



Quarterly

Autumn - 1994
Volume XXXIII No. 4



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ACRES Land Trust Annual Dinner Meeting

November 11, 1994



**Concordia Seminary Dining Hall
6600 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

6:30 p.m.

\$12.00 a plate

Phone reservations to:

**Mary and Howard Schneider (219-484-3986)
or Ethyle Bloch (219-747-4450)**

Reservations must be made and honored

Deadline: November 4, 1994

Decorations by Ethyle Bloch and Mary Schneider

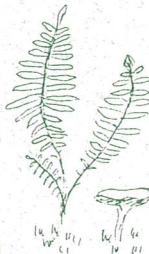


Guest Speaker: Craig Tufts

"Create a Wildlife Sanctuary in Your Backyard"

Craig Tufts is one of the leading experts on gardening for wildlife. Tufts oversees the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program and has appeared several times on "The Victory Garden" (PBS-TV) to discuss ways of gardening to attract animals.

Tufts, who holds degrees from Cornell University, lives in Virginia, where his family shares its 9,000 square foot lot with hummingbirds, sharp-shinned hawks, box turtles, and more than 100 species of native plants.



The dinner will be a sit-down meal.

**If unable to dine with us, please plan to join us at
8:00 p.m., in classroom 201, for the program.**

General Public is welcome for the program - no charge!

ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Collette Beeler
Paul R. Bibler
John P. Brennan and Barbara L. Jones
Donna L. Burns
Stephen T. and Judith M. Clinton
Arthur George
Joyce Gray
Ruth Von Gunten
John W. Heilman III
Tom and Jeanne Hissem
Gary R. Klaehn
Richard A. Kelty, M.D.
Edward M. Kokosa
Warren and Sharon Mead
Mary J. Mikulski

Scott A. Miller
Donna Ogborn
Doug and Lenore Perry
Warren and Ellen Pryor
Marian Holbrook Roberson
Rick Sarasién
Donald Schroeder
Terri and Paula Sewell and Dan Haffner
Bob and Vivian Shire
Dennis Schoff and Nina Sorensen
Russell D. Sorgen
Jane and Richard Thomas
Richard E. Walker
Thomas and Hope Wilson

From the Membership Chair....

Many thanks to those friends of ACRES who have renewed their memberships. Do not forget that a membership in ACRES makes a great gift and is a fine way to remember a birthday or anniversary. We are still accepting donations for the Bicentennial Woods project in order to fully fund it for long term maintenance. You are also encouraged to donate memorial gifts to ACRES for a meaningful and lasting remembrance. Please note that an "exp 6/94" above your name means your membership needs to be renewed. Thank you!

- Mary Anna Entwisle, Membership Chairperson



Spotted Salamander by Fort Wayne native Lucy Ellison

About the Cover - This issue's cover was done by Cindi Brunner of Carbondale, Colorado.

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**. We respectfully submit the following names and proudly carry on our important work in their names.

Richard Fisher

Patricia McNagny and Family

Andrew "Barry" Hile

Patricia McNagny and Family

Dayton Edward Henney

Tom and Jane Dustin

Ruth Bendik

Alan and Donna Richards

James Berry for Wing Haven Nature Preserve

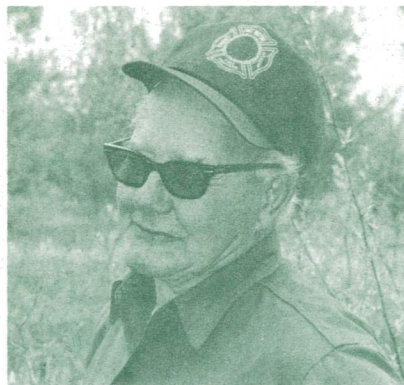
Nina E. Stonebraker

Harold and Patricia Edgerton

ACRES Says Goodbye to a Good Friend -

A quiet, shy man, Byron Stellhorn, a Perry Township farmer and long-time valuable member of ACRES, recently passed away. Before his long illness, ACRES work crews could depend on Barney to be at the work site ready to do the jobs. He was particularly helpful at doing the heavy work and was a whiz at fencing. Barney was not just a member on the books, he was a major ACRES promoter. His many relatives and fellow volunteer firemen were all introduced to ACRES. Barney always had a brochure or **Quarterly** to give away.

