

Sam Shine Foundation: Establishing an Environmental Legacy



CJ Jackson



Chapter 1: Origins of an Environmental Legacy

Blue moons and flying pigs are often included in statements describing unique situations or rare occurrences. During the mid 1900s, in New Albany, Indiana on a property now occupied by a Purdue University technology campus; the beginning of an extraordinary situation was set in motion. Few people realize how the mid 20th century setting in New Albany (2017 population of 36,451) was instrumental in an epic effort at national and global level. This effort helps everyone today; Chapter one focuses on the origins of these efforts and positive impacts, which developed into a durable environmental legacy for future generations..

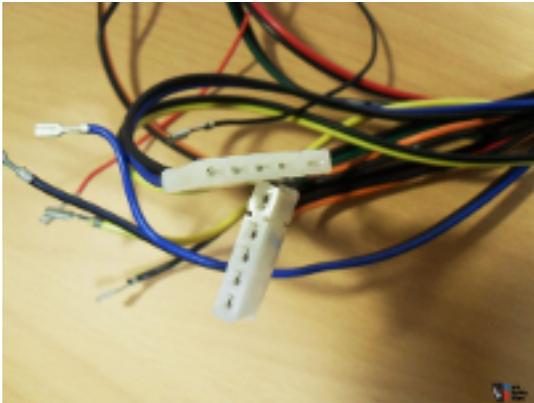


Before the Purdue technology campus existed on Charlestown Road (New Albany, IN), the land was a family farm focusing on ethical principles, hard work, and high expectations through traditional farming practices. A painting of Sam's childhood home in to the left. Through agricultural-affiliated experiences, something uncommon occurred: A youthful Sam Shine developed an extraordinary appreciation of the natural world through farming, fishing and hunting in the Floyd County (Indiana) landscape; Sam and older brother Bob (only sibling), were classic Indiana "country boys". The family farm helped Sam cultivate an interest in the natural world, hunting quail (picture left) was one of Sam's favorite activities. Sam's early interest in the natural processes was obvious during high school, he joined Future Farmers of America (FFA). Sam considered becoming a farmer because he enjoyed seeing things grow & interact with nature. Sam noticed how agricultural production was directly related to interactions between soils, crops, and wildlife.

These observations and connections were only possible because most of Sam's childhood years interacted with natural settings outdoors while working on the family farm. If Sam's childhood and adolescence recreation time was focused on video games, social media, or farming apps, little interest in the natural world have been developed. Near the same timeframe as FFA high school days, Sam began noticing how quickly the natural environments surrounding his family's farm were being lost to development as interstates were being built nearby. Southern Indiana's country setting was disappearing and very few people seemed to care, but it affected Sam. He saw a future forever changed, one without the critical natural environments we all depend on, but give little thought to. A spark was ignited inside Sam to do something to help restore natural environments for future generations.....the foundations of an environmental legacy were being forged.



Sam elected to pursue a career in business after high school: He graduated from



Indiana University with a business marketing degree. Shortly after college Sam served in the military (Korea) and then began working for an electronics connector company based in New Albany. Working in sales and administrative positions at the electronic connector company provided Sam an inside view of the connector industry (connectors pictures at left); Sam

noticed a need in the industry while learning the operations of an electronic connector company. Eventually, Sam began his own business, but never lost touch with the natural environment or essential need for protected natural environments. Spending time outside, immersed in various natural settings was a favorite use of personal time, Sam was an avid outdoorsman that enjoyed first hand observations of the natural world's interactions. The time Sam spent interacting with natural environments early in his life were significant in the development of Sam's extraordinary appreciation of the natural world.

During 1976, Sam and wife Betty launched Samtec. The company headquarters was two rented rooms behind a small business. Sam lived on about \$100 per week during the earliest days of the new venture. Early years of Samtec focused on intermediate-small size companies that needed connectors and cables. Customer service, hard work, and perseverance were traits learned from his father, Ira, during family farming days. These engrained traits were used to grow Samtec into a remarkably successful, privately owned company, focused on people and community development. When people would ask Sam if he was concerned about forming his own company, his reply was a resounding “no, I figured that I would just go to work for another company” . Further, Sam had the verbalized mindset that if all that was at risk was “failing to start a new company, then there was minimal risk involved”. Sam & Bettys bold step created a wide reaching legacy.



Samtec’s amazing 96% employee retention rate (during 2018) is evidence of the positive work environment focused on community; people want to work for Samtec. Fortune magazine ranked Samtec in the top 15 places to work in the United States manufacturing & production companies during 2018; an outstanding achievement for a 43 year old business with over 6,000 employees posting 822 million in sales.



Additionally, Samtec generously gives donations to the surrounding communities, particularly to schools and social services. Samtec is committed to helping families and communities improve. “Samtec Cares” is only one example of the dedication Samtec has to the local community. Samtec Cares is a committee of Samtec associates that voluntarily gave \$50,000 to 17 charities during 2018 and \$500,000 in 2019 grant gifting. This \$1,350,000 gift is used to strengthen the local community through funding various local grants.



Samtec’s logo is associated with a tiger (Tessie) because, according to legend, Samtec was referred to as a “different breed of cat” and its quick (as a cat) service.

Samtec’s name refers to an acronym: Sales And Manufacturer (of) Technical Electronic Components. This was an easy name to remember, marketable, and indicative of the sales & service offered.

Sam committed decades of time, humbly, building a thriving globalized business based in Southern Indiana, an amazing feat in a single lifetime. Remarkably, Sam

was just getting started with another legacy venture, conservation of the natural world. Early efforts began in 1993, when Sam began to dedicate more time for active conservation efforts. A concept was conceived and processes of forming the Sam Shine Foundation began.

SAMTEC
Sales And Manufacture (of)
Technical Electronic Components



The Shine Foundation Mission Statement

“Long term conservation, preservation, and restoration of natural ecosystems while focusing on maintaining and enhancing native wildlife habitats associated with unique lands and waters.”

