# ROOTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION Curation of a virtual exhibition at Oberlin College Leveraging existing archival assets



Anne Salsich Associate Archivist

# Environmental Thought at Oberlin College and Conservatory

Begin with "Introduction"

https://scalar.oberlincollegelibrary.org/environmental/index



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ACTIVISM TODAY (6/8)

# Earth Day

For the first Earth Day in 1970, Oberlin held a 10-day, environmental teach-in called Eco-Oberlin. Featured speakers included Gary Snyder, poet and conservationist; Richard Staltonstall, Environmental Section editor of Time Magazine; professors from science departments at Case Western Reserve University and SUNY at Stony Brook; top administrators at the National Air Pollution Control Administration, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, and the Open Space Institute; and Gail Ornstein, Oberlin Town Planner and Open Spaces Commission Chairman. The program offered forums, lectures, workshops, and discussions with featured speakers. Field and work trips were an integral part of the activities.

Earth Day 50 was a semester-long and all-encompassing celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. A partnership between Oberlin College and the City of Oberlin, Earth Day 50 aimed to cultivate a long-term atmosphere of environmental thought and action. With the shutdown of the college for COVID-19 Pandemic, the remaining events were held virtually.









# Scalar Project

Research conduit and platform for student/faculty work

# **Project Content**

Finding guide texts; embedded URLs to Archon

Existing digital surrogates and born digital images via server

Institutional website content

Faculty directed student research projects - to come

New interpretation of archival materials

# Project Design

Quality images and metadata

Relationship of text and image, organization of the "virtual book"

ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT AT OBERLIN COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORY

# Introduction

Environmental thought, in this presentation, is a broad term for investigation into natural systems and human interaction with them. The first section, Early Natural Sciences at Oberlin, explores the roots of environmental education. Section two, Environmental Studies and Activism Today, presents the College's current commitment to protecting our environment. The Oberlin College Environmental Studies Program (ESP) represents the flowering of the ideas planted by the early Oberlin professors in natural sciences. Directed by Professor David Orr, ESP offers courses concerning topics such as sustainable agriculture, global environmental issues, and environmental economics. In section three, Faculty and Student Research, environmental thought informs course projects in a variety of disciplines. This section is a work in progress, growing as professors and their students choose to present their research projects on this platform.

## Contents

- 1. Early Natural Sciences at Oberlin
- 2. Environmental Studies and Activism Today
- 3. Faculty and Student Research
- 4. Acknowledgments

Begin with "Early Natural Sciences at Oberlin"

OBERLIN

S Oberlin College Archives

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INTRODUCTION (1/4)

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# Early Natural Sciences at Oberlin

Oberlin College's first natural history museum or "cabinet." Collecting began in the 1850s.

## Contents

- 1. Natural History and the College Museum
- 2. Zoology and Biology
- 3. Botany and the Herbarium
- 4. Geosciences
- 5. Ecology Summer Field Trips
- 6. The Arboretum

#### EARLY NATURAL SCIENCES AT OBERLIN (1/6)

# Natural History and the College Museum

As early as the 1850s, George N. Allen, Professor of Sacred Music and Natural History, had begun collecting specimens in the basement of the Music Hall. In 1859 Allen sent out a circular asking for donations of specimens, but it seems that informal requests had been circulating for several years earlier. Allen collected the bulk of the early College Cabinet from Northeast Ohio (including Ohio fossils) and from trips to Jamaica in 1863, to the West in 1868, and to upstate New York in 1869. Contributions from Oberlin alumni, many doing missionary work across the globe, helped the Cabinet expand rapidly. Unlike many other college Cabinets, in the Oberlin Cabinet very few specimens were bought from natural history suppliers; the Cabinet relied on donations, faculty and student collections, and exchange with other museums and dealers across the globe.

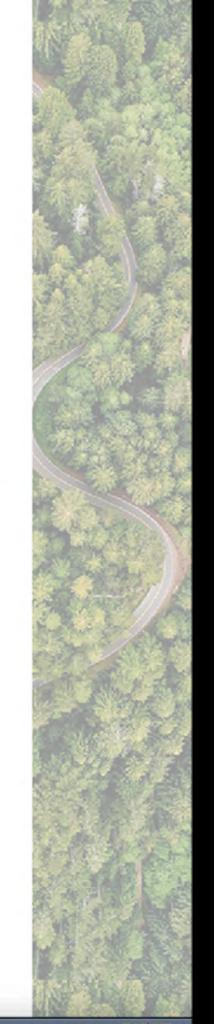
In 1870 Allen prepared a report for the Trustees on the condition of the College Cabinet and the collections themselves, including new donations from Rev. A. Bushnell of the "Gaboon Mission, West Africa," who donated ethnological specimens and the skeleton and skin of an adult gorilla. The Zoological collections, he says, represent a very general collection in the field. In Herpetology, "We possess, however, many fine specimens of saurians and luphideans, and some rare fishes, but they at present, for the sake of saving alcohol, crowded together in what jars we have and excluded from view" (Allen's emphasis). Allen obtained a cetacean skull, which remains in the current Biology department collection, as well.

