

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

The Accreditation Journey: Reflections on Accomplishment, Pride, and Importance

By Lyn Boone, Trustee

Editor's comment: After nine years of preparatory work, the Trust submitted its application (all 38 pounds of documents!) for national accreditation on April 9, 2015. The following are edited excerpts from the summary of greatest accomplishments, greatest pride, and importance of accreditation, which was written by Lyn Boone, Trustee, and submitted with the application.

I. The Trust's most important accomplishment: Those who know the 25-year history of the Licking Land Trust would likely concur on its most important accomplishment: the Spring Valley Nature Preserve project. A complex partnership of public and private parties, the 2006 project was led by the Trust. It resulted in the permanent protection of a green space that for more than a century had been a local natural and cultural landmark, but that had come under the imminent threat of development in the early 2000s. But the project had wider ramifications. Through linkage with adjacent preserved land, and the addition of acreage purchased with green space funding by Granville Township in 2009, the entire preserve now totals *continued to page 5*



Green outline shows James/Matthews consolidated easement



"Farm to Fork" Event Aug. 14: Fun, Fundraising, Farms, and Food

By Jeremy King, Trustee

Join in the excitement with other members and supporters at the Trust's first annual "Farm to Fork" event. Slated for August 14 in the historic ballroom of the beautifully renovated Granville Inn, this will be a fun, tasty, joyful summer evening, celebrating the work of the Licking Land Trust and raising funds for conservation efforts. We can think of no better way to highlight the work of the Trust than by breaking bread and sharing drink with our members and supporters. The event will feature locally-sourced food and drink as well as a silent auction.

continued to page 7

Trust Conserves Open Space... And Financial Resources

By Don Wiper, Trustee

In 2007, The Trust added 115 scenic, agricultural, and forested acres to its conserved property, when Patricia James and Jay Matthews donated two separate conservation easements on their land. The Canyon Road (60 acres) and Seminary Road (55 acres) properties are adjoining, and exemplify the conservation goals of the Trust. The Seminary Road property was planted with a variety of mostly pine seedlings, which today approach 6 feet tall, while the James/Matthews homestead is on the Canyon Road property. Additionally, after *continued to page 3*

Family Conservation Fun: A Hummingbird Brunch!

By Jean Backs, Licking Land Trust Volunteer



Ben and Eli Hunkler, the author's sons, ready for hummingbird brunch

"Within the space of a few decades, the way children understand and experience nature has changed radically...Today, kids are aware of the global threats to the environment—but their physical contact, their intimacy with nature, is fading."

**– Dr. Richard Louv,
Last Child in the Woods: Saving our
Children from Nature Deficit Disorder**

Today's families are busy from sunup to sundown, balancing the demands of academics and activities to raise well-rounded children who can thrive in our increasingly complex world. When they do have leisure time, many of today's kids prefer to relax indoors with video games, rather than head outdoors for wholesome, unstructured play and exploration. This unfortunate trend is contributing to an alarming deficit in our children's awareness and understanding of the fascinating ecosystems in their own backyards.

There is a growing body of evidence that kids are happier, healthier and more focused when they spend time outdoors, connecting with nature. Benefits include enhanced creativity, stress reduction, improved concentration and social interaction. (See abstracts in "Health Benefits to Children from Contact with the Outdoors and Nature" at www.childrenandnature.org).

Witnessing nature's small miracles and enjoying life's simple pleasures also make for fond childhood memories. These experiences not only calm the mind and touch the soul of a youngster, but they can also instill a lifelong appreciation for the natural world. Fostering this early appreciation is the best way to help our youth mature into adults who will share our commitment to stewardship, and continue our important work.

New to hummingbird feeding?

You can buy a hummingbird feeder for just a few dollars. Make your own nectar by mixing one part sugar (1/4 cup) with four parts water (1 cup) until the sugar dissolves. Hang the feeder from a porch ceiling or awning, or from a portable shepherd's hook.

If the logistics of coordinating schedules or mustering enthusiasm for a nature outing seem daunting, try this easy and stealthy way to introduce your children, grandchildren, students, nieces, nephews or other young friends to a natural wonder. All you need is an hour and a hummingbird feeder.

Hummingbird Brunch (or lunch or afternoon tea

Invite your young guests for a picnic on the patio, deck or lawn. Prepare the hummingbird feeder. (See sidebar.) Set up a table and chairs, or spread a blanket in view of the feeder. The magic begins when the hummers appear.

Make hummingbirds at home in your yard!

