



CENTRAL INDIANA LAND TRUST

Celebrating 25 Years of Conservation

Fall 2015



From the Leadership



CENTRAL
INDIANA
LAND TRUST

Preserving the Heartland



Cliff Chapman

In December 1990, a group of people gathered with intent. They knew there were landowners in Central Indiana who wanted to see their land protected and didn't always have a way to fulfill their wishes. As CILTI's first president, Ellen Jacquart, put it "there was no safety net."

The group had been talking about the need for a local land trust in Central Indiana to help secure significant natural areas and at the end of 1990 they signed legal documents and created the Central Indiana Land Trust, Incorporated – CILTI for short.

The sum of CILTI's accomplishments over the last 25 years is not best represented by the number of acres of land protected, or the value of the land or the money raised to take care of it. CILTI's accomplishments are seen in the plants and animals that have permanently protected natural areas to live in and the people of Central Indiana having incredible places to visit. Places to feel a sense of wonder when they see trilliums blooming by the thousands in April, a scarlet tanager in June or a beaver's woodchips on fresh snow in December.

Today, CILTI is planning new access points for an old growth forest, a 300 acre forested preserve and an urban green space connecting to miles of trails along the White River. For 25 years CILTI has been protecting special places and sharing them to inspire the next generation of conservationists. We believe opening these new sites to the public with parking and trails will do just that.

I am honored and humbled to lead CILTI into its next 25 years. But mostly, I'm excited as we are moving forward with intent to save the last great natural areas in Central Indiana.

Cliff Chapman
Executive Director

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1500 N. Delaware St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-631-5263

On the Cover:



Burnett Woods



Welcome New Members!

James Aikman
Jan Brabham
Trent Cowles
Tom Klein
Sheri Molnar
Mark Mongin
Vince Pavlicek
Celia Ristow
Linda Simmons
Karl Werner
Carol Wissel

Where there's a will there's a way...

By including the Central Indiana Land Trust in your will, your passion for nature serves as a legacy for generations to come.

The Burr Oak Society was established in recognition of CILTI's donors who have created such a legacy. If you have made a provision for the Central Indiana Land Trust in your will or trust, please let us know so we can include you as a member of the Burr Oak Society and thank you during your lifetime.

Members of the Burr Oak Society

Christine Carlson
Joe Collins
Oliver Daugherty*
Aron DiBacco
Rebecca and Thomas Dolan

Van Eller*
Sharon Horvath and Andy Pike
Tom Hougham and Ann Deutch
Marjorie Jones
Eleanor Krauss*

Cherí O'Neill
John* and Mary* Pelton
Ruth Ratcliff*
Reta and Rob Rutledge
Deb Smith

*deceased

If you would like more information about including the Land Trust in your plans and becoming a member of the Burr Oak Society, please contact Rachel at reble@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263.

Celebrating 25 Years of Conservation

With 25 years of conservation behind us, we asked several of our early leaders to reflect back on the first years of starting a land trust for Central Indiana and share with us some of their stories about CILTI's founding, reflect on their most beloved preserves and give us their thoughts on if the goals they set out in 1990 are being achieved.



Ellen Jacquart:

CILTI's first president and one of the early pioneers of creating a land trust for Central Indiana, Ellen has stayed involved as a member and trusted advisor.

The original legal documents for

CILTI have your home address listed as the organization address. You must have been there from the beginning, how was CILTI formed?

I worked at the state Division of Nature Preserves after graduate school and was surrounded by ecologists who were researching and protecting natural areas around the state, but lived in Indianapolis. Calls came in all the time for sites that didn't meet their highest standards, and there was no one to refer callers to for land in Central Indiana that could have been protected. There was no safety net. I began working at the Holcomb Research Institute at Butler University and the team there said the same thing. We knew the importance of protected land for research but couldn't do anything about it as an institution. Something had to happen.

So how did you go from needing something to happen, to it actually happening? I thought to myself, "Can I do this? I've never organized anything bigger than a pitch-in dinner, can I organize a land trust?" I met with John Bacone at Division of Nature Preserves and he recommended Jim Barrett come and speak. Jim was the primary author of the Nature Preserves Act and one of the founders of ACRES Land Trust in Ft. Wayne. We put together a public meeting at the War Memorial and invited Jim to speak and answer questions. He walked us through the steps of forming a land trust. We asked the crowd present if they would join one if it existed.

What happened next? Everyone at the public meeting raised their hands – they would join. So we followed Jim Barrett's instructions and got incorporated in 1990.

