the twig

FALL 2015

www.sycamorelandtrust.org

Three New Preserves

PAGES 2, 6, 7

Sustainers

Support made easy

PAGE 4

Celebrate

Annual Celebration: October 23

PAGE 11

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST

25 YEARS into FOREVER

Make a lasting impact

Newest preserve shines with potential

Photo by John Lawrence

Sycamore's 3rd largest acquisition will return 339 acres to nature

BY KATRINA FOLSOM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Imagine another Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve. A large preserve along Beanblossom Creek with habitat for bald eagles and woodcocks. A place to witness the regeneration of forest and wetland. A diverse resource for environmental education.

Introducing Sycamore's newest preserve: 339 acres with over a mile of frontage along Beanblossom Creek in northwest Monroe County. This preserve will be named for the Sam Shine Foundation, which helped make the purchase possible. It is Sycamore's *third largest acquisition ever*. It's also the most significant project so far in the Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area. And it's all thanks to our wonderful supporters!

This preserve protects an ecologically important area, provides a home for threatened and endangered species, and will create opportunities for public recreation and education. These are all priorities of the Bicentennial Nature Trust, which contributed match funding toward the purchase from Mike Edgeworth.

AN EXCITING RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

As with Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve, which encompasses almost 600 acres acquired in pieces from 1995 – 2015, this new preserve offers an exceptional opportunity to restore a sensitive area. Sycamore will keep the current fields in agricultural production for several years while restoration plans are fully developed and funded. This will help control invasive plants until habitat restoration efforts—such as planting bottomland hardwood trees—begin.

For years, people like you have enjoyed strolling the boardwalk at Beanblossom Bottoms, watching the former farm fields transform into vital habitat for wildlife. Few things are more awe-inspiring than the spiraling mating dance of the woodcock. It has also been an ideal place for students to learn about wetlands, natural succession, and a variety of plant and animal species.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sycamore plans to open this preserve for public visitation and enjoyment in time. This new preserve has similar potential for environmental education and enjoyment by hikers, birders, and nature photographers. We plan to build a parking lot near the top of the hill overlooking this beautiful southern Indiana landscape. If you want to be part of these efforts as a funder or volunteer, let us know!

Thank you to the Sam Shine Foundation, the Bicentennial Nature Trust, Mike Edgeworth, and Sycamore members for protecting it for future generations of Hoosiers!

Photos by Katrina Folsom

(Right top) Colorful ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and other valuable wildlife plants cover a significant portion of the new preserve.

(Right bottom) Beanblossom Creek runs along the side of the new preserve for over a mile, providing a beautiful wildlife sanctuary.

(Facing page) A preserve this big is worth seeing from the air! Thank you to Bill Oliver for giving our Assistant Director, John Lawrence, a fly-over with his camera. You're looking southeast, with Beanblossom Creek bordering the property along the left and bottom of this photo.

On the Cover

Adi Zalewski shoulders his butterfly net and prepares to head out on a Sycamore Li'l Hikers outdoor experience. For a schedule of upcoming Li'l Hikers events, see pages 12 – 13. *Photo by Marcin Zalewski*

Ordering up a double scoop

Sycamore Sustainers savor steady support

In an alternate universe, I could enjoy coffee Oreo ice cream and mint brownie chunk in the same dish. What I'm trying to say is: I'm excited about the opportunity to run a business again, but I'm sad about leaving Sycamore. Why couldn't I have both?! I've been so proud to represent Sycamore Land Trust and I already miss working with all the organization's wonderful supporters.

Unwilling to give up one of my favorite flavors, I gave my dilemma more consideration. I realized that in some ways, I *can* have both. I can still be the Sycamore supporter I've been for the past 17 years.

Thinking about everything I've learned, this one thing really stands out: the value of unrestricted donations. One of the most effective actions anyone can take to protect land is to join the **Sycamore Sustainers** program with monthly unrestricted gifts.

Because Sycamore can leverage every unrestricted dollar to save $7 to $10 worth of land, **it is *the* way to make your donation dollars go the farthest.** It's the way many Board members support the organization. It's how our past Development Director Patrick Petro continues to support Sycamore. And it is one of the ways I'm going to support Sycamore from now on.

This steady support, automatically transferred from your bank account or credit card, helps Sycamore act quickly when exciting conservation opportunities arise. It also helps you budget. Many people find it's possible to give more as a monthly donor than by writing one check a year. That might be $10 to $25 a month for you, or it might be $100. And it's so easy! Learn more and sign up at **www.sycamorelandtrust.org/sycamore-sustainers.**

Sheryl Woodhouse Keese

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you with this rewarding work!

P.S. Thank you to Patrick Petro for designing our new Sycamore Sustainers logo!

We thank Sheryl for all she has done for Sycamore! We'll introduce you to our new Development Director in the next issue of this newsletter.

Preserve a Preserve

Work with us to expand your preservation impact

Jaime Sweany

Volunteering is a fun, rewarding, and personal way you can contribute to Sycamore Land Trust! You will meet like-minded people, have stimulating conversations, see beautiful places, and get to know the hard-working Sycamore staff. You can participate in a way that fits your own interests, schedule, and needs. Here are two options to consider:

Meet with me and we'll explore the best fit for your contribution to our local land conservation work.

