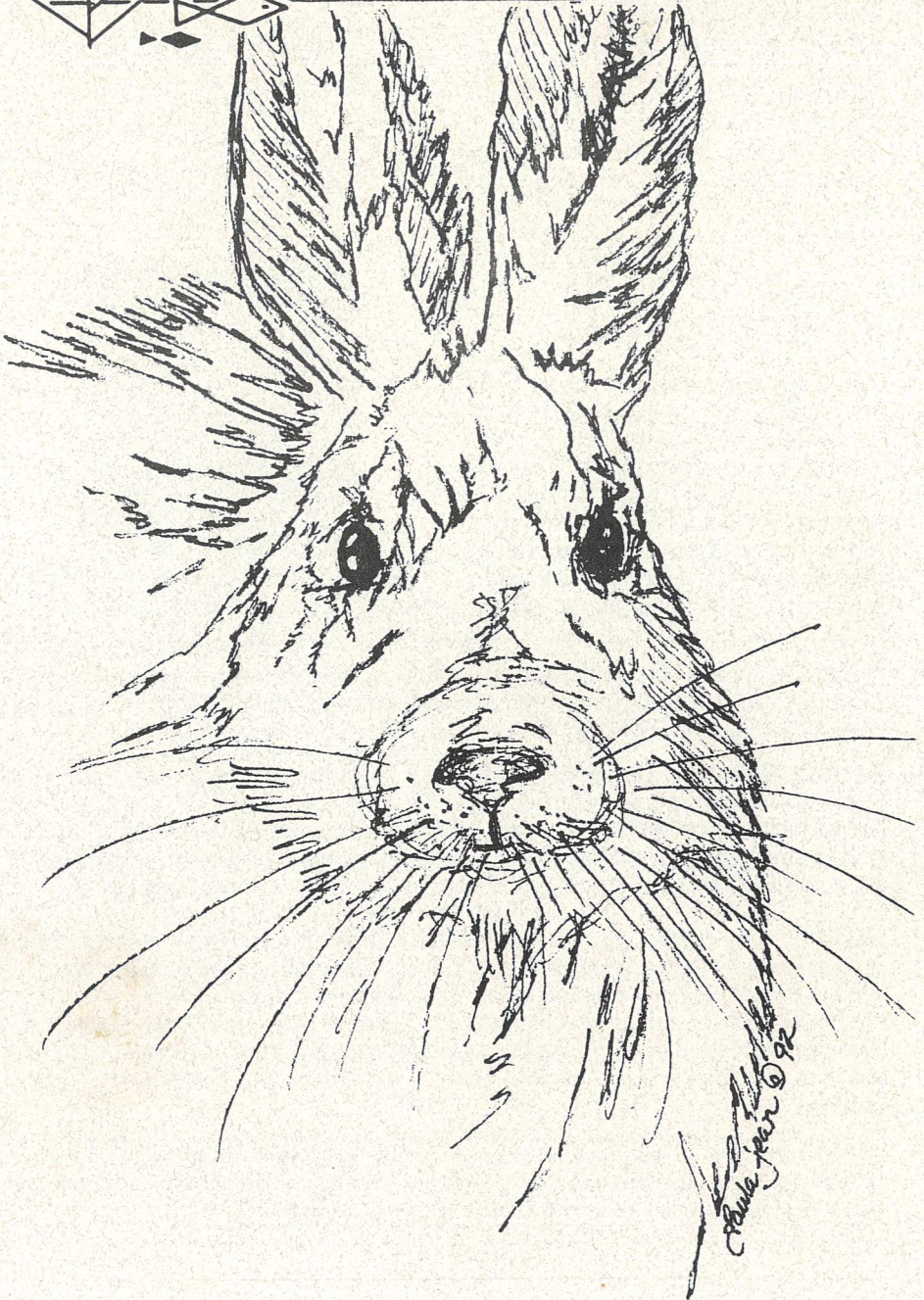


A C R E S



Quarterly

Winter - 1993
Volume XXXII No. 1



We have a home!...

After over 30 years of operating and storing records in the homes of volunteer board members, ACRES, Inc. now has an official home!

Beginning in 1993, we will be establishing a residence at the YWCA in Fort. Wayne. All members will receive a mailing this winter to announce an open house.



