



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

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OUR ACCREDITATION JOURNEY CONTINUES!

By Jen Jacquot

Long before receiving accreditation in 2016, the Licking Land Trust set its sights on continued excellence, accountability, and commitment to land stewardship in perpetuity. Accreditation from the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC) further assures the public that the Trust meets national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

As Jim Bidigare, Board Chairman says, "As a local organization serving the community, we must demonstrate a high standard of excellence and adherence to our policies, standards, and practices, which national leadership has shown to promote integrity and permanence in land conservation."

All awarded LTCA accreditations expire after five years; land trusts must apply for reaccreditation. The Licking Land Trust is pleased to announce it is currently applying for renewal of accreditation. Mike Mickelson, the Trust's accreditation committee chair, describes the process this way, "Accreditation is an ongoing task. Months after receiving accreditation in 2016, the accreditation committee re-formed and began updating all the policies that govern our work in preserving land. As we complete our application for renewal, the committee appreciates the hard work the board has done in" continued on page 7

THE SHOW MUST GO ON...FARM-TO-FORK AT HOME!

By Lyn Boone

The Licking Land Trust's 6th annual Farm-to-Fork fundraiser took quite a different shape this year as the organization and its supporters adapted to the need for social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The traditional celebration of local foods became a virtual event featuring the chance to "cook-with-an-expert" online and bid electronically for silent-auction items. Organizers were delighted that the event was a resounding success!

Held on Sept. 12, Farm-to-Fork spotlighted local Home Chef Neal Bell, founder of Maamos Kitchen, who offered a cooking lesson online. Participants had received all-inclusive food kits earlier in the day, which were prepared at Ross' Granville Market and delivered contact-free to their homes by Trust volunteers. At 6:00 in the evening, about 115 supporters tuned in to enjoy Neal's excellent instruction via technology in their own kitchens. They prepared a scrumptious recipe for risotto, with choice of chicken, shrimp, sausage, or mushrooms. The entrée was accompanied by a leafy green salad with roasted root veggies, and delectable gluten-free Rocky Road cookies. Sound complicated? It wasn't – Neal made the cooking easy and fun for all.



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MAKING OUR FORESTS BETTER: ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT AT HARNDEN PRESERVE

By Rebecca Swab

If you have ridden or walked the bike path from Ross Granville Market to Park Trails, you've passed a Licking Land Trust conservation easement that is accessible to the public: Harnden Preserve. This 7 1/2 acre preserve contains a riparian forest, meaning it borders a waterway and floods during high-water events.

Riparian forests are valuable ecosystems and often have a unique plant composition. They provide wildlife habitat, protect adjacent areas from flooding, and clean rainwater on its way to the river. While mostly in good shape, Harnden Preserve has some encroachment from invasive shrubs, mostly privet and" continued on page 6

FARM-TO-FORK AT HOME!

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The evening also featured video tributes to some of the Trust's protected properties and easement donors, along with encouragement to visit the event's silent-auction website to bid on gifts donated by almost 40 local businesses, organizations, and individuals. (You may now enjoy these video tributes of protected properties at your convenience by visiting <https://lickinglandtrust.org/action>.) Farm-to-Fork auction items included artwork; plants; floral services, and home gardening supplies;



entertainment, sports, and personal care services; jewelry; leisure experiences; and gift cards from restaurants, inns, and retail shops.

In addition to all the loyal event participants, generous financial sponsors and silent-auction donors made the event a guaranteed success. A list of sponsors, donors, and other supporters is below. All told, the event netted more than \$9,000, funds that will make it possible for the Trust to meet its 2020 operating budget. Thank you, one and all, from the bottom of our hearts!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING "FARM-TO-FORK AT HOME" POSSIBLE!

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COOKING WITH NEAL ...

Did you miss the event this year, or would you like another meal from Home Chef Neal Bell? Never fear – you can try his ready-to-go Maamos Kitchen meal kits, complete with preparation instructions, any time you like. Select from a variety of kits regularly available at the deli department of Ross' Granville Market, or order any of 27 recipes at www.maamoskitchen.com.

About 115 supporters tuned in to enjoy Neal's excellent instruction via technology in their own kitchens. They prepared a scrumptious recipe for risotto, with choice of chicken, shrimp, sausage, or mushrooms. The entrée was accompanied by a leafy green salad with roasted root veggies, and delectable gluten-free Rocky Road cookies. Sound complicated? It wasn't – Neal made the cooking easy and fun for all.



Preparing the Risotto



FEATURED PROTECTED PROPERTY: BECKETT FARM

By Mary Fitch



A member of the Beckett family first contacted the Licking Land Trust in 2007 to discuss a possible conservation/ agricultural easement on their much-loved family farm in southeast Licking County. The family member expressed concern that a future buyer could develop the farm, undermining the property’s rural beauty and natural attributes.

stream traversed the property to eventually feed Bowling Green Creek. A continuous “wet spring” provided a water source for a wetland on the southwest corner of the property.

