



Quarterly

Spring - 1992
Volume XXXI No. 2



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Renewal Time for ACRES!

Please check your mailing label on this issue. A 90, 91, or 92 says it is time to renew your membership now! We know you enjoy the Quarterly and we know you value what ACRES does. Please renew promptly. It helps tremendously!

Remember that ACRES, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation and gifts and donations to the Land Acquisition and Management Fund are deductible to the extent allowed on Federal Income Taxes. More importantly for ACRES these contributions provide funds to buy and protect natural areas. We are currently looking at buffer areas around existing properties as well as new areas as opportunities arise. Please renew today!

- Mary Anna Entwisle
Membership Chairperson

April 18 to Feature Two ACRES Celebrations

Third Annual Adopt a Tree Festival 10:00am - 5:00pm

Join us at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve for this annual event to celebrate trees, nature in general, and the general good feeling you get being outdoors with family and friends in the springtime!

Free trees will again be available. Build a bird house to take home, hike the trails, enjoy some dulcimer music, enjoy a picnic lunch (bring your own) on the lawn or back deck, and partake in provided refreshments in the studio/visitor center.

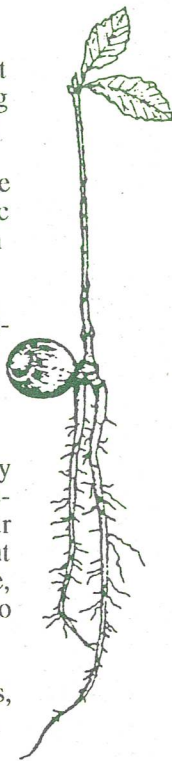
Wing Haven is located in Steuben County, on CR 400N, one-half mile east of SR 127.

A Celebration of Great Nature Writing 7:00pm

Join us for a special visit to the Helen Skelton Memorial Library at the Carnegie Public Library as we remember Helen and celebrate this tremendous collection of her nature books. Bring your favorite nature book and prepare to share a special passage (about 3 minutes) from it. In addition to bringing your favorite passage, please think about a fond memory of Helen you may want to share with the group.

Refreshments will be provided. Please bring family and friends, your favorite nature book, and a fond memory of Helen to share. The Library is located on South Wayne Street in Angola.

About the Cover - Art Eberhardt, organizer of the Annual Adopt a Tree Festival captured this photo of Amy Samuelson, Jenny Rich, and Heidi Samuelson building a bluebird box with the help of Dave Syler at a previous Adopt a Tree Festival. Join us this year on April 18!



Prairie Project Update

In the Autumn issue of the Quarterly we discussed a project underway at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve where we are attempting to re-establish a touch of prairie to the landscape. The project started out a couple of years ago as a simple little exercise on my part to see if I could achieve some success in germinating seeds I collected and getting them to grow to maturity. I was kind of like the old gardener out puttering around with some new varieties of tomatoes. In this case my garden became a 25 by 30 foot plot of plowed, old field and my tomatoes were big bluestem, Indian grass, and blazing star.

The results were encouraging enough to expand the project further this year. I had our neighbor plow a few more swaths next to the existing plot last fall and a group of us set out in October to collect more seeds. Our one principle is that the seeds come from the immediate area so that we will only be re-establishing plants that would have normally occurred on these glacial soils of Steuben County. Part of the rewards of the whole project is discovering new pockets of prairie remnants in Steuben County. For instance, a good place to enjoy yellow cone flowers is in right downtown Angola, along the railroad tracks, behind the Dairy Queen. Hopefully someday, though, you can buy your ice cream cone in town and come out to Wing Haven to enjoy these rare plants in a more peaceful setting.

