the twig

Sycamore Land Trust

WINTER/SPRING 2017

A new preserve

Lake Monroe peninsula protected forever PAGES 2-4

A new adventure

Hiking and health PAGES 10-11

A new program

By George, It's Science! PAGES 12-13

An aerial view of the Lake Monroe peninsula, now Sycamore's Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve, opened in December 2016.

Photo by John Lawrence

Preserving nature and memories

Peninsula on Lake Monroe becomes Sycamore's newest nature preserve

BY ABBY PERFETTI, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

We have the great pleasure of protecting forever an exceptional new nature preserve, the Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve. Situated on 48 acres with a unique ridge extending three-quarters of a mile into Lake Monroe, the property abuts 1.7 miles of shoreline and features good-quality upland hardwood forest along with interesting geology.

This preserve provides enormous benefits for plants, wildlife, and water. The forest cover protects the steep slopes from eroding into the lake, and provides habitat for all kinds of migratory songbirds and other wildlife. It contributes to the large forest block in our region that is so important to migratory songbirds. On a recent visit there, I saw a bald eagle flying among the treetops, as well as several hawks and woodpeckers. Spring wildflowers are abundant on the forest floor.

The preserve is crossed by the Mt. Carmel Fault, so that younger limestone is exposed on the east side while older sandstone caps the western ridgetops. An old quarry site cuts into the side of a ridge, where rock was removed many decades ago.

Another remarkable features of this preserve is the glorious vista it offers along a 1.1-mile trail, 2.2 miles out and back. From the first section of the trail, which was built by the Hoosier Hikers Council, to the wide old road which comprises most of the trail, visitors will enjoy towering trees and panoramic views of the lake. Follow the trail all the way down to the water, where geodes and shells are abundant in the sand. But please remember the first rule of the outdoors: take nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints.

This preserve would not have been possible without the generosity of many people: Larry and Carol Weingartner, John and Eric Branigin, Tom Seeber, Mike Jarvis, Loren Wood Builders, the Bicentennial Nature Trust, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, and Sycamore members.

This unique preserve was named after Amy Weingartner Branigin. Amy was a lover of nature, especially the less popular critters like bats, bugs, and snakes. "If there was an animal that was getting a bad rap, that was the animal she took under her wing," explains Carol Weingartner, Amy's mother.

Amy passed away in 2012 of a brain tumor at age 49, and her family knew they wanted to memorialize her in nature. Carol and Larry approached Sycamore Land Trust. Christian Freitag and John Lawrence, Sycamore's Executive and Assistant Directors, looked far and wide for caves to protect, protect, because caves were near to Amy's heart, but nothing quite fit. Then one day, Christian showed the Weingartners the peninsula, on the site of the former Shawnee Bluffs camp owned by the IU Alumni Association. The entire

A limestone monument donated by Indiana Limestone Fabricators, Spencer, IN dedicates Sycamore's new preserve. L – R: Ann Connors (Development Director), Larry and Carol Weingartner, John and Eric Branigin, Christian Freitag (Executive Director).

camp had been sold for development, but the peninsula was still free of new construction.

They all knew the site would be a fitting tribute to Amy's legacy as a protector of nature. Most of the property was purchased in 2015, and two more important parcels acquired in early 2016. After careful planning, trail building, and parking lot construction, the Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve opened in late 2016.

When asked what Amy would say about all this, Carol suggests that she would be proud but a bit overwhelmed by all the attention. Amy was friendly to every person and animal she met, but remained reserved and humble.

John Branigin, Amy's widower, also shies away from the limelight. He gives Amy all the credit for raising their son Eric, now 16, to be the avid reader and nature enthusiast that he is. But it's clear that the entire family embodies Amy's upbeat, generous spirit.

As we sit in the Weingartner living room one chilly December Saturday, watching dozens of birds visit the feeders that hang just outside the windows, Carol recalls the saying that likely speaks to all Sycamore supporters: *The land isn't ours; we're a part of the land*. "I wish everybody understood that," she says. "The world would be such a better place."

