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INTRODUCTION

The effort to establish the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore represents an all-time classic conflict in America over the highest and best dedication of land and resources; students will study the issue almost as long as they will study the final area preserved. But strangely perhaps, not all of the proposed national park is controversial. Four relatively small outlying tracts, known mostly to educators, scientists and the more sophisticated conservationists have unobtrusively found their way into the proposal to establish Indiana's first National Park (and the nation's first National Lakeshore). For many years, leaders of such groups as The Nature Conservancy, Acres, and others have pondered means of preserving Pinhook Bog, the Blue Heron and Little Calumet sites, Mud Lake and the Billington Lake area; but no solution seemed apparent. It was not until two dedicated conservationists conceived the possibility of adding them to the proposed National Lakeshore management plan that hope of preserving their irreplaceable natural values for all time was kindled. Robert A. Mann, of Michigan City, and Earl Reed, of Chesterton, who has served as an advisor to the National Park Service, tell the story of

....FOUR UNCUT JEWELS OF THE INDIANA DUNES....

by Robert A. Mann and Earl Reed

By themselves, they were just too small to make administration feasible as an independent national park. Their appeal is not massive in general terms, yet educators for many years have found them to be storehouses of ecological interest. Still, they were too large for most private groups to acquire for perpetuation.

Given these problems, it appeared only a matter of time until Pinhook Bog, Mud Lake, Billington Lake, and the Blue Heron region would be drained as most of the other areas in the northwestern region of Indiana have been over the last 65 years.

But the proposed Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the main body of which lies a few miles north of these isolated tracts, provided a unique opportunity to preserve them along with what remains of the 12,000-year old sand dunes of Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline.

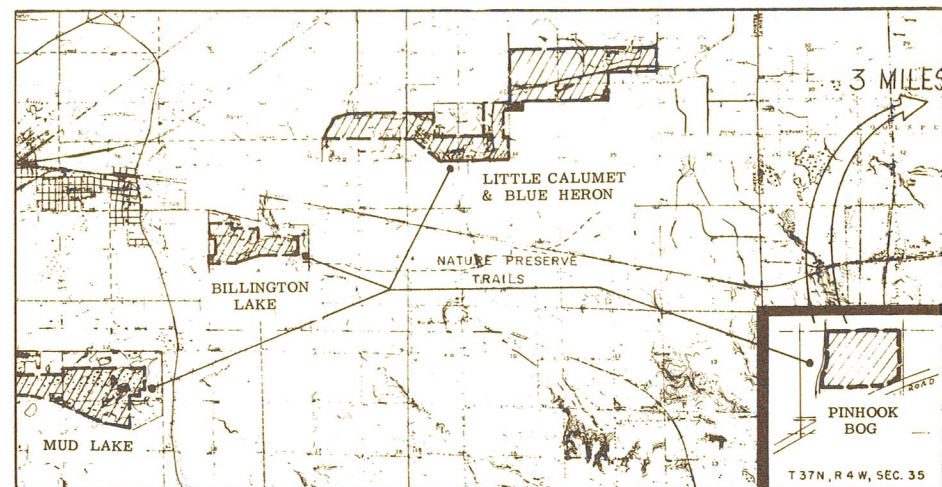
Pinhook Bog lies approximately six miles south of Michigan City; Blue Heron and Little Calumet are about four miles south of Beverly Shores and the eastern end of the Indiana Dunes State Park (this latter is physically a single unit, but is described with a dual name because of its functional configuration); Billington Lake lies three miles south of the mid-region of the state park; and Mud Lake is situated a little over one mile south of the town of Chesterton.

All four sites are generally considered as wetlands, but each is representative of a different type of primitive northwestern Indiana scenery and natural environment. As with the main body of the Indiana Dunes, these units were also submerged beneath previous and higher lake levels, such as Lake Chicago, and by continental ice sheets.

