



CENTRAL
INDIANA
LAND TRUST

Preserving the Heartland

WINTER 2011



A farmer and conservationist
shares his dream and ensures
you will have a place to go...

The Eller Legacy

Green Space in a Growing Community

Driving through the west side of Fishers, you come across the Eller name in many places: Eller Road. Eller Creek. Eller Fields. The Eller family once farmed from Fishers to Noblesville and owned over 1,200 acres in southern Hamilton County.

Large-scale commercial farming in the city had become impossible over the years. But Chauncy “Van” and Betty Eller wanted their land to remain undeveloped—creating a little spot of nature and green space in the growing city.

Van and Betty saw their land closest to the White River as a place for wildlife—and a place for the community to experience the wonder of nature. Working with the Land Trust in 2006, their land became the northern part of Wapihani Nature Preserve.

Today Wapihani Nature preserve is a community asset. Valued by the adjacent Riverside Middle School, students use the preserve as an out-door classroom as well as providing area for their cross-country course. Local families also utilize the property for walks through nature—sightings of butterflies and birds are common here.

Betty passed away shortly after seeing the creation of the Wapihani Nature Preserve. Van followed her in July of 2010, but not before he did an extraordinary thing.

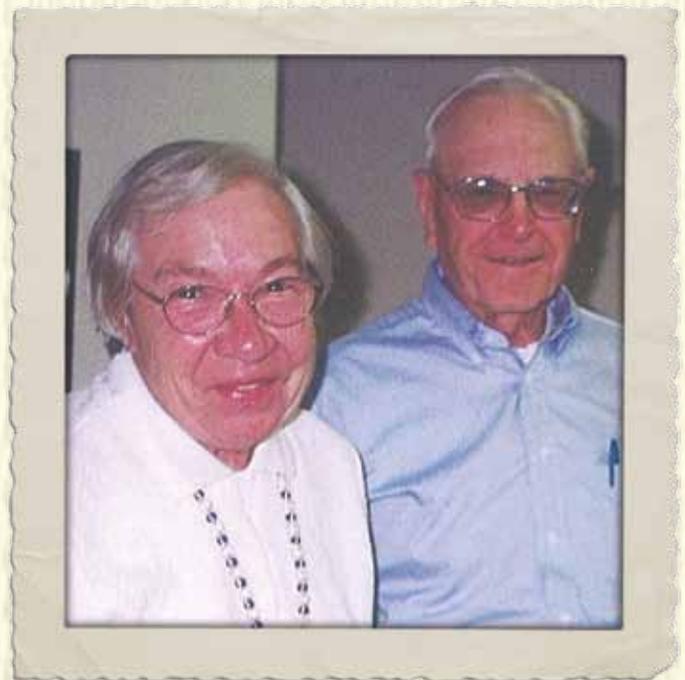
He left the last 40 acres of his family’s land to the Land Trust.

The 40 acre property, located across the street from Wapihani, adds even more important green space to a steadily urbanizing area. Over the next several years, the Land Trust will work with the community to create a place that we can all treasure and enjoy.

Daryl Brown knew the Ellers for many years and he and Van were best friends. When asked about why Van chose to give away such valuable land, Daryl said “Van wanted to preserve and protect all his land from development and ensure that nature continues to thrive here.”

Hamilton County is the fastest growing county in the state and the 26th fastest growing county in the country, yet it has few places for kids to experience the wonders of nature. Van’s vision, and his gift of land, now provides another place and more opportunities for those experiences.

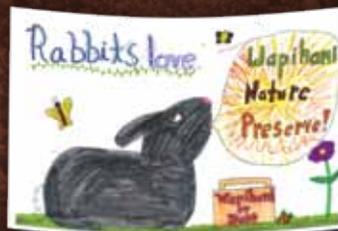
Cathie Jefferson was another long-time friend to Van and Betty and acknowledges: “Van Eller left a living legacy to all of us. The land and all that it represents will speak to us for generations. His forefathers walked these lands and thanks to Van, future generations will be able to do the same.”



“Van wanted to preserve and protect all his land from development and ensure that nature continues to thrive here.”

