

News from the



CENTRAL
INDIANA
LAND TRUST

WINTER
2008

Preserving the Heartland

Vol. 18, No. 4

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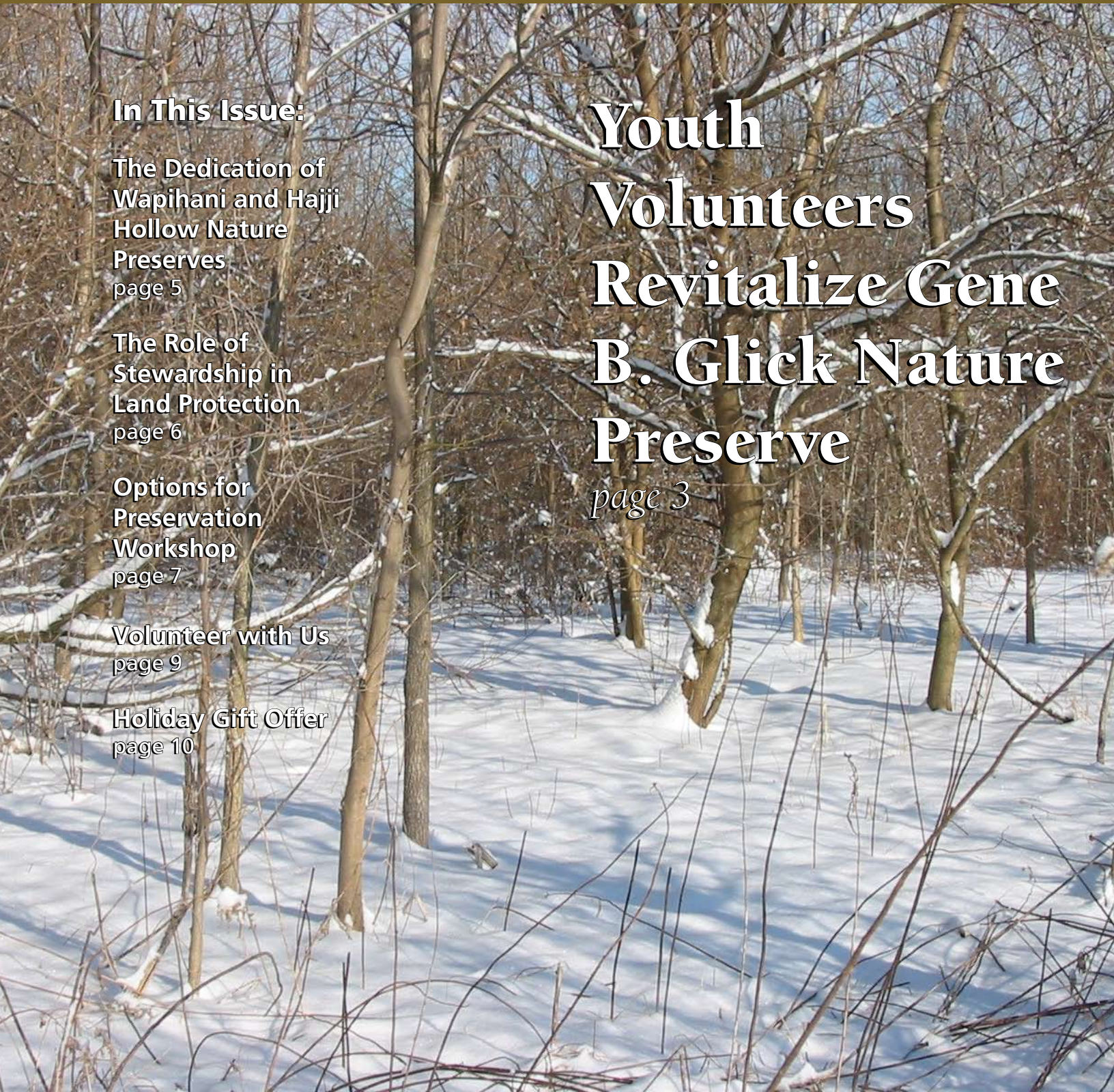
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FROM THE LEADERSHIP

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B. Glick Nature Preserve



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Well, it's finally over. November 4, 2008 marked the end of the long presidential race with Barack Obama emerging as our President Elect. No matter if you vote blue or red or green, this year brings a momentous event with the election of our first African-American president. While we are an apolitical organization, one of the themes of the Obama campaign resonated with us: it's time for change. We can reject partisanship and prejudices to join together to tackle the challenges and divisions that face our nation.



