

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



**Donald W. Wiper
1931 – 2015**

The Trust deeply mourns the passing of Don "Biff" Wiper on September 24, while joining the entire community and his family in celebration of his life

of huge accomplishment and boundless love. As a long-time member and driving force behind the growth of the Granville Land Conservancy, Don worked tirelessly for 23 years to advance the mission of the Conservancy, which became the Licking Land Trust. Serving as a board chair and member, he shared his passion for conservation of open spaces, working with landowners, members, youth, the community and many others to save undeveloped land as a treasure forever. His love for nature and the land lives on in the Licking Land Trust, and we all shall miss him hugely. A more detailed tribute to Don's life and contributions will appear in the next Trust publication. *By Linda Habig, Trustee*

Autumn Timber Harvest at Fryman Reserve

By Mike Mickelson, Board Vice Chairman

In 2005, Dick and Ann Fryman donated their scenic 36.575-acre forested property in Granville Township to the Trust to preserve and protect. And it is indeed a woodland treasure - a pristine, beautiful, heavily wooded natural area and watershed. The Fryman Reserve is one of seven properties where the Trust actually owns the property, and not simply an easement as with all other Trust-conserved properties.

The Reserve consists of a steeply sloped and forested corridor along a second order stream that flows into the Raccoon Creek. Surrounding land



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Fryman Reserve



Farm-To-Fork Delights Members, Guests, and the Trust

By Lyn Boone, Trustee

The Licking Land Trust couldn't have asked for a better evening or a more successful event than its "Farm-to-Fork" local foods gala at the Granville Inn on Friday, August 14. Attended by more than 100 land trust supporters, the event featured locally sourced gourmet foods, music provided by local musicians, and a silent auction offering items donated by almost forty Central Ohio businesses, organizations, and individuals.

A resounding fundraising success!

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Fall Fireworks

By Jean Backs, Licking Land Trust Volunteer

Editor's Note: A fun, educational story and mini-project to share with your children or grandchildren, our next generations of land conservationists!

Did you ever wonder why nearly every leaf on every tree is green in the summer, but in the fall, those leaves turn the colors of the rainbow? The answer is a pigment called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll may be common, but it is so special that we couldn't live without it!

When you spend lots of time in the sun, the brown pigment in your skin darkens into a suntan. When a leaf gets a lot of sun, the green pigment makes food! Picture a tiny food factory in each green leaf that makes a simple sugar called

Make a leaf collection.

Sort them by color, shape and growth habit, like a scientist. Are they single leaves or **compound** (in rows or clusters)? Are the veins **palmate** (meeting at a single point) - or **pinnate** (many smaller veins attached to one long vein). Use a guide to identify the tree.

glucose. The food factory takes the water that the tree "drinks" through its roots, and the carbon

dioxide it "breathes" from the air to make something new. This process is called photosynthesis. Here's how it works. The chlorophyll in the leaf absorbs the energy from particles of sunlight. It uses this energy to break the chemical bonds in molecules of water (H₂O), freeing up hydrogen and oxygen atoms. The chlorophyll also breaks the bonds of carbon dioxide molecules (CO₂), so carbon and oxygen atoms are free. The carbon, hydrogen and oxygen atoms combine in a new way to make molecules of glucose, and there is oxygen left over for us to breathe!

The veins of the leaf are like the conveyor belts in the food factory. After a busy summer of carrying water into the leaf and carrying out the sugar, the veins start to get clogged. When the base of the leaf is shut off from the rest of the tree, it is ready to drop.

The shades of red, yellow, purple and brown that you see in the fall are actually the leaves' true colors. These colors are from two other pigments – carotenoids (yellow and orange, like you see in corn and carrots) and



Author's son Eli with early autumn leaves

anthocyanins (red and purple, as in apples and berries) – that are covered up by the green chlorophyll. At the end of summer, when the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, the chlorophyll begins to break down. The green color fades away, revealing the bright colors of the hidden pigments.

Different kinds of trees have different amounts of these pigments. Sugar maples, tulip poplars, and black walnut trees have lots of carotenoids, so they turn shades of glowing orange, gold and yellow. Red maples, dogwood trees, and oak trees have more anthocyanins, so they turn shades of dark red, purplish-red and reddish-brown.

From year to year, the brightness of the fall fireworks depends on how cold it gets at night, how much moisture is in the soil in late summer, and if windy storms knock the leaves down too soon.

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.