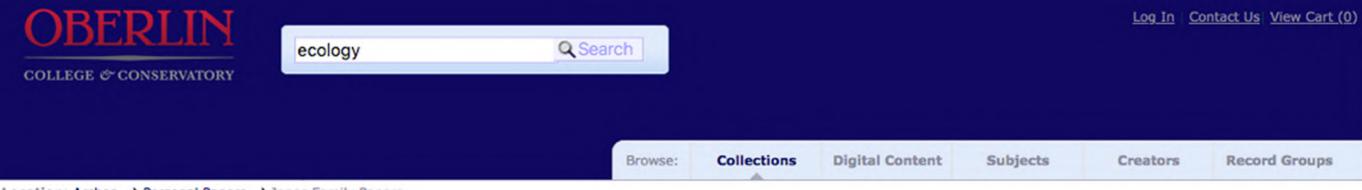
Albert A. Wright, Allen's nephew, joined the Oberlin faculty as Professor of Geology and Natural History in 1874. Under his direction the College Museum would see its greatest expansion. In 1875 the collections were moved to Cabinet Hall, built specifically for exhibition and for recitation space. The Cabinet begins to be called "Museum," after the fashion of the times, in the 1880s.

Cabinet Hall caught on fire three times during the Cabinet's time Screenshot there, our to specimens were



Purchased by the College in 1874, Cabinet Hall was in use for chemistry and the natural history collection until it was torn down in 1901, with the construction of Severance Hall. Source: Oberlin College Archives





Location: Archon → Personal Papers → Jones Family Papers

## Jones Family Papers, 1832-1999 | Oberlin College Archives

Title: Jones Family Papers, 1832-1999

ID: RG 30/107

Extent: 34.46 Linear Feet

Creators

Administrative/Biographical History

Subjects (links to similar collections)

Forms of Material (links to similar genres)

Administrative Information

Scope and Contents:

The papers of the Jones Family document the lives and teaching careers of Lynds Jones and his son George Jones. The papers also document the history of the Jones Family prior to the birth of Lynds Jones, as well as shed light on the history of Oberlin College and the community of Oberlin during the teaching careers of both Lynds and George Jones. The papers are organized into three subgroups: I. Lynds Jones Papers; II. George Jones Papers; and III. Other Family Members. Subgroup I and II both contain papers relating to the wider Jones-Tallmon families, including Clara Tallmon Jones, Mary Burton Shurtleff, and Susan Carhart Tallmon.

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Subgroup I contains material relating mainly to the life and career of Oberlin College professor and ornithologist Lynds Jones, but also includes some records relating to his wife Clara and the Tallmon-Jones family. Included in Subgroup I are diaries written by Lynds Jones. The diaries document the daily life of Lynds Jones for almost 70 years, as well as travels to the East and West Coasts of the U.S. in the early 20th century. Extant are a large number of letters received by Lynds Jones from family members, friends, and associates. The correspondence, most of which is from his family, reports on the Jones' day-to-day activities in Oberlin, Ohio. Rich in detail, these letters underscore the loving and tight knit marriage between Lynds and Clara. It also highlights their shared love of the

#### ZOOLOGY AND BIOLOGY (1/3)

# Lynds Jones (1865-1951)

For over a century, the Jones family has figured prominently in the life of the Oberlin community. The first member of the Jones family to settle permanently in Oberlin was Lynds Jones (b. 1865), the son of Publius Virgilius Jones. Coming from a long line of Puritan/New England stock, Lynds Jones was born on January 5. 1865 in Jefferson, Ohio. He was the third youngest in a family of eight. When he was only three months old, the Jones family moved to a farm outside of Grinnell, lowa. It was here that Lynds Jones first became interested in the study of birds and their migration. His formal study of birds began in 1886 at Grinnell College (formerly known as lowa College), near the family home. Lynds Jones' studies at Grinnell were often interrupted by farm chores in the spring and fall. Here



Lynds Jones (right) and William Leon Dawson, another ornithologist, after a trip over the Cascade Mountains in Northwest Washington to study birds in 1900. The shotguns were likely used to hunt deer and other game during their trek. Source: Oberlin College Archives

also Lynds Jones, along with other individuals interested in the study of nature (including future wife Clara Tallmon), founded the Agassiz Association in 1886. Subsequently, in 1888 Lynds Jones would

EARLY NATURAL SCIENCES AT OBERLIN (5/6)

# **Ecology Summer Field Trips**

In 1915 zoology professor Lynds Jones began offering summer ecology courses that involved train and car trips across the country to ecological areas rich in animal and plant life, as well as spectacular geological features. These ecology trips continued through the 1930s. His son George Jones, a botanist at Oberlin, took over the course in the later years. Students were expected to make detailed observations and photographs out in the field and produce papers for the completion of their course. The Oberlin College Archives holds student papers, photograph albums, and other documentation of these trips. These can be found in the Jones Family Papers (RG 30/107), Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan Papers (30/465), Grace Cowling Berlin Papers (RG 30/409), and Student Papers (RG 19/5).

