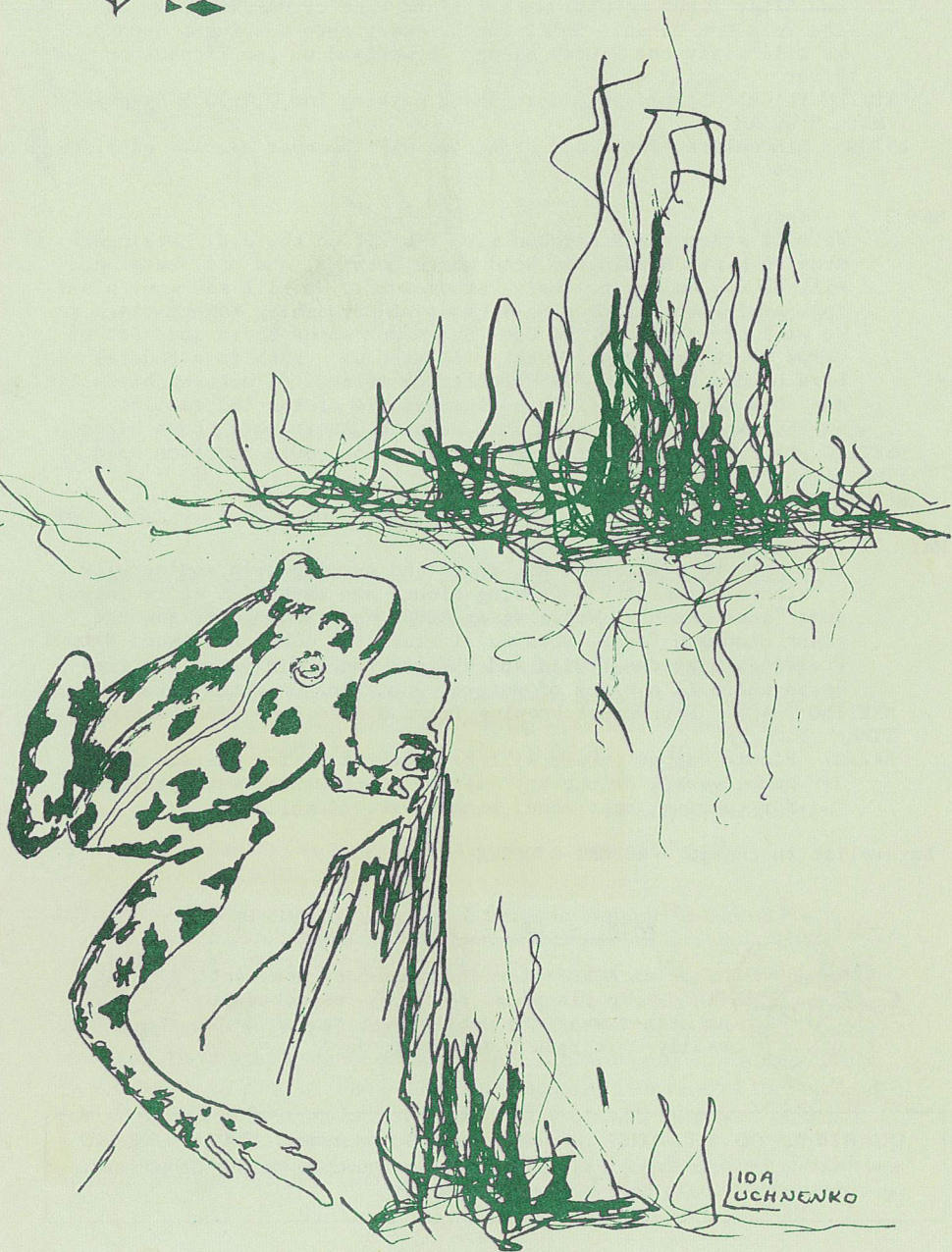


A C R E S



QUARTERLY

SPRING • 1971
Volume X No.2



* S P R I N G * F I E L D * T R I P S *



APRIL 17 - Saturday

This will be a full day of visits in Kosciusko County starting with a large Great Blue Heronry north of Warsaw on the Tippecanoe River. Mr. Fred Kuhn will guide us to the nesting area and he suggests binoculars and wearing boots. Our next visit will be to the Rosbrugh Woods northwest of Warsaw to a woods of particularly large maples, hackberry and chinquapin oak. After lunch we will see a wetland west of Warsaw known as the Pole Run Marsh. Still further west into Kosciusko County we will visit the Pinoak Slough, a wetland on the Tippecanoe River.

