

THE ACRES
QUARTERLY

Fall 2024 | Vol. 63 - No. 3



ACRES
LANDTRUST

*Protecting Key Habitats:
Our Priority Areas Initiative*

The Healing Power of Nature

ACRES Interns: Where Are They Now (Part 2)?

WELCOME 77newmembers!

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

I've visited many ACRES preserves numerous times over the last 18 years. I live on an ACRES preserve and also volunteered to maintain Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run for 10 years. Even on the properties I've visited weekly for over a decade, I still get surprised.

Nature is so diverse and resourceful that even when you pay keen attention and learn the rhythms within a particular place, nature still finds new ways to keep you on your toes.

After a particularly long hot spell this summer, I saw many immature pawpaw fruit lying on the forest floor. It was the first time I had seen the trees abort fruit, seemingly to cut down on water consumption. I've seen immature pawpaws abort fruit, and many pawpaws will self-thin some fruit in June, but I've never seen anything like this widescale drop—from immature to mature trees, and nearly half the fruit from each tree.

The "decision-making" of this impressed me. It's a "rational" choice—if you are running short of water, it "makes sense" to forfeit some fruit to save the whole tree. You're still producing seeds, just not as many this year. All the words in quotations are things only available to conscious beings. Since trees aren't conscious, these "decisions" are made through chemical and structural reactions to growing conditions.

That's impressive—trees without brains taking the same action that we with brains would. To me, it's more impressive to do that without a brain than with one!

Each time we walk down the same path, we aren't the same person who walked it the last time. We constantly change, and so does nature. I enjoy the familiarity and surprises that preserve visits provide.

Go explore a preserve—see what's new today!

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 102

Cover: During autumn, chlorophyll, the green pigment in leaves, breaks down due to shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures, revealing other pigments like carotenoids (yellows and oranges) and anthocyanins (reds and purples). Vibrant displays of color are on full display when the sunlight settles on these changing leaves.

Tammy & Chris Allen
Brandon Almas
Thomas & Joan Anderson
Kimberly Angell & Terrance Williams
Carla Bauman
Megan Bedwell
from Chad Bedwell
Kelly Borgmann
Sherry Brainard
Bonnie Brown
Garrett Butler
Nathan Clugston
Joseph Collins
Sarah Cooper
from Linda & John Mowry
Cody & Alexis Cramer
from David Cramer
Jennifer Cramer
from Bonnie Brown
Katlyn Dailey
Nan & Paul DiGangi
Dawn & Christian Doak
Brenda Esch
Jeff & Brenda Esslinger
Shannon Felger
June & Moss Fields
Jacob & Bekah Fisher
Chase Fisher & Petra Rappold
Ginny Fisher

Jason Foote
from Jim Foote
Jennifer Foote
from Jim Foote
Robb & Kim Fultz
Jill Galloway
from Jordan Hartleroad
Meranda Garman
Jon Gerken
Kylie Gerst
Tifani Gibson
Krysta Gray
Jakob Harmon
Jason & Nicki Hendricks
Brooke & Michael Hiler
Stephanie & Tim Hine
Angie & Todd Hoeffel
Kate & Joe Houser
Simone Isaacs
Kaufman Well Drilling, Inc.
Rachael & Cody King
Joel & Donna Kline
Nathan Liddell
Dauneta Martz
Stephen Mattson
Aaron McCord
from Patrick Gillan
Angela Meyer
Dan & Molly Michael
Midwest Biological Survey LLC

Max Mielke
Amanda & Ryan Miller
Cynthia Miller
Tim & Debbie Murphy
Brianna Naragon & Darren Andrews
from Dan & Weebe Naragon
Corbin Newhard
Kari Persinger
Whitfield Forestry Equipment
Hillary Riesen
Robert Dietrick Co.
Victor & Donna Rockey
Olive Rusk
Nathan Schall
Shane & Rachel Schooley
Nina Shuler & Derrick Penrod
Jacob Spear
Amanda Stickler
from Michelle Jennings
Kieran Stockman
Hailey & Michael Straub
Connor Stucker & Morgan Gill
Ryan Taylor & Ivy Johnson
Corey Thomas
Debbie Thompson
from Tedra Hemingway
Lauren & David Walters
Jerome Wyss

