

News from the



CENTRAL  
INDIANA  
LAND TRUST

*Preserving the Heartland*

FALL 2009/  
WINTER 2010

Vol. 19, No. 2

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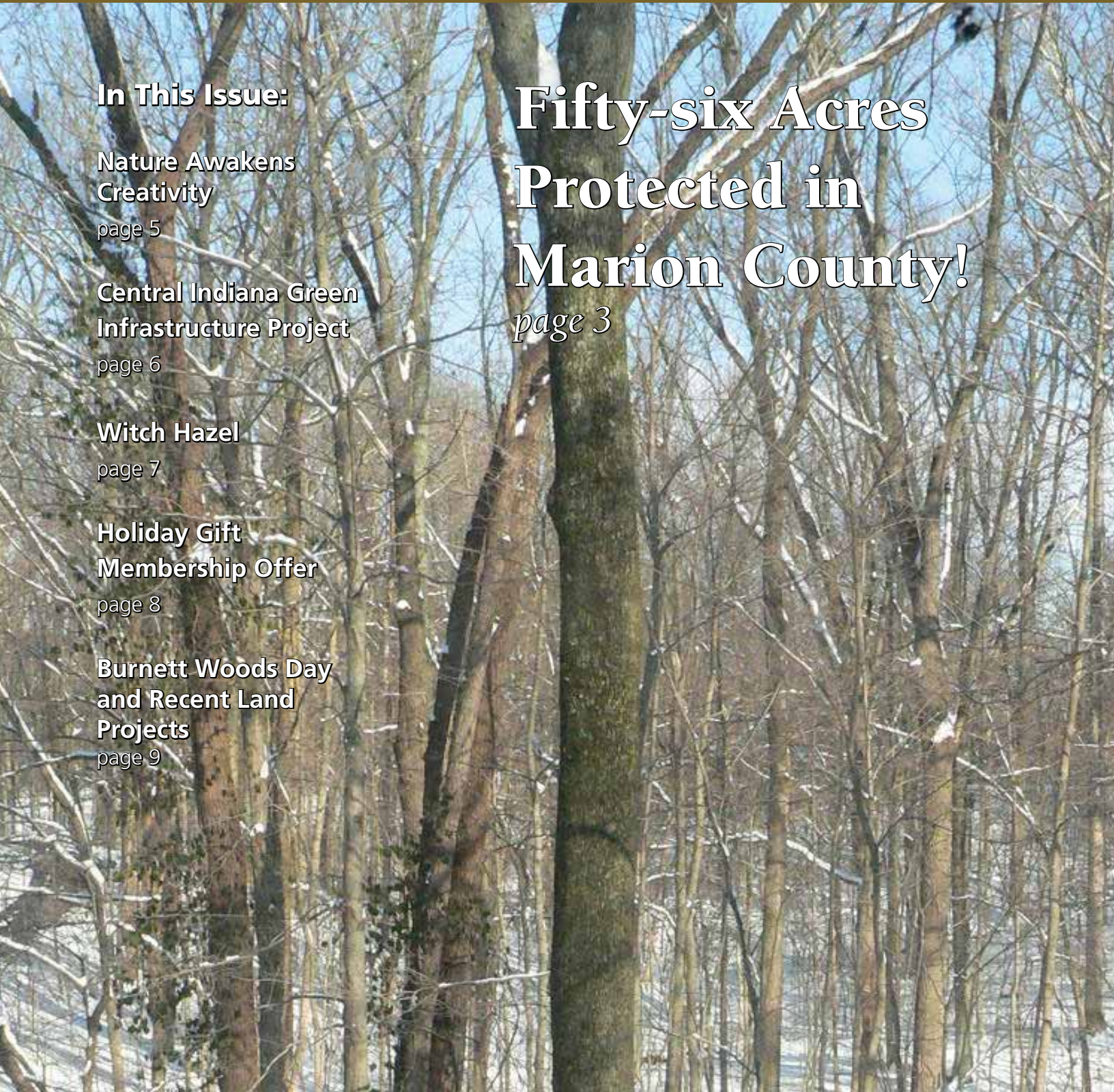
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# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

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Cover photo: Left Gate Farm  
Nature Sanctuary in Winter.  
Photo by Bob Rice.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and soon we will enter 2010, the 20th anniversary year for the Central Indiana Land Trust. Both of us became involved with the Land Trust about six years ago. It's been a great few years, and we marvel at the efforts of those who came before us. For the first ten years, the organization existed and grew stronger only through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Now, of course, we are blessed with a dedicated staff of professionals. But still, we exist as an organization through the work of you, the members and volunteers. As we grow and expand our reach and resources, remember that we exist thanks to the efforts and support of our volunteers.