## Contents

1915 Ecology Field Trip
1919 Ecology Field Trip
1922 Ecology Field Trip
1928 Ecology Field Trip

Begin with "1915 Ecology Field Trip"

Or, continue to "The Arboretum"

ECOLOGY SUMMER FIELD TRIPS (2/4)

# **1919 Ecology Field Trip**



The 1919 Ecology class before starting out from Oberlin, with Professor Lynds Jones third from left. Inscription on back of photo below. Source: Oberlin College Archives

Professor Lynds Jones led his Ecology trip by car in 1919 with his son George in the class. In this passage from his notes, George Jones described the preparations and logistics involved for the trip.

"Four people per car was a comfortable load, though five could be carried if they were not too wide nor too unfriendly. There were twenty-two of us at least part of this trip. Each person was allowed a bedding roll of two blankets and two waterproofs, or the equivalent, and one suitcase. This time nothing was said about the weight of the suitcase. We carried a 14' x 20' wall tent and another 7' x 9', folding cots enough for everyone, a camp stove (used once), pots and pans, etc. (too man), plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons, etc., etc. He planned to take a heavy fireless cooker (I can't imagine why) and a portable screen for a toilet for the girls. These last two items did not get packed and we left without them. Mother expressed them to Grinnell, Iowa for us to pick up. It was expected that, at noon while traveling, we would eat at restaurants and each pay for his own food. Morning and evening and while in camp, food would be supplied and paid for out of the running expense fund. Students each paid \$250.00 for running expenses, besides the regular tuition for an eight hour course. As a rule, some of the \$250 was returned to the students at the end of the trip, if there were not too many unexpected expenses. Mechanic and cook paid no fee and drivers paid half fare."

Screenshol

# Enid Sutton Swan's photo album

ECOLOGY SUMMER FIELD TRIPS (1/4)

# **1915 Ecology Field Trip**

This photograph album was created by student Enid Bancroft Sutton (Mrs. W.F. Swan, Class of 1915) during the first Oberlin Ecology Class summer trip, led by Professor Lynds Jones in 1915. They traveled by train to Northwestern Washington State for their Pacific Northwest field trip. The top page featured here depicts their time on the Washington coast studying birds in the National Wildlife Preserve established in 1907 near the Makah Indian Reservation. Professor Jones hired Native Americans to take the party in sea canoes to the rocky islands in rough waters. The second page documents their camping arrangements in the forest near Oil City and the Hoh Indian Reservation, also in Washington. Enid made captions in white ink for that portion of their trip. She also wrote a paper in the form of a journal during the trip, and created a second photo album without captions.



The ledge of Calif. murres Carroll Island



Closer view of Calif. murres



© Oberlin College Archives



Native Indians

















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## Questions?

Please contact the Education Department at 440.775.8166 for more information.



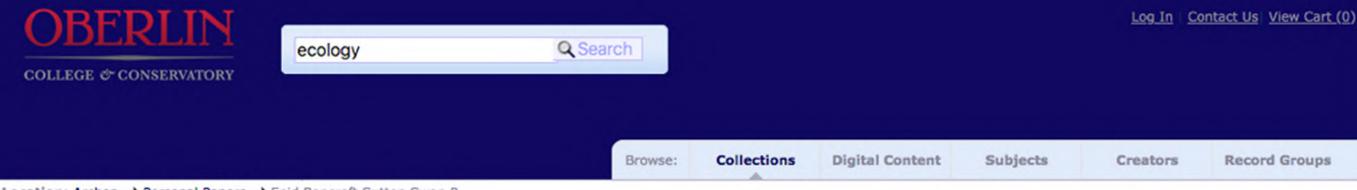
# Objects of Encounter: American Myths of Place

July 5 - December 23, 2022 In Stern Gallery East



This exhibition draws from the AMAM's collection of American and European art to explore how works produced in the late 1800s and early 1900s encapsulate real and imagined encounters with people and places.

Beginning with ledger drawings by Howling Wolf in the 1870s and continuing on to works produced at the Santa Fe Indian School in the 1930s, we see how Euro-American artists and entrepreneurs fabricated carefully mediated and controlled opportunities for Indigenous artists to create artwork for white audiences. Railroad advertisements from the 1920s and 1930s similarly repackaged Indigenous histories and identities to promote the fantasy of the American West as an empty place waiting to be filled by tourists' desires. In contrast, the appearance of Indigenous Americans in Europe, such as Edmonia Lewis, allowed for American expansionist myths to be performed as a spectacle that blurred the distinctions between fact and fiction.



Location: Archon → Personal Papers → Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan P...

## Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan Papers, 1915-1983, n.d. | Oberlin College Archives

Title: Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan Papers, 1915-1983, n.d. 🖚

**ID:** RG 30/465

Extent: 3.27 Linear Feet

Predominant Dates: 1915-1917

Creators

Administrative/Biographical History

Forms of Material (links to similar genres)

Administrative Information

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#### Scope and Contents:

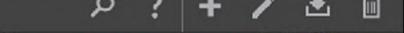
The Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan Papers is a relatively small collection, with most of the material documenting and describing her participation in an Oberlin College ecology course in the summer of 1915, involving a trip to the Pacific Northwest for the purpose of making field observations. The trip was the first of many led by Oberlin Zoology Professor Lynds Jones, who specialized in the study of birds and their migrations. Jones was one of the pioneers who taught in the field of **ecology**.

Series 1. Biographical, holds only two items: a piece in memoriam of Edith Sutton Swan by her daughter Kristin Swan Lent, written in 1983, and a typewritten transcription of excerpts of letters to Enid's close friend Vera DeLano describing the **ecology** trip dated 1915-16.

Series 2. Clippings, is one file of three clippings from 1974 on the Pacific Northwest Coast.

#### Series 3. Ecology Field Trip to the Pacific Northwest Coast,

holds Enid's journal, two photograph albums, and a mounted photograph. Like her fellow students, Enid was required to keep a detailed journal of her observations while on the ecology trip. The other student course materials from ecology trips in the College



INTRODUCTION (2/4)

# **Environmental Studies** and Activism Today

Bold vision. Big changes. CARBON NEUTRAL

terminedu CarbonNeutral.oberlin.edu

Photograph of Sustainable Infrastructure Program signage at Oberlin College (William Bradford).

## Contents

- 1. Environmental Studies Program
- 2. The Oberlin Project
- 3. Green Arts District
- 4. Sustainable Buildings
- 5. Environmental Dashboard
- 6. Earth Day
- 7. High Wind Association
- 8. Sustainable Infrastructure Program

#### Begin with "Environmental Studies Program"

Screenshot

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ACTIVISM TODAY (2/8)

# **The Oberlin Project**

The 2.27MW solar array near the North Athletic Fields on college property. The array produces around 3,000,000 kWh per year and or about 12 percent of the college's electricity usage.

The Oberlin Project is a joint effort of the City of Oberlin, Oberlin College, and private and institutional partners to improve the resilience, prosperity, and sustainability of the community.

The Oberlin Project is currently focused on six core goals: creating one of the first climate positive cities in America; creating new and supporting existing business ventures in energy efficiency and solar deployment, food and agriculture, and the sustainable use of local resources; conserving 20,000 acres of green space and developing a robust local foods economy to meet 70 percent of consumption; creating an educational alliance between the college, the Oberlin City Schools, the Joint Vocational School, and Lorain County Community College focused on integrating sustainability into education at all levels; developing a 13-acre Green Arts District at the U.S. Green Building Council Platinum level; and serving as a model that can be replicated in other communities.

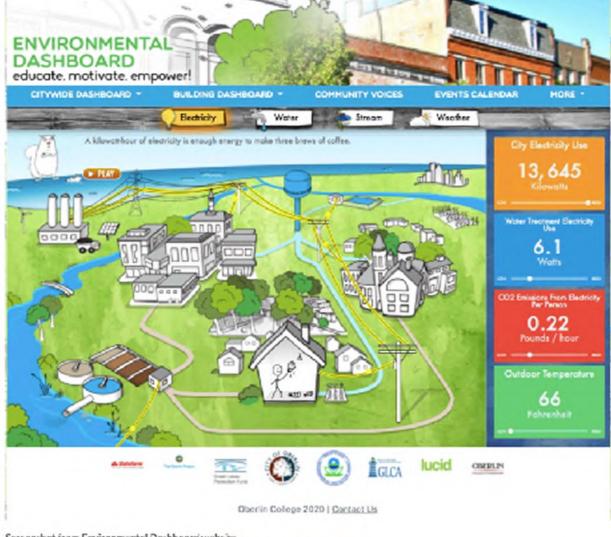
Sources



THE OBERLIN PROJECT (2/2)

# **Environmental Dashboard**

The Oberlin College and Conservatory campus resource monitoring system, known as the **Environmental Dashboard**, is a tool designed to give Oberlin students and the community feedback on their consumption of resources.



Screenshot from Environmental Dashboard website Source: Environmental Dashboard website at https://environmentaldashboard.org/

The Dashboard measures electricity and water consumption in schools, businesses, public facilities, and homes and translates this data into real-time animations displayed on LCD screens around

## https://www.environmentaldashboard.org/



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ACTIVISM TODAY (8/8)

# Sustainable Infrastructure Program

Aerial view of installation of new pipes for geothermal heating and cooling, 2021. Photograph by William Bradford.

The Sustainable Infrastructure Project (SIP) will propel Oberlin toward its goal of becoming carbonneutral by 2025. The project's certification by the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) indicates that independent experts have verified the environmental benefit of Oberlin's Sustainable Infrastructure Program, in alignment with the goals and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement. This is only the second Certified Climate Bond offering among U.S. colleges and universities, and third in the world.



