

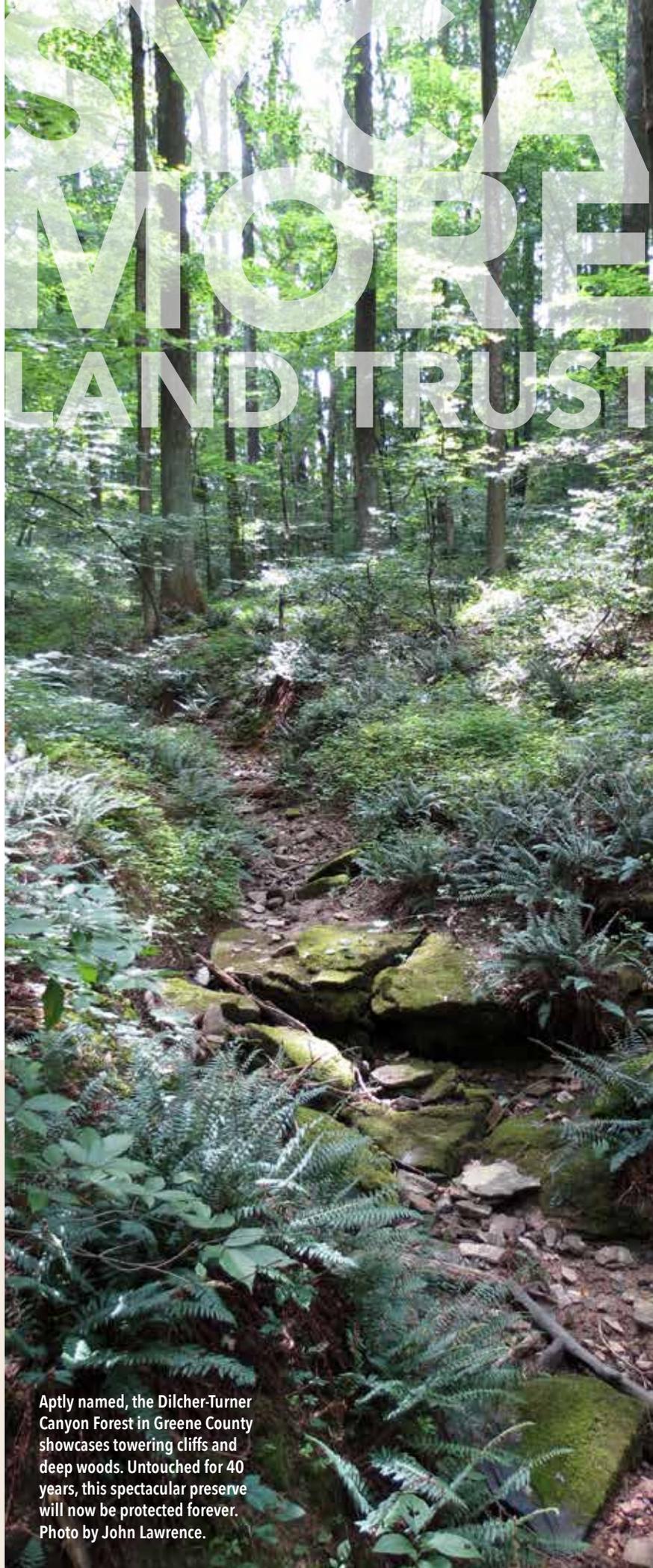


LOCAL PEOPLE,
LOCAL PLACES



SYCAMORE LAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

SYCAMORE MORE LAND TRUST



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!

Maria Viterisi

BOARD PRESIDENT

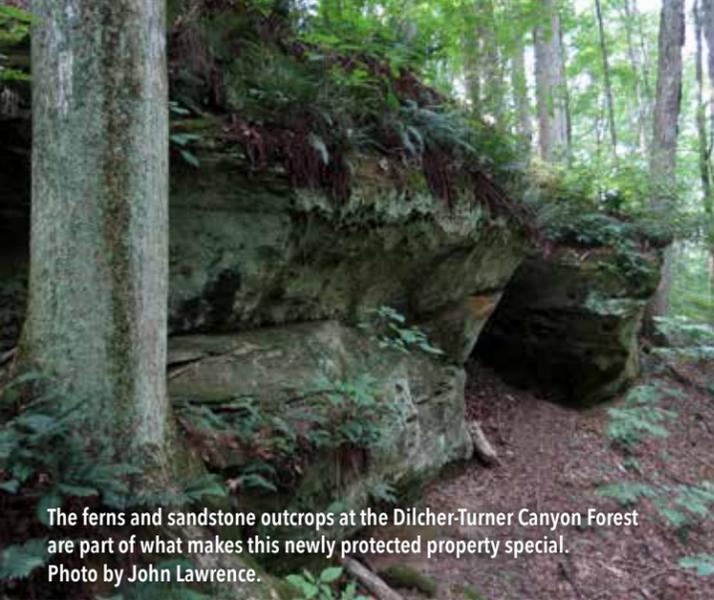
THANK YOU, DONORS!

