



CENTRAL
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LAND TRUST

Preserving the Heartland

Spring/Summer 2012



A Family Legacy Makes for a New Nature Preserve

Bob Meyer was an outdoorsy kid whose happiest days included Scouting, canoeing, hiking and sledding. When Bob and his wife, Gayle, were raising their daughters, Anna and Molly, the family spent many hours hiking, climbing and camping. Even as the girls are now grown, the family still spends the time they have together in pursuit of the outdoor activities that they all enjoy. And now, the Meyer Family is making it possible for generations of kids – and grown-ups – to have those same kinds of experiences in the outdoors that they all love.

For Bob, fond childhood memories include camping with his sister and parents, Fred and Dottie, and taking trips to national and state parks. He recalls camping with members of the Save the Dunes Council when natural areas in northwest Indiana were caught between conservation and steel interests.

Still, there's more than just childhood memories driving the Meyers to protect Indiana's natural assets – there's also the legacy left by Bob's father. Fred Meyer served on the board of the Indiana chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and he was instrumental in getting the state's first dedicated Nature Preserve, Pine Hills, established in 1969 in Montgomery County. The designation provides for a conservation easement on the land so that it is permanently protected.

Now the Meyers have followed in Fred's footsteps by recommending a grant, from the Robert R. and Gayle T. Meyer Family Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation, towards the purchase of 55 acres in Morgan County. In fact, Bob, Gayle, Anna and Molly suggested the gift as a tribute to Fred and Dottie.

The land's location south of Mooresville between S.R. 67 and



Fred and Dottie Meyer instilled their love of the land in their children creating a family legacy of preserving land.

From left to right – Bob, Fred, Dottie and their daughter Kate.

Observatory Road offers a number of special attractions. First of all, the property is part of the Long Ridge Core Conservation Area and is “core forest” as part of the Greening the Crossroads plan. Second, it borders a property already protected by the Land Trust, the 14-acre Shalom Woods that was donated by the Cohen family in the 1990s.

Perhaps even more significant, though, is the fact that the property includes some of the northernmost region of Indiana that was not covered by glaciers. As a result, the land offers up ridges unique to the area. While the land has been harvested





for timber, fortunately, the logging was done in a sustainable way and the ridges remain intact.

In addition, the land comprises large forest blocks unbroken by roads and a forest interior habitat that serves as home to rare native species of birds – hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler, and cerulean warbler –as well as the Eastern box turtle.

“Not only are there rare species on this land, there’s a sufficient amount to sustain a population of the species,” says Cliff Chapman, Conservation Director for the Land Trust. “Since science is the foundation of our work, this makes the land especially attractive.”

In fact, resources the Meyer Family donated and helped to attract made it possible for the Central Indiana Land Trust to increase its science focus and science-based work. Following



in his father’s land conservation footsteps, Bob served on the Land Trust board from January 2003 to December 2005 and continues to serve on the Advisory Council.

“Bob’s the epitome of a great board member,” says Land Trust Executive Director Heather Bacher. “Not only does he value the land and want to preserve it, he puts his heart and soul into it and actively brings his friends and resources into the fold.”

