THE TWIG

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST // SUMMER 2018

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- THE - NATIVE PLANT PROJECT

By Abby Henkel, Communications Director, and Shane Gibson, Environmental Education Director

At Helmsburg Elementary School in Brown County, students counted more than 30 monarch caterpillars on milkweed they had planted in their school garden.

> "Life finds a way."
>
> **DR. IAN MALCOLM, JURASSIC PARK**

Dr. Malcolm was referring to dinosaurs in his legendary quote about adaptation, but it applies just as well to the plants and animals that surround us here in southern Indiana. What does "adaptation" mean when it comes to nature? That's one of the first questions we ask students during our native plant activities in classrooms. After students help build a definition, we sum it up with this: An adaptation is something a plant or animal has or does that helps it to survive.

At any age, the children we work with are remarkably good at coming up with a definition close to this one. By asking them questions, we encourage students to start thinking about the world around them in a new way. The books in the series "Who's Been Here?" challenge readers to dig deeper when observing their surroundings, by questioning what they see and using logic to deduce an answer that makes sense.

The Native Plant Project is hands-on learning. We discuss plant adaptations of seed protection and dispersal, which

gets us to the adaptations that make sure the plant germinates at just the right time. The seeds we use need cold, moist stratification of at least 30 days. This "pretend winter" wakes them up from their dormant state. A grant from the Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society (INPAWS) has funded the purchase of the seeds and soil for our Native Plant Project for nearly three years, and we reuse seed trays year after year. To illustrate the different ways plants can adapt to their environment and ensure their species' longevity, we talk about the seeds from these species:

CHESTNUT
Covered in spikes for protection to allow seed to mature

MILKWEED
Pod protects seed, and fluff attached to seed enables it to fly in wind to find a new place to grow

JACK PINE
Needs fire to release seeds from the cone; fire creates optimal growing conditions

When the seeds grown by the students are ready for transplant, we help them prepare little pots to take home. In 2017, the students at Helmsburg Elementary in Brown County raised enough plants for every 3rd and 4th grader in the school to take several home with leftovers to share with staff at the school. This May, they shared their extra plants at the Beanblossom Farmers' Market, with the kids themselves running the booth.

Education that is immersive and interdisciplinary can have far-reaching effects. This simple project – growing seeds in the classroom, taking them home, and sharing them with community members – introduces students to the importance of native

ON THE COVER

Rhianna Russell, a student at Templeton Elementary in Bloomington, prepares a native grass for planting at her school's Native Plant Garden made possible by Sycamore.

Photo courtesy Jeremy Hogan | Herald-Times

plants, the complexities of ecosystems, and the importance of philanthropy. All the while, they might think they're just getting to play in the dirt.

Sycamore also works with schools to incorporate native plants on their campuses. The Duke Energy Foundation and the Brabson Library and Educational Foundation have generously funded the Native Plant Project, enabling us to purchase flowers, grasses, shrubs, planting tools, mulch, and trees.

Kids relish the time outdoors as they amend the soil, put down mulch, weed, and plant. Using shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows brings them joy and excitement. As Lily Albright, Principal at Unionville Elementary, recently wrote to us: "There are cheers, literally, when the words 'Mr. Gibson is coming today' are spoken."

You don't need to have a large amount of land to build meaningful habitat for native species. In fact, the book "Plant a Pocket of Prairie" by Phyllis Root shows readers how a garden of any size can be home to a world of fascinating critters. These gardens on school campuses – or in your backyard – can be filled with milkweed for monarch caterpillars (did you catch the article in our last issue of *The Twig*?), Joe Pye weed for all sorts of pollinators like butterflies and long-tongued bees, and rattlesnake master for wildlife cover and insect food.

If we each plant a pocket of prairie, little by little, together we can create a substantial amount of habitat for our pollinators and other creatures that depend on native plants. This is how Sycamore builds a nature preserve. Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve started out as about 80 acres two decades ago. Today, Sycamore protects and stewards nearly 1,200 acres in the Beanblossom Creek Conservation Area. Now we see bobcats, the endangered Kirtland's snake, bald eagles, and many types of warblers at this wetland forest teeming with life.

Why Native Plants?

Biodiversity

Native pollinators and other wildlife have co-evolved with native plants, building a mutually beneficial relationship that is crucial to the survival of both plants and animals.

