



7TH ANNUAL SUMMER BENEFIT, *"Moonlight in Duneland"* A GLOWING SUCCESS FOR SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST

At its 7th annual summer benefit, "Moonlight in Duneland," Shirley Heinze Land Trust raised nearly \$80,000 from 131 donors toward the purchase of a major addition to Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve during a "Funding The Cause" paddle raiser. "We are delighted and gratified by the generosity of our supporters and the community," said Board President Dale Engquist. "Ambler is a very special place, and we are excited by the opportunity to protect another piece of this unusual landscape for the people of Northwest Indiana." The Heinze Trust and The Nature Conservancy are partners in the effort to purchase a 40-acre parcel east of Michigan City. Paul Labus, Northwest Indiana Regional Director of The Nature Conservancy, addressed the audience regarding the joint purchase and partnership. (On August 9, 2010, the purchase was accomplished, and SHLT took ownership of the property.)



Board members Dan Plath and Craig Menne greet guests as they arrive at the WaterBird Lakeside Banquet Center in Chesterton.



Elizabeth Brackett, Chicago-based correspondent and host for WTTW-TV's "Chicago Tonight," and her husband, Peter Martinez.



Master of Ceremonies, Geoffrey Baer of WTTW-11.

More than 320 guests attended the fundraising dinner at the Waterbird Lakeside Banquet Center in Chesterton on Saturday, June 26. The organization and its guests were delighted by the participation of Geoffrey Baer from WTTW 11, who served as master of ceremonies and showed clips of programs he produced about the interaction of people and nature along the shore of Lake Michigan. While the National Emmy Award-winning producer may be best known for his work on the architectural history of Chicago and the beauty of Lake Michigan, he greatly supports the restoration of the natural environment in his "backyard" of Northwest Indiana.

Don Babcock, Director of Economic Development at NIPSCO, spoke at the event, stressing the importance of conservationists working together with business leaders to protect our natural areas and create new employment opportunities. NIPSCO was the Event Sponsor for "Moonlight in Duneland." Over the years, NIPSCO has been a substantial supporter of Shirley Heinze, last year contributing over \$75,000 for a project to improve public access to the Little Calumet River in Chesterton. "We continue to be extremely grateful for NIPSCO's longstanding commitment to land conservation in Northwest Indiana and the relationship we've developed with them over the years," said SHLT Executive Director Kris Krouse. The Louise H. Landau Foundation was also honored for its ongoing support of the Heinze Trust.

Honorary Chairpersons this year were Erin Heskett, Midwest Director of Land Trust Alliance; Chesterton Town Manager Bernard Doyle; Mayor Chuck Oberlie of Michigan City; and Mayor Kathy Chroback of LaPorte.

Guests were served champagne and appetizers as they arrived and mingled, while local musicians Silver Rain performed nature-themed music in the background. The reception was followed by a formal gourmet dinner featuring beef tenderloin in a crimini mushroom sauce. A red and white wine



Tim Walsh and his wife Board Member and Summer Benefit Chair Anne Walsh.



Shirley Heinze supporters raise their paddles in support of a 40-acre purchase to expand Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve located east of Michigan City.

selection was served throughout the evening, and white chocolate raspberry cake was offered for dessert.

At the always popular silent auction, guests inspected a variety of enticing items including nature-related *objets d'art*, paintings, and unique outings and expeditions. A Trail Creek kayaking expedition hosted by Dan Plath, Shirley Heinze Board Member and President of the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, was featured again this year along with a sailboat and pontoon cruise. The live portion of the auction, where guests could bid on “one of a kind” getaway and adventure packages, featured a tour of Grand Teton National Park with a former National Geographic photographer, tickets to the Philadelphia International Flower Show, a Dream Day at Wrigley Field, a “Green Tour” of Vancouver with a luxurious hotel stay, and a “Behind the Scenes” tour of the Field Museum. The annual benefit is a celebration of the accomplishments of Shirley Heinze Land Trust and serves as a key source of support for land acquisition and restoration programs. ☀

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