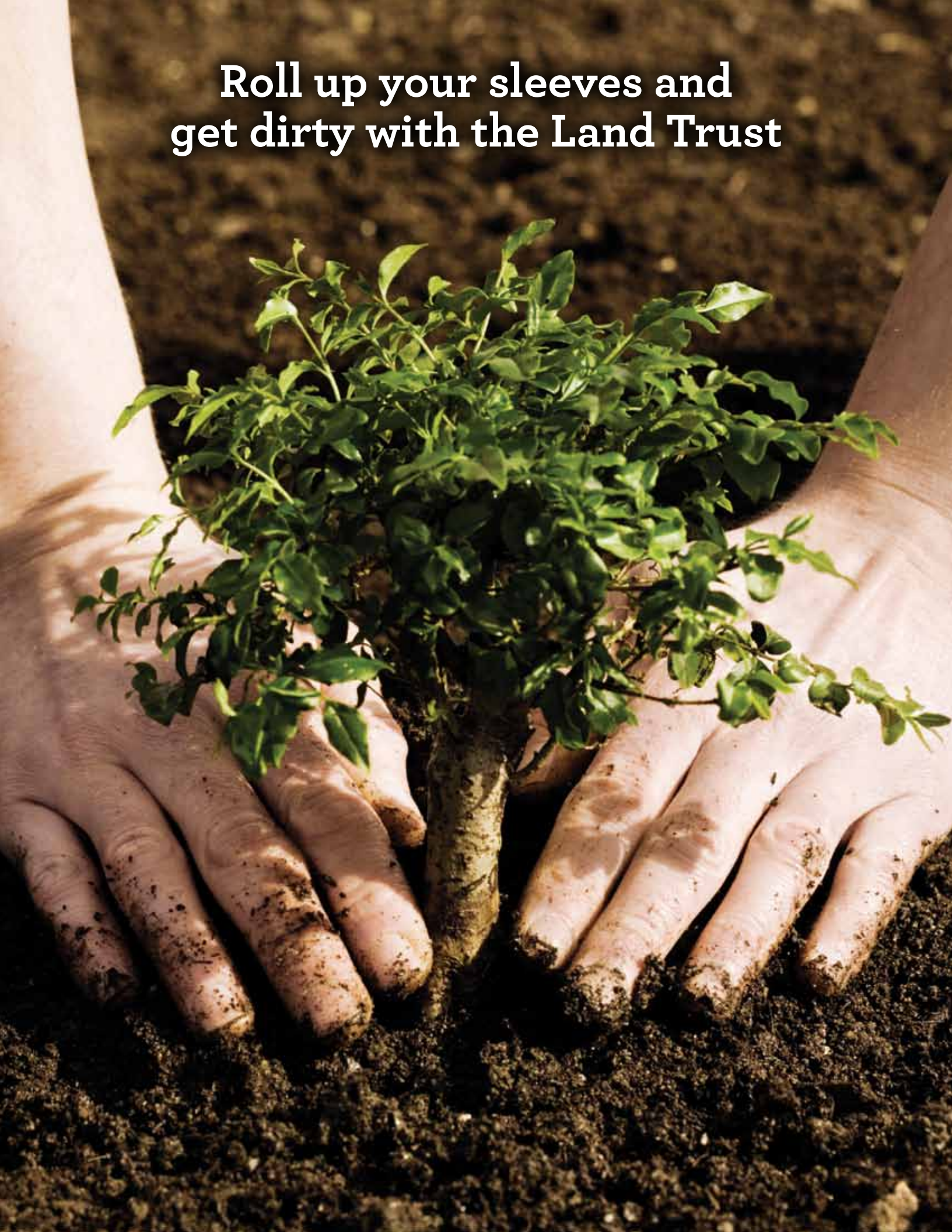
The Central Indiana Land Trust is in the process of creating a pull-off area for parking and installing a sign so that visitors may enjoy the land.

In a sense, the Meyer family legacy is coming full circle. When the Fred and Dorothy Meyer Preserve is dedicated, it will join Pine Hills as one of the more than 240 nature preserves in the state that will be forever protected.

“When we have a few brief days together over holidays, our primary activity is going for a hike or climb. It’s just part of our family DNA, handed down by Dottie and Fred,” says Bob pictured below with wife Gayle and daughters Anna and Molly.



**Roll up your sleeves and
get dirty with the Land Trust**





We need your help! There are many volunteer opportunities waiting for you (and you don't have to get dirty unless you want to). Join us for a volunteer day on one of our nature preserves, help out in the office or help us spread the word about the Land Trust at an information booth. Volunteers are the backbone of our work at the Land Trust and we would love to have you join us. Last year alone volunteers contributed over 1,600 volunteer hours to the organization!

