

A C R E S



QUARTERLY

WINTER. 1981
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By Roy Edward Sexton



Animals in the wintertime ^{By} Roy Sexton

Animal creatures of the forest deep
They croak and chatter and sing and peep.
They run and hop and jump and leap.
Then they sleep and sleep and sleep.
They don't wear mittens or stocking caps
But sense they are such friendly chaps
Let's give them food, water, seeds, and a
 acorn
So in the spring other animals will get
 born.

QUARTERLY COVER ART AND POEM are by Roy Sexton, second grader at Indian Village School, Fort Wayne. Son of Don & Susan Sexton, Roy is very fond of animals and he loves to read and write. Roy's illustrated story "Me, Animals and the World and Sanitary Air" won a prize in the State's PTA Cultural Arts Contest last year.

AUDUBON DATES - - - - - Trinity Hall, St. Francis
College, 2701 Spring St., Ft. Wayne
FEBRUARY 1, 2PM NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD
SOCIETY PROGRAM - slides
MARCH 1, 2PM SLIDE FEST - bring and
share 5-10 of your slides
WELCOME

WINTER DATES february 22

FILMS - WITH THE FORT WAYNE ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

NAPOLEON & SAMANTHA - A lion named "Major"
and two run-away children.

THE LAST CHANCE - from the National Zoo, a
positive course of action for endangered
species.

BRING: Friends & Family
Your ACRES membership card

PLACE: NORTHROP HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

TIME: 2 PM

march 15

SUGARING FIELD TRIP ~ Loyal Yoder Farm ~

Sugarbush host is Dr. Larry Yoder, Professor
at Marion, O. campus Ohio State University who
takes his spring break to run the maple sugar
camp on his father's farm in Allen County, In.

Learn about tapping, spiles and boiling
off! Be prepared to hike~

MEET: 12:30 PM - Parking area N. of
Freiman Sq. (entry off Clinton) to
Share-the-ride.

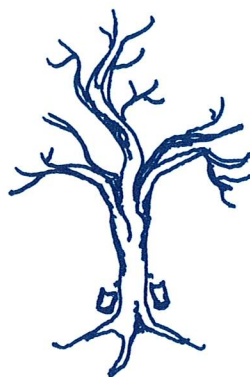
~ or ~

MEET: 1:00 PM - Parking area at Ft.
Wayne Chapter Izaak Walton Lg.,
Hollopeter & Griffin Rds. - next to
Girl Scout Camp McMillen.

BRING: Waterproof footwear for hiking and
warm clothes.

In-Charge - Jane Dustin 637-6264

Special treat - Pancakes from the outside griddle with
fresh, hot maple syrup!



CRACK-DOWN ON WOOD THIEVES

If you ask the state's woodland owners and forest managers what is the biggest hazzard they see with the increase in wood burning stoves and furnaces, you won't get the environmental answers of "creosote accumulation" or "increased air particulates". What you'll hear as the biggest hazzard is, "theft", "stealing", "wood poaching"!!

The steadfast rule of "no entry on private property without permission" falls on deaf ears. Nature Preserve postings saying, "Everything Is Protected" or "Wildlife Area" are being ignored. Posted state and federal lands are interpreted as areas without management rules and open free-for-alls. Prevailing are very erroneous notions that wood, dead or alive, wherever you find it is fair game. It is being poached directly for use by stove owners and stolen to be cut-up and sold to others for a fee.

But the crackdown on wood thieves is "ON" and the charges of "Timber Theft", "Criminal Trespass" and suits for damages in the thousands of dollars should begin to deter anyone entertaining a quick-cut of someone else's woodlot.

As a fellow guardian of Nature Preserve lands, your watchful help is needed!

REPORT IMMEDIATELY the license number and/or description of the wood cutters, recording time, place and damage.

REPORT FIRST TO THE CONSERVATION OFFICER IN YOUR COUNTY - be prepared to meet him, help him file and appear as witness and press charges.

NOTE: In most instances ACRES areas are State Nature Preserves and the Conservation Officer can act on his own if he witnesses the episode. But the Conservation Officer cannot be everywhere at once and your help is needed to report, and your willingness to witness and help press charges is required.

