

# Protecting and preserving: Sycamore Land Trust adds land, gets state designation

By Carol Kugler 331-4359 | [ckugler@heraldt.com](mailto:ckugler@heraldt.com)  
0/0/

Sycamore Land Trust is celebrating the donation and protection of two pieces of land in south-central Indiana, one in Greene County and the other in Brown.

Although the properties are in different counties, both have mature forests, ridges and special features that are worth protecting.

## Dilcher-Turner

The Greene County property, known as Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest, is new to the land trust. It is named for the people who donated the property, which has deep ravines, land sandstone outcroppings, several waterfalls and what the trust calls a high-quality mature forest.

The land was donated to Sycamore Land Trust shortly before the end of 2013, according to Katrina Folsom, communications director for Sycamore Land Trust.

It will be protected forever in its natural state,15919 she said.

The property is 68 acres and covers bluffs and ridge lines with outcrops. The land was donated by David and Kathy Dilcher and Rudi Turner. David Dilcher and Turner were both professors at Indiana University when they purchased the property. Turner, a retired IU biology researcher, has an interest in orchids, which are found on the property, as are walking ferns and club moss.

They didn't want anything to happen to it once they no longer owned it,9793 Folsom said. The two families have owned the property for about 40 years and except for adding some trees to control erosion, have done little to the land.

Its one of the most perfect ways for this to happen, Folsom said, adding that since the land is in its natural state it will now stay that way forever.

The only additions the land trust is likely to add are some trails. Before that happens, the land trusts stewardship committee will assess what natural features and plants and land structures of special concern the property may have. That way extra care will be taken to protect those features. If normal trails will impact the landscape in a negative way, Folsom said, boardwalks and observation decks may be installed instead.

The main challenge with the property will be constructing a parking area since there is little road frontage available, Folsom said.

## Trevlac Bluffs

The second property Sycamore Land Trust is celebrating is Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve, which was recently named as a dedicated state nature preserve by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.835The land has some spectacular bluffs above Beanblossom Creek that include a rare stand of eastern hemlock trees.

The land was part of a purchase by The Nature Conservancy, which bought about 328 acres in August 2006. At that time, the property was about to be developed, with 30 residential lots already marked off, according to Dan Shaver, Brown County Hills manager with The Nature Conservancy. The conservancy acted quickly to preserve the land instead, buying it before development began, then transferred part of the land to the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and it became part of Yellowwood State Forest.

The conservancy then gave more than 100 acres to the land trust.

Additional land was added to the Sycamore Land Trust area over the years, with more parcels being added recently. There was a 2-acre parcel in a key location that was given to the land trust, according to John Lawrence, assistant director of the trust.165152

339370912Things sometimes fall in your lap like that, he said, adding that another land purchase added almost 40 acres to the nature preserve. The preserve consists of 233 now, and the trust is working to add another 23 acres soon, he said.

Designation as a state nature preserve adds another layer of protection and recognition of the lands significance, Lawrence said. There is now an extra level of management oversight that will help protect the hemlocks and other special features at Trevlac Bluffs.

The designation means that management efforts at the property will now have to be approved by state officials before any work can be done. But that doesn't mean that a parking lot and trails can't be added or that efforts to remove invasive plant species can't be undertaken; it just has to be done with proper approval.

John Bacone, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves, said the state has worked with Sycamore Land Trust to try and visualize the things that will be needed in the future at the property. That includes signs, a parking lot, trails and ways to control invasive species.

Besides the eastern hemlock trees, Lawrence said, the property has an area of floodplain forest near Beanblossom Creek, which runs along the base of the bluff. The land was not turned into farmland, like most other places in the area.

Bacone added that the endangered cerulean and worm-eating warbler are known to nest in the area. And eastern hemlock trees can be found in only about 10 places in Indiana.

The land is also known as part of a large forested tract of land that runs from Brown County down to the Ohio River that has been designated as one of three blocks in the Midwest that now is critical to migratory songbirds.

We've all been occasionally helping to protect pieces to make sure this remains intact and block in some of these large, forested areas,979317 Bacone said.

out\_trevlac bluffs pic 0216



out\_dedicated nature sign p



out\_dilcher turner pic 0216



sm\_Trevlac\_0216.jpg

# Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve



sm\_Dilcher\_0216.jpg

# Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest

