

ACRES

Quarterly

Winter - 1992
Volume XXXI No. 1



*Wing haven residence
by paula jean glasper '91*

The Readers' Turn...

Oftentimes, visitors to our nature preserves find peace, relaxation, reflection, and inspiration. Sometimes this inspiration expresses itself through the eyes and hands of visitors. Photographers, painters, drawers, writers, and others have produced many and varied works during and following visits to these beautiful natural areas. Sometimes they come to just enjoy and, luckily, have their tools at hand when the spirit moves them.

Such is the case with two contributors to this winter issue of the **Quarterly**. The cover for this issue was done by ACRES member Paula Jean Glasper. Paula has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Western New Mexico University, Silver City, New Mexico. She presently lives at Pokagon State Park in Angola, Indiana, where her husband, Tim, is the park's maintenance technician. In addition to raising her own three children, Paula conducts art lessons for local youth.

Another long-time ACRES member and past **Quarterly** contributor is Kathryn Moore of Leo, Indiana. Kathryn visited a couple of Steuben County natural areas recently and submits the following poem.

Wing Haven by Kathryn Moore

Wings of delight
fly over my vision
enter my soul
and spread into my memory.

Walking around the edge
looking deep into the bottomland
a rugged creek cuts
through the stony earth.

Walking to the edge of Gentian Lake
no man made structure
mars the vision.
Lily Pads, Button Bush and Cattails
guard the edges
and Great Blue Herons stand
nearby.

Walk the paths
set aside by man
and feel the wings of emotion
spreading
into your memory!

Field Trips & Special Events

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

January 14 Snowshoe Tying Workshop... At Pokagon State Park.

A mid-week, one-day session where you learn an ancient craft and create your own pair of snowshoes! Kit cost is \$50.00. An inexpensive package deal at the Potawatomi Inn is also available. **Prior registration is required.** Limited enrollment. Call 219-833-2012.

January 18 Cross-country Ski at Merry Lea Environmental Center.

Join us for a day of skiing (or hiking if there is no snow) at this beautiful area. **Prior registration required.**

When: 10:30 at carpool site, 11:05 at Center.

Where: Meet to carpool at Wild Birds Unlimited at Northcrest.

To Center, from Ft. Wayne, take U.S. 33 to Wolf Lake. Turn south on Rt. 9 and follow signs.

Bring: Lunch and ski equipment.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-787).

January 25 Work Day at the Ropchan Memorial Preserve.

Join us for a day in the field to establish a new trail and do clean-up.

When: 10:00am.

Where: At the Memorial. From Fremont, take S.R. 120 to CR 750W.

Turn north, preserve is on right.

Bring: Lunch and appropriate work clothes and tools.

Contact Person: Bob Gunzenhauser (367-2368).

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

February 22 Cross-Country Ski at Pokagon State Park.

Join us for our second outing on skis (or boots if no snow)! **Prior registration is required.** (\$2.00 entry fee, or free with annual pass)

When: 11:00am.

Where: Pokagon State Park. Meet at Ski Rental Shelter.

Bring: Bag lunch and ski equipment (or rent from the park, but arrive plenty early to allow for time at busy ski rental).

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

March 1 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House.... **plus Hikes!**

In addition to the Visitor Center being open from 1pm to 5pm, there will be a guided hike at Wing Haven at 1:00pm, followed by a guided hike at nearby Beechwood Preserve. Join us in beautiful Steuben County to see if March comes in like a lion or lamb!

Where: Come first to Wing Haven.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

Guest Editorial

The following note is reprinted with permission from the September/October 1991 issue of the Nature Conservancy. It is written by The Nature Conservancy president John C. Sawhill. It touches on a very timely and important message and deserves reprinting in all newsletters and journals of groups working to care for the environment and all of our rich natural resources. - Editor

The Economy and the Environment

The battle lines are already drawn in what may be the most significant conservation fight of the nineties. On one side are American endangered species; on the other, people who argue that environmental protection results in lost jobs, reduced economic growth and lower standards of living. This development troubles me deeply, because it threatens to fracture the hard-earned public consensus in favor of saving our natural heritage.

