

A C R E S

QUARTERLY
Fall • 1966

Volume V No.3



BEECHWOOD NATURE RESERVE

FALL FIELD TRIPS, 1966

SEPTEMBER + 24 + To the Clyde J. Cover property on the Cedarville Reservoir. The Covers have made good "easy-going" trails and have a lovely picnic area overlooking the reservoir. We have discovered that many of our Charter ACRES members have never been on an ACRES field trip. This trip is especially planned for our older, loyal supporters although all members are cordially invited.

Time 10:00 AM

Meeting Place (If you have your own transportation)
Holiday Theater parking lot, Northcrest

Bring Lunch and Drink

CALL IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION

Matilda Kyler 446-5401

NATURALIST IN CHARGE John W. Klotz, 483-1532

OCTOBER + 15 + An exploring party to the Ox Bow Reserve north of Defiance, Ohio. This field trip will be led by Father Conan Taylor and Richard T. Hurley, both naturalists on the ACRES Board of Directors. Exploration of the Maumee River banks and the old Wabash and Erie Canal bed close to Defiance will be part of our day. Colors should be at their peak.

Time 9:00 AM

Meeting Place Del Mart Plaza parking lot, Lincoln Highway, West in New Haven.

Bring Lunch and Drink

NATURALISTS IN CHARGE F.Taylor, 744-3397 and
Dick Hurley 421-9291

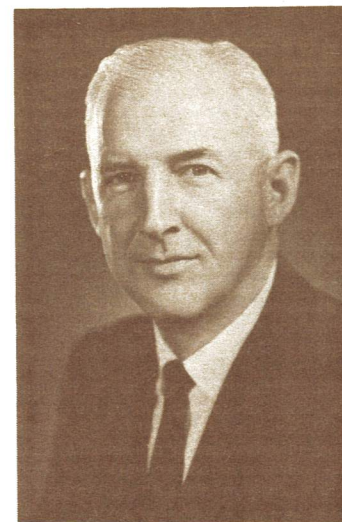
QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Mr. W. W. White, Charter ACRES member, musician, artist, picture framer, teacher, lecturer and life-long Audubon supporter. Mr. White lives on Archer Ave. in Fort Wayne but he was born in Worthington, Iowa. Mr. White taught at Central High for twelve years.

ACRES SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
OCT. CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE 28
MAIN DINING HALL

6:30 P M \$ 2.50 PLATE

Send or phone reservations by October 26 to:
Mrs. Allen J. Lomont, Dinner Chr.
Girard Road, R.R. 2
New Haven, Indiana
749-1859 or 483-1532

SPECIAL DECORATIONS by Mrs. Mildred Van Horn



DINNER GUEST AND SPEAKER

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- Mr. John S. Gottschalk, Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mr. Gottschalk is a native of Berne, Indiana. He holds a BA degree and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Earlham College and an MA degree from Indiana University. At one time John Gottschalk was Superintendent of Fisheries for the Indiana Department of Conservation and he began his present appointment in Washington in 1964.

Just this past June, Gottschalk announced that the U.S. Migratory Bird Commission approved establishment of the Mascatauk National Wildlife Refuge in Jennings and Jackson Counties, Indiana. This establishes Indiana's first National Wildlife Refuge with our state being one of the last three states in the whole country without a federal refuge. Indiana is a major state in the Mississippi Flyway and we will now provide an 8,000 acre contribution to breeding habitat for approximately 2,000 birds and migration habitat for 50,000.

John Gottschalk received the American Motors Conservation Award in 1953 and is past president of the American Fisheries Society.

From remarks made by John S. Gottschalk, Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, on the occasion of the Founding Dinner for the North Jersey Conservation Foundation, Morristown, New Jersey, October 14, 1965.....

THE GREAT SWAMP - - -
A GREATER VISION

My interest in the Great Swamp from the beginning has been that I recognize in it something much more significant than just another wild area. I have always seen in a preserved Great Swamp not an end in itself, though doubtless many are satisfied with this level of achievement. Rather, I see the Great Swamp as the means to another end - - one of vastly greater proportions than its 6,000 interesting acres of meadow, marsh, forest and pond. I have always thought of the Great Swamp as an opportunity to give your millions of neighbors an experience in nature and in the out-of-doors; a chance, it is true, to enjoy a respite from the brick and asphalt and decibels of the city. But even more importantly, I believe, a chance for these neighbors to gain their first fleeting understanding and recognition that mankind has a stewardship responsibility for his environment that far transcends the Great Swamp. What we must do here is awaken, to whatever degree we can, large or small, a consciousness in the minds of your neighborly millions that this stewardship responsibility is an exacting requirement for mankind's continued enjoyment - - yes, his habitation - - of the earth.