TIPS FOR VISITING THE PRESERVE:

- Parking is very limited, with only 7 spots and one ADA accessible spot. Please carpool and try to visit at off-peak times, like weekdays.
- There is no street parking allowed. If the parking lot is full, visitors can come back later or try out the great hikes at nearby Pate Hollow Trail, just up the road on 446 at Paynetown SRA.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Part of the trail gets muddy after a rainfall, so be sure to wear sturdy shoes.

How does local land conservation help us all?

Sycamore's work to save and restore land is a team effort, and it takes everyone's involvement. The more people from all backgrounds who join the movement, the stronger we can be. But how can saving land help you personally, and your community?

- One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year, equaling 11,000 miles of car emissions. (Virginia Cooperative Extension: The Value of Landscaping)
- A single tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding. (American Forests Organization)
- Erosion control through land stewardship contributes to clean drinking water and healthy agricultural land.
- Proximity to nature preserves and green spaces improves quality of life.
- Forests help control carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and reduce temperatures in cities and around buildings.
- Conservation restores and protects critical habitat for at-risk wildlife and encourages biodiversity.

Disheartening statistics about human-caused climate change are all around us, but we in southern Indiana know how beautiful and wild this land can be, and we know that it's worth protecting.

Sycamore now protects **9,044 acres** of land and has prevented it from being developed, logged, or mistreated. Snow geese and American white pelicans are returning to Goose Pond in larger numbers every year. Successes like these happen because regular people like you are willing to stand up and be a part of something big.

"Sycamore is as much about people as it is about land. With how busy everyone seems to be these days, I think it is important to have natural areas close to home for people to unwind. Sycamore's passion for protecting Indiana's natural heritage is contagious and always conducted with excellence and integrity."

–Steve Gifford, volunteer and former board member

If you're looking for a way to make a real difference for the environment, **please consider giving to Sycamore**. 100 percent of your gift will stay locally and have an impact you can see. Simply visit sycamorelandtrust.org/donate or fill out the enclosed envelope. You'll also find information there on how to get involved through volunteering and hiking events. Thank you!

Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve

Susan Haislip

A shared passion

The Columbia Mine project made me a believer

BY SUSAN HAISLIP

Nature has been an integral part of my life since I was a child. The fields, brooks, and beaches of southern Connecticut were my playground, and inspire fond memories to this day. My formative years saw the rise of the environmental movement, and I was hooked! After college, I pursued a career in public service, and found my niche in the environmental nonprofit sector. Prior to my new position with Sycamore, I served for over a decade in a similar role with Wesselman Nature Society in Evansville.

I am honored to join the staff at Sycamore, and I look forward to meeting the many people who make this organization successful — supporters like you. I feel like I know you already, because I too have been a supporter of Sycamore for a number of years now. I was first introduced to Sycamore through what is now the Columbia Mine Preserve in Gibson and Pike counties.

The Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge had been looking forward to purchasing that property for many years, until the deal began to go awry. It got dire: the owners were threatening to divide the property up and sell it in pieces. As a member of the Friends of the Refuge Board of Directors, I reached out to Sycamore for help in preserving the property. The response was immediate. Because of the knowledge, dedication, and passion of Sycamore's staff and Board members, 1,000 acres of southwestern Indiana are now protected and returned to nature for all to enjoy.

That one experience made me a believer in Sycamore Land Trust. And we have accomplished much more since then! Sycamore inspires me to believe in the return of an Indiana much like the Indiana my great-grandparents experienced — where wide open spaces provide future generations the opportunity to explore and enjoy the ecological diversity and natural beauty that we all treasure.

I look forward to contributing to that effort, and hearing about what inspires you. You can reach me at 812-336-5382, x100 or **susan@sycamorelandtrust.org.**

Introducing Shayna Steingard

SPEA student begins work as Communications Fellow

Shayna Steingard

I was raised in Phoenix, AZ, and attended the honors college at Arizona State University. I loved my science classes and sought out the courses that explored sustainability, the environment, and environmental justice. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a minor in Nonprofit Administration, and a certificate in Environmental Humanities. After graduation I was accepted into Teach For America. During my two years of service, I had the privilege of teaching physical and biological sciences to over 400 students, kindergarten through eighth grade, in downtown Kansas City. While teaching, I earned a Master of Elementary Education from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Ultimately, teaching in the inner city pushed me back toward environmental work because I saw how the impacts of environmental injustice compound and exacerbate educational inequality. I moved to Bloomington this fall to attend the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU. In two years, I will graduate with a Master of Science in Environmental Science and a Master of Public Affairs. In my future career, I aim to help craft holistic environmental policy that incorporates and supports marginalized communities.

