

A C R E S



QUARTERLY

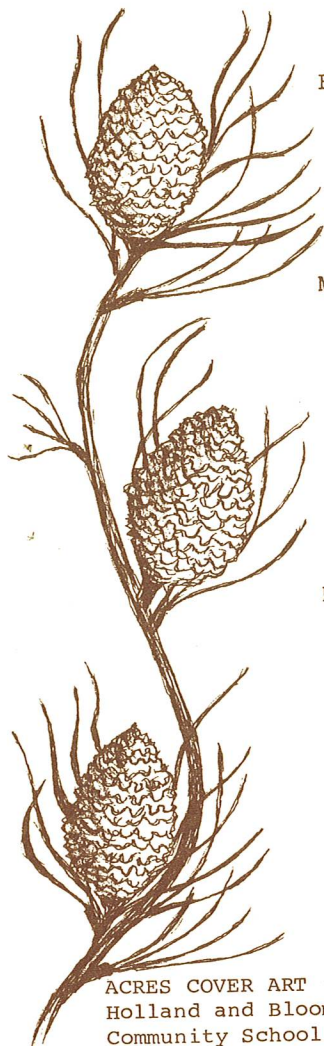
WINTER • 1985

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beginning
ACRES 25th Year Calendar
Winter 1985



FEB. 2 -- WINTER HIKE at Wing Haven, Steuben County
Meet: 9 a.m., Golden Dome Bank on Coliseum Blvd., share rides
Bring: Your lunch, beverage, weiners to cook over a camp fire
Wear warm clothing, boots
Bob Weber, Naturalist-in-charge

MAR. 2 -- A Birthday meeting to begin the celebration of ACRES' Silver Anniversary. Mar. 2, 1960 was ACRES' incorporation date.
The film "Garden of Eden" will be shown followed by a member slide fest. Bring up to 6 of your ACRES special slides to share.
Place: Auditorium, Public Library
Port Wayne, use Wayne Street back entrance.
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Art Eberhardt in-charge.

MAR 23 -- WORKDAY at Mengerson Reserve
5859 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne
Meet: 9 a.m. at the Reserve
Bring: Sack lunch, gloves, rake, loppers, shovel
Ed Eberhardt in-charge.

ACRES Policy: Rain or shine, be there on time.

ACRES COVER ART is a sketch by Fern Berg who teaches art at Holland and Bloomingdale Elementary Schools in the Fort Wayne Community School System.



WING HAVEN WANDERINGS

Picture this

Late afternoon, just before dusk, a mid September day.....

You are walking along a gravel lane, the seldom-traveled type where patches of grass are growing between the two tire paths maintained by an occasional vehicle. If you had walked from the gate at the county road, you would have come about two-tenths of a mile, following a winding route which dips and rises and follows two sweeping curves. On your left is an open meadow of gentle hills, bordered by forest. On your right is a fencerow of Walnut, Cherry and other trees that have staked claim to the swath provided by a zig-zag split-rail fence. The fence of yesteryear is overgrown by brambles and goldenrod. Wild grapevines and Bittersweet dangle from the trees and connect them to the plants below.

Looking through and beyond the fencerow, your eyes drift across the scene of an old homestead. Your first thought is that you have entered into some time and place of the past. Closest to you, and to the right is a two-story, log barn. To the left of it, two outbuildings of weathered, rough-sawn wood are nestled into the landscape under the cover of a huge Weeping Willow. Just as your eyes move up to see a house through the trees and in the distance, some movement grabs you attention back to the lane before you.

A large-bodied, brownish bird swooshes just above the ground, across the lane, and disappears behind a row of trees. You sprint to the end of the lane where it opens up to the farmstead scene. Looking quickly to the west, you see the back of the bird as it swoops up to a limb on the forest's edge - - - the Great Honred Owl! Just as quickly as you see it, the owl's large head spins to face you, its big yellow eyes wink once, and it drops, only to disappear again into a wooded ravine.

Whew! You're winded by both the run and the excitement of seeing such a magnificent bird. Then, suddenly, you are jerked back to the present by the presence of another two-story, log building located down the trail. It too, looks like it has held that spot for over a century. It sits comfortably on the edge of a deep wooded ravine. Tall trees tower over the roof and blend it into the landscape.

Again you look around and get the feeling that the scene you are a part of is something from a Currier and Ives print. Although it has those qualities, it is not quite that. The place you have pictured is real - - - it is one of ACRES most recent acquisitions, the Wing Haven Nature Preserve.....

When I sat down to write a piece about Wing Haven, I was not sure where to start. As caretakers of the property, Jackie and I have had the very fortunate opportunity to be a part of scenes such as those described. Some of you may have also been a part of a "Wing Haven experience" if you joined us for the open house last November 10, or if you joined us on one of our many workdays. Later this year, we hope to have trails and facilities in proper order to accomodate members and small groups.

WING HAVEN WORKINGS. Here is a quick report on some of the work that has been done and what is planned to be done. Much time was spent this summer maintaining the yard area and sprucing up around the buildings. A major effort of summer and fall was readying the buildings and grounds for the November 10 open house. Board members and other helpers put in many days and long hours of sweeping, scrubbing and straightening. A front entrance and back step were added to the studio building. The stables were cleaned up and some of its furnishings were restored. Old barbed wire fencing was removed and woodpiles were organized. Trail maintenance was begun and will continue as weather allows. Recent projects of the winter included: fixing the front gate, replacing worn electrical fixtures, repairing studio lamps, and work on the lane. Much more needs to be done!

