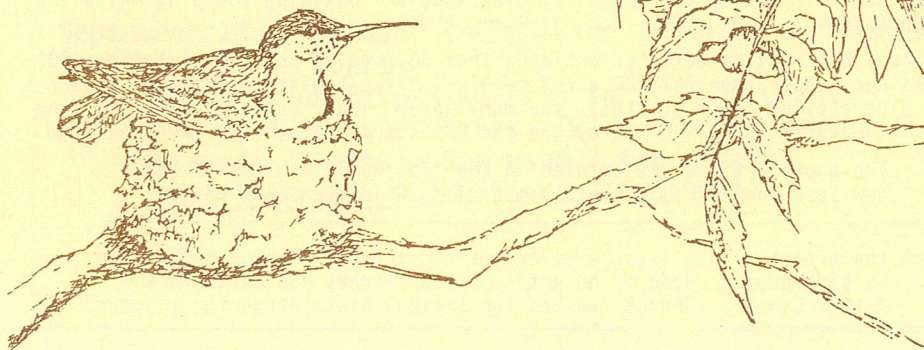
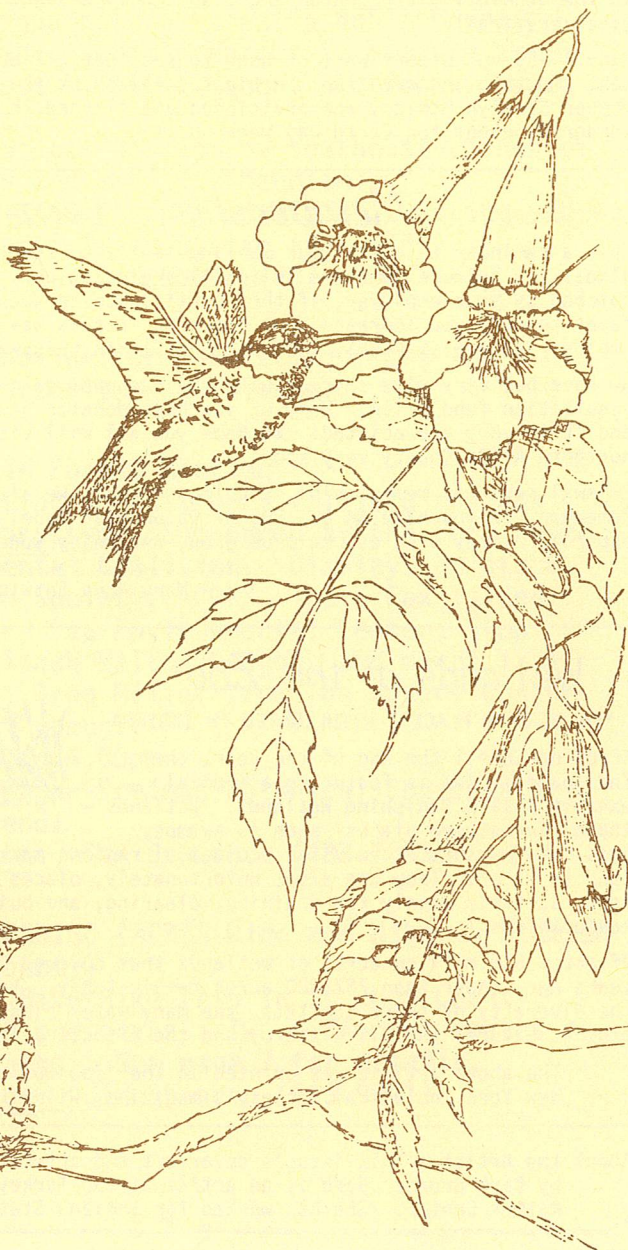
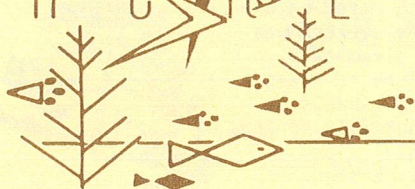


A C R E S

QUARTERLY

Summer - 1990
Volume XXIX No. 3



FESTIVAL SUCCESS!

