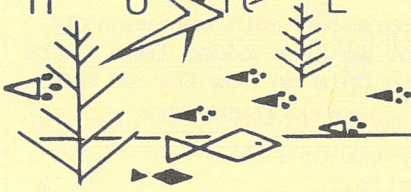
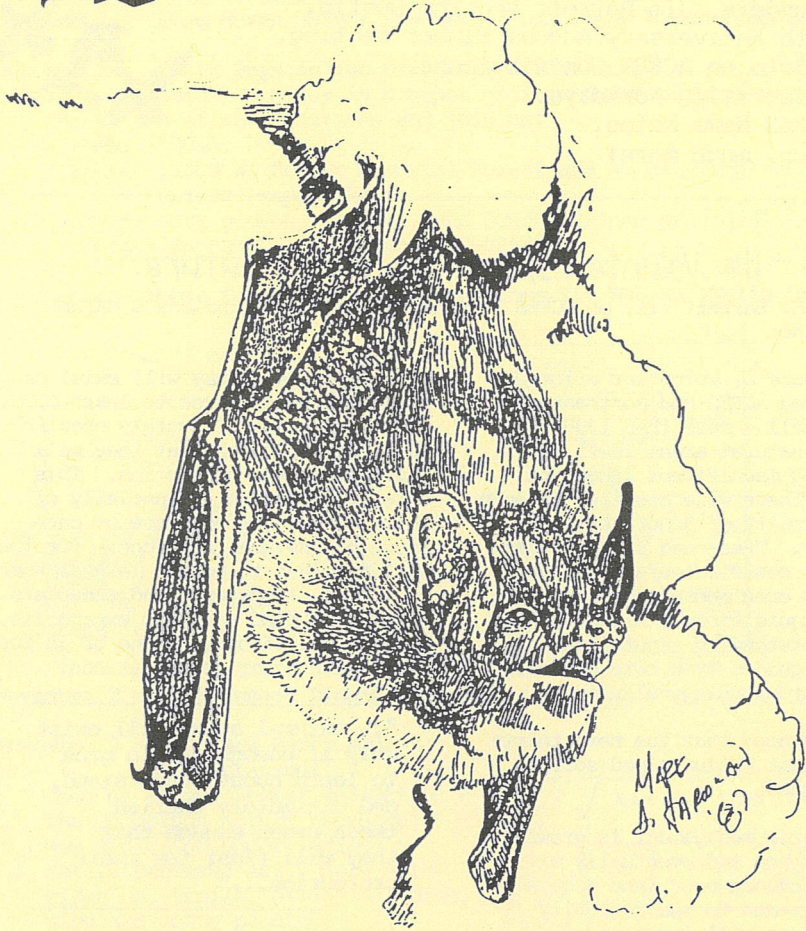


A C R E S



QUARTERLY
Autumn - 1990
Volume XXIX No. 4



30th Anniversary
Issue!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ACRES!

In this issue:

With this issue of the *Quarterly*, we mark the 30th anniversary of ACRES, Inc.! To highlight the event we have added four extra pages to this issue, bringing you up to date on how far we have come and where we are going! Inside, you will discover:

- Personal comments and memories by two of ACRES founders, Jim Barrett and Tom Dustin.
- 30th Anniversary Annual Dinner Meeting.
- Update on ACRES Contributions.
- Celebration Workdays.
- ACRES News Notes.
- Much, much more!



ACRES - its Volunteers, and On to the Future!

By James M. Barrett III, an ACRES Founder and Author of Indiana's Nature Preserve Act

Thirty years of volunteer efforts have served ACRES and Northeast Indiana well - more than 1300 acres of natural areas in 25 sites, comprising magnificent lands and waters. These were acquired through the generosity of donors of land and money. These and other donors have also contributed substantial funds for area management and future acquisitions. All of this, and an outstanding reputation, has been guided by a core of dedicated, hard-working volunteers.

I am convinced that the next thirty years cannot be sustained solely by volunteers.

