



QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1978
Vol. XVII, No. 1



WINTER DATES

Friday JAN 20

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Evening TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: FOX ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE
7324 Yohne Road, Fort Wayne

PROGRAM: Biological Control Alternatives to
Chemical Control of Pests presented by
Dr. James Haddock, Biology Professor at
Indiana University-Purdue, Fort Wayne.

ADDED
ATTRACTION
ACRES

ACRES ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW Many ACRES members have arts and crafts hobbies relating to nature in some way. Show members what you are doing. Bring nature related photography, artwork, carvings, decorations, weaving, rock collections, etc. Put it on display for others to see and enjoy. If items are for sale, put a price on them.

NOTE to those bringing display or sales items: Call the ACRES office to be sure of a display table (637-6264) and be at least a half hour early to get set-up.

AND

ACRES will take this opportunity to plaque the ACRES Library bookcases made by the Homestead Junior High School shop class in memory of Wilbur J. Ribel. Thanks to this memorial gift, the library will now be housed at Fox Island.

Friday FEB. 17

Evening TIME: 7:30 PM
 PLACE: BEST HALL, Room #229
 TRI STATE UNIVERSITY, Angola, Indiana
 PROGRAM: Indiana's Nature Preserve System
 presented by Dr. James Keith, Director of
 Division of Nature Preserves, Indiana Dept.
 of Natural Resources.

ALSO SHOWING
ACRES

ALSO SHOW ACRES outstanding color movie and slide presentation prepared by Art Eberhardt for promoting ACRES land acquisition and preservation efforts.

Refreshments. Bring a friend and potential member. Refreshments.

How to get there: From I-69 take U.S.20 (Angola exit) to east. Turn south at Tri-State University sign, go two blocks to Best Hall. Rm.229 is large lecture room in SW end of building. Park anywhere near.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Sher Waldrop with an etching showing two common northeastern Indiana winter birds, the nuthatch and chickadee. Living near Hometown, Sher and John ran the wildlife care program last summer rehabilitating coons, owls and a coot.



Saturday FIELD TRIP SANDHILL CRANES AT JASPER-PULASKI
FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

MAR
18

Each Spring and Fall during their migrations, thousands of Sandhill Cranes stop at "J-P" to rest and feed. At this date they will be moving from Florida wintering grounds to Canadian breeding areas. After we arrive, DNR personnel will give an introductory talk about the cranes and answer questions about wildlife management. We will see the cranes and hopefully other wildlife of the area.

Share-the-ride: MEET AT 12:30 PM at west side of parking lot at K-Mart West Shopping Center on Illinois Rd. (near intersection of US 24 and US 14).

On-Your-Own: "J-P" is about 100 miles west of Fort Wayne. Take best route to US 421. Headquarters are on Indiana 143 west of US 421. Figure on 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

MEET AT HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA 3:00 - 3:15PM.

BRING: Warm clothes, box supper, hot drink, binoculars, camera.

WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK

MAR
11

MEET: Peoples Gold Dome Bank

TIME: 9 AM

BRING: Work gloves, boots, assorted tools,
lunch & drink (hot soup provided).
Ted Heemstra in-charge. Call:484-4385

DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY

ACRES ELECTION RESULTS

Re-elected for three year terms on the ACRES Board of Directors are Bob Weber, Art Eberhardt, Kay Hough and Ed Eberhardt. Joining the ACRES Board for a new three year term is John Waldrop of near Huntertown.

LOST AND FOUND - From the November Annual Dinner meeting, one black raincoat (man's) and one plaid hat (man's). Call the ACRES office, 637-6264.

BIG TREES

Big trees inspire awe.
We ponder their size,
their growth in height
and weight. We ponder
their age, spanning
generations of men.

Big trees hold a
fascination and today
with the numbers of
giants dwindling, we
seek to record-keep
the biggest of the
native species.



The Indiana Division of
Forestry, Dept. of Natural Resources keeps the State's Big Tree
Register. A big tree is 'scored' based on three measurements -
circumference at 4 1/2 feet above the ground measured in inches,
total height measured in feet, and one-quarter of the average
crown spread measured in feet. These three measurements are
added to get an index number. The tree with the largest index
is considered the largest tree.