Plant these native Ohio flowers: columbine, cardinal flower, bee balm, purple coneflower, great blue lobelia, and foxglove.

Decorate your yard or deck with pots containing these other hummingbird treats: delphinium, hostas, impatiens, petunias, salvia and zinnias.

Fuel the spark!

Share these surprising facts about hummingbirds. Encourage your guests to set up their own feeder, or create habitat in their backyard. Make a date to plant native Ohio plants that attract hummers. (See sidebars.)

If your family already enjoys hummingbird watching together, step it up by creating a hummingbird haven for a neighbor or local nursing home with potted plants and a feeder on a portable hook.

Fast Facts

Only hummingbirds can hover and fly in any direction, even backward. Their wings beat so fast - up to 80 beats per second – our eyes just see a blur.

Hummingbirds must eat at least half their body weight daily to replace the 12,000 calories they burn. You only need about one-tenth as many calories, even though you weigh about 10,000 times more than the hummer.

When they migrate in spring and fall, tiny hummingbirds must fly 500 miles non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico.

Jean Backs of Pataskala is a graduate of The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources and a recently retired public information manager for Ohio State Parks.

Trust Conserves Open Space...And Financial Resources

continued from page 1

the easement donation, Pat and Jay, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Audubon Society, and the Land Trust, constructed a wetland pond to provide a "homestead" for a variety of birds.

In 2013, Pat and Jay acquired an additional 18-acre parcel, adjoining the Seminary Road and Canyon Road properties. They proposed a conservation easement on this parcel, and the Trust was receptive due to the location and condition of the property.

But a new player has entered the picture since 2007. The rules for national accreditation, which the Trust is seeking, require the establishment of legal defense and stewardship funds of \$5000 for each easement, or a total of \$15,000 for three separate easements. The Trust Board, working with Pat and Jay, decided that the Trust could save the \$10,000 difference by combining all three easements into one. This required substantial legal work on documentation, but everyone went to work on the project and it

was accomplished. The consolidated easement, combining the properties on Canyon Road and Seminary Road with the new 18-acre parcel, was approved by Pat, Jay and the Trust Board in December 2014. It has been recorded, the two 2007 easements are effectively repealed, and the Trust has saved \$10,000. Equally importantly, the combined easement will simplify stewardship monitoring and administrative responsibilities for the Trust.

Screens Off: Wildflowers Emerge and Birds Chirp

By Linda Habig and Lyn Boone, Trustees

Almost 50 people joined Trust board members and volunteers on two events sponsored by the Trust as part of Granville Recreation District's "Turn Your Screen Off Week" in early May.

On the evening of May 6, more than 30 individuals participated in the Trust's hike at Spring Valley Nature Preserve, led by Doug Spieles, the Trust's Chairman. Breathing in the sweet scent of wildflowers wafting on the breeze, while crossing streams and spotting wildlife, families with children of all ages, nature lovers, and a group of Boy Scouts with their leaders, gathered for the hike.



Hike at Spring Valley Nature Preserve

Doug led the group through the lush forest, across Salt Run via stepping stones, and up the steep hills of the nature preserve. A highlight, especially for the children, was Doug's encouragement to splash in the stream, carefully overturning rocks, in search of caddis fly larvae and salamanders. And all hikers delighted in spotting wildflowers, including phlox, marsh marigold, bluet, jack-in-the-pulpit, aster, Solomon's seal, mayapple, garlic mustard and bloodroot.

On Sunday morning, May 3, birding enthusiasts, from newbies to experienced birders, joined Denison ornithology student Sarah Winnicki for a bird walk in the Denison University Biological Reserve, a 350-acre tract north of Granville. The BioReserve is a mix of heavily forested tracts, open fields, and wetland areas, providing a diverse environment for a range of critters, including birds.

During the two-hour spring walk, the group spotted or heard the songs of about 20 different bird species, including rufous-sided towhee, tree swallow, blue-gray gnatcatcher, red-tailed hawk, cardinal, red-winged blackbird, and several species of woodpeckers. It was a little early in the season for warblers, but the group searched intently anyway. Birders agree that the search, after all, is half the fun, and the BioReserve was a terrific spot for a morning hike and enjoying the wonders of "turning off your screen!"

Save the Date!

