

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



Lori Fuhrer

Sinking Roots into the Community: Fuhrer Joins Trust Board

"Conservation of open space is a worthwhile, viable cause that I believe in." Lori Fuhrer

By Linda Habig, Trustee

As a practicing attorney with a family heritage that cherishes land and the outdoors, Lori Fuhrer recently accepted the Trust's invitation to join its board. Lori brings a wealth of professional skills and personal interest in conservation to the Trust, *continued to page 5*

Grant from Park National Inspires Success

By Lyn Boone, Trustee

The Licking Land Trust has had a major success on the road to winning national accreditation, thanks to Park National Bank and the Trust's loyal membership.

In April, Park National awarded the Trust a grant of up to \$8,500 to encourage other donors to make new gifts in support of the Trust's Legal Defense Fund. That Fund is a requirement of the accreditation process that the Trust is soon to undergo. Any land trust seeking accreditation from the national Land Trust Alliance must have fully funded its reserve for legal defense – a resource that could be used if needed to defend a protected property in court.

The Trust had been working for years to reach the goal for its Legal Defense Fund, but was still \$17,000 away from the mark. With time running short before the accreditation process was scheduled to launch, Park National's generous offer of an \$8,500 match cut in half what had seemed a challenging goal. When Trust members were informed in June of the bank's offer to match their gifts on a one-to-one basis, they responded with enthusiasm and generosity.

Members of the Trust contributed a total of 91 gifts, ranging in size from \$10 to \$4,500. By early October, membership gifts amounted to \$17,669. *continued to page 4*

Flexible Property Donations Welcome

By Candi Moore, Trustee

Have you hesitated to donate land because you're not sure about the property's conservation worthiness? Perhaps it has some producing oil and gas wells right out front and is not scenic. Perhaps it has little frontage and is not accessible for the public enjoyment. Perhaps it lacks any unique habitat or rare flora and fauna. An outright donation of land

that may be sold or leased or that has no conservation requirements can still provide aid and flexibility to the Licking Land Trust in fulfilling its mission.

Donations of land with no prohibitions against sale or leasing or no preservation requirements can provide an ongoing stream of revenue

for the Trust from being let out to farmers or from oil and gas rental payments. Such land can be sold or swapped to acquire more desirable conservation property or sold to provide operating or endowment funds. Whether or not the property is appropriate to be conserved, it still has value that can be used to support the preservation of other properties.

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A crisp fall morning, eager runners, and lots of prizes and treats – all these factors signaled success for the Licking Land Trust's first "Harvest 5K Run/Walk," held on Saturday, October 25 on the campus of OSU-Newark.

The Trust's board chair Doug Spieles started the participants promptly at 9:30 a.m. Runners and walkers passed under the starting gate and headed out onto the winding pathways of the OSU campus, enjoying a level running course, beautiful fall scenery, and a bit of sunshine along the way.

With a registration fee of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, the event was budget-and-family-friendly. Bright green T-shirts were part of the package and gave the participants the chance to take home a "green" souvenir. Volunteers from the Trust and from Granville High School helped set up the course and serve as marshals.



15 minutes of fame! The Harvest 5K winners' circle includes (left to right) Amy Keller, Kate Bettis, Michelle Newman Brady, Cecil Richards, Jeff Spieles, and Doug Spieles. Not pictured is Nancy Welu.

Winners in the men's category were Cecil Richards (with a time of 13 minutes and 14 seconds), Jeff Spieles (19:03), and Doug Spieles (19:42). First in the women's category was Michelle Newman Brady, clocking in at 23 minutes and 19 seconds. Following her were Amy Keller (24:18), Nancy Welu (25:14), and Kate Bettis (25:15). Winning the youth category was Jake Curtis, completing the course in 22 minutes and 5 seconds.

Many local businesses and organizations helped sponsor the event with cash, services, edibles, and raffle prizes. Leading sponsors were The Energy Cooperative, Big "O" Refuse, Coughlin Chevrolet, Kendal at Granville, Denison University, Havens Limited, Willison Investment Strategies, and the law firms of Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, and Reese Pyle Drake & Meyer. Please see the accompanying list for the many other organizations whose support made the event possible.

Thanks to everyone – participants, sponsors, and volunteers who organized and ran the race!

Save the Date!

Regional Events - Land and Conservation Focused

Licking Land Trust

lickinglandtrust.org

Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Nov. 6, 6:30 at Bryn Du Mansion

Dawes Arboretum

"The Squirrels are Going Nuts!" (Night hike)

Nov. 21, 5:30-7 at Dawes

OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Assoc.)

oeffa.org/conference2015

Annual Conference

Feb. 13-15 at Granville High School

Thank you ! Harvest 5K Run/Walk Sponsors

Silver Level \$500 and greater

Big "O" Refuse
The Energy Cooperative

Bronze Level \$250 - \$499

Coughlin Chevrolet of Pataskala
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McPeck-Hoekstra Funeral Home
River Road Coffeehouse
RUNOHIO
Susan Miller Photography
Target (Heath store)
Trader Joe's of Easton
Vo2 Fitness
Welsh Hills School
The Soup Loft
The Wilds
The Works



Board member Lyn Boone is flanked by Trust supporters Tonya Bolden (left), landscape manager of MoWtivated Mowers of Granville, and Chris Patin (right). All came to Bob Evans Restaurant on October 23rd to participate in the restaurant's community fundraiser on behalf of the Licking Land Trust. All day long, 15% of proceeds from participants' dining bills were designated by the restaurant to benefit the Trust.

Good Stewardship: Muddy Boots, GPS Cameras, Landowners, and You!

