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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Like everyone else, Shirley Heinze Land Trust was affected by the economic downturn in 2008. Some income was lower than expected, and our investment portfolio suffered. I’m happy to report, however, that we have weathered the storm rather well. Our loyal individual supporters may have had to tighten their belts at home, but they didn’t forget their commitment to our mission. And our funding sources and project partners have continued to provide the grants and support necessary to sustain our work.

It’s not by accident that we find ourselves in such a positive position. We have taken many steps over the last several years to guarantee our future security. We’ve adopted wise fiscal management procedures, enhanced our fundraising efforts, and embraced 21st-century technology. We have greatly increased our volunteer force, identified new sources for grant funds, and built good relationships with our partner land preservation agencies. And I hope you’ll agree, we’ve worked hard to earn the loyalty and continued support of our hundreds of donors.

One of the highlights of 2008 was a successful conservation planning project for the Ambler Flatwoods area. With the assistance of a generous grant from the Land Trust Alliance, we were able to acquire geographic information systems (GIS) technology and training, which have allowed us to undertake a systematic planning effort to save the remaining parcels of boreal flatwoods, one of Indiana’s rarest natural communities. That project is already paying dividends, and its success has encouraged us to undertake a similar effort – along with two other local land trusts – aimed at the moraine forest in Porter and LaPorte Counties.

Our annual summer benefit, “Summer Solstice – The Magic of Nature,” set new records for the number of attendees and the amount of money raised. We are grateful for the many people and organizations who provided exciting items for our successful auctions and to those who bid on them. This year we initiated a paddle auction, and that effort raised over $11,000 to support our restoration work at Bur Oak Woods Nature Preserve, a rare oak savanna in Hobart. What I like most about the event, however, goes beyond its fundraising aspects. I appreciate the warm fellowship it engenders, and I welcome the many new friends and supporters we meet there every year.

It’s been another good year for Shirley Heinze Land Trust, but we are ever mindful that the road ahead is perilous and future success is not guaranteed. Our region has a tarnished image in the minds of many people, but it also has a wealth of biological diversity that few other areas can match. Preserving those precious resources is our main task, and we are grateful for your continuing support for our efforts.

Thank you for all that you do for Shirley Heinze Land Trust and all that you do for Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Krouse
**HISTORY**

Shirley Heinze Land Trust was founded in 1981 through an endowment by Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Seidner to honor the memory of Dr. Shirley Heinze, an Ogden Dunes resident who was an active supporter of land protection in the Indiana Dunes. Dr. Heinze died in 1978; she was a psychologist and faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Since 1984, the Heinze Trust (originally called Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund) has held tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, thereby making contributions tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

In its early years, the organization was managed entirely by volunteers. The first paid part-time employee was hired in 1994. During the following year, the Trust received a generous bequest from the estate of Faith and Gordon Greiner which opened new opportunities for land protection and allowed the organization to hire full-time staff.

Since inception, the Heinze Trust has acquired for preservation about 1,073 acres of natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed. This includes 905 acres owned and managed by the Heinze Trust, 138 acres held as conservation easements, and about 30 acres transferred to the National Park Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Heinze Trust works cooperatively on land protection issues with many other organizations, including government agencies, other non-profit groups, and businesses. It has made financial contributions to the land acquisition efforts of Indiana DNR, LaPorte County Parks, Lake County Parks, and Portage City Parks. Properties preserved in part through Heinze Trust support include Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County, Moraine Nature Preserve in Porter County, and Red Mill County Park in LaPorte County.

The Heinze Trust also sponsors many educational programs. It has published four books of environmental interest, and conducts numerous interpretive hikes, lectures, and classes. The Trust encourages scientific investigation on its properties, and it offers various outdoor learning opportunities for local schoolchildren, scouts, and other community groups.

**MISSION**

The Heinze Trust was established with the following objectives:

- To preserve natural areas within Northwest Indiana through identification of environmentally significant properties and, where possible, their acquisition;
- To educate the public concerning the environmental and cultural uniqueness of the area; and
- To advance the goals of clean air and water in Northwest Indiana.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Heinze Trust is governed by a Board of Directors comprising up to 18 members. Directors determine policy and also serve on committees addressing various aspects of the Trust’s work. Officers for 2008 were Rachel Saxon, President; Dale Engquist, Vice President; Terry Bonace, Secretary; and Nancy Philippi, Treasurer. Marty Balogh, Ralph Lerner, and Craig Menne assumed office as new members of the Board of Directors in 2008, and Bob Lamprecht resigned from the Board. Steve Barker, Ellen Szarleta, and Anne Walsh were chosen to begin new terms in 2009, and Terry Bonace, Myrna Newgent, and Nancy Philippi concluded their board service at the end of 2008.

