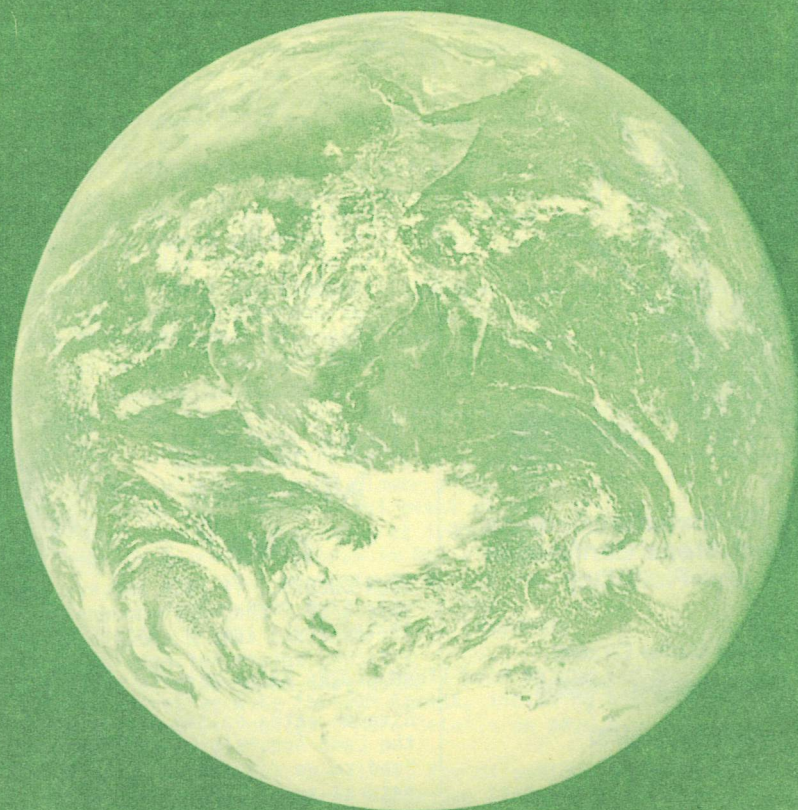




Quarterly
Spring - 1990
Volume XXIX No. 2



**Think globally. Act locally.
Recycle**

9th Annual



American Bittern

1990 Northeastern Indiana Natural Areas Conference and Field Day

YMCA Camp Crosley,
North Webster, Indiana

MAY 12th, 1990

For a complete brochure, contact:

Department of Nature Resources
Division of Nature Preserves
605B State Office Building
Indianapolis, In. 46204

(317)232-4052



Letter to ACRES

Dear ACRES,

On April 29, 1989, South Bend Audubon Society had a field trip to the Edna W. Spurgeon Nature Preserve in Noble Co. and we enjoyed it very much. We had 22 members and guests for the trip. As field trip chairman, I want to thank ACRES, Inc. for preserving and maintaining this beautiful area. It had the largest population of Blue-eyed Mary that I've ever seen in Indiana.

I am enclosing a list of the birds and plants in flower that we observed on the trip.

Again, our Society thanks your group for maintaining this beautiful natural area.

Sincerely,
Vic Riemenschneider
Field Trip Chairman
and President

Editor- Vic's list of 27 birds and 19 flowering plants was a bit much to print here, but if you take in the April 22 hikes at Spurgeon, you may see some of these yourselves! Thanks for the report Vic and South Bend Audubon!

Dues are due! Whooooose dues?



YOUR DUES.... if your address label says 6-90. Keep the membership card enclosed and send a check with the attached return information card, and keep your membership in ACRES current!

Give an extra dollar or two or ten to the Land Acquisition and Management Fund so we can add to ACRES beautiful natural areas. Introduce ACRES to a friend with a gift membership. Get into the Earth Day spirit and promote ACRES!

Mary Anna Entwisle
Membership Chairperson

Cover Photo - was supplied by NASA to the Earth Care Paper Company and is used as a postcard. We thank both groups for permission to use it. For a catalog of Earth Care products, write to them at PO Box 3335, Madison, WI. 53704.