Without question, the biggest challenge facing most of us has been the recent financial downturn. Our budgets are tighter, our future prospects uncertain, our optimism shaken. But, can we continue to support the causes we believe in, the causes that make our nation great, which preserve our American landscape, way of life and culture?

Forgive us for appropriating this political slogan and using it for our own purposes. But if you ask us the above question, our answer is - Yes, we can! Can we envision a future for Indiana in which preserves, parks and working landscapes add to our sense of place? Yes, we can! Can we create sustainable communities that maintain a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a better quality of life? Yes, we can!

Our natural lands are essential to our community and individual well-being. We must increase the pace of our protection efforts to save our last special places. We must not let the challenges we face deter us from our goals: protect more acres, steward them appropriately, engage more citizens in conservation, and build and strengthen the Central Indiana Land Trust until we are an indispensable and permanent community institution.

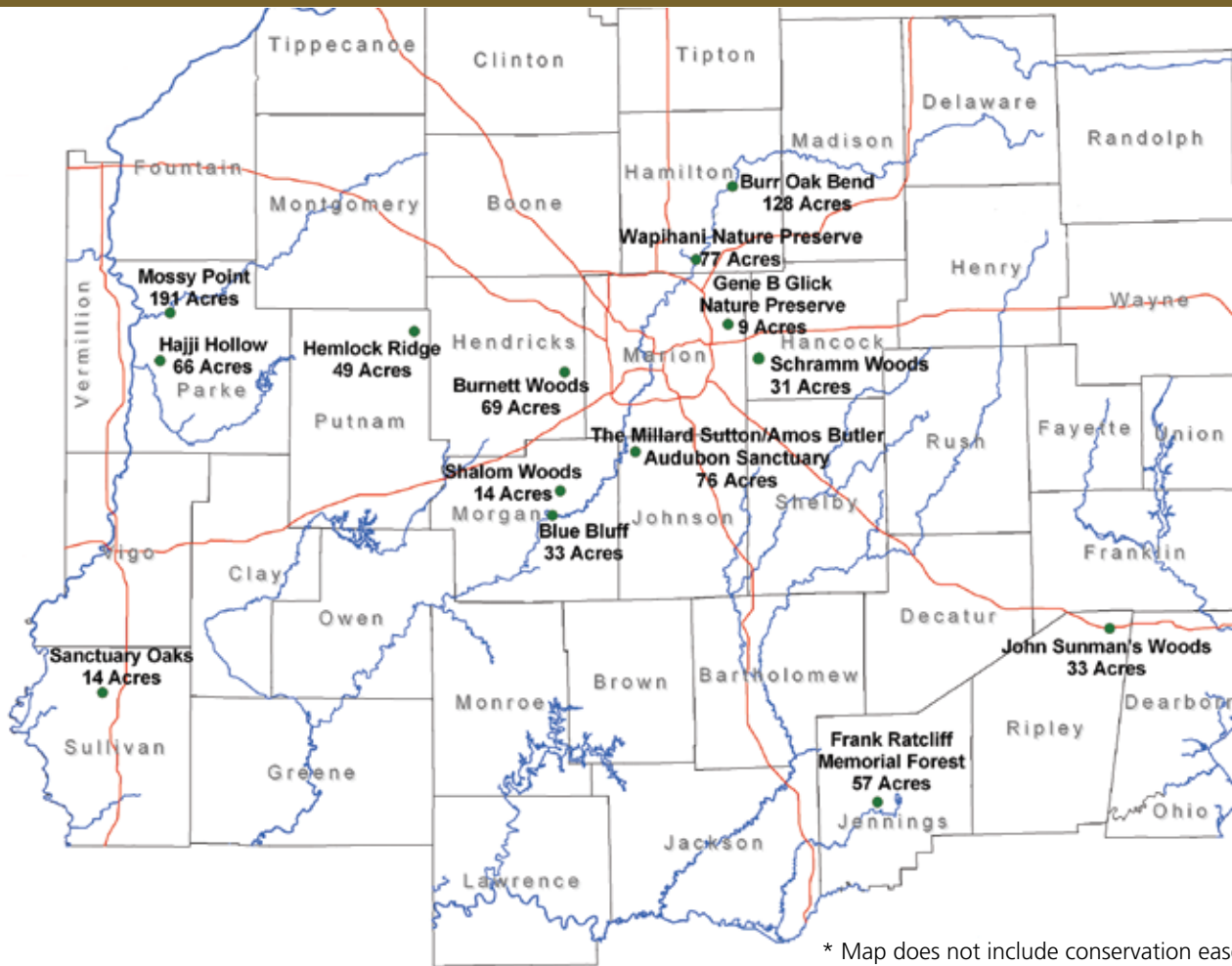
We can make our community whole by saving and valuing habitat, open space, green ways, forests and other native ecosystems. We can ensure that future generations have woods to explore, prairies to wander and clean rivers to enjoy. Yes, *we can!*

