



The Acorn

News from the Central Indiana Land Trust Inc.

In Memory of Randy Lewis: CILTI Board Member and Friend

By Reta Rutledge

Many CILTI members had the pleasure of working with Randy Lewis during his seven years as a board member and were saddened by his passing on November 26, 2006 after battling an illness for six months. In this article, I would like to share some of the memories of Randy's life with CILTI.

In early 1997, CILTI was working to raise \$60,000 in order to purchase the 69-acre Burnett Woods near Avon in Hendricks County. Bud Jersild, Board President at the time, recalls receiving a phone call from a soft-spoken man named Randy Lewis. Randy worked at Cinergy and wanted to offer Cinergy's financial support to complete the purchase. Thanks to this donation, along with funding from the Indiana Heritage Trust and private donors, CILTI was able to close the deal on Burnett Woods in 1998.


In late 1998, CILTI was looking for a new Board Member. Bud Jersild suggested Randy for the position, and Randy accepted. He joined the board in June of 1999. He became a member of the Land Committee, and his desire to protect land kept him on that committee all during his board tenure. Bud

and Randy visited CILTI properties together and Bud recalls that Randy was never lost in the woods and seemed to have a built-in compass.







Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist for the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves recalls that Randy brought his passion to everything he did - from getting his hands dirty with tree plantings to discussing science-based conservation strategies. Tom misses being able to talk science with Randy and sharing his love of aquatic biology. Some of the conservation work now being done on Sugar Creek is based on some of the research that Randy did there.



Randy Lewis leading a stewardship field day of tree planting at Burr Oak Bend in Spring of 2005.



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A few years ago when CILTI had a clean-up at the Millard Sutton/Amos W. Butler Audubon Sanctuary, Randy provided boats needed to ferry volunteers across the White River. A steady rain was falling as I climbed into his boat and was assured by Randy that it was NOT raining at the clean-up site. His unflagging enthusiasm for the work set the mood for the day, and all the volunteers displayed a spirit of camaraderie and fun as we gathered tires, beer kegs, and other debris left by a river in flood.

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From the President

In preparation for becoming Board President, I have been reviewing the history of CILTI and its members. Our history as an organization is one filled with fantastic successes. Our portfolio has grown to more than 2,400 acres protected with 800 acres owned and more than 20 separate properties preserved. WOW! One thing that is certain: none of this would have been possible without strong leadership and clear vision.

For the last several years, a great deal of our leadership and vision has been embodied in our past president, Reta Rutledge. Of the 20 properties CILTI has protected, no less than 13 have occurred under Reta's tenure. We have hired our current Executive Director, expanded our staff, and increased our operating budget all under Reta's guiding hand. CILTI has made a tremendous impact on Central Indiana in the past 4 years, and all of us at CILTI, and all of the residents of Central Indiana owe a "thank you" to Reta for her very successful efforts in leading CILTI.

But don't think that Reta is finished yet. Since stepping down as President, Reta has remained on the Board, is chairing the Land Committee, and can be seen at a number of volunteer functions for CILTI. So if

you would like to say "thank you" to Reta, just come to a CILTI event or Land Committee meeting. Reta will probably be there working as hard as ever for all of Central Indiana.

To build on this strong history, the Board met the first Saturday in January to refine our vision for the future. It was one of the most productive and inspirational planning meetings I have ever attended. The Board determined three key objectives for CILTI: protect and steward more land, engage more constituents, and build greater organizational capacity. It's a clear vision of our mission and objectives.

So I want to ask each and every member of CILTI to build on that inspiration as we...

- ◆ Use our acquisition of property to engage our community and stretch our capacity. By correctly stewarding our properties, we encourage others to join our mission and donate to us;
- ◆ Enhance our fundraising efforts and garner the resources to expand our capacity;
- ◆ Expand our outreach efforts to engage others to support our vision for what Central Indiana could become through coordinated conservation efforts;



- ◆ And, *of course*, buy land to protect more acreage for ourselves and future generations.

Please help us as we...

