



# NEWSLETTER

A Publication for Members and Friends

Fall 2012

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

## Board Welcomes Jeremy King as Trustee

From the Ecuadorian Jungle to Denison University

By Linda Habig, Trustee

*"When I was asked to be part of the Trust, I jumped at the chance. This is my opportunity to give back to all those whose work before me created wonderful parks and green spaces," reflected Jeremy King, the newest member of the Trust's Board of Trustees.*

Jeremy is the Campus Sustainability Coordinator at Denison University, where he stewards sustainability. He coordinates all campus-wide communication regarding sustainability and serves as a liaison to the surrounding community.

An alumnus of Denison, Jeremy brings a wealth of educational and resource conservation experience to

the Trust. He taught science at Circleville High School for ten years, and during that time earned a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University. As a Peace Corps volunteer, Jeremy worked on sustainable development and agriculture in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

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*Jeremy King in the Ecuadorian Andes*

## Planning for Perpetuity is not Cheap!

By Mark Roth, Treasurer

A lush woodland, a productive agricultural field, a pristine stream and wetland - appreciating the beauty of natural open space is just the beginning for the Trust. When considering the acceptance of a conservation easement, or taking ownership of property, the Trust evaluates many aspects of the land in its current condition, but that's not all; the Trust also considers future issues of care, monitoring, protection, and defense of the easement or land, all in accordance with the its

acquisition criteria. One critical issue is an estimation of the amount, and source of funding, to meet the long-term management responsibilities for the easement or property.

The Trust's easements and property must be monitored and managed, and these activities cost money. The Trust completes and pays for the following four major functions.

1. Creating baseline documentation, which is a detailed report prepared prior to closing that describes the conservation values and condition of the property, and requirements for monitoring the property on an ongoing basis.
2. Visiting and monitoring each site annually to confirm and document, in writing, that the conserved property is being maintained properly.
3. Communicating regularly with landowners who have given easements or land, including the tracking of ownership changes if the property is sold.
4. Enforcing and correcting any violations of the conservation terms when and if needed.

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*Trustees "horsin' around" while inspecting the Bieberbach property*

# The Journey from 2013 to 2018

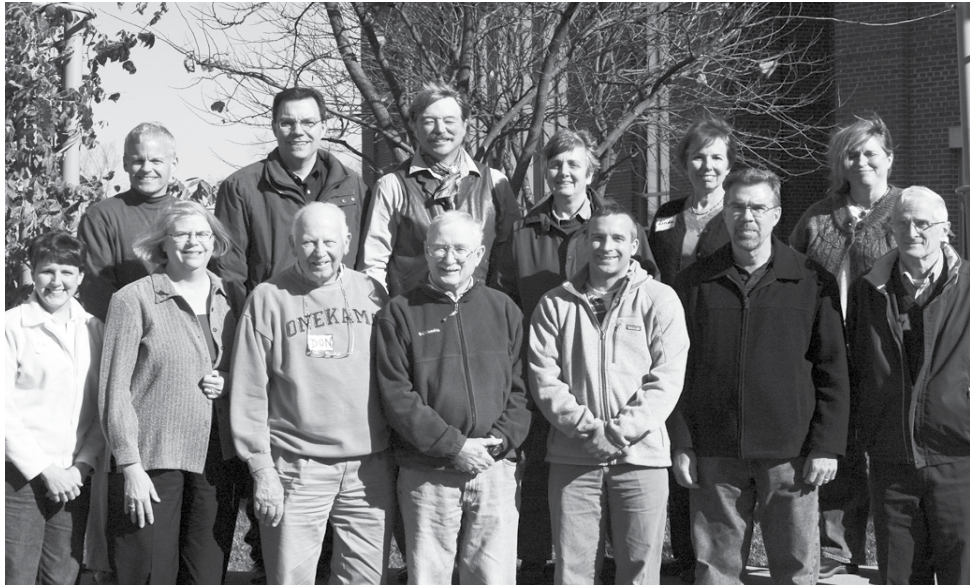
By Candi Moore, Board Chair

Yogi Berra once said "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else." So every few years, the Trust's Board takes a look at where we are, where we want to be and how we might get there. Formally, we call this strategic planning.

