

Spring 2015



From the Leadership





Cliff Chapman

This is truly an exciting time to be involved with the Central Indiana Land Trust. Sometimes, we get so busy in daily operations ranging from real estate transactions, writing grants, and preparing financial reports, that we have to take a moment and step back. This happened for me recently when I received a newsletter from the Indiana Academy of Science detailing a BioBlitz (scientists and naturalists gathering to conduct an intensive field study to record all the living species in an area) taking place at our Hills of Gold Conservation Area in May. Scrolling down through the article I saw the map of the 693 contiguous forested acres we are working to protect there, which will be two state dedicated nature preserves open to the public (the Laura Hare Preserve and Blossom Hollow and Glacier's End) and the privately owned Bob's Woods Conservation Easement. Seeing them all together in one polygon struck me. Although other land trusts in the state have protected large swaths of farmland, there really isn't another site in the state to compare with this when considering what a local land trust can do with the support of members, donors and partners like you. Your support is creating a legacy for future generations. The two nature preserves will have miles of hiking trails, beautiful hills, ravines and valleys to explore. The conservation easement in the middle, although not open to the public, supports the same forest interior species as the two nature preserves that bookend it. This area is home to thriving populations of forest dwelling species like warblers, vireos, box turtles, salamanders, butterflies and wildflowers - all in Johnson County. At the time that I'm writing this letter, we are actively working on three land protection transactions in this conservation area. Your continued support makes it possible to protect such a large contiguous area and care for it in the future. I hope you share my excitement as we lay the foundation for future generations to explore nature, right here in Central Indiana

Cliff Chapman / Executive Director

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On the Cover:



Volunteers ready to tackle garlic mustard removal at the Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve.

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

to make a gift that lasts for conservation in Central Indiana. 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 CITLTI'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.

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

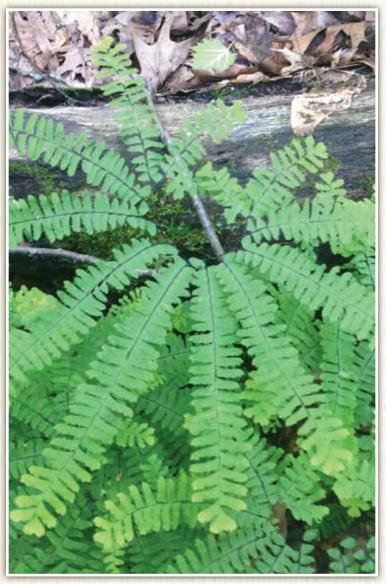
Glacier's End: From natural upheaval to nature's bounty

As Cliff Chapman describes the conditions that came together to form Glacier's End Nature Preserve, the site of the Central Indiana Land Trust's latest property acquisition, he paints a pretty inhospitable picture.

"Imagine this one-mile-high ice sheet, going back and forth and back and forth, many, many times ... this sheet of ice, melting and sending out this outwash filled with rocks and boulders that meets the Brown County Hills and washes over them or fills in between them," he says. Then he adds, matter-of-factly, "You wouldn't want to have been standing at this site 12,000 years ago."

Now, however, it's a great place to be standing, because those conditions created a spectacular forest interior landscape filled with unique geological formations and unusual flora and fauna.

A 203-acre site located in southwestern Johnson County near Lamb Lake, Glacier's End Nature Preserve sits adjacent to two properties already protected by the Central Indiana Land Trust – the Laura Hare Preserve at Blossom Hollow and Bob's Woods Conservation Easement – to create a 550-acre swatch of contiguous forestland.



root in the 1930s, when one Indiana family bought large swaths of the land, and the 1950s, when another family purchased adjoining lands. The two families collaborated with other partners in the 1960s to create Lamb Lake, the largest privately owned lake in the state. In recent years, the families worked together with CILTI to protect much of their remaining lands.

