

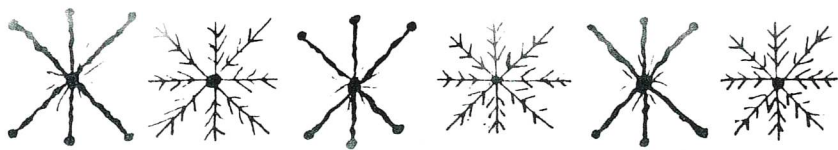


QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1988

Volume XXVII No.1





I went to the park today
Sometimes I discover peace there
I heard the different sounds
 dead oak leaves rattling
 dead beech leaves rustling
 in harmony all the leaves whispering
Out on the highway semis whined
and jets and prop-planes rattled and roared

I saw prickly weeds softening into fluff
 the milkweed pods birthing delicate infants
 deer tracks in the hardened mud
 the beauty of autumn death

I walked the arm of land around the bird sanctuary
 as it gathers around its flock
 safety against the boats

I let my hand drag among the trailside growth
 the crackle dry leaves
 the thorns
 the soft fluff weeds
 branches tugged my hair

None of this could cool the burn
none of this filled the cavern of my veneer body
none of this drowned the cry
the silent cry

I never found a rhythm to fit
 one speed too slow and frustrating
 one too fast and frenzied
 my arms ached as they swung
 'til I hugged them around myself
 there they ached still
 but confined the pain

Shannon J. Coughlin fall 1985

ACRES COVER ARTIST is Sher Walton, Cedar Creek Studios, Tonkle Rd., Leo IN from an etching. Sher features miniature hand-colored etchings of horticultural subjects. She also specializes in interior graphics & space planning.

ACRES Winter of '88

February 14

Join Stockbridge Audubon to hear Dr. David Hicks of Manchester College, "MADE IN THE SHADE? Adaptations Of Deciduous Plants"
TIME: 2 PM PLACE: 2nd floor auditorium Fort Wayne Library
900 Webster, Fort Wayne

February 13 - 14

EAGLE DAYS- a cooperative program between the Division of Reservoir Management and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Eagle Days provides an opportunity to learn about our national symbol and the return of American Bald Eagles to Indiana as a result of a hacking program at Lake Monroe. Place: At the solar heated Visitor's Center, located north of Wickliffe, Indiana. Speakers, field trips, and children's activities will be included as well as an opportunity to tour the Hacking facilities at Lake Monroe.

No charge. Pre-registration required. Write: IDNR, Patoka Reservoir, R.R.1, Birdseye IN 47524 or Ann Hostman, 1213 West Wayne St., Fort Wayne IN 46802 Phone: (219) 426-5722

February 21 field trip

Join Stockbridge Audubon naturalists to visit the FORT WAYNE TERMINAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PONDS adjacent to the proposed Maumee River widening project.
TIME: 2 PM PLACE: Value City (formerly Heck's) Parking Lot Coliseum Blvd. between Lake Ave. and Maumee River.

February 21 - 25

ANNUAL GREAT LAKES PARK TRAINING INSTITUTE conducted by Department of Recreation and Park Administration of Indiana University will feature sessions on Preservation of Park Lands, Interpretive Programs, Alternatives to Herbicides and Pesticides and more.

PLACE: Potawatomi Inn, POKAGON STATE PARK Angola IN.

Write or call: Fred Wooley, Naturalist, Pokagon 833-2012

coming up April 2

SATURDAY	1:30PM to 3:30PM	GLACIAL GEOLOGY OF NE INDIANA Slide Show and two-mile walk to see examples of ESKERS - KETTLE HOLE - KAMES - MORaine Fred J. Wooley, Interpretive Naturalist, Pokagon State Park PLACE: WIGWAM ROOM - POTAWATOMI INN POKAGON STATE PARK
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CENTRAL INDIANA NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE

coming up

DATE: April 30 and May 1, 1988

LOCATION: The conference room at Turkey Run Inn,
Turkey Run State Park

INFORMATION: Division of Nature Preserves RESERVATIONS: Turkey Run Inn
605 B State Office Building R.R. #1
Indianapolis, IN 46204 Marshall, IN 47859
(317) 232-4052 (317) 587-2211



