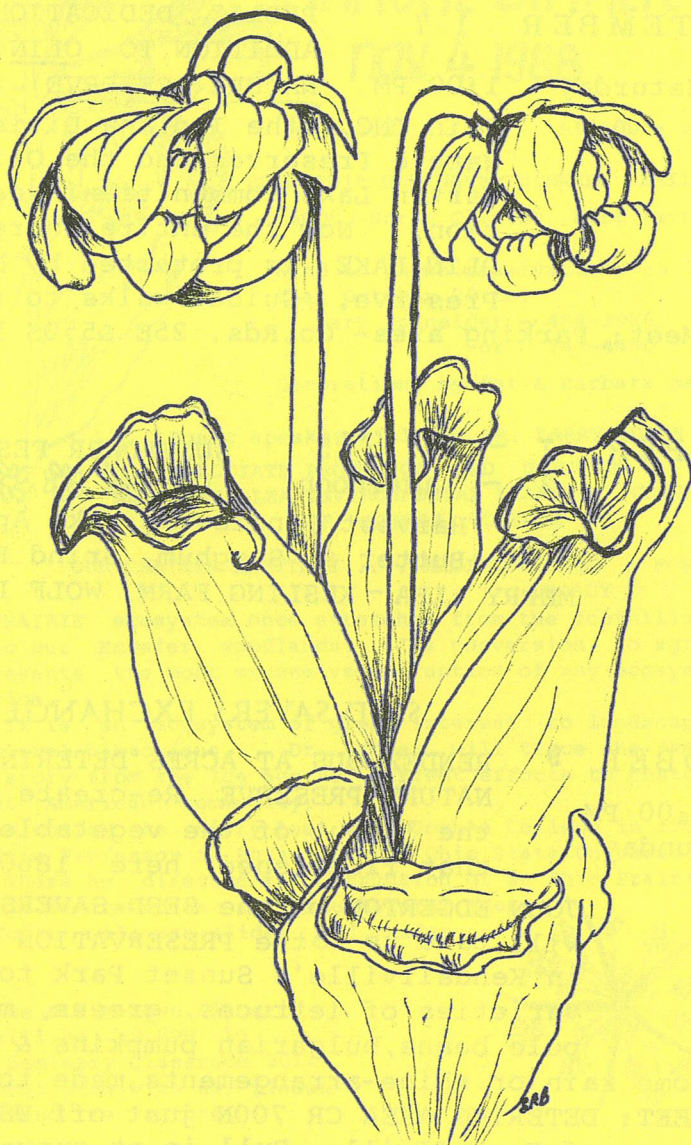




QUARTERLY

FALL • 1988
Volume XXVII No.3



Sarracenia purpurea



ACRES Fall Dates

SEPTEMBER 17

Saturday

1:00 PM

PUBLIC DEDICATION OF THE
ADDITION TO OLIN LAKE
NATURE PRESERVE -

Join TNC, the Indiana Division of
Nature Preserves and the Oliver &
Martin Lake Communities in celebra-
tion! Now the entire shoreline of
OLIN LAKE is protected by Nature.
Preserve. Guided walks to follow.

Meet: Parking area- Co.Rds. 25E & 550S LaGrange

OCTOBER

1 - 9 to 5

SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

2 - afternoon



Harvest Sunflowers, Make Apple
Butter & Sorghum, Grind Flour!

