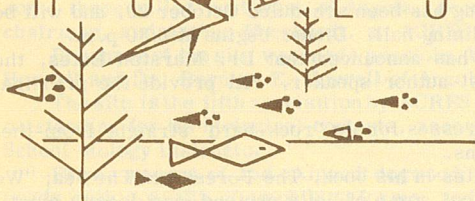


# A C R E S



QUARTERLY

Fall • 1965  
Volume IV No. 3



MARSTON BATES TO ADDRESS  
ACRES ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 29  
Reservations Now Available

ACRES sixth annual membership meeting has been scheduled October 29, and will be held at the Concordia Senior College main dining hall. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. John W. Klotz, ACRES president has announced that Dr. Marston Bates, the University of Michigan's renowned biologist-author-speaker, will provide the principal address.

Dr. Bates is especially famed in his addresses for his "rock-hard" straight-from-the-shoulder approach to environmental questions.

"Then we came to man," Dr. Bates writes in his book, *The Forest and The Sea*; "We could have left him out, playing the ecological game of 'let's pretend man doesn't exist.' But this seems as unfair as the corresponding game of the economists, 'Let's pretend nature doesn't exist.'"

"The economy of nature and the ecology of man are inseparable," Dr. Bates continues, "and attempts to separate them are more than misleading, they are dangerous. Man's destiny is tied to nature's destiny and the arrogance of the engineering mind does not change this."

Dinner reservations may be made by ACRES members and their freinds by calling Mrs. Larry Moore, dinner chairman, RR 1, Grabill, Phone 627-2006; or Mrs. John W. Klotz, 8 Tyndale Drive, Phone 483-1532. RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY OCTOBER 26, WEDNESDAY.

Across Sixth Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>

CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE

6:30 P.M.      \$2.25 PLATE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Meat☐ Fish

Send or phone reservations by Oct. 26 to:

Mrs. Larry Moore, Dinner Chr.

R.R.1, Grabbill, Indiana

627-2006 or 483-1532

## BRING A GUEST

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A C R E S

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

STUDENT: \$.50

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106 W. WILDWOOD AVE. - FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

ACRES cover artist, Mrs. Florence Covell, now retired, was an art teacher in a junior college and a high school, both in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She studied at the Art Institute in Chicago and Columbia University, and now lives in Angola.

## ACRES ANNOUNCES NEW NATURAL AREA LOCATION IS NORTHEAST OF ANGOLA

ACRES, Inc., has announced acquisition of a 20-acre natural area in Steuben County some three miles northeast of Angola, according to Robert C. Weber, land acquisition chairman, and Arthur Eberhardt, an ACRES director of Angola.

Purchase of the site was made possible, Weber said, through a gift from Dr. Burtis E. Horrall and Dr. Bernice E. Horrall of Angola.

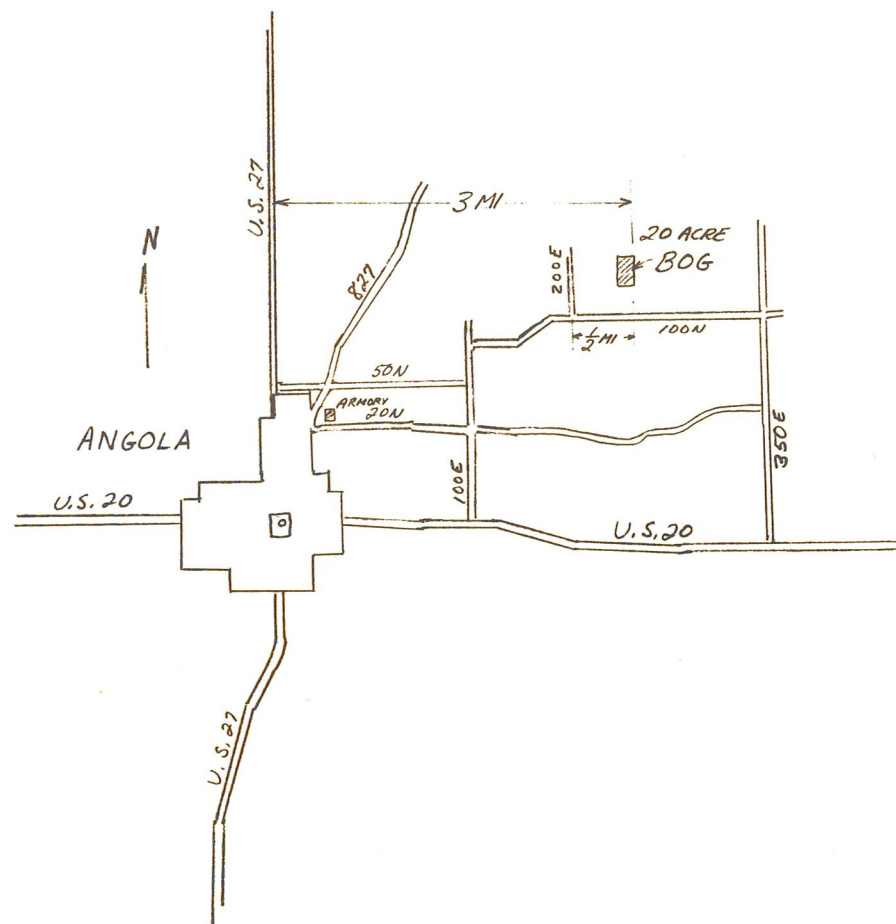
The site is the fifth acquisition by ACRES since its founding in 1960, and is particularly outstanding for its biological contents, according to Weber, a Fort Wayne South Side High School biology instructor.