Pinhook Bog is especially notable in the opinion of ecologists and educators. Roughly three-quarters of a mile long and roughly rectangular, most of the slopes forming the pocket for the bog are heavily wooded with climax beech-maple forest. Contained within the rolling hills of the Valparaiso Moraine, the site takes on aspects of an island surrounded by a narrow band of water during years of normal rainfall. Many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of tamarack trees grow in the acidic wetlands; several species of orchids are found, as are insectivorous plants, cranberries, blueberries, and many varieties of rare and wild plants which thrive in such an undisturbed natural environment.

Prof. Potzger, of Butler University, made extensive pollen studies of forest succession and related climatic conditions here, accumulated since the retreat of the last ice age. His papers are indicative of the secrets still held in Pinhook Bog, and challenge modern science to still further research and revelation.

COVER ART -- "Dawn Vigil", by Robert A. Mann, author of Four Uncut Jewels of the Indiana Dunes. The scene depicts typical nests and their Great Blue Heron creators deep in the Blue Heron unit of the proposed Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.



The Blue Heron site presents another extraordinary condition, for here exists the last large Blue Heron rookery we know of in that general region of northwestern Indiana. From the herons' "headquarters" high in the tips of great beech trees overlooking the forest, these great birds range over nearly 2,000 square miles of the region in search of food. One of North America's largest wading birds, the Great Blue Heron often have wing spans of six to seven-and-a-half feet, and may stand as tall as four feet. We have counted as many as thirty-six nests in a day's observation, but an interested nearby resident told us that number was "only the beginning," and that we had not located nearly all the nesting trees.

Some of our most thrilling experiences with these birds was the observation, at close range, of their landing technique, which seems to be an extremely hazardous affair for herons. Like man's airplanes (perhaps we got the idea from them), the birds seem to have a regular "traffic pattern" as they circle downward and approach the nesting place directly into the wind. As they near the tree tips they drop their long "landing gear" and extend them well forward, angling their bodies tail downward with neck and head held high, then while seeming to flap their wings to-and-fro rather than more up-and-down, providing an appearance for all the world resembling an aircraft approaching for a short carrier landing.

Finally, they clutch what will appear to be a tiny twig, and after several seconds of near disastrous flapping, thrashing and struggling, equilibrium is achieved. Through it all, our bird is loudly squawking and bellowing, whether as an announcement of his coming, a stand clear warning, or simple pride of accomplishment is not known.

The Little Calumet is a westerly sector of the Blue Heron unit, following the flood plain of the Little Calumet River. It is also heavily wooded, especially with very large hardwood trees, and with a particularly impressive stand of sycamore. Several sloughs create a jungle-like atmosphere, where not only the herons but a variety of other water birds feed. Early spring floods here trap fish and other water life in a profusion of tiny pools which serve as the "dinner tables" for many species of wildlife; and one's imagination can create scenes of worlds unvisited by man, as this area has done for one of the young lads of the region who helped guide our study tour.

Billington Lake is the smallest of the four uncut jewels of the outlying tracts of the proposed Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, but no less fascinating nor beautiful. Two inland lakes lying in an hour-glass-shaped topography are surrounded to a large extent by wooded tracts and marshes, so typical of the myriads of small lakes and natural environment which once dotted this northern Indiana landscape in uncounted profusion--but which are now almost gone at least in their originally created and unspoiled condition.

Mud Lake is a shallow water body, blending with bog and marsh, and being the more significant of several smaller ponds throughout much of this unit. A large and heavily wooded knob rises out of this wetland complex, providing an island refuge, not easily accessible, for wildlife. The surrounding drainage slopes are also wooded for the most part, and it is a noteworthy breeding site for several species of ducks. Herons, egrets, whistling swans and a host of other water birds find this solitary environment to their liking for feeding and resting. The southern boundary of the Mud Lake unit is the Indiana Toll Road--a blessing in disguise, which cuts human access from that direction, providing a strange and unlikely assurance of solitude.