-- Daryl Brown, close friend of the Ellers and Van’s best friend

The posters pictured are part of a collection done by local school children in Fishers at Wapihani Nature Preserve. Where would kids go to express themselves so creatively without the generosity of people like Van and Betty? The legacy left by the Ellers will be carried on by the children that explore wild places like this in the future.



Magic awaits you

Great places to hike, play and connect to nature

Thanks to your support, the Central Indiana Land Trust owns a variety of places where you can hike, go for a snow shoe, or simply relax by the White River.

Whether you have an afternoon, or just an hour, you can find a special place that will help bring nature and the great outdoors into your life on a regular basis.

For those of you who want to spend a bit more time exploring, you might like to check out Mossy Point in

Parke County. For a shorter hike, try the beautiful wooded trails of Burnett Woods in Avon.

As you enjoy the beautiful Hoosier countryside, let us know where you have gone and what you loved about it. Leave a note or photo on our Facebook Page, and help spread the wonder of nature.

To find more places to visit, go to our website: conservingindiana.org

"For me, the beauty of the land takes on a whole new meaning in the fall and winter. It's one of my favorite times of year to bring kids out."

-- Erica Christie, President and Founder of Curriculum That Matters, LLC



Want Smart Kids? Take them outside!

Exploring nature makes for happier and healthier children and families. According to a recent study featured on the Children and Nature Network, kids who regularly play in nature often experience less stress and are smarter.

Seeing patterns, making observations and stimulating inquiring minds all enhance child development. Any time of year is perfect for discovering nature. If you'd like ideas of fun things to do with kids outdoors, visit Nature Rocks at naturerocks.org.

We look forward to seeing you and your kids on one of our nature outings, including the event on January 28th at Burnett Nature Preserve (see back cover for more details). Until then, have a great time playing in the snow. For information on visiting a nature preserve near you, contact Stacy at scachules@conservingindiana.org.



Central Indiana Eagle Scouts Make a Difference

We thank both Connor Bagwell and Bill Ristow for their leadership and vision and for being great conservation partners. Read about their contributions below. This coming spring, we'll be featuring two additional Eagle Scouts, Perry Flaugh and Karl Brunner, who are making a difference in their local communities.

“I was inspired by my grandfather...”

Connor Bagwell's grandfather has always been fascinated by nature and has a love of trees, with one special tree that was elevated above all others: the American chestnut.

On one visit Connor and his family took to Alabama to visit “Pop” Bagwell, Connor's grandfather told him about the blight that wiped out most American chestnuts more than 100 years ago and introduced him to a group working to save them.

When back home, 16 year-old Connor attended a meeting of the American Chestnut Society and decided he wanted to help this tree in need. After making several phone calls, someone at Purdue University recommended he contact the Central Indiana Land Trust to find a place



to plant American chestnut trees that the university would provide. As it turned out, the Land Trust was already thinking about reintroducing chestnuts to Shalom Woods in Morgan County so this was a perfect fit.



Connor decided to make this his Eagle Scout Project with the Boy Scouts of America. But, it wasn't easy.

Planting 200 chestnut trees, 40 miles from home, during a drought year proved a difficult situation, but Connor persevered. To ensure their survival, he made five trips to water the seedlings with water from a nearby pond whose owner couldn't resist the unusual proposition of high school kids from Indianapolis filling buckets of water to save planted American chestnut trees down the road. The result? More than two-thirds of the planted trees survived the hot, dry summer.

Reflecting on his project, Connor remarked “I want to come back in forty years and bring my kids; I want to show them a forest that I helped plant.” He continues saying, “I was inspired to plant chestnuts by my grandfather. These trees mean a lot to Pop. I am glad to be part of making sure they make a come-back.”

Do you want to help too?

We need your help too! There are many opportunities ranging from volunteering on the land, office work, to helping out with events and community programs.

You can play a role in the care and improvement of the important lands of central Indiana.

To find out more on how you, your family, your company or other group can help and have fun doing it, please contact Stacy at scachules@conservingnature.org or at 317-631-5263 ext. 114.