MEETING PLACE: Fortmeyer's Restaurant parking lot, U.S. 30 & By-pass 30.

TIME: 9:00 AM

BRING: Binoculars, lunch and drink (we will be near cars to eat), wear boots!

MAY 2 - Sunday

We will start the afternoon with a visit to the J.E. Letsinger area on Lower Huntington Road where both Mr. and Mrs. Letsinger will be our guides to their "arboretum". We will see many plantings of interest including a group of Carpathian Walnut trees. We will then trip to the Paul Shoemaker woods south and west of Berne where Mrs. Ruth Oswalt will meet us. Ruth is a federal bird bander and she will demonstrate methods of netting birds and how to band, telling us the details of the information on the bands and the ways this helps us learn more about birds.

MEETING PLACE: North end of Kroger parking lot, 6015 Bluffton Road.

TIME: 1:00 PM sharp!

BRING: Picnic supper, drink.

MAY 22 - Saturday

This will be a Saturday afternoon and evening trip ending with a "wienie roasting" and "sing-along" and maybe (if we're lucky) some "star-gazing". We'll visit ACRES Woodland Bog to see the giant cinnamon ferns, then we'll visit the ACRES Beechwood Nature Preserve, hike the trails and explore the addition to the Preserve which is a piece of natural shoreline on Otter Lake.

MEETING PLACE: Northcrest, Peoples Trust Golden Dome Bank parking lot.

TIME: 3:00 PM

BRING: Picnic supper (there will be a cook fire for wieners or hamburgers), drink, any musical instruments, warm jackets for evening, star maps, binoculars, flashlights.

Naturalist in charge - ROBERT C WEBER 747-6030

RAIN - OR - SHINE POLICY



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 all day!



QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is South Side High School student LIDA LUCHNENKO now finishing her senior year. Lida will attend Indiana University Regional Campus next fall and plans to complete the requirements to teach art.



Spring! Membership Renewal Time



REGULAR \$2.00

SUSTAINING \$10

PATRON \$50

----- STUDENT: \$.50 -----

If you find a membership return envelope enclosed in your QUARTERLY, your ACRES dues are due.

Make sure we have your correct address and zip.

INDIANA SPRINGTIME events of interest - - -

- APRIL 17 Red Bud Tour, New Albany (Bus 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM)
- APRIL 17 -18 Nineth Annual Sugar Creek Canoe Race, Shades State Park.
- APRIL 17 -18 Gem and Mineral Show, Peru High School Auditorium
(9:00 AM - 9:00 PM and 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
- APRIL 25 Tenth Annual Dogwood Drive, Auto caravan from Troy, Ind.
- APRIL 25 Sassafras Tea Festival, North Vernon (Museum headquarters)
- MAY 1 Brown County Spring Blossom Festival and Parade,
Nashville, 2:00 PM
- JUNE 13 Rose Sunday, Honeywell Gardens, Wabash (8 AM - 8 PM)

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER??? Locate and visit the National Natural Areas and Natural Landmarks along your route. The National Park Service has a booklet called "NATIONAL PARKS & LANDMARKS" available for 55 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The booklet gives name and location of the National Natural Areas and Landmarks, their outstanding characteristics and addresses.

APRIL 30 NATIONAL ARBOR DAY --- **THE ENVIRONMENT
NEEDS YOU TO
PLANT A PLANT ON
ARBOR DAY!**

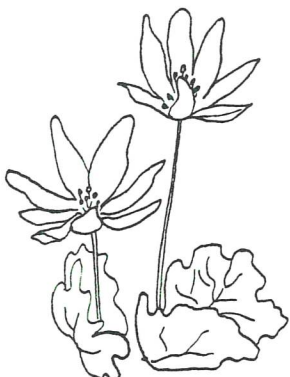
OF BOGS AND LOGS

Curtain Now Going Up On Nature's Grand Show

The curtain is going up on the greatest show on earth. It's nature's display of spring wildflowers. And we have ringside seats, because the most beautiful display of spring wildflowers in the world is found in the American Midwest.

