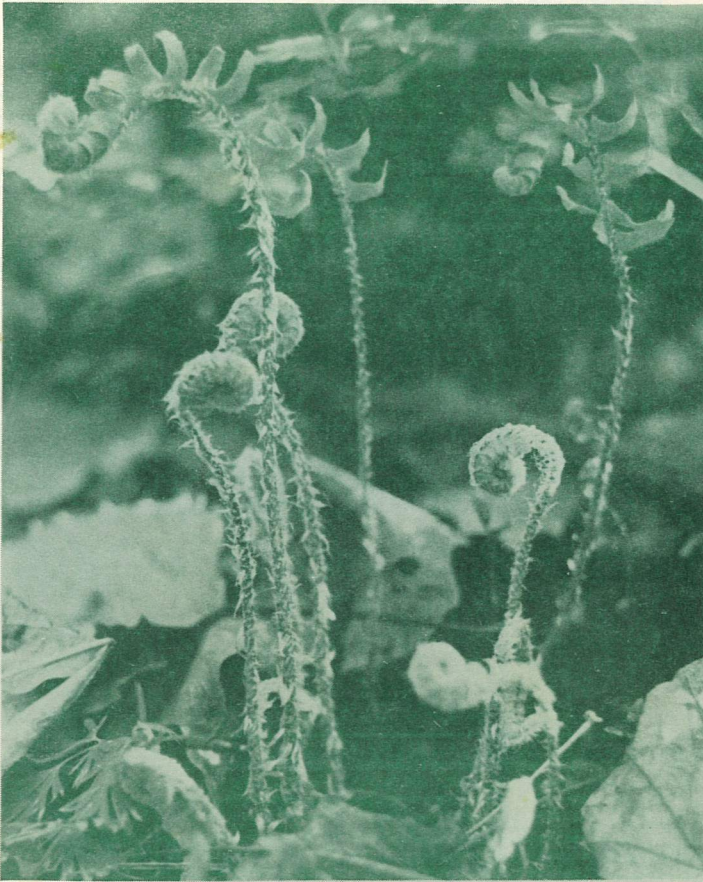


A C R E S

QUARTERLY
Spring . 1968

Volume VII No.2



ACRES SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday - APRIL 20

Supplied with nets and collecting jars by Ilse Yoder, Micro-Biologist and Larry Yoder, Botanist, we will gather specimens for microscopic exploration and identification. The Yoders, able husband and wife team, have arranged for us to have an afternoon in the Laboratory at the IU-Purdue Campus. In addition to our own collections, we will examine algae cultures and slime molds.

Dr. Harold Crowder, an expert on insect larvae will help us with the identification of strange insect forms and he will show a film on "Marsh Ecology".

MEETING PLACE: St. Joe River Boat Launch. First right turn immediately N.W. of Johnny Appleseed Bridge on By-pass U.S. 30. (Just across the river from IU-Purdue campus)

TIME: 10:30 AM

BRING: Sack lunch. We will eat at the Campus Cafeteria and drinks can be purchased.

*If you wish to join us only for the Lab session, meet at the Biology Lab at one o'clock.

Saturday - MAY 11

Special arrangements have been made to join the Friends of Our Native Landscape to visit the rare wildflower areas at the Indiana Dunes State Park. Mr. Valdemar Schwarz, Field Trip Chairman for that group will be our naturalist guide. We will see Fringed Polygala (Gaywings), Dwarf and True Ginsengs, orchids and other interesting dunes flora and bird life. The day is planned with two 2-hour walks with lunch at the picnic tables at Wilson Picnic Area.

MEETING PLACE: NEW Fortmeyer's Parking Lot. U.S.30 & 30 By-pass.
TIME: 7:00 AM

(or 10:00 AM Wilson Shelter Parking Lot, Indiana Dunes State Park.)

BRING: Sack lunch and drink. Mosquito repellent, wear good hiking shoes.

Saturday - MAY 25

A woodland ramble through the Lawson property north of Kendallville, Indiana where we'll enjoy varied habitats of a wet woodland, huge timber, the quaking edge of a bog lake and a splendid display of spring wildflowers..

We'll lunch at the Bixler Lake Picnic Area in Kendallville.

