Preserving Nature’s Gems in Northwest Indiana

On Saturday, June 8, Shirley Heinze Land Trust welcomed 330 friends and supporters at Sand Creek Country Club for its 10th Annual Benefit. The event celebrated four of our nature preserves, each a special Indiana natural gem: Ambler Flatwoods, Ivanhoe South, Little Calumet Wetlands, and Meadowbrook Nature Preserve. Over $100,000 was generated to advance our mission of preserving and restoring natural areas in Northwest Indiana.

Corporate sponsors included NIPSCO, BP Products North America, Phantom Technologies, ArcelorMittal, Horizon Trust and Investment Management, MonoSol LLC, Burke Costanza & Carberry LLC, Lakeside Wealth Management, and Rowley Bushue and Company LLC.

Guests were welcomed with glasses of champagne and the music of local cellist Josh DeVries. A gourmet meal awaited on buffet tables decorated with displays of native plants.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on a variety of exciting silent auction items, including “Everglades of the North Kayak Trip” donated by Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, a week’s stay on Elk Lake, Michigan donated by Carol and Lance Alberti, and a three-night San Diego vacation donated by the San Diego Tourism Authority.

The live auction offered five unique packages: an Austin City Unlimited Weekend in Texas, an outing to Turkey Run State Park, a Mystery Dinner for eight on the shores of Lake Michigan, a Duneland Countryside tour in a 1929 Packard, and a five-day escape to Sleeping Bear Dunes in Northern Michigan.

President Margaret Williford offered opening remarks, and Executive Director Kris Krouse spoke to the crowd about Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s accomplishments in the past year and its goals for the future. He highlighted the four designated “natural gems” and sought support for our efforts to expand them, the theme for this year’s “Funding the Cause” paddle auction. Guests raised their paddles to the tune of $38,000. The money will be dedicated to land acquisition.

The annual benefit is a celebration of the accomplishments of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. It is our primary fundraising event of the year. We are extremely grateful to our corporate and individual sponsors, as well as all our friends and supporters who helped make this year’s event a success.
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