the twig

SPRING/SUMMER 2015
www.sycamorelandtrust.org

People

Two new Sycamore staffers to serve you

PAGES 5 & 7

Places

Bloomington's scenic gateway now protected PAGES 2 & 3

Participate

It's summer! Plenty of outdoor activities for everyone PAGES 12 & 13

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST
25 YEARS into FOREVER
Make a lasting impact

Oxbow Preserve protects scenic gateway

Outpouring of support from donors propels Beanblossom Creek conservation forward

BY KATRINA FOLSOM

If there was ever any doubt about how much people like you value the beautiful Beanblossom Creek area, case closed! The response to the matching gift offer by Bill and Kathleen Oliver and Oliver Winery blew us away. Our donors met the $25,000 match within just three weeks! It's inspiring that so many individuals have come together to create this legacy for southern Indiana.

New acquisition: Oxbow Preserve

Progress is well underway: we're pleased to announce the completion of our second project within the Conservation Area!

The Oxbow Preserve is a 31-acre piece of land at the junction of Business 37 and IN-37 in Monroe County. If you drive into Bloomington on Business 37 from the north, the scenic floodplain and oxbow that mark this property are on your right. "It's the first thing you see when you come into town. It's an iconic vista," says the land donor, Skip Van Cel.

> "It's an iconic vista…. I think my grandmother would be really happy."

This view is the reason why Skip approached Sycamore about protecting the land. As a child, he spent summers in Bloomington with his grandmother. For them, the view evoked warm feelings and the excitement of arriving back in town. Now that it's protected, "It's going to be there forever. I think my grandmother would be really happy."

This highly visible preserve will include a trail to be named after Skip's beloved dogs, Bear and Bailey, (pictured below) and a parking area. As Skip says, "I hope that it becomes a place for people to learn about Sycamore Land Trust. A lot of Sycamore's properties are tucked away, so maybe this will help other people recognize it and support these types of things."

We thank Skip for selling the land at less than half its appraised value, enabling us to obtain matching funds from Indiana's Bicentennial Nature Trust. Essential contributions were also made by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, and as always, by our members. Thank you to all for making projects like this possible!

Photos by John Lawrence

Bear

Bailey

Above: The broad floodplain at the Oxbow Preserve. This new preserve protects the scenic gateway to Bloomington. Thanks to our supporters, it's Sycamore's second Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial project!

Far left: A glimpse of the oxbow, the crescent-shaped pond formed when a meander loop of Beanblossom Creek was cut off from its main channel. This feature gives Sycamore's newly acquired Oxbow Preserve its name.

Christian Freitag

Members move to match $1 million

More than 20 years ago, Barbara Restle contacted Sycamore Land Trust about donating land she owned in northwestern Monroe County. Her donation was the seed for Sycamore's Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve. Two decades later, that seed continues to bear fruit.

As you read in the previous issue of *The Twig*, Sycamore recently completed a project with Bill and Kathleen Oliver that added almost 30 acres to Beanblossom Bottoms—the first addition to the preserve since 2001. And we're not stopping there.

Sycamore proposed designating the entirety of Beanblossom Creek in Monroe County as a Bicentennial Conservation Area. Approved by the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust, it became one of just five such areas statewide. The designation brought $1 million of dedicated funding for land protection, a significant investment in some of Indiana's most sensitive and rapidly disappearing habitat.

The state's offer is a matching program, and we recently asked for help raising the necessary funds from members like you. With additional matching incentives from the Oliver family and Oliver Winery, you helped us raise over $75,000 in record time. Thank you!

On-the-ground projects

Other supporters have also stepped up to help, and we're already working on our next projects. Sycamore recently purchased 31 acres on the north edge of Bloomington at the junction of Business 37 and Beanblossom Creek (see page 2). Now this entrance to Bloomington will be protected forever as a natural area, and moreover, made accessible to the public with the help of a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County.

Our strength is in our collective. The investment from the state presents an incredible opportunity, but it means nothing without your support. Some can give a lot and others a little, and they all matter. Together we create a legacy. That legacy includes endangered orchids and bobcats and rare butterflies and nesting eagles and warblers. That legacy includes a commitment to our heirs that this beauty will be there for them, too.