Sign up for our new monthly volunteer e-newsletter! It will keep you posted on upcoming opportunities, many of which you can conveniently register for online. Simply visit **www.sycamorelandtrust.org** to subscribe—or contact me at 812-336-5382 x100.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY HIGHLIGHT

We have an exciting new volunteer opportunity for you! Roll up your sleeves on Third Thursdays and help "Preserve a Preserve!"

You can make a significant difference while meeting new friends, enjoying the outdoors, and sharing a light lunch together. September marked our first **Preserve a Preserve** day at Cedar Crest, Sycamore's office and nature preserve. Sycamore's Assistant Director, John Lawrence, heads up these workdays. Their purpose is to maintain and improve our preserves both for public enjoyment and for the many animals and plants that call them home.

Depending on the needs of each preserve we visit, the project may entail removing trash or invasive plants, restoration projects such as planting trees, building or clearing trails, and more. We now have over 40 preserves to manage and more on the way, so your help is vital!

NEW!

***Preserve a Preserve* on Third Thursdays**

SEE PAGES 12 & 13 FOR DETAILS.

October 15 at Porter West Preserve (Monroe County)

November 19 at Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve (Brown County)

February 18*

March 17*

April 21*

**Locations and times to be determined. No workdays in December or January.*

Photo by Katrina Folsom

On a sultry summer evening, friends, family, neighbors, and Sycamore staff gathered for the dedication of the Fix-Stoelting Preserve. We were all touched by Julie's heartfelt gratitude and relief when she said, "I don't have to worry anymore about what will happen to this land." Julie and Kent Stoelting stand with their son Jackson, who was thrilled to discover his name is on the sign!

'The best of both worlds'

Family finds preserving their land a perfect solution

BY KATRINA FOLSOM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

"It's always been part of my life," says Julie Stoelting. Now her family has ensured that their land will always be a beautiful natural area.

The 31-acre Fix-Stoelting Preserve is the second property acquired as part of the Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area. The preserve has a half-mile of frontage along Beanblossom Creek, along with bottomland woods, a field, and an unusual tall wooded knob.

The preserve's name honors the family of Julie and Kent Stoelting. They generously sold the land below appraised value to help Sycamore qualify for matching funds from the Bicentennial Nature Trust. "It's a memorial for my father and a legacy for my son," Julie said.

Julie grew up riding horses and camping out at the Monroe County property, which belonged to her father Wayne Fix. He recently passed away and because Julie's family lives in Greenwood, they were considering selling the property. Then they received a letter from Sycamore expressing interest in protecting land in the Beanblossom Creek corridor. "It was perfect timing," Julie said. "Donating it is the best of both worlds: it gets to be preserved, but I can visit it anytime."

You ensure Sycamore is there when opportunities arise

New Brown Co. preserve protects wildlife, scenery

BY KATRINA FOLSOM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Even as we pull out all the stops to preserve land along Beanblossom Creek for Indiana's bicentennial, we continue projects throughout southern Indiana. Your support enables us to perform this balancing act. So *thank you* for ensuring Sycamore's services are available when people like Jon Stafford want to protect their land!

Jon approached us about preserving his land, which shares a border with Brown County State Park. He donated 46 acres of beautiful woods, fields, and a creek—now called the Stafford Family Preserve.

This land was well cared for by Jon and his family. They used the property as a weekend getaway. "Having the farm was a nice escape," says Jon. It served as a location for family reunions, camping, bonfires, and stargazing. They also operated a Christmas tree farm in the bottomland fields.

This bottomland is high quality wildlife habitat, as Sycamore members Jess Gwinn and Joan ten Hoor found during a butterfly count in early June. They tallied over 100 great spangled fritillary butterflies attracted to the abundant milkweed there.

Photo courtesy of Jon Stafford

Jon Stafford and his late wife Linda Berg Stafford, flanked by children Catherine and Christopher, dressed for work on the family's Christmas tree farm. The family recently donated 46 acres adjacent to Brown County State Park to Sycamore.

When the Stafford family bought the property, it included a barn of hand-hewn logs that dated back to at least 1857. It was in serious disrepair, so Jon saved the logs and used them to build a rustic cabin. This land helped fulfill Jon's love of woodworking and his desire to teach his children practical skills. "Being at the farm was part of learning handy skills," he says. "It convinced them that they could do anything if they set their mind to it."

The land is located at the end of Upper Schooner Road. The Stafford family retained an adjacent parcel where their cabin is located. Once we devise access to a parking area that respects the family's privacy, the preserve will be open for public enjoyment.

This land holds a special place in the hearts of the Stafford family members. Now, Jon says, "I hope the public in a small, quiet way can enjoy it. Hiking, enjoying the trees and wildflowers…it's a pretty little spot."

Who's been here? What is that? Asking lots of questions is a powerful way to learn about our natural world. During Li'l Hikers outings, Outreach Event Coordinator David Rupp encourages the children (and parents!) to ask questions about anything that catches their eye.

'Who's Been Here?'

