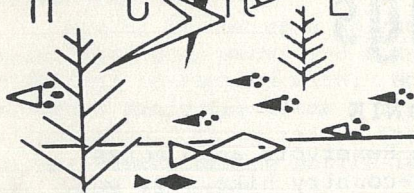


A C R E S

QUARTERLY
WINTER • 1979
Vol. XVIII, No.1



winter meetings

SAT. JAN. 27

WINTER HIKE AT SALAMONIE

Neil Case, Manager of Salamonie Reservoir and ACRES member, will guide us on a cross-country hike. If you want to cross-country ski along with the hikers, bring your skis.

We will lunch indoors to be sure everyone gets thawed out before we decide whether to hit the trail again or call it quits for the day.

In Fort Wayne you may meet to share-the-ride at 8:30 AM at K-Mart West Shopping Center on Illinois Road. (Near intersection of US 24 and Rt.14) Meet at west side of parking area. OR, meet at Salamonie Reservoir office (intersection of Rt. 37 and Rt.124) at 9:30 AM.

Wear Warm Clothes, Bring Lunch and Hot Drink.

7:30 PM

FRI. FEB. 16 at FOX ISLAND NATURE CENTER INDIANS IN THE LITTLE RIVER VALLEY by Duane Lupke

This program will give an overview of the Indian occupancy of the Little Wabash River Valley since the Wisconsin Glacier. Some artifacts will be shown.

ALSO

A SLIDE FEST

Bring from 5 to 10 of your best slides relating to nature or natural areas to share with other ACRES members.

7:30 PM

FRI. MAR. 16 at LaGrange, Indiana Library (High & Spring Sts.) PIGEON RIVER FISH & WILDLIFE AREA THROUGH THE EYES OF A NATURALIST, Presented by Lee Casebere

A slide show will present the varied habitats of the Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area. It will include discussion of Tamarack Bog Nature Preserve (designated a Registered Natural Landmark by the National Park Service). You will see many rare plants, as well as birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Using Satellites To Draw Soil Maps

By NORM BESS

The News-Purdue-Lafayette Bureau

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Within a couple of years researchers at Purdue University will be able to take data passed to earth from a satellite and tell you what kind of soil you have in your back yard.

And if the soil in your neighbor's back yard is different, they'll be able to tell that, too.

If either one of you have crab grass, they will probably know it.

That's only one example of how far the relatively young process of remote sensing will have come when the technique marks its 10th birthday in 1982.

The Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing at Purdue has been a leader in the field of processing and understanding satellite-collected data from the beginning.

In 1972, LARS was chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to analyze the first frame of data returned to earth by the Landsat 1 satellite.

A more sophisticated Landsat 3 was put in orbit 570 miles above the earth last March and Landsat 1 was deactivated. With Landsats 2 and 3 aloft in different positions, each spot on earth, except for certain polar regions, is examined every nine days.

The satellites send back data, which when analyzed by computer,

is valuable to agriculture, forestry, geology, mapping, land use planning, the military and numerous other applications which are yet to be discovered.

Simply put, remote sensing is done by satellite scanners which measure the wavelengths of electromagnetic energy reflected or emitted by objects on the ground. Soil types, various crops and vegetation, geological formations, bodies of water, for example, are identifiable by their wavelengths.

Frank Kirschner, a soil scientist and remote sensing specialist assigned to LARS, explained that the scanners now in use are capable of measuring or averaging the reflected energy from spots on the earth's surface as small as 1.1 acre.

The scanners provide an average "reflectant value" if it happens that the 1.1 acre contains several different energy reflectors such as part of a corn field, a creek and a woods.

Kirschner said this kind of reading falls into a "confusion class" at present but is not a significant problem because conventional mapping is done in 2½ to 3-acre parcels within which such different elements are more identifiable.

Kirschner says even this minor problem should be erased in 1981 when a satellite is to be orbited which will give researchers fine details on an area as small as one-

tenth of an acre.

"That's like a back yard," said Kirschner. "So we'll be getting a lot more information in a few years, and this will open up a whole new ball game in evaluating earth's resources."

He said efforts are already being made to use remotely sensed data as a means of determining where to drill for oil.

An employee of the Federal Soil Conservation Service, Kirschner is at LARS to use Landsat data to map different soils on millions of acres of semiarid Federal land in the western U.S.

He said the Bureau of Land Management needs the soil maps to establish management policies for the mining, forestry and grazing of the Federal lands.

The work will focus initially in Texas, Idaho and Oregon.

Kirschner believes that by using the Landsat data the huge mapping job can be done in a third less time than if it had to be done entirely by soil scientists on the ground.

"We don't say this replaces the man on the ground, but it's an aid to increase the quality and quantity of his work," he said.

