



QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1983

Vol. XXII No. 1



1983

Winter Wanderings in Acres Wonderlands

Sunday

JAN. 16:



WINTER ANIMAL SIGNS at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge to discover the tracks, homes, habits of wild animals.

Meet: at the Golden Dome Bank on Coliseum Blvd. at 12:30 p.m. or go directly to Refuge.

Naturalist: Tim McNitt

Sunday

JAN. 30:



WINTER PLANTS at Ropchan Memorial Reserve; learn to identify mosses, lichens, seeds, pods

Meet: at the Golden Dome Bank on Coliseum Blvd. at 12:30 p.m. or go directly to Refuge.

Naturalists: Bob Weber and Pat Bolman

Sunday

FEB. 13:



WINTER BIRDS at Mengerson Reserve. Bring your binoculars and see how many birds you can identify.

Meet at the entrance to Mengerson Reserve at 1:00 p.m.

Bird Specialist: Ted Heemstra

Sunday

FEB. 27:



WINTER LANDSCAPE at the Bender Memorial Forest. Read the landscape to see shapes, colors of plants and trees in the winter.

Meet: at old Fortmeyers on U.S. #33 and Washinton Center Road at 12:30 p.m. or go direct to Bender Woods

Guide: Judy Esterline and Doug Rood



Sunday

MARCH 13/20

2:00 PM

ILLUSTRATED TOUR OF INDIANA NATURE PRESERVES

by Lee Casebere, Asst. Dir.

Division of Nature Preserves

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

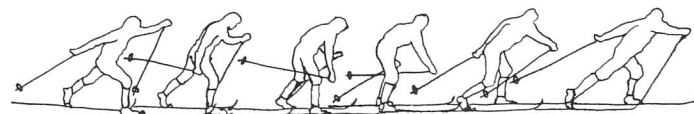
AUDITORIUM OF FORT WAYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

900 Webster Street

- All hikes will last approximately 2 hours time. Dress warmly and wear boots. Events will be held unless an emergency weather condition exists.



QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Betty Oettel, Fort Wayne artist and printmaker. Betty teaches art at three schools in the East Noble County School Corp. Cover art is an etching of a favorite year-round resident of the Cedar Creek valley where Oettel's live. Inside Quarterly art by Ethyle Bloch and Carolyn McNagny.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Merry Lea - Open Sat. 9-6 and Sun. 1-6 from now to Feb. 20. Trail fee is \$1.50, waived for Friends of Merry Lea. Ski Rental is \$3.50 a 1/2 day and \$6.00 a day. The trails are mowed, so only need a 2 or 3 inch snow base.

Directions: Take U.S. 30 to Wolf Lake, then State Rd. 109 South for 1/2 m., take first blacktop road to right to Kesling Farm. For more information call (219) 799-5869

Fox Island - Open Mon. through Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-5. Ski Rental is \$3.00 an hour, if not renting equipment--\$.50¢ a day. Need 4-6" of snow. Several trails ranging from easy to difficult.

Directions: Take I-69 South, get off at 24 West and quickly turn left onto Ellison Road, take 2 m., left side of the road. For more information call (219) 747-7846

Spring Creek - Open all week from 8 a.m. to dusk. No Ski Rental. Costs \$1.50 per day, with yearly membership \$5.00, and \$15.00 for families. Have advanced course of 4 m., mostly wooded.

Directions: Take U.S. 30 for 5 1/2 miles past Columbia City, on left side of road. For more information call (219) 327-3484

Chain O' Lakes State Park - Ski Rental available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Ski Rental is \$2.00 per hour, with each additional 1/2 hr. costing \$1.00. Have 2 trails---easy (3/4 mile) and advanced (2 3/4 miles).

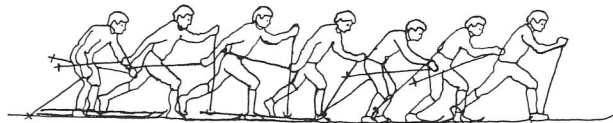
Directions: Take U.S. 30 to 9, North 10 miles. For more information call (219) 636-2654

Ouabache State Park - Ski Rental available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Ski Rental is \$2.00 per hour, with each additional 1/2 hour costing \$1.00. Have moderate course of 2 1/2 mile and an easy course of 1 1/3 mile.

Directions: Located 6 miles East of Bluffton on Ind. 216. For more information call (219) 824-0926

Pokagon State Park - Ski Rental available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. all week. Ski Rental is \$2.00 an hour, with each additional 1/2 hr. costing \$1.00. Have 2 trails---easy (1 mile) and moderate (4 m.)