Since his youth, Barney was a nature enthusiast. As a boy he loved the wildlife around the farm which led to his photography. The nature pictures he took of wildflowers and wildlife line the walls of the farm house. He knew his land and all that surrounded his farm, the history of which he could talk about for hours. The land was abused and divided when I-69 was constructed. Barney shuddered at the damage and could still tell you where the hilly ravines were scalled away. He was able to coerce a bulldozer operator to give him access to the land on the other side of the highway's bridge, much to the consternation of the highway supervisor.



Because of this love of earth, Barney and his widowed mother donated 47 acres of their land to ACRES in 1989 - The Vandolah Preserve. Most of this lovely land is state dedicated. To honor Mrs. Stellhorn, ACRES planted a tree in the Preserve in 1991. Shortly thereafter, Barney's 102 year-old mother passed away, but she lived to know that her land was saved.

ACRES is deeply appreciative of the work Barney did and for the gift of Vandolah, a memorial to his family and a tribute to the spirit of saving land for future generations.

- by Ethyle Bloch, former ACRES Board Member

ACRES LAND TRUST

Presents

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ACRES

Presented by

Members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic

AT THE

WING HAVEN NATURE PRESERVE

Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy classical music in the beautiful and peaceful setting of the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. The one hour concert will be presented outside, in case of inclement weather we will be in the Studio at Wing Haven.

MUSICIANS

David Rezits, Cello

Cindy Greider, Clarinet

Betsy Thal, Violin

Anna Graham, Viola

Dessie Arnold, Violin

Joe Kalisman, Cello

Where: WING HAVEN NATURE PRESERVE, Steuben County

Take Exit 154 (Pokagon State Park Exit) to 127 S, turn East on 400 N.
Preserve located 1/2 mile down 400 N.

When: Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 for adults, children under 12 are free!

Bring: Lawn chair or blanket to sit on, friends and family.

Contact Person: Carolyn McNagny, ACRES office (219) 422-1004

ACRES Land Trust is a non-profit corporation, dedicated to preserving natural areas for future generations to enjoy. ACRES owns and manages 29 nature preserves in 9 counties in northeastern Indiana. All preserves are open to the public from sunrise to sunset for environmental education, scientific study and enjoyment. Public memberships in ACRES are welcomed and membership information is available at the ACRES office or can be mailed to you by calling (219) 422-1004.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ACRES -- SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LAND TRUST!



Field Trips & Special Events

Sunday, October 9. Benefit Concert for ACRES.

Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

Presented by Members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

Enjoy classical music in the beautiful and peaceful setting of the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. The one hour concert will be presented outside. In case of inclement weather, we will be in the Studio at Wing Haven. See page 5 for details.

Saturday, October 22. Lloyd W. Bender Nature Preserve.

Join us to hike with Harold Eyer, who has restored wetlands, and see the north side of the Bender Preserve. We will also travel the trails of Bender, maintained by its steward, Alice Golden.

When: 10:30am

Where: Lloyd W. Bender parking area.

Bring: Walking shoes and a picnic lunch.

Contact Persons: Carolyn McNagny (219-422-1004) or
Else Matott (219-745-7877)

Saturday, October 29. Land Management Meeting and Field Day.

Come to the Visitors' Center at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve for a morning meeting. We'll then take a short trip to and hike through the showcase preserve of the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge with stewards Ethyl McClelland and David Homan. After a carry-in lunch back at Wing Haven, we will visit the Ropchan Memorial Preserve to assess the management needs there with its new steward, Jane Papsdorf. At Wing Haven, you may want to collect some prairie seeds to use in a suitable place at the preserve for which you care. The seeds are from a prairie plot demonstration area being developed by Wing Haven caretaker, Fred Woolley.

When: 9:00am to 4:00pm

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

Bring: Drink and dish for potluck. Walking clothes.

Contact Person: Bob Weber (219-747-6030)

Please make sure that you register what food you are bringing for the potluck with Bob Weber by October 28th.



Sunday, November 6. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House 1pm to 5pm

Hosts: Michelle Doerr, Scott Michael, Todd Hack, and Mike Muchler.

