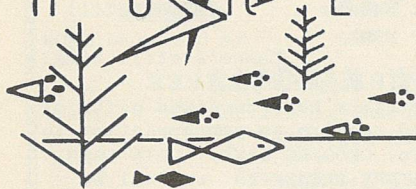


A C R E S



QUARTERLY

SPRING • 1977
Volume XVI No. 2



QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Sher A. Waldrop, Rural Route, Hometown. Sher is majoring in etching at the Fort Wayne Art Institute . She is a hard working ACRES member and heads the Wildlife Care Program.

This year ACRES is sending you your membership card with the Spring Quarterly. This will save ACRES the cost of a separate mailing. NOTE THE NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE. Use the return card with return envelope and remit to:
ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Ind.46748
You fill in your membership card and keep this. Thanks.

Northern climes experience some good, some not-so-good results with introduced species. For example: The use of Crown Vetch, an Asiatic native, for steep-bank vegetative erosion control has increased along highways and drainages. This introduced plant doing a better job than most natives for that purpose. Honey bees, introduced from Europe as settlement began are vital, working environmentalists upon which such crops as cucumbers totally depend to set their fruits. Opinions vary on the goods and bads of multiflora rose an Asiatic native. Some arguing for its excellent wildlife food and cover characteristics, others cursing its ability to proliferate all over unmaintained open areas.

The general rule in ACRES Nature Preserves is to let nature manage her own. No plantings or introduction of animal species are made into our ecologically "balanced" or stable areas. On some lands ACRES holds which are recuperating from human disturbance, we restrict the introduced species to indigenous or native species. That is not to say that multiflora, starlings, English sparrows and other introduced species won't visit our areas. It is to say that no non-native species will be purposefully planted or released in the Nature Preserves.

Reproduced here is a reprint from TIME, Sept. 27, '76 which tells of some Southern not-so-good ecological exotica.

It's absolutely essential that man...should leave a margin, a sanctuary, where some of life's beauty can take refuge and where he himself can feel safe from his own cleverness.

—Romain Gary,
The Roots of Heaven

The ACRES Library will soon be housed at Fox Island Nature Center. Two bookcase walls, a gift in memory of Wilbur J. Ribel, will house the library for use at the Park. The moveable walls are being made by the Homestead Junior High School shop class and will have brass markers reading: "In memory of Wilbur J. Ribel for his love of the out-of-doors. These bookcase walls were made by Homestead Junior High School shop class, to house the ACRES environmental library for use at Fox Island County Park."

Donations of books are gratefully received and should be made through the ACRES office for cataloging purposes. Gifts of books to the ACRES Library are deductible, and cash donations for special volumes can be made as well to enable the purchase of books not presently in the Library.

Speaking of books - The third edition of NORTH AMERICAN TREES is now available by the Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. A complete field manual with ready means for identifying 558 species of trees and contains 161 full page illustrations. \$7.50

Speaking of catalogs - A catalog specializing in wildlife planting materials from Arrowhead, Cattails, Partridge Peas to Wild Rice and Wampee available on request from Kester's Wild Game Food Nurseries, Inc., Ormo, Wisconsin.

We're looking for a book called "MYSELF WHEN YOUNG" by Diedrick. Full of interesting bits of natural history about local areas including Fox Island. Can you find us a copy?

Ecological Exotica

The land of cotton, Spanish moss and magnolias has other distinctive and less felicitous flora—and fauna—that can all but grab the unwary. Some examples that would catch a Yankee's eye:

KUDZU. Imported from the Orient for use as an ornamental vine, kudzu has a wisteria-like purple bloom and a smell similar to that of grape soda. It also grows at a phenomenal rate; in rural areas, naughty children are warned that they will be thrown into the kudzu patch and quickly swallowed up. The threat is not entirely unrealistic. Kudzu grows so fast that it can cover an abandoned car in a few weeks, completely overgrow an empty house in the course of a summer, and keep highway crews busy trying to clear roads. It can even cause communications problems. In Columbia, S.C., last month, a fast-climbing kudzu shorted out a transformer and cut off power for a while.

WALKING CATFISH. Introduced into Florida from Southeast Asia, walking catfish have become a major nuisance in the Sunshine State. They have taken over many lakes and ponds, devouring more desirable species, and when they need more food, they move on—overland. They are often seen "walking" across highways and lawns, using their stubby fins to propel themselves from one pond or canal to another. They have defied all efforts to exterminate them; their northern advance is stopped only by freezing temperatures.

