



Preserving Nature in the Heart of Indiana

Central Indiana Land Trust Incorporated News

A WONDERFUL NEW ACQUISITION BEING SOUGHT ON BIG WALNUT!

by Thomas O. Swinford

CILTI is pursuing Big Walnut Hemlock Refugia in what is expected to be another very positive partnership. Just this month, the Indiana Heritage Trust project committee unanimously approved our proposed acquisition of a parcel in this valuable area.

The unique valley of Big Walnut Creek is known for the abundant and diverse forests covering rugged slopes and for the beautiful stream itself. As a hotspot of biological diversity of statewide significance, The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources have been working since the 1970's to protect hundreds of acres along its rocky course in northeast Putnam County. The Central Indiana Land Trust, with your help, has now joined them!



*Photo of a Hemlock Branch
from www-personal.umich.edu*

CILTI has just signed a purchase agreement marking a major step towards acquiring an aesthetically beautiful and biologically significant parcel of 38.8 acres of land on a steep bluff directly over the stream. Under two miles from the Hendricks Co. border, this site contains one of the few remaining hemlock refugia found along the stream corridor. Here on the cool north-facing slopes these graceful conifers provide habitat for such birds as Northern Saw-whet Owls and Black-throated Green Warblers, which are uncommon species for central Indiana.

CILTI is working hard to fill existing “protection gaps” along Big Walnut by acquiring additional tracts to add to the critical mass of habitat which will ensure the continued viability of the unique plants and animals that call this valley home. It will also secure a mystical haven for the human spirit, so very close to the urban masses of central Indiana.

The Big Walnut Hemlock Refugia in Putnam County will be an exciting new property for CILTI's land protection portfolio. It could only be happening through the continued support of you, our members!! In addition, several state and local organizations have pledged their support for this project—powerful recognition of the importance of CILTI's work along Big Walnut! In order to continue our urgent work in protecting central Indiana's last unique remaining natural areas, we are counting on you, the people who call central Indiana home, to continue to demonstrate your generous financial commitment and support through membership. Our home is in our hands!



*Preserving Nature
in the Heart
of Indiana*

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President's Message



There is so much activity going on inside CILTI that it seems everyone in Central Indiana must be involved and excited about land protection. Just the other day, I heard a group of soccer moms talking about CILTI and their great work. Okay, it was really a "group" of two and I was talking to them. Still, it appears that land protection is moving into public awareness. Why do I say this? Because so many projects and people keep coming our way that it has to mean that word of CILTI is being spread.

We have closed on the 17-acre "deed gap" that adjoins the Heron Rookery, signed a Purchase Agreement on our first property on Big Walnut and continue to work on White River in Hamilton County. In response to our newsletter article, all of our properties have at least one steward and in some cases three.

This spring at Burr Oak Bend in Hamilton County the restoration of woods and prairie will begin. Spring is almost here and once the planting is done, you will be able to watch it grow and transform the landscape over the years.

Protecting the land is the reason that CILTI exists and everything that we do is aimed at making sure that we continue to protect land long into the future. That includes helping others appreciate the natural landscape. One way of doing that is to work with schools located close to our properties. John Marshall School on the east side of Indianapolis is using the Glick Property for their outdoor learning lab. They want to plan a trail for the site so they can view some of the species and label them. Watch for the trail building in the near future. This collaboration with an area school creates a wonderful opportunity for school aged children to work in a natural area.

An area foundation funded a grant that will help us to spread the word about CILTI into their county. Some of the word is spread by giving programs about CILTI to Rotary, Lions, Chamber of Commerce, Garden Clubs and other interested groups. We are already being scheduled by several groups and other organizations are checking their calendar to book us. If you know of a group that would be interested in hearing about CILTI, talk to that group's program person and have them contact Marissa. She will get them on our schedule. Next thing you know, you too will be hearing soccer moms talk about CILTI and the great work we are doing.