This year, the Board set aside its monthly August meeting to get started on this task. Paul King, a retired Denison economics professor and former member of the Ohio Environmental Council, generously served as our volunteer, independent facilitator. He began the session by suggesting that successful non-profits make a profit, a novel and provocative idea that led to some further thoughts about what our operation costs and what funds would be needed to advance our objectives.

Paul then had the Board split up into groups and identify the five most important objectives that the Licking Land Trust should accomplish in the next five years. Each group arrived at a somewhat different list but there were some overlap and common themes amongst the lists. For example, two of the groups cited accreditation as a key objective. Others focused on improvements to our organizational structure including membership, volunteers and committees. The full Board selected growing acreage under conservation and preserving signature properties as our top goal.

Following this planning session, Wendy Bittel, our administrator, assembled all our notes into a strategic plan document which is currently being reviewed and refined by Board members Jeremy King, Lyn Boone, Mike Mickelson and Pat Deering. The purpose of the strategic plan is to not only identify our goals for the next five years, but to set forth the methods of achieving the goals. Once the draft is completed, the full Board will review, discuss and refine it prior to eventual adoption.



*Licking Land Trust Board of Trustees, Fall 2011*

Adopting a strategic plan is just the first step. The true value of a strategic plan is only recognized when it is successfully implemented. It should serve as a roadmap for the Board over the next several years as we continue our mission to conserve land.

## A Hearty "Thank You" to Hartford Fair Volunteers!

"Thank you" to the following volunteers who assisted with staffing the Trust's booth at the Hartford Fair this year! Your contribution of time, interest and expertise is greatly appreciated!

Liz Bicking, Tod Frolking, Jim Holtsberry, Jurgen Pape, Skip and Nancy Shepherd

If anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities with the Trust, please contact the office at 587-4104 or [lickinglandtrust@windstream.net](mailto:lickinglandtrust@windstream.net)

*Thank you!*



Jeremy's choice of careers and love of the land trace back to his childhood. "Most of my early memories involve camping. My father had my brothers and me all over the country on excursions, and my sense of the environment and land conservation grew from those experiences. Now more than ever, I feel a true connection with the land and have seen how much our actions can influence, both positively and negatively, the environment around us," said Jeremy.

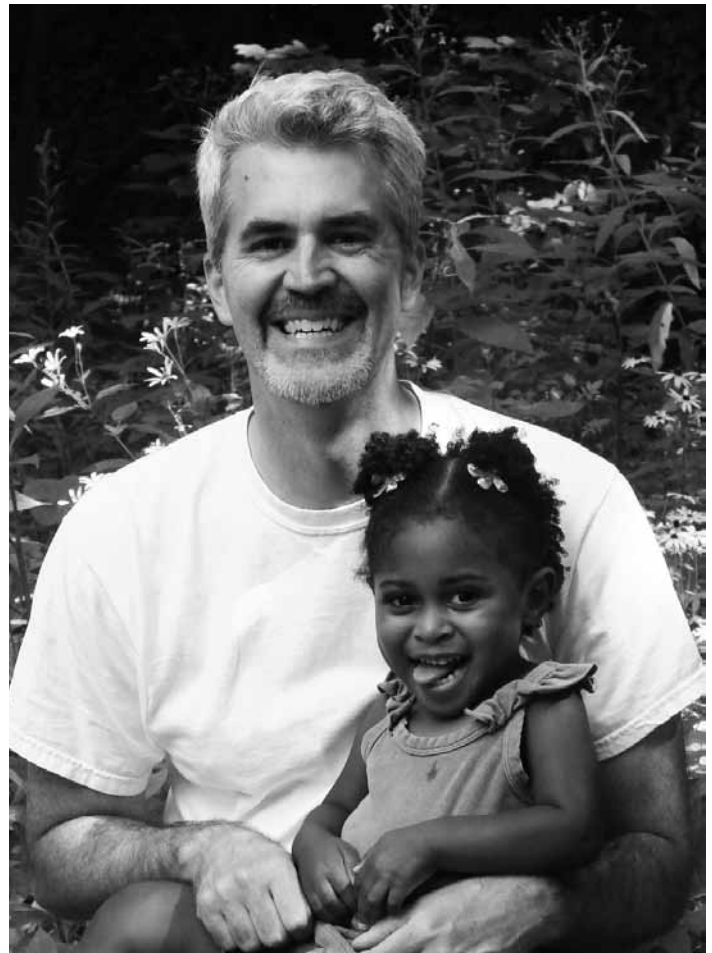
Questioned about possible areas of collaboration with Denison, Jeremy responded, "Denison already maintains a 350-acre bio-reserve and a few smaller parcels of farm land. Denison was also involved in the Spring Valley project. I think that there will be more opportunities for the Denison community to volunteer with the Trust, and for Denison students to engage in environmental education and outreach activities. I hope to find ways to engage younger generations with the work of the Trust."

