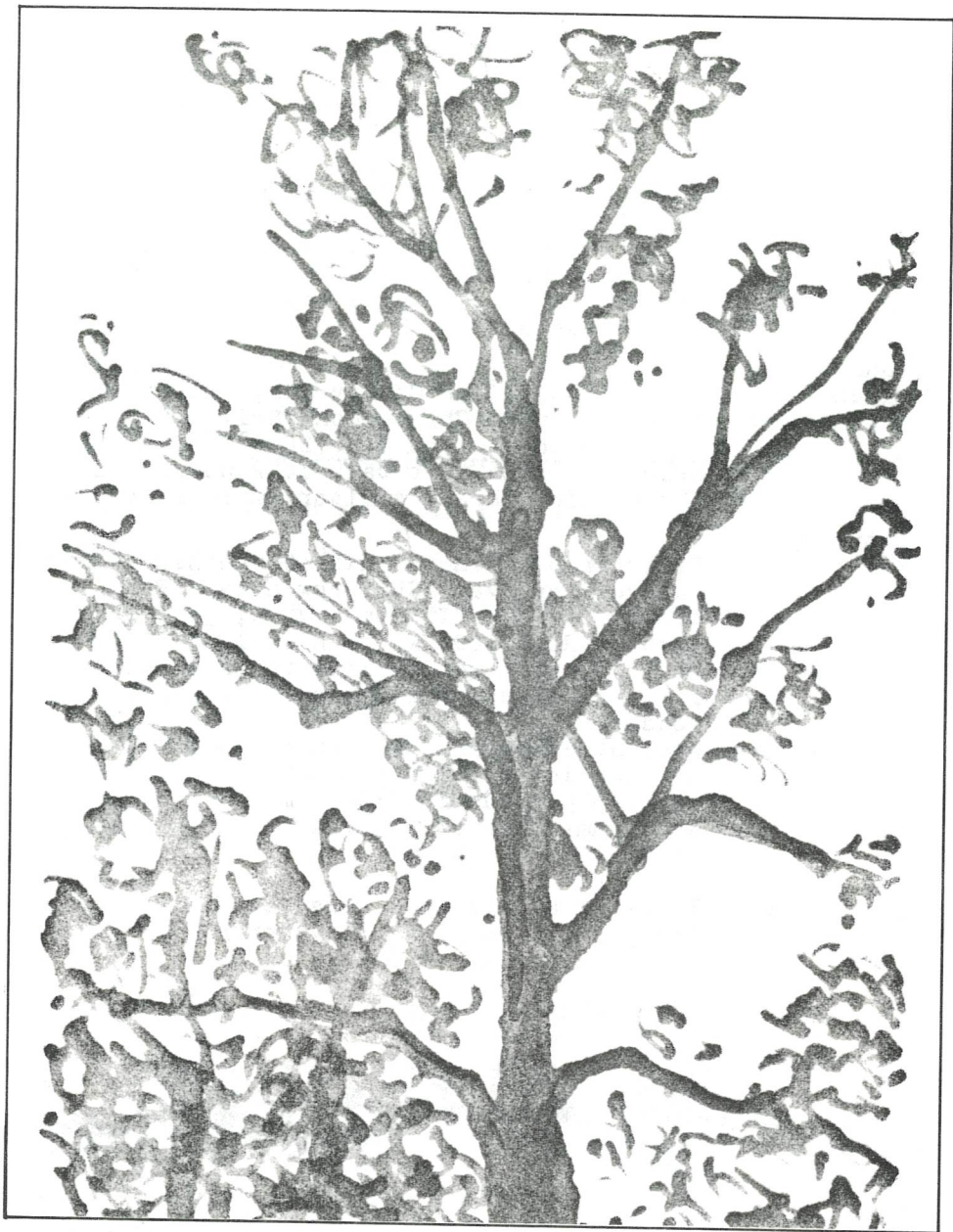




QUARTERLY

Winter • 1987
Volume XXVI No. 1



ACRES

WINTER '87

Sunday

Jan. 18:

"Post Christmas Art, Waffles and Winter Scenery" at Wing Haven 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a display of the art work by Helen Swenson -- taste some old fashioned refreshments -- take a winter stroll. Bob Weber and Judy Esterline in charge.

Sunday

Feb. 8:

Bring the family to join with Audubon and hear Fred Wooley, naturalist, talk on "Wild flowers and Birds," at 2:00 p.m. at second floor auditorium, Public Library in Fort Wayne. Special activities for the children.

Sunday

March 8:

Dan McCain, Allen County SCS, will talk to the Audubon Chapter on "Soil and Water Conservation to the Year 2000". Plan to hear this important talk at 2:00 p.m. at the Public Library auditorium in Fort Wayne.