Listed below are the Officers and how to reach them in the Counties where ACRES areas are located:

Allen County - Dean Jenkins - 747-7370 or 423-3631
Steuben County - Scott Charters - 833-1327 or 665-3131
Noble County - Gary Bontrager - 897-2224 or 636-7596
Wells County - Carl Hepler - 824-0895 or 824-3320
Whitley County - Robert Schrader - 248-2143 or 244 3121
District Sgt. Merl Moss 693-2215 or 423-3631

These same procedures should be followed for reporting hunting, trapping, fires, dumping, running dogs and entry with motorized vehicles on Nature Preserve lands.

We are ALL guardians of our Nature Preserves and our State and Federal lands - they belong to us all and no one must abuse that trust.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SNOWFLEA?

When I was a child my mother said, "Don't eat snow. There are bugs in it." At that age I believed that she was just trying to scare me. If she had called them snowfleas, I would have believed her even less.

Over 50 years later I first saw a snowflea. Actually that was when I first saw thousands of them. I had posed my wife for a winter snow scene photograph near a tree that had fallen some months earlier. Suddenly she called, "They are moving. Come here. Look!"

I looked but at first did not see anything except many black specks on the white snow. Was she kidding? Then I looked closer. Thousands of black specks were jumping wildly on the white snow.

My mother was right. The clean white snow had tiny insects. My memory took me back over 50 years to when my mother said, "Don't eat the snow".

When we returned from the woods, I told my mother what we had seen. She showed me a 1975 newspaper story entitled "Fleas Dancing on Snowdrifts" written by my friend, Area DNR Wildlife Manager Leroy Lintereur. I phoned Leroy and he referred me to a book, "The Study of Insects".

I learned that snowfleas, commonly called springtails, are of the order Collembola, species Achorutes nivicola. "The Study of Insects" says, "They are common under stones and decayed leaves and wood, in chinks and crevices of bark, among moss and on herbage in damp places".

Because they are so small you may not see springtails at all unless you look at the black specks jumping on the surface of the snow near the base of a tree on a warm day of late winter. Fox Island Park is a good place to look for snowfleas as are most of the ACRES nature preserve areas.



SNOWFLEA

If you look carefully on the snow around the base of a tree, you may see many or a few black specks about 1/16 to 1/8 inch long. Through a close-up camera lens or a magnifying lens you will see a tiny gun-metal blue creature with eyes that look right up at you. Just about the time that you get your camera in focused position to snap a picture the tiny insect will jump out of lens range, perhaps 3 or 4 inches. If you position your camera quickly and shoot, you can get a good close-up.



SNOWFLEA'S
SPRING

On the underside of a springtail's rear abdominal segment is a forked appendage. When the insect is at rest, this is hinged forward underneath the body and held under tension by a catch on the third abdominal segment. When a springtail decides to move, it releases its catch and springs backward like a triggered inverted mouse-trap. The motion is somewhat like jumping off a springboard, only the springtail carries its springboard with it. This tiny insect has 6 underdeveloped legs, but with a highly developed springboard capable of moving it over 50 times its body length, who needs legs?

Snowfleas, as tiny as they are, nevertheless are an important part of nature's food chain. They recycle decaying vegetation and thus play an ecological part in building soil fertility. Their life work is one of nature's free benefits to man.

They are called snowfleas because they are flea size and may be seen on the snow. They are not found on animals or man. They may sometimes fall or jump into maple sap buckets and thus be a nuisance in maple syrup camps.

Look for the fleas dancing on snowdrifts. You may enjoy watching snowfleas dancing a buggy ballet on the snow.

written by William C. Bloch
art by Ethyle R. Bloch

ACRES LIBRARY is now located at Fox Island's new Educational Building (adjoining the Nature Center building). Our library has been "library scienced" with books from other conservation groups. An ACRES member with current membership card may borrow certain books marked for lending from this environmental library. ACRES still accepts book donations through the ACRES office. After acknowledgement of book donations and cataloging, books will become part of the Fox Island Library.

ACRES PRESIDENT BOB WEBER steps down after eight years service. Under Bob's able leadership, ACRES added eight natural areas : ACRES ALONG THE WABASH, MENGERSON NATURE PRESERVE, FOXFIRE WOODS, ROPCHAN MEMORIAL NATURE PRESERVE, FOGWELL FOREST NATURE PRESERVE, MAUMEE RIVER OVERLOOK, ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE, RALPH F. GATES NATURE PRESERVE. During Bob's tenure, ACRES also assisted in the completion of Olin Lake Nature Preserve, Crooked Lake Nature Preserve and Laketon Bog Nature Preserve, all in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves. Also completed in 1980 was the funding campaign to complete the preservation of LONIDAW.