In a sense, the Great Swamp and the other hundreds of conservation areas scattered across our country - - wildlife refuges, parks, forests - - are a kind of "sample" conservation. These areas are but samples of what once existed, saved in the main for the edification and enjoyment of those who will inherit the remains of our natural legacy. But irrespective of the fact that they are important for beyond their proportionate size, they constitute but a fraction - - a sample - - of the total American environment. They provide surcease for hundreds of millions of Americans every year, but what of the rest of America in which we work and live our everyday lives? Can we afford to save the "samples" while the inventory of the rest of our essential resources dwindles away?

The response to this kind of a rhetorical question is obvious, of course. We cannot. Yet all one has to do is to pick up the paper any day to find more and more evidence that this corrosive process of fundamental resource neglect goes on apace. Fish die by the millions in the Mississippi, or in the Delaware, or in Lake Erie, or in countless other streams of the nation. Birds die in Madison and Kalamazoo, and eagles and peregrine falcons and red-tailed egrets quietly disappear. The brown pelican is the State bird of Louisiana, yet this year, we captured several in Florida and sent these "samples" to the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans so that citizens of the Pelican State could see what one looks like.

These examples merely show that something insidious is happening to the very essentials of life on this planet. There is a deterioration in the quality as well as the quantity of the basic ingredients of environment - - water, air and land - - that must be brought to people's attention in such a way that they can be made to recognize that we are approaching a time when not all of the euphoria our Madison Avenue friends and their exploitation allies can generate will be enough to prove that Rachel Carson was wrong.

Interestingly enough, I think, the very fact that wildlife is the first to react obviously to environmental pollutants makes the problems of human persuasion even more difficult. People give a passing glance at the quivering robin as it lies on its back in its death throes, and blithely give their elm trees another massive dose of DDT in hope of stemming the spread of the elm disease. Yet the full significance is missed. There is a warning there, yet few perceive it.

Allen Morgan, writing in the Massachusetts Audubon Magazine, puts it this way: "Our birds and our wildlife are part of the quality of our environment. And like the canaries in the trenches of France in 1918 whose early death presaged the presence of poison gas, they are a barometer of the approaching storm. The subtle pollution of air and water and soil and the remaking of the landscape, simplifies nature's infinite diversity leading to enormous proliferation of a few species that can adapt and the disappearance of others. We face a world of asphalt and cement, city smog and suburban jam, honky-tonk recreation, and a wildlife community of starlings and grackles, ragweed and witch grass, rats and cockroaches, carp and suckers. Man himself is the ultimate loser if he allows it to happen!"

I have thought that I should perhaps end these remarks on this disquieting note, but the sense of impending misfortune that may have spurred you in your original efforts to save the Great Swamp impels me to continue with a final conclusive thought about the future role of the North Jersey Conservation Foundation.

You have organized, I assume, for the primary purpose of receiving gifts and contributions to be used in the preservation of wild areas. This is an important objective.

But I submit it alone will not save the beauty, and the character, and the health of our country. For this we need across the land a more vital conservation education effort. I urge you, the members and directors of this fledgling conservation organization, to make the awakening of tomorrow's citizens your real and lasting purpose. It seems to me to be an essential that private organizations, like your Foundation, take on a part of this responsibility. For in any assessment of what will be required, public education must take a front rank; and public education at public expense will inevitably be more closely attuned to the material immediates than to the long-range concern for our future welfare.

While there are many large private organizations - foundations, institutes, what have you - dealing in public education, I am convinced that there remains a large void here which you can help to fill.

I have no clear-cut program mapped out as a blueprint for such an effort. But with the talent you have shown for marshalling the capabilities of private citizens; with the wealth of educational resources lying in the many colleges and universities in this vicinity; and with the realities of ruined landscapes, devastated river systems, and fouled atmosphere lurking just behind your gates as a continuing reminder of what is needed, I believe you will find in your Foundation, not merely a succession of Great Swamps preserved, but a greater vision - - helping to assure the future of the total American environment.