Two of those volunteers, Andy Hahn and Eric MacDougall, are stepping down after several years of service on the Board of Directors. Not only have they promoted the organization through their personal networks of friends and family, but they have both been tireless workers for the Land Trust. Andy founded the Hank Heron Kids Club and was instrumental in developing partnerships to acquire an addition to Burnett Woods Nature Preserve this summer. Eric was the creator and project chair of the Preserving Nature Art Show in 2007 and has often shared his passion for the outdoors by leading hikes at our preserves. We will miss their counsel on the board, but know that the organization grew stronger through their efforts over the years and hope they will continue to stay involved in various committees and projects.

With change, opportunities arise for others to join our force of volunteers. Please consider becoming involved. We need your help with preparing for our 20th anniversary, spreading the word about conservation through events and presentations, and promoting the Central Indiana Green Infrastructure Project (see pg 6). Let us know your skills, talents and interests, and we will help match those to the needs of the Land Trust. It is through our cadre of volunteers that we find our board members and future leadership. Please contact the office if you would like to become more involved.

- Heather Bacher and James Wilson

## OUR MISSION

*Through land protection, stewardship and education, the Central Indiana Land Trust preserves natural areas, improving air and water quality and enhancing life in our communities for present and future generations.*

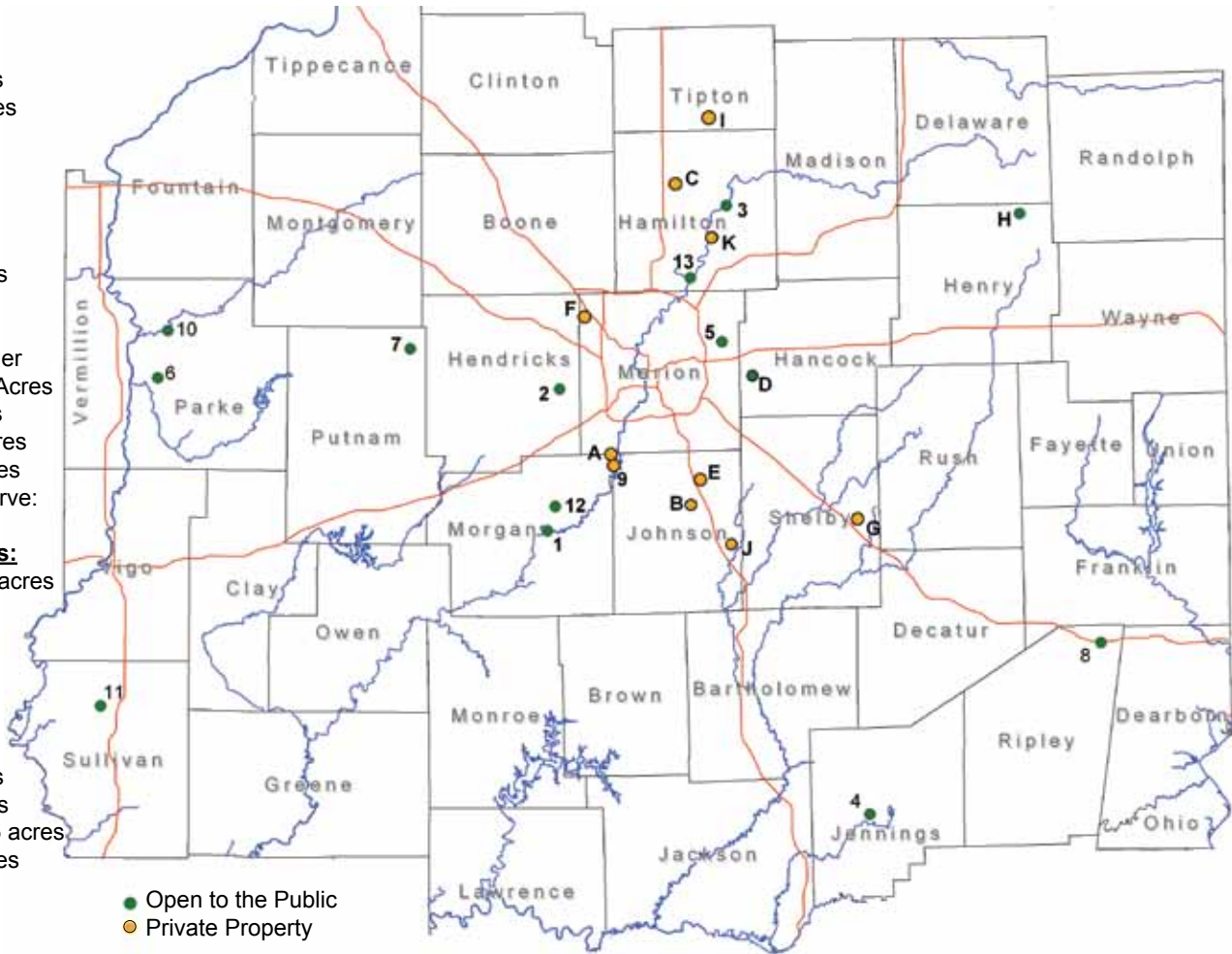
# OUR PROPERTIES

## Nature Preserves:

1. Blue Bluff: 33 Acres
2. Burnett Woods: 69 Acres
3. Burr Oak Bend: 130 Acres
4. Frank Ratcliff Memorial Forest: 57 Acres
5. Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve: 9 Acres
6. Hajji Hollow: 66 Acres
7. Hemlock Ridge: 49 Acres
8. John Sunman's Woods: 33 Acres
9. Millard Sutton/Amos Butler Audubon Sanctuary: 76 Acres