Come out and hike Wing Haven and enjoy the last of fall color! Hot apple cider will be served.

Friday, November 11. ACRES Annual Dinner.

Speaker: Craig Tufts from the National Wildlife Federation. Details on page 2.

Saturday, November 19. Late Fall Field Trip to Spurgeon.

See how nature prepares for winter in this very beautiful and special ACRES preserve.

When: 10:00am

Where: At the Spurgeon Preserve.

Bring: Lunch and hiking clothes.

Contact Person: Else Matott (219-745-7877).

Sunday, December 4. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Friday, December 9. Night Hike at the Bicentennial Woods!

We will take a night hike through The Bicentennial Woods with Carolyn McNagny and Jim Barrett to see what is out and about in the evening. We will then stop in the meadow to look at the constellations and see the moon through a telescope.

When: 5:00pm (sun sets at 5:12pm)

Where: The Bicentennial Woods parking area. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Shoaff Road. Turn West on Shoaff. Parking area is located on south side of the road.

Bring: Walking shoes and very warm clothing as it can get quite cold star gazing and not moving. You might want a flashlight for moving back to cars at dark.

Contact Person: Carolyn McNagny (219-422-1004).

Please note: In case of clouds on December 9, we will reschedule and meet on December 10.

January. There will be no regular open house at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve this month due to the holiday falling on the first Sunday. Happy New Years!



Letter from the President of ACRES

This is the time of year that many of us review our giving to worthwhile projects. As you are aware, ACRES is involved in a fund drive for the acquisition of The Bicentennial Woods. At this time, we are at about 81% of our \$300,000 goal. We would appreciate your consideration in helping us reach our goal this year.

Our Land Acquisition and Management Fund supports the operation of ACRES and the maintenance of all of our nature preserves. This fund also deserves your special support.

*ACRES recently acquired its 30th Nature Preserve! Louis A. Bibler donated 26 acres of woods in Jay County. There is a marker at the site where the Madison Township School once stood and the preserve is to be called the **Madison Township School Nature Preserve**. There will be an article in the Winter **Quarterly** about the new preserve and the school's history.*

There are many fine people involved with ACRES. The nature preserves and their management would not be possible without your financial and volunteer efforts. With your support, we will continue to acquire and protect the best remaining natural areas in northeastern Indiana!

- Ted Heemstra

Thank you for your donations of office supplies:

Patricia Click

Diane Robart Taner

Theodore P. Miller and Corinne Miller

Bob Weber

P.E. Palmer

Jill Borkenstein

Thank you also to:

Hyde Brothers Book Store, for nature books.

Dave Snyder, who helped at Wing Haven when the well went out.

Michael Hawfield, for creating the excellent "Bicentennial Minute" on The Bicentennial Woods.

Ken Millikan and Tom Dustin, for working on benches at The Bicentennial Woods.

Else and Art Matott, Katherine Moore, and Carolyn McNagny held a mini-workday at the Spurgeon Nature Preserve this summer. Trash along the road and parking area was picked up. Thanks to **Don McCormack** who went to Spurgeon and removed the trash in the parking area and cut four trees that had fallen over the trail!

STEWARDS: If you have any information on work you have done, or interesting plants or animals you have encountered on your preserve, please let us know!

Eagle Projects Benefit Two ACRES' Preserves!

This photograph was taken at **The Bicentennial Woods** in August, just after the group finished brushing and raking a loop trail of about one mile.



The trail leads through some very nice, large, oak trees and a fascinating stand of large sassafras. Along the way, one passes two or three "sink hole-like" formations. These cannot be sink holes, however, as that type of formation does not occur in northern Indiana. They are more likely to be baby kettle hole depressions left by the last glacier. The marsh itself will later be traversed by a boardwalk.

The boys in the above picture are from Troop 430, headquartered at Trier Road Baptist Church. **Brian Miller**, in the dark shirt, had the responsibility of planning the work and directing about a dozen troop-mates as laborers. Doing so, he completed his requirements for an Eagle award.