Directions: Located on Highway 27 and 69, South of I-80 and I-90 For more information call (219) 833-2012



Persons with their own ski equipment may ski on any hiking trails in the State Parks. A minimum base of 4-6" is required before Ski Rental operations open. Individual parks should be contacted for local snow conditions. Trail condition reports are available 24 hours a day, all week by calling (317) 232-4002 (not a toll-free number).

* Special groups can reserve ski equipment during the week by contacting the State Parks at least 24 hours in advance. Persons under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Detailed maps of this season's trails may be obtained by writing the Division of Public Information and Education, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204

THE SEVEN PILLARS

On December 14, ACRES President Ted Heemstra, Judy Esterline, and Carolyn McNagney accepted the gift for ACRES of "The Seven Pillars", beautiful bluffs that rise above the Mississinewa River near Peru, Indiana. Richard and Caroline Iddings donated the 1.076 acres in memory of their parents, Sam and Caroline Iddings. When the Iddings' offer of the site to the Miami County Historical Society was declined, ACRES was contacted and agreed to manage and protect "The Seven Pillars". Heemstra said that ACRES "would be good stewards" towards the preservation of the bluffs, and that "ACRES isn't exclusively nature areas, but also protects interesting geologic features, like Hanging Rock in Wabash County."

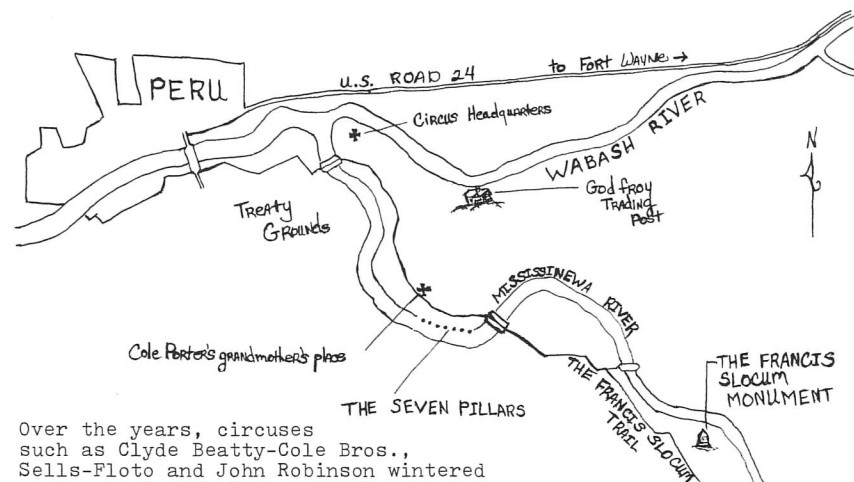
In order to reach "The Seven Pillars", one must first travel along the Frances Slocum Trail. This trail is flanked by landmarks of local and state-wide significance.

The Frances Slocum Trail received its name from the famed Indian-raised white woman. In Pennsylvania, in 1778, at the age of 5, Frances Slocum was taken from her Quaker home and was found in 1837 living among the Miami Indians. Frances was identified by her brother because of a scar on her left hand. Because she was so strong, Frances' Indian name was Maconsquah, meaning "Little Bear Woman". She married Shepoconnah, a war chief of the Miamis. When he became deaf he resigned, and Francis Godfrey became war chief. Godfrey was the last active Miami war chief and a wealthy trader.

Francis Godfrey's homesite is near the Frances Slocum Trail, about 1 mile outside Peru. Godfrey ran a trading post known throughout northern Indiana. White pioneers brought their furs to exchange for goods and Godfrey shipped his furs to New York City. In 1840, when he died, the New York City merchants owed him \$15,000 for purchased merchandise.

Coming out of Peru, the trail passes the treaty grounds of the Miamis. Here Tecumseh met Chief Little Turtle to sign the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. Through a long series of wars and treaties, the Miamis ceded 6,853,020 acres to the U.S. government. All but a few chiefs and influential Indians were resettled west, first to Kansas, then to Oklahoma.

The trail winds past huge farms, with white fences lining the road. The circus headquarters, with the old elephant barn, sits on the hill. Peru served for sixty years as winter headquarters for many major American circuses. It all started with Ben Wallace and a broken down circus. The circus became "The Great Wallace Show" and one of the top three circuses in the world.



