



Quarterly
Summer - 1991
Volume XXX No. 3



A Note from the Membership Chair...

Two hundred and forty-three members have renewed as of the first of June. To you members, "thank you!". To those who have not, please do so and help us get to 100% renewal before the fall **Quarterly** is published. Remember that you must renew to vote for Board candidates this fall. Renew now and thank you for continued support of our natural areas in northeastern Indiana!

-Mary Anna Entwisle



Memorial Tree Planted at Vandolah Nature Preserve

On April 27, 1991, a tree was planted in memory of Elizabeth Vandolah Stellhorn at the Vandolah Preserve, Cedar Creek, Allen County. Pictured left to right are neighbors Loyal and Ruby Yoder, Byron Stellhorn, and ACRES' Board Members Bob Weber and John Ellenwood. Elizabeth Stellhorn passed away earlier this year at the age of 102.

A Note from the Management Committee...

The newly formed management committee would welcome your help in improving our preserves. Our summer workdays will be used to erect new signs and registration boxes, cut and mark trails, and make our boundaries more noticeable. Please put us on your activities schedule (see next page), bring a friend, and join us!

Tools to bring would include hammers, heavy duty pliers and cutters, loppers, pruning saws, post hole diggers, shovels, and gloves. And don't forget your lunch!

- Bob Gunzenhauser

Cover Art - This issue's cover artwork of the Wild Columbine was done by Barbara Brown. Barbara is a former exhibit curator for Indiana State Parks.

Field Trips & Special Events

June 29 Lonidaw Preserve Work Day and Hike.

Trail clearing and clean-up, then hike over it to admire our work!

When: 9:00am for carpool, 9:30am at the Preserve.

Where: Carpool meets at Fortmeyers at U.S. 33, east of I69. Preserve is northeast of Kendallville on CR 1000 East, north of CR 700 North intersection.

Bring: Work tools, repellent, and lunch. (see article on page 2).

Contact Person: Bob Gunzenhauser (367-2368).

July 7 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

July 13 Guided Walk - Seven Pillars of the Mississinewa.

Legend is that Indian Pow-Wows have been held in this area.

When: 9:00am to carpool, 10:30am at the Preserve.

Where: Carpool meets at west side of Pizza Hut at Coventry off I69 at U.S. 24. Preserve is southeast of Peru on the Frances Slocum Trail.

Bring: Lunch, binoculars, and repellent.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

July 27 Detering Farm Preserve Work Day and Hike.

Trail work, boundary marking, clean-up, and hike to enjoy!

When: 9:00am to carpool, or 9:30am at the Preserve.

Where: Carpool meets at Fortmeyers at U.S. 33, east of I69. Preserve is north east of Kendallville on Round Lake at CR 700 North and U.S. 6.

Bring: Work tools, repellent, and lunch (see article on page 2).

Contact Person: Bob Gunzenhauser (367-2368).

August 4 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5 pm).

August 24 ACRES Along the Wabash Work Day and Hike.

Trail clearing and marking, clean-up, and enjoying the area!

When: 8:45am to carpool, 9:30am at the Preserve.

Where: Carpool meets at west side of Roger's Market parking lot off Bluffton Road. Preserve is east of Markle on S.R. 1, to C.R. 500 North, then south to S.R. 116, between Meridian Road and Road 100 East.

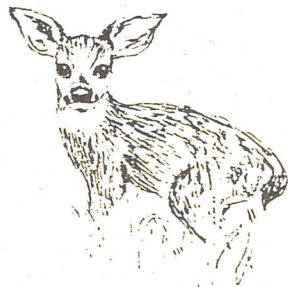
Bring: Work tools, repellent, and lunch (see article on page 2).

Contact Person: Bob Gunzenhauser (367-2368).

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

Bewitching Beechwood

by Bob Weber



Beechwood Nature Preserve now offers you a surprisingly pleasant adventure. ACRES oldtimers may remember a trail limited to the east-end bog with its hazards for wet feet and for getting lost. Now a well-made board walk traverses that bog (additional work is scheduled to further enhance the boardwalk - ed.) and leads one to a fascinating, nicely-mowed, long, loop trail through the undulating meadows of the western portion.