Ecosystem Services

Native plants and ecosystems help to clean our air and water, and create healthy soils.

Natural Heritage

Remnant natural areas offer a glimpse into Indiana's wild past, and what we might attain if we restore some of that habitat.

Paraphrased from a Resource Guide available on Eco Logic's website: ecologicindiana.com

Sycamore Sightings

More than 70 attendees competed in Nature Trivia this spring, hosted by Sycamore Branches at Friendly Beasts Cider Company.

Robin Vivaldi (@halfdayhiker on Instagram) posted this happy photo of her dog Lucy at Lake Lemon Woods.

Hoosiers braved the elements at our New Year's Resolution hike at the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Downey Hill.

-THE-
GROUNDSWELL
Summer 2018

OWNED LAND & EASEMENTS

106	9,404
PROJECTS	ACRES

PROJECTS ASSISTED

12	10,138
PROJECTS	ACRES

FOSSIL FUN

By Shayna Steingard, SPEA Communications Fellow

When you think about it, many of us spent our childhoods dreaming of growing up and wearing khaki. Specifically, the beige pocket-covered vests, wide-brimmed hats, and high ankle boots worn by iconic paleontologists – the trail-blazing adventurers who unearth the remnants of our prehistoric past. It's hard to stand in a museum underneath a colossal dinosaur skeleton without imagining what it would be like, rock chisel and fossil brush in hand, to uncover something buried millions of years ago. Fortunately for Bloomington's amateur and professional paleontologists alike, Lake Monroe is fossiliferous (paleontology jargon for "chock-full of fossils"). No PhD or khaki necessary; to observe fossils all you have to do is watch where you step.

While the Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve now hosts a tiered forest of thick upland hardwoods, the land was once submerged under a shallow ocean covered by a reef-like crinoid forest. Crinoids, *(Elegantocrinus hemisphaericus)* are the ancient ancestors of sea lilies, star fish, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and other

Discoveries from a fossil hike hosted by Sycamore Branches at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve in Bloomington (a City of Bloomington property)

Echniodermata. They looked almost like the end of a tassel or a mop head, anchored in place to the seafloor by a long stalk. While modern descendants are now found in the deepest oceans, fragments from ancient crinoids lay inconspicuously along the shore of Lake Monroe. To the untrained eye, the disk-like fossils easily blend into the mix of pebbles and sand, but once spotted it's hard to believe how many ancient relics have always been just underfoot.

Though rare today, crinoid bioherms, the sea-lily equivalent of a coral reef, dominated the area during the Mississippian period, spanning from 340-350 million years ago. To provide some context, dinosaurs (though they never set claw in Indiana), lived about 100 million years later. The prehistoric reef rested upon the Borden Group rocks, an outcropping of siltstone, sandstone, shale, and limestone that stretches across Indiana like a diagonal stripe from the Ohio River in Harrison County northwestward to Benton County. The water that deposited most of the Borden Group rocks flowed from the newly formed Appalachian Mountains.

The limestone, however, was not deposited by these ancient waters. Instead, this sedimentary rock was formed largely from the remains of shelled organisms that were cemented together through a combination of time and pressure. Not only is limestone made from the remains of organisms like corals and mollusks with calcium-carbonate shells, but it is also a great preserver of fossils. It's no wonder then that southern Indiana, known for its abundant limestone, would also become known for its wealth of crinoid skeletons. Over 80 species of crinoids were discovered at Allens Creek, just four miles southwest of the Peninsula Preserve.

Though many of us look upwards while winding along the trail to spot bald eagles and red-shouldered hawks, you should cast your gaze downward when you head to the shoreline. You are likely to see many of the crinoid stem discs (columnals) while you enjoy the cool breeze off the lake. While you're looking down, you may spot brachiopod and byozoan fossils and geodes, in addition of course to some of the more modern creatures that now inhabit the area.

Crinoid fossils have provided paleontologists insight into the paleoecology of ecosystems long since altered by combinations of extinctions and evolution. They also give every discerning hiker an opportunity to peek into that prehistoric world. We think about the land as a shared resource – something to be protected because of its current or future ecological value. There is also a value in protecting these places because of their ability to inform us about the past.