MERRY LEA - KESLING FARM, WOLF LAKE, IN

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

OCTOBER 9

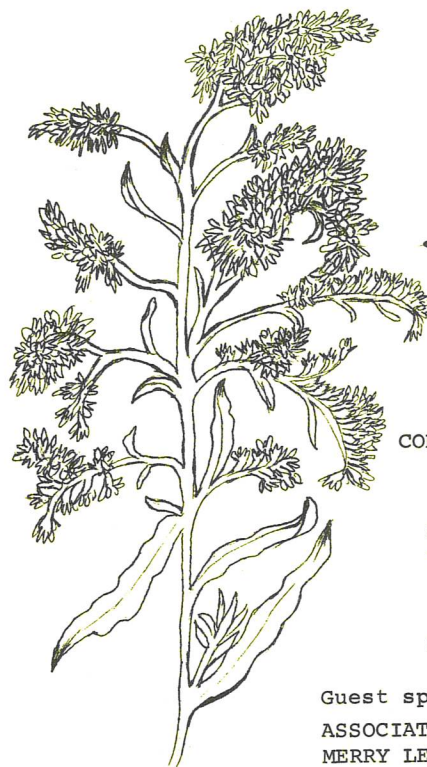
1:00 PM

Sunday

RENDEZVOUS AT ACRES' DETERING FARM
NATURE PRESERVE Re-create with us
the layout of the vegetable gardens
that flourished here 1860 to 1935.

JOHN EDGERTON of the SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE
will take us to the PRESERVATION GARDEN
in Kendallville's Sunset Park to see old
varieties of lettuces, greens, melons,
pole beans, bulgarian pumpkins & more.

Come rain or shine-arrangements made to be in-
MEET: DETERING AREA CR 700N just off US6 East
of Kendallville. Pull in at curve.



ACRES ANNUAL DINNER Nov 4, 1988

6:30 P.M.

\$10.00 a plate

CONCORDIA SEMINARY DINNING HALL

6600 North Clinton, Fort Wayne, IN

Send or phone reservations no later
than October 29 to:

Mary Schneider - 484-3986
or 747-4450

Decorations by Pat & Barbara Barrett

Guest speaker will be DR. LARRY YODER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
MERRY LEA ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
OF GOSHEN COLLEGE

OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE REDISCOVERING A FORGOTTEN LEGACY

The PRAIRIE ecosystem once stretched from the foothills of the
Rockies to our Hoosier woodlands. Its conversion to agricultural
land represents the most extensive disruption of any ecosystem in
North America.

Now, it is an ecosystem of great interest to landscapers as
well as natural historians. Dr. Yoder will trace the PRAIRIE's
natural history from the ice age to current efforts to restore this
magnificent American community.

Before coming to Merry Lea and Goshen College in 1981, Yoder
was Associate Professor of Botany at The Ohio State University Marion
Campus. There he directed reconstruction of an Ohio Prairie which
was recently dedicated as an Ohio Natural Area.

Dr. Yoder will use slides and video.

This will be a sit-down dinner.
Lecture will be at 8PM in
Concordia Seminary Classroom 201.
If you cannot dine with us, please
plan to attend the lecture.



For this cherished honor I am very grateful, especially since I stem from an Allegheny family. My grandfather and father graduated here, and seven more of us. This is not to lead into reminiscences of my student days. In order to be nostalgic, one has to remember something.

The first great environmental movement was started about 1902 by President Theodore Roosevelt. He had graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard, having majored in biology, and had become a lifelong zoologist of professional caliber. But the first conservation push became a casualty during World War II. The second surge began in 1962, with Rachel Carson's influential book Silent Spring.

Typically, environmental concerns begin with scientifically-trained people like Roosevelt and Carson, but depend on the rest of us to achieve results. This happened in the long-familiar fields of soil erosion, pesticide abuse, energy, water and air pollution, wildlife, national and state parks and forests, and with my particular interest -- saving small pristine natural areas. Such long-standing issues are well understood, and more or less appropriate measures are more or less underway.

However, more recent challenges are largely in the preliminary or scientific research stage. Like the older problems, they are man-made. But they differ in being broader, often planetary, in scope. I shall try to tell the facts straight, and not to lean toward either Cassandra or Pollyanna. As for my conclusions, I'll take the responsibility.

FIRST: The acid rain issue is an extension of local, old-fashioned air pollution from smokestacks and exhaust pipes. Compounds of oxygen with sulfur and nitrogen are believed to be slowing tree growth and killing many forests in Europe and America. More certain as to cause are effects on croplands, lakes, and streams. Also, our aerial exports are heating up the political climate between us and the Canadians. In many affected waters of the northern hemisphere, acid rain has destroyed half of the ecosystem -- the living half. It is as though this campus, remaining the same otherwise, had lost all its students, administrators, faculty and staff.