Natural area management is growing in importance and eventually will take precedence over land acquisition. Threats to the integrity of our areas will increase as population and development pressures continue to grow. The best of ACRES' areas need buffer lands around them and more frequent monitoring.

I am concerned that, in the long term, no law, no Nature Preserves dedication, no small group of volunteers, can alone protect

natural areas. They will exist only if enough people grow to learn about, understand, and ultimately cherish these areas enough that they will fight for their protection. This entails education - especially of those who do not now know or care about our natural heritage - for they will continue to be the largest number of voters, taxpayers, and consumers. ACRES must find a way to expand its educational efforts, alone or in cooperation with other organizations.

"...natural areas will exist only if enough people grow to learn about, understand, and ultimately cherish these areas enough that they will fight for their protection..."

For these reasons, the ACRES Board has begun discussing the hiring of a staff person and the reorganization of the Board and its committees for more efficient coordination of its volunteer staff and members. We solicit your suggestions. We need your ideas and your help - for the next thirty years of natural area management and protection!

Field Trips & Special Events

September 22 ARAHISC (ACRES Ride and Hike in Steuben County)

Bike trip meeting at Wing Haven Preserve at 9:00am.

October 7 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5pm)

October 13 Work Days in Two Different ACRES Areas!

Your volunteering a day is a super gift to ACRES 30th year! Choose one of the locations and join us!

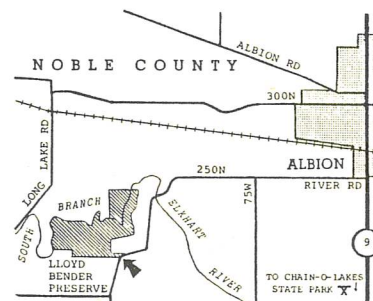
When: 9:00am.

Where: Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest and Acres Along the Wabash (maps below).

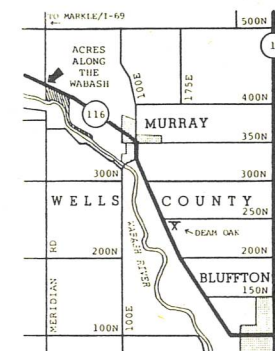
Bring: Work gloves, loppers, and lunch (drinks provided).

Contact Person: Jane Dustin (637-6264).

Bender (Noble County)



Acres Along The Wabash (Wells County)



November 2 ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting. (See page 4 for details.)

November 3 Gala Work Party and Celebration!

Join us at our newest dedication - The Mengerson Nature Preserve! - Now dedicated under Indiana's Nature Preserve Act. Help with clean up, trails, bridge building, sign and entry paint-up.

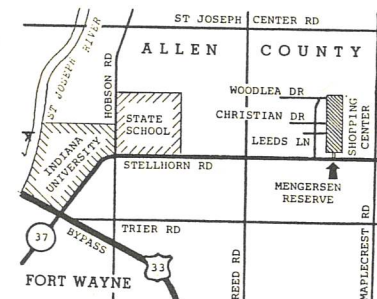
When: 9:30am

Where: See map at right.

Bring: Work gloves and tools.

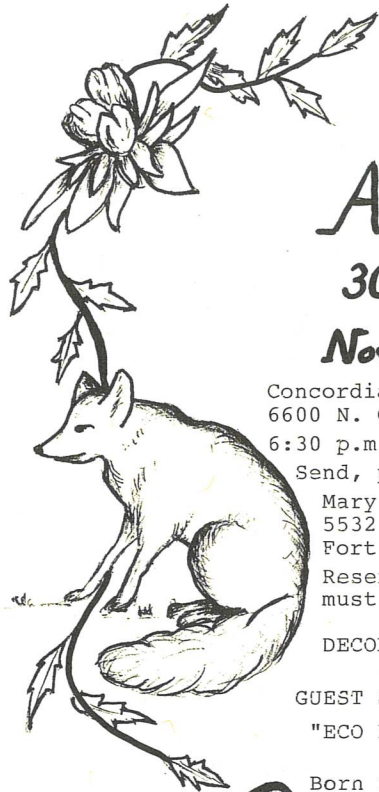
Lunch and drinks provided!