The four-year SIP will convert buildings throughout Oberlin's 440-acre campus to geothermal heating and cooling, drawing on 1,100 wells that harness the earth's natural underground temperatures to replace traditional fuels such as coal and

Certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative Aligned with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ACTIVISM TODAY (4/8)

# **Sustainable Buildings**

## Contents

- 1. Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies (2000)
- 2. Robert Lewis Kahn Hall (2010)
- 3. Bertram & Judith Kohl Building (2010)
- 4. Peter B. Lewis Gateway Center (2016)

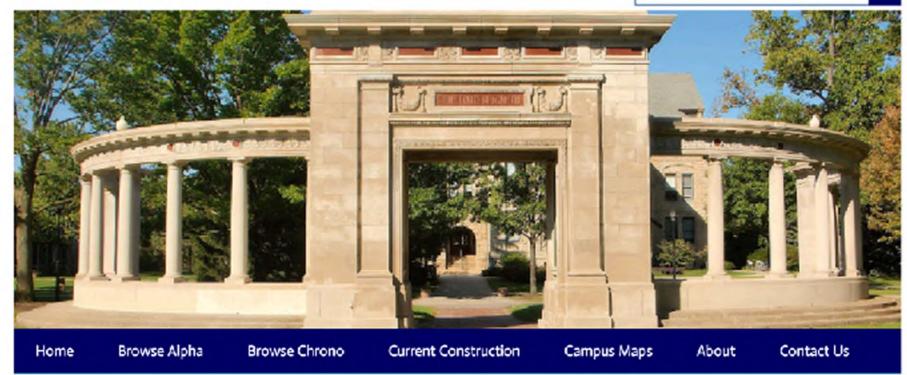
Begin with "Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies (2000)"

« Or, continue to "Environmental Dashboard"

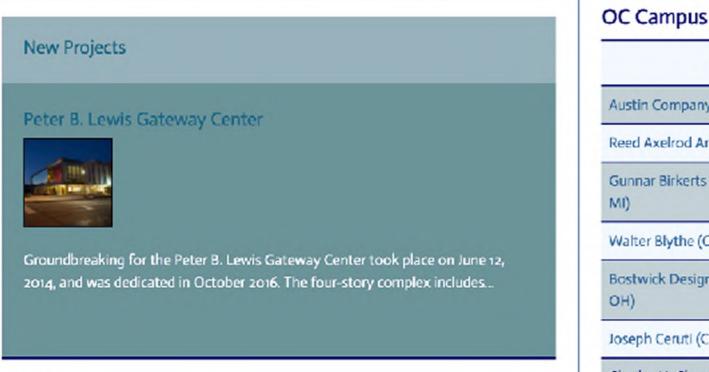


# ARCHITECTURE OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

**OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES** 



Welcome to Oberlin College's past and present architecture and monuments from the College's founding in 1833 to the present. Here you will find photographs and illustrations of structures and cultural landscapes with descriptive information. Campus maps representing periods of time in history show locations of some of the buildings no longer standing, while current buildings are geolocated on Google Maps. Use the search box, browse buildings, architects and campus maps, or read about current construction projects.



## **OC Campus Architects**

#### Architects

a

Austin Company (Cleveland Heights, OH)

Reed Axelrod Architects (Philadelphia, PA)

Gunnar Birkerts & Associates (Birmingham,

Walter Blythe (Cleveland, OH)

Bostwick Design Partnership (Cleveland,

Joseph Ceruti (Cleveland, OH)

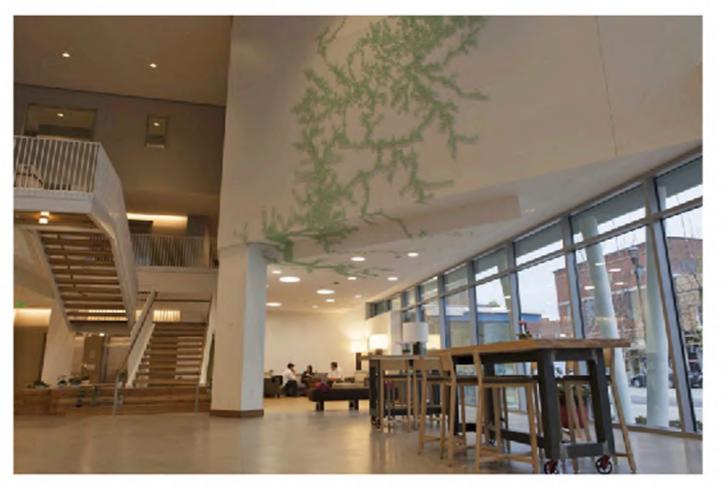
Charles H. Churchill (Oberlin, OH)

