



QUARTERLY

SPRING • 1983
Vol. XXII No. 2





Dear Sirs:

Order is being placed for Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) Please send this your thoughts and love to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington.

Kristin Ray
Room 206- Mead School
241 17th Ave. S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
54991

P.S. Purple loosestrife is invading some of our wetlands in WI!

Acres, Inc.
1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntstown, Indiana
46788

ACRES ANSWERS MAIL :

4th Graders- Room 206
Mead School
241 17th Avenue S.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 55404

Dear Fourth Graders,

We enjoyed the postcard you sent us very much and are glad that you have an interest in nature. I have enclosed some information on ACRES, Inc., a nonprofit organization that works to preserve natural areas for future generations to enjoy. I have also enclosed a Wetlands booklet. Purple Loosestrife is on page 13.

Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) grows along the edges of lakes and swamps. Like Cattails, it slowly fills in sections of marshy areas. Loosestrife has numerous purple flowers that grow on long, slender spikes. The showy plant blooms in July and August. The leaves are opposite or in 3's, and are heart-shaped at their base. The name Lythrum means "blood from wounds" and may be a reference to the plant's purple flowers or its bright red leaves in the fall. The species name, salicaria, means "willowlike" and refers to the shape of Loosestrife leaves.

If you look closely at the plant, you will see it has a hexagonal main stem, and the side branches are square. The branches grow in whorls (3 or more branches radiating from a single point) of 3 off the main stem. The flowers grow together with two or three flowers in a cluster. The blossoms have 6-petals and the plants grow 2-4 feet. That's quite a bit of math for one plant.

Purple Loosestrife is an alien, meaning it is not a native to this area. The plant is a native of Europe and the seeds came over with the sailing ships. It has rapidly spread westward and is now abundant in Minnesota, Quebec, Missouri, Ohio, and Virginia. Like Crabgrass, Queen Anne's Lace, Water Hyacinth, or any of the many other plants brought from other countries to America, Purple Loosestrife is aggressive and tends to displace other native plants. This makes it an undesirable, though beautiful, plant. The ducks, muskrats, and other wildlife cannot use Purple Loosestrife for food and shelter, and it crowds out native plants that the animals could use.

I hope this will answer some of your questions. Every plant and animal has its own fascinating story, and it makes nature much more meaningful to know something about its creatures.

Carolyn McNagny



FLOWER

PURPLE
LOOSESTRIFE

THE WETLANDS INVENTORY

The wetlands of Indiana have been disappearing at an alarming rate. Thousands of acres are filled in or drained every year. In a last ditch effort to save these lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is compiling data on the types and numbers of acres left.

This is being accomplished by the U.S. Geologic Survey team working with the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force is upgrading their topographic maps, and in an unusual partnership, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is also having color infra-red photographs taken to pinpoint remaining wetlands. The infra-red pictures measure the amount of heat given off from the photosynthetic process. The infra-red pictures even pick up the heat from the submerged aquatic plants in lakes.

The pictures are very detailed, with each picture measuring only a few hundred feet. The pictures are flown to St. Petersburg, Florida, where they are interpreted. Maps, showing the wetlands delineated, are hand drawn from the data gathered. The maps are drawn to fit right over the topographic maps, with the wetlands surrounded by a solid line and a key describing the various kinds of wetlands.

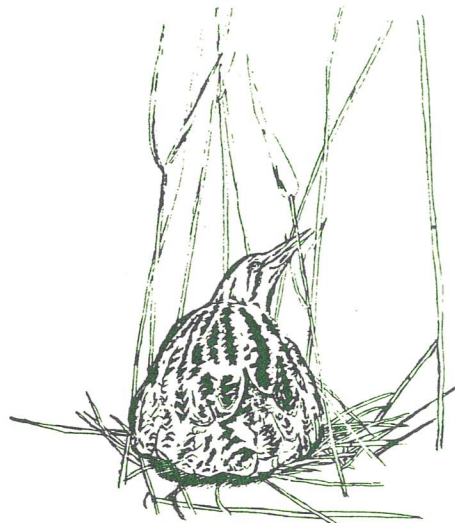
One-third of Indiana has been photographed. Due to the high cost of these pictures, each one can cost over \$400.00. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife would greatly appreciate contributions. The money is tax deductible and the contributions will be matched 50-50. It is estimated that another \$35,000 is needed to complete the project.

