



Preserving Nature in the Heart of Indiana

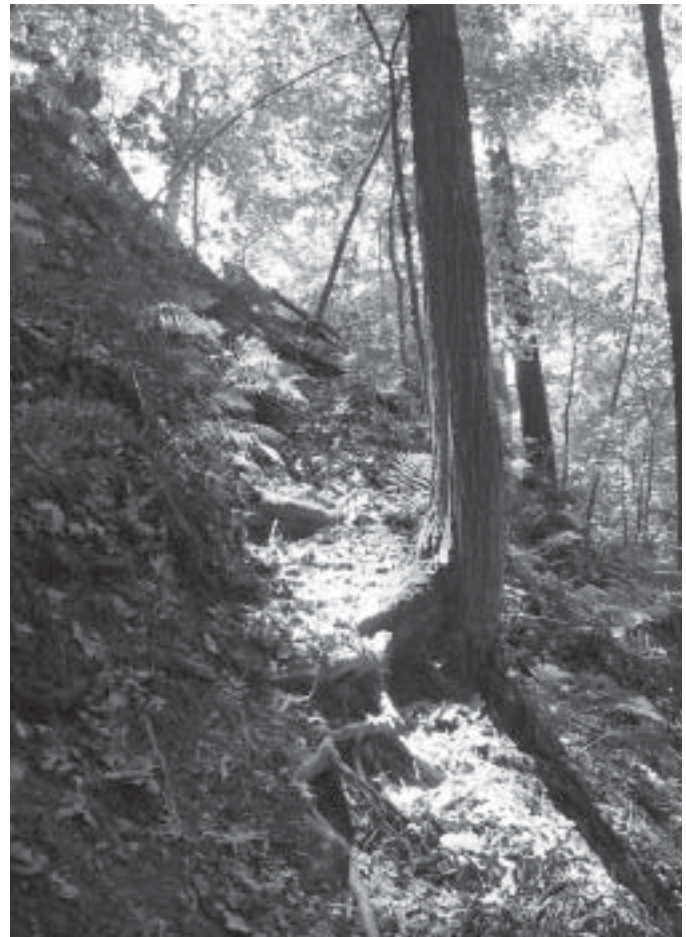
Central Indiana Land Trust Incorporated News

What Will We Call Our Bluff?

By Connie Douglas (Board Member)

Let's call it "Blue" as in "Blue Bluff." But that is the name it already carries. A new name isn't needed. And, how wonderful — it is almost free! Well, not quite. Last month, the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy transferred ownership of the 33 acre Blue Bluff Nature Preserve in Morgan County to CILTI. Our good reputation and strong local presence led officials at both TNC and CILTI to believe that we would be the ideal owner and manager of this high-quality, landlocked nature preserve.

"This unanimous vote [to support the transfer] was held at our September 4 meeting with full Board of Directors present," wrote Tom Swinford, CILTI Land Acquisition Chairman, in a letter to TNC dated September 9, 2001. "The vote reflects great enthusiasm, not just for the site itself, but for the chance to partner with the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy..."



Slope of Blue Bluff - Photo by Marissa Codey

On a site visit with board members to Blue Bluff before she was hired as Executive Director, Marissa Codey remembers that "my initial impression of the site was that it was incredibly beautiful, and that it has some very steep slopes for a Central Indiana site." (Marissa is a transplanted Hoosier from the East Coast). "I have since visited the property several times and continue to be impressed with its beauty. The forest is a high quality woods that has been well protected from human disturbance and is surrounded by other ravines and high quality woodlands," says Marissa.

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*Preserving Nature
in the Heart
of Indiana*

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President's Message



There is a captivating power in doing land protection that unleashes people's energies. Several years ago, when I worked in the Central Library Business, Science and Technology Division, a man asked me to help him find employment information for The Nature Conservancy. He told me he was a financially successful professional who was willing to take a pay cut if he could just work with land protection. He is just one example and I'd like to share some others.

