

REFLECTIONS

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2023

MISSION

To protect and enhance Steuben County's natural and built environment of lakes, rolling hills, streams, and neighborhoods, to stimulate and support a sense of community through conservation and research.

MOTTO

To practice environmental CPR:
Conservation | Preservation | Restoration





PROTECTED

Ryan Matthews has protected two undeveloped lots on Lake Pleasant through conservation easements with the 101 Lakes Trust.

Conservation easements protect land in perpetuity while allowing the land owner to retain rights to use the natural area within the parameters of the easement filed with the county assessor's office. The easement is attached to the land and must be honored by any future buyer.

To learn more, contact any 101 Lakes Trust board member. President Janet Albright can be called at 419-261-3333.

The 101 Lakes Trust goes by the Yoda rule: "Size matters not." Any bit of land, no matter how big or small, can be considered for a conservation easement.

NON-PROFIT

101 Lakes Trust is officially a 501-(c) (3) public charity, non-profit organization with an effective date of exemption beginning April 5, 2006.



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Betty-Lee Hepworth

A 101 LAKES TRUST FOUNDER

BETTY-LEE HEPWORTH ARRIVED IN STEUBEN COUNTY 83 YEARS AGO IN 1940. SHE WAS 7 YEARS OLD.

ON MARCH 26, BETTY-LEE DIED AT 89.

She had a long caring relationship for Steuben County and a piece of land her parents bought here. Resting in the glacial end moraine that it shares with Pokagon State Park, Trine State Recreation Center and Michigan's Irish Hills. The property is made of sandy hills, marshes, meadows, lakes and forests. For her it was part adventure and part mystery and it became part of the bones of who she was. At first the family camped out with a tent on the top of one of the hills, then sometime in the early 1950s, they built a cottage. Later, in the tail end of the 1960s, they built a guest cottage.

Betty-Lee's parents, Frank and Elizabeth, bought the property in 1940. Frank had a longtime romance with the wilderness, the American West, and a talent for telling tall tales; Elizabeth was a little more serious. Elizabeth was involved in her Grosse Pointe, Michigan community, an amateur ornithologist and botanist. She sighted over 120 species of birds on the property and collected specimens of the native flowers that grew there. In 1940, the property was on Frank's path between his rarely visited but official office in Chicago and his home in Detroit. Having a relatively low cost at the end of the depression, the family bought the property from the Clarks. That family farmed the property's hilly, low nutrient soil. Their house was on the opposite side of Feather Valley Road near where the Marsh Lake access is now.

After Betty-Lee's parents' death in the 1990s and her own acquisition of the property, having observed rampant changes in the area, Betty-Lee's interest in preserving the surrounding landscape and this bit of property piqued. Yet, to be sure, caring for landscapes, didn't begin with the property. Preservation and beauty were important to her throughout her life and her career in architecture. As a child she would walk in her Detroit neighborhood and imaginatively change the facade of houses to something that better suited her, the street, and other houses. When, having enrolled in the architecture program at

the University of Miami in Ohio in 1953, she was one of the very few women to have graduated with a degree in architecture and a master's degree in city planning. Students of that era at Miami University's architecture school had a particularly accomplished group of professors, many of whom were refugees from the second world war and the Shoah. Among them was Rudolf Frankel, a German pioneering modernist architect and planner who Betty-Lee kept in touch with until his death in 1974. Her life-long interest in history and preservation, however, was inspired by professor Ernest Connally. Connally contributed preservation policy to both the United Nations and the National Park Service.

Betty-Lee was always an activist. As a student she participated in protests against the construction of hackneyed buildings on campus. In Detroit during the 1960s, she participated in ant-racist organizations.