While the land above the shoreline is protected by Sycamore (and the shoreline by the Indiana DNR), the fossils are protected in two ways. First, fossil hunting on state property is prohibited. But even without this legal barrier, many hikers also believe that the best way to enjoy the natural world sustainably is to leave no trace, even as we enjoy the traces left by ancient animals like crinoids. Leave No Trace is a movement that encourages hikers to leave what they find in the same way they found them and to take out whatever they bring into the forest, in addition to being wary about the introduction of nonnative species and respecting wildlife. Through this kind of ethic, we not only encourage the preservation of our current environment, but also of our natural heritage.

LAND PROTECTION UPDATE

2018 BEGINS WITH FOUR ADDITIONS TO EXISTING PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

By John Lawrence, Assistant Director

Bigger *is* better for nature preserves. And in the first four months of 2018, Sycamore completed four projects covering 172 acres that were all additions to existing natural areas. Larger contiguous areas protect more habitat for plants and wildlife, and the core habitat in a larger preserve is also more sheltered from the disturbances found at the edges. In addition, many species cannot survive in an area without a certain amount of habitat protected.

Accordingly, adding to existing natural areas is always a high priority for Sycamore Land Trust. And because of your support, we were able to save these four high-priority additions to the Hoosier National Forest, our own Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve, and the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.

This photo of the Hoosier National Forest by Visit Bloomington captures the beauty of this hilly landscape, similar to the parcel we added at Hardin Ridge.

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

14 acres

Sycamore's first project finished in 2018 was the addition of 14 acres to the Hoosier National Forest (HNF) in Monroe County. This wooded parcel sits on a peninsula at the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, and is surrounded by the HNF and Lake Monroe. The project began over three years ago, when Sycamore staff discovered that the parcel was listed in Monroe County's fall tax sale. The late owner's estate had abandoned the property, leaving property taxes unpaid. While the HNF was interested in acquiring the property, they were not able to act quickly enough. So Sycamore stepped in and went to the tax sale auction, and made the winning bid.

Winning the bid was merely a first step. Sycamore had to wait for a year before receiving title to the property, a period mandated by state law to allow property owners a last chance to pay taxes owed and reclaim land. Legal notices and a court filing had to be made as well. HNF staff successfully applied for a competitive Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to purchase several hundred acres, including this parcel.

With the deed finally in Sycamore's hands in early 2016, the HNF was able to begin their acquisitions process. All the paperwork was finished this February, and HNF purchased the property from Sycamore. The final step for HNF will be to remove an old shack on the property, the one remaining sign of human occupation on a parcel that has otherwise returned to nature.

BEANBLOSSOM BOTTOMS NATURE PRESERVE

84 acres

Sycamore's next project of 2018, an 84-acre addition to our own Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve in Monroe County, had also been in the works for over three years. This key parcel fills in the northeast corner of the preserve, and contains a floodplain field along with neighboring upland forest. We reached out to the landowner at the end of 2014 through a mailing to landowners in our Beanblossom Creek Bicentennial Conservation Area, and several more letters, phone calls, and in-person meetings followed over the next few years.

Sycamore understands that selling or donating land is a big decision, and we're always grateful when a landowner is willing to talk with us. These discussions worked out well for everyone, as we were able to agree on a deal for Sycamore to purchase the land. Because of all the donors who contributed to the Beanblossom Creek project, this important addition will now be protected and managed forever as part of Beanblossom Bottoms.

PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

62 acres and 12 acres

Our third and fourth projects of the year were not marathons but races against the clock to acquire two additions to the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in Gibson and Pike Counties. In late 2017 Sycamore had the opportunity to apply for land acquisition funding for multiple projects from the Laura Hare Charitable Trust. We reached out to our colleagues at Patoka, and these two parcels were at the top of their priority list.

The 62-acre parcel in Gibson County contains bottomland forest and a frequently flooded field bordered by the refuge and the Patoka River itself, and the 12-acre parcel is all forested and borders both the refuge and the river. The landowners of both were eager to sell. A timber harvest was already scheduled on the larger property, threatening trees that Patoka staff said were larger than any currently on the refuge.

The Laura Hare Charitable Trust quickly approved the grants, making it the third and fourth times that the Trust has helped Sycamore add land to Patoka River NWR. Sycamore contacted the landowners right away, and made deals for both properties before timbering progressed on the larger tract. Acting Refuge Manager Heath Hamilton also quickly secured a grant from the Wild Turkey Federation to cover remaining purchase costs.

