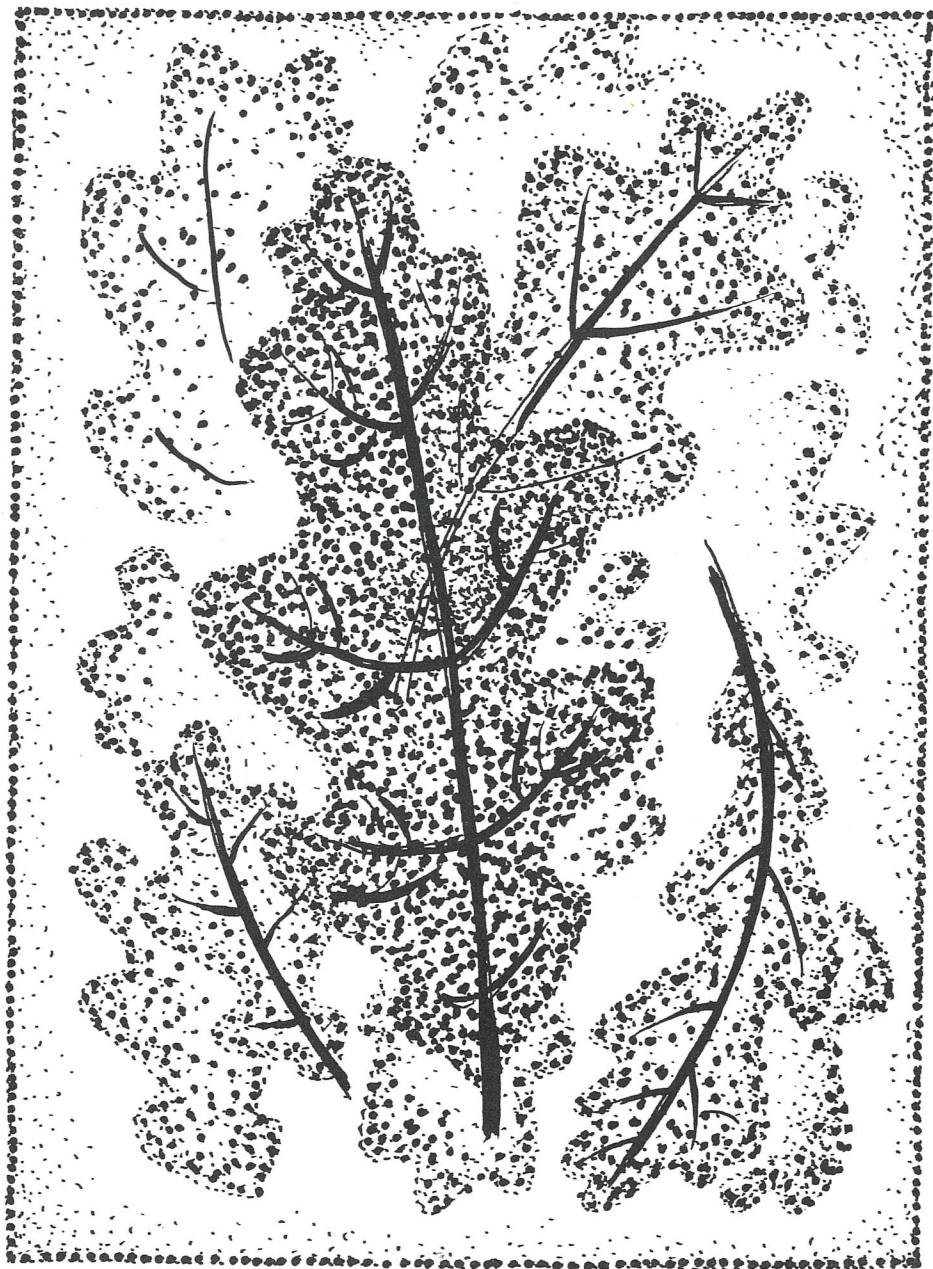




QUARTERLY

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SPURGEON RESERVE 'POSTED' SCOUTS AID IN FENCE REPAIRS

On April 14, the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve was formally posted by the installation of a rustic wooden sign. Designed and built by Wayne P. Branstrator, the words were routed by David Gillie and the marker was raised with the help of Fred Geiger and Elbert Roe, both of ACRES' Noble County Advisory Board.

