



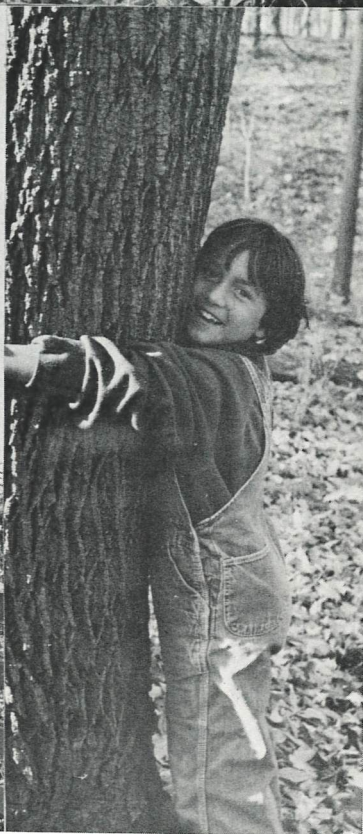
QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1986

Vol. XXV No.1



FALL
FUN



1
9
8
5



ACRES *in the* WINTER-'86

OUTDOOR FUN DAY

JAN 25



AN INVITATION from
Susan Meyers
Carolyn McNagny

AM - CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING -Beginners, experts, everybody welcome!

MEET: 8:30 AM Fortmeyers Restaurant US 30 & I-69 to share the ride.

9:00 AM CHAIN-OF-LAKES STATE PARK (entrance off SR 9 south of Albion - follow main park road to ski rental)

9:30 AM Hit the trail! led by Susan Meyers, Trail Guide

NOTE:

Ski and Boot rental \$2.00/hr., \$10.00/day. Bring warm socks. X-Country Skiing requires 4-6 inches of snow.

We will hike, if there is not enough snow. Come prepared!

NOON TO TWO: WARM-UP - Enjoy egg-nog and spiced cider (Bring your own sandwiches) at the



MCNAGNY COTTAGE- CROOKED LAKE, Whitley County - From the Park, go south on SR 9, thru Merriam. Take CR 600N west off SR 9. Go to first right (Spear Rd) Turn north (right) and follow to next right. Turn and go straight approx. one block. Park at top and walk down the hill towards the lake-white cottage by sycamores.

AFTERNOON: Toboggan, sled, X-Country Ski, skate and hike to CROOKED LAKE NATURE PRESERVE (We will drive around the lake to the Preserve Parking area) Crossing Crooked Lake on the ice is risky due to spring feeding which softens the ice.



* LAURA EBERHARDT PRESENTS -

* A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN **KENYA**

* First as a student at Earlham College, then
* returning as a Research Assistant, Laura has
* spent seven months in Kenya, South Africa,
* studying "Babbblers", a cooperative breeding
* bird.

* A slide lecture co-sponsored by ACRES, Inc.
* and the Department of Continuing Education of
* Tri-State University.

* **FEB. 7 (FRI) 8:00 PM**

* TRI-STATE UNIVERSITY, ANGOLA, INDIANA

* Room 104, LIBRARY BASEMENT

* (White Building, Park & College Streets)

* *****

WINTER-'86

COVER STORY - Photos by John Ellenwood and Art Eberhardt.

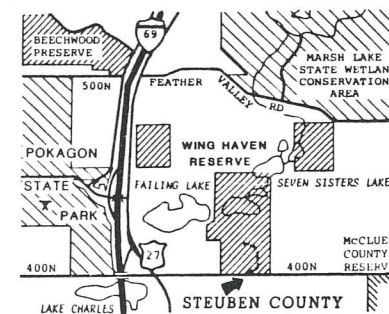


The Fall field trips were a very successful part of ACRES program in our 25th anniversary year, 1985. Many new members and friends took part as well as those regulars who know the good times of an ACRES hike. It is a great time to renew old acquaintances, meet interesting new people and learn a bit more about the natural environment. ACRES attempted to include most of our areas in the schedule. This resulted in many more trips than usual. Our success in saving natural areas is reflected in the many ACRES areas available for you to visit. Write to ACRES for a directory and visit on your own. Or come join in our winter activities including a visit to WING HAVEN for skiing and hiking and a warm studio to return to.

WING HAVEN

FEB. 16

1 TO 5 PM



WORK DAY

MEET: Angola, north of the circle at the Country Fair Shopping Center - east side of "Schultz's" parking lot.

TIME: 11:30 AM

In December, 1985, ACRES contracted with Pat Bolman for a year's management services for maintenance of ACRES' twenty natural areas. Pat will do species counts, mark trails, repair signage, check on fencing, postings, maintain parking areas, map and chart and direct ACRES volunteers on WORK DAYS.