The Striped Skunk

Probably all of ACRES preserves have their share of striped skunks. This housecat-sized mammal is found all over Indiana. In fact, its range covers the entire US, except the southern tip of Florida, and it extends into Canada and Mexico. The US apparently has three other skunk species. There is the Eastern Spotted Skunk of the prairie states, the Gulf Coast, and into the S. E. Appalachian highlands. (I once located one beneath my camp cot in the Smokies by using my flashlight and staying in bed!) Then in the S. W. US and in Mexico there are the Hooded Skunk and the Hog-nosed Skunk. All of them are essentially nocturnal in their habits, and all represent the highest development of the scent glands in the family Mustelidae.

Striped skunks can be identified year-round by the two broad white stripes on their back which meet in a cap over the head and shoulders. A thin white stripe runs down the face, and at the other end is a bushy black tail, often grizzled with a white fringe. They generally weigh between 6 and 14 pounds.

To say that this skunk is best known for its spraying is to understate the case. Should one turn his back on you, look out! It may have preliminarily stomped the ground and arched its tail in disapproval of your presence. Persist in continuing to annoy it, and it is likely to brace its hind legs, lower its head, raise its tail straight up, and by then you had best be beyond 15 feet. The fine, fan-shaped jet of spray travels that far accurately, and the mist may go much farther. The odor is detectable for a mile. Should the spray get in your eyes, it will cause intense pain and temporary loss of vision. Furthermore, the animal can do this 5 or 6 times on any one occasion. The fetid, oily, yellowish musk from the scent glands offers the skunk excellent protection. It needs no protective coloration. Ammonia or tomato juice will usually remove the odor, and a carbolic soap and water bath should then make you acceptable to fellow humans again.

These cousins of badgers, otters, and weasels are omnivorous. They eat such things as berries, carrion, crayfish, mollusks, adult insects, grubs, rodents, eggs of ground-nesting birds and reptiles, frogs, and, rarely, a chicken. They may root up a lawn in their search for grubs. One study of stomach contents from a number of road-kill skunks revealed 1/2 insects, 1/5 fruits, and 1/6 mice. Their only serious predator is the Great Horned Owl.

Striped skunks like to be within a mile or two of fresh water and seem to prefer grown-up weedy, or brushy fields. They prefer semi-open country, not the deepest woods. In winter they do not truly hibernate, but during periods of extreme cold they may take to the earth, working themselves down into burrows next to old roots or boulders where they will sink into a temporary lethargic sleep. In our area they tend to disappear from mid-November to late February, having gorged themselves on fall insects and mice. They will also hole up in hollow logs, crevices, or beneath buildings - even with humans inside!

Our "woods-pussy" is characteristically a deliberate, gentle, and decorous animal. His movements show assurance, social poise, and ease. He has learned not to be afraid! Once descented, he makes a fair pet. I remember my daily meetings with "Little Flower," who seemed to look forward to my visits with her in the animal pens at McCormick Creek State Park when I was a naturalist there. With uncertain individuals, be cautious; this animal is currently the chief carrier of rabies

Mating usually occurs in late winter (Feb-Mar). The fertilized egg may float free in the uterus, delaying its attachment to the uterine wall, and thus regulating the time of birth to mid-May, 63 days later. Four to ten young are born blind, and will wait a month for developed scent glands. Their characteristic manner of following their mother in single file is humorous to watch.

Because of the striped skunk's plentiful supply they are considered valuable fur animals. The pelts are sewn together and sold under such names as marten, brown marten, or Alaskan sable. The musk oil, because of its clinging quality, is used as a perfume base.

Russell Mumford reports that this skunk has shown a population change with wide deviations in Indiana for given population areas. In the late 1930's and early 1940's a disease--perhaps encephalitis--drastically reduced their numbers in our state.

by Bob Weber

Note: The drawing of the skunk is an adaptation by Janet Weber from a drawing in the Palmer book. The tracks are direct copies from that book.

