



Conservation Excellence

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

lickinglandtrust.org

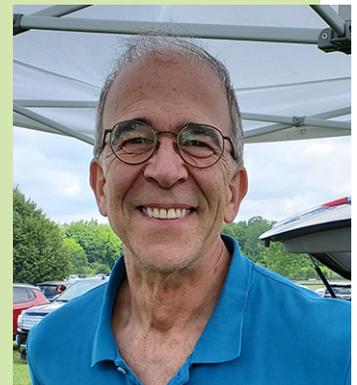
FEATURED PROPERTY:

THE MELICK FARM By Jeremy King

David Melick's farm, located in the northwest corner of Burlington Twp along the North Fork of the Licking River, has been in the Melick family since the 1870s. In December 2022, the Licking Land Trust placed a conservation easement on all 126 acres of the farm. A mix of forest and field, the farm is unique and has an interesting story to tell. continued on pg 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR By Jim Bidigare

With the announcement of Intel's project near Johnstown, land speculation in Licking County has accelerated dramatically. Many interests see Intel's project as the centerpiece of much new commercial activity. Land values in most of the county have risen dramatically, which both increases the importance of preserving open space and the opportunity cost for a donor to put a conservation easement on a property. The Licking Land Trust is working hard to respond to the growing inquiries by those wishing to preserve some of our county's rural character and natural resources.



The Trust is in good shape to make this happen. National reaccreditation in 2021 shows that our board, made up of dedicated environmentalists with diverse backgrounds, is ensuring we'll be around for a long time. In 2022, the Trust secured three new conservation easements and is working on several more.

Our focus on impactful educational activities culminated last year in a collaborative community effort to host renowned author and ecologist Doug Tallamy. Dr. Tallamy spoke about restoring native plants to our own backyards to a record crowd at our fall meeting at Denison University. The event has inspired a burst of activities in concert with the newly formed local Pollinator Pathway group.

The Trust's financial position is solid. In 2022, we exceeded our membership/grant goal of \$26,000, and our annual Farm to Fork fundraiser raised more than \$25,000. Both sources of funding help us to meet our increased conservation activities. Our part-time Administrative Director Jen Jacquot and newly-hired Admin. Assistant Sarah Gray keep things running smoothly.

With increased conservation activity, we are always looking for volunteers who want to help the cause, either for special projects, or joining with the annual visits to our conserved properties. We could use your skills as our mission grows in importance and urgency; please let us know if you'd like an active role in the effort!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!**

Sat., August 12 6:30pm, Moon Hall, Denison University
Purchase tickets at: lickinglandtrust.org/farm-to-fork-2023 or call us at 740-587-4104.

BioBlitz Sat., July 22, 9am - Spring Valley Nature Preserve
Discover what plants and animals live in the preserve. All ages are welcome to help with this fun biodiversity survey, led by biologists Dr. Karen Goodell, of The Ohio State University, and Dr. Andy McCall of Denison University. No expertise is needed!

Art in the Park Sat., Sept. 23, evening - Infirmity Mound Park
Celebrate the fall equinox with nature-based art, and star gazing led by Dr. Wes Walter, Denison University. Event held in partnership with the Licking Park District. For details go to: lickinglandtrust.org

Native Plant Kit Sale Sept. 2023 - online ordering available early September in partnership with Licking County Pollinator Pathway.

WELCOMING SARAH GRAY



Sarah Gray

Sarah Gray is a local artist and art instructor in Granville Ohio who has recently started working with LLT as Administrative Assistant. While growing up in the Rocky Mountains, she spent her childhood gaining a deep appreciation for nature. Sarah received her Bachelors degree in Anthropology from The Ohio State University, with minors in Archaeology, Geology, and Women's Studies. Since graduating, she has spent her time teaching

for Newark City Schools, offering art courses for all ages at the Bryn Du Art Center, raising her daughter, and exploring the world. Sarah is excited to join the LLT with a strong commitment to the protection of green space and farmlands in Central Ohio. As Administrative Assistant she'll help run the organization behind the scenes. Sarah's experience will be especially useful in planning and implementing educational and outreach activities.

