

## **SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST RECEIVES GRANT FROM “SUSTAIN OUR GREAT LAKES” PROGRAM**

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has received a \$30,000 grant from the “Sustain Our Great Lakes” Program, a private-public partnership comprising ArcelorMittal, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The money will be used to continue restoration work at Bur Oak Woods Nature Preserve, an oak savanna remnant in Hobart.

“Sustain Our Great Lakes” provides grant funds to support projects that will restore and enhance the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes. At a ceremony May 8 in Chicago, 26 awards were announced for projects in those American states and Canadian provinces which border the Great Lakes. Shirley Heinze Land Trust was one of only three organizations cited in Indiana.

“The Great Lakes represent 21 percent of the world’s fresh surface water and provide ecological services that are critical at both local and global scales,” said Donn Waage, Central Partnership Office Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “The partners in this program have made a significant commitment to protecting and restoring this invaluable resource. Their collaboration and support makes these important grants possible.”

“A vibrant, sustainable Great Lakes watershed is important to our business and our community,” said Bill Steers, president, ArcelorMittal USA Foundation. “ArcelorMittal is committed to helping preserve the Great Lakes region, not only because it’s critical to the success of our business, but because it’s where thousands of our employees, customers and other key stakeholders reside.”

Executive Director Kris Krouse and Stewardship Manager Paul Quinlan accepted the award on behalf of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. “We are proud to be able to make our contribution to this great effort on behalf of environmental improvement in the Great Lakes region,” notes Krouse. “Our work to preserve natural lands in Northwest Indiana helps advance the cause of clean air and water, and we are honored to receive this recognition.”

“This grant will provide a lift to our efforts to restore Bur Oak Woods Nature Preserve,” says Quinlan. “The property is an example of a bur oak savanna, a natural community considered very rare in Indiana. It features huge, centuries-old bur oak trees, some as large as four feet in diameter, and woodland ponds that provide good habitat for amphibians. Contributions from partnerships like this will make the success of this important project possible”

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been protecting natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed since 1981. It manages more than 1,000 acres in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. Included in the Heinze Trust’s holdings are examples of the entire spectrum of natural communities in this area: tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune-and-swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, fens, and riparian habitat. For more information on the work and programs of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, call 219-879-4725, or visit its website [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org).

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**PHOTO CAPTION:**

Executive Director Kris Krouse and Stewardship Manager Paul Quinlan (front row, center and right) accept “Sustain Our Great Lakes” grant on behalf of Shirley Heinze Land Trust.