



QUARTERLY
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MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ACRES

It has been approximately 21 months since the incorporation of ACRES in March of 1960. In less than two full years important progress has been made in ACRES objectives of preserving natural areas in northern Indiana for educational and scientific purposes, and for the sheer protection of our beautiful natural heritage.

The first year was devoted to location and evaluation, by land and air, of the areas most worthy of permanent protection as "living museums" in Allen and surrounding counties. Virtually every potential area in Allen County has been thoroughly studied by the Land Acquisition Committee, as have many areas in counties west and north. Further, an "acquisition preference" list has been prepared to give the ACRES program the kind of directivity required for continued success.

In the summer of 1961, ACRES received its first

tract of land through the generosity of Mrs. Edna W. Spurgeon, of near Ligonier. Those who have not as yet seen the "Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve" will find its hills and ravines, containing hundreds of species and one of the state's tallest stands of tulip poplar trees, a rewarding experience. A location map has been prepared and is available on request.

This is the first issue of ACRES QUARTERLY. We hope you will find it interesting and that it will be possible for you to enjoy the programs here described which are being planned for your information and enjoyment by the directors.

Although it will obviously be impossible at the present stage of the QUARTERLY'S physical size to include lengthy articles, you are invited to submit news items or photographs having a bearing on natural subjects native to this region. We will use them if at all possible.

WINTER WILDLIFE AND SCENIC VISTAS OFFER YOU A 'SECOND WORLD' TO ENJOY

In the Winter our woodlands and fields give entirely different impressions than they do at other seasons. But you must set out for yourself to receive these values. Even so, the natural scene can only suggest a few of its mysteries to the casual observer.

You will see the "muscle" tissue of the trees in the forests, unobscured by the form-hiding foliage--the shape of the land, its hummocks and ravines, concealed from view in summer--the long meandering of the streams, the previously un-noted pools, the lengthened vistas which create new world's of interest.

No Winter is deep enough to discourage our beautiful and highly animated Winter birds. Among others, you can expect to see the tufted titmouse, black capped chickadee, slate-gray junco, downy and red bellied woodpeckers, nuthatch and cardinals. With Winter forage sometimes scarce, you can observe them all at close range if you hang some suet in the fork of a tree near the edge of a wood. When you return in a few days, you will see them by the dozens.

But while these birds and many squirrels, rabbits, field mice and deer share the vigorous Winter scene, chipmunks and other of our creatures sleep. As the season deepens, though, you will be surprised to find that many travelers have returned, without letting you know, even before the thermometer has climbed. Who can forget, on an icy night in February the haunting mockery of the barred owl or the "huff! huff!" of our great horned owl.

And only slightly thereafter, you will see at dusk in the cold sky, the huge great blue herons heading for their gregariously organized communities in great sycamores on the edges of our streams. If you are lucky, you may find a heronry early in the Spring, and this is indeed a fascinating scene. No tropical jungle ever surpassed the sounds and sights of a heronry when young have hatched in late March. And one of the curious things you will note is that turkey vultures, which will also have returned by this time, seem to cohabit the trees in perfect harmony. You won't get the connection until you see a young heron kick a partly eaten fish out of its huge stick nest and watch the vultures scramble for the remains.

But, back to the dead of Winter. While you are identifying the Winter birds and other animal life, you will

see that not all flora in nature has turned to lifeless, if beautiful, brown forms, like the fullers teasel.

On rocks and logs, the mosses, lichens and some fungi are thriving, and the dandelion and hepatica are green even under the snow.

Leaving the field for the ice-glazed pools of the lowlands you may see the painted turtle swimming under the thin sheet, though other turtles and aquatic or amphibious creatures such as the frogs and salamanders

sleep deep in the mud. Some fish may be frozen in solid ice but they will thaw out and swim again in warmer times.

These "cold blooded" animals are said by scientists to be poikilothermal--become sluggish in Winter because their body temperature and metabolism (vital body processes which assimilate food material to produce heat, build new protoplasm and eliminate old) are greatly reduced. "Warm blooded" creatures maintain temperatures and metabolic rate consistent with their activity which makes them more the masters of ambient conditions than the "cold blooded" animals.

In the insect world, you probably won't have the opportunity to see this, but honey bees keep "warm" in their hives by beating their wings when the temperature falls. This increased activity raises hive temperature to survival levels. Most adult insects die in the Fall after the reproductive cycle is assured through egg, larval or pupal stages. You will see many cocoons on twigs and evergreens containing some of 1962's insect generations. Some adults, such as mosquitoes may not die, but sometimes see Winter through in hibernation in basements, cisterns and other protected places.

There's more, much more, to Winter than icy streets, slushy walks and complaint of adverse weather. Winter gives you a unique opportunity, usually in uncrowded conditions, to observe some of our most beautiful and interesting life and even death in forms.

More important, perhaps because of the quiet solitude as you walk in the rustling brown leaves and snapping twigs of the Winter woods floor or on its deep pile white carpet, you may gain new insights into the vital importance of preserving the disappearing wilderness which is just barely still available to you now.