10. Mossy Point: 191 Acres
11. Sanctuary Oaks: 14 Acres
12. Shalom Woods: 14 Acres
13. Wapihani Nature Preserve: 77 Acres

## Conservation Agreements:

- A. Baldwin River Farm: 49 acres
- B. Crystal Springs Woods: 41 acres
- C. Hinkle Creek: 29 acres
- D. Jacob Schramm Woods: 31 acres
- E. Jones Farm: 24 acres
- F. Left Gate Farm: 56 acres
- G. Meltzer Woods: 61 acres
- H. Pioneer Cemeteries: 1.5 acres
- I. Sherwood Forest: 90 acres
- J. Smiley's Mill: 42 acres
- K. Stony Creek: 49 acres



## HOW WE PROTECT LAND

### Fee Simple

The outright ownership of land through donations or purchases is the most basic land protection tool. Once owned by a land trust, the land is protected in perpetuity.

### Conservation Easements

This agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government entity allows the landowner to retain the title to the land, but permanently limits development and prevents certain uses of the property.

### Protection Partnerships

We often partner with like-minded organizations to pool resources for the purchase of larger parcels of land.

### Acres Counter:

**3,335 acres protected**

817 acres owned

473 acres under management

2,045 acres protected through partnerships

For details on all of our projects, visit our website: [www.conservingindiana.org](http://www.conservingindiana.org).

# FIFTY-SIX ACRES PROTECTED IN MARION COUNTY!

By Maria Steiner,  
Community Relations Director

Photo by Cliff Chapman



Bob Rice led the Land Trust staff on a tour of the Rice property, now protected in perpetuity.

Bob and Lou Rice are not your typical Marion County residents. First of all, they own 56 acres of woods and prairie in this highly-populated county. Secondly, they are true nature lovers who, rather than keeping an option for development of their land on the table, decided to permanently protect it through a conservation easement with the Central Indiana Land Trust. This is only the Land Trust's second permanently protected property in Marion County and the first since the Gene B. Glick Nature Preserve was donated in 1992.