I have had before-and-after experience with many ruined Adirondack lakes. And on the Laurel Ridge east of Pittsburgh, a beloved mountain stream in Linn Run State Park is now dead. In youth, I saw a fellow fly-caster catch a 23 1/2 inch brook trout there. HONEST!

SECOND: As the world grows "smaller" disposal problems worsen. Plastic items are soon discarded, but last forever after. Our throw-away culture is finding that there is no longer any away.

THIRD: A nuclear winter-night would lethally thicken the atmosphere as the impact catastrophe with a comet or asteroid may have done 65 million years ago. Nuclear winter-night can be prevented merely by not having the first and last nuclear war.

FOURTH: The sky is not falling, but it is changing. The shield of high altitude ozone protects living things from excessive ultra-violet and us from runaway skin cancers. Now, ozone is rapidly being thinned by reactions with chlorine gases like freon. The prompt international response is heartening, but far from adequate.

FIFTH: The greenhouse effect has always been part of world climate. But people now produce more carbon dioxide by burning the candle at both ends. Present and projected results include global warming, droughts, spreading deserts, and displaced life zones and crop zones. Thawing of polar ice caps could raise sea level about 300 feet, bringing to coastal cities heartbreak and misunderstanding. In April, the journal Science reported a study based on the binding of CO₂ by photosynthesis. By doubling Earth's forest cover, we could delay the onset of serious heat build-up for a decade or two, allowing time for permanent changes in energy use. If such massive reforestation seems to you drastic, expensive, and unlikely, it is. But it is the best interim idea yet proposed, and is not utterly fantastic as is one expensive federal project now going on with a different aim.

SIXTH: Already countering the potential of reforestation (or any other solution) is the unprecedented rate of cutting tropical forests worldwide. Tropical vegetation is a sink for CO₂, a source of oxygen, a winter home for many migratory songbird species, and a reservoir of potentially valuable genetic traits and drugs in innumerable disappearing plants and animals. The human population of those nations is growing 2.4 per cent annually.

* * * *

Does this partial list of modern challenges, plus older problems still not under control, mean that our collective life-style is on a collision course with one of the planets, namely EARTH? Inquiring minds want to know. Scientists of many disciplines are mobilizing an exciting, integrated approach to global-scale research. And better understanding by the public will provide the moral and political support for essential future action.

In a clearly finite world and atmosphere, to believe in infinite growth is like believing in some perpetual-motion machine. Some kinds and rates of growth are benign, other are malignant. How much is enough? How dense can we get? The focus of economics, like politics, is short-term. The focus of ecological science, like history and geology, is long-term. Somehow, and the sooner the better, humanity must negotiate a just and lasting peace between economics and ecology.

My faith, for our making the proper course correction in time, is equally in Science and in the sort of broad, overall intelligence exemplified by this audience. Let's not count on a last-ditch rescue with a cavalry charge over the hill by new technology.

Congratulations on your graduation! I'm glad that you have prepared yourselves well for the interesting years ahead. And, with all I have said here, I think this planet is still the nicest place I ever visited.

A.A. Lindsey

Alton A. Lindsey, Ecologist, Professor Emeritus at Purdue University serves on ACRES National Advisory Board. Lindsey co-authored, "Natural Areas in Indiana And Their Preservation" in 1969, which began active preservation of natural areas and nature preserves in Indiana. The Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College maintains a one-year Lindsey Fellowship for teaching at Merry Lea near Wolf Lake, Indiana. This address was presented at Allegheny College when Lindsey received an honorary degree June 12, 1988. Alton A. Lindsey graduated in 1929 from Allegheny College.



FLYING SQUIRRELS: GLIDERS IN THE NIGHT

Hiking through the woods the other day, I came across a small dead tree with numerous woodpecker holes covering it. I went over and knocked at the tree, and a soft, sparrowlike chittering answered me. I had awakened a family of flying squirrels, who sounded annoyed at being bothered in the middle of their sleep.

Southern Flying Squirrels are numerous in Indiana, but they are seldom seen. They inhabit deciduous forests and are strictly nocturnal. Appearing in the open at deep dusk, they run surefootedly through the treetops long after we have gone to bed.