Field Trips & Special Events

April 14 Park Clean-up/ACRES Work Day. Maple Wood Nature Center.

Clean up in park and new ACRES preserve addition. Slides after.

When: 10:00am to ?

Where: Take I69 to SR 20. Go west to 500E and turn left (south). Go to 100S and turn right (west). Nature Center is 1/2 mile down road on left (south) side of road.

Bring: Work gloves and bag lunch. Drinks provided.

Contact People: Sharon Partridge (463-4022) Jane Dustin (637-6264)

April 21 Earth Day Adopt a Tree Festival!

Learn to plant a tree and take one home! Lots of activities!

More details on page 6.

When: 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Steuben County.

April 21 Earth Day Weekend at Pokagon State Park

Clean-up Hike at 10:30am; Sunspot viewing from 1:00pm to 3:00pm; "The Recyclone" at 2:00pm; Poster Contest Awards Ceremony at 3:00pm; "Garden of Eden" movie at 7:30pm; and Star Gaze at 8:00pm.

April 22 Earth Day Weekend at Pokagon State Park - continued.

Special viewing of Comet Austin at 3:30am; Morning Marsh Meander at 8:00am; "Earth Day, Every Day" slide show every hour on the hour from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Nature Center; Arbor Day/Apple Tree Program at 2:00pm.

For complete schedule: contact park nature center at 219-833-2012.

April 22 Woodland Wildflowers of Edna W. Spurgeon Nature Preserve.

Two special hikes led by flower enthusiasts Judy Esterline and Pattie Bennett. A wonderful event of the Earth Month Celebration!

When: Two hikes beginning at 1:00pm and 3:30pm.

Where: Spurgeon Preserve in Noble County. North of Ligonier, Take SR 5 north to 100N. Go east to 600W then south to Preserve on east side of road.

Contact Person: Judy Esterline (432-8455)

April 22 "Earth Walk" 1990. Maple Wood Nature Center.

An Interpretive hike through forest, including ACRES addition. Movie in nature center. More details on page 6.

When: 1:00pm

Where: See above, April 14, for directions to Maple Wood.

Contact Person: Sharon Partridge (463-4022)

April 28 Work Day/Hike at the Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve.

When: 9:30am

Where: At the Preserve in Noble County. Take 100W north from US 6. Go 2 miles north on 100W, jog west to 125W, north again, cross Elkhart River. Preserve on E side of 125 W.

Bring: Sack lunch and drink, work gloves, boots, and favorite tools for erecting sign, creating trails and other jobs.

Contact Person: Jane Dustin (637-6264)

foodchain unchained

by Marion T. Jackson
artwork by Chris Marks

A gentle drizzle of early spring dampened everything except my spirits as I strode softly along the woodland road at dawn. Without a sound, the rubber soles of my pacs squeegeed across the smooth wet asphalt.

A russet flash in the stream bed below caused me to freeze mid-stride. My intruding breath and pounding pulse almost betrayed me as the fox stopped -- one forepaw still upraised -- and gazed intently in my direction from barely twenty paces away. The small canid's rich red coat glistened with the wetness of spring rain. Water droplets spangled its muzzle and whiskers. Questing yellow-brown eyes and crinkling nose probed the heavy damp air for movement and human scent.

Satisfied that my immobile form was part of the landscape, the forepaw dropped into an effortless trot as the fox turned up a tributary stream. One furtive backward glance erased any lingering fears about my presence. The three-foot stream bank was cleared in a single deft leap as the fox entered the lowland meadow, proudly carrying head and tail at jaunty angles.

Moving intently now toward some remembered place, the fox crossed the sward with the grace of a skimming swallow. Upon reaching an aging log cabin in the clearing, reynard ended its March morning hunt by sniffing and glancing about carefully for a few seconds. Apparently satisfied that no danger or last-chance meal was at hand, the carnivore lowered its outstretched tail to half mast as the white tip disappeared into the darkened den under the building.

