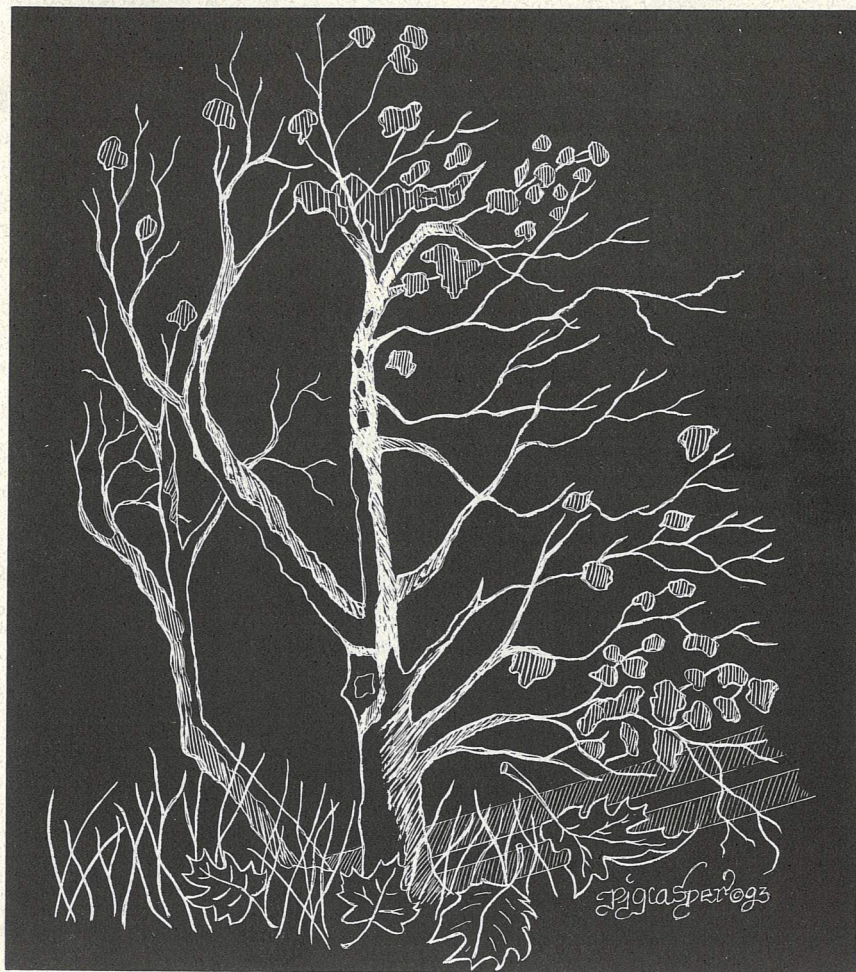




Quarterly

Autumn - 1993
Volume XXXII No. 4



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ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting

November 5, 1993

Summit Gardens
4747 Lima Road, Fort Wayne
(north of Coliseum Blvd. West)

6:30 p.m.

\$12.00 a plate
Phone reservations to:
John and Marcella Ellenwood
484-8061 or 747-4450

Reservations must be made by
October 28, 1993

Guest Speaker: John Bacone "Natural Areas Protection: Successes to Date and Our Future Challenge"

John Bacone is the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves, which is part of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He has held this position for 16 years. John has extensive background with university degrees in botany, zoology, and forest management, plus expertise in working with the Natural Areas Inventory in Illinois. He came to Indiana well-qualified and has successfully added many natural areas in our Hoosier state.

John will present a brief history of the protection and saving of preserves and give us a path to follow for the 1990's and into the next century. John has been a valuable asset to ACRES as we pursue our goals to preserve natural areas throughout northeastern Indiana.

This will be a sit down dinner with the program beginning at 8:00 p.m. If you cannot dine with us, please plan to attend the program.

About the Cover - This issue's cover was done by ACRES member and Angola, Indiana artist Paula Jean Glasper. Paula is a frequent contributor of art to the **Quarterly**. She is an art instructor and often uses the Wing Haven Nature Preserve for class location and inspiration.

ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Julie A. Badskey
Dr. Donald Bixler
Michael C. Hawfield and Jill Borenstein
Sean M. Carroll
Duetta R. Davis
Reverend Theodore N. Johnson
Raymond I. Knight

Jaki Malis
Rodney and Sarah Miller
David L. Jolliff and Sandra Moliere
John D. Reynolds
Jack H. Root
Bill Shaw

In Memory

From time to time people remember and honor loved ones and special people by making gifts to ACRES in their names. We feel it is appropriate that they be recognized in the **Quarterly** and plan to make this a regular part of each issue. We respectfully submit the following names and proudly carry on our important work in their names.

Larry Moore
Mary E. Mahoney
Bill and Ethyle Bloch
Samuel R. Schwartz
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Charles and Martha Baumgartner
Tom and Jane Dustin
Navistar Alumni Club
Mary Anna Entwisle
Jim and Pat Barrett
Don and Jeanne Ulliman
Joe and Kay Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ramsey
Ronald and Phyllis Brockmyer

Dr. Clifford A. Nault, Jr.
Karen and Bob Griggs

Agnes Emerhiser
Gladys D. Lomont

Tom Kohlmeyer
Millie A. Kohlmeyer Owings

**Lillian Boon for the Wing Haven
Nature Preserve**
Dale & Judy Zinn

Flossie Heupel
Patricia McNaghy

Richard Larowe
Gregory L. Manifold
Lisa Owens
Colleen Leddy and David Green
Steve Spellman and Khristina
Smith-Spellman

Virginia Lillich
Patricia A. McNaghy

Other Special Friends...

In the past three months, two other organizations have made special contributions to ACRES projects, programs, and operations. We thank you!


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Louis A. "Sam" Bibler: Man of Many Interests

Louis Bibler is a practicing geologist, ardent conservationist, renowned gardener, and now, an author. And when Louis, better known as Sam, sets out to accomplish a task, he does so with determination and flair. Well known in Kalispell, Montana for creating the world class Bibler Gardens and spearheading several major community improvement projects, he is now devoting time and energy to an Indiana project dear to his heart.

Bibler has preserved a part of his past on the family farm in two unique ways: The Bibler Nature Preserve and a book entitled *Back Home Again*. Both honor the memories he has of the Bibler farm, called Spring Brook, and the happy days of childhood in its woods and fields.

The Bibler Nature Preserve became a reality in 1989, after many years of thought and planning.

The Bibler Nature Preserve became a reality in 1989, after many years of thought and planning. The first step was acquisition of around 54 acres of the woods and pasture portion of the farm, which included the creek. Brother Paul joined Louis in this initial acquisition, to which Louis added 50 acres of adjoining stream and woodland. Then the

two brothers, aided by ACRES president, Ted Heemstra, one day seeded an open field section of the tract in approximately thirty-five species of native trees and shrubs (ACRES *Quarterly*, Spring, 1992).

It was about the same time that his book, *Back Home Again*, was born. In acknowledgements he says, "Without the gentle prodding of that perfect secretary, Donna Carr, I never would have bothered to transfer these memories from my head to paper. And without her cheerful and repeated labors at the word processor, my scriblings would not have been converted to a legible manuscript." So evolved this sensitive and humorous account of four children in early childhood on a typical Indiana farm in the 1920's. The book is being published by Guild Press, Inc. in Indianapolis and is to appear in October. It tells with absolute authenticity of a way of life that will pick up its readers and carry them back to their own enchanted childhood memories.

Mr. Bibler is coming to Indiana in mid-November to promote his book. This is your opportunity to meet him at one of the book signings scheduled. Please watch your local newspaper for the dates and times, or call the ACRES office at (219)422-1004.



Seven Pillars Nature Preserve Fund Drive Update

The fund drive to acquire and protect the 150 acre nature preserve located across from the Seven Pillars in Miami County is progressing steadily. ACRES received a welcomed and greatly appreciated donation from the Ropchan Foundation of Fort Wayne for \$25,000 for the fund drive. The Ropchan Foundation matched the foundation, business and individual donations that have

been received by many generous people.