Towers in the meadow

The Chimney Swift species of birds are in decline, but it wasn't always that way. For many years, this beautiful bird adapted well to human development by nesting in chimneys and other high manmade structures, in addition to area cliffs. But now, the chimneys used for nesting and migratory resting sites are being capped, or removed completely.

Eagle Scout Bill Ristow decided to take action and create critical habitat for the birds before it was too late. Bill made a plan to construct bird houses at the Wapihani Nature Preserve in Fishers—no small feat as these are no ordinary bird houses, they are 12 feet tall!



Chimney Swift Towers constructed by Eagle Scout Bill Ristow can be seen on a visit to Wapihani Nature Preserve.

Bill was successful in raising the needed money to build the towers garnering support from local foundations, local individuals and bird advocacy groups.

But, because of the site's location near the White River, several permits were needed to construct the swift towers. Bill worked with us for several months to get permission from federal, state and local governments. Now, because of Bill's leadership and the partnership of the area officials, we are one step closer to making sure these birds will remain in our area.

Not Just Another Day in the Office

Ever wonder how your company can contribute to the community? On a sunny October day about 30 employees from the Financial Aid Department of Harrison College spent their day making Burnett Woods Nature Preserve a

better place. Their work removing invasive plants not only make a better home for plants and animals but makes for a better visitor experience. But it's not all work, they had a great time too!



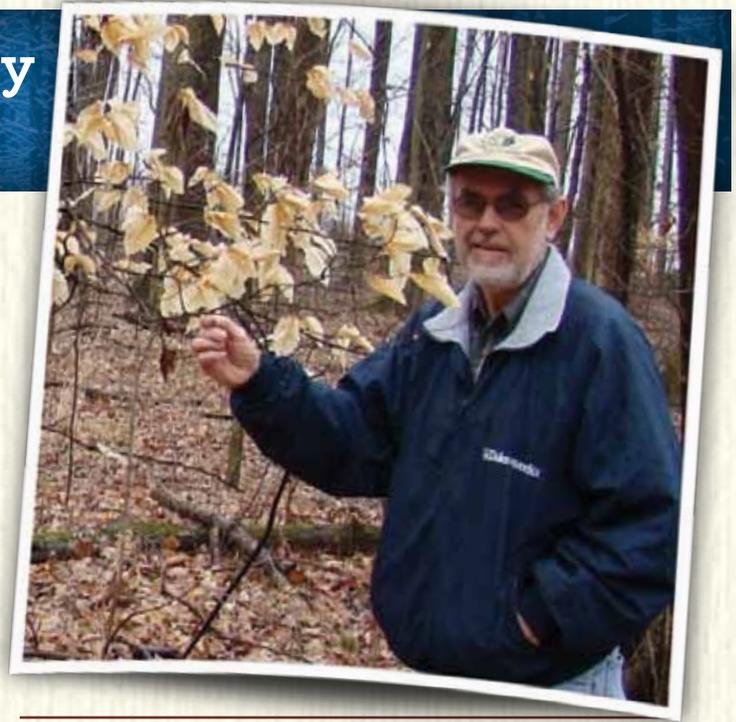
Recognizing Extraordinary Service

Thank you to Donovan Miller for his nearly 10 years of volunteer service with us. As part of the Wednesday Warrior stewardship team, a site steward at Sanctuary Oaks Preserve and a participant at countless field days, Donovan is a valued volunteer.

Donovan loves native plants and has spent countless hours clearing invasive species from some of our important Hoosier natural areas. As a busy retiree, Donovan has been active not only in local land conservation but several other worthy causes in our community.

“When volunteering, I feel I am investing back into my community and I enjoy the camaraderie with like-minded folks who often become friends”, commented Donovan recently.

For his work, we have awarded Donovan the Great Blue Heron Award for Extraordinary Service. Thank you, Donovan, for inspiring us with your love of the land and your commitment to our community!



“I retired from a career of many intangibles, and there is so much satisfaction of seeing physical results of my efforts”

- Donovan Miller

Are you passionate about your community?