- Heather Bacher and James Wilson

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PROPERTIES



HOW WE PROTECT LAND

Fee Simple

The outright ownership of land through donations or purchases is the most basic land protection tool. Once owned by a land trust, the land is protected in perpetuity.

Conservation Easements

This agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government entity allows the landowner to retain the title to the land, but permanently limits development and prevents certain uses of the property.

Protection Partnerships

We often partner with like-minded organizations to pool resources for the purchase of larger parcels of land.

Acreage Counter:
3,060 acres protected

815 acres owned
200 acres under management
2,045 acres protected through partnerships

For details on all of our projects, visit our website or purchase *A Guide to the Preserves of Central Indiana Land Trust*, featured on page 10.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IMPROVE GENE B. GLICK PRESERVE

By Joshua Palmer

Nestled in a setting of dense residential development on Indianapolis' east side, the Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve represents a unique set of challenges for the Central Indiana Land Trust. The land trust's only preserve in Marion County, passing traffic along 42nd Street and Mithoeffer Road is an ever present reminder of the preserve's natural contrast to its developed surroundings.

The Glick Preserve, named for its donor, Indianapolis businessman and philanthropist Gene B. Glick, kick-started the land trust's preservation efforts by becoming its first protected property in 1992. The preserve is an oasis on the east side of Indianapolis and boasts an abundance of native wildlife, including muskrat, beaver, great blue heron, mallard and songbirds among the parcel's nine acres.

Although the Glick Nature Preserve has the challenge of thriving among developed infrastructure that contributes windblown litter and sound and light pollution, the setting also offers unique opportunities to area residents.

In February, the land trust and directors at Camptown, Inc., a youth service-learning group, began drawing up plans to install a 1/3-mile interpretive nature trail at the preserve. The planned trail would wind its way among the stands of maple, oak, ash and walnut trees, reminders of the surrounding landscape's natural heritage.

Camptown and the land trust have worked together on past projects, including a cleanup at Hajji Hollow Nature Preserve and footbridge improvements at Burnett Woods State Nature Preserve.

Last winter, the land trust also met with Gates Maier, a Zionsville resident who at the time was an eighth grader preparing to commence a public service project intended to help him earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouting's highest achievement. Maier and the land trust made plans to improve the community's access to the trail by reclearing a portion of meadow at the preserve's southeast corner.



Photo by C. Chapman

Gates Maier worked on a project at Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve to earn his rank as Eagle Scout.

"We wanted to help welcome people to the preserve," Maier says. "And we wanted to make it special, since it was the land trust's first one in Marion County."

In August, Camptown, Inc. met with members of teacher Terry Gemmecke's honors science classes at John Marshall Community High School to seek volunteers for the planned trail-cutting service project. Marshall Community High is located less than a mile from the preserve.

"Terry's goal was for the kids to earn something by giving back to the community so they could get that sense of positive contribution," says Don Schafer, Camptown's executive director. Students who completed the volunteer service project would also earn a one-day canoe trip to recognize their contribution.

Later in September, nearly a dozen student volunteers signed up for the trail installation and met at the Glick Preserve. To



Photo by M. Steiner

The trail created by Camptown, Inc. and John Marshall Community High School Students.

Photo by Camptown, Inc.