- ◆ Cherish our history and past success while looking to the future;
- ◆ Work to inspire each other and the community around us; and
- ◆ Champion CILTI and its mission for each and every Hoosier.

Let's all learn from the examples set by people like Reta and know that we can make a difference today for the future of Central Indiana. I look forward to a tremendous year working with each of you.

I would like to see CILTI protect an additional 2,000 acres in the next three years. Based on our history and our volunteer efforts to date, we can achieve this goal. Let's buy some land!

- James Wilson

The Central Indiana Land Trust

Our Mission...

Through land protection, stewardship and education, the Central Indiana Land Trust preserves natural habitat, improving air and water quality and enhancing life in our communities for present and future generations.

Our Vision...

We envision the Central Indiana Land Trust to be a community-supported organization that protects natural habitat through strategic use of resources to enhance and continually improve the quality of life in Central Indiana.

CILTI's Preserving Nature Art Show

Barnes & Thornburg proudly sponsors *Preserving Nature*, a collection of paintings from CILTI's nature preserves produced by fifteen of Indiana's finest landscape artists over the past year. Join us for music and refreshments and a chance to meet the artists and members of the arts and environmental communities.

Saturday, April 14th: 5 - 7 pm

Artsgarden at Circle Centre Mall, downtown Indianapolis

Keynote Speaker: Environmental Author Stephanie Mills

Admission: \$10

Advance purchase of tickets is recommended as space is limited. To order tickets, fill out the form below and mail to CILTI, 324 W. Morris Street, Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46225. You may also purchase by credit card over the phone at 317-631-5263.

Number of Tickets: _____ x \$10 = Total Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

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For more information, see the Winter 2006 Newsletter or visit www.cilti.org.

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Burr Oak Bend by Mary Ann Davis

A Guide to the Preserves of Central Indiana Land Trust is Now Available!

CILTI's guide to its nature preserves is a 50-page, full-color, wire-bound field book, sturdy enough to carry around while exploring our preserves. Included are descriptions, photos, maps, and directions to each property. Also featured is a 10-page section by Tom Swinford, Indiana Department of Natural Resources conservation biologist and natural historian, highlighting the conservation priorities in central Indiana. Copies are available for \$10 each, or free with your 2007 donation of \$100 or more. Order your copy today, and don't forget one for the nature lovers in your life.

To order your copy, please complete this form and send to:

Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc.
324 W. Morris Street, Suite 210
Indianapolis, IN 46225

I would like to order _____ copies of *A Guide to the Preserves of Central Indiana Land Trust*. I have enclosed \$10 for each copy.

I would like a complimentary copy of *A Guide to the Preserves of Central Indiana Land Trust*. Enclosed is my 2007 donation of \$100 or more.

Please mail my copy/copies to:

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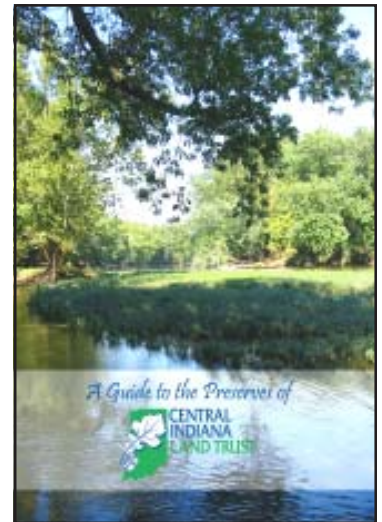
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Copies may also be ordered through our secure donation page at www.cilti.org.

Special thanks to the Efroymsen Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation who helped make this project possible.



A Note from the Director...

A partnership between CILTI and Ducks Unlimited



CILTI is pleased to partner with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU) in 2007 on a very important project, the enhancement of the Indiana Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data. CARL enhances our ability to develop landscape-scale long-term planning for conservation action.

