

THE ACRES
QUARTERLY

Winter 2025 | Vol. 64 - No. 4



ACRES
LANDTRUST

The History of the Quarterly
Key Takeaways from the Land Trust Rally
The Beauty of First Day Hikes
How Your Support Lights Our Path Forward
The Role of ACRES Caretakers
How I Got Bit by the Sugar Bug



From the Editor

Dear Members,

When my husband Randy and I built our home on Cedar Creek in 1969, ACRES was nine years old. ACRES founders Jim and Pat Barrett and Tom and Jane Dustin were our upstream and downstream neighbors. We befriended them and were inspired by their dedication to preserving natural areas. After retiring as IPFW Writing Center Director in 2006, I began volunteering with ACRES, serving as Vice President, Board member and *Quarterly* Editor.

Editing the *Quarterly* has been a joy. I delight in helping you, the reader, learn about the animals and plants that inhabit the wilder corners of our region, and the people who protect them through ACRES. My goal in editing is to ensure that the voices of various writers speak as clearly as possible—whether the article is narrating a boggy botanical survey, describing the importance of nature preserves to children or spotlighting one of our cherished volunteers. When the staff complements the text with beautiful photographs, the result is 20 pages that we relish in reading.

Starting with this issue, I am retiring as Editor. Going forward, I will be a regular reader, watching my mailbox like a red-tailed hawk four times a year. Thank you, ACRES members, for making this publication possible.

In closing, I leave you with a memorable encounter that I shared 10 years ago on the back cover:

Last January, I walked alone in a preserve, enjoying the brittle cold, the silence of fresh snow. Cedar Creek flowed beside me, black, swift and clear beneath a fragile film of ice shelves.

And then—fur and bright eyes. Two river otters poked their heads over ice on the creek's far bank. We three held still, perfectly quiet, watching each other for a long time. It must have been 10 minutes. I think they were as astonished as I. My feet grew numb. Reluctantly, I was the first to turn away. While I had never seen them before and have never seen them since, I was there, and so were they.

Thanks,

Carol

Carol Roberts

Cover: Black-capped chickadee by Dave Fox.



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 8,300 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





WELCOME

54 new members!

Steve & Robin Aldred
Thomas & Catherine Ayers
Joseph Barendse
from Jennifer McCall
Freya Bernston
from Joanna Stebing
Liz Butler
Toni & Scott Carmer
Annelise Carson
Clearview Windows & More
LLC
Eve Clouse
Cynthia Cormany &
Matthew Hubley
Edward & Sharon Delery
from Dennis Davis
from Erin Davis
Meher Kiran Dharani
Dave & Linda Falater
Judy & Todd Fleming
Kelly Friedel-Baker
Liz Graber

Mary Graber
Alice Haag
Dena & Keith Haskins
David Heileman
Jayna & Marcus Hobbs
from Taylere McCoy
Daniel Holtz & Heidi Eash
Jenna & Jeremy Jacobs
John & Kristi Kaiser
Carol Karst Wasson
Colleen & Adam Krohn
Kathryn Lawson
Amanda Leininger
Ley Excavating
Candy MacDonald
Tanya Markarian
Jessica Mason
Doug May
Sue McVicker
Andrea Meyers
Jeanne Raines

Dr. James & Mrs. Rachel
Roberts
Chris & Angela Roegner
Anne Rowland
Daniel Saine & Laura Baker
Lisa & Jonathan Sariti
Carol Scher
Terra Schmidt
Kelsey Shanabarger &
Sirroyan Sabatino
Danielle Sittloh & Mason
Marlatt
Angie Slentz
Kevin & Kayle Smith
Stacey Smith-Rash & Brian
Rash
Gordon Springer
Alexandria Stalter
Jennifer & Scott Thum
David Welch & Pam Knight
Denny & Cookie Wilson
from Kirk Swaidner

50-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

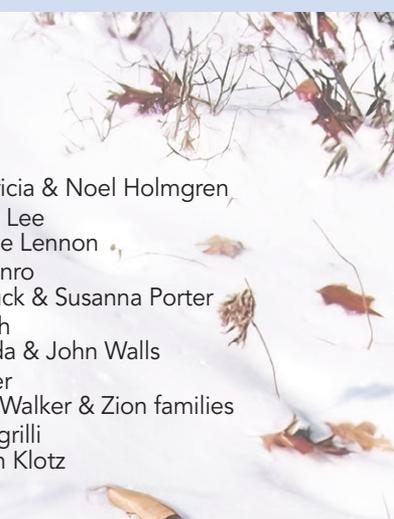
We want to say a special "Thank You" to members **Jim & Helen Haddock**, who hit a huge milestone this year by supporting ACRES for 50 years. We greatly appreciate all the ways you have invested in ACRES mission over the years!