Prime groups of red-skinned dogwood; dense mats of cinnamon ferns; quiet, clear ponds with a wealth of amphibian forms; and thick, spongy peat beds under aspen groves are said by Weber to contribute to the outstanding natural qualities of the area.

Hiking through the site, Weber continued, "one comes unexpectedly upon a fine oak growth" in the central part of the land, adding that "There are some shrubs, ferns and wildflowers yet unidentified by ACRES' naturalists, which especially set this area apart from other natural lands" owned by ACRES.

The presence of tamarack trees, Weber added, "indicates near virgin condition of the bog underlayer."

ACRES now has "in excess" of 100 acres of undisturbed natural lands in three counties, Weber explained; "ACRES' purpose is to maintain these sites in a natural condition for educational, scientific and esthetic uses, and to assure that a few outstanding areas of northeastern Indiana are perpetuated without encroachment for the enjoyment of present and future generations."





ACRES, Inc., dedicates its new Beechwood Nature Reserve north of Angola along the west side of U. S. Rt. 27. The 19-acre site, presented to Acres by Garnette and Mildred Foster, of Angola, will be maintained as a natural area in perpetuity for scientific and educational purposes. The heavy oaken beams and routed identification plaques were erected adjacent to the highway U. S. 27, and concluded a field trip to several Steuben County natural areas. Holding the Acres plaque at left is Arthur Eberhardt, a director of the group and professor of engineering at Tri-State College, of Angola, and Dr. John Klotz, right, president, and professor of biology at Fort Wayne's Concordia Senior College. The dedication was held May 8. Eberhardt made all parts of the heavy oaken marker, including the routed plaques.

## WORK CREWS BUSY THIS SUMMER AT SPURGEON RESERVE; NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGN, AND STUDY PLAN STARTED

Visitors to the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve no longer need take canteens during field trip visits, since a new pump has been installed on the well in the parking area adjacent to County Road 600 W. For those members of ACRES who have not yet seen the Reserve, 600 W crosses U. S. Rt. 6 about 2-1/2 miles east of the U. S. 33 intersection. The Reserve is located about 2-1/2 miles north on 600 W, and is marked with a rustic hanging sign.

Land acquisition chairman Robert C. Weber, with some of his South Side High School biology students, have improved the nature trail and its markings, and have installed a small interpretive plaque.

Weber has also prepared a detailed grid catalog of the newly acquired front land given ACRES by Mrs. Spurgeon. Some of the front land near the road had at one time been lightly grazed, and is recovering rapidly. The grid plan will provide a means for accurate study of plant succession, and is believed to be one of the few such study areas now under observation in the state.

## FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### HUNTINGTON COUNTY

#### SEPTEMBER 25 - SATURDAY

We will journey to near Markle for a visit to a splendid hardwood timber tract owned by Mr. Dee Wygant of Huntington. This woods will be above the seasonal pool of the Huntington Reservoir soon to be filled, and luckily escapes being cleared. ACRES hopes to persuade the Army Corps to establish this tract as a natural area.

Father Conan Taylor, Assistant Principal at Bishop Luers High School will add much of interest to this trip by sharing his special knowledge of lichens. We will stop several places along the way to explore ground, rock and tree lichen species.