I put out a call for volunteers in that Autumn Quarterly and received positive responses from Rita Gigerich, Doris Galon, and Leroy Johnson. If you would like to get your hands dirty and pitch in, please call me (665-3307). Right now we have the seeds in cold/damp storage to enhance germination. The jobs this spring include:

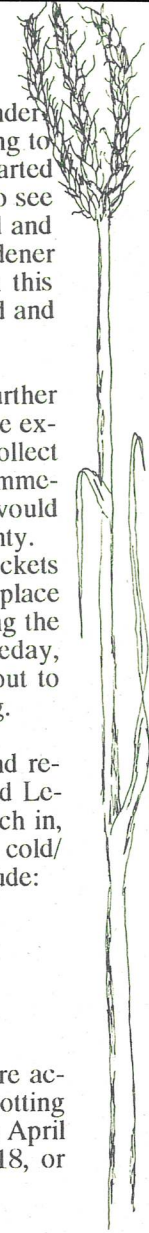
1. Help plant seeds in flats (mid-late April).
2. Be a "foster parent" to flats of plants for watering purposes.
3. Help plant "plugs" of seedlings (late May-early June).
4. Help weed and water early on to give a boost.
5. Next fall we'll be collecting more seeds!

Or, if you would like to make a donation to the cause, we are accepting the small (2 inch), square, peat pots and seed-starting potting soil. You may drop these items off at Wing Haven during the April Open House on April 5, the Adopt a Tree Festival on April 18, or other times by arrangement. Thank you for your help!

- Fred J. Wooley

Walt Whitman once wrote of prairies in a way that kind of captures a mood you can get at Wing Haven on a dark, star-filled night standing in one of our open meadows where no street or yard lights interfere. I offer his words here.

"Night on the Prairie,
the supper is over, the fire on
the ground burns low...
I walk by myself - I stand and
look at the stars, which I
think now I never realized
before."



Family Farm Saved!...

ACRES Introduces the Bibler Preserve!

In the fall of 1987 Sam Bibler was introduced to ACRES by the director of the Nature Conservancy's Big Sky office in Helena, Montana. Sam outlined his dream of creating a natural area of a portion of his family farm in Jay County, Indiana, where he was born and raised. A key to this dream was finding an organization, such as ACRES, to which he could give this area with the assurance it would be held in perpetuity. In the spring of 1989 Sam and his brother Paul acquired the first (55 acres) of three parcels to fulfill this dream.

Later in 1989 Sam wrote the following: "On the weekend of November 4th and 5th my brother Paul and I intend to be in Jay County where we will be seeding approximately thirty five species of native trees and shrubs ahead of fall tillage. Although it will be hundreds of years before this seeding becomes a 55 acre climax forest, it is a beginning."

"The tract which I purchased this spring includes the creek, woods, and pasture portion of the C. E. Bibler farm where my two older brothers, Charles and Paul, younger sister Jean, and I were born and raised to adulthood. Our happiest days of

childhood were spent along the creek or roaming the woods and pasture of this farm, when all our world was young and new."

"There was a sense of freedom, of wildness, of natural beauty in the woods which is not forgotten scores of years later. Gathering wildflowers under the leafless hardwood trees in early spring, the complementary smells of Johnny-jump-ups and leaf mold, the symphony of competing bird calls - all this forged memories which still come flooding back. So what better reason to create a natural area to exist in perpetuity."

**"There is a sense
of freedom, of wildness,
of natural beauty in
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years later"**

Although the seeding of trees and shrubs was not particularly successful, the plan continued to be implemented. The two adjoining areas were acquired and all three were donated to ACRES in late 1991. This preserve, southeast of Portland, Indiana, contains 105 acres of fields and forest. The Little Salamonie



River rises in this area - that is the stream referred to by Sam.

After military service in WW II, Sam went to college in Seattle, Washington. He then embarked on a career as a geologist, working in the oil fields of the American and Canadian West. Now, he is a resident of Kalispell, Montana. Brother Paul is a retired FBI agent and currently owns and operates a pear orchard in Hood Riv-

er, Oregon. ACRES is proud to have been selected by the Biblers to be the steward of this nature preserve assembled from their family farm. We invite our members and friends to join us in a field trip to the Bibler Preserve on Saturday, April 25, 1992 (see page 10 for details).

- Ted Heemstra
ACRES President



ACRES President, Ted Heemstra, stands next to a glacial erratic dropped by the last ice mass over 10,000 years ago. This huge rock probably would have never been moved, but now that the land is preserved, we know that it and its surroundings, the Bibler Preserve, will remain the same forever.