Contact: Jane Dustin (637-6264)



November 4 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5pm)

December 2 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5 pm)



ACRES

30th Year

Nov. 2, 1990

Concordia Seminary Dining Hall
6600 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne, IN
6:30 p.m. \$10 a plate

Send, phone reservations.

Mary Schneider- 484-3986
5532 Riveria Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Reservations must be made and
must be honored.

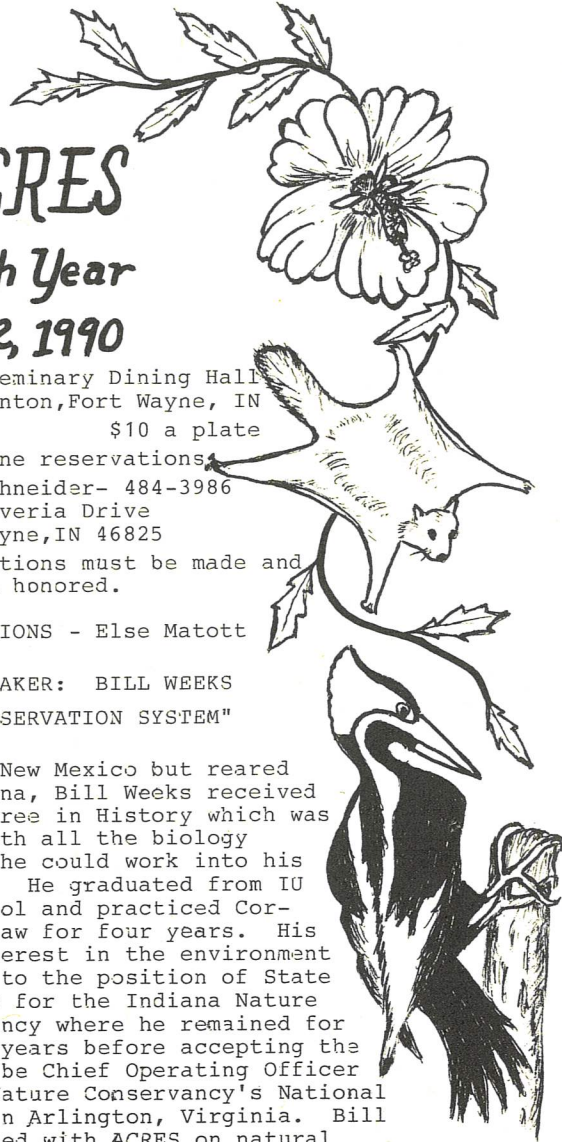
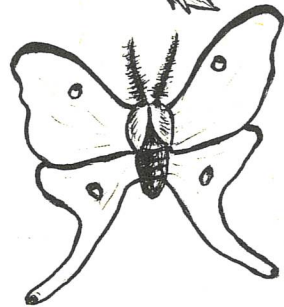
DECORATIONS - Else Matott

GUEST SPEAKER: BILL WEEKS
"ECO PRESERVATION SYSTEM"

Born in New Mexico but reared in Indiana, Bill Weeks received a BS degree in History which was laced with all the biology courses he could work into his studies. He graduated from IU Law School and practiced Corporate Law for four years. His avid interest in the environment led him to the position of State Director for the Indiana Nature Conservancy where he remained for several years before accepting the call to be Chief Operating Officer of The Nature Conservancy's National Office in Arlington, Virginia. Bill has worked with ACRES on natural areas preservation and has many friends in northeastern Indiana.

This will be a sit-down dinner. The program will be at 8:00 p.m. in Concordia Seminary Classroom 201. If you cannot dine with us, please plan to attend the program.

