This is a very special year for Shirley Heinze Land Trust. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of our founding.

Our organization was established as Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund on November 21, 1981. A generous endowment from Robert and Bette Lou Seidner in memory of Dr. Shirley Heinze made it all possible. In the early years we relied heavily on Save the Dunes Council for guidance, board membership, staff, and even office space.

I think the pioneers from those days would be impressed with the progress we have made over these past 30 years. More than 1,200 acres of precious natural land – covering the entire spectrum of natural communities in our region – have been protected. We have transferred many properties to partner organizations, and we have contributed to the acquisition of other lands, including such treasures as Hoosier Prairie and Moraine Nature Preserve.

Our success in land stewardship truly sets us apart. The staff members assigned those responsibilities are the unsung heroes of our organization. They have introduced innovative techniques and equipment, found reliable funding sources, developed partnerships with a diverse group of public and private entities, and established a strong corps of volunteers. The magnificence of our nature preserves is a testament to their creativity and hard work.

Education continues to be a major part of our mission. The annual series of guided nature walks has been a Shirley Heinze staple for more than 25 years. We have published books on local environmental themes and sponsored many classes, workshops, and lectures. Our most ambitious venture is the ongoing Mighty Acorns program, which is connecting 4th and 5th graders with nature through direct involvement in stewardship activities on our preserves. These children hold the key to our future.

We are not content to rest on our laurels at Shirley Heinze Land Trust. We recently adopted a new strategic plan to guide our path for the coming five years. It provides for the expansion of our operating area beyond the Lake Michigan watershed to include all of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties . . . and possibly farther afield in the future. It calls for more strategic conservation planning and collaboration with our local and regional partners. The plan promotes efforts to secure long-range sustainability through a combination of wise financial management and innovative fundraising strategies. Our organization is strong, and our future is bright!

There will be many special events to commemorate our anniversary throughout the year. Some are described elsewhere on these pages, and others will be announced later. All of them are intended to recognize you and involve you in our work. Our success is a direct consequence of your loyalty and support. Many thanks!

~ Dale Engquist, President, Board of Directors
Jean Rudd knows how to evaluate the effectiveness of a nonprofit. As president of the Woods Foundation of Chicago for some 20 years, she learned that successful organizations have quality leadership and skilled staff, they use wise management procedures, and they are attentive to long-term sustainability. Shirley Heinze Land Trust exhibits all those qualities, and that’s why Jean has been such a devoted supporter for so many years.

A native of upstate New York, where she grew up near the southern shores of Lake Ontario, Jean was drawn by educational and job opportunities to a number of places, including New York City. There she met her husband, attorney Lionel Bolin. The couple eventually relocated to Chicago.

Friends there invited them to the Indiana Dunes for weekends, and Jean and Lionel fell in love with the area. They purchased their own home in Beverly Shores about 30 years ago, and after several years spending summers and most weekends at the beach, they gave up their place in the city and became full-time residents.

“The remarkable set of landscapes is the reason so many people love living in the Dunes,” says Jean. “Being urban people, we find the natural areas — the woods, wetlands, dunes, prairies — very precious. It’s important to have such treasures near and available. They need to be protected.”

Many neighbors in Beverly Shores — including SHLT board members Joan Engel and Joyce Drake — introduced Jean to the work Shirley Heinze was doing to preserve such areas. She and Lionel became regulars on our guided nature walks, and Lionel joined the SHLT Advisory Council. Ultimately Jean was invited to join the Board of Directors, where she served from 2001 to 2004. Since rotating off the board, she has remained active as a member of the Advisory Council and the Fundraising and Summer Benefit Committees.

Jean currently works on a part-time basis with the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation as its Calumet field representative. The Foundation has identified the Calumet Region, which encompasses southern Chicagoland and northwestern Indiana, as an area of special environmental importance. It promotes partnerships among local land preservation entities as a way to maximize available resources and compete effectively for dwindling federal funds.