The fine trail improvement and addition did not happen through the customary workday efforts of ACRES, but instead, by voluntary and dogged determination of two particular stewards who have promised to continue that stewardship. Sam Boggs and Fred Wooley, both employed at neighboring Pokagon State Park, are the two to be receiving your thank you's. May we find others of you who would step forward and be volunteer stewards of another preserve?

**Once we saw that most Beechwood needs
(trails, signs, registry boxes, parking, & boundaries)
were well in hand, we simply gave ourselves
over to enjoying the place.**

On a bright, sunny afternoon in early June of this year fellow ACRES board member, John Ellenwood, and I walked the Beechwood trails as a part of our close examination of Steuben County preserves' management needs. Once we saw that most Beechwood needs (trails, signs, registry boxes, parking, & boundaries) were well in hand, we simply gave ourselves over to enjoying the place.

Shortly after entering the trail system from the parking area, one goes across a fertile peat bog that is home to myriads of marsh marigolds and the best examples of yellow birch I've seen in Indiana. These trees have dramatically spreading surface roots that allow ample oxygen to enter despite the almost constantly saturated soil. Note their unusual bark for its color and texture. Before you get across the boardwalk of the bog, you are likely to see some resident deer. They are increasingly common throughout the preserve. On the day I write about we saw a very handsome doe calmly posed in an opening, and intently watched us with ears raised. They were almost as large as those of the mule deer. Just before you leave the boardwalk for the meadow path, you will pass through a paw-paw patch that also has sugar maples nearby. Both were alive with vibrant color last October.

Upon entering the western meadow portion of Beechwood, one abruptly meets

a steep ridge of glacial drift that is a part of the rounded dome-shaped hills of this kame topography. Be prepared to climb a little, but also be prepared to enjoy some breathtaking, panoramic views from the top. Here, one is near the culminating point of a major moraine of Steuben County -- one that began near Fremont. Here, the piles of sand, gravel, and boulders are resting at the highest possible angles and in the wildest possible confusion where the peaks are about 200 feet above the surrounding valleys. In fact, the highest elevation in this area, Hell's Point, is barely south of the Beechwood boundary.

**Be prepared to climb a little,
but also be prepared to enjoy some breathtaking
panoramic views from the top.**

John Ellenwood and I were drinking in the views from these hilltops where old apple trees, Sassafras, ash, honeysuckle, sumac, and dogwood have been seeded by wind and birds and are acting as the first woody plants of invasion in the natural regeneration of the meadow. (If the regeneration here is as rapid as it was in the former pasture of the Spurgeon Preserve, you had better not delay your visit long, else you'll be in a young forest!)

We were admiring the blooms of dogbane, Deptford pink, white mustard, clover, Yarrow, and the Meadow Rose when an unfamiliar, loud, bird-like whistle followed by a series of staccato notes came from a nearby bushy area. Our sleuthing revealed a woodchuck calling from his perch well up in a tree limb!



Before I left the preserve, I wanted to check the tree we planted there in memory of Mildred Foster who, along with her sister, Garnette, were the wonderful donors of this preserve to those who will visit it, enjoy it, and protect it. Through Sam's and Fred's efforts we are now newly aware of what a magnificent gift the Foster sisters put into the trust of ACRES.

Bob Weber is a naturalist and a retired high school biology teacher. Bob is a founding and current member of the ACRES Board, and Chairperson of the Management Committee.

Many thanks to all Stewards!

The following people are serving as stewards of ACRES Preserves:

Judy Esterline and the Limberlost Girl Scout Council - Spurgeon Woods
Peter and Pam Olson - Hammer Woods
George McCarthy - Ropchan Wildlife Refuge
Larry Bieberich - Acres Along The Wabash
Sam Boggs - Beechwood
Fred Wooley - Wing Haven

If you live near a preserve, or have a favorite, and would like to adopt it as yours to help care for (or if you are already doing so and we failed to mention your name), please contact Bob Weber at 747-6030. Many thanks!

The Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

article by Carolyn McNagny
artwork by Ethyle Bloch

Like rockets on the 4th of July, the Cardinal Flower, in late summer, shoots up a slender spike of firecracker red flowers. Gracing streambanks and swamps, where it grows 2 to 4 feet, the Cardinal Flower is an oddball member of the Bluebell Family. Other members of the Genus *Lobelia*, as the name implies, are various shades of blue to white. Such members are Canterbury Bells, bellflowers, and the Great Blue Lobelia.