What was your intent for CILTI in 1990? We wanted to pick up the pieces that the Division of Nature Preserves and The Nature Conservancy couldn't, but the land had to have some kind of natural value. We didn't have

a strategy at that time like CILTI does now. We knew we couldn't catch every site, but we could save some and keep them from being lost.

What is your favorite property? Meltzer Woods. CILTI protecting old growth forest? Wow!



Ted Harris, fourth from left

Ted Harris: Ted Harris is a CILTI member, former board member (1998 – 2001) and past board secretary. Along with Nonie Krauss, Tom Swinford and Bud Jersild, Ted was instrumental in some of the early successes of CILTI – including the Burnett Woods project and the hiring of the first executive director.

How did you first hear about CILTI? I read a piece in the IndyStar in the early 1990s that was about land trusts in general. Then in October 1992, there was a Natural Areas Conference in Bloomington. I picked up a CILTI brochure at the conference. I became a member and for the first year or so I wasn't really involved. I attended a work day at the Glick Preserve and then a letter went out to members asking anyone who was interested in joining a land committee to come to a meeting. I did and it was about that time when Burnett Woods happened which produced a much larger membership base for CILTI.

What's your favorite CILTI preserve? Burnett Woods and Sanctuary Oaks are my favorites – very special early projects with nice quality.

Why do you think land trusts are important? I simply love nature. There is so very little attention paid to maintaining ecosystems in the world today, land trusts help to fill that void. Preservation of nature is CILTI's legacy.

Did you accomplish what you set out to do? Oh yes. It was always satisfying to see CILTI succeed – one check, one acre at a time. But now, the projects are so much bigger – the goals are so much bigger.



Reta Rutledge: In her 25 years with CILTI she has worn many hats – board president, volunteer, site steward, member but most importantly friend. Reta has been involved since the beginning and today is still one of our most engaged volunteers (despite the fact she lives in Arizona!).

What is your favorite property? I would have to say Browning Marsh is one of my favorites. Having a place that is protected in the middle of so much development and seeing many rare and endangered species of birds stop there is pretty special.

What is your favorite memory? It would have to be a volunteer tree planting we had a Burr Oak Bend. It was a horribly rainy day but we all had so much fun together. It was the “we can do it” spirit of the board and volunteers at that time that built the foundation of what CILTI is today.

Why do you keep coming back? The mission and the work stole my heart from the beginning. But I would have to say that more than anything it's the people. Watching the passion of the staff and board is inspiring.

What makes you excited about for the future of CILTI? The future looks good! The staff and board are focused and dedicated to protecting the most important natural areas. I am also so excited to see the increased focus on the stewardship programing. Proper care and restoration of our properties is one of the most important things we can do for the future.

Bud Jersild: Bud Jersild was present at the first CILTI public meeting, board president from 1993 – 2000, served on several committees and has been a constant volunteer ever since.

How did you first become aware of CILTI? There was a little piece in the newspaper that mentioned an organizational meeting to take place at the War Memorial in November 1990, for all those interested in preserving undeveloped natural areas in Central Indiana with an invitation to come join. At the meeting, Ellen Jacquart spoke for the organizing group emphasizing the need to preserve green space in Central Indiana and said that if a new land trust was formed, it would need volunteers.



Bud Jersild, far right

How did you get the word out? One of the first challenges was to get recognition for CILTI and its purpose. Every means possible was used to publicize our organization: a brochure was designed and, along with other information, was posted in libraries and county extension offices in our service area. Our monthly newsletters were sent to members, community leaders and supporters. Presentations were made by various members to numerous groups and informational booths were displayed at numerous events. News releases were provided to the local newspapers.

What achievements are you most proud of? When CILTI met the IRS tests and our 501(c)3 status was approved in 1995, it was a big deal (prior to that CILTI had temporary status). Acquiring each of our 5 properties during CILTI's first 10 years demonstrated the ability of the board to work together to convince the land donors that we will be a permanent structure in the Indiana landscape. Obtaining Burnett Woods at a bargain sale for \$50,000 was a huge accomplishment. It was the first time we went out and raised funds to purchase a property. It was dedicated as a State Nature Preserve, the first in Hendricks County. Getting an office and hiring our first executive director at the end of the formative years were achievements I look back on as major turning points for the organization.

What are your thoughts about CILTI today? Just open any CILTI newsletter now and you just have to say ‘wow’ – the work being accomplished, the conservation planning that's happening, the natural areas being protected, it's all very satisfying to see.