By volunteering you can help create a legacy in central Indiana!

To find out more on how you, your family, your company or group can help and have fun doing it, please contact us at info@conservingindiana.org or at 317-631-5263.

Volunteer Spotlight: Scouts Continue to Make a Difference for Central Indiana Lands

Eagle Scout candidates are working toward the high rank by demonstrating leadership in conservation and doing service projects on Central Indiana Land Trust nature preserves. You may remember Eagle Scouts Connor Bagwell and Bill Ristow highlighted in the last newsletter. We are excited to share and celebrate the work of Karl Brunner and Perry Flaugh.

Karl Brunner improved our Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve to provide better connection opportunities for children at a local school. Children at nearby Imagine Life Sciences Academy previously had to walk along busy Mitthoeffer Road and through a gas station parking lot to access the creek and natural area. By renovating a fence and clearing a path from the school, Karl has ensured that children have a much safer route and reason to frequent the creek and beaver dam as an outdoor science lab.

Perry Flaugh developed a project with the goal of making the Jacob Schramm Woods Preserve more accessible for visitors. Perry organized upwards of twenty volunteers to replace temporary trail markers with more permanent ones and built bridges over wetlands areas, allowing people to more easily enjoy their time in nature. The Hancock County Community Foundation, a partner of



A third generation Eagle Scout, Perry is proud to serve as an example for younger scouts through his leadership.

"The project meant a lot to me because it directly affected people, improving the safety and enjoyment of the nature preserve,"

Karl said about the Eagle Scout Project.

the Land Trust, recently said this about the project, "We are fortunate and grateful to Perry for donating the time, energy and materials to enhance this community treasure."

These projects are just the latest in what continues to be a long and successful relationship with local Scouts. Indeed, yet another Scout is working on a proposed project for Burnett Woods Preserve in Hendricks County. Stephen's work will give our visitors access to an impressive wildflower stand—so, stay tuned for updates!

Thank you and congratulations to these Scout volunteers. We are excited to see the next generation of conservationists emerge!

In Memory of Donovan Miller

Donovan,

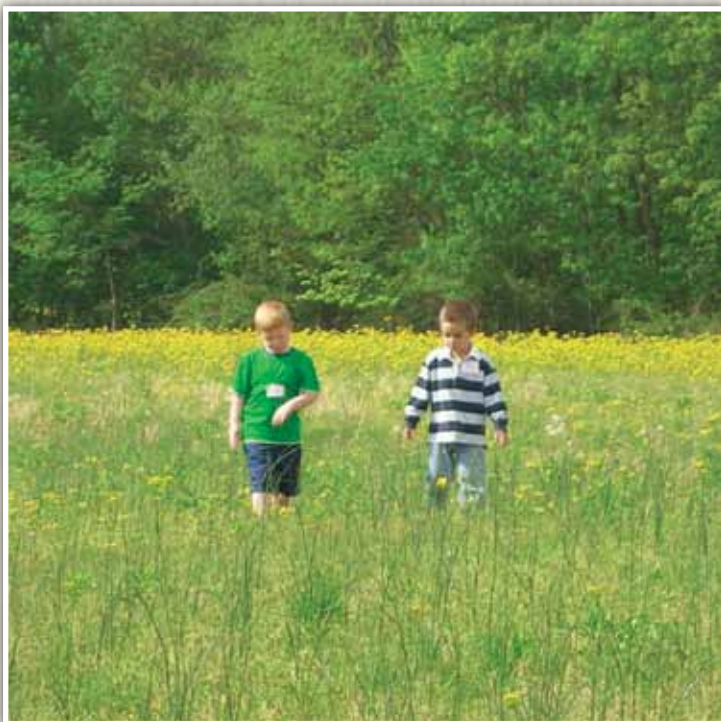
We miss you. We miss your smile. We miss your laugh. We miss your advice. You were a close friend. You inspired us. You made central Indiana a better place. And we thank you.