This work is very important, and due to the rate at which the wetlands are disappearing, it is important to finish it soon. When the maps are finished, the areas to be protected will be better defined, and other work can begin to help preserve this unique and important part of our environment. The first step is to get some idea of what is left and classify these areas, making us better able to fight to save the wetlands.

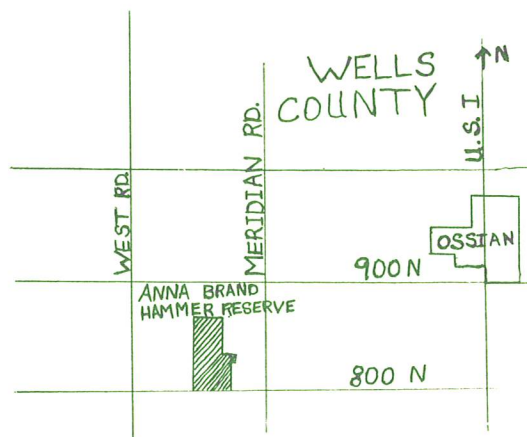
If you would like an example of these maps, they are available free through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The address is:
Regional Office
Federal Building
Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minn. 55111

HELP FINISH THE INVENTORY

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME
Make payable to: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Send to: USFWS
Bloomington Field Off.
718 N. Walnut
Bloomington, IN 47401
Add note: "For Wetland Inventory"



A MOST FASCINATING SEED & PLANT CATALOG- - Aquatic plants like wapato, burreed, coontail, waterlily; upland ground covers like birdsfoot trefoil, crownvetch, bulrush, flax - food and cover plantings for wildlife. Send for Catalog to: Kester's Wild Game Food Nurseries, Inc. Ormo, Wisc. 54963.



ACRES has received a wonderful new area, THE ANNA BRAND HAMMER RESERVE, a gift of Arthur W. Hammer, Fort Wayne. Located in Union Township, Wells County, the 20 acre area consists of 13.7 acres of gently rolling mixed hardwood forest and 6.3 acres of swail and recuperating field. Wildflowers abound and inspired the ACRES Quarterly cover artist and will display for us on our APRIL 16 FIELD TRIP-WORK DAY AT THE ANNA BRAND HAMMER RESERVE. (see details in Springtime Events)

Art Hammer will be there too, to meet us and help us plant a mixed variety of hardwood seedlings and selected conifers on the recuperating field portion of the Reserve.

Join in the celebration of this new area! Celebrate by helping plant. ACRES is hopeful that local children will help plant the new trees and can enjoy watching the woods grow and be there when they, themselves grow up!

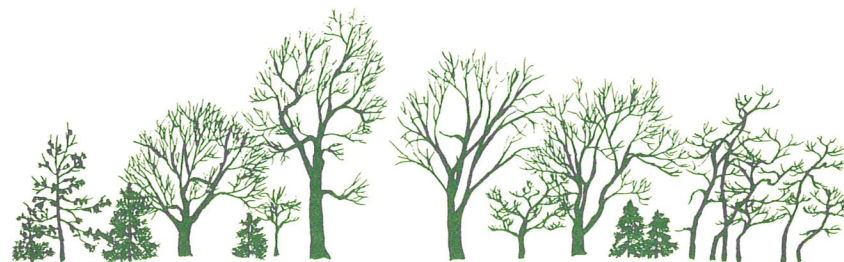
*****HELP WANTED*****

ACRES and the State Division of Nature Preserves are starting an inventory of the plant and animal species found in their various preserves. We are asking your help in making these lists. Please, whenever you visit an ACRES area or a state preserve in NE Indiana, we would appreciate obtaining any of the following information:

- date and names of the persons visiting the area
- name and approximate number of wildflowers blooming
- name and approximate number of birds or animals observed, especially evidence of nesting or breeding pairs
- any "uncommon" plants observed - identified by scientific name, together with habitat, stage of growth, etc.
- lower order animals (insects, clams, etc.) identified by scientific name, also habitat, etc.; we are especially interested in butterflies and the host plants of their larvae
- any other information that would be helpful in the management of the areas and which will help us record the changes, or lack of change, which occur in our preserves over the years.