A farmer who aided us in the Mud Lake exploration told us a strange tale. He had been removing peat from the area 15 or 20 years ago, he recollected, for use elsewhere on his farm, when he came upon the fully preserved body of a deer--four Indian arrows still embedded in its side.

A statement by Purdue's renowned ecologist, Dr. Alton A. Lindsey, concerning the four uncut jewels of the Indiana Dunes may be an appropriate summary of our review:

"Several small non-contiguous tracts are proposed (for inclusion in the national park) ... These would bring about rejoicing in the scientific community," Dr. Lindsey said, "out of all proportion to the size of these areas."

"Teachers of outdoor sciences must have outdoor museums and laboratories, but accessible examples of different habitat types are being lost with accelerated rapidity today, especially in northern Indiana, and the flora and fauna, geological and soil features go into limbo, often irrevocably."

"This is an increasingly serious problem for education," Dr. Lindsey's statement continued, "and no amount of new construction for education on campuses will alleviate it." Yet this region (of the dunes) is of very special interest, because the final stage of the continental ice sheet covered it very recently, as geologists count time. Natural conditions of sorts highly distinctive of this special geological history developed in the wake of the glacial retreat. The new lands and lakes illustrate the succession of life and evolution of the soil far better than elsewhere.

"The resulting long-term filling of lakes and ponds creates wetlands with unusual and interesting forms, such as two kinds of insect-eating plants in the proposed area... Cool, sheltered bogs harbor subarctic species found nowhere near this far south."

Dr. Lindsey tells us "The accumulation of peat deposits enable the research geologist and botanists to deduce the climatic trends of the post glacial era, by radioactive carbon dating and fossil pollen studies."

The unified big picture of ecological systems "can be accomplished only through outdoor aspects of science, giving field training to tomorrow's scientist and conservation workers," Dr. Lindsey explains to us.

(Dr. Lindsey, quoted here by Mr. Mann, recently became one of Acres distinguished national advisors--Ed.)

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A MAN-MADE ACQUISITION

ACRES naturalists have a new aid. A portable Bull Horn--and a very nifty gadget indeed! The ACRES Board of Directors first experienced and were inspired to this acquisition by the field trip enjoyed last spring at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. With this device, the naturalist is able to communicate with a long line of field trippers, tell them points to observe, and make a more leisurely and all around more edifying field trip experience for all.

ACRES ANNUAL DINNER - OCTOBER 17

TIME-----6:45 P. M.

PLACE-----Concordia Senior College Dining Hall
(North of Fort Wayne on State Rd. 427)

RESERVATIONS-----\$2.25

Mail or phone your reservations by October 15.

Dinner Chairman:

Mrs. Edward H. Eberhardt
1621 Randalia Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana
743-6363

FIFTY-SEVEN ACRES GIVEN BY MRS. SPURGEON, FOSTERS

During the month of August, Acres made two announcements of occurrences which resulted in more than doubling the natural lands now under its supervision as permanently preserved living museums.

The first of the good news for Acres' program was disclosed August 5, at which time our president, Dr. John W. Klotz, announced that Miss Garnette Foster and Miss Mildred Foster had presented our group with 19 acres of land just north of Indiana's Pokagon State Park on U. S. Route 27 (north of Angola).

The second news was the gift from Mrs. Edna W. Spurgeon of 38 acres as an addition to the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve, disclosed August 24.

The gift from the Foster sisters, both of Angola, will be known as the Beechwood Nature Reserve, as designated by the generous donors.

Dr. Klotz described this land as "a good example of typical northern Indiana habitat, including a small bog in the lowland area and a rich mesic woods on the highlands."



Mrs. Edna W. Spurgeon

Geologically, Dr. Klotz explained, the tract is glacial in origin, and contains a number of tamarack trees which "are fast disappearing in this region due to land drainage."

The Beechwood area also contains hummocks of peat moss, red osier dogwood, marsh marigold, miterwort, as well as enormous beech and other hardwood trees, and dozens of other plant species.