#### PETER B. LEWIS GATEWAY CENTER (2016)

# An Ecological Primer: A Landscape in Three Parts

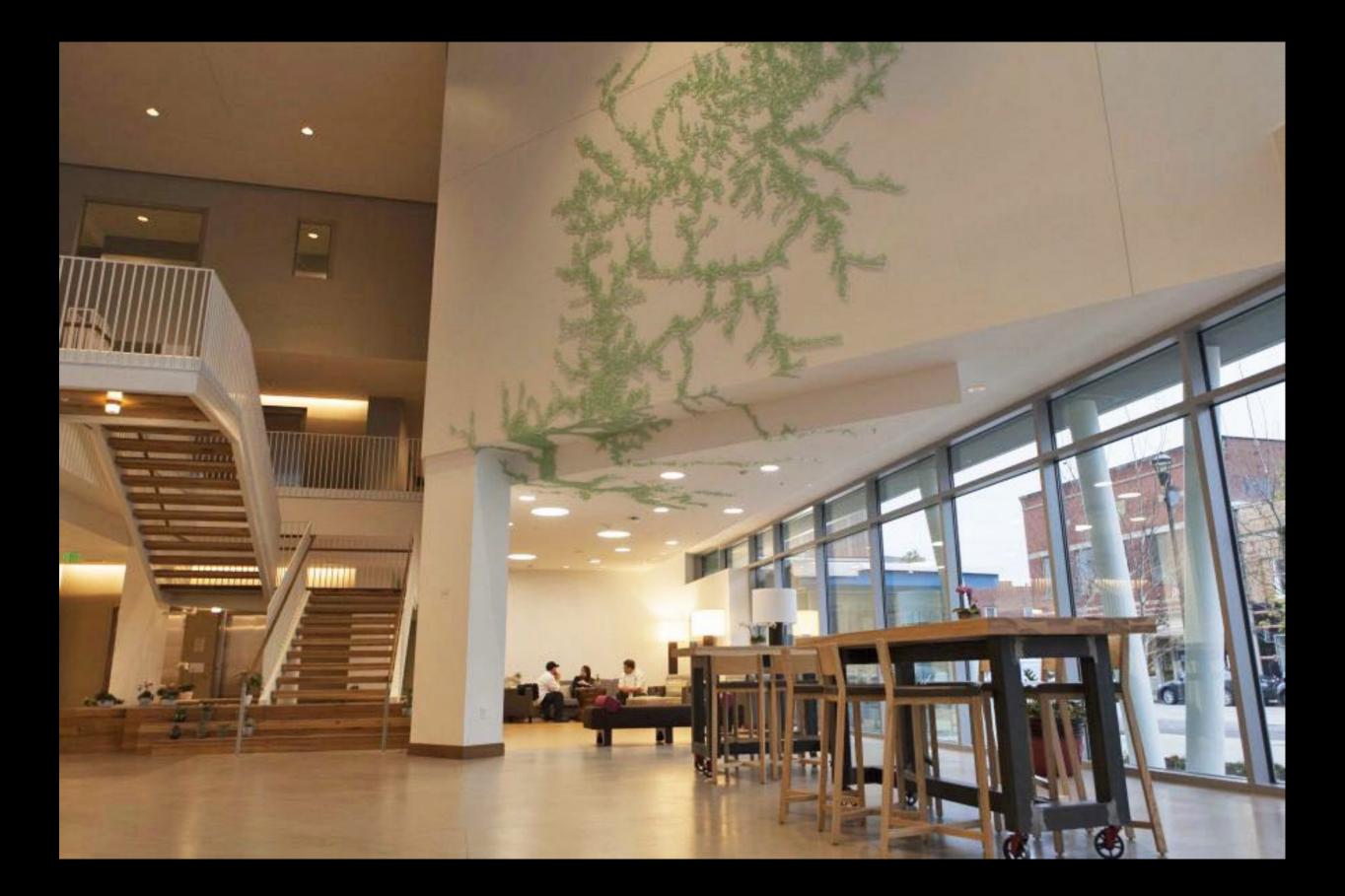
Artist Maya Lin's installation *An Ecological Primer: A landscape in 3 parts*, is entering its final phase with outdoor installations at the Lewis Gateway Center. The installation uses landscape as a device to discuss releasing human control of land, honoring the water we depend on to survive, and issues of migration raised by climate change. As a permanent installation, *Primer* will be part of Oberlin in perpetuity.

The lobby of the Hotel at Oberlin in the Center hosts a huge array of glass marbles that climb the wall facing the main entrance of the building. "They represent the aquifers of Ohio," artist and collaborator James Ewart told the *Oberlin Review*. He explained that the marbles were a piece of Lin's childhood, from her father's work as a ceramicist at Ohio University in the '60s and '70s, which Ewart said was a time of experiementation in ceramics and glassblowing art.



