnden Mill Pond Preserve	Bob and Deb Harnden	Granville Township	1991	7.500	
Granville Township	Raccoon Valley Park Schwartzkopf Property Pohm Property	Granville Township	1993 2000 2001		16.330
Boldon Reserve	Doug and Marilyn Boldon	Granville Township	1994	1.200	
Hartman Farms Nature Reserve	Ron Beitzel	Union Township	1995	7.400	
Hill Wetland Reserve	Cynthia Hill	Granville Township	1996	8.200	
Hankinson Road	Lee and Kathy Larson	Granville Township	1997		5.200
Goose Lane Farm	William Custer	St. Albans and Granville Townships	1997		41.200
Old Maid's Lane Farm	William Custer	Pataskala	1997		34.200
Mount Parnassus	Howard LeFevre Robert and Susan Morrison	Granville	1999	0.580	
Kramer Farm	Arthur Kramer	Harrison Township	2002		81.500
Neeley Farm	Larry and Janet Neeley	Walnut Township, Fairfield Co	2003		75.300
Mockingbird Hill Conservation Area	Judy Farris/Mockingbird Hill, Inc.	Granville and McKean Townships	2004		53.500
Winter Farm	llse Winter	Hopewell Township	2004		72.400
Bieberbach Farm	Marian Bieberbach	Franklin Township	2004		115.200
Fryman Reserve	Dick and Ann Fryman	Granville Township	2005	36.575	
Raccoon Creek Valley Reserve	Park Trails/MI Homes	Newark	2005	58.757	
James Farm	Patricia James	Union Township	2006		55.300
James/Matthews Farm	Patricia James and Jay Matthews	Union Township	2006		60.100
Spring Valley	Granville Township	Granville Township	2007		45.600
Neeley Farm - II	Larry and Janet Neeley	Walnut Township, Fairfield Co.	2007		52.730
Hughes Farm	Kayla Hughes	Newton Township	2007		92.770
Brush Farm	Victoria and C. Bernard Brush	Pataskala	2007		64.400
Park Trails	Park Trails/MI Homes	Newark	2008	5.544	
Carter Farm	Richard Carter	St. Albans Township	2008		100.000
Beckett Farm	Tom, Louise, and Suzette Beckett	Bowling Green Township	2013		60.000
Total Acres Protected:	1,151.486			125.756	965.730

Membership

Partners (\$2500+)

Kussmaul Gallery

Leaders (\$1000+)

BFK Foundation, Inc. John Cox Don and Sally Wiper

Stewards (\$500+)

Keith and Lyn Boone John and Rosemary Joyce Candi Moore and Steve Mershon Larry and Janet Neeley Tom and Janet Schultz Greg and Ginny Sharkey Mark and Lori Weaver Clarke and Sara Jean Wilhelm

Conservators (\$250- \$499)

Louise Denny
Dave and Carol Dicks
Dave Fryman
Thomas and Erin Henshaw
Doug and Susan Kaiser
Bob and Joan Kent
John Kralovec and Julia Houpt
Peter McCarthy & Karla Shockley McCarthy
Jodi Melfi Design Ltd.
Michael and Diana Mickelson
Tom and Wendy Miller
Jean Luc and Amy Moreau
Paul Rice and Karin Dahl
Mark and Linda Smith
Doug and Beth Spieles

Honorary Members

Thomas and Louise Beckett
Ron Beitzel
Jon Bennet
Marian Bieberbach
Doug and Marilyn Boldon
C. Bernard and Victoria Brush
Richard Carter
William and Lori Custer
Judy Farris
Dick and Ann Fryman
Granville Township
Robert and Deborah Harnden
Cynthia Hill
Kayla Hughes

Patricia James Arthur F. Kramer Lee and Katherine Larson Howard E. LeFevre John Matthews Robert and Susan Morrison Larry and Janet Neeley T.J. Evans Foundation Ilse Winter and John Miller

Businesses and Organizations

Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management
Benjamin D. Rickey, LLC
BFK Foundation, Inc.
Dawes Arboretum
Granville Garden Club
Granville Milling Co.
Granville Township
INT Information Systems, Inc.
Jodi Melfi Design Ltd.
John Hinderer Honda
Kussmaul Gallery
Licking County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Park Trails/MI Homes

Conservation District
Park Trails/MI Homes
River Road Coffeehouse
Spring Meadow Fence Co.
T.J. Evans Foundation

Membership

Corinne Ailes Mary M. Albright Chadwick and Elinor Alger Kenneth and Carol Apacki Sterling and Beth Apthorp Lynne Ashbrook Craig and Peggy Asplund Patrick and Ann Aubourg Gary and Suzanne Baker Ann D. Baker Cyrus and Margaret Banning Ella Mae Bard I.R. and Judith Beall Thomas and Louise Beckett Karen and Clarke Berdan Doug and Mary Bibee Laurence and Elizabeth Bicking Jim Bidigare Ed and Wendy Bittel Michael and Elaine Boaz

Frank and Sandra Boffa Ken and Kay Bork Trump and Carol Bradley Loren Brosie and Sue Powell Al and Lori Brown Clint and Kathy Brown Greig and Robin Brown **Jeane Brown** Sylvia Brown and Sandy Russo C. Bernard and Victoria Brush Ashlin Caravana Kim and Pam Carey Scott and Cheryl Carpenter Richard Carter Joseph and Diane Charles Kevin Clouse & Deborah Tegtmeyer **Judy Cochran** Dominick and Susan Consolo Roger and Ellie Core Fred and Suzanne Costaschuk William and Lori Custer Elliot and Margie Davidoff Irmagene Davis Pat Deering and Keith Ward Dan and Diane DeLawder Howard Dellard Tony and Linda Delligatti Guy Denny Richard S. Donahey, Jr. Ion and Marcia Downes Jeanette Drake Robert and Nancy Drake Marilvn Dresser Gerald and Linda Ehrsam Benjamin and Lisa Englefield F.W. Englefield III Jim and Di Erickson Jon and Dagmar Farris **Judy Farris** Todd and Robin Feil Dan and Patricia Finkleman Mary Fitch Dan and Ginny Fletcher Michael and Janine Flood Reed and Mel Fraley Chip and Susan Freeman Tod and Evelyn Frolking Ann and Dick Fryman Michael and Vanessa Fuson

