

A C R E S



QUARTERLY

FALL • 1977
Volume XVI No. 3



Participation in Field Trips and Work Days is an excellent way to get to know what ACRES is all about. Join us! and bring a prospective ACRES member along with you.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

OLIN LAKE and OLIN LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday
SEPT. 24
MEET: 10 AM at the Oliver Lake Public Boat Access. Take State Rte. 9 north from Wolcottville to County Road 450S (Oliver Lake Rd.). Go west and north around Oliver Lake to public access site at west end.
BRING: Canoeists bring canoes, paddles and life preservers (one per person). Hikers bring boots, binoculars, cameras. ALL bring a pack lunch and drink.
In-Charge: Lee Casebere and Ed Eberhardt
Note: The trip leaders will guide the canoeists and advise on weather conditions. Since trails are incomplete at the Nature Preserve, the ACRES naturalist will guide the hikers. In case of high winds, the canoeing will be cancelled and the entire group will be land-lovin' hikers.

BOG IRON* Dig it and smelt it!

Saturday
OCT. 15
A repeat field trip by popular demand of a Fall '73 adventure to dig and melt Bog Iron with Frank Kirschner in-charge.

MEET: 9AM at Rte. 3 Heritage House (just north of Bypass) parking lot, Fort Wayne.
10AM at north side of LaGrange County Court House in LaGrange, Indiana.
Or

You can join us at noon at Scott, Indiana at the Pigeon River public Boat Access.

BRING: Boots, trowel, sack, camera, lunch & drink.

BOG IRON* was probably the first source of iron available to man, since it is found on the surface and is a fairly rich source of iron. Shortly after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620 they discovered bog iron ore in nearby ponds and marshes and immediately exploited this source to produce wrought iron. The Virginia colony also used deposits of bog iron which were discovered shortly after colonists arrived: indeed, a company was formed to exploit these deposits but it failed because the deposits were quickly exhausted. Bog iron ore when heated with charcoal produces wrought iron which can then be further processed.

Bog iron is produced by the activity of a group of bacteria known as the Chlamydo-bacteriales. These are widely distributed in rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps and bogs. A typical species is *Leptothrix ochracea*. The process by which these bacteria produce bog iron ore is actually a decay process. They oxidize ferrous iron to ferric iron and get their energy in this way. The ferrous iron compounds are soluble iron compounds; the ferric hydroxide is an insoluble compound.

These bacteria grow vigorously in water containing any appreciable amount of iron salts and the bacteria themselves may accumulate as a brown "slime" on the surface of rocks. The bacteria are sheathed bacteria: they are made up of individual cells each with its own cell wall and the individual bacteria are arranged in chains which are enclosed in common gelatinous sheath known as the trichome. The bacteria get their energy by oxidizing the soluble ferrous compounds to ferric hydroxide which is precipitated in the slimy sheath covering the filament of cells making up the bacterial mass. When ferric hydroxide is heated it is changed to ferric oxide and with further heat is reduced to metallic iron.

by John W. Klotz



RAIN . OR . SHINE POLICY

A lot of ACRES time and personnel goes into field trip and work day planning, so we go as scheduled no matter what the weather decides to do. Really, it rarely rains all day!



ACRES ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

NOV. 4

MAIN DINING HALL
CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE

6.15

PM

\$5.50

PLATE

Phone Reservations by Nov. 2 to:

Kim and Kathy Miller, 749-8090
or call: 637-6264

DINNER TIME: 6:30 PM ■■ PROGRAM TIME: 8:00 PM
Main Dining Hall Classroom 201

Dr. Fred Morgan, Huntington College Zoologist/Ornithologist will be speaker. "Adaptations of Birds for Flight" is an illustrated discussion on the structure of birds. Dr. Morgan makes comparisons of bird structure to the human body to clarify his talk and to emphasize the miraculous capability of flight.

Dr. Morgan did his dissertation on nesting species of birds at Thornehill Nature Preserve and has been professor of zoology at Huntington College for 14 years. He now heads the department and has spent summers at the Ohio State Lake Erie Region Biological Station teaching Field Ornithology and January terms with students in Florida studying bird life.

If you are unable to join us for dinner, you are welcome to come to Room 201 at 8 o'clock.

Decorations by Merry Lea Environmental Center.

ACRES WORK DAY NOV. 5 ACRES WORK DAY

SATURDAY

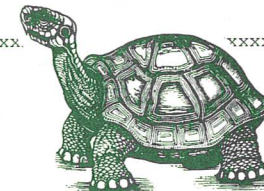
MEET: 9 AM Peoples Trust Bank Gold Dome
Northcrest on the Bypass.