“I find my work really rewarding,” says Jean. “Land trusts play a remarkable role in this country and this area. The work they do offers many kinds of benefits to the environment. We need groups like Shirley Heinze to protect, restore, and maintain natural areas.”

“SHLT is blessed with a terrific staff,” she continues. “Executive Director Kris Krouse, Stewardship Director Paul Quinlan, and the people who support them represent everything a nonprofit could hope for in terms of commitment, skills, and leadership. They work so hard and are so effective. It’s good to see that Shirley Heinze is being recognized as a leader in its field.”

Jean Rudd has demonstrated her long-term commitment to Shirley Heinze Land Trust by including it in her estate planning. Membership in the Legacy Circle is an easy way to help guarantee that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the incredible natural wealth of Northwest Indiana.

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**Jean Rudd has an eye for quality**

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**IRS extends opportunity to make tax-free gifts from your IRA**

Under Code Sec. 408(d)(8), an individual who is age 70 1/2 or older may exclude from gross income up to $100,000 that is paid from an individual retirement account (IRA) to a charitable organization in any tax year after Dec. 31, 2005, and before Jan. 1, 2012. This provision originally didn't apply to distributions made after Dec. 31, 2009, but it was extended through 2011 by the 2010 Tax Relief Act.

Check with your tax consultant for advice.
Come dine and celebrate Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s 30th anniversary. On Saturday, June 25, 2011, Harry Porterfield, CBS Channel 2’s news anchor and commentator, will be Master of Ceremonies for the 8th Annual Shirley Heinze Land Trust Summer Benefit to be held at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Indiana.

The Gift—The passionate efforts of one woman, Shirley Heinze, began with her dedication and personal commitment to the preservation of the Dunes in Northwest Indiana. These efforts were recognized after her death through a major gift by friends of Dr. Heinze to endow what has become Shirley Heinze Land Trust. Since then, over 1,200 acres of natural land have been acquired and preserved in her name. We gather this year to celebrate and preserve this gift.

Wine & Dine—The evening will begin with a champagne reception, featuring a variety of hors d’oeuvres, followed by an elegant sit-down dinner, prepared by Chef Nathan Wronko. The meal will start with a cold spiced mango soup with mint yogurt. Then, guests will choose from three tempting entrées—Atlantic salmon with a lemon-herb aioli, boneless pork loin chop with herbed pork jus and pineapple relish, or polenta cake with portobella mushroom, zucchini, yellow squash, and spinach. A decadent pink champagne cake with a fresh berry filling will conclude this delightful dinner.

Anniversary & Attractions—The evening will feature both silent and live auctions, offering exciting getaway packages, such as a memorable trip to Paris, the New Orleans Wine & Food Festival in the French Quarter, Mystery Dinner prepared by Scartozzi’s Trattoria of Michigan City, and a guided tour of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. Of course, the evening would not be complete without a special anniversary program to commemorate Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s 30th year.

Reservations—Prompt reservations are encouraged. A record 320 supporters attended last year’s event. Tables fill quickly, and we have a limited number of seats available this year. To reserve a spot for this inspired event, simply send in the form at the bottom of the page.

We are excited to observe this important milestone with our friends and supporters. We invite you to join us as we celebrate and preserve this precious gift in northwest Indiana: Shirley Heinze Land Trust. ~ Suzy Vance

“Celebrating and Preserving the Gift”

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*If purchasing more than one individual ticket, please indicate how many tickets on the line.*

I cannot attend, but please accept my gift in support of Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

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<td>Boneless Pork Loin</td>
<td>with Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and herbed pork jus with pineapple relish</td>
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<td>Vegetarian Polenta Cake</td>
<td>with portabella mushroom, zucchini, yellow squash, spinach, Boursin cheese, and a red pepper sauce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegan Polenta Cake</td>
<td>with portabella mushroom, zucchini, yellow squash, spinach, and a red pepper sauce</td>
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☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Shirley Heinze Land Trust