During the 1970s through the 1990s, she participated with a number of groups, including the Franklin Village Planning Commission, to maintain the historic and rural character of her chosen home of Franklin, Michigan. The name of her first design firm was called Preservation Planning. Betty-Lee's interest in caring for Steuben County landscapes was, thus, an extension of her having lived in the atmosphere of architecture and design as well as a close life-long association with a bit of land in Steuben County. In 2004, these relationships became valuable when she and others gathered to explore founding a new land trust. At the time there were land trusts that were intended to preserve specific properties, like Blue Heron Ministries as well as larger trusts that intended to preserve wild landscapes over wider connected regions like ACRES. There was a consensus that a countywide land trust was needed to preserve land and educate local residents. Betty-Lee gathered with a number of interested persons from Indiana's Department of Natural Resources, the Steuben County Lakes Council as well as professional naturalists and residents to discuss the possibility of the new trust. The group decided to pursue founding the trust

EMERGING OUT OF THE LAKES COUNCIL, THOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH IT, THE TRUST WAS FIRST NAMED THE STEUBEN COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL LAND TRUST. LATER, FOR EASE OF SPEECH ,THE TRUST WAS RENAMED THE 101 LAKES TRUST.

The next year, 2005, Betty-Lee was voted president of the trust. In 2007, the trust officially became a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Since its founding, the 101 Lakes Trust has organized educational events and worked to preserve landscapes in Steuben County.

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In an article about the founding of the trust in the Herald Republican, Betty-Lee is quoted: “The question is not that things change, but how they change.”

Betty-Lee and her parents arrived before the I-69 had been constructed in the mid-1960s and she remembers what it was like not to have a highway interchange in the area: “We tolerate the interstate highways because we’re used to them, she observed. Likewise, she remembered when most of the farmers gathered on Friday at the square in Angola with their horses tied to posts and rails. She had a horse named Dukie who was a companion on that hilly piece of property. With Dukie, she would ride the property’s meadows and along Hell’s Point Road and into Fremont to get a chocolate soda at the drugstore. She would tell how Dukie would rest his head on her shoulder when tired, how during thunderstorms Betty-Lee would keep Dukie calm, and, when Dukie couldn’t take the thunder any more, he would dash into the rainy forest, and she would have to fetch him back.

WRITTEN BY TAMMERON JONES-FRANCIS, BETTY-LEE HEPWORTH’S SON AND A FORMER 101 LAKES TRUST BOARD MEMBER.

Those interested in learning more about the 101 Lakes Trust and how to establish conservation easements are encouraged to attend its meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Cahoots Coffee Café, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola.

Essay contest

READ ALL ABOUT IT AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

The 101 Lakes Trust, a nonprofit land conservation organization, hosts an essay contest annually for youths and adults.

This year's theme is "Water therapy." And, this year the 101 Lakes Trust is doing something new – combining the essay contest with local libraries' summer reading programs.

The water therapy theme encourages people to think about how Steuben County's lakes, streams and wetlands areas keep them healthy and happy. Writers could also consider how these precious water resources keep the world around them healthy, providing a nourishing environment.

Contest entries could be researched, educational pieces or fanciful tales. Creativity is encouraged.

Prizes are awarded in youth and adult categories: first place, \$50; second place, \$25; and third place, \$10.

The contest period will run in conjunction with summer reading programs, starting in June and ending mid-July.

Watch the 101 Lakes Trust Facebook page for details.

**Entries can be submitted at
101lakestrust@gmail.com.**

The 101 Lakes Trust holds conservation easements on several key shorelines as well as protecting Powers Reserve in eastern Steuben County. The most recent addition was two parcels on Lake Pleasant, purchased and protected by Ryan Matthews.

Matthews received the 101 Lakes Trust's premier Environmental Visionary Award. Last year, Steuben County Lakes Council founder Pete Hippensteel received the second annual award, which recognizes those who stand out in their efforts to preserve, maintain and restore Steuben County's land and lakes.

The third annual Environmental Visionary Award will be presented at the 101 Lakes Trust's annual meeting Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Wild Turkey Shelter at the Trine State Recreation Area.

The 101 Lakes Trust was born in 2006 amid efforts to protect TSRA. The former church camp contains Gentian Lake, part of the Seven Sisters chain of lakes – a lake system that remains surrounded by nature.

Empowered

NONPROFIT CCL HAS AREA CHAPTERS

For those who want to get involved in national environmental politics, there is the nonprofit Citizens Climate Lobby. local lakes.

“WE BELIEVE IN WORKING TOGETHER, NOT AGAINST EACH OTHER. WE’RE NOT ABOUT VILLAINIZING EACH OTHER IN POLITICS,” SAYS THE CCL. “WE’D LOVE YOUR HELP REACHING ACROSS THE AISLE TO GET COMMON SENSE CLIMATE LEGISLATION ON THE BALLOT IN A WAY THAT HEALS THE DIVIDE IN AMERICA.”

