



Licking Land TRUST



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

Trust Harvests Timber on Fryman Reserve

By Mike Mickelson, Board Vice Chair

Fulfilling the goal of sound stewardship of one of its protected properties, the Trust recently planned and completed its first-ever timber harvest on the Fryman Reserve, located off Goose Lane in Granville. A major planning project and neighbor-relations opportunity for the Trust, the timbering meets the conservation goals for the Reserve to be a working property by providing

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Carrying on the Tradition...

By Lyn Boone, Treasurer

Do two successes in two successive years make a tradition? We're thinking they do, at least in the case of "Farm-to-Fork," the Trust's summer fling that serves the organization as both a fund-raiser and a rousing celebration of nature's bounty, served up gourmet-style.

Farm-to-Fork was held for the second time in mid-August this year, attracting nearly 100 of the Trust's most faithful. Included in the gala evening were delectable food and drink featuring the finest in local foods, lovingly prepared by the talented chef at the Granville Inn. The Inn's beautiful setting was a feature in itself, as guests grazed on scrumptious offerings such as Mediterranean Nachos with Spiced Lamb Kefta and Apple Dapple Cake with Velvet Vanilla Ice Cream. Most tempting, perhaps, were the many unique silent auction items, presenting hard-to-resist souvenirs such as event tickets, gift baskets, and antique treasures. You may start out

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Ohio Environmental Council Leader Inspires at Trust Annual Dinner

By Mary Fitch, Trustee

Skies were clear and the autumn air warm on the evening of October 27 for the Trust's 2016 Annual Pot Luck Dinner Meeting at Bryn Du Mansion in Granville. Approximately forty Trust members enjoyed a delicious spread of everyone's favorite recipes, along with wine and apple cider. We are always so pleased that many long-time members enjoy this annual event, and are thrilled to meet our new members.

Doug Spieles updated everyone on recent Trust activities, including his recent trip to Minneapolis with Candi Moore where the Land Trust Accreditation Commission formally presented accreditation credentials to forty land trusts, including the Licking Land Trust. Originally suggested by past board chair Don Wiper, the all-volunteer Trust board worked diligently toward this goal for nine years. Doug shared

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income to the Trust, while being executed with the understanding and helpful collaboration of neighbors. Because the Trust actually owns this property, Trust board members Jeremy King, Mike Mickelson, and Doug Spieles spent the past year planning the strategy and logistics with a certified forester, negotiating with timbering companies, and discussing the project with neighbors to the property and asking for their assistance.

In 2005, Dick and Ann Fryman donated their scenic 36.6-acre forested property with lush woodland and watershed areas to the Trust to preserve and protect forever. Some 15 years ago, this wooded property was timbered through a selective timber harvest. The land is currently taxed under the State of Ohio's Current Agriculture Use Value classification (CAUV), which means that the land must be working land providing income to the owner.

Consistent with the CAUV classification, the Reserve has an updated and continuing Forestry

Management Plan in effect since the Trust acquired the Reserve which calls for a timber harvest every 10 to 15 years. Each year, the Licking County Tax Department visits and reviews the Reserve to determine that the conditions of the plan are being carried out. As the time for a scheduled timber harvest approached, in 2015 we asked our state-certified forester, Jim Stafford of Muskingum Valley Woodland Services, to evaluate the status of the forest and to select trees for a timber harvest. Consideration of the types of trees, their maturity and density played into the selection.

There were a significant number of ash trees which were dead or in the process of dying due to infestation of the emerald ash borer. These needed to be culled along with older mature trees, thus improving the forest and allowing the growth of younger trees. Trees to be cut were marked with blue paint. To stay in touch with and inform neighbors whose properties adjoin the Reserve, we sent information about the pending harvest. A number requested more information and board members

fielded phone calls and met with several. Because of various concerns about the effect on these residential properties and to protect the view shed of our eastern neighbors, we decided to establish a buffer of about 100 feet bordering our eastern property line.