Camptown, Inc. staff and volunteers work to create a trail at Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve.

maintain the preserve’s natural state, Camptown volunteers and staff used hand tools like loppers, fire rakes and bow saws to make the trail’s first cut-through, leaving the trail bed unaltered. Meeting twice a week for three weeks, Camptown volunteers made headway in installing the trail through the Glick Preserve. Points of interest along the trail’s path include an active beaver dam, two towering cottonwood trees and the foundation of a former home dating back to the turn of the last century, the remains of the site’s past use. The project not only achieved

improving public access and engagement on the preserve, but also the volunteers’ outlook.

“You could see their self-confidence growing and that they were learning the value of accomplishing more by working together,” Schafer says.

Maier, with volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 358 and Indianapolis Church of Christ, visited the site on a late October weekend to begin his project to improve public access. With the help of land trust staff, Maier and company bush-hogged overgrown vegetation at the southeast corner, removed and reinstalled parking bollards, and picked up litter from the clearing. The group planted several rows of native trees including black walnut, red oak, pin oak, burr oak, white oak and swamp white oak. Maier also repainted the preserve’s main sign and the new parking bollards

- all at no cost to the land trust thanks to Maier securing in-kind donations for the materials.

“I think it’s a good way to clean up the environment in just small steps at a time,” Maier says. “It just makes the preserve look better and more natural.”

Maier’s improvements have made a more welcoming entrance to encourage Indianapolis residents to engage in a unique natural setting. The soon-to-be Eagle Scout also plans on reapplying gravel to the site’s public parking area. Camptown and the land trust plan to further improve the preserve and its new trail with continued maintenance and installation of points-of-interest signage that identify native plants, wildlife and human impact on the preserve - all with the help of community volunteers.

“We really enjoy working with the land trust,” Schafer says. “And we look forward to working with them in the future.”



Photo by M. Steiner

Towering trees at Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve.

THE DEDICATION OF WAPIHANI AND HAJJI HOLLOW PRESERVES

By Maria Steiner, Community Relations Director

This fall, members and friends of the Central Indiana Land Trust celebrated the protection of two of our newest nature preserves: Wapihani and Hajji Hollow.

On Sunday, October 19th, about 70 people joined us for the dedication of Wapihani Nature Preserve in Fishers. We were honored to have several valued partners in attendance, including former landowner Mr. Van Eller, Deputy Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources John Davis, and Bob Meyer, who was awarded the Bur Oak Award for Outstanding Support to the Central Indiana Land Trust for his perseverance in seeing that this land was protected.



Photo by M. Steiner

The Central Indiana Land Trust honored Mr. Van Eller, who sold a portion of what is now Wapihani Nature Preserve for a discounted price.

Students from the adjacent Riverside Middle School prepared drawings of creatures that will begin to make this preserve their home as the ecosystem begins to return to its natural state. Some of the drawings included fox, coyotes, rabbits, owls, and hawks.

Other highlights of the day included a hayride from the school parking lot to the dedication site. Cliff Chapman, Central Indiana Land Trust Conservation Director and Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, led hikes through the preserve. The 65-degree weather and blue skies were the icing on the cake for a wonderful day!

Additionally, a new sign, designed and partially donated by Barn Sign Works, has been installed at this preserve's highly visible intersection. See the back cover of this newsletter for a photo of our new sign.

The following Sunday, October 26th, on another sunny fall day, 30 of us celebrated the opening of Hajji Hollow Nature Preserve in Parke County. Mr. Art Zangerl, one of the three former landowners who donated the land to us, joined us for the celebration. His comments reflected his family's love of the land, and their gratitude of the protection that the land trust offered.

The group enjoyed a hike deep into the property's ridges and ravines, discovering scenic vistas and rare orchids. Thanks to the Parke County Community Foundation for funding the expenses for the day's event, and a very special thank you to Rainer and Ann Zangerl for this lasting legacy.



Photo by M. Steiner

Over two dozen land trust members and friends enjoyed a hike led by Cliff Chapman through the newly dedicated Hajji Hollow Nature Preserve.

Visit www.conservingindiana.org
for a link to more pictures from
both events.

THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS

By Cliff Chapman, Conservation Director

For many years, natural areas across the country have been protected and then fenced off with the idea that if there is no disturbance in the area, it will be fine. Cataclysmic forest fires in the west, rapidly spreading invasive species in the east, and out of balance herbivory are just a few phenomena we are seeing now as a result.

The paradigm of natural area management shifted toward the end of the twentieth century to where we are now. The precious acres we have protected are no longer in a wilderness landscape, but one that is highly fragmented making them more prone to invasion of exotic species, including plants, animals and airborne pathogens. Once protected, our natural areas need careful study. Invasive species need to be controlled, even if that means careful use of herbicides. Some plant communities need disturbance and may require prescribed fire. Hydrological processes need to be understood, and water quality issues at a preserve may need to be addressed on a watershed level.

We are still learning. On a recent volunteer workday at Burnett Woods Nature Preserve in Avon, we came across something odd. Our goal for the day was to seek, cut and treat with herbicide all the bush honeysuckle we could find. We thought we had little to do as most of the preserve had been cleared already of this pesky weed. What we found in areas that were supposedly clear of honeysuckle were dozens of dead, rotting stumps from past work, and hundreds of young plants forming a wall of honeysuckle.

It was clear what had happened. Our perception was that once an area was treated, we move on to the next area. With invasive species and natural areas management, this doesn't work. We must clear the entire preserve of mature invasive plants, and then keep coming back year after year looking for new seedlings and pull them up. We may need to investigate our local landscape and understand if there is a nearby source of invasive species. We may need to talk to neighbors about invasive plants around their house and offer to replace them with native alternatives. We must be vigilant.

It is so important that our membership is persistent. Many times our members join to help us save a natural area before it is destroyed. When we protect a preserve, we must continue to maintain, monitor, or restore it, and we need our members to renew every year to make this possible. Our work is never done.

We rely on our members to ensure our ability to protect, steward and educate the public about the value of natural areas. Together, we can make a difference in Central Indiana.



Photo by C. Chapman

Many Central Indiana Land Trust volunteers have helped with the ongoing struggle to clear invasive bush honeysuckle at our preserves.

Our stewardship program has a need for many items. Please contact the office if you are able to donate any of the following:

- Post hole diggers
- Spade
- Shovel
- Chain saw
- Chain saw chaps
- Hard hat
- Large hammer
- Backpack
- Pliers
- Wire cutters
- Hand saws
- Rinsed household spray bottles
- GPS unit
- 500 ml measuring cups
- 5 gallon buckets with lids

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FALL STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

Ken Almon
Addey Angst
Ed Bachta
Mandy Bachta
Caitlin Breedlove
Brian Browning
Shane Carte
Angelo Dattilo
Daniel Decker
Andrea DeLaRosa
Bill DuMond
Brittany Esenmenger
Rose Foster
Ed Frazier
Elizabeth Frazier
Kris Fruehwald
Egle Garliauskaite
Uriah Graham
Dan Griggs
Ali Hamed
Desire Harrison
Kimberly Hoffman
Tom Hohman
Nate Huff
Rachel Humphrey
Bud Jersild
Kimberly Kennie
John Kieslich
Cliff Kunze
Dixie Kunze
Jayne Langan
Dori Lipschultz
Sophia Lucas
Ed McCartney
Don Miller
Donovan Miller
Kyle Miller
Richard Miller
Matthew Mitcham
Jay Mullen
Shana Ngo
Jessica Nicholson
Nicole Parson
Jessica Rychlik
Benny Singh
Jeff Smith
Jeremy Twitty
Jacob Wariner
Mark Zeller

SPEAKING OF NATURE IN NASHVILLE

By Cliff Chapman, Conservation Director

Coined as a Natural Areas Revival, this year's national conference of the Natural Areas Association delivered. The awards banquet in the historic Ryman Auditorium (which hosted the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 to 1974) was humbling both by the surroundings and by the great people who won this year's lifetime achievement awards. Also humbling was to see a presentation by, and then meet, Dr. Jerry Baskin, whose research on limestone glades influenced me a great deal in college.

Many of the talks I attended concentrated on conservation easements, invasive species control, and climate change. A morning-long symposium on land trust stewardship programs was inspiring. Land trusts are maturing across the county, even partnering with the federal government in endangered species recovery plans. My field trip to the barrens region made me appreciate our precious prairies in Indiana even more, as we visited the one and only prairie remnant in Tennessee.

