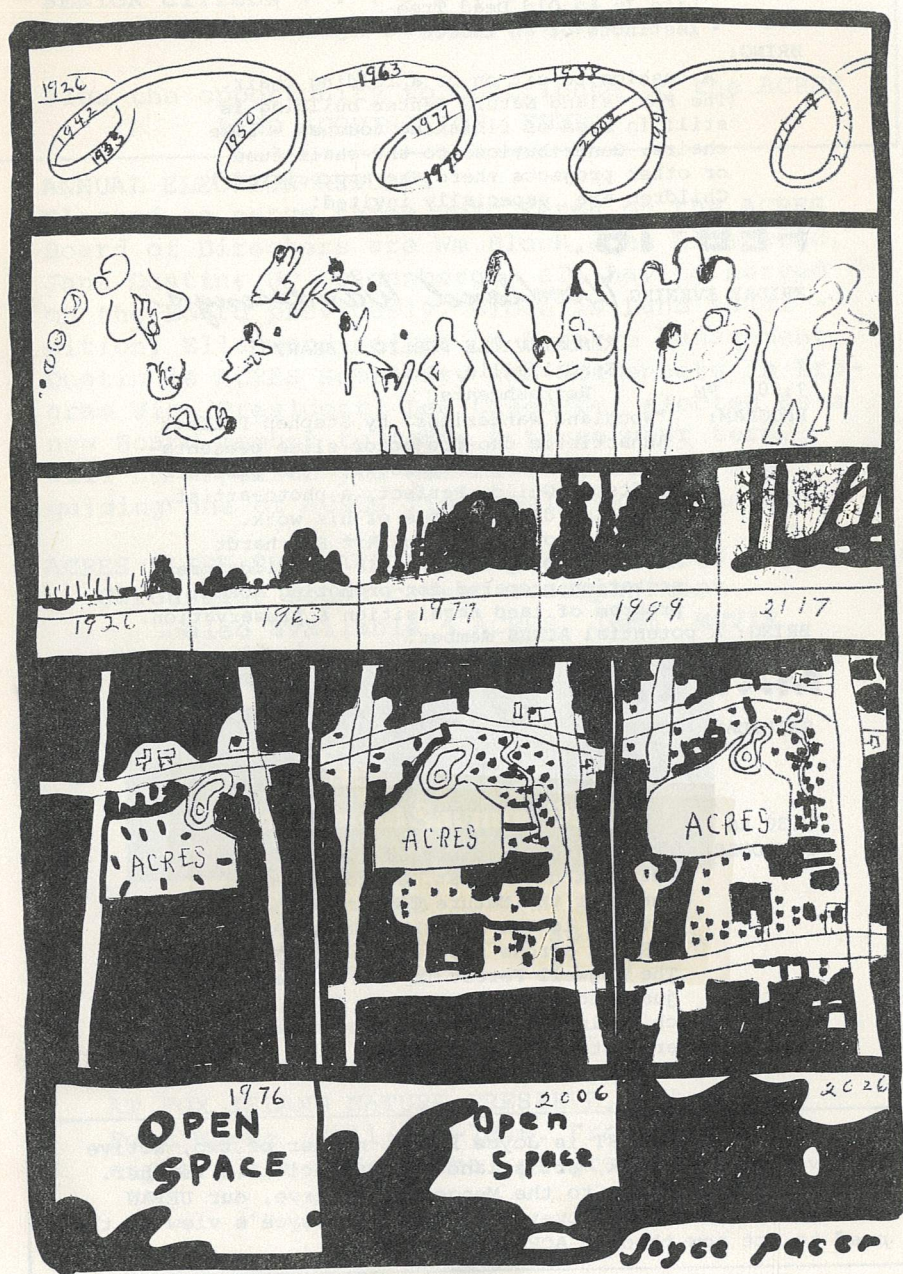


A C R E S



QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1977
Volume XVI No. 1



EVENTS

INDOOR MEETINGS:

JAN 14 *Timy Wildlife World*
FRIDAY EVENING

FOX ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE
7324 Yohne Road, Fort Wayne

7:30 PM

FILMS: The Small World of Spiders
Life In An Old Dead Tree
Instincts of an Insect

BRING:

A cushion to sit on or a folding chair.
(The Fox Island Nature Center building is still in need of finishing touches - like chairs. Contributions to the chair fund or other projects there are appreciated.)
Children are especially invited!