I also get to spend my time in Bloomington working as the Communications Fellow for Sycamore Land Trust, which upholds the shared value of protecting the environment forever and for everyone. I'm excited to help protect and restore land in southern Indiana, and particularly excited to improve my birding and naturalist skills, since my coworkers are birding pros. It's inspiring to work at an organization with an established culture and legacy of environmental action. We live that tradition every day at work, where our office is in the former home of Helen and Lynton Keith Caldwell, who helped author the first National Environmental Policy Act. At our recent open house, I snuck a chance to sit at Executive Director Christian Freitag's desk, where Mr. Caldwell drafted portions of NEPA. It's a salient reminder of why I'm here, the work to be done, and the potential to positively impact the environment.

Hiking for your health

Walking in nature has proven fitness benefits

BY ABBY PERFETTI, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Everyone knows that hiking and walking are good for you, but do you actually know why? What is it about fresh air and sunshine, or even a cloudy day, that make you feel better about your day, your body, and your surroundings?

Mental wellness

A group of Stanford scientists found that walking for 90 minutes in nature has a greater impact on reducing signs of depression than a 90-minute walk in an urban setting. (stanford.edu)

Completing a hike leaves you with a sense of accomplishment and pride, and reduces stress. (sciencedirect.com)

Physical fitness

An hour of hiking can burn 500 calories or more. (livestrong.com)

Hiking is often better on your joints than a run or walk on pavement, which inflicts more impact than a trail.

Kindness

One study found that participants who stared up at a grove of very tall trees for even one minute approached dilemmas more ethically and demonstrated more helpful behavior than those who spent the same time looking up at a tall building. (berkeley.edu)

Disease resistance

The cardiovascular benefits of hiking are abundant, like lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, and a reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes. (americanhiking.org)

Work performance

Hiking has been shown to improve attention spans and creative problem-solving skills by as much as 50 percent. (ploslone.org)

"Hiking is an activity that I recommend for many of my patients," explains Dr. Timothy Steiner of Bloomington, specializes in orthopedic surgery and sports medicine. "It is an excellent choice for regular exercise because it's a weight-bearing, non-impact, cardiovascular activity. Weight-bearing activities help strengthen the skeleton, and can even prevent osteoporosis with repetition over long periods of time. Non-impact activity is good for joints, and something that even those with arthritis can tolerate."

Sycamore's Executive Director, Christian Freitag, recognizes the healing potential of hiking in his own life. An avid hiker his whole life, he still suffered from high blood pressure. Last summer, he set about to improve his health, and started hiking five miles a day at his favorite spots around Monroe Co. After four months, Christian was 60 pounds lighter with ideal blood pressure. All in all, Christian hiked 430 miles on Indiana trails last year and was proud to complete the Bicentennial Hikers Challenge.

Hiking can provide a full-body workout for even the toughest athletes, as Dr. Steiner elaborates:

"Different types of terrain, such as going up and down hills or steps, use different muscle groups in the legs, torso, and even arms when using poles. The degree of intensity created by differences in terrain and pace can make hiking a strenuous aerobic workout, a stress-relieving stroll, or an activity that friends of different physical conditions can do together."

"Although I don't recommend hiking on its own for treatment of medical conditions," he adds, "it certainly is something that is well tolerated and good for rehabilitation after certain injuries and surgeries."

Sycamore preserves and protects land, but another important part of our mission is connecting people to nature. The trails on our sixteen public nature preserves offer people free opportunities for exercise, a chance to escape the bustle of everyday life, and a place to develop pride in the land we call home.

The boardwalk at Beanblossom Bottoms invites you to walk in a natural setting.

For a flat, easy walk, follow the boardwalk at our Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve. Looking for a more challenging hike? Try our four-mile trail at the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill in Brown County, which includes plenty of hills. Information on all 32 miles of Sycamore trails can be found at **sycamorelandtrust.org**.

