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## TEAM LLT PARTICIPATES IN 2019 RIVER ROUND UP

A decades-old dump site on the banks of Raccoon Creek was discovered one fall several years ago by Licking Land Trust Board members who were there on a stewardship visit. The forested site was located on one of LLT's protected easements along the creek. The dump featured rusted pieces of metal cookware, broken bottles, old plastic buckets, and other household junk from days long gone. The visiting team filled a few bags and carried the trash away.

"We thought we had cleared out a good portion of that trash," said Lyn Boone, one of the monitoring team members. "We planned to pick up any remaining debris on a later visit. It's important that our protected properties be free of trash." But the following year, it was clear that high water from the creek's spring flood had uncovered an even larger debris field than was previously visible. "We needed a better plan," said Boone, "and more volunteers and support to tackle this clean-up."

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Board member Rebecca Swab examines debris found on site

## MEET JEN JACQUOT, NEW LLT STAFF!

By Lyn Boone, Board Treasurer

If you phone the Licking Land Trust office these days, you'll be greeted by a new voice – that of Jennifer ("Jen") Jacquot, the organization's new Administrative Director. Whether you meet Jen by phone or in person, you're in for a treat.

Jen replaces Amy Mock, who served the Trust with distinction in the staff role for the past four years. Simultaneously, Amy had been working to

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## FARM-TO-FORK 2019

The 2019 annual Farm-to-Fork event was held at the Granville Inn on Friday, August 16th. This was the fifth consecutive year for this very enjoyable evening of camaraderie, culinary delights, and silent auction discoveries. Once again, with 111 members of the community attending, all available tickets were sold.

The Trust is elated by the community's continuing support of this annual fundraiser, support that included three Gold-level sponsors, two Silver-level, and 11 Bronze-level sponsors. Proceeds from this year's event totaled \$16,252 (net), some of which is earmarked for specific Trust needs. A 'Giving Tree', new this year, offered an opportunity for attendees to fund an item of their choice, thereby earmarking a donation for a specific purpose. Selected items, totaling \$415, included a backup computer drive, a celebration banner, supplies for kids' activities, environmentally friendly cleaning supplies, an invasive species removal

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## TEAM LLT PARTICIPATES IN 2019 RIVER ROUND UP

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Team LLT with debris they removed from the banks of Raccoon Creek south of Granville. Pictured from the left are LLT Summer Intern Brooke Kauchak; Granville Township Trustee Bryn Bird; LLT Administrative Director Jen Jacquot; LLT Board Member Lyn Boone; Granville Township Trustee Kevin Bennett; and former LLT Administrative Director Amy Mock. Not pictured was the photographer, LLT Board Member Rebecca Swab.

The 2019 Licking County River Round Up proved to be just the ticket. The annual county-wide initiative, organized by a coalition of governmental and nonprofit agencies, was preparing for its 25th season of cleaning up some 30 miles of waterways in the Licking River watershed. That includes Raccoon Creek, which borders Raccoon Valley Park south of Granville. LLT's conservation easement on both sides of the creek has protected the stream bed and banks as a greenway since 1993.

And now the Trust needed help in ensuring that the area lived up to the word "green." "We were thrilled to sign up as a sponsor and participant in the River Round Up," said Jen Jacquot, LLT's new Administrative Director. "Being part of River Round Up gave us the momentum and additional help we needed to make a big improvement on that property – and all in one day."

The event was held on Saturday, September 7. Across Licking County, about 375 volunteers

participated, seven of whom formed Team LLT and attacked the problem dump on Raccoon Creek. Besides Boone and Jacquot, team members included LLT Board Member Rebecca Swab, Intern Brooke Kauchak, former LLT staff member Amy Mock, and Granville Township Trustees Bryn Bird and Kevin Bennett. While LLT maintains the conservation easement on the creekside land, the property is actually owned by the Township.

Supplied with trash containers and work gloves, the team spent the morning amassing a sizable collection of trash. The total haul, shown in the accompanying photo, was only part of more than 10,000 pounds of trash and scrap metal that the River Round Up effort collected county-wide, but for Team LLT, it was by far the most significant portion. "It was great to have the River Round Up's help with organization, supplies, and disposal of the waste we collected," said Boone. "The Raccoon Valley easement, so close to public athletic fields and the bike path, is one we can be genuinely proud of again. Thank you, River Round Up, for the partnership in making it happen!"