On hand to help that same day were some 25 Fort Wayne Boy Scouts of Troup 40. These young men put in a busy afternoon when, after a short discussion of the purposes of the Spurgeon Reserve, they helped clear the parking area, and right-of-way into the Reserve. They helped to construct a livestock-proof stile into the Reserve at the end of the right-of-way. They learned the tricks of mending fence on the western line which separates the Reserve from pastured land.

Probably the most important job done that day was mending that fence, for here was a first hand experience with the management of a natural area. It was a shock to us city folks to learn the cost of the roll of barbed wire, the replacement fence posts and the staples needed to do the job. We were handling some \$50.00 worth of fence repair materials.

Here's how soil conservationist Glenn Poe explains why the cost of that fence repair was well worth it to preserve the natural value of the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. "An undisturbed woodland has a shrubby border and an understory growth especially where sunlight can penetrate. Here are all the desirable species ready to take the place of fallen trees.

"Duff (partially decayed organic material) forms on the topsoil producing a layer that mulches the area, conserves moisture and provides a condition favoring root development, inviting the native species of plants from the multi-formed fungi to the woodland flowers, vines and shrubs.

"If livestock gets in - the grazing and trampling break the woodland surface-seal, damage or destroy the undergrowth, allow the leaves to blow off the woods floor. The total environment changes. A grazed woodland is warmer in summer, cooler in winter. The soil loses its water holding capacity and very little new growth takes place on the woods floor.

"It will take 10 years to correct the damaging effect of one season's grazing."

Was the fifty dollars for fence repair worth it? We think so.

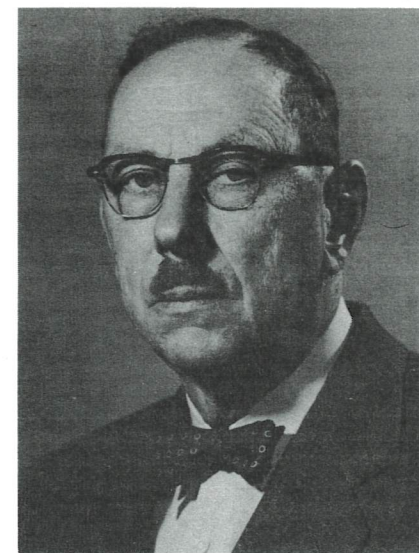
YALE'S PAUL B. SEARS IS ACRES SPEAKER FOR THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 16

Mrs. Robinson in Charge
of Dinner Arrangements

ACRES holds its third annual meeting October 16, and is pleased to inform members and friends that the distinguished guest speaker is to be Dr. Paul B. Sears.

Dr. Sears, Professor Emeritus of Conservation, Yale University, is an outstanding authority on natural areas of North America, and is a former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is a member of the National Science Board, and is author of "Deserts on the March," "Charles Darwin," and "Where There Is Life." Dr. Sears has also written extensively on climatic history and ecology.

Since his retirement from the Yale staff in 1960, Dr. Sears has served as visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Louisville, Hawaii, Brigham Young and others.



Dr. Paul B. Sears

Besides his professorship at Yale, ACRES'

speaker has taught at Ohio State University, the Universities of Nebraska and Oklahoma and at Oberlin University, where he also served on the Ohio Wildlife Council.

Dr. Sears is an authority on natural resource management, a field in which he has served for years as a consultant.

ACRES is fortunate in having so distinguished a personality as speaker, and is pleased to be able to continue the tradition of annual meeting excellence, which included Richard H. Pough for its first annual meeting, and M. Graham Netting, of the Carnegie Museum, in 1961.

All members of ACRES, as well as friends and members of other groups are cordially invited to attend.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:45 p.m., in the Concordia Senior College Dining Hall (North of Fort Wayne). Reservations may be made by calling E-1564, Mrs. Courtney Robinson. Dinner reservations are \$2.00.

