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ENVIRONMENT AND LAND IGNITE STUDENTS' PASSION

Granville HS environmental science teacher reflects on students' long-term vision for land, and partnership with the Trust

By Jim Reding, Granville HS

Environmental Sciences Teacher

Five years ago, a group of students in Granville High School's AP Environmental Science classes decided they wanted to do something positive and give back to their community. They wanted to work on a project that they were both excited about and proud of—a project that would not be completed in four weeks, but forty years. They chose to work on a project that they would not only show their parents, but their grandchildren. Their vision was to create a land lab—a dynamic, productive, inspiring, and effective learning space. They wanted to create opportunities for

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High school students sharing the joy of the land lab with intermediate school students in Granville



PAYING FORWARD TO THE LICKING LAND TRUST

By Rob Drake, Trust member and former Trustee

Did Woody Hayes love the trees of Licking County when he was a student and coach at Denison? Alas, we do not know. His nickname was an abbreviation of his middle name. But we do know that in a commencement speech at O.S.U. he talked about the importance of "paying forward."

Rob Drake is a retired lawyer and was managing partner of Reese, Pyle, Drake & Meyer, LLP in Newark.

Bieberbach farm, protected forever by the Licking Land Trust

As members and friends of the Trust, we all support its current mission by paying our annual dues. But are there ways to "pay forward" so that we can help to ensure that the Trust's mission is realized even after our ability to provide annual support is gone? There are if we consider the possibility of making a planned gift to benefit the Trust. What exactly are planned gifts?

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YOU'RE THE INSPIRATION...

By Doug Spieles, Trustee

I once had a mentor tell me that a person seldom knows when he or she has inspired another. We don't always know who might be watching, listening or reading, and we don't always realize the positive effect we may have on those around us. I find this to be an encouraging thought. It makes the mundane moments of life seem a little more important. It also makes me think that I should do

a better job of thanking those who have inspired me. And guess what? You are on that list because you care about land conservation!

I am fortunate to have a job that gives me time to write. In the past decade or so I have written two books, both inspired by people who care about land conservation.

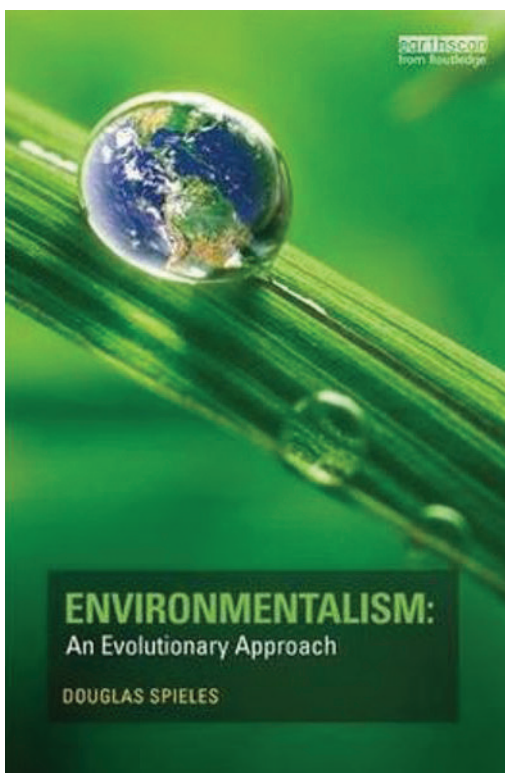
My first book,

Protected Land (2010), was influenced by my involvement with the land trust movement in the United States. More recently I published *Environmentalism: An Evolutionary Approach* (2017), a book that draws connections between communities of people and the non-human world. So, if you are reading this, I owe you thanks for providing the spark for my flame.

One of the ideas I explore in *Environmentalism* comes from the social sciences. It is the notion of social reciprocity—the idea that our actions are more respectful and more mutually beneficial when we have a close connection with those that are most affected. In short, we tend to treat others better when we rely on them for similar mutually beneficial actions. This is sometimes called a socially meaningful environment. In the opposite situation, a socially empty environment, a person can feel isolated from others, and this can lead to the feeling that one's actions don't really matter to anyone else. A socially empty environment, some have suggested, can lead to selfish behavior that may be harmful to others and contrary to the common good.

