



CENTRAL
INDIANA
LAND TRUST

Preserving the Heartland

Winter 2012/2013



Johnson County welcomes Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow

Dr. Laura Hare never set foot on the 109 Johnson County acres that have been named in her honor. She never saw the hooded or the worm-eating warblers that nest there, or the Eastern box turtles that slowly traverse its landscape. She never got to walk among the ferns, wildflowers and white and red oak trees that cover these specific ridges and slopes.

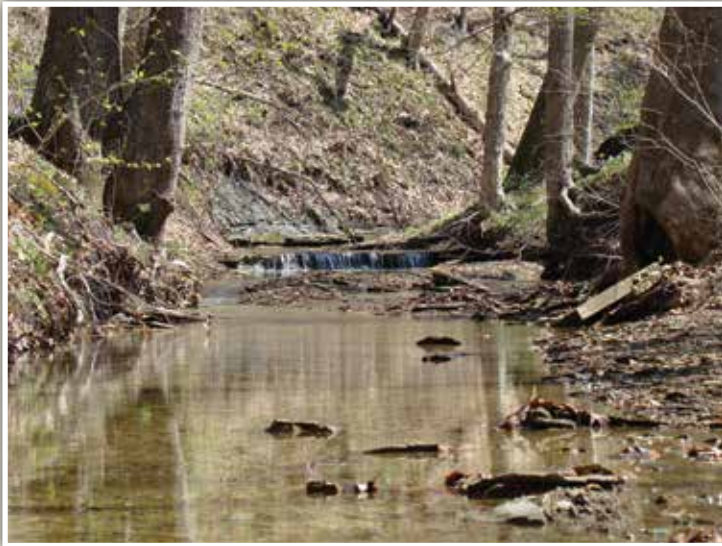
Nonetheless, the land is a perfect legacy for a woman who spent many of her 100 years trying to create a similar slice of nature in her own backyard.

In October, the Central Indiana Land Trust announced that a \$200,000 gift from the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust has been committed toward the purchase and ongoing maintenance of what will be known as the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow. Accessible via Hougham Road near Trafalgar in part of the Hills of Gold Core Conservation Area, the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow will help in the Land Trust's ongoing effort to protect special places and begin linking together natural places throughout the region.

Although she was a medical doctor by profession, Dr. Hare was a lifelong naturalist and conservationist who studied entomology (she wrote her PhD thesis at the University of



A lifelong learner and lover of nature, Dr. Laura Hare's legacy is preserving the natural beauty of central Indiana.



This waterfall is one of the many beautiful surprises at this 109 acre preserve.

Cover: Blossom Hollow supports healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds such as the beautiful hooded warbler pictured on the cover.

Chicago on termites) before going into medicine. Even as she practiced medicine, though, she never left her passion for nature behind.

An avid gardener who died in 2006 at the age of 100, Dr. Hare worked tirelessly over the decades to naturalize the land around her home with wildflowers and native trees, creating habitats for birds, butterflies, raccoons and squirrels. For years, she took weekly trips to Shades State Park and the Pine Hills Nature Preserve to hike in Sugar Creek looking for fossils with her dogs, Engel and Dante.

Not wanting her efforts to fade after she was gone, she created the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust. With a mission to “enhance Indiana’s natural endowment through preservation and protection of ecologically significant natural areas and the promotion of environmental education and awareness initiatives,” the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust has supported the environmental efforts not only of conservation groups but also of area schools and school districts. The Land Trust

received two grants from the Hare Trust in 2007 for other conservation projects.

“I think [Dr. Hare] would be delighted to know that her legacy is preserving and protecting natural places, and providing for the long-term stewardship of these areas,” Lenore Tedesco, a trustee of the Hare Trust, said. “She loved the outdoors, and hiking. She was quite learned in ecosystems and ecosystem relationships, so she would appreciate the importance of large blocks of land being set aside.”

Blossom Hollow fits especially well with Dr. Hare’s vision because it is part of a large unbroken hardwood forest block that is key for migratory birds and forest interior nesting birds. Few such areas remain in central Indiana. The property also contains high-quality examples of oak woodlands on ridges and slopes, as well as bottomland hardwood forest in creek valleys. Spectacular ridges on the property feature mature white and red oaks clinging to slopes covered with ferns and wildflowers.

In addition, Blossom Hollow is home to three species considered rare in Indiana: the worm-eating warbler, hooded warbler and Eastern box turtle.

“It’s a special place,” said Cliff Chapman, conservation director for the Land Trust. “It’s in a very small part of Indiana where bedrock-laden hills were covered by glaciers. This gives the site a complex soil structure that produces diverse plant communities. It is one of those rare places where you can walk along a flat bottom creek underlain by bedrock with chunks of granite lying around in the forest floor.”