Shine Foundation Vision Statement:

“Conserving native natural environments and wildlife while enhancing humans connectivity with the natural world”

Beginning Two New Stages



During 1995 Sam & Betty retired from the daily business operations at Samtec, but their style of “retirement” was unique. Much of Sam’s retirement time was dedicated to expanding a new entity, the Sam M. Shine Foundation, focusing on land conservation and environmental restoration. The Sam M. Shine Foundation was operational in 1995 and a new aspect of Sam’s

environmental legacy began to intensify. Samtec’s amazingly successful business has enabled Sam’s private conservation efforts to evolve into an unparalleled environmental legacy that indefinitely extends into future generations.

Sam’s vacancy at Samtec was filled by Sam’s son, John Shine. After graduating from Indiana University, John worked at another technology-affiliated company for two years, then eagerly merged into Samtec’s ranks, developing a thorough understanding of the company at each level before moving into a leadership role. John’s phase into leadership was a three year process. Once Sam was ready for retirement, he was reassured that the Samtec legacy would be continued with John Shine. A common understanding about John’s training years at Samtec was that John had to work harder than others doing similar work. John’s early years 1996-2001 were a preview of the amazing continued growth of Samtec. During these years, Samtec’s corporate culture established by Sam and Betty was not simply maintained at status quo, but frequently enhanced, evolved and documented. By 2000, John had absorbed more than 1,000 Associates worldwide. Today, John Shine continues to accelerate Samtec into a globalized growth and it’s likely that John’s son, Jack will assume a leadership role in the future.

Near the mid 1990s, Sam began to notice The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and their environment-centric practices, he was impressed. Sam appreciated the mission, values, ethics, and compassion of the organization. Eventually, Sam was inspired by the TNC enough to volunteer as a TNC board member in Florida, specifically the panhandle region.



The Nature Conservancy has been a well grounded compass for Sam's project selection & decision making. Sam described his interaction with TNC as being "an eye-opener and education", he authentically appreciated the people and efforts of TNC, they recognize a much larger practice of conservation and take innovative actions. Sam began volunteering his time as a TNC board member near the time Shine Foundation began and has participated as a TNC board member in Florida and Indiana.

Mr & Mrs Shine vacationed in Florida during the winter months, so Sam volunteered many hours of time toward becoming aware of areas in Florida that needed restoration. Sam noticed that over-aggressive timber harvests, reckless land practices conducted by paper companies, and speculative speculative land developers had exploited hundreds-of-thousands of acres in the panhandle region of Florida.

The northwest (panhandle) region of Florida is one of the most pristine natural environments in the southeastern United States and it was being lost: Sam was unsettled. Areas of Florida (or other regions) that are low, swampy, or natural floodplains serve a critical importance for wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil stability. These lowlands allow water to drain and filter naturally, remarkably these areas will remove some man made water pollution. So, when humans drain low areas, clearcut lowland forests, or reroute streams water quality decreases, wildlife leaves (extirpated), and soils flow (erosion).

M.C. Davis was looking for conservation property at about the same time Sam was searching for large parcels of land to purchase for restoration and conservation. M.C. Davis, an entrepreneur and businessman, also noticed the massive amount of Floridian nature being lost to timber companies. Shine and Davis noticed how land was being treated as a commodity rather than being appreciated for its ecological importance.



Coincidentally, Sam & M.C. were individually working with a Florida real estate agent to purchase conservation lands in northern Florida. The relator organized a meeting for Sam & M.C. to view a contingent property together; this was the first time Sam & M.C. met. This meeting ignited an effort that eventually led to unprecedented private conservation efforts in the Southeastern United States. A major catalyst of the cooperative conservation efforts (Sam & M.C.) was a round-world trip that took 30 days to explore some of pristine natural environments on Earth. Destinations were Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. This trip reinforced how unique Earth's systems are through making observations at locations like Galapagos Island & New Guinea, which were in a (mostly) pristine, undeveloped state; areas untouched by modern human civilization. During the same trip; Sam & M.C. observed the catastrophic changes that occur when humans do not understand natural systems and fail to preserve Earth's delicately balanced ecosystems. Observations of Easter Island clearly illustrate that humans can change Earth and make its environment uninhabitable for wildlife and humans. Touring Easter Island (picture below) is a lifelong memory for Sam.



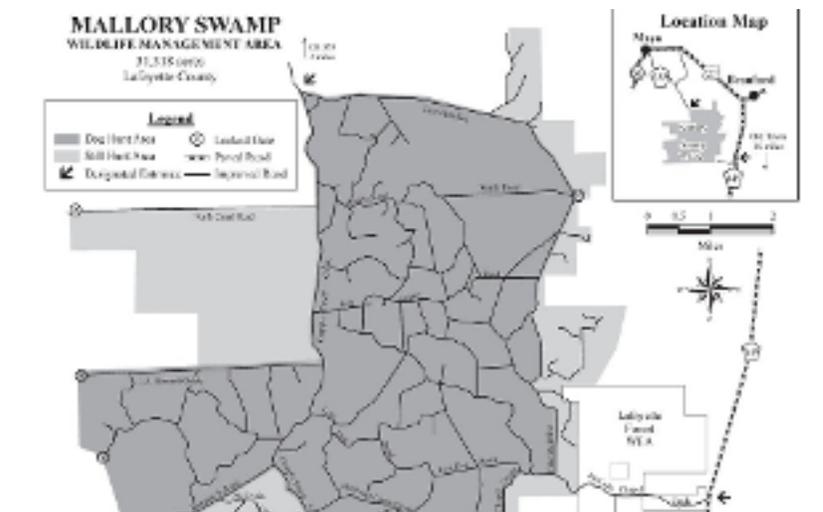
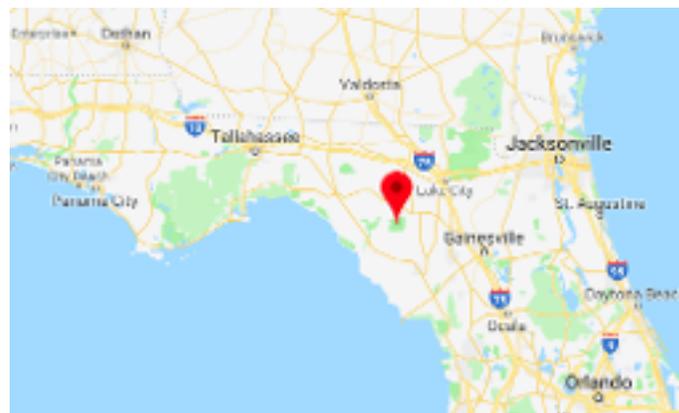
Eventually, Sam & M.C worked together to purchase 50,000 acres (about 78 mi²) in Florida, an amount of acreage more than half the size of Floyd County, Indiana. Florida's panhandle location was chosen because it offered an important corridor between existing federal land preserves.

