Big Doings on the Little Cal

Donations Leveraged to Fund Major Restoration Project

Work begins this fall on a major restoration project at Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s Little Calumet Wetlands Preserve near Chesterton. The 43-acre property includes forested wetland, bottomland forest, and mesic woodland habitat bordering the East Arm of the Little Calumet River. The purpose of the project is to improve water quality and biological diversity by restoring the natural floodplain’s wetland and woodland habitats and eliminating invasive species.

The work will be accomplished by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under a project partnership with the Heinze Trust. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has allocated $270,000 in federal funds to the project as part of its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a major program aimed at protecting watersheds and restoring habitat in the entire Great Lakes region. SHLT’s match contribution to the project includes the fair market value of the property, which was purchased in 2009-2010 using money acquired through individual and corporate donations.

“We are excited to work with Shirley Heinze Land Trust to accomplish the restoration of a rare high-quality resource that has been declining in Northwest Indiana,” says Kirston Buczak, USACE project manager. “This project is relatively small in size but has large benefits in sustainable natural resources.”

“This partnership provides a unique opportunity for us to accomplish the type of restoration work on this property that would have taken us years longer if we were limited to using our own resources,” says Paul Quinlan, the Heinze Trust’s Stewardship Director. “This work will have positive impact on the environmental health of the entire southern Lake Michigan watershed. We’re delighted to be a part of this great story.”

Specific tasks to be undertaken include the removal of invasive and aggressive shrub species by cutting and herbicide application, the establishment of native riparian plant communities and ground cover, and the girdling of select trees in the bottomlands. Care will be taken to maintain and improve public access to the site for recreational activities.

“This project is a great example of how donor contributions can be leveraged to enable grant funding,” says SHLT Executive Director Kris Krouse. “For each dollar donated for the purchase of the Little Calumet property, we received three dollars in grant money for this restoration effort. We always try to get the most out of our supporters’ generous gifts.”

The 22-mile-long East Arm of the Little Calumet River rises from a series of seeps and springs at Headwaters of the Little Calumet Nature Preserve in Red Mill County Park in LaPorte County. It flows westward through the Heron Rookery and Bailly Homestead units of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore before emptying into the Burns Waterway, which feeds Lake Michigan at the Port of Indiana.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, local non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies are combining their efforts to preserve riparian habitat along the Little Calumet and promote the river’s potential for outdoor recreation. Shirley Heinze Land Trust is proud to be part of that effort.
Jane and John Marienau always had a strong commitment to the community in which they lived and to the causes that were important to them. They supported local charitable groups, and they included bequests to their favorite organizations in their wills. After John passed away in May 2011, Jane fulfilled his wish by directing that a generous donation from her late husband’s estate be made to Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

The Marienau lived in Michigan City from 1991 to 2009. John was the Chief Executive Officer of Fiber Bond, Inc., a manufacturer of industrial filter products. They learned about Shirley Heinze Land Trust during that time and were impressed with its mission.

“We were attracted by the fact that Shirley Heinze preserves land,” says Jane. “We felt it was important to support their efforts.”

John had a special respect for and connection to the land. “He was raised on a farm in Nebraska,” recalls Jane. “The family was not well off. They lived off what they could produce on their land.” That background played a great role in shaping John’s thinking about what is important in life.

It wasn’t just SHLT’s mission that appealed to John and Jane. “It is certainly a worthy cause,” says Jane, “but we were also impressed by the genuine and understanding way the staff at Shirley Heinze deals with its supporters. They’ve always made us feel that we are an appreciated part of the organization. That’s important to me.”

The Marieanus moved from Michigan City to Chicago three years ago. Jane still retains a home there, and she continues her tradition of support for community organizations by volunteering at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

“The story of John and Jane Marienau really touched me,” says Executive Director Kris Krouse. “We are confident that our mission is important, but ultimately our goal is to improve the quality of life for people in the communities we serve. Knowing that our work is appreciated means a lot to us. It is the generosity of people like John and Jane Marienau that makes it possible for us to achieve our goals.”

John & Jane Marienau
A Commitment to Community

In Memoriam
John Rutledge Hoppe
(1924-2012)

Shirley Heinze Land Trust sadly notes the death of long-time friend and supporter John Hoppe. A resident of Long Beach, John and his wife Eddi were strong advocates for natural land preservation in the Indiana Dunes region. John served on the Board of Trustees in the early 1990s and was on the Advisory Council for fourteen years. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family.
Introducing Kimberly Newhard

The newest member of the Shirley Heinze Land Trust staff is Kimberly Newhard. She joined us in June as Executive Assistant, after finishing a temporary position to help us prepare for the annual summer benefit.