Maya Lin's installation of glass marbles accurately representing aquifers of Ohio in the Hotel at Oberlin lobby. Source: Oberlin College Archives

Screenshot



NTRODUCTION (3/4)

# **Faculty and Student Research**

## Contents

1. Living in the Vermilion River Watershed

Begin with "Living in the Vermilion River Watershed"

Or, continue to "Acknowledgments"

6

OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHVES Oberlin College Archives

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FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCH

# Living in the Vermilion River Watershed

Living in the Vermilion River Watershed is a collaborative book project of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Firelands Chapter and Oberlin College and Conservatory, published in 2008 as a freely available PDF. It was edited by Mary Garvin, Professor of Biology, and Jan Cooper, John C. Reid Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition and English. The project was supported with funding provided by a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Additional funding was provided by the following Oberlin College offices: Department of Biology, Environmental Studies Program, Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Office of the President.

The editors dedicated the book to the residents of the watershed in Northeast Ohio and to their Oberlin students, who inspired them to undertake the project. Of the twenty essays by writers and photographers representing academic specialist and local naturalist perspectives, two were contributed by Oberlin College students. The accessible essays, heavily illustrated with photographs, cover a wide range of environmental and natural science topics on the Vermilion River watershed, Screenshot and contemporary. The chapters encompass native peoples, microbiology, geology, plant

# Finding evidence of environmental thought for exhibitions

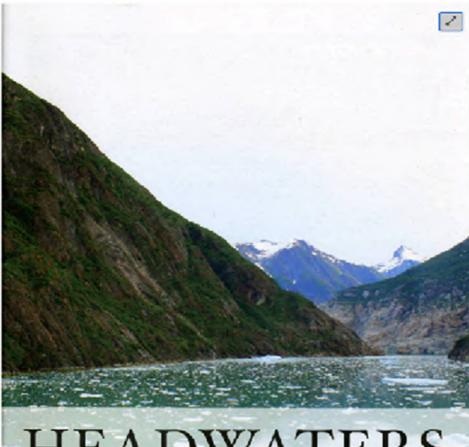
- Science faculty papers or departmental records, personal papers, oral histories, visiting speaker or local radio recordings
- Institutional commitments to carbon neutrality, environmental impact study, reduction in energy use, xeriscape, local food in dorms, new buildings with LEED certification
- Earth Day observances and projects
- Student environmental activism, affiliate groups, student publications, film and video, artwork



Oberlin College Archives Student Publications

Collections of the Five Colleges of Ohio

Headwaters



Search this record

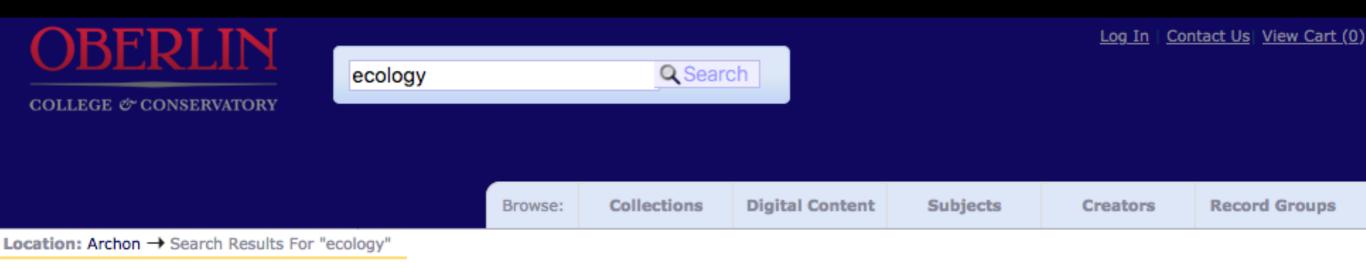
Advances

environment

## HEADWATERS Oberlin's Environmental Magazine

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# **Collection Finding Guides**



# Search Results for "ecology" | Oberlin College Archives

You searched for "ecology".

## Records and Manuscripts (8 Matches)

#### Personal Papers

Jones Family Papers, 1832-1999 RG 30/107 John Herbert Nichols Papers, 1908-1974 RG 30/131 Harry N. Holmes Papers, 1914-1997 RG 30/265 Bridgman Family Papers, c. 1854-2003 RG 30/349 Elaine Hoff Norton Papers, 1935-2000, n.d. RG 30/405 Grace Cowling Berlin Papers, 1917-1980 RG 30/409 Enid Bancroft Sutton Swan Papers, 1915-1983, n.d. RG 30/465

## Photographs → Slides & Transparencies

Photographs: Slides & Transparencies Collection, late 19th century - 2000s RG 32/009

## Records and Manuscripts (24 Matches)

College of Arts and Sciences (Division)	
Environmental Studies Program, 1968-2000, n.d. 🚳 RG 9/0	20

- Oberlin College Library → Oberlin College Library, Files of Ray English <u>Oberlin College Library Records, Files of Ray English, 1956-2015</u> RG 16/02
- Student Life → Student Life Organizations → Activist/Political Organizations <u>Student Life: Activist/Political Organizations Records, 1851-</u> RG 19/03/06
- Student Life → Student Life Organizations → Curriculum-Based Organizations <u>Student Life: Organizations: Curriculum-Based Organizations, 1860-2007</u> RG 19/03/07