UPCYCLED CRAFT CORNER WITH LICKING COUNTY RECYCLING

By Andrea Kava

It's time to get outside since the weather is finally nice. And it's always time to do crafts with reusable items. So why not make a craft that you can take outside and play with? Let's make a simple bird kite! (This craft was originally found on krokotak.com and includes a short video on how to make the kite: <https://krokotak.com/2017/06/simple-bird-kite/>)

Bird Kite Supplies needed:

8.5" x 11" paper – reuse papers that have already been written on!
 Small colorful pieces of paper
 Glue stick or tape
 Stapler
 Scissors
 Hole Punch
 Markers or crayons
 String, ribbon, or yarn

How to Make your Bird Kite:

- Hold the paper vertically, then fold the piece of paper in half (bottom to top). Make sure the fold is creased nicely.
- Bring down both sides of the paper to form the wings of your bird. Attach at the bottom with one staple. (Wings should not be folded – they will form an arc or a tunnel.)
- Draw some eyes (or use the colored paper) on the bird.
- Use the colorful paper (and tape or glue stick) to make a beak and tail feathers, or just draw them on with markers.
- Punch a hole on the bottom and tie the string through the hole.

YOUR BIRD IS READY TO FLY!



FEATURED PROPERTY: THE MELICK FARM continued from page 1

Back in the 1960s the Army Corps of Engineers proposed the construction of a reservoir in the northern section of Licking County along the North Fork of the Licking River. The idea was that a dam and reservoir would provide flood control for the City of Newark. The Melicks, in particular Aunt Gertrude, were concerned the farm would be submerged by this reservoir. They fought to protect their land. They argued that the reservoir wasn't necessary and by the Corps' own analysis would only have provided one inch in flood reduction for the city of Newark downstream. In the end, the Corps, determined that the soils and geology of the area posed too many obstacles to the reservoir project...or that's how the story goes.

David Melick was a young man when this was all the locals could talk about. He remembers how clearly it impacted his family and how it further instilled a love of the farm and a desire to protect it in

NATIVE SPRING-FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS – GREAT FOR HUNGRY POLLINATORS

By Susan King with excerpts from *Pollinator Pathways 2023 Spring Newsletter*

Native bees awaken from winter hibernation with an urgent need to find enough food to both nourish themselves and create new colonies. Early-flowering trees and shrubs play a critical role in helping them survive and thrive.

Whatever the size of your garden, adding a spring-blooming tree or shrub is a high-impact, low-maintenance way to beautify your space AND help early pollinators. A small tree can bring beauty and diversity into your yard while taking up very little space. One could be planted next to your doorway, at the edge of your driveway, in the narrow strip between the sidewalk and the street, in a bed by your patio or even in a large pot on your deck. You do not need to have gardening experience to tackle this project and it is a great way for people who do not consider themselves gardeners to contribute to returning natives to the local landscape.

Here are a few suggested species. Topping the list are a few native willows – keystone plants – which are extremely valuable for wildlife.

1. Pussy willow and Prairie willow (*Salix discolor*, *S. humilis*, bushes, bloom early-April)
2. Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*, tree, blooms late-April/early-May)
3. Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp., tree, blooms late-April)
4. Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*, shrub or small tree, May)
5. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*, tree, late April/early May)
6. American Plum (*Prunus Americana*, tree, blooms late March - April)
7. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*, bush, blooms April/May)
8. Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*, bush, blooms May)
9. Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*, bush, blooms May/early-June)
10. Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*, bush, blooms late May/early June)

For more information on the Licking County Pollinator Pathways and resources to promote pollinator landscapes go to: www.lickingpollinatorpathway.org



Two-spotted bumblebee on pussy willow bloom.



Eastern Redbud tree in bloom. Photos by Karalyn Lamb

perpetuity. As Dave recalls, “grandpa and dad used to always say that they aren't making good farm land anymore.”