The "Adopt-a-Tree" Festival held at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 21, of Earth Day weekend was a tremendous success! Over 200 trees were given away, complete with adoption papers! Numerous bluebird boxes were also built and carted off by happy participants to new nesting grounds. Also on hand that beautiful, spring, "Earth Day" in April were nature/environmental videos in the Studio/Visitor Center and a specially designed discovery trail.

Many ACRES volunteers were on hand to see that all activities went smoothly and were fun! A big special thank you to ACRES member Carolyn McNagny who envisioned and planned this wonderful event for Earth Day Weekend.



Membership Items...

Just a reminder to check your mailing labels to see that you are still current. Also!!... because we are a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations may be matched by your employer, if they participate in such programs. We would be happy to help you increase your donation in this way. Please check with your employer to see if ACRES, Inc. can benefit in this way.

We have had very nice success with the response to the Vandolah Nature Preserve acquisition fund drive. Many of you have donated generously to this project and it is very appreciated! We hope you all will visit this new site in northern Allen County very soon!

Renewal rate for memberships is going strong. We also have 63 new members. Remember, if you have an 88, 89, or 90 on your label, your membership has expired. Stay with us, help us grow, and enjoy your preserves!

- Mary Anna Entwisle, Membership Secretary

Wetlands at the Zoo

"IN-BETWEEN PLACES" HIGHLIGHTED IN INDIANA

"From now until the end of the year, the Indianapolis Zoo is featuring a special exhibit called **Vanishing Wetlands**. Wetlands - those "in-between places" such as swamps, bogs, and marshes - are vital ecological regions marking the transition from land to water. They are also, unfortunately, places that people consider worthless, suitable mainly for draining, clearing, and building shopping malls and condominiums.

Of about 5.5 million acres of wetlands that covered 25 percent of Indiana 200 years ago, fewer than 787,000 acres remain today. **Vanishing Wetlands** explores the diversity of these habitats, the many water birds, mammals, reptiles, and other creatures that live there, and the efforts being made to preserve them."

The above article was printed in the "Zoo World" column of the New York Zoological Society's magazine, *Wildlife Conservation*.

About the Artist - This issue's cover art and artwork on page 5 was done by Barb Brown. Barb is an artist at the Turkey Run State Park Nature Center. She has worked for Indiana State Parks for 5 years.

Field Trips & Special Events

July 28 Field Trip to Lindsey & Keister Lakes and Wetlands

Visit this unique natural area in Noble County (Green Township). Come prepared to measure some giant oak trees! Hosts: Robert and Robin Stuart

When: 9:00am

Where: Meet at gas station on southeast corner of S.R. 9 and U.S. 33 (Merriam).

Bring: Sack lunch (drinks provided), walking shoes.

Contact Persons: Jane Dustin (637-6264)
Bob Weber (747-6030)

September 1 Deadline for submitting items for ACRES Quarterly - Fall issue.

September 9 Rain Forest Meeting

A special meeting on this very valuable and now threatened ecosystem. Sponsored by the Fort Wayne area **Environmental Coalition**. Displays by Stockbridge Audubon Society, ACRES, Inc., Fox Island Alliance, Merry Lea Environmental Center, Stop Waste, Inc., Isaak Walton League, and more! Guest Speaker: Greg Miller from The Nature Conservancy.

When: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Where: Foellinger-Freiman Botanical Conservatory.

Bring: A Friend!

Contact Person: Sam Schwartz (483-7253)

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

A combination Bike/Hike trip in Steuben County, visiting ACRES preserves. Two different routes of different lengths. **See page 7 for details.**

Contact Person: Jim Shearer (665-9391)

Hummingbirds... flying jewels

article by Carolyn McNagy
artwork by Barb Brown

A wonderful surprise in the summer months is having a hummingbird zoom by -- startling you with its speed and unexpectedness. The name "hummingbird" comes from the sound the wings make as the bird swiftly buzzes about. The hummingbirds in our area are all Ruby-throated, the only breeding species east of the Mississippi.