The conflict is usually framed as an economic question, with humans pitted against other living things. For example, what's more important, 30,000 logging jobs in the Pacific Northwest or saving the spotted owl? What's more important, water for irrigation and residential development or preserving the delta smelt?

In a piece in the Wall Street Journal this summer, Jack Kemp, secretary of housing and urban development, even blamed regulations that protect endangered species for America's low-income housing problem.

Perhaps the most explicit articulation of this perspective appeared in a recent *Time* magazine column. The author, Charles Krauthammer, argued that saving species is essentially unimportant, because diversity is nothing more than an aesthetic good. "When man has to choose between his well-being and that of nature", he wrote, "nature will have to accommodate."

I'm glad to report that the readers of *Time*, at least, don't buy Krauthammer's arguments. *Time* received almost 700 letters -- including one from me--denouncing the column. By contrast, only 17 people wrote to agree with Krauthammer's perspective.

Neither Krauthammer nor Kemp appears to realize that human welfare depends largely on environmental quality, that the more we abuse our environment the less able it is to sustain us. And to blame endangered species for our housing woes is as illogical as blaming the health-care crisis on the common cold.

Even so, the regulations that protect endangered species face in-

creasing resistance. These regulations had been widely accepted -- until they started interfering with basic human economic concerns. But now that the going's gotten tough, the people are beginning to reconsider their attitudes.

What can we do to reverse this situation? We can start by looking for solutions. The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places" initiative, for example, attempts to balance environmental protection and economic development. We can also educate people about the importance of biological diversity, and aggressively counter arguments that seek to weaken laws protecting threatened plants and animals. As writer Bill McKibben has said, "The greatest challenge for those who love the environment is not the depletion of the ozone layer. The greatest challenge for environmentalists is to talk to people who are not environmentalists."

"The greatest challenge for those who love the environment is not the depletion of the ozone layer. The greatest challenge for environmentalists is to talk to people who are not environmentalists."

Unlike columnists and politicians, endangered species can't defend themselves from attack. They need advocates such as the Conservancy-- and all of our members-- to look out for their interests. The living things with which we share the planet deserve no less.



John C. Sawhill

In Memory

When you next hike Beechwood Nature Preserve, look for two special, little trees recently planted in memory of two, very special, fine ladies -- an oak for Mildred and a sugar maple for Garnette. These Foster sisters loved this land which they owned and put into the stewardship of ACRES, and those of us who knew the sisters, loved them for their most kind and thoughtful ways.

We have enjoyed their many thank-you notes as we kept them up-to-date on the preserve through our letters, pictures, stories, and visits. Last year, I sent Garnette an article that I wrote for the **Quarterly** entitled "Bewitching Beechwood". She wrote back, "what a nice, thoughtful thing to do! So many thanks.... I liked the article very much.... read and reread it." She also told me, "I hope you go over some evening when the robins are settling in for the night. Also, I hope you sit on the hillside above the spring and water hole when the "canaries" are frisking in the morning."

As secretary, Jane Dustin, implied in a 1973 letter to Mildred and Garnette, "we remember the Foster sisters with humility, with honor, with trust, and with love."

by Bob Weber

And Now For Some Good News....

For many people working hard for natural areas and the environment, it can sometimes be discouraging to look around and see the big jobs ahead and so much work to do. So, we thought we would look through the literature and highlight a few success stories to provide a little boost and enthusiasm as we begin this new year!

Learning to Compost

In March, 1990, Alcott Elementary School in Concord, Massachusetts, became one of the first schools in the United States to start a food-waste composting program. Students sorted their own trash from lunches served four days each week.

The result? During that school year, more than 3,000 pounds of food, paper napkins, and lunch bags were composted, cutting the trash volume from the cafeteria by two-thirds. The compost produced last year was used as a "starter" for this year's compost and for school displays. Ultimately, it will be used in landscaping projects around the school.

(BioCycle Magazine)

Reusable Toothpaste Tubes?

Yes! Toothpaste containers are being redesigned so that they can be refilled using recyclable cardboard tubes that work like a carpenter's caulk gun. The permanent, refillable containers will also provide an attractive solution to the messy, half-squeezed toothpaste-tube-on-the-sink look.

