

A C R E S

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ACRES ALSO RENEWS IN THE SPRING: ITS ROOTS ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

When 12 area residents incorporated ACRES in March, 1960 to solve some of the problems of natural area preservation by private means, they did not immediately visualize that in three years, their numbers would be multiplied more than a dozen-fold.

Consequently, ACRES was not, by definition, in the "numbers game". Its directors believed it better to have a small dedicated and purposeful group, than a large membership less impressed with the need to set aside representative tracts of natural Indiana.

But three growing years have seen the membership approach the 200 mark. In a few weeks this number will be reached and exceeded.

The importance of this is less that ACRES is acquiring size than the gratifying fact that increasing numbers of private individuals understand the critical need to protect natural areas. For it is primarily the purpose and only secondarily the organization which is vital. ACRES gladly and willingly cooperates with or aids other groups similarly dedicated.

The very fact of dedicated membership growth, and the fact that ACRES has become recognized regionally and nationally by many of America's leading naturalists and conservation authorities, answered one question and poses others for us.

The answer: Yes, there is a widely recognized need to acquire and preserve natural areas, and a greater number of people realize this and see ACRES as an instrument for doing it than we anticipated.

The questions: How can we adequately emphasize the need for your continued support? And, by what means can we offer ACRES to the hundreds of others in our area who are certain to share our concern, but who are not as yet acquainted with us?

Officers, directors and other volunteer members of ACRES contribute much time to the furtherance of the program, and to their efforts go credit for ACRES successes. BUT, we must rely heavily on still other important ACRES members to relay the story to those who may be similarly concerned.

The minimum costs of membership are quite nominal, the continued or added voice of expression or of participation being of fundamental importance. Won't you renew at this time, and discuss membership with your friends as well? Suggest that they send us a card or a note of inquiry or let us know of those to whom we should send our story.

Bring them to ACRES annual meeting or to one of the several excellent field trips planned; or to one of ACRES other educational and stimulating membership meetings during the year. Of course, ACRES is always very pleased to receive a \$2.00 check for a new Regular Membership, \$10.00 for a Sustaining, or \$50.00 for Patron Membership. Membership cards are mailed within one or two days after receiving payment. Gift memberships for those known to be interested are also quite proper.

All memberships received now are for the new fiscal year ending June 30, 1964. ACRES needs your continued association with it, and it needs you to tell others about its purpose and program.

COVER ARTIST is ACRES member, Mrs. Fern Berg, Art and English teacher at Arcola School. Fern is a graduate of Albright Art School and New York University. She has two children and husband, Melvin, serves on the ACRES Board of Directors.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

1963 Spring Field Trips

Saturday, April 27

This will be an all day trip to ACRES' Hanging Rock and the Salamonie River State Forest, near Lagro. It may also include another area of interest if time permits. Meet at the tennis courts on the east side of Foster Park at 9 A.M. Each participant should bring his own lunch, including beverage, for a picnic lunch at noon.

Sunday, May 12

Some of the Cedar Creek area will be visited, including the property of the Dustins' home, the Izaak Walton League property and the Klingler property. We will also visit a Great Blue Heronry along the creek. Spring flowers should be at their best and the birds will be singing. Meet at the Concordia College parking lot at 2 P.M.

Thursday, May 30

An opportunity will be offered for all interested persons to see the ACRES' Edna W. Spurgeon Reserve in Noble County. We also hope to visit a bog area on this trip. This will again be an all day trip, so each person should bring his lunch, including beverage. Meet at Hall's Drive-in on the California Road and Route 3, at 9 A.M.

Note for all trips: Hiking clothes and shoes should be worn on all trips. Children joining the trips should be given instruction not to pick plants or damage any natural objects, since our basic purpose is to preserve these natural conditions.

