



CENTRAL
INDIANA
LAND TRUST

Preserving the Heartland

Spring/Summer 2013



Turtle Bend, a special place in Parke County

On warm days in the 1970s, five Potter and Rymph kids played in their own forest, running to special spots with made-up names for specific trees and parts of the property. Those 64 Parke County acres the Potter and Rymph families owned together were filled with beloved places with special names.

“They kept the names secret from the adults,” said Harry Potter, who, along with Ray Rymph, bought the land in 1974. “There was a tree, though, we all called the Big Giver because of the amount of maple sap it produced. We made maple syrup there for many years.”

The families purchased the land as a retreat spot away from West Lafayette, where Harry and Ray were Purdue University sociology professors, using it as a place to hike and camp on weekends, and to cut firewood from downed trees to take home to wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. In the summertime, they would spend weeks there.

Last December, the Rymphs and Potters jointly signed

“We are incredibly thankful to the Potter and Rymph families, as well as the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust, for making Turtle Bend our newest nature preserve,” said Bacher, “and as always, thankful to our members who make it possible to protect this beautiful place forever.”

documents to donate their land to the Land Trust. A generous gift from the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust will fund the long term protection and improvements for the property.

Located close to Turkey Run State Park, one of the most visited parks in Indiana with nearly 800,000 visitors in 2012, the land offers a quiet alternative to connect with nature without the park’s crowds. “We see this as a peaceful place for people to explore and enjoy for generations to come,” said Heather Bacher, executive director of the Central Indiana Land Trust.

The southeastern Parke County land, roughly 1½ miles east of Raccoon Lake on Damn Road, is mostly wooded, with the western edge going through natural succession from past farming activities.

Three aspects of the property make it particularly interesting. First, the stream that meanders through it is a tributary to Raccoon Lake, and the water is full of life, with a lot of fish diversity. Certainly among the clearest and cleanest streams

in Indiana, it cuts into large sand deposits and creates small cliffs that will continue to erode and create niche habitats.

“In the stream is a sharp S-shaped curve where a half dozen turtles or more would hang out on the bank,” said Harry. “Any sight of humans, and they’d disappear into the water, but if you were cautious, you could watch them. That’s the reason we picked the name Turtle Bend.”

A second aspect of the property is a large sand bluff created after the last glaciers retreated. Third, there’s a great mosaic of younger and older forest with very few non-native species and a lot of diversity (for example, five species of ferns can be found mingling together in only a few square feet).



Land Trust staff enjoying a hike at Turtle Bend

Turtle Bend harbors areas rich with forest herbs, like these maidenhair ferns clinging to a wooded slope.



The meandering stream is just one of the many surprises that you can find at Turtle Bend. It is a tributary to Raccoon Lake and is one of the clearest and cleanest streams in Indiana.

“It’s a fantastic place to see wildflowers,” said Potter. “I was there in early March and the spring beauties and all the varieties of violets were just getting ready to burst.”

Turtle Bend will be open for the public to enjoy in late 2013. Future plans include restoring the open field to hardwood forest and building a small parking area.

Welcome New Members

Pete and Jane Baldwin
Leonard and Kathryn Betley
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Dream prompted Conservation Easement

“We’re just standing on the shoulders of those who came before us.” That’s how Rich Peine describes the decision to create a conservation easement on the approximately 13-acre tract of land he and his wife own near Eagle Creek Park.

Rich and Dee Ann had discussed the idea before, but were prompted to finally make the decision after a dream Dee Ann recounted in which she drove up their long driveway and saw that houses had been built all along it. “She certainly didn’t want to see that happen,” said Rich.

Rich’s parents bought the property in 1955 and moved into a house they built there in 1957, when Rich was 16. That was before Eagle Creek Reservoir was built, and the cow pastures on the property had recently been abandoned. The family planted trees and worked to recover the pasture.

“So those trees have been growing there undisturbed since around 1955. They’re probably 80 or 100 feet tall,” said Rich.

Dominated by red oak, sugar maple, American beech, black walnut, white ash, black cherry and white oak, the woods offer a nice diversity of native shrubs with a lot of maple-leaved viburnum, black haw and spicebush. A red-shouldered hawk – listed as a species of concern in Indiana – has been heard calling nearby.

Because the Peines have been involved with Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) for many years, they’ve been diligent about controlling invasive species on their land. In the older woods, not one individual plant of garlic mustard or bush honeysuckle could be found. In the younger parts of

the land, they are actively controlling these species, as well as Japanese barberry and multiflora rose.

Dee Ann was chairman of the plant rescue committee for INPAWS and, as such, has personally dug up and saved many native plants from imminent destruction. One of her favorite plants are trilliums, and she’s pretty protective of them. Rich describes driving down the driveway one day and spotting a male deer eating some of the trilliums. Dee Ann got out of the car and advanced toward the deer. The deer stepped back. Dee Ann advanced again, and he took just one more step. Finally, after four or five times, the deer scampered away. As she walked back to the car, she put her hands on her hips and said, “Arrogant male.”

