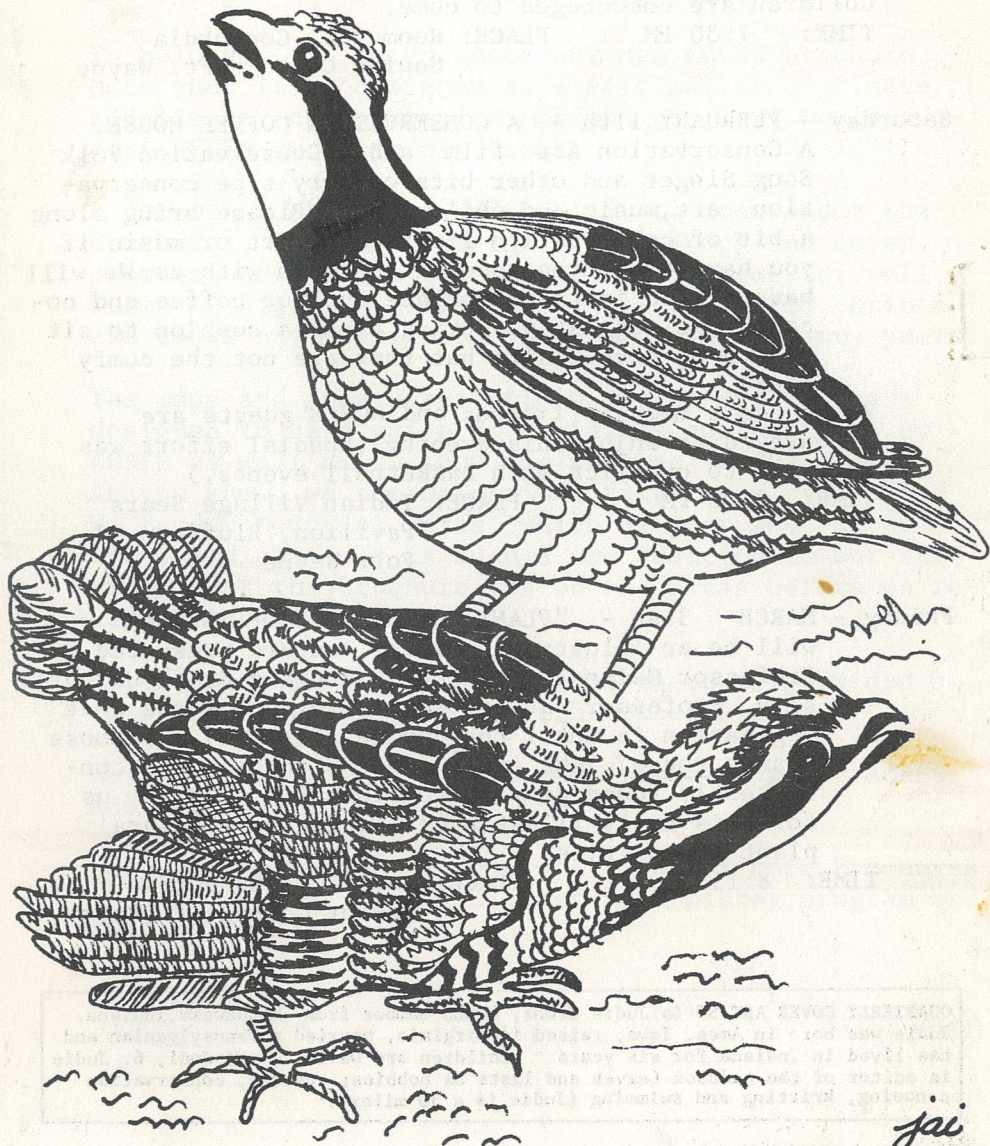


A C R E S

QUARTERLY
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THREE PROGRAMS PLANNED
 * * * * * THIS WINTER SEASON * * * * *

Friday - JANUARY 20th - Once again, ACRES presents two Walt Disney True Life Adventures. This year - Grand Canyon and Islands of the Sea. No narration interrupts the Grand Canyon film but it is accompanied by Ferde Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite". Land tortoise, elephant seal, skua gull, Gentoo penguin and albatross are part of the cast for Islands of the Sea, filmed in the Galapagos, Falklands and Midway islands.

Children are encouraged to come.

TIME: 7:30 PM PLACE: Room 201, Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne

Saturday - FEBRUARY 11th - A CONSERVATION COFFEE HOUSE! A Conservation Art film and a Conservation Folk Song Singer and other bits of arty-type conservation art, music and philosophy. Please bring along a bit of conservation literature, art or music if you have something special to share with us. We will have a fire in the fireplace and hot coffee and cocoa. We suggest you bring along a cushion to sit on (we do have chairs but they are not the comfy kind).