ACRES Adds to Seven Pillars Landmark Area!

ACRES is adding another piece to the fascinating natural and geological jigsaw puzzle of the Seven Pillars Landmark Area. This spectacular new preserve is located across the Mississinewa River from our Seven Pillars Landmark. The location and topography of this newly acquired land makes for a beautiful and unique area. Driving through the land on Miami County Road 200 South, you will see an area of striking contrast. The Mississinewa River is on one side of

the road and farmland crowned by an old river valley escarpment is on the other. Along the road which hugs the river, you look out over flat land where rocky streams make their way down and across 26 acres of tilled soil.

The crest beyond the field rises and features a wonderful area of cliffs and ravines.

The acreage protects 3,000 feet of the Mississinewa River shoreline with huge sycamore trees and two tiny islands. Beaver activity is evident and

blue herons fishing in the shallows are a common sight. People come from all over to view the Seven Pillars on the opposite bank.

The creation of the Seven Pillars Preserve on the north side of the river was a gift to ACRES from the Idings family in 1982 and overlooks the vista and new preserve to the south. To have the chance to save this new natural area that is so important and enjoyable to so many people is a wonderful opportunity. It is an opportunity that you can help with as we need to raise additional funds to help pay for this

land. Please help bolster our Land Acquisition Fund to help buy this property and purchase other significant areas in the future.

It would make a wonderful Earth Day gift to ACRES that will last forever! See details within the enclosed membership envelope.

- Article and panoramic photograph provided by Carolyn McNagny, ACRES Board Member.

Fond of Fairy Shrimp!

On an early April hike, if you are watching for signs of spring and you are quietly peering into a woodland pond... you might be lucky enough to meet some fairy shrimp!

These semi-translucent, pink to yellow, feathery, free-swimmers gracefully show themselves after the "spring turnover". This "turnover" is a pond phenomenon of April where the water on the bottom rises to the top and the top layer turns to the bottom. This exchange also raises from the sediments various animals which spend the winter

there.

In size of up to one-half inch long, fairy shrimp are crustaceans, but neither "fairy" nor "shrimp". They are Brachiopods which means "gilled-feet" because their thoracic feet, many of them, also function as gills. They propell themselves by feathery pulsing their gills so that they act as feet or paddles. Our Indiana fairy shrimp is a freshwater form (*Eubrachipus*), which is the largest and most colorful variety. The most common brachio-



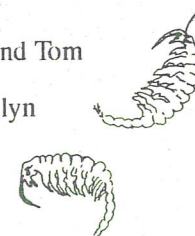
pods are of the Order Cladocera. These are important food producers in aquatic food chains.

Our fairy shrimp, although not classed as a significant food producer, is an ancient animal whose ability to survive varied extremes of drought, temperature, and salinity boggles the mind. A fairy shrimp is able to encapsulate itself to survive these extremes and perpetuate its species. Three areas where these extreme conditions occur and where we have found them are: in a pond atop the Vee-dea-woo rock formation of Wyoming's Laramie Mountain Range, in a pond at the edge of

the Great Salt Lake in Utah, and in our own Cedar Creek bottomland, floodplain ponds which fluctuate between flooding and drought.

We hope you will have a chance to meet this extraordinary and beautiful creature as you hike with ACRES this spring.

- Article by Jane and Tom Dustin.
- Artwork by Carolyn McNagny.



Garlic Mustard

ACRES Watches for this Alien Invader!

It does not matter where you turn. There is always some introduced organism that is not content to be part of the community, but wants to become the whole community. (Modern *Homo sapiens* being a prime example.) In our woodlands the latest culprit is garlic mustard (*Alliaria officinalis* or *petiolata*). This plant has been spreading rapidly through natural areas in the midwest overshadowing and threatening to shade out spring wildflowers. It does well in a wide variety of woodlands and has become very dense in areas as diverse as the flood plain forest at Laketon Bog and the dry, sandy oak woods at Pokagon State Park. Once it becomes well established it may be impossible to get rid of, but there are still many preserves where it is not found, or where control is still possible.