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ACRES TO POST HANGING ROCK... In a few weeks, a handsome rustic sign will go up at ACRES' Hanging Rock. The sign was designed and built by Mr. H. A. Banks. He writes, "While building sign, memories came back to me of many years ago when a boy, where I spent much time in the woods and along the streams where there was wildlife and many birds. I am very much interested in what ACRES is doing so I am willing to give my little mite and give this sign with no charge for either material or labor."

WORK PLANS AT SPURGEON RESERVE... Include making a parking area and fencing in the right of way into the Reserve. ACRES naturalists are working on recording the natural features and wildlife treasures of the Reserve in order to improve the network of trails there.

DURWARD ALLEN, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AUTHOR,
PURDUE WILDLIFE EXPERT -- TO BE ACRES GUEST SPEAKER

Annual dinner speaker is to be Durward Allen, outstanding wildlife biologist of Purdue University. A strong advocate of natural areas as scientific laboratories, Dr. Allen has conducted ecological studies in many parts of the United States. Most recent is his continuing study reported in the February issue of the National Geographic on "Wolves Versus Moose on Isle Royale." Recommended reading! Your ACRES dinner date with Dr. Allen is October 4.

• \$2.00, Regular

• \$10.00, Sustaining

• \$50.00, Patron

Development of the Indiana University Biological Station at Crooked Lake
by Shelby D. Gerking,
Professor of Zoology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

The Indiana University Biological Station, established in 1894, was the first station of its kind in the United States to be located on a freshwater lake. Originally located on Lake Wawasee near Syracuse, it was moved, in 1899, to Winona Lake.

Dr. Carl Eigenmann, eminent ichthyologist and evolutionist, was the first director. His purpose in establishing the station was to study variation in animal species. He felt this could be done competently in the more or less isolated lakes where differences in environments should produce marked morphological variations in populations of fishes of the same species. Thorough studies of intraspecific variation of darters and minnows by W. J. Moenkhaus and J. H. Voris were among the first in this fertile field of study.

Gradually the original character of the research initiated by Eigenmann changed. More and more interest settled on the physical and chemical characteristics of water as well as the plants and animals which lived there. This science, called limnology, was the second line of research initiated by Eigenmann, and it is interesting to note that Indiana University was among the first to stimulate interest in this subject in the United States. Basic research conducted at the Station through the years has played an important part in developing the sciences of limnology and fishery biology in this country. The Station enjoys an enviable reputation for research on lake chemistry, bottom fauna, sedimentation, and fish populations.

Research at Winona Lake has been done continuously from 1895 to the present, but the teaching function declined during the depression years. Courses were taught until 1938.

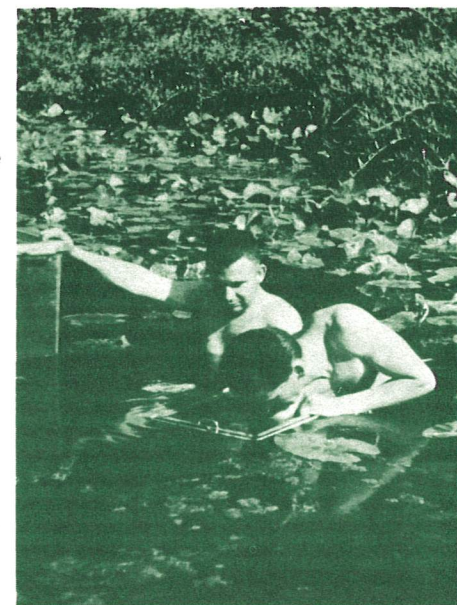
In order to initiate a graduate research program and a course of instruction for undergraduates, the University has purchased 20 acres on the north shore of Crooked Lake, located seven miles north of Columbia City, Indiana. We believe that the initiation of the teaching program after a lapse of time of some 25 years will serve to stimulate interest in aquatic biology as well as the whole field of ecology. The courses to be taught at the Station are not fully defined at the present time, but it can be anticipated that all of them will deal with field biology in one form or another.

