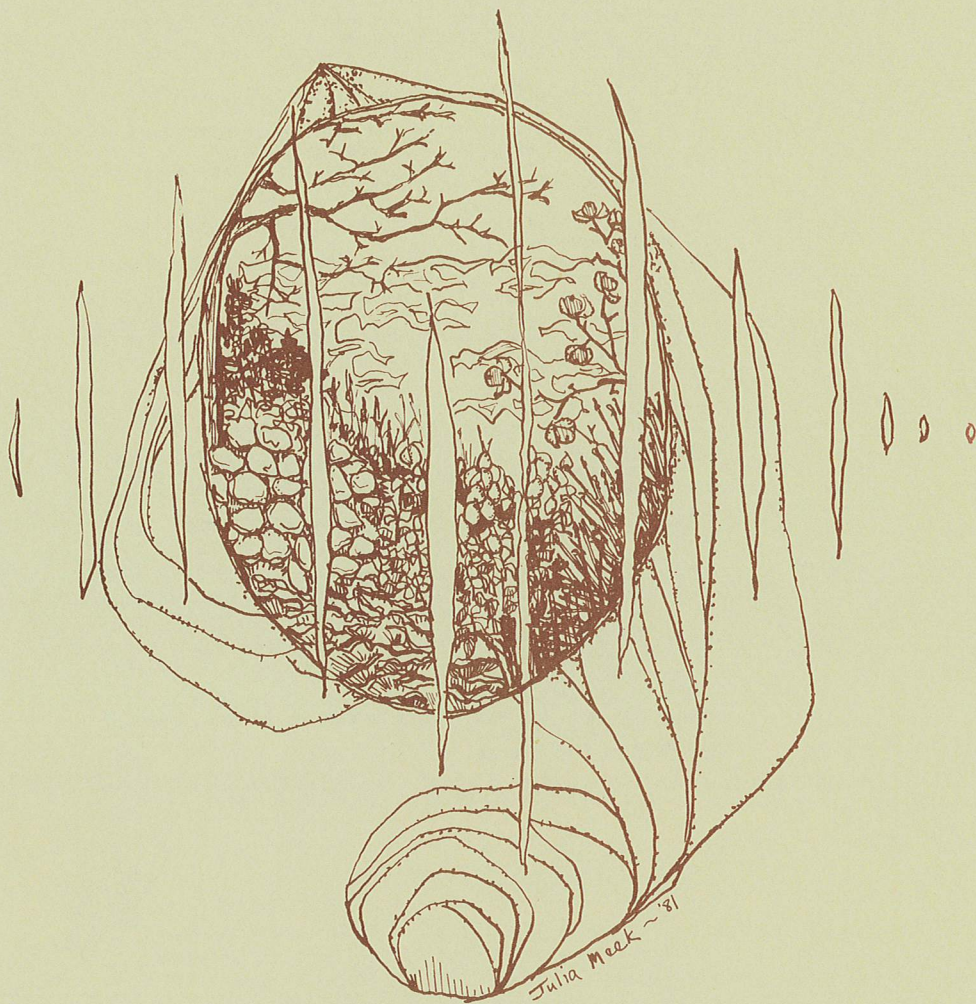


A C R E S

QUARTERLY

FALL • 1981
Vol. XX No. 3



Julia Meek ~ '81



ACRES Fall '81 Calendar

- Sept. 26 -- A hike in the Tamarack Bog Nature Preserve, LaGrange County. This 100 acre area contains the largest stand of tamaracks in Indiana and contains a habitat variety of many uncommon and rare species. Following the hike we will take a canoe trip on the Pigeon River.
Meet: at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area office at 9:30 a.m.
If you have no canoe and wish to go with someone, call 747-4450 and make arrangements.
Bring: Lunch, boots, bug repellent, your own canoe, paddles and life preservers.
- Oct. 17 -- CROOKED LAKE WORK AND DEDICATION DAY with field trips to the new areas.
Meet: at Crooked Lake Preserve Entrance at the Leaman/Stewart House at 9:00 A.M.
Be prepared to: paint, stain, dig holes, tote, carry and bolt preserve markers. Materials will be supplied.
Art and Ed Eberhardt designed and made the routed wooden signs to mark ACRES new areas at:
LEAMAN CEMETERY
PHIL M. McNAGNY TALL TREES MEMORIAL GROVE
DAVID M. WALTER MEMORIAL GROVE
Art and Ed are in charge of Work Day.
Dedication service will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Leaman/Stewart House followed by field trips and float boat rides to the Walter Memorial Grove.
Bring: Lunch, gloves and life preservers
Naturalist in charge: Jim Haddock
- Nov. 7 -- WORK DAY at BENDER MEMORIAL FOREST to:
a) explore and open new trail in the new addition
b) mark the old trail permanently
Meet: at 9:00 A.M. at Golden Dome Bank next door to Bob Evans Restaurant on Coliseum Blvd. (U.S. #30 By-Pass) to share rides, or
Be at Bender area parking lot by 10:00 A.M.
Bring: Lunch, loppers, hedge trimmers, gloves, rakes, shovels, boots.
Ted Heemstra in charge.

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD, RAIN OR SHINE.



NOV. 6

ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting

CONCORDIA SEMINARY MAIN DINING HALL

6:30 P.M.

\$ 7.⁰⁰ a plate

Send or phone reservations by Nov. 3rd to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Andrews
1212 Huestis
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
456-3645
or
747-4450

Special Decorations by Mrs. Martha Seaman and Mrs. Bonnie Wilson

GUEST SPEAKER --- ROBERT A. WHITING

Mr. Whiting is a Naturalist Photographer, retired since 1975 from Jackson Community College, Jackson, Michigan where he taught 39 years in the field of conservation of natural resources, earth science and ornithology. For 25 years he served as Chairman of the Jackson Audubon Club Wildlife Film Program and has developed a large library of colored slides and 16 mm colored motion pictures.