Now that you've seen just a hint of what we've been doing recently, I'm sure you understand better why I'm certain there is a buzz about us. I hope you will want to join us for one of the scheduled visits to our properties this spring. Those dates are listed in this newsletter. Drive by Burr Oak Bend so you can notice the "before". The changes that "after" will bring, will be gradual and very long term but I believe the results will be worth the watching and the wait.

Reta Rutledge President of the Board



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Meeting Cool Creek Nature Center April 25th, 6-8 pm.

Spring Workdays could be renamed Wildflower Days! Though we concentrate on removing trash (so it doesn't squash or stifle native flowers and shrubs), and pulling up "alien" invasive non-native plants (to give our treasures space to grow), that invariably gets us up close and personal with the rejuvenating sights and sounds and feel of Spring. Since many of our properties are woods, that means you will get to see woodland wildflowers, new green shoots of trees and shrubs, and the uplifting experience of life rebounding. After all the snow and ice of this winter, Spring will be most welcome. Savor it with us!

Pioneer Cemeteries Henry County Trash pickup and trimming.	Sunday, March 23rd, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Carpool from CILTI office; meet at 11:30 a.m.
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Glick Nature Preserve Trash pickup and exotics control.	Saturday, March 29th, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. 42nd and Mitthoeffer, Indy.
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John Sunmans Woods Trash pickup and exotics control.	Saturday, April 12th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 6 mi. east of Batesville on CR 775E and SR 46. Carpool from CILTI office, meet at 8:00 a.m.
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Burr Oak Bend **Tree planting**	May 3rd and 4th 8:00 a.m. Call for Directions. Noblesville.
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Please contact the CILTI office (631-5263 or landtrust@cilti.org) if you are interested in attending this event.

Glick Nature Preserve Trail construction and sign placement Assist John Marshall Middle School students	Monday-Friday, May 5-9, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day. 42nd and Mitthoeffer, Indy. Rain dates: May 12-16, 9:30-1:30 each day. Bring bag lunch.
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(see Executive Director's report for details).
Please contact CILTI office if you are interested in volunteering for one or all of these days.

Burnett Woods Trash pickup and exotics control.	Saturday, May 10th 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. In Avon east of Dan Jones Rd. on CR 100S. Park at Light and Life Methodist Church.
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*You too could join in the fun of
planting trees!*

Help Needed! If you are interested in being a CILTI volunteer, please call our office (631-5263) so that we can find an opportunity that is right for you. Volunteer opportunities are available both in the office and in the field.

HERON ROOKERY EXPANDED

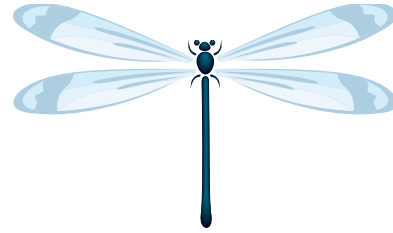
The Millard Sutton/Amos W. Butler Audubon Sanctuary purchased by CILTI last year (see Spring 2002 newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 2) is now better protected. A 17 acre triangle of adjacent wet farm fields and scrub wetland was purchased in early January, adding a valuable buffer to this the largest nesting site in Indiana for Great Blue Herons. This brings the total protected area to 76 acres.



Great Blue Heron
Photo by Rob Rutledge

The property had been identified in the original survey as not having a clear owner. Old and incomplete records suggested different owners. Thanks to the cooperation of both parties who held the deeds in question, CILTI now has title and will restore the land. CILTI is grateful to Mary Jean Petersen and Butch Sutton for working with us to secure this critical tract of wetland. Once again Amos W. Butler Audubon Society made a very generous financial contribution, and a IPALCO Golden Eagle Grant was also obtained to make the purchase possible.

CILTI intends to stabilize the soil by tree plantings this year that will eventually also increase nesting sites for the herons. We are very pleased to report another win-win partnership in favor of the land and its creatures.



IN MEMORY

Memorial contributions to Central Indiana Land Trust Inc. are lasting tributes that preserve natural areas for generations to come in the name of very special people. CILTI is privileged to carry on its mission in their names.