The name comes from the male's brilliant, jewel-like plumage, called a gorget, at his throat. At certain angles, the throat will appear black, but the male is aware of how to catch sun rays on his feathers. He will flash a ruby throat when driving off competitors or when courting a female. Each female has two white tail feathers, which she will flare when driving off a rival for nectar.

The hummingbird is so tiny (some weigh only .05 ounces!) they are smaller than many moths. To keep their engines running, they consume large amounts of nectar every day. With their long, needle-like bills, they gather insects and nectar from long tubular flowers, especially those that are bright yellow, orange and red. Hummingbirds are so attracted to red, one was even seen buzzing around a woman wearing a red scarf!

Some of the plants that will attract hummingbirds are salvia, trumpet creeper, bee balm, petunia, jewelweed, honeysuckle, and nasturtiums. They inadvertently pollinate these flowers as they travel from plant to plant, and help us by feeding on aphids and other garden insect pests.

Hummingbirds look like a blur as they dart from flower to flower, their wings beating up to 80 times per second. Since the flower edges cannot support their weight, the hummingbirds have adapted by becoming skillful hoverers. Hummingbirds have the distinction of being the only bird that can fly backwards and upside down.

Spring and fall migrations feature incredible hummingbird flying abilities. Flying low and during the day, the birds travel non-stop 500 to 600 miles over the Gulf of Mexico. Some will continue to travel another 2,000 miles to their summer nesting places. Once they reach their destination, the birds go through courtship displays.



In the courtship ritual, the female will sit quietly on a perch while the male does a spectacular pendulum flight dance in front of her. Swinging in a wide, "U"-shaped arc, the male's wings buzz loudly with each dip. If suitably impressed, the female accepts him as her mate. The male then promptly deserts, leaving her to build a nest alone.

The nest is an architectural marvel. About the size of a walnut, the nest closely resembles a curled leaf, knot or gall on a branch. They are often found 15 to 30 feet above the ground, often on a sycamore branch near water. The nest is plant material woven together with a mixture of cobwebs, bud scales, milkweed, dandelion floss, and lichens.

When the nest is completed, the female lays 1 to 2 eggs, about the size of peas. These hatch in about two weeks and the young are fed a mixture of nectar, tiny insects, spiders, and bits of berries. The mother feeds her young by poking her bill into the baby's mouth and regurgitating the food.

Baby hummingbirds mature in about three weeks and look much like their mother at first. After about a year, however, the males develop the fiery ruby plumage on their throats.

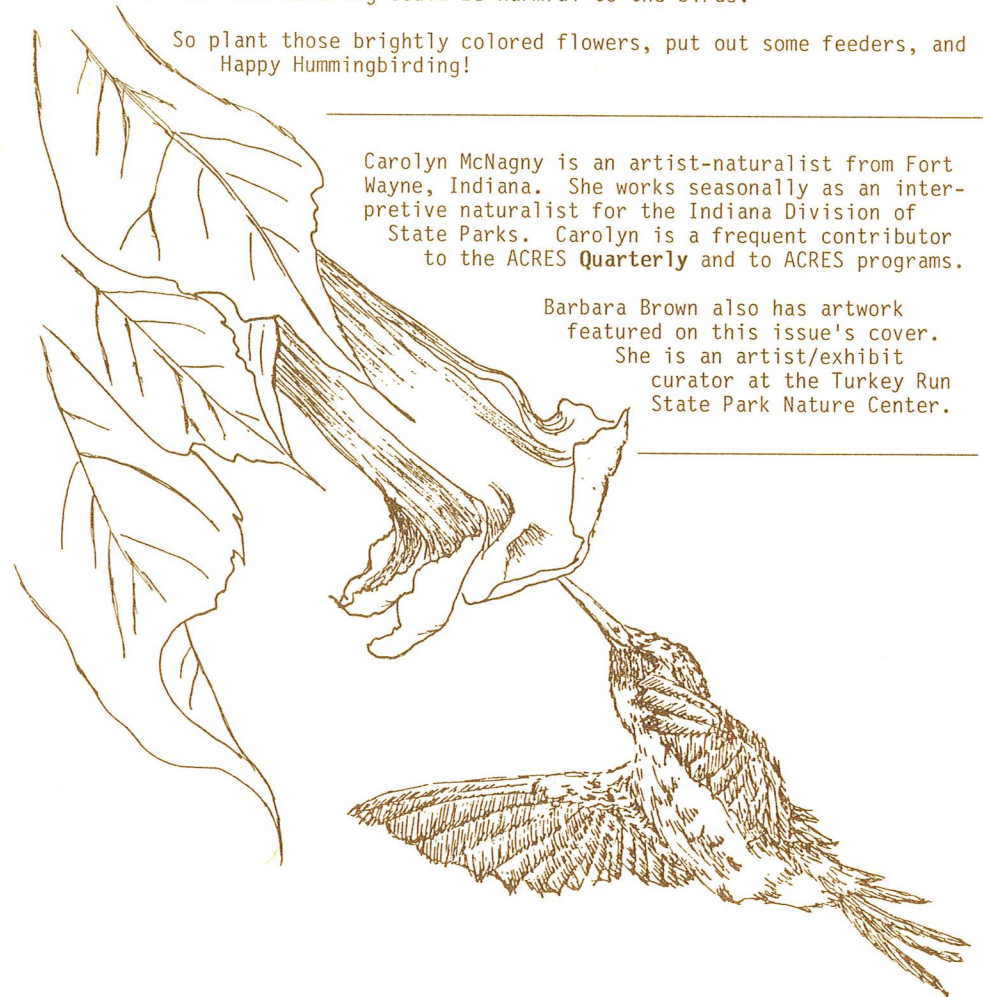
An interesting footnote to this is that the ratio of males to females in hummingbirds can be as high as one male for every twenty females! Since the females do all of the work, nature must consider the males to be "nonessential personnel".