FEB 18

FRIDAY EVENING *Woodland Wanderings*

KENDALLVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Kendallville, Indiana
Refreshments

7:30 PM

PROGRAM: "Woodland Wanderings" by Stephen Perfect
An artistic duo-projector slide presentation originally prepared for the Designer Craftsmen Guild. Perfect, a photo-artist, will also display some of his work.
"Learn About ACRES" by Art Eberhardt
An outstanding color movie and slide presentation prepared for promoting ACRES program of land acquisition & preservation.

BRING: A potential ACRES member!

MAR 12

SATURDAY (OUTDOORS)

Discovery Hikes
Fox Island
The Fogwell Forest
FOX ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE
7324 Yohne Road, Fort Wayne

9:30 AM

SCHEDULE: Fox Island Discovery Hike with Pat Bolman, resident naturalist, as tour leader.
Lunch at the Nature Center.
A visit to THE FOGWELL FOREST NATURE RESERVE across the valley from Fox Island.
The Fogwell Forest is a new 27 acre gift just received by ACRES.

BRING: Lunch, drink, warm clothes and boots, binoculars cameras etc. Bring a friend!

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Joyce Pacer, mother of two, active in environmental work, artist and art appreciation teacher. The Pacers live close to the Mengerson Reserve, our URBAN natural area, and this cover art expresses Joyce's view of the need to act now through ACRES.

NEW DUES SCHEDULE NOW IN EFFECT

PATRON	\$100.00
SUSTAINING	50.00
SHARE-THE-EXPENSE	25.00
FAMILY	10.00
REGULAR	5.00
SENIOR CITIZEN	2.00
STUDENT (Thru High School)	1.00

Plus the opportunity to contribute to the ACRES
LAND ACQUISITION FUND

ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

Elected to serve three year terms on the ACRES Board of Directors are Wm. Bloch, John Ellenwood, Jane Dustin, Hy Goldenberg - all having served on the Board previously. Bloch is Land Acquisition, Ellenwood serves on Reserve Management, Dustin is ACRES Secretary and Goldenberg is Program Vice President. Lee Casebere, elected as a new Board member to serve a three year term, will be a person you are most likely to meet guiding one of ACRES field trip expeditions.

ACRES SLIDE SHOW AVAILABLE FOR GROUP USE - Two loaded Carousels, sound casset accompaniment.
also available - ACRES 16mm MOVIE



SUNFLOWER SEED

25 Pounds . . . \$6.99
50 Pounds13.50

WILD BIRD SEED MIX

25 Pounds . . . \$3.89
50 Pounds7.50

AT FOX ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE, Yohne Rd.
Fort Wayne Call:747-7846. Proceeds help support the educational program.

The 1976 year closed as a record ACRES year with completed purchase of the 180 acre ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE near Fremont, Indiana, Steuben County. This is ACRES' largest Reserve, a gift from Sam and Adeline Ropchan. It is an area rich in varied wildlife habitat with extensive marshlands which form fingers out from a small tamarack fringed glacial lake, bordered by rolling oak covered uplands. This area abounds with northern forest vegetative types as well as containing old field areas where natural vegetative regeneration will occur and offer prime study area. The tall spires of old norway spruce mark the borders of a small cemetery in the center of the area. Access will be at the north boundary with trails developed from that point. The formal dedication is officially scheduled for May 14, 1977 for this area.



