



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

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FEATURED PROPERTY:

RIVERWOOD FARM By Melissa Gilbert

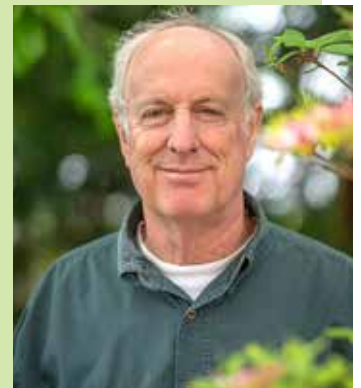
The recently obtained Riverwood Farm conservation easement is located in Powell just north of High Banks Metro Parks, one of three new easements obtained by the Licking Land Trust in 2022. Riverwood is a carefully stewarded 182-acre working farm as well as



an environmentally valuable and ecologically important property located in the heart of the Olentangy River Valley. Riverwood includes approximately 4,000 linear feet of frontage on the Olentangy River, the state's second oldest designated Scenic River. The property and conservation easement also include over 10,000 linear feet of ethereal streams with continued on page 4

TALLAMY INSPIRES ACTION By Amy Mock

On December 5, 2022 Licking County welcomed renowned writer, entomologist, and habitat biodiversity activist Doug Tallamy, who spoke to more than 500 community members at Swasey Chapel, Denison University.



Doug Tallamy,
Writer, Ecology Professor

Dr. Tallamy, Professor, U. of Delaware, presented a compelling picture of wildlife loss related to the rapid disappearance of native plants, trees, and shrubs. With stunning photos of caterpillars, moths, and butterflies, He illustrated that returning native plants to the landscape is a critical strategy to help feed and shelter the insects and animals with which they have co-evolved.

Dr. Tallamy's approach is energizing; every person can help to restore biodiversity and regenerate a healthy ecosystem by removing invasive plants and inserting native species in backyards and on front porches. His visit has inspired further work to put Tallamy's ideas into action locally. Read this newsletter's articles on the Bioreserve hike (p. 6) and the Pollinator Pathway (p. 3) for further information.

During his short visit, Dr. Tallamy also spoke with several classes of Denison students, and participated in a community hike to survey biodiversity in the Denison Bioreserve. To wrap up, he lunched at Otterbein Granville with 35 representatives from Central Ohio landscape businesses to discuss their role in designing and using native plant installations.

Dr. Tallamy's visit was organized through the collaborative efforts of several organizations including the Licking Land Trust, Denison University, the Granville Public Library, 1500 Trees, the Ace of Clubs 4-H, and Otterbein Granville.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Saturday, August 12, 6:30 pm
at Moon Hall, Denison University

Tickets will be available for sale starting June 1.
If you are interested in getting involved as an organizer,
sponsor, or silent auction donor, contact us at
lickinglandtrust@gmail.com

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER - KAREN GOODELL!



Karen Goodell

deep love of the natural world through gardening, recreation, and scenic beauty. In college at Brown University and University of California Santa Cruz, she studied biology and the environment, setting her sights on becoming an ecologist. Then Karen spent two years with the Peace Corps in Costa Rica working in integrated farm management with coffee farmers., which solidified her interest in the intersection of ecology, conservation and agriculture. She went on to receive a MSc degree in Botany and Plant Science from the Univ. of California Riverside and a PhD in Ecology and Evolution from SUNY Stony Brook. She joined the faculty at OSU Newark in 2004 in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology.

Karen Goodell is an ecologist and professor at The Ohio State University Newark who researches the ecology and conservation of native bees, teaches undergraduate biology, and mentors graduate and undergraduate students. Karen's childhood in the mountains of western Massachusetts fostered a

Karen has published widely on plant-pollinator interactions, crop pollination, and human-generated threats to pollinators. Currently, she is directing the Ohio Bee Survey to document the diversity and status of Ohio's native bee species. She previously conducted the Ohio Bumble Bee Survey to understand their distributions across the state. She continues to work on rare and endangered bumble bees through a Department of Defense funded project to develop eDNA based survey methods. For this work, she gets to survey for the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee in the mountains of Virginia and W. Virginia. Karen's research relies heavily on protected lands that harbor native pollinators. Her interest in the Licking Land Trust reflects her desire to contribute to the preservation of lands that support biodiversity.

