



QUARTERLY

SPRING • 1978
Vol. XVII, No. 2



SPRING



SATURDAY

WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY

april
15

MEET: Peoples Gold Dome Bank, Northcrest
TIME: 9 AM
BRING: Work gloves, boots, assorted tools,
lunch and drink (hot soup provided).
Work is scheduled at Beechwood & Woodland Bog
in Steuben County.

Ted Heemstra in-charge. Call: 484-4385

WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY

SATURDAY

april
29

Field trip to ACRES "Original" reserve, THE
EDNA W. SPURGEON WOODLAND RESERVE located
northeast of Ligonier. We will hike over
the rolling terrain and through the show-
piece forest looking for old acquaintances,
like the early spring wildflowers, to help
us forget the long, hard winter. After lunch
we may visit another of ACRES Noble County
Nature Preserves.

MEETING PLACE: 9 AM at northeast corner of
intersection of Rte. 33 and
Washington Center Road.

or

10 AM at Spurgeon Reserve
Parking area.

BRING: Lunch, drink, camera, binoculars,
family and friends.

Naturalists-in-charge: Bob Weber, Lee Casebere

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER is ACRES Board Member, John Ellenwood. John keeps good photographic records of ACRES events and the spring flowering dogwood pictured on the cover bloomed at Acres Along The Wabash. Other flowering highlights of that ACRES area are shooting stars and river mallows (July).

What am I?

MOLE SALAMANDERS - HARBINGERS OF SPRING

One of the earliest indications of spring is the breeding of the salamanders belonging to the family commonly known as the mole salamanders (Ambystomatidae). These creatures spend most of their adult lives underground, but in early spring they migrate to breeding ponds where mating and egg-laying occur.

Short periods of mild weather, especially if it's accompanied by warm rains, stimulate migration to the ponds. Under ideal conditions, the entire population of a pond may complete its breeding activity in one or just a few nights. Because they are silent and conduct their activities under the cover of darkness, salamanders can be abundant and still go undetected.

Sites selected for breeding are often very shallow and may normally go dry by mid-summer. After mating, females lay gelatinous egg masses, which are generally attached to submerged twigs, leaves and other vegetation. The eggs hatch into a gilled, legless aquatic larva. It soon develops legs. When the larva matures, the tail-fin and gills begin to rapidly disappear. It starts breathing through lungs and begins to venture out of the pond. Soon it is a completely terrestrial individual which will return to the ponds only as a mature adult to breed.

Several species of mole salamanders live in the Fort Wayne area. Except when they are at breeding sites, finding them is a matter of luck since they are subterranean creatures. Sometimes they are found under logs and rocks, and occasional wanderings may bring them to window-wells and basements.

The most common mole salamander in our area belongs to a very confusing group of four species sometimes called the "jeffersonianum complex" (named after the Jefferson salamander which occurs south of our area). Members of this complex in our area are most likely either blue-spotted salamanders or Tremblay's salamanders. Since they are so difficult to tell apart, they are best referred to as blue-spotted salamanders. More information about these and other salamanders may be found in the excellent Peterson field guide "A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America" by Roger Conant.

by Lee A. Casebere

PLEASE SEND US THE NAME AND ADDRESS
OF A PROSPECTIVE ACRES MEMBER.
WE'LL SEND THEM OUR NEW BROCHURE.



MEMORIAL

EDNA W. SPURGEON
1885 - 1978

Donor of the first Acres
Nature Preserve

The
EDNA W. SPURGEON
WOODLAND RESERVE

Please join the Acres field
trip to the reserve April 29.

In January, 1978, a most exceptional lady of the Noble County community left this world behind at the age of 92.

Edna Spurgeon's body died, but her generosity and foresight for generations yet to come will continue to live.

In 1960 a small group in Allen County organized and had incorporated ACRES, Inc. for the explicit purpose of preserving remaining natural areas in this section of Indiana.

It is an understatement to say that our very young organization was given much encouragement by its first land donor.

Edna Spurgeon had grown to love her woods, The Knobs, there in Noble County. She realized that if it were to remain in its natural state beyond her lifetime, her woods would have to have the help of an agency such as Acres.

Her land gift to us all, and to our children and theirs, is known as the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Preserve. It was the first of 13 natural areas now under the jurisdiction of Acres.

The Spurgeon Preserve (between Route 6 and Topeka on 600W, between 900N and 1000N) is a delightful place to visit, to hike, to photograph, and to learn.