Over the years, circuses such as Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros., Sells-Floto and John Robinson wintered in Peru. Emmett Kelly, the famous clown, and Clyde Beatty lived in Peru. The Peruvians seemed to enjoy the circuses, although the wild animals caused concern. Older Peruvians still recall the escape of Modoc the elephant, who terrorized the countryside for a week before being lured to his capture with a truckload of bread.

The last of Peru's circuses fled to sunnier climes after being purchased by John Ringling. Only the scorched skeletons of wagons, burned to prevent their use by competitors, remained. The burning lives in infamy here as "the day Peru died."

Next, the Frances Slocum Trail passes the house of Cole Porter's grandmother. Her flower garden was the inspiration for Porter's song "The Old Fashioned Garden". Cole Porter's house still stands in Peru.

About 3 miles east of Peru, the trail travels along the top of "The Seven Pillars." Gnarled red cedars hang over the bluff, clinging by root that have penetrated the cracks in the strata. Along the cliffs are sycamores, ash, black and red oak, and American Elm. The northern bluff of the fast-flowing river is carved into a series of pillars. The pillars result from the unequal disintegration produced by the river on the harder and softer portions of the limestone. The bluffs are about 50 feet high.

Traditional stories among the Indians emphasize that this was a favorite haunt where pow-wows and dances were held, and where prisoners were executed. The top of the cliffs was a favorite meeting place for Indian councils. In pioneer days, there was a trading post in one of the shallow caves eroded into the cliffs. The first white men made their homes around this trading post, where furs and land bargains were made.

"The Seven Pillars" is an area with a colorful history and beautiful scenery. Arrangements were made to work with the Miami County Historical Society to keep trash picked up and to dedicate a commemorative marker in the spring.

by Carolyn McNagney



ACRES NEWS AND NOTES

Sept. 18 - Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center at Wolf Lake, IN

Mother Nature cooperated in giving us a beautiful fall day to explore this 900-acre complex owned by Lee and Mary Jane Reith, and Goshen College. Dr. Larry Yoder started the day with a slide-talk show on the history and general layout of the area. The group then hiked the nearby area including the Prairie Loop Trail. Special items of this area include the fall wild flowers: blazing star, gerardia, smooth white lettuce, ladies'-tresses, shrubby cinquefoil, and the berries of white baneberry (Doll's Eyes). One of the unusual features of the day was the many different caterpillars found, especially the beautiful Pandora sphinx caterpillar---a soft, velvety-brown creature.

The Yoder family hosted a picnic lunch at the Kesling Farm, then joined the group in hiking past Cub Lake back to the Learning Center. Following a lesson by Ted Heemstra in calling "doodlebugs", the day was concluded by driving to the new addition to Merry Lea Nature Preserve, Buttonbush Swamp, for a quick look at this area.

Oct. 2 - Workday at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge

Sam Rophan joined an ambitious (?) group on another glorious fall day to work at this ACRES area. The morning was spent in putting in "footers" under the ends of the foot bridge supplied by the state. The afternoon was spent in rebuilding and clearing the trail in the south part of the preserve. After this, Helen Skelton showed interested members her impressive nature library, a great place to spend a week or two. To finish the day, several members inspected a section of Barnes Swamp, which is presently for sale. The section we viewed looked interesting and deserves further study in the spring.

Nov. 5 - Annual Dinner

Following a beef or ham dinner at the Seminary dining hall, Dr. Mark Reshkin presented a slide show and lecture on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dr. Reshkin, a geologist, explained the geological uniqueness of the area. The central theme of his talk concerned the special problems stemming from the coexistence of the National Lakeshore and the urban-industrial area surrounding it. His slides showed the beauty of the natural area, the problems the industry creates, the solutions to some of these problems, and some which remain to be solved.

Nov. 6 - Workday at Acres Along The Wabash

Eight ACRES members, including Mrs. Maxwell, braved a cold, windy day to work at this area. The main task was the mile long hike by the Wabash River checking the condition of the trail and picking up as much trash as possible. The low level of the river allowed the finding of several species of fresh-water clams, including several in the process of forming pearls. After lunch and picking up the trash along the road, the group retired to warmer quarters.

by Larry Bieberich

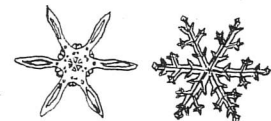
ALERT - Elkhart River still threatened! Indiana Third District Congressman, John Hiler has asked the US Army Corps of Engineers to study the Elkhart River. Noble County State Representative Brad Fox indicates that he intends to again ask the General Assembly for state funds to clean (debrush and dredge) the river. The Noble County Commissioners have not withdrawn their law suit against the Indiana Department of Natural Resources which blocked the state's study of the Elkhart River South Branch as a proposed segment of Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers system. The Noble County Commissioners have also stalled-out on adopting an alternative to stream channelization, and rejected a proposed Palmiter river restoration pilot project on the Elkhart River system. There seem to be only questions and damaging threats to the protection of the Elkhart Rivers valuable natural river resource. ALERT

Snow Crystals



Hexagonal Plate Crystal- Small % of any storm. Appears with Stellar Crystals. Since they have no projections, they do not interlock, but drift freely.

