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Shirley Heinze Land Trust Receives National Excellence Award

Shirley Heinze Land Trust announces that it has received a National Excellence Award from the Land Trust Alliance, a national land conservation organization that represents more than 1,000 member land trusts supported by more than five million members nationwide.

“With this award, the Land Trust Alliance celebrates the dedication and passion of Shirley Heinze Land Trust”, the organization announced in a statement. “Their work covers six counties in northwestern Indiana, helps large populations of the under-served, and conserves a vast spectrum of biodiversity. Their board and staff are continuously evolving the way they engage volunteers and community.”

The award was presented during the welcoming dinner of Rally 2018, the organization’s National Land Conservation Conference, which took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 11 – 13th. The award was one of two similar honors presented during the evening; the other went to an all-volunteer land trust, Newtown Forest Association in Connecticut. For more information about the Land Trust Alliance, visit www.landtrustalliance.org.

"There are many ways to make a difference," said Andrew Bowman, the Alliance's president. "Each of these winners have made their communities and their nation a better place. On behalf of the entire land conservation community, I extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation."

“On behalf of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, our supporters, and many partners, we are delighted to receive this honor”, said Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. “Our work to protect and restore the rich variety of natural communities in northwestern Indiana, and to inspire people to appreciate the natural world, is truly a collaborative effort. We are grateful for the recognition of these efforts by Land Trust Alliance.”

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has protected, restored and maintained northwestern Indiana’s rich and significant natural communities, including tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune-and-swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, fens, bogs, and riparian habitat. More than 2,400 acres in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and St. Joseph Counties have been preserved for the public’s benefit. Shirley Heinze nature preserves feature significant scenic and ecological value, and most are open to the public for hiking and enjoying nature. Five of its properties have been dedicated to the people of Indiana as state nature preserves. The organization also works to educate people of all ages to appreciate the importance of land conservation, and to experience the natural wonders of this unique region. Its work is accomplished through a partnership of volunteers, donors, and professionals.

To learn more about Shirley Heinze Land Trust and how to become involved, visit the website at www.heinzetrust.org or call (219) 242-8558.

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[Group photo attached: includes Shirley Heinze Land Trust Board, Staff, Land Trust Alliance Midwest Director, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation Executive Director and Chicago Program Director]