The Beckett family had planted many trees: hundreds of pines and small groves of walnut, persimmon, and magnolia. Other woody vegetation on the site included oak, maple, black locust, apple, hawthorn, linden, black gum, dogwood, sycamore, rhododendron, sassafras, and beech. The property supported good habitat for wild turkey, hawks, deer, skunk, opossum, raccoon, and many varieties of birds.

Approximately 10-15 acres of the 58-acre site were in a natural state with native

A private home, garage, and a metal barn were - and still are - tucked away on the property. A second abandoned house and an old cabin also existed, but they have since been removed.

trees and ground cover vegetation that provided excellent wildlife habitat. Seventeen acres were farmed in either soybeans, corn, or hay, and an additional 10-15 acres were in active timbering under a forestry management plan. For tax purposes, both the farm and timber areas were in Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV); crops were rotated annually. A small

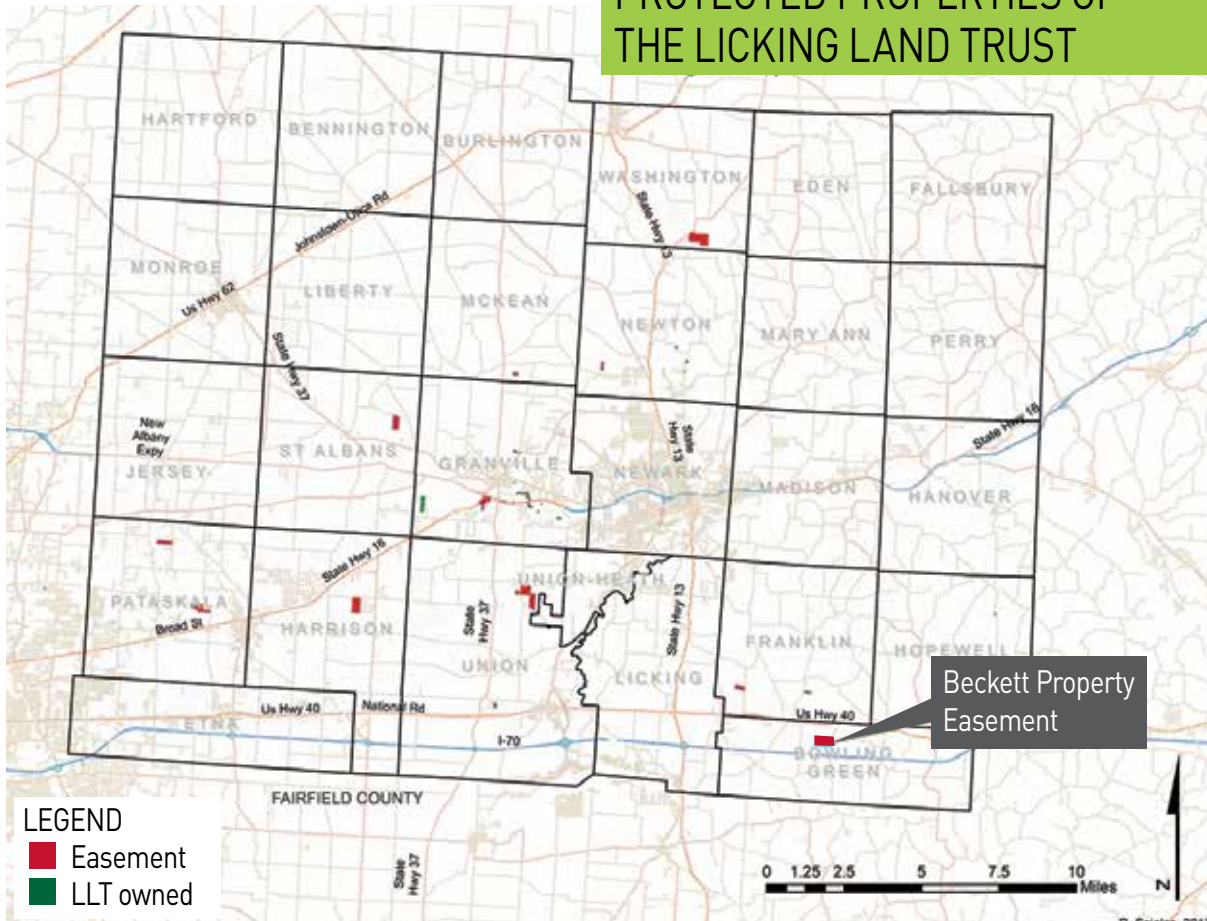




This 58.63-acre property, located on Mt. Hope Rd. in Bowling Green Township, was - and still is - part of an irrevocable trust family trust. Over a period of several years Trust board members visited and confirmed the property's suitability for a Trust easement, and met with the Beckett family, their legal counsel, and other stakeholders. After all issues were thoroughly discussed and resolved,

in the autumn of 2013 the easement instrument was finalized and signed by all parties. The Beckett easement allows for future construction of one homestead at a specified location within the property. Farming and timbering activities under CAUV continue today. Licking County residents and wildlife alike are forever enriched by the protection - in perpetuity - of this beautiful property.