In Honor of

Gary Reynolds' 70th Birthday from the Snyder Family

In Memory of

Michael Blair
from Ronald & Cathy Duchovic
Tom Bland
from Gary Laker
Kim Collins
from David & Amy Sites
John Ehrhardt
from Stephanie Black, Pat & Ann Smith
Fred Feitler
from Mary Anna Feitler, Ken & Susan Till
Amy Fry-Miller
from Jim & Amy Shively
Jared Huth
from Scott Huth



Ruth Kern
from Patricia & Noel Holmgren
M. Richard Lee
from Dave Lennon
Marvel Munro
from Chuck & Susanna Porter
Paula Smith
from Linda & John Walls
Dick Walker
from the Walker & Zion families
Albert Zangrilli
from Alan Klotz



The History of the Quarterly

By Lyn Winchell

The first issue of the Quarterly was published in the winter of 1962, just two years after ACRES was founded. Since then, the Quarterly has kept ACRES members updated on everything happening with the organization.

The publication has looked different throughout the years, but the core has remained the same: informative articles, upcoming events and the latest news. All of this is in an effort to inspire and encourage people to protect our region's natural spaces while we still can.

Below, I take you through a tour of the *Quarterly* and share some interesting tidbits about its history.

One of the benefits of membership is the ACRES *Quarterly*, which shares our experiences in nature through words, sketches and photography.

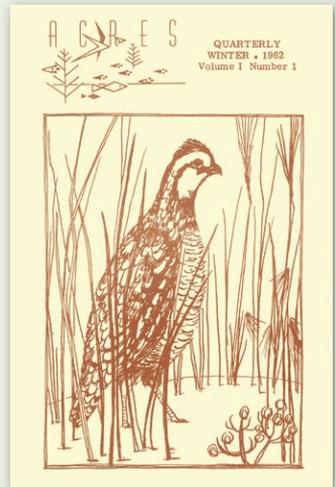
It typically takes about three months for ACRES staff, the editors and volunteers to publish an issue of the *Quarterly*, from start to finish. *Quarterly* editors through the years are founders Jane and Tom Dustin, Wing Haven caretaker Fred J. Wooly, Susan Britton and Britton Marketing and Design Group, Karen Griggs, Faith Van Gilder and board member Carol Roberts.