Mr. Whiting's movie talk to ACRES is entitled

"The Four Seasons"

picturing flora and fauna in the state of Michigan.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Julia Meek whose pen and ink is a composite of fungus, bittersweet, reeds and seeds, a "peep hole" view of ACRES northern Indiana natural areas. Julia and Thomas Meek have a silkscreen business called Dandelion Screen Printing & Design, 1414 Broadway, Fort Wayne.

Only two issues: Save the seals and us

— It was lying on the radiator cover in the kitchen in a pile of school papers, under math and ancient civilizations and spelling tests.

The tattered pages belonged to the weekly newsletter that goes out to school children, a publication so cautious that it could barely take a stand in favor of the Ten Commandments. So, too, these words made a bland milkshake of the men running for the presidency.

Still, as I looked at each candidate's picture and brief profile, I saw the words penciled in by children along the margins: "good," "bad," "good," "bad."

Good or bad? How did they know? What were they judging, these young readers of the Casper Milquetoast educational press?

It turned out that the children who marked the paper were two-issue voters. They scanned and underlined the profiles to see how the candidates stood on these matters: (1) the environment and (2) peace.

I smiled to myself. Children! Save the seals, stop the wars. Kids and their ideals. Cute. Naive. Simplistic.

Standing there, I was, of course, an adult — sophisticated, tough-minded, realistic ... and patronizing.

But as I finished cleaning out the papers, I realized that fundamentally they were right. In the deepest sense, there are only these two interwoven issues: peace and the environment. Save the seals and the rest of us. That's the ball game.

Again they made me think. In one way or another we purposely make children the repositories of our ideals. We allow them to hold up the standards we let slip. We encourage them to believe in possibilities the way they believe in Santa Claus.

Kids. They save Pennies To Fight Pollution, take Walkathons Against War, bake Bread for Brotherhood, are told to be charitable and generous and trusting. And then to grow out of it, as if caring were a pair of jeans.

We raise our children with ethical time bombs, built-in disillusionment alarms. We allow them their ideals until they are 14, or 18, or 22. But if they don't let go, we worry about whether they will be able to function in the real world. Whether they are hard-headed, practical enough.

It is all quite mad. We regard toughness as adult. We regard cynicism as grown-up.

