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Shirley Heinze Land Trust seeks volunteers to feed bonfire on Saturday



Bonfires are not usually seen in February, but from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a volunteer workday complete with a provided lunch cooked over an open fire. It all takes place at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve in Valparaiso at 109 W. 700 North.

"The end of February is a great time to get outdoors and shrug off that cabin fever while enjoying nature and getting in a workout at the same time," said Jim Erdelac, Education and Volunteer Manager for Shirley Heinze Land Trust. "Volunteers play an integral role in achieving the land management goals on our preserves."

Erdelac says volunteers are needed to help feed the remnants of exotic and invasive shrub species that have been cleared into a fire to make way for the several thousand trees that will be planted over the next two years. Planting these trees will complete Shirley Heinze Land Trust's restoration plan for Meadowbrook.

"Our goal is to enhance the quality of the natural habitat found here while providing high-quality nature recreation opportunity to the residents of Northwest Indiana and beyond," added Erdelac. "Our seven and one-half miles of hiking trails, ample parking and trail infrastructure on this preserve provide opportunity for year round enjoyment."

Volunteers should wear cotton or wool clothing and contact Erdelac to RSVP and indicate any dietary restrictions by calling (219) 242-8558 or emailing jerdelac@heinzetrust.org.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust hosts similar volunteer workdays monthly for their various preserves throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. More information on these events can be found at www.heinzetrust.org/events.html.