Kim brings a scientific background, various experiences, and a commitment to environmental protection to her new job. As Executive Assistant, a full-time position, she will be involved in many aspects of SHLT’s work, including fundraising, grant applications, outreach, and land transactions. “I’m very happy to be around so many talented people dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural land in Northwest Indiana. It’s an important mission, and it provides a real service to people who might not even be aware of Shirley Heinze. I’m pleased to be a part of it all.”

Kim has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Indiana University Bloomington, with a minor in chemistry. Currently she is working on a Master of Business Administration degree from Purdue University North Central. “Throughout the years, I have accomplished many of my personal goals, and now I'm looking for a way to merge science with business.”

Kim has studied, worked, and traveled abroad in countries such as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Australia and has participated in two science-based “study abroad” programs: one lasted a month in Northeast Queensland, Australia, and the other was a semester-long program based in Monteverde, Costa Rica.

She appreciates international life so much that she has traveled to over 15 countries since 2003. During this time she assisted two PhD students with research: one in Nicaragua and the other in the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica. She was also the Student Affairs Manager at the Center for Sustainable Development Studies in Atenas, Costa Rica. “I became convinced that supporting an educational platform for students to learn field research techniques would ultimately serve as a means of educating the local community about their natural resources. As a result, there would be a better chance of providing long-term environmental protection by engaging both students and the local community.”

During this job she assisted with a yearlong mist-netting project which resulted in the publication of a paper in the International Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation (Revista de Biología Tropical), June 2011. The paper was called “Traffic noise affects forest bird species in a protected tropical forest.”

“It was clear from our very first contacts with Kim that her skills, commitment, and work ethic were a good fit for Shirley Heinze Land Trust,” says Executive Director Kris Krouse. “We’re delighted to have her on board.”

Improvements at Cressmoor Prairie Unveiled

A new informational kiosk and interpretive trail at Cressmoor Prairie were unveiled at the 2012 Shirley Heinze Land Trust community hike on August 4. Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor and Lee Casebere, Deputy Director of the DNR Division of Nature Preserves, headed the list of speakers at the event. Life Board Members Barbara Plampin and Myrna Newgent, who were instrumental in SHLT’s acquisition of the property, cut the ribbon that formally launched the new features.

“We are always working to make our nature preserves more accessible to the public,” says Education & Volunteer Manager Jim Erdelac. “We also want to enhance the educational experience for our visitors. The new sign and interpretive markers provide a wealth of information about the special habitats that are being protected by Shirley Heinze. We will be introducing similar improvements at our other properties.”

The 43-acre Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve is the largest permanently protected example of black-soil prairie in the state. It is one of five SHLT properties that have been dedicated to the people of Indiana as state nature preserves.
GLISTEN Interns Shine in the Field

Two area college students performed stewardship work on Shirley Heinze nature preserves this summer under the GLISTEN program.

Ali Olson is a Valparaiso University senior from Elburn, Illinois. A geography major, she will complete her degree in 2013. Ali hopes to find work in land conservation after graduation.

Olivia Price is a biology major at Ivy Tech Community College. The Crown Point native intends to pursue a bachelor’s degree from Purdue Calumet, aiming at a career as a medical technician.

The Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship Through Education Network (GLISTEN) is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the restoration of the Lake Michigan watershed by integrating efforts in education, stewardship, and research. It connects colleges with community partners to meet regional needs, such as water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and long-term tracking of restoration project results.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust partners in the Northwest Indiana collaboration with Indiana University Northwest, Valparaiso University, and Ivy Tech Community College. The project develops leadership skills and promotes career preparation for local undergraduates by providing summer job opportunities as stewardship liaisons in area nature preserves. After student participants spend the summer doing field work, they are encouraged to bring their experiences back to their professors and classmates to promote curriculum development and further enhance the partnership.

SHLT has been proudly hosting GLISTEN interns since the local program’s inception in 2010.

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2012 Bringing Nature Home Awards

Recognizing Home Gardeners & Institutional Landscapers Who Use Native Plants
(presented by Friends of Shirley Heinze)

**Individual Home Gardening**
Kevin & Laurie Cornett, Valparaiso
Spencer Cortwright Family, Valparaiso

**Institutional Landscaping**
Beverly Shores Environmental Restoration Group
Hammond Academy of Science & Technology (with Wildlife Habitat Council & BP)
International Friendship Gardens, Michigan City
Krueger Middle School, Michigan City
Safe Harbor After School Program, Michigan City
Valparaiso Parks Department

**MIGHTY ACORNS KEEP SPROUTING**

The 2011-2012 school year represented a major success for the Mighty Acorns environmental educational program, a joint venture of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, the Dunes Learning Center, and the Field Museum of Natural History. The program combines in-class lessons with outdoor activities, including field trips and stewardship exercises in SHLT nature preserves.