Any information you have or obtain in the future should be sent to ACRES, Inc. at 1802 Chapman Road.

LOOK FOR THE NONGAME WILDLIFE CHECKOFF ON YOUR INDIANA TAX FORMS!



ACRES NEWS AND NOTES

January 16 - Ropchan Wildlife Refuge

Even though Mother Nature was a little stingy with the snow, Tim McNitt led 26 people on a tour of animal tracks and signs. Some of the tracks found in the light snow were: mouse and/or shrew, rabbit, deer, squirrel, and fox. The lack of deep snow helped in the discovery of other animal signs. There were bird and worm nests, middens (food refuse), a raccoon skull, deer browsing, etc. Tim, who is a biology major at IPFW, also gave an interesting talk on insect galls and pointed out several examples of them.

January 30 - Ropchan Memorial Reserve

Fifteen people ventured out on a cold, windy, and wet Sunday afternoon to follow Pat Bolman and Bob Weber on a hunt for mosses and lichens. Four mosses were found and identified: fern moss, haircap moss, tree moss, and sphagnum. Bob also pointed out two of the three types of lichens, crustose and foliose, and spoke about their life cycles. No example of the third type, fructose, was found. Many other interesting plants were observed, including a large yellow birch. Perhaps the most fun of the day was walking on the ice in the swampy section, especially where the ice was colored green from duckweed.

February 13 - Mengerson

A beautiful day brought ten people to Mengerson to hunt winter birds with Ted Heemstra (binoculars, not guns). Several normal winter residents were found, including: red-bellied woodpecker, brown creeper, nuthatches, cardinals, and a probable identification of purple finch. Naturally the snow conditions in the wooded section were much better for tracking than they had been earlier at Ropchan, so we tried to apply what we had learned from Tim, with mixed success.

February 27 - Bender Preserve

An unbelievably pretty February afternoon brought 22 people to Bender to study the colors and shapes of a woods in winter. Judy Esterline and Doug Rood helped point out the various "finds" of the day. Some of the colors observed involved tree bark (the sycamores being almost completely white), seed pods, and various plant remains. Green mosses and lichens were also found, along with a running ground pine plant (a fern ally rather than a moss). Slime molds and mushrooms of various colors were also found. The most intriguing plant of the day was Judy's "mystery plant", which hopefully can be identified when its leaves return.

Larry Bieberich

CROOKED LAKE NATURE PRESERVE - The 128 year old Stewart/Lehman house at the Nature Preserve is being restored. The house is on the National Registry of Historic Places and will have restoration complete and be ready for occupancy by August. It will house the family of Rich Dunbar who is a Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves employee.

ACRES

SPRINGTIME EVENTS

TWO NEW ACRES AREAS

WORK DAY At the ANNA BRAND HAMMER RESERVE
MEET: AM
WILDFLOWER 9:00 W. side Rogers Market, Rt 1 at
Waynedale
FIELD TRIP 9:30 at Hammer Reserve (see map
on Page 3) SW Ossian
In-Charge: Bob Weber, Jay Hammel,
Art Hammer
BRING: Lunch
(Drink and cookies provided)
Planting tools: bucket or pale, trench
or narrow bladed spade, small shovel
work gloves.

APRIL
16

CELEBRATE SPRING

NATURAL HISTORY To the SEVEN PILLARS OF THE
& MISSISSINewa
HISTORY BUFFS PERU, INDIANA & VICINITY
MEET: AM
FIELD TRIP 9:00 at Park West Shopping Center
on US 24 at west side of center OR
go direct to Court House in Peru
(meet at front door) located at CourtSt.
and old US 24.