He said the satellite can detect soil differences and transition areas from one type to another that could be easily missed by soil scientists simply because of the vastness of the lands to be walked over and surveyed.

"We're talking about some counties as large as 3 million to 4 million acres and that's the size of 10 to 15 counties combined in Indiana," Kirschner said.

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

Tuesday, August 22, 1978

Frank Kirschner served many years on ACRES

Board of Directors. He currently serves on ACRES National Advisory Bd. and has just returned from an assignment in Saudi Arabia.



◀ The photo here is the plant velvet-leaf in an entirely new light — the new light of a wintertime dawn after a hard night's work by the Great Frost God.

Velvet-leaf (*Abutilon Theophrasti*) is a native of India, having found its way to this country sometime since the arrival of the white man. In relatively short time, it has spread throughout much of North America and gained a reputation as a pernicious weed. For the most part, it is not a very attractive plant. It grows three to five feet high and sports a number of large, velvety, heart-shaped leaves, some of which may be nearly a foot across. Beginning in mid-summer, velvet-leaf bears yellow flowers an inch or so in diameter which appear singly in the plants leaf axils. The sensitive leaves succumb to autumn's first frosts, and then all that remains is the leafless stalk bearing spine-rimmed seed pods.

Velvet-leaf is often found on roadsides and in vacant lots. It seems to have a penchant for disturbed ground and therefore thrives in the plowed ground of agricultural fields. It is fond of soybeans as growing companions, probably because it grows taller than the beans giving it ample "elbow" room.

(cont. next page)

Velvet-leaf (cont.)

Winter is now upon us, and with it comes short days, cold temperatures, deep snows and a number of other things which are often difficult to contend with. Nothing is more beautiful, though, than a winter landscape after a freezing rain, a heavy frost, or a wet clingy snow. Those rains, frosts, and snows do not discriminate either, transforming entire landscapes into wonderlands - beans and weeds included.

I recognize the need for soybeans. But on cold winter mornings when I see frost-laced beans and velvet-leaf sharing a field edge left untouched by the combine, my preference for the moment goes without hesitation to the weed.

by Lee A. Casebere



ACRES HAS A BEAUTIFUL NEW 4-COLOR
BROCHURE

SEND FOR ONEGET ONE FOR A FRIEND !

TWO NEW BIRD BOOKS TO ENJOY

ENJOYING INDIANA BIRDS by Alfred (Bud) Starling

Starling, columnist for the Indianapolis Star, writes affectionately and enthusiastically about Indiana's birds.

The reader is not burdened with bird ID detail but shares what the author has sorted and sifted as the most interesting discussions. You will enjoy 300 Indiana birds with beautiful black and white illustrations by Donna L. McCarty. The nice large-size format of the book makes the drawings almost life-size and "frameable". \$17.50, 4% sales tax and \$1.25 handling & post to Indiana University Press, 10th and Morton Sts., Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

by Alice M. Geffen is a complete directory of birding areas east of the Mississippi. State by state the book references National Parks, wildlife refuges and forests; and State parks and nature preserves and Audubon sanctuaries and nature centers.

In the Indiana section, ACRES supporters will be happy to see details on Acres Along the Wabash, Beechwood, Spurgeon, Bender, Ropchan Nature Preserves and The Woodland Bog - all dedicate Indiana Nature Preserves. 20 illustrations by Peter Hayman brighten this interesting directory. \$6.95 paperback; \$15.95 clothbound to Barron's Educational Series, Inc., 113 Crossways Park Dr., Woodbury, New York 11797.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Nan Goldenberg of near Huntington. Nan is a former student at the Fort Wayne School of Art and is doing free-lancing and commercial art at the present time.

INDIANA DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES SETS UP CROOKED LAKE

ADVISORY GROUP

Designed to serve with management liaison for the area between the public and the Department of Natural Resources, the group includes:

Dr. Jim Haddock, Ken Brown and Dr. Bill Davies, all from the biology department Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne who operate the Crooked Lake Biological Station; John and Charlene Snyder, Dave Walter, Patricia McNagny and Jane Dustin, representing the Crooked Lake property owners and ACRES, Inc.

Field trip and work day helpers; area interpretive ideas, trail routes, and aids; encouragement and contact to local school groups to use the area for study - all are needed. Please let the ACRES Secretary know if you can help. Also, don't forget the CROOKED LAKE NATURE PRESERVE EXPANSION FUND for contributions and memorials. Goal: to make the eastern channel wetlands part of the preserve.

ACRES, Inc.

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Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
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FORT WAYNE, IND.
PERMIT NO. 954

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R.R. 1
Grabill, Ind. 46741

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