Much of my time outside of talks was spent with land trust professionals from different parts of the country. It was revealing. With hundreds of land trusts operating across the country, there are dozens of methodologies and priority systems in use. Sharing successes and challenges with each other was both a great learning experience and also revived my passion for the important mission and accomplishments of the Central Indiana Land Trust.

CREATING A LEGACY: OPTIONS FOR PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

The Central Indiana Land Trust, in conjunction with Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development Council and the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, will be hosting a series of landowner workshops this winter. These three workshops will be similar in content to the 2006 "This Land is Your Land" workshops. To learn more about conservation easements, the tax benefits associated with them, and the growing trend of land trusts, join us for the following workshop.

Creating a Legacy: Options for Preservation

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Indiana Downs, 4200 N. Michigan Road, Shelbyville

4:00 to 8:00 pm

Look for more information on the entire series of workshops later this winter.

HANK HERON IS COMING!



We are excited to announce a new member of our “family,” Hank Heron. He is the mascot of the Hank Heron Conservation Club for kids aged approximately five to nine. Hank Heron will be the “tour guide” in each club newsletter, introducing his readers to plants and animals that live and grow throughout Central Indiana. The newsletter will contain information, fun facts, and games about animals and plants throughout Central Indiana. It will be published quarterly with regular articles from featured writers, contributing articles from our wonderful readers and lots of challenging games. The newsletter will provide a valuable opportunity for children to learn about the environment in which they live and for parents to interact with their children.

New members will receive an annual subscription to the Hank Heron Conservation Club newsletter, a plush great blue heron or baseball cap, and other assorted goodies. Look for a complimentary mailing of the first newsletter in early 2009!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DONOVAN MILLER

I have been a supporter of the Central Indiana Land Trust since 2002 and became the site steward for Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve in early 2008. I have also been active in stewardship field days at several of the land trust’s properties. As a long-term member of INPAWS and working with staff at the Marian College Ecolab, the threat bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard represents to the woodlands of Indiana is well ingrained in me. Completion of the Purdue Master Gardener Program last year reinforced those ideas. I saw an opportunity to be actively involved in local land conservation and eradication of invasive plants by working with the Central Indiana Land Trust.



Born in rural northern Indiana and educated as a social worker, I have always remained rooted in the soil with a life-long interest in plants and gardening. In fact, digging in the backyard kept me sane during a career in mental health. So after retirement two years ago, it was an easy transition to volunteering in public gardens: the Ecolab, the gardens at the Indiana State Museum, a “pocket park” in the Meridian Kessler neighborhood, two city intersections for Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and now the Central Indiana Land Trust.

Winter activities find me involved with the Indiana State Museum seasonal exhibits—the former Ayres replica train and Arbor Day. I have also been known to don character costumes: an 8’ Cardinal, our state bird, a squirrel, and planned for this year, Clifford, the Big Red Dog, of cartoon fame. To quote, “It lets the kid in me come out.”

The land trust thanks you for your commitment, Donovan!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We are extremely grateful for all of you who have volunteered for one or more of our field days. But did you know that there are other ways to volunteer for the land trust? There are four standing committees that meet monthly: Development, Land Protection, Outreach, and Stewardship. Each of our committee chairs would welcome new, dedicated committee members. Below is a description of each committee and its meeting time. Please consider joining one!

**Development Committee:
Meets third Thursday of the
month at 6:00 pm**

Chaired by James Wilson

The Development Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors and staff, is the driving force behind the land trust's financial sustainability. The Development Committee promotes creative, fun, and mission congruent methods of raising revenue including:

- Cultivating and soliciting members and donors
- Engaging investors and community partners through major donor and corporate giving programs
- Identifying potential foundation partners and writing grant proposals
- Promoting the land trust's planned giving program

**Land Protection Committee:
Meets last Tuesday of every
month at 12:00 noon
Chaired by Reta Rutledge**

The Land Protection Committee oversees and implements all steps of each land acquisition project. These steps include but are not limited to:

- Contacting and working with landowners
- Making site visits to potential properties to determine their conservation value
- Reviewing and discussing the merits of each project prior to presentation to the Board for approval
- Working through established due diligence procedures
- Negotiating sales and easements and closing on land transactions
- Working with the stewardship committee to determine appropriate stewardship actions
- Recommending land protection policies, establishing basic procedures and reviewing and updating those procedures periodically

**Outreach Committee: Meets
last Tuesday of every month at
5:00 pm**

Chaired by Mark Stacy

The Outreach Committee seeks to increase public awareness about the importance of land conservation and the work of the Central

Indiana Land Trust. The committee helps with the following tasks:

- Creating and implementing an annual community relations plan
- Coordinating membership and outreach events, including the annual Spring Fling
- Developing materials which promote the land trust's mission
- Promoting the work of the land trust to the media
- Representing the land trust by staffing our booth at local events
- Increasing the land trust's exposure to key constituents

**Stewardship Committee: Meets
third Monday of every month
at 6:00 pm**

Chaired by Cliff Chapman

The Stewardship Committee oversees all on-the-ground management of Central Indiana Land Trust properties. The committee is responsible for:

- Creating and implementing management plans for each property
- Planning and implementing all stewardship field days
- Overseeing any conservation easements held by the land trust
- Working in concert with the Land Protection Committee in the formative stages of acquisition projects to ensure appropriate management
- Working with the site stewards of each property to utilize quarterly reports to plan future work at each property

Volunteers with special talents are also needed. Please let us know if you'd like to help out with one of the following: Photography, Writing, Editing, Leading hikes, Educating, Event Planning, or Grant Writing.

For more information or to attend one of the committees,
contact Maria at msteiner@conservingindiana.org or 317.631.5263.

HOLIDAY GIFT OFFER

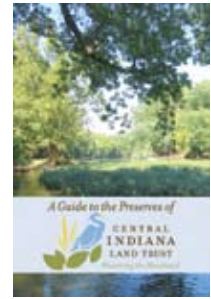
Order a gift membership and one of the following items for only \$30!

This 6" x 7" plush great blue heron will be a treat for a child or child at heart. Produced by Wild Republic in partnership with Audubon, he makes a bird call and comes with a booklet describing his migration patterns.



Baseball caps with our new logo are now available, and come in adult and youth sizes. Adult caps come in stone or navy, and youth caps come in navy only.

The second edition of our popular fifty-page guide not only highlights each of our nature preserves, but also includes a ten-page section on the natural history of central Indiana, written by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Regional Ecologist Tom Swinford.



Yes! I'd like to order a special \$30 gift membership. The gift recipient will enjoy my choice of one of the items above and a full year of membership benefits, including a subscription to our quarterly newsletter and updates and invitations to events.

Gift Recipient's Name: _____

Gift Recipient's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gift Recipient's Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Gift Choice (Circle One):

Plush Blue Heron Preserve Guide Adult Navy Hat Adult Stone Hat Youth Navy Hat

Mail to (Circle One): Me Gift Recipient

Please make checks payable to the Central Indiana Land Trust. If paying by credit card, please fill out the information below. Mail to 324 W. Morris St., Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

Visa/Mastercard/Discover Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Amount to Charge: _____

Please mail form to Central Indiana Land Trust, 324 W. Morris Street, Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

WAPIHANI NATURE PRESERVE'S NEW SIGN

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Vince and Jamie Brady
Kathrine Calahan
Chase Bank
Jennifer and Jay Dunbar
Angela Hermann
Janik, LTD
Bill McKnight
Gregory Monzel
Northside Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Margaret Smith
Jamie Tatman
Richard Vonnegut

THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE HAS BEEN MADE

In Honor of the Wedding of
Meg and Aaron Cleveland
by Anthony and Sara Milano and
Nick and Jane Milano



Our new Wapihani Nature Preserve sign sits proudly at the busy intersection of E. 116th Street and Eller Road in Fishers. Thanks to Barn Sign Works for their design and discounted price on this sign. Join us as we watch the restoration of this land take place!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 27th: Conservation Day at the Statehouse, sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance. Register online at www.nature.org/indiana.

Thursday, February 5th: "Creating a Legacy: Options for Preservation" Workshop at Indiana Downs 4:00 - 8:00 pm. See page 7 for more information.

DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.CONSERVINGINDIANA.ORG



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