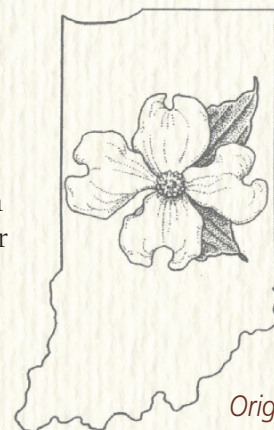
25 years of conservation by the numbers...

- 1,516 acres of land owned
- 869 acres of land protected by conservation easement
- 2,090 acres of land protected with assistance
- 25 Nature Preserves owned or managed
- An estimated 3,500 volunteers contributed countless hours to CILTI to make this conservation possible over 25 years. Thank you to those volunteers for your permanent contribution to Central Indiana!

Species Spotlight: A Tale of Three Logos

Twenty five years ago when CILTI was being formed, someone must have said “we’re going to need a logo, what should it be?”

It was Colleen Baker at the Holcomb Research Institute at Butler University that drew our original logo, a flowering dogwood flower centered on the state of Indiana. This symbolized our location in Central Indiana and highlighted one of our most beautiful trees. Found statewide, flowering dogwoods can be seen from far away when flowering in April as they are a burst of white in the mid-canopy. What many don’t realize is the flower petals are small and green but each flower cluster is surrounded by four large, petal-like white bracts. Recently, several hundred flowering dogwoods were planted at Oliver’s Woods Nature Preserve, replacing Asian bush honeysuckle with native flowering trees.



Original Logo



Second Logo

Our second logo highlighted perhaps the most symbolic tree of Indiana, the burr oak. Highly recommended for landscape planting as they live several hundred years and in time can form a wide-trunked “lollipop” appearance, burr oaks are also found statewide, but in a variety of habitats depending on geography. In Northwest Indiana, they are found in savannas, indicating strong fire resistance. In Southern Indiana, they are found in swamps and floodplains, indicating strong resistance to flooding. In Central Indiana, they are the champions of the flatwoods. There are about a dozen burr oaks towering over Meltzer Woods that all predate the Declaration of Independence.

Our current logo highlights the great blue heron. Chosen after CILTI protected the largest heron rookery in the state, great blue herons are easily recognized and beloved as they can be found in suburban neighborhoods and commercial areas visiting retention ponds. Great blue herons nesting behavior is interesting in that they nest in colonies, or rookeries. In Indiana, these typically occur in floodplain forests with perhaps 50 nests. The Millard Sutton/Amos W. Butler Audubon Nature Preserve owned by CILTI has harbored as many as 500 nests!



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Current Logo

Thank you for the following tributes

In honor of...