The Ropchan Foundation was founded by ACRES benefactor, Sam Ropchan.

Thank you so much to all of you who have given extra and so generously to help protect this beautiful and unique natural area!



ACRES Recording Secretary Retires

For many years, Marion Eberhardt has quietly and faithfully executed her duties as the ACRES Recording Secretary. After attending over 250 board meetings, Marion has decided to travel and enjoy some much deserved leisure time with her husband, Art.

Through the years, Marion has been a shining light of calm demeanor and accurate reporting. We will miss her presence. Thank you Marion.

We are pleased to welcome Frannie Headings as the new ACRES Recording Secretary. Welcome Frannie!

Birds

Imagine! having the power of flight--
To go up and down, back and forth,
to leave the earth!

Imagine! having the strength for flight--
From the softness of feathers,
the weightlessness of hollow bones.

Imagine! having the faith for flight--
A steady surge, a lift against the air,
away, away into nothingness.

poem by ACRES member, Margien L. Lund
drawing by Carolyn McNagny



Field Trips & Special Events

Sunday, October 24 Spurgeon-Lloyd Bender Field Trip.

Enjoy some beautiful Fall colors!

When: 1:30pm

Where: Meet at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve.
Noble County.

Bring: Your camera and hiking shoes.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877) or ACRES office (422-1004).

Friday, November 5 Annual Dinner Meeting. See details on page 2.

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

Sunday, November 14 Ropchan Wildlife Refuge Field Trip.

Come see the new trail system established by dedicated preserve stewards Ethel McClelland and David Homan.

When: 11:00am

Where: At the Preserve. On SR 827, south of Fremont, Indiana, Steuben County.

Bring: Warm clothing, hiking boots, and lunch.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877) or ACRES office (422-1004).

Friday, November 19 A Travelogue of Bird Migration.

Where d'ey go?... Find out where our spring and summer songsters go in the winter time. While we are freezing, they are sunning. Speakers will be Bob and Ann Walton, longtime Stockbridge Audubon members, in tense bird watchers, and world travelers.

When: 7:30pm

Where: ACRES office at the YWCA Campus in Fort Wayne.

Bring: As many people as you can fit in your car. You don't want to miss this fun and educational program.

Refreshments will be served.

Contact Person: ACRES office (422-1004).



Saturday, December 11 Fogwell Forest -- PHOTOGRAPHY WALK.

Come to the beautiful tall trees preserve of Fogwell Forest, open with a trail system for the first time. Hike leader, Else Matott will share with you how to capture nature in photographs during the clean, crisp days of early winter.

When: 11:00am

Where: Fogwell Forest parking lot.
Allen County.

Bring: Your camera, warm clothing, hiking boots, and a picnic lunch.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877)
or ACRES office (422-1004).



January 9 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

Please note, this is not the usual first Sunday, since that falls on January 1.

Friday, January 14 The Honey Bee.

A special program on the biology of the honey bee and its relation ship with the environment. The speaker will be Paul Steffen, freelance Environmental educator for nine years and reaching thousands of school children.

When: 7:30pm

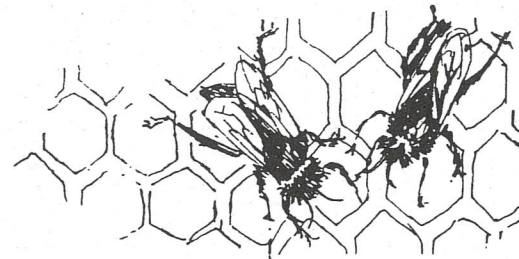
Where: ACRES office at YWCA Campus in Fort Wayne.

Bring: Children of all ages and your curiosity about these fascinating insects.

Costs: \$4.00 for non-members, \$2.00 for Members. Children under 12 are free!

Refreshments will be served.

Contact Person: Carolyn McNagyn, ACRES office (422-1004).



