



QUARTERLY
Winter - 1991
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WING HAVEN NATURE PRESERVE

Studio - Visitor Center

This picturesque, two-story, log building was used as an art studio by the late Helen Swenson. Before it was moved and rebuilt on its present site, it was a "tavern" from the 19th century, located in a nearby town. Helen later bequeathed this beautiful structure, along with her home, other outbuildings and over 150 acres of pristine woodlands, ravines, lakes, marshes, and old-field habitats to ACRES, Inc.

Wintertime is a great time to visit Wing Haven. The trails are open daily (with space to park a couple of cars off the road, near the gate), and the Studio is open the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (drive on in). Shake cabin fever this winter and get to this and other ACRES properties!

New Coalition Forms

The Environmental Education Coalition, Inc. (EEC) was formed in August of 1990 as an Indiana not-for-profit corporation. Its purposes are: 1) "to promote and assist its members and others in presenting information and programs on environmental education ... in an objective and balanced manner, based on the best current scientific and educational standards"; and 2) "to improve communication and coordination of educational activities among its members." It will not promote or oppose legislation or political candidates, as doing so would imperil its tax-exempt status, for which it has applied and is clearly entitled.

The EEC will have three classes of members:

1. Public Organization Members. These are governmental units, schools, universities, religious organizations, and units of such organizations.
2. Private Organization Members. These are organizations which are not eligible for Public Organization membership and which demonstrate a substantial interest in and willingness to contribute to the improvement of environmental education. They include businesses as well as charities involved in environmental activities. ACRES has become a Private Organization Member.
3. Individual Members.

Each class of members is entitled to vote for its class of directors, which are six Public, twelve Private, and three Individual, with staggered three-year terms for each class. ACRES Board Members Ted Heemstra and Jim Barrett have been elected as two of the twelve Private Organization directors.

The EEC is unique in the United States and is being looked to by the recently formed National Alliance for Environmental Education as a model of how to organize and carry on environmental education programs. It has been conducting programs in and around Fort Wayne since last spring as an unincorporated group of interested people.

It merits our fullest support. For further information, contact the EEC, P.O. Box 5753, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, 46895

- by James Barrett, ACRES Vice President

45th Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute Scheduled at Pokagon

The Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute will be held **February 17-21, 1991** at the Pokagon State Park Potawatomi Inn, Angola, Indiana. The theme this year is "Environmental Issues Affecting Parks and Recreation Services". Featured at this year's meeting will be an opening address on Monday morning by former IDNR Director, now Director of the National Parks Service, James Ridenour. Other workshop sessions include:

"Meadowlands- Development and Management"
"Composting and Recycling"
"Animal Overpopulations"

For a complete brochure and further information, contact: the Department of Recreation and Park Administration, School of HPER, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405. Phone: 812-855-4711.

Field Trips & Special Events

January 19 Spurgeon Nature Preserve Work Day/Field Trip

Mark Preserve boundaries and enjoy mid-January, winter landscape!

When: 10:00am

Where: Meet at the Preserve. CR 600W, South of Topeka, Noble County.

Bring: Very warm clothes, winter-hardy footwear, and a lunch. Hot drinks provided as well as tools and materials.

Contact Person: Ted Heemstra (484-4385).

January 25 Annual Dinner-Auction Social for Ft. Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

The second annual fund raiser and social event. For further information, contact Larry Lomison at 219-637-2340 (H) or 436-6400 (W).

February 3 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5pm)

February 16 Ropchan Wildlife Refuge Work Day/Field Trip

Mark Preserve boundaries and hike over Refuge!

When: 10:00am

Where: Meet at the Refuge. SR 827, south of Fremont, Steuben County.

Bring: Same as Spurgeon trip on January 19.

Contact Person: Ted Heemstra (484-4385).

February 17-21 Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute

See article on page 2 for more details.

March 3 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Studio Open House (1pm to 5pm)

March 3 Winter Walk at Beechwood Nature Preserve!

Enjoy an easy walk over some newly constructed boardwalk through marsh and Yellow Birch swamp and then hike out over some beautiful rolling hills on another newly-made trail.

When: 2:10pm

Where: Meet at Wing Haven at 2:00 to carpool, or at Beechwood Preserve (just north of Pokagon) at 2:10pm.

Bring: Appropriate clothing for winter hiking, including footwear for damp areas. Bring binoculars if you have some.

Contact Person: Fred Wooley (833-2012).

March 16 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Work Day/Field Trip

Mark boundaries and enjoy seeing new areas of Wing Haven.

When: 10:00am

Where: Meet at the Preserve. CR 400N, east of Holiday Inn, Steuben County.