The afternoon will feature a visit to ACRES own Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve near Ligonier in Noble County.

Naturalist in charge is Dr. John W. Klotz.

MEETING PLACE: Quickie Minute Market on Route 3 just north of By-pass 30 and Route 3 intersection.

TIME: 9:30 AM

BRING: Sack lunch and drink. Mosquito repellent.

637-3154

QUARTERLY COVER is a photo by ACRES member Larry Moore of rural route Grabill. Larry is a trained mechanical engineer but is currently responsible for computer services for the Engineering Department, Motor Truck Division, International Harvester, Ft. Wayne. Larry and wife, Katherine, and their three children rank biking and canoeing as favorite pastimes.

spring is *****

ACRES membership time !

*** IF YOU FIND A RETURN ENVELOPE IN YOUR QUARTERLY,
YOUR DUES ARE DUE..

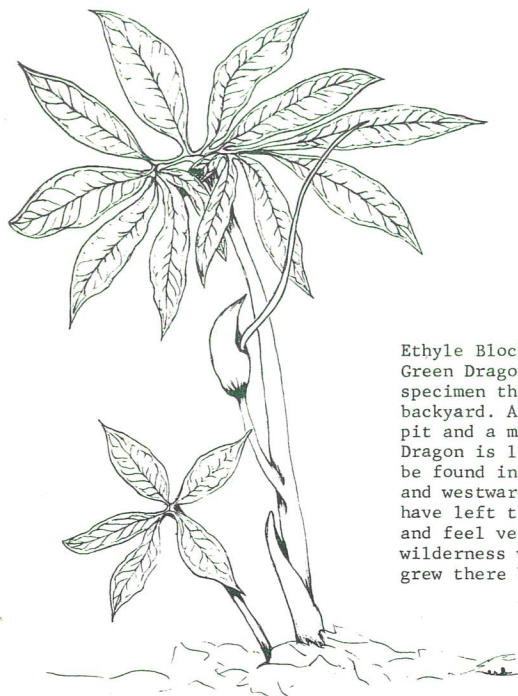
.....NO LATER THAN JUNE, PLEASE.
STUDENT 50¢ . REGULAR \$2.00
SUSTAINING \$10.00. PATRON \$50.00



February 17 was one of the coldest winter days, with below zero temperatures, but 13 hardy ACRES field-trippers hiked the seven mile Me-Te-A Trail along Cedar Creek, Allen County, Indiana.

"A great hike!" said all red nosed, frosty

thirteen. "We must plan this hike for another time so more ACRES members can enjoy it!" We will!



Ethyle Bloch, ACRES Treasurer, sketched this Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) from the specimen that comes up yearly in their "wild" backyard. A relative of the Jack-In-The-Pulpit and a member of the Arum family, the Green Dragon is less common than the "Jack" but can be found in damp woods from Quebec to Florida and westward to Minnesota and Texas. The Blochs have left their city backyard in natural woods and feel very privileged to share their small wilderness with a native Green Dragon that just grew there by itself.

- TV Tune-In. John Klotz talks with Jack Gray about things "natural" on the third Tuesday of each month, 9:45-9:55 AM, WKJG-TV. Tune in!

- New Board Member, Frank Kirschner, receives a hearty welcome to ACRES service. Mr. Kirschner lives in Kendallville and is the soils scientist for seven northeastern Indiana counties served by the Soil Conservation Service.

- The Kendallville NEWS-SUN will soon publish a bi-weekly series of John Klotz' articles. Kay Hough will field local inquiries to the ACRES office.

- A spring work day at the ACRES areas is coming up! We'll be calling our willing helpers. Are you one? Call us if we don't have your special talent on our call list. If you like to work out-of-doors, we need you - man, woman and child. 456-4411

"HAVE YOU THANKED A GREEN PLANT TODAY?"



THE PORCUPINE FOUND IN INDIANA

by
Ernest M. Shull

Last summer, while riding with three school teachers from North Manchester to Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne, one of the teachers, Mr. Allen Harris, mentioned seeing a porcupine by the road at night near Roan, Indiana. Mr. Harris said that he stopped his car and examined the animal carefully with the aid of a flashlight. He was convinced that it was a porcupine. This sight observation took place around the Easter season (1967).