Board members volunteered 1471 hours in 2008 and contributed the equivalent of $559 in kind donations, in addition to their monetary contributions.
The day-to-day management of the Heinze Trust is the responsibility of the Executive Director. Kristopher Krouse has held that position since March 2005. The Stewardship Program is managed by Paul Quinlan, Administrative Assistant Janet Kaminski, Property Assistant Peg Mohar, Development Coordinator Shandra Niswander, Stewardship Assistant Jim Erdelac, and Stewardship Technician Samantha Narjes completed the permanent staff at year’s end. Part-time seasonal stewardship personnel are hired as needed.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Heinze Trust relies on public support from individuals, organizations, foundations, government agencies, and corporations for its funding. A list of all 2008 contributors is included later in this report.

Individual cash and stock donations for 2008 totaled $114,902. Among the individual donations was a major gift of $25,000. The Heinze Trust’s summer fundraising benefit, “Summer Solstice: The Magic of Nature,” generated a net profit of $45,622.

The Heinze Trust has three endowment funds invested in local community foundations. The endowment with the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County was valued at $131,008; that with the Porter County Community Foundation was $90,661; and the Legacy Foundation of Lake County endowment was $23,023 at year’s end.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant funds totaling $7,041 were received in 2008 for restoration work at Heinze Trust preserves, and new grants totaling $15,000 were awarded. The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation provided $20,000 in 2008 to support the development program. The Natural Resource Damage Fund administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DNR, and IDEM provided $16,300 for various land acquisition and stewardship projects.

The Environmental Challenge Fund of NiSource awarded the Heinze Trust $5,000 for restoration work at Bur Oak Nature Preserve. The Chicago Wilderness consortium gave a $6,000 grant for restoration work at Bur Oak Woods. The John W. Anderson Foundation provided an award of $2,000, and the Carlson Family Foundation gave $1,000. The Land Trust Alliance awarded $7,000 to fund the boreal flatwoods conservation planning project. New foundation support in 2008 came from the Efroymson Foundation ($5,000), the Louise H. Landau Trust ($15,000), and the Dean & Barbara White Family Foundation ($5,000). Among other funds received were $2,782 from book sales and the educational hike program.

The Heinze Trust continued its efforts to increase corporate support. Fifteen corporate entities donated $7,320 in monetary contributions, and 42 entities made in-kind donations.

LAND ACQUISITION

In 2008 the Heinze Trust acquired outright ownership of some 13 acres of new property. The purchase of a six-acre addition to John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve will provide an important buffer to the delicate habitat of Yellow Birch Fen, an Indiana Heritage Trust project at this state dedicated nature preserve. A donation of 3.3 acres along the northern boundary of Cressmoor Prairie was accepted in December. It will offer buffer between this rare black-soil tallgrass prairie and a major housing subdivision proposed for the adjoining property. The Trust also acquired, via tax sale and purchase, a number of lots in its Great Marsh project area in Beverly Shores.

The Heinze Trust initiated a conservation planning project for its boreal flatwoods project area in LaPorte County. A grant from the Land Trust Alliance funded the acquisition of geographic information systems (GIS) technology and the production of a pamphlet which was distributed to all landowners in the project area. This systematic planning effort to save the remaining parcels of boreal flatwoods, one of Indiana’s rarest natural communities, is paying
dividends that will lead to similar efforts in support of other threatened landscapes.

The Trust has a clear-cut set of policies and criteria to guide its land acquisition efforts. Its top priority is to save the highest quality natural land, especially properties that exhibit a high degree of biodiversity and/or serve as habitat for rare or endangered species. Recognizing that chances of preserving that diversity are much greater on larger pieces of property than on small isolated parcels, preference is given to acquisitions that add to, buffer around, or provide corridors between already existing protected areas. Keeping to this theme, the Trust was well along in negotiations at year’s end that should result in the acquisition in 2009 of major additions to Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve in Lake County and Ambler Flatwoods in LaPorte County.

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**STEWARDSHIP**

The Heinze Trust continued to give major emphasis to stewardship and restoration work. Grants from a variety of sources – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Natural Resource Damage Fund, NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund, Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation – supported ongoing restoration projects at a number of preserves. These projects included the restoration of oak savanna and sedge meadow habitat at Bur Oak Woods, savanna restoration at John Merle Coulter Preserve, a reforestation program at Ambler Flatwoods, and native plantings at Hidden Prairie, Spangler Fen, and Ivanhoe South.

Routine stewardship activities at Heinze Trust preserves focused on control of invasive plants, fence construction and repair, cleanup, and trail maintenance. Grants from the Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation, the John W. Anderson Foundation, and Indiana Heritage Trust helped fund this work. With advice from Indiana DNR and in compliance with local laws, the Heinze Trust continued deer population management techniques at some of its properties, including carefully controlled bow hunting at some sites. Demonstration stewardship projects were established at sites in Beverly Shores.