Bring: Same as Spurgeon Trip of January 19.

Contact Person: Ted Heemstra (484-4385).

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

BADGERS: Excavators, Inc.

Badgers, Bobcats, Brown Bats, and Sandhill Cranes are some of the animals in Indiana that need protection. Since these animals are not hunted, there is no funding by sportsmen to help them survive. The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources was set up to educate the public and protect nongame animals and their habitats. One such special animal is the Badger.

The only time I ever saw a Badger was once when we were driving down a country road at dusk. A ditch ran next to a grade school and there was a thick cover of shrubs and small trees along the stream at the bottom of the ditch. Next to the road was an animal that my sister and I immediately thought was a groundhog. A second look, however, made us realize that this animal was too quick to be a mere woodchuck. My mother was very excited and told us that we had just seen a Badger! The cause of all of the fuss rapidly disappeared into the brush and numerous trips down the same road at the same time failed to produce any other sightings.

Badgers are not as common to this area as they once were, but there are still some woods and fields they call their own. The Badger is quickly identified as a short-legged, broad-shouldered, pigeon-toed animal with two inch claws. It is about 2½ feet long and its abundant fur is gray color with a white stripe running from its nose back over its head and neck.

If you search your file for animals to avoid, you will see a similarity between the Striped Skunk and the Badger, both sporting a white stripe. Both animals are in the Weasel family - a diverse group that includes the Otter, Wolverine, Mink, Weasels, Fisher, Badger, and Skunk. All of these animals are capable of producing an offensive order, although some are more talented at this than others!

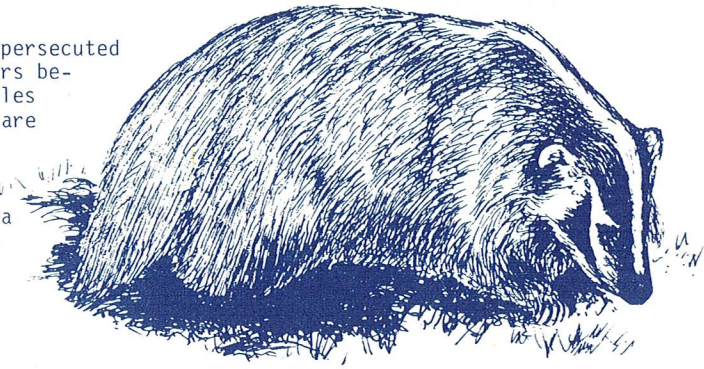
The Badger can spray, but nothing compared to the Skunk. Where the Skunk can spray 10 to 15 feet, the Badger is lucky to spray a couple of inches. It seems to realize how pathetic this defense is because after spraying, it quickly turns around to fight.



The Badger is a tenacious fighter and, if cornered, will fight to the death. As with most animals, it would rather avoid a conflict. The Badger is an expert digger and can disappear underground within a few seconds if disturbed. No other animal can dig as fast. The long claws send showers of dirt flying into the air as all four feet cooperate. Once underground, the Badger will pack soil behind itself for extra protection.

The Badger digs not only for defense, but also to prey upon Prairie Dogs, Rats, Chipmunks, Ground Squirrels, and Skunks. Few animals attack Skunks. The Great Horned Owl is one brave soul, as is the Badger, which is seemingly unfazed by the Skunk's spray. It is assumed that it tolerates the odor because it produces a similar spray.

Badgers have been persecuted by farmers and ranchers because of the large holes they dig. The holes are especially unwelcome where a saddle horse can break a leg and cause a bad fall for a rider. The holes are also dangerous to livestock. The inconvenience a Badger might cause with its tunnels might be cancelled out by its



huge appetite for rodents and by keeping rodent populations in check. This could be regarded as quite a beneficial service to some farmers.

Highlights to Badger history are the short, colorful attempts at Badger farming. Badger skins were once quite valuable. The long guard hairs, or bristles, were used to make fine quality shaving brushes. These bristles sold for up to \$85.00 a pound. Some attempts were made to farm Badgers in Wisconsin, but after eating everything in sight and fighting among themselves, they dampened most farming attempts. After about two or three days, the Badgers would dig their way out of their enclosures and leave in mass exodus.

- by Carolyn McNagny

Carolyn McNagny is an Artist/Naturalist from Columbia City, Indiana. She is a long-time member of ACRES and frequent contributor to the Quarterly.

It's getting to be that time of year again.... Tax Time! If you would like to help out such nongame species as the badger, look for line 28 on your Indiana state tax form. If you are from another state, check your state's form as well, there is probably a program set up to provide this valuable funding for nongame animals.