## Student Life → Student Life Organizations → Cooperative Organizations <u>Student Life: Cooperative Organizations, 1968-2009, n.d.</u> RG 19/03/11

#### Personal Papers

James Caldwell McCullough Papers, 1906-1949, n.d. RG 30/053 Don J. Pease Papers, 1960-2003 RG 30/055 Mary S. Yocom Papers, ca. 1919-1968 (span), n.d. RG 30/079 Nancy Hays Teeters Papers, 1950-1990 RG 30/169 Athena Tacha Papers, 1968-2002, n.d. RG 30/262 Douglas and Shirley R. Johnson Papers, 1910-2013 RG 30/279 Mary Rudd Cochran Papers, 1882-1988 RG 30/282 Helen A. Sargent Family Papers, 1858-1930s, n.d. RG 30/285 David A. Egloff Papers, 1892-2002, n.d. RG 30/316 Mary Durling Papers, 1950-2000, n.d. RG 30/348 Thomas G. M. Simchak Photographs, 1999-2003 RG 30/365 Elaine Hoff Norton Papers, 1935-2000, n.d. RG 30/405

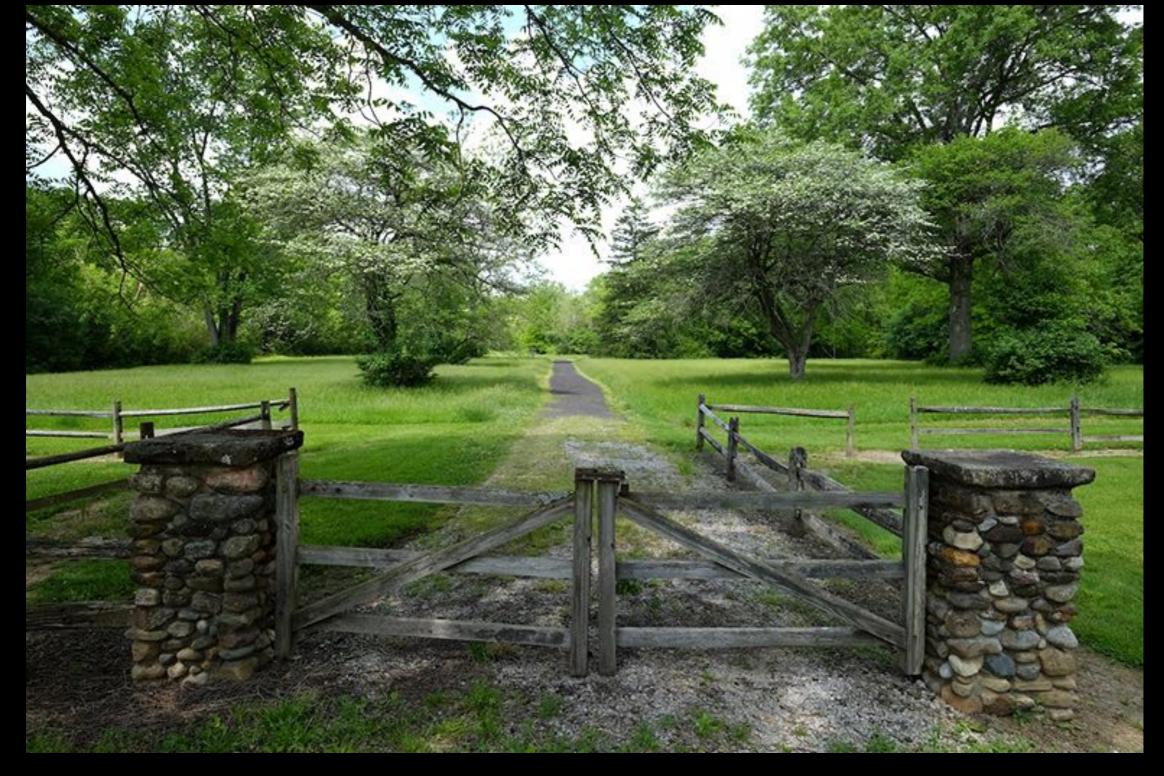
## Oberlin Community Records → Miscellaneous Clubs and Associations <u>Miscellaneous Clubs and Associations Records, 1886-1887, 1889-1902, 1906, 1911-2003, 2005-2008</u> RG 31/002

## Oberlin Community Records → City of Oberlin Records <u>City of Oberlin Records</u>, 1858-2007 <sup>(2)</sup> RG 31/005

City of Oberlin Records, 1858-2007 as RG 31/005

## Oberlin Community Records → Women's Professional Clubs or Organizations

Oberlin Woman's Club Records, 1901-1981 RG 31/006/001



# Oberlin College Arboretum

Established 1892 with 17 acres as "Ladies Grove"

77 adjacent acres bequeathed in 1914 for the college and community