If you would like to help out on a project, contact me, Fred Wooley at 665-3307 or Art Eberhardt at 665-2421 or Pat Pichon at 367-2150 or Bob Weber at 747-6030. We need all kinds of talents including simple carpentry, trail maintenance, stone & brick masonry, picture framing, cataloging and organizing a library, furniture repair, preservation of log buildings, bird house building and repair and on and on..... jobs indoors and out that will allow you to contribute, while at the same time getting good, fresh air and exercise in a beautiful area!

It should be pointed out that any work or development done at Wing Haven will be done so carefully, that it will enhance the area, not detract from the rustic, pristine setting that it is. The woods and waters of Wing Haven whispered to Mrs. Helen Swenson and she was inspired to create beautiful art. She also responded by caring for the land, protecting it, and passing it along for others to enjoy. Wing Haven still whispers those special messages, and with continued care and protection, will always have those qualities that inspire.

Fred J. Wooley
Caretaker/Naturalist

TO SERVE AS ACRES BOARD OF DIRECTORS -
RE-ELECTED FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS are James M. Barrett, Ethyle R. Bloch, James D. Haddock, Theodore H. Heemstra, Patricia Pichon.

February 17. Sunday 2:00 PM
JOIN THE AUDUBON WINTER FIELD TRIP and leader, Ted Heemstra, to the Fort Wayne terminal sewage treatment lagoon. This area is locally famous for its concentrations of wintering and early migrant ducks and other water birds. Sometimes very rare ones. Meet: Heck's 1130 Coliseum Blvd. North (between Lake and Maumee R.)

ARCHEOLOGY OF THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER
MCNABB/WALTER NATURE PRESERVE

The following are the high-points of remarks by Mark Moore at the dedication of the McNabb/Walter Nature Preserve May 19, 1984.

The St. Joseph River was formed about 14,000 B.C. by the Erie lobe of the Wisconsin glacier. As this ice receded northeastward, it left the St. Joseph as a runoff river nestled between two glacial moraines.

After the glaciers receded, our region became dominated by pine forests, probably much like those of the upper peninsula of Michigan. About this time (12,000 B.C. or so) the first Indians moved into the area.

Since pine forests offer comparatively small amounts of plant foods, these Paleo Indians, as they are called, mainly relied on animals for food. Their stone tool kit reflected this, in that their main tool or weapon is called a fluted point. Very few of their camps, called "sites" by archeologists, are found along the St. Joseph River.

As the climate warmed, the plant life became increasingly like what we have today. The prehistoric Indians took advantage of this and became experts at exploiting all kinds of different wild foods. As a result, their tool kit grew tremendously and their sites are found in virtually every plowed field near water sources. These people, the Archaic Indians (an arbitrary designation as tribal affiliation is impossible to determine this far back in time) lived along the St. Joseph from about 8000 B.C. - 1000 B.C. and 90% of all stone points found in fields are from within this time period.

For the next 2000 years, the Adena and Hopewell people (commonly called "Mound Builders") dominated in Ohio. Curiously, they rarely penetrated into this area and few of their sites are found along the St. Joseph.

Around the year 1000 A.D. or so, our area experienced a large influx of people. These Late Woodland people, of what is known as the Western Basin Tradition by archeologists, lived in palisaded villages along the St. Joseph River and floodplain rises along the lower Cedar Creek. These people also brought two inventions with them which were never before seen in the region: pottery and the bow and arrow.

In the field adjacent to the McNabb/Walter Nature Preserve Woods is located a prehistoric living site. Archaic Indians lived there sporadically as evidenced by the finding of four of their projectile points; and Late Woodland Indians as evidenced by many of their broken pottery pieces they left behind.

Mark Moore is a Sophomore in Anthropology at Indiana University. He plans to specialize in experimental archeology and is already a skilled "flintknapper" - a maker of stone tools.



We all have an opportunity to double our dollars for natural area preservation. We can help the Natural Heritage Protection Campaign to locate, secure and protect Indiana's natural areas..... Our contributions will be matched dollar for dollar from State funds up to \$5 million. A wonderful start was provided by a \$500,000 grant from the Goodhill Foundation.

ACRES joins the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to support this fund drive for natural area preservation throughout Indiana.

A brochure is enclosed for your individual action. Talk it over with family, friends and groups..Contribute to the INDIANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION CAMPAIGN.

ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

DIRECTORS: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, Vice-President; James M. Barrett, Vice-President; Ethyle R. Bloch, Vice-President; Jane Dustin, Secretary; Duane Lupke, Treasurer; Patricia Pichon; Arthur Eberhardt; John Ellenwood; James D. Haddock; Jay Hammel; Sam Ropchan; Edward H. Eberhardt; Jim Goodwin; Judy Esterline; Lee A. Casebere; Larry Bleberich; Thomas M. Kimbrough, RECORDING SECRETARY; Marion Eberhardt and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY; Mary Anna Entwistle. NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD: Howard Michaud, Alton A. Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durward L. Allen, Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner, Robert H. Cooper, John W. Klotz. ACRES QUARTERLY is published by ACRES, Inc. at 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, IN for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural lands in north-eastern 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, \$25; Family, \$10; Regular, \$5; Senior Citiz., \$2 and Student, \$1. Payable annually. Membership year is July 1 to June 31. ACRES, Inc. 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748.