

A C R E S

QUARTERLY

Fall • 1969

Volume VIII No. 3



ACRES ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

NOV. 7

CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE
MAIN DINING HALL

6:30

P M

\$3.00

PLATE

Send or phone reservations by Nov.5 to:

Dr. & Mrs. Wm. F. Briney
8319 Westridge Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

484 - 1424

or

483 - 1532

Special table decorations by Mrs. Mildred Van Horn.

S P E A K E R

will be Robert L. Burnap, Executive Secretary of the
Environmental Information Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Environmental Information Center is a non-profit, public service and educational corporation composed of Michigan scientists and professional people of many disciplines. The Center serves as a clearinghouse for environmental information designed to provide scientific and professional data and judgements on state and local environmental problems.

Mr. Burnap, 48, was educated at Dartmouth College and Columbia University. He states the general aims of the Environmental Information Center this way, "We aim to produce measurable, visible, sensible results in environmental protection, both immediate and long-range. We need to know what is the status of our environment. What are the major sources of environmental degradation? How serious are they? What steps can citizens and scientists, polluters and public officials take to reverse the trend? What are the priorities? These questions will be constant challenges to be met."

Three "impact" areas are immediately identified where data gathered at the Center can be put to work. These are: Environmental law; Water quality standards and waste water treatment; Pest control and pesticide use.

Mr. Burnap, before coming to Michigan worked on a "Resources from Wastes" project for Compost Development Corporation of New York. He has worked with the National Audubon Society and with Wildlife Preserves, Inc., and more recently with the Open Space Action Committee of New York. Burnap is married and has two children.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Bes Dunten, wife of Fort Wayne Attorney, Louis H. Dunten. Several times a Grandmother, Bes has enjoyed many art classes and mostly enjoys sketching and water colors while at the Dunten hide-away in northern Michigan.

FIELD
TRIPS



Fall



FIELD
TRIPS

Oct. 12

Sunday Morning, 10:00 AM

PHOTOGRAPHERS FIELD DAY

The Fort Wayne Coed Camera Club and ACRES will join forces for a photographic outing. Coed Camera Club members will assist ACRES members with tips for using color and black & white, for panorama picture taking and close-ups, for simple cameras and complex ones. ACRES members will introduce Coed Camera Club members to the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest, the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve and Lonidaw. ACRES naturalists will make sure everyone knows what they are photographing.

MEETING PLACE:

New Fortmeyer's I-69 Restaurant on By-pass 30 (Lincoln Highway, West)

BRING:

Sack lunch, drink. CAMERA, etc.

NOTE: If you cannot start out with the group in the AM but can join in later, plan to meet them at the Spurgeon Reserve at 12:30 or 1:00. Call the ACRES office if you need directions. 456-4411.

Oct. 25

Saturday Morning, 9:00 AM

DISKO HIGH BOG and THE ROSBRUGH WOODS

We'll visit the Disko High Bog in the morning. This is a hillside bog with sizable calcareous springs. The Bog fans out on slopes varying from 3-14%. In Wabash County, this area is near the town of Disko, west of North Manchester.

In the afternoon we'll visit a stand of very large Maple at the Rosbrugh Woods, north of Warsaw. This woods has been used as a sugar bush for more than 100 years and has some extremely large Hackberry and Chinquapin Oak in addition to the large Maples. The sugar house, though not currently being operated, is in tact at the northeast corner of the woods.

MEETING PLACE:

First intersection on State Road 14 just west of the I-69 interchange.

BRING:

Sack lunch, drink. Wetland footgear, binoculars, measuring tape.



ACRES' WORK CAMP - Last April, Bob Weber and some TEEN-ACRES members (shown here) made a board walk at the Beechwood Reserve to keep feet dry while crossing a marshy spot at the reserve.

LOOK LIKE FUN?? IT IS!

JOIN THE FUN, PLAN TO HELP US THIS FALL.