Actually the curtain parted over a month ago, but few people recognized that the show had started, for the first of our spring wild flowers to bloom is the skunk cabbage. The flower itself is inconspicuous and as the name indicates the entire plant has a rather undesirable odor. But this plant does lay claim to opening the curtain, for in protected places after a mild winter it may start blooming as early as Washington's birthday. Usually the first flowers are seen sometime between March 10 and 15. The foul odor of this plant has a purpose: the only insect pollinators that are active that early in the season are flies and other insects that are attracted by such odors.

The real curtain opener is the hepatica which is in bloom right now. Its flowers range in color from white to pink and



BLOOD ROOT

lilac and a deep purple. The leaves are three lobed, shaped something like the human liver: this accounts for the plant's name. They remain green all winter. Indeed, the flowers have been there, too, since last fall: they need only a few warm days to emerge from the protective soil and burst into bloom.

Another early bloomer is the blood root: it, too, is in bloom right now. It's actually a poppy, and for that reason the flowers last for only a day or so. They're a beautiful white and come up protected by the green leaf which clasps them until they are ready to burst into bloom.

The bloodroot gets its name from the blood like juice which the rootstock gives off when cut or bruised. Don't dig out the root to check: take my word for it. The bloodroot is so beautiful that it deserves to grow year after year, and digging out the root to see it held will eliminate it.

The second act of the show, which is already beginning in some places, has a new cast of characters. In wet meadows and along streams where the skunk cabbage bloomed and is now putting out its large cabbage leaves you find the marsh marigold ready to bloom. Soon it will cover large areas with a carpet of gold. It's really not a marigold: it's a buttercup, the shiny golden yellow of the petals will tell you that.

Out in the woods with the hepaticas and the bloodroots the dog's tooth violet, nature's own Easter lily, is beginning to appear. It's late for Easter which this year was quite early, but if you examine it carefully, you'll see that it is a true lily. Together with it the Dutchman's breeches is beginning to bud. The flowers of this plant look like the pantaloons of a Hollander. Its leaves are delicate and carrot-like.

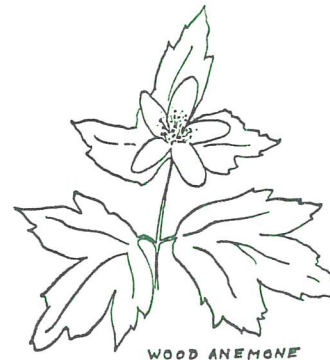
Another delicate flower that gets into the act at this time is the spring beauty. Each plant has a number of dainty pink flowers: the leaves look something like blades of grass. Along with it and the Dutchman's breeches you'll see the wood anemone and the rue anemone, white wind flowers with fine, almost fernlike leaves.

This second act is really just starting: it will be at its peak in about ten days or two weeks.

Following this and overlapping a bit is a third act in which we have the trilliums. The wake robin or bloody butcher is the first of these to bloom: you'll find it showing up already in the second act. The big white grandiflorum will



SPRING
BEAUTY



WOOD ANEMONE

— show up just as the second act draws to a close.

Then toward the end of May we get a finale on our spring wildflower show. That's the time of the wild geranium, the violets, and the Mayapple. With that the show closes and we get an entirely different set of wildflowers, the early summer wildflowers of the woods, our Solomon's seals, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and the like. At last the summer show moves out of the woods: it's too shady and our wildflowers are found in open places.

Now's the time to begin to enjoy the show.

Mrs. Klotz is artist for Of Bogs and Logs, a bi-weekly feature by Dr. Klotz appearing in The Journal-Gazette.

AUTHOR JOHN W. KLOTZ

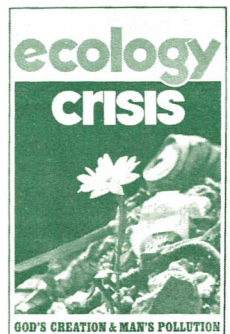
The author has been an active conservationist for more than a quarter of a century. While on the faculty of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, he developed a number of courses related to conservation and the environment, including a workshop in outdoor education. From 1954 to 1959 he was president of Friends of Our Native Landscape, a Chicago conservation organization founded at the turn of the century by Jens Jensen, who designed the Chicago park system.