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a beneficial bird, pollinating flowers and killing harmful insects. They are a joy to watch and if you wish to attract them to your area, either plant flowers they prefer or hang hummingbird feeders. If you do not wish to buy a feeder, a glass jar can be tilted and hung with a wire holder. The sugar water solution can be mixed one part sugar for three parts water. Do not use honey, as it can cause sores on the birds' bills. Also, there is no need to color the water red as long as something on the feeder, near the opening, is red. There is some belief that the red food coloring could be harmful to the birds.

So plant those brightly colored flowers, put out some feeders, and Happy Hummingbirding!

Carolyn McNagy is an artist-naturalist from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She works seasonally as an interpretive naturalist for the Indiana Division of State Parks. Carolyn is a frequent contributor to the ACRES **Quarterly** and to ACRES programs.

Barbara Brown also has artwork featured on this issue's cover. She is an artist/exhibit curator at the Turkey Run State Park Nature Center.



Pesticide Alert!

Spring has faded away but summer, with its fruits and vegetables is still before us. It is important for our ACRES's members to be aware of all things detrimental to our earth. The spring and summer concern is the use of pesticides. You have read about them, you are aware that their usage is increasing even to the point of manicured lawn control. Often these chemicals, which are **POISON**, are applied and reapplied, and sometimes in greater quantities than what the labels direct.

Pesticides are **TOXIC CHEMICALS**, toxic to insects, plants, fungi, animals, fish, and fowl. They are potentially harmful to humans, causing cancer, birth defects, and genetic changes.

If you ♥ your family, pets, birds, wildlife, and yourself:

THINK before you call the chemical lawn company! Alternatives are many!

1. Dig up weeds in lawns. If you must spray, use approved, safe herbicides, use only as directed, and do not repeat use unless necessary.
2. Try a stream of water on affected plants, then a detergent spray, or use any of the various recipes of natural materials.
3. Use integrated pest management, such as praying mantis, lady-bugs, etc...
4. Try diversity/companion planting in your garden.