At the time I informed Mr. Harris that the porcupine had not been officially reported in Indiana for a number of years. I recalled having read Dr. Russell E. Mumford's chapter on "Mammals" in the book 1816-1966 Natural Features of Indiana wherein he said: "I judge that as of 1816 there were 66 species of mammals living within the boundaries of Indiana. Those that have since been exterminated are the porcupine, gray (timber) wolf, red wolf, black bear, fisher, wolverine, eastern spotted skunk, river otter, mountain lion, lynx, wapiti (elk), and bison." I encouraged Mr. Harris and the other teachers to report any further observations or evidence of the porcupine's presence in Indiana to me; for example, if any "quills" were found to save them.

On September 19, 1967, Mr. Harris telephoned our residence informing me that Mr. Ben Snyder's dog had been attacked by a porcupine the previous day, and that the dog had seventeen "quills" removed from its nose and lip. These "quills" were very short, ranging from less than half an inch to about one inch in length. At first Mr. Snyder tried to remove several of the "quills" with a pair of pliers, but the task proved to be too difficult for him and very painful for the dog. So he decided to take the dog to Dr. John Martin, a veterinary surgeon residing at North Manchester. In a conversation with Dr. Martin, the writer obtained further confirmation of the story.

I visited Mr. Ben Snyder to see the injured dog, the porcupine "quills" and to learn more about the ecology of the area. The Snyder farm is located east of Laketon, Indiana, along the Eel River in an area of scattered timber.

On the basis of the sight report of the porcupine near Roan and the evidence of the dog's confrontation with a porcupine near Laketon, it seemed likely that the porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) should again be placed on the list of mammals found in Indiana.

Since writing the above note, some new information has been collected. Dr. Emerson Niswander if Manchester College learned that Mr. Taylor Seward had brought back two young porcupines from a hunting trip in Michigan last year and had released them near Roan, Indiana. This report probably explains the presence of porcupines in the Roan-Laketon-North Manchester area. This explanation would likewise be consistent with Dr. Mumford's remarks made in a letter to me on September 25, 1967, where he says: "I think the only reasonable explanation for the presence of this animal is that it has either escaped from captivity or someone brought it into the State as a pet, perhaps!"

Even though the porcupine has not been officially found in Indiana since 1918 (Lyon, Mammals of Indiana, P.286), it does seem reasonable in the light of the above reports, to continue to watch for the porcupine in the State. Regardless of how the porcupine got into the State again, it might possibly hold its own and become a part of the mammal fauna of Indiana.

.....

Ernest M. Shull, of North Manchester, Indiana, is a Professor of Sociology at St. Francis College, Ft. Wayne. An avid amateur naturalist, Prof. Shull is a minister in the Church of the United Brethren and has spent a number of years as a missionary in India.

.....remarks by Heinz Wahl, President of the Kekionga Voyagers. . .

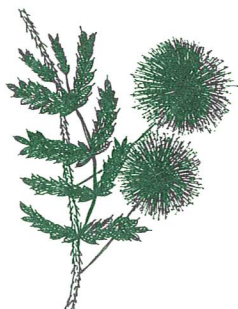
"As you paddle down a free flowing stream and observe its beauty and feel its serenity, you can readily appreciate why we wish to preserve these streams for you and others to come. It is only reasonable and right when we ask those who travel these avenues of adventure to treat our country's streams and rivers as they would their own homes. That is, with pride and care so that those who come to visit will enjoy their stay in pleasant surroundings.

"I speak not only for myself but simply repeat or echo the sentiments of others when I say that a stream is my physician who prescribes for my health; it is my pharmacy where my prescription is filled for continued health; it is my library, museum and school of learning; it is my church and sanctuary that grants me a peace of mind. These valued things are yours to share, to have, and to enjoy as long as you care enough to preserve them."

THE ECOLOGICAL CONSCIENCE

O complex web that links green leaf to lung,
which binds the eagle to the grassy plain
Herein all things must ever look again
to life around, and to the lasting sun
For life itself. And once it has been spun,
this fragile web, then if one strand should snap,
A thousand others, too, would feel the slack,
till nature can reweave the damage done.
With slow and certain hands, she strives to mend
the myriad threads that lustful man attacks.
Can we, in understanding her, then lend
our helping hand? Or must there be collapse?
We hang upon the thin and silken strand;
only by serving her can we command.