☐ Please charge my: ☐ DISC ☐ VISA ☐ MC

Card Number Exp. Date

Cardholder Signature Date

*To complete your reservation, please return this form with payment to Shirley Heinze Land Trust, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City, IN, 46360.*
A Winter Visitor
by Carol Lerner

One day last January, in the midst of our hard winter, we found a small bird fluttering around in our screened porch. It was a winter wren—our smallest wren, less than half an ounce of fluff with an improbably short tail. It hovered near a hole at the base of the screening. Just outside the hole was the neat entrance to a small tunnel in the packed snow. We assumed that these were the work of a red squirrel that regularly chews through our screening.

Winter wren seems a misnomer for this bird, since most members of the species leave the cold north in fall and fly southward. Perhaps the true winter wren, in northwest Indiana, is the Carolina, which nests in this area and remains on its territory year round. We are most likely to see the winter wren during spring or fall migration. They stay low to the ground, scurrying across the woodland floor like a small wary rodent.

But some winter wrens do stay behind in lower Canada or the upper United States. Since wrens are dedicated carnivors, survival in northern winters is a challenge—especially when the snow is heavy and their ability to glean dead or dormant insects and spiders from the ground or from bark and branches is reduced. In winter they also eat seeds, berries, and small fruits. Carolina wrens may visit feeders for seeds and suet, but the northern population of Carolina wrens regularly crashes during hard winters.

The wrens are American birds, and the little winter wren is the only member of the family to have found its way to the Old World. It is spread across Eurasia, occupying a broad ring around the northern hemisphere.

Recent investigations into bird song found that winter wrens in the eastern United States sing like winter wrens in England, and those in western North America sing like winter wrens in Siberia. In the foothills of the Rocky Mountains birds with both dialects come together and occupy the same territories during the breeding season. But the separation holds: Females choose mates with the “right” song, and DNA shows little evidence of crossbreeding across the language barrier. On that basis, the American Ornithological Union has recently split the winter wrens into two species—the winter wren and the Pacific wren.

Question: What does a 41-acre grassland in Hobart have in common with the Great Wall of China, the Amazon Rainforest, and the snow atop Kilimanjaro?

Answer: They are all identified as great places to visit in Frommer’s 500 Places to See Before They Disappear. The grassland is Cressmoor Prairie, a state dedicated nature preserve owned and managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust. It is Indiana’s best preserved example of black-soil tallgrass prairie.

We have to take issue, however, with Frommer’s suggestion that Cressmoor is in danger of disappearing. Shirley Heinze is committed to the preserve’s restoration and wise management, and we fully expect it will remain a thriving natural area that will be available for many future generations to enjoy.

Cressmoor Prairie is at its finest from July to September, when the prairie grasses are high and the wildflower spectacle is its most glorious. Come walk the trails and enjoy the beauty of nature in this very special place. You’ll be glad that you did . . . and then you’ll have only 499 more places to see!
FOCUSING ON THE NEXT GENERATION

An Update on the Mighty Acorns Program

You never know what might light a spark in a child’s mind. For some Hobart fourth graders, that spark emerged from a recent winter walk in the woods.

The class, which had been reading a book that discussed animal tracking, immediately became excited when they saw the real thing right before their eyes. Two boys took the lead in interpreting the signs in the snow. “They walked slowly down the trails, while their classmates followed behind and quietly observed,” reports their teacher. There was an animated discussion about the story revealed by the tracks.

School had been very challenging for those two boys, according to their teacher, but somehow the outdoor experience helped them make the connection between their studies and the real world. It made them excited about learning.

The above incident happened during a Mighty Acorns hike at a Shirley Heinze nature preserve in Hobart. It demonstrates the kind of effect we had hoped to have on students participating in this environmental education program.

