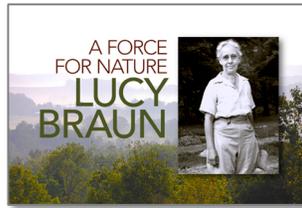


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Contact: Tom Law, Voyageur,  
513-612-8775 (cell)  
contactus@voyageurmedia.org



## *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun*

Acclaimed documentary premieres on  
Kentucky Educational Television (KET) in November.

*How did one woman help establish the science of ecology, break down gender barriers and preserve some of the most important natural sites in Ohio and Kentucky?*

These are just some of the questions examined in *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun*, a one-hour documentary that explores the life and legacies of E. Lucy Braun, one of the foremost botanists and ecologists in American history. The documentary features interviews with scholars, rare archival photographs, beautiful videography, historical reenactments and a compelling soundtrack. Several segments examine Lucy Braun's extensive field research and preservation efforts in Eastern Kentucky.

*A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun* premieres on Kentucky Educational Television in November, including **KET 1 on Sunday, November 18 at 6:00 pm**, with ten dates/times (full schedule on page two) during the month on **KET3/KY (The Kentucky Channel)**. The documentary, a co-production of Meg Hanrahan Media and Voyageur Media Group, Inc., is a collaborative effort among dozens of regional scholars, archives and academic institutions. Meg Hanrahan, Writer/Producer/Director, of the documentary says, "We are thrilled that so many Kentucky viewers will see how one determined woman changed our world."

### **E. Lucy Braun**

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, E. Lucy Braun (1889 – 1971) was a pioneer in the science of plant ecology, a trailblazer in her professional career as a woman of science, and a leader in the early conservation movement. Braun was a researcher, writer, photographer, college professor and conservationist during a career that spanned six decades. She published four books, over fifty scientific papers and hundreds of articles, some of which are used to this day. Braun helped establish numerous professional organizations such as the Ecological Society of America, and preservation groups, including the precursor to The Nature Conservancy. Lucy and her sister Annette traveled 65,000 miles to conduct scientific research for her landmark book *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*, which was published in 1950. These trips resulted in a rare collection of over 1,700 photographs documenting ecosystems from the East coast, the Appalachian Mountains and the swamps of Florida to the deserts of Arizona, the Rocky Mountains and the West coast. **Photo 1:** *Lucy Braun in the field, ca 1960. Courtesy,*

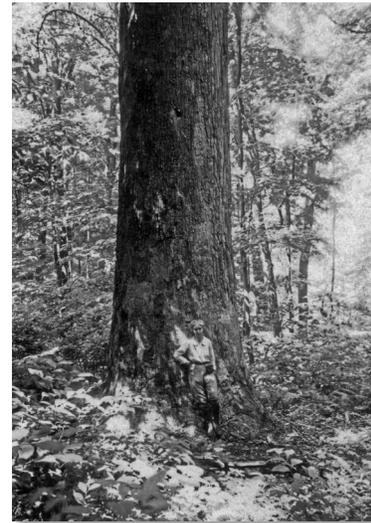


*University of Cincinnati.*

### **Kentucky Connections**

*A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun* covers Braun's extensive field research in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky during the 1930s. This fieldwork, and the loss of old-growth forests, prompted Braun to write *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*, and to become a conservation leader.

The program includes beautiful video and archival photographs from sites in Kentucky, including Lilley Cornett Woods (Letcher County), Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve (Harlan County), Lynn Fork of Leatherwood (Perry County), Pine Mountain (Southeast Kentucky), and Red River Gorge, (Daniel Boone National Forest). These segments feature interviews with Dr. Alice Jones, Professor of Geosciences, Eastern Kentucky University; and Robert Watts, Manager, Lilley Cornett Woods. Numerous Kentucky organizations also provided in-kind support to the project, including Eastern Kentucky University, and the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust. Braun wrote numerous articles and papers about Kentucky’s ecosystems. Her lectures also inspired the establishment of the Save Kentucky's Primeval Forest League, and the Kentucky Natural Land Trust. It is no wonder the Kentucky Native Plant Society named Lucy Braun an inaugural member of the Kentucky Botany Hall of Fame in 2015. **Photo 2:** *Lucy Braun stands in front of a massive poplar tree at Lynn Fork of Leatherwood in Perry County, Kentucky, ca 1935. Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution.*



Meg Hanrahan, says, “She was truly a pioneer in the development of the science of ecology in America, with contributions that pre-date better known 20<sup>th</sup> century figures like Rachel Carson and Aldo Leopold. Yet, few beyond the academic community know of her work. She deserves recognition for her contributions to ecology and botany, for leading the way for other women in science, and for being instrumental in the preservation of numerous natural sites that we enjoy today.”