Cliff, Heather, and I visited the Rice Property, located near Eagle Creek Park on the Northwest side of Indianapolis, in September. The Rice's love of the land and all things living was evident from the moment we drove onto their land and knocked on their door. The driveway, which is the

"gate on the left" in a small cluster of driveways, gives the land its name "Left Gate Farm Nature Sanctuary." Its winding path leads you back to the Rice Home. Bob and Lou greeted us with hugs, while their five dogs greeted us with plentiful kisses.

Bob and Lou designated their land, which is bisected by a tributary to Eagle Creek, as a nature sanctuary long before the Central Indiana Land Trust became involved.

The Land Trust is merely a means to an end – ensuring that their family land protected forever. Bob walks his land, which has a well-maintained loop trail, everyday. Upon his return, Lou always asks him if he saw anything new. "He says yes every single time," she said. On the day of our walk in September, it was green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) in fruit at a new location.

Left Gate Farm is a special place, not only because it exists in Marion County when such a small amount of privately-held natural land is left, but because it is teeming with native Indiana plant species, from

wildflowers to ferns to trees. Bob handed me two booklets during our visit. One was "The Wildflowers of Left Gate Farm," in which he has recorded 283 species since 1937! Some have disappeared due to natural causes, and some due to greedy human intruders, but most are still there. Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, rue anemone, trillium, violets, shooting stars, bluebells and many others carpet the forest floor in April, while the fall offers Short's aster, blue-stemmed goldenrod and nodding ladies tresses.

This wildflower lover will be back in the spring, if not sooner, I promised Bob and Lou.

The Rice's conservation easement does not automatically create an open invitation for Land Trust staff or members to visit their land. This is one of the benefits of a conservation easement. The landowner can continue to live on the land which is still private property; they must simply agree to never develop it, and allow us to monitor it on an annual basis. However, the Rices are nature



Photo by Cliff Chapman

Short's aster is one of the wildflowers seen in the fall in the woods of Left Gate Farm Nature Sanctuary.

lovers, so they have offered the use of their land for future educational field trips to Land Trust members and our kids club. And an educational resource it is, with its well-maintained trail, picturesque terrain, and cultural, historical, and ecological features. In fact, school groups have been coming here as a field trip destination for years. Nowadays, they told us, it is harder to get school groups out, due to smaller field trip budgets and tightly-controlled curriculum.

Left Gate Farm has been in the Rice Family since 1935. At first it was a weekend getaway. The family would venture from their home in what is now Meridian-Kessler to this property for picnics. They decided to build a home here and use it as their summer vacation spot instead of Michigan, where they had previously ventured. This allowed their father to join them on the weekends, rather than taking two full days to drive to Michigan in the pre-interstate system era.

The home was built in 1937 and 1938 from a single Idaho white pine tree that was cut in 1919. The home was designed by the same architect that designed the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park, Richard Bishop. Bob and Lou became the first full-time residents of the home in 1984, after adding on to create space for their five children. The Rice's five children are now grown and living scattered around the Indianapolis area.

Perhaps most interesting about this property is its Native American history, in which Bob and Lou are well-versed. In 1818, the Treaty of St. Mary's (Ohio) forced the Delaware (Lenape) Indian tribe to move west. As they followed the buffalo trails westward, their chief fell ill, which forced them to stop and camp at what is now the Rice property. They ended up camping atop this ridge for almost a year before the chief died. Bob and Lou can point out where he was buried, because it was marked by a large arrowhead pointing west, the direction his followers subsequently went. The arrowhead mysteriously disappeared some time ago. The Native American component of their property is a big part of the educational information that they have shared with schoolchildren over the years.

Also of note are the flowing wells on this property, which attracted the first settlers in this area. Those first settlers traded with the Native Americans, thus giving the area the name "Traders Point." This little town, which no longer exists, was comprised of a grocery store, two gas stations, eighteen homes, and three churches. What many folks now call Traders Point is actually slightly off from the original town of Traders Point.