By Jeremy King, Trustee

As the lazy warmth of summer deepened, the Trust's Stewardship Committee started to anticipate fall. Yes, the Committee comprising board members Jeremy King, Tom Henshaw, Doug Spieles, Mark Roth and Don Wiper enjoys the colors, crisp autumn air, and hot cider, but more importantly, they relish pulling on their muddy farm boots and starting the annual inspection of all of the Trust's protected properties.

During inspections, the Committee delights in interaction with landowners of conserved land, as well as families living on property abutting conserved land. For example, during the fall of 2013, board members enjoyed visiting protected properties adjacent to Park Trails, having invited homeowners to join them. It was a pleasure for board members to meet with a number of Park Trails residents and hear from them about how much they enjoy the conserved green spaces. It is this type of positive neighbor-to-neighbor relationship that makes for good collective stewardship.

Stewardship is integral to the continued protection of properties and the Trust takes this seriously. At least annually, Trust board members, often accompanied by member volunteers, visit all properties to ensure they are maintained in accordance with the easements placed upon them. To document the visit and process, inspection monitoring forms, explaining any issues that arise, are completed. During the past year the Committee revamped the process, adding annual photos that document changes to the properties over time, and identifying issues to be pursued and resolved.

One of the new features of the form is an embedded map of each property with its boundaries clearly marked. During the inspection, photos of interesting features, unique plants, and in a few rare cases, areas of concern with respect to the easement, are taken. Locations of these photos are documented on the map so that year after year, photos can be taken in the same places. Take a look at one example from the monitoring document for Hartman Farms, in Union Township; numbers show the photo locations.



Thus the Committee is developing a rich archive of images for each property. Board members have even started using GPS-integrated cameras so that they can actually stand in the same exact spot year after year.

Good stewardship, in addition to being an enjoyable venture into the great outdoors, takes time, effort and thought, and the Committee welcomes members and volunteers to assist in the process each year. So pull out your muddy farm boots, contact the Committee Chair, Jeremy King (kingje@denison.edu), and join a stewardship inspection this fall. Your boots will get even muddier, your soul will rejoice in the peaceful splendor of protected green space, and you might even get a lesson in how to use a GPS camera!

Grant from Park National Inspires Success

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The addition of Park National's pledge of \$8,500 brings the campaign total to \$26,169 – a figure that not only fulfills the amount needed for the Legal Defense Fund, but also provides a cushion of extra funds that will be required as new properties come under the Trust's wing.

"We are genuinely thrilled with the outcome of this effort, and with

the vote of confidence from our membership," said Doug Spieles, the Trust's Chair. "We're deeply grateful to Park National Bank for inspiring the matching gifts, and for being the first to step up in support of the Licking Land Trust."

"Park National Bank is delighted the Licking Land Trust supporters have been so generous in establishing the Legal Defense Fund. Park has

witnessed the outstanding work of the Trust for many years, and we were pleased to be in a position to offer a level of support that helped accomplish the goal. We especially wish to congratulate the board and leadership of the Land Trust for its forward thinking in the effort to gain national accreditation," according to Dan DeLawder, chairman of Park National Bank.

Fuhrer Joins Trust Board

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raising the total number of board members to 13. With Lori rounding out the group, the board now comprises professionals in the areas of law, banking and finance, environmental management and academics, fundraising and planned giving, education, and real estate.

"Because I work in Columbus, I've got a strong desire to be more connected to the community where I live," said Lori, who is a partner in the Columbus law firm of Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter. She practices primarily in the field of civil litigation, representing companies in complex business and consumer disputes. In her career, she's honed a far-reaching set of skills and knowledge that will help the Trust in many ways. Among these are expertise in contracts, knowledge of corporate structures and operations, financial and real estate savvy, negotiating skills, and terrific interpersonal relationships. Lori is eager to apply her skills to the Trust's work in accreditation, and its ongoing work with landowners granting easements and property.

Growing up in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in a farming family, Lori developed a life-long love of the land and wide open spaces. Her family raised beef cattle, corn, wheat, and soybeans, and Lori reflects, "We grew what we ate." Lori remembers fondly the "family vacations" spent sleeping overnight in the hay barn, and has ever since her youth appreciated the agricultural use of land.

Business Members and Organizations Support Conservation

The Trust welcomes and thanks our business members. Their products and services help farmers, landowners, and organizations maintain, preserve, and improve the great outdoors.

Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management Co.
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Licking County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Park Trails/MI Homes, and
River Road Coffeehouse
Spring Meadow Fencing Company
T. J. Evans Foundation
Tecumseh Land Trust

Lori and her husband Neal Bell have passed on their values about open space to their sons Freddie and Henry. Family activities have included Boy Scout projects at Spring Valley Nature Preserve (conserved by the Trust) and week-long hiking on the Appalachian Trail. Lori has a particular interest in agriculture and organic food, and is a member of Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA).

Welcome Lori! We're delighted to have you!

Flexible Property Donations Welcome

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A good example of this is a proposed legacy gift from Chris Hodgson of her farmland to the Trust. Chris inherited 237 acres in Fallsbury Township from her father. The property has an active oil well and some forest and is leased to a nearby farmer for corn, soybean and small grain production. Chris has advised the board that she has bequeathed the property to the Trust in her will with no restrictions requiring it to be held by the Trust but with the understanding that a conservation

easement be placed on it prior to any sale, if plausible. This donation gives the Trust a potential stream of revenue to assist its operations and also the flexibility to sell this property if significant funds are needed more immediately for other conservation purposes or opportunities.

Moreover, keep in mind that the Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations of land, like cash and securities, may provide a charitable

deduction for federal and state tax law purposes to the donor if proper procedures are followed and documentation obtained.

While the Trust's main focus is on donations of property and easements to be preserved and held in perpetuity, the Trust values and can benefit from many types of donations of land, including land that may be sold or leased or that may have little conservation value.



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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.

Join The Licking Land Trust

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



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