Southern Indiana is an extraordinary natural place, and the Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area represents some of the best of it. Thank you for being part of this important work.

Are you looking for a real connection?

You've come to the right place!

Jaime Sweany

I am Jaime Sweany, and I am honored to join the dedicated team at Sycamore Land Trust as the new Volunteer and Membership Director. I will be working closely with supporters like you to create meaningful and rewarding opportunities for involvement. I want to help you and your family discover what that may be for you!

There are a variety of ways to join the Sycamore team in our conservation efforts while having a lot of fun! Through our hikes and explorations, we gain knowledge and appreciation for the life around us, from the warblers in the treetops to the fern-filled habitat at our feet. Sycamore events are opportunities to come together with like-minded nature enthusiasts for good times, stimulating conversation, and a breath of fresh air!

My new position enables me to have a positive impact our natural world while being a conduit for people like you to find your place in this important work. Sycamore Land Trust makes a difference. I am here to facilitate your involvement with Sycamore, so feel free to reach out anytime. Together we'll preserve the natural heritage of southern Indiana for generations to come!

CALLING ALL IMPASSIONED NATURE AND AUCTION LOVERS!

Sycamore's 2015 Annual Celebration and auction fall during our 25th anniversary year. This is your opportunity to celebrate our shared accomplishments of the past 25 years, while seeing us well into the future. The auction provides vital funding for our work and is a fun way to be involved.

Many community businesses and individuals share in our vision for nature and are eager to be a part of this 25th anniversary celebration. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us create the most exciting auction offerings ever! As a special thank-you, you'll receive one free admission to the event (value: $75). If you are interested in making this 25th anniversary auction even more special, please contact me and we will explore possibilities together.

Photo by Marcin Zalewski

Jaime Sweany, Volunteer and Membership Director
jaime@sycamorelandtrust.org
812-336-5382 x100

Sycamore's silent auction includes great items for nature lovers, and raises vital funds for our work. Volunteer to participate in the 25th anniversary auction!

Photos by John Lawrence

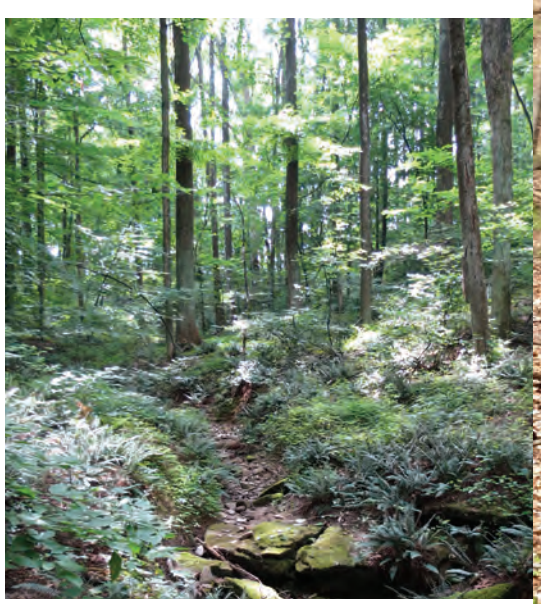
Canyon Forest: Come visit!

Greene County preserve parking lot now ready

BY JOHN LAWRENCE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest in eastern Greene County is incredibly scenic. And now you can more easily visit it!

Thanks to a grant from the Utilities District of Western Indiana (UDWI) REMC Community Fund, the preserve now has a gravel parking area. Sycamore volunteers and staff are working on a 1.5-mile loop trail that leads from the parking area into the preserve's rocky ravines. This preserve is a short drive from State Road 45 on Edwards Road just west of Greene County Line Road. Come on out to see our progress and enjoy the forest!



Volunteers (from left) Ron Eid, Will Drews, Austin Roach, and Mike Davis help build a trail at Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest, which now also has parking!

Rocks and ferns stand out in the rugged forest landscape of the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest in Greene County.

These twin boulders are a feature of Greene County's Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest, a Sycamore preserve.

Shane Gibson strikes a pose with an animal skull at Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest. As the new Environmental Education Director, Shane will help Sycamore connect people of all ages with nature.