As I rounded the cabin's corner during my resumed walk, a startled cottontail darted from its grassy form less than ten feet from the fox den. With its bounding white powder-puff flag of truce, the gamboling rabbit signalled to everyone higher on the foodchain that it was enjoying at least one more day of hebivory.



About the Author and the Artist: Marion T. Jackson, PhD. is a professor of Life Science at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Artist Chris Marks, PhD. was formally a predoctoral student at I.S.U. and is now with the Indianapolis Zoo and Butler University. Chris did research on the development of behavioral patterns in young coyotes and is an accomplished artist of all canid species.

Field Trips & Special Events

continued from page 3.....

May 5 Work Day/Hike at the Vandolah Nature Preserve.

When: 9:30am

Where: At the Preserve in Allen County. Take Vandolah Road west 3/4 mile from Tonkle Road (old 427).

Bring: Sack lunch and drink, work gloves, and tools for erecting sign, and doing trail work.

Contact Person: Jane Dustin (637-6264)

May 6 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House.

Studio/Visitor Center will be open and staffed by ACRES member.

When: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Where: Steuben County. On C.R. 400N, 1/2 mile east of S.R. 127.

June 3 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House.

See May 6 above.

Earth Day Events

Maple Wood Nature Preserve / LaGrange County Parks Department
April 22, 1990 Earth Day Celebration - "Earth Walk" 1990!



1:00pm Opening Ceremony. Tree Planting Demonstration.

1:30pm Earth Walk begins. Participants will be hiking through the forest and making stops along the way to learn about current environmental issues. Upon completion of the walk, hikers will receive a certificate and a free tree. The day has been especially planned for families to learn about the environment together.

The movie, "Aldo Leopold, a Prophet for all Seasons" will be shown in the Nature Center for those who do not wish to walk. Free water testing for nitrates will also be available throughout the afternoon, compliments of the County Extension Service. Contact county naturalist Sharon Partridge for questions at 463-4022.

Directions to park listed on page 3 under April 14 program.

Edna W. Spurgeon Nature Preserve - Woodland Wildflower Walk - April 22, 1990

Two hikes, two naturalists! Join Judy Esterline and Pattie Bennett for hikes going out at 1:00pm and 3:30pm. Capture the beauty of spring flowers during this special time of year. Directions to the preserve given on page 3.

ACRES Cosponsors Earth Day Poster Contest with Pokagon State Park.

ACRES, Inc. along with two other Steuben County groups, the Steuben County Lakes Council and the McClue Nature Reserve Board, have joined with the Pokagon State Park Interpretive Naturalist Service to sponsor an Earth Day Poster Contest for fourth through eighth graders in Steuben County Schools.

The theme is "Earth Day is Every Day". Prizes will include U.S. Savings Bonds, recycling Tee-shirts, and recycling note cards from the Earth Care Paper Company. An awards ceremony will be held at the park at 3:00pm on Saturday, April 21. Winning posters will be on display at the Nature Center the whole week of April 21 through 29, and others will be on display in area business windows.



Earth Day Events Planned at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve!
EARTH DAY ADOPT A TREE FESTIVAL!

April 21, from 10:00am to 4:00pm



Participants are asked to bring the coupon on the bottom of page 7, or the one from the local newspaper for a free tree and lots of fun during this festival on the Saturday of Earth Day weekend. A tree planting demonstration will take place every hour on the hour. You will then be given a tree to take home, complete with adoption papers!

There will also be wildflower walks, bird walks, and plenty of opportunity to meander on your own. Materials and instructions will be available if you and your family would like to build a Bluebird box to take home. In studio/visitor center there will be the showing of environmental videos, such as "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, "The Man Who Planted Trees", "The Garden of Eden", "Saving Nature", and Wing Haven historical movies. Live dulcimer music will fill the air for you to sing or hum along. Contact Person: Art Eberhardt (665-2421).