By day, Rich works with his son, Doug, at Peine Engineering, a local heating and cooling business, and Dee Ann is a vet technician. They each have multiple hobbies: beekeeping, showing dogs and tai chi, to name a few. But the highlight of the week comes on Sunday afternoons, when Rich’s two local sons bring their families over and the four cousins – ranging in age from 2 to 13 – play in the woods, tromp in the creek and climb trees.



Twin Leaf, an ephemeral wildflower that blooms for a very short time each spring, is just one of the many beautiful plants found on the Peine land now protected forever.



“We want to pass on our love of the land to our kids and grandkids. Maybe when grandkids get to be our age, there will be a better balance of plant and animal communities,” commented Rich, pictured here on the property with his granddaughter.

What is a Conservation Easement anyway?

A conservation easement allows a land trust to protect land even while the land remains in private ownership. A legal agreement created collaboratively between a landowner and a land trust, the conservation easement places specific land-use restrictions on a property according to the landowner's express wishes.

One key feature of an easement is that it allows these restrictions to remain in place even if the landowner sells the land. Therefore, the land can remain in private ownership and be used for any purposes consistent with the conservation values of the property. Because the terms of the easement remain intact if the property is sold or bequeathed, all future owners must abide by the terms of the agreement.

When it enters into a conservation easement agreement, the Central Indiana Land Trust becomes responsible for monitoring the property and ensuring that the terms of the agreement are observed. Because it is privately owned, land protected by a conservation easement is not generally open to the public.

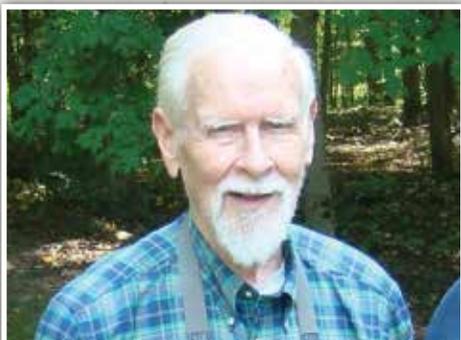
To learn more about whether a conservation easement is right for your property, contact Cliff Chapman at cchapman@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 ext. 113.



The Peine conservation easement and the Left Gate Farm Nature Sanctuary conservation easement, shown above in green, permanently protect about 69 acres combined. These properties adjoin Eagle Creek Park, shown in brown, which is one of the largest parks in the United States. Its reservoir acts as an important water supply for Indianapolis drinking water. Protecting land upstream is important for protecting our water resources.

Rich and Dee Ann Peine, featured on page 4, and their neighbors Bob and Lou Rice both shared a love of nature. Bob and Lou Rice donated the Left Gate Farm Nature Sanctuary conservation easement in 2009. In February Bob passed away and will be greatly missed.

In Memory of Bob Rice



*Bob
Your love of nature
was contagious
Your walks in the woods
inspired children
You defended beaver dams
when no one else did
Your passion and smile
were shared freely
Your Left Gate Sanctuary
is a legacy
for your love of nature*

Come See an Old Growth Forest

Join us for a unique opportunity to see Meltzer Woods in Sheblyville. This property is one of the last remaining old growth forests in the state. In fact, it was designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1973.

Wednesday, May 1 Field Day Protect Old Growth Trees at Meltzer Woods

Volunteers will work to remove invasive woods from this property in Shelby County and get a chance to explore the woods.



Other Chances to Get Involved

Saturday, May 4 Field Day Protect Plants at Oliver's Woods in Marion County

Volunteers of all ages will remove invasive garlic mustard at Oliver's Wood Nature Preserve on the northside of Indianapolis.

Thursday, May 16 Presentation Natural History in Marion County

Join us at the Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve as guest speaker Tom Swinford from Indiana Department of Natural Resources explores natural history in Marion County.

To reserve your spot for any of these three events, contact Stacy Cachules at scachules@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 ext. 114.

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

...to make a gift that lasts for conservation in central Indiana.

You push a sapling into the soil, knowing the tree it becomes will provide benefits to generations that follow you. In the same 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 those donors who have created such a legacy. If you have made a provision for the 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

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Rebecca and Thomas Dolan

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Eleanor Krauss*
Cherí O'Neill

John Pelton*
Ruth Ratcliff*
Deb Smith
*deceased

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

Every day, we are working to protect central Indiana's best habitat, working forests, farm lands and rural character. Help protect the special places where we hike, play and connect to nature by making your gift today! Simply use the enclosed envelope or give online at www.conservingindiana.org

Volunteer Spotlight: Dick Miller

A retired Butler University professor of ecology who's most often in a bucket hat wearing an easy smile, Dick Miller's passion for natural areas runs deep. He's one of the Land Trust's original "Wednesday Warriors," a core group of dedicated individuals who work to ensure Land Trust properties are well cared for. He donates hundreds of hours each year helping the Land Trust eradicate invasive species at various preserves. He's the site steward at Burnett Woods Nature Preserve in Avon, and he's helped on countless volunteer work days there, including leading hikes after each work day. He's extremely familiar with the site and knows first-hand where the Land Trust has been controlling pervasive weeds like Asian bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard for several years. This is incredibly helpful because knowing where it's been helps find new spots and allows for quick control. Dick and his wife live in Butler-Tarkington and enjoy travel. Always willing to share his knowledge and stories, Dick's been a Land Trust volunteer since 2008.