The Mighty Acorns curriculum was made available to 21 classes of 4th and 5th graders at three Hobart elementary schools and 11 classes of 4th graders at four Portage schools. Thirty-three classes comprising 865 students were served in total last year.

The program was bolstered in June by the announcement of a $10,000 grant from the Legacy Community Foundation of Lake County. The cash influx will facilitate an expansion of the program in the coming school year.

Mighty Acorns will be provided again at Hobart and will expand in the Portage Schools to include 5th graders. The Discovery Charter School in Porter will also introduce the program this fall to its 4th- and 5th-grade classes. We anticipate serving 49 classes comprising over 1,200 students in the three school systems during the 2012-2013 school year.
We are accelerating restoration efforts at a seven-acre parcel of high dunes in Miller acquired from The Nature Conservancy in 2006. A volunteer workday is scheduled for November 3. The goal that day will be to thin the dense understory of woody species that have become established in the oak woodland habitat in order to restore plant diversity to the site. We hope to engage the support of the surrounding neighborhood and will eventually establish a short trail that climbs the dune to provide a view of Lake Michigan.

**HOBART MARSH RESTORATION**

Work continues on the restoration of a 27-acre monoculture of hybrid cattail at Ivory Wetland. After two seasons of work, the entire complex has been herbicided and 15,000 plugs of native wetland plants have been put in place. The work was accomplished through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The grant allowed us to begin this major restoration effort, but much remains to be done. SHLT will seek additional grants and continue to spend time controlling cattails and other weeds that remain and/or may become established. We will plant additional plugs and broadcast seed until the native plant community is robust enough to provide more competition and deter re-infestation by weeds. The next two to three years will be a critical time to continue the restoration efforts begun at Ivory in order to ensure the project’s long-term success.

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**2012 VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Firebreak construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Miller Dunes</td>
<td>Savanna restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Ivanhoe</td>
<td>Savanna restoration</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), unless otherwise stated, and all events are open to any and all volunteers.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 29-Oct 2</td>
<td>Land Trust Alliance National Rally at Salt Lake City</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Community Luncheon and Bringing Nature Home Presentations</td>
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**WISH LIST**

Consider making a monetary donation to help purchase...

- Tools — hammers, wrenches, screwdrivers

Contributions to Shirley Heinze Land Trust are tax deductible. Call us at (219) 879–4725.

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Can’t wait until the next newsletter? Keep up-to-date with the latest Shirley Heinze Land Trust news by following us on:

**Website:** [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org)

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust](http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/HeinzeTrust](https://twitter.com/HeinzeTrust)
**Odds & Ends**

**Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation (MCCEC) Grant.**

The money will be used to increase public access at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve, including demolition of a dilapidated house, trail improvements, and the installation of new interpretive signage.

**Plants of Concern**

SHLT is coordinating monitoring activities of rare and endangered plants in eight of our nature preserves. Volunteers will be observing twelve different species under the auspices of the Chicago Botanic Garden’s Plants of Concern Program.

**One Region, One Vision for Northwest Indiana's Quality of Life**

Executive Director Kris Krouse has been named to the founding board of One Region, One Vision for Northwest Indiana's Quality of Life, a new organization dedicated to improving life for local residents. Other notable board members include the mayors of Gary and Valparaiso, the publisher of the Northwest Indiana Times, and the chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College.

**Community Fairs and Events**

SHLT provided hikes at Greiner Nature Preserve for supporters of Hobart’s Friends of Robinson Lake. We had a booth at the Porter County Earth Day event in Valparaiso. We were a co-sponsor of the Trail Creek Fun Float, a Northwest Indiana Paddling Association event in Michigan City.

**Shore Magazine**

Executive Director Kris Krouse was one of three individuals recognized in the article “Young Stars are Emerging in an Environmental Movement Around the Lake.” Also featured were Nicole Barker of Save the Dunes and Jonah Smith of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

**ArcelorMittal Natural Land Management**

SHLT and the Wildlife Habitat Council are assisting ArcelorMittal Steel Company on a management plan for 40 acres of dunes habitat located on its Burns Harbor plant.

**Hammond Academy of Science & Technology**

SHLT assisted in the construction of a geodesic dome greenhouse that will provide “hands-on” learning opportunities about plant propagation and serve as an outdoor science classroom. The Wildlife Habitat Council and BP Whiting Refinery also partnered.

**Nathan Hale Elementary School Native Plant Garden**

SHLT provided guidance for the installation of a native plant garden at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Whiting. The Wildlife Habitat Council and BP Whiting Refinery also partnered.

**Join the Legacy Circle**

There is no better or more painless way to demonstrate your support for the work of Shirley Heinze Land Trust than by including us in your estate plans.

