



Isle La Motte Preservation Trust

protecting our Natural and Cultural Heritage

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December 2, 2025

Board of Directors

Linda Fitch
Elizabeth Lee
Julie Andrus
Barbara Sweet
Christine Wilkens

2025 Isle La Motte Preservation Trust Update and “Vision 2026” Fund Drive

Greetings Friends,

As we approach the end of 2025, many of us have the opportunity to look back and reflect on all that has taken place this year. Like you, we at the Isle La Motte Preservation Trust (ILMPT) find we have so much to be thankful for, and so much we still hope to accomplish. We are grateful to all of you who volunteered your time and donated resources to get the preserves open and staffed this year. Everyone’s time is so valuable, and we thank all who received this letter for spending a few moments to read about ILMPT’s 2025 highlights:

2025 Highlights

- **Board Reorganization:** In May, Julie Andrus and Christine Wilkens joined longtime volunteer Barbara Sweet on the ILMPT Board, supporting Linda Fitch, President Emeritus, and Elizabeth Lee, President, as board members serving until December 31, 2026. Andrea Carbone was appointed ILMPT Board Administrator and expanded ILMPT’s social media presence.
- **Docent Training and Facility Improvements:** Under this reinvigorated leadership, the Goodsell Ridge Preserve opened in June, with many volunteers assisting in cleaning and organizing the Visitor Center. Docent trainings were held with long-time volunteers and several new recruits. Trails were groomed, and new stairs were installed at the Barn. Venmo was added to allow visitors to donate or purchase items at the Visitor Center.
- **Community Potlucks:** In July, the bimonthly potluck dinners were reinstated and were well attended by Friends of the ILMPT.
- **Visitor Engagement:** Docents welcomed to the Visitor Center approximately 600 individual guests this season, opening the barn on weekends from June through September; hundreds more are estimated to have visited the preserves this year. In September and October, several school groups visited the Ridge and Quarry hosted by Linda Fitch and other volunteers.
- **Website and Trail Development:** In October and November, the new ILMPT website was launched. The “Walk Through Time” field trail and signs received final touches in preparation for installation in early spring 2026. Grounds work, including mowing, weed-whacking, brush-hogging and debris removal, was expertly completed by volunteers and local contractors.

Vision 2026: How You Can Help

As we look ahead, we ask you to consider supporting ILMPT in 2026 by volunteering or making a financial contribution to our “Vision 2026” fund, which will support:

- **Printed educational packets for visitors, including scavenger hunts and interactive materials.**
- **Farmhouse repairs recommended by our insurers for the space which is utilized as the ILMPT office and has housed visiting scholars, musicians, and preserve rangers.**
- **Visitor Center Barn improvements: wiring, windows, and siding**
- **Increased Visitor Center hours through committed docent volunteers.**

We thank you and wish you a joyful Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

The Isle La Motte Preservation Trust Board

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