A lively game of "coyotes and rabbits" dramatically demonstrates predator/prey interactions, habitat needs, and population fluctuations.

Photos by Shane Gibson

'By George, It's Science!'

Evansville science education program honors teacher's father

BY SHANE GIBSON, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Are we going outside today, Mr. Gibson?" "Can we play coyotes and rabbits again?" It was my second visit with the fifth grade students at Glenwood Leadership Academy in Evansville, and they couldn't wait to participate in the predator-prey activities from the week before. It wasn't in my lesson plan for the day, but educators are flexible. Learning through play is wonderful, and the kids were excited about it. So we made it happen.

Connecting Sycamore Land Trust's Environmental Education Program with the Evansville Community School District's Glenwood Learning Academy has been a perfect educational partnership. Sycamore Board member and Evansville resident Greg Meyer introduced me to Jennifer Roll and her educational endeavor, "By George, It's Science!"

Jennifer started "By George, It's Science!" to honor her late father, long-time Indiana University biology professor George Hudock. She saw a need for elementary students to be immersed in the life sciences, so she forged a relationship with Glenwood fifth-grade teachers and Bosse High School to provide activities and field trips for the elementary grade students.

Right: Students at Glenwood Leadership Academy in Evansville participate in a web of life activity.

Sycamore's Environmental Education Program has joined the partnership to provide nature-based lessons at Glenwood. This expands the learning opportunities for students as they make connections from their field trips, lessons with Bosse High students, and now with Sycamore. Predator-prey, producers-consumers, habitats, bio-accumulation, and the inter-connectedness of all the components of life are just the beginning of what we've studied.

Jennifer Roll says, "Partnering with Shane at Sycamore Land Trust has given 'By George, It's Science!' many more opportunities to see my father's legacy live on. As a long-time family friend says, 'he continues to teach.' If we can reach children and inspire a love of nature and life sciences, we will all benefit."

The Glenwood Leadership Academy campus is a lovely place with mature trees and a large open field where I watched a red-tailed hawk hunt during my first visit. A dragonfly made an appearance for students on an unseasonably warm November day. The discoveries and learning opportunities are limitless with these fifth graders, who relish any opportunity to go outside.

I love working with these students, and appreciated this note from fifth-grade teacher Stacey Hartz: "Thanks, Shane! The kids are really learning and making connections! We love having you!"

Enjoy yourself. Enjoy nature.

On the Cover

Danielle Lucas enjoys the view at the new Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve.

Photo by Visit Bloomington

Native Plant Project gets funding from Duke Energy Foundation

Sycamore recently received a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation for our Environmental Education program. At nearly $10,000, this grant will enable us to expand our successful Native Plant Project, which brings lessons, hikes, and hands-on projects to students of several schools in Monroe and Brown counties.

Classroom lessons on native plants, animals, and biodiversity are combined with propagating and growing plants, honing scientific observation skills, and actively being in nature. The project also aims to create areas on school properties that will provide wildlife habitat for ongoing learning opportunities, and landscaping design that will reduce the need for mowing. These outcomes promise to benefit the children's education, as well as their physical and mental health.

"The environment is a focus priority for the Duke Energy Foundation," said Bruce Calloway, Government and Community Relations Manager for Duke Energy. "This grant, in partnership with Sycamore Land Trust, provides environmental education while allowing the opportunity to leave a garden legacy at the schools that benefits all classrooms and can be utilized for years to come."

Studies show that environmental education helps children build skills in observation, critical thinking, and leadership. As part of the Native Plant Project, Environmental Education Director Shane Gibson works with teachers to create outdoor learning opportunities that also incorporate literature, writing, and math to integrate classroom curriculum with the outdoors.

Above: Sycamore staff members accept a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. The funds will enable Sycamore to expand its Native Plant Project to benefit children in Monroe and Brown Co. schools. L – r: Bruce Calloway (Duke Energy Government and Community Relations Manager), Christian Freitag (Executive Director), Jack Urrutia, (on behalf of the Duke Energy Foundation), John Lawrence (Assistant Director), Shane Gibson (Environmental Education Director), Ann Connors (Development Director), Susan Haislip (Administrative Director).