BRING: Loppers, Clippers, rakes, work gloves
Lunch and drink

IN-CHARGE: Ted Heemstra
484-4385

Remember, ACRES' management responsibilities grow as we gain more new areas and we depend on your voluntary help on work days. A donated day of your labor is a wonderful contribution and you will benefit by knowing an ACRES area better for having worked there. Bring your family - there are jobs of all sizes.

XX
X IF THERE IS A CHECK (✓) BY YOUR NAME, YOU FORGOT X
X TO PAY YOUR ACRES DUES. REMEMBER TODAY! \$1 Student; X
X \$2 Senior Citizen; \$5 Regular; \$10 Family; \$25 Share-the-expense; X
X \$50 Sustaining; \$100 Patron. X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Ann Barrett. A graduate of Denison University, School of Art, Ann spent a year studying in Austria. Recently concentrating on wild-life art, especially endangered species, Ann did this cover of the rare white lady-slipper orchid, the treasure of "Natures Acres", Laketon Bog. (See story.)

CROOKED LAKE NATURE PRESERVE . . . SEEING A REALITY

Through cooperative efforts of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Director Joe Cloud especially; the budgeting arm of the Indiana General Assembly, Rep Del Auer especially; the Crooked Lake Association, and Pat McNagny most especially; together with ACRES Inc. and The Nature Conservancy a notable new Indiana Nature Preserve is emerging. The Nature Conservancy, by the middle of July, exercised the option to purchase the 91 acres of shoreline and upland that lies to the east of the Indiana University-Purdue University Biological Station at Crooked Lake. The package will become Whitley County's first Nature Preserve. The close cooperation between government, contributing private interests and land preservation groups proves that projects can be accomplished when all have a common goal.

ACRES undertook raising the final \$25,000 needed to complete the project. The Crooked Lake Association has raised \$75,000; the state has assured \$150,000. ACRES has received generous gifts from the Freimann Charitable Trust, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, the Kuhne Foundation and the Foellinger Foundation and many individual contributions from our membership. As the Quarterly goes to press, we are still in need of \$2,500 to make our goal. If you had considered a contribution, please, help us finish this effort.

When the total purchase price is in hand, TNC will purchase the parcel and sell it to the state. It will become a dedicated part of the Indiana Nature Preserves system.

YCC WORKERS HELP ACRES

Twenty Youth Conservation Corps workers, under the direction of Dr. James Haddock and sponsorship of the IU-PU Campus, provided many man-hours of labor doing trail work, clean-up and general maintenance at three ACRES areas this summer. The project netted much learning and outdoor enjoyment as well as accomplishing much good work to benefit ACRES. We are looking forward to this program continuing next summer.

This is a fine opportunity for nearby outdoor learning. Jim Haddock, who is an ACRES Board member and on the University staff can provide more details for youth interested in participating in next year's program.

BILL BARNES RETIRES Bill Barnes' long experience with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and his tremendous knowledge of the State of Indiana in general and its natural areas in particular, made him a "natural" to fill the post of Director for the newly formed Division of Nature Preserves in 1967. Setting a fantastic pace, the Division has dedicated and/or acquired over forty Nature Preserves and Indiana can boast one of the finest Nature Preserves systems in the nation.

Bill Barnes retired June 30 but will continue his efforts for natural area preservation working on TNC's Board and with other state-wide groups - for his heart belongs to nature preserves!

DR. JAMES H. KEITH NEW NATURE PRESERVES DIRECTOR Jim Keith, who has worked several years as Bill Barnes' assistant was made Director of Division of Nature Preserves and is well qualified to carry on. Nature Preserves are a Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Jim Keith's office is on the 6th Floor of the State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

GIFT IDEAS

- Inquire where you work if your company has a MATCHING GIVING PROGRAM. Some companies do have this program and list non-profit environmental organizations as recipients of matching gifts. ACRES would qualify and benefit from your gift which would then be matched by your employer.
- ACRES receives and specially acknowledges MEMORIAL contributions to the ACRES Land Acquisition Fund. We are always willing to discuss special memorials or bequests which further the goals of acquiring and preserving natural lands in northeastern Indiana. These are indeed "Living Memorials" and can be especially meaningful for family and friends.



Left to right: Jim Keith, Director Division of Nature Preserves; Bob Weber, ACRES President; Dennis Wolkoff, The Nature Conservancy Field Representative and Ruth and Lee Brubaker, donors of the 22-acre Natures Acres Bog, near Laketon Indiana.

LEE & RUTH BRUBAKER DONATE LAKETON BOG

At a time when interest peaked and action began in some places to protect endangered and threatened species, Lee, Ruth and Robin Brubaker already had a big job done. Continually fascinated by the plant and animal life in the Laketon Bog area which they lovingly call "Natures Acres" this "rare" family not only bought the bog but dedicated all their protective capabilities to its care and safekeeping. They set up study trips for adults and children, flower lovers and plant and bird experts to visit and learn from the Bog. Lee spent hours and hours to hand-haul debris dumped in parts of the bog during a time when the "wetlands are wastelands" concept flourished.