The total cost for the acquisition and maintenance of the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow is expected to be approximately \$500,000. Additional contributions came from the Russell W. Lamb Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust. (See the box below for a full listing of project supporters.)

The Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow will be open for the public to enjoy the land. Plans for 2013 include volunteer workdays to help build a trail and small parking lot, as well as special events.

“At the Central Indiana Land Trust, we don’t protect land simply for the sake of protecting it. We protect it so generations of Hoosiers can enjoy Indiana’s natural legacy,” said Heather Bacher, executive director of the Land Trust. “As such, we look forward to having our friends and supporters share the beauty of this property and enjoy it for years to come.”



Hiking along one of the many ridges at the preserve.



Eastern box turtles can live over 100 years but require large forest blocks like Blossom Hollow for their populations to survive.

Thank you to these Supporters of the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow

Anonymous

Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust

Indiana Heritage Trust

Indiana Department of Natural
Resources Division of Nature Preserves

Amos Butler Audubon

Jill Hoffmann

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower
Society

INPAWS Central Chapter

IPL Golden Eagle

Johnson County Community
Foundation

Russell W. Lamb Trust

Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC

The Conservation Fund

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ten Years of White River Conservation

The White River is the heart of central Indiana. It delivers drinking water, our most precious natural resource, to nearly one million people every day. The Central Indiana Land Trust recognizes the White's significance and has worked diligently over the last ten years to protect land and restore natural systems along its course.

After the Land Trust purchased its first tract along the river at Burr Oak Bend, we wrote in our Fall 2002 newsletter "CILT recognizes that the White River is the critical corridor of wildlife habitat in highly urbanized Marion, Hamilton, and Johnson Counties. It provides precious refuge to many terrestrial and aquatic species – it is the dominant landform feature and the stream around which we live our lives."



Former Board President Reta Rutledge getting wet and dirty planting trees along the White River

Since that was written, the Land Trust has gone on to expand Burr Oak Bend from those original 52 acres to 130 acres through five subsequent land purchases. But that is just part of the story.

The Land Trust has protected 425 acres along the White River between four nature preserves and one conservation easement in Marion, Hamilton and Johnson counties. The value of this land that has been purchased or donated is over \$1.8 million.

But protecting land is just the beginning. More than 1,000 volunteers have helped restore these preserves over the last ten years. They removed Asian bush honeysuckle, planted trees and wetland plants and found other ways to get wet and dirty in the name of conservation for the White River.

Some of the restoration work required ecological experts or large equipment to accomplish. For this, the Land Trust raised over \$320,000 from local non-profit organizations as well as state and federal grants. With this, and in combination with volunteer efforts, we have planted and maintained nearly 40,000 trees and planted 50 acres of prairie along the White.

In all, over the past ten years the Land Trust has raised an amazing \$2.2 million for land protection and restoration along the White.

A portion of this funding for land acquisition and restoration came from a settlement after the 1999 fish kill in the White. Looking back, Carl Wodrich with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources said "The Central Indiana Land Trust has been a great partner to the White River Trustees and shared the common goal and vision for conserving lands immediately



The White River is now healthy enough to support several pairs of Bald Eagles.

Photo by: Robert Cushing

adjacent to the White River. Additionally, they have done an excellent job overseeing restoration of the properties that were acquired with the restoration funds and being good stewards in the maintenance and follow-up required for these efforts.”

But dollars raised and acres protected don't tell the whole story. A few years ago, there were over 500 great blue heron nests at the Millard Sutton – Amos W. Butler Audubon Sanctuary. The wetlands at Burr Oak Bend are home to two state-listed frogs, the Northern leopard frog and cricket frog. The state endangered marsh wren nested at Wapihani Nature Preserve last year. Bald eagles nest within sight of the river on a conservation easement in Johnson County. And the state rare hickorynut mussel clings together in a bed along the boundary of Oliver's Woods in Indianapolis. These are just a few of the hundreds – maybe thousands – of plants and animals that call these places home.

So what do the next ten years look like? The Land Trust continues to be committed to conservation along the White River and will protect and restore land, and help improve regional planning efforts that affect the White.



Pictured here, plantings done 10 years ago by volunteers now make up a beautiful field of healthy trees.



Board member Tony Schaefer, pictured left, chipping in to install wetland plants at Burr Oak Bend.

An exciting project is about to begin at Oliver's Woods that will improve our drinking water in Indianapolis. Over 1.25 miles of stream bank will see Asian bush honeysuckle controlled and replaced with thousands of native grasses and sedges along with hundreds of native trees and shrubs and erosion control blankets. The honeysuckle has been directly linked with increased erosion. This innovative project is designed to naturalize the stream bank holding soil that would otherwise fall into the river and have to be filtered out by downstream drinking water intakes.