Saturday

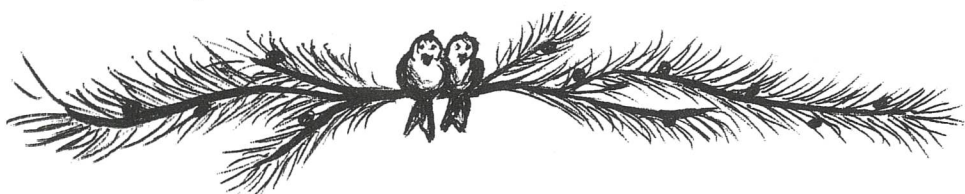
March 14:

Field Trip: Winter walk at the Art Hammer Nature Preserve, ACRES new area. From center of Rome City on Hwy. 9, go 3 miles west on Road 1000 N. to Road 125. Turn left (south), go 3/4 mile to where wild-life preserve signs are posted. Park along road. Meet at Sheraton Inn, Route 3 & I-69, in parking lot at 1:00 p.m. Be at Preserve at 1:45 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Art Hammer, donor, in charge along with Naturalist Bob Weber.

REMEMBER:

There is always Open House at Wing Haven on the first Sunday of every month, 1-5:00 p.m. Every season is enjoyable at Wing Haven.

SNOW, RAIN OR SHINE -- ACRES KEEPS ITS SCHEDULE



THE DETERING NATURE PRESERVE

As noted briefly in the ACRES Annual Report, a new addition to the ACRES preserve system is approximately 50 acres on the south side of Round Lake east of Kendallville. This was donated as a bequest by the late Esther Detering. Wetlands, uplands, and second growth woods predominate. An added feature is that it has the longest shoreline along Round Lake of any holding on that lake.

Worked as a truck farm supplying green groceries and flowers to surrounding communities in the late 1800's, it remains still in the memories of some elderly Kendallville citizens. A portable and tangible bit of the abiding interest the Detering family showed in nature and plant life is a well preserved herbarium with many examples of wild and cultivated plants all carefully labeled with Latin names in fine penmanship. This book was prepared by August Detering and dated 1857.

Other artifacts bequeathed to ACRES include several pictures of the farmstead (one tinted and two showing family members in the garb of the early part of this century). A bill of sale on a Flint & Walling windmill (full size) installed in 1901 shows that Henry Detering provided good water for his family for the sum of \$136.00. What a deal that would be today!



All things connect!

John Hencher

There are many nice things about ACRES Nature Preserves. First of all, of course, is the fact that they preserve a variety of unique natural areas in northeastern Indiana. Second to that for many of us, is the fact that these are areas for us to enjoy, to discover, to escape the hub-bub of everyday life, and to find peace and inspiration.

A couple of added benefits that we often overlook is that they are free to enjoy, with no entrance or trail fee, and they are virtually open any hour of the day. I think we tend to take these niceties for granted. We can go about these natural areas with the same freedom as the wild animals who live there. People who live in metropolitan areas often have to pay-as-they-go for natural experiences, and then often find a gate which closes the site from evening to the next morning. ACRES' preserves are free to visit at any time (with the exception of three properties with unique circumstances that require special permission).

Fencerows, as biologists confirm, are very important "habitats" for wildlife. They provide food through seeds of grasses and "weeds", and berries and nuts of bushes and trees. The very make-up of fencerows indicates plants that are easily dispersed by animals which feed on their fruits. A critter munches a meal, goes to the fencerow for cover, passes the seeds through its digestive system, and voila! - a new plant appears! Wild Black Cherry trees are common to fencerows. Their dark purple fruits are common meals for a variety of songbirds. After their snack, they may stop at a fencerow to perch on a barbed wire or a tall plant. While singing to the world, they deposit their waste. To ground falls a viable seed, neatly concealed in its own little packet of fertilizer. A tree begins and the fencerow grows.

Fencerows provide homes for nesting, and cover for protection as animals dart from the open fields and meadows. Fencerows are true lifelines as animals follow them going from one area of cover to another.

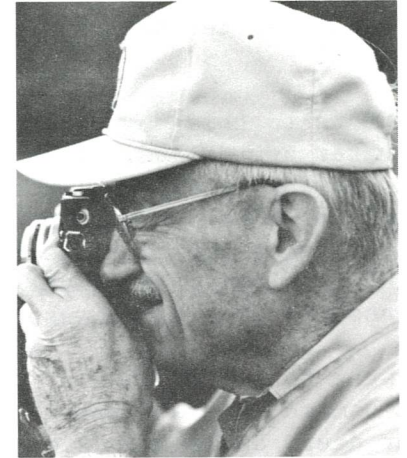
The White-tailed Deer in ACRES areas are quite successful, as they are throughout the midwest. Basically they are browsers. When they are not finding leftover corn out in

the fields, they may be dining on the fresh growth of the year's twigs and branches of certain shrubs and trees. They will also kick through the snow to find green grass, young plant shoots, acorns, and apples.

NOTES FOR WINTER HIKERS: You can all be of significant help in increasing the value of our ACRES preserves. Keep notes of what you see, where, when, weather conditions and anything else which may be important to your observations. Labeled photographs or slides would be greatly appreciated and would certainly add to appreciation for an area. They might even appear in a QUARTERLY. Don't forget to let us know if maintenance (sign, trail, registration box, fence) appears to be necessary. We can schedule work days to take care of problems. Hike, enjoy, take your friends and family, and do let us know what you see.