This bog is thought to be the southern most limit for Tamarack trees in Indiana. "Natures Acres" houses mats of living sphagnum moss, pitcher plants, many fern species, poison sumac, red osier and the endangered and threatened White Lady-Slipper Orchid. (This rare plant inspired the Quarterly cover art)

The bog's fragile and rare plant life were well documented in "Natural Areas of Indiana and Their Preservation" which gave the Brubakers new hope for their treasure trove. But a ten acre corner of the bog eluded their attempts to purchase and thus complete the whole bog parcel.

The Brubakers had acquired 22 acres of the bog, with the remaining ten still outstanding, when they made the decision to deed their 22-acre portion to The Nature Conservancy for permanent preservation status. It is with determination that The Nature Conservancy and ACRES in conjunction with the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves will continue to work to complete the bog package so this fragile and rare natural gem can flourish without damage by man. A treasure-house of endangered and threatened plant species that we may occasionally visit but always know is there - home safe.

The Brubaker's gift, like the gift of the Magi, is a gift of devotion. It is our job now to see that the treasure is maintained.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY invites you to tour BIG WALNUT and PINE HILLS on their one-day Fall meeting-by-bus. OCTOBER 8. Meet at 9 AM at Sommer Center, Cold Spring Road and 38th St., Indianapolis, Indiana. \$7.50 includes bus and lunch. Back by 5:00 PM. Make reservations by September 20 to: Dorothy Cook, 3908 Guilford, Indi. 46205.

election

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

YOU MAY MAKE NOMINATIONS UP UNTIL OCTOBER 13 (see details).

YOU WILL RECEIVE A RETURN-BY-MAIL BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 21.

YOU MUST VOTE BY MAIL BY DECEMBER 15 or YOU MAY VOTE IN PERSON ON DECEMBER 16, 1977 8 PM, 1802 Chapman Rd.,Huntertown.

SELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There will be 18 directors. Three are 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 give broader public representation on our Board.

Fifteen directors are elected by the dues-paying members in good standing, five each year for three year terms. The procedure is as follows:

1. The statutory annual membership meeting will be held at 8 PM on December 16 1977 at 1802 Chapman Rd, 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 4 1977 6:30 PM at Concordia Senior College.

2. Between September 13 and October 13, 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 is a)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 13.

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 13 and October 29 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 13.

6. No later than November 20 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 16. 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 15

IF THERE IS A CHECK BY YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
YOUR DUES ARE DUE
BE A VOTING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING!



TEASEL Appalling or Appealing?

I sometimes wonder what the roadsides and fallow fields of early America looked like before being invaded by ranks of foreign vegetation. It doesn't really matter. We have enough problems trying to maintain our present landscape, let alone the past.

Roads and roadsides seem to be in little danger of extinction, so it's unlikely that any efforts to eliminate our herbaceous aliens will be successful. They do so well here! In their quest for growing space, aggressive alien weeds provide serious competition for food bearing crops. And besides contributing such economic damage, they contribute considerable visual damage.

Queen-Ann's-Lace, Ox-Eye Daisy, and many others are not eyesores though. But then there is Teasel! It seldom looks like more than a photosynthetic pin cushion, even when it is "graced" with its tiny lavender blossoms. Perhaps if the entire flower head blossomed at once it would be more appealing and less appalling.

Appalling? I shouldn't be so critical. Frequently when I'm out exercising my camera, the two of us are lured to this spiny character. Always distinctive, Teasel can wear a fringe of frost on a winter morning, or silhouette against a summer sunset as well as any plant.

Lee A. Casebere

"OUR LAND IS MORE VALUABLE THAN YOUR MONEY. IT WILL LAST FOREVER. IT WILL NOT EVEN PERISH BY THE FLAMES OF FIRE. AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES AND THE WATERS FLOW, THIS LAND WILL BE HERE TO GIVE LIFE TO MAN AND ANIMALS. WE CANNOT SELL THE LIVES OF MEN AND ANIMALS; THEREFORE WE CANNOT SELL THIS LAND. IT WAS PUT HERE FOR US BY THE GREAT SPIRIT AND WE CANNOT SELL THIS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT BELONG TO US. YOU CAN COUNT YOUR MONEY AND BURN IT WITHIN THE NOD OF A BUFFALO'S HEAD, BUT ONLY THE GREAT SPIRIT CAN COUNT THE GRAINS OF SAND AND THE BLADES OF GRASS OF THESE PLAINS. AS A PRESENT TO YOU, WE WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING WE HAVE THAT YOU CAN TAKE WITH YOU; BUT THE LAND, NEVER."

Blackfeet Chief, Recorded in a
19th Century Treaty Council

ACRES, Inc.
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sanders
Orabill, Ind. 46741

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