Licking Land Trust lickinglandtrust.org

"Farm to Fork"

Granville Inn (see article): August 14

Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Bryn Du Mansion: November 5

Regional Events - Land and Conservation Focused

Dawes Arboretum: A full calendar of summer events including weekly children's camps starting the first week in June <https://dawesarb.org/learn/calendar/>

Licking County Park District: Riverview Reserve canoe launch is open - 375 Ohio St. Newark, OH <http://www.lickingparkdistrict.com/>

Columbus Metro Parks: Blendon Woods Hummingbird Weekend: June 20-21 https://reservations.metroparks.net/programs?park_name=blendon%20woods

Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District: Stream Team Training: June 25
Licking County River Round Up: September 12 <http://lickingswcd.com>

The Accreditation Journey: Reflections on Accomplishment and Pride

continued from page 1

141 acres of exceptional natural value and beauty. The Trust was honored to serve as a key lead player in this important multi-partner conservation initiative, which has become a hallmark of the Trust's achievements.

The creation of the Spring Valley Nature Preserve, with its conservation easement held by the Trust, protects forever a property of incalculable value for the community. The nature preserve incorporates a notable educational mission, with support, participation, and use by the local schools and by Denison University's environmental education program. The synergies created by the project, which married existing green space parcels with newly-protected property and helped inspire the addition of yet more protected acreage, represented a forward-looking collaboration among multiple parties, private and public. Indeed, Spring Valley remains today the most well-known example of the Trust's work in Licking County.

II. The Trust's greatest point of pride: The Trust is profoundly proud of the loyalty of our membership, and of the breadth and depth of good will that our broader community clearly harbors for it. In recent fundraising efforts, we have encountered a depth of warm response that has been eye-opening. It is both gratifying and humbling to be able so confidently to count "good will" among our intangible assets. Evidence of that good will, among other factors, is shown in the Trust's membership

history. The decade 2004-2014 saw a 41% growth in membership, from 337 members in 2004 to our highest-ever membership total of 476 at the close of 2014.

Additionally gratifying is the fact that over the five-year period from 2010 to 2014, the number of Trust donors at leadership giving levels has doubled. The upper-level giving categories (Leader - \$1,000; Partner - \$2,500; and Visionary - \$5,000) were initiated in 2013, and in 2014, each new level claimed several donors. We attribute the growth in our leadership giving to our strong tradition of member loyalty, to the robust membership response to two of our fundraising initiatives, and perhaps also to increased community awareness of the Trust's efforts, including our accreditation effort.

III. Importance of accreditation for the Trust: The board of the Trust believes that at this juncture in its 26-year existence, national accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission is of signal importance to its path forward. After a nine-year journey toward this goal, we can see that the benefits of accreditation are many-faceted. Some of our reasons for aspiring to accreditation are externally oriented, and some reflect inward.

Externally, accreditation will put a national seal of approval on our organization, its transactions, and its intention to continue to protect land at the highest level of

integrity. Third-party validation in the form of national accreditation can only enhance the Trust's public reputation for high standards and for its pledge of "forever" in its stewardship. Accreditation is thus a credential that will help ensure the Trust's future, as potential donors of easements and property are doubly assured of the accountability of the Trust and of the guarantee that the organization has the staying-power for service in perpetuity. Moreover, accreditation offers another external benefit: It confers the privilege and the challenge of joining the nationwide community of accredited land trusts, and being part of the ongoing shared mission to maintain national benchmarks in land trust service.

Internally, accreditation offers related benefits to our board, staff, and volunteers: Its national validation will instill the confidence that the Trust is "on track" in the community of best practices, and moreover that our local organization has a well-earned place among the top land trusts in the nation. But it will also serve as a continuing internal prod toward excellence: We expect that living under the banner of accreditation will be the exact opposite of allowing the organization to rest on its laurels. Such is the nature of real accountability – the recognition that the organization has not arrived at an end-point, but rather that it is always at the point of embracing the next challenge and making the next leap forward.

OCVNs Share Trust's Commitment to Stewardship

By Tiffany Edwards, OCVN 2014, and Licking Land Trust Volunteer

"Rushes are round; sedges have edges," explained Shana Byrd, director of land conservation at Dawes Arboretum, as she passed botanical samples around a classroom full of budding naturalists enrolled in the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Program. One by one, the curious students rolled the plants between their fingers, hoping to glean knowledge that would assist them in their future volunteer efforts.

The focus of that April day's class was on Ohio's aquatic ecosystems, but over the course of their 40-hour initial training period, students would be exposed to lessons in geology, stewardship, soils, plants and forests, birds and mammals, among other topics.