In effect, this massive conservation opportunity took

The largest purchase in the Land Trust's history, Glacier's End also prompted the largest fundraising effort the Land Trust has undertaken. Funders contributed the full \$707,000 needed to purchase the property and protect it forever, including a \$300,000 grant from Indiana's Bicentennial Nature Trust

Part of the Hills of Gold Conservation Area – so named because the area was once a popular place to pan for gold - Glacier's End is exactly what its name would suggest: the place where the glaciers stopped their southward march. Specifically, it is where the Wisconsinan Glaciation ran into the Brown County Hills. As a result, the property is entirely glacial influenced giving it richer soils than the similar looking hills to the south.

Geologically, the property can be stunning. Visitors will see exposed bedrock capped with glacial till, sharp ridges and steep slopes surrounding flat-bottom streams. Canadian granite boulders lie on the forest floor. What isn't as obvious to the casual observer are the microclimates formed by the sharp ravines. The area has unconsolidated outwash deposited on top of bedrock-

Maidenhair fern



White and Red Oaks dominate the landscape at Glacier's End.

laden hills, which erodes more easily than bedrock creating these steep slopes.

This unique geology has led to an equally unique collection of plants. "We found species that shouldn't be there," Chapman says. "You can stand at one spot and see one plant from the north and one plant from the south." As examples of the plant diversity, Chapman describes the aptly named pretty sledge (also known as Carex woodii), a plant that typically would occur in northern Indiana, growing within site of goat's beard and crane-fly orchid, two species that usually only found in the southern parts of the state. Black walnut have taken root in the rich valley soils just steps away from areas that wouldn't support their needs.

The fauna that lives among this flora is also diverse and surprising, with rare and unusual bird species present in surprising numbers. Warblers, including the worm-eating, hooded, Kentucky and yellow-throated, have been recorded at Glacier's End, as well as red-eyed vireos, Eastern wood-pewees, Acadian flycatchers and a red-shouldered hawk. In all, a recent summer bird count resulted in 39 identified species, with many of them being state records for the area. The area is also home to healthy population of the Eastern box turtle.

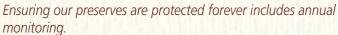
For CILTI, Glacier's End presents an exciting study opportunity – as well as a challenge. Chapman says his team will collect data and do research on the property, documenting the result of the glacial nexus there and monitoring native and invasive species. While the area is not overrun with the garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle that plagues many of Indiana's natural areas, it has been invaded by Japanese stilt grass, a southern plant that has marched north, often hitching rides with timber trucks or ATVs and on hikers' boots.

As a result, an immediate task will be to combat the stilt grass. "We've got our work cut out for us," Chapman said, "but it can be controlled." In addition, the Land Trust staff and volunteers will work to aid in the reforesting of areas that were farmed within the past few decades.

(continued on page 8)

Belts and Suspenders: CILTI's partnership with the Division of Nature Preserves





When the Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) identifies a property to protect, it does so with the idea of protecting it in perpetuity. That's a long time and fortunately, we are not alone with lofty goals of long-term land protection.

The Nature Preserves Act of 1967 was remarkable. Rather than only thinking about state owned lands, the Act provides for the state to work with private conservation groups, like CILTI, placing an easement over the property making it a state dedicated nature preserve.

Our Fred and Dorothy Meyer Nature Preserve just became one of the newest state dedicated nature preserves, joining about 250 special places across Indiana. So what does that mean? CILTI is still the owner and manager of the property, but we have agreed to restrictions on the property and given an easement



Permanent protection means our preserves will be around for the next generation.

to the state of Indiana over the land. In exchange, the land gets the same legal protection as if the state owned it. It isn't just protected by CILTI, it is protected by an Act of Legislation. Dedicated nature preserves have the highest legal protection land in Indiana can have. Since the protection is intended to be "in perpetuity", there are additional steps that would have to be taken before a nature preserve can be taken for another use. These steps include a public hearing, concurrence by the Natural Resources Commission, and the approval of the Governor. To date, there has never been a taking of a dedicated nature preserve.

