

The background of the entire image is a close-up of a swampy area with green lily pads and murky water. A person's hand, wearing a metal mesh watch, is visible in the lower-left corner, holding a single green lily pad. Overlaid on the image is the title 'Great Black Swamp' in a large, bold, black serif font. The word 'Swamp' is rendered in a dark brown, dripping, horror-style font, with the brown liquid dripping down the fingers of the hand holding the lily pad.

Great Black Swamp

Patrick Wensink

Assistant Professor
of Creative Writing
and Swamp Genius

-Or-

**How the most boring place
in America might just save the planet.**

“You are going to have a day without even the tiniest of pleasures, you are going to drive across Ohio.”

-Bill Bryson













A large, solid red heart shape is centered on a white background. Inside the heart, the text "We're Normal!" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "We're" on the top line and "Normal!" on the bottom line.

**We're
Normal!**

2014



Lake Erie algae bloom, August 2011

Sam Anchor, Michigan Sea Grant

Me



Wensink Family Tree













Photo credit: NOAA





HANCOCK BRICK AND TILE

Daniel Child moved to Findlay in 1867. With two partners, Child started a tile manufacturing business called Danney, Child and Murray. In 1887, Child bought out Mr. Murray and a year later, Mr. Murray died in a factory fire. Child, now on the sole owner, purchased a second factory in 1892 and the Hancock Brick and Tile Company was organized. Daniel Child died in 1917, leaving his son D. Earl Child in charge of the business. In the 1920s, the business expanded and acquired the Miller City Tile Company, the Superior Tile Company, and Rich Tumbler Company.

In 1968, the company created the Historic Division responsible for making plastic tile. The Historic Division grew and merged with 50 parent companies in 1976, taking it over, to produce the new or much more demand than the original city. By 1980, Hancock had plastic tile plants in 11 states. They made asphalt tanks, plastic swimming, bathtub liners and waterproof tubs in addition to drainage tile.

Hancock was acquired by Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) in 2005, and remains a part of that company today.



Please do not touch

Grand Dad of them

BUCKEYE TRACTION DITCHER

This machine was built by the Buckeye Iron Works in 1880 and was used to dig trenches for drainage tile. It was the first machine of its kind in the world and was a major advance in the industry. The machine was built by the Buckeye Iron Works in Findlay, Ohio, and was used for many years in the Findlay area.

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WENSINK

FATHER

HENRY

1859 - 1934



MOTHER

REGINA C.

1863 - 1928







Rewilding