Sycamore can now transfer the land to the refuge. Next spring the field on the 62-acre parcel will be planted to bottomland hardwood forest, thanks to a grant from the Alcoa Foundation's and American Forests' Partners for Trees Program. This parcel will be used to complete the matching requirements for a $1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. Eight conservation partners including Sycamore were involved with the grant, which helped protect over 3,000 acres at Patoka River NWR.

Northern Parula at the Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve
Photo by Chris Fox

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

By Chris Fox, Land Stewardship Manager

> *"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*
>
> **ALDO LEOPOLD,**
> ***A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC***

We're gearing up for a busy spring season, and this means a full plate of stewardship activities – especially on our 16 public nature preserves. And we need your help! As visitation at the preserves increases with the warmer temperatures, it's important to make sure our trails are in top shape. Severe weather in this stormy season drops trees and limbs on trails, and flooding can damage infrastructure or bring in trash and debris. Anyone with trail maintenance experience might want to join a new group of volunteers, the Sycamore Trail Rangers. The Rangers will assist with general trail maintenance, as well as clearing trails that may be obstructed by downed trees.

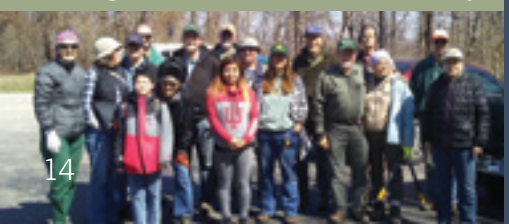
Another one of the big tasks of spring and summer is invasive species monitoring and control. Frequently, invasive plants are among the first to leaf out, and this makes spring the perfect time to control them without harming the native plants. To treat invasive plants, we determine the method that is least harmful to the surrounding environment that will still hinder the invasive plant's ability to grow and reproduce.

Sycamore relies a lot on our amazing volunteers to help protect and maintain thousands of acres and 35 miles of trails. Already in 2018, volunteers have contributed more than 100 hours to help control invasive species, pick up trash, and assist with trail maintenance. These volunteers are willing to work in all weather conditions and do what is needed to help Sycamore protect the land.

If you're interested in general volunteering, look for an upcoming Preserve-a-Preserve Day, usually on the third Thursday of each month. We're also looking for individuals interested in Adopting a Preserve. Our goal is to have at least one or more volunteer stewards for each Sycamore preserve. Stewards agree to monitor their preserve throughout the year and to report any issues or concerns.