Our new address is:

ACRES, Inc.
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46808
Our new phone number is
219-422-1004

...and an employee!....

Carolyn McNagny has been hired by ACRES, Inc. as full-time **Project Coordinator**. Carolyn has a background in secondary science education and has worked as a naturalist in Indiana State Parks. For 20 years, Carolyn has done numerous volunteer projects for ACRES. Her major concerns will be nature preserve and



office records maintenance, fund raising, and educational programming.

New ACRES Board Members - With Carolyn McNagny moving from the board to Project Coordinator and the retirement of Ed Eberhardt (see page 5), two board positions became open. Elected to those posts are:

David P. Deimling, Leo, Indiana. David is a Purdue University graduate with a B.S. in Agriculture and Horticulture. He has worked as U.S. Postal Service Area Maintenance Technician in Ft. Wayne and is retired after 20 years of service in the Indiana National Guard. He has special interests in woodworking and reproductions of antiques, wood-canvas canoes, and small boats.

David C. Van Gilder, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. David has a degree in science and environmental studies from Bowling Green University. He is a graduate of Washington College of law and an attorney with the Lebamoff firm. He served as science and agriculture teacher in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kanye, Botswana. David is also Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, President and Director of the Stockbridge Audubon Society and Director of Blaising Social Services.

About the Cover - This issue's cover was done by Angola, Indiana artist Paula Jean Glasper. Paula has contributed other art to past **Quarterlies**. She is an art instructor and frequently uses the Wing Haven Nature Preserve for class location and inspiration.

Field Trips & Special Events

January 3 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).
 Host: Carolyn McNagny

January 10 Fort Wayne River Greenway Hike.

A 2-3 mile hike along the St. Marys River in this "green" corridor.

Where: Sherman Bridge Parking Lot, across the river from St. Joseph Hospital, Sherman Street.

When: 1:30pm.

Bring: Walking shoes and winter walking clothing.

Contact Persons: Else Matott (745-7877) or Ethyle Bloch (747-4450).

January 23 Merry Lea Environmental Preserve Field Trip.

Enjoy this natural area and site of excellent outdoor education.

Where: One-half mile south of Wolf Lake, off U.S. 33.

Bring: Winter walking clothing.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877).

February 7 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).
 Host: Mary Anna Entwisle

February 13 Art Hammer Wetlands Preserve Exploration.

Enjoy a day afield in one of our nicest and newest acquisitions.

When: 11:00am at the preserve.

Where: West of Rome City at west end of Waldron Lake on Noble County Road 125 West.

Bring: Lunch, warm clothing, walking shoes and boots.

Contact Person: Bob Weber (747-6030).

March 7 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).
 Host: Tom & Jane Dustin

March 21 Mengerson Nature Preserve Field Trip.

Hike in our prize island of green in the midst of surrounding urban landscape.

When: 1:30pm at the preserve.

Where: Stellhorn Road between Schmuckers and Northwood Center.

Bring: Lunch.

Contact Person: Ed Eberhardt (424-2462)

April 4 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).
 Host: Bob & Janet Weber

April 4 Beechwood Nature Preserve Hike.

Enjoy the rolling, old-fields and orchard meadows and wetlands of this northern preserve.

When: 1:30pm

Meet: At the Wing Haven Nature Preserve Visitor's Center.

Contact Person: Else Matott (745-7877)

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

Biking and Hiking To and Through ACRES



My original plan was a five-day trip biking to all of the ACRES' preserves except the outlying ones (Bibler, Pillars), which would require nearly a day's riding each, and those in high-traffic areas (Mengerson, Fogwell); hiking a bit at each one. Ah, the best laid plans....

Since no one would "volunteer" to drive the sag van (a follow-along vehicle carrying supplies, tools, etc.), all of my gear would have to be carried on the bike. That pretty well eliminated heavy boots, gaiters and other hiking gear. As will be seen, other events conspired to shorten the trip.

The first day, Wednesday, June 3, went beautifully. Starting in Angola, I visited the Woodland Bog, Ropchan Wildlife, Wing Haven, Beechwood (after a bulky brunch at Pokagon), Ropchan Memorial, and Maplewood. Having hiked all of these before, my stops at each were simply "photo opportunities". When I pulled into Gordon's Campground (a beautiful private campground north of Kendallville), my odometer showed 60 miles. The proprietress told me there was a good restaurant "a little ways around the lake". "Little ways" means something different to tired bikers than to people who drive. So I logged six more miles "fueling up" (but the food was good!).

