

Shirley Heinze Land Trust INSIGHTS

Spring 2018



Photo: Alex Zaideman

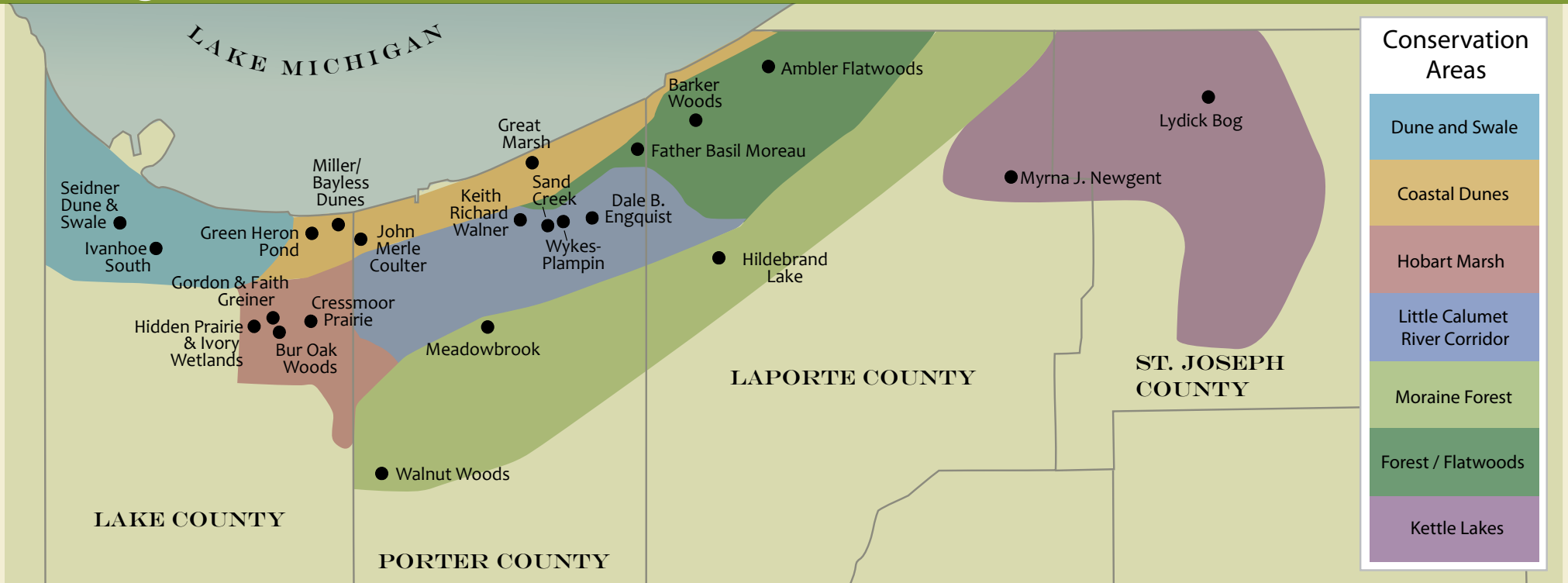


- *The Big Picture*
- *Powered by Wildflowers*
- *There's More to Lydick Bog*
- *Spring Benefit - May 19th*



www.heinzetrust.org

The Big Picture



There's something new at Shirley Heinze Land Trust. It's the map above, which represents our big-picture vision for land conservation in northwestern Indiana. We have identified seven conservation areas, each with distinctive natural characteristics. We will focus our acquisition and restoration efforts - in conjunction with other like-minded entities - on protecting the most valuable natural communities. This emphasis on defined goals and partnerships will maximize our conservation results. And at the same time, we'll get the biggest bang for your donation dollars.

Over the years, our land policies have evolved. In the beginning, we had no staff, precious little money, and we weren't even sure what our mission would be. We acquired land in one-lot increments through donation and tax sale. Later we targeted larger parcels of the highest-quality natural land available within the southern Lake Michigan watershed, and we began collaborating with other conservation entities on grant opportunities for habitat acquisition.

More recently, we've launched multi-partner conservation planning projects focused on specific ecosystems, and we've entered into joint restoration and management arrangements. We have also expanded our area of operation from the original three counties to six.

Even though our emphasis has changed, we still see the wisdom of earlier practices. Lot-by-lot acquisitions in the 1980s have resulted in a magnificent dune-and-swale nature preserve at Ivanhoe South. Similarly, we now have some 85 acres in the Great Marsh, one of the premier birding areas in the Midwest. Those successes laid the groundwork for the leadership position we hold today.

Your support has made it all possible. Thank you!