FIRE ANTS. All kinds of bugs thrive in the warm, humid climate prevalent in much of the South. But none have achieved more notoriety than the fire ant, a South American invader that gained a beachhead in New Orleans in 1918 and has since advanced through nine Southern states. The ants, as their name implies, have searing bites that can kill small animals and raise painful blisters on humans. Farm workers often refuse to enter fields infested with fire ant mounds, which often rise two or three feet above the ground and are sturdy enough to stop a tractor.

WATER HYACINTHS. Introduced into New Orleans from Venezuela a century ago, these floating, flowering plants have spread to many Southern states. In some areas, they have clogged shallow rivers and lakes and killed fish by extracting oxygen from the water. They have even drowned a few humans who have become entangled in their island-like mats of vegetation.

MANATEES. Native to Florida, South America and the Caribbean, the manatee (or sea cow) was once regarded as the answer to the water hyacinths; each was believed to consume as much as 100 lbs. of the hyacinths a day. But placed in weed-clogged waters, the manatee ate its way through a mere 40 lbs. of the damnable plant daily. The hulking, hairless creatures, who may have helped inspire the mermaid legend (their mammarys faintly resemble those of a woman), also find it difficult to co-exist with power boats. University of Miami biologists report that about 20% of all manatees found dead each year are crushed by barges or chewed up by boat propellers.

ALLIGATORS. Valued by shoe and handbag manufacturers, the American alligator seemed headed for extinction when it was placed on the federal endangered-species list a decade ago. Since then, largely protected from humans, the reptiles are making a comeback with a vengeance. Their numbers, estimated at only 52,000 in 1970, now exceed 600,000. Alligators have invaded populated areas, leading to worries that they may attack humans. "It's people, not alligators, that are becoming an endangered species in some Louisiana parishes," says a wildlife official. His fears seem well founded. Golfers at New Orleans Bayou Barriere Golf Club have become somewhat timid since club members found and killed a 5-ft. gator near the 14th fairway. A Metairie, La., family called off an afternoon swim when they found a four-footer in their backyard pool. In Alabama last month a 13-ft. gator glided up to a 30-lb. beagle and swallowed it in one gulp.

Timber Theft Alert Program

Timber theft may not be making headlines, but it is a serious concern to landowners. As market prices fluctuate, so does the number of reported timber thefts.

High quality black walnut and white oak are in greatest demand. Areas to the north and east of Indianapolis, Indiana, seem to be experiencing the most thefts.

Many landowners are not aware that they own valuable trees. These are generally veneer-quality black walnut or oak trees which contain large logs (18 inches or more in diameter) with few surface defects.

While most trees are stolen from isolated areas, thieves have been known to take trees from the front lawns of homes. Chain saws modified with several mufflers and trucks with boom loaders are the thieves' common tools. Most thefts occur at night, but a great many trees are stolen during daylight hours. Although neighbors may see the thieves in action, they may not be concerned, thinking it is a legitimate logging operation.

There is a ready market for high quality logs. Thieves may haul logs for hundreds of miles to sell them. Members of the forest products industry usually check the source of the logs they buy, but the logs may pass through several dealers before they reach the final processor. It is also difficult to identify individual logs unless the real owner has taken the time to mark his trees.

Unfortunately, most thefts are not discovered until several days after they occur. Before an investigation can begin, the logs have probably been sold and are on their way to an exporter. Major export terminals for Indiana are Burns Harbor on Lake Michigan, and Toledo and Cincinnati, Ohio.

According to Purdue University extension forest economics specialist William Hoover, the value of walnut has increased more than sevenfold in the past 20 years, with a similar rise in white oak. Timber theft usually results in a complete loss to the farmer.

The Indiana Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, is serving as the coordinating agency of the Timber Theft Alert program, which was created last Summer. The service works like this:

- 1. A theft is reported to state police by the victim.
- 2. The state police call a local industry cooperator and together they investigate the site of the theft. The local industry cooperator is responsible for making as detailed a description of the stolen logs as is possible from the evidence at the site.
- 3. All of the evidence is reported to the Indiana Division of Forestry, and is also teletyped statewide to County Sheriff's offices and state police posts.
- 4. The description of the stolen logs and related details is mailed immediately to all individuals and firms who are potential purchasers of the logs.
- 5. The individual or firm contacted by the thieves could then provide the information necessary to apprehend the individuals trying to sell the stolen logs.

There are several actions a landowner can take to prevent theft, or at least make theft more risky. When approached by a stranger wanting to buy timber, demand to see their buyers or buyers agent identification card. The State of Indiana has more than 500 bonded buyers registered with the Division of Forestry.