Leon and Beverly Gage

Membership

Alex and Maryann Galbraith Trevor and Carolyn Gamble Frank and Florence Gibson Mark and Linda Giles Jeff Gill and Joyce Meredith Russell and Susan Ginise Margaret Gjessing Carol Goland Paul and Betty Goodridge Grace Gordon Jim and Jane Gordon Kenneth and Sarah Gordon William and Elizabeth Gray Arthur and Molly Greenburg Neil and Joan Greene Delbert Gutridge Bill and Linda Habig Tom and Mary Beth Hall John and Betty Hankinson Jessen and Beth Havill Ann Hendry Lonnie and Brenda Hill Bob and Paula Hinebaugh Christine Hodgson Florence Hoffman Keith and Gretchen Hollingsworth Jim Holtsberry Dan and Rebecca Homan Betty Allen Hullinger John Hunter and Karen Goodell Dave and Sandy Jackson Alan and Jean Jankowski Arnold Joseph Michael and Marilyn Jung Jeff and Susie Kalinoski Abram Kaplan Fred and Jane Karaffa Zaven and Susan Karian Steven Katz and Constance Barsky Anne Kauffman David Keck Chris and Kate Kenah Norman and Suzanne Kennedy John D. Kessler & Eloise Dezwarte Jeremy and Susan King Lyle and Elaine King

Paul and Jane King

John and Anne Klauder

Dale and Tina Knobel

Bill Kirkpatrick and Anna Nekola

Michael and Deborah Kocsis Peter Kuhlman and Janell Baran Lee and Katherine Larson Stephen and Michele Layman Daniel and Sarah Leavell Jack and Jean Lepley Anthony J. and Marianne Lisska David and Jill Litle Gary and Anne Love Bob and Mary Ann Malcuit Dorothy Mann Jay Matthews and Patricia James Weldon and Mary Beth Mathews Warren May Jack and Jeanne McClain Bill McConnell Mary Jane McDonald Robert Meek David Melick Luke and Lisa Messinger Fleur Metzger Larry and Eloise Miller Scott and Susan Miller Margery L. Mitchell Larry and Brenda Mix Scott and Sandi Mowrey Jim Murphy Jim and Suzy Murr Keith and Patty Myers Richard and Marjorie Neff Thomas and Elizabeth Norpell Charles and Jacqueline O'Keefe John J. O'Neill Robert and Alexa O'Neill Frank and Sandra Orth Rodney and Jeanne Osborne Ralph Ottensmeier Bob and Ruth Owen Jurgen and Kirsten Pape Bruce and Debra Parrish Robert and Ruth Ann Parsley Eric Pawlowski & Leslie Markworth Mary Peck Russell and Susan Potter Elizabeth Price Cal Prine Fred and Roberta Pryor Barbara Pursley Allen and Cindi Reeves Perry and Sarah Robinson

Mark and Pamela Roth Mollie M. Roth Lawrence and Ann Rowe Bob and Barbara Rush Bob and Emily Rutherford Erma Rutledge Charles F. Salt Wes and Donna Sargent Sandy Schirmer Sam and Heidi Schnaidt Nick and Melanie Schott Bob and Lynn Schweizer Steve and Linda Scott Richard and Iane Scott Rick and Karen Semer Tom and Peggy Shafer Tom and Sara Sharp Ian Shea Edgar Sheffler Ron Sheldon Skip and Nancy Shepherd James and Nancy Siegel Charles Sinsabaugh Geoff Smith and Jessica Rettig Randy Smith and Sandra Mathern Martijn Steger and Ann Townsend Saul and Karla Strieb Phil and Kathy Stukus Marilyn Sundin Rainey and Mary Taylor Paul and Karen Treece Don Tritt Richard and Mary Lee Van Meter Dan and Jennifer Van Ness Jim Van Reeth and Ching-chu Hu Barbara S. Vockel Hedda von Goeben Doug and Becky Wagner George and Lorraine Wales John H. and Sarah Wallace Wes and Beth Walter James Weaver & Cynthia Greenleaf Teddy Westlake Benjamin and Katherine Whitehead Bill and Jane Wilken Wesley Williams and Jennifer Jones Pat and Inga Windley Rose and Jack Wingert David and Joanne Woodyard

Jay and Jenifer Young



Licking Land Trust 128 S. Main Street P.O. Box 196 Granville, OH 43023

740-587-4104 lickinglandtrust@windstream.net www.lickinglandtrust.org

Join The Licking Land Trust

Renew your membership, join, or contribute online at www.lickinglandtrust.org



Name:	_
Email:	
Address:	_
City, State, Zip:	_
Phone:	

Membership Levels:

☐ Student: \$10	☐ Business/Org.: \$150	☐ Leader: \$1,000-2,499
☐ Individual: \$50	☐ Conservator: \$250-499	☐ Partner: \$2,500-4,999
☐ Family: \$50	☐ Steward: \$500-999	☐ Visionary: \$5,000+
Stewardship & Easer	nent Defense Fund \$	_

Detach and mail this completed form with your check to: Licking Land Trust P.O. Box 196 Granville, OH 43023