



t r i l l i u m

Summer 2008 Volume 7 Issue 1 Newsletter for the La Porte County Conservation Trust, Inc.



Photo by Glen Richardson

Hike at Ridgway Wetland

Despite rainy conditions, sixteen eager bird watchers visited Ridgway Wetland on April 19th for a joint outing between the Potawatami Audubon Society and the La Porte County Conservation Trust. Their efforts were rewarded with several interesting sightings. A Baltimore Oriole was seen visiting its nest. Migrating Blue-winged Teal were feeding in the shallow ponds that are greatly expanded this year due to the higher than normal precipitation. Northern Rough-winged Swallows had arrived from migration; a large number of these swallows are present at Ridgway during the summer. Yellow-rumped Warblers were feeding on tiny insects among the bushes near the water's edge. Bluebirds were present in the same area near the water. Sandhill Cranes and Wood Ducks previously seen the week before were not seen, but it is likely they were out of sight in the rear of the property which is inaccessible due to the high water conditions.

Birds were not the only animals of interest. A mink was observed in the channel along the west side of the property.

The water level was the highest seen since the Conservation Trust bought the property in 2004. This is an example of the preservation benefits of Ridgway Wetland to the ecology of the east side of La Porte. Ridgway Wetland holds water during high precipitation periods, cleanses it and reduces flooding in areas "downstream" of Ridgway.

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the natural diversity and scenic values of LaPorte County by

- preserving environmentally significant lands and scenic areas
- enabling the voluntary protection of environmentally valuable land
- fostering appreciation for and understanding of the natural environment

Prairie Hike at Dittmar Farm Scheduled for July

Jon Dittmar will lead a hike at the Dittmar Farm in Galena Township on Saturday, July 26th at 2:00 p.m. He has converted a former corn field of about twenty acres on his parents' farm into tall grass prairie. The prairie is maintained by periodic controlled burns. Jon, an ecologist, is the native plant nursery manager for J.F. New & Associates. This will be a joint hike between the Conservation Trust and the Potawatomi Audubon Society.

For further details and/or directions, please call 219-778-2810.



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Are you interested in preserving LaPorte County's natural resources? If so, consider a financial gift or a donation of land to the LPCCT. Your generosity will insure that future generations will enjoy the beauty of La Porte County. For further information visit www.lpcct.org

Don Bowman accepts a certificate of appreciation for his efforts with LPCCT from President Dennis Richardson.

Don Bowman Retires from Board

Don Bowman recently retired from the Conservation Trust board, serving since 2001. We will miss Don's valuable input as well as his humor. An accomplished artist, his talents were put to good use in designing the Conservation Trust logo and the trail guide for Wintergreen Woods. He also marked out the "rustic trail" at Wintergreen Woods. Don says we may call on him in the future for further artwork. Thanks Don!

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN
THE LA PORTE COUNTY CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

Annual Memberships

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00 Corporate: \$100.00

Additional Donations Welcomed

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Detach and return with your check to: La Porte County Conservation Trust, Inc.
405 Maple Avenue, La Porte, IN. 46350 Phone: (219) 778-2810

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Contributions are deductible for tax purposes.