Kristopher Krouse,
Executive Director

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Great Marsh Wetland Lots Donated

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has received a donation of 3.03 acres of wetlands in Beverly Shores from the Brandstetter Family. The donation consists of 14 lots that are adjacent to existing Shirley Heinze holdings.

“The history of piecing together the Shirley Heinze Great Marsh Preserve is a great story of patience and perseverance,” says Lagoni. “These protected 85 acres (along with the rest of Heinze’s 2,400 protected acres) have preserved valuable habitat for our local wildlife and the open spaces that give Duneland residents pride in our unique sense of place.”

“This acquisition will facilitate our efforts to restore healthy marshland habitat in this once-expansive wetland ecosystem

by reducing the number of complex boundaries,” says Krouse. “To date, we’ve acquired approximately 85 acres in the project area. Restoration activities taking place here include the removal of invasive plants and the seeding and planting of native species.

“We have been working to protect these wetlands for the last 30 years”, says Executive Director Kristopher Krouse. “We are grateful to the Brandstetter family and to Tyson Lagoni, a local volunteer whose efforts have aided in this work.”

continues. “The sedge meadows and wetlands present here are a haven for birds and other wildlife and a home to rare plants. The area is a designated stop on the Chicago Region Birding Trail and has been recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.”

“Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s Great Marsh properties are separated from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore by Beverly Drive, a narrow two-lane road,” Krouse



Wetland Restoration work at the Great Marsh

Garlic mustard, an invasive species, is a source of great distress for our natural areas. Native to Europe, early settlers brought it with them as a garden herb. The plant loves forest edges and the understory where it can easily crowd out native wildflowers and tree seedlings. It is a major problem at a number of our preserves, including Meadowbrook, Lydick Bog, Barker Woods, and Dale B. Engquist.

Hand pulling remains the primary method for removal. Once volunteers are trained to identify garlic mustard, they are welcome to pull it as they see it along the trails of our preserves.

We will be hitting it hard this spring in an effort to remove as much as possible. The first volunteer workday for garlic mustard control is scheduled for Friday, May 11th, at Meadowbrook. We will also be participating in The Stewardship Network’s Garlic Mustard Challenge, in which individuals and organizations compete to pull the most Garlic Mustard by weight over a season. We’ll be scheduling more workdays to eradicate this nasty invader!

Most Unwanted Species: Garlic Mustard

By Katy Botbyl, Volunteer Coordinator

In its first year, garlic mustard will have a rosette of green leaves close to the ground. In the second year, it will grow to two-three feet tall with small white flowers.



Congratulations and thanks to Jim Haniford, Meadowbrook’s volunteer preserve steward, who was named 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Jim visits the preserve on a regular basis to monitor and maintain the trails and report any problems or interesting observations. He also participates in citizen science/bird monitoring and has compiled nearly a full year’s worth of birding data on ebird.com for Meadowbrook. Jim will be leading a bird hike on May 5th at the preserve.

There's More to Lydick Bog than the Bog



swamp roses

Lydick Bog, a recent Shirley Heinze property acquisition, has generated loads of interest over the past year. From an ecological standpoint, the conservation of a rare bog habitat makes this property an incredible opportunity. As a stewardship technician and site steward, I have spent many hours hiking around and exploring our preserve. Like much of life, there's both good and bad news.

The good news: Lydick Bog is a natural treasure.

Located on 178 acres just west of South Bend, our preserve protects one of only a handful of sphagnum bogs in northern

Indiana. In addition, there are several other types of wetlands, including a marsh on the north side of Bass Lake, a large riparian corridor, and several kettle hole wetlands. The latter are depressions, carved by glaciers thousands of years ago, that collect water from the surrounding hills.

The forested areas are indeed very hilly, dotted with glacial rocks and taking on ravine-like characteristics. Large-flowered trilliums, rue anemone, and white baneberry grow under the woodland canopy of maples and oaks, with huckleberries, downy false foxglove, whorled loosestrife,

blue-eyed grass, and New Jersey tea present in the oak and hickory savannas.



swamp candles with royal fern

The bad news: there are many challenges. Invasive plants like purple loosestrife, Phragmites, and cattails are firmly entrenched in the larger wetlands. Logging over the years has heavily disturbed the uplands, resulting in heavy infestations of multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, and garlic mustard.

