

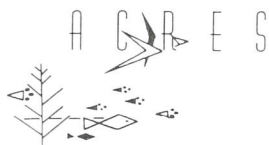
A C R E S



QUARTERLY

FALL • 1972
Volume XI No.3





CALENDAR

October 14 - Saturday
FIELD TRIP

Case Woods, LaGrange County

Meeting Time: 9:30 AM
Meeting Place: Peoples Trust Gold Dome Bank
US 30 Bypass, Northcrest
Naturalist in Charge: Frank Kirschner
Bring: Sack lunch, drink, rainware, camera
and art supplies. (Fall colors should
be perfect so we will take time to
photograph and sketch.)
If you wish to join us later - go north on
Rte.3 thru South Milford to Cable Line Rd.,
turn left to "T", then left, then first right.
Park at barn, watch for cars.

October 28 - Saturday
FIELD TRIP

Fossil Field Trip, Woodburn Quarry

Meeting Time: 9:30 AM
Meeting Place: Indiana-Purdue Campus -
(parking lot closest to Highway 30)
Geologist in Charge: Dr. Jack A. Sunderman
Bring: Sack lunch, drink, magnifying glass,
camera, raingear, rock pick. (We will
eat lunch at a close-by rest park)

November 10 - Friday
BANQUET

6:30 PM Concordia Senior College
Speaker: Floyd A. Swink, Taxonomist

November 11 - Saturday
WORK DAY

Meeting Place: Northcrest Peoples Trust
Golden Dome Bank. (You will
be assigned a leader, area and a job - or -
you can get an assignment at the Banquet
Fri. nite)
Bring: Work gloves, rake, wire cutter, clippers
trash bags, lunch and drink

December 8 - Friday
ELECTION

8:00 PM 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Ind.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Marjorie Wiseman (Mrs. Charles) of Michigan City, Indiana and life-long resident of the Indiana Dunes region. Marjorie does sketches and watercolors and enjoys exhibiting locally.

ACRES ANNUAL BANQUET

NOV. 10

Concordia Senior College

Main Dining Hall

6:30

\$ 3.50

PM

PLATE

Send or phone reservations by Nov.8 to:

Mr. & Mrs. Lowell H. Barker
902 West Oakdale Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807
456- 1416
or
483- 1532

Special table decorations by Mildred VanHorn

SPECIAL GUEST

Floyd A. Swink,
Taxonomist, The Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois

Floyd Swink is probably the most knowledgeable botanist of the Great Lakes area. He inherited his father's love of the out-of-doors and his appreciation of natural beauty and went beyond formal training in plant classification. For many years he served as a field trip leader for the Prairie Club, the Wildflower Society, and the Friends of Our Native Landscape, all Chicago conservation societies.

He served on the faculty of the University of Illinois School of Medicine and was associated with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County prior to becoming the Taxonomist at the Morton Arboretum. Swink authored "Plants of the Chicago Region", published in 1969 by the Arboretum.

Floyd's particular interest has been the Indiana Dunes where he acted as a field trip leader for hundreds of field trips, and he was a vital member of the team which established the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. He combines a knowledge of plants with an ecological awareness and a concern for the environment. Already years ago he went out of his way to call attention to a new species - *Juncus rusticanus*, a pile of rusting tin cans, for which he had only contempt and disgust.

Floyd Swink will discuss "Completing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore" with emphasis on the plant life and ecological value of the areas now proposed for addition to the Lakeshore.

election

IF YOU ARE A DUES-PAYING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

YOU MAY MAKE NOMINATIONS UP UNTIL OCTOBER 7 (see details).

YOU WILL RECEIVE A RETURN-BY-MAIL BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 18.

YOU MUST VOTE BY MAIL BY DECEMBER 7 or YOU MAY VOTE IN PERSON ON DECEMBER 8, 1972 8PM 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana.

SELECTION OF DIRECTORS - NEW PROCEDURE ADOPTED

As was announced in the Spring Quarterly, ACRES articles and bylaws have been amended to provide for a new way of selecting directors.

There will be 18 directors. Three will be appointed for staggered three year terms, one by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Indiana, one by the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and one by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association. These appointees, who will be announced later, will give broader public representation on our Board.

Fifteen directors will be elected by the dues-paying members in good standing, five each year for three year terms. The first five are to be elected this year.