If you attended CILTI's Annual Meeting in April, ten former board members were honored for their many contributions to the organization. These included maintaining the membership database, editing and writing for the newsletter,



Honorees with their awards (left to right): Mary Wollitz-Dooley, Ted Harris, Nonie Krauss, Bud Jersild, Clare Oskay, Denise Deig, and Don Miller.

searching for and hiring our Director, selecting an office, raising the start-up money for our first few years and so much more. These accomplishments and the many I am not mentioning took countless hours of work and devotion.

I feel lucky to be a part of CILTI and to meet and work with the people it attracts. Just a few weekends ago, I was hiking a potential acquisition with a new committee member, a board member and my husband. The board member carried his two-year old daughter on his shoulders through the rugged parts of the woods and shared the inventory process with her. She consistently called the May Apples "Maples" but I'm sure a few more years work with Dad and she will be able to do plant inventories for us.

In early May, several volunteers went to Burr Oak Bend in Hamilton County to plant the landscape sized trees in the reforestation process. When they finished that chore early, they gathered 30 bags of trash from the trees along White River. An enthused neighbor was donating the use of his tractor with a front bucket. He was helping move the 8'-10' trees in the first part of the morning and then hauled the bags of trash to the road edge. That same neighbor of

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President's Message continued from page 2

Burr Oak Bend passed out CILTI information to his neighbors so they would know who we were and what we are doing.

Two site stewards are conducting a flora and bird survey at the Glick property. Since this preserve is in an urban setting, the information they gather will help us understand the role such a woods can play for birdlife in the city. An interested member attended a board meeting, joined a committee and got a new editor to run a story on the Burr Oak Planting in the Northside Star. At a 500-piece stuffing party, a woman with arthritis insisted that putting labels on the envelopes helped keep her hands more limber.

Each of these people have done something important for CILTI and will probably do so again. There is a power to doing land protection and it releases people's energies and it is all good energy.

Reta Rutledge
President of the Board



View from Blue Bluff - Photo by Marissa Codey



“For me, a landscape does not exist in its own right, since its appearance changes at every moment, but the surrounding atmosphere brings it to life - the light and the air which vary continually. For me, it is only the surrounding atmosphere which gives subjects their true value.”

Claude Monet

What will we call our bluff? continued from page 1

She visited the site early one 10-degree January morning this winter when the sun had just come out after a snowstorm. “My walk through the woods on that beautiful snowy morning was probably my most memorable...I could walk along the ridge top and see endless farmland below and the only sound to be heard was my feet crunching through the snow.”

From the steep 210-foot shale and siltstone bluff one can see a panoramic view of the tree-lined White River and flatlands to the north. There is an abundance of ferns and spring wildflowers, and the rare purple-flowering raspberry grows along the wooded slope.

Bill Rosenbaum, CILTI Board Member, has continued to work with CILTI, TNC, and other local landowners on additional land transaction details. Management of Blue Bluff and the chance for visitation opportunities requires further work. CILTI hopes to acquire more acreage through partnerships with an adjacent landowner. Until then, visitation will be limited due to lack of easy public access.

But, soon, we hope... more will be able to renew their spirits at Blue Bluff Nature Preserve.



Planting Trees at Burr Oak Bend - Photos by Marissa Codey

Volunteers Plant Trees at Burr Oak Bend

The way of the Cherokee Indians is to know the past is gone. Such was our common spirit as 17 volunteers on Saturday, May 3, 2003, planted 36 Swamp White and Burr Oak trees along the northwest side of the Burr Oak Bend property in Hamilton County. We took pride in our work as we watched the land begin to transform from agricultural use to a more natural state. The trees were planted in groups on upland bluffs in an attempt to recreate a natural ecosystem. The trees can easily be seen if one drives along Riverwood Avenue, which borders the property. After the trees were planted and mulched, the volunteers picked up trash in the existing woodlands along the White River. The volunteers worked a total of about four hours planting, mulching, and picking up trash. Later on in May, J.F. New and Associates planted prairie grasses in the vicinity of the trees on 12.5 acres and a mixture of hardwoods on 31.5 acres to complete the restoration effort.