Note and artwork
by Ethyle Bloch



ACRES News Notes

Art Hammer Nominated for National Award

ACRES member Art Hammer was nominated by the ACRES Board for the Alexander Calder Conservation Award presented each year by the national organization, the Conservation Fund. His name was one of over 60 put in nomination this year. Individual commitment and involvement in conservation are the key requirements. Art's involvement in ACRES thus far includes his gift of three nature preserve properties. These are the Anna Brand Hammer Reserve of 20 acres, the Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve of 125 acres, and, very recently, the Herman F. Hammer Wald Nature Preserve of 42 acres. This summer Art bought additional land to provide a more convenient entry to the Wetlands, and he covered the costs of surveying and deed transfer. Art has been an inspiration to many through his love of trees and his strong interest in leading young people into conservation activities. Congratulations Art and a big thank you!

Bird Box Business

Members Norma Wiesner and Greg Mauk, who both live on the shores of Little Otter Lake and border out Beechwood Preserve, have been making blue bird and wood duck boxes for a good while. Their devotion to this work has probably ensured the rearing of many young birds. This past spring, member Frank Webster bought several of the houses for his own natural area. ACRES will gladly take orders for additional boxes for next spring. You can see samples of the houses in the visitors' center at Wing Haven and place your order through Bob Weber (747-6030) at a price of \$11 each for blue bird, and \$20 each for wood ducks.



Vandolah Trail Work Planned

A well-defined trail for the new Vandolah Nature Preserve along Cedar Creek is the project adopted by Gary Wohlwend to earn his Eagle Scout ranking. He has walked the property with Bob Weber and they have agreed upon a trail route. Now Gary must gather his troopmates and lay a workable plan for putting in an interesting, easy-to-follow trail. Other scouts who might want a similar project are encouraged to apply. Contact Bob Weber at 747-6030.

See related Vandolah Nature Preserve story on page 7.

Wing Haven Happenings....

NEW BENCHES FOR THE DOCK - Linda and John Mowry have funded the cost of two benches now awaiting your sitting pleasure on the dock on Little Gentian Lake. The benches were constructed by James Baxter and Bob Weber. The design is that of the exact benches that conservationist/author Aldo Leopold made and enjoyed on his well known and written about farm in central Wisconsin. One bench bears a brass plate inscribed "In Memory of Lyle Claphan". Lyle was Linda's father and a very strong supporter of ACRES. He attended many work days in Steuben County natural areas, and these benches will remain as a nice memory of Lyle.

BUILDING REPAIRS - Wing Haven is the only ACRES property with maintained buildings. We are now using a contracting firm to repair and/or replace all roofing, and do other needed repairs. Such preventive maintenance should make our unique, old log buildings serve for many years to come.

BATS!

Bats are one group of animals that seems to always creep into legends, myths, and folklore, especially in the fall and around Halloween. Recently, they have also been creeping into headlines of papers and TV newscasts as the public comes to know them better and the benefits of bats are acclaimed.



This summer in Ft. Wayne, both a TV station and a newspaper ran stories about a bat program sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. At the Salamonie Reservoir in Huntington and Wabash counties, four, large, 300-pound bat houses were erected. Each can house 1,000 roosting bats. Located throughout the reservoir are 24 smaller bat houses, each capable of housing 30 to 40 bats. A fifth, large house has been installed at the Salamonie Lost Bridge West Visitors' Center where it can be used by bats and seen by the public.

There are 12 species of bats in Indiana. Some are quite rare. They all feed entirely on insects. If you are looking for the natural bug zapper for the backyard and patio, bats are it!

Holy Caped Crusader! More than 200 bat colonies found in Indiana

Following up on leads generated through widely disseminated "Bats Wanted" posters, researchers at Indiana State University found 231 colonies of bats throughout Indiana. The colonies included four species: evening bat, pipistrelle, little brown bat and big brown bat.

"One of our main objectives was to locate a colony of evening bats, currently on the threatened species list in Indiana," said John O. Whitaker, Jr., Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, who conducted the study along with Sherry L. Gummer. "We found evening bats in the proverbial belfry. The single colony of evening bats we found was located in the bell tower of Briley Chapel near Clay City, Indiana," he said.