The adjacent Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary,

a portion of Eagle Creek Park managed as a tall grass prairie, was the inspiration for the Rices' installation of a 10-acre prairie. The prairie plants have been carefully documented over the years, just as the wildflowers in the forest have been. Savannah and field sparrows, along with monarch and black swallowtail butterflies can be found in the prairie, as well as purple coneflower, rattlesnake master, big bluestem, and dozens of other grassland species.

We are thrilled that the Rices have chosen to permanently protect and share their sanctuary for native plants and animals in the city of Indianapolis. We also want to thank YOU, our members, for helping us protect natural areas for plants, animals and people throughout central Indiana.

*Be sure to watch the newsletter or sign up with your email address to receive special invitations to visit this and other natural areas in Central Indiana.*



Green dragon in fruit.

Photo by Maria Steiner

# NATURE AWAKENS CREATIVITY: OUR SPIRIT & PLACE PROJECT

By Eric MacDougall, Board Member and Nature Awakens Creativity Project Chair

We can infer that since the first human decided to emulate something for the purpose of expression that it would have most likely been something in the natural surroundings.

For the first time, the Land Trust is participating in the annual Spirit & Place Festival with an exhibit and a performance at the Indianapolis Art Center. The *Nature Awakens Creativity* project was initiated with the purpose of demonstrating the power of nature as a place that can inspire beautiful expression in many forms.

Over the summer, fine art painters, poets, writers, photographers, sculptors and musicians from around the state experienced our many nature preserves. Some attended two organized tours in which Conservation Director Cliff Chapman educated them about the biodiversity found in these places, as well as the problems that can threaten the quality of the habitats and the work that our organization does to preserve them. Others visited our preserves on their own.

From October 1st through November 23rd, a collection of works inspired by visits to our many preserves will be on display in the Art Center's Ruth Lilly Library. Additionally, the Land Trust, in partnership with the Art Center and the Indianapolis Women's Chorus, led by Pamela Blevins-Hinkle, will also be hosting an event on Tuesday, November 10th at 7 p.m. in the Art Center's Frank M. Basile Auditorium. This will be a multi-sensory event that will feature visual imagery entwined with music and readings from the exhibit's poets.

Although some of the painters were in the Land Trust's *Preserving Nature* project a few years ago, most of the participants are working with the Land Trust and our preserves for the first time. We are hoping that through the continued engagement of people in the creative arts communities, we will expand awareness about the importance of habitat conservation and continue to strengthen alliances with those who can provide a broader and more beautiful voice in its interest.



Photo by Cliff Chapman

Artist Mark Burkett sets up his easel to paint "en plein air" along Sugar Creek at Mossy Point Nature Preserve.



## Join Us!

A Multi-Sensory Experience of Art, Music, and Nature  
Tuesday, November 10th, 2009, 7:00 pm  
Frank M. Basile Auditorium at the Indianapolis Art Center  
820 E. 67th Street, Indianapolis  
Free, RSVPs appreciated but not required

# CENTRAL INDIANA GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

By *Cliff Chapman, Conservation Director*

A lot has been going on with the Green Infrastructure Plan since our last update in 2008. As you may recall, Green Infrastructure is an interconnected system of natural areas and open space that conserves ecosystem values, helps sustain clean air and water and provides benefits to people and wildlife. In essence, we are working on a landscape-scale conservation plan.

Earlier this spring, a team of respected conservationists from universities, government agencies, and other non-profit conservation groups convened and reviewed the scientific parameters of the network design of the plan. The network design is heavily weighted by habitat needs of selected species, and this team vetted all the possibilities, getting us to our chosen umbrella species for the plan.

After months of data analysis, The Conservation Fund created draft maps of the network design for review. With these, we held a second Leadership Forum, again hosted by the Friesner Herbarium and the Center for Urban Ecology @ Butler University at Clowes Hall. About 50 stakeholders from the region came together to discuss issues of implementing such a large plan and helped us stay on the right track for success.

In August, we invited the general public to comment on four thematic presentations made by Land Trust staff and guest speakers focusing on agricultural landscapes, water quality and quantity issues, forest interior habitats, and combining trails and greenways with wildlife corridors. We were encouraged by the interest level and attendance numbers for these meetings, and the robust participation proved strong interest in this topic in central Indiana.

