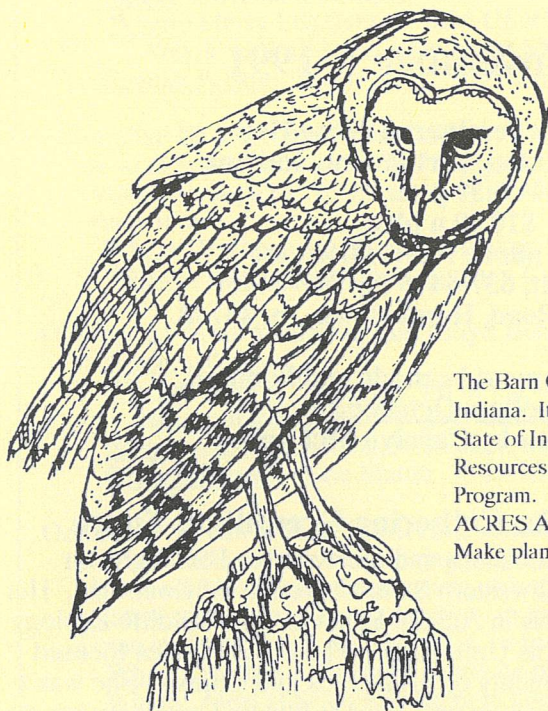




Quarterly
Autumn - 1991
Volume XXX No. 4



The Barn Owl

The Barn Owl is an endangered species in Indiana. It is one species that benefits from the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. This program will be featured at the ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting on November 1. Make plans to join us!

In this issue...

- Annual Fall Dinner Meeting Info***
- Field Trips and Special Events***
- Prairie Restoration in Northeast Indiana***
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ACRES

Annual Dinner Meeting

November 1, 1991

**Concordia Seminary Dining Hall
6600 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne, Indiana
6:30 p.m.**

\$10.00 a plate

**Send or phone reservations to:
Pat Barrett, 637-6445 (or 747-4450)
RR 1, Fitch Road, Huntertown, In. 46748**

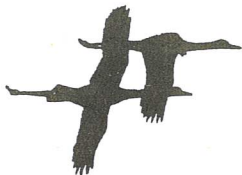
Reservations must be made and honored.

Deadline: October 25

Decorations by Carolyn McNaghy

Guest Speaker: Dr. Catherine Gremillion-Smith

"Katie Smith" is a native of Louisiana and received her BS degree in Wildlife Management at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. Her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Animal Behavior and Wildlife Ecology were earned at Southern Illinois University. There, her studies focused mainly on armadillos and skunks. She was a visiting professor at Illinois University for two years and came to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in September of 1989. She serves as the Nongame Biologist Supervisor for IDNR. Her program, "Indiana Endangered Species Program Update" will tie endangered species with natural areas.



The Dinner will be a sit-down meal. If unable to dine with us, please plan to join us at 8:00 p.m., in Classroom 201, for the program. General public welcome - No charge!

Field Trips & Special Events

September 28 & 29 Fall Festival at Merry Lea Center.

Merry Lea is celebrating their 25th anniversary. Hayrides, food sun flower gathering, cider, apple butter, sorghum making to taste and buy.

When: 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Where: Merry Lea Center. Take US #33 northwest from Fort Wayne to Wolf Lake, turn left on SR #9, follow signs.

Contact Person: Larry Yoder (533-2405).

September 28 & 29 Pokagon Fallfest

A weekend of educational and enjoyable programs, activities, and events that depict a "traditional way of life" for the people of the tri-state area.

When: 10:00am to 10:00pm, Saturday; Noon to 5:00pm, Sunday.

Where: Pokagon State Park, Steuben County.

October 5 Edna Spurgeon and Lloyd Bender Preserves - Hikes!

When: 10:00am.

Where: Meet at Spurgeon. From US #6 at Ligonier go 1/2 mile east, turn left on 600W., go 2 miles north to preserve.

Bring: Lunch, repellent, binoculars, clothing in which to hike.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

October 5 Prairie Seed Gathering with the Izaak Walton League

Help gather seeds for the growing prairie at the Chapter's Ropchan Meadowlands. (See related article on page 4.) We need adults and children age 10 or over to participate in gathering of prairie seeds. Come in the morning, the afternoon, or bring a lunch and stay all day!

When: 9:30am to 3:00pm (please be prompt).

Where: Meet at Sears Key Store in Glenbrook Mall parking lot.

If you cannot come until the afternoon, call for directions.

Bring: Brown paper bag, work gloves, canteen (you'll get thirsty!), a lunch if you plan to stay, and plant books if you like.

Contact Person: Dana Bromelmeier (424-5675).

October 6 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

October 19 Fogwell Forest Hike!

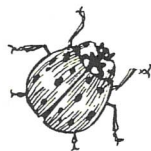
When: 1:30pm.

Where: 1/2 mile east of I-69, Huntington Road exit, or turn south on Whippoorwill Drive off Lower Huntington Road.

Bring: Camera for catching fall colors.

Contact Person: Bob Weber (747-6030).

More Programs on Page 7!



Prairie Partners!

Prairies are most often thought of as the expansive ecosystem of the great plains of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and beyond. There are prairie areas in Indiana as well, mostly on the west side, but also a sprinkling of areas to the east and into Ohio.

This recent summer saw the initiation of two projects to enhance in one case, and re-establish in another, some prairie remnants in northeast Indiana. At the Izaak Walton League's Ropchan Meadowlands, there is an effort underway to enhance a prairie that could be northeast Indiana's largest remnant of this habitat. A work day is scheduled for October 5 to collect seeds to be used in this prairie (See page 3 for details). Join organizer Dana Bromelmeier for this day and discover the wonders of prairies, their unique plants, and how you can help preserve them.