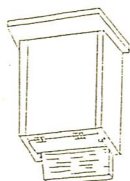
Most of the colonies (189) were of the big brown variety, most often found in barns (62 colonies). They

were also located in churches (43), houses (40), stores, factories and the like (20), schools (10), garages, sheds and cabins (8), and one each in a corn storage silo, a mausoleum, a press box, a hospital roof, a gymnasium and behind vertical pipes on the side of a building.

"A little brown bat colony in a barn in Brazil, Indiana, was particularly interesting because of its size," Whitaker said. "We counted more than 6,700 bats emerging in one night. This may well be the largest known colony of this species." Whitaker says that bats are quite beneficial to man because they live on insects.

A complete listing of the bat colonies is on file at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The research was partially funded through a grant made by the Indiana Academy of Science.

The above article was taken from the September 1989 issue of **Science Notes** published by the Indiana Academy of Science. If you have any information or questions about bat colonies, you may contact Dr. John Whitaker, Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, 47809 (812-237-2383).



If you would like a set of bat box plans, contact the Pokagon State Park Nature Center (219-833-2012), or stop by and pick one up!



Vandolah Day! An ACRES early summer work day established the entryway and signage for the new Vandolah Nature Preserve. Here, ACRES workers and Byron Stellhorn (far right) were joined by Cedar Creek Wildlife Project Inc. President Jean Wise to accept a \$1,000 contribution to the fund raising for the area. The woods, bottomland, and ravines are the Elizabeth Vandolah Stellhorn farm, and Byron and his mother made a gift of additional bottomland to join this to the Rodenbeck Nature Reserve protecting almost a mile of Cedar Creek Valley!

Memorial to Kay Hough

My introduction to Kay Hough was through Girl Scouting. I was a troop leader of older Scouts. Kay was a professional on the Limerlost Council Staff. All of us found Kay to be a devoted, workaholic Scouter who strictly followed all of the principles of Scouting and expected us to do likewise. She did create a respected fear among us at first, but the greater the contact with her, the more we admired her diligence, thoroughness and, above all, her caring for every girl. She was our model who inspired Scout leaders and girls to greater heights. She was never forgotten over the years and will always be lovingly remembered.

My later contact with Kay was through ACRES, Inc. Loving nature and the out-of-doors so dearly, Kay served the ACRES board of directors until her health limited her activities. Kay was directly responsible for the fund raising ACRES needed to acquire the natural area just east of Kendallville - Lonidaw. She loved all ACRES areas, but this was her favorite. Kay's efforts for ACRES in the various tasks she pursued were a great plus for the goal of preservation of the natural areas we are losing all too rapidly. ACRES board and members appreciate Kay's dedicated work. We will always have her in our minds and hearts as the inspiration to diligently continue the pursuit of natural areas.

Thank you Kay.

- by Ethyle Bloch

Kathryn (Kay) Mary Hough died on Friday, June 8, 1990. Contributions may be sent to the Kay Hough Memorial Fund, ACRES, Inc.

A Brief ACRES Retrospective

By Thomas E. Dustin, a Founder and First Secretary

ACRES, Inc., might have been formed another day, and some of its founders may have been the same; but it would not likely have been as early as 1960, but for the intense and growing campaign to create a national preserve in the Indiana Dunes on Lake Michigan.

The modern day drive for the dunes started in 1952 with the formation of the Save the Dunes Council, and reached its first significant plateau in 1958, with introduction of legislation for a National Monument by the late Senator Paul Douglas, of Illinois.

The effort for the dunes was not limited to northwestern Indiana. I agreed to serve as volunteer public relations director for the Council, and my wife Jane served as regional coordinator for this northeastern part of Indiana.

Others from the Fort Wayne area had also joined the effort, such as Dr. John W. Klotz, who later became ACRES' first president. It was the battle for the dunes which brought the 12 men and women together in 1960 to incorporate "Allen County Reserves". This name was conceived by Robert C. Weber because it could be boiled down to the handy acronym of "ACRES", as our purposes soon extended beyond the county's borders. This naming was a very perceptive notion, considering that ACRES' first acquisition was the superb Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Preserve, in Noble County, which came as a gift from its namesake.

