Ninth Annual Summer Benefit
Building Bridges for Generations
A Huge Success!

An animated crowd of 300 guests gathered at the 9th Annual Shirley Heinze Land Trust Summer Benefit on Saturday, June 2, at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton.

The benefit raised more than $100,000 to support preservation and restoration of natural lands in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties.

The event’s theme, “Building Bridges for Generations,” was a symbolic reference to SHLT’s mission, achievements, and future endeavors. Special emphasis was given this year to honoring the stewardship program and the restoration activities it conducts on the 1,200 acres of land the Heinze Trust manages.

Deb Baldwin, host of Comcast Television’s “Greener Ways,” served as master of ceremonies. The evening included presentations by President Dale Engquist and Executive Director Kristopher Krouse, a video featuring SHLT’s restoration efforts, and a special recognition honoring Stewardship Director Paul Quinlan’s ten years of service. Dale Engquist was also recognized for his outstanding leadership over the past three years as Board President.

The evening began with a champagne reception during which a variety of hors d’oeuvres were served while pianist Alexis Bratsakis provided musical accompaniment. Guests were then seated for a gourmet meal prepared by Chef Nathan Wronko.

A variety of fundraising opportunities were offered throughout the evening. Over $100,000 was raised to support the mission of Shirley Heinze Land Trust in all its endeavors. A paddle auction raised over $55,000 from nearly 120 individual donors to support restoration activities. Live auction items included travel packages to Rome, London, San Francisco/Sonoma, and Chicago, and a mystery dinner for eight.

The annual benefit is a celebration of the accomplishments of Shirley Heinze Land Trust and serves as a key source of support for land acquisition and restoration programs. The event has become a much-anticipated mainstay on the local social calendar. Plans are already underway for the 10th Annual Summer Benefit in 2013. Please mark your calendars for June 8, 2013.
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