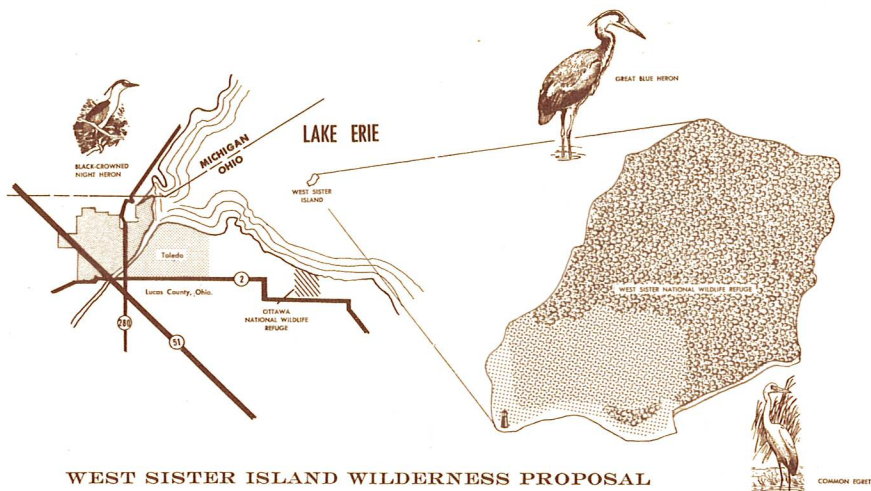
WORK . CAMP

Oct. 11

Meet at 8:30 AM - Northcrest Peoples Trust (Golden Dome) parking lot.

Bring - Rake, loppers, clippers, post-hole diggers, work gloves. LUNCH AND DRINK PROVIDED

If you wish to camp, please call either 456-4411 or 747-6030.



WEST SISTER ISLAND WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

DESCRIPTION - The mid-lake location of the island (15 miles east of Toledo) gives it a climate exceptionally free from the great daily temperature fluctuations of the mainland. The average growing season is 192 days with maximum summer temperatures in the low 90's and a winter minimum of -15.

The island appears flat-topped though it actually rises 35 feet above the lake sloping gradually toward the N.E. The rock is Tymochtee Shale which is covered by 3 feet of Randolph fine sandy loam. Most of the island is surrounded by stony cliffs 15 to 20 feet high but the side facing the mainland is a low, sloping, gravelly beach. The island is 85 acres in size.

Geologically, the islands in Lake Erie have been formed from solid limestone rock and shaped by glacial action. Geological Survey reports no mineral deposits of significance on the island. Over 75% of the surface is forested by 40 - 50 foot tall hackberry in an almost pure stand.

A few tiny wooded ponds in the interior of the island are surrounded by ground cover of jack-in-the-pulpit and trout lilies. The remaining few acres are open grass lands fringed with chokeberry and wild plum.

The lighthouse tower and surrounding 3 acres remain under jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard who have agreed to include this area in the Wilderness Proposal while retaining their rights to administer navigational aids there.

WILDLIFE - The most common wildlife using the island are great blue herons, black crowned night herons and common egrets. These birds have over 1100 active nests perched in the tops of hackberry trees. Not enough food is found on the island to sustain all of these birds so they must make an 18 mile round trip to the mainland marshes to feed several times daily.

Some of the egrets banded here as young have been reported from Jamaica, Cuba and other islands of the West Indies. Other birds that nest on the island include purple martins, barn swallows, starling, red-winged blackbirds, crows, catbirds, song sparrows, warblers and several others. The bald eagle has been known to nest on the island.

The colony nesting species such as herons and egrets require solitude during the nesting season. The island, in its present state, provides optimum conditions for nesting birds. Protection against human disturbance is the principal management proposed for this area.

SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL - Public Hearing will be held at Oregon, Ohio, October 15, 1969. Submit your views or write (no later than Nov. 30) to: Mr. R.W. Burwell, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Twin Cities, Minn., 55111. Request that your views be made a part of the official hearing record.

ACRES' STORY IN OUTDOOR INDIANA, the State's official publication of the Department of Natural Resources. Written by Bill Barnes, Director of the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves, the article, "How Citizen Effort Can Preserve Natural Areas," describes ACRES areas and locates them for the reader. Copies are available from the ACRES' office.

