

A C R E S



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Joy.

WILDLIFE PRESERVES

By Charles E. Mohr

(Condensed from Audubon Nature Bulletin Series 29, No. 3)



DINNER SPEAKER TO BE DURWARD L. ALLEN;
WILL TELL OF ISLE ROYALE WOLVES VS. MOOSE

Outstanding wildlife Biologist of Purdue University, Dr. Allen can be claimed as a truly native son. Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a graduate in the first class from North Side High School, Dr. Allen took undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. at Michigan State College, in the field of vertebrate ecology.

Since 1934, his field work in wildlife research and management has taken him all over America.

Dr. Allen was game research biologist for eight years in Michigan and started Michigan's first wildlife experiment stations. Before joining the Purdue staff in 1954, he worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service near Washington as research biologist. In addition to teaching wildlife conservation, Dr. Allen has graduate students doing research on blue-winged teal, coyote and deer as well as the continuing study of moose and wolves on Isle Royale.

Author of "Our Wildlife Legacy" as well as numerous scientific papers, popular articles and bulletins, Dr. Allen's most recently published piece was in the National Geographic, February, 1963 issue. His subject, the inter-relationship and ecological balance of "Wolves versus Moose on Isle Royale".

Dr. Allen writes, "A particular interest of mine is wilderness and natural areas as ecological controls and sites for research on primitive conditions." Isle Royale, the midwest's only national park and an isolated island in Lake Superior, offered such a natural study site for Dr. Allen's fascinating research on Wolves and Moose. Using slide material, his study will come alive and ACRES members are assured of new insights into the wonders and secrets kept by this area maintained in its natural wilderness condition.

Dr. Allen now serves on ACRES National Advisory Board.

COVER ARTIST is ACRES member, Mrs. Joy Snyderman, graduate in Interior Design from Kansas City Art Institute. Joy has four children and says that when time allows, her art interest lies with watercolor painting and sketching, finding the seedpods and earth colors of fall the most enjoyable studies.

It is not surprising that members of Audubon societies, Izaak Walton League chapters, garden clubs, and many other civic-minded groups, and many teachers and other individuals are asking: "Shouldn't we be searching out samples of wild nature in or near our own neighborhoods, which so far have escaped the plow, axe, fire, livestock, drainage ditch, and bulldozer? Can't we set aside some of these remnants for school, camp, or community use, for ourselves, our children and generations still unborn?"

Thus, public opinion is becoming more and more receptive to such nature projects on a local level. For instance:

1. In purchasing land for new schools it is becoming an accepted though by no means universal practice to include acreage for natural science and conservation studies, outdoor laboratories of a very practical sort. In the past, trees and shrubs usually have been cut down, wet spots drained or channeled, and the terrain levelled with a bulldozer. Today, classroom walls are conceived as being flexible enough to include the natural environment, and landscape is being acknowledged as something of interest and value in many phases of the school program. This trend is fortunate because many students of human ecology consider our greatest challenge to be that of learning to live with our environment.

2. The owners and program directors of many of the 12,000 camps in the United States and Canada are becoming more aware of the rich experiences which unspoiled nature can provide, and personally cognizant of the long-range benefits to be derived from having campers who are appreciative of the vegetation, wildlife, and scenic values of the camp site.

3. In managing park lands, progressive recreation officials recognize the importance of a balanced program, one in which nature preserves and a nature recreation program are as vital as facilities and programs for competitive sports.

4. Last, but not least, town, county, and regional planning groups and watershed associations are aware that "green belts," natural areas, and other undeveloped zones are essential to a sound, orderly community life, and that areas for quiet recreation are as important as ball parks to a community.

How many wild, undeveloped parks and nature preserves are there in your area?

Acquiring a sanctuary is just the first step, and sometimes the easiest, in assuring the preservation of open space. The cost of good management often is higher than that of acquisition, and even its permanence may come into jeopardy. Threats to its continuity take the form of condemnation by public agencies for highways or other use, annexation by governmental groups, ruinous taxation, fire, and destructive changes in areas adjacent to the property.

The best assurance against encroachment lies in being able to prove clearly and effectively that the area is being used for the purpose for which it was established.

THE STRONGEST GUARANTEE: AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

1. Scheduled visits by school groups and garden clubs under their own leadership.
2. Enlistment of volunteers or part-time paid guides who can provide interpretive service at specified times. Wherever possible select persons with teaching or camp counselling experience for often they prove to be more effective interpreters of nature than the specialist.
3. Establishment of self-guiding nature trails. Many of the outstanding features of an area can be linked together by a well conceived footpath. The labeling can tell an intriguing story of natural happenings and processes.

4. Provision of professional interpretive service. In a large municipally-run park, or in a well-endowed private sanctuary, programs of such value to schools and other organizations can be provided that public support will overwhelm any misguided effort to encroach upon the preserve or curtail its budget.

An educational program, particularly one which involves active participation of children of the neighborhood, offers the best insurance against vandalism. Tree planting projects, nature walks, Audubon Junior Field Days, and the programs associated with Junior Museums and Nature Centers provide an alert and potent "police force." Littering and willful destruction are rare where children are made the guardians of the preserve. Operation of sanctuaries by municipal agencies has the advantage of enjoying almost automatic supervision by law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless the climate of public appreciation and support is still the sanctuary's most valuable asset.

Various categories of use must be considered. Areas may be designated as:

Wilderness--Access to some of the tracts acquired by The Nature Conservancy is restricted to visits by authorized persons on scientific studies. Other natural areas have only limited public trails. No plant or animal is disturbed. Everything is left completely to nature--nothing added, nothing removed.