I hope you will visit it and be inspired by its majestic trees and its spectacular spring wildflower display. You may, if you are quiet and patient, also get to see fascinating furred or feathered tenants.

You'll agree that no words or stone monuments from men can equal this preserve as a memorial to a most perceptive and caring Edna W. Spurgeon.

Robert C. Weber, President

SUNDAY
may 14
MOTHERS' DAY SPECIAL!
PHOTOGRAPHERS - ARTISTS - NATURALISTS

WORKSHOP

TIME: 1:00 PM PLACE: The Fort Wayne Chapter House, Izaak Walton League (Griffin & Hollopeter Rds, Allen Co.)

PHOTOGRAPHERS! Thinking of buying a 35 mm camera to use for "nature shots"? Already have one, but wondering what accessories to buy to get good pics? Tony Cayot, general manager of McJon Camera Stores, will be on hand with examples of the many different types of equipment available for both "close-up" and telephoto 35mm photography. Equipment advantages and disadvantages will be discussed. Slides will be shown portraying the actual results attainable. Enjoy the Izaak Walton League chapter grounds looking for subjects and exchange ideas with other camera bugs.

ARTISTS! Adults and children can create artwork from the natural world around them. Russell and Betty Oettel, local artists will display examples of art prints made using natural materials and will explain the techniques. Actual demonstrations and "do it" adventures will be part of the program. Enjoy the chapter grounds to inspire your talents. Materials provided.

NATURALISTS! Hike portions of the Izaak Walton grounds and assist Bob Weber with notes on flora & fauna.

MOTHERS, BRING YOUR FAMILIES - FAMILIES, BRING YOUR MOTHERS!



WHAT AM I?

Photo by Lee A. Casebere

Spring

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Your membership card is attached.

Select the membership category and remit to:
ACRES, INC.

1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, Ind. 46748

You fill in the membership card and keep it.

Return the address portion with your remittance in the return envelope provided.

JOIN

JOIN

Join

CROOKED LAKE PARCEL, A GIFT TO ACRES JULY 9 SET AS SPECIAL DATE TO VISIT THE RALPH F. GATES NATURE PRESERVE

ACRES has received the deed for 1.14 acres of Crooked Lake shoreline donated by the Phil McNagny family and named THE RALPH F. GATES NATURE PRESERVE. Named for Pat's father who served as Governor of Indiana 1945-49, Gov. Gates was responsible for the acquisition of the Shades State Park and the Chain-of-Lakes State Park during his administration.

This fine piece contains a hardwood forested ravine and makes a scenic wooded point on the Crooked Lake shoreline. It lies at the western edge of the State's newly acquired Crooked Lake Nature Preserve (which we all worked so hard to make a reality) and connects to the Indiana University/Purdue University Biological Station lands, forming the land-link to the preservation of the forested slopes & uplands along the Lake's north edge.

ACRES plans a celebration of this acquisition July 9, at Crooked Lake to honor Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gates and the McNagny's gift. This will be an opportunity to say a personal "Thank You" and visit this area and the adjoining Crooked Lake Nature Preserve. The Official dedication of the State's area will be in the Spring of 1979 and notice of that occasion will follow in a later Quarterly.

Please put a circle around Sunday, July 9 as an ACRES special date.

VISIT: THE RALPH F. GATES NATURE PRESERVE

DATE: July 9 (Sunday)

TIME: 3:00 PM

MEET: CROOKED LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

Approx. 6 mi. N. of Columbia City on Rte. 109, take 1st Road to right past public boat access site.

BRING: Picnic supper. Be prepared to hike. You may bring canoes. Be sure to include the required life saver cushions or jackets.

ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

DIRECTORS: Robert C. Weber, President; James M. Barrett III, Vice President; Lee A. Casebere, Vice President; Patricia Pichon, Vice President; Jane Dustin, Secretary; Ethyle R. Bloch, Treasurer; Arthur Eberhardt; Kay Hough; Pat Bolman; John Ellenwood; James D. Haddock; Gloria Beckner; Sam Ropchan; Edward H. Eberhardt; George Swager; William C. Bloch; John W. Waldrop; Kim N. Miller. NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD: Howard Michaud, Dr. Alton A. Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durward L. Allen, Dr. Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner. The QUARTERLY is published by ACRES, Inc. at 1802 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: Patron, \$100; Sustaining, \$50; Share-the-Expense, \$25; Family, \$10; Regular, \$5; Senior Citizen, \$2 and Student, \$1. Payable annually to ACRES, 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Ind.