Young adult members, friends and ACRES' guests are encouraged to enjoy this evening. (Special effort was made not to conflict with basketball events.)

TIME: 8:00 PM PLACE: Indian Village Sears Pavilion, Bluffton Rd. Fort Wayne

Friday - MARCH 31st - "PLANT COMMUNITIES OF INDIANA" will be an illustrated winter lecture presented by Professor Maion T. Jackson of Indiana State University. Professor Jackson says, "Everyone knows what vegetation is until the day he asks, 'Why are those plants there? Why are certain plant species consistently found growing together?' " Join us for this fully illustrated lecture on Indiana plant communities.

TIME: 8:15 PM PLACE: Room 201, Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Judie Irons, ACRES member from Mishawaka, Indiana. Judie was born in Ames, Iowa, raised in Virginia, married a Pennsylvanian and has lived in Indiana for six years. Children are David, 7 and Jodi, 6. Judie is editor of the Audubon Leaves and lists as hobbies; nature, conservation canoeing, knitting and swimming (Judie is a 50 miler).



Lloyd W. Bender presents 60 acre deed to ACRES. Accepting the deed are ACRES Directors James M. Barrett, Arthur Eberhardt, Jane Dustin, Robert Weber and Elbert Roe.

BEECHWOOD RESERVE GETS BOARD WALKS ADDED TO MARSHLAND TRAILS

Scouts from Explorer Post 2185 late this fall spent an afternoon building wooden foot bridges to ease travel through the wetland portions of the BEECHWOOD RESERVE. The board walks are fashioned after those built by the National Park Service and actually serve several purposes. Principally, you no longer will get your feet wet. Also, less damage will be done to the bog and marshland from heavy traffic, and the platform type construction of the walks increase vantage points to observe both plant and animal life.

The BEECHWOOD RESERVE has a splendid variety of habitat and the high ground and beech forest contrasts with the wetland sections and quaking bog. It is an exciting area to visit as the trail winds you from hawthorne thicket, to quaking bog, to tall timber, to sphagnum wet woods, to open flowered marsh.

The Scouts, led by Don Hostetler, used 15-foot utility poles donated by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company and heavy oak planking. ACRES' sends special thanks to Steuben County Post 2185, Mr. Hostetler and Mr. Gerald Clark who arranged with NIPSCO for the 15 foot poles. And more thanks to NIPSCO!

ACRES CHRISTMAS ART NEEDED

For at least three years, as Christmas rolls around, the ACRES Board of Directors says "we should have some ACRES Christmas cards!"

So let's start early! Like right now. WOULD YOU LIKE TO DESIGN A PIECE OF ACRES ART FOR A CHRISTMAS CARD?

Send your art work to the ACRES office, 106 W. Wildwood, Fort Wayne. All proceeds from card sales go to the ACRES Land Acquisition Fund.

A CHILD'S DELIGHT

At the edge of the grass
 Sat a bug in a glass
 Wild,
 Caught by a child.

Too little to hug,
 Too precious to die,
 A firefly.

Waiting for night
 To flash his light,
 His wild green light
 For a child's delight.

By ACRES member, Livia Berg, Age 14
 Bellevue Drive
 Fort Wayne, Indiana

THE LLOYD W. BENDER MEMORIAL FOREST, newest of ACRES' natural areas, was given by Mr. Bender in October, 1966. Sixty acres of interesting variety, the Forest lies on the Spreads of the Little Elkhart River and can be reached easily by taking River Road west as it leaves Route 9 at the southern limits of Albion, in Noble County, Indiana.

The tasteful wooden sign, designed and built by ACRES director Art Eberhardt, of Angola, marks the right-of-way into the Forest. The high ridge of woodland, the low and sometimes wet woodland, the semi-open land of an old clearing, and the richly varied plant cover, all beckon the visitor to hike. Perhaps in the Spring you'll find box turtles awakening (12 were spotted last Spring on a field trip), and you'll see morels and other interesting fungi; you'll hear myriads of tree frogs as they move away from their water home in the river which forms the western boundary of the Forest, and as they climb the trees for their seasonal serenades.

This wonderful gift was the southwestern portion of Mr. Bender's land. The editors of the Quarterly thought ACRES members might like to know Mr. Bender and to meet him through our pages. So they asked him to send us a brief biography. Here is what he wrote:

"I was born May 24, 1900, at the S.W. side of Nettle Lake in Williams County, Ohio. At the age of one, we moved to Noble County. Here I grew up and entered school at seven years of age.