Adults KNOW that clean air is all very nice, but it must be balanced against jobs. Adults KNOW that helping others is neat, but it may take away their motivation. Adults KNOW that peace is swell, but you may need annihilation to save your national security. Adults KNOW that war is to be feared, but so is the fear of war.

Adults devour this "realistic" junk food, forgetting that ideals may be far more practical.

In our mid-life world, the environment is soft and business is hard-nosed. Peace is flowers, and war is the crushing artillery. The he-man, in all his redundancy, is our role model of mid-life.

In one way or another, most of our leaders had their left-handedness beaten out of them; most of our powerful whipped themselves into adulthood like G. Gordon Liddy.

So, we watch the president hyperventilate through his press conference, sure that he has done the right thing because it was the hard thing. He has, he would say, grown in his job and turned out more aggressive, less trusting. We call this the process of maturing.

Somewhere we learn that only by conquering our childhood instincts will we be admitted into the realm of adulthood, taken seriously. Those who refuse are forever regarded as childlike, Peter Pans ... soft.

In our most common parenting scenario, we instill ideals into our children, resent it when they challenge us for not living up to them, and then feel reassured when they give ideals up, like sleds or cartoons.

I suppose we make kids the repository of our highest ideals because children are powerless. In that way we can have ideals and ignore them at the same time. We can assuage our conscience and maintain our status quo.

We keep placing our hopes in the next generation, always the next generation. I look at the papers in front of me and smile. Peace and the environment. They call this kid stuff.

By ELLEN GOODMAN
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CHECK AND SEE! RENEW TODAY!

IF THERE IS A CHECK (✓)
BY YOUR NAME ON THE LABEL
YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

A GREAT DEAL OF ACRES PROGRAM —
Quarterly publication, mailings,
land management expenses, & area
maintenance costs are carried
on by your membership support.

DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$1 Student \$2 Senior Citizen
\$5 Regular \$10 Family
\$25 Share-the-expense
\$50 Sustaining
\$100 Patron

*MERRY LEA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, Wolf Lake, Indiana - Larry and Ilse Yoder, who hosted last spring's maple sugar camp visit, have returned to Indiana with their family. Larry is on leave from Ohio State University at Marion, Ohio and has joined the Goshen College staff as director of the Merry Lea Environmental Center.

Larry plans to have the facility ready for cross country skiing this winter. Other plans for the Environmental Center include experimental waste treatment demonstrations; construction and study of a variety of energy alternatives; inovative conservation farming exhibits; establishment of a prairie area as well as interpretive visits to the Center's dedicated Nature Preserve area. Larry promises a maple sugar camp too!

The Merry Lea Environmental Center will have a comprehensive program dealing with stewardship, conservation and preservation of our environment. ACRES looks forward to watching Merry Lea grow and welcomes Larry and Ilse back to Indiana.

*HANGING ROCK is registered as an Indiana Natural Area. In June, the Indiana Natural Areas Registry in recognition of ACRES stewardship and commitment to protect Hanging Rock as an element of Indiana's natural heritage, presented a plaque to ACRES. The Indiana Natural Area Registry is a joint project of Indiana Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy.

ACRES administers the HANGING ROCK NATURAL AREA on a long term lease agreement with the Joseph Swan family of Lagro. The Swans also received a plaque in recognition of their commitment to protect the rock.

The plaque, made of the wood of the tulip tree (Indiana's state tree) states that the owners of Indiana's registered natural areas are committed to: 1. Preserve and protect the area to the best of their abilities. 2. Notify the Nature Conservancy of any threats to the area such as pollution, right-of-way, drainage, etc. 3. Notify the Nature Conservancy of any intent to sell or transfer ownership of the property.

*HELP NEEDED by the Indiana Natural Heritage Program. The Natural Heritage Program is the State's comprehensive information system for compiling and recording natural features of Indiana - rare plants and animals, ecosystems, aquatic habitats and geologic features.