Besides isolating it within its family, the vivid red flowers are responsible for the name, Cardinal Flower. Some imaginative soul connected the color with the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic Cardinals. A cardinal fish and Indiana's state bird may have acquired their names following the same connection.

Perhaps a better name for the flower would be the hummingbird plant! Along with columbine, jewelweed, and Coral Bells, the Cardinal Flower is an easy perennial to grow that attracts hummingbirds.

Only hummingbirds and daytime moths with long mouthparts can reach the nectar within the long tubular flower. In doing so, hummingbird foreheads become dusted with pollen. When they go to a female flower, their foreheads touch the sticky female part and the pollen rubs off. It's a pretty good system!

While hiking in an ACRES preserve this summer, try to remember that these parcels of land protect more than owls and oak trees. The preserves provide habitat for hundreds of species of plants. Scientists estimate that less than 10% of the world's plant species have been studied. ACRES preserves save plants that might be otherwise lost through oversight... Plants like the beautiful Cardinal Flower.

Carolyn McNagny is a naturalist from Columbia City. She is a long-time ACRES member and frequent contributor to the **Quarterly**. Ethyle Bloch is a founding and current member of the ACRES Board.



From the Members' Mailbag...

From time to time, we get mail from our members who have been out on the preserves or have some thoughts on what we are doing. We like that kind of feedback and like to share it with others. Below are a couple of recent arrivals to our mailbox.

The first is from long-time member Ron Hollopeter. Ron provided many observations and thoughts following some recent ACRES area trips. One short piece in particular captures a mood that can often be had in an ACRES preserve. Some of our areas were once inhabited by early settlers and homesteaders. Their occupation can be read in the landscape and in some cases, artifacts or their remnants are left behind. The serendipity of stumbling onto one of these objects can wonderfully enhance the experience of discovery and enjoyment in the preserves. Ron writes of a moment he had in the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest.

"In the middle of a bottom-land
of Bender Woods, rests a two-bottom,
tractor plow.
A faint trace of its last furrow leads to it.
Abandoned, forgotten...
Saplings grow up through it.
Rest in peace..."

Thank you Ron. - Ed.

The next item came in as a nicely-written letter on school notebook paper.

Unwanted Changes by Ivy Eastwick, 13 years old

Mile after mile
land destroyed.
Mile after mile,
once beautiful jungle,
is now very void of
anything living.
A barren wasteland.
The birds no longer sing,
the monkeys no longer swing,
from tree to tree,
soon,
the beautiful rainforests will
no longer be seen.

Dear ACRES,

I am an ACRES member, and I am 13 years old, but my name is not Ivy Eastwick. I changed it for personal reasons. I am deeply concerned about the destruction of rainforests, and hope, that if this poem is published it will show ACRES members the urgency of the matter. Thank you.

Dear Ivy Eastwick, Thank you for your poem and continued good luck in your writing ventures. We look forward to hearing from you. - Ed.

The Back Page...



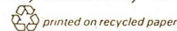
This year of 1991 marks several milestones. It is the 75th anniversary for both the National Parks Service and the Indiana State Parks system. The "founders" of both systems, Steven T. Mather of the NPS and Colonel Richard Lieber of Indiana State Parks, were close colleagues. They co-founded the first National Conference of State Parks and promoted the original ideas of park inns, parks for the "common man of modest means", preserving park natural features, and "nature guiding".

Nature guiding took many forms during the first 20 years and in 1940, steps were taken to form the Indiana State Park Naturalist Program. This summer, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this program!

These celebrations may not be as loud as we originally had hoped. All of these events have come when the present recession started biting deep into budgets. Funds are stretched thin to just maintain, much less expand programs or spend on desired hoop-la for celebration. We do recognize these milestones, however, and applaud the foresight of our founders and look with pride to our many accomplishments. The celebrations, albeit possibly quieter, are significant nonetheless. Please take time in your busy schedules this summer to enjoy some of the natural wonders of our nation, our state, and our little corner here in northeastern Indiana.

- 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 Autumn issue is **September 1, 1991**.



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