In Memory of

Mary Thiel
from Fred & Christine Grams and
Jim & Lisa Sabo
Neil Case
from Nancy Bruns, Ann & Dwight Ericsson,
Dennis & Rhonda White, Dr. James &
Rachel Roberts, Anthony & Candace
Lisinicchia
Pearl Curtis
from Mary Bull

Josh Bowsman
from Amy Donley, Paul & Cynthia Fisher
Joy Stelte
from Joanne A. Weber
Debra David
from Bonny Birely & Nora Hatfield
Eldon J. Summers, Carol Summers, Richard
Summers and Linda Summers
from Diana Harris
Don Archer
from Theresa Archer

In Honor of

Hardin Aasand
from Suzanne Rumsey
Sam's 90th birthday
from Jan Schwartz

Bill Kilgore
from Carla Kilgore & Craig Smith



ACRES Land Trust owns and protects natural and working lands, inspiring people to value, appreciate and support these places for the benefit of all—today and forever. Today we protect and steward more than 7,800 acres in northeast Indiana and portions of southern Michigan and northwest Ohio. In addition to helping care for and restore our local land, your support also offers trail systems where you and others can explore thriving natural places, from dawn to dusk, at no charge. Thank you!

1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665 | Huntertown, IN 46748-0665
260-637-ACRE (2273) | email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



PROTECTING KEY HABITATS

Our Priority Areas Initiative

Photo by Jarrid Spicer

For ACRES, the idea of priority areas is not new. Since the 1960s we have targeted acquisitions in areas of geological, cultural and biological significance. Relatively recently, as we mapped these areas, we have labeled them “conservation priority areas.”

While acquiring and protecting high-quality natural areas, we learned they are often found where unusual or even unique geological occurrences have taken place.

Many of our unique and most diverse plant communities are within these priority areas. Once lost, restoring them to what they once were is nearly impossible. Time is of the essence: we must identify and label priority areas while they are still somewhat intact. Many of these areas are experiencing development pressure and subsequent severe negative impacts from changes to surrounding land use.

Across its service area, ACRES has identified 10 priority areas totaling 214,000 acres. We currently own and manage just 3,000 acres within these identified areas. ACRES earliest priority area, the Cedar Creek Corridor, is now home to nearly 1,300 acres owned and protected by ACRES. While there is still much protection work to be done along Cedar Creek, there is even more in the other nine priority areas. Each has been identified and mapped because it contains significant natural areas with high levels of biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and is more resilient to climate change, another reason to focus our efforts here. Because our work within these areas goes further than anywhere else in our service area, acquisition, restoration and enhancement are emphasized.

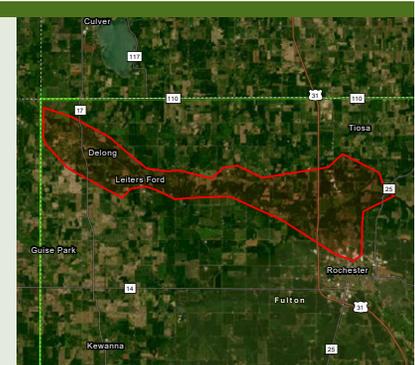
One of the advantages of identifying and calling attention to these areas is the resulting increase in support. As we tell others about our concentrated efforts in a specific location, we often find we are not alone in identifying these places as especially important. Local county or city parks, friends groups, watershed initiatives and other conservation organizations almost always emerge. A priority area is often very near or adjacent to a neighboring area of focus identified by one of our partners. When we can partner and combine efforts, our work goes even further!

