

Shirley Heinze Land Trust announces volunteer fall and winter workday schedule for 2008

Michigan City, IN – Shirley Heinze Land Trust announced their schedule for volunteer workdays in 2008 today. The non-profit organization owns and manages over 1,000 acres of nature preserves and natural areas in Lake, Porter and La Porte Counties, which are open to the public for hiking and wildlife viewing. Properties are managed to promote biodiversity, preserve rare species and provide examples of the rich natural heritage of the region. With grant funding, individual donations and assistance from volunteers, their staff restores the ecological health of prairies, savannas, wetlands and other natural communities in northwest Indiana.

The public is invited to join them at regularly scheduled volunteer events to accomplish a variety of tasks such as planting native plants, removing brush, building footbridges for trails, and controlling invasive plant species. Volunteers are also being sought to perform these and other tasks as needed throughout the year. SHLT staff has over 15 years of ecological management experience and welcomes the opportunity to share their knowledge with those interested in the natural world.

Volunteer workdays are held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Visit our website at www.heinzetrust.org for directions or call 219-879-4725.

Oct. 4	Beverly Shores	Invasive Plant Control at demonstration site on Broadway
Oct.11	Ivanhoe South (Gary)	Firebreaks construction(cut brush, blow leaves reduce hazards)
Oct. 25	Hidden Prairie (Hobart)	Firebreak construction
Nov. 8	Coulter (Portage)	Savanna restoration / brush control
Dec. 6	Beverly Shores	Invasive Plant Control at demonstration site on Broadway
Dec. 13	Bur Oak Woods (Hobart)	Savanna Restoration
Jan. 10	Coulter (Portage)	Savanna Restoration
Feb. 14	Beverly Shores	Woody Species control

You can also contact Jim Erdelac for volunteer work assignments that fit your schedule. He can get you started on an independent project, or you may be able to work as part of the crew for a day. Reach him at the Shirley Heinze Land Trust office at 219-879-4725 or by email at volunteer@heinzetrust.org