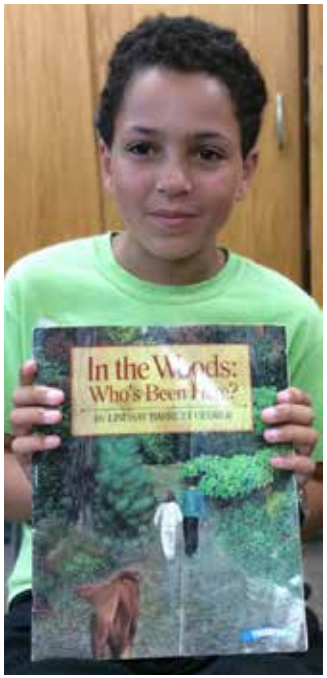
How one book changed my inquiry process

BY SHANE GIBSON, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

"Dad, who's been here?" Sawyer asks as he holds up a small limb that is almost yellow and bright compared to its surroundings. We examine closer and see bark still attached and distinct patterns left by the animal's incisors. Other clues help tell the story. We are on a lake shore. Stumps with tapered tops are nearby.

On another outing, my other son Tanner asks, "Who's been here?" as he holds up a small, broken Styrofoam cup. He stands next to burnt logs, fish remains, and other human-made debris. The critters in question were obvious.

On both occasions, Sawyer and Tanner already knew what had been here—a beaver and people—from our many other explorations. But that did not stop them from asking the question, "Who's been here?" The question has become what guides our family's inquiry.



Sawyer with his birthday gift book "In the Woods: Who's Been Here?" by Lindsay Barrett George. Author George has also written, "Around the Pond: Who's Been Here?" and "In the Snow: Who's Been Here?" Books like this spark questions and add knowledge about nature.

Lindsay Barrett George's "In the Woods: Who's Been Here?" (Greenwillow Books, 1998) was a birthday gift to my boys for their first and third birthdays. Both boys celebrate in August so they often share gifts. Picture books are usually thought of as children's books, but I have never thought that way. I believe good books are good books. My IU School of Education professors Jerome Harste and Carolyn Burke read a picture book to our graduate-level classes almost daily. "In the Woods: Who's Been Here?" provides an inquiry method that is useful for all who enjoy reading the land and investigating the wonders of nature.

Whether on my own, with a group of second graders, or a group of adults, asking good questions trumps reciting facts almost every time. "Who's Been Here?" is not just a good book for us all to enjoy, it is a lens through which to see the world.

Enjoy yourself. Enjoy nature.

Shane

You can make a permanent impact on Sycamore's work to connect children and adults with nature by donating to our Environmental Education Endowment. Your gift will be matched up to $250,000 by an anonymous donor. Make a donation (or pledge a larger gift today and pay by March 31, 2016) at www.cfmbc.org/donate-now/. In the "A Named Fund" field, write "Sycamore Monarch Environmental Education Endowment." Thank you!

Breakfast with the Birds

Birders enjoy seeing warblers, cuckoo

The rain didn't keep people away from Breakfast with the Birds on Saturday, May 16! Eagle Slough Natural Area in Evansville is a birding hotspot because of its location on a principal route of the Mississippi Flyway, and is a popular stopover for migrating warblers. At this event, the uncommon black-billed cuckoo was a highlight. You're also almost guaranteed to see yellow-throated and prothonotary warblers during nesting season in the summer. Thank you to all the avid Eagle Slough volunteers who lead hikes and maintain the preserve!

(Above) The observation deck at Eagle Slough Natural Area in Evansville provides an excellent vantage point for viewing migrating birds.

(Right) Sycamore Board member Greg Meyer enjoys the company of his granddaughter Maddie at Breakfast with the Birds in Evansville on May 16.

Sycamore branches out to a new generation

Photo by Katrina Folsom

BY KATRINA FOLSOM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

There's a well-recognized need within the conservation community to cultivate a new generation of leaders, especially as baby boomers begin to retire. Connecting young people to the mission—and to each other—is a good place to start.

"It has been a bit of challenge to find an awesome group of like-minded people who enjoy doing many of the same things I enjoy. Being a member of Sycamore Branches has exceeded my expectations on every front. I have met fantastic people who are passionate about nature– and are also just a great time!"
–Lauren Harling, Sycamore Branches committee member

That is precisely what a core group of Sycamore Land Trust supporters in their 20s and 30s are doing. With the support of Sycamore staff, they have formed the Sycamore Branches group to build community among people in their 20s and 30s with an interest in the outdoors.

The group organizes events that highlight preserved land and engage people who like nature. Highlights so far include two hikes followed by socializing at Upland Brewing Company, and a nature trivia night. Learn more at sycamore-landtrust.org/sycamore-branches.

(Above) A large group of 20- and 30-somethings had fun and discovered a new hiking spot during an event at Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest, followed by drinks at Upland Brewing. Already, the connections formed by the group have energized local young people who love the outdoors.

Team Sycamore mounts up for second Climate Ride

The 2015 Climate Ride Midwest started on Sunday, September 27 from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and concluded Wednesday, September 30 at Northerly Island in Chicago. Last year, the Sycamore Climate Ride Midwest team rode about 300 miles in four days over the same route. Thank you to our 13 team members, their donors, and our sponsors Muddy Fork Farm & Bakery and Bicycle Garage for such a strong showing of support!

Photo by Jaime Sweeny

Team Sycamore ready to ride! L – r: Robert Meitus, Sheryl Woodhouse Keese, Doug Dayhoff, Andrea Oeding, Jeff White, DeeDee Dayhoff, Jeff Mease, Legene White, Pete Batule, Tom Zeller, and Jennifer Hottell. Not pictured: Malcolm Dalglish and Marcia Veldman.

Join us for a special

25TH ANNIVERSARY

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST ANNUAL CELEBRATION

25 years into forever

Friday, October 23, 6 – 9 p.m.
Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

Join nearly 400 other Sycamore supporters for an evening of camaraderie and inspiration! Featuring **Curt Meine**, Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation and author of "Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work."