THE BEECHWOOD RESERVE INSPIRED OUR QUARTERLY COVER ART AND IN SPECIAL HONOR OF THIS RESERVE, AND MILDRED AND GARNETTE FOSTER WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE, DR. KLOTZ WROTE A SPECIAL " OF BOGS & LOGS" ARTICLE ON THE BEECH TREE.



The stately beech deserves its reputation as one of the patriarchs of the forest. It grows to a height of from 60 to 80 feet with sturdy branches that look like arms. The trunk is two or three feet in diameter and is often free of branches for half its length. The crown of the tree is compact with slender spreading branches. Its leaves are paper-thin, light green and even lighter below with a slight downiness underneath the midrib. The leaf veins terminate in coarse, sharp teeth. In the fall the leaves turn an even pale yellow which contributes to the gold of our autumn landscape. They cling throughout the winter. If you see a tree in the early spring with shriveled leaves, the chances are it's either a beech or an oak. The winter buds are long, thin, and sharp-pointed. Thoreau called them "the spearheads of spring."

The beech has a thin, smooth, light grey bark - probably the tree's most distinctive characteristic. The light bark is an open invitation to the yen that is found in many people (not in ACRES members, I hope) to carve initials. It's a rare beech that hasn't suffered from someone with a penknife and a desire to inflate his ego by leaving behind his mark. Many species of trees have bark that cracks as the tree grows in diameter. Not so the beech: its bark stretches and remains perfectly smooth. The beech tree is fast growing and long lived: the average beech tree lives 250 years. Many attain the age of 400 years before they fall, and some of the oldest are believed to be over 700 years old.

The beech is of limited commercial value. The wood is strong, heavy, hard and light in color, but it is not regarded as very durable. Commercial foresters often advise that beeches be cut out so that their places may be taken by trees that have greater commercial value. The wood is used for handles, furniture, and flooring. Yet in spite of its supposed lack of durability, beech logs driven into the mud in the year 1202 still support Winchester Cathedral. The Europeans extract an oil from beechnuts and use it as a table oil. They age it very much as they age wine or whiskey. Oil that is over six years old is considered to be the best.

The nuts play an important part in the ecology of the forest here in the United States. Because of these the beech tree is known as one of the mast trees of the forest. The fruits mature in October. They are quite small, but have a rich, delicate flavor. There are two or three nuts enclosed in a woody, four-parted bur. Each nut is from 1/2 to 3/4 inch long. Beechnuts were the favorite food of the now-extinct passenger pigeon. They are produced in cycles and are especially abundant every three or four years.

The genus name for the beech, *Fagus*, comes from the Greek word for "eat". Apparently this is a reference to the fact that they have been eaten for centuries by animals and also by human beings. According to Pliny, the beech was sacred to Jupiter, the chief of the gods. The tree is found in Europe and in America from Nova Scotia to Florida and Texas. Its range extends west to Missouri. In 1921 it was listed by Charles Deam as the most common tree in Indiana.

The beech does not take to domestication. It tends to die out when an area is disturbed. That's why we are so happy to have reserves such as the Beechwood Reserve where these trees continue to grow. It develops an intimate relationship with soil fungi to build what are called mycorrhizas. The beech becomes dependent on these, and when we try to transplant a beech they are destroyed. The European beech takes much more readily to domestication and transplantation, and it is this tree that is widely used in commercial plantings.

When you admire the sturdy beech, don't look just at its bark and its sturdy crown. Look also at the ground under it, and you may find beech drops. This plant is also known as cancer root and it is a parasitic flowering plant. It has no chlorophyll and therefore lacks the green coloring of most of our plants. It grows from 6 inches to two feet tall and is a purplish or yellow, stiff, branched herb and lives as a parasite on the roots of the beech. The flowers, which are a striped purple and white, bloom between August and October. You may find them now.

INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE HAS FALL MEETING HERE

The fall meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science will be in Fort Wayne this year. This is an all day, open meeting on Saturday, October 22 beginning at 9 AM at Indiana Institute of Technology. The day will end with the annual dinner at 6:30 PM.

Of special interest to ACRES members is the Academy's special Sesquicentennial volume "Natural Features of Indiana". Mail order price is \$4.00 from the Indiana Academy of Science, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana. This is a recommended addition to your library.