'WILDERNESS ACT' STILL PENDING

Attention of ACRES members is directed to a measure which would establish a national policy of perpetuating designated areas already in the public domain as "wilderness" trusts. The measure has been adopted in the U. S. Senate by a vote of 78 to 8, but is pending in the House of Representatives. For those who feel national policy should be to preserve parts of existing public land areas for their own inherent primitive values, a letter is suggested to Congressman E. Ross Adair, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

ARE YOU AN UNRENEWED ACRES RESOURCE?

Our records show 115 '62-63' season memberships. There are still over 50 unrenewed members. CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR ACRES MEMBERSHIP. Regular: \$2.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron: \$50.00. ACRES also maintains a land acquisition fund. All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
by Robert Weber

This fall your board of directors again offers three guided field trips to some areas in Northeastern Indiana which are unique for their ecological state, still in a virgin or nearly virgin condition. All field trips will entail some hiking through wet or boggy areas so you'd best wear some old shoes, and bring dry socks for the change after the wet hiking is over. The trips are all on Saturdays and are all-day in length. The meeting place and departure time for all trips will be in the parking lot by the tennis courts in Foster Park at 9 a. m. (If that is rather far out of the way for you, please call Robert Weber (H-0429) and a contact point enroute will be arranged. Call also if you will need a ride). A sack lunch should be brought along, and you may enjoy taking pictures or using your binoculars.

Here is the fall schedule. Make a note of the dates on your calendar and plan to come along to enjoy not only the interesting areas we visit, but also meeting your fellow members and friends of ACRES.

29 September - Shallow Lake and Middle Center Lake Bog

These two areas are in the vicinity of Angola. Shallow Lake is an exceedingly alkaline, marl-bottomed water hole. Blatchley reported in 1901 that the soil under and around it tested about 93% pure lime (CaCO_3). It offers a fine study of the limitations placed upon plant species by such extreme pH. There are expanses of sedges and rushes. Shrubby cinquefoil flourishes with swamp thistle and ducks frequently dot the lake surface in large numbers. A small, rare *Selaginella* grows there.

The bog west of Middle Center Lake will be reached after a brief hike along an old interurban grade in Angola. Included in the interesting flora there are yellow birch, two species of *Spirea*, the royal fern, pitcher plant, loosestrifes, and two species of orchids.

13 October - Voorheiss Woods and Spring Lake

The Voorheiss Woods is so close to the city of Fort Wayne that it seems very surprising to find it so nearly natural. Goldenseal is a real find in this woods as are the giant merrybells. An old wagon trail winds through the woods and will give us access to the three ponds therein.

Spring Lake has been visited by some members of the board on more than one occasion. It is a fine example of a small isolated lake with virtually no human interference at its shoreline. A real find there is a beautiful colony of the club moss *Lycopodium lucidulum*.

27 October - Bucher Ravine, Little Wabash River Marsh and Devils Hollow

The ravine is north of Poe and offers several life forms which grow well only where the native hardwood forest is relatively undisturbed. The beautiful red firepink grows there. Stonecrop, green dragon, twinleaf and blue cohosh appear in flower frequently in the spring.

The marsh on what we have come to call the Kelsey Property is undoubtedly one of the finest remnants of the huge marsh which once existed throughout the lowlands between Fort Wayne and Huntington. Its sand dunes offer vegetation similar to our famous Indiana dunes on Lake Michigan.

Many fine populations of marsh plants and animals abound. Among them are interrupted fern, giant bur reed, tall reed, wild yam, American hazelnut, bottle gentian, milk snakes and spotted turtles. The massasauga rattler has been taken in the marsh a few times.

Devils Hollow needs little introduction to many people in the Fort Wayne area. It has long stood as one of the finest remaining large acreages of unspoiled woodland hills and valleys in the area. We will examine it through access from the Liberty Mills Road. Bladder nut, water hemlock, Canada waterleaf, mountain stonecrop, giant merrybells, two-line salamander, and Valerians are but a few of the life forms to be found there.