Timber owners should locate and maintain a record of their valuable trees. The record should show location, diameter at four-and-one-half feet above the ground, height to the first large branch, species and any distinguishing characteristics of the bole of the tree. If possible, a graduated pole should be set beside the tree and each side of the tree photographed.

If the appearance of the tree does not matter, paint a stripe down one side of the tree, from as high as possible, down to the ground. Use a paint that will not wash off, and make sure it soaks into the cracks and crevices. Phosphorescent paint can be used if the tree's appearance does matter. Use an artist's brush to apply a unique identifying mark, and keep a record of the mark used.

Join your neighbors in a cooperative protection effort by keeping each other posted when landowners will be away, and showing each other the location of valuable trees. If suspicious activity occurs, obtain as much evidence as possible and notify law enforcement officers immediately.

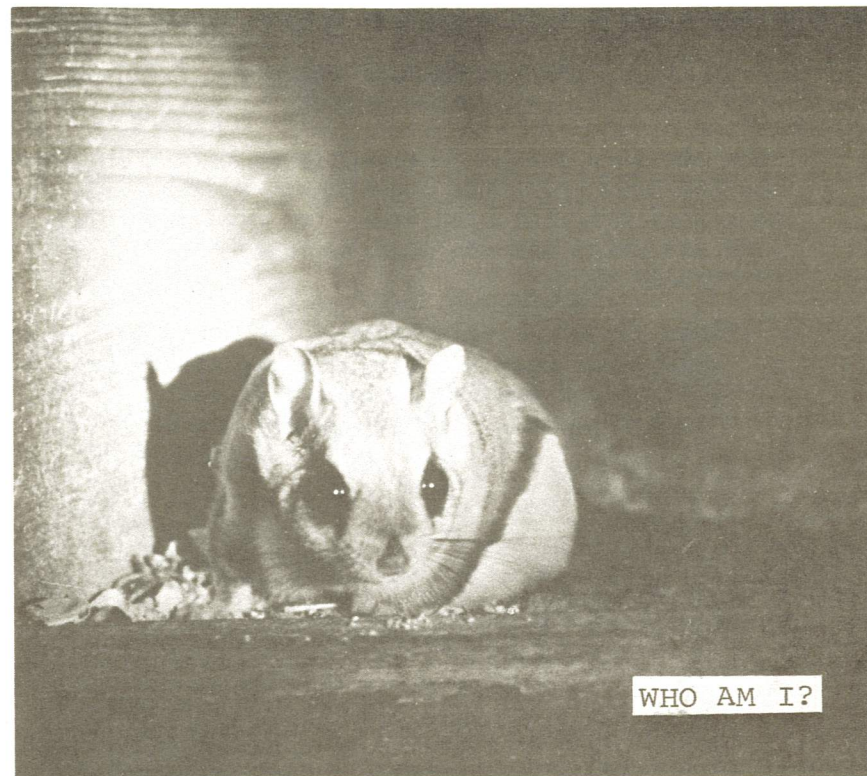
Assistance is available to all private woodland owners in the State from the Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, and the Indiana Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources.

A brochure describing the Timber Theft Alert program can be obtained from the Indiana Division of Forestry Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association or Purdue University.

By working together, landowners, law enforcement agencies and private industry can significantly reduce timber theft.

by Jane B. Schuler

INDIANA



WHO AM I?

A Flying Squirrel - native, nocturnal rodent who uses his tail to steer his long flying glides which range from 25 to 150 feet in length. A skin flap between his front and back legs aids his gliding skill. He inhabits our oak and hickory upland forests feeding principally on acorns and hickory nuts. A rough, circular opening in an hickory nut is a clue that a flying squirrel fed there. Young are born in February or March and are 1/9th of an oz. at birth.

WILDLIFE CARE PROGRAM LAUNCHED - A program designed to provide care for injured or orphaned wildlife and re-establish them to their natural habitat as soon as possible has gotten a good start through the Wildlife Care Program. Headed by Sher Waldrop and Committee members, Pat Bolman, Barb Barrett and Dr. Jay Kumaran, the program is gathering materials for an educational effort aimed at schools, scouts and others interested. Volunteers to assist with the educational program are welcomed and asked to call 637-5182.

The Ropchan Wildlife Refuge will be marked as follows:

SAM AND ADELINE ROPCHAN
WILDLIFE REFUGE

This 180 acre refuge is established in perpetuity by the Ropchans under the stewardship of ACRES, Inc. To be a home and protected area for wild creatures to live and where man can only visit as their guest to peacefully enjoy.

DEDICATED MAY 14, 1977

"What is man without beasts? If all beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit, For what ever happens to beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

Chief Seattle

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