In February of this year, a "Notice of Standing Timber for Sale of 56,400 Estimated Board Feet" was circulated for a selective harvest to local logging companies. In June a contract was consummated with Trico Enterprises of Millersburg, Ohio for \$38,000. Removal of the timber occurred in October during a strategically well-timed dry spell. Timber was removed across the pasture to the north of the Fryman Reserve belonging to Jeanie Montgomery and with the assistance of Dan VanNess, who manages the Montgomery Farm. We are greatly indebted to Ms. Montgomery and Mr. VanNess for permission to access the Reserve via the Montgomery Farm.

The proceeds from the sale of the timber will be used to increase the level of funding in our Stewardship Fund, which is a requirement of our ongoing accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance. The Stewardship Fund is used to service the Trust's easements and owned properties. Owning working properties that provide a source of income helps the Trust further its mission and remain a viable organization in perpetuity. We are very appreciative of the level of support and concern from Trust members and neighbors surrounding our properties.

Save the Date!

Regional Events - Land and Conservation Focused

Dawes Arboretum - <http://dawesarb.org/learn/calendar>

Jan. 28: Tap Your Trees, Maple Syrup Workshop.
9 a.m. – noon.

Columbus Audubon - <http://columbusaudubon.org/events/2017-01>

Jan. 1: New Year's Day Hike at Blackhand Gorge.
Noon – 3:30 p.m.

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District - <http://lickingswcd.com>

Deadline Jan. 13: River Roundup Poster Contest.
Have your children submit a poster!

thinking you don't need that special item, but when it benefits the Trust, why not join the bidding and vie to take home your favorite white elephant?

"We think we've found the formula for an event our members love," said Doug Spieles, chair of the Trust's board. "Casual style and great food in an informal setting make for a memorable summer evening," he said. "And the opportunity to support the Trust while having such a good time is hard to beat. It's fast becoming a tradition in the best sense of the word."

This year, the organization netted more than \$8,000 from the event -- funds that are critical to helping the Trust cover its operating costs for the year. As the board plans for next summer's event, its members are eager to know of local businesses and organizations that will serve as financial sponsors or by donating an item for the silent action. This past summer, more than fifty organizations and individuals contributed!

Members and friends are encouraged to stay tuned for the announcement of next summer's date, and to let us know if you can put us in touch with sponsors and donors who can help us make our "Farm-to-Fork" tradition happen once again in 2017!



*Farm-to-Fork tradition:
food, friendship, and
fundraising success*

Land Trust Alliance Rally 2016

By Candi Moore, Trustee

The Licking Land Trust was among 41 newly-accredited land trusts recognized at the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) National Land Conservation Conference at the end of October in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference, known as "Rally 2016," hosts some 1800 land conservation professionals and organization members from all around the country and international visitors as well. Board Chair Doug Spieles and Trustee Candi Moore represented the Trust at Rally 2016.

The three-day conference is a mixture of field trips, seminars, workshops, award ceremonies, and receptions that provide opportunities to hear and be inspired by what other organizations are doing, to discuss and learn best practices, and to socialize and have some fun. It is also an opportunity to meet with vendors of various products designed to aid the land conservation business.

One of the highlights of Rally is the welcoming dinner with about 1,000 attendees. This year's event included speeches by the new LTA President, Andrew Bowman, and Angelo Salsi of the European Commission.



Doug Spieles and Candi Moore at "Rally 2016"

At the Opening Plenary Session, Candi Moore accepted the accreditation certificate on behalf of the Trust. The Black Swamp Conservancy in northwest Ohio was the only other Ohio land trust receiving its first-time accreditation.

Next year's Rally 2017 is scheduled to be in Denver, Colorado on October 26-28.

Ohio Environmental Council Leader Inspires

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high points of a presentation by Land Trust Alliance President Andrew Bowman, highlighting the many ways that land preservation is good for communities. These include better health and wellness, improved community relations, preservation of community centerpiece properties, protection of the environment, and encouragement of children to become interested in land management, which leads to caring about the land, and even caring about each other.