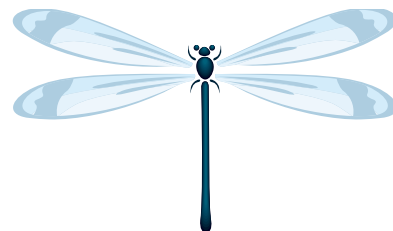
In memory of *Donna Chelf*
By Reta and Rob Rutledge

In memory of *Dr. and Mrs. Irving Cohen*
By Ralph and Betty Jersild

IN HONOR

Contributions to CILTI have also been made to celebrate special occasions or to honor special persons. Such donations support preservation of habitat for native flora and fauna here in the heartland.

In honor of *Sandy Bowen-Lehnen and Roberta Donahue*
By Courtney and Meg Tucker



There Is Nothing Like The Support Of So Many!

Central Indiana Land Trust donors, members, volunteers and friends make good things happen on a continuing basis. Every day, in all kinds of ways, you are in fact preserving special life spaces in Central Indiana and supporting the varied activities that make conservation happen.

CILTI would like to thank **Hoosier Office Machines** for donating a copy machine to our office. We appreciate their generosity and commitment to serving nonprofit organizations.

CILTI would like to also thank **Angelo Dattilo** for donating two folding tables, and **Bruce Allen** for donating a computer and accessories. Gifts such as these are greatly appreciated, and help reduce our operating expenses.

Hoosier Office Machines
4905 North Franklin Road
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Our Thanks to many special people: 2002 Volunteers

In the year just past, the following persons helped with stewardship, field trips, mailings, and a variety of other tasks. We are very grateful.

Heather Bacher
Sandy Bowen-Lehnen
Robert Lehnen
Larry Conrad
Angelo Dattilo
Lynn Dennis
Mike Dennis
Bobbie Donahue
Connie Douglas
Jack Douglas
Ted Harris
Michael Homoya
Bud Jersild
Mary Johnson
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Clare Oskay
Reta Rutledge
Rob Rutledge
Tom Swinford
Doug Valmore
Daniel Werner
Marc Woernle
Erinn Donahue Wold
Jim Wold



*Randy Lewis captures a Green-sided Darter on a field trip at Burr Oak Bend.
Photo by Rob Rutledge*

Executive Director's Column



As CILTI continues to expand its services and activities, it is equally important that we also constantly assess the impact our work has on the communities that we serve. The role that a land trust such as CILTI plays is multifaceted, ranging from the simple act of acquiring and maintaining properties, to truly insuring a permanent appreciation for the preservation of these natural places. While most of our efforts are necessarily focused on meeting the immediate needs of land protection and the activities designed to facilitate this work, we also cannot ignore the fact that a new generation of individuals will eventually be replacing us and defining the communities in which we serve. If this new generation is not profoundly appreciative of the natural areas that we have sought to preserve, many of our accomplishments will have been for naught.

While CILTI may not have the capacity to serve as an educational institution per se, we can certainly use our properties and our relationships with other groups to give youths the opportunity to explore the natural world around them, helping them experience and appreciate the beauty and wonderment of nature in its purest form. As the late Rachel Carson wrote in her unfinished book, *The Sense of Wonder*, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

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We're In This For The Long Term

CILTI is continuing efforts to secure our financial future, exploring multiple ways in which to ensure a long term investment plan. One of the ways we do this is by building the strength of our endowment.

CILTI currently has an endowed fund with the Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF). The principal from this fund will never be spent; rather, earnings are used in perpetuity to support the work of CILTI.

Please help us to grow this endowment and secure our future.

You can make gifts to this fund in memory or tribute of loved ones or friends. JCCF is happy to work with you if you wish to make a gift other than cash, such as stock or property. Strong organizations must insure a strong future - our endowment will allow us to do just that. For more information on our fund, call Sandy Daniels at JCCF 738-2213.