Both public and private conservation organizations across Indiana are involved in a number of programs to identify and conserve areas of natural, scenic, biological, and agricultural importance. Where possible, these areas are integrated with existing conservation efforts across the landscape as a whole. This integration provides the opportunity to do more effective conservation with maximum connectivity. It is important from both a landscape and long-term perspective to determine the existing use and protection of lands surrounding potential projects in order to achieve conservation efficiently and effectively.

Ducks Unlimited initially developed CARL for the Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin) through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, and The Nature Conservancy of Michigan. In other Great Lakes states, the CARL layer has been used to identify protected wetlands for DU's conservation planning efforts and other regional conservation planning efforts.

Unfortunately, current information on the existing conservation and recreational land use is often not available. One source of conservation and recreation lands that is missing from CARL is the private conservation lands (some local land conservancies, state and national land conservancies, private hunt clubs, and conservation easements), and knowledge about these lands plays a vital role in the development of future conservation efforts. Often, even when the data is public, it may be difficult to access.

This local project of enhancing the Indiana CARL data will benefit CILTI and other conservation organizations throughout our state. The improved CARL layer will then be published to the internet so that local, non-profit conservation organizations can download or view the information online. Most data will be public with the exception of any data restricted by the landowner. For more information, visit glaro.ducks.org/CARL.

- Heather Bacher



The Conservation And Recreation Lands project is funded in part by a grant from the Land Trust Alliance.

continued from page 1

Anyone who attended the tour of Burr Oak Bend in November of 2002 will recall Tom Swinford in his beret describing how the farm field would look in the future with trees and prairie plantings. The group walked to the White River where Randy was in his hip boots searching under a snag of trees hoping to net something to show us. He caught a green-sided darter and expressed delight that the fish was in breeding colors, allowing us to enjoy its full beauty. Darters are indicators of clean water, so finding this colorful fish meant that the White River was recovering from the chemical spill of 1999. The beautiful fish and its clean water preference occupied the group as we drank hot chocolate and other warm drinks prepared over a Coleman camp stove in the field.

When more land was added to Burr Oak Bend, Randy organized the volunteers who gathered on a very muddy Saturday in the spring of 2005. Randy and fellow Board Member George Peregrim helped teach everyone where and how to plant the trees correctly. A pickup truck got stuck and several of us rushed to help push it free. My learning experience for the day was “don’t stand behind the drive wheels when pushing a four-wheel drive truck out of the mud.”

Marissa Codey, CILTI’s first Executive Director, remembers meeting Randy on a crisp fall day at Shalom Woods. As they walked around, the trees were beautiful, and Marissa noticed that Randy just lit up. He was in his element. In working with him,

she found that he could be counted on to hear new ideas and contribute his own thoughts and knowledge, yet was always humble.

When the Stewardship Committee was split from the Land Committee in 2003, Randy agreed to be the first chair of Stewardship and immediately found himself enmeshed in the complicated task of restoring farmland through replanting. I asked Randy if he was doing okay with this overwhelming task, and he said while it was more work than he expected, he loved it. Randy served as chair of Stewardship from 2003-2004 and gathered a team of eager volunteers to help move the work forward.



Randy and colleagues from Cinergy spent many hours planting trees at Hemlock Ridge.

One of the Stewardship Committee volunteers, Ken Almon, said that Randy made him feel welcome and useful from his very first meeting and it was always a pleasure to work with him.

Randy became chair of the Land Committee in 2005 while he and George Peregrim served as co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee. With all

that was happening, it was no surprise that George and Randy both received the award for Volunteer of the Year with over 1,000 hours of service each. It was in that April of 2006 that Randy fell ill and was unable to be present to receive his award.

Randy made the initial contact with the elderly owner of Hemlock Ridge, 39 acres of hilly woods in Putnam County. He helped create an agreement that allowed CILTI to purchase it. Randy laid out the design for planting over 2,400 trees and shrubs in the five-acre field and was joined by a group of Cinergy staff to help plant the trees that will expand the wooded area we are protecting. As

the dedication of Hemlock Ridge Nature Preserve approached, Randy helped ensure that the sign was completed and in place, the parking lot ready for visitors’ cars, and the trail that led to the Big Walnut Creek overlook was cleared of limbs and brush.