If you are, we want to work with you. We believe that effective conservation involves teamwork, collaboration, and working at the local level. It's because of this approach that interest in conservation is taking off and we believe that **conservation is most successful when it...**

Is Planned... We've convened a coalition of partners to create a science-based approach to identifying important land that needs to be connected to sustain clean air and water, allow for better ecosystem function, and benefit both wildlife and people. We call it Greening the Crossroads, and it's a one-of-a-kind master plan for land conservation in Central Indiana.

Protects Land and Water... We protect land by owning ourselves or managing land held by partners. This land is permanently protected. And protecting and wisely managing land along rivers and streams makes for better water quality.

Cares for the Land... Protecting iconic landscapes includes caring for the land we've conserved. So we practice science-based land stewardship to improve the functioning of ecosystems for plants, wildlife, and people.

Engages People... We work tirelessly to connect our community with special places, to ensure our children and our children's children, can know and love wild Indiana.

Everyday, with people like you, we are working hard to protect the precious remaining landscapes of central Indiana. Give us a call if you'd like to join us or if we can help you protect a special place in Indiana.

National Park Service

Helping Residents in Greening the Crossroads



Yellowstone. Yosemite. Grand Canyon. These are names you associate with the National Park Service. But what about the White River, White Lick Creek, and Brandywine Creek? It may surprise you to learn that Rory Robinson, of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, is now assisting the people of central Indiana with the conservation of these three important waterways.

Through a competitive application process, the Central Indiana Land Trust requested Rory's help implementing portions of the Greening the Crossroads plan. We are delighted he will be assisting communities in the region with greenways, trails, and restoration efforts along three of our special waterways.

"I worked as a Park Ranger the first half of my career, but for the past 15 years I've been assisting communities reach their goals of creating new trails, more parks, and restoring lands for conservation. I enjoyed being a Ranger, but since making the switch, I've never looked back," said Rory on a recent visit to Indianapolis.

Joe Tutterrow, President of the Morgan County Park Board, commented on the news, "I am excited to work with Rory and the Land Trust as Morgan County explores ways to improve its access to the White River."

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program has worked with communities across the country and now brings their experience and knowledge to us here in central Indiana. This partnership is just one of many that are part of the bigger community effort.

But, we have a long way to go. For the number of people who live in and around Indianapolis, there is a shortage of set-aside lands and trails. Rory's impression of the situation is this: "Central Indiana offers great opportunities to combine the conservation of stream corridors with incorporated access to nature with trails and parks." We think so too, and are looking forward to this new partnership. We hope you will be part of the planning.

Watch for further news about public input meetings. To be added to our mailing list for updates, please contact Hannah at 317-631-5263, ext. 116 or at hvargason@conservingindiana.org

For more information on Greening the Crossroads, click the GTC button on our home page at www.conservingindiana.org



We are working everyday to protect the special places where we hike, play and connect to nature. Please join with us by making your gift today! Simply use the enclosed envelope or give online at www.conservingindiana.org

A Family Dream Becomes Reality

Conserving their land brings peace of mind

The Hougham family's roots run deep in Johnson County and exemplify a history of public service.

With relatives including past County Surveyors, a founder of Franklin College and a superintendent of Johnson County schools, brothers



By entering into an agreement with the land trust, Tom and Bill Hougham are ensuring that each generation of their family will have the chance to enjoy this special place.

Bill and Tom Hougham are continuing their family's legacy by protecting 285 acres of hardwood forest.

Their family started acquiring land in the area now known as Lamb Lake decades ago. The brothers grew up hunting mushrooms and fishing there, and their families now share their passion for the forest.

The Hougham land, located in the southern Johnson County, is a high quality example of the Brown County Hills ecosystem, with black and white oaks hugging steep slopes, and tulip trees standing straight in narrow ravines. Rare species like hooded and worm-eating warblers are common here. It's a place you can't really forget.

Bill put it this way: "Because of its close proximity to Lamb Lake, it could be very profitable to subdivide for wooded home lots. We wanted to make sure that never happened, so we conserved it."

The Hougham family sees both ecological and family value in keeping it in one tract rather than parceling it off. For the Houghams, protecting the forest is not just about preserving nature for the sake of plants and animals; it also leaves a family legacy. "What a great thing to do for our grandkids" reflected Tom. Thanks to their conservation leadership, the woods will always be there as they evolve in the future - for hooded warblers, for grandkids, forever.