Dr. Klotz became professor of natural science at Concordia Senior College in 1959 and immediately became active in the Fort Wayne community in developing an interest in and concern for environmental problems. Together with other interested Fort Wayne citizens he founded ACRES, Inc., a land acquisition organization dedicated to the preservation of natural areas in north-eastern Indiana. Dr. Klotz has served as president of ACRES since it began in 1960.

Dr. Klotz writes a biweekly column for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette "Of Bogs and Logs," which deals with the phenomena of the natural world. In addition he appears each month on a local television station discussing plants and animals of the area.

PROCEEDS OF THE MARCH 26TH AUTOGRAPH PARTY AT OLD FORT BOOKS, GLENBROOK, WERE DONATED TO ACRES LAND ACQUISITION FUND. ECOLOGY CRISIS CAN BE ORDERED THROUGH THE ACRES OFFICE WITH PROCEEDS ALSO GOING TO THE ACRES LAND ACQUISITION FUND.

ECOLOGY CRISIS **\$2.75** Postpaid
ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana



The Birds of Pigeon River

By Ken Weber

The sky was still dark, but streaks of yellow, orange and red were starting to chase the night into the West. We stayed in the sleeping bags for a few moments, not too anxious to leave the warmth for the chilly early-morning air.

Grass and weeds around the campsite were fairly dripping with dew, as always on clear Summer mornings.

Larry grabbed my arm and ordered, "Listen! Hear that? That's a *whip-poor-will*. It's probably on the other side of the swamp. We're off to a good start."

My brother, a biology teacher from St. Louis, had joined me for a mid-June birding expedition at Pigeon River State Fish and Game Area in LaGrange County. Once or twice a year we get together and spend the day identifying birds.

We have found few places with a wider variety of birds than the Pigeon. This year we set a personal record for ourselves, with 75 species identified in the single day.

In Summer months there is no better way to study the bird life of an area as wild as the Pigeon than from a canoe. So we immediately checked in at the area headquarters East of Mongo (on State Highway 3 North of U. S. Highway 20) and rented a sturdy 17-foot aluminum canoe. Then we were off.

First stop was the Mongo Mill-pond, a shallow marsh created by the dam installed in the Pigeon. Narrow channels wind through lush stands of bulrushes, cattails, arrowheads, wild rice, water lilies and duckweed. And that morning every turn added to our count!

Red-winged blackbirds were there by the hundreds, with glistening black males loudly scolding us from

above and the drab, brown-streaked females trying to slip away from nests in the weeds as inconspicuously as possible.

Long-billed *marsh wrens* sang from the tallest weeds, but made us work for glimpses of them.

Pairs of *mallards* were flushed from secret hideaways in secluded channels. A female *black duck* did her best to lure us away from her nest by thrashing about in the water, swimming and flying only a few feet at a time.

Blue-winged teal squawked their displeasure at being disturbed so early, and two *wood ducks* were noticed leaving their hollow tree home on a search for breakfast.

Bitterns silently flew over the marsh, their necks pulled back into bony shoulders. *Swallows* wheeled and dived over the water. Without moving we identified five species—the *bank, barn, cliff, rough-winged* and *tree*.

Later, as we prepared to leave the swamp, two large *black terns*, rather rare over most of Indiana, swooped into the area with their black bodies and contrasting white wings catching the earliest rays of the sun. They remained in constant motion, sailing back and forth, just inches above the surface.

The canoe was reloaded onto the car and driven a couple of miles to the river just West of Mongo.

Even on that short trip we continued adding birds to our list as *crows* and *grackles* were in the fields; *meadowlarks* sang from fenceposts; *indigo buntings*, *doves* and several kinds of *sparrows* perched on telephone lines, and *turkey vultures* soared in the sky.

The river there was clean, swift and shallow, and bordered on both sides by thick growths of underbrush and tall trees, vines and logs. It is perfect for birds, and we spent the next three hours drifting downstream with our eyes on the trees overhead and brush at the shore.

They were of every shape and

size, from the tiny *hummingbird* to the four-foot-tall *great blue heron*. *Red-headed woodpeckers* and *flickers* hammered on the dead limbs while *green herons* stalked through the shallows. *Kingfishers* cackled from overhanging limbs and *catbirds* slipped quietly through the vines.