"...it was not only on the shores of Lake Michigan where tragic losses of irreplaceable natural areas were occurring. It was happening right here too, in fact everywhere..."

With the Indiana dunes as the founders' common environmental denominator, the sensitivity emerged that it was not only on the shores of Lake Michigan where tragic losses of irreplaceable natural areas were occurring. It was happening right here too, in fact everywhere.

Was there something that could be done to save some of the finest examples of nature before pitched battles became necessary to protect them? That was the key question when Allen County Reserves was incorporated. Thus, in an indirect, but very tangible, way the formation of ACRES is owed to the campaign for the Indiana Dunes. The first component of the dunes preserve was authorized by Congress and signed by President Lyndon Johnson in November of 1966.

But how to pattern the new organization? After much study, it was decided to use the model of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which also addressed itself to a limited area of that state. ACRES decided that northeastern Indiana would be its perimeter, though precise boundaries were never explicitly drawn. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's president, the eminent Dr. M Graham Netting, agreed to serve as principal speaker for ACRES annual meeting that first year, and a clear course was set from that point on.

"Today, ACRES, Inc., is probably the most successful organization of its kind in the United States."

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30th Year
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"ECO PRESERVATION SYSTEM"

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Note and artwork
by Ethyle Bloch

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Special Event

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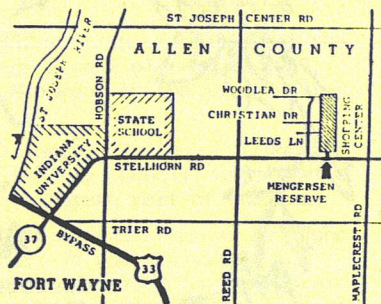
When: 9:30am

Where: See map at right.

Bring: Work gloves and tools.

Lunch and drinks provided!

Contact: Jane Dustin (637-6264)



November 4 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5pm)

December 2 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5 pm)

Available at Annual Dinner

SALE ITEMS-

Pocket Nature Guides: Trees

Flowers

Tracks

Ferns

Winter Twigs

Berry

Nature Notes - two each of four designs, plus envelopes. 2.50 pack

Stationery - ten design sheets, ten plain, plus ten envelopes

3.00 pack

"Wing Haven" Fold Notes - six self-mailers plus stickers
Fred Wooley, artist.

2.00 pack

Patches (embroidered)

1.75 each

or 3.00 for two

Postage and handling

1.50

Available at Wing Haven Nature Preserve on
Open House Days, or through ACRES Office,
Orders filled on payment.

BOOKS: PLAIN OL'CHARLIE DEAM \$12.95 (Kriebel)
PULSE OF THE FOREST 10.00 (Jackson)
WILD PLANTS IN FLOWER 6.50 (Petty)
PLANTS OF THE CHICAGO REGION 16.00 (Swink)

Today, ACRES, Inc. is probably the most successful organization of its kind in the United States. Its properties, many of them donated, but some purchased, are located in many counties of this region. Most are dedicated under Indiana's landmark 1967 Nature Preserves Act. There are 25 areas in all, including several in its home area of Allen County.

The Nature Preserves Act itself was an ideal vehicle for saving natural excellence in perpetuity. Acting under the auspices of the Indiana Izaak Walton League's Wilderness and Natural Areas Committee, past ACRES president Jim Barrett was the principal drafter of the Act. Many other ACRES leaders acting individually and through the League were responsible for its passage.

Autumn Walk at WingHaven

Indian summer washed away by the rain,
Winter stands aloof.

The woods entice. Bare limbs don the day's wet sleeves and,
shimmering, draw visitors in.

They do not believe in angels, yet are comforted by invisible
winged creatures.

A further rush of pounding drops, the singing stops.

They step carefully,
not awkward of each other,
not fearful of muddy slips
(he helped build this little bridge),
But testing the balance of yesterday's funeral,
the circumstance too new to wear with ease.

The path is strewn with gems,
shining perfect shagbark at a bend,
glistening pink rock protruding at their feet,
smooth brown bitternut,
red and russet tulip leaves,
new white fungus.

