



Sycamore Land Trust

Preserving land and connecting people to nature in Southern Indiana since 1990.

P.O. Box 7801, Bloomington, IN 47407

812-336-5382 | info@sycamorelandtrust.org | www.sycamorelandtrust.org

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Sycamore Land Trust wholeheartedly endorses the application for Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve to be designated as a Wetland Treasure of the Society of Wetland Scientists. We protect over 9,000 acres in southern Indiana and Beanblossom Bottoms is one of our most significant projects. At just over 600 acres, the preserve represents one of finest tracts of bottomland floodplain forest in the Midwest in general and in Indiana in particular. It has been designated an Indiana State Nature Preserve and an Audubon Important Bird Area, and is adjacent to the Restle Unit of the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Together they comprise nearly 800 acres of high quality mature and maturing alluvial forested wetlands.

The exceptional nature of the site and its ease of access – there are nearly two miles of boardwalk through forest and marsh – make it ideal for birders, nature lovers, local primary and secondary schools, and graduate and undergraduate classes from nearby Indiana University, Bloomington and other area institutions. It provides habitat for the endangered Indiana bat and Kirtland's snake as well as migratory songbirds. It also serves as breeding grounds for the bald eagle, great blue heron, beaver, and other mammals.

We are excited about the opportunity to share Beanblossom Bottoms with the wetlands community and look forward to its designation as a Wetlands Treasure. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information about the site and our stewardship of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Freitag', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christian Freitag
Executive Director