26th Anniversary Annual Celebration a success

Thank you to all who came to our October 21 Annual Celebration "Wild Indiana: Past and Future." The Monroe Convention Center was decked out, thanks to support from Markey's Rental & Staging and Harmony Gardens. Table hosts invited friends to learn more about Sycamore and enjoy the festivities. Live music, inspiring talks, popular silent auction items, and delicious food made the night memorable.

Award recipients were: Sam Shine, Barbara J. Restle Lifetime Conservation Award; Bledsoe Riggert Cooper James, Conservation Business of the Year; Hoosier Hikers Council, Volunteers of the Year; and Guy and Connie Loftman, Friends of Sycamore.

We appreciate every attendee, donor, and partner who supported this event and helped Sycamore raise funds that are vital to land protection. Without your involvement, we wouldn't be where we are today.

Photos from the evening were taken by Synthia Steiman of SfS Photography. For more photos, check out the album on our Facebook page.

At right from top to bottom: Michael Homoya, Indiana State Botanist/Plant Ecologist, gave a presentation comparing Indiana's earliest land cover records with some of the sites as they are today.

Attendees Justin and Andrea Lutz and Kipp Kress get ready for a delicious buffet dinner.

The Hoosier Hikers Council was honored as Volunteers of the Year for their work building trails on Sycamore preserves.

Sycamore's Annual Celebration provided plenty of opportunities for socializing.

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. Volunteer events are free! See **sycamorelandtrust.org** for more details and directions. **To RSVP,** or get more information visit the event page online and fill out the form, or email **info@sycamorelandtrust.org**, or call **812-336-5382 x100**.

16 FEB

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, February 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

Scarlet Oak Woods (Monroe Co.)

We'll work on drainage and a trail extension through a new portion of the preserve.

4 MARCH

LITTLE HIKERS: MAKING MAPLE SYRUP

Saturday, March 4, 12 – 2 p.m.

Cedar Crest (Monroe Co.)

Learn all about making maple syrup from Native American and pioneer methods, and how to make it at home for very little money.

16 MARCH

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, March 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

Scarlet Oak Woods (Monroe Co.)

Join us for an off-trail hike, where we will pull invasive periwinkle vines that threaten to choke out spring wildflowers and other native plants.

29 MARCH

WEEKDAY WALKERS: LICHEN HIKE

Wednesday, March 29, 12 – 3 p.m.

Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill (Brown Co.)

Join naturalist, artist, and Sycamore member Gillian Harris as she leads you on a rigorous, hilly hike to investigate the organisms of the forest that often go unnoticed.

1 APRIL

CULTURAL HISTORY HIKE

Saturday, April 1, 12 – 2 p.m.

Porter West Preserve (Monroe Co.)

Join Liz Watts Malouchos from IU's Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology as she interprets local histories from the first Native peoples to Euro-American pioneers who lived in Monroe County.

15 APRIL

LITTLE HIKERS: NIGHT EXPERIENCE

Saturday, April 15, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

Touch the Earth Natural Area (Bartholomew Co.)

As day turns to night, changes happen in the natural world. Experience the outdoors using all of your senses and learn about adaptations of animals that inhabit the night. To allow our night vision to develop, please leave flashlights at home.

20 APRIL

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, April 20, 9am –1 p.m.

Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve (Monroe Co.)

We'll pull invasive garlic mustard at this new preserve on Lake Monroe, and afterwards enjoy a light lunch Sycamore will provide. Please carpool to the preserve as there are only 7 parking spots.

23 APRIL

BIRDING HIKE

Sunday, April 23, 7 – 9 a.m., CDT

Eagle Slough Natural Area (Vanderburgh Co.)

The Evansville Audubon Society hosts this birding walk through Sycamore's wetland property on the south side of Evansville. Free; no registration required. Please note: Vanderburgh Co. is on Central Daylight Time.

28 APRIL

FROG CHORUS & SKY DANCE HIKE

Friday, April 28, 7 – 9 p.m.

Beanblossom Bottoms Preserve (Monroe Co.)