Preserves that do not have garlic mustard need to be watched carefully to make sure it does not become established. The earlier you catch an infestation the easier it is to control. Where small populations have become established, they need to be attacked as soon as possible. Fortunately, this is one weed where good old hand pulling can be effective.

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Garlic mustard seeds germinate in the spring and form a basal rosette of kidney-shaped, blunt-toothed leaves. The plant stays a rosette for

the first year and the leaves remain green through the following winter. Winter is a good time to spot infestations as the green leaves show up well against brown leaf litter. Garlic mustard can be controlled by burning or spraying in late fall and early spring when most other plants are dormant. Great care, however, must be taken to avoid doing more damage than good. Contact me first if you are considering spraying or burning to control garlic mustard.

In April of their second year the plants send up a leafy, flowering stalk topped by many four petaled white flowers about a quarter-inch across. Peak flowering is in early May. This is the ideal time to attack garlic mustard. The plants are easy to spot and pull easily. Cutting the plants below their lowest leaves will also kill them. Of course you should make sure what you have is garlic mustard before you start pulling and cutting.



The culprit -

Long thin seed pods start to form in late May. Once the seeds start to form control is much harder. It appears that garlic mustard stalks can produce viable seed even after they are uprooted, so the uprooted stalks need to be collected and removed. Garlic mustard is a biennial. It starts to die back after going to seed. By August nothing is left of

the plant but a dried stalk and lots of seeds. If you visit an area with garlic mustard in late summer be sure to brush off your pant legs and shoes so you do not accidentally spread the seeds when you leave. Garlic mustard seeds do not germinate for 20 months, so a few plants can build up quite a seed bank before the size of the problem becomes obvious.

So far Acres Along the Wabash, Beechwood, Bender, Fogwell Forest, Anna Brand Hammer, McNabb-Walter, Ropchan Memorial, and Spurgeon Woods all appear to be free of garlic mustard. These preserves need to be watched closely to keep them free. Fox Island, Laketon Bog, Lonidaw, Metea Park, and Pokagon State Park all have large populations. Olin Lake has a moderate size population which the Division of Nature Preserves has been working to control for several years.

This year we are trying to get together as many people as possible for a garlic mustard pulling party on Saturday, May 2. (See details on page 11 - Olin Lake Work Day) Come on out and help protect the beautiful spring wildflowers at Olin Lake! And as you visit other preserves, keep your eyes open for this alien invader!



Article by Rich Dunbar
Artwork by Colleen Baker

Rich and Colleen are employees of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves.

19th Annual Natural Areas Conference and the 14th Annual Meeting of the Natural Areas Association

Rediscovering America: Natural Areas in the 1990's
October 27-30, 1992 - Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

In recent years, this popular conference has been held in the spring. Please note that this year's joint conference will be held in the fall. Registration information will be available in July. To receive a brochure contact the Division of Nature Preserves, 402 West Washington, Room W267, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204 (317-232-4052).

Field Trips & Special Events

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

April 11 Wildflower Walks at Spurgeon Reserve and Bender Forest.

Catch the beauty of Indiana Wildflowers at these two beautiful ACRES sites.

Where: Meet at Wild Birds Unlimited in Northcrest Shopping Center to car pool, or at the Spurgeon Reserve.

When: 10:00am at Northcrest or 10:30am at Spurgeon.

Bring: Lunch, camera, and field guides.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877)

April 18 Third Annual Adopt a Tree Festival.

Receive free native trees, build your own bird house, and enjoy refreshments and entertainment. (See article on page 2)

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

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Steuben County, on 400N, one half mile east of SR 127.

Bring: Your family and a lunch.

Contact Person: Art Eberhardt (665-2421)

April 18 A Celebration of Great Nature Writing.

An evening of enjoying wonderful nature books and remembering a great ACRES Friend. (See article on page 2)

When: 7:00pm

Where: Helen Skelton Memorial Nature Library at Carnegie Public Library, South Wayne Street, Angola, Indiana.

