

Zionsville Residents Participate in Holliday Farms Plant Rescue

Drive on US 421 and just southwest of County Road 300 South and north of Willow Road you will see a new development under way. Holliday Farms, a 597-acre development, broke ground earlier this year and will include a variety of residential options, trails, parks and a championship golf course.

The property features a mesic forest with native plant species which presented a unique concern for one local group - the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS).

Earlier this year, Zionsville resident and INPS member Ingrid Baggie Wiebke contacted Henke Development Group, the developer behind Holliday Farms, about the possibility of "rescuing" native plants from the areas that were being cleared for development. With the help of Mayor Emily Stryker, Baggie Wiebke joined Judith Lieberman and Dee Ann Peine. INPS Native Plant Rescue leaders, to coordinate with the developers and assemble the INPS Native Plant Rescue Volunteer Team.

"Native plant rescue" refers to an organized volunteer event that digs and removes native plants from natural areas that are slated to be destroyed. While a rescue is an opportunity to save native plants from destruction, there are also risks involved. INPS has developed protocols to assure that rescues are done in a legal, ethical and successful way.

To save the native plants on the Holliday Farms property, the developers allowed INPS access to all available plots in the development and also sought permission from owners of the sold plots. The team, comprised of up to 16 volunteers and members of INPS, visited the property over the course of several days to perform the rescue.

The team found a diverse range of plants, many of which were woodland spring ephemeral species. All plants will be re-homed by the volunteer team, as well as shared for use in public spaces and for demonstrations or educational opportunities.

"The rescue team works hard to make sure that the plants are carefully replanted in suitable conditions so that they will hopefully thrive," said INPS member Coralie Palmer.

According to Palmer, the goal of INPS is to conserve and protect natural ecosystems and native plant communities. When this is not possible, a native plant rescue can save individual plants. In this particular property, the INPS volunteer team found a large area of mesic forest. Such relatively pristine native plant



INPS Native Plant Rescue committee leaders Judith Lieberman and Dee Ann Peine with Ben Henke from Henke Development Group



Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)



INPS Member and Zionsville resident Ingrid Baggie Wiebke

Plant Rescue continued

communities with low incidence of invasive species are quite unusual and are ecologically valuable.

"The developers have expressed an interest in trying to reduce the ecological footprint of the development and one key way of doing this is to protect areas of native plant habitat and to use native plants in landscaping," said Palmer. "While we do our best to carefully re-home the plants that are rescued, it is extremely difficult to recreate a complex ecosystem. We are very hopeful that the developers and new owners of the Holliday Farms properties consider leaving as much as possible of this fragile habitat undisturbed."

To learn more about the INPS, visit: <https://indiananativeplants.org>. For those interested in volunteering with INPS, email landscape@indiananativeplants.org.

Holliday Farms Plant Rescue: What Was Found

- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- Sessile Trillium (Toadshade) (*Trillium sessile*)
- Drooping Trillium (*Trillium flexipes*)
- Purple Trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*)



Sessile trillium (Toadshade) (*Trillium sessile*)

- Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
- Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
- Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)
- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
- Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*)
- Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
- Ramps (*Wild Leeks*) (*Allium triocculum*)
- Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
- Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Ohio Buckeyes (*Aesculus glabra*)
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
- Large-flowered Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*)... and more!