After board member Jeremy King thanked Trust volunteers in attendance, he introduced the new Executive Director of the Ohio Environmental Council, Heather Taylor-Miesle, the evening's inspiring keynote speaker. Ms. Taylor-Miesle, a graduate of Marietta College and a recent University of Southern California MPA recipient, stole the evening with her common

sense and enthusiastic approach to significantly resolving environmental problems in Ohio. She is a passionate advocate for sitting down together, building relationships and 'showing your grace', as her southern Ohio grandpa once taught her. She shared insights into current challenging situations, such as the future of Sawmill Wetlands in Franklin County, recent water contamination in the Village of Sebring and proposed fracking on Ohio's federal lands. In closing, she reminded us that nature helps us be our very best selves.

As the group finished off fragrant apple pie, fluffy blueberry cake, and decadent brownies, all agreed that the event was enjoyable, educational, enlightening, and filled with friendship and good cheer.

Preservation, Conservation, and Coffee

By Linda Habig, Trustee

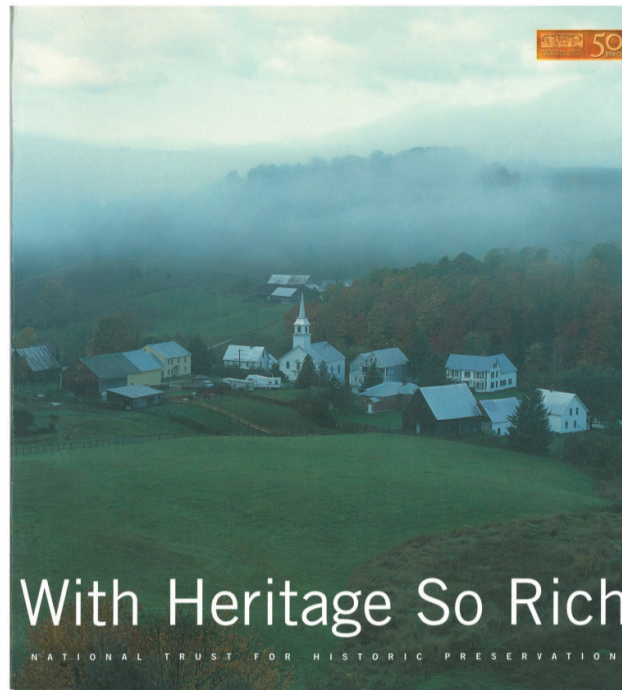
"Historic preservation now looks at the entire environment of human landscapes, cultural landscapes, and historic and rural landscapes," said Nancy Recchie, principal of the B. D. Rickey Company in Columbus, as she and her partner Jeff Darbee kicked off the Trust's "Read for the Land" event on Sunday afternoon, October 16.

A collegial and friendly group of nine Trust members and friends shared ideas about the similarities and synergies of historic preservation and land conservation during this session, themed "Community Conservation: The Intersection of Conservation and Historic Preservation". The group gathered in the welcoming Community Room of the River Road Coffeehouse in Granville, fueling conversation and thought with fragrant espresso and artisanal coffee.

Jeff and Nancy have led preservation and land conservation projects throughout the region, applying their expertise in heritage area preservation, smart growth, community planning, historic structural and site preservation, and blending the best of the old and new. For this event, they provided background reading material several weeks in advance, listed below, all of which continue to be available on the Trust's website.

- Excerpts from "With Heritage So Rich," a landmark publication from the 1960's which formed the framework for future historic preservation, including federal creation of the National Register of Historic Places, and much more.

- "More Conservation for More People," and "Time and Place: Historic Preservation and Land Conservation," two articles exploring community conservation and connecting people to land.



Led by Nancy and Jeff, the group discussed how historic preservation efforts today look at an entire environment. Preservation has evolved as public policy through partnership between the Federal government and the states, with strong emphasis on significance at the local community level. The group learned that Federal tax deductions may be available to individuals for preservation of historic buildings, including barns, and sites meeting certain criteria; this could be an opportunity for prospective grantors of easements to the

Trust to explore the donation of a preservation easement on old barns or buildings, in addition to a conservation easement on acreage, with tax benefits on both aspects.

Good coffee at River Road, expert leadership by Jeff and Nancy, thought-provoking discussion and learning – all combined to make the first "Read for the Land" a terrific Sunday afternoon event. Join us for our next event to be scheduled mid-winter! Information will be available on the Trust's website.

