

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For More Information:
Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director
219-879-4725
land@heinzetrust.org

**Shirley Heinze Land Trust Invites the Public to
“Walk a mile in our shoes” at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve
on August 11**

Nestled in the rural countryside outside Michigan City lies a rare boreal flatwoods remnant rich with herbaceous flora. This unique habitat, known as Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve, creates a home for some of Indiana’s most uncommon species, such as paper birch, white pine, and a variety of club moss species. The nature preserve currently consists of over 350 contiguous acres located on the east side of Michigan City and is bounded in part by County Road 600 West (Meer Road), County Road 900 North (Freyer) and 800 North (Tryon). Shirley Heinze Land Trust has invited the neighbors of Ambler Flatwoods and would like to extend the invitation to the surrounding community to participate in a nature hike through the preserve.

The preserve offers the opportunity to view a variety of habitats beginning in early spring with beautiful, lively vernal pools which create a lush home for creatures such as small fish, tadpoles, frogs, snakes, turtles, and more. For much of the year one can walk the trails and spot the hidden deer, tree frog, or garter snake on a peaceful hike while surrounded by thick woods.

“Come and walk a mile in our shoes and learn about the relatively undisturbed forest as well as the steps we have been taking to preserve its distinctive natural state,” says Executive Director Kris Krouse. The hike will take place on Saturday, August 11th at 10:00 am. It will be led by one of SHLT’s summer interns and will focus on creating

awareness of the work done to help preserve the natural habitat at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust manages approximately 1,200 acres of natural land in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. Five of its properties – Cressmoor Prairie, Seidner Dune & Swale, John Merle Coulter Preserve, Barker Woods, and Ambler Flatwoods – have been dedicated to the people of Indiana as State Nature Preserves. 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. The Heinze Trust has also made contributions toward the purchase of natural areas owned by other entities, including the Indiana DNR, The Nature Conservancy, LaPorte County Parks, Lake County Parks, and the Portage Parks Department.

For information about events with Shirley Heinze Land Trust, call (219) 879-4725, email development@heinzetrust.org, or visit www.heinzetrust.org.

END

Photos provided

Photo #1: Ambler 2 jpeg

Photo #2: Ambler picture