Stroll on the boardwalk across this wetland ecosystem as Prof. Vicky Meretsky of IU-SPEA and Assistant Director John Lawrence help us identify frogs and woodcocks by listening.

28 APRIL

ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY

Friday, April 28, time TBD

Bloomingfoods East

A beloved Sycamore tradition continues! Sycamore staff and volunteers will be handing out tree seedlings for free to help make our region a greener place to live.

4 MAY

WEEKDAY WALKERS: SPRING

Thursday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest (Greene Co.)

Bring your wildflower guides and binoculars to take in the sights and sounds of this Preserve with beautiful terrain and rock outcrops.

6 MAY

GARLIC MUSTARD & BREW WORKDAY

Saturday, May 6, 2 – 5 p.m.

Porter West Preserve (Monroe Co.)

After tackling this invasive plant at the preserve, you're invited to join us at Upland's Westside Beer Bar for a tasty local beverage and conversation.

14 MAY

LITTLE HIKERS: WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day), 12 – 2 p.m.

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve (Monroe Co.)

We will explore the pond and puddles for animals that live in and around water, such as pollywogs and dragonflies.

18 MAY

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, May 18, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Touch the Earth Natural Area (Bartholomew Co.)

We'll pull garlic mustard and invasive bushes along the edge of the preserve. We'll also share a light lunch provided by Sycamore.

NATIVE PLANT SALES

April 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; and June 3.

Eco Logic LLC, a local native plant restoration company and Sycamore supporter, opens its doors six times this spring for native plant sales on their property near our Porter West Preserve. Visit **ecologicindiana.com** for more information.

Thank You

Unless otherwise noted, this list includes donations received from 8/1/2016 through 11/30/2016. If we have omitted your name in error, please contact us at 812-336-5382 x100.

WELCOME, 59 NEW MEMBERS!

Lee and Mary Alston
Anonymous (2)
Pamela and Jack Blackstone
Blueline Media Productions
The Briar & The Burley
Brown County Wine Company, Inc.
Scott Burgins and Andrea Murray
Candis Caywood
Kim and Kevin Cook
Phillip and Annette Cox
The Crowley Family
David Dale, David Dale Fine Arts
Abby and James Downey
Jim and Kay Eagleman
Samantha and Douglas Eibling
Hal and Sandrine Evans
Steve and Pat Farmer
Tom Frohman and Cynthia Moriarty
Marriann and Austen Gardner
Lynne Gilliatt Studio
Melissa and Troy Gilliland
Jim Gladden
Meagan Guilfoyle
Andrea Havill and Maarten Bout
Micah and Stacey Heath
Dan and Beth Henkel
Higgs Communications
Michael and Barbara Homoya
Joan and Rob Hongen
Jennifer Hottell and Michael Voyles
Kroger
Douglas and Cheryl Johnstone
Jaydene and Mike Laros
Matthew Lilley and Megan Simmons
Lisa's Green Cleaning
Patrick and Annie Main
Jana McGee
Geoff McKim and Amy Cornell
Greg Meitus
Harold and Denise Ogren
Mary and Robert Orben
Pizza X
Judy and Tom Quanty
Rake Cabinet and Surface Solutions
Caroline and Joseph Shaw
Ruth and Dave Simcox
Karen S. Smith
David Polly and Rebecca Spang
Steve and Kathy Strickler
Tivoli Fashions
Pat and Jerry Ulrey
Jenn and Chris Upton
Scott and Pamela Walters
Steve and Lisa Wickes
Gary Wiggins
Robert Scott Wylie
William E. Young II

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

12/1/2015 – 11/30/2016

Individuals and Family Foundations

Visionary ($15,000+)

Anonymous (2)
James F. Fielder Trust
George and Cathy Korinek
Laura Hare Charitable Trust
Namaste Foundation
Raymond Foundation
Larry and Carol Weingartner
Wylie Foundation, Inc.