I propose that this idea can be applied to non-human aspects of our world. When we live in close connection with natural resources—when we know the source of our food and water, when we interact with natural areas, when we understand the ecological processes on which we depend—we are more likely to act with restraint and more likely to protect and nurture those resources. Perhaps we could call this an ecologically meaningful environment. On the other hand, when we are isolated from the natural world, we may be more likely to act without regard for the processes that support it; we may find ourselves in an ecologically empty environment.

In some ways, our present-day American culture seems to encourage both socially empty and ecologically empty lifestyles.





Kids enjoying Spring Valley Preserve

We see the results in the daily news. But I know that socially and ecologically meaningful relationships still exist, and I know that they have the power to reverse some of the selfish trends in our world. I know these things because I have been watching and listening to you. So again, thanks for the inspiration!

Doug Spieles is Professor and Director, Environmental Studies Program, Denison University, and also a former chairman of the Trust's board.

PAYING FORWARD TO THE LICKING LAND TRUST continued from page 1

Planned gifts are ones which are effective in ways other than our annual gifts. Some of them involve remembering the Trust as a beneficiary in our estate planning. This can be done either by naming the Trust as a beneficiary in our will or in our trust. But it can also be done by naming the Trust as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or by naming the Trust as a beneficiary of a traditional IRA or 401(k) plan. A detailed discussion of taxes is beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that in a general sense because contributions to IRA's and 401(k) plans have been made with pretax dollars, distributions from those plans are subject to income tax. But because the Trust is a qualified tax-exempt organization, gifts to it are not subject to income tax, so gifts made from these tax-deferred sources are given an extra boost.

It is also possible in the forest of planned giving to make what are called split gifts. A split gift is one in which the benefit is divided between individual and charitable beneficiaries. A split gift involves establishing a trust. One type of these trusts pays the income to the individual during that individual's lifetime, but at the individual's death passes the remaining principal over to the charitable beneficiary. Another type works in just the opposite way—during the individual's lifetime the charity receives the income, while at the individual's death the remaining principal goes to the donor's non-charitable beneficiaries.



Hughes farm, protected forever by the Licking Land Trust

Any planned gift requires the advice of financial and legal advisors. Such gifts are probably not appropriate for all of our members and supporters, but might be for some. Would you consider whether you might “pay forward” to help insure a “woody” Licking County in the future?

COFFEE, DESSERT, AND FEARLESS CONSERVATION

Join the Trust on November 13 for a Conservation Speaker Series Event



Bill Stanley, Director
The Nature Conservancy of Ohio



Bill Stanley, Director, The Nature Conservancy of Ohio (TNC), will speak with Trust members, supporters, and guests at the Bryn Du Mansion, Granville, on Tuesday, November 13. All in the community are invited to hear his presentation entitled "Fearless Conservation: Big Partnerships for People and Nature." The gathering will begin at 7 p.m. with the group enjoying conversation, coffee and dessert with each other.

Mr. Stanley sets strategy and leads TNC in Ohio to nurture thriving economies, rich cultural opportunities, and preserved natural communities which are mutually supportive. As a forest scientist and climate change specialist, he has successfully led diverse teams in conserving forests, freshwater, and agricultural areas. He uses collaborative and innovative approaches to meet the

needs of communities, businesses, government AND the environment.

Prior to his appointment as director, Mr. Stanley served as TNC Ohio's assistant state director and director of conservation for 10 years, focusing on protecting and restoring Ohio's streams, wetlands and forests to revitalize Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Previously he directed TNC's Global Climate Change Initiative. A Tennessee native, he started his career as an environmental consultant dealing with toxic chemicals and emergency response, primarily along the US-Mexico border and with Native Americans.

**Join us at the Bryn Du Mansion
on November 13!
The Trust welcomes you!**

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND IGNITE STUDENTS' PASSION

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students and community members to learn, to grow and to connect to the natural world. They understood that:

- the project would be a “work in progress”;
- through this project, they and all the students to follow them would witness the dynamic process of succession and change;
- nature moves at a pace that is not typical in today’s society and they welcomed that experience;
- the final “outcome” of this project would not be determined by their desire but by science, and that they would learn what nature needed them to learn.

They were not building a park with manicured lawns and flower beds, nor an arboretum or botanical garden with precisely controlled plantings and aggressive “weed” control. They were not manufacturing a “picture perfect landscape” that future generations needed to maintain. Instead, the students were restoring ecosystem services and a corner of the landscape to a more natural and biologically diverse system; in the process they were leaving a legacy.