ACRES QUARTERLY

DIRECTORS: John W. Klotz, President; James M. Barrett III, Vice President; Thomas E. Dustin, Secretary; Ethyle Bloch, Treasurer; William C. Bloch; Jane H. Dustin; William R. Eberly; Robert Goldstine; Adolph K. Hofer; Florence S. Klotz; Allen J. Lomont; Glenn W. Poe; Werner Reifsteck; Elbert O. Roe; Robert C. Weber.

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POUGH, NETTING, MURIE, MICHAUD ARE ACRES NATIONAL ADVISORS

Early this Fall, ACRES' board decided to establish a National Advisory Board, consisting of outstanding authorities in the fields of conservation and natural sciences.

Four men were selected for invitation, and ACRES is pleased to announce that all have accepted.

ACRES National Advisory Board includes Mr. Richard H. Pough, one of the nation's most outstanding ornithologists and conservation fighters, and who was ACRES first annual meeting speaker; Dr. M. Graham Netting, director of the Carnegie Museum and an officer of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy after which ACRES was patterned, and who was ACRES second annual meeting speaker; Dr. Olaus Murie, a world famed

naturalist; and Howard Michaud, Professor of Conservation, Purdue University, who is a long time acquaintance of several ACRES board members.

These men were selected because of their eminence in fields of ACRES' interests and because their advice in our program will speed the work we have cut out for ourselves.

It is of more than passing interest that the work of both Mr. Pough and Dr. Murie were discussed in the "Splendid Outdoors" issue of LIFE Magazine, published this past December.

ACRES plans to make statements by its new advisors available to the membership in the QUARTERLY and through other mailings.

"D E D"--ITS SYMPTOMS AND CAUSE

Dutch Elm Disease is the most deadly and destructive of all the diseases that attack shade trees in the United States.

The abbreviation "DED" is appropriate because an elm infected with it is doomed. There is no known cure at this time. Although the Asiatic species of elms and two European varieties seem somewhat resistant to this disease, no species or variety or hybrid is immune. The American Elm - by far our most popular and magnificent shade tree - is extremely susceptible and each year untold thousands of them die. Fort Wayne is heavily stricken with this problem.

Shortly after the end of World War I, an unusual number of elms were found dying in Rotterdam, Holland. In 1922 the cause was identified as a fungus, possibly brought there from Asia, that grows like bread mold beneath the bark of the elms. Within ten years the disease had spread over most of Europe. The first known case of it in the United States was found at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Shortly after this it appeared around New York City, brought in by a shipment of choice elm logs from France.

The first symptom on an infected elm is a rapid wilting and curling of the leaves - usually on one or more branches

in the upper part of the tree. They then become yellow, then brown, and finally drop off. The bare twigs, when peeled, show brown streaks in the outer sapwood. However, these symptoms are similar to those caused by some other diseases. Positive identification can be obtained only by sending samples of infected twigs to a plant disease laboratory.

The disease is spread by an insect, the elm bark beetle. As far as we know, it is not air borne. An infected tree should be cut down immediately and burned completely. All elms within a 500 foot radius should be sprayed thoroughly with an insecticide to kill the bark beetles. Care should be taken, though, since indiscriminate spraying is a definite hazard to bird life.

We do not know whether the battle against "DED" can be successful. Some scientists believe it can be controlled. Some have even suggested the possibility of vaccinating against it, though it is generally thought that plants do not produce antibodies.

It appears at present that the elm is doomed to the same fate as the chestnut which was wiped out by a blight also introduced from abroad.

ACRES WINTER PROGRAMS

Circle these two dates!!

January 12 - Walt Disney's *THE LIVING DESERT*. Show time is 7:30 pm in the Cafetorium of Kekionga Junior High, located on the Engle Road (Indian Village southern boundary).

March 9 - "Natural Resources of Indiana", a spell-binding lecture by local historian, Rex Potterf. Time is 8:00 pm in the Waynedale Peoples Trust and Savings Bank Building.

Watch for your Spring Quarterly and the Spring Field Trip Notice!

If you are not an ACRES member, you are invited to join at this time: Regular, \$2.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron \$50.00. Your membership card will be sent promptly if you will mail your check to ACRES, 2224 St. Joe Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana

CONSERVATION
COMMANDMENTS
M. GRAHAM NETTING
DIRECTOR, CARNEGIE MUSEUM

1. Study the land so that each acre may be used wisely according to its capabilities and treated according to its needs.
 2. Guard well the living soil, that it may continue to nurture man:
Clothe it lovingly with vegetation,
Hold on to it tenaciously,
Restore its fertility and organic content,
Improve it as a legacy for posterity.
 3. Revere water, the lifeblood of civilization:
Retard it on the surface,
Trap it in the soil,
Guard its purity zealously.
 4. Cherish forests that they may--
Conserve water,
Shelter wildlife,
Provide for our needs,
Restore our tranquility.
 5. Respect all living things as having a role, however humble, in the balance of nature.
 6. Provide living museums, samples of primeval America, to be managed by nature alone, so that they may--
Serve as reservoirs of wild species that may be needed tomorrow;
Provide control areas against which man's efforts at management may be measured.
 7. Learn to live in harmony with nature in an ecological symphony, a mutually beneficial dependency.
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