Sources:
Burt, Wm. Henry, Richard P. Grossenheider. A Field Guide to the Mammals (N.A., N. of Mexico). Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 1976.

Morgan, Ann H. Field Book of Animals in Winter. G. P. Putnam Sons, N.Y. 1939.

Mumford, Russell E. Distribution of the Mammals of Indiana. Indiana Academy of Science, Indpls. 1969.

Palmer, E. Lawrence. Palmer's Fieldbook of Mammals. E. P. Dutton and Co., N.Y. 1957.

Whitaker, John O. Sr., Robert Elman, & Carol Hehring. The Audubon Society Field Guide to N. A. Mammals. Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y. 1980.

h f f h
Trail

Front Foot

Hind Foot



Tracks



POKAGON STATE PARK and the
POTAWATOMI INN invite you to

A Winter Adventure Breakaway! February 10, 11, 12, 1988



Get out and enjoy what nature and the winter season provides. Pokagon State Park is where it all happens. Surrounded by snow-covered hills and ice-covered lakes, Pokagon offers ice fishing, skating, skiing, tobogganing, and many more events of the winter season. February weather could be blustery so come prepared for winter conditions!

For more information call Pokagon State Park at
(219) 833-2012.

Wednesday, Feb. 10



- 7:30 p.m. **A WINTER ICE BREAKER...** Gather around a warm fire in the Lonidaw Lounge to register and meet fellow winter adventurers.
- 8:30 p.m. **THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...** Downstairs in the Wigwam Room, we'll meet and take a special look, via slides, at this winter wonderland of Pokagon State Park.
- 9:00 p.m. **RAMBLING THROUGH A WINTER'S NIGHT SKY.** An optional activity for those who want some brisk fresh air before bedtime. Bundle up very warmly for a snort walk down to the lake and a long-distance gaze into the beautiful, winter, night sky.
- 9:15 p.m. Refreshments in the Lonidaw Lounge.

Thursday, Feb. 11



- Two optional before breakfast outings...
- 7:30 a.m. **WINTER WAKE-UP WALK!** A refreshing walk in search of winter wildlife.
- 7:30 a.m. **BIRDING MADE EASY.** A carpool to the Nature Center to view birds through the observation window.



- 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST IN THE INN DINING ROOM.

10:00 a.m. Choice of one:

- A. **SNOWSHOE TYING!** Tie your own pair of snowshoes from a kit provided! This is an all-day session, but we'll take breaks to walk in already made snowshoes and study nature. Cost of kit is \$40.00 (payable at program). Please indicate what size kit you need on the return portion (small if you weigh under 160 lbs. or less, large if you are over 160 lbs.). (Limited Enrollment)
- B. **SASSAFRAS BEADS.** An indoor crafts session making beautiful jewelry with sassafras twigs and other natural objects.
- C. **ICE FISHING / WINTER SIGNS WALK.** We'll try our luck on Lake Lonidaw (Licenses available at park office)! You may bring your own gear, or use some of ours. We'll also study signs of winter around the frozen wetlands.

- 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LUNCH IN THE INN DINING ROOM.

2:00 p.m. Choice of one.

- A. **SNOWSHOE TYING, PART II...** Continue to work on the shoes begun in morning program. Will include a late afternoon snowshoe walk.
- B. **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING!** for both beginners and intermediate skiers. Bring your equipment or use the parks.
- C. **WILDLIFE REFUGE FIELD TRIP.** A carpool tour to some area refuges. Dress for some walking.
- D. **FREE TIME.....** on your own time for visiting the Nature Center, hiking in winter woods, more ice fishing, Inn pool and sauna, shopping, antiquing, playing cards, etc...

6:30 p.m. DINNER THEATRE!

A delicious Potawatomi dinner, then sit back and enjoy the comedy musical, "Little Shop of Horrors" performed by the County Players!

