

Sycamore Land Trust buys 43 acres in Lawrence County: www.heraldtimesonline.com

By Bethany Nolan
331-4373 | bnolan@heraldt.com
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A 43-acre site in Lawrence County purchased by Sycamore Land Trust and other partners will be dedicated as a state nature preserve.

The Back Creek Nature Preserve is just east of the terminus of Ind. 446 into U.S. 50, and the property can be seen along the north side of U.S. 50 when crossing the bridge over Back Creek, according to land trust outreach coordinator Erin Hollinden. It is home to several rare plants and trees, including Eastern hemlock trees, purple flowering raspberry, goatsbeard and trout lily, she said.

In addition, she said, the land trust negotiated with oil and gas leaseholders to release surface rights to the property.

"The Department of Natural Resources and Sycamore Land Trust and others have been look at this site for a long time, and really wanted to save it," Hollinden said. "It's very close to where the Hoosier National Forest ends."

It's also close to other preserved land, she said, and is about 6 miles from the Department of Natural Resources' Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve and about 4 miles from the land trust's Jeremy K. Oakley Nature Preserve.

The property was privately owned, but was purchased at auction in 2007 by an anonymous friend of the land trust who knew the organization had been interested in the site, Hollinden said.

The land trust's recent purchase of the \$80,000-tract was made possible by a combination of dollars from its members, the Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust, she said. The state trust is funded through General Assembly appropriations, environmental license plate sales and private donations, and the money is used to help organizations buy land for wildlife habitat and recreation.

The property is open to the public, but is not easily accessible since there's no parking nearby, Hollinden said.

Want more?

For more information about Sycamore Land Trust, visit <http://www.bloomington.in.us/~sycamore/>, call 812-336-5382 or e-mail info@sycamorelandtrust.org.

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Sycamore Land Trust board member Carol Ritter with the beech and hemlock trees.
Courtesy photo: Sycamore Land Trust



Close-up of the hemlock at Back Creek
Courtesy photo: Sycamore Land Trust



Hemlocks

Courtesy photo: Sycamore Land Trust



Back Creek
Courtesy photo: Sycamore Land Trust