Towhees, *rose-breasted grosbeaks* and *redstarts* entertained us with songs from low perches, while high above *phoebes*, *wood peewees* and several species of *flycatchers* and *vireos* were hard at work exterminating the insects of the treetops.

We saw both *yellow-billed* and *black-billed cuckoos* prowling about the underbrush, along with the rusty-red *thrashers* and slate-gray *titmice*.

Cedar waxwings were there too, darting out over the river frequently to snare insects. Brilliant red *scarlet tanagers* and *cardinals* flashed through the green scenery in surprising numbers.

Even more colorful (if that's possible) were the *orioles*, which always seem so abundant in June. Flashy *Baltimore orioles*, resplendent in their orange and black suits, sang from the treetops and chased each other over the water.



The Birds of Pigeon River (Cont.)

Less commonly seen orchard orioles, also orange and black, were there, too, but not nearly so bold.

One of the highlights of the morning was discovering an orchard oriole's nest hanging halfway up in a sycamore. Like the Baltimore, the orchard oriole nests in an intricately woven pouch, a piece of fine art.

Our paddling took us under a few bridges and there we found more nests. Cone-shaped barn swallow nests were plastered to steel girders. Where the concrete was broken the crevices were stuffed with bulky swallow nests.

We were never without the swallows for companions. They were plentiful all along the river, nearly hitting us sometimes in the head—long dives after insects.

After portaging around Nasby Dam we steered the canoe through a rushing log-filled stretch of the river that eventually widened into a wide marsh above the Ontario Dam. Then we took it easy, again examining the wealth of plant life as well as the birds, insects, fish and frogs.

The swamp was filled with water lilies and both varieties, the white and yellow, were in full bloom. The yellow lilies remind me of hard-boiled eggs with oversized yolks, but the white flowers are truly beautiful, delicate white cups that float on the water.

As we cruised through the swamp more birds were added, a wandering white-rumped marsh hawk, several noisy killdeer and a few nervous sandpipers.

The find of the day came as we approached a large stand of lily pads. Running across those pads were eight or ten chicken-like dark birds with bright red beaks—Florida gallinules—the first we have seen in Indiana.

With them were 15 to 20 little black chicks, also with the distinctive red faces. What a perfect way to end the day!

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EARTH WEEK APRIL 19 thru 24

POPULATION INSTITUTE - APRIL 19 - IU-PURDUE CAMPUS
Starting at 10 AM in the Student Lounge and open to the public....
Sponsored by the Alpha Chapter, Izaak Walton League, first collegiate chapter in the country.
10 - 12:30 POPULATION CRISIS -Dr. John Hessel, Dir. of Education, Zero Population Growth. Panel Discussion.
12:30 - 3 THE CHANGING SEXUAL SCENE -Panel of lawyers, biologists, sociologists and psychologists.
3 - 6 FAMILY PLANNING & ADOPTION -Dr. Alan Guttmacher, Planned Parenthood. Panel Discussion.
6 - 10 ABORTION -Daniel Weiss, former Administrative Asst. to Albert Einstein Hospital. Debate, Discussion.



Spring is a time of awakening: soon we will see evidence of new life beginning inside burrows, nests, and hollow trees. This is a difficult time for wildlife; well meaning people can seriously interfere with an animal's chance for survival.

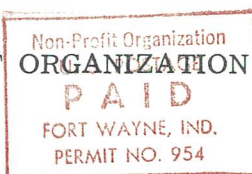
All animal babies are equipped for survival, through parental care or by certain natural awarenesses for the perils of their environment. The fawn is not abandoned or in danger but well camouflaged, and mother is near by; the curious raccoon is learning to search for food, an important part of his growing up; the young squirrel, though small, are quite able to care for themselves.

Discuss with your family the importance of leaving baby animals where they live; their only chance for survival is in their natural home, not confined to a cramped cage. Most wild animals are protected and it is unlawful to keep them.

KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER, INC. 7000 N. Westnedge,
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

NON-PROFIT



Mr. & Mrs. Larry Moore
R.R.1
Grabill, Indiana 46741

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The **QUARTERLY** is published by ACRES, Inc. four times each year at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748, for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas in northeastern Indiana. ACRES, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. Jane Dustin, Quarterly editor.

MEMBERSHIP: Student, \$.50; Regular, \$2.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron, \$50.00 payable annually to ACRES, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748.