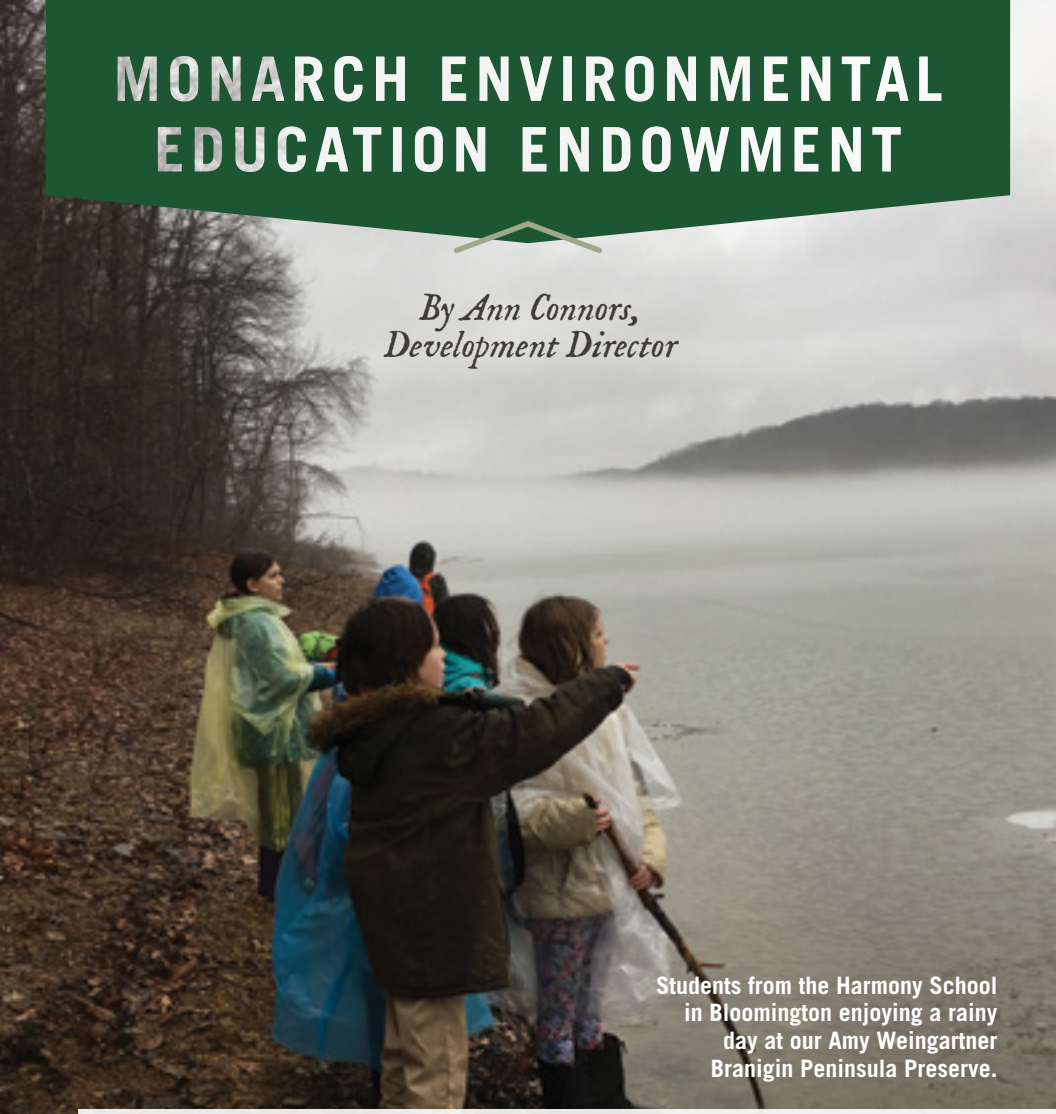
Please get in touch with me at chris@sycamorelandtrust.org or 812-336-5382 extension 103 if you're interested in helping. Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time with Sycamore!

More than 20 volunteers joined us for a workday to clean up trash and debris at Tangeman Woods in Bartholomew County.



MONARCH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

By Ann Connors, Development Director



Students from the Harmony School in Bloomington enjoying a rainy day at our Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve.

Why are our favorite memories so often about being outdoors? There's something about playing, hiking, and relaxing in nature that refreshes us and helps prepare us for the other parts of our busy lives. Studies have found that time in nature enhances physical health, improves critical thinking skills, decreases depression, and has other lasting benefits.

People who connect with nature are more motivated to protect it. For years, Sycamore volunteers led hikes and taught lessons at schools in our area, but we wanted to do even more. Our Environmental Education Program began in 2005 with Carroll Ritter as a part-time educator. Shane Gibson joined the staff in 2015 as Sycamore's first full-time Environmental

Education (EE) Director. Over the past two years, more than 9,000 people have been involved in Sycamore's EE program through public hikes on our preserves, ongoing programs with classes from preschool through college, and programs for diverse community groups and summer camps.

To ensure that our EE program continues strong forever, we established the Monarch Environmental Education Endowment in 2016, managed by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County (CFBMC). The endowment helps Sycamore plan for the future by establishing an investment whose principal is never spent, with earnings that are used to pay EE program expenses each year.

We are working hard to raise $1.3 million for the endowment so that earnings can fully cover the salary of the EE Director and some related program expenses. We are thrilled to have raised $816k, with an additional $100k pledged for this spring, and hope to reach our goal this year – and this is where you can help!

Some of the Endowment's enthusiastic supporters shared their reasons for contributing to this fund:

RUTH AND SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS

"People only take care of what they love, and they love only what they know. When children have the opportunity to poke around in creeks, gaze up into the branches of big trees, watch eagles on a nest, or glimpse a fox - they will develop a love of the greater-than-human world and want to help protect it. Having the opportunity to explore land protected by Sycamore, in the company of adults who encourage them to pay attention and appreciate nature, is vital for the emotional and physical health of children. I don't know of any land trust that has been more effective than Sycamore at preserving habitat for other species and reconnecting humans to our glorious planet."