ACRES LIBRARY ADDITION

Starting September 19, ACRES will receive the 12 article series on conservation being published in the Christian Science Monitor. "The Call of the Vanishing Wild" series will run through December 5 and is a gift to the ACRES library by Miss Garnette Foster, Fremont Indiana. This series will include, among other commentary, articles by Stewart Udall, Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Farb and Carl W. Buchheister. You are welcome to browse our library any time.

RUSTIC SIGN AIDS

We have had vandals attack our rustic signs at Hanging Rock and the Spurgeon Reserve. But not to be discouraged, Mr. Emerson Whitehurst is going to engineer a studier design for these ACRES' signs which will include some new heavy duty poles donated to ACRES by Indiana & Michigan Electric Co.

FIRST ACRES WORK CAMP HELD AUGUST 26 - 28

This summer found our ACRES areas still in need of maintenance details. With Bob Weber's willing supervision, a work camp was bivouaced in the open area at the Spurgeon Reserve. Seven boys ranging from 13 to 17 years lent three days of muscle to finish the installation of a line fence and to clean the well laid trail system in the Reserve. Additional help came from Elbert Roe, ACRES Noble County Board Member who lent know-how, fence stretchers and other aids to our enthusiastic laborers. Elbert reminds us that we can save more money for ACRES by helping build fence than most any way he can think of. He figures that fence costs one hour of labor per rod. This was a 70 rod job and we are very grateful to this work camp for their efforts. And they had a good time besides.



One of the characteristics which distinguishes man from the animals is his capacity for education, his ability to modify his behavior in response to changed conditions. A spider will continue to spin his web in the same place day after day even though it is destroyed regularly. A bird will build its nest in a rain gutter where it may be destroyed each time it rains. Instinct is a wonderful thing, but it cannot be adjusted to changed circumstances.

Unfortunately not all men show the ability to change their behavior in response to changed conditions. I say "unfortunately", because men who refuse to change forfeit a bit of their humanity. Conditions have changed in the world in which we live and more specifically in these United States. There was a time when our resources seemed limitless. It was inconceivable that our land should ever be used up. Men found it possible to "mine" the land, exhaust its resources, and then move on west. There was a time when nature was truly a relentless enemy. Man was at the mercy of the whims of nature, and it was touch and go as to who would conquer. This was true even of the woodlands which we today treasure so highly. When the early pioneers came here, they had to fell the trees in order to grow the crops necessary to sustain them. Felling the trees was hard enough; grubbing out the stumps was another backbreaking task. No wonder the early pioneers looked on the forest as an enemy. No wonder they hailed each step forward which made it possible for them to clear the land more easily. Think what it meant to be able to blast the stumps out instead of laboriously grubbing them out by hand. Think what it meant to be able to bulldoze trees down and pull out the stumps with a chain attached to a tractor.

Today conditions have changed. Our resources are not limitless and never were. Species have been extirpated from the face of the earth, and our world is poorer for it. The frontier has disappeared: there is no more land to mine and move on. The forest is no longer a relentless enemy, but rather a much sought out friend for recreation, for relaxation, and for getting away from our synthetic civilization.

But there are still a great many people who have not changed in response to these changing conditions. A few of them harbor the old hostilities to a ruthless enemy. They still think of trees that must be felled and burned and of animals that must be shot. There are more, though, who simply don't care so long as they get theirs. They are the exploiters, and their era is by no means past. Then there are still more people who simply don't realize what these changed conditions mean for them and for their children. They live in such a synthetic world that they are unaware that conditions have changed and they don't know how behavior should be changed to meet these changed conditions.

I'm not too concerned about the first group, those who harbor the old hostilities to nature: funerals will soon take care of most of them; and I haven't much sympathy for the second group, the exploiters. But I am concerned about the third group, because I know that the real hope for the success of a conservation program lies in educating these. Let me make it clear that I believe there is hope. We may be running on a treadmill and we may have to run fast just to stand still. But if we can get enough others to run with us, maybe we can still save the day. That's why in addition to its land acquisition program, ACRES spends so much time on what is essentially an educational program to show the need for what it is doing.

John W. Klotz

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106 W. Wildwood Ave
Fort Wayne, Indiana

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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The **QUARTERLY** is published by ACRES four times each year at 106 W. Wildwood Ave. 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.

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