The procedure is as follows:

1. The statutory annual membership meeting will be held at 8PM on Friday, December 8, 1972 at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana. At this meeting ballots will be counted, members present may vote in person and the elected directors will be determined.
NOTE This is not the annual dinner meeting at which we have a speaker. The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held November 10, 1972, 6:30 PM at Concordia Senior College.
2. Between September 8 and October 8, dues-paying members in good standing may nominate directors as follows:
Any ten members in good standing may nominate a member of the Corporation by a written instrument which a) is signed by the 10 members, b) contains the nominee's written consent to serve if elected, and c) is delivered to the Secretary at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748, on or before October 8, 1972.
3. If more than five members are nominated, the five nominated by the largest number of members shall be the nominees.
4. If less than five nominations are made by the members, then between October 8 and October 24, the Nominations Committee will nominate enough persons to make at least five. The Nominations Committee may, but need not, nominate enough to make a total of ten nominees.
5. Each nominee may submit a statement of his qualifications which will be sent to members with the ballot. Such statement must be received by the Secretary before November 1.
6. No later than November 18 the Secretary will mail to members entitled to vote a ballot and the statement of the nominee's qualifications, together with a short reminder of the voting procedure.
7. Members may vote by mailed ballot. Members do not need to attend the annual meeting on December 8. However, if a member does attend, he may vote in person and cancel any ballot he may have returned by mail. There are no "write-in" votes accepted for anyone not nominated pursuant to the foregoing procedure.

****To be effective, a ballot returned by mail must a) be enclosed in an envelope signed by the voting member, b) not be marked for more than five persons and c) be received by the Secretary NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7, 1972.

FUZZY PROGNOSTICATORS

"Keep your 'woollies' in moth balls - its going to be a mild winter."

This is not an official forecast of the U.S. Weather Bureau or any accurate prediction of modern meteorological instrumentation. This is according to the "Woolly Bears", those fuzzy, black and brown caterpillars that you find hurrying along this time of year.

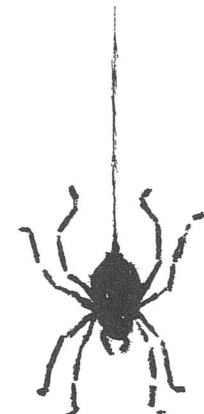
The old tradition says that the Woolly Bears can foretell coming winter weather with great accuracy. The old belief goes like this: The Woolly Bear has a black band at either end and a rich, reddish brown band in the middle. If the brown bands are wide, the winter is supposed to be mild and moderate. If the bands are narrow, however, it will be a mean and nasty winter. Wide bands - a good winter; narrow bands - a bad winter.

A group of Charlestown, Pa. school children collected 150 Woolly Bears and when their brown segments were counted the average was 5.9 segments per bear - if the Woollies are right, keep the long underwear in storage.'

Another group in New Jersey collected 500 Woolly Bears with brown segments averaging 6.5 per bear! This would mean the fuel man will be owing you money next spring.

Anyone for a local count?

Now, if you are a skeptic and insist on being objective, you are probably right that temperature and rainfall have more to do with the brown bands on the Woolly Bear than the predictions for next winter's weather. By next May, and in spite of the weather, the Woolly Bear will be a tiger moth doing an hypnotic dance around your porch light.



THE CHRISTMAS SPIDER - die spinne

Once upon a time, long ago, in Germany, a gentle Gross Mutter was busy cleaning the house for the most wonderful day of the year - Christmas Eve. Not a speck of dust was left. Even the spiders were banished from their corner of the ceiling to the farthest corner of the forgotten attic.

Christmas Eve at last; the tree was decorated and the children were delighted. The poor spiders were frantic for they could not see the tree. The oldest and wisest spider suggested that perhaps they could peep through the door. Silently they crept out of the attic and across the floor to wait.

The door opened a bit, and spiders crept into the room. The tree towered so high they could see only one ornament at a time. Filled with happy wonder at the glittering beauty, they scurried up the trunk and out along each branch. Every place they went they left a trail of dusty gray web. When at last they had inspected every bit of the Christmas tree, it was shrouded in spider webs.

The Christ Child smiled as he thought of the happy spiders visiting the tree, but then he thought of how broken hearted the Gross Mutter would be over the dusty webs. Touching the webs they turned to shimmering, sparkling silver and gold, and the tree glistened in greater beauty than ever before.

And so it became a custom to have "Die Spinne" among the other decorations on the German Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS FEAST FOR WILD BIRDS

For wildlife, Christmas is a time for snow, cold and possibly a shortage of food. And that is where a Christmas tree for wild birds can bridge a gap. It fits into the holiday tradition of giving and good will and it can soften the hardships of the winter months for birds who remain in this climate, and as a special bonus, a Christmas tree for birds, if located near a window can supply hours of watching enjoyment.

Among the most sought after delicacies are sumac, wild grapes, multiflora rose seeds, sunflower seeds, and an almost limitless variety of seeds and fruits from trees and shrubs. Actually, a lot of these grains, seeds and berries could be left in their natural habitat where the birds would find them eventually, but a Christmas tree for birds can supplement these natural foods with special delicacies such as suet (highly important for energy), popcorn (decorative as well as loaded with food value), peanut butter spread on pine cones (they really relish the nut flavor and it supplies more fat), weed seeds (which could be placed in hollow grapefruit or gourds), melon, squash and pumpkin seeds saved from summer, stale donuts, bread crumbs, and meat or bacon drippings.