Because of Randy’s fondness for Hemlock Ridge and the amount of work done there by

Randy and his colleagues at Cinergy, the Central Indiana Land Trust Board of Directors has chosen to name the Hemlock Ridge Restoration Area in his memory. Look for more information regarding this dedication on our website.

Ask anyone who knew Randy and they all agree. He was a gentle person who was passionate about natural areas, knowledgeable about the science, liked by all who knew him, worked incredibly hard, and is missed by everyone.

The Following Tributes have been made

In Memory of Randy Lewis:

Kenneth Almon
Bruce and Heather Bacher
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Paul and Patricia Bischoff
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In memory of Letha Queisser:

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In memory of Carol Johnstone:

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In memory of Ann and Rainer Zangerl:

by the Zangerl-Salter Family

In celebration of Loraine Oaks' book:

by Reta and Robert Rutledge

In honor of June Swango:

Anonymous

The Scoop on Emerald Ash Borer

by Pamela Dunn-Louks

A metallic-green miniature-sized menace is boring down on the state's ash trees - literally. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an insect of Asian descent brought in from shipping trade will only eat ash (*fraxinus* spp.) trees. They do not have to be healthy. They do not have to be in decline. They do not have to be a certain species of ash. They just have to be ash.

The insect chews on the leaves, then mates, and lays its many eggs under the bark, which eventually hatch as larva that tunnel through the tree feeding and destroying the tree's transport system. Eventually the larva turns into an insect, bores out of the tree, flies away, and then the cycle repeats itself. Infested trees usually die in three to four years.

This miniscule pest has killed millions of ash trees in Michigan and is working on an equally astounding number in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. It moves slowly through the landscape - about a half mile or less each year. However, humans help move it by transporting infested firewood and logs to uninfested areas such as campgrounds, crate mills, compost sites. Indiana could eventually lose over 160 million ash trees.

To date, this green pest has been officially confirmed in Steuben, Randolph, Hamilton, Marion, Adams, Huntington, LaGrange, Porter, St. Joseph, Allen, DeKalb, and White counties. These counties are under quarantine, so it is illegal to transport firewood, ash debris, or ash timber without a Compliance Agreement from the IDNR. In addition, the entire state of Indiana is under a federal quarantine, which prohibits the transport of ash out of the state.



The metallic-green Emerald Ash Borer is smaller than a penny, but is causing devastation to ash trees.

CILTI Concerns

CILTI properties are not exempt from this pest threat. Any property in Indiana, whether forest, urban forest, or private landscape that has ash trees is at risk of losing its ash trees.

Managers of nature preserves, woodland areas, and parks, as well as private homeowners are pondering what action needs to be taken. Should all ash be removed? Ash is still an important timber, wildlife, carbon-sequestering, shade-producing tree. The IDNR Division of Forestry does not recommend removing uninfested ash. However, we do recommend that no ash be planted at this time in Indiana.

Unless a predator, pheromone, or other control is found, Indiana can expect to lose over 160 million ash trees. Therefore, it is important to begin restoration plantings now. The wise steward will choose species similar to ash in canopy density, shade, and tolerance to stress. The Indiana DNR urban forestry office has a list of species called *Alternatives to Ash* that is a guide in selecting appropriate trees for replacement.

CILTI members can help!

Site stewards and visitors to CILTI properties need to know how to identify ash trees, be familiar with EAB symptoms, and know where to report these symptoms if sighted. If EAB is officially confirmed on a CILTI property as long as the trees are away from use areas, then it is best just to let nature take its course. If EAB is confirmed on any CILTI property, and the infested trees are on trail areas, then they may need to be moved away from the trail and left on site. This is because a declining, dying tree can pose a hazard to trail users as brittle, dead limbs can break off the tree, or the tree itself can fail and pose a risk to users. This is true of any dead or dying risk tree along designated trails, parking, or picnic areas.