Persons interested in work days, please call Bob Weber at 747-6030.

"Magic Wetland Kingdom"

Now Home to the Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Thirty-five years ago, it was a small cottonwood meadow, maybe three or four acres in size. Then, an adjoining owner altered the downstream drainage resulting in a permanent backup, creating over time a marsh wetland. The cottonwoods died out and the wetland vegetation and willows took over. Kids skated on it in the dead of winter. But down below, the classic succession was developing. Huge snapping turtles and their cousins took up residence. In spring, the frog choruses were deafening. Great Blue Herons soon found out about that, sharing this wetland microcosm with the muskrats. During the flood of 1982, when everything was awash, watersnakes by the hundreds

slithered up the surrounding trees for refuge (too much of a good thing).

Ducks and Canada Geese began nesting there, providing Jane and me with daily visual treats as we walk out for the newspaper on most mornings. Our walk is a pleasant half-mile-long lane, which adjoins the marsh at Chapman Road in Perry Township.

Now, we have unexpected residents - Yellow-crowned Night Herons. This year had been at least their second; and now they have nested. Frankly, at first we did not know what they were, except that they were surely herons, a bit smaller than the Great Blues; and they had a



curious light stripe across their faces below their eyes, otherwise dark heads and orange legs. Our descriptions to friends at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local Auduboners, like Bob Walton, quickly produced positive confirmation that we were seeing the Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

While these birds are more native to southern states and Central and South America, they are occasionally seen further north and have been expanding their range. Walton has seen them in Wisconsin; and an Audubon field guide reports some in Massachusetts.

While the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is not a listed Federally endangered or rare species, it is now recognized as Indiana endangered, enhancing the pleasure of finding this pair in northern Allen County.

Bob Walton provides some further characteristics. These are monogamous birds, mating for life, and tree nesting in typical, heron-like, scraggily, stick structures. They are not, however, gregarious like the Great Blue, which usually establish themselves in communities of dozens of nests in one or just a few adjacent, big sycamore trees.

Walton states this pair is the only one he has seen, ever, in this region. They have an eclectic diet, but especially favor frogs, crawdads, and small snakes - all available in quantity in this small marsh. While Jane and I have not seen the offsprings, Walton has, in 1992. They are brown with light speckles.

With luck, and in season, we may be lucky enough to observe the "greeting" ceremonies of these territorially secretive birds, the crest-raising, the circling flights, and the clapping bills. Though they are "opportunistic" feeders and can be seen making a living in the daytime, this "crustacean specialist", as Walton characterizes them, does most of its hunting at night. It then brings back the whole catch for the young, rather than bill-feeding by disgorging the way other herons do.

So what began as an attempt by a local farmer to gain some additional crop production by filling in some drained land and causing a permanent water backup on somebody else's property, has produced a tiny "magic wetland kingdom" enjoyed by all of the presently affected and adjacent land ownerships -- a set of circumstances almost as rare as the Yellow-crowned Night Heron itself.

Article and photograph by Tom Dustin. Tom is Environmental Affairs Adviser of the Indiana Izaak Walton League, and is editor of the state League's *Hoosier Waltonian* newspaper. He is also one of ACRES' original founders.

Bicentennial Woods Update

The Bicentennial Woods is not only an area of great natural beauty, but of natural significance as well. ACRES is taking an inventory of the area to identify the increasing rare plants and animals that will have a refuge if we are successful in protecting **The Bicentennial Woods**.

To help ACRES record the species diversity in this 80 acres area, we received the expertise of educators, scientists, and naturalists. We thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to document the birds, trees, herbaceous plants, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and geology of the woods. A special thanks should be given to their dedication, as when they were gathering their information this June and July, the mosquitoes were very glad to see them!

Larry Bieberich
Ted H Heemstra
Bruce A. Kingsbury
Roger P. Rang

Jack A. Sunderman
James J. Tobolski
Robert T. Walton
Robert C. Weber

Below is a quote taken from one of their reports:

"The Bicentennial Woods could be utilized as an outstanding teaching tool for experience in soil science, geology, ecology, forestry, and other environmental studies... The Bicentennial Woods contains some of the largest and oldest stands of oaks in this area, and I believe it should be preserved for future generations."