We are currently reviewing maps for accuracy, editing text, and wrapping up the writing for the final report due out this December. We are very fortunate to have Ratio Architects working pro bono on the graphic design of the final report!

The Green Infrastructure Plan for Central Indiana is bold. It is certainly bigger than what we as a land trust can do alone. This plan has been created by a diverse group of central Indiana stakeholders, and it will take an even larger diverse group of elected officials, planners, landowners, and - most importantly - concerned citizens to make it happen.

A successful implementation will do more than connect communities via greenways and parks, add to our quality of life in central Indiana, and increase the quality of our drinking water and air; it will be our best shot at ensuring the native plants and animals we are familiar with today will be in central Indiana into the next century. We will be distributing the report in the beginning of 2010. Watch for more information, or contact the office to get involved.



Cliff Chapman leads a discussion about the Central Indiana Green Infrastructure project at one of four public meetings held by the Land Trust.



**NINA MASON PULLIAM**  
CHARITABLE TRUST

The Green Infrastructure Plan for Central Indiana is sponsored by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

# SPECIES FEATURE: WITCH HAZEL (*HAMAMELIS VIRGINIANA*)

By Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Witches still walk this earth, and work yet in their witchy ways. Eee-hehe hee!

The witch hazel is an unassuming shrub that may lead one to enter into a little witch hunt of their own. Here we have a plant not only of fascinating biology, but one also tied to our body of folklore, the old traditions passed down from distant times when man struggled to understand and explain his world.

The appearance of the clusters of spidery yellow flowers along its naked branches long after leaf drop make this shrub truly unique. It is the latest of our flora to bloom, and may be considered the first, as it is not unusual to find it flowering in January. A west-central Indiana slope scattered with flowering witch hazel is one of those memorable sights of the late autumn woods.

Also interesting are the distinctive woody seedpods. These seedpods take a full year to ripen. Once ready, the pods forcibly eject the large bony seeds up to 30 feet. Perhaps the plant's way of saying BOO! Witch hazel may reach 15 feet in height and is commonly found in mesic or dry woods over much of Indiana. It is easily recognized by the wavy margins found on the largish leaves.

## Water Witches

I had long been aware that witch hazel has been used as a dousing rod. This is presumably where it has gotten its name. Dousing rods are forked sticks held by a “witch” and used to locate many things: wells, drainage tiles, electrical lines, and even graves. Dousing folklore extends deep into European history. It has persisted among our Indiana farm culture, where the necessary work of placing wells and maintaining a maze of drainage tiles would necessitate bringing in a “water witch”- here, non-gender specific.

I became curious for more local evidence of the dousing phenomenon. My anthropological investigation didn't have to go far. Seems our rural past is not so deeply buried.

On a recent day I was scheduled to spend some time on a DNR property that was run by a man well known for his Hoosier woods-lore. Out on the site I waited until our talk of erosion control and busy campgrounds had finished. I unassumingly asked, “Hey, what can you tell me about dousing rods?” He turned and peered at me. After an artfully-timed tobacco spat he replied, “I have never witched anything myself, but I have seen it done with my own eyes. In fact, peach sprout works pretty good.” On the ride home, I pinched myself. There it was, a living, breathing 21st century man who had just used “to witch” as a verb! Spooky.

Perhaps on a less magical note, witch hazel has long been used as a medicinal astringent. Branches of the shrub are distilled and an extract produced that is commonly offered for sale in drugstores as a liniment. The Native Americans were known to use witch hazel in a similar manner. Witch hazel is also found in the nursery trade as an interesting addition to native landscaping.

Next Hallows' Eve, when the spirits stir and magic rules the air, try to get out and discover this attractive and interesting shrub. If you dare...



Witch Hazel, with its spidery yellow flowers, is one of the first and last to bloom each year.

Photo by W.L. Wagner, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution



# HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIP OFFER!

Give a Central Indiana Land Trust membership as a gift to a friend or loved one this holiday season. This year's gift membership special is a set of ten notecards with the following images of paintings produced in our *Preserving Nature Art Show*.