This extra legal protection makes it easier to think about protecting land for generations to come, as we are doing so with a trusted partner.

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Spring Stewardship

Spring is here and CILTI is happy to announce the welcome addition of our new full-time stewardship staff member. Shaun Ziegler joined us in November as a stewardship specialist. This position will work to improve our nature preserves and increase CILTI's ability to provide outdoor opportunities for both members and the public.

Shaun obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University in natural resources management and ecology. Previously, Shaun worked in the ecological field both as a land manager and researcher for a variety of organizations including: Indiana DNR - Division of Nature Preserves, The Nature Conservancy, The National Science Foundation, Indiana University, Rice University

and The University of New Mexico.

With Shaun on board, we will rely on the help of hard working field volunteers more than ever, without these volunteers we couldn't take care of our properties as well as we do. As always, volunteer opportunities and guided hikes are listed and regularly updated on our website. Shaun hopes to continue developing the Land Trust's team of Wednesday Warriors, that volunteer during weekdays and help with last minute projects, to be stronger than ever. If you have interests, regarding a particular preserve, for a hike or volunteering please connect with Shaun, he is really excited to get to know



Shaun Ziegler



Stewardship work day

following tributes

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Glacier's End (continued)

(continued from page 5)

The good news is that all funding needed for the purchase and preservation of Glacier's End has been secured, and the purchase should be complete by fall. Although Bob's Woods will not be open to the public, with the nearby Blossom Hollow property, Hoosiers have the opportunity to enjoy two nature preserves in close proximity. The Land Trust is also purchasing 96 acres to the north of Glacier's End to allow for parking areas that will accommodate school buses, and it will begin building a trail system as soon as possible, with plans to open the property to the public in 2016 or 2017.



Crane-fly Orchid, M. Homoya

Species Spotlight Crane-fly Orchid

One of the interesting things about the new Glacier's End Nature Preserve is the mix of northern and southern plant species. A beautiful and strange plant found there, usually thought of as a southern species, is the crane-fly orchid.

In Charles Deam's classic Flora of Indiana, it was only found in the southern most counties, mostly along the Ohio River in 1940. Mike Homoya, in his alluring Orchids of Indiana, discusses how crane-fly orchid was a species on the move being found north of those records from 1940 and beyond. But even then, it had not been found in Central Indiana. Imagine the surprise when it was commonly found at Glacier's End!

Crane-fly is a bit strange, it has green leaves that pop up in autumn and stay through winter only to disappear in spring. The leaves are diagnostic, if you turn them over, their undersides are a deep purple. When it blooms in summer there are no leaves at all.

The plant gets energy from the sun during the winter months when there is no light competition. When blooming, it is often found in densely shaded areas. The flower gets both its common name and its genus name, Tipulara, for the resemblance to crane flies which are skinny, long-legged insects. The pink to brown to somewhat translucent flowers are stunning and delicate at the same time.

Unfortunately, crane-fly, like so many of Indiana's 43 native orchids, suffers from people digging plants to sell or plant at home. Native orchids are nearly impossible to transplant and almost always die when this is attempted. Besides, seeing them in a natural area is an experience to remember.

2014 Finanacial Report

Income		2014 (unaudited)	2013 (audited)
	Contributions and Grants	\$1,014,413.26	\$4,824,351.00*
	Investment Income & Interest	\$23,355.45	\$90,361.00
	Other Revenue	\$59,031.92	\$67,404.00
Total Income		\$1,096,800.63	\$4,982,116.00

Expenses		
Conservation Programs	\$284,299.00	\$315,049.00
Fundraising	\$42,144.57	\$55,078.00
Administration	\$46,711.20	\$75,245.00
Total Expenses	\$373,154.77	\$445,372.00

^{*}includes land gift of Wallace F. Holladay Nature Preserve

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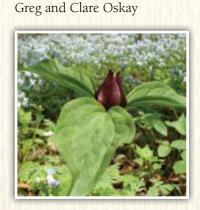
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Susan Zellers





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