Forming a New Vision

Rather than restoring large, disconnected pockets of conservation lands like has been done since the onset of the National Park Service (1915). Sam & M.C. envisioned natural corridors, an emerging concept during the late 1990s that was based on decades of wildlife and ecosystem research. Using this strategy wildlife has strategically located conservation corridors that are expanded to connect large tracts of intact land. Interconnections made make wildlife management areas, existing preserves, or national parks congruent parcels. This conservation strategy is somewhat like a freeway for nature that promotes wide ranging biodiversity. Ideally this concept will span north-south and east-west across entire continents, permitting seasonal migrations of vertebrates and invertebrates. Since the National Park Service began in 1916, millions of preserve lands have been established, but wildlife are unable to migrate easily continentally. Protected corridor spaces linking one large tract of protected land to another is lacking, so wildlife must exist in the patchwork-like, fragmented positions of the largest national parks.

Fragmentation occurs because large tracts of protected lands, like national parks, are isolated and separated by great distances, wildlife (vertebrate and invertebrates) need to move from one large protected space to another and still have safe habitats to use as they move about. Even when state parks are considered, fragmentation is still a major challenge for maintaining biodiversity. Modern wildlife biology research has revealed a great deal about the natural range of many large vertebrates, they have a home range, but need to roam more freely across great distances to be a sustainable species on a continent. If you and are are inconvenienced by driving long distances separating national or state park. An analogy of fragmentation: All cities on islands separated by 80-100 miles and we had no boats, bridges, or planes.....very difficult to have a healthy, diverse existence. Shine and Davis envisioned a 100-mile conservation corridor for wildlife to help maintain critical biodiversity levels in the northern Florida region.

1.The first major conservation project was *Mallory Swamp in Mayo, Florida during 1997.*



Restoring 30,501 acres of swampland was a significant commitment with many challenges, but this was an important area adversely impacted by human activity and worth the effort. Additionally, a smaller approximately 800 acre conservation area, Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA), connecting to Mallory Swamp increased the conservation project overall acreage to nearly 31,318. Once Mallory Swamp was acquired by Sam Shine Foundation (SSF), a restoration plan was put in motion. Lafayette Forest and Mallory Swamp area have several test wells to monitor groundwater (picture at right), important efforts for the southern US drinking water quality and swamp conservation. Mallory Swamp was transferred to the State of Florida for use as a Wildlife Management Area. Shine Foundation was able to obtain the property more quickly than a state agency (Florida), preventing land development or over use (offsite timber use).



The State of Florida eventually purchased the property from SSF. Assisting Regional, State, and Federal level entities acquire larger parcels of lands for restoration and conservation through property ownership transfers is common, which was the case with Mallory Swamp. Florida appreciated receiving the land to increase areas of Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), one of Florida's five Water Management Districts (map at left). Conservation and restoration projects (like Mallory Swamp) are critical to maintaining quality drinking water, native species, reducing wildfires, and buffering the negative impacts of climate change (like rising sea levels). Once acquiring a property, SSF works directly with wildlife biologists, hydrologists, and timber experts to develop an improvement plan to begin restoration and habitat conservation efforts. Because Shine Foundation is privately operated, it can act more quickly than governmental bodies to place lands in a protected status. SSF works for the Greater Good for all of us.

2. Next project was *Nokuse Plantation*, a privately owned nature preserve that began in 2001 and is located in Walton County, Florida.



Figure 1 above: Location of Nokuse Plantation in Florida.

Nokuse is the Creek Native American name for a black bear. A primary mission of this conservation project is to restore Nokuse to its historic longleaf pines and wiregrass ecosystem, this effort was a partnership between Sam and M.C. Davis. Combining the properties created 80,000 acres of private conservation land, an unprecedented private effort in the southwest United States.

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) planting has been a major focus of this effort; more than 8 million longleaf pines have been planted at Nokuse. Longleaf pines (picture at left) are replacing offsite (non-native) pines that were introduced by persons wanting a faster-growing tree for commercial productions. Unfortunately, longleaf pines



have been reduced to about 2% of their pre-settlement volume. This loss of species is chiefly due to over-harvesting by Europeans and western settlers, longleaf pine wood and sap is ideal for boat construction. Nokuse Plantation preserve has expanded to include 53,000 acres. The Shine & Davis Nokuse effort has attracted the attention of notable scientists and authors, like Pulitzer Prize award recipient E.O. Wilson.



More than 6,000 fourth & seventh grade students throughout a five county region are educated through the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center at Nokuse.

Sam Shine, M.C. Davis, and the Nokuse Plantation are discussed in Wilson's 2015 book *Half Earth*.