Two developments have taken place recently which have stimulated the construction and relocation of the Biological Station. The first was a cooperative agreement with the Indiana Department of Conservation. The Conservation Department has granted Indiana University and the Zoology Department the privilege of using Dingell-Johnson funds for the purpose of conducting basic research on the productivity of Indiana Lakes. Dingell-Johnson funds are derived from federal excise taxes on fishing tackle and related equipment. Indiana's share is used for research, management, and land acquisition. The agreement between Indiana University and the Conservation Department has been in force nearly two years. One full year of field work has been accomplished, and we are now planning the second year.

Two major projects will be conducted on the northern Indiana lakes next summer. The first is the length of the growing season of the bluegill sunfish. The age and growth of bluegills from eight lakes, spread across the lake belt, have been studied for one year and we will repeat the study again in 1963. Nearly five thousand scale samples have been taken from fishermen's catch. The calculations of age and growth based on scale measurements are now being analyzed by a computer on the University campus.

The second major project is on the productivity of several northern Indiana lakes. This involves the collection of phytoplankton, microscopic plants, which live in lake water, and the measurement of the rate of photosynthesis of these plants. Marl lakes are of special interest because they have a low productivity. It may be possible to add small quantities of nutrients to the water in order to increase population.

The second development is the recent grant awarded by the National Science Foundation for the purpose of constructing a research building and boathouse on the Crooked Lake property. These funds have allowed us to proceed with the development of the property at a much more rapid pace than would otherwise be possible. The research building and boathouse will be constructed next summer. The ground floor of the research building will have a complete chemistry laboratory, equipped with the latest analytical instruments designed for aquatic research. In addition there will be an aquarium room for experimental work on fish, insects, and other aquatic invertebrates. Two temperature controlled rooms will give us an opportunity to conduct experiments on a controlled basis soon after the organisms are collected. A sorting room is also included in the laboratory. Here invertebrates will be separated from the mud where they live in the bottoms of lakes and streams, and fish collections will be sorted in preparation for further study. On the first floor will be located office space, seminar room, a scale reading and processing room, dark room and a laboratory designed for winter research.



Sampling aquatic plants for studies at Indiana University's new Biological Station on Crooked Lake near Columbia City.

One-third of the building will be heated during the winter in order to conduct projects that involve sampling under the ice.

You can imagine that it was difficult to find property on the lake shore, since most lakes are highly developed and consequently unsuitable for our purposes. However, we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have found an attractive piece of land on Crooked Lake. ACRES members are invited to inspect our facilities as they develop.

A visit may help us to emphasize why it is worthwhile to preserve such areas. In a short period of time, many attractive locations will be developed to the detriment of the natural beauty of the lakes as well as for future scientific investigation. ACRES would do a great service to the people of Indiana if at least a part of its attention could be centered on acquiring and preserving lake shore areas in their natural state. We intend to utilize the Crooked Lake property with highest regard for its natural beauty, and we hope that the Indiana University Biological Station can help play a part in generating an aesthetic interest in the lake district, as well as emphasizing its importance for biological teaching and research.

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Membership Time

NATURE'S SHOW--
A Continually Changing Performance
By Dr. John W. Klotz, President

After a long winter, spring is here at last. We hope you'll make the most of it by joining us on our ACRES field trips and by going out on your own. At this season of the year most of us have the feeling that we'd like to escape winter's restrictions.

When you're out, we hope you'll be a conservationist in the best sense of the word. Don't pick or trample the wild flowers: leave them for others to enjoy. Actually if you do pick them, you'll not enjoy them very long. Wild flowers wilt quickly. One of my most vivid recollections of the Chicago suburbs is that of a large patch of Virginia cowslip. When they were in bloom, no one ever had difficulty in finding them. The path was marked by discarded bouquets. People would pick armfuls, find they had withered before they could reach their cars, and then discard them unceremoniously along the way.

Moreover, if you pick the wildflowers they won't be around very long in that area. Many of them are in a delicate state of balance. They produce only enough seeds to perpetuate themselves. Wildflowers have a hard enough struggle today against bulldozers and housing developments. Give them a chance by letting them produce as much seed as possible.