Trail Blazer ($5,000 – $14,999)

Anonymous
Matt and Eva Allen
Mike and Bev Baker
John and Eric Branigin
Malcolm Dalglish and Judith Klein
Doug and Dee Dee Dayhoff
David and Kathy Dilcher
Tim and Mary Ann Dunfee
Jennifer Hottell
Phyllis Little
Robert Meitus
Bill and Kathleen Oliver
Sam and Gerry Ooley
Barbara Restle
Ropchan Foundation
Jonathan Stafford
Jeffrey White

Naturalist ($1,000 – $4,999)

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Peter Batule
Heather Blair and Craig Coley
Mary Bookwalter and Jeff Stant
Bussing-Koch Foundation
William and Becky Campbell
Dan and Debbi Conkle
Dorothy Danak
Mike and Betty Davis
William and Nancy Ditzler
Elaine Caldwell Emmi and Phil Emmi
Mark and Rebecca Ewing
Flowers Family Foundation
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Kenneth R. R. Gros Louis
Barbara Hanawalt
Steve and Cassie Howard
Walter E. Hoffmann and Ann L. Johnson
Jenny Johnson
Yvonne Lai and Kenneth Mackie
Lorenz Family Charitable Trust
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Chip Methvin and Caitlin McClelland Methvin
Greg and Sue Meyer
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Ann Nolan
Andrea Oeding
Carol Pettys
Patricia Pizzo
Nancy Ralston
Scott and Ruth Sanders
Sarkes and Mary Tarzian Foundation, Inc.
Andrew and Martha Thieneman
Judith and Maynard Thompson
Marsha Veldman
Bill and Mary Weeks
Peter J. Weingartner
Don and Wendy Wertz
Sheryl Woodhouse Keese
Tom Zeller

SYCAMORE SUSTAINERS

Monthly Donors

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Linda B. Smith
David Polly and Rebecca Spang
Jaime Sweany
Maya Szakaly
Laura Knudson and Jason Tennessen
Eli and Emily Trinkle
Maria and Paul Viterisi
Heather and Scott Lee
Marcin and Namrata Zalewski

DONORS

Gifts received between 8/1 – 11/30/2016

$20,000+

Namaste Foundation

$5,000 – $19,999

Duke Energy Foundation
Indiana Limestone Fabricators, Spencer, IN
Bill and Kathleen Oliver
Phyllis Little
Ropchan Foundation
Wylie Foundation, Inc.

$1,000 – $4,999

Matt and Eva Allen
Mike and Bev Baker
Blueline Media Productions
Mary Bookwalter and Jeff Stant
Bussing-Koch Foundation
William and Becky Campbell
Dan and Debbi Conkle
Ann Connors
David Dale, David Dale Fine Arts
Eco Logic
Jeannine Gilles
Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute
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Chip Methvin and Caitlin McClelland Methvin
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Rake Cabinet and Surface Solutions
Sarkes and Mary Tarzian Foundation, Inc.
Julie and Kent Stoelting
Andrew and Martha Thieneman
Upland Brewing Co.
Don and Betsy Whitehead
Karen and Bill Whorrall

$500 – $999

Anonymous
Sarah Baumgart and Bill Lozowski
Bluespring Caverns Park
Scott Burgins and Andrea Murray
Culver Family Foundation
Jim and Brenda DeCoursey
Michael Davis
Tim and Mary Ann Dunfee
Elaine Caldwell Emmi and Phil Emmi
Stephen Ferguson
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SYCAMORE SIGHTINGS

A team deliberates at a nature trivia night hosted by Sycamore Branches at King Dough.

Volunteers Troy Miller and Michelle Woolley-Fly cheerfully pick up at trash at Sycamore's Eagle Slough Natural Area in Vanderburgh Co.

On a snowy day in January, this tufted titmouse was visiting the feeders at Cedar Crest, Sycamore's headquarters.

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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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Thank you!

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Photo by Michiko Owaki

Spring is coming! A Little Hiker tries his hand at tapping a maple tree for sap. This year's Little Hikers: Making Maple Syrup activity will take place on Saturday, March 4, from 12 – 2 p.m. at Cedar Crest, Sycamore's headquarters in Monroe Co. See p.12 for more information.

Sycamore Land Trust
P.O. Box 7801
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The Groundswell
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Owned	66	5,070
Easements	36	3,974
Financial Partner	8	10,010
Total	**110**	**19,054**
Wills (known)	*12*	*2,355*

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