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: Parking lot of Waynedale Branch, Peoples Trust and Savings, (Lower Huntington and Old Trail Roads).

BRING: Lunch and drink. Hand lense for lichen study.

### ALLEN COUNTY

#### OCTOBER 9 - SATURDAY

We'll travel the Maumee River from New Haven to the Ohio border. Go by car. Go by canoe (supply your own).

Whichever way you travel, we'll all meet at three pre-arranged spots along the Maumee River and explore several fine natural areas together. Mr. Weber has made a trial run on the river and has the timing arranged for meeting car travelers at designated spots.

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: Del Mart Plaza parking lot, Lincoln Highway West, New Haven.

BRING: Lunch and drink.

NATURALIST IN CHARGE OF ACRES FALL FIELD TRIPS: Robert Weber 744-0429.

|                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| *NOTE                                                                                                                                                                    | RAIN - OR - SHINE POLICY | *NOTE |
| A lot of ACRES time and personnel goes into field trip planning, so we go as scheduled no matter what the weather decides to do. Really, it rarely rains <u>all</u> day! |                          |       |

This summer I had the opportunity to visit Europe for five weeks. It was a wonderful experience, and many things impressed me. One thing was the high regard that at least some Europeans have for natural areas. We spent two days with distant relatives in southwestern Germany. They live in a small town at the foot of a series of hills known as the Swabian Alps. They were most anxious to take us for a walk in the woods, and we were most anxious to go. Part of the area was coniferous forest: Part was mixed hardwoods and softwoods. They told us of the deer that congregated in the clearings in the morning, of the birds that townspeople fed in the winter, of the trees and how they were harvested. They pointed out the blinds used by the hunters in the fall and the winter sports areas. Quite justifiably they were proud of their "Wald." Several times they said: "You don't have forests like these in the United States, do you?" I explained to them that in some places we did, and I described our Acres program to them.

One of the things that impressed me most was the reaction of the young man who served as our guide to an incidental remark of my son. We had climbed to the top of the highest hill and from there had climbed a lookout tower which the town had built the year before. Our twenty two year old guide explained that the former tower had been replaced because the trees had grown up around it and had cut off the view. For this reason it was necessary to build a new and higher tower. My son remarked, quite casually: "It seems to me that it would be easier to cut down a couple of trees rather than build a new tower." To this our guide responded, almost in a tone of shock at the suggestion: "We would rather build a new tower than cut down a single one of these beautiful trees."

This young man's father, our host, was also interested in the woods and was able to identify most of the plants growing along the path. He was interested in America, and in the evenings we talked about America and Germany. Many things about our country and its economy interested him, but he also showed a surprising interest in and understanding of some of the problems with which ACRES is concerned. Pollution problems concerned him: he described conditions as he had once known them and then talked about the pollution of the streams in Germany. "Too bad," he said, "That our streams and rivers are getting so polluted. You have the problem in America too, don't you?" and I had to agree that we did.

If these people were typical of Europeans today, I had the feeling that in many ways they were ahead of us. They had a deep appreciation of the natural area surrounding their town, and they had a real understanding of some of the problems of the environment. Even after the war when fuel was scarce, no one was permitted to fell a tree for firewood. Instead each family was permitted to go to a section of the forest and gather the wood that was on the ground. Ripe trees, of course, are harvested: they are used for pulpwood and for lumber. But this is carefully controlled and only those suitable for these purposes are felled. I wish the average American had the understanding that these people showed and that he was as interested in and concerned about problems of natural areas as they were.

John W. Klotz

#### JANE DUSTIN IS NEW ACRES SECRETARY

Mrs. Jane H. Dustin was elected by the Board of Directors August 25, to the post of ACRES Secretary. She replaces husband Tom Dustin, who requested that his resignation be accepted because of the press of other work.

Both are founders of ACRES, and Tom has served as Secretary since ACRES was incorporated in March 1960. He remains a director of ACRES.

Mrs. Dustin has served as Membership Secretary of ACRES since its founding and has seen a growth from the original 12 directors to more than 200 members and an enlarged board of 15.

## Ecology: Lesson for Today

As teachers we have seen curious students find some unfamiliar animal and ask eagerly, "What is it?"—as though that would tell the whole story. And, when we happened to know, we have often shared our knowledge.

If we are skillful, however, we also direct our students in a search for relationships: Where does the creature live? What does it do? How does it manage to survive? Almost inevitably some young person will confront us with a further question, "What good is it?"