— Your Friends at the Central Indiana Land Trust

Spring Has Sprung –

Time to Explore Central Indiana

Winter has come to an end and plants and animals are starting to reappear. It's time to get outside to explore the best of central Indiana this spring and summer – the Land Trust can help you plan your next outdoor adventure!



Spring Wildflower Hike

For some viewing of beautiful spring wildflowers, check out Burnett Woods Nature Preserve in Avon. Accessing the property is easy and it makes a great place for a spring hike with young children. Join us on May 6th for a guided hike of the property as hike leaders will point out wildflowers, birds and other interesting Indiana wildlife in the woods.

Summer Outing to View Prairie Flowers

Did you know that there is a beautiful Indiana Prairie that you can visit right in Fishers? On the corner of the intersection of 116th and Eller Road sits the 77 acre Wapihani Nature Preserve. Make sure to plan a trip to Wapihani in late July and early August for the best viewing of prairie flowers. This is a great place to take your family and friends for a summer walk!

For more information on guided events or visiting a nature preserve contact us at info@conservingindiana.org or visit us online at www.conservingindiana.org.



We welcome the following new members!

Kathleen Boyd
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Meet Alexander, a Force for Conservation

Contributed by Fellow Board Member Rebecca Dolan

Alexander O'Neill is a long serving Land Trust board member who joined the board when I did in 2005. Alexander is on the Land Committee, the group that vets new project opportunities. He is currently Vice President of Programs, and in that position serves as the Executive Committee's liaison for land acquisition, stewardship and educational activities.

A natural match for the Land Committee, Alexander is an attorney specializing in real estate law with the firm of Krieg DeVault. His hours of pro bono work for the Land Trust made many of our purchases and easements possible and ensured protection will be in perpetuity. Over a couple of pints at Twenty Tap, I recently got to know him better.

Alexander has life-long ties with the land. His family has a farm in Northwest Indiana, near Valparaiso, where he grew up loving to hunt and fish. He watched with dismay as farming practices and land use changed, resulting in clearing of woodlots and hedgerows, further reducing the last vestiges of native habitat.

Two internships helped shape his career path, combining his environmental ethic with his law practice. While an undergraduate pursuing a natural resources and environmental science degree at Purdue (his father was on the Boilermakers basketball team in the mid-1960s), Alexander worked at the Indiana Environmental Institute in Indianapolis, researching ways to reduce agricultural runoff. While in law school at Indiana University-Bloomington, where he was in a joint program that also earned him a master degree from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, he read about a program being instituted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He took an internship helping natural resource-based businesses create and market value-added products as a means to accomplish on-the-ground habitat conservation. Alexander assisted with various aspects of this and other projects at TNC headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

After graduation and returning to Indianapolis, he was looking for a way to contribute locally to land preservation and stewardship and was introduced to the Land Trust by a colleague who was at that time a Land Trust board member.

His first major project was the Wapahani Nature Preserve in Fishers. When asked what he is most proud of in his years of service Alexander replied, "being on board to help bring about a growth in capacity that has us now in the position of being able to work with a focused

strategic plan, rather than being reactive and waiting for the phone to ring. We are now making things happen, and have the ability to undertake more complex projects."

Alexander and his wife Shiv live in Meridian Kessler with their two young children. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, local politics, mountain biking and introducing his children to skiing.

After graduation and returning to Indianapolis, he was looking for a way to contribute locally to land preservation...



Alexander has life-long ties with the land and enjoys sharing the outdoors with his children.

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

Education Spotlight –

The Next Generation of Conservation Leaders.

Central Indiana Schools and Students Making a Difference for the Land

The Land Trust has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with many students and faculty from our region's top educational institutions. From universities to elementary schools we are amazed at the efforts to involve students in the work of caring for the land and learning about conservation.



Students from the IUPUI Geography department enjoying a service day

Specifically, we are very fortunate in this region to have so many wonderful higher education institutions. We value our working relationships with Butler University, Franklin College, Harrison College, IUPUI and University of Indianapolis and hope to make new partnerships in the years to come.