Although our priority areas may change over time, they will always be important. It is ideal for our areas of focus to shift over time with the goal of connecting—or expanding upon—historic priority areas, thus making a much larger, more resilient, connective habitat. We also aim to identify new priority areas that once contained significant natural features, such as wet prairies, flat woods and savanna plant communities. These projects would focus more on restoration than on preservation.

ACRES Priority Areas

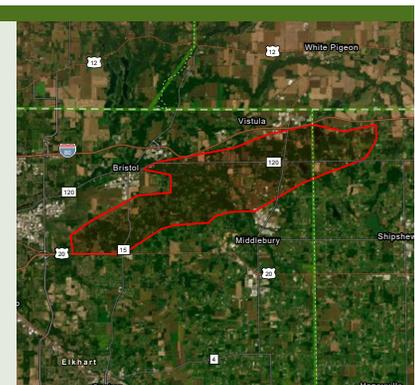
1 Tippecanoe River

This priority area focuses on over 24 miles of the Tippecanoe River, beginning northeast of Rochester in Fulton County, and extending west to the Pulaski County line. Although this is one of ACRES newest focal areas, we expect to increase our presence here by nearly 200 acres by the end of 2024.



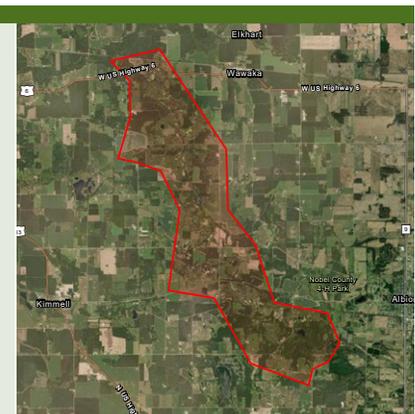
2 Little Elkhart

Nearly 20,000 acres have been targeted south of the St. Joseph River, east of the city of Elkhart, extending northeasterly to the convergence of Elkhart and LaGrange counties with the Michigan state line. This area offers many intact forests and riparian habitats, providing a great deal of connectivity extending well into Michigan.



3 South Branch Elkhart River

Named for the 14 miles of river within its region, this priority area begins southwest of Albion in Noble County and extends west to Wawaka. Nearly 1,000 acres of emergent wetland and riparian forest are protected within the DNR's Mallard Roost and other Wetland Conservation Area properties. There are several thousand acres more of each community type worthy of protection.



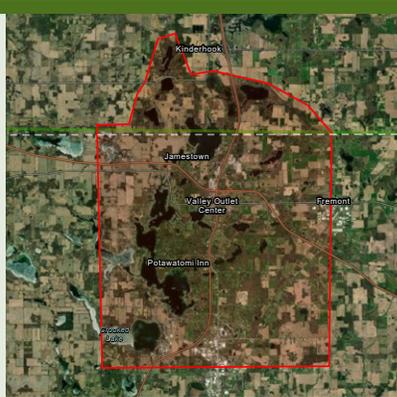
4 North Branch Elkhart River

One of ACRES largest priority areas, the North Branch Elkhart River area, is centered around Oliver Lake and the Dallas Lake chain in southern LaGrange County. This area is home to a wetland complex that may be large enough to sustain populations of several state-endangered species, including Blanding's turtles and the massasauga rattlesnake.



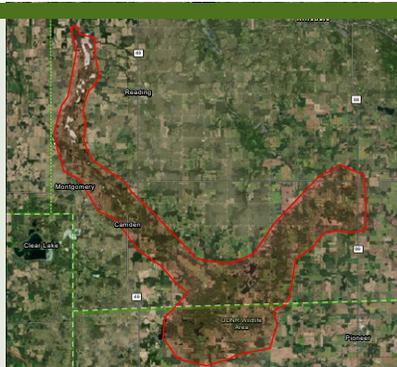
5 Marsh Lake

More than 2,000 acres have been protected within this area in northern Steuben County. Most of these acres are found in Pokagon State Park, Trine State Recreation Area and the Marsh Lake Wetland Conservation Area. ACRES will continue to buffer these properties to protect some of the highest-quality cold-water lakes remaining in Indiana, and the unique plant communities that surround them.