Tornado Alley: 110 years of violent Indiana tornadoes

In the Midwest, the most feared weather catastrophe may well be the tornado and Indiana statistics show that the fear is based in fact.

Researchers at Purdue University report that more than 2,000 tornadoes have probably occurred in Indiana since 1880. Of these, at least 54 have been classified as "violent."

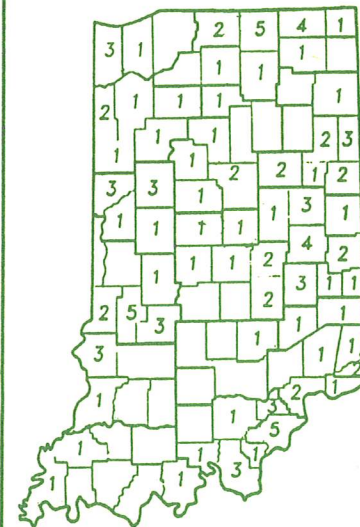
According to Dr. John T. Snow, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Purdue, tornadoes are classified on the Fujita intensity scale as "weak" (wind speeds ranging from 75-125 miles per hour at the tornado's base); "moderate" (125-200 mile-per-hour winds); and "violent" (200-300 mile-per-hour winds).

The wind speeds in tornadoes classified as "weak" are as fast as those in hurricanes. The fastest wind speeds within a tornado is suspected to be about 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes have been documented all 12 months of the year.

Snow said that nearly half of the 54 recorded violent tornadoes in Indiana occurred during the Palm Sunday Outbreak on April 11, 1965 and the Super Outbreak on April 3-4, 1974.

During the Super Outbreak, 134 tornadoes struck in the Midwest -- 17 in Indiana. Of those 17, 11 were violent. Most of the tornado-related deaths and destruction are associated with these violent events.

NUMBER
OF VIOLENT TORNADOS
PER COUNTY (1880 - 1988)



Tornadoes classified as "violent" on the Fujita intensity scale reach wind speeds of 200-300 miles per hour.

Reprinted from Indiana Academy of Science Science Notes, November 1989.

*** COUPON * COUPON * COUPON * COUPON * COUPON * COUPON * COUPON * COUPON ***

GOOD FOR ONE FREE TREE!

ACRES Adopt a Tree Festival

April 21, 1990, 10:00am to 4:00pm
Wing Haven Nature Preserve - Steuben County



THE BACK PAGE...

EARTH DAY IS A BIG DAY!



The first really big Earth Day was April 22, 1970. From that we springboarded into the environmental movement which eventually gave us legislation to protect clean air and water and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.

We have come a long way in the environmental movement, but we have so far to go.... This April 22 will hopefully re-fire the interest in caring for our planet. People across the nation, and world, will be showing concern for problems and hopes for promises.

When I began gathering items for this Quarterly the list of Earth Day activities in our corner of the state was already growing. By the time this comes out, there will no doubt be enough material to print a whole additional Quarterly. I apologize for not being able to get it all in here, but strongly encourage you to keep an eye on the newspapers and news programs for activities near you. Please, get involved. This is not just a fad to fade away. Help make this truly the "Decade for the Environment".

Also, do not stop on April 22. As the National Wildlife Federation theme this year says, make "Every Day Earth Day". Some suggestions to consider:

1. Renew your dues to ACRES, of course, and recruit one new member.
2. Consider joining one additional, new group (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, etc...) so that they may carry out your concerns on a daily basis when you cannot.
3. Keep an "environmental awareness candle" lit in the back of your mind so that the many decisions you make on a daily basis are done so with an enlightened awareness of how you may affect the planet earth.

Fred J. Wooley, Editor

The ACRES Quarterly welcomes letters, artwork, black and white photos, and anything else of interest to our readers. If you are out enjoying one of our preserves, drop us a note, let us know what you discovered and enjoyed! Send any and all items to Fred J. Wooley, Editor, ACRES Quarterly, Rt. 2, Box 108, Angola, Indiana, 46703. Deadline for the Summer issue is June 15, 1990.



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