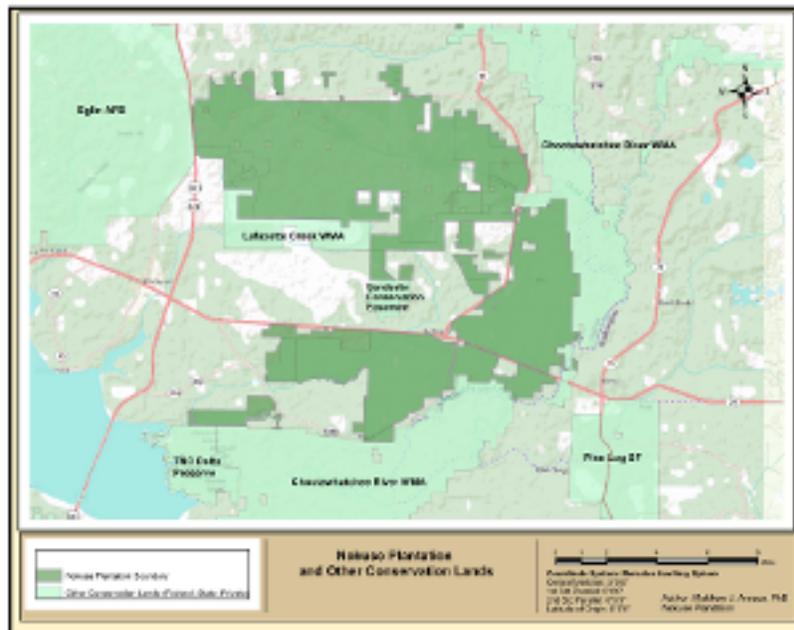
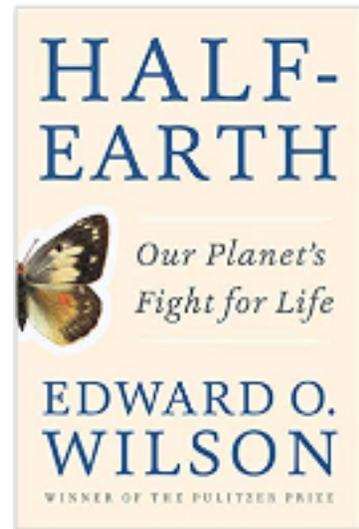


Figure 2: Nokuse Plantation Boundary

Expanding Conservation Projects

Nokuse Plantation was the starting point of a widening array of conservation projects east of the Mississippi River. The Nature Conservancy introduced & guided the Shine Foundation to many rare conservation/restoration projects. Additional conservation projects supported by the Shine Foundation follows, this remarkable project list is a work in progress, it will be updated as future projects are completed.

3. *Yarnell Tract in Harrison County, Indiana.* Shine foundation cooperated with The Nature Conservancy to purchase 863.5 acres for a “gateway” between existing TNC properties. 1640 acres of TNC property bordering a western Ohio River bend is now connected to an 80 acre Cedar Farm property, that TNC anticipates owning in the future.. Sam recognized how important the Yarnell tract (863.5 acres) was for rare glade environments, unique species & habitats, and expanding corridors. TNC property is now more



continuous from the Ohio river northward to Laconia and two riveredge bends of the Ohio River are now connected. Harrison Counties most significant Ohio River bend is located in this conservation area. Wildlife has a wide range of habitat to benefit from throughout these connected lands: limestone outcrops, copious woodlands, low country, several streams, and prairie-like regions.

Conserving the Klintstiver Glades (Yarnell Property) allows a “gateway” of 2583.5 acres to be possible and is another step closer to a larger corridor northward from the Ohio River that will (hopefully) one day connect to an existing property mentioned later in this section, Buck Creek Forest. Approximate proximity of the two properties is nearly 4 miles, a map of the properties proximity follows. Large, interconnected wildlife corridors with a wide range of property characteristics (rock outcrops, lowlands, river access, streams, woodlands, open prairies, elevation changes) are critical for maintaining a sustainable future of species and biodiversity. Shine Foundation provided everyone another legacy gift through the conservation of Yarnell tract.



4. *Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (ABRP)* in Bristol, Florida. This is a 6,295 acre habitat refuge owned by TNC. A map of the ABRP region is below.

Figure 3: ABRP Region, west of Tallahassee



Rare evergreen trees, mountain laurel, Bachman's sparrows and, Eastern indigo snakes are species now under protection thanks to Shine Foundation. A favorite hiking pathway is the Garden of Eden Trail (picture on left). Hurricane Michael devastated portions of ABRP on October 10, 2018. Cleanup is progressing, but some trails may be closed.

5. *Donation to the Ohio River Greenway in Jeffersonville, Indiana* for the development of Indiana's riverfront railway system. This seven mile system uses Jeffersonville, Indiana as the trailhead, near the business Jeffboat and is now a portion of a larger linear park called River Heritage. Pedestrians can walk the railway west into Loop Island Park, across Silver Creek. The railway continues into western New Albany, near a popular amphitheater and Ohio River overlook. Future plans for the greenway are for pedestrians to have a walking bridge across the Ohio River, via Big 4 Bridge, into Louisville, Kentucky. Millions of people will be linked through this historic railway effort. The area of this greenway trail area is nearly miles is nearly equivalent to 120 acres.



Figure 4: Ohio River Greenway Trailway

6. *Sycamore Land Trust donation*: 339 acres of mostly low lying farmland located in Bloomington Indiana (Monroe County) was acquired. This area is known as Bean Blossom Nature Preserve and has been converted from bottom farmland into a wetland offering a 2.5 mile elevated boardwalk through critical Indiana swampland. Sycamore Land Trust is proud to have Bean Blossom be designated as a Wetland of Distinction by the Society of Wetland Scientists. The preserve was selected for its high-quality forests and marshes, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and public access. It is the first wetland in Indiana to be recognized as one of the world's most valuable wetland ecosystems by the Society. Sycamore Land Trust is an organization focused on acquiring land for conservation/restoration efforts and establishing conservation easements on private lands. A conservation easement creates a unique purpose for a private landowner, while still retaining and using the land. Sycamore Land Trust also engages in active property management, restoration, and education.

