THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are a big help to Sycamore Land Trust. Last year, long-time volunteer Russell Boulding stepped into a newly created volunteer role: conservation easement monitor. Russell checks on Sycamore’s conservation easements once a year to make sure all is well, which frees up more of Assistant Director John Lawrence’s time to work on new land acquisition projects. With volunteer help, Sycamore is saving more land than ever. Thank you!

DO YOU HAVE SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE TO SHARE?
Let us know how you can help by taking this survey! http://bit.ly/1s3DNPw
I’ve called southern Indiana home for more than 20 years, and I’m regularly inspired by its natural beauty. This place is truly special. It’s not just the beautiful, diverse landscape — it’s the people. People here are kind, plainspoken, interesting folks who care about making southern Indiana a great place to live.

These values are borne out in the enthusiasm we see at Sycamore Land Trust every day. People want to support a local organization and want to make a difference right here at home.

And what a difference you are making! In 2013, you helped protect a gorgeous new preserve in Greene County, open up two new preserves with trails, and connect more families to nature. And, we’ve heard, you are “spreading the word” by sharing your Preserve Guide with friends!

These are just a few of the accomplishments we achieved together in 2013. With your help, we’ll keep making you proud of this beautiful place we call home. Please consider making a gift of $40 or more to renew your membership, become a new member, or give a gift membership. Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.sycamorelandtrust.org to make your donation.

Thank you for making a lasting impact for the people and places of southern Indiana!

María Viteri
BOARD PRESIDENT

THANK YOU, DONORS!
Without you, these accomplishments would not have been possible. You can view a list of donors online at www.sycamorelandtrust.org/annual-report. Thank you for being part of this work!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Spread the word!
- Make a donation.
- Give someone a gift membership.
- Join the Legacy Circle with a planned gift.
- Become a Sustaining Donor with an automatic monthly gift.
- Volunteer!
LAND CONSERVATION
Saving the local places people find special


These are a few of the things you’d find at the 68-acre Greene County property Sycamore acquired last year. Donated by David and Kathy Dilcher and Rudi Turner, the preserve features deep ravines, several waterfalls, and a high-quality nature forest.

Left untouched for more than 40 years, this beautiful property will now be protected forever as the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest.

And it’s not the only one. Sycamore Land Trust has received approval for six Bicentennial Nature Trust projects, saving special places for future generations in honor of Indiana’s 200th anniversary. This year, Sycamore partnered on projects that added 300 acres to the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, and acquired land that expanded Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve in Brown County. Trevlac Bluffs protects a rare stand of native hemlocks, and these critical new additions will make it easier for everyone to explore this local gem.

LAND STEWARDSHIP
Creating local places for people to enjoy the outdoors

Imagine walking along a ridgeline with trees towering above you, the path dappled with sunlight in the summer and radiant with color in autumn. It’s quiet and peaceful.

The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill is a lovely new place to enjoy the classic Brown County hills. Last year, Sycamore welcomed people to this 600-acre property by smoothing the trail and building a parking area with a gate. It’s the perfect place for your next walk in the woods!

Taking good care of Sycamore land is a big, important job. That’s why volunteer preserve monitors like Andrea and Jim Ferguson are so valuable. Andrea and Jim live near the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill and help care for it. As Andrea says, “Although Jim and I love hiking in the dramatic mountain and desert landscapes of the west, we are always happy to come home to our Brown County woods and their quieter but no less splendid delights. So it was especially nice to find out that Sycamore Land Trust was opening to the public the woods within walking distance of our house.” Andrea and Jim volunteered to become monitors because they “realized this would be a great way to say ‘thank you’ for the pleasure of the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill.” They encourage you to discover this beautiful place too! Photo by John Lawrence.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Connecting children and families to nature

Sycamore cares about the future, about connecting people with the natural world around us. Expanding the Li’l Hikers series is one of the innovative ways Sycamore is helping people get in touch with nature.

These family-oriented outings have given people like Marcin and Namrata Zalewski a perfect setting to introduce their children to the outdoors early. “When we spotted an announcement about a Li’l Hikers trip, we thought ‘What a great idea to join with other parents and children,’” Marcin says. “We were not disappointed.” Their son Adi, age four, has been going on Li’l Hikers outings since he was one. He talks excitedly about his experiences, like exploring caves and hiking with his friends. Adi also says:

“What do you enjoy doing when you go for a hike? “I like to pick up big sticks and point at things with them.”

What do you like about hiking? “I like when Carroll tells us the names of trees.”

As Marcin says, “Adi knows that when we all go out together, we get to learn many exciting things about nature in Indiana.”

Left: Regular Li’l Hikers participant Adi Zalewski, age four, “is learning that it is important for us to have nature around us and that it is our responsibility to protect it,” says his dad, Marcin. And, “Li’l Hikers are one thing that is important to a little kid: they are fun!”

ON THE COVER: Simply stunning. This bobcat is one of many species that are at home on Sycamore preserves. Photo by Steve Gifford.

FINANCIALS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 (JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013)

INCOME - $943,908

Programs - $410,259 (44%)

Guidance and Outreach - $96,589 (10%)

Management - $15,661 (2%)

Investments and Rental Income - $20,000 (2%)

Events - $44,662 (1%)

EXPENSES - $439,502

Membership and Contributions - $846,786 (94%)

Funding and Grants - $61,082 (14%)

Management - $25,263 (6%)

Programs - $225,263 (51%)

Sycamore’s financial picture remains strong. Remaining assets were invested in stewardship endowment, legal defense fund, operating reserve, and interest-bearing investments.

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For more information, visit Sycamore Land Trust online at www.sycamorelandtrust.org or call 812-937-3112.
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