The Trust is delighted to welcome Jeremy to its Board!

## Nationally Acclaimed Conservationist to Speak at Annual Meeting

Attention Licking Land Trust members! Be sure to reserve Thursday evening, November 8, to attend the Trust's annual potluck dinner meeting, particularly to hear and interact with the featured guest speaker, Josh Knights. The Trust is delighted to welcome Josh, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy in Ohio!

Josh Knights leads a team of experts dedicated to conserving Ohio's landscapes for people and nature. Under his direction, the Conservancy led the ballot campaign to renew the Clean Ohio Fund, assisted with financing of the state's acquisition of the 16,000-acre Vinton Furnace Experimental State Forest, and launched an effort to create the largest unbroken protected forest in Ohio by connecting its Edge of Appalachia preserve to Shawnee State Forest. Josh was appointed by the President of the Ohio Senate to serve on the Great Lakes Compact Advisory Board and by the Governor to serve on the Ohio Recreation and Resources Commission. Prior to returning to his home state, Josh headed corporate partnerships at the Conservancy's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. He previously worked on policy issues in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the law firm of White & Case. Josh lives with his wife Lara and their two children in Columbus, Ohio.



*Josh Knights with daughter Maya*

## Planning for Perpetuity is not Cheap! *continued from page 1*

There are two components of funding: the annual costs to monitor all conserved property, and the amount of money needed for a legal defense fund. The Trust has calculated the costs for annual monitoring, and has established a fund for legal defense of easements.

### Monitoring of Properties

Currently, volunteers perform most of the ongoing annual property inspections, and thus the Trust incurs little direct expense for this. However, this does not reflect the true costs of annual monitoring, such as the time cost of volunteer hours. If paid staff performed these activities, the estimated average cost per easement would be about \$175, for a total of about \$3200 annually for all 18 easements.

While these funds could be sourced from the operating budget, a more conservative approach is establishment of a property monitoring fund, which can provide reasonable assurance that future obligations can be met. It is also the approach that the national Land Trust Alliance requires

for accreditation, which the Trust is currently seeking. A land trust the size of the Licking Land Trust should have a monitoring fund of about \$65,000. Currently the Trust has such a fund in the amount of \$21,000, and is working to build it to an appropriate level.

### Legal Defense

Additionally, the Land Trust Alliance recommends that a land trust the size of the Licking Land Trust have a legal defense fund of \$54,000. While this may seem high, the goal is to ensure enforcement of conservation terms, far into the future. Planning for perpetuity is not cheap! Currently the Trust has a legal defense fund of \$30,000, and continues to work to increase its funding level.

Although the Trust is in solid financial shape, it still needs to raise funds to meet requirements for adequate monitoring and legal defense funds. Building and maintaining these funds will help ensure the long-term and permanent sustainability of the Trust and its conserved properties.

## Your Land Trust at Work *Licking Land Trust 2012 Projects*

*Anyone who would like to help with any of the above projects should contact the person indicated.*