A strong commitment from IUPUI has lead to many passionate students working on conservation issues in central Indiana. The Land Trust is fortunate to work with the Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES) and the Department of Geography to engage hundreds of students in conservation work on the land and in the classroom each year. Students from CEES have contributed endless hours to the restoration at Oliver's Woods Nature



"My internship with the Land Trust not only allowed me to gain invaluable career experience, but also to contribute to the preservation of Indiana's natural areas, which have been a personal lifelong passion."

Mike Crussel, Geographic Information Science Master's Student at IUPUI

Preserve. In addition, the Geography Department matches the Land Trust with interns. Our most recent intern, Mike Crussel, helped to map the Land Trust's core conservation areas.

If you have a partnership idea for the Central Indiana Land Trust, let us know! It's connections from our supporters that help excel conservation in central Indiana. If you are a student and interested in working with us as an intern or volunteer, please contact us at info@conservingindiana.org for application and program details.

A big thank you to IUPUI for being a dedicated partner to the Land Trust - be on the lookout for more education spotlights in upcoming issues!

"The Central Indiana Land Trust's partnership in the CEES program provides students with the opportunity to work at project sites to directly experience many of the topics discussed in their courses as well as to observe how communities can work together to solve contemporary environmental issues."

Kara Salazar, Education Outreach Coordinator, CEES

Urban Partnership Advances Conservation in Indianapolis

When people think of land conservation they generally think of large areas of forest or farm land, but urban areas also play a key role. In Indianapolis alone, there are nearly 16,000 acres of unprotected natural areas identified in the Greening the Crossroads plan.

Conserving urban areas differs from working to protect large areas of natural landscape. In urban areas, there may be dozens of individual properties that make up one connected landscape. To tackle this, the Land Trust has been partnering with local civic leaders and planning departments throughout central Indiana. These efforts to affect current and future land use decisions are working.



We are excited to announce that Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard supports Greening the Crossroads, adding to a growing number of national and local partners backing the initiative.

Moving forward, this strong commitment from the City of Indianapolis will make significant progress in the plan's implementation. Greening the Crossroads will be considered in updating all Indianapolis neighborhood plans moving forward. Over the next two years, the Land

Trust will be working with the city to develop the first four neighborhood plans.

In addition to plans at the neighborhood level, the Land Trust has been invited to partner with the city on a major planning initiative called Indy Rezone. As a participant in this initiative, focused on updating the city's current zoning codes, the Land Trust will have the opportunity to help the city plan for development with an eye to protecting our most critical natural areas. Dennis Slaughter, a senior planner with the city of Indianapolis told us "The three year Indy Rezone project will give us the opportunity, as a community, to plan for future growth."

Through Greening the Crossroad's committed partners, we are making connections with other cities and towns in the region. Watch for new exciting projects, partnerships and more on our work with the City of Indianapolis. The steps we take now can make lasting improvements to our communities, create meaningful change for future generations and set central Indiana apart as a place of nature and beauty.

What is the Greening the Crossroads Plan?

Greening the Crossroads (GTC) is the largest, by acres, single conservation effort in our state's history. The Central Indiana Land Trust is working with interested partners to conserve and connect our region's important natural areas.

On the Horizon

Look for updates on key projects and partnerships, a sustainable forestry workshop slated for the fall, a recognition program and new endorsements. Learn more about the plan and our conservation vision at www.greeningthecrossroads.org, and follow us on Facebook!

2011: The Year in Numbers



- **1,600** volunteer hours logged
- **6,500** native plants and **800** trees planted
- **43** acres of forest, **6** acres of wetland and **16** acres of prairie land restored by hard working volunteers
- **70** meetings to advance the Greening the Crossroads plan
- **16** preserve management plans completed
- **13** core conservation areas identified and mapped
- **2** new board members and **3** new staff members added to our growing team to better protect the land and respond to the needs of central Indiana residents

Thanks for a great 2011. With your support, together we have protected over 4,000 acres at nearly 50 sites in central Indiana.

The Burr Oak Society

The Burr Oak Society was established to recognize those donors who have included the Central Indiana Land Trust in their estate plans.

Members of the Burr Oak Society

Christine Carlson
Oliver Daugherty*
Van Eller*
Marjorie Jones
Eleanor Krauss*

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Deb Smith

If you have made a provision for the Land Trust in your will or trust, please let us know so we can thank you during your lifetime. If you would like more information about making a planned gift to the Land Trust please contact Rachel Eble at reble@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263.

*deceased



The following tributes have been made:

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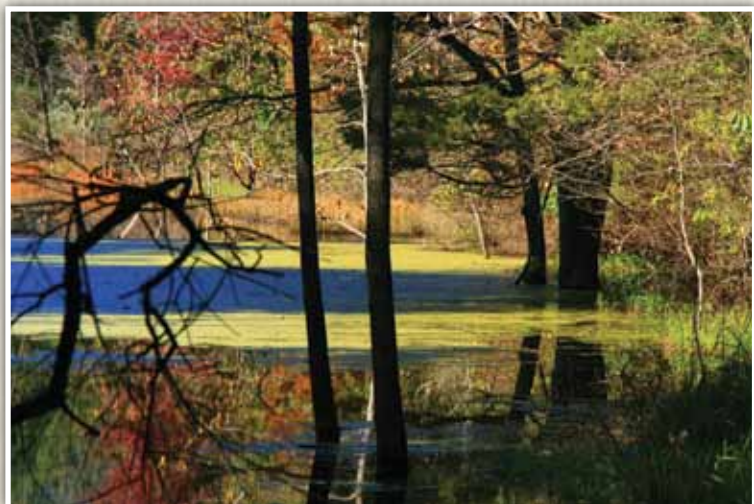
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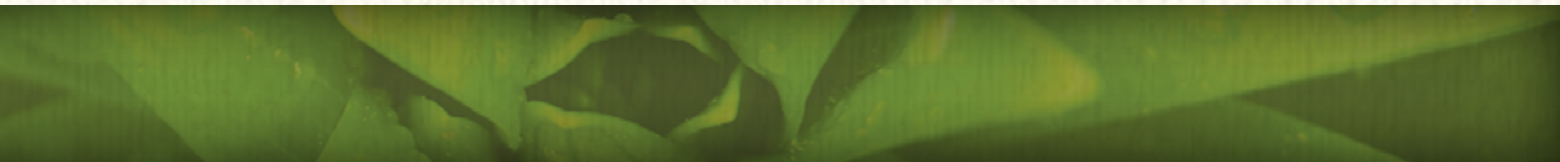
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Preserving the Heartland

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Please visit our website:
www.conservingindiana.org



Save the Date: April 28th Earth Day Indiana at White River State Park

Last year's festival was the biggest and best yet with more than 140 environmental and conservation exhibits, great music and food and special activities for kids. Come out and celebrate Earth Day at this fun event. Make sure to stop by the Land Trust booth to say hello! To learn more about Earth Day Indiana visit: www.earthdayindiana.org.

We also have many other fun events on the horizon. Make sure to sign up for our email list to receive invitations to seasonal family fun days, field days and other land trust activities.

You can also view a calendar of upcoming events on our website at www.conservingindiana.org. To receive more information on any of our events or to be added to the email list, contact us at info@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263.



Fun Facts about Earth Day!

- The first Earth Day was held in April 1970
- Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson as a way to raise awareness for growing environmental issues
- It's expected that for Earth Day 2012 more than 1 billion people around the world will participate in activities
- To learn more about Earth Day's history and the actions you can take visit earthday.org/2012
- You can make a difference for central Indiana on Earth Day and every day, contact us to find out about volunteer opportunities near you



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