NONGAME WILDLIFE FUND

HERE'S HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE USED

- ☒ **Acquisition and Protection** of habitat important to rare wildlife.
- ☒ **Public Education** programs to promote appreciation of nongame wildlife.
- ☒ **Research** to determine the population status and distribution of nongame species.
- ☒ **Reintroduction** of species once found in Indiana.
- ☒ **Habitat Management** such as building nest boxes for bluebirds and barn owls.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP . . .

You can contribute a portion of your state income tax refund by writing in an amount on **Line 28** of your income tax return. Look for it ... and do something **WILD** for **WILDLIFE**!

DNR DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES
Division of Fish & Wildlife
607 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204



On November 13, 1990, ACRES received a substantial donation from the Wal-Mart Foundation of Bentonville, Arkansas. A check for \$1,000.00 was presented to Ted Heemstra, ACRES President, by Dick Pollard, Wal-Mart Ft. Wayne store manager. According to Patricia Penn of the Wal-Mart Foundation, Wal-Mart wishes to support local conservation programs and demonstrate a "pro-active role" in the communities where they have stores. In accepting this donation, Heemstra indicated that it will be used for maintenance of ACRES preserves.

The ACRES Board thanks the Wal-Mart Foundation, both for this donation and for their policy of supporting local conservation organizations.



ACRES Volunteers! On Saturday, December 8, 1990, this group of teenagers from the Snider High School Earth Society spent the day tearing down old, overgrown barbed wire fence and collecting garbage from the Vandolah Nature Preserve. They put in a hard day's work and did a great job! - Paul McAfee, ACRES Member



Eagle Scout Project at Wing Haven Nature Preserve

Dear ACRES, Hello, my name is Andy Shippy. I recently became a member of ACRES. I am writing because I would like all of you to know that while many young people don't realize how important conservation and protection of wildlife are to all of us, I realize this in part because of my upbringing, and also because I am a Boy Scout. I am 16 and as you may know a Boy Scout must earn his Eagle award by his 18th birthday.

I recently completed my project with the help of 14 boys from my troop # 125 at the Wing Haven Preserve in Angola. We rebuilt a bridge, increased the size of a parking lot, and constructed a split rail fence around the area to mark its boundaries and to keep snowmobiles out of the preserve. I hope that this will help bring more people to the preserve and help them appreciate the land more.

Finally, I wanted to say that we enjoyed completing the project and helping ACRES. Also, I would like to say that I am glad to be a member of this organization. Sincerely, Andy Shippy, Angola, Indiana.

Andy, thank you for all of your hard work and for your membership support!

Other ACRES Contributions!

A final quarterly, 1990 look at contributions shows the following groups and individuals chipping in to help ACRES. 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. Thank you!

Items:

Bench/Table - Bob Weber

Measuring tape and hand tools - Glen and Chris Bickel

Funds:

Wal-Mart Foundation - \$1,000.00

Work Projects:

Boy Scout Troop 349 (Gary Wohlwend - Eagle) - Trail work at Vandolah.

Boy Scout Troop 125 (Andy Shippy - Eagle) - Work at Wing Haven.

Barney Stellhorn - Trail and Fence Work at Vandolah.

George Kasdorf - Fence work.

Nancy Kasdorf - Work days with Environmental Education Coalition.

Mary Schneider - Mailing Crew

Sam Boggs - Boardwalk construction and trail development at Beechwood.

Snider High School Earth Society - Trash removal at Vandolah.

THE BACK PAGE ...



The new year of 1990 started off as a bright one for those hoping to kindle and rekindle the flames of environmental awareness. The decade itself was heralded as that "of the environment". Springtime saw Earth Day activities flourish and they in turn springboarded new programs and general rethinking on how we treat the land.

As the year wound down, however, other events pushed some of the environmental headlines to the second and third pages. The threat of war weighs heavily on our minds, and here at home, an economic slowdown casts a shadow over new environmental projects and programs. Economic forecasts for Indiana are already tightening down Department of Natural Resources budgets.

As much as ever before, it is most important to maintain strong individual commitment to environmental concerns. If you are picking up new, good habits, such as recycling, stick with them! Your state and federal congress men and women will soon be heading back to their sessions. Keep in contact with them! Keep your concerns a part of theirs. By all means, keep your ACRES Membership current. Stay with us. Get involved with other groups as well, even if only in a small way. The giving of your time and dollars will help get us through tough times ahead. If ever there was a time for New Year's resolutions to help care for the earth, now is it. Keep the faith, keep the fires burning!

- 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 Spring issue is March 1, 1991.



ACRES
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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; David Gall; 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, 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 northeast 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.