6 Forks of the St. Joe

Much like our priority areas in Indiana, this area spanning southern Michigan and northwest Ohio is intended to build upon the work done by our DNR partners in each of these states. The focus here is protecting riparian habitat, associated fen wetlands and the adjacent upland forests.



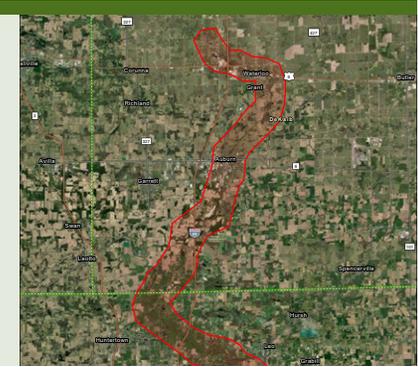
7 Perfect Lake

Located just west of Hamilton in Steuben County, this area expands on the Fish Creek priority area initially identified by The Nature Conservancy, and has been a focal point for many years. The goal is to eventually connect the Perfect Lake and Marsh Lake conservation priority areas.



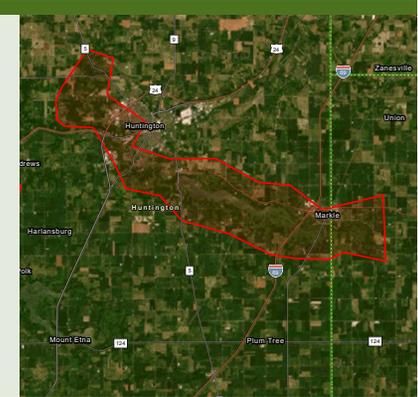
8 Cedar Creek Corridor

With the help of several partners, ACRES pioneer priority area now contains nearly 2,000 acres of permanently protected habitat. The area of focus extends from the headwaters of Cedar Creek, northwest of Waterloo in DeKalb County, south to its confluence with the St. Joseph River, south of Leo in Allen County.



9 Huntington Moraine

Beginning 2.5 miles east of Markle, this priority area extends along the Wabash River west to the city of Huntington. ACRES aims to expand upon the J. Edward Roush Fish & Wildlife Area to increase connectivity and resilience while enhancing water quality.



10 Salamonie Confluence

One of ACRES smaller priority areas, the Salamonie Confluence (Salamonie and Wabash Rivers), expands on two DNR-managed lands within Wabash County: the Salamonie Reservoir and Salamonie River State Forest. Together, these areas of planned conservation total nearly 22,000 acres.



Photo spread on pages 10–11 by Dave Fox. Majestic sandhill cranes captured in mid-flight, showcasing their impressive wingspans and striking red crowns.



RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273. Watch for more events online: [acreslandtrust.org](https://www.acreslandtrust.org).

WALKS & WINE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2-4 pm
STEUBEN COUNTY | Robb Hidden Canyon

Take a casual hike through the fields and along the steep-sided ravine. Afterwards, join us for a “treat yourself” drink and tour at Acres Away Winery in Ashley, IN.



POISONOUS PLANT HIKE FOR MEMBERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 10-11:30am
WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood

Though we love our native plants, not all of them love us back. Take a walk with Carrie Vrabel and learn about the historical significance of some of our most toxic wild plants and how to identify them. Vrabel is a wild food forager, state-certified wild mushroom identification expert and founder of Wild Edible Indiana. Space is limited. **RSVP by September 12.**



SEED COLLECTION WORKDAYS

Help us harvest native seeds alongside fellow volunteers. The seeds will be used for upcoming restoration projects on ACRES preserves. The workday will begin with a short introduction to plant identification and harvesting techniques; no prior experience necessary. All equipment provided. Long pants and closed-toed shoes recommended.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 5-6:30 pm

DEKALB COUNTY | Heinzerling Family Five Points Nature Preserve

Space is limited. **RSVP by September 17.**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 5-6:30 pm

STEUBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven

Space is limited. **RSVP by October 22.**

FAMILY PLAY DAYS

Gather with fellow families for an afternoon of crafts, scavenger hunt hikes, make-your-own trail mix and more. Stop by anytime to enjoy the fun!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 4-6 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 4-6 pm

STEUBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2-4 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Barn

Volunteers, let ACRES staff serve you for a change! In gratitude for your service, share lunch, get to know other volunteers and learn how your combined contributions make ACRES run. Your time and talent protect land. We want to thank you! **RSVP to Reena Ramos at rramos@acreslandtrust.org** or 260-637-2273 ext. 109 by September 20.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP FOR ACRES MEMBERS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5-7:30pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office

Learn the principles and composition of good nature photos with Thomas Sprunger, one of ACRES photographers. After an indoor lesson, take a sunset hike to put your knowledge into practice. Space is limited.

RSVP by October 2.

JAVA JAUNT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:30-8:30 am

DEKALB COUNTY | James P. Covell Nature Preserve

Take a casual sunrise hike through the fields and along Cedar Creek. Afterwards, join us for a “treat yourself” caffeine stop at 9th Street Brew in Auburn, IN.

FULL MOON HIKE FOR ACRES MEMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 8-9:30pm

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Bock Nature Preserve

Take a nighttime stroll through the fields of this closed preserve. Regional Stewardship Manager Gavin King will help keep an eye out for nighttime critters. Flashlights or headlamps recommended. **RSVP by October 15.**

POPP OPEN HOUSE FOR ACRES MEMBERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1-4 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve

12129 Tonkel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Warm up at the campfire or take a hike through the forested trails at this preserve open only once a year to ACRES members. Light snacks and refreshments provided. *Hosted by Popp caretaker Tom Gardner and volunteers Larry Biggerstaff, Louise and Keith Pomeroy.*

BOOK DISCUSSION FOR ACRES MEMBERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2-3:30 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office

Take time this fall to read *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert. Gather in the office to discuss your thoughts and takeaways from the book. Hosted by volunteers Natasha Manor and Bridgett Hernandez. Space is limited.

RSVP by November 14.

NATIONAL “TAKE A HIKE DAY” SWIFT HIKE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 12:30-5 pm

STEUBEN & LAGRANGE COUNTIES | Multiple locations

Fuel up your vehicles for a caravan to three northern preserves: Wing Haven, Ropchan Memorial and Fawn River Nature Preserves. Plan to hike about six miles total, at a steady pace. Space is limited. **RSVP by November 15.**

WOODY ID WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 9:30-11:30 am

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office

Join the ACRES stewardship team for an in-depth look at identifying native and non-native trees and shrubs. Learn about the methods used to manage these “woody plants” during the cold season. Space is limited. **RSVP by December 5.**





ACRES LAND TRUST'S 6TH

Blue Jean Gala

Oh, what a night!

On Thursday, June 20, 2024, 173 people gathered to celebrate and support local land as only ACRES knows how, with a big ol' party filled with laughter, dancing and a collective commitment to making a positive change for the lands around us.

Despite one of the year's hottest days, guests arrived smiling, ready to join the fun. Festivities included live music from the 1970s through today by The Supernovas, a signature Blackberry Sangria created by Copper Forge Distilling, featuring their "Radium" gin and Country Heritage blackberry wine and cans of Harry Stuff Brewing Company "Blue Jean Brew" with a custom label featuring native plants and animals. Guests enjoyed complimentary caricatures, an appetizer buffet provided by BluSpoon and a silent auction like no other.

Auction packages like "Family Game Night" included board games and a Fort Wayne Game Show Experience pass. With the HEDGE, artist Julie Wall provided a hand-painted rain barrel that went for top dollar. ACRES own stewardship team provided a consultation package that included a baseline botanical inventory, aerial drone footage and a customized stewardship plan for a lucky landowner to gain a new understanding of their land and how to care for it.

Thank you to the Robert Dietrick Co. and all of the other event sponsors, speakers and more than 40 individuals and businesses providing items for the silent auction!

At the night's end, more than \$45,000 was raised to protect local land. Your generosity for this year's Blue Jean Gala means more than words can convey. Thank you for your unwavering support, enthusiasm and belief in ACRES mission.

We look forward to sharing many more celebrations and milestones with all of you by our side!



Where Are They Now (part 2)?

Last season, we contacted former ACRES interns to learn about their pursuits after ACRES. You learned what Tate, Anela, Jessica and Iris have been up to beyond their internships, and how they are using their experiences to impact their communities. We had so many responses from former interns eager to share what they've been up to that we decided to share more of their stories!

Thanks to support from the Olive B. Cole Foundation, ACRES selects several students to work, learn and grow alongside our stewardship professionals for a few months each summer. This intentional training and networking is one way that ACRES invests in the future of conservation work.



THOMAS EYRICH

Wildlife Major at Purdue University in Indiana, 2022 ACRES Intern

I am currently a student at Purdue, majoring in Wildlife and minoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. I learned a lot from the ACRES internship, especially how professionals survey and manage natural areas in different ways. My experience using herbicides to manage invasive plants was a useful skill that I carried into my summer job at Pokagon State Park. I'm sure that the skills I learned at ACRES will continue to be valuable as I enter my career! My big internship takeaway was that managing a property, particularly removing invasive plants, is a lot of work. Despite this, it's very rewarding and does make a difference in improving the health of the habitat.

COLE UECKER

Forestry Major at Purdue University in Indiana, 2016 ACRES Intern

I was a summer intern with ACRES Land Trust in 2016. My duties included invasive species control, trail maintenance, boundary marking and tree planting, among other things.

During this internship, we worked with the crew from Crowe Forest Management. These connections led me to be hired by Tom Crowe that following winter and summer. After graduating in 2018 and following a seasonal stint in Colorado working for the US Forest Service, I joined Crowe Forest Management full-time, where I have worked ever since.

My time at ACRES Land Trust helped springboard me into my current career by helping me gain valuable work experience and develop connections in my field.



Cole in the back of a forestry planter during a reforestation project at a closed ACRES preserve.



DESSIREE HURST

QC Tech at Heidelberg Materials stone quarry in Fort Wayne, IN, 2018 ACRES intern

My internship at ACRES was highly educational. I learned about many species of trees, flowers, invasive species and more from Evan and also from the other interns who all brought experience in geology, forestry and environmental sciences. Every day, I would come home and write down what I had learned. Because of this, I have retained a lot of species knowledge from my internship days and still use that knowledge while walking the trails.

The internship also allowed me to network with partner land trusts, DNR and other like-minded organizations during ILPA's annual Stewardship Gathering! We showed them how ACRES manages stiltgrass in the Cedar Creek Corridor, visited the marl flat at Grass Lake and even canoed Gentian Lake.

I enjoyed interning at ACRES and the intern group who worked alongside me. We all still keep in touch to this day!

SHANNON FELGER

Environmental Science major at Purdue University in Indiana, 2019 ACRES intern

My internship with ACRES opened my eyes to the world around me and helped me see the land in a whole new way. I started to build a working knowledge of local flora and fauna and began appreciating the natural communities we have left—even working toward restoring them to their former state.

During my internship, we were invited to scope out a rare gravel hill prairie. This prairie was covered in endangered orchids and many other rare species that no one on the team had seen before. What an incredible opportunity!

After ACRES, I moved to Lafayette to pursue a degree in environmental science and interned with NICHES Land Trust, which helped define my passions today.

I now work as an Environmental Scientist with VS Engineering, researching, analyzing and documenting the surrounding environment for transportation projects to help protect habitats, waterways and any endangered species that call Indiana their home.