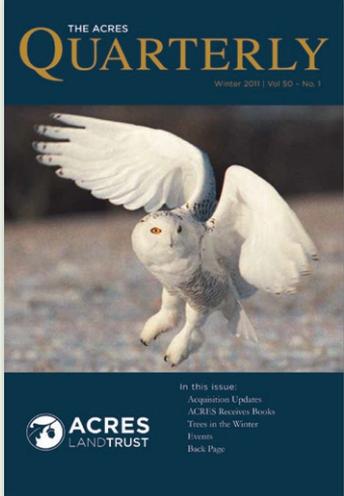
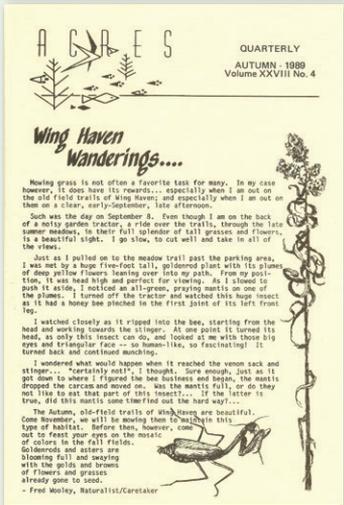
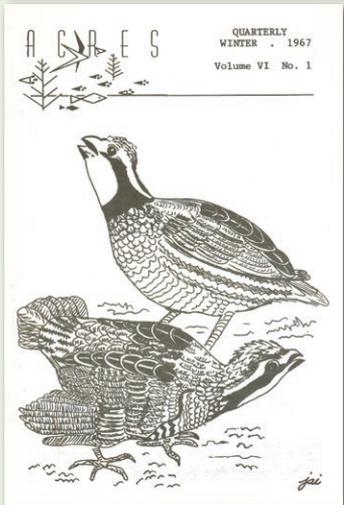
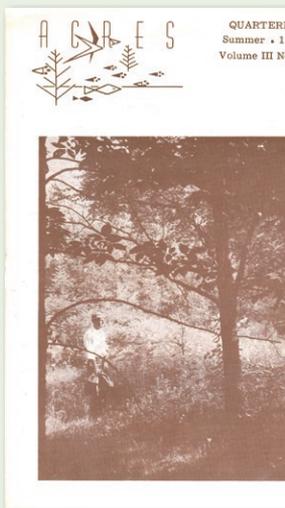
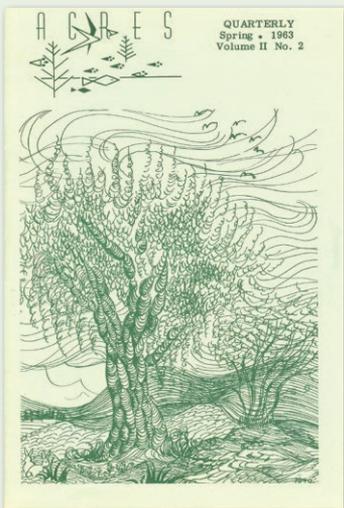
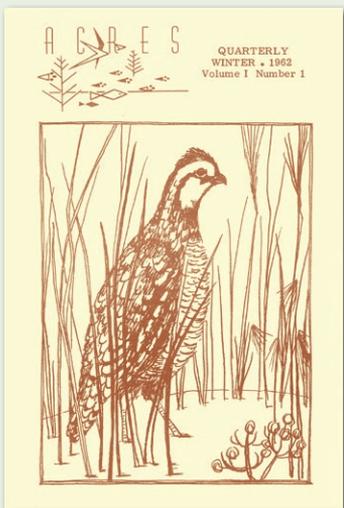
When our *Quarterly* arrives every four months, the first thing we see is the cover art, sketches, drawings or photographs of preserves or critter residents of the preserves. Often, the artwork and photography are created by our members.

Page 2 traditionally carries a letter from Executive Director Jason Kissel, addressing subjects pertaining to ACRES and nature in general. His first "Dear Friends" letter appeared in the Summer 2006 *Quarterly*. When the magazine became a member-only benefit in Fall 2016, Jason's salutation changed to "Dear Members."

Inside pages provide informative articles about everything ACRES and specific nature topics. We also learn about upcoming events, land acquisition, research activities on ACRES property, open and closed preserves, volunteer commitments, staff, stewardship, new members and so much more.

The *Quarterly* center spread highlights exceptional photography and other works of art inspired by ACRES preserves. Photography instructor Stephen Perfect received credit for the first photo center spread—a fall woodland preserve scene—in the Fall 2007 issue.





After reading even more informative articles, we reach the final page—the back cover. Here you'll usually find a nature photo and a poem or thoughtful observance—a most pleasant way to finish our journey through the *Quarterly*.

Quarterly Tidbits:

- **Winter 1962:** First *Quarterly* appears. Published three times a year, the issues are labeled Winter, Spring and Fall. Volume I, Number 1 was four pages long and featured a Northern Bobwhite sketch on the cover.
- **Spring 1963:** The first cover art credit went to charter member Fern Berg, an art and English teacher at Arcola School.
- **Summer 1964 Special Edition:** The first photograph on a *Quarterly* cover is one of co-founder James M. Barrett III, taken by co-founder Thomas E. Dustin.
- **Summer 1964:** A 12-page special edition dedicated to the paper "*Earth's Pyramid of Life*" by ACRES co-founder and then-Vice President James M. Barrett III.
- **Winter 1967:** The first envelope inserted in the *Quarterly* for members is a self-mailer brochure for the "Every member add a member campaign."
- **Autumn 1989:** The first issue designated Autumn instead of Fall. Autumn *Quarterly* changed back to Fall *Quarterly* with the 2005 volume.
- **Summer 1989:** Summer *Quarterly* permanently returns.
- **Summer 1994:** The first 16-page *Quarterly*.
- **Summer 1999:** The first full-color cover is a photograph of a wild rose by Bill Krebs.
- **Summer 2006:** New Executive Director Jason Kissel writes his first "Dear Friends" letter on Page 2.
- **Fall 2007:** The first full center spread is a fall woodland photo taken inside an ACRES preserve by Stephen Perfect.
- **Fall 2010:** Center spread displays *Quarterly* covers from the first issue to the 49th issue.
- **Winter 2011:** First 20-page *Quarterly*.
- **Winter 2014:** first *Quarterly* aligned closer to the seasons—March (Spring), June (Summer), August (Fall), December (Winter).

After 15 years of the current iteration of the *Quarterly*, we have been working behind the scenes to update and refresh this historic publication. You'll be the first to see these efforts of this work when it hits your mailboxes in 2026!

LEARNING AND GROWING:

Key Takeaways from the Land Trust Alliance Rally by Reena Ramos, Outreach Manager

If you happened to wander the streets of Cleveland in September, you may have noticed signs that land lovers had taken over the city for the annual Land Trust Alliance Rally: an increased number of Subarus, outdoor gear slung over shoulders and sidewalks littered with the squashed remains of invasive spotted lanternflies.



ACRES staff connect with other Indiana land trusts during an ILPA meet-up at the rally.

Every year, the Land Trust Alliance invites land conservation groups to a rally that celebrates land protection and provides opportunities to learn from each other. Representing ACRES, Administrative Director Jenna Justice, Communications Manager Elijah Stewart and I drove to the lakeside city with notebooks ready. With hundreds of land trust professionals in attendance, we had the chance to learn about emerging trends and shifts in the conservation field.

Here are some key takeaways:

Community and Urban Nature Preserves

Often, protected land is located in rural areas, away from population centers, which can limit public awareness and access. However, there's been a movement to protect urban natural areas. These projects are most successful when land trusts collaborate with local residents as community experts.

Conservation for All

Many communities face barriers that prevent them from engaging with land trusts and accessing natural spaces. By addressing these barriers, whether they're economic, cultural or physical, land trusts can become catalysts for inclusion. Something as simple as modifying our descriptive, scientific language can help more folks understand the areas we're describing (e.g., referring to riparian areas as "land next to a river").

Indigenous Partnerships

Multiple workshops were led by Indigenous representatives who shared stories of meaningful partnerships between land trusts and Native American tribes. These collaborations often focus on land access, repatriation and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into conservation practices.

Funding Remains a Challenge

Funding for land conservation continues to be an uphill battle. Conservation receives only about 3% of all charitable giving in the United States, with land protection claiming just a portion of that small slice.

These topics, along with countless conversations with fellow land trust professionals, filled our notebooks with new ideas and renewed motivation. We're already developing strategies to implement some of these and increase ACRES impact in our region.

Thank you to the Land Trust Alliance for hosting an inspiring and educational event. We look forward to future rallies!

The Beauty of First Day Hikes

by ACRES volunteer, Tim Brauch

Trails are always busy when there are vibrant bursts of color—reds and golds on a cool day in autumn, pastels of wildflowers on a warm spring day and even rich greens during the summer. Winter is different. The quiet hush of the winter landscape reveals a different kind of beauty, one that is often overlooked. In this stillness, I have had and shared some of my meaningful moments in nature.

My favorite time to hike is after the last leaf has fallen and before the first bloom of spring. The forests open up. The lack of leaves means that you can see things that are hidden the rest of the year. The air is crisp and carries sounds that are unique to winter. The world appears frozen, but you can hear everything around you. Twigs snap, squirrels scurry, birds sing. The small details become more obvious: the tracks of a rabbit in the fresh snow or the weathered bark of the trees.

A First Day Hike is more than just a walk. It is an invitation to this magical world. It is a chance to connect with nature on January 1, when we are tempted to stay indoors. While I enjoy my solo hikes during this time, I love seeing others on the trail. And I love bringing others along. It is a great experience to celebrate the new year with old and new friends in this way, especially people who appreciate the magic of the moment that we are experiencing. Everyone has their own experience, but each of us appreciates the raw, quiet beauty of the season.

For me, a First Day Hike is a ritual and a celebration. I can step into the new year with a sense of calm, a sense of clarity, grounded in the resilience of the winter landscape. This hike always reminds me that even in this stillness, there is beauty. We can find true connections with nature and one another in moments when we might not expect them. Being able to share with others on this day enhances it for all. The year starts by sharing this experience with others. The tone for the year is set.

View all the details for our upcoming First Hikes on page 12.

Photo spread on pages 10–11: Winter settles over the frozen creek in Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run.





WINTER HIKES & events

RSVP for events by visiting [acreslandtrust.org/events](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/events) or calling 260-637-2273.

WOODY ID WORKSHOP (MEMBER EVENT)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10 pm
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Wildwood

Join ACRES Stewardship Director Evan Hill 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 11.**



FIRST DAY HIKES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Ring in the New Year with invigoration! We'll explore trails across the region, welcoming 2026 with movement and camaraderie. Space is limited. **RSVP by December 30.**

10 am DEKALB COUNTY | Heinzerling Family Five Points Nature Preserve

1 pm HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Pehkokia Woods



FAMILY WINTER ART WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 9-10:30 am
ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Office

Did you know some birds brave the winter weather? Start the workshop with a short presentation about these overwintering birds, then create your own pinecone feeder. Stay after the workshop for a short hike to spot our feathered friends on the trail. Space is limited. **RSVP by January 8.**



NEW MEMBER OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1-2:30 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office

Are you new to ACRES? This open-house-style event allows you to meet other members and learn how your support helps protect local land. Come when you can, leave when you must. Refreshments provided.



WINTER CREEK STOMP (MEMBER EVENT)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2 pm
WABASH COUNTY | Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run

Ross Run in winter is spectacular! 20' icicles, frozen waterfalls and fossils. Depending on the weather, we'll be walking either through frigid water or on ice. Choose appropriate footwear and consider bringing dry shoes and socks for after. Presented by preserve steward Kirk Swaidner and the Kissel Family. Space is limited. **RSVP by January 22.**



ART WORKSHOP NEEDLE FELT (MEMBER EVENT)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1-3 pm
STEUBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven

Get artsy this winter in the Wing Haven cabin! During this beginner-friendly workshop you'll create a fishy friend to take home. All supplies provided. Hosted by Mary Graber. **RSVP by February 1.**

SWIFT HIKE & BALD EAGLE WATCH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1-5 pm

WABASH & MIAMI COUNTIES | Begins at Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark

Caravan along with us to several ACRES trails in Wabash County. Take a quick hike at each preserve to watch for bald eagles soaring along the ravines and waterways. End the journey in Miami County, with a stop at Seven Pillars Nature Preserve. Space is limited. **RSVP by February 19.**



World Wetlands Day
FEBRUARY 2

View Events



COME JOIN US

BOOTS & BREWS

3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Boots & Brews is an ACRES Land Trust hiking group for nature-loving young adults in their 20s and 30s. Come solo or bring a friend; hike and stay for a brew or two afterwards! See [acreslandtrust.org/series/boots-brews](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/series/boots-brews)



PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

GRIEF HIKES WITH STILLWATER HOSPICE

3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 am

Starting in January, Stillwater Hospice is partnering with ACRES for another year of Grief Hikes. Join a group hike to process grief in nature. Call **260-435-3261**, email GriefCenter@stillwater-hospice.org, visit [stillwater-hospice.org/complementary-grief-programs](https://www.stillwater-hospice.org/complementary-grief-programs), or scan the **QR code** to register for a hike.



MEMBER APPRECIATION



QUIET RENEWAL:

How Your Support Lights Our Path Forward

Winter is a time of quiet renewal. As daylight lessens and temperatures drop, we reflect on the warmth that lasting relationships bring to the ACRES mission. This season, we celebrate the enduring commitments that light our path and the friendships with donors and volunteers whose support sustains our work to protect and care for the lands vital to our community.

Your generosity is more than a gift; it is an investment in a living legacy. Every contribution is a tangible promise to steward and safeguard the special places we all cherish, ensuring they flourish today and for future generations. Your acts of kindness, whether a monetary donation or volunteer hour, help deepen the roots of our mission, nurturing a thriving landscape that connects people to the healing and inspiring power of nature year after year, decade after decade.

As the season invites us to pause, reflect and renew, we ask for your continued support to advance this vital work.

Every gift made through the end of the year will directly support the acquisition of new land and the stewardship of ACRES preserves. Thanks to a generous \$185,000 matching gift challenge, your donation will be doubled! There has never been a better time to invest in our mission. Your support today means twice the impact for tomorrow.

Let's move forward together, rooted in partnership and hope. Your generosity matters deeply. With your help, these protected places will remain a source of life, learning and joy tomorrow and for generations to come.



Photo by Thomas Sprunger

The Role of ACRES Caretakers

Across the service area, ACRES volunteers care for more than just the land. They currently care for about 10 homes and several more outbuildings. Occasionally, the land donor might require that the buildings on the land be demolished once their life estate rights expire. Others might give us the option to utilize the buildings for as long as it makes sense to do so.

When ACRES receives a building, a lot of thought goes into its future. Buildings are costly, and if those costs are to be incurred, they must be for a good reason. If you have been to the ACRES office, one of our barn concerts or the pancake breakfast at Asherwood, you can surely appreciate the way these structures and others have been repurposed to help move the organization’s mission forward.



Caretaker Residence at Mackel Nature Preserve

Not all houses are destined to be office or event spaces. Those houses serve as homes to the preserve caretaker and their families until a better use of the space is realized or until the cost to maintain the home outweighs the benefit of having it and the caretaker on the property. Resident caretakers complete property maintenance, boundary monitoring and general upkeep within and around the house and outbuildings. These individuals also serve as ACRES representatives within their respective communities, providing a face with the name and helping to foster existing relationships and create new ones along the way.



Caretaker Residence at Wing Haven



SUGAR MAKING 101 OR *How I Got Bit by the Sugar Bug*

by Kirk Swaidner

It started with an email in February 2020. ACRES Stewardship Director Evan Hill reached out to ask if I'd be interested in helping map and mark a new sugar bush—a grove of sugar maple trees—at Asherwood Nature Preserve.

On an early spring morning, I met Evan and preserve caretakers Grady and Janelle Stout at the property. Together, we located sugar maples throughout the woods, tagging each one before tapping it and hanging collection buckets. Some of those taps (called spiles) began dripping sap immediately. The Sugar Bug bit me!

Since that day, I annually come down with “sugar fever,” and thankfully, there is no cure.

From Sap to Syrup

Once buckets are hanging from the trees, they need to be checked and emptied regularly. The gathered sap is collected and transported to the Sugar Shack, where it's boiled for hours in an evaporator. Springtime sap contains just 1-2% natural sugar, so it takes 40 gallons of tree sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup. At just the precise moment, the boiling sap transitions into syrup and you draw it off. Once enough syrup is produced, it's bottled in the Science Center kitchen.

Indigenous people of the northeast are credited with discovering that maple sap could be processed into sugar. Early European settlers, with access to metal alloys and canning techniques, refined the process to create maple syrup as we know it today.

Daily sap production from each tree varies dramatically depending on weather and temperature fluctuations.





Honoring Tradition

Using historic methods from the turn of the 19th century, ACRES makes maple syrup using only sap from sugar maple trees. From how the sap is gathered to stoking the hand-banked wood fire beneath the evaporator to bottling the finished product, we follow traditional practices throughout.

The whole process begins in autumn with firewood production. The sugar season, when the tree sap is flowing and with the correct chemistry, begins in early spring and lasts for about a month. After bottling the final batch, we clean the equipment, dismantle what needs dismantling and perform any necessary maintenance before storing everything until next year.

2025 marked my sixth consecutive sugar-making season alongside the Stout family at Asherwood. As fall approaches each year, my mind wanders toward cutting and splitting firewood for the upcoming season. When will sugar fever hit me next....? Pass the maple syrup, please!