In her free time, Karen enjoys cycling around Granville with her husband John Hunter (including Pelotonia), spending time with her twin daughters Nona and Penny (now in college), hiking with her dog Theo, gardening, and baking bread.



LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS By Jim Bidigare & Amy Mock

In caring about land conservation, you're thinking about the future: the connection our children and future generations will have to open spaces, what farmland will remain to feed us.

Several members of the Licking Land Trust have supplemented their membership gifts by naming the LLT as a beneficiary in their estate plans – by will, trust, retirement plan designation, or life insurance policy.

Current Trust member John Cox has included the LLT in his estate plans. "I've been a member of the Licking Land Trust for many years, and have seen the fabulous work it is doing. I want to support the work for the future."

The Trust's Legacy Club recognizes those generous members who have let us know that they are including the Trust in their long-term philanthropy.

Kayla Hughes is a long-time LLT member who is committed to preserving her historic family farm in northeast Newark. Ms. Hughes has donated both a conservation easement to LLT to protect the farm, and she has also named LLT as a beneficiary in her estate. "I especially want to contribute to the Trust's ability to defend against encroachment and legal challenges to the green spaces that LLT protects. 'In perpetuity' is a long time!" Underlying Ms. Hughes generosity is her ethic of respect for and stewardship of the land.

Please consider a gift through your estate to support the important work of the Trust in the years ahead. We encourage you to contact us (with no obligation on your part) to learn more about options for including the Trust in your plans or to discuss any preferences you may have for the use of your gift.

POLLINATOR PATHWAY By Susan King

Licking Land Trust is proud to be a founding partner of the Licking County Pollinator Pathway. This unique partnership formed in the wake of Doug Tallamy's visit (pg. 1) and includes more than a dozen organizations in Licking County working together to promote a continuous corridor of native plant habitat for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.



Pollinator Pathway originally took root in Wilton, Connecticut as a community engagement initiative by a local land trust. The concept proved to be extremely popular and the pathway concept expanded to surrounding communities. Since 2017, more than 200 towns across the Northeast have created Pollinator Pathways. The program continues to expand across the country and Licking County was the first in Ohio to become a Pollinator Pathway community. Licking Land Trust board members and volunteers involved in planning the Doug Tallamy visit were instrumental in helping to create the Pollinator Pathway partnership.

In addition to promoting the connection of native plant corridors, Pollinator Pathway of Licking County cross-promotes the partner organizations' events and programs to amplify their impact. Among the many events planned for Spring are a plant swap, milkweed giveaway, a foraged plant dinner, native plant workshops, plant sales and more. Some upcoming events are listed below. Look at the following website for a complete, up-to-date event calendar: www.lickingpollinatorpathway.org/events

How to be part of the Pollinator Pathway:

- Plant native flowers, shrubs & trees
- Remove invasive plants
- Reduce the size of your lawn
- Adopt pollinator-friendly maintenance practices, including avoiding the use of chemicals, leaving the leaves & waiting until spring for garden clean-up in order to provide shelter & food to pollinators.

Pollinator Pathway partner organizations include: Licking Land Trust | Dawes Arboretum | Licking Park District | Denison University | The Ohio State University at Newark | Granville Public Library | Sanctuary Garden at Newark High School | Licking Soil & Water Conservation District | Granville Schools Sustainability Project | Ace of Clubs 4-H | Otterbein Granville | 1500 Trees | Grange Insurance Audubon Center | Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers



pollinator-pathway.org



Ian Meske

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, April 15, 9:30 – 11 am	Spring wildflower hike with Licking Park District	Morris Woods State Nature Preserve, 7495 Dutch Lane, Johnstown
Saturday, April 15, 1 – 3 pm	Citizen Science: Butterfly Survey Training by Licking Park District	Infirmary Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd., Granville
Saturday, April 22, 10 am	Granville Public Library Plant Swap	Robbins Hunter Museum lawn, Granville
Saturday, April 29, 11 am – 3 pm	Arbor Day Festival & PollinatorPopUp	Dawes Arboretum, 7770 Jacksontown Rd., Newark
Sunday, April 30, 3 – 5pm	43023 Day Milkweed Giveaway by Ace of Clubs 4-H	Pocket park at Kinetic E. Broadway St., Granville
Saturday, May 13, 8:30 am – 1 pm	Backyard Conservation Day & Master Gardener Plant Sale	Licking County Soil and Water, 771 E. Main St., Newark
Saturday, May 20	Dawes Arboretum Native Plant Sale	Dawes Arboretum, 7770 Jacksontown Rd., Newark
Saturday, May 20, 9:30 – 10:30 am	Maintaining Your Garden Workshop	Licking County Soil and Water, 771 E. Main St., Newark
Friday, June 16, 1 pm	Enhance Pollinator Habitat with Soft Landings	Harbor Community Center, 5312 Walnut Rd., Buckeye Lake

FEATURED PROPERTY: RIVERWOOD FARM continued from page 1



direct connections to the river, cascading waterfalls, and second-growth and mixed mesophytic forests. The conservation easement provides for a very significant riparian buffer that protects almost a mile of the eastern bank of the Olentangy River.

The property also hosts small but bountiful wetlands and vernal pools. The .12 acres of wetlands and streams provide habitat for significant numbers of amphibian species who rely on it for breeding grounds. Crayfish, green frogs, snapping turtles, a queen snake, and southern two-lined salamanders have been seen bathing in the cool water.

A canopy of large hardwood species like sugar maples, sycamore, shagbark hickory, black walnut and other Ohio native trees dominate the forested areas, with buckeyes and pawpaws composing much of the subcanopy.



The responsibly maintained open fields and pastures provide lush habitat for a diversity of insects and butterflies, resulting in plentiful places for both local and migrating birds to forage. The ecosystem most likely supports a number of birds protected by both the Migratory Bird Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, including migratory warblers, wood thrushes, rusty blackbirds, the black-billed cuckoo, eastern whip-poor-wills, and bald eagles.



Eagle photo by Bryant Gilbert
All other photos by Doug Spieles.
Map from the Property Baseline Report
done by Mad Scientist Associates LLC
using Ohio Statewide Imagery Program.

FEATURED PROPERTY: RIVERWOOD FARM continued from previous page

The ongoing farming operations include open pastures for grazing Katahdin sheep, Lowline Angus cattle, and a vegetable growing operation seeking to employ today's best sustainability practices. The classically styled farm buildings, 1830's historic stone house and expansive view corridors are some of the last remaining vestiges of Delaware County's rich pioneering and agricultural history.

Editor's note: The Licking Land Trust added three new conservation easements in 2022, bringing a total of 27 properties in Central Ohio now under our permanent protection. We will feature one of the new easement in each of our 2023 newsletters.



A WALK IN THE WOODS WITH AUTHOR AND ECOLOGIST DOUG TALLAMY By Carol Apacki



I had a unique opportunity to join the visionary naturalist, Doug Tallamy, for an informal “walk and talk” at Denison University’s Bioreserve! The night before he had made a packed-house presentation at Swasey Chapel, but for this early December morning, there were just twenty-two of us informally joining him from two of the organizations that sponsored his visit to Granville: the Licking Land Trust (LLT), and 1500 Trees. Staff from the Dawes Arboretum also participated, helping to identify flora and fauna.

To spark conversation as we walked, Melissa Gilbert, an LLT Board member, prepared a biodiversity survey with categories of wildlife and plants to look for and tally. We strolled the various pathways in small groups with Tallamy as a participant. He is easy and fun to talk to with a quick wit and a laid-back demeanor.