There is more good news on the horizon. Stewardship staff has started the restoration process. Over 700 invasive trees of heaven (Ailanthus altissima) have been removed in the past year. Planting of oaks and hickories will start this spring on twenty acres of former farmland. And despite the heavy amounts of snow this winter, over 160 hours were devoted to removing multiflora rose and other invasive shrubs. It will be a lengthy process, but Lydick Bog definitely is worth the effort.



whorled loosestrife



blue-eyed grass with pearl crescent



Doug Botka is a Stewardship Technician for Shirley Heinze and a Resource Management Technician for Indiana Dunes State Park. An avid self-taught botanist, he spends much of his working hours and free time at Lydick Bog. All photos courtesy of Doug

Powered by Wildflowers: Myrna J. Newgent

At its heart, an organization is made up of people - volunteers, donors, professionals. Each person's talents, skills, and resources contribute to a collective effort to accomplish the mission of the organization. In its 37 years of existence, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been fortunate to develop a deep and devoted pool of people who have given of themselves in many ways on behalf of natural land conservation in northwestern Indiana.

It's important for us to share these stories as inspiration for others. This story happens to belong to Myrna J. Newgent. This year marks Myrna's 80th year of life and her 30th as a volunteer with Shirley Heinze Land Trust.



Last November, Life Board Member Myrna Newgent was surprised by a board resolution naming a newly-acquired nature preserve near Rolling Prairie in her honor. The resolutions reads, "...as a recognition of her contributions toward conserving natural lands in Northwest Indiana over the past three decades and for the many ways she helped transform the organization over her nearly 30 years as a volunteer and leader." The preserve features a rich display of the spring wildflowers Myrna particularly loves.

Myrna's path to this honor began long ago with that same fondness for flowers. As a resident of the dunes community of Miller, she enjoyed the beach, but her career as a civil servant didn't leave her much time to appreciate the rest of her natural surroundings.

In 1986, Myrna and a coworker signed up for one of Emma "Bickie" Pitcher's wildflower classes. The classes met one night a week to study plant slides, then on Saturdays the group would hike the dunes to scout for them. Myrna's knowledge and love for spring

wildflowers blossomed. It was on these hikes that she met another budding amateur botanist, Barbara Plampin, who had recently joined the board of what was then known as the Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund.

A year later, Myrna was offered early retirement. She began to spend her newfound free time walking her dunes neighborhood, identifying plants. Barbara approached Myrna about joining the board. As a 'newbie' she wasn't sure she was

qualified, but she accepted. Shortly thereafter, Myrna was nominated to be president. She would hold that office for thirteen years. "At some point they would have liked to have changed their mind!" she quips.

Myrna's tenure as president spanned a significant period of growth. A generous donation from Gordon & Faith Greiner created major opportunities for land protection. Cressmoor Prairie, Seidner Dune and Swale, John Merle Coulter, and Ambler Flatwoods, were protected. All four became state-

dedicated nature preserves. "Oh mercy!" says Myrna in her charming southern drawl. "We needed a lot of help during that time, and thankfully the Division of Nature Preserves was always there for us".

Following Myrna's service as president, her involvement has continued at a steady pace. She serves as an active participant at committee meetings and organization events. She particularly enjoys scouting the tax sale rosters and attending the sales to bid for potential lots to protect. She helps plan and host the annual educational hikes, and takes part in garden visits for the Bringing Nature Home Program. Her passion for wildflowers has not waned.

Initially uncomfortable with her honor, Myrna felt others had been more instrumental in its protection. She now says she's happy about it. "Oh, the beautiful blue-eyed Mary!"

Access to the Myrna J. Newgent Nature Preserve is by special permission or guided tour only.



Myrna at the Dedication of Cressmoor Prairie in 1996



Myrna and Keith Board, an early advocate for preserving the Rolling Prairie property.



photo of blue-eyed Mary by Keith Board



Myrna Newgent and Barbara Plampin in 2005

Educational Hike Series

Explore the beauty of the Calumet Region and beyond and support Shirley Heinze Land Trust in working to preserve natural lands in northwestern Indiana by attending our educational hikes. Groups are led by expert naturalists and are limited in size to fifteen or fewer hikers. Hikes are held at outstanding nature preserves located across the region.

There is a \$25 fee per person for each hike. Registration and payment must be made in advance by calling us at 219-242-8558 or by sending an email to Sarah Barnes at sbarnes@heinzetrust.org.

Sat. June 2 - Upland Grassland and Marsh Birds at Kankakee Sands near Morocco, Indiana
7:30 am - 10:30 am

Led by Matt Kalwasinski, we'll search out some of the interesting breeding grassland and marsh birds that thrive in the extensive prairies and wetlands of the Kankakee Sands of Indiana. During the trip, the group will drive to multiple parking lots in the area searching for birds; sometimes birding near the roadways. There may be instances when the group will walk a short trail from the parking lots. At the end of the tour, the group will be encouraged to visit the recently created Bison Viewing area.

