



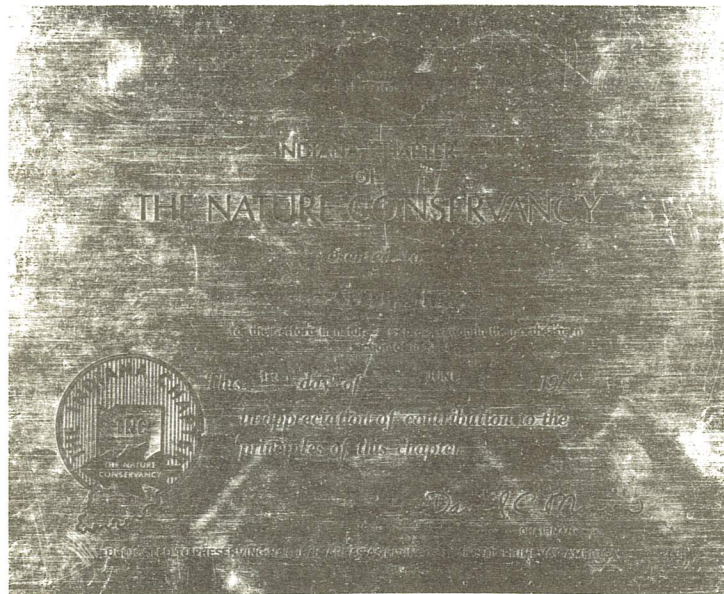
QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1975

Volume XIV No. 1



J. J. J. J.
4/23/74
Barred Owl



SCA - STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Each year, this program grows offering National Forest, Park and Wilderness work opportunities to High School and College (grad and undergrad) students. Students interested in the '75 program should write at once:

Student Conservation Association, Inc.
Olympic View Drive, Route 1, Box 573A
Vashon, Washington 98070

ELECTION RESULTS

Re-elected to serve three year terms were ACRES Board Members Robert Weber, Frank Kirschner, Ed Eberhardt and Art Eberhardt. A fifth newly elected Board Member is Kay Hough from LaGrange County who will serve also for a three year term.

Newly appointed by Indiana Chapter, The Nature Conservancy to ACRES Board of Directors is Sam Ropchan of Fort Wayne. Sam will fill the unexpired term of Paul Carmony who served a year and a half on ACRES Board as TNC's appointee.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Jan Haynes Eberhardt (Mrs. Roger) who is a graduate biologist from Earlham College. Jan started nature photography and artwork as a student while doing her field biology work in the Galapagos and in Jamaica. The cover is the barred owl, native to Indiana woodlands.

FALL CREEK GORGE

Fall Creek Gorge in Warren County (western Indiana) is an Indiana natural area "jewel". The deep, twisting gorge contains large potholes that continue to grow; ferns, mosses, liverworts and fish life thought to be totally unique.

The 43 acre land parcel containing Fall Creek Gorge will soon belong to The Nature Conservancy with a little more help needed (\$6,000 to pay the debt).

The urgency of this acquisition hinges on a proposed Army Corps dam project designed to impound Big Pine Creek to which the gorge is tributary. With construction of the dam, the entire gorge to the elevation of Fall Creek Falls at the top of the gorge, would be inundated and the gorge lost forever.

Big Pine Creek itself is a uniquely beautiful, natural stream reach from its crossing of Indiana route 26 to its junction with the Wabash River...all would go under water if dam proposals proceed.

Warren County residents, The Committee on Big Pine Creek and The Friends of Big Pine Creek and many donors to preserve Fall Creek Gorge via The Nature Conservancy are all working to prevent the dam project and preserve Big Pine Creek and Fall Creek Gorge.

You can help save this Indiana jewel. Every amount is important. Write:
Indiana Chapter, The Nature Conservancy,
205 Washington St., Columbus, Ind. 47201.



We will be judged by our offspring and in that judgment if all they can contemplate is muddy and polluted rivers, eroded hillsides, burned forest lands, and wildlife behind glass, stuffed, then they will have a right to ponder just what type of improvident barbarians sired them.

—Ernest F. Swift (1897-1968)

MERRY LEA *Environmental Center*

Learning to live in harmony with our environment is a difficult process. It requires an understanding of natural systems and man's relationship to them. The founders of MERRY LEA Environmental Center hope to make the learning an easier and most enjoyable task.

From a man's idea, MERRY LEA has grown to over 700 acres of lake, forest, field, and marsh located in Noble County, Indiana. A Sturgis, Michigan businessman, Lee Rieth, and his wife, Mary Jane, conceived the start of the Center in 1962. Through their donations of time and over one third of a million dollars, the Center now has a Board of Directors and an Executive Director. Physical development of the site has been held to the bare minimum awaiting completion of a master plan; however, the Center does have a 64x30 foot classroom building to handle groups in inclement weather.