Photo by Christian Freitag

Discovering the wonders of time in nature

On one of the first warm days of March, under the guise of fishing, I provided my two boys an unstructured outdoor experience. The day before, I vowed to my wife to provide more experiences in nature for our family. Fishing was just the excuse to go. What happened next was beautiful.

The dock was flooded, but to my 10 and 12-year-old kids, that simply meant it was time to build a rock bridge. That's problem solving, teamwork, adventure, and wet feet all in one! The wonders of Mother Nature captured these young boys' minds. With the belly-to-the-dock help of youthful hands, melting ice resembled tectonic plate movement. They pulled chunks of ice from the water to reveal artistic designs capable of being created only by nature or the most talented of painters. The one fish we caught was cheerfully overshadowed by rock skipping and playing with crappie minnows we intended as bait.

The hungry dad in me really did want to have fresh fish for dinner. But the experiential educator in me was happy to see the inquiry that materialized from this visit to the lake. Experiences like this can happen anywhere at any time. The key is providing opportunities for them to occur. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder,* said, "Time in nature is not leisure time; it's an essential investment in our children's health (and also, by the way, in our own)."

As a father and husband, I know time in nature is essential for my family. As an educator, I know time in nature is essential for all people. I'm thrilled to be serving as Sycamore's Environmental Education Director, and I look forward to creating opportunities for all ages and all ability levels, both cognitively and physically, to experience the joys of nature.

Shane

Sycamore volunteer Terry Usrey sitting on the inaugural Naming Opportunities donation bench he designed and built. Inspired by one he saw in Tennessee, the design of this bench resembles the model originated by conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Photo by Terrie Usrey

Sturdy benches to honor friends and family of Sycamore donors

BY JOAN TEN HOOR

"I like to build stuff," stated Terry Usrey, an Indiana University faculty member specializing in computer design. So when Sycamore Assistant Director John Lawrence put out a call for volunteers to build benches for our naming opportunities, Usrey jumped at the opportunity. "I thought I had the skills to do that."

A Hoosier native born in Indianapolis, Usrey holds degrees from Purdue and IU in math and computer science. He and his family have lived in Greene County and in Bloomington. In the 90s, they moved to 10 acres of private land within the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. He is active with the Center for Sustainable Living and with SIREN (Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network).

Benches are available for a $10,000 Naming Opportunities donation.
For more information, go to **sycamorelandtrust.org/leadership-society** and click on the "Naming Opportunities" bald eagle picture, or contact Development Director, Sheryl Woodhouse Keese at sheryl@sycamorelandtrust.org, or call 812-336-5382 x104.

Usrey's involvement with Sycamore began several years ago when he worked with a School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) intern who was designing a database to track Sycamore membership. That need filled, he began to volunteer for trail maintenance and cleanup. He was inspired to build memorial benches because a bench honoring his late brother Jeff stands in Caribou Ranch Park in Boulder County, Colorado. Before Jeff died, he had been a volunteer naturalist for Boulder County Open Space.

While thinking about what kind of bench to build for Sycamore, Usrey came upon a wooden bench he liked when visiting the Cumberland River area in Nashville, Tennessee. Its appeal was the simple design with almost no waste, and it's easy to take apart and put back together for moving. Usrey says of the completed inaugural bench, "It does not require digging holes, which can be a real hassle in the forest, but can be anchored to the ground with rebar if need be. It is quite sturdy, six feet long, and should hold up for years and years." A memorial plaque can be mounted on the back.

Asked why he volunteered for this job, Usrey said, "I like to encourage people to experience nature. It's important to get back in touch with the natural world."

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

Leadership Society members celebrate 25 years of conservation

Land donor Barbara Restle and Executive Director Christian Freitag pose with a vintage car, a 1932 Essex, at this 1940s-themed gala.

Volunteers (from left) Beth Fisher, McKenzie Goodrich (with husband Jeremy), and Abby Noroozi (with husband Scott) arranged all the details of this lovely event!

Photos by Jaime Sweany

Guests enjoyed dancing to the music of Sarah's Swing Set.