PROTECTED PROPERTIES OF THE LICKING LAND TRUST



ENHANCEMENTS AT HARNDEN PRESERVE

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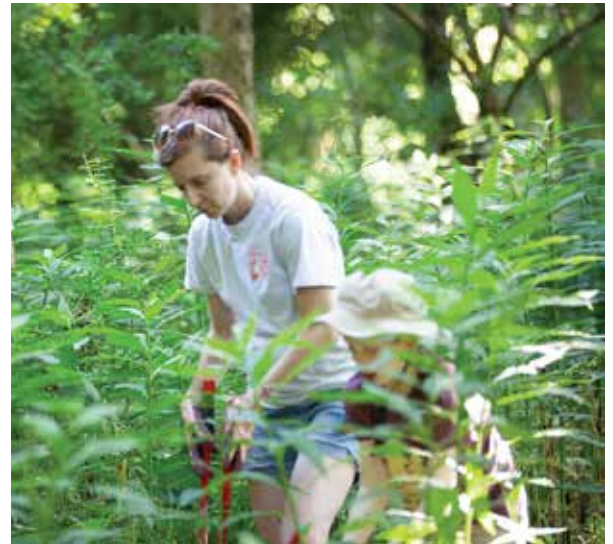
Harnden Preserve flooding in a high-water event on March 20th, 2020. If they are not too frequent, floods benefit these ecosystems. For example, this flood deposited rich soil into the ecosystem.

honeysuckle. During the summer of 2020, intern Hannah Hartshorn, along with Trust youth ambassadors, completed an ecosystem enhancement to fight against invasive plant species. During three different removal events, shrubs invading this riparian forest were

cut and pulled out. Later this fall, once trees have gone dormant, the Trust will plant five species of understory trees (redbud, gray dogwood, witch hazel, speckled alder, and winterberry) to take the place of the undesirable shrubs that were removed. These new plantings are made possible through a generous donation in memory of Bob Rutherford.

Work like this is always ongoing! The Trust welcomes YOUR help at Harnden Preserve; volunteer efforts to keep the trail clear, plant trees, or remove invasive species are greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact lickinglandtrust@gmail.com.

If you have not yet seen the preserve, be sure to check it out the next time you're on the bike path! When heading from Ross Granville Market eastward, it's on the right-hand side, just past the highway underpass, and before the bridge over Raccoon Creek. While the preserve has had a narrow dirt trail for many years, thanks to the efforts of volunteer Marcus Smith this past summer, the newly widened one-mile trail allows you to easily explore the preserve on foot or by mountain bike, with some great glimpses of Raccoon Creek.



Families work to clear invasive plants in Harnden Preserve, July 2020.



Paige Hartshorn removes invasive plants in Harnden Preserve, July 2020.

OUR ACCREDITATION JOURNEY CONTINUES!

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reviewing our efforts, and in doing the day to day work of the Trust; monitoring our easements and fee properties, and working to add new lands, preserved in perpetuity, throughout Licking County and surrounds.”

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the LTA, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. The Commission also invites public input regarding applicant land trusts and accepts signed, written comments as a component of all pending applications.

The public comment period for the Licking Land Trust is now open. Comments must relate to how the Licking Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical

operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards, please see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit your comments, please visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comments to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Ste 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Licking Land Trust’s application for reaccreditation will be most useful by Dec. 16, 2020.



CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

By Mary Fitch

Environmental conservation in Ohio is supported through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, a state grant program, created in 2001 during Governor Taft’s administration. This visionary program seeks to protect properties with good conservation values, such as forests, wetlands, natural areas, endangered plant or animal habitats, and lands that enhance river and stream corridors and/or connect natural areas. Agricultural lands are not eligible. The grant provides up to 75% reimbursement for the cost of property acquisition or acquisition of conservation easements. Grant recipients agree to protect funded properties in perpetuity so they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come. Eligible grant recipients are park districts, cities, conservancy districts, counties, townships, and other political subdivisions; however, land trusts may also apply for funding.

Over the years at least twenty land trusts in Ohio have been awarded Clean Ohio Green Space grants. These grants provided financial assistance to the land trusts, helping them to acquire land or conservation easements from willing property owners. Thanks to this grant program, these property sellers and grantors of conservation easements were able to receive compensation.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program is funded through biennial state capital bills. For purposes of grant application and review, the state is divided into nineteen local districts called Natural Resource Assistance Councils (NRACs). Licking County is in NRAC District 17, <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/District/District-17>, along with Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Morrow, and Pickaway Counties. District 17 seeks grant projects that preserve natural areas or open space, restore landscapes that have been degraded or destroyed, enhance the quality of natural areas or open space, link natural areas to each other or to county cultural/civic heritage areas, and provide public access to natural areas and/or county cultural and civic heritage areas. Customarily, grant applications are accepted once a year.

If you would like to learn more about how a landowner might ‘partner’ with the Licking Land Trust to apply for this grant next year, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 740-587-4104 or lickinglandtrust@gmail.com.



Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program District 17



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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 lickinglandtrust.org

Detach and mail this completed form with your check to:
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