Enjoy drinks from Oliver Winery and Upland Brewing Company, dinner, a silent auction, and music by the Andy Cobine Trio.

$75/person
$500/table for 8
Purchase your seats today!

Go to **www.sycamorelandtrust.org** or call 812-336-5382 x100.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION SPONSORS

Twin H Tree Farm & Nursery
bloomington / monroe county convention center
OLIVER WINERY & VINEYARDS
MARKEY'S RENTAL & STAGING
UPLAND BREWING CO.
OLD NATIONAL BANK

Upcoming Activities & Volunteer Opportunities

Join us for an event! Hikes are free for members; suggested donation for non-members is $5/person or $10/family, unless otherwise specified. See **www.sycamorelandtrust.org** for more details and directions. **To RSVP,** visit the event page online and fill out the form, email **info@sycamorelandtrust.org**, or call **812-336-5382 x100**. Provide your address, phone number, and names and ages of any children participating.

NATURE ENTHUSIAST: Guided hikes for people of all ages and experience levels. Learn something new, come for a refresher, or check out a new preserve!

LI'L HIKERS: Family outings geared toward children up to age 12. A snack will be provided.

WEEKDAY WALKERS: Naturalist-led strolls on special topics. Your input and questions are encouraged!

15 OCT

THIRD THURSDAYS: PRESERVE A PRESERVE DAY!

Porter West Preserve (Monroe County)

Thursday, October 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch included.

Purpose: to maintain and improve our property for public enjoyment and for the many plants and animals that live there. Assistant Director John Lawrence will lead us in clearing a new trail through the woods at this popular preserve just west of Bloomington. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, bring gloves and water. RSVP by October 13.

18 OCT

LI'L HIKERS: AMAZING AUTUMN ADVENTURE

Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill

Sunday, October 18, 2 – 4 p.m. Snack provided.

Come see why tourists flock to Brown County for the fall colors! Don't miss a hike at this wooded preserve just because of a little traffic, but do allow extra time. This should be the peak time for colors. Leader David Rupp will have hands-on activities about trees and leaves for the children. RSVP by October 15.

7 NOV

TREE ID HIKE

Tangeman Woods (Bartholomew County)

Saturday, November 7, 1 – 3 p.m.

Join District Forester Rob McGriff at Tangeman Woods for tips on tree identification. This preserve features a wide array of hardwood species. This is a great chance to learn from an expert in forestry and to enjoy beautiful fall weather. RSVP by November 5.

11 NOV

WEEKDAY WALKERS: A BEAUTIFIED MINE

Columbia Mine Preserve

Wednesday, November 11, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST (11 a.m. CST)

Join other adventurers for a day exploring a reclaimed mine in Pike and Gibson counties. This 1,063-acre preserve is home to bobcats, river otters, and many bird species. Bring a lunch and binoculars. David Rupp will lead the group from Bloomington; meet at Sam's Club on the city's southwest side. Please indicate upon registration whether you are willing to drive (1:45 one way). Those meeting at the preserve: plan on an 11 a.m. CST start at the main parking area. RSVP by November 9.

14 NOV

TOUCH THE INVADERS VOLUNTEER DAY

Touch the Earth Preserve (Bartholomew County)

Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. – noon

Help ensure that the invaders don't gain a new foothold after a three-year project to control non-native bushes, including autumn olive and Asian bush honeysuckle, that were taking over this scenic preserve! Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, bring gloves and water. RSVP by November 12.

19 NOV

THIRD THURSDAYS: PRESERVE A PRESERVE DAY!

Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve (Brown County)

Thursday, November 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch included.

Purpose: to maintain and improve this state-dedicated preserve, one of the most significant natural sites in Indiana. We'll control invasive Japanese honeysuckle vines in the preserve's bottomland forest. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, bring gloves and water. RSVP by November 17.

4 DEC

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Cedar Crest, 4898 E Heritage Woods Rd, Bloomington SAVE the date

Friday, December 4, 5 – 8 p.m.

Members and friends are invited to Sycamore's headquarters for merrymaking. Come as you are; stay for a few minutes or a few hours. Light refreshments and drinks will be served. No RSVP necessary.

9 JAN

HEALTHY HIKE IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve

Saturday, January 9, 2016, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

Get your new year started off right and exercise your heart, mind, and spirit while hiking the Yellow-wood Trail at Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve. The hike will ascend to the 200-foot high hemlock bluffs that overlook Beanblossom Creek. Enjoy the spectacular views and sounds of winter in the Brown County hills. This hike will be brisk and includes a fairly steep incline. RSVP by January 7.

23 JAN

LI'L HIKERS: WINTER GAMES

Touch the Earth Natural Area (Bartholomew County)

Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Snack provided.

Touch the Earth has a great mix of habitats to explore during the winter months. David Rupp will guide children through activities and games about the animals that live in these habitats and how they survive winter. Snow or no snow, join us for a fun morning! RSVP by January 21.

24 JAN

FULL MOON HIKE

Porter West Preserve (Monroe County)

Sunday, January 24, 2016, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Using the light of the moon, we will experience the subtle beauty and wonder of deep winter. Shane Gibson (EE Director) and Jaime Sweany (Volunteer and Membership Director) will lead a stroll along the lowland paths, honing our night vision. We will practice a variety of owl calls. We'll finish off the hike by warming up with hot cocoa and cookies! RSVP by January 21.