Thanks to helpers at the Three Rivers Festival Flea Market, ACRES' booth netted \$24.80 for the LAND ACQUISITION FUND. The booth sold our ACRES' ART cards, notepaper, bookplates and field guides. All handy items and fine gifts! All profits from these sales makes our fund grow.

On June 25, after one "rain-out", a group of 21 ladies from the Allen County Nursing Home had a wish come true - a visit to Lonidaw, ACRES' newest natural area. Dr. Lawson, in whose memory Lonidaw became an ACRES' holding, had made wide, graveled trails through this woods. These good trails enabled a number of wheelchair patients to have the pleasure of a woodland visit. The picture shows their enjoyment! Mr. Mark Slagel, the Home's Activities Director, arranged this visit and Bob Weber served as Naturalist with wife, Janet, as helper. After their hike, the ladies had a picnic at Bixler Lake picnic area east of Kendallville. ACRES hopes other "golden-age" groups can arrange similar visits to ACRES' areas.

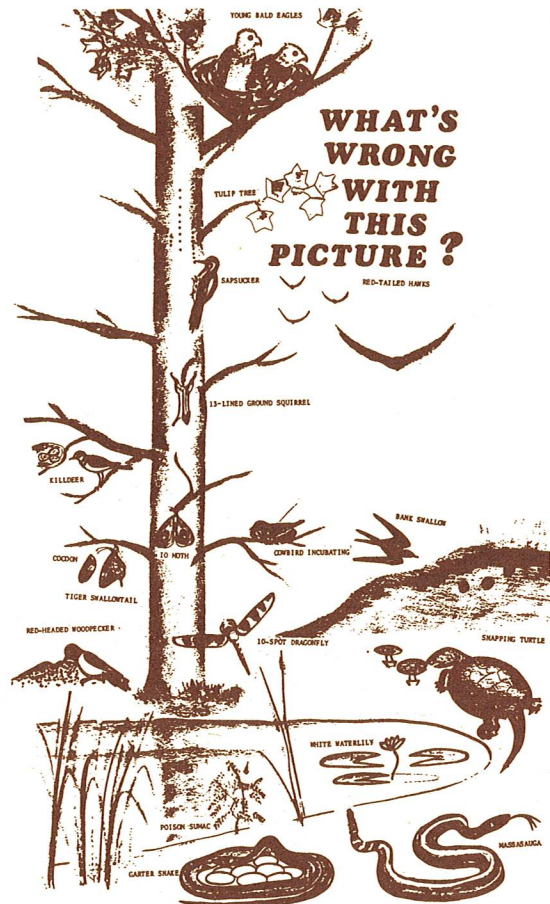


Uncontrolled hunting at Lonidaw caused an SOS request to be sent to Carl Coleman, ACRES' sign maker. Lonidaw has now been posted (as of August Squirrel season opening) with five routed, wooden signs reading:

"WILDLIFE RESERVE
Do not enter with
Gun, Ax, Fire, Dog"

Very special thanks to ACRES' fence builders; George Pacenza, Byron Stellhorn and Walter Hartman who put in a "hard work" Saturday early last spring to finish the south line fence at the Bender Reserve so that horses wouldn't get into the Reserve.

ACRES owes another special "thank you" to the management of the Salamonie Reservoir for arranging regular pick-ups from the Hanging Rock litter barrel.



Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan

From top to bottom there are at least 13 mistakes: 1. A tulip tree is characterized by the lack of branches except at the top of the tree. This tree prunes its branches as it grows. 2. The yellow-bellied sapsucker when drilling goes around the tree, not up and down. 3. A 13-lined ground squirrel lives on the ground and would find it difficult to climb trees. 4. A killdeer always builds a cup-shaped nest on the ground, often in a grassy area covered by the forewings when sitting. 5. The tiger swallowtail is a butterfly. Butterflies spin cocoons, moths spin cocoons. 6. The coon has eyes on its hind legs. 7. The woodpecker has no need for incubation of its eggs. 8. Red-tailed hawk's nest but lays its eggs in another bird's nest. 9. The turkey vulture holds them when flying, hold their wings out straight. 10. The snapping turtle spends most of its time in a pond and emerges only to move to another home or to lay its eggs in nearby soil. 11. A bank swallow makes its home in a hill or gravel room. 12. The bird shown is a barn swallow. 13. Baby garter snakes are born alive. The garter snake does not lay eggs.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As many of you know, my wife and I traveled extensively last spring while I was on sabbatical from my teaching duties at Concordia Senior College. We were fortunate enough to be able to visit various Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand, and the Galapagos Islands. To recount all our impressions would require several issues of the Quarterly, but I would like to share some impressions with you from time to time.