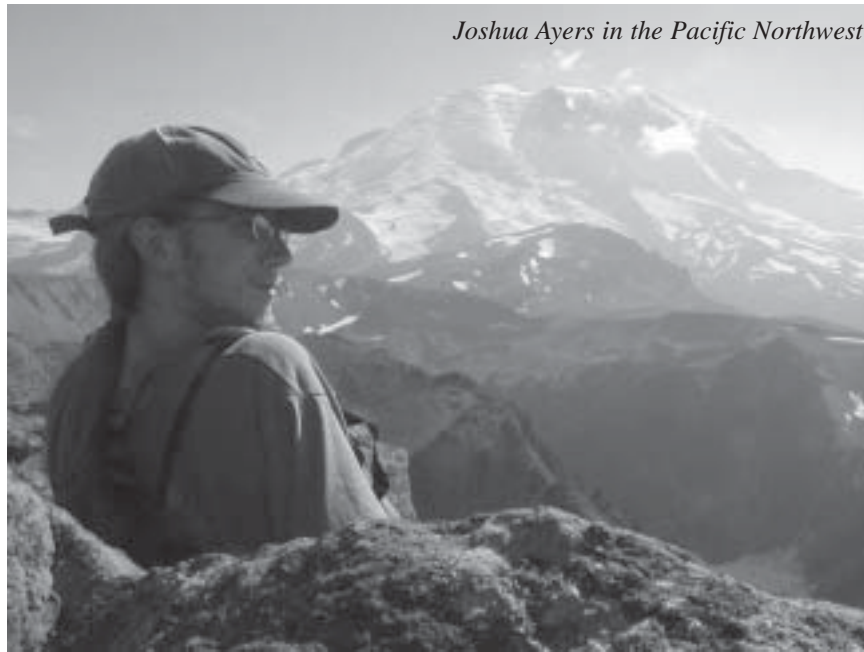


*Picking up loads of trash from Burr Oak Bend -
Photo by Marissa Codey*

Special thanks goes to Doug Gripp for providing his personal tractor to haul trees, mulch, and trash. He also arranged for delivery of a Bobcat and auger that was used to install the trees. Thank you to Tom Swinford for arranging the purchase of the 36 trees, driving the Bobcat, augering the holes, and providing humor. Also, thanks to Sean Clausen with J.F. New for providing a second tractor, rakes, shovels, and hauling and disposing of the trash. And finally, thanks to all of the volunteers who gave their time and effort for a great cause. Someday when the property looks as it might have looked 250 years ago, we can smile and know we have helped make a difference.

- Angelo J. Dattilo, CILTI Volunteer

Joshua Ayers in the Pacific Northwest



CILTI Gains New GIS Intern

CILTI would like to thank Steve Cox, who worked as our first GIS intern during the past year. Steve helped CILTI get its Global Information System (GIS) set up, acquired many useful layers of geographic information for us, and created numerous maps for use by our land protection committee. Steve is now working to complete his masters thesis and is involved with several exciting research projects at IUPUI. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Joshua Ayres, our new GIS intern. Josh comes to us from IUPUI, is skilled with computer programming and GIS applications, and has a strong commitment to land preservation. Read his bio below to learn more about him.

Born and raised in Indianapolis, I grew up in front of a computer. I worked through late high school and the first few years of college doing computer programming, database, and networking jobs. After attending a two year program in Computer Networking at Ivy Tech State College, I spent 6 months in Seattle seeking out a job. Actually, I did a lot of hiking, biking, backpacking, and all around enjoying of the Pacific Northwest. Not being able to find a technology job, and realizing the jobs I was seeking no longer excited me, I moved back to Indianapolis to continue a four year degree. Knowing that I was quickly losing my interest in Computer Science, I assessed my other interests to see what other degree programs could might work well with my interests. One day, while at a friend's studio, I noticed an old world atlas on a stand. As I flipped through the pages, I was brought back to many memories of my attraction to maps. "How great would it be," I thought, "if I could combine my interest in maps and the environment with my extensive computer skills". Thence I discovered Geography, and more specifically, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and promptly enrolled at IUPUI as a Geography major. Over the past year, the Geography program has opened my eyes to many related fields in environmental studies, conservation, human and social welfare, and technology. I currently reside downtown, within biking distance of IUPUI and the CILTI office. I am an adamant recycler, reuser, traveler, hiker, photographer, vegetarian, nature and technology lover.