You can mail gifts to:
Johnson County Community Foundation,
PO Box 217
Franklin Indiana 46131

Make checks payable to JCCF, but indicate on your check or in an attached letter that the gift is for the Central Indiana Land Trust Inc. Fund.



Over the past several months, CILTI has been working to build a partnership with the John Marshall Middle School, an environmental science magnet school located several blocks south of CILTI's Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve in Indianapolis. One of the goals of this particular magnet school is to provide urban youths with an education that includes hands on experience of the natural world. Not surprisingly, CILTI and the John Marshall School soon discovered a golden opportunity to work together! A group of students is currently in the process of designing an interpretive trail and nature guide for the Glick Preserve, and will present its design ideas to CILTI staff and board members in the coming weeks. The students who have been assigned to work on this project are part of a program for youths with difficulties transitioning to middle school. It is our hope and belief that these are students who will truly benefit from the responsibility associated with the project, from the sense of accomplishment that will come with completion of the trail and nature guide, and from the opportunity for a direct interaction with the natural world.

CILTI constantly works to encourage local groups and individuals to take an interest in our properties. The more people we have watching over our sites, the greater ability we have to ensure the highest level of care for each one. Once the Glick Preserve trail is constructed, we hope and expect that John Marshall students and staff will begin to utilize the preserve on a more regular basis, along with residents from the surrounding community. The preserve's nine acres of green space and natural habitat offer a valuable sanctuary for humans as well as wildlife in the highly urbanized landscape. If we can provide the students of John Marshall with an opportunity to not only explore and appreciate

the small oasis of habitat present at the Glick Preserve but also to develop a sense of ownership for the property, we will have furthered the objectives of the magnet school as well the objectives of our own organization. Peter Forbes, co-director of the Trust for Public Land's Center for Land and People, described the importance of this type of community involvement when he wrote:

... the sense of meaning and self-determination that is brought forward by the act of conservation permeates other aspects of community life... [its greater meaning] comes from connecting people to the wild and the unknown, connecting people to a story greater than themselves. (*The Great Remembering*)

** Note: Trail construction will take place May 5-9, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm each day. Rain dates are scheduled for May 12-16. If you are interested in helping out with trail construction and student supervision on any or all of these days, please contact the CILTI office at 631-5263 so that we can communicate details with you as the time approaches.



CILTI GETS A NEW HIGH TECH TOOL

by Stephen Cox, CILTI GIS Intern.

Everybody loves maps! And in the land conservation business they are essential. When the first organizers of CILTI met at the War Memorial in 1991, several folks brainstormed about map sources and how to access them in order to get going right away on identifying good sites to preserve, learning who the landowners are, being aware of land use trends in different places, and other relevant issues. Happily, CILTI has recently been able to make a large leap forward in acquiring and using mapping information.

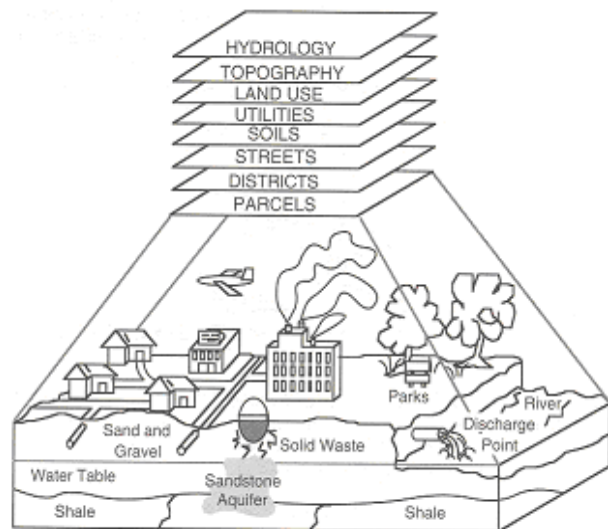
In September 2002, CILTI received two extraordinarily generous gifts, intended to help acquire and set up a Geographic Information System, or GIS. CILTI received \$4,000 from Cheryl Wilfong and \$4,000 from Jim and Dona Fuller. Together, the funds were used to purchase Global Positioning System (GPS) hardware and software, GIS software, and to pay the hourly wages of an intern. Thus, I was put to work during the fall semester and CILTI promptly began reaping the benefits available through GIS.