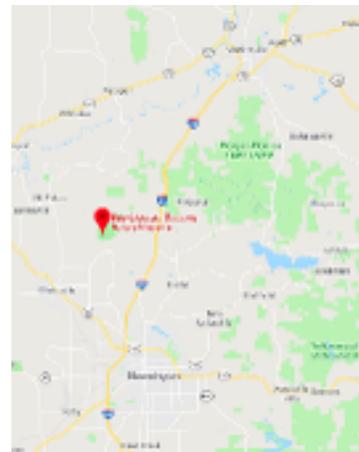
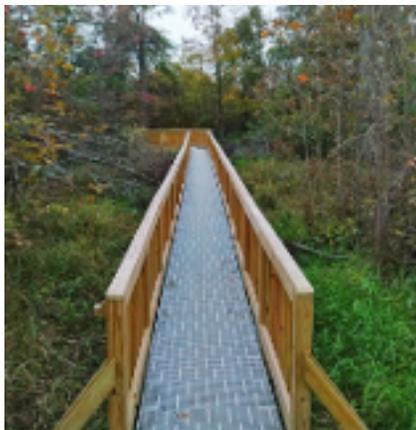
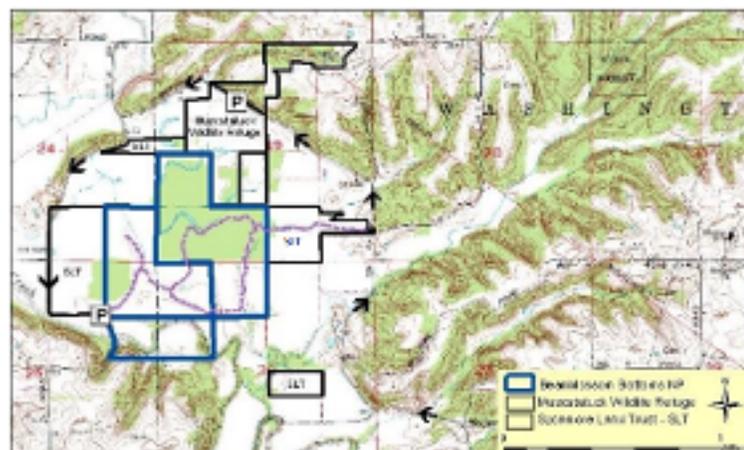


Figure 5: Beanblossom Nature Preserve



7. *Donated of the 40-acre family farm to Purdue University:* The property use was reserved for a Southern Indiana research park and extension education facility. This donation was made, although several multiple million dollars offers from national chain retailers and developers were extended. University students and startup technology-affiliated businesses from the region use the campus extensively. Technological innovations and careers in technology are one of the many benefits of this campus. Further, the campus has a wetlands feature, beehives, native bird nest boxes, and a walking trail.....epitomizing many of the core characteristics of Shine Foundation projects.

Figure 6: Location of Southern Indiana Purdue Technology Campus

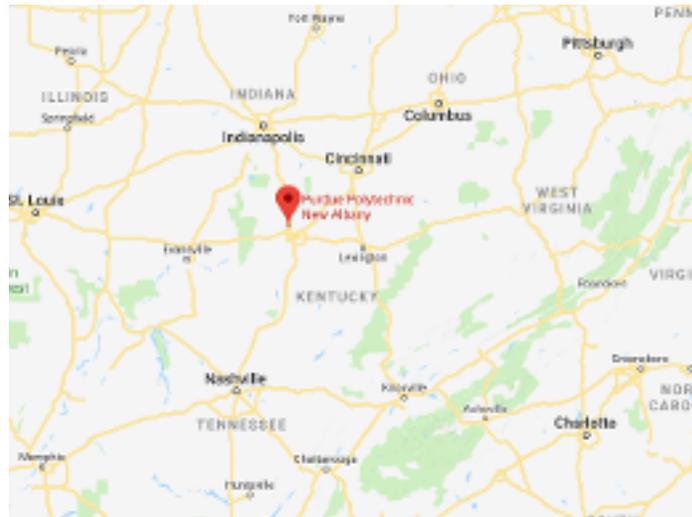


Figure 7: Southern Indiana Purdue Technology Campus

8. *Donation to the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, located in Forest City, Maine. The mission of Woodie Wheaton Land Trust is “To promote the protection, preservation, and conservation of land and water in the Chiputneticook Lakes region of eastern Maine and western New Brunswick for the benefit of present and future generations.”*



Figure 8: Location of Woodie Wheaton Land Trust in Forest City, Maine

Critical lands along 9.4 miles of Monument Stream in Amity, Maine was conserved with SSF assistance. The donation made the purchase of 3,053 acres possible. Acquired land will be conserved for persons to enjoy nature.

Features includes both forested uplands and extensive wetlands along Greenleaf and Glendenning brooks. Monument Stream is a part of an important East Grand Lake Watershed. Further, the land adds to an adjoining 7,486 acres of conservation lands conserving the East Grand Lake Watershed. This donation and project is conserving wildlife, environments, persons enjoyment of being immersed in nature, and helping maintain the quality of water sources.

Sam was originally drawn to the Maine coastline, near Canadian border, because of his continued interest in fishing (that began on the family farm) and the breathtaking views of nature. Northeast Maine became a favorite fishing area for Sam and he eventually got to know the people in the Maine region. One of the favorite memories of spending time in Maine was watching the sunrise, the first dawn of a new day for the Country. A map and picture of the region follows.



