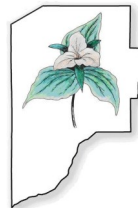


Hike Planned as Memorial to Phyliss Benn
 Christmas Bird Count Results
 Grant from Unity Foundation
 Paddling La Porte Lakes Outing Planned
 LPCCT Donor List

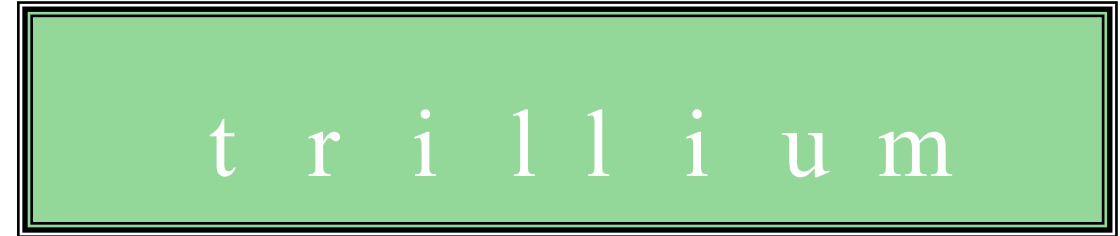
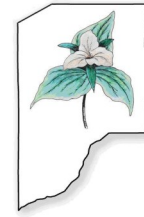
IN THIS ISSUE:

- fostering appreciation for and understanding of the natural environment
 - enabling the voluntary protection of environmentally valuable land
 - preserving environmentally significant lands and scenic areas
- To protect the natural diversity and scenic values of LaPorte County by

MISSION STATEMENT



La Porte County Conservation Trust, Inc.
 405 Maple Avenue
 La Porte, IN 46350



Spring 2011

Newsletter for the La Porte County Conservation Trust, Inc.

Phyliss Benn Remembered with Hike at Wintergreen Woods



Phyliss Benn, far right, on the Phyliss Benn Trail at Wintergreen Woods.

Photo by Glen Richardson

On February 7 2011 Phyliss Benn, a leader in numerous environmental organizations in La Porte County, passed away. A memorial hike for Phyliss Benn will be held at Wintergreen Woods on May 21 at 2:00 pm.

Phyliss was a founding board member of the Conservation Trust, our first Secretary and the writer of our by-laws. As an attorney and environmental activist she was uniquely qualified for these tasks. In honor of Phyliss the trail at Wintergreen Woods was named the Phyliss Benn Trail in 2003 and a trail guide was produced to highlight the features of the trail.

Phyliss was very involved in the Potawatomi Audubon Society and rarely missed a bird count. But Phyliss was not only looking up; on birding outings she would often spy a special wildflower which she would identify and describe to her birding partners. She was an expert at wildflower identification.

Phyliss realized that concerned people need to take real action to protect the environment. She wrote the wetlands ordinance for the City of La Porte, one of the few cities in Indiana to have such an ordinance. Once enacted, she was vigilant about enforcement of the ordinance. This did not make her popular among those seeking to develop the La Porte lakes shorelines, but this opposition did not deter her.

Also on May 21 there will be a trail dedication to Phyliss at Bluhm County Park at 10:00 am. A memorial service will be held at Cummings Lodge on May 22 at 2:00 pm.

Wintergreen Woods is located on 925 North 2 miles west of St. Rd. 39. Boots are recommended because the trail can be wet. For more information call Dennis Richardson at 219-778-2810.

LPCCT RECEIVES GRANT FROM UNITY FOUNDATION

The LPCCT has received a grant of \$3757.00 from the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County. The grant is distributed from the LaPorte County Conservation Trust Fund, a fund that is dedicated to the long term financial health of the LPCCT. As of December 31 2010 the fund contained \$84,586.71. Anyone interested in contributing to the fund may contact the Unity Foundation or the LPCCT.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The 25th annual Northeast La Porte County Christmas bird count was held December 15, 2010, with 14 people participating. A total of 46 species were observed. The LPCCT is a co-sponsor of the bird count along with the Potawatomi Audubon Society. Both LPCCT preserves were monitored during the count. A record number of Red-shouldered Hawks was counted, 6, which beat the old record of 5 set in 1993. La Porte County is one of the best places in the state to find this handsome raptor, which thrives in the wetlands that dot the moraine forest in the northern part of the county. These hawks nest here and are year around residents. Other interesting birds observed were Barred Owl, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Horned Grebe and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

GRAB YOUR PADDLE! PADDLING LAPORTE LAKES OUTING PLANNED FOR AUGUST 28

Join us and the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) on August 28th for a canoe trip through the "LaPorte Chain of Lakes". This will be our second annual paddling outing on the La Porte chain of lakes after a very successful initial outing last year. We'll meet at Cummings Lodge and begin the paddling at 2:00 PM. If you want to join us but don't have a canoe or kayak, just let us know and we'll arrange to have extra watercraft or provide space as a passenger. Participants should bring water, sun protection and life preservers (there will be some extra preservers available). After paddling, join us for a potluck dinner at Cummings Lodge. Call Liz McCloskey at 219-326-0700 for more information or to reserve a spot, or check the NWIPA Website at <http://www.nwipa.org/>

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS

Lake Michigan Level \$1000 or more

Nicholas Timm & Deborah Longworth
Dennis Richardson & Frances Sipocz-Richardson*
Potawatomi Audubon Society

Grand Kankakee Marsh Level \$500-\$999

Thermco Instrument Corporation
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Moraine Forest Level \$250-\$499

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Johnny Stimley
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Stump*
Nicole & Paul Straskowski
Lois Thomas
Bill Wagner
Daniel D. Warkentien
James & Sheryl Wilke*

*Denotes all or part of donation is memorial to Phyllis Benn

MAY BIRD COUNT SET FOR MAY 14

The Potawatomi Audubon Society will sponsor the Big May Bird Count on May 14. Participants will be covering the entire county counting the number of birds of each species. Due to La Porte County's position on Lake Michigan and the extensive forest and wetlands present, this county is one of the best places in the Midwest for birding. The highest species count for a county in Indiana was recorded in La Porte County. The data gathered in La Porte County is added to data from other Indiana counties which provides a valuable scientific record of the bird populations occurring each year in Indiana. For more information on the May Bird Count contact Joan Wisniewski at wisnews2@aol.com or 219-785-2765 or meet Jim Simon at Luhr County Park at 7:30 am on the day of the count.

POTAWATOMI AUDUBON SOCIETY DONOTES \$1000 TO LPCCT

To support the LPCCT's mission to preserve natural areas on La Porte County, the Potawatomi Audubon Society has decided to donate \$1000 to the LPCCT. The LPCCT and Audubon Society have worked closely together, with the LPCCT nature preserves Wintergreen Woods and Ridgway Wetlands used for field trips and bird count sites sponsored by the Audubon Society.

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