2 FEB

WEEKDAY WALKERS: GROUNDHOG DAY HIKE

Powell Preserve (Monroe County)

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Shake cabin fever by getting outside and looking for your own shadow! While it's unlikely that we'll encounter a groundhog, there are plenty of other discoveries to be made on a winter walk. Powell Preserve is a key part of the Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area. Meet at the Marsh parking lot on Kinser Pike at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. David Rupp will lead the hike. RSVP by January 31.

6 FEB

SOLITUDE WALK

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve (Monroe County)

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

In today's over-stimulated world, silence can be a valuable asset. Hike participants will walk solo and quiet in short intervals. We'll also make brief stops along the way to read quotes from well-known nature writers. Coffee and pine needle tea will be provided by your guide, EE Director Shane Gibson. RSVP by February 4.

INDIVIDUALIZED OPPORTUNITIES

To schedule a nature experience tailored for your group, contact Environmental Education Director Shane Gibson at shane@sycamorelandtrust.org or 812-336-5382 x107. Sycamore is dedicated to providing outdoor experiences for people of all ages and abilities.

Need a speaker for your church, service club, or other group? Contact Communications Director Katrina Folsom at katrina@sycamorelandtrust.org or 812-336-5382 x101.

Thank You

This list includes donations received from 5/1/2015 through 8/10/2015, followed by special giving groups. Donations made near the end of this date range may appear in the next issue of "The Twig." If you believe we have omitted your name in error, please contact us at 812-336-5382.

WELCOME 43 NEW MEMBERS!

Paula and David Albers
Carolyn Bennett
Kathy Boone
Evan Boyer
Stephanie Burks
Kim and Kevin Cook
Deer Park Manor
Pat Denny
Krista Detor and David Weber
Liz Feitl
Michele and Roger Fields
Lynn Flittner
Krista Glazewski
Greg Graf
Randall Haile
Cinda and Jim Hamilton
Bob Harter and Vicki Toelke
Dena Hawes
Dirk and Susan Herr-Hoyman
Amy Jackson
Jeff and Lily Kleinlein
Kristin Konstanty and Troy Martin
Kim Lively
Bill Manwaring
Sam and Brittany Marcello
Dave Meginnis
Debbie Melloan
Chris Meno
Muddy Fork Farm and Bakery
Chris Newman
Helene O'Leary
Nancy and David Owen
Ryan and Tyler Prall
Robert Ralston
Megan Reece
Joe and Sandy Ridenour
Shannon Siekman
Jonathan Stafford
Julie and Kent Stoelting
Eli and Emily Trinkle
Tobin and Pamela Tyree
Kate and Jim Wiltz
Gary Wittlich

THANK YOU, DONORS!

BARGAIN SALE OF 35 ACRES IN MONROE COUNTY

Mike Jarvis

BARGAIN SALE OF 46 ACRES IN BROWN COUNTY

Jonathan Stafford

BARGAIN SALE OF 31 ACRES IN MONROE COUNTY

Julie and Kent Stoelting

$35,500

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

$12,500

Oliver Winery

$5,000

Gregory G. Meyer Charitable Fund in the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, a member of the Community Foundation Alliance
Johnson Ventures

$1,000 – $4,999

Anonymous
Heather Blair and Craig Coley
Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center
Central Indiana Community Foundation
Deer Park Manor
Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County
Guy and Connie Loftman
Muddy Fork Farm and Bakery
Old National Bank
The Pourhouse Cafe

$500 – $999

CFC Properties
Malcolm Dalglish and Judith Klein
Fowler Tree Services, Inc.
Eleanor Lahr
Andrew and Martha Thieneman

$250 – $499

Bob Agranoff and Susan Klein
Emily Jackson
Ruth Johnson
Gordon and Judy Smith
Lori Young

$100 – $249

Annette Alpert and Darrell Haile
Anonymous (2)
Jessica Baldanzi and Kyle Schlabach
Jennifer Bass & Michael Hamburger
Richard and Joyce Bender
Anne Butsch
Laura Campbell
Geoffrey and Karen Conrad
Kim and Kevin Cook
Bob and Joann Dodd
Elliott Company
Georgia Emmert and Janice Bagwell
The Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools
Henry Gray
Randall Haile
Bob Harter and Vicki Toelke
Baron and Betty Hill
Katherine Hopkins
Hank Huffman and Ellen Jacquart
Sylvia and Jack King
Jeff and Lily Kleinlein
Marc Lame
Laughing Planet Cafe, Village Deli, and Soma
Bill and Pat Lloyd
James and Marybeth Lodato
Bill Manwaring
Sam and Brittany Marcello
Patrick and Sue Medland
Gary Morrison and Linda Ritter
James and Rowena Mount
Chris Myers and Scott Stephenson
Kathy Neal
Clare and Greg Oskay
James and Janice Peterson
Ryan and Tyler Prall
Robert Ralston
David and Aldona Reid
Marylou Renshaw
Jim and Sheryl Richards
Thayr and Virginia Richey
Kimberly Schwant
Steve Seitzinger
Janette and William Shetter
Catherine Shipp
Brent and Linda Sievers
State Employees' Community Campaign
Bruce Thomason and Kris Medic
Cliff and Joan Travis
United Way of Monroe County
Upland Brewing Co.
Christine and Tom Vujovich
Carolyn Waldron
Wild Birds Unlimited, Evansville
Linda Williamson
Larry and Mary Wise
Tom Zeller
Ron and Sandy Zimmerman

