

THE CURRENT

Newsletter of River Fields, Inc.

October 2025

PHOTO BY JOHN NATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

GREETINGS, RIVER FIELDS COMMUNITY!

Earlier this year, River Fields lost a tremendous supporter when Sallie Bingham passed away at the age of 88. We've held the conservation easement protecting her exquisitely beautiful land, Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm, for decades now and are profoundly grateful to Sallie for her foresight and selflessness in acquiring and permanently conserving this magnificent property.

Sallie wrote a lot about her farm and the characters in its history, including one Eva Smith Cooper. Eva took over the historic mill on the property a century ago this month when she arrived, widowed, from Tennessee with her children in tow. She kicked out a bunch of moonshiners illegally occupying the place and got to work grinding corn for the L & N railroad dining cars. Eva's was one of many stories Sallie told about the farm.

With the mindset of a true steward, Sallie didn't seem to think that Wolf

Pen so much as belonged to her as that it had been entrusted to her care. As she wrote:

I've never felt that Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm "belongs" to me, in the conventional sense. Even before I decided, years ago, to put the 420

acres of blessed open space in eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky, into conservation easements, preserving it from development even after my lifetime and even if it is eventually

sold by my heirs, I felt the wild fields and thin woods had long since belonged to the creatures that have always lived there.

Thank you, Sallie. River Fields will continue to do your vision justice by protecting your land.

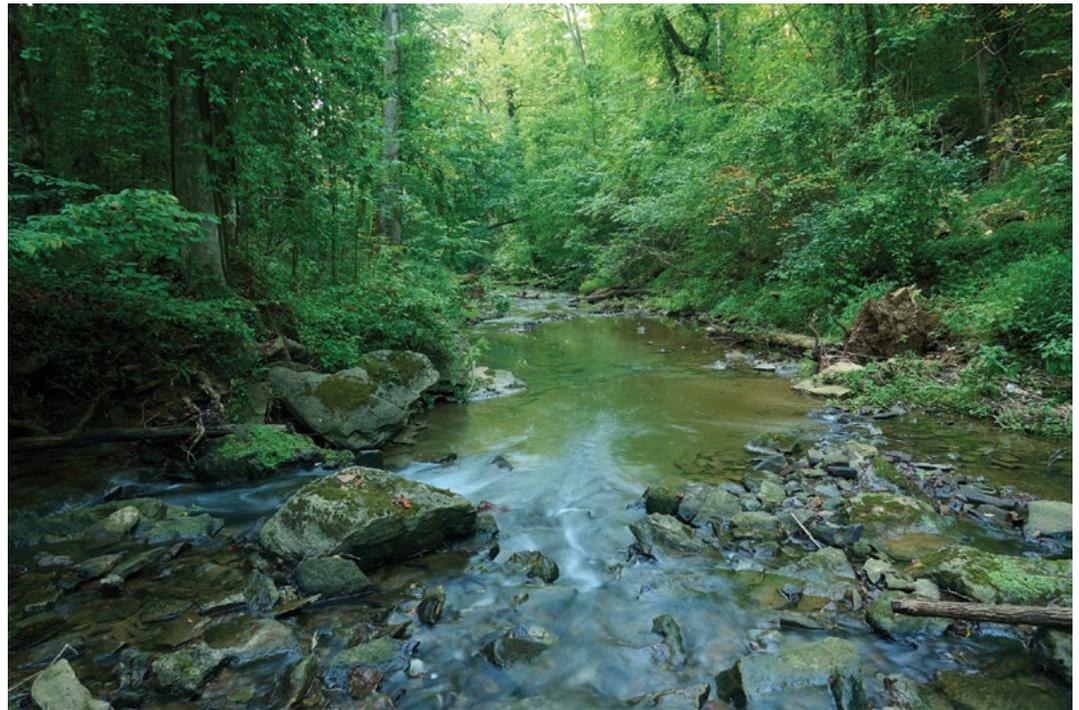


PHOTO OF WOLF PEN BRANCH MILL FARM BY JOHN NATION.

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Warmest regards,

Kristin Faurest
President and CEO, River Fields

OUT IN THE FIELDS

BIG TREES!

If you weren't excited about giant trees before, you will be after taking a walk with Joe! On Sunday,



PHOTO COURTESY JOE WALKER

October 26, we'll be hosting a walk with local tree devotee Joe Walker at beautiful Wolf Pen Branch Mill Farm to hunt for dendrological giants. Joe will have his tape measure in hand and we can all take bets over whether it'll be the white oak or the tulip poplar that has the biggest girth. On the way you'll also look for fall color, learn about the history of Wolf Pen Branch Mill, and more! The program is free for River Fields members. Registration is required and group size is limited. Email kristin@riverfields.org to secure your spot.

River Fields plans a full slate of programming for 2026, too. Watch this space for details!

RIVER CLEANUP

We got out on the river a few weeks ago with our friends at Kentucky Waterways Alliance, the Ohio River Way, and River City Paddlesports to do a trash cleanup at 12 Mile Island. We canoed out and filled 'er up with stuff that doesn't belong on a beautiful island!



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN GRIFFIN WARD

NEW VIDEO ABOUT GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE

Check out our YouTube channel on riverfields.org to see a dreamily beautiful new video created with drone footage thanks to our U of L student interns from the summer. You can link to it here, or scan the QR code below and on our back cover: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Juwuc_Cd2Q

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VIEW THE GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE VIDEO HERE!



ADVOCATE FOR OUR PUBLIC SPACES

Louisville Metro is currently engaging the public on two parks-related issues that matter to us. The first is the redesign of the Belvedere, the iconic downtown space that has become forgotten in recent years. The other is to

determine future use of six park properties along River Road including Eva Bandman Park and Champions Park. River Fields has been actively communicating with Metro officials about these projects because they're both of critical importance when it comes to the public's relationship with the riverfront. Our vision for the River Roads lands is re-naturalization, flood-resilient planning, interpretive signage, connection to the river, and a greater sense of identity and linkage between them. For the Belvedere, we hope for a true living room of the city with strong multi-modal connections to the rest of downtown, inclusive and eclectic programming, and a sustainable design concept that prioritizes native planting concepts and river vistas. We urge our members to follow the processes, participate in the meetings, fill out the questionnaires, and stay engaged. Here's where to find the information:

[Reimagining the Belvedere | LouisvilleKY.gov](https://LouisvilleKY.gov)

[River Road Land Use Vision Plan | LouisvilleKY.gov](https://LouisvilleKY.gov)



PHOTO OF GARVIN BROWN PRESERVE BY JOHN NATION

CELEBRATE AUTUMN WITH A GIFT TO RIVER FIELDS

Fall is a great time to make a gift to River Fields to ensure we can fund our operations to protect 2,300 acres of privately-held conserved lands, maintain 65 acres of land for public use, give our public great

educational programming, and be a voice for the river. If you've never donated to River Fields, why not make this your first gift? And if you're a routine giver – thank you! – please consider making a

gift above and beyond what you usually make – so River Fields can go above and beyond for you.

[Please go here to give: Support River Fields](#)



YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION HERE:
<https://riverfields.org/donate/>

DONATE





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RIVERFIELDS.ORG

THE CURRENT



WE TOOK IN A RECORDBREAKING

\$32,800

FROM 32 DONORS FOR GIVE FOR GOOD.



THANK YOU!

VIEW THE
NEW **GARVIN
BROWN
PRESERVE**
VIDEO HERE