Dr. James J. Tobolski
Professor of Biological Sciences
Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne

The fund drive, now underway, for **The Bicentennial Woods** is the largest ever undertaken by ACRES. In order to reach our goal of \$300,000, we are asking for support and donations from many organizations and individuals. State-wide foundations, local foundations and businesses, and, most importantly, ACRES members are all being asked to share in our effort to acquire this area.

Please help us preserve one of the last remaining old-growth woods in northern Indiana by making a donation this year, 1993. Your gift to ACRES for this unique area will make a difference.

Do you have a friend or relative that may be willing to help with this project? Do you want more information on the woods? Would like to visit this area yet this fall and winter (no mosquitoes!)? Please call Carolyn McNagyn at the ACRES office for more information.

Wing Haven Prairie gets Planted by Steuben County Boy Scout Troop 125

At the Wing Haven Nature Preserve, we have a small demonstration prairie plot in an old field. For each of the last three years, a small area has been planted

with "plugs" of prairie plants. This year, Boy Scout Troop 125 came out on July 17 and planted the nearly 2000 plugs that are pictured with some of the troop members below.



Once the plot has been plowed twice and tilled twice it is planted by both a broadcast method and "plugs" that have been growing in flats for as long as 3 months. If you would like to get involved in this project, contact Wing Haven caretaker, Fred Wooley, at the address on the back of the **Quarterly**.



Nominations Sought

ACRES election of board members will come up this fall. If you would like to nominate someone for the board, please do so by October 22, by contacting board members Mary Anna Entwisle (925-4637), Jim Shearer (665-9391), or Bob Weber (747-6030).

If you are a current member in good standing, you will receive a return-by-mail ballot, by November 20. You must vote by mail by December 14, or you may vote in person on December 15, 1993 between 9:00am and 5:00pm at the ACRES office, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, IN, 46808.

The Back Page...

The back bone of ACRES' management of its preserves is the fantastic volunteer corps that works countless hours in caring for "their" special natural areas. Many preserves have hard-working stewards.

Some volunteers take an interest in a certain preserve and jump into a special project. One such unsung hero is Eric Colby. In the heat and mosquitoes of mid-July, Eric spent nearly two weeks at the Beechwood Nature Preserve, putting in a couple of hundred feet of boardwalk. Eric worked from 6:00 a.m. until it was time for him to go to his regular job at Pokagon State Park at mid-morning. Eric has a strong interest in environmental concerns. In addition to being an ACRES member, Eric was a founding member of the Little River Wetlands

Project in Ft. Wayne. In the late summer, Eric left for the mountains of Colorado. We thank Eric for his great contribution and wish him luck in his new ventures.

- Fred J. Wooley, Editor



Eric Colby standing on a section of boardwalk he built at the Beechwood Nature Preserve.

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 Winter issue is **December 1, 1993.**  printed on recycled paper

ACRES
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana
46808-2474

Directors: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, VP; James M. Barrett, VP; Ethyle R. Bloch, VP; Jane Dustin, Secretary; James L. Shearer, Treasurer; David P. Deimling, John Ellenwood, Arthur Eberhardt, Mary Anna Entwisle, James D. Haddock, David C. Van Gilder, Sam Schwartz, Joseph A. Christoff, David Gall, Nancy Kasdorf; David J. Miller. Carolyn McNaghy, Project Coordinator. National Advisory Board: Howard Michaud, Alton Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durwood Allen, Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner, John W. Klotz. **ACRES Quarterly** is published by ACRES, Inc. at 2000 North Wells, Fort Wayne, 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:** Benefactor, \$500.00; Patron, \$100.00; Organization/Club, \$50.00; Share-the-Expense \$50.00; Family, \$25.00; Individual, \$15.00; Senior Citizen, \$10.00; and Student (through High School), \$10.00. Payable Annually. Membership year is July 1 to June 30.