- Joshua Ayres, CILTI GIS Intern

Executive Director's Column



This past spring, I had the opportunity to cross paths with a series of different turtle species. It started with the ritual traversing of my backyard by painted turtles, as they ventured up on land from the neighbor's pond to find just the right spot to lay their eggs. Then there was the large snapping turtle (with a shell over a foot long) who insisted on sitting in the middle of the main road leading to our end of town, hissing and snapping at all who tried to move her to safety and causing her to become the talk of the neighborhood. The road was clearly in the way of her path to dry land where she would lay her eggs but luckily she managed to complete her task without being crushed by an oncoming vehicle. And then, just last week, there was the female box turtle that I spotted laying her eggs in the field next to my flower bed on a warm, windy evening.

In each of these cases, the turtles had bravely ventured into a human-populated area just to deposit their eggs, and skirted lawn mowers, cars, and urban pests to do so. In a way, I found it extremely disheartening that these innocent creatures had to face the most treacherous of human inflicted threats just to carry out their basic life functions. Yet on the other hand, seeing that box turtle lay her eggs also invoked a vision of hope for her species and for all of our native creatures. Although only a few if any of her eggs will likely hatch and of those hatchlings even fewer will survive to adulthood, there is something exciting about the thought that even one egg might give rise to an adult turtle who could be wandering our woods and

streams for decades to come. Visions such as this reinforce the importance of land preservation and all that CILTI strives to achieve. Turtles, along with the rest of our native species, deserve to have permanently protected habitats in which to do what they can to sustain their own populations.

As you explore and enjoy Indiana's woodlands and waterways this summer, think of the Central Indiana Land Trust and all that we are trying to do. Think of the land that you have helped us preserve over the years, and then consider all of the land that we have yet to protect from the threat of development. And finally, reflect on how meaningful a gift to our organization can be. Donations from people like you have helped us protect and restore land throughout Central Indiana for over a decade, and we are counting on you to continue supporting us through your thoughtful contributions.

We depend on you, our members, to help us fulfill our mission and our goals. Thank you for thinking of us and have a wonderful summer!

Marissa Codey
Executive Director

IN HONOR

Contributions to CILTI are often made to celebrate special occasions or to honor special people. Such donations support preservation of habitat for native flora and fauna here in the heartland. This past spring the following honorary gifts were given to CILTI.

In honor of the marriage of Jayne Langan and Don Miller

- by David and Kathryn Novak
- by Peggy Reeves

IN MEMORY

In Memory

Memorial contributions to Central Indiana Land Trust Inc. are lasting tributes that preserve natural areas for generations to come in the memory of very special people. CILTI is privileged to carry on its mission in their names. This past spring the following memorial gifts were given to CILTI.

Gifts in Memory of Mary E. Burroughs, Mother of Reta Rutledge

- by Catherine Gibson
- by Alice Grist
- by Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Staff Association
- by Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Branch Managers
- by Esther Rutledge

CILTI is awarded numerous grants!

Over the past several months, CILTI has received grants from the following foundations and corporations. We would like to sincerely thank all of them for their support of our mission and our programs.

Cinergy Corporation

Cinergy Foundation

Hoover Family Foundation

Johnson County Community Foundation

Legacy Fund Community Endowment Fund

of Legacy Fund Community Foundation

Norcross Wildlife Foundation

W.C. Griffith Foundation Trust



*Painted turtle, by
Marissa Codey*

CILTI Volunteer Gives Talk to Hamilton County Teachers

On June 18th, CILTI volunteer Angelo Dattilo gave an outdoor presentation to a group of Hamilton County School Teachers. The teachers were taking an educational tour of the White River and its surrounding landscape via canoes. The group was led by officials from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and stopped at CILTI's Burr Oak Bend for lunch and a tour of the restoration. Three staff naturalists from the Hamilton County Parks Department were also in attendance. CILTI would like to thank Angelo for his time and effort in preparing the presentation, and the Soil and Water Conservation District for giving us the opportunity to talk to our local teachers about the importance of floodplain restoration.



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- I want to volunteer. Please contact me!
- I wish to give a gift membership
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