



Sugar Bush Farm as it looks today; Chuck Tribe and Grandpa Henry Brown at the farm circa 1938.

BOTTOM AND OLD PHOTO COURTESY OF GINNY TRIBE; FARM PHOTO BY TOM LINKOUS

Serendipity

There is no more perfect wilderness than the first one we explore as a child. It may be only a patch of green, or a park, or a farm.

That first taste of the beauty and mystery of the natural world lives unchanged forever in our hearts.

So it was for young Chuck Tribe, growing up near Athens, Ohio, in the 1930s and '40s, spending long summer days exploring his grandparents' farm. Among the fields and woodlots on Grandpa Henry Brown's place, he first glimpsed a white-tailed deer and heard a great horned owl. He collected tadpoles and swam in Margaret Creek. And he gained an enduring love for the natural world.



Chuck today

Soon, life took Chuck far away from the farm, to Montana and a career in the U.S. Forest Service, work that kept him close to the natural world. In 1988, Chuck became a founding board member of the Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula, Montana.

Today, Chuck continues in that role, helping shape FVLT into a widely respected community institution, and helping to protect the living landscape of its multicounty western Montana working area.

After Rally in 2011, Chuck and his wife, Ginny, decided to drive to Ohio to see his grandparents' old farm. As they neared the property, Chuck noticed some recent vegetation plantings along the stream bank that runs through the farm, a familiar site to a land trust person. When they stopped to inquire about the property, Chuck was delighted to learn that current owners, Don and Mary Anne Flournoy, have protected more than 300 acres of the farm and adjacent property with conservation easements held by the Appalachia Ohio Alliance.

Chuck Tribe's story, and the story of the land that shaped him, tells of how a legacy of conservation can span physical boundaries, lives and generations through the simple grace of protecting the land we love. 🌿

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