***A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun***  
**KET broadcast schedules**

**KET 1** – Premiere, Sunday, November 18 at 6:00 pm

**KET3/KY (The Kentucky Channel)**

Tuesday, November 6 at 9:00 pm  
 Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 pm  
 Tuesday, November 13 at 9:00 pm  
 Friday, November 16 at noon  
 Sunday, November 18 at 10:00 am

Monday, November 19 at 8:00 pm  
 Monday, November 19 at midnight  
 Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 am  
 Saturday, November 24 at 11:00 am  
 Sunday, November 25 at 5:00 pm

**Regional Collaboration**

Dozens of donors, scholars, academic institutions and civic organizations collaborated to bring Braun’s story to public television viewers, teachers and students. E. Lucy Braun’s major accomplishments fall in three general areas:

**Science of Ecology:** Ecologists study the relationship between organisms and the environment. Before the early 1900s, natural scientists often compartmentalized their research. Inspired by Henry Chandler Cowles, E. Lucy Braun joined a pioneering group of scientists who examined how plant and animal communities were affected by geology over time. “When Braun graduated with her PhD from Cincinnati, she couldn’t get a degree in ecology.

“Lucy Braun was one the foremost scientists and conservationists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What [Lucy and her sister Annette] learned in their many trips to Eastern Kentucky through the early part of the century profoundly influenced both ecological science and the early environmental conservation movement in North America.  
 - Alice Jones, PhD., Professor of Geosciences, Eastern Kentucky University

There was no field of study for it," says Allison Cusick, Ph.D., Research Associate in Botany, Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Braun contributed to the field of American ecology in many ways through her long tenure as a professor at the University of Cincinnati, her landmark books and her leadership in establishing professional associations. "She contributes to a general ecological thinking, helping to educate a new generation of botanists and ecologists, who themselves will become activists in that later environmental movement," according to David Stradling, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Humanities & Professor of History, University of Cincinnati.

**Breaking Barriers:** At the turn of the century, E. Lucy Braun smashed through many barriers to women who wanted careers in science. Lucy was the third woman to earn a PhD from the University of Cincinnati. At age 28, she was one of 21 women who were charter members of the Ecological Society of America. She was the first female president of the Ohio Academy of Science (1933-1934), the first female president of the Ecological Society of America (1950), the first woman listed in the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame (1971), one of two women inducted into the first class of the Kentucky Botany Hall of Fame, and she is among only three women named to the *Fifty Most Outstanding Botanists* by the American Botanical Society. In 1930, she wrote a letter to a friend describing an invitation to a Forest Service research trip: ...they 'thought

In *A Force for Nature*, Meg Hanrahan brings alive the amazing and pioneering life of one of the greatest botanists to ever live, E. Lucy Braun. Hanrahan has ensured that Lucy Braun's life, research, and legacy will continue to inspire and inform new generations of people about the beauty and biodiversity of the Kentucky Mountains.  
- Geoff Marietta, Executive Director, Pine Mountain Settlement School.

*Dr. Braun was a man.' I'm just wondering how the most of this gathering will take the invasion by a woman.*

**Conservation Leader:** One of the most enduring legacies of E. Lucy Braun is her early leadership in the American conservation movement. Braun had the knowledge, tenacity and fundraising skills needed to help preserve dozens of natural sites in Ohio and Kentucky. She also helped establish several organizations instrumental in conservation today, including the Ecologists Union, which became The Nature Conservancy in 1950. "The sites that she was studying in the 1920's when conservation wasn't on anybody's mind became nature preserves and those grew into even larger areas," according to Martin McAllister, Appalachian Forests Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy. "So single-handedly, she started an effort that's now resulted in literally thousands and thousands of acres being protected."

"Dr. Braun had a profound impact on my ecological and biological inventory efforts in Kentucky. Her many papers and books gave me insight and historical perspective and helped me to locate many outstanding natural areas in Kentucky. E. Lucy Braun has been my hero for many decades."  
- Marc Evans, Board Chair, Kentucky Natural Lands Trusts

## Support Materials

***A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun*** has a companion website, Facebook site and website where viewers, teachers and students may download educational materials.

**Lucy Braun project website:** <http://voyageurmedia.org/wordpress/portfolio/lucy-braun/>

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. hosts a companion website with news, articles, "behind-the-scene" videos, media kits, photographs, DVD information, and links to related projects and archives.

**Lucy Braun Facebook site:** <https://www.facebook.com/MegHanrahanMedia/>

Meg Hanrahan Media has a Lucy Braun Facebook page for those who want project news and to interact with the production team.

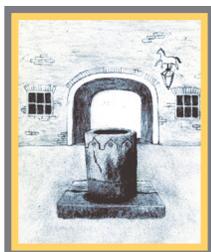
**Lucy Braun educational materials:** <https://www.cincymuseum.org/nature/e-lucy-braun>

The production team is partnering with staff members from the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, Cincinnati Museum Center, on the development of educational materials for students (K-12) to enhance use of the documentary in the classroom.

## Funding

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### Major Donors



MESHEWA FARM FOUNDATION



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