*April Morning, Shalom Woods,*  
by Jeanne McLeish



*Interior Woods Study in Ratcliff Woods,*  
by Lyle Denney



*First Day of Spring, Frank Ratcliff*  
*Memorial Forest, by Maureen O'Hara Pesta*



*Evening Prairie at Burr Oak Bend, by*  
*Timothy Greatbatch*



*Memories of Mossy Point, by Robert Eberle*

**\$30 for a membership  
and set of ten notecards!**

Gift Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Recipient's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to (check one): Me \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Central Indiana Land Trust. If paying by credit card, please fill out the information below:

Visa/Mastercard/Discover Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount to Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to Central Indiana Land Trust, 1500 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

# BURNETT WOODS DAY AND RECENT LAND PROJECTS

Photo by Maria Steiner



Smokey Bear made a special visit to Burnett Woods Day!



Thanks to generous grants and donors, the 69-acre Burnett Woods Nature preserve, outlined in red, will soon be expanded by 10.5 acres, the area outlined in blue.

**B**urnett Woods, Hendricks County's only state-dedicated nature preserve, will soon be expanded to 80 acres. With the help of the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & The Conservation Fund's Rocky Express Migratory Bird Account, Duke Energy, the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, the Hendricks County Community Foundation, and many individual donors, the Central Indiana Land Trust has raised the money needed to purchase a 10.5-acre field that is surrounded on three sides by Burnett Woods. The funds raised will also allow us to plant the field with native trees, thus expanding the existing preserve to an 80-acre contiguous forest in the middle of the town of Avon. The price tag on this property is one of the most expensive in our history, but the grants that we received allowed us to raise most of the funds without asking for too much from you, our already generous members.

The Land Trust celebrated with the community and our members on October 10th by holding "Burnett Woods Day," as officially declared by the Avon Town Council. Dozens of people came out to hike the preserve, donate, and participate in activities hosted by the Land Trust. Smokey Bear even joined us for the day!

Other recently completed projects include the 42-acre Smiley's Mill Conservation Easement in Johnson County and the 90-acre Sherwood Forest Conservation Easement in Tipton County. Thanks to the respective donors, Bill and Nancy Kirklin and Terry and Gale Sherwood, for their vision to protect central Indiana's natural heritage and their family legacies.

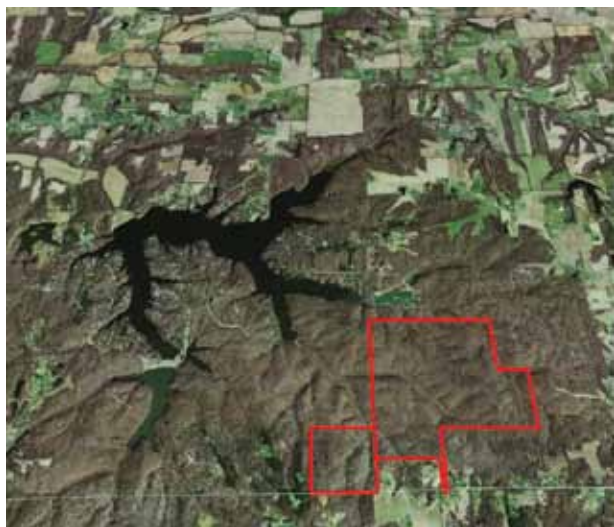
Photo by Cliff Chapman



Tipton County's Sherwood Forest Conservation Easement is one of our newly protected lands.

# HOUGHAM WOODS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

As we celebrate these successes, we are also in the midst of several other land protection projects. One such project is the Hougham Woods Conservation Easement, 285 acres of rugged forest in southern Johnson County and part of the Brown County Hills area. Although the family is generously donating this conservation easement, there are \$28,000 in transaction costs associated with the project that must still be raised. A special donation to this project will help ensure that this project is completed before the end of 2009, when special tax incentives for conservation easements expire.



The 285-acre Hougham Woods property lies just south of Lamb Lake, and right on the Brown County line.