The technological advancements that have computerized so much in our daily lives have enabled tasks that would have previously required hours or day's even weeks of work to now be accomplished in a matter of minutes (or even seconds). Geographic Information Systems represent a relatively new frontier in this technological revolution, providing the ability to visualize, interpret, analyze, and model anything that exists in geographic space. GIS has a natural affinity to environmental applications, which makes it a perfect tool for organizations like CILTI.

What is GIS?

Several definitions are currently used to describe GIS, each of which is correct to some extent. To some people, a GIS is simply a container (or database) of digitized maps. True, a GIS is excellent at storing and displaying all of the

elements needed to make maps, but this is certainly not all. A GIS can also aid in spatial analysis, or, the act of sifting through data in order to find significant geographic relationships that are not readily apparent. GIS gives us a means to answer questions about why things are where they are. That helps us model present geospatial relationships and interactions, which in turn can aid in predicting the future. However, a GIS is not a crystal ball. It is a tool that can be used to help us solve geographic problems. It is as useful as the human input and qualitative interpretation put to it. In this sense it is whatever we choose to make it.



A number of related data layers can represent the many geographies of the real world.

*Graphic from the Environmental Systems Research
Institute*

What Can GIS Do for CILTI?

The possible applications of GIS are immense. Thus far, I have accumulated about 10 gigabytes (10,000 megabytes) of spatial data for CILTI's GIS and more is on the way. In fact, the amount of data will likely double by the end of my spring semester's additional work.

One reason that GIS is so powerful is that it works in layers. For instance, one could create a map that combines an aerial photograph with a layer depicting wetlands superimposed on

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top of it, easily identifying where wetlands are in relation to their surroundings. With the data that have been collected for CILTI, we can even identify the type of wetland with great specificity (e.g. forested palustrine wetlands with primarily broad-leaved deciduous vegetation). We can overlay as few or as many layers as we want in any combination we see fit. We can also label features, zoom in and out, change colors and symbols, or create full-blown map documents.

Moreover, we can create our own data through the use of the GPS, a system of satellites orbiting the Earth that transmits signals to the ground. As golfers, boaters, and some auto owners know, a person using a GPS receiver tuned to these signals can determine his or her position on the ground with a high degree of accuracy. These positions can then be incorporated into a GIS. Currently, GPS technology is being used to map CILTI property boundaries as well as the various land features within them.

GIS can handle geographic issues as complex as the human mind can imagine. Traditional maps tell us where things are, but a GIS can help us understand why they are there. GIS can also aid in predicting what would happen if some environmental variable were altered. For example, if we have a stream that is adjacent to a large agricultural field, the flow, form, and composition of the stream would be partially determined by runoff from the field. If farming in the field were halted and natural vegetation permitted to take hold, the change in runoff through the area would lead to a change in the stream. Given the right data, a GIS can provide a relatively accurate prediction of how our hypothetical stream would be affected by such changes within its watershed. In terms of stewardship, this capability will be invaluable to CILTI in helping to assess the potential environmental impacts that land restoration would have in various sites in its service area.

In addition, the GIS can help to streamline the land acquisition process. Rather than physically going to a prospective site with little idea of what will be found there, CILTI staff can first consult the GIS to familiarize themselves with the parcel(s) in question and a decision can be made as to whether or not a

parcel is deserving of a closer look. Obviously, this can help with wise use of staff time and effort.

The new technology generously made available to CILTI is already being put to use in prioritizing sites for acquisition, and helping us communicate with the public about what we are preserving and why.

Stephen C. Cox (CILTI Intern)

CILTI would like to thank Jim and Dona Fuller and Cheryl Wilfong for their extraordinarily generous gifts. Our Global Information System has become an invaluable tool for our land protection work, and we are very grateful for their contribution.



“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

John Muir



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www.cilti.org

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