Woke up Thursday to a wet tent and

a dreary day. At Lonidaw, the wide, well-kept trail was just too inviting in spite of a steady drizzle. In these misty conditions, the woods took on a mysterious atmosphere; beautiful in an eerie way. Ample amends for soaked shoes and socks. Next, a short trip to Detering and then on to one of the newer preserves, Ropchan Wetlands. By now, the drizzle had turned to serious rain so my hike was very short lived. On to Spurgeon. It would probably take storm conditions to keep one away from Spurgeon's trails; so I hiked until I heard the first thunder clap!



A gnawing stomach and drenched clothing recommended a food stop at Albion. It was still drizzling when I finished eating, but somehow it looked brighter. Bender next! The River Road running out of Albion is paved in a manner that makes one wish for gravel! Going up a hill, a sudden phzzzzz spelled trouble, a tire slashed either by a very sharp rock or a piece of glass. I pushed my bike to a house on the next bend and asked the owner if I could duck in his garage while repairing my tire. The man turned out to be Don Bender, brother of Lloyd! He helped me with the tire and fired up

his compressor for me. We had to put a boot in the tire to keep the tube from coming through the slash.

By now, it was getting too late (and too wet!) to do much hiking so, after a quick stop at Bender, I rode on into Chain-O-Lakes State Park.

Still drizzling Friday morning. There was no bike store in Albion and the hardware store didn't have the tire I needed. Perhaps if the sun had been shining, the thought of riding another three days on a suspect

- by Jim Shearer
ACRES Board Member.

Anyone wishing to join Jim on one of these biking "adventures" can reach him at 665-9391.

Changing of the Guard

After serving since 1972, Edward H. Eberhardt is leaving the ACRES Board of Directors. While on the board, Ed has been especially committed to the maintenance of our preserves. Serving with Ed on the Land Management Committee for many years, John Ellenwood says, "Ed is one of the best people to work with I've ever known."

Ed has put up many ACRES signs, managed the Mengerson Nature Preserve, set trails, and installed sign-in boxes. He is now wrestling with the problem of proper trail and border markers for the preserves. His "waterloo" was almost the dock at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve, which kept sinking into the lake bottom. Ed never gave up and worked out the engineering problems with the wonderful result of a sturdy dock

tire wouldn't have been so daunting. However....

Arrived home early Friday afternoon having visited 11 preserves and logged 165 miles. I'd still like to do the whole trip, but next time:
a) check the long-range weather forecast.
b) carry a spare tire (there are tires that fold), and...
c) find a companion.

Any takers?...



and bench by the lake today. Ted Heemstra, ACRES Board President, said, "ACRES will miss our underwater construction expert."

Ed says that he has thoroughly enjoyed meeting ACRES members. One of the things that got him involved with ACRES was the "caliber of people" involved and the great pleasure in helping people save and preserve their land. The Board hopes that Ed will continue to lend a hand in the future. There is that problem with the beaver dams, and we were wondering....

- by Carolyn McNagny

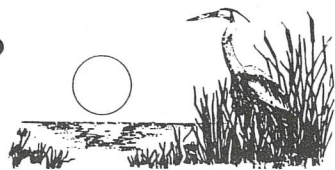
Pursuing Wetlands?

...One to call for help!

Fragmented and stressed to their limits, Indiana wetlands need all of the help they can get. With 80 percent of Indiana's wetlands destroyed, the remaining 20 percent carry a heavy load. Realizing this, several agencies pooled their resources to hire **Peter Klink** as the **Wetlands Coordinator** for Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben Counties.

As Wetlands Coordinator, Pete has many goals, three of which are:

1. Identify altered wetland sites that have the potential to be restored in the five counties served.
2. Assist landowners interested in wetland enhancement and/or restoration by putting them in touch with the proper agencies that can provide the services needed.
3. Provide educational programs, materials, and demonstration projects.



Pete feels that "wherever you have a water drainage problem, you have the potential wetland site". Considering this, Pete is exploring new ideas for landowners that wish to enhance or restore wetlands without adversely affecting adjacent neighbors. This can be accomplished at little or no cost to the landowner.