Tobogganing and Refreshments at the Warming Center following the Dinner Theatre. Bundle up for some high-speed thrills, or bring a deck of cards for playing around the warm fire.

Friday, Feb. 12



- 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST BUFFET IN THE INN DINING ROOM.

9:00 a.m. Choice of one:

- A. **WINTER CAMPING - SAFETY/SURVIVAL.** An indoor session to learn skills and see equipment for both winter camping, and simple winter traveling and home-living tips.
- B. **SNOWSHOEING / WINTER EXPLORING.** For those who did not participate in yesterday's snowshoe programs.
- C. **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING!** No instruction today, just skiing. Use your own equipment or ours.
- D. **CORN HUSK CRAFTS.** An indoor session using some of last year's harvest for this year's art!

- 11:30 a.m. **A FINAL GATHERING AND A SAFE TRIP HOME!**

TREE SALES PROGRAM Note enclosed flyer from Kosciusko County Soil & Water Conservation District. Good deal on trees! NO restrictions on use plus low prices. Mail early for best selection. No shipping charges because you pick them up.



LINDENWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA, a natural area jewel on the west edge of Fort Wayne, within the city limits, has received permanent protection from development by having ownership placed in the hands of the Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners in early November. Purchase of the area was made possible by the Lindenwood Park Foundation and the Fort Wayne Park Foundation Inc.. This 92.5 acre site is the only undeveloped park in the city park system and is suitable for dedication under Indiana's Nature Preserves Act. Nature Preserve dedication is an immediate goal of those involved with this wonderful addition.

ACRES MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - If you have a person you would like to memorialize with a tree or shrub planted in their honor, we have a lovely location! The south-west corner of the ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE.

We will again, in the spring, have a Saturday set aside for this. You will be remembering a friend or family member and be helping establish another wooded corner. Native trees and shrubs only. You may contact Bob Weber 747-6030; Art Eberhardt 665-2421 or Jim Shearer 665-9391 for further information.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

call or write the ACRES office



NEW BOOKS

A guide to the vitality and variety of life in our broadleaf woodlands

by James P. Jackson

An excellent full color volume on broadleaf woodlands. American Forestry Association Hardback \$10.00

Plain Ol' Charlie Deam

Published by Purdue University Press. If you have an interest in botanizing, enjoy this book about the pioneer Hoosier botanist who created the standard. Deam's life centered in Bluffton, IN Paperback \$12.95

- New Stationary. Packed 5 sheets each of 2 designs with 10 plain sheets & envelopes \$3
- New Notes. Packed 2 each of 4 designs with envelopes (Designs are 4 favorite Quarterly art) \$2.50
- Self Mailer. Packed 6 per pack with stickers (Wing Haven art) \$2
- Color Postcards. 45¢ each 5 for \$2
- ACRES patches. \$1.25
- POCKET GUIDES - Trees, Flowers, Ferns, Tracks, Winter Twigs \$1.50 each

ALSO AVAILABLE





THE PLANTING OF TWO TREES



From MENGERSON NATURE PRESERVE neighbors & friends....
 "Thank you all, again, for that afternoon at the Mengerson Nature Reserve As ACRES brochure says, this preservation work is 'rewarding' . To be caretakers of this beautiful earth is a part of mankind's original commission."

"Our home faces Stelhorn Road, an endless source of noise and commotion. But to the rear is the reserve, and its beauty and peace in the midst of 'civilization' is all the more to be cherished. We thought the people of ACRES might enjoy knowing about the deer who makes her home in the reserve. This summer our 3-year old carried apples to the edge of the reserve every evening and almost every morning we were able to watch the deer, and then her baby, have a feast. What a thrill! The Mengersons have left a beautiful living memorial. Our contribution is small but it is a token of the respect that we have for the work of ACRES."

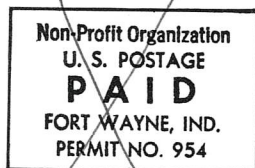
ACRES

P O BOX 141

1802 CHAPMAN ROAD

HUNTERTOWN, INDIANA 46748

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