There are treatments for trees infested with EAB. However, these are not economically viable at this time for large numbers of trees. They *may* keep a healthy tree from becoming infested, but they do not cure an infested tree. They may also extend the life of a less severely infested tree. Keep in mind that treating a tree means treating it for the life of the tree. Unless the tree being treated has historical, size, or sentimental value, then it may be more economically feasible to remove the tree.

Bottom line? Know your ash. Be able to identify the symptoms. Report suspected infestations to the IDNR, Division of Entomology, and hope that a control is found before this pest makes *Fraxinus* extinct in North America.

EAB Tips on page 6

Spring 2007 Stewardship Field Days

Each field day begins at 9:00 am. Please sign up by contacting Maria at msteiner@cilti.org or 317-631-5263. Directions and details will be sent out the week before each project.

Saturday, March 10th, Burr Oak Bend, Hamilton County: Honeysuckle treatment and litter clean-up

Saturday, March 24th, Hamilton Southeastern-Eller Property, Hamilton County: Honeysuckle treatment and litter clean-up

Saturday, April 7th, Schramm Woods, Hancock County: Honeysuckle treatment and litter clean up

Saturday, April 21st, Burr Oak Bend, Hamilton County: Invasive species removal with IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Science students



Check www.cilti.org/events for potential additions to this spring's stewardship field days.

Emerald Ash Borer Tips

Ash identification tips: (*Fraxinus*) has compound leaves, branches are opposite. Color ash identification tip sheets are available free from the Community & Urban Forestry office - 317-915-9390 or urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov.

Symptoms of EAB on ash trees:

1. Dieback of leaves that begins in the upper third of the tree and progresses downward over time.
2. Appearance of water sprouts on the tree's trunk below the dead, dying area.
3. Increased woodpecker activity; jagged woodpecker holes.
4. Vertical splits in the tree's bark.
5. 1/8 inch 'D'-shaped exit holes in the bark on the trunk and limbs.
6. S-shaped channels under the bark caused by larval feeding.

For more information, visit Indiana's official EAB website: www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/index.htm.

To report a suspected infestation, call Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology at 317-232-4120.

Pamela Dunn-Louks is the IDNR, Community & Urban Forestry Coordinator; CILTI member, and freelance writer.

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I would like to become a member at the following level: Please renew my membership at the following level:

___ \$5,000* ___ \$1,000* ___ \$500* ___ \$100* ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ other

** A gift at \$100 or more entitles you to membership in the Heritage Circle Giving Club and a complimentary copy of A Guide to the Preserves of Central Indiana Land Trust.*

I would like to make a special gift of \$_____ to be used for: Land Protection Where it is needed most

VISA/MasterCard # _____ Exp Date _____

Name _____ Daytime phone _____

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- I want to be involved. Please contact me.
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- I would like to make a gift of real estate, stock or other property. Please contact me.
- I have included CILTI in my estate plans or would like information on doing so. Please contact me.
- I own property and am interested in conservation options for land owners. Please contact me.

Don't forget - you can also join or renew your membership using our secure online donation form at www.cilti.org.

Sixth Annual Midwest Land Conservation Conference April 26-28, 2007, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

Save the date! Indianapolis is proud to host this year's Midwest Land Trust Alliance Conference. This conference will offer land conservationists two and a half days of educational workshops and seminars on subjects ranging from conservation finance to landscape-level conservation, legal defense strategies, public-private partnerships and organizational development.

For more information, visit www.lta.org/training/lct_mw.htm or contact the Midwest LTA office at 269-324-1683 or midwest@lta.org.



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visit us at www.cilti.org
contact us at
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Maria Steiner - msteiner@cilti.org

Order your copy of CILTI's
new preserve guide.
See page 4 for details.

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Evening at Burr Oak Bend by Robert Eberle, one of the Preserving Nature Art Exhibition paintings.

Through land protection, stewardship and education, the Central Indiana Land Trust Inc. preserves natural areas, improving air and water quality and enhancing life in our communities for present and future generations.

Visit us at www.cilti.org