Anthony M. Wilkinson, Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist (one of only three operating the Heritage Program) tells us the zoological aspects of the program are lacking. There are many information gaps. "We have, for example, accumulated very little information on the occurrence of certain amphibians and reptiles; and bird nesting data", says Wilkinson. Lists of reptiles, amphibians, fish, mollusks and crustacean species need data on population stability, habitat, threats, as well as notes on occurrences. Lists of bird species need data on "confirmed" or "high probability" nesting reports.

The ACRES office can supply these species lists and data forms OR contact directly: Anthony M. Wilkinson, Indiana Natural Heritage Program, 612 State Office Bldg. Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.



IN MEMORIAM

On August 14, 1981 ACRES lost a beautiful, courageous member, a lady who was the quiet counterpart, yet firm supporter, of her husband and his active, fruitful efforts to save natural areas in northeastern Indiana. Adeline Ropchan, whose great concern was for human rights, firmly believed that conservation of natural resources; clean water, clean air and preservation of natural lands was a right that today's citizens should have and should work to assure for future generations. Adeline joined ACRES in its infancy and with her husband Sam has given to ACRES two beautiful preserves in Steuben County. Perhaps these words from Gwen Frostic describe Adeline's wishes that came true --

"Let's keep a bit of wildness here

---that those who follow after

May find a sanctuary of peace

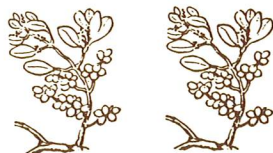
where dreams and peace shall mingle."

.....The scientific method is guesswork, the making up of stories. The difference between this and other imaginative works of the human mind is that science is then obliged to find out whether the guesses are correct, the stories true.The greatest single achievement of science in this most scientifically productive of centuries is the discovery that we are profoundly ignorant; we know very little about nature and we understand even less. Starting with ourselves and the life immediately around us, we have lots of homework to do, lots of pride to swallow, lots more ignorance to face, some of it only sensed out of the corner of the eye.For the long run, if we (human beings) are to have a long run, learning is what we are good at, and if we keep at it long enough we may one day begin to pay our way.

Excerpted from summer The Amicus Journal article by Lewis Thomas, chaceor of Memorial Sloan Cancer Center

WHAT IS MISTLETOE?

What is mistletoe, apart from the Christmas plant with the dubious honor of being hung over the doorway as a kissing trap for friends and lovers?



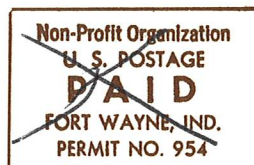
In the botanical world, mistletoe is classified as an ever-green parasitic shrub. It grows high on the branches of its host tree, tapping it with root-like growths for water and minerals while manufacturing some food in its green leaves. Bearing yellow flowers and white berries, the common American Mistletoe (*Phorodendron flavescens*) is found from New Jersey to Florida, Texas, and New Mexico and grows on a variety of deciduous trees--ash, oak, maple, pecan, sweet gum, cottonwood, etc. The word mistletoe is derived from the old Saxon mistl-tan, meaning a "different twig." The scientific name is equally if not more descriptive, since *Phorodendron*, from the Greek, means "tree thief." The parasite mistletoe is rebuked for stealing the life-giving fluids of the tree on which it grows.

Although it is said that parasites do not kill their hosts (for that would mean death to themselves also), it is obvious that a tree can support a limited number of mistletoe plants, and so there are regions where mistletoe is a detested pest to foresters. Dwarf mistletoe, for example, found from Newfoundland to Connecticut and as far west as Michigan, lives on conifers and is responsible for straggling growths known as "witches brooms."

Mistletoe is found in Europe, Africa, Japan, and other widely scattered countries--there are 500 species in all. West Australia has a giant known as the Christmas Tree because of the shining yellow and orange flowers it bears at that season, while Ecuador boasts of a mistletoe whose red and orange flowers attract nine species of hummingbirds. One dwarf mistletoe has the ability to shoot its seeds 17 feet up into the air in an unusually vigorous dispersal mechanism.

Robins, Mockingbirds, and Cedar Waxwings eat the berries of the common American Mistletoe, scattering the seeds either by wiping them off on the branch as they eat, or through their droppings later. A seed which falls to even the most fertile ground will not germinate, so completely has the mistletoe adapted to its tree life.

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