There are 13 chapters in Indiana under the broader Great Lakes region, among 546 active chapters worldwide. It is easy to find the CCL online and if you reach out, real people will respond.

There is a weekly webinar for newcomers.

“If you have been worried about climate change and looking for a home where you can have a real impact, you have found it,” said Caillie Roach, membership coordinator. The CCL allows people to make a difference beyond their personal lifestyle choices, said Director of Programs Elli Sparks. And, it is completely nonpartisan.

In a webinar, the CCL’s Conservative Outreach Coordinator Drew Eyerly, a military veteran who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and other war-torn Middle Eastern locations, said becoming a father opened his eyes.

“What if she’s the veteran that follows in my footsteps and she’s in the VA suffering from exposure? What if she’s on a fossil fuel route and subject to an IED? How will I be able to look at her in the eye and say, ‘I knew that this could be an issue that you would have to face and I chose to do nothing about it,’” said Eyerly. “I am fighting climate change now so my daughters don’t have to. A lot of people say conservatives don’t care about climate change. That is not true at all. We just want sensible policies that don’t destroy the economy in trying to find the solution.”

The CCL offers leadership opportunities in red states like Indiana. It encourages conservative-based conversations that lead to sensible legislation.

Indiana Sen. Mike Braun led the charge to establish federal legislation helping to connect farmers, ranchers and foresters to the carbon market. Its focus is to help farmers, ranchers, and foresters understand and access carbon markets, benefiting the environment and boosting farm income at the

same time. Passed in 2021, the legislation helps producers to generate and sell carbon credits by setting up a third-party certification process through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bill also creates an online resource for farmers looking to connect with experts and established an advisory council to provide input to USDA to ensure the program remains effective and works for farmers.

“Farmers have always led the way on protecting our environment, and the Growing Climate Solutions Act helps them get paid for their sustainable practices through voluntary carbon credit markets,” said Braun. “Hoosiers and Americans want real-world solutions, and Growing Climate Solutions is a bipartisan, common-sense, pro-jobs win that farmers, industry leaders, and conservationists can all support.”

Sparks noted that over the last decade, progress has been made in including climate friendly provisions in federal law, with last year’s Inflation Reduction Act being a landmark success. The composite legislation aimed at curbing inflation by reducing the deficit also specifically promotes clean energy. Roach said climate change laws are spurred by a “steady drumbeat” from citizens. CCL volunteers have sent 172,498 emails and made 54,000-plus phone calls to congresspeople. Other methods of outreach including writing letters to the editor showing that newspaper readers care about climate change, hosting Earth Day events or planning talks in a community.

“Creating a new type of outreach is one of the most CCL things you can do,” said Roach. She said members of congress want to hear from locals like politicians, chamber members and nonprofit leaders.

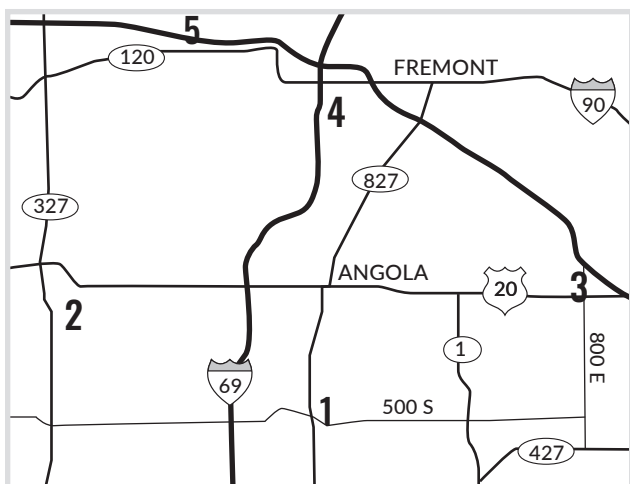
The CCL’s four main topics are carbon pricing, building electrification and efficiency, clean energy permitting reform and healthy forests.