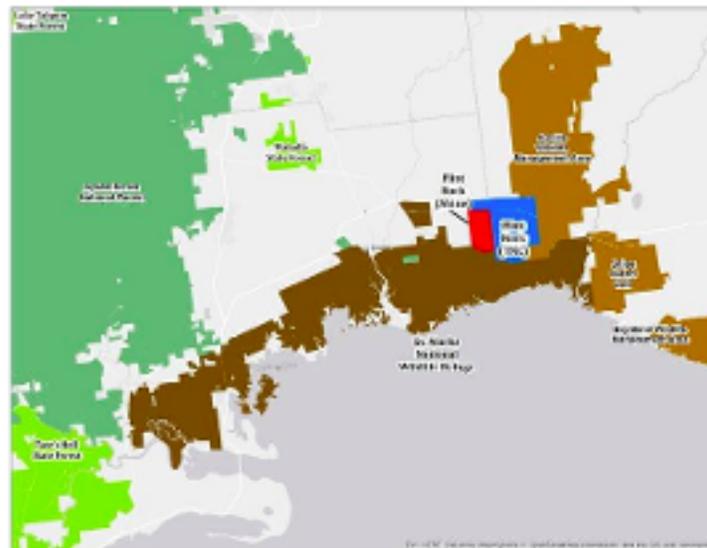
9. *Donation to the Louisville Botanical Gardens project:* Located near the Ohio River in an urban setting, built on top of a landfill. The 23-acre garden promotes sustainability while cultivating a greater appreciation of plants. Louisville Botanical Gardens is a project that has been in the works for many years that opened during October 2019 while progress continues.



Figure 9: Louisville Botanical Gardens Location



10. *Unprecedented Flint Rock Land Donation*: A 6,200-acre donation of northern Florida land to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This property has critically important headwaters that connect the St Marks National Wildlife Refuge. This donation is one of the largest on record in the Southwest United States and helps establish a 100-mile conservation corridor for wildlife. The map is below (figure 3). This donation allows the St Marks Refuge to own a continuous block of property from the Gulf of Mexico northward to the coastal highway and to control the watershed route draining from the north.



The coastal Big Bend area of North Florida is filled with publicly conserved land. Map by Roy Hewitt, USFWS.

Figure 10: Flint Rock 6200 Acre Donation



Figure 10.1: Flint Rock (6200 acres) & Nokuse Plantation (54,000 acres)

11. Hardinsburg Land Acquisition: Farm property in Hardinsburg, Indiana was acquired to restore hardwood forests and incorporate more wildlife habitats. Nearly 788 acres of diverse terrain offer woodlands, creeks, karst drainage, and rolling hills for habitat. Open field areas were planted with a mix of hardwood trees. Impressive biodiversity and natural generation of oak species have been noticed.

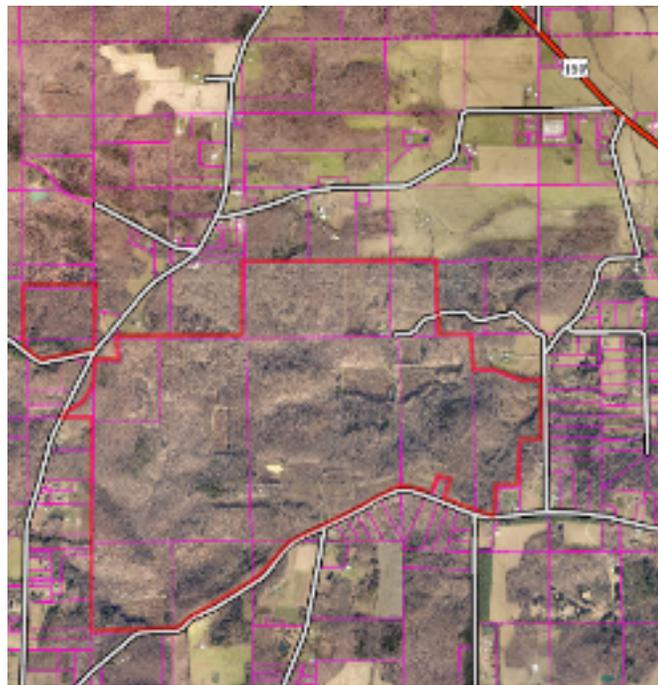


Figure 11: 788 Acre Hardinsburg, Indiana Conservation/Restoration Project

12. *Happel/Moser Land Acquisition*: Farm property in Floyds Knobs, Indiana was acquired to restore native grassland prairies and assist the natural generation of hardwood trees. This property is being used as an informal outdoor research site. Several independent research projects are underway. Research topics are focused on increasing biodiversity (vertebrate & invertebrate), surface waters characteristics, restoring habitats for declining species, wildlife census, and soil restoration. Nearly 250 acres of land in this conservation area.