Stewardship staff – with the assistance of partner agencies and individual volunteers – conducted prescribed burns at John Merle Coulter Preserve, Yellow Birch Fen, Seidner Dune & Swale, and Spangler Fen.

The volunteer program continued its growth as a significant asset to the stewardship program. Fifteen volunteer workdays were held at seven different preserves during the year. A total of 68 volunteers provided 473 hours of labor in 2008. Individual volunteer projects included digital photo monitoring, seed collection, information kiosk maintenance, species list updating, brush chipping, and trash pick up. Eagle Scouts completed projects at Ambler Flatwoods and Bur Oak Woods.

Stewardship staff made Heinze Trust preserves more accessible to the public with its regular trail maintenance activities at Cressmoor Prairie, Barker Woods, Ambler Flatwoods, Bur Oak Woods, Spangler Fen, and Ivanhoe South. Boardwalks and bridges were constructed at several preserves, and interpretive signs for a self-guiding trail were installed at Bur Oak Woods.

Stewardship Manager Paul Quinlan and Assistant Jim Erdelac took advantage of educational opportunities provided by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Northern Illinois University, the Natural Areas Association, and the Land Trust Alliance. They participated in fire training courses to maintain their wildland firefighter certification. They also contributed to regional forums like the Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network, participated in a variety of local community events, and conducted educational programs for school children and members of the community.

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**EDUCATION**

The 2008 hike program featured guided walks at Bluhm and Luhr County Parks in LaPorte County; John Merle Coulter Preserve in Porter County.
County; Yellow Birch Wetland, a Nature Conservancy property in LaPorte County; Springfield Fen in LaPorte County; and Hoosier Prairie in Lake County. Hike leaders were Alan Resetar of Chicago’s Field Museum, Donna Resetar, Stuart Orr of The Nature Conservancy, Scott Namestnik of J.F. New, Indiana DNR Regional Ecologist Tom Post, Heinze Trust board member Terry Bonace, and staff member Peg Mohar. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Ranger Ted Winterfeld conducted an outdoor program about the woodcock spring mating ritual. The Heinze Trust also sponsored a workshop on the identification of composites (the family of wildflowers including sunflowers, asters and goldenrods), with Scott Namestnik and Karen Quinlan serving as instructors.

Stewardship staff and Kris Krouse worked with the Gary City Schools on various cooperative efforts through the Groundwork Gary Program and programs at the Deep River Outdoor Education Center. Initial discussions were held about possible programs with the Hobart City Schools. The intern program was expanded, providing real-world work experiences for three local university students from Valparaiso University and Indiana University Northwest.

OUTREACH & PUBLICITY

The Heinze Trust hosted a Donor Appreciation Hike in August to thank those who have been so generous with their support. The event featured guided hikes at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve in Michigan City, followed by a lunch and presentations updating the organization’s activities. The Trust also hosted a special community hike at Bur Oak Woods in July for residents of the surrounding Hobart community.

The Heinze Trust continued efforts to build cooperative relationships aimed at strengthening collective influence on environmental issues. Kris Krouse and Vice President Dale Engquist participated in a number of committees and other programs of the Chicago Wilderness consortium. Heinze Trust staff and board members, in their individual capacities, also sat on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center.

Executive Director Kris Krouse was the Trust’s representative to the Indiana Land Protection Alliance. He made a presentation at the Land Trust Alliance’s National Land Rally in Pittsburgh. Heinze Trust staff entertained Beverly Shores residents at a presentation about the McAllister Prairie project. A new organization, Friends of Shirley Heinze, was launched as a means of engaging former board members and other supporters and retaining their skills and expertise to benefit of the organization.

The Heinze Trust continued to play a key role in regional forums, including the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, the Quality of Life Council, and the Citizens’ Advisory Remediation for the Environment (CARE). The Trust also participated in various local festivals, including Green Gary, the Native Plant Sale sponsored by Friends of the Dunes, the Northwest Indiana Earth Day event at Sunset Hill Farm County Park, the Tryon Farm Green Day, the Indiana DNR Coastal Fair, and the Michigan City Eco-Fit Challenge.

The Trust continued its efforts to inform the public about its work through a series of presentations to the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, the Munster Rotary Club, the Valparaiso Leadership Academy, the International Friendship Gardens Board of Directors, the Donnelley Foundation Board of Directors, and environmental students at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer. Kris Krouse participated in programs sponsored by the Institute for Conservation Leadership in Baltimore, and Shandra Niswander entered the Leadership Northwest Indiana program.

