



Sycamore Land Trust

Media Coverage

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Three families sell land that adds 60 acres to nature preserve

The “bargain sale” of land by three families has added 60 acres to the Scarlet Oak Woods preserve owned by Sycamore Land Trust.

Bill and Lorraine Hanna of Bloomington and two anonymous couples recently sold adjoining land to the land trust, which protects land in southern Indiana. The families sold the land for less than the appraised value, essentially donating a portion of the land. More funding for the purchase was provided by the Bicentennial Nature Trust, which provides a one-to-one match in funding for such projects across Indiana.

The land not only adds to the land trust’s preserve but also helps connect parts of Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe state forests, Brown County State Park and the Hoosier National Forest, thus providing a larger tract of uninterrupted forest land. The new acreage is mostly wooded, according to Abby Perfetti, communications director with Sycamore Land Trust.

“It creates more habitat space for songbirds that migrate here in the fall and spring,” Perfetti said. The forested land is home to migratory songbirds and other species including the eastern box turtle, barred owls and wood thrushes.

The Hannas decided to sell their farm to Sycamore Land Trust after reading an article in The Herald-Times about a land donation from Bill and Kathleen Oliver, according to Perfetti.

The Scarlet Oak Woods property has 66 acres and was named for the scarlet oak trees that have brilliant red leaves each fall. The land includes a ridgeline and creek valley that is covered in mostly mature, open forest. The property borders part of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Danny Smith II neighborhood.

There is already a half-mile trail on the property, and the plan is to add more trails on the newly acquired land that would connect with the current trail, Perfetti said.



Bill and Lorraine Hanna of Bloomington stand on the land they sold to Sycamore Land Trust.