Thank You, Stout Family by Kirk Swaidner

Grady, Janelle and the children,
Words cannot express my adoration and deep gratitude for your care of Asherwood over the past years. The preserve and the people whose lives you have touched have significantly benefited.

While your time as ACRES Caretakers draws to a close, our friendships will abide. My volunteering at Asherwood and the sugar season have become family time with the Stouts. We all got sugar in our veins together. YaHoo!!



From property improvement projects to Science Center maintenance, Sugar Shack projects, the “this is taking longer than we planned” projects and each Sugar Bush season, your adoration of the preserve has been evident. It’s an honor to know you all.

As preserve caretakers and parents, you have modeled land care and conservancy while making the place a home. As an ACRES member, thank you for your hard work at Asherwood, imaginative engineering, perseverance and cheerful attitudes while caring for the preserve and the nature that lives within it. Blessings and grace follow you as you relocate locally to become “regular ACRES members.”

However, for me, you’ll never leave Asherwood.

Welcome, Bridgett!



We’re thrilled to announce Bridgett Hernandez as our new *Quarterly* Editorial Advisor, stepping into the role following Carol Roberts’ retirement. Bridgett brings a wealth of experience to this position, having previously served as ACRES Communications Manager. Her journalistic expertise, honed through years of reporting on northeast Indiana’s natural spaces and outdoor community, makes her an ideal fit for guiding our publication’s content strategy and quality. Her passion for storytelling and appreciation for the region’s natural heritage will strengthen the *Quarterly* as she provides expert feedback and editorial direction.

SPECIAL thanks

American Heritage Girls groups
Private seed collection workdays

Scott Anderson
Donating gently used mobile phones

Archive project volunteers & history hike
leaders

Chris Fairfield, Janice Hubbard, Julie
Samek & John Shire

Adam Balzer, DNR Regional Ecologist
Hosting a Boots & Brews hike

Jeff Easley
Bridge repairs at Acres Along the Wabash

Christy Knecht
Hosting forest bathing events

John Laatsch
Hosting a Field Flower Hike

Cathy Lassen
Peddle, Paddle, Play booth volunteer

Mackel Open House caretakers &
volunteers
Cathy Lassen, Isaac & Kelsey Sexton

Native Garden Workday volunteers
Stephanie Bailey, Nancy Conrad, Natasha
Manor

Open Streets booth volunteers
Mark Maffey & Angie Slentz

James Orozco
Defiance Riverfest booth volunteer

AJ Rambo
Boots & Brews volunteer leader

Seed Collection Workday volunteers

Al Spice
Michiana Master Gardeners booth
volunteer

Summer Concert Series volunteers
Joe & Nancy Conrad, Keith & Louise
Pomeroy, Doug & Kathy Rogers, Isaac
Sexton, Angela Slentz

Summer Creek Stomp volunteers
Amy Kissel & Kirk Swaidner

Office and Quarterly support volunteers

Volunteer preserve stewards, caretakers,
and trail monitors

wish list

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

acreslandtrust.org/wishlist



DIRECTORS: Brittany Hall, President; Scott Mattson, Vice President; Jill Noyes, Vice President; Dan Ernst, Secretary; Veronica Mertz, Treasurer; Shannon Connors; Dick Donovan; Alexis Hathaway; Jeri Kornegay; Sara Manning; Jordan Marshall; John Michaels; Melissa Rinehart; Rick Samek; Al Spice; Terry Thornsby; Chris Fairfield, Recording Secretary

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

An excerpt from *Nature's Paintbox: A Seasonal Gallery of Art and Verse* by Patricia Thomas

Nature sketches winter, I think, in pen and ink...
black and white;
sharp and clear and fine;
no colors to blur the line...
or maybe, just a bit at a time...
berries on a bush;
cardinals on a branch;
a red mailbox flag winking a cheery hello,
snuggled under its caps of snow;
a snowman's carrot nose,
a holly wreath with a red velvet bow;
a pink sunset, glowing behind hilltop trees—
every lacy twig outlined.

White snowy day;
black snowy night;
winter is done in pen and ink...
black and white.

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Photo by Brian Utesch



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