All of these past successes are owed to you, our dedicated members. Much of the work has been since the economic downturn in 2008. We are incredibly honored that during tough times, our members have continued to support conservation in central Indiana, and have seen it as the crucial investment for the future that it is. We believe we can continue to improve the health of the White River and the natural systems along it, but only with your continued support. Let's keep the momentum rolling, together.

You're Invited

Forestlands Workshops in Martinsville

We will host a series of workshops on managing forestlands for wildlife and future generations. Speakers will include our own Cliff Chapman, as well as experts from Purdue University and Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The three-course workshop will take place Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in Martinsville.

Come Celebrate the Holidays!

Join us on Dec. 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a fun holiday open house at our office at 1500 North Delaware St. in downtown Indianapolis. RSVPs appreciated but not required.

Winter Walks in the Woods

Enjoy the beauty of the winter landscape. We will have two family winter walks. On Sunday Jan. 27 we will be at Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve in Indianapolis and on Saturday, Feb. 23 join us a Burnett Woods in Avon. Both events will start at 2 p.m.

For more information on the events listed above visit www.conservingindiana.org or contact Stacy Cachules at scachules@conservingnature.org or at 317-631-5263 ext. 114.



Welcome New Members!

Jon Black

Steven Gore

Eric Haven Maloney

Ronda Fischer

Marianne Hanson

John McDonnell

The Ratio Foundation

Nanette Johnson

Matthew & Heather McLaughlin

David & Holly Geeslin

Lance Mabry

John and Jen Thomas

First in Indiana

The Central Indiana Land Trust has achieved accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. As one of only 181 land trusts across the country awarded accreditation since 2008, it is the first local land trust in Indiana to earn the designation. Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

David Hillman, Program Officer of Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, presents Land Trust Executive Director Heather Bacher the accreditation certificate he accepted on behalf of the Land Trust at the 2012 National Land Conservation Conference.



"I was excited to represent the Land Trust during the accreditation ceremony. This is an important accomplishment and demonstrates the commitment the Central Indiana Land Trust has made to excellence in conservation," said David.

Thank you, Hannah!



Hannah Vargason joined the Land Trust team in the fall of 2011 to serve as our Conservation Associate through the end of 2012. Hannah has helped our conservation program immensely and she will be greatly missed.

Growing up along the Potomac River in Maryland below the Appalachian Mountains, Hannah spent lots of time outdoors with her family. "I think I was paddling before I was walking," she said when reminiscing of her childhood. After graduating with a B.A. in Economics and Anthropology from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA, Hannah went on to complete a Master of Public Policy degree from the College of William and Mary in historic Williamsburg.

Even before moving to central Indiana, Hannah visited with the Land Trust expressing interest in helping us achieve our mission. Once here, she began volunteering on a regular basis helping with data collection on comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to support our Greening the Crossroads effort. When the Land Trust created the Conservation Associate position, Hannah was a natural fit.

Besides being integral to the recent successes with Greening the Crossroads, Hannah helped with all land protection transactions over the past year, particularly with the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow. Her constant smile and can-do attitude will be missed, as well as her yummy baked goodies that make Monday morning meetings a little easier!

Creating a legacy, Marjorie Jones

Marjorie lives on a striking farm in Hancock County. Her great-grandparents, Wilhelm and Christena Breuer, purchased the land in 1851 and it's been beloved by her family ever since. Even as a child growing up in town, Marjorie spent every free moment at the farm. Today, the farm is a mix of a beautiful woods, cultivated fields and fields restored to wildlife habitat. Much of the land surrounding the farm has been developed. In order to see her land remain as it has been, Marjorie made plans to include the Central Indiana Land Trust in her will. And when Marjorie is no longer here to watch over the woods and the creek, the Land Trust will ensure that her family's legacy is forever protected. The Wilhelm and Christena Breuer Farm will be a lasting legacy for the community. Thank you, Marjorie.

The Wilhelm and Christena Breuer Farm, a mix of woods and fields, will be forever protected by their great-granddaughter, Marjorie Jones.



Thank you for the following tributes

In honor of...

William Brink

Lynne E. Arrowsmith

Daniel Bray

Eric Maloney

Martha Davis

Wayne and Polly Nicely

Jay Duncan

Steven Gore

Rebecca and Thomas Dolan

Leonard and Betty Wilcox

Hazel Gibson

Thomas and Priscilla Johnson

Jeremy Janoski

John McDonnell

The following young men who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout: Connor Dunn, William Ristow, Andrew Stautz, A.J. Stautz, David Wintermeyer

Mark and Becky Ristow

Bob and Gayle Meyer

Sarah McConnell and Tim Riffle

Kathryn Voyles

Thomas and Priscilla Johnson

In memory of...