*The Trust welcomes all volunteers!*

Project	Board Contact
Plan for the future: conduct strategic planning session and develop 5-year plan	Candi Moore
Conduct training session for members and volunteers, in techniques and procedures for monitoring conserved land, in April	Jeremy King
Collaborate with Granville Township re: erosion protection of Raccoon Creek near proposed bridge	Doug Spieles
Research and select new membership/donor database system	Linda Habig, Lyn Boone, Wendy Bittel
Participate in and provide educational youth activities for Dawes Arboretum Arbor Day Festival in April	Wendy Bittel
Educate and inform the public about the Trust through staffing an information booth, and collaborate with Licking County Soil & Water District, at the Hartford Fair in August	Larry Bicking, Pat Deering
Apply for national accreditation: finalize standardization of procedures and historical property records	Mike Mickelson
Develop a capital campaign to raise funds for stewardship and defense reserve requirements for national accreditation	Lyn Boone, Greg Sharkey
Mark all Trust-conserved properties through use of GPS coordinates, and install conservation plaques with property owners' permission	Mike Mickelson
Inspect all Trust easements and properties, annually: 1100 acres/26 properties	Jeremy King
Increase membership: approach Licking County businesses, and targeted affinity groups of individuals	Linda Habig
Increase conserved acreage: communicate with interested landowners (currently 33 prospects)	Board Members - various

# Ohio Land Trusts Share Joy of Conservation

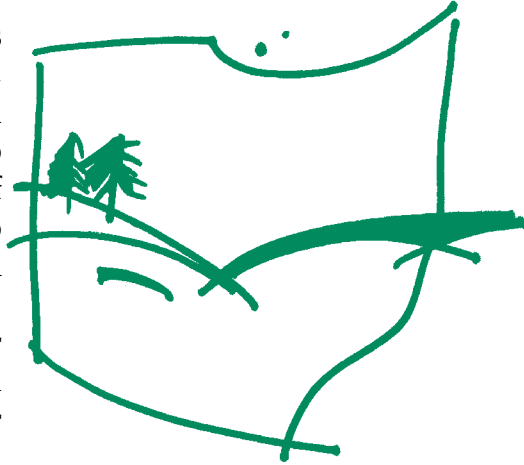
*By Mike Mickelson, Trustee*

From the Black Swamp Conservancy in the north, to the Friends of Lower Muskingum River in the south, forty-four land trusts and conservation organizations work to preserve land in Ohio. Proving that conservation of agricultural land, scenic vistas, riparian greenways, and woodlands has a whole lot of momentum and enthusiasm in Ohio, our state can boast of 17,000 land trust members and 115,000 acres of protected land!

Many of the forty-four land trusts and conservation organizations, including the Licking Land Trust, have joined together to form COLT, the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts, dedicated to advancing land conservation for the public good in Ohio. The organization helps member land trusts build organizational capacity and strategies for achieving their mission of land preservation. Several of the Trust's board members are active in COLT, including Don Wiper who sits on the COLT Steering Committee.

COLT works to enhance member land trusts' expertise through training and networking, to increase their implementation of nationally standardized

procedures, and to advance critical state and federal land conservation policies, legislation such as property tax reform, and renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund. Of special interest are efforts to develop reduced property tax treatment for land owners who place their land under conservation easements. For more information on this bill and other policy issues, go to the Ohio Land Trust website address shown below and click on "Land Conservation Policy."



COLT meets several times a year, and has recently held statewide meetings at the Dawes Arboretum, and the Wilderness Center in Stark County. The Fall Statewide Meeting will be held in Columbus, at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. For more information on COLT and the national umbrella organization, the Land Trust Alliance, visit <http://ohiolandtrusts.org> and <http://www.landtrustalliance.org>.

From the Hillside Trust in Cincinnati, to the Appalachian Ohio Alliance in Logan, to the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust in Wooster, and on to the Licking Land Trust and many more - we all share the joy of conservation.

## Business Members 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.  
Granville Milling Company  
INT Information Systems, Inc.  
Jake's Property Services

Jodi Melfi Design Ltd.  
River Road Coffeehouse  
Spring Meadow Fencing Company



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#### Board

Candi Moore, *Chairman*

Doug Spieles, *Vice Chair & Secretary*

Mark Roth, *Treasurer*

Larry Bicking      Linda Habig      Greg Sharkey

Lyn Boone      Jeremy King      Don Wiper

Pat Deering      Mike Mickelson

Wendy Bittel, *Office Administrator*

#### Newsletter

Linda Habig, *editor*

Jodi Melfi Design, *layout*

*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](http://www.lickinglandtrust.org)**



**Donate  
securely  
online.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels:

☐ Student: \$10      ☐ Business/Organization: \$150

☐ Individual: \$50      ☐ Conservator: \$250

☐ Family: \$50      ☐ Steward: \$500

Stewardship & Easement Defense Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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