$40 – $99

Paula and David Albers
Anonymous
Gary Arbeiter
C.J. and Anne Ashby
Doug and Diane Bancel
William and Jennifer Bartek
Mary Bent
Megan and Luke Bickel
Kent Biery
BMS Matching Gift Program
Doreen and Carl Bochmann
Charlie and Barbara Carper
Paula Clutter
Maria Collee
Susan DeMoss
Pat Denny
David and Wilma Doup
Andrew Durkin
Michele and Roger Fields
Todd Folsom and Carol Wilcox
Elizabeth and John Gallman
Marlene Gillen and Randy Young
Pete Giordano
Tom Gruenenfelder
Amy Hackenberg and Erik Tillema
Mary Hallinan
LD and Cristie Harry
Heather Heerssen and Jonathan Trinidad
Dirk and Susan Herr-Hoyman
Joan and Gordon Hershey
Linda Higginbotham and Brad Leftwich
David and Sharon Hobson
Sherry Holliday and Eric Mitter
Michael Homoya
Troy and Sheila Huffman
Ruth Ingraham
The Irish Lion
Paul and Cheryl Jamison
Doug and Casey Johnson
Burton and Eleanor Jones
Donald King
Brian King
Kristin Konstanty and Troy Martin
Laura and Aaron Lamb
Mitzi Lewison
Kim Lively
Scott and Mary Mapes
Donna Marcus
Tom and Ann Mayer
Kathleen McClain
Irene Miksik
Suellen Miller and Robert Shull
Jim and Betsy More
Lois Morris
Kate Ogilvy Lynch
Dennis Orwin
Rachel Perry
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gift Program
Emilie Pinkston
Diane and Robert Port
Jason and Karen Reffett
Carol and Jim Rice
Joe and Sandy Ridenour
Jennifer and Stephen Roll
Ed and Lise Schools
Susan Snider Salmon and Glen Salmon
Lee Sterrenburg
James Sutton
Thomas Talbert
Eli and Emily Trinkle
Tobin and Pamela Tyree
Gary Walters
Larry and Mary Wise
Gary Wittlich
Christina and Dale Wray

IN HONOR OF DAVE MEGINNIS

Michele and Roger Fields

IN HONOR OF VICKY MERETSKY

Bob Kissel

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY MEMBERS

VISIONARY ($25,000+ ANNUALLY)

Anonymous
Namaste Foundation
Sam Shine Foundation

CHAMPION ($10,000 – $24,999)

Bill and Kathleen Oliver
Barbara Restle
Robert and Judy Wargel
Wylie Foundation, Inc.

TRAIL BLAZER ($5,000 – $9,999)

Anonymous
Jim and Brenda DeCoursey
Bill DeVille
Rick and Alice Johnson
Ellen Ketterson
Greg and Sue Meyer
Ann Nolan
Scott and Ruth Sanders

CONSERVATOR ($2,500 – $4,999)

Mike and Bev Baker
Heather Blair and Craig Coley
Bill and Linda Brown
William and Nancy Ditzler
Carrie Newcomer and Robert Meitus
Joan ten Hoor and James Dobson
Marcia Veldman
Larry and Carol Weingartner
Jeff and Legene White
Sheryl Woodhouse Keese and Brian Keese

NATURALIST ($1,000 – $2,499)

Mark Adams
Matt and Eva Allen
Anonymous
Marian Armstrong
Robert and Maryellen Bieder
Mary Bookwalter and Jeff Stant
Elaine Caldwell Emmi and Phil Emmi
William and Becky Campbell
Raymond and Leanne Chevalier
Dan and Debbi Conkle
Kate Cruikshank
Michael and Betty Davis
Helen Gooch
Kenneth R.R. Gros Louis
Barbara Hanawalt and Ronald Giere
Stephen Higgs
Walter Hoffman and Ann Johnson
Steve and Cassie Howard
Hurlow Wealth Management Group
Stephen Irish
Jenny Johnson
Bob Kissel
Del and Letty Newkirk
Tim and Ann Niednagel
Carol Pettys
Jim and Kathy Pickrell
Reza Pishgahi and Lois Hutter-Pishgahi
Nancy Ralston
Sarkes and Mary Tarzian Foundation, Inc.
Judith and Maynard Thompson
Tim Tilton and Joann Alexander
Maria and Paul Viterisi
Bill and Mary Weeks
Don and Wendy Wertz

SYCAMORE SUSTAINERS

Mark Adams
Lydia Barbash-Riley and Matthew Maus
Jim and Maria Brown
Joe Collins
Bob Flynn and Yvonne Wittmann
Shelley Hahn and Greg Simon
Steve and Cassie Howard
Werner Jorck and Barbara Watt Jorck
Padraic and Izabela Kenney
Michael and Christine Koryta
William Lonnberg
George Mankowski
Dan and Linda McNabb
Jeremy Nation and Rebecca Swanson
Patrick and Jenny Petro
Nancy and David Owen
Deborra Sanders and Willowbei Eversole
Mark and Kathy Sheehan
Marion Sinclair
Eliot and Pamela Smith
Ben Swanson
Maria and Paul Viterisi

LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Patricia Abplanalp†
Mark Adams
Anonymous (3)
Janet Armstrong
Mike and Bev Baker
Susan Hollis Bassett
Phil and Ruthann Berck
Helen and Keith Caldwell†
Edward Champa†
Joseph Collins
Jim and Bobbi Diehl
Bob and Joann Dodd
George Ewing†
Christian and Paige Freitag
Darlene Gerster
Henry and Alice† Gray
Stephen and Vera Grubbs
Lawrie Hamilton
Dell Harmsen and William E. Davis
William H. Hays, III
Samuel P. and Barbara D. Hays
Joyce Hendrix
Dawn E. Hewitt
Stephen Higgs
Robert and Joan Hongen
George Huntington, III
Rick and Alice Johnson
Marvin Keenan
Donald E. and Linda L. Knotts
George and Cathy Korinek
Bill Lozowski and Sarah Baumgart
Vicky Meretsky
Greg Meyer
Robert and Donna Ormiston
Lois Hutter-Pishgahi and Reza Pishgahi
Patricia Murphy Pizzo
David Porter†
Charlotte Reeves†
Barbara Restle
Mary Kay Rothert
Elizabeth and Chuck Ruh
Judith A. Stewart and Michael P. Fulton
Melinda Swenson
Joan ten Hoor and James Dobson
Maria and Paul Viterisi
Carolyn Waldron
Patricia Walne†
Bill and Mary Weeks
D. Lawrence and Carol A. Weingartner
Myriam and Jim† Wood
Sheryl Woodhouse Keese and Brian Keese
Tom Zeller
Deborah A. Zera

†Deceased

Freitag, Weeks attend LTA conference as experts

Sycamore's Executive Director Christian Freitag and Conservation Law Center Director and Sycamore Board member Bill Weeks presented lectures at a recent Land Trust Alliance (LTA) conference. Christian and Bill were invited as two of the country's foremost experts on agricultural conservation easements. They were pleased to help scholars and land conservation professionals from around the country learn about cutting-edge developments in the field.

In appreciation

Guy and Connie Loftman, of Loftman Law, recently retired after working together for over 40 years. Sycamore was proud to be their client for more than half that time. That means they helped us protect thousands of acres of land! Thank you, Guy and Connie, for your excellent service and constant support.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS 5/1/2015 TO 8/10/2015

25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
Jennifer Bass
Jonathon Cargill
Beth Fisher
McKenzie May Goodrich
Carol Gulyas
George Huntington
Abby Noroozi
Jana Wilson

ANNUAL CELEBRATION SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE
Jackie Brizzard
Roy and Holly Hooper

CEDAR CREST UPKEEP
Keith Barnhardt
Designscape
Hugh Hazelrigg

EDITING AND WRITING
Joe Bailey
Lauren Harling
Chris Newman
Joan ten Hoor

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Tim Griffith
Heath Hamilton
Doug Johnson
Vicky Meretsky
Chris Newman

EVENTS
Donald and Rosanne Bateman
Dan Dalton
Mike Goetz
Greg and Sue Meyer
Amanda Nurre
Chris Pace
Steven Pickering
Tom Spevak
Maryann Watson
Chris Worley

INTERNS
Anna Archer
Corinne Barker

IT SUPPORT
Tom Zeller

MUSIC, ART, AND VIDEOGRAPHY
Alyssa Andrews
Jeremy Barbuto
Angela Berzins
Jenny Gibson
Jane Goodman
Amy Jackson
Jim Krause
Adam Lee
Cairril Mills
Sarah Mosier
Keith Orgain
Patrick Petro
James Alexander Thom
Licia Weber
Lara Wever

PHOTOGRAPHY
Jeff Danielson
Martha Fox
Steve Gifford
Hugh Hazelrigg
John D. Shearer
Marcin Zalewski

STEWARDSHIP AND TRAIL BUILDING
Joshua, Seth, and Nova Collins
Michael and Betty Davis
Ron Eid
Mark and Max Fischer
Rachel Irvine
Lance and Alexander Like
(Scouts and parents of Troop 100)
Mel Lodato
Paul Medford
Norma Moll
Terry Usrey

SYCAMORE BRANCHES COMMITTEE
Joe Bailey
Lauren Harling
Roy and Holly Hooper
Delanie Marks
Austin Roach
Michael Waterford

YEAR-ROUND STEWARDS
Matt and Eva Allen
Bob Barber
Marco Bartholomew
Bill Baus
Mark and Beth Bishton
Joe Benge
Keith and Julie Bobay
Russell and Bonnie Boulding
John Byers
Andrea and Jim Ferguson
Roxanne Flowers
Gary Grumbling and MaryAnn Martin
Jess Gwinn and Maureen Forrest
Jeff Hiland
Marvin Keenan
Chris Lambdin
Kristina Lindborg
Andrea and Justin Lutz
Terry and Connie Marbach
Vicky Meretsky
Cathy Meyer
Colt Miller
Cynthia Morgan
Ralph and Jenny Morgan
Chris Myers and Scott Stephenson
Dennis Orwin
Karen Pacific and David Shipley
Nathan Pate and Janet Kennedy
Reza Pishgahi and Lois Hutter-Pishgahi
Carroll and Martha Ritter
Elizabeth and Chuck Ruh
Marion Sinclair and Liz Robb
Liny Smits and Michael Paidle
Bryan Sosbe
Jerry and Anne Steele
Amy Thompson and Dionicio Nunez
K. Neill Vaughan
Kurt and Lisa Weisner

Celebrate with us!