Mighty Acorns was developed in 1993 by the Chicago Wilderness consortium. Its aim is to connect urban youth with nature through direct involvement in stewardship activities at local natural areas. Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History has assumed a lead role in the program, and it has entered into local partnerships in many parts of the Chicago region, including with the Dunes Learning Center and Shirley Heinze Land Trust in Northwest Indiana.

SHLT introduced Mighty Acorns into the Hobart school system during the 2009-10 academic year. Some 150 fourth graders participated during that inaugural year. The program was expanded to include fifth graders this year, and by the end of the 2010-11 school year, some 500 elementary students will have benefited.

The program starts with workshops hosted by SHLT to familiarize teachers with the Mighty Acorns curriculum. Students then participate in a variety of project-based outdoor activities, which involve them in such stewardship tasks as seed collection, brush cutting, and planting native plugs. Along the way they learn to identify many native plants and to recognize invasive species.

Mighty Acorns has been very well received in Hobart. “We are thrilled with the program and what it’s doing for environmental awareness,” says Shannon O’Brien, Director of Curriculum & Training for Hobart Schools. “We are developing a whole new group of environmentally aware citizens, who are actively caring for the earth. It has been an eye opener for teachers too. The training has been excellent, and it’s great just knowing that such wonderful natural areas exist in Hobart.”

SHLT hopes to add sixth graders to the program next year, bringing as many as 750 students into play. We plan to reorganize our staff by designating a full-time Education & Volunteer Manager and hiring additional stewardship help. The Field Museum has identified grant funds to support these moves. Consideration is also being given to expanding to other school systems in the future.

The Mighty Acorn is growing deep roots.

Volunteer Workdays...

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<th>March 12</th>
<th>Greiner</th>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Ambler</td>
<td>Trail work—new 40 acres</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Barker (9:30—3:00)</td>
<td>POC training</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Little Calumet Wetlands</td>
<td>Access work</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Beverly Shores</td>
<td>Planting in Great Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Greiner</td>
<td>Vegetation monitoring</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Thismia hunt</td>
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You can also contact Jim Erdelac for volunteer work assignments that fit your schedule. He can get you started on an independent project, or you may be able to work as part of the crew for a day. Reach him at the office at 219-879-4725 or e-mail volunteer@heinzetrust.org.

Contact Jim at 219-879-4725, or check our website www.heinzetrust.org for details & directions.

All event times are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (CT), and all events are open to any and all volunteers.
ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR VOLUNTEERS

Shirley Heinze Land Trust sends a big thank you to all the volunteers who donated time to the organization last year. Total volunteer work hours for 2010 numbered 964, once again a new high for the organization!

Many great projects were completed last year with volunteer help.

- 30 acres of savanna restoration at Bur Oak Woods,
- removal of herbaceous and woody exotics from the swales at Seidner Dune and Swale,
- seed collection and woody invasive removal from the new addition to Cressmoor Prairie,
- construction of a new 1.5-mile hiking trail at the Ambler Flatwoods north extension,
- planting of native-species seedlings in the Great Marsh wetlands at Beverly Shores,
- expansion of the trail system at Ivanhoe South to include a new boardwalk,
- a variety of projects undertaken by individual volunteers, and the ever-present need for trash pickup and roadside maintenance.

Last year we also got a huge boost of support from volunteers helping out with the Mighty Acorns education program (see page 5). The program has grown to include three schools and 20 classes of 4th and 5th graders in Hobart. A big thank you is in order for those hard-working volunteers who made the expansion possible: Anne Walsh, Peg Mohar, Myrna Newgent, Laura Henderson, Tim Griffin, and Sharon Kubik.

Once again congratulations are in order for Dawn Narjes, who was named the 2010 volunteer of the year. This is the third consecutive year Dawn has been recognized for her hard work and dedication.

There will be more great volunteer opportunities in 2011, our 30th anniversary year. Check out our volunteer web page www.shirleyheinze.blogspot.com for a schedule of upcoming events. ~Jim Erdelac, Volunteer Coordinator

INTRODUCING CHANAYA SADLER

Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s newest staff member is Chanaya Sadler, who joined us as Development Manager in January 2011.