The addition to the Spurgeon Reserve is both interesting and challenging for Acres. Parts of it show many aspects of a climax forest, with large white and black walnut trees, beech, maple, tulip poplar, a beautiful array of spring wildflowers, and pawpaw trees--not so common as they once were.

But another part of the new addition has been pastured, not too heavily because of the hilly and rugged terrain--but pastured. How will it recover over the years? What will the plant succession be like? There are already a number of hawthorn trees coming in. A few such sites are under observation elsewhere, but none like it as far as we know in

this region which can be closely studied under controlled conditions.

The intervening years of recovery, which will outspan many of us will be fascinating ones indeed; and Acres plans a detailed photographic and reporting history of the process for posterity.

But it would all be impossible were it not for the generosity, and even more importantly the concern for our natural heritage, of such citizens as Mrs. Spurgeon and the Foster sisters. The full importance of their contributions, your editor surmises, may not be fully appreciated for several generations to come.



Left to Right are Acres directors Glenn Poe, Thomas Dustin and Arthur Eberhardt, at the newly acquired Beechwood Nature Reserve.

LYNTON K. CALDWELL IS GUEST SPEAKER
FOR ACRES FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 17



Dr. Lynton K. Caldwell

Plans for Acres Fourth Annual Membership Meeting, scheduled October 17, were completed with news that Dr. Lynton K. Caldwell, of Indiana University will be principal speaker.

The dinner meeting begins at 6:45 p.m., and will again be held in the Concordia Senior College dining hall.

Dr. Caldwell, who serves on the Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy, has a long, deep and studied approach to man and his relationship to his environment, and he will deal with this subject in his address. A professor of Government at Indiana University, Dr. Caldwell is currently completing a book on the role of government in shaping our biophysical environment.

Dr. Caldwell says "Environments manage men even as men manage environments. Although this lesson has been written large in the landscape as well as in human history, few appear to have read it and fewer still to have read it with understanding."

United Nations assignments and Council of State Governments assignments have taken him around the world. This rare opportunity has lent insight into how the peoples of various countries manage or are managed by their environments. Dr. Caldwell has lectured at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Syracuse University, and University of California.

Caldwell holds a masters from Harvard and a doctorate from the University of Chicago. One of his recent articles is entitled, "Environment: A New Focus for Public Policy?"

He holds membership in the following professional societies, among others: American Society for Public Administration; International Institute of Administrative Sciences; American Political Science Association; American Association for the Advancement of Science.

ALL MEMBERS OF ACRES AND THEIR GUESTS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME. Dinner reservations, at \$2.25, can be made by calling Mrs. Edward Eberhardt at 743-6363.

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IMPORTANT FALL FIELD TRIP DATES

September 26 - With Robert Weber and John Klotz as "Naturalists in Charge", we'll visit the entire 80 acres of the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve and the new 19 acre Beechwood Nature Reserve north of Angola.

The new interpretive, self-guiding nature trail at the Spurgeon Reserve has been completed through the inner woods. Klotz and Weber have devised an "Ecological Treasure Hunt" which will call for keen observations of all field trip goers. Your observations along the trail and through the unmarked areas of the Beechwood Reserve will provide clues for future marking, notes for our records and trail possibilities.

Meet at the Northcrest Branch of the Peoples Trust at 9:00 A.M.

Bring your lunch and drink.

October 21 - 8:00 P.M. - A new film "Green Cities" will be shown at Concordia Senior College, Classroom 11, Science Auditorium.

MAKE IT AN ACRES WEEKEND!
SPECIAL PINE HILLS FIELD TRIP

October 10

MORNING - Fieldtrip will begin at 10:00 A.M. Meet at the ENTRANCE to the Shades State Park. Dr. Alton A. Lindsey will be our Naturalist.