Bring: Your book and a friend. Refreshments will be served.

Contact Person: Jim Shearer (665-9391)

April 25 Field Trip Discovery of Bibler Woods.

Hike in our newest area, the Bibler Woods of Jay County. (See article on page 4)

When: 9:30am at car pool site, or 10:30 at Coy's Farm.

Where: Car pool at Southtown Mall on South Anthony, near Furrows. Or, go to Bibler Woods, located 4 miles south of Portland.

Take U.S. 27 to County Rd. 150. Turn east, go 3 1/2 miles to Coy farm lane on south side of road.

Bring: Lunch.

Contact Person: Bob Weber (747-6030)

April 26 Earth Day Fair.

ACRES will have a booth at this annual event held at the IPFW Campus, near the library. Hours: 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

More Field Trips and Special Events on next page.

Field Trips and Special Events... Continued...

May 2 Olin Lake Work Day.

Help rid this beautiful area of Garlic Mustard (see article on page 8). We'll be sure to stop and smell the trilliums along the way!

When: 9:00am at car pool site or 9:30am at Preserve (come late or leave early if you need to).

Where: Car pool site in parking lot at west side of Sears Glenbrook Mall store. Or, go to preserve. From Wolcottville, go north 2 miles on SR 9. Turn west on CR 600S. Proceed 2 miles, turn right on CR 125E and go north 0.5 miles to the parking lot.

Bring: Work gloves, lunch, a scythe or similar tool for cutting weeds off at ground level.

Contact Person: Rich Dunbar (691-3401)

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

May 9 Hike at Acres Along the Wabash.

View the spectacular show of Shooting Stars and Wild Hyacinth.

When: 10:00am at car pool site, 10:30am at Preserve.

Where: Car pool at Roger's Market on Bluffton Road, in Waynedale, or go to Preserve on SR 116, northwest of Bluffton.

Bring: Lunch and a camera.

Contact Person: Larry Bieberich (547-4265)

May 23 Special Tour of Hanging Rock Natural Area.

This National Natural Landmark features unusual outcroppings of Silurian reef rock. Owner, John Swan, will be our guide and explain these ancient coral reef formations.

When: 9:30am.

Where: Meet at Amoco station on US 24 just west of I-69.

Bring: Lunch.

Contact Person: John Swan (782-2458)

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

June 13 Hike and Picnic at Crooked Lake Nature Preserve.

Hike with the Kckionga Voyagers group and then enjoy lunch at the Skurkas cottage.

When: 9:30am at the car pool site, or 10:00am at the Crooked Lake Preserve Entrance.

Where: Car Pool at Wild Birds Unlimited in Northcrest Shopping Center.

Bring: Picnic lunch.

Contact People: Carolyn McNagny (432-3541) or Else Matott (745-7877)

Rain or shine, ACRES trips are always held as scheduled. Prepare your pack, toss away your cares, and join us for a day in the field in a natural area you help protect!

The Back Page...

Projects, Programs, and Properties....



Regular readers of the **Quarterly** will realize that this issue has four more pages than the normal eight. Every once in a while as we put the **Quarterly** together it becomes quite clear that we simply have too much to cover in the regular format. Items are looked at to see what might be held out for the next issue.

But at times, such as with this issue, we say this stuff is just too good, too exciting, too timely to let ride for another 3 months! The decision is made to bite off the extra expense and we go with another full sheet and four pages.

There are lots of things to get excited about. Volunteers and board members (who are also volunteers!) are involved in projects and special events. But probably most exciting for many of us is the closing of an arrangement to set aside another small piece of northeast Indiana's natural heritage. Two new properties are highlighted in this issue and one will be featured already on a field trip this spring. I can think of no better way to get a springtime boost than to visit these new areas on a spring day and enjoy not only the freshness of nature in the new season, but also the satisfaction of the success of your preservation efforts.

Join us on one, or more, of our many projects, programs, and new properties!

- 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, 46703-9502**. Deadline for the Spring issue is **June 1, 1992**.  *printed on recycled paper*

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