

**DAWN NARJES IS SHIRLEY HEINZE  
LAND TRUST'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2008**

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has named Dawn Narjes of Crown Point its Volunteer of the Year for 2008.

It was her daughter Samantha, a stewardship technician for Shirley Heinze Land Trust, who inspired Dawn to become a volunteer. "Sam always came home from work excited about the things she had done that day," says Dawn, "and I thought I'd like to become involved in those things too." She soon began going to volunteer workdays, and she found the work very rewarding and fun. "I just want to do even more," she says.

"Dawn is a real pleasure to work with," says volunteer coordinator Jim Erdelac. "Volunteering in the nature preserves is hard work, and you have to deal with heat (or cold), mosquitoes, poison ivy, etc. That puts some people off, but none of it fazes Dawn. She takes on every task with enthusiasm, and she keeps looking for new ways to help."

Dawn Narjes says she has always been interested in nature. As a girl she went on fishing outings with her father. Later she became a den leader for the Scouts, and she learned to love gardening. Dawn and her husband Rick raised their two children to appreciate the outdoors. The family enjoys camping and canoeing trips, and they have long been involved in outdoor historical reenactments, portraying such figures as French *voyageurs*.

Volunteers are an important part of Shirley Heinze Land Trust's stewardship efforts, according to Executive Director Kris Krouse. "Managing and restoring our properties present an enormous challenge," he says, "and dedicated volunteers help make it possible

for us to achieve our goals. Dawn Narjes has been a terrific addition to our stewardship staff, and that's why we're proud to name her our Volunteer of the Year for 2008."

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