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River Road Coffee House
T.J. Evans Foundation
Tecumseh Land Trust

Easement Language Allows Raccoon Creek Pedestrian Bridge Construction

By Candi Moore, Trustee

Outdoor enthusiasts celebrate connectivity

This past July the Licking Land Trust was acknowledged at the dedication of the pedestrian bridge over Raccoon Creek connecting the TJ Evans Bike Path to Raccoon Valley Park on the southern edge of Granville. Foresightful language in one of the Trust's early conservation easements allowed the project to proceed with input from the Trust even though the bridge crossed the easement. And now that the bridge is open, many youth and adults are joyfully and quickly walking, running, and biking from the bike path to the park and beyond.

The Raccoon Valley Greenway is a major project of the Licking Land Trust and one of its earliest undertakings. The goal of the Greenway is to create and preserve a woodland ribbon at least 150 feet on each side of Raccoon Creek to provide aquifer protection, wildlife habitat, erosion prevention, flood control, passive recreation and education experiences from Johnstown to Newark. Toward that goal, in 1993, Granville Township

granted a conservation easement to the Granville Land Conservancy (now known as the Licking Land Trust) on 150 feet from the center of Raccoon Creek to the south and west sides of the creek in Raccoon Valley Park. Generally the conservation easement prohibits alteration of, or construction on, the property but an exception is included for paths and trails and related appurtenances similar to the TJ Evans Walking/Bicycle Path and abutments for a footbridge across Raccoon Creek to connect such paths.

In reliance on this language, the Trust was able to give consent to the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Granville Township Trustees to proceed with the pedestrian bridge project. However, the Trust did not just give its consent and walk away. Trust representatives, including Lyn Boone, Jeremy King, Mike Mickelson, Candi Moore, and Doug Spieles, reviewed impact studies, participated in planning discussions for the project, and monitored construction of the

bridge. Trust representatives became further involved as the presence of the bridge abutments necessitated erosion control along the creek's banks. Although the conservation easement generally does not allow alteration or manipulation of water courses located on the property, an exception is provided for maintaining existing watercourses. Again, the well-thought-out language of the easement allowed the Trust to agree to the armoring of the banks to prevent erosion around the abutments.

When drafting and preparing easements, we cannot always anticipate everything that might crop up, and easements would be excessively long if we tried to cover every potential eventuality. However, by considering the existing circumstances and envisioning how the property is likely to be used in the future, easement language can effectively protect the property's conservation values and still provide some flexibility.

Autumn Timber Harvest *continued from page 1*

includes forest, pasture, and residential property. Currently, the land is taxed under the Current Agriculture Use Value (CAUV) classification, which means that the land must be working land. In 2006, the Trust negotiated a forestry management plan, which was required to maintain the CAUV classification and thus reduce property taxes.

The Reserve was under CAUV prior to its donation to the Trust and had undergone a timber harvest some years prior. It is now time for the forest to be harvested again. The Trust will pursue a selective harvest so that the integrity of the stream and woodland habitats is

protected throughout the process. We have enlisted J.P. Stafford, a Certified Forester, to organize the harvest under the direction of a board committee, which is planned for this fall.

A forestry management plan requires marking boundaries and maintaining the forest in good ecological health by removing invasive species, cutting grape vines which strangle healthy trees, and removing mature trees, allowing for succession of younger trees. In general the timber harvest is a judicious pruning that will improve the overall health of the forest.

The Alphabet of Farmland Protection: LLT, LCSWCD, ODA, AEPP, LAEPP, USDA

By Pat Deering, Farmland Preservation Specialist, Licking Co. Soil & Water Conservation District (and former Trustee, Licking Land Trust)

Licking and surrounding counties also work to preserve open space, riparian areas, scenic views and farmland.



Walter Dorsey Farm, Perry Township, Licking County (ODA easement)

The Licking Land Trust plays an important, private-sector roll in preserving open space and farmland in Licking County. And thankfully, the Trust is not alone; several government and non-profit organizations in

Since 2004, Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) has assisted the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) with easement monitoring. In 2009, Licking Soil & Water began applying on behalf of landowners for ODA's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP), and has been a Certified Local Sponsor each year for the ODA's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) which began in 2013. Funds are made available through the Clean Ohio Fund, approved by voters in 2000 and 2008.

An agricultural or conservation easement is a legal agreement to limit development on a parcel of land. The landowner continues to own the land and may sell, gift or transfer it. The easement remains with the

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FARM to FORK

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"We were thrilled with the success of Farm-to-Fork," said Trust Chairman Doug Spieles, who emceed the event. "It was very gratifying, because the room was filled with so many friends of the Licking Land Trust. I think everyone had a great time -- I just wish I'd had more time to do justice to that great food!"