In every large sanctuary or camp some portion of the property should be formally dedicated as a "natural area" if only for the example it offers for demonstrating the value and importance of keeping certain areas totally undisturbed by man, as true "living museums."

Managed areas--Here "improvements" are permitted, restoration or additions of plants (when approved by experts), nesting boxes and dens for wildlife, log dams and other structures to encourage aquatic life. Improvement of the food, cover, and nesting situation is considered more beneficial to wildlife than stocking birds or mammals where the carrying capacity may be too low for the population already there.

"Crop" areas--Not only Christmas trees but wood for lumber and saplings for campfire needs can be grown in many parts of the country. Part of a camp or sanctuary may be allocated to such use. Forest Service technicians can advise and supervise; youth groups or school classes often plant and operate such an area as they do at Antioch College's Glen Helen Nature Center, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

"Garden" areas--Small portions of sanctuaries and parks possessing suitable soil, moisture, slope, and shade may be planted with native wild flowers and ferns, or with plants used by the Indians and pioneers. Miniature habitats may be created for the growing of plants requiring special soil or light conditions. Often, projects of this nature will be undertaken by interested individuals or clubs, but should be approved and closely supervised by the sanctuary committee.

The Aullwood Audubon Center at Dayton, Ohio is trying to reestablish a small patch of prairie.

Whatever additions are made, careful note should be kept of the species, origin, place, and date. This should become part of the permanent record of the preserve.

No time should be lost if your community is to find and acquire the open space it will most certainly need. And what finer monument can there be than a wildlife preserve which steadily grows more precious to the citizens of your community?

SPECIAL THANKS TO Mr. William Ross, Manager of the Noble County Coop who donated a gate to the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. Many thanks to Mr. Ross!

Mr. Johnston C. Craig, Area Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, who wrote a very fine article about the Spurgeon Reserve in his column "Ear to the Ground" in the June 29 Kendallville News-Sun. Thanks to you, Mr. Craig!

ACRES Director Dr. William R. Eberly is off to the University of Uppsala in Sweden. His project of Environmental Requirements of Planktonic Blue-green Algae was awarded a National Science Foundation grant for further research. Dr. Eberly will be gone a year.

ACRES Director Kenneth Bandelier, Biology teacher at New Haven High School is taking a year's leave to complete his Doctorate in Science at University of Montana, Missoula.

ACRES loses Director Melvin Berg, who accepted a new post of employment as District

BOB WEBER TO LEAD TWO FALL FIELD TRIPS

Sat. -28th of September

The Greenwood property north of Fort Wayne provides excellent side-by-side comparison of a bog lake and a marsh environment.

We will also visit the Bailey Woods, a Cedar Creek climax forest area of deep ravines and tall timbers.

Sat. -12th of October

The Charles McClue Reserve was given to the citizens of Stueben County by the bequest of Maurice McClew in memory of his father. An interesting trail guide, prepared by the Board of Directors of this Reserve will enrich this trip.

We have been invited to hike the rolling meadows and varied woodlands at Wing Haven in Stueben County. Here also are several rare and completely undeveloped northern Indiana lakes a wonderful wilderness!

***** For both trips, bring your lunch and drink. Wear good hiking shoes. Meet at 9 AM at the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank parking lot at Northcrest Shopping Center. Any questions, call Bob Weber - 744-0429.



ANNUAL DINNER OCTOBER 4

Time-----6:45 P.M.

Place-----Concordia Senior College Dining Hall
(North of Fort Wayne on State Road 427)

Reservations-\$2.00

Mail or phone your reservations by October 1st.
Dinner Chairman:

Mrs. Galen Maus
1901 Crescent Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana
743-2869

Name _____
Number of Reservations _____
Amount Enclosed _____
Please serve _____ meat
_____ fish

LEND ACRES A HELPING HAND -

*Saturday, September 21

LEND ACRES A HELPING HAND

*Saturday, September 21 - a call for "work party" at the Spurgeon Reserve. The fence along the right-of-way is still needed and several dead elm trees have fallen across fence lines. Can you help on the 21st? Call Mrs. Klotz - 483-1532

A very successful work party last spring accomplished the fencing of the parking area, building of a hikers stile, hanging of two gates and erection of a registry box. From all reports, this was a happy and rewarding day for everyone who helped, and the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve has benefited.

*ACRES needs a weather-proof sign for the Reserve to read "ACRES, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. ACRES makes this area available for your enjoyment. Please register and use our trails. Observe the ban on hunting, firebuilding, picnicking, camping and littering."

If you can't volunteer the talent for a lettering job, would you like to make a cash donation for such a sign? Call Mrs. Klotz - 483-1532

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWED ?

IF A RETURN ENVELOPE is enclosed in your Quarterly, it will remind you that we haven't yet received your 1963-'64 membership renewal.

\$2.00 Regular

\$10.00 Sustaining

\$50.00 Patron

ACRES, Inc.

2224 St. Joe Blvd.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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; Florence S. Klotz; Allen J. Lomont; Glenn W. Poe; Elbert O. Roe; Robert C. Weber; David A. Griggs; Melvin Berg; Kenneth L. Bandelier.

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD: Howard Michaud, Prof. of Conservation, Purdue University; Olaus Murie, Director Wilderness Society; M. Graham Netting, Director, Carnegie Museum; Richard H. Pough, President Natural Area Council; Durward L. Allen, Prof. of Wildlife Management, Purdue University.

The QUARTERLY is published by ACRES four times each year at 2224 St. Joe Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the permanent preservation of natural areas in northern Indiana. ACRES is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Contributions to ACRES are deductible for tax purposes.