

Wildlife photographer joins Sycamore Land Trust, will document preserves

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Steve Gifford, a wildlife photographer who many know for his bobcat photo, seen at right, has joined Sycamore Land Trust's Board of Directors. By showcasing what Indiana's natural areas have to offer, Gifford propels forward the work of Sycamore Land Trust and other conservation organizations.

"As a wildlife photographer in southern Indiana for the last 10 years or so, I have become very familiar with the unique and ever-changing landscape of our little corner of the world," Gifford said in a news release. His appreciation for protecting the region's natural beauty and diversity motivated him to join the board, where one of his major contributions will be to document Sycamore Land Trust preserves and publicly promote them.

Gifford will also use his intimate knowledge of southwestern Indiana to help identify properties with high conservation potential.

A resident of Haubstadt, Gifford dedicates three to four days a week to taking photos of natural areas throughout southern Indiana. His photographs of the landscapes, wildlife and even the people who benefit from Sycamore's work help create an emotional connection with donors, volunteers and others who are essential to local land conservation and environmental education efforts.

"I enjoy sharing the excitement of good works with like-minded individuals or groups in the hopes it will stir within these folks the desire to be part of these good works," Gifford said.

Sycamore's current board and staff are pleased Gifford is joining the team. "Steve has already done so much to raise awareness and help us protect more land," said Christain Freitag, executive director of Sycamore Land Trust, in the release. "That first photo of the bobcats was a showstopper and I can only imagine the amazing things he is going to show the world when he starts photographing more Sycamore preserves."

Sycamore Land Trust is a regional nonprofit that protects important natural areas and family farms in 26 southern Indiana counties, and provides environmental education to connect people of all ages to the wonders of nature.

As it celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2015, Sycamore has permanently protected more than 8,300 acres of land and continues to grow rapidly.

For more info, go to www.sycamorelandtrust.org, email katrina@sycamorelandtrust.org, or call 812-336-5382.

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