## MEET JEN JACQUOT

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complete her medical training, and in June this year she completed her degree at OSU. She is now a Certified Nurse Practitioner, specializing in women's health. We can't blame Amy for taking a fulltime job in that field, but it did mean we had to find a replacement for her, not an easy task!

Enter Jen, who comes to the Trust with terrific professional skills and experience, and best of all with a love of nature and a deep commitment to land preservation. "Having grown up in Licking County," she says, "I have experienced the natural beauty, peacefulness and adventure that's all around us.... The importance of protecting our forests, rivers, farms, and open spaces becomes abundantly clear as I watch the land reveal itself to my children and see the wonder in their eyes."

Jen earned a B.S. in Business Administration at OSU, and is a Certified Public Accountant, bringing professional financial expertise that the Trust's treasurer is quite grateful for. In addition to her new role with the Trust, Jen also works for Muskingum University as Treasury Manager and Senior Accountant. The land trust will also benefit from the project-management and public-relations experience Jen brings



from her prior work with Faith Life Ministries in New Albany. All of this is already proving invaluable as the Trust gears up for its national reaccreditation and other major projects.

Married and mother to three smart and curious children, Jen lives in Heath where one of her favorite childhood places, Dawes Arboretum, is not far away. She deeply appreciates the history, heritage, and opportunities to enjoy nature that Licking County offers her and her family. And she genuinely values promoting the area's open spaces through her work with the Trust. "It is a great honor to work alongside our board members to protect and enhance our land for residents and visitors of Licking County," she says. "We're creating a legacy for future generations."

## 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](mailto:lickinglandtrust@gmail.com))**

# FARM-TO-FORK 2019

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kit, office supplies, and coffee service for the Trust's annual planning meeting. These items help the Trust carry out its mission.



A wide variety of offerings were available to the highest bidder at the silent auction. Gift packages from restaurants, garden centers, personal care shops, entertainment venues, artists, grocers, florists, nature organizations, lodging venues, and recreational providers were all available to the highest bidders. Perhaps the most unusual auction item this year was an antique "SpeedAway" children's sled, beautifully restored by Kevin Bennett. Bon Appetit's offer of a catered



Sarah Leavell, Emily Rutherford

gourmet dinner for eight received the highest bids. All in all, the wonderful array of auction items donated by 61 businesses, organizations, and individuals made the auction a resounding success. In addition, 20 businesses and individuals generously donated fresh produce, gorgeous flowers, financial support and services.

Funds raised though the annual Farm-to-Fork event provide essential financial support to the Trust. Side by side with membership dues, Farm-to-Fork proceeds help the Trust meet its modest operating budget and further sustain its discretionary fund, a "rainy-day" reserve that provides necessary safety for the Trust in the event of the unexpected.



Chuck Peterson, Thomas Karl and Chuck McIlvaine

## LEADING SPONSORS OF FARM-TO-FORK 2019

### Gold Level (\$1,000+)

MedBen Health Benefits  
Park National Bank  
The Energy Cooperative

### Silver Level (\$500+)

Central Ohio Technical College  
Dawes Arboretum  
The Ohio State University/Newark

### Bronze Level Sponsors (\$250+)

Denison University  
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Kendal at Granville  
Licking County Farm Bureau  
Licking Memorial Health Systems  
Matesich Distributing  
Reese Pyle Meyer PLL  
Ross Granville Market  
Watts Farms

The Trust is very appreciative for the support of so many generous guests, donors, and sponsors who together make the Farm-to-Fork event so enjoyable. Gold, Silver and Bronze level supporters are listed in the accompanying box; for a list of all sponsors and financial supporters, including all silent-auction donors, please visit the Trust's website at [www.lickinglandtrust.org](http://www.lickinglandtrust.org).

Again, thank you for your very generous support! We hope you will join us again at the Sixth Annual Farm-to-Fork event, to be held in the late summer of 2020.



Lyn Boone, Betty Westall, Wayne Piper



Rick Coplin, Matt Copp, and Jody Copp



Susan Karaffa and her mother Jane Karaffa



Our community joined together for an evening of local flavors and fun.

## LICKING LAND TRUST PURSUES RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION

Alert readers may experience a certain feeling of déjà vu in reading that the Trust is once again seeking organizational accreditation. “Didn’t we just go through that process?” you may ask. “Really? Is it time to do this again?”

Yes, it seems unbelievable, but it’s time to do it again. The Licking Land Trust won its first national accreditation almost four years ago, in early 2016, following several years of preparation. After initial accreditation, a land trust’s credential must be reviewed and renewed every five years by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, whose mission is to ensure that organizations like LLT live up to



the highest national standards of excellence in land conservation. And while it won’t be quite as big a job to get ready for a renewal review as it was for the first evaluation, nonetheless a year in advance is not too soon to be working on it.

What does national accreditation mean for a local organization like LLT? The Commission’s motto says it all: Sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, lasting stewardship – these are the all-encompassing aspects of land conservation practices that must meet the standards prescribed by the Land Trust Alliance, the Commission’s parent organization. In short, a local organization like ours, no matter how small, must demonstrate

that it adheres to the policies, standards, and practices that national experience and leadership have shown to best promote land conservation with integrity and permanence. And that means quite simply that the landowner, the community, and the land itself are all being well served, in perpetuity.

So our Accreditation Committee’s work begins again. Are our policies complete, coherent, and updated? Do our financial documents pass muster? Have we documented our actions to meet legal and IRS standards, and do we manage every transaction ethically? Perhaps above all else, are we living up to our mission and have we earned the trust of our community? All this is what the Commission will want to know.

Our committee is led by Board member Mike Mickelson, and he is joined by his Board colleagues Mary Fitch, Sarah Lynn, Lyn Boone, and Administrative Director Jen Jacquot. We’ve already made a substantial start by brushing up our entire set of policies. We’re also updating property and easement records, attending conference-call meetings and webinars, and reviewing the successes and challenges that we’ll share with the Commission. Our pre-application will be submitted in August of 2020 and the full application in November. Wish us well! Having passed this way before, we’re sure the journey will be well worth it.

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## FOUNDED IN 1989, THE LICKING LAND TRUST HELD TWO EVENTS TO CELEBRATE ITS 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY! By Jim Bidigare



Trust founders: Bob Rush, Louise Denny, Katherine Larson, Ken Apacki, Mary Lee Van Meter

The Trust recently recognized founding members who’ve been continuous supporters of the organization since 1989. A celebratory dinner was held at the Granville Inn on Monday, November 11th. The Trust honored Kathy and Lee Larson, Mary Lee and Dick Van Meter, Louise Denny, Bob and Nancy Rush, and Ken and Carol Apacki at this very enjoyable dinner. Brenda Mix, the Trust’s staff person in its first days, was also invited but was unable to attend.



Nancy Rush, Mike Mickelson



Ken Apacki and Dick Van Meter



Diane Griffin and Lee Larson

Katherine Larson, Louise Denny, Carol Apacki



Then, on Tuesday evening, November 12, over 100 Trust members and friends heard prominent artist, author, and wildlife advocate Julie Zickafoose give a wonderful talk about her experiences with a blue jay that she rescued and raised. Julie has written a book about her experience, *Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-Luck Jay*. Julie’s talk featured videos of Jemima and illustrated many of the lessons Julie learned in raising her feathered pal. Julie’s talk was held at Denison’s Slayter Auditorium and was cosponsored by Denison University.



Julie Zickafoose signing copies of her books.



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**Administrative Director**

Jen Jacquot

**Newsletter**

Mary Fitch, 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)

Detach and mail this completed form with your check to:  
 Licking Land Trust  
 P.O. Box 196  
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**Membership Levels:**

- Student: \$10             Business/Org.: \$150             Leader: \$1,000-2,499
- Individual: \$50             Conservator: \$250-499             Partner: \$2,500-4,999
- Family: \$50             Steward: \$500-999             Visionary: \$5,000