Franklin Fitz, 1965



Thirty five years ago, "The Council for the Preservation of Rural England", drew up the following invocation:

"From all destroyers of natural beauty in this parish and everywhere; from all polluters of earth, air and water; from all makers of visible abominations; from jerry-builders, disfiguring advertisers, road hogs and spreaders of litter; from the villainies of the rapacious and the incompetence of the stupid; from the carelessness of individuals and the somnolence of local authorities; from all foul smells, noises and sights -- good Lord deliver us!"

Indiana's Nature Preserves Law

1. Establishes an Indiana Division of Nature Preserves within the Department of Natural Resources, with general types of authority similar to other agencies now in the Department.
2. Provides for articles of dedication which assure strong legal protection for areas designated mainly for educational, scientific and inspirational scenic purposes.
3. Prevents easy declassification of an area once it is dedicated as a nature preserve. Requires public notification and hearings before a nature preserve can be used or altered outside the scope of the articles under which it is originally dedicated.
4. Confirms the president of the Indiana Academy of Science as a member of the Indiana Conservation Commission.
5. Establishes a registry of natural areas in Indiana, and provides for publication of a directory available to schools, educators, and the public.
6. Establishes, under law, a "wilderness" policy for the State of Indiana.
7. Provides a new means whereby owners of even relatively small natural areas can dedicate or register the natural qualities under protective features of the Act while maintaining private ownership where desirable and feasible. And provides for the new Division of Nature Preserves to acquire areas for purposes in the Act.
8. Provides a new way for state natural resource administrative agencies to protect designated natural areas which already exist in state-owned areas, or areas owned by other governmental units.

Reprinted from The Hoosier Waltonian

Indiana's conservationists were pleased early this year when the Department of Natural Resources announced the appointment of William B. Barnes as Director of the Division of Nature Preserves. He is former assistant director of the Division of Fish and Game, and has long been a favorite among conservationists who have appreciated his concern for things natural. Bill is already compiling descriptions of a number of areas that may be considered for designation and registration under the Nature Preserves Act.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

There's so much to be done in conservation and the time is so short. Pressures of all sorts increase and irreplaceable natural areas are being lost forever. Food problems encourage an expansion of agriculture, and new machinery and new techniques make it possible to exploit areas which were once protected because they couldn't be profitably farmed. Highways gobble up the lands and urban sprawl pushes out from our metropolitan areas.

But what can the individual do? How can one person make any impression against these impersonal forces that are gobbling up the land? Will he not be lost, swamped, inundated?

Well, the individual isn't as helpless as he may first seem. He can band together with others in a group such as ACRES: he can lend his support and be supported by others who see the problems and want to help. There's strength in union and in numbers.

But there are still other things that can be done. He can let his representatives in Congress know how he feels on conservation issues. Constant vigilance in this regard is very important, for no sooner is one threat to an undisturbed area fended off than two or three more appear on the horizon. This requires familiarity with the issues and the problems; you'll have to watch for little items in the daily press reporting such threats or, better yet, you'll have to subscribe to the publication of the national conservation societies.

Education is also very important; perhaps this is the most important aspect of any conservation program. Like so many aspects of conservation, this becomes increasingly important as more and more boys and girls grow up totally separated from their natural environment. Find out how much conservation your school is teaching, work for a program of outdoor education with an outdoor lab for your school, support the conservation program of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and other youth organizations.

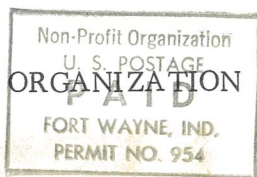
Above all, be a conservationist yourself. If you own land, keep as much of it in a natural state as possible. Respect the property of others when you are out in the woods. Don't pick wild flowers and collect animals unless you have a real scientific purpose. Don't leave trash; pick up your own litter and stoop down the second time to pick up that left by a careless American.

You can probably be much more effective for conservation than you think.

John W. Klotz

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



Mr. & Mrs. Larry Moore

RR 1

Grabill, Indiana

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EDITOR: Jane H. Dustin