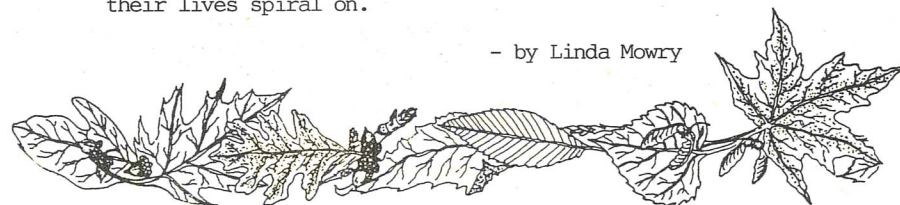
Each jewel takes its place in their memory boxes.

At the heart is pure mystery,
the lake's rushing, rippling, tinkling raindrop music.
The enrapturing concert swells around and below and within them.

Steps retraced pass Jack-in-the-pulpit.
This time the scarlet cluster demands attention,
gleams fat and ripe,
seems too robust to lie toppled,
nestled in rotting leaves.

Fecundity's full smell lies thick on tangled thoughts,
but like the thin bleached vine
and the snail in the meadow
their lives spiral on.

- by Linda Mowry



ACRES Election

It is that time of year again to begin thinking about electing members to the Board of Directors for ACRES, Inc. There are 18 ACRES directors. Three are appointed for staggered three-year terms, one by the Department of Education of the State of Indiana, one by the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and one by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association. These appointees give broader public representation on the board.

Fifteen directors are elected by the dues-paying members in good standing, five each year for three year terms. The procedure for nominating members to the board is:

- Between September 22 and October 22, dues-paying members in good standing may nominate a member of the Corporation by a written instrument which is: 1) signed by 10 members, 2) contains the nominee's written consent to serve if elected, and 3) is delivered to the Secretary at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana, 46748 on or before October 22.
- If more than six members are nominated, the six nominated by the largest number shall be the nominees. The nominee for the one-year term will be selected by the Nominations Committee by lot.
- If less than six nominations are made by the members, then between October 22 and October 31, the Nominations Committee may, but need not, nominate enough to make a total of ten nominees.
- Each nominee may submit a statement of his/her qualifications which will be sent to members with the ballot. Such statement must be received by the Secretary before November 1.
- No later than November 1, the Secretary will mail to members entitled to vote, a ballot and the statement of nominees' qualifications, together with a short reminder of the voting procedure.
- Members may vote by mailed ballot. Members do not need to attend the annual meeting on December 7. However, if a member does attend, he/she may vote in person and cancel any ballot he/she may have returned by mail. There are no "write-in" votes accepted for anyone not nominated pursuant to the foregoing procedure.
- To be effective, a ballot returned by mail must a) be enclosed in an envelope signed by the voting member, b) not be marked for more than five persons, and c) be received by the Secretary NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6.

Contributions to ACRES!

As you know, ACRES, Inc. is a volunteer, not-for-profit, charitable organization. We are about as grass roots of an organization as you can get! Our operating funds come from donations. Most of our work in preserves is done by members and friends who get together for a "field day", roll up their sleeves, and dig in!

In some cases, very generous contributors have provided the funds to purchase entire parcels of land, or some



Contributions (continued)

have simply donated land outright. Groups of individuals have gotten together to raise funds to help purchase natural areas. These types of contributions form the backbone of ACRES. Also helping significantly, are your membership dues, and you members who go beyond the regular dues to a higher category of giving that provides a little extra money for our stewardship activities.

And then there are you members and friends of ACRES who have made lasting and valuable contributions in the form of tools, supplies, materials, and other items from which our organization and properties benefit. Of course we would be most remiss if we did not mention the countless hours of work that many of you put in, whether it be out in the field, in the office, attending a meeting, or assembling newsletters around the kitchen table.

We thought it would be nice and certainly appropriate to acknowledge the contributions made to ACRES in the **Quarterly**. For this first time, we will include those made so far in 1990. We do this with great regret that we do not have the space to go back and cover the previous 29 years of giving (what a volume that would be!). We do express sincere appreciation, though, to all past contributions. You have brought us a long way!