Despite the cold, rainy day, we were in high spirits and so were the birds. In my group we tallied 2 red-bellied woodpeckers, 11 blue jays, 7 crows, 6 Carolina wrens, 10 dark-eyed juncos, 2 goldfinches, and 2 eastern bluebirds. We then returned to the Denison Field House for coffee, donuts, and conversation.

Because groups noted a variety of invasives taking over, discussion quickly turned to what to do about this—a topic clearly dear to Dr. Tallamy. He reminded us that invasive species come with a high cost. Most have no natural predators, and they can out-compete native plants, displace native communities, and lead to massive habitat loss. Dr. Tallamy counseled us “to start small but think big”. He suggested, for example, that a group might start by clearing one invasive in a specified area. Or we might clear one small area of several invasives and then observe what native plants sprout up there compared to an uncleared area. Ideas began to flow as participants brainstormed action steps including scheduling several days each year to clear invasives, and forming a “Friends of the Bioreserve” for ongoing support for these 350 acres of beautiful preserve enjoyed by so many.



A WALK IN THE WOODS continued from previous page

New ideas continue taking shape. Fifteen community members joined Doug Spieles, a Denison Environmental Studies professor and LLT Board member, and his students on March 20th to initiate an invasive species research effort at the Bioreserve. Later this spring, community members can help install new trail signs and assist with invasive species management.

Stay tuned. There will be many opportunities to get involved! In a few years, let's plan on bringing Doug Tallamy back for another walk in the woods.

Photo top left: Doug Tallamy on hike in Denison Bioreserve. Photo by Melissa Gilbert

Photo lower left: Discussing native and invasive species following hike in Bioreserve. Photo by Carol Apacki.

Photo right: Carol Apacki (left) and Holly Latteman (right), Denison Bioreserve. Photo by Ken Apacki



EARTH DAY IS COMING! WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE EARTH?

By Andrea Krava, Director/Educator of Licking County Recycling and Litter Prevention



Earth Day is coming on April 22, and hopefully you want to do something to commemorate the day and help the Earth. We have two ideas for you. First, you can dispose of household hazardous waste properly. Second, you can do a clean up event in your yard, neighborhood, or community!

Dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes Properly

There are many common products around our homes that can cause injury or are harmful if not used, stored, or disposed of properly.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE: Acid, Adhesives, Anti-freeze, Bleach, Cleaners, Disinfectants, Fertilizers, Gasoline, Herbicide, Insect Killers, Iodine, Kerosene, Lighter Fluid, Mercury, Motor Oil, Paint Thinner, Pesticides, Polishes, Pool Chemicals, Rat Poison, Solvents, Turpentine, Weed Killers.

Household hazardous wastes should be disposed of properly to protect people, animals, pets, our environment, ground water, septic tanks, and refuse workers. The nearest facility for Household Hazardous Waste disposal is Environmental Enterprises in Columbus. Call ahead for fees, 614-294-1300.



There are safer, more eco-friendly cleaners and products you can make, using simple items like vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, and other products (usually found in the cleaning or laundry aisle at the store) such as Borax and castile soap. Recipes for home made and eco-friendly cleaners, scrubs, and disinfectants can be found on our website at www.LickingCounty.gov/RLC, then click the Frequently Asked Questions tab and scroll down to Household Hazardous Waste.

Organize a Trash Clean Up Event in your Yard, Neighborhood, or Community!

If you want to do a **Clean Up**, Licking County Recycling has some items that will help you with your efforts that you can borrow for FREE!

Clean Up supplies come packed in a bright yellow backpack that includes safety vests, disposable gloves, bags, and safety and recycling information. Call our office (740-670-5125) and talk to our Administrative Assistant, Nikki Summers, to get further details on how to schedule these items for use. You can email Nikki at

nsummers@lickingcounty.gov, too.

Thank you for caring about our Earth!





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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.

Join The Licking Land Trust

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

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



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Membership Levels:

- Student: \$10
- Individual: \$50
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- Conservator: \$250-499
- Steward: \$500-999
- Leader: \$1,000-2,499
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