The mission of the OCVN program, sponsored by The Ohio State University Extension Office, is to "promote awareness and citizen stewardship of Ohio's natural resources through science-based education and community service." Since its inception in Licking County in 2007, five classes of naturalists have graduated, with the most recent class of 16 students bringing the county's total number to 59.

After completing the required classroom training, passing an exam, and presenting an educational program to their peers, the apprentice naturalists have a year to complete 40 community service hours to become certified. Volunteers frequently partner with organizations and agencies throughout Licking County, including The Licking Land Trust, Dawes Arboretum, Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Licking Park District, and Ohio Nature Education. Ongoing annual requirements are 8 continuing education hours and 20 service hours.

Lori Swihart, who coordinates the program in Licking County, said she looks for a passion for nature and a

record of volunteerism when selecting candidates for the program.

Among the most recent class of OCVNs are retirees, such as nature-lover Michael Holm, who jokes he was "looking to get into some mischief" after retiring from a state government position. John Kauffman, a retired Episcopal priest, completed the Master Gardner program last year and decided to continue on with the OCVN program. He said he appreciates the "macro" perspective that the naturalist program opens up to students.

Jaclyn Haynal works in wetland restoration in her professional life with Jobes Henderson & Associates but said she can't get enough of being outdoors. She is also working on a master's degree in environmental studies through Ohio University.

"This is a fun thing," she said. "I guess it's my passion."



OCVN candidates learning aquatic identification skills

Veteran OCVN Gerald Greer, a 2010 graduate, has volunteered with invasive species removal and has worked with the Licking Land Trust on property inspections. Greer said he was drawn to become a volunteer naturalist through his love of Native American history and running historic trails.

"Occasionally I'd jog by and say 'that's interesting but I don't know what I'm looking at,'" he said. Becoming an OCVN, however, has given him a new way of seeing the world. "Now I walk by, and I know what I'm looking at."

Certified as an OCVN in 2014, Tiffany Edwards has chopped cattails in 90-degree heat, advised middle-school students in Science Day projects, and presented the history of maple syrup making, among other volunteer activities. Her professional career has included stints as a newspaper reporter, public relations officer, English instructor and paralegal.

FARM to FORK

continued from page 1

Not only will we be celebrating our collective work to protect land in and around Licking County, but we're also taking this opportunity to focus on our on-going efforts to raise vital funds for the stewardship of the land we oversee. It is through our stewardship that we ensure conservation in perpetuity.

Please join us for a amazing evening highlighting the Trust, sustainable farming, the bounty of local agriculture, and the relationships that continue to bloom in our community among farms, restaurants, producers, and conservation loving consumers like you and me.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at: <http://www.lickinglandtrust.org/upcoming-events/> or by contacting our office at 740-587-4104.

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 and Pond Management
Aramar, Inc.
BFK Foundation
CS Construction Group Ltd.
Davis Construction
Dawes Arboretum
Granville Garden Club
Granville Milling Co.
Granville Township
Granville Veterinary Clinic
Jodi Melfi Design
John Hinderer Honda
Kusssmaul Gallery
Licking Cty. Soil and Water
Conservation District
Park National Bank
Park Trails/MI Homes
River Road Coffee House
T.J. Evans Foundation
Tecumseh Land Trust

Please join us for the...



TASTING *and* SILENT AUCTION

Friday, August 14, 2015
at the Granville Inn beginning at 6:30pm

Sample delicious hors d'oeuvres inspired by local flavors and enjoy the silent auction. To order tickets, please fill out the form below and return it with a check made payable to the Licking Land Trust.

Name: _____ # of tickets x \$50 each = _____

Address: _____

Mail to the Licking Land Trust at P.O. Box 196, Granville, OH 43023.

Tickets will be mailed to you at the above address. To find out more about the event, order tickets online, become sponsor, or donate a silent auction item, visit our website at www.lickinglandtrust.org.



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

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

Board

Doug Spieles, *Chairman*
Mike Mickelson, *Vice Chair*
Mark Roth, *Treasurer*
Jim Bidigare Linda Habig Scott Miller
Lyn Boone Tom Henshaw Candi Moore
Lori Fuhrer Jeremy King Don Wiper
Wendy Bittel, *Administrative Director and Board Secretary*

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



Donate
securely
online.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Levels:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business / Org.: \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader: \$1,000-2,499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator: \$250-499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner: \$2,500-4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward: \$500-999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary: \$5,000+ |
| Stewardship & Easement Defense Fund \$ _____ | | |

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