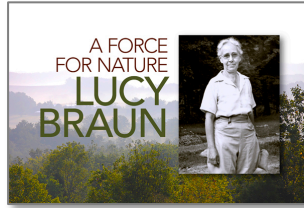


February 13, 2019

Media release
Braun national distribution
Voyageur/Meg Hanrahan Media



A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun

National public television distribution

Dr. E. Lucy Braun returns to the national stage when the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) distributes *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun* to over 100 public television stations throughout the United States beginning on March 23, 2019. *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun* explores the life and legacies of E. Lucy Braun (1889 – 1971), 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 rich soundtrack for a compelling look at how one determined woman changed our world.

A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun is a co-production of Meg Hanrahan Media and Voyageur Media Group, Inc., two independent production companies based in Cincinnati, Ohio. The documentary earned critical acclaim and strong viewership from broadcasts by public television stations in Ohio and Kentucky in 2018. “Dr. Lucy Braun’s scientific contributions are comparable to 20th century figures like Rachel Carson and Aldo Leopold,” according to Meg Hanrahan, Writer/Producer/Director, *A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun*. Hanrahan adds, “We are thrilled public television viewers, teachers and students across America have an opportunity to understand Braun’s national achievements in the field of ecology, gender equality and the early conservation movement.” WOSU (Columbus) is serving as the presenting station for national distribution. Stacia Hentz, Television Program Director, WOSU, says, “*A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun* is a beautifully produced program profiling a pioneering woman of science. Lucy Braun’s story of breaking barriers, her tireless work for land conservation resulting in real change and leaving behind a legacy for others to be inspired to continue her work, is one that needs to be shared with PBS viewers all over the country. WOSU is proud to be the presenting station for this wonderful documentary.”

Dr. E. Lucy Braun



Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. 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. Lucy Braun was a researcher, writer, photographer, college professor and conservationist during a career that spanned six decades. Dr. Braun was the third woman to earn a PhD from the University of Cincinnati. 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 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. Devere Burt, Retired Director Emeritus, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, says, “Lucy exemplifies the power of one person to make change. The legacy she has left is really profound. And now generations removed from Lucy, we have an extraordinary conservation community and I think that’s the enduring part of her story.”

Photo 1: *Lucy Braun in the field, ca 1960. Courtesy, University of Cincinnati.*

National Contributions

A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun is a collaborative effort among dozens of scholars, academic institutions and national organizations that recognize Braun's significant contributions as a founder of American ecology, a pioneer for women in science and a leader in the early conservation movement.

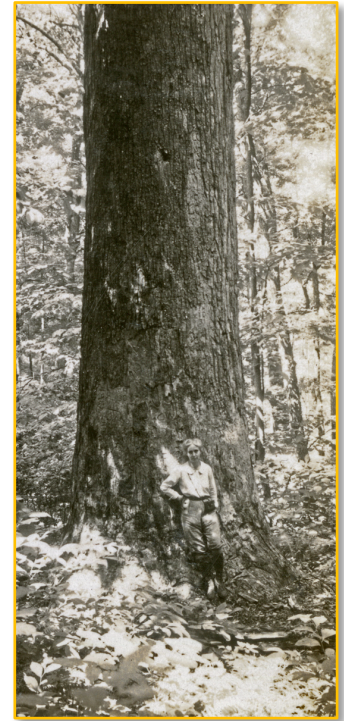
Science of Ecology:

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. There was no field of study for it," says Allison Cusick, Ph.D., Research Associate in Botany, Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Dr. 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

One of the things that Lucy Braun did, which was unique for her time, is that she looked at how vegetation changed. This was used as a framework for other studies that went back and looked at plants through time.
-- Sunshine Brosi, PhD., Associate Professor, Ethnobotany and Forest Ecology, Frostburg State University, Maryland.

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.

Photo 2: Lucy Braun stands at the base of a massive tulip poplar while studying Kentucky's old-growth forests in 1933. Despite Braun's efforts to save this forest, it was logged in 1937; adding to her motivation as an early conservation leader. Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution.



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. In 1930, she wrote a letter to a friend describing an invitation to a Forest Service research trip: *...they 'thought Dr. Braun was a man.' I'm just wondering how the most of this gathering will take the invasion by a woman.* 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 *Most Distinguished American Botanists* by the Botanical Society of America in 1961.

I think she hurdled over all men scientists, not just by her dogged determination, but by her sheer excellence as a scientist. The males of the time didn't quite know how to deal with that.
-- Chris Bedel, Preserve Director, Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, Cincinnati Museum Center.

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 networking skills needed to lead efforts to preserve dozens of natural sites in Ohio and Kentucky. She was also active in the

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. So single-handedly, she started an effort that's now resulted in literally thousands and thousands of acres being protected.

- Martin McAllister, Appalachian Forests Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy.

development of organizations that promoted conservation, like the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America and The Nature Conservancy. "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."

Support Materials

A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun has a companion website, educational website and Facebook site for viewers, teachers and students. Publicity contact: Tom Law, Associate Producer, Voyageur Media Group, Inc. Email: contactus@voyageurmedia.org.

Companion website: <http://voyageurmedia.org/wordpress/lucy-braun/>

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. hosts a companion website with news, articles, "behind-the-scene" videos, distribution information, educational resources and DVD order forms.

Educational materials: <http://voyageurmedia.org/wordpress/lucy-braun-education/>

The production team and staff members from the Cincinnati Museum Center's Edge of Appalachia Preserve System have developed educational materials for students (4-12) to enhance use of the documentary in the classroom. Robyn Wright-Strauss, Chief Naturalist, Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, says, "Learning about E. Lucy Braun's life serves as an inspiration to all of us. She was passionate, she was a leader, she was a fighter, and she didn't apologize for who she was. Her brilliance, dedication and ability to face challenges head-on are qualities that can help motivate us to be our best selves."

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MegHanrahanMedia/>

Meg Hanrahan Media has a Lucy Braun Facebook page for those who want news about the documentary, special screenings, related scholarship or to interact with the production team.

Funding

A Force for Nature: Lucy Braun is made possible with the support of Meshewa Farm Foundation, Ohio Humanities, Anness Family Charitable Fund, Alan B. Lindner Family Fund, Camden Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio, Cincinnati Museum Center, Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Buck Niehoff, Motch Family Foundation, Inc., Indian Hill Garden Club, University of Cincinnati College of Arts and Sciences, Hope Taft, Amy Banister and Carl Stich, Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, Midwest Native Plant Society, and numerous individual donors (full list on project website)