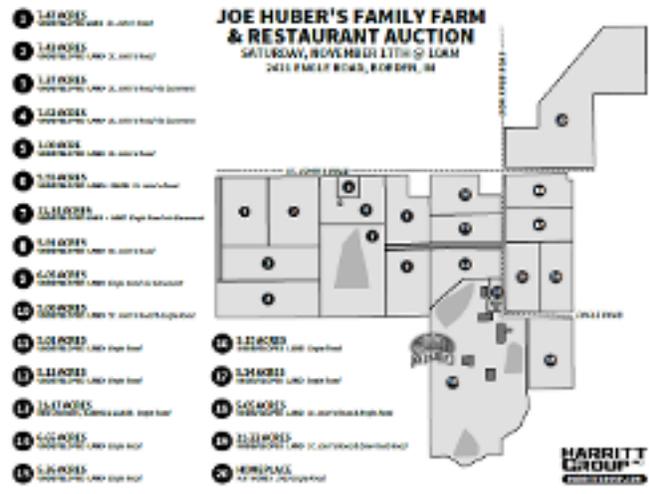


Figure 12: 250 Acre Happel-Moser, Indiana Conservation/Restoration Project

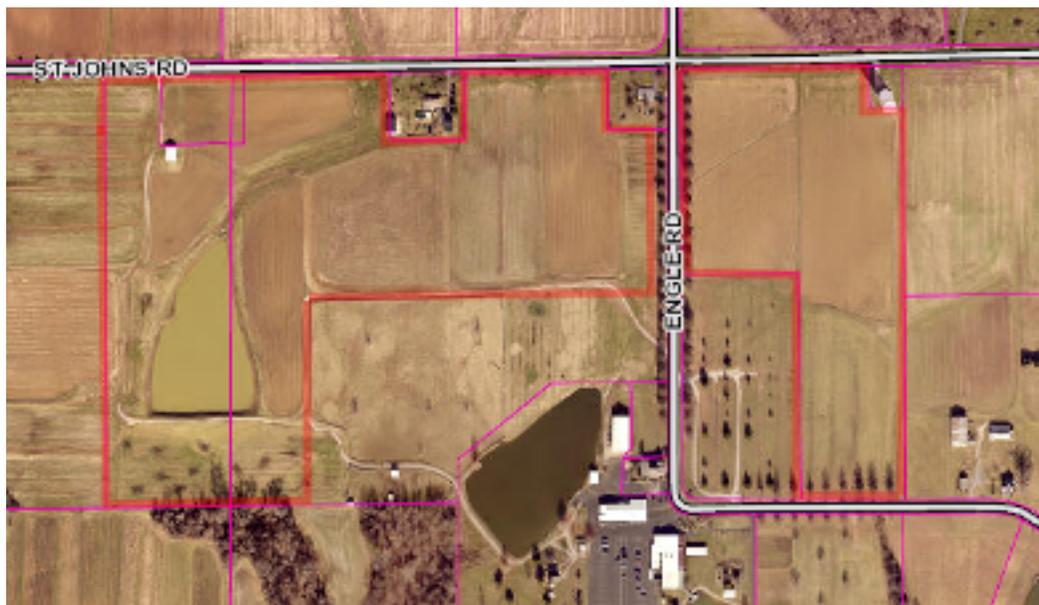
13. *Balmer/Heid/Wieska Knob Land Acquisition*: Farm property in Floyds Knobs, Indiana was acquired to restore native grassland prairies and hardwood trees. Many independent research projects are underway on these properties. Research topics are focused on wildlife census & tracking, soil restoration, increasing the biodiversity of vertebrate & invertebrates, restoring habitats needed by declining species, stream & pond water characteristics, wildlife census, and soil restoration. Nearly 200 acres of land in this conservation area.

**Figure 13: 200 Acre Balmer-Fenwick, Indiana
Conservation/Restoration Project**

14. Hubers Land Acquisition: Farm property in Starlight, Indiana was acquired from auction to keep the tradition-rich farm from being developed. Sam Shine Foundation attempted to purchase the property directly from the Huber family before auction efforts split the land into smaller lots, but an agreement was not reached. Therefore, Mr Shine attended a grueling day-long land auction, working with Huber family members to help insure the land would be conserved. By auctions end, SSF purchased lots 5-12 and 15-18, a total of about 66 acres.



This was an important acquisition in a rapidly developing area to keep land in traditional use, particularly considering the smaller lots created for auction, making ideal building lots.. Sam Shine Foundation action allowed prime farmland in Starlight, Indiana to remain in a traditional use. Shine Foundation is gradually selling Huber’s Restaurant portions of land needed for agri-business operations. There are no profits made on the sale, land is being transferred at a loss, but the tradition-rich activity continues and thousands of people visit the agricultural setting each year. 16.4 acres of this farmland area has been transferred to Huber’s Restaurant for their agri-business use. Huber farmland that remains in SSF ownership is being farmed by a local family, no land rental fees are being charged by SSF.



15. *Buck Creek Forest Land Acquisition* in Elizabeth, Indiana (South Harrison County): This conservation effort has focused on reintroducing native trees in agricultural areas and improving mature hardwood stands. Little Indian Creek flows through this property and has three waterfall features, including a unique creek-island. Diverse terrain; rock bluffs, low lands, trailways, creeksides, and prairie-like spaces are improving wildlife habits. Nearly 230 acres of conservation land in this project area.

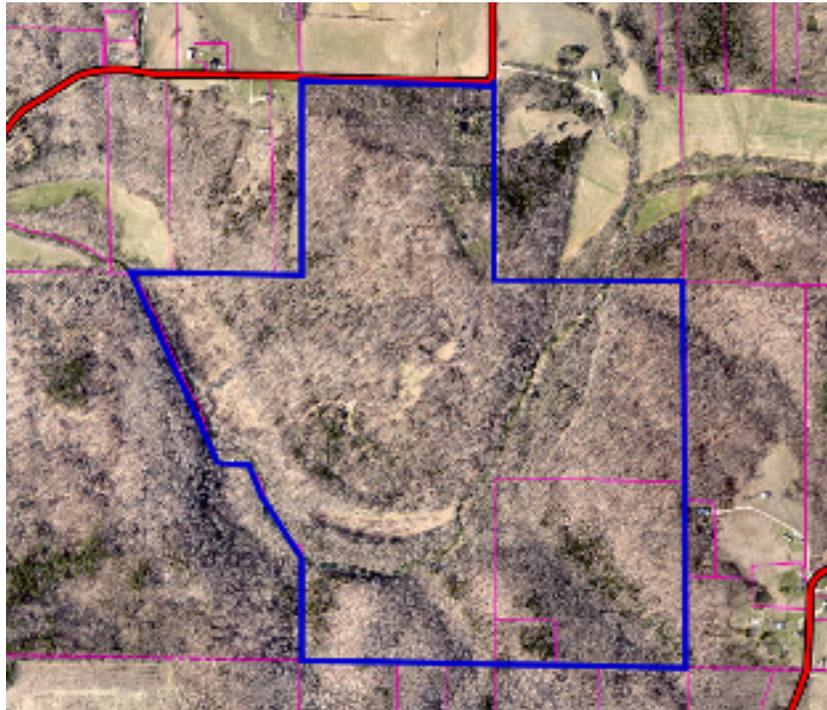


Figure 14: 230 Acre Buck Creek Forest, Indiana Conservation/Restoration Project

16. *Preserving 1,000 acres of TNC wilderness for a trail project within in the Edge of Appalachia (EOA) Preserve System* - The Charles A. Eulett Wilderness Preserve Trail. This preserve is located in West Union, Ohio. Natural habitats range from rare limestone glades to deep woodlands. The trailway offers hikers steep elevation changes, limestone outcrops, refreshing glens, gorge views of Cliff Run and valley views of Ohio Brush Creek (after leaf-fall). Another outstanding opportunity for people to connect natural beauty.