Sycamore's Leadership Society was founded in honor of our 25th anniversary. Membership levels begin with a yearly donation of $1000, or $100 a month. For more information, go to **sycamorelandtrust.org** and click on "Support."

Photo by Hugh Hazelrigg

Volunteers honored with awards and cookout

On Saturday, May 2, a beautiful day, many of our wonderful volunteers joined us for our Volunteer Appreciation Cookout. We're glad to have valuable partners in making southern Indiana an even better place to live!

This year's awards were given to:

Beth Fisher, McKenzie Goodrich, and Abby Noroozi: Outstanding Outreach Volunteers

Beth, McKenzie, and Abby applied their considerable marketing and event planning skills to our 25th anniversary outreach. They planned—from start to finish—a lovely 25th anniversary gala for Leadership Society members!

Jim and Andrea Ferguson: Outstanding Stewardship Volunteers

Jim and Andrea live near The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill and are a major asset! They assist with trail building and clean-up, keep the newsletter box stocked, and help with marketing by sharing beautiful photos on Twitter!

Photos by John D. Shearer

Fi$cal Driftwood, a talented IU student folk group, entertained our volunteers at the Appreciation Cookout in May.

Abby Noroozi, a 2015 Outstanding Outreach Volunteer and co-owner of The Green Nursery, applied her creativity and event planning skills to the 25th Anniversary Leadership Society Gala.

Lily Noroozi negotiates treats with Josie at the Volunteer Appreciation Cookout.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for an event! Hikes are free for members; the suggested donation for non-members is $5/person or $10/family, unless otherwise specified. See www.sycamorelandtrust.org for more details and directions. For all events: **To RSVP, 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!

27 JUNE — BUG FEST

Hilltop Garden and Nature Center at IU

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bug Fest is a family-friendly festival with games and information about dragonflies, butterflies, spiders, and more! A free community event sponsored by various local organizations including Sycamore Land Trust. More information at: *www.indiana.edu/~hilltop/*

30 JUNE — WEEKDAY WALKERS: FERNS, MOSS, AND FUNGI

Scarlet Oak Woods

Tuesday, June 30, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

There are lots of things growing in a forest besides trees and wildflowers. What is a plant, and what is not? Join David Rupp on this naturalist hike pondering the taxonomy of the little things at our feet. This walk will move slowly but still cover the trails of this Sycamore preserve in northeast Monroe County. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by June 28.

12 JULY — LI'L HIKERS: BUTTERFLY SUMMER

Porter West Preserve

Sunday, July 12, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

David Rupp will lead the children on a trek through the fields and forests of Porter West Preserve in search of butterflies and caterpillars. Which species can we find, and what plants do they prefer? We will find out together on this 190-acre preserve in western Monroe County! And we will explore the magic of metamorphosis through a group game and activity. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by July 9.

1 AUG — BUTTERFLIES AND BLOSSOMS STROLL

Touch the Earth Natural Area, near Columbus

Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of butterflies and blossoms as you stroll the broad trails of Touch the Earth Natural Area with volunteer naturalist Doug Johnson. He will help you identify and learn about butterflies, plants, and common insects. Carpooling is available and will depart at 9:15 a.m. from the Kmart parking lot in east Bloomington. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by July 30.

15 AUG — LI'L HIKERS: SCAVENGER HUNT

The Cedars Preserve

Saturday, August 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

The 44-acre Cedars Preserve will provide the trails, limestone, forest, and creek for this scavenger hunt adventure. The children will use their keen senses and observation skills to check off the list of items to find, provided by guide David Rupp. The best part of the game? Playing "Stump the Naturalist" at the end! Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by August 13.

29 AUG — DIAMONDS IN THE NIGHT SPIDER STROLL

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve

Saturday, August 29, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

Join us for a nighttime stroll to look for spiders. Your flashlight or headlamp will light up the fascinating hidden world of spiders, whose eyes shine back like illuminated diamonds. Led by arachnid specialist Leslie Bishop. Bring a flashlight or headlamp. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Carpool leaves at 8 p.m. from the Marsh parking lot on Kinser Pike. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by August 27.

4 SEPT — HILLBILLY HAIKU MUSIC FESTIVAL

Upland Brewpub in Bloomington

Friday, September 4, doors open at 5 p.m.