One thing that impressed us was the difficulty which developing nations have in protecting their natural heritage.

The Galapagos Islands are themselves an example of this problem.

Immigrations has been forbidden, but pressures of increasing populations on the islands lead to an increased amount of land devoted to agriculture and to an encroachment on areas that should be left undisturbed.

Even more acute is the inability of the Ecuadorian government to adequately patrol the islands and thus protect them. The conservation officer for the islands, Miguel Castro, was a member of our party. Miguel is a dedicated conservationist. His chief interest is in protecting the plants and animals of the islands by helping them make their way.

For instance, he spends a great deal of time in locating turtle nests, building walls around them to protect the eggs from predators, and then helping the young turtles free themselves from their egg shells.

Unfortunately, Miguel is the only enforcement officer on the islands, and he must protect the islands against those who violate the laws designed to guard this unique natural area. He hopes this situation will soon change, but lack of funds provided by the Ecuadorian government makes it unlikely that very many enforcement officers will be provided.

Meanwhile, he does his best, but a great many violations escape his attention. He told us that eighteen months ago someone liberated three goats on one of the islands that had been previously goat-free. It was not until six months after the occurrence that he heard what had happened. In alarm he hurried to investigate, for one of the real plagues of the islands has been the rapid breeding of goats who destroy much of the vegetation and thus the food of the native animals and birds. His investigations led him to the conclusion that the goats had died without reproducing. There is always the chance that another violation of the strict protective laws which the Ecuadorian government has passed will go unenforced and have a less fortunate ending.

Another member of our party was Francisco Erize; a conservation officer from the Argentine. We saw some very fine pictures of bird and animal life from his country, but we heard from him the very same complaint - the government of his country does not have the economic resources to provide the enforcement needed to protect the native plants and animals of his country.

One more example. Guy Mountfort, treasurer of the World Wildlife Fund, told us of some of the problems his organization is facing in Africa. There is presently a proposal to dam the Nile above Murchison Falls. Purpose of the project is to generate electricity - some five times as much as it is estimated Uganda will require by the year 2000. The net effect will be to cut off the flow of water over the falls and destroy the habitat of tens of thousands of animals. Efforts by the World Wildlife Fund to dissuade the government of Uganda from the project have been in vain. Government officials believe they must have the hydroelectric plant for prestige reasons, for they must keep up with their neighbors.

I have no answer: certainly there is no easy one. But I think you will agree there is a problem. We of the affluent nations need to help these countries also in the area of habitat, flora and faunal preservation, for the heritage is not only theirs, but also ours and that of our children.

John W. Klotz



ACRES PATCH

ACRES PATCH

50¢

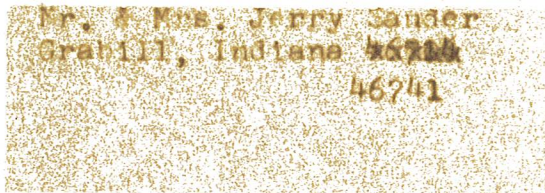
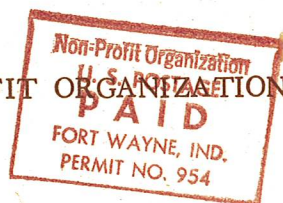
50¢

Pin or stitch on your hat, jacket, sweater, knapsack, shirt, etc.

White patch background with green embroidery.

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



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MEMBERSHIP: Student, \$.50; Regular, \$2.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron, \$50.00, payable annually to ACRES, Inc., 106 W. Wildwood, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807.