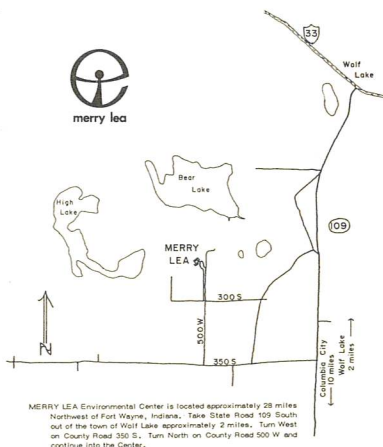
The advance and retreat of the last glacier and the past twelve thousand years have built in north east Indiana a variety of soils, topography, and plants. Nearly all are evident at MERRY LEA. Visitors may examine swamps with their characteristic tamarack, maples, blue berries, and spring orchids. A bog in the center of the swamp has sphagnum moss, orchids, and cranberries growing in their natural state.* The forty acre cattail marsh is a haven for muskrats. A walker on the shore will see them busy making houses and filling their place in the marsh eco-system.

A calcareous prairie has plant species which are characteristic of pre-settlement Indiana such as little and big blue stem. From early spring until late fall there are always flowers blooming, a back drop to the many varieties of birds. The bird list contains at present over one hundred species including a snowy owl, pileated woodpecker, and several great blue herons.

Several fields in old-field succession are beautiful especially in the spring when the hawthorns, cherries, and apples are in bloom. The forests at MERRY LEA range from very wet and peaty low land woodland to the drier oak-hickory stands. These provide a perfect opportunity for isolation in nature.

The present program includes talks and nature hikes for all groups on a reservation basis. Contact should be made with Dr. Austin Fergusson, MERRY LEA Environmental Center, P. O. Box 263, Wolf Lake, Indiana, 46796, Telephone 219-799-5869. Workshops for teachers, scout, church, and other group leaders have been held and more will be held throughout the year. Several programs are provided through cooperation with area colleges and universities and are open to the public.

*Dr. Lindsey has found a "club moss", *Lycopodium clavatum* L. This vascular plant is the first new native species identified in the field in Indiana for at least 20 years and perhaps much longer.



Winter dates

JAN 24

- FRIDAY EVENING 8 PM THE PUFFIN PROJECT

No, it isn't an exercise in heavy breathing! It's a journey to the Maine seacoast with biologist Roger Eberhardt where for two summers he has been Research Assistant on an Audubon Society project to reestablish the Puffin as a breeding species to the Maine coast. The lecture, complete with slides and recordings, will show us how you become mother and father to Puffins for 50 days of north Atlantic summer. The program ending might be delayed as much as a year or two since the entire first three years of a Puffin's life is spent at sea - the success of THE PUFFIN PROJECT is not known yet. We will learn of its fascinating beginnings.

PLACE - Fort Wayne YWCA, 325 W. Wayne (usually ample parking in lot north of First Presbyterian)

FEB 14

- FRIDAY EVENING 7:30 PM JUNGLE CAT

A Walt Disney True-Life-Adventure takes us to the Amazon wilderness. The jaguar is star with an exciting supporting cast of monkeys, lizards, parrots, crocodiles, flamingos and boas.

Bring the Children!

PLACE - YWCA, 325 W. Wayne, Fort Wayne

FEB 22

- SATURDAY, WINTER WORK DAY AND HIKE

Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

TIME - 9:30 AM

MEETING PLACE: Northeast corner of Washington Center Road and Highway 33 north.

Dress warmly, wear boots and work gloves, bring sack lunch.

MAR 1

- SATURDAY SPECIAL

WINTER FIELD TRIP AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION IDEA SESSION

MEET at 9 AM sharp at northeast corner of Washington Center Road and Highway 33 north. Plan to double up.

ARRIVE at MERRY LEA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (map inside) 10AM. Morning visit to Indiana University Biological Station (operated under the direction of Merry Lea) and visit the adjoining land at Crooked Lake.

LUNCH indoors at Merry Lea Environmental Center classroom building. BRING A SANDWICH - DRINK PROVIDED.

An IDEA SESSION on outdoor education for young and old, led by Gloria Beckner. Gloria stresses "re-education" (we're never too old to learn new ways) and wants to share ideas between ACRES members and Merry Lea as to methods and techniques of outdoor learning; having areas and facilities readily available; knowing where they are and how to get to them.

We'll break to enjoy a brisk winter hike to several Merry Lea special spots before heading home.

Dress warmly, wear warm waterproof boots.

DIRECTORS: Robert C. Weber, President; Frank Kirschner, Vice President; Hy Goldenberg, Vice President; Jane Dustin, Secretary; Ethyle R. Bloch, Treasurer; Wm. C. Bloch; Allen J. Lomont; Dan McCain; Angela Derheimer; Pat Bolman; Arthur Eberhardt; John Ellenwood; Edward Eberhardt; James M. Barrett III; Karl Bandemer; Gloria Beckner; Sam Ropchan; Kay Hough.

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ACRES, Inc.

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