"I taught Indiana natural history at Butler University and came to appreciate the diverse natural areas in the state. Working with the professional staff at the Land Trust makes me confident that I am helping to preserve our natural heritage. A big bonus is that I enjoy being outside in a natural setting," commented Dick, pictured second from the left with students from his Indiana Natural History Class.

Thank you for the following tributes

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**Katie Barker and
Steve Rogers**
Thomas and Priscilla Johnson

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2012 Financial Report (unaudited)

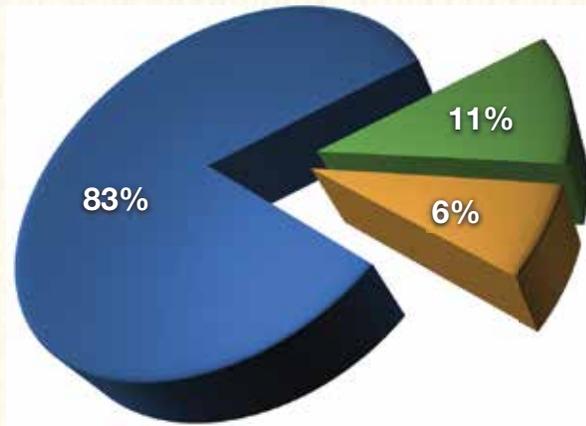
Income			
	2012	2011	
Contributions and Grants	\$789,118*	\$2,290,238**	
Investment Income & Interest	\$99,609	\$81,341	
Other Revenue	\$58,554	\$58,630	
Total Income	\$947,281	\$2,430,209	

Expenses			
	2012	2011	
Conservation Programs	\$354,936	\$321,252	
Fundraising	\$60,003	\$47,885	
Administration	\$50,472	\$81,076	
Total Expenses	\$465,411	\$450,213	

* includes land gifts of Turtle Bend, Peine Easement and bargain sale of the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow

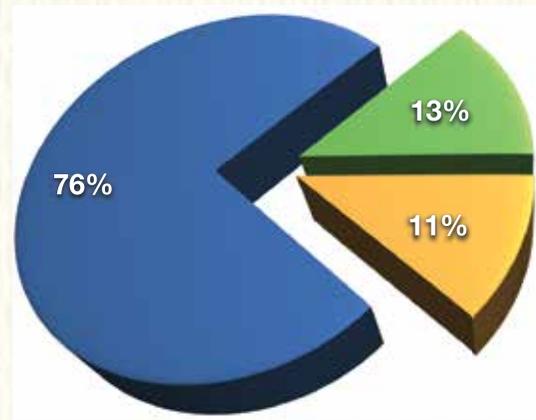
** includes land gifts of Eller Farm and Blue Bluff addition

Income 2012



- Contributions and Grants
- Investment Income & Interest
- Other Revenue

Expenses 2012



- Conservation and Community Programs
- Fundraising
- Administration

Conservation by the Numbers

As of 12/31/2013

Total Investments	\$834,160
Total Land Value	\$10,000,048
Total Acres Protected	4,069

During 2012

Volunteer Hours	1800
Volunteer Events	20
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$39,850
People Engaged	650

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(January 1 – December 31, 2012)

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**CENTRAL
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LAND TRUST**

Preserving the Heartland

Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc.
1500 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Please visit our website:
www.conservingindiana.org



Did you know the Land Trust accepts gifts of farmland?

The owners of working lands now can protect both their land and the income it generates thanks to new tax legislation – but they have to act fast or they might lose this opportunity.

The 2013 law renewed generous federal tax breaks for landowners who earn at least half their income from their land, allowing them to claim deductions for up to 100 percent of their income. Other landowners are eligible to claim deductions for up to 30 percent of their income. Farmers or those with forestry operations who would like to permanently protect their land are encouraged to contact the Land Trust for help. The Land Trust can guide them in creating a conservation easement, which is a great way to ensure the land is protected now and into the future, regardless of who owns the land in years to come.

Please note that this opportunity comes with some urgency: The tax breaks will expire at the end of this year unless Congress votes to extend them. Please email or call Rachel Eble at reble@conservingindiana.org or at 317-631-5263 ext. 112 for details.



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