If you know of a landowner who is interested in wetland enhancement or restoration, Pete can be reached through the local Soil and Water Conservation District offices of the counties he serves.

Enhancing and restoring one of the richest ecosystems on earth is something from which we all benefit. Pete's success stories are our success stories.

- by Sharon Partridge
ACRES Board Member



Business Donations in 1992

The following businesses made substantial contributions to ACRES, Inc. this past year. Their support to ACRES efforts and programs is much appreciated.

Wal-Mart, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
K&K Insurance Groups, Inc., Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Fort Meter Box, Inc., Wabash, Indiana
GenCorp Automotive, Wabash, Indiana
PSI Energy, Inc., Indianapolis/Wabash, Indiana
Doane Keyes Associates, Inc., Peru, Indiana

Upcoming **Quarterly** issues will feature individuals who have made special contributions to ACRES, Inc.

Second to the Back Page.... A Night in November

Normally I reserve the back page for a few words of an editorial nature, but something came up that I thought needed a few more words.

Those of you who were able to attend the ACRES annual meeting November 6, were treated to an excellent presentation by Naturalist Kip Miller. Kip covered the plight of many of the songbirds that breed in our ACRES woodlands, or at least pass through on migration, and winter in the tropics. He offered a sobering story, but presented some positive action that we can take to help these neotropical songbirds.

Those of you who could not make it, I am sorry, you missed a good one. For anyone who did not, but would like the information sheet prepared by Miller, please contact the ACRES or **Quarterly** office.

During the business meeting prior to the program, several people in the audience were introduced. I was surprised at the introduction of 5th district, U.S. Rep. Jim Jontz. ACRES President, Ted Heemstra, said that Jim had delayed a trip back to Washington just for this meeting. This had to be a difficult week for Jim Jontz for just 3 days earlier, he lost his re-election bid to a fourth term as the 5th district representative.

Jim Jontz was a champion of environmental issues and legislation. He was a major sponsor of legislation to protect what little remains of the ancient, old growth forests of the Pacific northwest. It was that involvement that most likely cost him his job.

Jontz's opponent attacked him for being more interested in national and international environmental issues than issues in Indiana. It is too bad that some politicians (and voters) still have not realized that environmental issues do not recognize political boundaries. What does happen far way, can indeed affect us here at home.

The **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** reported that during the campaign, his opponent received more than \$75,000 from timber and construction political action committees and corporate executives. A PAC sponsored by four Pacific Northwest unions was formed in the last weeks of the campaign, solely to defeat Jontz. In the last week of the campaign, 18 union employees and timber industry workers from the Pacific Northwest came to Indiana to campaign against Jontz. Jontz lost a close election, 51 to 49 percent.

But there he was that night, in the audience, taking notes on a yellow legal pad during the presentation. There were no more votes to get, no more elections to win. He was there because of a topic of deep interest to both him and his constituents at the meeting.

If you feel some frustration over this matter, you may want to look at an organization called the **Native Forest Council**. This group is dedicated to one issue only, saving what scant percent of our ancient, native forest that remains. The Council can be reached at P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, Oregon, 97402 (503-688-2600).

You can do it for these magnificent forests or you can simply do it for one ACRES member who just lost his job.

- Fred J. Wooley, Editor

The Back Page...

It was suggested by some of the ACRES Board Members that this issue of the **Quarterly** give you a look at some of the ACRES people who have worked, presently work, and will work behind the scenes to preserve and manage these special natural areas. It was suggested that you might want to see those lucky people who live in the residence at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

In 1984, Jackie, I, and our dog, Lucy, moved into the old, log, Swenson home and began our role as caretakers of this beautiful preserve. We were joined by our son, Joseph, in 1991 and life here continues to be exciting and rewarding.



This issue of the **Quarterly** marks my fourth year as editor. I want to thank all of you who keep me amply supplied with material.

And from all of us at ACRES, we wish you happy holidays and a prosperous new year!

- 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 **March 1, 1993**. ♻️ printed on recycled paper

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2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana
46808

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 Entwistle, Judy Esterline, James D. Haddock, David C. Van Gilder, Sam Schwartz, Sharon Partridge, David Gall, Nancy Kasdorf; David J. Miller. Carolyn McNagny, 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:** 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.