Reaching the top of one tree, the flying squirrels will leap off a branch and glide silently down to the next tree trunk. They can soar effortlessly as far as three-fourths of the length of a football field using the wide flaps of skin along their sides to slow their descent. Once the flying squirrels softly land, they quickly scurry around to the other side of the trunk just in case an owl is in pursuit.

The flying squirrels are beautiful animals, with large brown eyes and soft silky fur that is gray above and white underneath. They are a shy and gentle animal and---unless a family has decided to nest in your attic---an altogether wonderful animal. If they do become your neighbors, they can cause some sleepless nights with their squeaking, scurrying, and dropping of hickory nuts.

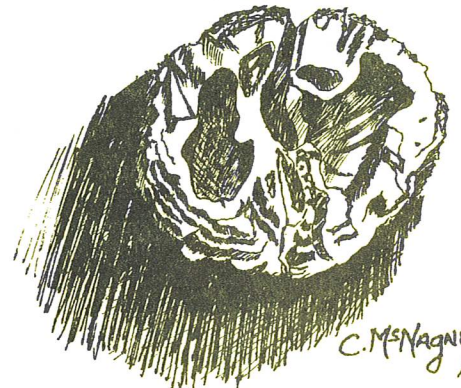
Flying squirrels feed on a variety of seeds, nuts, and bird eggs. They will store extra food in their nest chamber. They consume great numbers of insects which should cancel out some of the unfortunate things they do--such as the killing of small birds.

In the middle of winter, 20 or more may den together in a dead tree. The females go off alone in February or March when the young are born. There are usually two to six pink, helpless babies that will become fully furred in about two weeks. The baby squirrels will have their eyes open in about 28 days, and in five weeks they start eating solid food and soon leave the nest.

Flying squirrels are devoted mothers, seldom leaving their young for more than a few minutes and are fearless in their defense. If necessary, the mothers can carry their youngsters from tree to tree. Holding the youngster by the nape of the neck with her mouth, the mother squirrel will glide a short distance to a place of safety. She will then quickly return and continue the process until all her young are safe.

If you wish to find out if these secretive animals live near you, spread some peanut butter on a tree trunk near a porch light. Any flying squirrel around your house will soon find it and you can enjoy watching them in the late evening.

By Carolyn McNagny



GO EXPLORING ON YOUR OWN!
WRITE FOR AN ACRES GUIDE
TO NATURAL AREAS IN
NORTHEASTERN INDIANA
THAT YOU CAN VISIT.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE IF THE "EXP" DATE ON
YOUR LABEL SAYS SO - PLEASE RENEW NOW.
ACRES NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

reminder ! First Sunday of the month, 1-5 is
OPEN HOUSE AT WING HAVEN

**VOLUNTEER - Bob Weber has many projects for
the helping. Call him: 747-6030**

COVER ART & ARTIST. Drawn by ACRES' founder and board member, Ethyle R. Bloch. The *Sarracenia purpurea* or Pitcher Plant is found in sphagnum bogs from Canada south to the Great Lakes area. This carnivorous plant has heavily veined red or green leaves usually one half full of rainwater. The flaring red lips are lined with downward pointing bristles that help trap insects. The nodding globular dull red flower is on a separate stalk. This endangered plant can be seen at Pinhook Bog Nature Preserve in LaPorte County and Laketon Bog Nature Preserve in Wabash County.

MAN IS CARETAKER OF WETLANDS AND WETLAND CREATURES

Too often, it seems, a wet place is a nuisance. Something to get rid of. I find such places extremely interesting in the variety of life attracted to it. Even a puddle after a shower, which only lasts a few hours, will soon be visited and used by different forms of life. Maybe a killdeer or sandpiper, which is a pretty sight to see as it teeters making double image with its reflection in the water. Maybe a robin or little song sparrow taking a bath. Maybe only a blue mud dauber wasp collecting mud for its nest.

A permanent swamp or marshy area serves many uses. I have a wet place in my woods and in the spring, as soon as the ice was off, the kids would collect jars of water and bring in to watch all the little creatures. It is amazing to squat on a log and observe all the life in such a place.

We act as though everything was made to serve mankind. But I get just the opposite. Man was created last to be a caretaker to the rest of creation. What a wonderful responsibility!

Kenneth Graham

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