*Bring a "pocket sized" lunch, an orange and small canteen. Pack each person's separately. We will not return to cars for lunch. This beautiful area provides exciting and sometimes rugged hiking. Travel with your arms and hands free by arranging your lunch, camera, binoculars, etc. fastened to your body. Wear good climbing shoes.

EVENING - A CONSERVATION CONFAB at 8:00 P.M. Meet at the Shades Inn. You are invited to share six (6 only) of your own 35 mm slides, plus your comments, to illustrate a conservation problem, a conservation solution, a conservation education technique, a natural phenomenon or a special area. Projector and screen will be provided.

PLAN TO STAY OVERNIGHT • YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS.

If you wish to stay at the Shades Inn, write to:

SHADES INN

Route 234

Waveland, Indiana

Rates: per person, per day (Includes lodging and three meals).
\$8.50 with bath, \$7.50 without bath.

Children in same room with two adults:

If under 8 years - Cot is \$1.00, meals \$2.00 (child's portion)

If 8 - 14 years - Cot is \$1.00, meals \$4.00

- Send a \$5.00 deposit when making reservations.
- Refunds if canceled four days prior to reservation date.
- Separate meals are also served for those not staying overnite.

THERE IS LIMITED CAMPING AT SHADES, ADDITIONAL CAMPING AT NEARBY TURKEY RUN STATE PARK

ACRES PRESENT MEMBERSHIP: 170. ARE YOU AMONG THEM?

RENEW NOW WITH



Regular: \$2 Sustaining: \$10 Patron: \$50

STUDENT: \$.50

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; Melvin Berg; Arthur Eberhardt; Mabel Thorne.

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EDITOR: Thomas E. Dustin

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

There are at least two reasons why conservation and conservation studies become more and more pressing each day. The first of these is the change which man continues to bring about in his environment, and the second is the increasing populations pressure. In a sense these two are related. The increase in populations leads man to alter his environment. The needs of an expanding population gobble up land, pollute the atmosphere and waters, displace species of both plants and animals, and change the landscape itself.

What is very significant is that both problems are becoming more pressing. Man's rapid technological advances have given him greater control over his environment. Meanwhile the rate of population growth increases steadily which means greater and greater absolute increases as growth percentages are compounded.

There was a time when man had to fight his environment, when the forest was a relentless enemy, anxious to close in to wipe out the pockets of advancing civilization. Man was at the mercy of his environment: it was a real struggle to survive, and many pioneers, hardy and seasoned though they were, did not. Under these circumstances there was little need to be concerned about soil conservation and related problems: there were so few people and so much land that when the land was worked out it was possible to pull up stakes and move. Similarly there was little need to be concerned about water pollution: there were so few human beings that nature could easily take care of the wastes which they poured into streams. The problem of polluting the atmosphere simply did not exist.

But all this has changed. Pollution problems are very real. Streams that have become little more than open sewers threaten our health. Chemical wastes pollute not only our streams but the very air we breath. Forests that have taken centuries to grow can be wiped out in hours or days. Flooding becomes a problem not only as forests are cut down but also as swamps and marshes, the natural flood reservoirs, are drained. Bulldozers quickly and easily level hills and fill in valleys.

Some argue for conservation by saying we must take the long view, that we must save and preserve America for future generations. They plead the interests of the unborn. There are others, though, who believe that the problem is even more pressing, that it is not a matter of practicing conservation and wise use of the environment for the sake of future generations but rather for the sake of the generation now living. I am inclined to side with the latter, for I am coming more and more to believe that the problems which exist are problems for now.

ACRES plays one small part in the broad area of conservation and resource use. We are interested in setting aside natural areas so that they will be available to this generation and to those which will come, natural oases in what promises to be an increasingly synthetic environment. Obviously we are interested in all aspects of conservation; yet we would like to concentrate our efforts on the acquisition of natural areas here in north-eastern Indiana. We have been heartened by the interest and support we have found, and we hope that others will join us in working with this aspect of a very important national problem.

John W. Klotz

ACRES, Inc.
2224 St. Joe Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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