(Arweek's Marketing Week)

Consumers Want Recyclable Packaging.

A survey sponsored by the glass container industry revealed that 72 percent of all Americans would buy food and beverages in recyclable containers.

(Food Engineering Magazine)

More Proof We Need To Save The Trees!

A Florida University chemist has devised a new way to make the promising but rare experimental cancer drug taxol. Currently taxol is extracted from the bark of the Pacific yew tree, and six large trees provide enough taxol to treat a single cancer patient.

In May, chemistry professor Robert Holton was issued a patent on a new technique for synthesizing the drug from the tree's needles, instead of the bark. Taxol has been found effective in combating ovarian cancer and shows indications of being useful in treating breast and lung cancer.

(The Philadelphia Inquirer)

The above items were collected and reprinted by the Nature Book Society, Des Moines, IA.

Contributions to ACRES

Two loyal ACRES members gave more of themselves this past Autumn.

Art Hammer, who has donated several properties to ACRES, as well as assisted in their maintenance, donated a Gravely walk-behind-mower with several attachments. It will be housed in Ft. Wayne and used on ACRES southern properties.

Carolyn McNagny continues in her volunteer efforts. This fall, she did extensive work in the office and in northeast Indiana courthouses researching properties, and much work in the field obtaining photographs at various properties. In addition to this, she re-did our ACRES Brochure which highlights each of our properties.

New ACRES Brochure Ready!

By the time this newsletter goes to the printers, the updated ACRES brochure should be back from the printers! It lists 25 of our 26 properties, has maps of them showing their location, and highlights their main features. Also in the brochure is a membership application. It is a perfect piece to guide you to your preserves and to show off our work to others. To get a copy, contact Carolyn McNagny at 6941 Point Inverness Way, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, 46804, or pick one up on your next visit to the Wing Haven Visitor Center.

Management Committee Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!

If you would like to get more involved with ACRES, please fill out the form below and mail it in to our office. It will go on file and you may be called as projects and needs arise. We need you and would love to have you join our efforts!

Name _____
Address _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

There is a variety of tasks. Please circle those with which you could help, or equipment that you could provide.

simple carpentry	hosting open house at Wing Haven	prairie restoration (planting, watering, weeding, etc...)
brush cutting	outdoor education with children	Truck
sign making	special event planning	Chainsaw work
clerical assistance	computer programming	Other _____
fence construction		

The Back Page...

I hope you took the time to read the editorial by TNC president, John Sawhill, on page 4. I don't usually reprint items of that length, but that piece seemed so very appropriate. It deserves to be reprinted, reread, and discussed and rediscussed.

We have hailed the 1990's as the "decade of the environment". We have come so far and enlightened so many that we want to think we have this huge environmentally aware bandwagon that everyone is eager to climb aboard. As finely-tuned and well-developed as this wagon has become, however, there also seems to be a growing number of those who hope to upset the cart by alleging that the wagon tends to bowl over human needs. Nothing could be further from truth. The truth is, human needs ultimately depend upon healthy environments.

It's important for the soothsayers of doom for both the economy and the environment to channel their energies into more positive directions to come up with solid solutions. We can do this by maintaining our vigilance in learning about and speaking out on important issues, writing letters to editors, congress people, presidents, and agencies, watching our personal lifestyles, volunteering on the local front, and supporting groups that work both within our neighborhoods and literally throughout the world. Organizations like *ACRES* and *The Nature Conservancy* are great places to start.... but don't stop there. This can truly be the "decade of the environment", but it will continue to be a lot of hard work.

- 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 Spring issue is **March 1, 1992.**

 printed on recycled paper

A C R E S
P O BOX 140
1802 CHAPMAN ROAD
HUNTERTOWN, INDIANA 46748

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, Joseph A. Christoff, James D. Haddock, Carolyn McNaghy, Sam Schwartz, Sharon Partridge, David Gall, Nancy Kasdorf; David J. Miller. Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Entwisle. National Advisory Board: Howard Michaud, Alton Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durwood Allen, Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner, John W. Klots. **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.