Motivating the Next Generation

That was the Theme of The Hillside Trust's 25th Anniversary Dinner held April 27th at the Phoenix. Former Hillside Trust founding member, Pope Coleman, and former Cincinnati Zoo Education Director, Thane Maynard, addressed a crowd of more than 110 guests and honorees.

Pope Coleman whose vision and drive helped establish The Hillside Trust in 1976, delivered opening remarks. Pope reminded the audience that often it is what we do not see on the landscape that has to be appreciated as much as the preserves as greenspaces we do see. He recounted a story of Cincinnati Gas and Electric's plans to construct massive power line towers from East Walnut Hills to Northern Kentucky in the early 1970's, which would have crossed Columbia Parkway and the Ohio River. The towers would have risen several hundred feet high with orange balls marking the power lines as a warning for aircraft. Pope lead a valiant fight to have the power lines buried under the river, rather than crossing overhead and blighting the scenic quality of the area. It was a battle that required hundreds of hours in time and effort, with the result that the scenic aspects of the landscape remained in tact and unaltered, something that future generations cannot appreciate unless the story is told.

As the keynote speaker of the evening, Thane Maynard captivated the crowd with his message of what it will take to motivate the next generation of stewardship. He wove in stories of his childhood growing up in central Florida chasing alligators with his experiences as a professional wildlife educator.

He noted that a number of species are making come backs in the past 20 to 30 years. "Certainly, there is no question that species and wild areas are under a lot of pressures to survive, and if you follow the Wall Street journal or various environmental publications, the message about the environment is usually a negative one," Thane stated.

He stressed, that if we are to present a message about the environment that is hopeless to our children, then they will likely not do the things necessary to help protect it. In short, one of the most important things we can do to help motivate the next generation of stewardship is to offer them hope.

Thane read a passage from the Pulitzer-prize winning western novel, Lonesome Dove as a lead in to his next point. He quoted, "All of America lies at the end of a wilderness road, and our past is not a dead past but still lives within us. Our forefathers had civilization inside themselves, the wild outside. We live in civilization they created, but within us the wilderness still lingers. What they dreamed, we live, what they lived, we dream." This reminded Thane of not only what The Hillside Trust works for.

Annual Meeting set for Tuesday, June 12th

The Hillside Trust is convening its annual membership meeting on Tuesday, June 12th at the Glendale Lyceum, 865 Congress Road (Route 747-Springfield Pike) in Glendale. The event will begin with a 5:00 PM reception, followed by the annual meeting at 5:30. A short business meeting will follow around 6:30 PM.

Liz Blume, Director of Cincinnati City Planning will discuss the City's update of its zoning code, explaining the proposed transition from hillside Environmental Quality (EQ)District overlays to hillside development standards.

If you have not received an invitation, and would like to attend, please call The Hillside Trust office at 513/321-3886. We would be happy to include you, and provide you with directions to the meeting.