Sat. June 16 - Suman Fen in Porter County, Indiana near Jackson Township - Part of the Moraine Addition Nature Preserve Complex
9 am - noon

Not open to the public, Suman Fen is one of the highest quality fens in Northwest Indiana, and features many rare plants and insects. Join Indiana Division of Nature Preserves' Regional Ecologist Derek Nimetz as we explore this rare wetland ecosystem. Suman Fen does not have trails and some may find the terrain difficult to walk on.

Sat. June 30 - Milkweeds and Other Native Plants at Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve, Hobart, Indiana
9 am - noon

This 41 acre property is a dedicated state nature preserve located in Hobart. One of the rarest ecosystems in the state, the black-soil prairie at Cressmoor is an extremely high quality landscape. It harbors at least ten state-listed species of rare plants. Botanist Nathanael Pilla, will show us some of the beautiful native plants in bloom mid-summer at Cressmoor.



Bus Tour

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018
Time: 8 am-3:30 pm
Departure/Return Location: Meadowbrook



Join us for our popular educational bus tour of several of our nature preserves. Staff, board members and guest speakers will provide insights on land conservation and the ecology, geology, and history of Northwest Indiana.

The cost to attend the tour is \$40 per person. The price includes lunch at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve. Payment must be made in advance. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (219) 242-8558. The deadline for reservations is Monday, June 4, 2018. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised. A second bus tour will be scheduled in the fall.

Other Hikes and Events

- Fri. April 13 - Spring Partnership Luncheon at Century Center in South Bend
 - Fri. April 20 - Earth Day Volunteer Event at Ivanhoe South in Gary
 - Sat. April 21 - Fungi Workshop at Meadowbrook
 - Sat. April 28 - Volunteer Workday at Bayless Dune
 - Sun. April 29 - Lydick Non-profit Open House Event
 - Sat. May 5 - Birding Hike at Meadowbrook
 - Fri. May 11 - Garlic Pull Volunteer Workday at Meadowbrook
 - Sat. May 19 - Annual Spring Benefit at Purdue Northwest / Westville
 - Sat. Septemeber 8 - Annual Appreciation Hike at Festival Park in Hobart
 - October 11-13 - LTA Rally / Nat'l Land Conservation Conference in Pittsburgh
- Other Dates to remember: Monday, July 16 - Application Deadline for 'Bringing Nature Home' Native Planting Awards Program

Advance registration is required for most events.
For full details and to sign up for events, call 219-242-8558 or visit our website at www.heinzetrust.org/events. Schedule is subject to change.

Annual Spring Benefit Saturday, May 19th

The Great Hall - James B. Dworkin Complex
Purdue University Northwest - Westville
1401 US-421, La Porte, IN 46350

Join us for an evening of friendship and festivity in support of
the conservation work of Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

5:30 p.m.
Reception and hors d'oeuvres

7:00 p.m.
Seated Dinner and Program
Dress for the evening is Business Casual

Host Committee

James and Nancy Dworkin, Honorary Chairs

Peter & Cathy Bomberger
Nancy & Allen Johnson
Mike Keen & Gabrielle
Robinson
Paul & Sue Labovitz
Leigh & Marcia Morris

Dale & Nancy Nichols
Clifford & Christine Seidner
Violet & Sam Sistovaris
Suzy Vance & Tim Griffin
Anne & Tim Walsh
Robert & Annette Young

The evening includes both live and silent auctions and a 'Funding
the Future' program and paddle auction.

With your support, and a generous dollar-for-dollar match, Shirley
Heinze Land Trust will establish a permanent operating fund.

This fund, once established, will strengthen preservation and
stewardship efforts and allow us to grow environmental education
programming.

Individual tickets and sponsorships may be purchased and auction
items previewed on our website at www.heinzetrust.org.

You may fill out the form on the next page and mail it to us with your
payment. Please reply by May 4th

TICKET FORM

TICKET OPTIONS

- _____ BENEFACTOR - \$10,000 (includes 20 seats / 2 tables)
_____ KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY SPONSOR - \$5,000 (includes 10 seats / 1 table)
_____ GREEN HERON SPONSOR - \$2,500 (includes 10 seats / 1 table)
_____ YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER SPONSOR - \$1,500 (includes 10 seats / 1 table)
_____ BLANDING'S TURTLE SPONSOR - \$750 (includes 4 seats)
_____ BIG BLUESTEM SPONSOR - \$500 (includes 2 seats)
_____ INDIVIDUAL TICKET - \$150 (\$75 per seat is tax deductible)

If purchasing more than one item above, please indicate on the line

- _____ I cannot attend, but please accept my gift in support of Shirley Heinze Land Trust.
(Fern Sponsor - \$499 and under)

I am a guest of: _____

DINNER OPTIONS:

#1 Chicken Piccata #2 Spring Risotto

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Seating accommodations available for guests with special needs. Please
check here if special needs are required.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Enclosed is my check payable to **Shirley Heinze Land Trust**

Please charge my: DISC VISA MC AMEX

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Security Code _____

Please RSVP by Friday, May 4th, 2018

(Reservations after this date cannot be guaranteed.)