The very phrasing of this question indicates a man-centered view of the world. As Professor Marston Bates of the University of Michigan states in *The Forest and the Sea* (New York, Random House, 1960), "The question is left over from the Middle Ages; from a small, cozy universe in which everything had a purpose in relation to man. . . . Faced with astronomical space and geological time, faced with the immense diversity of forms, how can one ask of one particular kind of butterfly, 'What good is it?'"

Professor Bates suggests that the question ought to be "What is its role in the economy of nature?" This question introduces us to ecology which Ralph and Mildred Buchsbaum define as:

The organized body of knowledge which deals with the interrelationships between living organisms and their environment. . . . The term is derived from two Greek words meaning a "study of the home."

From *Basic Ecology*.

Pittsburgh, Boxwood Press, 1957

Why is a focus on ecology important? Reading the newspapers and looking around, we cannot fail to observe that the quality of our planetary home is deteriorating. We note the shrinking of areas of undisturbed beauty, the polluting of our waters, the fouling of the air we breathe. These are the results of a fragmented way of thinking. We have failed to understand that the living world must be regarded as a *whole* and that, when links in the chain are broken, the whole is weakened and endangered. We need what Aldo Leopold called an "ecological conscience."

How are we to change our thinking habits and help our students to an understanding of this unity of which we and they are a part? The obvious answer is to make ecology an integral part of our teaching. The door to ecological thinking is being opened primarily in the biology classroom. The Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) recognizes the importance of ecological concepts, and one of the new texts resulting

from this project, *High School Biology, BSCS Green Version* (Chicago, Rand McNally, 1964), produced under the supervision of Professor Bates, is designed and integrated around these principles.

Old-time "nature study," identifying and classifying plants and animals, is not enough; the world of today demands a reaching out beyond these necessary studies to a concentration on living things in their habitats and in their community relationships. We need to know what the changes we are making in our environment mean, what the results will be in the future. To protect the world we live in, we need an ecological viewpoint.

In defying nature, in destroying nature, in building an arrogantly selfish, man-centered, artificial world, I do not see how man can gain peace or freedom or joy. I have faith in man's future, faith in the possibilities latent in the human experiment: but it is faith in man as a part of nature, working with the forces that govern the forests and the seas; faith in man sharing life, not destroying it.

MARSTON BATES  
*The Forest and the Sea.*

## SPECIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

ACRES member Mrs. Helen Skelton, of Fremont, Indiana, has one of the most complete conservation reference libraries known in this area; and she's always willing to share its extraordinary values with serious researchers and students of nature. The library has over 2,000 volumes, and can be studied by arrangement, by calling Mrs. Skelton at Fremont 495-4174. Nearly all non-fiction, the library includes all the Sierra Club volumes, dozens of field guides, John Muir's collected works and those of Thoreau, and a 15-volume set of John Burroughs books, which was willed to Mrs. Skelton by the late Charles McClue who also gave steuben County the land for its McClue Reserve.

The Living Wilderness, a one-and-a-half hour sound and color motion picture will be shown by Walter Berlet, of National Audubon Society, September 15, at 8:15 p.m., at Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park. Fee is \$1.00, and everyone is welcome to attend.

In cooperation with the Fort Wayne Board of Public Works, ACRES recently provided and erected a marker sign near the site of the new Concordia High School on North Anthony Blvd., with the routed inscription, "HANNA'S FORD NATURE STUDY AREA." Unfortunately, part of the tiny but significant site was recently uprooted in connection with a road widening program on North Anthony; although assurances have been given ACRES officers that there will be NO FURTHER DISTURBANCE, to the natural wooded area, indications of unsatisfactory cooperation at street engineering levels threatens to result in the ruin of this exceptional little woodland, so that it may no longer be available for its fine potential as a nearby educational and esthetic resource.

Officials of Bishop Luers High School have reported that a 2-1/2-acre natural woodland directly west from the school has been permanently set aside for study purposes, and will be fenced to prevent disturbance of its natural cover. This site will also be "gridded" for study of plant succession.

NOTICE: ACRES new address after September 15, 1965 will be:  
106 W. Wildwood Ave - Fort Wayne, Indiana

ACRES, Inc.  
106 W. Wildwood Ave  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Moore  
R. R. 1  
Grabel  
Ind.



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EDITOR: Thomas E. Dustin