

OUTLOOK

**THE
HILLSIDE TRUST**

Winter, 2024

Volume XLIII Issue I

4th annual Pope Coleman Awards set for April 18th

The 4th Annual Pope Coleman awards is set for Thursday April 18, 2024 at The View at Mt. Adams. The award is named after Pope Coleman, one of Cincinnati's foremost urban activists and preservationists. It was Pope's vision and inspiration that led to the creation of The Hillside Trust in 1976. The annual ceremony, named in his honor, recognizes civic and environmental leaders who have made significant contributions to their communities. This year's honorees include, Bill Burwinkel, Jan Portman and Hope Taft.

Bill Burwinkel

One of five commissioners for Great Parks of Hamilton County, Bill Burwinkel has served in this position since January, 2016. Great Parks has preserved over 18,000 acres of land since its founding in 1930.

The cause for which Bill is most passionate is Adopt A Class, an organization he created in 2003. It connects business professionals and community leaders with students in low-income districts. Urban youth are taught leadership skills and they are exposed to career op-

portunities through real life experiences. Adopt A Class works with 43 schools and 200 partner organizations in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, reaching over 8,000 students. Bill is also an active leader in his home community of Price Hill, restoring properties and encouraging business investment.

Jan Portman

Jan Portman's passion for conservation and community has resulted in her involvement with a number of organizations across the globe. Her volunteer service includes over 30 years with the Nature Conservancy in leadership positions on the Global Board of Directors, the Trustee Council and the boards of both Ohio and Montana. She is also an active board member of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens and ArtWorks.

A pinnacle achievement in Jan's ongoing contribution to the local community is her leadership in raising over \$10 million as co-chair for the capital campaign of The CROWN, Cincinnati's Riding or Walking Network. The CROWN is a 34-mile urban trail system. When

completed, it will provide a safe and accessible connection for over 365,000 people to reach schools, parks, retail stores and more.

Ultimately, the CROWN will have significant long-term social and economic impacts upon the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. It will reconnect diverse neighborhoods that were once cut off by auto-oriented transit. It will help local businesses and corporations compete nationally by retaining and attracting the best and brightest employees who want human-scale connectivity with nature and with one another. The CROWN will represent an infrastructural landmark that is

Please see Awards, page 3



The View at Mt. Adams

Ludlow hillside stripped completely bare

Anyone who has traveled southbound across the Brent Spence bridge, or has looked across the river from various vantage points in Cincinnati, has surely noticed the clear cutting that occurred last Autumn on a Northern Kentucky hillside. The hillside that rises over the Ohio River in Ludlow, KY was laid bare in a matter of weeks.

In June of 2021, the Ludlow City Council convened a hearing to review a proposal by Fischer Homes to build over 800 units of housing on this dramatic and topographically challenging hillside, one that has a landslide history. The development would more than double the population of this small and historic riverfront community. Proponents supported the plan because they envisioned higher property values and increased commercial activity. However, these anticipated benefits also come with related costs, that often significantly outweigh any positive gains to a community.

Opponents, including The Hillside Trust and adjacent neighbors, urged the City to take a step back and really examine the infrastructural and environmental impacts this development will inflict upon the community. In particular, The Hillside Trust recommended that Ludlow hire an independent engineering consultant to evaluate the geotechnical impacts of a massive development of this scale, and not simply rely on the word of Fischer's professionals that everything would be okay. This did not happen.



Ludlow, KY hillside post-cutting - January, 2024

In 2021, the Kenton County Planning Commission and Planning and Design Services of Northern Kentucky rejected the plan, expressing strong concerns about its impact. The Ludlow

Council was mixed in its deliberations during the 2021 hearing and did not commit to a decision. Over time minds were changed and beginning in late September

Please see Ludlow, page 3



Ludlow, KY hillside pre-cutting April, 2012

Ludlow, from page 2

of 2023 the wooded hillside was stripped bare with rapid speed and devastation. It now resembles a strip mining operation.

In the tri-state region, the middle to latter part of October marks the end of the growing season. Any attempts to seed barren soil after that will often be fruitless. While landslides can occur at any time in the region, the most common period is from Winter to early Spring. The recent actions that denuded the Ludlow hillside could not have happened at a more inopportune time with the end of the growing

season, and the beginning of the traditional landslide season.

If this region experiences a particularly wet Winter and/or early Spring this year, the chances of the Ludlow hillside failing are significantly increased. Through January, 2024 over 5 inches of precipitation have fallen in the region.

As a side note to this story, Fischer homes is in the process of gaining approval for another massive development of over 500 units of housing in Southgate, KY. This development is just west of I-471 on Moock Rd, close to the former Beverly Hills Sup-

per Club, the site of which is undergoing a large-scale housing development of its own.

The Hillside Trust appeared before the Campbell County Planning Commission on November 14, 2023 to oppose this development. In spite of unanimous opposition from surrounding neighbors, the planning commission voted 5-0 in favor of the project. The last stage of approval will rest with the Southgate City Council. **NOTE:** as this newsletter went to print the Ludlow hillside suffered several slope failures., one of which temporarily closed the N&S rail line.

Awards, from page 1

to this generation, what the canals and the railroads were to their respective generations.

Hope Taft

As the First Lady of Ohio from 1999 to 2007, Hope transformed the grounds of the Governor’s Residence into the Ohio Heritage Garden, a botanical setting of native plants, designed to replicate the major ecosystems of the state. Hope still oversees the garden’s development and maintenance, as chair of the Heritage Garden Committee of the Friends of the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden. This non-profit group organizes

over 100 volunteers to help maintain the gardens on a yearly basis.

In 2010 Hope joined together neighbors to form Little Miami River Kleeners for a “one-time” river cleanup. This effort has turned into an annual event that draws hundreds of volunteers. Hope also helped create the Little Miami Watershed Network. This group has been persuading state and local policy makers to redouble the community’s dedication to preserving and enhancing the values for which the Little Miami was initially designated in the state Scenic Rivers Program, and the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

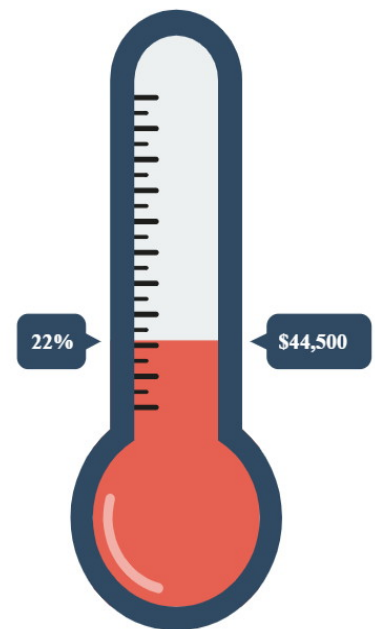
Landslide Documentary now on Hillside Trust Web Page

The Hillside Trust’s 44-minute documentary is now available for unlimited viewing. To access the video, please go to www.hillside-trust.org. At the bottom of the main page is a link

to the documentary. The Hillside Trust is still offering private screenings of the film in front of groups and organizations. Those interested in a screening may contact the Trust.

The Hillside Trust needs your support to reach its fundraising goal of \$205,000 in 2024.

GOAL: \$205,000



Reflects funds raised through February 2, 2024



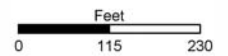
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GALBRAITH ROAD PRESERVE - CAUTLEY EASEMENT
Finneytown, Ohio

February 2020



Aerial map of Galbraith Rd Preserve and Cautley Easement