The American Forestry Association sponsors a big tree register
for the entire country. Five of Indiana's state champions are
also national champions.

Harrison County, on the banks of the Ohio River, boasts four of
Indiana's largest. A giant American Sycamore towers 150 ft. tall
360 inches in circumference, and has a crown spread of 150 ft.

If you would like a copy of the Indiana Big Tree Register, or
would like to nominate a large tree, write the Division of
Forestry, IDNR, 613 State Office Building, Indianapolis, 46204.

WHO OWNS THESE WOODS

The new landlord
Is well satisfied
With the bargain....
His wealth
Has purchased title
To this acreage....
Pines, firs, streams
And trails
Came with the deed...

But
Having met
Those two magnificent tenants,
The buck and the doe,.
Having watched
Those two genders
Of a wild perfection
Standing
Strong and graceful and proud
Against his skyline.....
He knows
Beyond a doubt
Who owns these woods.



by Lee A. Casebere

Those of us who frequent shady woods in mid-to-late summer
will occasionally find a white translucent plant poking up through
heavy leaf mold. A single nodding flower rests atop a bract-covered
stem.

Although it appears fungus-like, it is really a flowering plant
belonging to the family Pyrolaceae. Like the fungi, however, it is
a saprophyte which derives nourishment from decaying organic matter.

As the plant grows old, the flower becomes erect and the entire
plant turns black. Before long all that remains is a dried up seed
stalk like the ones shown here protruding through the winter snow.

What am I?

(Answer is on the back page)

Our carnivorous plants

IT COMES AS A SHOCK to many people to learn that some plants eat meat. Now they don't trap people in their huge folding leaves as some science fiction movies show. We don't have to worry about them catching and eating our pet dog or cat. There are, however, 11 species of plants in Indiana that eat meat, mostly insects.

Carnivorous plants are a fascinating mystery to most people. They generally grow in nitrogen-poor soil. The extra nitrogen they need to survive is supplied by their victims. As they do not have to compete with other plants for the limited supply of nutrients available in the soil, they are often quite successful in their battle for survival.

The three kinds of insect eating plants in Indiana are the Pitcher Plant, Sundew and Bladderwort. All three kinds have become rare in the Hoosier state as their habitat has been destroyed by man's activities.

There are eight species of Bladderworts within Indiana. All are aquatic and are found floating in water. The Bladderwort plant has tiny traps that are like an oval balloon. When a small insect enters this trip-its double-sealed, airtight door closes and water is expelled through its walls.

The victim is then trapped and digestive enzymes disintegrate it into food. Bladderworts are northern Indiana plants with only one species, the Horned Bladderwort, having been found in the southern part—in Gibson and Clark counties.

The two Sundews living in Indiana are the Roundleaf and the Spatulate-leaf. They also, are northern plants. Cabin Creek Raised Bog in Randolph County is probably as far south as they grow in Indiana.

A SUNDEW IS a very pretty, delicate plant that has a sticky fluid with which it traps its food. This fluid covers tiny tentacles that grow from the leaves of the plant. Insects land on the tentacles, become trapped in the sticky mass, and are ingested in a matter of hours.

To me the most interesting of all Indiana's insect eating plants is the Pitcher-plant. It grows on Sphagnum Moss in marshes and bogs, and is thus restricted to the northern part of the state.

I have found Pitcherplants in Pinhook and Cowles Bog in the Indiana Dunes National Park, Ropchan Bog (Steuben County) and in marshes at Quog Lake (LaGrange County) and Beaverdam Lake in Pigeon River State Fish and Game Area (La Grange County).

THE PITCHERPLANT never fails to amaze me. It grows a long trap that resembles a slightly inflated balloon. Inside this trap is a quantity of digestive fluid. A fly, mosquito or some other insect is attracted to the sweet nectar secreted on the outside of the trap, and is then led to his doom.

At the mouth of the trap a flap with downward pointing hairs lures the victim onward. The inside of the trap is very colorful and the going is easy. But once down the insect is trapped, for the downward pointing hairs now become a mass of spike-like obstacles that keep the insect from climbing back out.

The Pitcherplant blooms in early summer when it has a pretty dull red flower that grows on a stalk about 24 inches high. The trap or pitcher, heavily veined with red and green, is most attractive.