A few months ago, I was approached by the Licking Land Trust, a dedicated group of individuals who have been protecting our rural and natural landscapes for decades. They have helped preserve more than 1000 acres of riparian habitat, forest, wetland and farm land. The Trust understands the threat to these habitats and the environmental, economic and social value gained by preserving them for future generations. They have a sense of urgency and responsibility to leave intact the landscapes and the ecosystem services those habitats provide.

In our meeting, several Trust representatives discussed with me that they wanted to do more. Commenting that it wasn’t enough to preserve the landscape, they urged engagement of the generation that would take over its stewardship. They want to enlist the help of our youth, involving them in the process and responsibility of preservation. They understand that only in this way will the land truly be protected. I could not agree more.

Happily, on November 2, two board members of the Trust will meet with environmental sciences classes of Granville High School, stimulating thought and discussion among the students on a range of conservation initiatives occurring in central Ohio; the two Trust board members are Shana Byrd, Director of Land Conservation at Dawes Arboretum, and Rebecca Swab, Director of Restoration Ecology at The Wilds.

I have long been impressed and inspired by the vision and dedication of the Licking Land Trust. I am excited for this new partnership and the opportunities it will provide my students. I’m excited for the mentorship the Trust will provide and for the enthusiasm my students will bring to this new relationship. But most of all, I’m optimistic about the future of Licking County’s natural places.

There are lessons to be learned in the preservation and restoration of land. When one generation can share those lessons with another, not only is the land saved, but a process is put in place that adds to the sustainability of that mission. I’m proud to be a part of that process and I applaud the Trust for their vision and dedication. The natural places and rural heritages of Licking County are in good hands now and in the generations to follow.

FARM-TO-FORK – A HARVEST OF GRATITUDE

By Lyn Boone, Treasurer

Thank-you's galore are in order following the Trust's fourth annual Farm-to-Fork local foods celebration on August 17th. Reaping the benefit of exceptional community support at this annual fundraiser, the Trust again realized net proceeds exceeding \$13,000. These funds will be used to support the organization's



2018 operating budget as well as to cover land stewardship expense that arose this year. Any balance may be used to buoy the Trust's discretionary fund, a "rainy-day" reserve that provides a comfortable margin of safety for the Trust in the event of the unexpected.

SPONSORS & FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS OF FARM-TO-FORK 2018

Gold Level (\$1,000+)

The Energy Cooperative
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Park National Bank

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The combination of attractions that Farm-to-Fork offers is clearly a winning ticket for the Trust. The event delights guests with buffets of delectable gourmet foods, many featuring locally-sourced ingredients, which are offered in the casual elegance of the Granville Inn and accompanied by the sparkle of appealing silent-auction items. What's not to love? Perhaps the best "ingredient" of all, however, is the crowd of loyal supporters who come together each year on a late-summer evening to feast and enjoy each other's company. Which brings us back to gratitude – plenty of it, for guests, supporters, and sponsors alike.



Photos courtesy of Bird's Eye View Photography

No fewer than 66 Licking County businesses, organizations, and individuals donated gifts for the silent auction, including items as diverse as artworks; gourmet dining; passes for entertainment, personal care, and sporting opportunities; and goody-baskets from retail outlets. Food and services were contributed from five more businesses, and 20 more businesses and individuals donated financial support. Top-level financial supporters of Farm-to-Fork included The Energy Cooperative, MedBen Health Benefits, Park National Bank, and Ross Granville Market. See the accompanying box for a list of all sponsors. A list including other financial supporters and all silent-auction donors may be seen on the Trust's website at <https://lickinglandtrust.org>.

Like last year, the 2018 Farm-to-Fork event was sold out, but tickets were gone earlier this year than previously. We don't think the tickets have started hitting the black market yet, but there's no doubt that word is spreading. Stay tuned for an announcement of next year's date, and plan to join the Trust crowd at the Fifth Annual Farm-to-Fork ... and thank you!



Photos courtesy of Bird's Eye View Photography

YOUR INPUT AND CREATIVITY NEEDED!

Help the Trust to –

- communicate faster with you and save money, by sending us your email address. We promise we won't share it!
- add to the photo gallery on our website. Send your creative and best digital photos of any of our conserved properties to us, and then check out the Trust's website to see your work published!
- relate to our members and friends. Write a letter to the Trust's newsletter editor about any Trust or conservation issue on your mind. We love input from members and friends!

(Send email addresses, photos, and letters to lickinglandtrust@gmail.com)



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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.



Support The Licking Land Trust

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

Detach and mail this completed form with your check to:
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