Signature food and beverages

Look for these products all year
from our 25th Anniversary partners!

Hopscotch Coffee
235 W. Dodds St. (B-Line Station), Bloomington
$1 per bag of beans donated to Sycamore

Cardinal Spirits, 922 S. Morton St. (on the B-Line), Bloomington
Offering a special edition spirit: Trevlac, an earthy herbal spirit
Available beginning in February 2015

Upland Brewing Company, 350 W. 11th St.
Coasters with a game and PRIZES!
At the Bloomington brewpub and various bars serving Upland beer throughout southern Indiana

FARMbloomington, 108 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington
Featuring: Peach and lavender "Preserves for Preserves" and specialty cocktails: "The Woodsman" and "Orangeville Rise"
10 percent of gift basket sales and 25 percent of specialty cocktail sales will be donated to Sycamore

Mt. Pilot BBQ, Indiana-style sauce
Bloomingfoods East, 3220 E. 3rd St.

Soma Coffeehouse, Kirkwood and E. 3rd St. stores, Bloomington
$1 per cold brew growler will be donated to Sycamore

Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor
329 Washington St., Columbus
Table tents honoring Sycamore's 25th Anniversary

Bloomingfoods Market and Deli
Special edition sandwiches
A portion of proceeds to go to Sycamore

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Johnson Ventures, Inc.

OLIVER WINERY & VINEYARDS

UPLAND BREWING CO.

HOOSIERENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS
FINANCIAL NETWORK
Mark Adams

Jennifer L. Witzke
GRAPHIC DESIGN
jlwitzke@hotmail.com

Farm
bloomington - real food

HABITAT SOLUTIONS
WILDLIFE & FOREST MANAGEMENT

FOWLER TREE SERVICES
"a courteous tree service"

BILL C. BROWN Associates
An honored reputation.
A promise to serve.
Ron Remak

sja ST. JOHN ASSOCIATES
Physician Employment Specialists

DESIGNSCAPE
HORTICULTURAL
SERVICES, INC.

Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.

the green nursery®

Eco Logic

BLUESPRING CAVERNS

Karen Pitkin
RE/MAX
Realty Professionals

GM POWERTRAIN

Thank you to our printer, World Arts!

worldarts inc.
printing

waprinting.net

Staff & Board

Executive Director: Christian Freitag
Assistant Director: John Lawrence
Development Director: Ann Connors
Communications Director: Katrina Folsom
Environmental Education Director: Shane Gibson
Volunteer and Membership Director: Jaime Sweany
Outreach Event Coordinator: David Rupp
SPEA Fellow: Anna Archer

Committee Chairs

Acquisitions: W. William Weeks
Environmental Education: Shane Gibson
Finance: Terry Marbach
Fund Development: Steve Howard
Stewardship: John Lawrence

Graphic Designer of "The Twig": Jennifer L.Witzke
Editor of "The Twig": Joan ten Hoor

Headquarters

Cedar Crest 4898 E. Heritage Woods Rd., Bloomington

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 7801, Bloomington, IN 47407-7801

Visit our website: **www.sycamorelandtrust.org**
Email: **info@sycamorelandtrust.org**

If you would like one of us to speak to your group or organization, please call 812-336-5382 x101.

Board of Directors

Mark Adams
Mike Baker, Vice Chair
Doug Dayhoff
Jim DeCoursey
Steve Gifford
George Huntington
Jenny Johnson
George Korinek
Terry Marbach, Treasurer
Greg Meyer
Patricia Pizzo
Vi Simpson
Joan ten Hoor, Secretary
Maria Viterisi, Board Chair
W. William Weeks

Advisory Board

Wilfred C. Bussing III
Steve Ferguson
Burney Fischer
Kenneth R.R. Gros Louis
Baron Hill
Steve Howard
John Hurlow
Rick Johnson
Mark Kruzan
James Madison
Vicky Meretsky
Edward W. Najam, Jr.
Del Newkirk
Karen Pitkin
Ronald F. Remak
Scott Russell Sanders
Randall T. Shepard
Judith Stewart
Eric C. Stolberg
Tom Tarzian
Maryrose Wampler
Don Whitehead
Todd Young

FIND US ON

Sycamore supporters (l – r) Dottie Warmbier, Cathy Meyer, and Kathy Ruesink enjoy the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest preserve in Greene County during a hike over the summer.

Li'l Hikers pet a toad.

EE Director Shane Gibson (l) shows Kathy Boone wild edibles from his stash during a hike at Sycamore's Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest in Greene County. Delicacies included wood sorrel, echinacea petals, dandelion, plantain, clover, and violet.

Bufflehead. *Photo by Steve Gifford*

25 YEARS into FOREVER

A special 25th anniversary

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Friday, October 23, 6 – 9 p.m.

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

Purchase your seats today!

Go to **www.sycamorelandtrust.org** or call 812-336-5382 x100.

More information on page 11.

Sycamore Land Trust
P.O. Box 7801
Bloomington, IN 47407-7801

812-336-5382

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Groundswell

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

LAND STATUS	PROJECTS	ACRES
Owned	58	4,545
Easements	36	3,974
Total	**94**	**8,519**
Wills (known)	*11*	*2,257*
Financial Partner	*7*	*9,902*

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 333
Bloomington, IN

PRINTED ON RECYCLED CONTENT PAPER