Joyce Berner

Greg and Clare Oskay

Marianne Broecker

Joy Florestano

Rose Chapman

Cliff and Carrie Chapman
Rebecca and Thomas Dolan
Alexander and Shiv O'Neill

Glenn Martin Chunn

Rebecca and Thomas Dolan
Alexander and Shiv O'Neill

Mable Sue Harris

Rosalind Webb

W.W. (Jack) Harris

Art Harris

Laura Jane Kindrick

David and Barbara Duncan

Randy Lewis

Tina Jenkins

Tim Stone

Thomas and Priscilla Johnson

Leita F. Stout

Thomas and Priscilla Johnson

Nell Van Mook

John and Susan Scott

Sara and Jerry Steckbeck – A volunteer duo dedicated to the land

From helping build trails on nature preserves to removing invasive weeds from important Indiana woods, Sara and Jerry Steckbeck are dedicated to the lands of this region. Sara and Jerry also have another connection to the Land Trust - Sara's family use to own a portion of our Mossy Point Nature Preserve. We are lucky to work with this dedicated volunteer pair!

"Natural areas are important to me because I want to make sure my grandchildren and great-grandchildren have the same opportunities that I had to enjoy trips to the woods," commented Sara about her love of natural areas, pictured here with her husband Jerry.



Visit our new website
launching early December
conservingindiana.org



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Keep up with the latest events and happenings. "Like" us on Facebook and share your stories and photos of your nature adventures.



The People Behind Oliver's Woods

Many hands have helped make the 53-acre Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve in northeastern Marion County a better home for plants and animals and an oasis of green for people to enjoy. We are excited to announce Oliver's Woods has a new trail, a painted and secured barn and a healthier forest that's almost free of invasive weeds. Plans are underway to transition the house on the property into the headquarters and office for the Central Indiana Land Trust. A big thanks to our volunteers and groups for their tireless hours of work – REI, Lilly, Charles Schwab, IUPUI, National FFA and many local residents! To see all the changes, join us for a family friendly winter walk in Oliver's Woods on Jan. 27 – for more information contact Stacy Cachules at scachules@conservingindiana.org or 317-631-5263 ext. 114.

REI volunteers building a new trail at Oliver's Woods



View of the White River from the new trail.



Photo by: Lilia Rivera



A young volunteer lending a hand and helping build a new trail.



Lilly employees enjoying a day of service at Oliver's Woods. A big thank you goes out to these wonderful volunteers.

You can play a role in the care and improvement of important lands of central Indiana. There are many volunteer opportunities, including working on the land, helping with office tasks and assisting at events and community programs. To find out more on how you, your family, your company or other group can help and have fun doing it, please contact Stacy Cachules at scachules@conservingnature.org or at 317-631-5263 ext. 114. Of course, if you don't have time to volunteer but want to play a part in maintaining our beautiful places and ensuring we have plenty of nature for our children and grandchildren to enjoy, consider making a financial gift to the Land Trust. Every dollar helps!

Franklin students inventory Blossom Hollow

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Alice Heikens, a biology professor at Franklin College and an expert in rare species and plant communities, Franklin junior Megan Smith will lead a small group of students and begin work on a floristic inventory of the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow next spring.

Taking an inventory of flora at the new preserve is important for several reasons. First, this part of the state has had very little plant inventory done, so it's likely that many county records (the documents that help ecologists understand plant distributions across a state) will be created. Having a good understanding now helps us better understand things like climate change adaptation in the future, since we can't document change unless we know where we started.

Plus, the collected specimens will be added to Franklin College's herbarium, thus providing a broader, more complete snapshot of the species distributions in Johnson County.

Smith will present the results at a conference and be published.

Smith recently presented research she did on the puttyroot orchid at another Johnson County site at the Natural Areas

Conference, a national gathering of natural areas professionals, academia and students. The Land Trust is grateful for her thorough work, and looks forward to her findings at Blossom Hollow.

Practically speaking, the students' work will help the Land Trust determine where to build future trails to highlight species and where not to build a parking lot due to sensitive species.



Franklin College students work with Dr. Alice Heikens to identify plant species at the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow.

Thank You, National FFA Students

In October, nearly 100 students attending the FFA Convention in Indianapolis completed their day of service at our Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve. The Land Trust was thrilled to host kids from North Carolina, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and southwestern Indiana. The volunteers painted and beautified our 140 year old barn, and removed invasive plants from a future prairie site at the preserve.



Thanks to FFA students from around the country for all their hard work at Oliver's Woods.

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Preserving the Heartland

Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc.
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Please visit our website:
www.conservingindiana.org



Give the Gift of Conservation this Holiday Season

Help us save Indiana, one acre at a time. With a donation of \$100, you can help us identify and protect the land Hoosiers hold dear. And when you give by December 15, we will mail you a certificate indicating "An acre of Indiana preserved forever" that can be kept or passed along as a gift to a friend or family member. Please email or call Rachel Eble at reble@conservingindiana.org or at 317-631-5263 ext. 112 for details and to request your certificate.



Photo by: Deborah Knapp

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