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!

Aptly named, the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest in Greene County showcases towering cliffs and deep woods. Untouched for 40 years, this spectacular preserve will now be protected forever. Photo by John Lawrence.



The ferns and sandstone outcrops at the Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest are part of what makes this newly protected property special. Photo by John Lawrence.



Sycamore's original Bicentennial project, the Columbia Mine Preserve, became a new recreation destination in 2013. At the Grand Opening Ceremony, a group led by Sycamore Assistant Director John Lawrence (r) wove through the tall native grasses that make the Columbia Mine Preserve a haven for birds like woodcocks and grasshopper sparrows. Photo by Amber Ball.

LAND CONSERVATION

Saving the local places people find special

Waterfalls. Towering cliffs. Ferns. *Quietude.*

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 mature forest.

"Watching the trees, watching the plants during the whole year gives you a much better understanding," David said. "You live with them. It's kind of like watching children grow up, because we watched this woods grow up."

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.

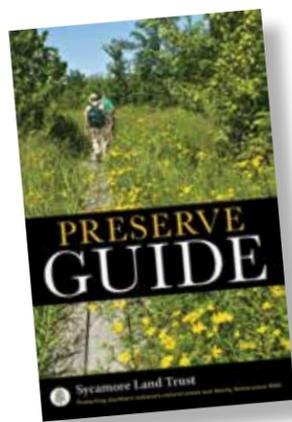
The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill is a lovely new place to enjoy the classic Brown County hills. Last year, Sycamore welcomed people to this 600-acre property by smoothing the trail and building a parking area with a gate. It's the perfect place for your next walk in the woods!



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.

Protecting land, opening it to the public — and now making it easier to get there! Sycamore published its first ever *Preserve Guide* in 2013, with maps and directions to help people enjoy all that Sycamore has to offer.



"We used the new Preserve Guide to get to the Oakley Preserve and the directions were just

perfect. Thanks so much for an interesting day." —Karen Whorral

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

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:



Li'l Hikers outings bring families together to let children run in the forest, learn the names of trees, wade through streams, look at pond life, and use binoculars and microscopes — all in the name of having fun and forming a strong connection to nature! Photos by Marcin Zalewski.

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."

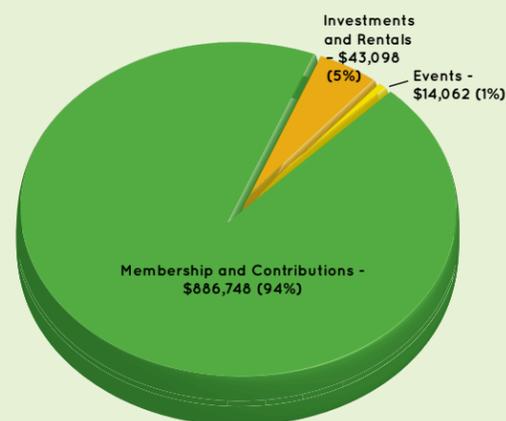
As Marcin says, "Adi knows that when we all go out together, we get to learn many exciting things about nature in Indiana."

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!"

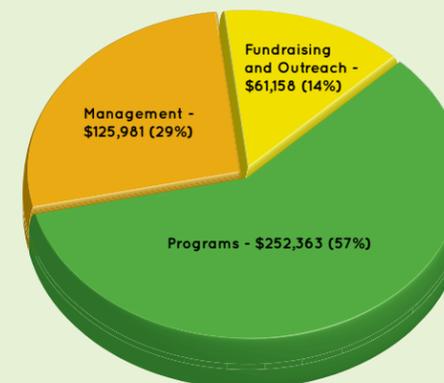
FINANCIALS

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

INCOME - \$943,908



EXPENSES - \$439,502



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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Jennifer Witzke, Graphic Designer



Volunteer Russell Boulding helps with a variety of useful tasks, including hauling tires. If you visit a preserve that looks especially clean and beautiful, thank a volunteer!

Photo by John Lawrence.



Sycamore Land Trust

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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>



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