On March 16, join us for lunch at Hardees - meet Pat and learn what spring and summer chores lie ahead AND assist him to remove several hunter's blinds from the WOODLAND BOG northeast of Angola. Wear warm clothes, boots, work gloves.



MARCH 16

WOODLAND BOG

NATURE PRESERVE



THE MISTLETOE

One of our more familiar Christmas decorations, the mistletoe, has served generations as a reason to steal a kiss. The broad, leathery leaves and pearly white berries can be seen growing in clumps two and three feet in diameter high in the branches of trees. Because of its ability to remain green through the winter and having little contact with the earth, mistletoe was thought to possess special powers. Few plants have a more colorful past.

Pagan Druids in Britain considered mistletoe sacred. The Druid priests would roam the forests at night, cutting mistletoe from the high branches with golden sickles. The Druids believed the plant could heal diseases, repel witches, increase fertility, and bring good luck. Enemies who met beneath it in the forest would lay down their arms, exchange friendly greetings, and cease fighting for the day. It was from this custom the practice of hanging mistletoe from a doorway as a token of goodwill originated.

After Britain converted to Christianity, mistletoe was not used in churches because of its significance to the pagan religion. Even now, mistletoe is rarely used as an altar decoration. But the belief it brought goodwill and luck has survived.

Mistletoe is a perching plant, and lives on the branches of trees and shrubs. Its seeds reach their high position courtesy of the birds, which eat the berries and then deposit the sticky seeds. Under favorable conditions, the seed stays attached to the limb long enough to send out haustoria, similar to roots. The haustoria imbed themselves firmly in the bark, tapping into the tree's water supply. Although mistletoe possesses chlorophyll and can supply some of its own food needs, the tree supplies it with moisture, vitamins and minerals.

The name mistletoe means "tree thief" in Greek, and mistletoe is parasitic. But mistletoe does its host little or no harm. In many cases, the host tree survives this relationship for years. An incense cedar, estimated to be 425 years old, had a mistletoe colony growing in its top calculated to be 400 years old. The cedar appeared to be healthy and none the worse for wear after its four centuries of association with a parasite.

Trees preferred as homes by mistletoe are Honey Locust, American Elm, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Black Walnut, and Pin Oak. Early naturalists reported that 90% of the White Elm trees along the White and Wabash rivers were affected by mistletoe.

The American mistletoe, once so common in the Southern one-third of Indiana, has recently become rare. The reason for this rapid depletion is unknown. Perhaps overharvesting at Christmas time, when mistletoe is shot out of trees with a rifle. But the plant is still abundant throughout much of the southern United States. It is hoped that mistletoe, a unusual parasite with a colorful past, will return to its original range in Indiana.

Carolyn McNaghy



your help is needed

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY SEEKS CAMPAIGN SUPPORT

As a member of ACRES you are already aware that Indiana's natural heritage is endangered and that although diminished is still remarkably diverse, priceless and irreplaceable.



Priceless though they are, the best of the increasingly rare native prairies, marshes, forests and other unique communities of Indiana can be acquired and protected with the resources generated by the INDIANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (INHPC).

The INHPC is a partnership. The terms of the partnership call for The Nature Conservancy to pledge money or qualifying land and for the State of Indiana, through its Department of Natural Resources and Division of Nature Preserves to respond with an equal commitment. Each partner in the Campaign matches the contribution of the other until the combined goal of \$10 million is reached. The Campaign is designed as a \$10 million project because the best current information indicates that completing Indiana's nature preserve system and providing for its care will cost \$10 million.

The following composite approximates the kind and amount of natural land to be protected in the Campaign and the expense to acquire and maintain it:

Native Prairie

475 acres (primarily in Northwest Indiana)

\$ Land	\$ 407,000
\$ Stewardship (maintenance)	\$ 101,750

Forest

2,700 acres (throughout Indiana)

\$ Land	\$2,500,000
\$ Stewardship	\$ 600,000

Wetlands

3,500 acres (throughout Indiana)

\$ Land	\$1,470,000
\$ Stewardship	\$ 367,500

Other Natural Areas

1,200 acres

(Dunes and Swales: Northwest Indiana)

(Barrens and Glades: South Central and Southwest Indiana)

\$ Land	\$ 900,000
\$ Stewardship	\$ 225,000

The remaining acres and dollars planned for in the Campaign's budget are for natural areas discovered during the period of the Campaign and for possible inflation of land prices.