“I saw clear cutting and herbicide spray and it was devastating to see how it impacted the land,” said Sparks of her time living in Virginia. “So I would like to see some climate-smart forestry, especially in rural communities”

Roach, a Minnesota resident, expressed a need for electrification – replacing technologies that use fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas with technologies that use electricity as a source of energy. In Minnesota it gets very cold in the winter and muggy in the summer, Roach said. “We rely on heating and cooling.”

The CCL relies on volunteers to get the word out not just to federal law makers, but to everyday citizens who can join the movement. The program is hopeful and positive built on collaboration, optimism, integrity, relationships, personal power, diversity and nonpartisan politics.

It encourages people to get out of the red vs. blue mindset and into conversations that can help shape our children’s future for the better.



1. LAKE MESERVE

Conservation easement on two lakeshore lots owned by Ryan Matthews. Matthews is planting fruit trees and beautifying the rare shoreline area near Pleasant Lake.

2. ARROWHEAD LAKE

Conservation easement on a western Steuben County lake lot owned by Ryan Matthews. The slice of nature is a wetlands paradise.

3. POWERS RESERVE

Provided by the Powers family near the historic Powers Church, the property has more than five generations of Powers history and Native American lore. It is a beautiful wooded area featuring diverse tree species and lush vegetation.

4. TRINE STATE RECREATION AREA

The property that now is Trine State Recreation Area, adjacent to Pokagon State Park, has a long history as a camp in Steuben County. When it went up for sale, the 101 Lakes Trust was formed and fought to make the 200 acres a public, protected natural area. Purchased by Ralph and Sheri Trine in 2006, it was transferred to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 2007.

5. LAKE PLEASANT

Two lots featuring wetlands and undeveloped shoreline on Lake Pleasant protected through conservation easements established by Ryan Matthews.

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

CHECK OUT GREEN BUS TOURS

Led by retired LaGrange County Parks interpretive naturalist Scott Beam. Green Bus Tours is an eco-tour company over thirty years in the making, says Beam. Some scenes of the evolution of the bright green bus can be seen on the Green Bus Tours Facebook page. Booking is through Facebook, Eventbrite, GreenBusTours@gmail.com or by calling 260-336-2610.

Please Join Us!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WED
AUG 16

7PM

Please join us for our annual membership meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.
in the Wild Turkey Shelter at
TRINE STATE RECREATION AREA.

The evening will feature
the presentation of the
ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONARY AWARD
and light refreshments.

*For details, contact President Janet Albright at
jalbright@bex.net or 419-261-3333 (call or text).*



Follow us on Facebook at 101 Lakes Trust.



Calendar 2023

BOARD MEETINGS

July 19 – Board meeting, Cahoots Coffee Cafe, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola, 7 p.m.

Aug. 16 – Annual meeting, Wild Turkey Shelter, Trine State Recreation Area, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 – Board meeting, Cahoots Coffee Cafe, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola, 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 – Board meeting, Cahoots Coffee Cafe, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola, 7 p.m.

Nov. 15 – Board meeting, Cahoots Coffee Cafe, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola, 7 p.m.

Dec. 20 – Board meeting, Cahoots Coffee Cafe, 218 W. Maumee St., Angola, 7 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

President

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THANKS

Meeting places

Cahoots Coffee Cafe
218 W. Maumee St., Angola, IN 46703

* Please submit any photos and written articles about Steuben County nature and conservation to amyoberlin7@gmail.com

Credits
Design & Printing - Hurd Media Group

2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return and send to P.O. Box 642, Angola, IN 46703. Please make checks out to: 101 Lakes Trust. We look forward to hearing from you.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Please include your e-mail address for notices of special events, meetings, etc.

Membership \$ _____ Donation \$ _____

Memorial Gift \$ _____ Donor _____ Honoring _____

Please Notify: Name _____ Address _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | |
|--|------------|
| ☐ Life Membership | \$1,500.00 |
| ☐ Benefactor | \$500.00 |
| ☐ Steward | \$250.00 |
| ☐ Patron | \$100.00 |
| ☐ Corporate | \$100.00 |
| ☐ Organization | \$40.00 |
| ☐ Family | \$35.00 |
| ☐ Individual | \$30.00 |
| ☐ Senior | \$20.00 |

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P.O. Box 642
Angola, IN 46703