Visiting the EOA trail systems in West Union, Ohio is an outstanding family activity. Trails are very well marked, maps are available, and trail difficulty and length are ideal for families with younger children seeking a family friendly nature-related activity. There are four loop trails located within a five mile radius of the Eulett Wilderness Center, located at 4274 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union, Ohio 45693.



Canoe access is available at a picturesque bend in Brush Creek, near the Joan Joans Portman Trailhead.



A picnic area and outdoor toilet (port-a-pot) is available, but no drinking water or running water. This is a fantastic natural area, boasting an amazing warm-water creek (great diversity) for a summer day of family activity; perfect for a morning hike (about 3 hours), lunch and break at the shelter, then an afternoon of canoeing in Brush Creek.



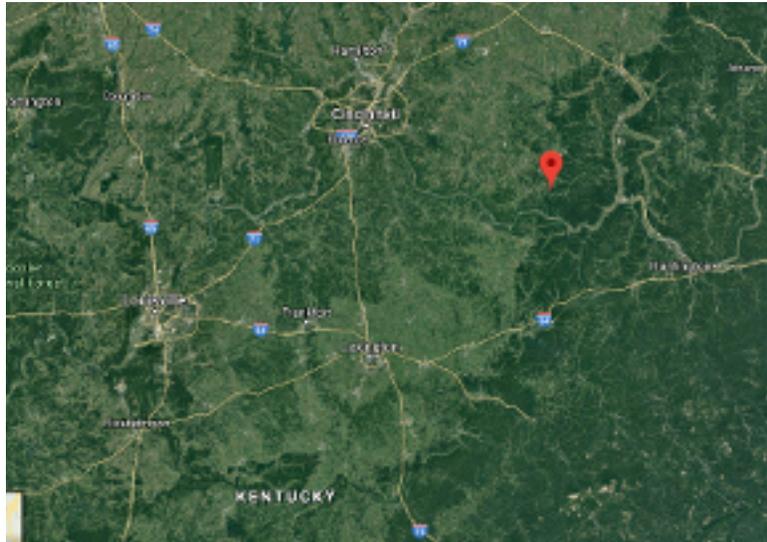


Figure 15: 1,000 acres in Edge of Appalachia Conservation/Restoration Project located in southwest Ohio.

17. *Parklands of Floyds Fork, in Louisville Kentucky*: 21 Century Parks that adjoin Floyds Fork Creek, that drains into Salt Creek, and then into the Ohio River. This is the last section of undeveloped land centered in Metro Louisville, prime location of a wide spectrum of people reconnecting to nature. Education programs, health-promoting events, and water access are a few features of Parklands of Floyds Fork.

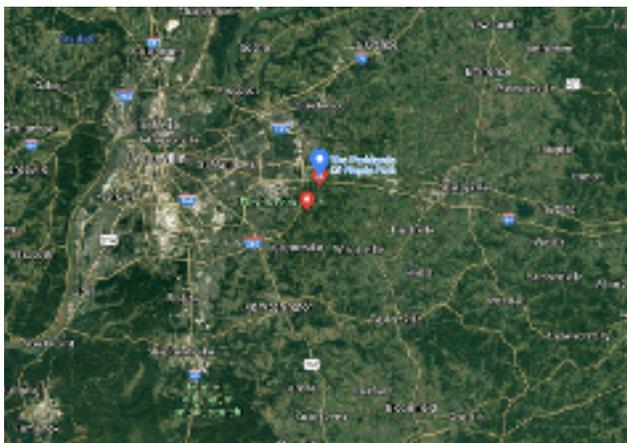


Figure 16: Parklands of Floyds Fork in metro Louisville district.



18. Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) conservation effort to help preserve 1,000 acres of Maine's coastal wildlife and natural environments. MCHT began in 1970 and continues to work cooperatively with other land preserve entities, restore habitat, educate people about the importance of coastal environments and related waterways. Many preserves in the MCHT encourage visitors so more people can enjoy natural protected natural environments.



Figure 17: 1,000 acres in MCHT Conservation Projects



Extraordinarily Generous Philanthropy For Lasting Efforts

Sam Shine Foundation has been a major contributing factor or direct owner of approximately 76,250 total acres (through 2018) for conservation or restoration purpose in multiple states, an epic national-level effort. Nearly 1600 acres of the 76,220 acres are in direct ownership throughout several Southern Indiana counties. The total land area conserved by Shine Foundation (76,220 acres) is about 119 square miles, which is 98.9% of the total area of Floyd County Indiana. Floyd County's population is close to 77,000 (2017 census) and is home to Samtec's primary headquarters.

Another, well known historical perspective: Lewis and Clark received 1,600 acres each for their perilous western journeys. The 12 soldiers working under Lewis & Clarks command received 320 acres each. Total land gifted to soldiers and officers for the Lewis & Clark Expedition was 7040 acres, only about 10% of the areas improved by Shine Foundation's efforts.

Remarkably, this effort is taking place with an uncharacteristically humble demeanor; Sam would rather spend time enjoying the natural environment, particularly fishing in his lake, rather than be in the spotlight or receiving another award.

Sources of information for chapter 1

Shine, Sam (interview on Feb 7, 2019)

www.fws.gov; A Shining Example; Chapman, Dan

nokuse.org

sycamorelandtrust.org: Bean Blossom Bottoms Designated A Wetland of Distinction

The Nature Conservancy

waterfrontgardens.org

www.newsandtribune.com

<http://www.woodiewheaton.org>

www.census.gov

CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=681941>