The Conservancy has frequently worked with ACRES to preserve natural areas in northeast Indiana. Your donation (see enclosed envelope) to the INHPC will help make it possible to complete Indiana's nature preserve system -- to protect natural areas throughout the state of Indiana -- from Lake Michigan to Seven Sisters to the Ohio River.

OLIVER - OLIN LAKE PRESERVATION EFFORTS NEAR COMPLETION

A breakfast meeting at Bill & Casey's restaurant, LaGrange County, January 18 will kick off the final fund raising for the Oliver-Olin Lake Project.

All of the periphery of Olin Lake is dedicated Nature Preserve and a connecting band of preserve protects the Oliver Lake edge including the Olin Lake inlet westward to (but not including) Bass Hole on the Oliver Lake shoreline.

The Oliver Lake Community Association leaders are spearheading the final drive and hope to add more of the Oliver Lake shore to the preservation package. Thanks to the continuing efforts of The Nature Conservancy, the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves, the Cole Foundation and ACRES, Inc., the Oliver Lake Community Association feels confident of completing this significant preservation effort in 1986, finalizing efforts begun ten years ago.

The Olin Lake Nature Preserve parking lot and trail head is located at the corner of LaGrange County Road 550 South and 125 East.

JOHN BACONE, Director of Indiana Division of Nature Preserves, received the 1985 STEWARDSHIP AWARD from The Nature Conservancy. He has developed management plans, conducted inventories and strengthened cooperative links between state government and Conservancy efforts and played a central role in developing the Indiana Natural Heritage Campaign.

ACRES BOARD OF DIRECTORS welcomes Mark DeBruck and James Shearer, newly elected, to serve three year terms. Both are from Steuber County.

MENGERSON PRESERVE STUDY

Mengerson Preserve is a diverse preserve with a large variety of species. Because of the distinct successional stages present, Mengerson Preserve was studied by the fall IU-PU ecology class. The class did many sampling methods to discover which species were dominant in the preserve. The trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species were then ranked according to their importance, and the preserve was divided into three successional stages. The stages lead-up to the climax forest, which for Northern Indiana is Beech-Maple.

As you enter the preserve off the 5800 block of Stellhorn, you hike through a meadow filled with bushes and herbaceous species. This is stage one. Goldenrod is the major herbaceous plant, with wild carrot, thistle, and wild strawberry also numerous. Common shrubs are wild rose, hawthorn, crabapple, and gray dogwood. Scattered throughout the meadow are clumps of trees, and American Elm and Sugar Ash are the co-dominant tree species. Hiking north, towards the pioneer Sugar Maple and different species of oaks become more common.

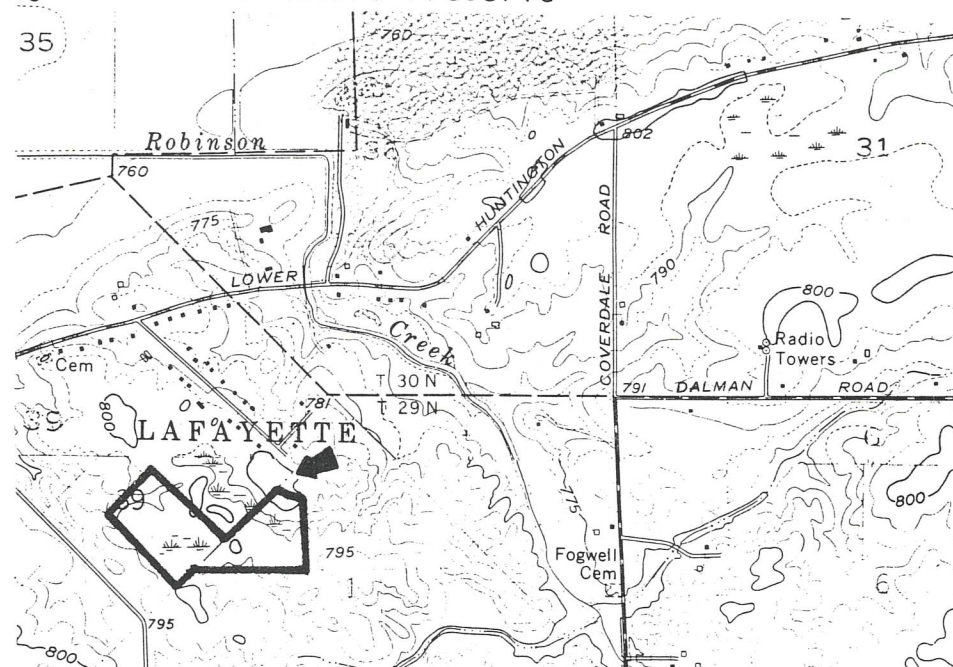
The second stage is dominated by American Elm, Shagbark Hickory, and Sugar Maple. The shrubs and herbaceous species are less numerous, with the trees shading out sun-loving species. Violets and False-Solomon's Seal become common, and the shrub understory consists of American Elm, American Beech, and Sugar Maple saplings. The beech and maple saplings present in this second stage show that the elms and hickories are being replaced by a beech and maple forest.