Art Hammer Preserve Wetlands



Art Hammer

ART HAMMER NATURE PRESERVE

On an overcast afternoon in August 1986, Art Hammer and I maneuvered a boat out into the small lake of the wetlands he had just purchased as another nature preserve for ACRES. Once free of the muddy bottom and shrub growth of the man-made channel to the lake, we were in the open beneath a leaden sky, but easily able to see the surrounding shore where waterlilies and spatterdock led next to tall cat-tails and willows before there was enough upland to support the soft maples and ashes.

The time and the weather were not right to furnish us with sight or sound of the birds which live in this wetlands where the Elkhart River begins from Waldron Lake. (However, on a previous jaunt with Art, as we oared in the wide Elkhart around the southern and eastern border of the wetland, we saw and heard many of the birds, including the great blue heron, which live at the site.) On this occasion I was more fascinated with watching Art who was busily observing and photographing from the boat. He was anxious to know how good a wetlands he had purchased. I assured him that the abundant water and varied plant cover should make for a species list of far better than average length.

At the north end of this wetlands there is high ground enough to support a fine oak-hickory forest. When we will have established our parking area at that end we will begin a trail through that forest. An old field around the parking area will be interesting to watch for its progress with natural regeneration. It is surrounded with good seed sources.

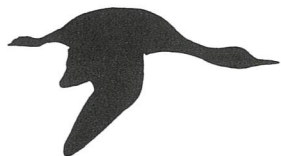
Visitors to this new preserve can easily enjoy as much time on water as on land. The broad Elkhart can be easily put into at the nearby public boat landing at Dukes Bridge. There is about 3/4 mile of river frontage on the preserve and at times the river is broader than Waldron Lake from which it flows. The level of both the lake and the river is assured by a dam downstream.

Be sure to put it in your plans for 1987 to visit the new Art Hammer Nature Preserve of 125 acres where you can enjoy your deer, ducks and daydreams.

--Bob Weber--

Cover art is by the late Blanche Hutto.

Guest editors: Ethyle Bloch and Mary Anna Entwisle.



DID YOU EVER HEAR AN ENGLISH SPARROW SING?

WHAT? an English sparrow sing?
Insignificant brown thing,
So common and so bold, 'twould surely bring
Tears of laughter to the eyes
Of the superficial wise
To suggest that that small immigrant could sing.

'Twas the bleakest wintry day,
Earth, sky, water, all were gray,
Of the universe old Boreas seemed king,
As he swept across the lake,
But his empire was at stake,
When that little English sparrow dared to sing.

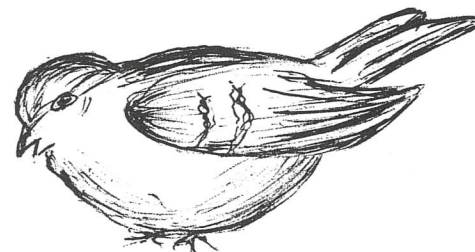
Not a friend on earth had I,
No horizon to my sky,
No faith that there could be another spring.
Cold the world as that gray wall
Of the Auditorium tall
Where I heard that little English sparrow sing.

On the shelving of one stone
He was cuddling all alone;
Oh, the little feet knew bravely how to cling!
As from out the tuneful throat
Came the sweetest, springlike note,
And I truly heard an English sparrow sing.

You may talk for all your days
In the thrush and bluebirds' praise
And all your other harbingers of spring,
But I've never heard a song
Whose echoes I'd prolong
Like that I heard that English sparrow sing.

Oh, my heart's a phonograph
That will register each laugh
And all happy sounds that from the joy-bells ring,
So if cloudy days should come,
In my hours of darkest gloom
I'm sure I'll hear that English sparrow sing.

BERTHA JOHNSTON



TRILLIUM

WILD FLOWER CHOICE OF ACRES MEMBERS

Those who have been anxiously awaiting the results of the voting for Indiana's state wildflower will be pleased to know that the Trillium grandiflora, a welcome sign of spring and noted for appearing in large expanses at ACRES properties, was far and away the most popular choice. The next step is legislative sponsorship and legislative action to have the large-flowered trillium declared State Wildflower.



ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, IN 46748

Address Correction Requested

DIRECTORS: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, VP; James M. Barrett, VP; Ethyle R. Bloch, VP; Jane Dustin, Secretary; James L. Shearer, Treasurer; Mark DeBrock; Arthur Eberhardt; Edward H. Eberhardt; John Ellenwood; Mary Anna Entwisle; Judy Esterline; James D. Haddock; Thomas M. Kimbrough; Patricia Pichon; Lee Casebere; Douglas Waldman; Jim Goodwin. RECORDING SECRETARY: Marion Eberhardt and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mary Anna Entwisle. 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 Road, Huntertown, IN for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural lands 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, \$25; Family, \$10; Regular, \$5; Senior Citizen, \$2; Student, \$1. Payable annually. Membership year is July 1 to June 30.

ACRES, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748