Chef Chad Lavelly of the Granville Inn had prepared an exceptional array of treats for the guests, including items such as Gretna Cheese Crostini, Deviled Terravita Eggs with Smoked Trout, and Slow-Cooked Beef Tacos with Salsa. Additional crowd-pleasers were the Chicken Croquettes and the Peach Crisps with Ice Cream. The crowd also enjoyed a range of drinks, both nonalcoholic and spirits. Many of the foods were made with locally sourced ingredients.

Silver-level sponsors for Farm-to-Fork were Havens Limited, Ross Granville Market, and Kendal at Granville.

Bronze-level sponsors were Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, First Federal Savings, Seed to Sip, The Shelly Company, and Denison University. Additional supporters were the Granville Inn and the Licking County Local Food Council. Entertainment included complimentary musical performances by Celt's Crossing and by Ron and Cathi Emhoff, and flowers were supplied by Cat Run Farm.

Competitive bidding on the many items in the silent auction enlivened the evening, as guests perused the auction tables and vied for donated items such as artworks, guesthouse stays, golfing excursions, and tickets for museums, tourist attractions, and sporting events.

The event netted more than \$7,500 for the Trust, \$6,000 of which will be added to the Trust's Stewardship Fund, for



future care and conservation of properties under the Trust's protection. The balance of the proceeds will help fund the Trust's current operations.

Trust leadership hopes that the event can be offered again in 2016. "What a fun way for members and friends to show their support of the Licking Land Trust," said Linda Habig of the Trust's Membership and Fundraising Committee. "We're hearing from folks that they'd enjoy attending again, so maybe Farm-to-Fork will be back by popular demand!"

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land and is binding on future owners. As a Certified Local Sponsor, LCSWCD monitors protected farms annually and assists with easement enforcement. Licking Soil & Water also promotes ODA programs and provides related educational information and presentations.

Licking Soil & Water also partners with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and has leveraged about \$2.3 million in ODA Clean Ohio funds to secure an additional \$591,000 in federal funds. Since 2009, LCSWCD has secured about \$2.9 million to fund 14 agricultural easements in Licking County totaling about 1,700 acres.

For more info about Licking Soil & Water, visit www.lickingswcd.com. Other surrounding-county land trusts include the Appalachia Ohio Alliance, Owl Creek Conservancy, Philander Chase Corporation, Fairfield Land Preservation Association, Killbuck Watershed Land Trust.

Save the Date!

Licking Land Trust Events

**Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner, Bryn Du Mansion:
November 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Regional Events - Land and Conservation Focused Dawes Arboretum:

<https://dawesarb.org/learn/calendar/>

Second Saturday Speaker Series:

Oct. 10 - The Great Hopewell Road

Nov. 14 - The Wild Turkey -

America's Greatest Game Bird

Central Ohio Small Woodlot Interest Group:

<http://www.lickingswcd.com/calendar/2015/10>

Oct. 15 - Autumn's Grand Color Display -

Pickerington Public Library

Country Crossroads Education of Yesterday:

<https://www.facebook.com/EducationofYesterday>

Oct. 17-18 - Farm Show - Dresden, OH

Licking Cty. Soil and Water Conservation District:

<http://lickingswcd.com>

Oct. 28 - Farmland Preservation Landowner Information

Meeting, Ag Services Center - Newark

Good-bye Wendy, Hello Amy!

By Linda Habig, Trustee

The Trust bids a fond farewell to Wendy Bittel, the departing Administrative Director, while at the same time cheerfully welcoming Amy Mock, who will take over the reins of responsibility for this challenging and exciting part-time position.

Having worked for the Trust for more than six years, Wendy recently accepted a position as Assistant Children's Librarian at the Granville Library. The Trust board will be forever appreciative of Wendy's diligent and untiring work with conserved properties, membership research and interface, board affairs, and especially with the massive amount of documentation work completed as part of the Trust's accreditation application process. Many heartfelt thanks, and best wishes, to Wendy!

Amy Mock has accepted the position, and we welcome her with open arms! Amy brings a wealth of competencies to the Trust's mission and activities. As a board member of 6th Street and Growing Community Gardens (Newark),

and President of the Granville Education Foundation, Amy has focused on community involvement, fundraising initiatives, and collaboration with volunteers. She has extensive professional experience as a grant writer, coupled with a long career in education and training. Amy holds a bachelor's degree from UC San Diego, and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. She lives in Granville Township with her husband Mort Guiney, daughters Zoe and Kate, and their extra-large standard poodle Coakie. "Spring Valley is one of my absolute favorite places to spend time in Granville, and I just had to be part of an organization that preserves areas like that for our community and our children," reflects Amy as she begins her new job with the Trust. Hello Amy!!



Amy Mock



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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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