Chanaya acquired a reverence for the land from her grandfather, an Arkansas farmer whose property was located on a rise overlooking the flatlands of the Mississippi delta. “He walked the perimeters of his land every day until he was nearly 90,” recalls Chanaya, who often tagged along with him when she was a girl. “It was his influence that instilled in me a love of nature and the outdoors.”

Chanaya grew up in the small rural community of Harrisburg, Arkansas. She received her bachelor’s degree from Arkansas State University in nearby Jonesboro, where she studied sport management and journalism. While still a student, she gained some work experience with the Jonesboro Parks & Recreation Department, which she served as media and special events coordinator.

After graduation, she moved on to a job in the more urban setting of Knoxville, Tennessee. There she ran a city recreation center that served more than 90 youngsters. “We had sports programs, nature activities, and field trips,” she says, “and I helped institute a program to promote the benefits of healthy eating and exercise for children.”

In 2008 Chanaya pulled up roots again and moved to Northwest Indiana to become Director of the La Porte Civic Auditorium, a historic city-owned facility which hosts entertainment and sports events, conferences, and local festivals. This southern girl took an immediate liking to her new surroundings, even the weather. “I love the winters and the snow!”

When she learned of the job opening at Shirley Heinze, she jumped at the opportunity to apply. “Chanaya really stood out among all the candidates for the job,” notes Executive Director Kris Krouse. “We liked her skill set, her enthusiasm, and her commitment to our mission. After only a few weeks on the job, she’s already having a positive impact on the organization.”

Chanaya Sadler brings a healthy mix of skills and interests to her new job, including a few – like tae kwon do and playing the drums – that we hope she leaves at home. Working at Shirley Heinze is a bit like coming home for her. “When I first looked at the website, it made me remember my grandfather, and I realized how much I missed being involved with nature. I was so impressed with the mission of protecting and restoring land and educating the public. This is what I really want to do! I’m excited to be here.”

Can’t wait until the next newsletter? Keep up-to-date with the latest Shirley Heinze Land Trust news by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/heinzetrust).
SHLT has been very fortunate to partner with Indiana University Northwest, Valparaiso University, and Ivy Tech Community College as part of the Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship Through Education Network (GLISTEN). Part of a larger Great Lakes-wide program, the Northwest Indiana GLISTEN collaboration is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the restoration of the Lake Michigan watershed by integrating efforts in education, stewardship, and research. The program connects colleges with community partners to meet regional needs such as water quality monitoring, habitat restoration and long-term tracking of restoration project results.

Students are enlisted as stewardship liaisons to not only assist organizations such as SHLT with their field work, but to bring their experiences back to their professors and classmates to further enhance the partnership. Last summer, we enjoyed hosting Courtney Targos (IUN) and Rob Young (Ivy Tech) as stewardship liaisons. They assisted our staff with vegetation monitoring and invasive plant control at several properties, including Bur Oak Woods, Hildebrand Lake, John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve, and the Rudzinski conservation easement. Rob and Courtney were a tremendous help, and they enabled our stewardship program to build momentum as we managed additional acreage, monitored our results, and even found new occurrences of a few rare plants.

Courtney continued to build the partnership this fall by working with Dr. Laurie Eberhardt’s ecology lab class at Valparaiso University to compile data collected by the class to track the progress of our interdunal wetland restoration project in Beverly Shores.

We are looking forward to hosting two stewardship liaisons again this summer and are incorporating the GLISTEN program into our future restoration plans.

~ Paul Quinlan, Stewardship Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers for 2011 are:

- **President** – Dale Engquist
- **Vice President** – Margaret Williford
- **Secretary** – Kathy Dennis
- **Treasurer** – Tim Griffin

***

We welcome the following new members, who began service on the Board of Directors in January 2011.