Marilyn Bryant
Microbiology Lab at IU Health

Lisa Sandy
Microbiology Lab at IU Health

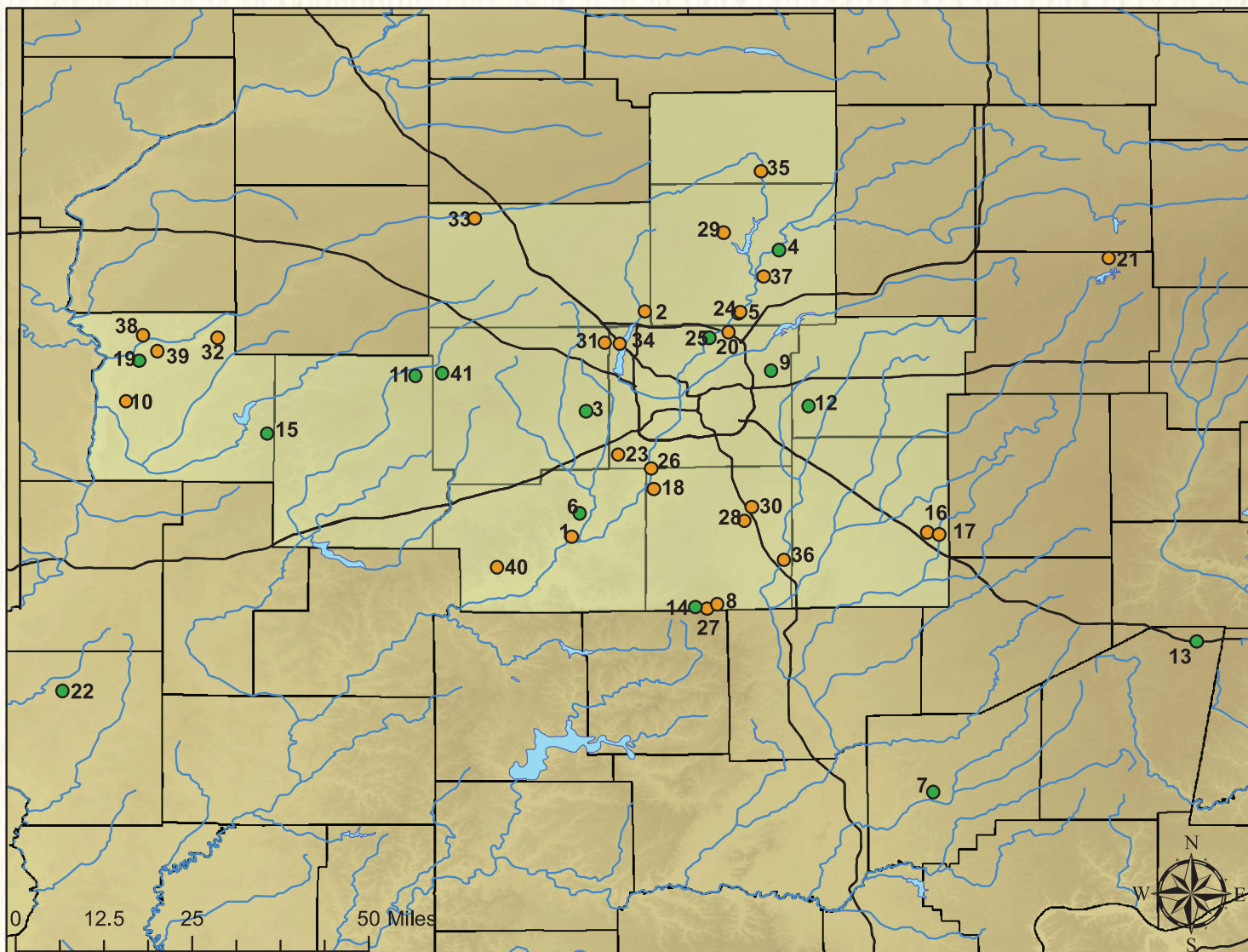
In memory of...

Tommy Smith
Thomas and Priscilla
Johnson
Randy and Sandy Lamb

Kathy Moulder
Don and Kay Kroger

Kenneth Merry
Linda Simmons

**Colleen Baker, Nonie Krauss,
Randy Lewis, early members whose
contributions played a significant
role in CILTI's development**
Ralph (Bud) and Betty Jersild



Legend

Property Status

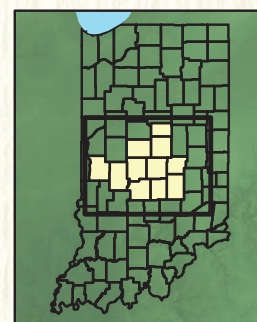
- Open to the Public
- Not Open to the Public

CILTI Service Area



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Nature Preserves

1. Blue Bluff
2. Browning Marsh
3. Burnett Woods
4. Burr Oak Bend
5. Eller Farm
6. Fred and Dorothy Meyer Preserve
7. Frank Ratcliff Memorial Forest
8. Glacier's End
9. Gene B. Glick
10. Hajji Hollow
11. Hemlock Ridge
12. Jacob Schramm
13. John Sunman's Woods

14. Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow
15. Laura Hare Preserve at Turtle Bend
16. Meltzer Woods
17. Meltzer East
18. Millard Sutton/ Amos W. Butler Audubon Sanctuary
19. Mossy Point
20. Oliver's Woods
21. Prairie Cemeteries
22. Sanctuary Oaks
23. Wallace F. Holladay
24. Wapahani
25. White Owl

Conservation Easements

26. Baldwin Farm
27. Bob's Woods
28. Crystal Springs Farm
29. Hinkle Creek
30. Jones Farm
31. Left Gate Farm Nature Sanctuary
32. Lough Ridge
33. Nakaania
34. Peine
35. Sherwood Forest
36. Smiley's Mill
37. Stoney Creek

Assists

38. Coal Hollow Nature Preserve
39. Gelhausen
40. Hurricane Hills
41. McCloud Nature Park

For more information about our properties, please visit www.conservingindiana.org

Total Acreage Protected:

4,475



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Indianapolis, IN 46202

Please visit our website:
www.conservingindiana.org



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