Not only is this the largest conservation easement that we will hold, but it is significant due to the species on the property. A June breeding bird census found 13 occurrences of the very rare worm-eating and hooded warblers, an astounding number for these declining species! The stream valleys are rich with spring wildflowers, including woodland phlox, trillium, celandine poppy, rue anemone, and fragile fern. The showy orchis is also found here, as is the goldenseal, a state Heritage Program watch list species.

**Please support our land protection projects by sending a tax-deductible donation in the attached envelope!**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MATT DELARUELLE

Central Indiana Land Trust volunteer Matt DeLaruelle is a real estate attorney with Ice Miller LLP and has been a member of the Land Committee for over a year. In addition to assisting the Land Trust evaluate potential land acquisitions as part of the Land Committee, Matt has utilized his commercial real estate experience to assist with several projects, including negotiating an agreement on behalf of the Central Indiana Land Trust to purchase over 10.5 acres of land adjoining Burnett Woods Nature Preserve in Avon from a private developer and assisting with the donation of a large wetland area in Boone County from another developer.



Matt was born in Mishawaka, Indiana, attended Carmel High School and graduated from Purdue University and Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. After working as a corporate, real estate and intellectual property attorney in St. Louis, Matt relocated back to Indianapolis, and his desire to help conserve natural areas led him to the Central Indiana Land Trust. Matt is also a board member of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation. In addition to hiking and backpacking, Matt and his wife, Heather, enjoy traveling to attend NHL hockey games all over the US and Canada.

# NEW MEMBERS AND TRIBUTES

## Welcome New Members!

Blue & Co., LLC  
Louis and Joetta Bojrab  
Ted and Carol Burger  
John Cole  
Jan and Dave Compton  
Robert and Janet Curry  
Robert C. Degitz  
Frank Drumwright  
Stephen and Patty Fay  
James and Dorcas Frische  
Tony Furdock and Ann Kalberer  
Jeff Gabbard  
Go Green Gear  
Kevin and Melissa Gogel  
John Goss  
Hamilton Southeastern High School  
James E. Hasner  
John Hazlett  
Hendricks County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Ice Miller, LLP  
Carol Isaacson  
Marion T. Jackson  
Jeremy Janoski  
James and Kathy Johnson  
Nancy G. Johnson  
Thomas and Priscilla Johnson  
Deborah Knapp  
Chris and Amelia Langlois  
Dennis and Rebecca McCreery  
Michael and Suzan Mitchell  
LuAnn Norris

Michael and Stecy Ober  
Michael Olenjack  
Carrie Pattermore  
Ben and Shaena Reinhart  
Mary and Tony Seger  
Iver and Joyce Small  
Carrie Sosbe  
Gary and Lee Ann Stewart  
Leonard and Patricia Stoecklein  
Steve and Benetta Wallen  
James J. Whalen  
Nathan White  
Carl J. Wodrich

## The Following Tributes Have Been Made

### *In Honor of Connie Douglas by*

Frank and Sue Hirschman

### *In Honor of Bob Hougham by*

Louis and Joetta Bojrab

### *In Memory of Colleen Baker by*

Ralph and Betty Jersild  
Rebecca and Tom Dolan

### *In Memory of Julia Baxter by*

Sara Steckbeck

### *In Memory of Jane Hougham by*

Louis and Joetta Bojrab  
Donald and Marla Bryant  
James and Dorcas Frische  
Kevin and Melissa Gogel  
Mr. and Mrs. John Grimmer  
Thomas and Priscilla Johnson  
George and Pam Korb  
Kathy Korb  
Lamb Lake Estates Lot Owner's Association  
Dennis and Rebecca McCreery  
Suzanne McFall  
Michael and Suzan Mitchell  
Raymond Park Middle School  
Leonard and Patricia Stoecklein  
Mrs. Robert G. Young

### *In Memory of Vance Noble by*

Meg and Aaron Cleveland  
Jack and Connie Douglas  
Ralph and Betty Jersild  
Alexander and Shiv O'Neill

### *In Memory of John Pelton by*

Rebecca and Tom Dolan

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[www.conservingindiana.org](http://www.conservingindiana.org)!

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