Kick off Labor Day weekend with great food, beer, and music at this outdoor concert hosted by Upland Brewing Co. to benefit Sycamore Land Trust. More information coming soon.

Volunteer! Help us run the show and we'll provide you with free admission, food, and drinks. Email info@sycamorelandtrust.org or call 812-336-5382 for more information.

8 SEPT — WEEKDAY WALKERS: FALL WARBLERS

Porter West Preserve

Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

By this time, many warblers are heading south to the tropics for the winter, but as they go, they must fatten up on insects and seeds. The diversity of vegetation at Porter West Preserve makes it a great place to search for these amazing little birds. David Rupp will lead this walk and help you identify these birds, which can be extra tricky in their fall plumage. Bring binoculars and a water bottle. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by September 6.

19 SEPT — DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES GUIDED HIKE

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve

Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Explore and learn with a knowledgeable duo: Tom Swinford from the Division of Nature Preserves and David Rupp from Sycamore Land Trust. Great time of year for migrating birds and blooming marsh grasses. Free but registration is required at: dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve.

10 OCT — FALL SPLENDOR HIKE

The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill

Saturday, October 10, 1 – 3 p.m.

Marvel at the splendor of fall colors with Environmental Education Director Shane Gibson at this 600-acre Brown County preserve. Its deep hardwood forest puts on quite a show! Carpooling is encouraged as parking is very limited. Carpool will depart from Kmart in east Bloomington at 12:15 p.m. Open to the first 25 people who respond. RSVP by October 8.

23 OCT — SYCAMORE LAND TRUST ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SAVE the date

Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center

Friday, October 23, 6 p.m.

Save the date for a special 25th anniversary edition of our Annual Celebration! Curt Meine of the Aldo Leopold Foundation will be our guest.

Thank You

This list includes donations received from 1/1/2015 through 4/30/2015, 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 67 NEW MEMBERS!

Ryan and Kaitlyn Babbitt
William and Jennifer Bartek
Peter and Amy Batule
Richard and Joyce Bender
Bryce Bookwalter and Kara Veal
Ilka Dietrich
Patrick and Shelley Donahue
Jim and Kay Eagleman
Ron Eid
Layne Elliott
Dana Farless
David and Tyler Ferguson
Michael Finger
Brett Fisher and Lori Healey
Bill and Becky Freeman
Kevin Fuhs
Nancy Fyffe
Caroline and Brian Gilley
Abby Gitlitz and Matt Stonecipher
Karen and Richard Gotshall
Ben Graves
Robin Green and Michael Smith
Stephen and Gail Hale
Guy Harbuck
Richard Harris and Vickie Dacey
Philip Hendershot
Lowell Hobbs
Roy and Holly Hooper
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Irwin
William and Barbara Jones
Joyce Jordan-Peek and Bruce Cassal
Vicky Kirts
Tammy Mathew
Dan McDowell
Kay Murphy
Deb Murzyn and Jim Sprague
Mike Nahas and Cami Nahas
Robert and Judy Ochs
David and Jennie Orr
Lloyd Orr
Jerry Pagac
Ellen Post
Rick Rains
Nancy and Gary Raper
David and Aldona Reid
James Renne
Amy Rhodes and Chris Reinhart
Stephanie and Kenneth Richards
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Bill Ryan
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James Shearn and Scott Loman
Sara Skinner
Cindy Somers and Dan Griffin
Kathy Stephan
Volker Stern
Rex Swing
Denise Szocka
James and Amy Thomas
Dennis Tibbetts and Rebecca Lorenz
Wolfgang and Judith von Buchler
Mike Voyles and Jennifer Hottell
Ashlee Warren

THANK YOU, DONORS!