- Make a charitable bequest in your will. This can be a fixed dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or specific designated property, such as real estate or securities.
- Designate SHLT as beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement plan.
- Name SHLT as beneficiary of your insurance policy.-- Contact your county’s community foundation about other options.

Consult with your financial planner or legal advisor, and join the Legacy Circle now!
The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation is a largely unsung hero in the success of land protection efforts in Northwest Indiana. Shirley Heinze Land Trust has had a productive association with the Foundation since 2005. Its generous support has played a key role in our efforts to fulfill our mission, develop long-term sustainability, and promote cooperation among local land protection entities.

The Chicago-based organization has a two-fold mission of land conservation and artistic vitality for communities in the Chicago region and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Shirley Heinze Land Trust has received support under the Foundation’s Calumet Land Conservation Initiative, an effort which seeks to help revitalize the Calumet community on both sides of the Illinois-Indiana state line by protecting and restoring more natural land. The Foundation has invested significantly in the region over the past five years.

The Foundation has had an enormous impact on Shirley Heinze Land Trust. Funds have helped us bolster our fundraising program by hiring consultants and purchasing upgraded computer software. The Foundation has funded a development staff position and the preparation of a new strategic plan. It has been a partner in the Moraine Forest Conservation Planning Project in LaPorte and Porter Counties, and it has assisted with the preparation of a feasibility study for a capital fundraising campaign. For the past several years, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has benefited from general support grants which have helped us cover both program and administrative expenses.

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation support to our partner organizations – the Field Museum, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Dunes, Wildlife Habitat Council, Woodland Savanna Land Conservancy, and others – has also benefited Shirley Heinze Land Trust. Programs like the Calumet Stewardship Initiative and the Mighty Acorns environmental education program have been reinforced, and the GDDF-supported Calumet Conservation Summit helped promote regional cooperation and build relationships among like-minded organizations in our area.

Since the beginning of our relationship with the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has increased its land holdings by more than 25 percent. We have forged partnerships and received grants to permit major restoration projects on all our major properties. We have developed an elementary school program that benefits more than 1,000 students each year. We have increased our support base and refined our fundraising and grant acquisition skills. We have strengthened our reputation as a regional leader in our field.

It’s no coincidence that all this has occurred. We are grateful to our important partner and reliable friend.

German Exchange Students Hosted

Shirley Heinze Land Trust treated fifteen German high school students to a nature hike in April. The visitors, all students at Christian-Ernst-Gymnasium in Erlangen, Germany, were participants in an exchange program sponsored by the Hobart school system. They were accompanied by two teachers from their home school, Kathrin Kaiser-Lombard and Volker Zwack. SHLT Education & Volunteer Manager Jim Erdelac introduced the group to local habitats along the Dunes Accession Trail at the West Beach unit of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
Every summer Heidi and I take our kids, Jak and Abigail, on a family vacation that includes too much driving, visits with family and friends, and lots of soggy ham and cheese sandwiches. This year we made the two-week character-building experience more memorable by bringing my father-in-law, Bud.

We spent the first leg of our outdoor adventure at a campground adjacent to Cape Cod National Seashore. The flora and fauna on the beach seemed similar to what we have on the shores of Lake Michigan. Harbor seals, salt water, and the lack of industry in the background did differentiate the place a bit.

Next we went to Maine to visit a long-time friend who recently bought a blueberry farm outside Rockland. I assured Heidi the accommodations would be adequate. I was wrong! There were no facilities at all. After we pitched our tent on rocky terrain, we had to build the latrine and solar shower we used during our stay. Then, Bud discovered he had brought only half the medications he would need, resulting in a flurry of phone calls. The kids didn’t mind the inconveniences; they were busy overindulging in blueberries.

At this point, all of us were happy to move on to the last leg of our journey, a visit to Acadia National Park on the rugged coast of Maine. After hauling five bikes halfway across the country, we put them to good use on the Carriage Roads, a system of paths financed by John D. Rockefeller between 1913 and 1940. The hiking was also great, and the kids enjoyed exploring tidal pools. But after three days, Bud’s patience was wearing thin, so we loaded the car and headed back to the Midwest. All in all, it was another memorable family vacation.

A few weeks later, we hiked as a family to the top of Mount LeConte in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is where Heidi and I would celebrate our 10th anniversary. We’ve grown to value our National Parks and the importance of the outdoors. We know our children will be physically and mentally healthier and have a much more enriching childhood because of these adventures.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust nature preserves can’t match the grandeur of our National Parks, but we’re nearby and you can visit every day if you want. There are now five miles of trails at Ambler Flatwoods. We have blueberries there too, and we don’t mind if you sample them while you walk. But please don’t set up your tents there, and make sure you’ve taken your meds before setting out!

Sincerely,
Kris Krouse