MAY
7

BRING: Lunch
In-Charge:
Judy Esterline
Jerry Wise

After touring the Historical Museum, we'll
drive The Francis Slocum Trail to SEVEN
PILLARS area for lunch and historical
background talk.
After lunch -
visit the Circus Museum



APRIL 23 (SATURDAY) YOU ARE INVITED TO HEAR PAPERS AND FIELD TRIP WITH
THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE - TWO CHOICES

- | | |
|---|--|
| I. 8:30 AM IU-PU Campus
Room 116, Classroom Medical Bldg.
Archaeology | II. 9:30 Crooked Lake Biological
Station
Visit to Nature Preserve
Lunch at Wolf Lake
Visit to Merry Lea Environ-
mental Learning Center |
| 10:00 AM Visit archaeological
site at Fox Island | |

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST Sarah Smith, Garrett, is a DePauw Univ. graduate in psychology and artist by hobby. Sarah has worked for the National Park Service at Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota and at Glacier National Park in Montana. Her pen and ink drawing of BLOODROOT is a tribute to the new ACRES' area near Ossian, THE ANNA BRAND HAMMER RESERVE.

SPRING

MEMBERSHIP TIME

Your membership card is attached.
Select the membership category and remit to:

ACRES, INC.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

You fill in the membership card
and keep it. Return the address
portion with your remittance in
the return envelope provided.

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



Add your support to acquiring and
preserving natural areas in north-
eastern Indiana. JOIN NOW

APRIL 30
MAY 1

NATURAL
AREAS
CONFERENCE

Join with Indiana Academy of Science, State Nature
Preserves Division and others for the
Southern Indiana Natural Areas Conference
and Field Day
at Mitchell, Indiana

If interested, fill in the pre-registration form
and return to Div. of Nature Preserves by April 15

FIELD
TRIPS

Registration on April 30 is at 8:00 a.m. Presenta-
tions will be given in the morning and field trips
will be offered in the afternoon. ALL FIELD TRIPS
VERY INTERESTING - you can't go wrong.

SPRING MILL STATE PARK is recommended for overnite - Inn, Cabins, Camp
Write Box 376, Mitchell, IN 47446 or call: 812-849-4129

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
(Return by April 15)

NAME _____ Saturday Field Trip Preference
(Mark 1st, 2nd, 3rd)
ADDRESS _____ A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____ E. _____ F. _____ G. _____ H. _____
Sunday Field Trip Preference
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
TELEPHONE _____

AFFILIATION _____

Mail to:

Division of Nature Preserves
601 State Office Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317/232-4052

Yes, I would like catered lunch.

Enclosed is my check for \$3.78

payable to Red Rooster Smorgasboard.

No, I do not wish catered lunch.

☐ Please send me Conference
flyer.



TRAIL GUIDES NEEDED AT FOX ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE

Be a V.I.P. - Volunteer in the Park. Enjoy nature and the out-of-doors. ATTEND THE SPRING WORKSHOP APRIL 9th & 10th AT FOX ISLAND. Be willing to share your enthusiasm and knowledge with organized groups on trails. Vera Dulin, Trail Guide Chairman 432-3000 Pat Bolman, Naturalist 747-7846

CHARLES C. DEAM WILDERNESS

APRIL 16 DEDICATION SET FOR DEAM WILDERNESS - Indiana has a Wilderness Area!! After almost ten years of debate over the issue, a bill creating the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area in the Hoosier National Forest was signed into law by President Reagan on December 22, 1982.

The area includes land north and south of Tower Ridge Road and is bordered on the west by State Road #446 and includes 12,953 acres of the Hoosier National Forest unit south of Lake Monroe.

Wilderness designation means timber harvesting and the use of motorized vehicles (except in emergencies) will not be allowed in the area. Other uses such as hiking, camping, hunting and horseback riding will continue to be allowed, as in the past.

The dedication ceremony is planned as a full day program of hikes with dedication set for 1 PM with speakers including U.S. Senators Richard Lugar, Dan Quayle; U.S. Representatives Lee Hamilton, John Seiberling, former Indiana Representative Joel Deckard; Indiana Governor Robert Orr; and Hoosier National Forest Supervisor Harold Godlevske.

Sponsors of the program are the Wilderness Coalition in Indiana, the Sierra Club, the Sassafras Audubon Society, the Izaak Walton League, the Friends of the Earth and the League of Women Voters.

ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

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