The third stage is the climax forest of Sugar Maple and Beech. The understory is also maple and beech saplings, which shows the succession stages have stabilized. A climax forest can maintain itself, and no new trees will come into a beech-maple forest to replace them. The understory is very shade tolerant and consists of violets, wild geranium, black snakeroot, and cinquefoil.

Mengerson Preserve is an excellent example of the successional sequence of a Northern Indiana Forest. Through the years, the forest will slowly move towards Stellhorn road, with pioneer species changing the habitat for the slower growing climax plants. Eventually, the entire preserve will be a maple-beech climax forest.

In October, Ted Heemstra led a clean-up at Mengerson Preserve. Because of an urban location, the preserve had accumulated a great deal of trash. The hard-working group removed 10- plus bags of trash, and hopefully periodic clean-ups will keep Mengerson Preserve beautiful for the enjoyment of future hikers.

Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve



Allen County, IN. Established 1977, Dedicated as State Nature Preserve 1978. Part of the Branstetter Reserve, the land was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. W. Glenn Fogwell and the Fogwell sisters Mabel Corville and Mildred Klopfenstein. 28 Acres.

Description: This preserve contains an old second-growth forest growing on land with poorly drained depressions. Slight differences in elevation can produce large changes in forest composition. The drier sites are dominated by sugar maple, beech, white oak, and red oak with a variety of other species represented. Wet areas contain bur oak, red maple, swamp white oak, green ash, and buttonbush. The understory contains dogwood, spicebush, pawpaw, and maple-leaved viburnum. Trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, trout lily, bloodroot, and violets are common on the forest floor in Spring.

alert !

When land use changes occur, such as the entry of the giant GM plant in Lafayette Township of Allen County, officials start looking at the undeveloped, interconnecting lands for new roads and services.

The GM plant development was predicated on a second 1-69 interchange at Lower Huntington Rd. A connection to the Baer Field Airport is on the drafting board centered around extending Dalman Road.

ACRES is worried! Number one because an early county draft of the airport routing showed a 4-lane highway slice right through the center of the Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve. Number two, the city and county plan commission document just released (Southwest Allen County Land Use Study) neither by map or dialogue, acknowledges the existence of the Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve. This appears to be a blatant disregard for existing natural features even though they superficially included a Section entitled "Consideration for the Natural Environment".

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR HIGHWAY!

Fogwell is a dedicated state Nature Preserve under Indiana's Nature Preserves Act. The Nature Preserve is irreplaceable and we will fight to protect it and the integrity of the Nature Preserves Act.

Be on the Alert to help and join us if you can at the Hearing, Jan. 16 at 7:30 PM City County Building, Fort Wayne.

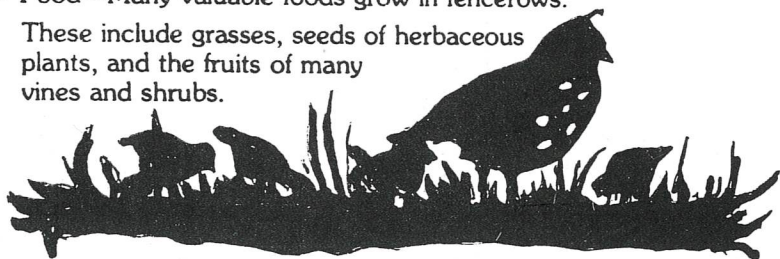
FENCEROWS, HEDGEROWS, AND FIELD BORDERS

Fencerows and undisturbed field borders make the landscape more interesting, help prevent soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat in farming areas. Wherever possible, preserve the naturally-occurring plants in fencerows and field margins. Wildlife cannot exist without adequate habitat.

Fencerows, hedgerows, and field borders are important wildlife habitat elements in agricultural regions. They provide:

- Shelter—Fencerow vegetation breaks the wind and provides protection for animals in inclement weather.
- Nesting sites—Songbirds, game birds, and small mammals build nests and raise their young in the sod, weeds, and shrubs along fences and field margins.
- Travel lanes—When animals move about, these borders provide protection from predators.
- Food—Many valuable foods grow in fencerows.

These include grasses, seeds of herbaceous plants, and the fruits of many vines and shrubs.



ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, IN 46748

Address Correction Requested

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. Casabere; 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.