Thank you, former interns, for sharing where your passions and experiences have led you. Continue to leave a positive impression in your communities and the natural world!

ACRES looks for summer interns every year. Follow us on social media to watch for the next summer experience.



The Healing Power of Nature

by Nancy Conrad

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter.”

Rachel Carson, *“The Sense of Wonder”*

Losing a loved one or experiencing another traumatic life event is devastating to the human spirit. The resulting grief may exhibit as emotional or psychological pain, anxiety, depression, despair or feelings of isolation. It may seem overwhelming and insurmountable. Although every journey through grief is as unique as the person experiencing it, scientific research shows that for all of us, proximity to and immersion in a natural environment has healing benefits—both physical and mental.

Whether it's a walk in the park, a hike through the mountains or simply sitting by a tranquil body of water, nature has the ability to calm us, to comfort us and to lift our spirits. Nature provides a refuge from our immediate circumstances and promotes a greater sense of well-being. Nature encourages us to connect with a calmer, quieter world, while helping us feel more at peace. It promotes physical activity, engages our senses, encourages social interaction and enhances our well being. Quite simply, nature restores us.

Vicki Eber, Therapeutic Program Coordinator for the Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, is well versed in the benefits of regular interaction with nature. Vicki knows from her own life journey how beneficial being in nature can be. As an avid walker, she knows regular hikes keep her centered. Vicki is also passionate about ACRES Land Trust and its mission to protect land: “It seems like a natural fit to pair grief support groups with an opportunity to experience local natural environments.”

This thought has yielded a series of nature hikes scheduled throughout the season at select ACRES properties. The hikes are led by Vicki with assistance from ACRES staff and volunteers. Group size is limited, and registration is required in advance. (An online registration form is available at www.stillwater-hospice.org.) The hikes are intended to provide the emotional and psychological support people may need to grieve the losses they are facing. Vicki hopes the security of going for a hike with others for the first time “will inspire the confidence to go on their own in the future” and that “ACRES will provide an access point for participants to find their own healing.” Vicki is quick to point out that ACRES “free and open-to-all” access is consistent with the services provided by the Grief Center. All of their grief services are free to any adult experiencing the loss of a loved one. “You don’t have to walk alone.”

SPECIAL thanks

ACRES Board of Directors and Committee Members

Archive project volunteers

Chris Fairfield, Mary Anna Feitler, Carol Spallone, Jannice Rasor Hubbard, Julie Samek, John Shire

Summer Barn Concert Series Volunteers

Dave Brumm & Kim McDonald, Nancy & Joe Conrad, Deb Leinker, Kris Connerly

Jolene Stewart

Activity station at Family Play Day

Julie Wall

Leading a bookbinding workshop for members

Brett Bloom

Leading a deep listening hike for members

Brett Bloom & Jill Noyes

Speaking at ACRES Blue Jean Gala

Ossian Rotary, AORN & Girl Scout Troop

Removing litter at Acres Along the Wabash & Spring Lake Woods and Bog

Sammy K. with Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana

Donation of cookies

Kirk Swaidner

new mower tires

AJ Rambo

Leading Boots & Brews Hikes

Southern Wells High School Spanish Club

Removing litter at Acres Along the Wabash

Invasive Weed Removal Workday Volunteers

Office support volunteers

Quarterly assembly and distribution volunteers

Volunteer preserve stewards, caretakers and trail monitors

Jeremy Grogg

Becoming a volunteer preserve steward at Hanging Rock

George Kibe

Hand-routing preserve signage

wish list

Your generous donations of these supplies help keep our overhead costs down to focus on our mission. Thank you!

acreslandtrust.org/wishlist



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MEMBERSHIP: Life Member, \$1,000; Corporate Member, \$500; Annual Member, \$20. Dues payable annually.

Something Told the Wild Geese

by Rachel Field

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go.

Though the fields lay golden,
Something whispered — 'Snow.'

Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,

But beneath warm feathers
something cautioned — 'Frost.'

All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,

But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.

Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly, —

Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.