Local newspapers and periodicals provided good publicity for the organization’s public programs and were generous in their coverage of its activities. Kris Krouse contributed an opinion piece to the Land Trust Alliance journal, Saving Land.
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Carlson Family Foundation
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Mike & MeIllyn Donohue
Ruth Dooling
Ruth Ellen d'Ouville
Jean Dupree
Laurie Eberhardt & Peter Martin
Louis & Ruth Foster
Richard Fox
Heinz & Elizabeth Freese
Cynthia Hedge
Herbert George
Kevin & Sheryl Golab
Dorothy Jay Gould
Art & Tolly Grimes
Melrdad & John Gruenenfelder
Rebecca Hanscom

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Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Preste
Charlene Walker
Lisa M. Way
Kurt T. Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Wroblewski
Mr. & Mrs. James Z. Zmuda

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County
Ed & Eden Lyonsaught
Dan & Vicky Plath
Lane & Tim Theriac

Gifts for Special Funds
SHLT truck fund
Myrna & John Newgent

Gifts in Memory of
Mary Ann Abella
Isaak Abella
Sam L. Artunian
Stella Artunian
Jean Bonace
Larry Boelke
Holly McDonald & Francisco Bezerra
John & Myrna Newgent
Henry Elston
Dr. Richard & Janet Sheffer
Lucille Erdelac
Barbara Pipmian
Gertrude Fredrick
Cynthia Fredrick
Monica Stephens Gabriel
Lynette Stephens
Elizabeth Henderson
Barbara Pipmian

- 9 -
2008 Individual Donors

Bernice Byrd Jones
Henry & Eleanor Jones

Nancy Kohlhoff
John & Myrna Newgent

Dianne Krouse
Barbara Plampin

Barbara Lootens
Bernard Lootens

Gifts in Memory (cont.)

Carey Perkinson
Richard & Jean Newgent

Eula Perkinson
John & Joyce Bacone
Terry Bonace
Lee Botts
Joyce & David Drake
Hannah Eads
Judith Gaskell
Cliff & Angel Gochee-Goins
Alice Greenlee
Joseph & Rosalie Isaacson
Laura Jones

Helen Kirk
Paul Kohlhoff
Kris & Heidi Krouse
Sara Leonard
Carol & Ralph Lerner
Peg & Don Mohar
Myrna Newgent
Richard & Jean Newgent
Barbara Plampin
Ellis & Euella Ponton
Ron Trigg

Eleanor Petersen
Joan & Ron Engel
Elizabeth Postell

Geoffrey Plampin
Joanne Powers

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Mark Reshkin

Norbert Szarletta
Dr. Ellen Szarletta

Helen Trigg
Warren & Pat Buckler
Joyce & David Drake

Judith Gaskell
Irene Herlocker-Meyer
Paul Kohlhoff
Sara Leonard
Carol & Ralph Lerner
Peg & Don Mohar
Myrna & John Newgent
Barbara Plampin
Ron Trigg

Barbara Wykes
John & Myrna Newgent
Nancy Joan Wykes
Roger Wykes II

Gifts in Honor of

Terry Bonace
Ron Trigg

Warren Buckler
Andy Austin Cohen

Tony & Sheila DeBonis
Rory & Marilyn Holscher

Jeff, Melissa & Stephanie Kehl
Keith & Karen Evans

Sara Leonard
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Kent Loosemore
Damen & Rita Gabis

Mark Klein & Mary Wagner
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Myrna Newgent
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Alexander & Rinda Allison
Edwin & Sharon Hochman
Richard & Leslie Miller
Lorna & Francis Straus

Vanessa Rainwater
Vickie Rainwater

Max Perkins Sadock
Jerrold & Gail Sadock

Jacqueline Widmar Stewart
Timothy & Tammy Stewart

Ron Trigg
Drs. Charles & Mary Chuman
Kevin & Sheryl Golab

Contributions listed in this report are those made 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2008.
Shirley Heinze Land Trust Acquisitions 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>How Acquired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary City Estates</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>Tax sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson’s 2nd Sub</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>Tax sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Porter County</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Shores</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>Tax sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggs Addition</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>Purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Shores</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>Purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cressmoor</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>Donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total acres preserved</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.42</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

**LAND ACQUIRED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants 27%</td>
<td>Administrative 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROI 21%</td>
<td>Fundraising 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hikes &amp; Books 1%</td>
<td>Programs 76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grants**

Grants: 27%

**ROI**

ROI: 21%

**Fundraising**

Fundraising: 51%

**Programs**

Programs: 76%

**Expenses**

Administrative: 11%

Fundraising: 13%

Programs: 76%

**Expenses**

Administrative: 11%

Fundraising: 13%

Programs: 76%

**Expenses**

Administrative: 11%

Fundraising: 13%

Programs: 76%

**Expenses**

Administrative: 11%

Fundraising: 13%

Programs: 76%