Bob, a charter and founding member of ACRES, will remain on the ACRES Board of Directors for another three year term.

Re-elected to three year Board terms in December's election were Art Eberhardt, John Waldrop, Ed Eberhardt, and newly elected to serve a three year term is Larry Bieberich, R.R.8, Box 211, Decatur, In.

TWO ADDITIONS TO ACRES NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD - Dr. John W. Klotz and Dr. Robert H. Cooper accept positions. Klotz, ACRES founder and charter member and ACRES President for its first ten years, is Professor of Natural Sciences with Concordia Theological Seminary. John was well known for his bi-weekly column "Of Bogs and Logs" published in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette from 1962 to 1974.

Robert Cooper is Professor Emeritus of Biology, Ball State University where he headed the Department from 1960 to 1965. The 30-Acre "Esther L. and Robert H. Cooper Woodland Area" was established by a gift of the Coopers to the University for Biological Research. For twelve years, Cooper led ecology trips to Hawaii, Alaska, the Pacific northwest and once, around the world.



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LONIDAW FUND RAISING COMPLETED - Thanks to the very capable, efficient Kay Hough and her Committee, beautiful LONIDAW is saved! ACRES is deeply grateful to the Cole Foundation for its \$15,000 contribution and to the Byer Foundation for its \$10,000 contribution. The balance of the \$30,000 needed to purchase LONIDAW came from ACRES friends, primarily individuals and businesses in the Kendallville community.

The LONIDAW SCRAPBOOK compiled by Kay Hough for the fund raising project will go to the Kendallville Library.

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SEVEN ACRES of the ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE, south of Fremont, in Steuben County, has been dedicated into Indiana's Nature Preserve System. Over eighty acres of the Refuge area, including the lake and marshlands, has become part of Indiana's Wetland Conservation Program. This wonderful natural area, gift of Sam and Adeline Ropchan, with its variety of upland Nature Preserve and lowland Wetland habitats is managed for permanent preservation under the joint stewardship of ACRES and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Also accomplished in 1980, for the benefit of this area, was a Court agreement of water elevation for the lake and drain management stipulations. Work on completing a trail loop will be undertaken this year.

Nellie (Schlemmer) Bender, 85, died at 3 PM Friday, November 14 in the Strawberry Village Health Care Center, Ligonier. Nellie married Carl Schlemmer in 1917 and had eight children. She was married to Lloyd W. Bender in 1976 and lived at Lloyd's home along the Elkhart River South Branch until Lloyd's death July 4, 1979.

ACRES member Eva Claphan faithfully recorded Nellie's poems, one of which she read for the "grace" at ACRES November 14 Annual Dinner. ACRES member Bernice Brady typed the poems and ACRES reproduced a "Nellie" poem book for family and friends.

In fond memory of both Lloyd and Nellie, ACRES carefully stewards the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest Nature Preserve, a gift from Lloyd to ACRES in 1966.

Dead leaves blow across my window
in random patterns and shapes....
dead leaves that were once green
with life in spring.
Dead leaves against gray gloomy skies
cold winds prevail....
while yesterday the warmth of summer
lingered in memories.

I see in my mind's eye
green trees and wildflowers...
whispers of spring
in dreary March.

Kathryn Moore

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DIRECTORS: Robert C. Weber, President; James M. Barrett III, Vice President; Ted Heemstra, Vice President; Ethyle R. Bloch, Vice President; Jane Dustin, Secretary; John W. Waldrop, Treasurer; Lee A. Casebere; Patricia Pichon; Kay Hough; Arthur Eberhardt; John Ellenwood; James D. Haddock; Jay R. Hammel; Sam Ropchan; George Swager; William C. Bloch; Duane Lupke; Edward H. Eberhardt. RECORDING SECRETARY: Marion Eberhardt NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD: Howard Michaud, Dr. Alton A. Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durward L. Allen, Dr. Lyton 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 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, Huntertown, Ind.