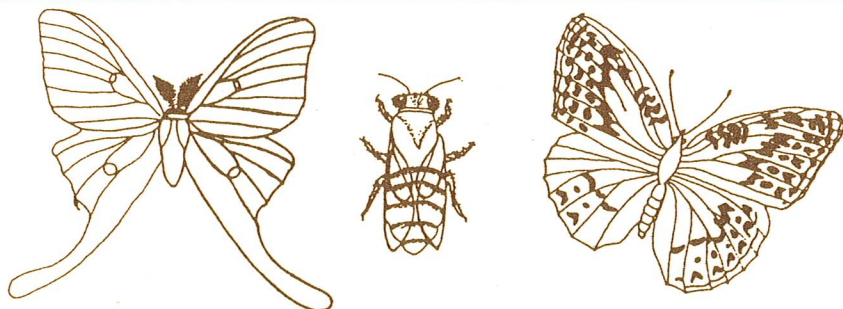
CHECK FOODS AT SUPERMARKET:

1. Buy organically grown produce, grown locally when possible.
2. Encourage your market to stock locally grown produce.
3. Do not buy foods out of season.
4. Read labels carefully on processed foods.

Try having a vegetable garden of your own. It can be good family fun to care for it and is very rewarding!

Remember, more than 440 species of insects and mites and 20 types of fungi are now resistant to pesticides. Humans do not have an immunity - the chemicals simply accumulate in our bodies.

- Ethyle Bloch, ACRES Board
Member

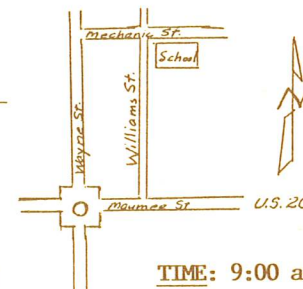


Bike 'n' Hike

ARAHISC

ACRES RIDE AND HIKE IN STEUBEN COUNTY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1990
ANGOLA, INDIANA



TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Routes: Two routes: 9 miles, 22 miles. Both routes relatively flat; mostly on lightly travelled country roads.

Both rides start at Carlin Park School in northeastern Angola. (See map. The landscaping at Carlin Park includes a virtual arboretum of Indiana trees.)

Features: Both rides include a rest stop at an ACRES preserve where ACRES guides will lead hikes.

Amenities:

- Refreshments at rest stops.
- Transportation of hiking gear.
- Roving mechanical assistance.

Suggested

Donation: \$4.00 for individuals, \$7.00 for families, or a Regular Membership to ACRES, Inc. - \$5.00!

Patch: Each registered rider will receive an ACRES patch.

For Further Information, Contact: Cyclin' Jim Shearer (665-9391).

ENTRY FORM (bring with you to ride)

Name _____ Age _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In signing this release, I absolve all participating organizations, sponsors, and individuals for any injury or inconvenience resulting from my joining this event. I UNDERSTAND THAT BICYCLE RIDING PRESENTS HAZARDS. I also understand that this event will be carried out on public roads not closed to motor traffic. I further certify that the entrant and the entrant's equipment are reasonably prepared for the event and that the entrant will exercise due caution and obey all traffic laws.

Entrant's signature _____

Parent's signature _____
(if entrant is under age 18)

THE BACK PAGE ...

Those hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer...



As with all things with ACRES, getting the newsletter to you is a volunteer effort. Volunteers write for it, do artwork, type it, assemble it, label it, and get it in the mail. The summer **Quarterly** has, historically, been the most difficult to pull together. Simply put, our volunteers are busy in the summer. Our regular jobs are fast-paced (understatement in the park's business), guests visit, vacations are taken, and the garden overflows with produce... and weeds. Time is short, temperatures are high, and things are happening. Maybe there are other interpretations for "summer days"?... "some-are hazy", "some-are crazy"...

Through all the heat and hub-bub, it pays to pause and reflect. First of all, the membership committee would remind you to check your mailing label to see that your dues are current. Our stewardship committee would ask that you consider an additional donation to support land acquisition, such as the recently added Vandolah Nature Preserve. Our birders would remind you to clean out your bluebird boxes to prepare for second (and third!) broods. Our cyclers would tell us to remember the bicycle tour of Steuben County/ACRES natural areas this fall, September 22. And somewhere among the early morning bird calls and the late evening rustle of leaves, there's a reminder to give thanks for the good soil, abundant rain, clean water, and clear air that nourished our gardens and northeast Indiana natural areas for another summer.

- 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 Fall issue is September 1, 1990.



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