We ask that if you know of a donation that is made to ACRES, either funds, items, or work projects out on a property, please contact **Quarterly** editor Fred Wooley. Of course any donation wishing to be anonymous will certainly remain so, but we would like our members to know about it! Thank you for that information and **thank you** to the following people for their contributions this past year:

Items:

- Linda and John Mowry - lumber for two benches (in memory of Lyle Claphan).
- June Tendall - handmade woven rug (from 27 old wool skirts bought at garage sales!) for Wing Haven residence stairway.
- Else Matott - bluebird boxes for Detering Farm Preserve.
- Glen and Chris Bickel - set of hand tools, two extension cords, three patio benches, Purple Martin house, and riding mower.

Funds:

- Art Hammer - \$1,900 for acquisition of wetlands.
- Beyer Foundation - \$1,900 for parking lot construction at Spurgeon Preserve.
- Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, Inc. - \$1,000 towards purchase of Vandolah Nature Preserve.

Work Projects:

- George McCarthy - mowing of Ropchan Wildlife Refuge (parking lot and trails.)
- Greg Mauk and Norma Wiesner - construction of bird boxes.
- Jim Baxter - construction of two benches.
- Glen Bickel - work on Wing Haven trails and mowing.
- Charles Todd - caretaking of Spurgeon Preserve.
- Harry Gates - mailing list/labels and computer work.
- Carl Coleman - sign builder for Vandolah.
- Margien Lund - ACRES promotions.
- Carolyn McNaghy - newsletter work and events organizer.



THE BACK PAGE...

Working on this anniversary issue has been a real joy. Through both written words and casual conversations with some of the founders, I've had a chance to feel some of the ACRES history, sense the excitement of its early beginnings, and enjoy the taste of pride in all that this group has accomplished.



Highlighted throughout this issue is the fact that most all of what is done is done through volunteer effort. People give of themselves - their time, their money, and even their land.

Among this active ACRES group is a sense of community and camaraderie. The bond goes beyond saving natural areas for the future. It touches lives and involves sharing - a type of sharing that occurs among families in the country or over a backyard fence in town. ACRES gatherings are informal. New friends are always welcomed. Before, after, and in between business, you'll hear good friendly talk of bicycling, gardening tips, star gazing, family projects, wild foods, new recipes, bird hot spots and houses, a nature show on TV, a new book, taking pictures, new babies, sick friends, kids in college, and, of course... the weather.

Join us at the annual dinner, a work day, field trip, or an open house at Wing Haven. Your involvement with ACRES, if even in a casual way, can be an inspirational, refreshing, rewarding tie to a better life in a very hectic world.

- Fred J. Wooley, Editor

The ACRES QUARTERLY welcomes letters, articles, artwork, black & white photos, and anything else of interest to our readers. Send any and all items to Fred J. Wooley, Editor, ACRES Quarterly, Rt. 2, Box 108, Angola, Indiana, 46703. Deadline for the Winter issue is December 1, 1990.



printed on recycled paper

ACRES
P O BOX 141
1802 CHAPMAN ROAD
HUNTERTOWN, INDIANA 46748

Directors: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, VP; James M. Barrett, VP; Ethyle R. Bloch, VP; Jane Dustin, Secretary; James L. Shearer, Treasurer; Edward H. Eberhardt; John Ellenwood; Arthur Eberhardt; Mary Anna Entwisle; Judy Esterline; James D. Haddock; Thomas M. Kimbrough; Sam Schwartz; Sharon Partridge; Patricia Pichon; Lee Casebere; David J. Miller. Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Entwisle. National Advisory Board: Howard Michaud, Alton A. Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durwood 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, Indiana 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. Fred J. Wooley, Editor. MEMBERSHIPS: Patron, \$100.00; Sustaining, \$50.00; Family, \$10.00; Regular, \$5.00; Senior Citizen, \$2.00; and Student, \$1.00. Payable Annually. Membership year is July 1 to June 30.