$250,000

Efroymson Family Fund at the Central Indiana Community Foundation

$22,500

Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County

$12,500

Bill and Kathleen Oliver
Oliver Winery

$1,000 – $4,999

Helen Gooch
Hoosier Energy REMC
Stephen Higgs
Macy's Foundation
St. John Associates
Upland Brewing Co.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

$500 – $999

Ethan Alyea, Jr.
Judy Borron
James and Roberta Diehl
Elizabeth and John Gallman
Catharine Hoff and Richard Hvale
Thomas Hutton and Betsy Harding
IU Art Museum
Kathy Ruesink
Sare Associates, P.C.
Margaret Cummins-Schaefer
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Nature's Way, Inc.
Paul and Susan Sullivan
Paula and Fred Tolle
Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC
Moira Wedekind and Vladimir Derenchuk

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Bill and Becky Freeman
Henry Gray
Art Hopkins and Glory Kulczycki
Skip and Sherry Makely
Gary and Judith Norris
Oliver Winery
Franklin and Brenda Prosser
Bill Ryan
Nathan and Patricia Shier
Penny and Dwight Stauffer
Gregg and Judy Summerville
Jason Tennessen and Laura Knudson
Ron Trigg

$100 – $249

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Nancy and Terry Gehlhausen
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Jason Tennessen and Laura Knudson
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Betty Tuttle
United Way of Monroe County
James and Marti Vanada
Wolfgang and Judith von Buchler
Ashlee Warren
Gary Wiggins
Arlie and Carol Williams
Linda Williamson
Tom and Sara Wood
Debbie Wozniak
Marcin and Namrata Zalewski
Paul and Charlotte Zietlow

$40 – $99

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Annette Alpert and Darrell Haile
Anonymous (4)
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Kristine and Larry Barnhill
William and Jennifer Bartek
Sandy and Jeff Belth
Richard and Joyce Bender
Brian Besser
Megan Bickel
John and Bonnie Bittner
Bryce Bookwalter and Kara Veal
Judy Borron
Vinson and Anne Bushnell
Harold and Carol Cameron
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Mary Ann Cline
Jeff and Tess Cook
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Joe Dearmin
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Kevin and Martha Dogan
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Jack Doskow and Jean Person
Andrew Durkin
Ron Eid
Layne Elliott
Dana Farless
James and Sara Farmer
Michael Finger
Burney and Barbara Fischer
Rob Fischman
Brett Fisher and Lori Healey
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Lowell Hobbs
John Hobson
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BYLAWS UPDATE
Our bylaws have been updated to reflect Sycamore's exciting growth over the past 25 years. You may view the bylaws at www.sycamorelandtrust.org/board-of-directors.

Our Wish List
Reliable 4WD pickup truck
Power washer
Floor display easels
Electric tea kettle
Patio furniture with delivery
Birdseed

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Jaime at info@sycamorelandtrust.org or 812-336-5382 x100. *New or gently used condition, please.*

On the Cover
The butterfly on the cover, a gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae nigrior*), is rare in Indiana, most often occurring in the far southwest counties. This butterfly, perched on thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), was discovered in Gibson County by nature photographer and Sycamore Board member Steve Gifford. Sycamore's largest property, the 1,043-acre Columbia Mine Preserve is in Gibson and Pike Counties, and borders the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. *Photo by Steve Gifford*

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Visit our website: **www.sycamorelandtrust.org**
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If you would like one of us to speak to your group or organization, please call 812-336-5382 x101.

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FIND US ON

SYCAMORE SIGHTINGS

Photo by Katrina Folsom

Pickin' up pawpaw blossoms at the Porter West preserve in Monroe County. From these modest blooms come the pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*), a native fruit highly prized by wildlife, and also by some humans.

Photo by Jim Shearn

Volunteer Lucie Parker bends to her work on the trail at The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill in Brown County. The Hoosier Hikers Council is taking the initiative to complete the trail through the preserve.

Photo by Katrina Folsom

A lovely natural arrangement at Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest in Greene County. Bellwort (*Uvularia* spp.) stands above the ground-hugging American walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*), with moss- and lichen-covered rocks in the background.

Photo by Shane Gibson

Tanner Gibson (left), age 12, and his brother Sawyer, age 10, are well acquainted with the joys of nature–including morels! Read more about their outdoor adventures in Environmental Education Update, page 7.

Sycamore Land Trust
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Owned	55	4,434
Easements	36	3,974
Total	**91**	**8,408**
Wills (known)	*10*	*2,057*
Financial Partner	*7*	*9,902*

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