Take the whole family with you. No age is too early to begin to teach appreciation and respect for the out of doors. Take time to note where the flowers are growing. What preferences do they have? In what type of habitat do you find them growing? Go back a few weeks later to the same area and note the changes that have taken place. There are procedures the scientist and the serious student uses; but you will find it interesting to do too.

Only a few of the wildflowers that you saw previously will still be there. Nature's show, though repeated once a year, is a continually changing performance.

A spring field trip will convince you of the importance of the ACRES program. Areas to which a field trip can be taken are fast disappearing. There are already a great many people who know only artificial plantings. Attractive as these are, they do not match the natural beauty of the spring wildflowers. We hope you will join us in doing what we can to preserve these undisturbed areas for future generations. And will you encourage others to join us?

Membership meetings this season were outstanding: Walt Disney at one, and an outstanding talk by Charles E. Mohr on nature centers at the other. The annual meeting has always presented an outstanding speaker, and we have another outstanding speaker scheduled for October 4, 1963. Then there's OF BOGS AND LOGS which appears every other week in the magazine section of the Sunday JOURNAL GAZETTE. And don't overlook the spring and fall field trips. Tell others about ACRES and invite them to join.

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- INDIANA CHAPTER OF NATURE CONSERVANCY invites the ACRES membership to attend an outdoor conference with its membership on Sunday, April 28th, 9:30 A.M., at Indiana University's Bradford Woods Outdoor Education Center, near Martinsville, Indiana (20 miles south of Indianapolis). A very worthwhile day guaranteed and those wishing more details are urged to call T-7913. Bring box lunch. Afternoon field trip.
- STOCKBRIDGE CHAPTER OF THE INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY invites you to join them any or every Saturday until the end of May on their weekly bird walks. They meet at the tennis courts in Foster Park at 8:30 A.M.



"I'm sick of playing Twenty Questions. Turn on the radio."

Drawing by Weber. Copyright 1962 The New Yorker, Inc.

300-ACRE NATURE CENTER IS CITY'S FOCAL POINT;
KALAMAZOO'S CHARLES MOHR TELLS MEMBERS

Charles Mohr, Director of the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Nature Center, on March 8 told 100 ACRES members and their friends a story to make northern Indiana residents envious.

Mohr and Kalamazoo have made a 300-acre natural area perhaps the city's center of attraction, partly through the generosity of a large pharmaceuticals producer and other Kalamazoo business and industry.

A city with little more than half of the Fort Wayne metropolitan population, Kalamazoo's far sighted leaders looked at the figures, saw 1,500,000 people within 70 miles of the city, and realized that if they did not acquire and set aside the best of the undisturbed examples of native countryside, it would vanish almost overnight.

Galvanized into action by the start of an extensive gravel mining operation in a natural area, over \$1,000,000 was incredibly raised in just a few weeks of crusading effort, and much of the land was purchased outright for permanent preservation in its original condition, for educational and scientific purposes.

A major institution was organized; pamphlets regularly issued; wild flower gardens and living exhibits of medicinal plant species, native ferns and herbs were localized (for easy identification and to eliminate the need for indiscriminate trammeling of the habitat). Now, an impressive building in a small grassy clearing in the woods is underway, with views of natural ponds and native wildlife and including many types of displays. Full participation and cooperation of the schools and colleges in the area have been obtained; "demand" for educational tours and field trips, conducted by the Center's professional biologists, reaches such proportions that at times it is necessary to take the groups of visitors in "shifts" to reduce to manageable proportions the numbers on the established trails.

Describing the Kalamazoo adventure as "the most outstanding nature center in the Midwest," Mohr said it was only "a sense of emergency" which made the accomplishment possible.

"Time is running out on these possibilities," Mohr explained; "modern man is so busy draining bogs and filling swamps for developmental shopping or new housing projects that he often fails to see that he's destroying many of the most priceless assets he has left."

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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.

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.