In honor of...

In memory of...

Moss Curry
Alice Long Heikens

Oliver Daugherty
Suzanne Blakeman

Connie Douglas
Sue Hirschman

Francey Hope
Don and Kay Kroger

Hannah and Miles Goss
Lee Goss

Randy Lewis
Tina L. Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lewis

Ted Harris
Ted and Sue Ulrich

Mother Seymour
Walt and Marilyn Prouty

Cyndy Kendall
Laura P. Thomas

Charles Wolflin
Rose Wolflin

Central Indiana Land Trust Wish List

This holiday season practical gifts will make next year's conservation shine.

Wheelbarrows (2)
Cordless drill
Cordless circular saw
Pickup Truck or SUV

Snowblower
Gas powered hedge trimmer
Trailer
Chainsaw

If you have one of these items and would like to donate it to the Land Trust, or provide funding for us to purchase this equipment, please contact Rachel at reble@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 ext 112. Your support will make next year's work possible!

Would you like to conserve a special place in Indiana?

Land conservation can ensure the protection of critical wildlife habitat, our connection to local food, and allow kids to play in nature for generations to come.

Would you like to make that happen? You can conserve your land, and retain ownership of it. You can sell it, lease it, or pass it onto the next generation.

Or, you can donate it to the Central Indiana Land Trust, and we could manage it as a nature preserve or sell it, with restrictions protecting its natural values, to increase

our conservation efforts. You decide what is best for your family.

Central Indiana has too little of its precious natural resources conserved, but you can help change that, and we're here to help. Please call Cliff Chapman at 317-631-5263 ext. 113 to discuss possible income, property, and estate tax benefits as well as what strategy is right for you. All conversations are confidential to allow families the time and freedom they need to make this very personal decision. We'd love to work with you.

Why We Protect Land....



You are making central Indiana a better

Special thanks to our donors that have already pledged their support to making conservation in Indiana stronger this year. Together we are enhancing life in our community.

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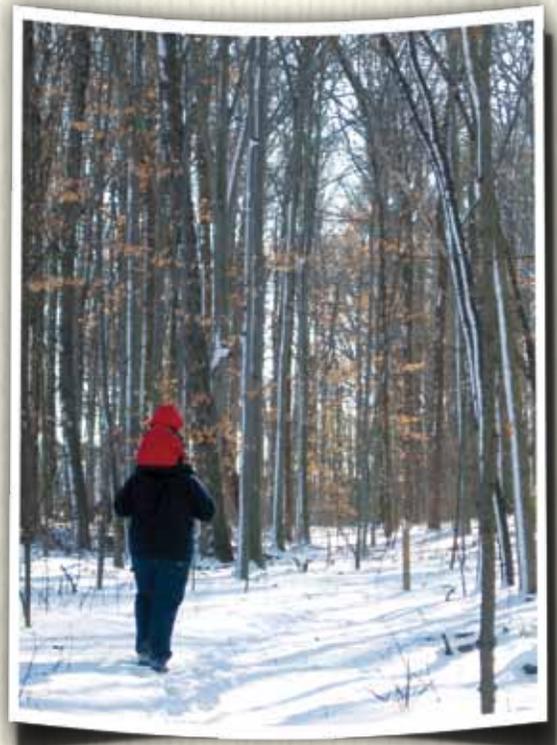


Join us for a Winter Walk in the Woods January 28th, 2012

You're invited to **join us for a Winter Walk in the Woods - January 28th, 2012** from 2pm to 4pm at Burnett Woods Nature Preserve in Avon. Winter outings bring all kinds of fun things to discover. Land Trust staff will lead you through the woods to explore the winter wildlife and inhabitants of this nature preserve. The outing will conclude with a hot cocoa and coffee gathering at the Light & Life Church in Avon next door. Bundle up and join us for a great day!

Also, be sure to sign up for our enews and other notices to receive invitations to seasonal family fun days, field days and other land trust activities.

To sign up for the Jan. 28th walk or to receive notice of upcoming activities, contact Stacy at scachules@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 ext. 114.



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