Fast forward to 2019 when Dave reached out to LLT to inquire about placing a conservation easement on his property. The moment board member Doug Spieles and I stepped out of the car, we knew this property was special. During our initial visit we learned about the reservoir project, a certified American Indian mound and a pair of nesting bald eagles. Dave told us about his childhood visiting the farm and the land ethic of his family. To Dave, conserving the family farm was never up for debate.

CHECK OUT A FLYOVER VIDEO OF THE FARM:



David Melick

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION: AMAZON'S VOLUNTEERS HELP RESTORE WOODLAND ECOSYSTEMS By Shana Byrd



Volunteers from Amazon Center CMH7

On a beautiful April day, twelve enthusiastic volunteers from Amazon in New Albany dedicated their afternoon to celebrate trees with the Licking Land Trust at The Dawes Arboretum's Arbor Day Festival. As part of this annual event, groups are invited to create experiences that educate and involve the community in conservation.

Coming Together as a Community That Cares

LLT has a long partnership with The Arboretum, collaborating to teach and empower community members to restore ecosystems. Eager to get started, volunteers from the Amazon Center walked the trail along the Arboretum's Woodland Garden, learning the native wildflowers they would soon be helping to protect.

Arriving at the Appalachian Hollow Garden, the mission was clear. Native ferns and large-flowered trillium blanket the forest floor. However, the group could easily see the pesky invader that threatens the health of this forest. Known as garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), this aggressive non-native plant can quickly diminish the more delicate native wildflowers that form a healthy, diverse forest. A prolific seeder, garlic mustard often forms dense stands creating shade and competing for nutrients. Using a sneaky tactic, this plant develops mature seeds even after being pulled from the soil. Plants must be bagged for disposal offsite. Untreated, the spreading plants can rapidly overcome beneficial plants, forming a monoculture. Garlic mustard likely also exudes a chemical that deters other plants from germinating. Fortunately, applied research has shown that consistent hand-removal over several seasons can defeat garlic mustard.

The Question – Could we really make a difference in a day?

The Amazon volunteers were ready to make it happen! With care and precision, the volunteers delicately plucked out the weeds, preserving the native wildflowers underneath. Working in two teams in a friendly competition, they removed all the garlic mustard from the target section – exceeding our

habitat restoration goal in less than two hours! In total, the teams bagged an impressive 340 lbs of garlic mustard! Everyone could see the difference they made, looking back at the trails and appreciating the beauty they had revealed.

Help us Nurture Our Nature

If you are interested in helping to make our natural world even better, join LLT for the next habitat restoration event. Volunteer events on properties protected by the Trust are announced throughout the year. Contact us at lickinglandtrust@gmail.com for more details. Together we can help ensure the preservation and permanent protection of central Ohio green spaces.



Photos by Shana Byrd

THE GREAT SPRING BIRD MIGRATION COMES TO PARK TRAILS By Melissa Gilbert

Each spring, Ohio becomes the fly zone for millions of migratory birds who stop to forage for food and rest before continuing their northbound journey. While the Lake Erie shoreline is known as one of the best birding areas in North America, the Land Trust's Park Trails Reserve offers a unique local opportunity to see migratory birds from late February, through the peak season in May, into early June. First to arrive are Red-winged Blackbirds (2) and Song Sparrows, sharing their resonating trills and songs to let us know that the seasons are turning. A keen study of the high canopy of trees along the T. J. Evans bike path in early April and you will see the Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Flickers (3), and Ruby-crowned Kinglets stopping to sample the insects that are returning to the woods. By late April the bank of Raccoon Creek is buzzing with activity from the gnatcatchers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers(4). The Neotropical migrants start to show up in successive waves in May when the neighborhood trees that border the Reserve are stops for Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, and Baltimore Orioles (1). While many of the birds are just visitors, the Reserve often becomes home to several species who settle in come June to nest and raise their young!



Photos by Melissa Gilbert

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Licking Land Trust
 P.O. Box 196
 Granville, OH 43023

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740-587-4104
 lickinglandtrust@gmail.com
www.lickinglandtrust.org



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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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 Licking Land Trust
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