DO BULLDOZERS ALWAYS BRING PROGRESS?
by Dr. John W. Klotz, President

It's all a matter of your point of view. Some months ago I read a few paragraphs in the NEW YORKER that intrigued me. It was the story of a bulldozer operator filling in a small creek. Eagerly and with a sense of triumph he went at his job. For him it represented a victory for man and machine over nature. The filled in area would provide land on which a house would be built, filling in a vacant area between two other houses. The empty space had always bothered him: it seemed wasted. Now the unnecessary void would be filled.

But a bystander had entirely different thoughts. To him it was not a victory but a tragedy. He thought of the little minnows he had seen in the creek: the frogs that had hopped along its banks: the rush of water over the stones after a rain: the insects that chirped along its sides: the green grass that lined its banks. All this would be gone. Something would be missing forever.

It takes education to appreciate the importance of conservation. People do not always destroy maliciously. To the peoples of the underdeveloped countries of Africa the game reserves, now left without wardens, are an easy source of meat: they do not realize the irreparable damage they are doing in making the 20th century the last century of the big game animals of Africa. People living in our own country do not realize what ugly scars suburban sprawl is cutting into the landscape. They do not see how important it is to set aside and preserve representative natural areas for the future.

It's hard for us to realize what Indiana with its huge trees and crystal clear rivers and lakes was like before our fathers came. The pioneers did not meet their obligation to us: they knew no better than to regard nature as an implacable foe. What they destroyed unnecessarily is irreparably gone. They were like the bulldozer operator of the NEW YORKER story. The challenge is for us. Will we meet our obligation to future generations? Will we set aside the few remaining natural areas or will they go the way of the others?

We need the cooperation and support of all forward looking citizens.

Pressures continue to mount. The population explosion creates greater demands, and technological advances make possible the utilization of areas that were once protected by difficulty of access. Will you help us by joining or renewing your membership in ACRES and by urging others to lend their support? Visit some of the areas on the field trips we have arranged. Plan to attend the annual meeting to hear Dr. Sears, one of the country's outstanding conservationists.

41 NATURAL AREAS DESCRIBED
ON UNIFORM ACRES 'FACT SHEETS'

ACRES Board has now studied all remaining natural areas in Allen County and many others in nearby Northeastern, Indiana.

This work has been accomplished under the able direction of Werner Reifsteck, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee, who has personally gathered most of the data.

Recently the ACRES Board developed a "fact sheet" on which uniform data concerning 41 natural areas has been entered by Mr. Reifsteck. While these data sheets do not provide for a total analysis of an area, they do provide an excellent "profile" and permit valid comparison of general natural values among the areas studied in some detail.

Considerations included in the ACRES-developed data forms include, among other details:

Precise Location, Physiography, Size, Elevation, Relief, Soil, Plants (Dominant and Rare), Animals, Drainage, Present Use, Feasibility of Protection, Accessibility, Degree of Human and Animal Disturbance, and no fewer than 10 other technical considerations.

Compilation of such uniform data is believed to be one of the most methodical (perhaps unique) approaches ever attempted in classifying undedicated areas of these general types for their inherent natural importance. This storehouse of data is expected to enable ACRES to present strong points over the years in acquiring lands and in cooperating with other private or public bodies in preserving some of the places studied.

The carefully compiled material on these 41 areas may also be useful in the future in determining the effects on them of encroaching adverse influences.

Life on earth is totally
dependent on a few simple
things... a particle of soil...
a raindrop... sunlight... at-
mosphere ... and the green
cells of plants.

Constant awareness of our newly found capacity for dealing massed death has caused us to overlook, momentarily, the more gentle sciences which underwrite life and affect the survival of man as surely as does the atom.

In the last analysis, what we know as *conservation of natural resources* will determine whether or not people and nations of the earth will continue to exist.

As greater and greater demands are made upon each acre of ground, each gallon of water, each ounce of mineral, those persons dedicated to conserving the elements which are indispensable to life must be able to draw guidance from the past. Significant pages of conservation history can direct the pattern of human survival.

Reprinted above is the motto and statement of principal which predicated the nation's first Conservation Library Center inspired by Arthur A. Carhart, conservationist, and J. T. Eastlick, Denver Public Library.

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2224 St. Joe Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

ACRES QUARTERLY

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