- **Brian McKee** is the marketing representative for Workforce Health, the occupational health division of Indiana University Health La Porte Hospital. He is a graphic designer and a member of the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Brian is also active with the LaPorte Hospital Foundation, Junior Achievement, and the Michigan City Rotary Club. He and his family live in Michigan City.

- **Nicholas Timm** is a retired physician who practiced for more than 30 years in Michigan City and South Bend. He now serves as Medical Director for the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center, which serves uninsured patients in St. Joseph County. Nicholas and his wife Deborah are longtime supporters of The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Legacy program. They live in the New Carlisle area.

We say farewell to **Craig Menne**, who has completed a three-year term on the board. Craig remains active with SHLT as a new member of the Advisory Council.

**Odds & Ends**

**South Shore Poster**

A poster commemorating Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s 30th anniversary will be released this year as part of the popular South Shore series. Local artist Barb Labus produced the work. It will be unveiled in May at an event sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Forum and the South Shore Arts Association. Watch for more details later.

**Calumet Wetlands Bridge**

Next time you’re driving down Brummitt Road in Chesterton, check out the new bridge at our Little Calumet Wetlands project area. Whole Trees Architecture & Construction, a Wisconsin-based firm noted for its eco-friendly practices, designed the unique structure, which was built by SHLT staff, Green Jobs team members, and volunteers. The bridge will greatly enhance public access to this new property, which we acquired in 2009-10 and are developing as a center for outdoor recreation.

**Native Planting Awards**

Friends of Shirley Heinze is sponsoring a new initiative to foster and reward the use of native plants in local landscaping. Awards will be presented annually to individuals who have done native plantings in their gardens and to organizations which have landscaped their grounds with native plants. Details of this exciting new program will be released soon on the SHLT website.
For much of our history the mission statement of Shirley Heinze Land Trust was as follows:

- To preserve natural areas within Northwest Indiana through identification of environmentally significant properties and, where possible, their acquisition;
- To educate the public concerning the environmental and cultural uniqueness of the area; and
- To advance the goals of clean air and water in Northwest Indiana.

We accomplished a lot with this mission. We secured funding to permanently protect more than 1,200 acres of natural land, comprising 15 project areas in three counties. We created a stewardship program that has an impressive reputation in all facets of restoration and management. We’ve led hikes, published books, conducted workshops, partnered on numerous projects, and developed a strong volunteer program. (Of course, it goes without saying that all of you have been integral to making these accomplishments possible.)

Last fall SHLT’s Board of Directors adopted the following revised mission:

- To protect habitats and ecosystems of Northwest Indiana through acquiring, restoring, and protecting environmentally significant landscapes for present and future generations; and
- To inspire and educate people of all ages about the value of land conservation to protect our natural world and enrich our lives.

This revised mission not only hones in on what we do best, but, more importantly, it gets at the “why” we want to “protect habitats” and “educate people.” We work day in and day out to protect places that everyone can enjoy. We try to make our preserves accessible to the public. Each time we acquire and restore a piece of land, we set the stage for a future generation to know and experience the unique natural world of Northwest Indiana. They will have the opportunity to see big bluestem in a prairie, an old-growth bur oak in a savanna, a lady’s slipper orchid in a forest, or a Blanding’s turtle in a wetland.

What more could SHLT possibly want to do? Well, I can answer that question for you: we are far from resting on our laurels, and we are just getting started. We are engaged in regional planning efforts. We seek out partnerships with corporations, institutions, nonprofits, and communities that have a vision of making NWI a better place. We are sensitive to the threat climate change poses to our ecosystems. We are educating children about the natural world by engaging them in stewardship activities. Lastly, we are developing a financial plan that will permit us to fulfill our mission for another 30 years.

There are a few major obstacles in our path, but nothing we can’t overcome with continued hard work, committed donors, and dedicated volunteers. We’ve made incredible progress in our short history, but the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Kris Krouse