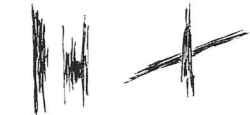
Stellar Crystal- Small % of any storm. Form in low clouds where temperature is warmer. They interlock and often end up as large (as much as 2" across) conglomerate flakes, that drift slowly and stack on branches.



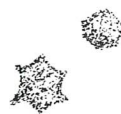
Column Crystal- Uncommon. Column is often hollow. Form in very cold clouds where there is little moisture. Cirrus clouds are made almost entirely of these crystals in winter. Form halo around the moon.



Needle Crystal- Extremely common. Slender, 6-sided columns. Form conglomerate flakes that seem to break into splinters of ice when they land. Account for much of a storm's bulk.



Graupel- Small Hexagonal Plate or Stellar Crystals that became coated with frozen droplets as they fell through lower clouds. Shape of the original crystal is obscured. Tend to fall in a short shower within a longer snowstorm. They bounce!



Asymmetrical Crystal- Common. Platelike crystals joined together in an irregular shape.



Powder- Loved by skiers. Minute grains that don't pack. Irregular columns and plates invisible to the naked eye.

Every animal is affected by snow depth. An inch can hide meadow mice from predators and bobwhite can no longer see insects and seeds. Deeper snow creates problems for animals like the Red Fox, which must bound through it, expending energy and catching less prey. White-tailed Deer may become trapped by deeper drifts, but the Cottontail Rabbit is raised to its food source, the winter buds of sapling trees.

Snow crystals form in clouds around minute particles of dust and salt. These particles attract minute water molecules which freeze and build ice crystals. The snow flake is always six-sided, and its surfaces reflect light, making the snow appear white. In the Arctic, microscopic plants may change the color of snow to green or red.

To watch snow crystals, wear a dark jacket and carry a magnifying glass. Once the crystals land on the ground, they lose their fine detail through a process called metamorphosis. The delicate outer parts of the crystal condense inward, changing the crystal into a small grain of ice. There are 7 common crystal shapes.

by Carolyn McNagney

ACRES DISPLAY AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL

ACRES has put together a three-panel, free-standing cork-board display which can be set up at libraries, schools, offices, etc. etc. If you would like to use it, call the ACRES office 637-6264.

in memorium

Nora C. Lawson died October 20, 1982. She was 101 years old. The widow of Dr. I.H. Lawson, a beloved physician of Kendallville, Nora shared her husband's dream - to preserve their woods which they called LONIDAW. LONIDAW was purchased by ACRES in 1979 and dedicated as part of the Indiana Nature Preserve's system in May, 1982. It is our understanding that Nora Lawson actually chose the name. The following from Chief Simon Pokagon's book, "Queen of the Woods" best speaks the eulogy for Nora C. Lawson.

Pokagon asked of Lonidaw (his wife), how and when she first learned the language of beasts and birds. Silently a while she walked along; then answering, said, "you ask me for the sacred secret of my heart, which never yet has been told, but to you alone it shall be given, in perfect trust not to be revealed. First I can remember in early girlhood, is of being delighted with the songs of birds; yet I knew not what caused the pleasing sound. When older grown, I stole away from my mother to find the source from which it came. While watching in some hazel brush, one bright morning in spring, a robin came, and lighted just above me, pouring forth its joyful song of praise, so close that I could plainly see every motion of its bill and swelling throat. Unconsciously I too began to sing its warbling song, and in after years, when mating birds each other wooed, I sang with them their soft and tender strains of love; when awakened by alarm, I joined with them in their shrill and startling cries; when assailed by birds of prey, I joined with them in their shout of defiance; when their nests were robbed, I joined them in their bitter moans; when their young abandoned their nests and flew away, I joined them in their plaintive chirps to call them back; when their companions were lost, I sang with them the funeral dirge. And so it was I learned and loved to mourn, and to rejoice with them, and grew in sympathy with all the tenants of the woods."

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