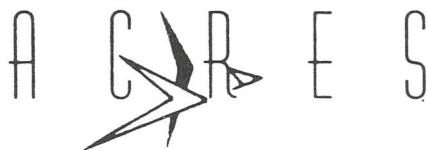
Many people don't realize how important sand is to the digestive processes of birds. Because they lack teeth, the sand's abrasive quality helps grind their food; this too, could be placed in gourds, protected from moisture, so that it is loose and readily available.

An important addition would be a method of keeping a water supply. This involves frequent attention or for those who want to go all out, special commercial water heating elements are available for bird baths and drinking water.

If a tree is especially cut, or if you use your discarded one, it is best to locate it on the south or sunny side of your house and anchor it firmly so it won't blow over. A source of food should be maintained consistently once the practice is started. Birds are creatures of habit and easily become dependent on handouts once they are accustomed to them.

Prepare for the feast - save whole citrus rinds; pumpkin, squash, melon seeds; meat and bacon drippings; mesh vegetable bags, gourds; stale bread, donuts, etc. - gather weed seeds, sumac, rose hips, wild nuts, cones, grapes, berries. - add sunflower seed, cracked corn, millet, sorghum, popcorn, peanut butter.

Birds most likely to use feeder - Bluebird, Blue Jay, Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Chickadee, Crow, Dove, Flicker, Goldfinch, Grackle, Nuthatch, Robin, Sparrows, Starling, Towhee, Titmouse, Woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, Purple Finch, Slate-colored Junco.



REGULAR \$2.00

SUSTAINING \$10

PATRON \$50

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

From Reader's Digest:

Every winter for 15 years my grandmother had been making me a long flannel nightgown for Christmas. Even after I married, she continued the tradition. But after the birth of my second child in two years there was a slight modification. This time the soft yellow flannel had a stout twine drawstring through the floor length hem.

OF BOGS AND LOGS

Nature's Ink Pots Filling

When you were a youngster did you ever make pokeberry ink? Did you write with it using a chicken feather as a pen? Did you get some of it on your hands or clothes in the process? The berries are ripe now; a walk in the woods may bring back a great many pleasant memories.

The berries come from the pokeweed which is also known as pigeon berry, garget, scoke, or ink berry. The plant itself is a tall perennial which grows from a thick fleshy root. The stem itself is herbaceous rather than woody and may grow anywhere from three to 10 feet tall. The leaves are simple and alternate with one another. They give off an unpleasant odor when they are bruised. The pokeweed is common in recent clearings, in open places in woods and along the borders of woods. It also occurs in barnyards, pastures, and waste places.

The dark purple pokeberries are strung out singly along the stem. Each berry is from 1/4 to 3/8 inches in diameter. The heavy berries make the stem droop when they are ripe. They make good ink: the color is intense but the dye is not a fast dye so that it washes out of clothes. I've seen pictures made

with pokeberry ink: they are very attractive. Pokeberry juice is also used to tint wine.

The pokeweed is a plant that requires some caution because it's poisonous. The root is es-



POKEWEED

pecially poisonous and the large glossy black seeds also seem to contain a poisonous substance. The poison is a bitter acid substance, saponin. An alkaloid, phytolaccine, also

By JOHN W. KLOTZ
Professor Of Biology
Concordia Senior College

occurs in small amounts. It isn't dangerous to stock because animals are seldom attracted to it: apparently they don't like it. Once in a while pigs will be poisoned by digging out and eating the roots. Strangely enough wild birds and domestic chickens may eat the berries with impunity: the poison doesn't seem to affect them.

This points to the hazard of deciding that a plant is harmless because animals of some sort eat it: there are a great many poisonous mushrooms which insects relish. Children have sometimes been poisoned by eating the berries and swallowing the seeds. The poison is a violent but slow acting emetic: vomiting begins about two hours after the berries are eaten. It also causes dysentery, spasms, and convulsions. Death sometimes results from respiratory paralysis.

The pokeweed is one weed that we've exported. A great many weeds have been accidentally introduced into the United States from Europe: the pokeweed is one that originated in the western hemisphere and has accidentally been introduced into Europe.

See if you can find the dark purple berries the next time you are out in the country. Squeeze the berries and watch the juice drip out. Take some of the berries home to make pokeberry ink for an old fashioned letter or note.

REPRINT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

"Indiana's 20 Nature Preserves" by Wm. B. Barnes, Director, Indiana Division of Nature Preserves tells about each unit of Indiana's expanding nature preserve system and where each area is located. This is a reprint from May, 1972 Outdoor Indiana.

Write or call the ACRES office. (637-6264)

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



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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 north-eastern 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.