By HAROLD ALLISON

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Winter reflections -

Winter seems to give me a sincere sense of clarification and renewal. Much of the life of the natural and garden world is sleeping or subsisting upon summer's labor, and that seems to give me time and cause to reevaluate. I came upon a quotation which says it all so well. From Hal Borland's "The Whisper of Winter" -

When I look out upon the world after the first snowfall I always think that it is brand new, another kind of genesis, innocent and waiting for new and better transcriptions. Not only is the clutter and litter of autumn hidden and simplified, but the whole scene of man's argument and confusion is cleansed and made briefly immaculate. All things are possible again. Even wisdom, Even understanding.

It is a splendid season for us of ACRES to reexamine our purposes and our paths; to ask ourselves why we buy a membership, and why we give our precious time. We should so examine ACRES directions that we find more effective ways of preserving, using, enjoying and promoting our natural areas.

The task of preserving natural areas is large. The time is short. None of us now in ACRES will see the task really finished. It is not required that we finish the task, nor that we do it all by ourselves. However, we are not morally free to desist from doing the best we can to accomplish what we can in the time available.

Best wishes upon your reflections.

Bob Weber

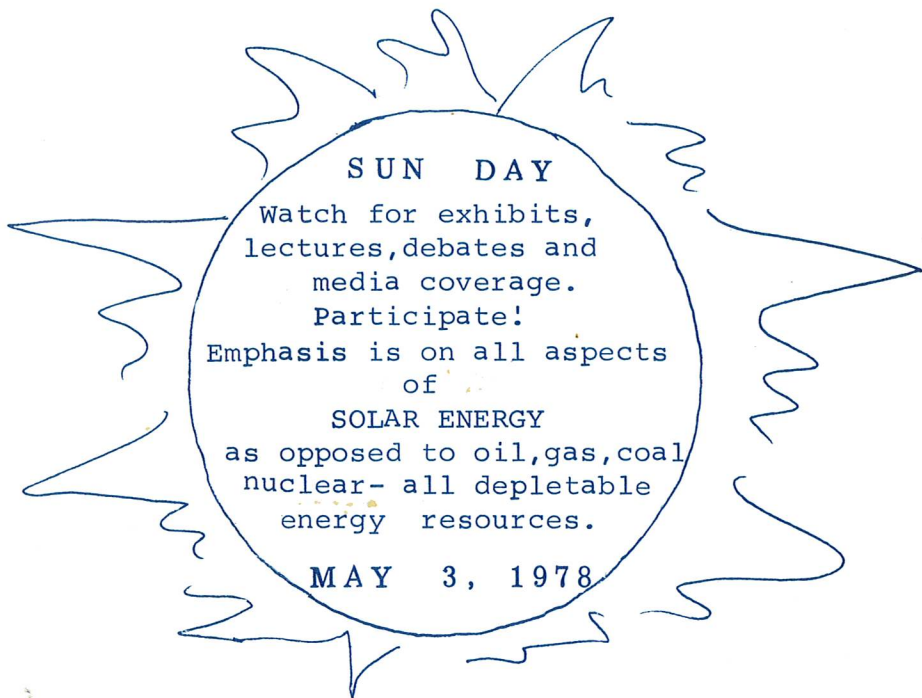
STUDENTS

The Student Conservation Association program of conservation work in the National Parks and Forests has expanded beyond a summer program to include Spring, Fall and Winter, too. Work projects range from Acadia National Park in Maine to the Shenandoah to the Olympic National Park in Washington. Park and Forest Assistants (18 yrs or older) are provided travel, housing and subsistence. Work group volunteers (16 yrs or older) are provided food and shelter and in some cases assistance with travel costs. Obtain application forms & information from:

The Student Conservation Association
Box 550
Charlestown, New Hampshire 03603

Application deadline for Spring is Feb. 1; Summer program is March 1.

Last summer a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) group, sponsored by the regional I.U.-Purdue campus worked on a daily basis at several of the ACRES areas adding skills to their lives and services to our areas. If you would like information on this program and how to apply contact the ACRES office. (637-6264)



WHAT AM I answer Indian Pipe.

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Huntertown, Indiana 46748

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