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FORT WAYNE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



Allen County gained two new Nature Preserves in 1976. The gift from Dan and Virginia McCain has an historical, truly bicentennial flavor. This gift is called ASHTON MILL SITE AND MAUMEE RIVER SCENIC OVERLOOK. It is an official Fort Wayne Bicentennial Commission supported project. The land, about ten miles east of New Haven, housed the original Ashton Mill (1835-1865) and provides a panorama over-look on a meander of the Maumee River. The river powered the saw mill and the old Wabash-Erie Canal provided transport for saw logs and floated barges to carry the finished cut lumber from the mill. The canal tow path is now U.S. Highway 24 and is the southern boundary of the piece. The vista from the high Maumee River embankment where the Mill stood gives a scenic river view to the west of woods-fringed river banks; a broad expanse of agricultural fields to the north with the Bull Rapid church steeple in the distance; and a river view eastward to the riffles of the "Bull Rapids", a bedrock outcropping in the Maumee riverbed. It is hoped that this gift will encourage more preservation efforts along this significantly scenic and historic section of the Maumee River. A special marker is being designed for this site with the help of the Bicentennial Commission and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Historical Society.

THE FOGWELL FOREST, a 27 acre Allen County woodland on the south rim of the Little Wabash outwash plain (off Lower Huntington Road) becomes ACRES' largest Allen County Nature Preserve. A gift from W. Glenn Fogwell and two sisters: Mildred Klopfenstein and Mabel Corville the woods has been 100 years in the Fogwell family. With access off Whipoorwill Drive, the forest is a prime example of mature oak-hickory stands. Some dogwood and paw-paw in the understory with the spring wildflower display dominated by Trillium, dutchman's breeches, deer tongue, blood root and yellow, white and blue violets. The woods has been in classified forest for about 40 years, virtually untouched since 1929 with only a few trees harvested since and some dead wood removed for firewood. Never pastured, the woods boasts sizeable red, white and bur oak 30-48" DBH with one red oak of 12 foot circumference measured at 4 feet above ground line. Check the field trip schedule and join the March 12 visit to this fine new area!

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O L U M N

How do we know when ACRES has been a success? Do people ask you how we're doing? Do we measure our success by the number of acres we have preserved? - the number of individual preserves we manage? --the number of different vegetative cover types of NE Indiana we include?--the number of members signed-up?--the numbers who volunteer extra time, talent, resources?--the number of people who enjoy our field trips, work days and indoor programs?--the number who enjoy studying or hiking in the preserves?--the number of persons made sympathetic to land preservation?--the number of other interested groups stimulated by us, instructed by us or working with us?

In each case, what is the magic number or percentage which signifies success? We are, of course, dealing with values which cannot always or easily be measured by numbers and percentages. We answer these questions feeling closer to success at this time than we were even one year ago.

We have added our largest preserve in '76, we are about to add two more natural areas to Allen County. We have our first piece of Allen County riverbank, and we are adding Reserves with larger trees than ever before. More of you have volunteered to help. (And more will yet be asked to help!) Stronger alliances and working agreements have been struck with several cooperative or allied organizations, including Merry Lea Environmental Center, Division of Nature Preserves IDNR, Izaak Walton League, KEEP (Kosciusko Co.), The Nature Conservancy, Fox Island Alliance, Crooked Lake Association, Oliver Lake Association, Steuben Lakes Council and the Audubon Society. ACRES has gained additional recognition from some national organizations for its successful land acquisition program.

Perhaps we are weakest in our local missionary work. We tend to add few new people to our long-standing membership list. We ought to be finding, delivering and encouraging additional interested members. We tend to presume that our joy in acquiring a new preserve is enough when we ought to promote greater area-support and interest in our efforts. We need to encourage landowners to learn about ways ACRES can help save land.

When ACRES began in 1960, many of us said that we had about ten years to save what we should save here in our area before it was too late. We were a little too pessimistic in that notion but not by a great deal. We will have to plan better, explore more thoroughly, and be willing to sacrifice more if we are to save the best remaining spots before adverse development ruins them for preserve purposes. The Board's Land Acquisition Committee, headed by William Bloch (747-4450) is exploring northeastern Indiana's remaining areas. Please call him if you have any leads.

ACRES needs your efforts - your time, influence, skills, ideas - for vitalizing our whole program closer to its potential. Keep our office number (637-6264) handy and use it whenever you have an inspiration. Remember too, that our new preserve management committee headed by Ted Heemstra (484-4385) will welcome your help and suggestions for more efficient reserve maintenance and use.

Welcome to our newest Board member, Lee Casebere, who brings excellent field experience, strong dedication and youth to our Board. Sincere thanks to Dan McCain who did many fine things for ACRES as a Board member and who, with his wife Ginger, has given us a foothold on the Maumee.