At the ACRES Wing Haven Preserve, I have been involved on a similar, albeit much lower-key, effort to re-establish some prairie vegetation in an old field. We started last fall by gathering seed, mostly big blue stem, Indian grass, blazing star, and Coreopsis. Using the various techniques of seed preparation over the winter, I planted a 25 foot by 30 foot plot in June. Basically it started out as an experiment for my own interest to see what would come in and what techniques would work best. As I write this now, big blue stem and Indian grass are flowering and swaying tall on this early September day!

The results have been so encouraging that I would like to expand the plot this coming year and fill in with some other species. **AND...** I would like to invite you to help! With just some little assistance, I think we can have a nice little representative of this habitat in Steuben County. If you would like to help, please contact me. There are a number of ways you can get involved.

They are:

1. Help collect seeds this fall. Basically, I'd like to keep it to species that naturally occurred in Steuben County (call me for details).
2. Be a "foster parent" to flats of pots during the winter/early spring that will provide luscious seedlings to plant in May/June.
3. Help plant seedling "plugs" in May/June.
4. Help weed the plantings **anytime** June through October!



Continued on page 7.

Eagle Scout Work Projects!

This summer saw the completion of two excellent Eagle Scout projects in ACRES preserves in Steuben County. These made wonderful improvements in two preserves. ACRES appreciates working with these young men and helping them to fulfill their requirements for this highest Boy Scout award. Another end-result is a much-improved preserve for hikers to enjoy! In addition to the hard work of the boys, many other individuals and businesses chip in with time, money, and materials to make these projects reality.



-pictured left to right are James, Danny, and Helga Lingo
James Lingo of Hamilton, Indiana, and his Troop #180 worked at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. They cleared trails, repaired existing board walks, and constructed the pictured 38-foot bridge over a creek. They worked a total of 132.5 hours. Making material donations totalling \$144.54 were Hamilton Lumber Company, the A&K Company, and the TFC Company. Making monetary donations totalling \$180.00 were Dr. Galen Williams, Dr. Thomas Wiegand, the A&K Company, S&S Construction, Waterloo RV & Boat Storage, and Hamilton Public Storage Systems. **Many thanks to James, your work crew, and all of your contributors!**



At the Wing Haven Nature Preserve, John Right (pictured above) and his Troop 125 of Angola, Indiana, worked a total of 54.5 hours. They built three bridges over a creek and a stair system down into the ravine. Assisting with the project, were parents and Spidel Construction Company. Hal-Mark Rental donated the use of a generator and posthole digger. **Many thanks to John and his hard-working group!**

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 6. 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 5.**

Field Trips and Special Events....

.... Continued from page 3....

October 25-26 Meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science.
See details below.

November 1 ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting.

Where: Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne.

For Details and Reservation Information, see page 2.

November 3 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

November 9 Beechwood Preserve Hike!

When: 10:00am

Where: Turn left off I-69 at Pokagon exit. Turn left again at Oakhill Camp, go under I-69, turn right at first road. Preserve is 1/2 mile north, on left.

Bring: Lunch, binoculars, hiking clothes.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

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

December 7 Mengerson Preserve, Winter Hike!

When: 1:30pm

Where: At the Preserve, west of Northwood Shopping Center, East of Schmucker Addition, North off Stellhorn Road.

Bring: Lunch, binoculars, hiking clothes.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

Prairie Partners.... Continued from page 4....

If any of this interests you, please contact me at 833-2012. If you would like to assist the Izaak Walton League on their project, contact Dana Bromelmeier at 424-5675. Or, join both groups and become a partner in these interesting projects that get results that you can watch grow!

- Fred J. Wooley, Naturalist/Caretaker, Wing Haven Nature Preserve

Indiana Academy Of Science Sponsors Special Conference

On October 25-26, 1991, the Indiana Academy of Science will hold a special conference entitled "*Biological Pollution: The Control and Impact of Invasive Exotic Species*", at the IUPUI University Place Conference Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The symposium will deal with both aquatic and terrestrial systems, with specific focus on causes, control measures, management practices, ecological and economic consequences, and policy.

For a complete brochure write to Bill N. McKnight, Indiana State Museum, 202 North Alabama, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204

The Back Page...

... On Partners....



Partnerships involve two or more people working together for a common cause. Page 4 has an article on "Prairie Partners" - volunteers out in the field, collecting seeds, and then (later) planting, transplanting, and weeding them. For most partnerships to work, the parties involved have fun! Such is the case certainly when ACRES members get out into terrific natural areas, enjoy the fresh air and camaraderie, and produce a product of which we can be quite proud.

In this day and age, it is also the partnerships of private businesses, governmental agencies, and the public that make things happen. Such is the case with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources program to re-establish the peregrine falcon to Indiana. You are a partner if you contributed money to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program by "checking off" a contribution on your last year's Indiana income tax return. Some people strengthened their partnerships by volunteering to help monitor the birds' progress in their new urban homes. At our Annual Fall Dinner Meeting, November 1, Dr. Katie Smith will update us on this exciting project.

We can all strengthen our partnerships by assisting with such unique projects as prairie and peregrine restoration. Encourage a friend(s) to join ACRES, and bring them to the Annual Meeting! We need more partners!

- 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, 180W., 400N., Angola, Indiana, 46703.** Deadline for the Winter issue is **December 1, 1991.**  *printed on recycled paper*

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