

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2012

For more information:

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Shirley Heinze Land Trust will be holding a Volunteer Workday this Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve in Michigan City, IN. At 350 acres, Ambler Flatwoods is Shirley Heinze's largest and possibly richest preserve. It is home to many plant species typically found at more northern latitudes, such as Paper Birch, White Pine and Club Mosses. In 2009, Shirley Heinze Land Trust began an intensive conservation planning project, which focused on identifying and preserving high quality boreal flatwoods habitat. Since the beginning of this project, over 150 acres have been added to this preserve. On this volunteer workday we will be maintaining portions of the 5 mile hiking trail. We will be using hand tools and small engine power equipment to clear the trails and get them ready for the busy summer season. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing volunteer@heinzetrust.org or call (219) 897-4725 if you wish to attend, so we can plan accordingly.

Directions to Site: I-94 to US 20 (exit 40). Take US 20 west toward Michigan City. Get off exit ramp, go under I-94, take first right onto County Road 600W (Meer Road). Take Meer Road north about two miles. Proceed thru the stop sign at Tryon Rd. the parking area is approximately ¼ mile north of this intersection on the west side of the road. Look for the Volunteer Workday sign.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been protecting natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed since 1981. It manages nearly 1,200 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. Five Heinze Trust properties are dedicated Indiana State Nature Preserves. For more information on Shirley Heinze Land Trust, consult its website www.heinzetrust.org.

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1 Photo attached: Shell fungi growing on Paper Birch