One day in the foreseeable future, be ready to receive a descriptive new ACRES brochure which is being planned by Jim Haddock and his committee. Soon we will have available reprints of Dr. John Klotz's 'Of Bogs and Logs' column now in preparation by Gloria Beckner and her staff at Merry Lea.

I'd like to close with a point made to me by the national president of The Nature Conservancy: 3% of the people do what needs to be done, while 7% watch them do it. The other 90% say 'What happened?'. I believe ACRES members are part of that 3% doing what needs to be done, preserving and protecting natural areas in northeastern Indiana.

Bob Weber



CROOKED LAKE - NEXT MAJOR PROJECT

Interested citizens in Whitley County have raised \$100,000 in private funding toward the purchase of the 91-acre Stewart farm, containing 3,500 feet of wooded shoreline, steep bluffs and deep ravines which comprise the remaining natural north shore of CROOKED LAKE, five miles north of Columbia City.

The purposes of preserving this area are many:

- To save the wooded shoreline with fine stands of oak, hickory, beech, sugar maple, tulip & sassafras.
- To save the undisturbed and fragile water's edge, essential to maintaining the lake's high water quality.
- To retain the beauty of Indiana's few remaining natural lake shorelines. Crooked Lake, at the headwaters of the Tippecanoe River system, is a glacial spring-fed lake 105 feet deep. It is ranked by state biologists at the top of the "clean" lakes in Indiana, with oxygen content sufficient to support the cisco (salmon family).
- To save the great diversity of aquatic life, animals and birds, particularly the blue herons which feed regularly along the reed-filled shores.

The Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy holds an Option to Purchase the Stewart farm from its owner, Lillie Stewart of Columbia City for \$250,000. The Option expires July 1, 1977. \$100,000 has been raised locally and if the \$150,000 in additional funds is appropriated by the 1977 General Assembly, the farm will be dedicated as an Indiana Nature Preserve.

Whitley County currently has no nature preserves. The Crooked Lake Nature Preserve will be a valuable adjunct to the Indiana University Biological Station which adjoins the preserve to the west. The 27-acre Biological Station, also with natural wooded shoreline, is the only limnological station on a natural lake in Indiana. The station is run by Fort Wayne Purdue/Indiana University Biology Departments and provides facility for undergraduate projects attended by Indiana University, Purdue, Butler University and the Regional Campus at Fort Wayne. The added protected shore and undisturbed acreage will insure the continued splendid quality of aquatic and terrestrial habitats available for study at the Station.

You can help! WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS to support Nature Preserve Funding and especially mention the CROOKED LAKE project where public initiative from the citizens raised \$100,000 toward the project. This should be supported by public funding to complete the job. Special friends of this project in the legislature are Representative Delmar L. Auer and Representative Thomas Fruechtenicht. Any of your legislators can be addressed simply: House or Senate, State House, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

XXXXXXXXXX

ACRES joins with Stockbridge Audubon, Ft. Wayne Chapter Izaak Walton League, Indiana Conservation Council, Inc. and the Ft. Wayne Zoological Society to bring :

THE ECOLOGY OF WOLVES & THEIR PREY ON ISLE ROYALE

An illustrated program
by

**APRIL
3**

Dr. Durward L. Allen
Professor Emeritus
Wildlife Ecology
Purdue University

2 PM

NEW HAVEN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 904 Prospect, New Haven

MAKE A NOTE:

**may
14**

SPECIAL DEDICATION OF THE NEW ROPCHAN WILDLIFE
REFUGE - Details will be in the Spring Quarterly
but keep the date open!

LOOKING AHEAD COLLECTING SAVING GATHERING

FOR THE CROOKED LAKE AUCTION

June 18

Last year enough money was raised to pay the
option on the Stewart Farm. Help make this
year's Auction bigger and better by remember-
ing to call the ACRES office as you consider
discarding household items. 637-6264

GATHERING SAVING COLLECTING LOOKING AHEAD

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Huntertown, Indiana 46748

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Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 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, Editor. MEMBERSHIPS:
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