Please contact Bonnie Hawksworth at bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org

or call **219-242-8558** to provide your meal options and guest names.

You may also register online by going to www.heinzetrust.org

or return this form with payment to

Shirley Heinze Land Trust

109 W 700 N, Valparaiso, IN 46385

2017 Snapshot

Acres Acquired 159,57
 Bringing total acreage permanently protected up to 2,403

Wetland Acres Restored 105
Upland Acres Restored 161

Environmental Education Hours Delivered 15,717
Outreach Event Attendance 4,139
Volunteer Hours Contributed 4,653

Number of Donors 659

REVENUE / EXPENDITURE

Revenue (includes income and the value of land acquisitions) \$2,191,080
Expenditures \$950,461
***Net Revenue** \$1,240,618

ASSETS

Value of Nature Preserves \$9,462,478
Bank Accounts \$249,474
Equipment & Buildings \$201,595
Investments & Endowments \$914,915

*Revenue generated for land purchases and land donations are a transfer of assets and therefore cannot be reflected as an expenditure.

Note - The financial figures presented in this snapshot are preliminary and will be adjusted after an audit later in 2018.

You and nature will benefit from your IRA Rollover Distribution when you direct your distribution to Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

What is an IRA Rollover distribution gift?

A tax planning strategy for donors 70 ½ and older who wish to give anywhere from \$100 to \$100,000.

How does it benefit you?

These charitable gifts count as part of your required minimum distribution but are not taxable income to you. That is a benefit everyone qualifies for regardless if you itemize or take the standard deduction.

How do you make this gift?

Work with your IRA plan administrator. We offer a sample letter you can send to your plan custodian to initiate the transfer. Please contact us after you direct the transfer so we can look for the check from your IRA administrator.

How will Shirley Heinze recognize this gift?

Your gift will be recognized in our annual report and will support our work to protect natural lands in Lake, Porter, LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties.

Important:
 Please be sure to check with your financial advisor to determine whether this gift plan is right for you. This information is not meant as tax or legal advice.

For more information, please call the office at 219-242-8558.

In advance, *thank you!*

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In the Shadow of Oaks

by Ron Trigg



May is a month that has traditionally seen Indiana woodlands invaded by hordes of foragers, their feet stepping lightly while their eyes scan the understory for hidden populations of morel mushrooms. It was on just such an excursion years ago (before the practice was prohibited on most protected lands) that I first came across another curious denizen of the deep forest, the squaw root.

Emerging from the leaf litter was a cluster of the plants, looking for all the world like upright pine cones, cream-colored and scaly, a jolting outlier among violets, trilliums, and geraniums in full bloom. Everything about *Conopholis americana* is unusual: its startling appearance, its life story, its name, its reputed medicinal powers.

Squaw root is a parasite that obtains nutrients from the roots of oak trees (and apparently beeches in some places). The plant has specialized roots called haustoria which attach themselves to the roots of the host tree. No evidence suggests that the arrangement is harmful to the oak.

Squaw root does not photosynthesize and thus has no green leaves. It is an annual with a lifespan of about ten years, the first four of which are spent underground. Only in the fifth year do the club-like

external structures arise. Small tubular flowers crowd the fleshy stem, each producing a fruit which ultimately splits open to release small black seeds.

The name squaw root derives from Native American beliefs that the plant has medicinal powers to ease childbirth pain and treat menopause symptoms. Some squaw root products are still marketed to relieve those and other health problems, and at least one online purveyor of dubious products claims it is an aphrodisiac.

Another common name is cancer root, a likely reference to the tumor-like knobs which form at the point where the parasite attaches to the roots of the host oaks. Yet a third name is bear corn, reflecting that animal's fondness for squaw root as a food source. Deer also enjoy it, and small rodents eat the seeds.

Squaw root is one of those small surprises that can be the highlight of a May walk in the woods. It can reliably be observed on Trail Two at Indiana Dunes State Park and along the Louise Landau Nature Trail at Ambler Flatwoods.

Ron Trigg is a past Executive Director and former board member of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. An author, photographer, and naturalist, he volunteers his photography and wordsmithing talents.