"I went to a one room school for two and a half years and then we moved to Albion where I finished my schooling in 1918, a graduate of Albion High School. By my senior year we had moved to the country and I walked seven miles each way the last year.

"Each summer from the age of seven until I was sixteen years old, I worked in the onion fields. In the summers of 1917 and 1918, I had the responsibility of establishing grade and laying five miles of tile ditch through muck, some of which was 11 feet deep.

"I then became a railroad traffic inspector. Later, I went to Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) to the largest shipyard in the world and worked as a rigger. I got Asian Flu and had to return home. After recuperating, I went 10 weeks to Angola Normal School.

"The first of April, 1919, a local teacher became ill and I finished her term. Then I decided to become a teacher at \$40.00 a month. I taught school for 29 years--seven months in the winter, and in the summers I worked at construction and maintenance on the railroad.

"In September 1924, I bought the farm where I live now, to preserve the 100 acres of woodland which was threatened by axe and saw.

"I held the job of president of the Township Farm Bureau for 14 years and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the County Farm Bureau Coop (a \$1,250,000 business) for 17 years. In 1932 I organized the Rural Youth, a nation-wide organization, and became the Educator and Recreation Director for eight counties in Northeastern Indiana. I also did recreational work for the State of Indiana Farm Bureau. I was instrumental in setting up the Soil Conservation Service in Noble County and worked one summer as field man for that service.

"Altogether, I count 26 occupations I have held.

"I have always loved the soil and been interested in soil fertility and organic farming. I have always loved the creatures God gave us and tried to protect them.

"Now I am engaged in creating an Historical Society and founding an Historical Museum for future generations of Noble County citizens. The 60 acres of timber and swamp land which I have given to ACRES will now be preserved for future generations. My wish is that the world will be a better place because I have lived in it, and donated to its future."

At a time when mankind has borrowed too heavily upon the future, ACRES and all citizens can be proud and grateful that a few, such as Mr. Bender, are working to re-invest in that future for the benefit of all.

EVERY MEMBER ADD A MEMBER

ACRES membership stands at 210.

Let's begin an "Every member add a member campaign" !

To help you, we've enclosed our new ACRES brochure. Note that it is designed as a self mailer. Please address it to an acquaintance who you feel would support ACRES and join our ranks.

A few other things you might like to know about the brochure: The cover design, paper stock and cover printing were all a gift of Miss Gwen Frostic, well known Michigan naturalist-artist whose cards, prints and books have delighted young and old for many years.

The maps and area descriptions in the brochure are designed to be a guide to the areas administered by ACRES as well as to show the progress we have made. As you know, we now maintain a fifth area, the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest which is just west of Albion, Indiana. It is such a new addition to our fine areas that the brochure was on the press before we received the deed.

Notice also in the brochure that there is provided a clip-out space to send in with membership dues.

Help us make this a record membership year for ACRES. Add a member!

Send your brochure to a friend, ask for more brochures to pass around, bring a guest to a winter program and a spring field trip!

"The cost is prohibitive". We're hearing this with increasing frequency about conservation projects. People claim we can't afford additional parks and natural areas, that we can't afford nature centers for our children, that we can't afford to clean up our polluted streams. There was a time when it was argued that such projects weren't necessary. People said we didn't need natural areas because there was plenty of wild land. They said the parks donated by public spirited citizens were adequate and we didn't need to spend tax funds to acquire more. They argued that our streams could easily handle the little pollution that was reaching them.

Now things have changed: now it's been amply demonstrated that these projects are necessary. We do need natural areas because they are rapidly disappearing, we do need additional parks to serve the needs of our growing populations, we do need to clean up our water and air because we are beginning to suffer real loss from the pollution of these resources. And so we're beginning to hear a different argument: now we're beginning to be told these projects are too expensive. Of course no one likes to pay taxes, but it seems to me that our affluent society ought to be able to set aside some of its resources for conservation needs. And, come to think of it, perhaps if these needs were met, some of our expenses for other projects might decline. Maybe the costs of juvenile delinquency would decline if we could get children out of the asphalt jungles of our big cities. Perhaps medical bills would decline if people could relax out of doors. Maybe it wouldn't cost so much to supply pure drinking water if the raw material weren't so dirty to begin with.

The need for these projects has been amply demonstrated: we'll never carry them out as inexpensively as we can carry them out today. Costs have to be considered in any project, but they can't be an excuse for apathy now that these needs have been demonstrated.

John W. Klotz

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Moore
R.E.1
Grabill, Indiana

46741



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EDITOR: Thomas E. Dustin