TINA PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE CFBMC

"The Community Foundation applauds Sycamore Land Trust for their very deliberate approach to growing the sustainability of their environmental programs. Those donors who support the Endowment are making a gift to this generation and to everyone who follows. Preserving land while educating successive generations to respect, protect, and embrace those lands is both wise and essential."

LINDA RAYMOND AND MICHAEL CAIN

"Since the Raymond Foundation started in 1993, we have primarily supported education related to the sciences. Our support for environmental education is a critical part of this mission, and not just because it encompasses the sciences…it also introduces people to the beauty, complexity, and wonder of our environment and our place in it. Sycamore Land Trust is in a unique position to carry out this kind of education. This is why we have encouraged and supported this initiative since 2005. We believe it is extremely important for our society to have a knowledge and appreciation of our natural world. Without argument, that's what Sycamore Land Trust is all about. Many special places in Indiana have been protected, providing sanctuaries from our digital obsessions, protection for critical species, outdoor laboratories, and many reasons to trust this organization with the important task of environmental education."

GEORGE AND CATHY KORINEK

"It's all about the future. If you don't get kids outside, you have no way for them to be concerned about the environment. Kids who connect with nature are more caring and curious, and end up being better people. And it's better for the parents as they see what we are doing and what the kids are learning and experiencing."

MARK MILLER, MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AT VECTREN CORPORATION

"Many people enjoy the land, but not everyone realizes that you can love the land to death. The reason Vectren supports the Monarch Environmental Education Endowment at Sycamore Land Trust is because this program not only teaches you to love the land, but *why* love the land and *how* to love the land, and to protect the land so that others may enjoy the land as well."

To learn more or contribute to the Monarch Environmental Education Endowment, please contact me at **ann@sycamorelandtrust.org** or **812-336-5382 ext. 104**

Thank you!

Homecoming

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST'S 28TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2018

5:30PM | **MONROE CONVENTION CENTER**

Tickets on sale this July

Inspiring talk by former EPA administrator Janet McCabe, silent auction, conservation awards, gourmet dinner, local wine and beer, live music, and more.

INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR?
Contact Ann Connors:
ann@sycamorelandtrust.org or 812-336-5382 ext. 104

SYCAMORELANDTRUST.ORG/ANNUAL-CELEBRATION

Beanblossom Bottoms
CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

Photo by Chip Methvin

Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve is temporarily closed for major renovations to the boardwalk trail. The first section of the 2-mile boardwalk is being replaced with a much sturdier and more slip-resistant plastic decking material. This project is supported by the Pulliam Foundation and Loren Wood Builders in order to increase accessibility at the preserve. Because of Indiana's unpredictable weather, we cannot be sure when the project will be completed.

We appreciate your patience, and hope you will take this opportunity to visit one of our other public nature preserves!

Photo by Terry Wise

EVANSVILLE YEAR IN REVIEW

We were pleased to welcome 80 people to our annual Year in Review, hosted this past February at Vectren's Evansville headquarters. Our staff love getting to know members, hearing your thoughts, and talking about all that we've accomplished together! Thanks to everyone who attended and made this event possible, and a special thank you to Greg Meyer for sponsoring the event and to Vectren for hosting us.

Join us for a hike, workday, or special event! Hikes are free for Sycamore members; non-members are $5/person or $10/family unless otherwise specified. Volunteer days are always free. For more details on an event and to RSVP (required for hikes and volunteer days), visit **sycamorelandtrust.org/events.**

JUNE

6/8

LITTLE HIKERS: NIGHT EXPERIENCE

Friday, June 8, Time TBA

Touch the Earth Natural Area (Bartholomew Co.)

What is night vision? Why do owls see better at night than people? How do bats catch their food? Learn as we use our senses to explore the woods at night.

6/12

WEEKDAY WALKERS: HIKE & SKETCH

Tuesday, June 12, 9-11am

Yellowwood Farm (Brown Co.)

Enjoy a stroll through meadows and upland forest at this beautiful private property protected by a Sycamore conservation easement. We will pause at the peak of our hike to take time to sketch the world around us. Meet at Bloomingfoods East parking lot at 8:45am to caravan.