Border Collie Shepherding Highlights Farmland Preservation Event

By Pat Deering, Licking Land Trust Volunteer

"Grrrrrrr!" is just one of the commands Michael McNutt uses to direct his two Border Collies while herding livestock. The growling sound lets the dogs know that McNutt is the "head wolf" of the "pack" and they need to obey his commands. McNutt, a professional stock dog trainer and trials competitor, uses other commands including various whistle tones to send the dogs in the direction he wants the livestock to go.

All of McNutt's communications led to picturesque and well-orchestrated demonstrations of sheep herding on a scenic hillside at the Trust-protected Stair-Hughes Farm located in Newton Township just north of Newark. The demo was the highlight of the "Farmland Preservation Celebration" held Saturday morning, September 17, and attended by members and friends of the Trust, Licking County Soil & Water, and other farm and conservation organizations. The 93-acre Stair-Hughes Farm has been in Kayla Hughes' family since the 1800's, and has been protected since 2007 by an agricultural easement granted to the Trust, ensuring that it will be in agricultural use in perpetuity.

The event celebrated the 15-year anniversary of the first two agricultural easements donated to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) by Dr. John and Anne Hohmann and Don and Jacquelyn Clark. John Hohmann spoke about the importance of sustainable agriculture and thanked the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District for its leadership in local farmland preservation.

The day also marked eight years of Licking Soil & Water's management of ODA Clean Ohio agricultural easement purchase program which has brought \$3.3 million to the county to protect farmland. With ODA's program, Soil & Water has helped protect 16 farms totaling over 2,600 acres, with six more farms and almost 900 acres in the process of closing. In addition to ODA programs, the Licking Land Trust and Granville Township have collectively protected 23 farms with more than 1700 acres.



Michael McNutt shepherding at the Stair-Hughes Farm

Pat Deering, Farmland Preservation Coordinator for Soil & Water, noted that Licking County is the third largest county in Ohio with about 440,000 acres and yet only about one percent of the land is protected for farming. Tom Henshaw, Trust board member, emphasized the partnerships that support local land preservation and which made the event a success. Kayla Jones, with the Licking County Farm Bureau, noted the many ways that Farm Bureau supports agriculture to help keep it viable for farmers and landowners.

The morning ended with a scenic walk to the highest point on the farm at nearly 1,000 feet in elevation.

Together Ensuring Protection of Natural Assets

By Shana Byrd, Trustee

I've had the honor of working with several organizations, each with their compass set toward changing attitudes and affecting conservation outcomes. One of the key goals shared by organizations such as The Licking Land Trust, The Dawes Arboretum, Rural Action and The Wilds is the vision of communities working to conserve, enhance and protect habitats for a more promising future.

Conservation of green space and natural habitats will only continue to be a collective challenge that communities face in the coming decades. In light of population growth and development, these facts will add more and more pressure on our natural assets, highlighting the need to support conservation-focused organizations. That support comes in many forms, with one of the most critical being the recognition of each organization's varying role and value in making a difference. Each with their own strengths and assets to leverage, organizations are at their best when they can work toward shared goals and create synergy. Though each goal might have a specific focus, such as rare species conservation or even broad-based scale of lands in preservation, the outcomes have a common denominator.

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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Conservation District
Park National Bank
Park Trails/MI Homes
River Road Coffee House
T.J. Evans Foundation
Tecumseh Land Trust

At the center of these themes is one critical element-people. The reality is that we live in a world dominated by working landscapes that require a wise-use approach to ensure a sustainable outlook.

We are the primary reason these conservation needs exist – however, we are also the solution. We are the ones who will ensure the restoration and protection of our region's natural resources. Within this realization is the fact that we all hold within us the potential to change the paradigm and by doing so, we can change the trajectory of our natural world. We can't stop development – but

we can shape it. We can decide how we want to pass on our land to future generations and it all begins with supporting this work for the good of all. I'm glad to be a part of such organizations working to make our region greener and more sustainable for years to come.

Shana Byrd is the Director of Land Conservation for The Dawes Arboretum



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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.

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



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