6/16

SYCAMORE BRANCHES: WORK & BREW

Saturday, June 16, 9:30am-noon

Porter West Preserve (Monroe Co.)

Get your hands dirty and give back to Sycamore at a workday followed by lunch at Bucceto's. Sycamore Branches is led by a committee of young adults, but all ages are welcome. Free.

6/21

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, June 21, 8:30am-1pm. Lunch included!

Stafford Family Preserve (Brown Co.)

We'll remove multiflora rose and other invasive bushes at this newer preserve next to Brown County State Park. Meet at Cedar Crest to carpool.

JULY

7/19

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, July 19, 8:30am-1pm. Lunch included!

Restle Natural Area (northern Monroe Co.)

Help clean up the historic cemetery at this preserve, which features a pioneer-era headstone. Meet at the Kroger on North Kinser Pike to carpool.

7/19

SYCAMORE BRANCHES: NATURE TRIVIA

Thursday, July 19, 7pm

Friendly Beasts Cider Company (Bloomington)

Question Master Austin Roach will try to stump attendees yet again at this popular event. Friendly Beasts is an all-ages venue serving locally made cider. Participation is free, but we encourage you to support our hosts!

AUGUST

8/16

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, August 16, 8:30am-1pm. Lunch included!

Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve (northwest Brown Co.)

We'll use backpack sprayers to kill invasive Japanese stiltgrass along the Yellowwood Trail, and also work on some trail improvements. Meet at Cedar Crest to carpool.

8/18

SYCAMORE BRANCHES: HIKE & BREW

Saturday, August 18, 10am

Amy Weingartner Branigin Peninsula Preserve (Monroe County)

Our young adults group leads this morning hike at Sycamore's scenic peninsula on Lake Monroe. Parking is very limited, so all attendees must meet at Scenic View to carpool. Join us for an optional lunch/beer afterward at Scenic View. The hike is free; lunch is on you.

SEPTEMBER

TBD

MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING

September; details TBD

Volunteer with Sycamore staff to help scientists learn more about migrating monarchs. The date is dependent on weather and migration, so sign up for our e-news for the latest updates (sycamorelandtrust.org/subscribe).

9/9

TREES OF SCARLET OAK WOODS

Sunday, September 9, 9-10:30am

Scarlet Oak Woods (Monroe Co.)

Learn to identify trees by leaf, branch, and bark in this fun and educational hike.

9/20

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, September 20, 8:45am-1pm. Lunch included!

Dilcher-Turner Canyon Forest (eastern Greene Co.)

Autumn olive and other invasive bushes will be our target along with some trail work at this scenic preserve just off SR 45. Meet at the Bloomington Sam's Club to carpool.

OCTOBER

10/6

28TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 6, 5:30pm

Monroe Convention Center (Bloomington)

Tickets for our annual fundraising event go on sale in July! We sold out in August last year, so sign up for our e-news to be the first to know when tickets go on sale. See page 18 for more info.

10/18

THIRD THURSDAY PRESERVE-A-PRESERVE DAY

Thursday, October 18, 12:30-4pm

Sam Shine Foundation Preserve (northern Monroe Co.)

We'll clean up trash at a newer addition to the preserve, and also continue work on removing Asian bush honeysuckle and other invasives. Meet at the Kroger on North Kinser Pike to carpool.

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APRIL 1, 2017 - MARCH 31, 2018

$20,000 AND ABOVE

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$1,000 TO $19,999

Bussing-Koch Foundation

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To remove yourself from our print mailing list and be added to our e-news, email shayna@sycamorelandtrust.org with the subject "Twig opt out."

Anyone can join our e-news list at any time at **sycamorelandtrust.org/subscribe**.

Only members receive The Twig in the mail.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

It's the perfect gift for anyone who loves nature, critters, and passing on a conservation ethic to future generations.

Buy your loved ones gift memberships to Sycamore for just $40, and inspire a lifetime of giving back.

sycamorelandtrust.org/donate

BLOOMINGFOODS SHOPPERS MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE

Sycamore was honored to once again be a recipient of Bloomingfoods' Positive Change program. In February, shoppers raised $7,632.47 for Sycamore's land conservation and environmental education work.

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