At the **Wing Haven Nature Preserve**, Eagle Scout **Matt Barton** (far right) directed his scouts of Troop 125 through many projects. The major job was the tearing out and replacing of nearly 200 feet of split rail fence around the homestead. They also replaced 3 gates, a roof over the wood storage area, cleaned up and mulched the arboretum, planted a tree, and cut firewood. Money for the project was provided in part by the Lady Elks of Angola and the Auburn Garden Club. Pictured above with Matt, are Mitch Spidel (left) and Matt Spidel (center).



We would like to publicly thank all of those who worked so many hours on these fine projects. We thank not only the scouts, but also the parents, who gave so much of their time. Without the generous help of such scout projects, our land management program would not be nearly so far along.

- Bob Weber and Fred Wooley

ACRES Members Invited to Help with Fort Wayne Community Project.

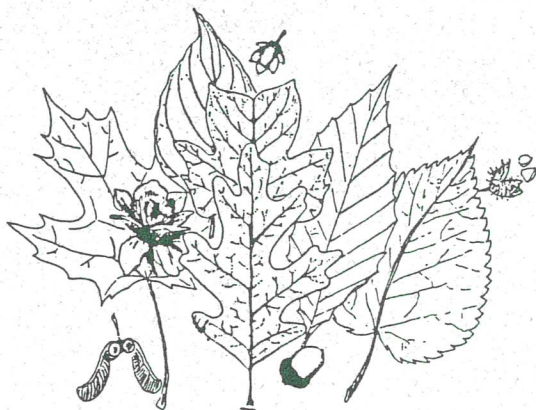
From time to time, other not-for-profit groups make their projects known to ACRES members, when our interests run together. Such is the case with Richardville, Incorporated as this group is raising funds to purchase the TahCumWah Community Center. The group will plant a flowering crabapple tree for every \$120.00 contributed to the acquisition fund. The project is part of the Fort Wayne Bicentennial Celebration's "Apple Appeal".

The goal is to plant 100 trees along Freeman and Catalpa Streets. These trees will make a major improvement to this area and adjacent neighborhoods. Contributors will be recognized by placing their names on a permanent plaque. Call 219-432-7170 for more information. Send check, payable to Richardville, Incorporated, to 1701 Freeman Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802. Ask for, or send check to, Leslie Raymer, Executive Director. Thank you!



Defend that which cannot defend itself...

Please find, in this **Quarterly**, a flyer on special, planned gift giving opportunities to ACRES Land Trust.



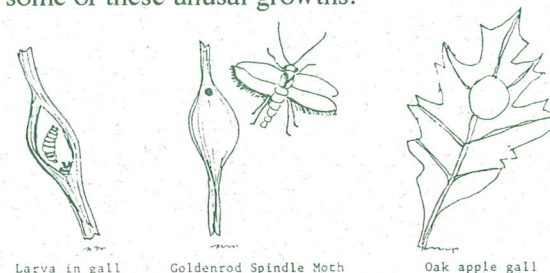
Fall's Galls

Some mysteries of nature are those strange foreign woody bumps and green knob-like growths on wildflowers and trees. These swellings, known as galls, are actually rapid growths of plant cells, caused by chemicals produced by invading insects.

Small wasp-like insects, flies, and moths lay eggs in the plant tissues. As the eggs hatch, plant tissue around the larva swells. The growth can be a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and textures. The gall provides the occupant with shelter, protection and food while it develops.

The best known galls are oak apples and goldenrod galls. The gallfly and the golden spindle moth are the most common insect to inhabit the goldenrod. Birds, such as goldfinches, chickadees, and woodpeckers look for and feed on what is inside the gall. Spiders find the open galls to be excellent shelter.

Find a gall and open it and you may see a developing insect inside. Or, it may be an empty bulb with a hole in it. The hole indicates that the insect has matured and flown away. Whatever you find, you will enjoy gall hunting as an interesting and informative nature activity. Autumn is a great time to get out and discover some of these unusual growths.



Article and artwork by Nancy Malis. Nancy is a naturalist, outdoor educator, and long-time member of ACRES.

Cardinal Flower Canoe Trip Report!

Although it rained much of the day on August 13, a wonderful time was had by the 19 canoers. ACRES member Eva Claphan organized the trip. We saw great blue herons, painted turtles, and many beautiful, deep red Cardinal flowers. Many thanks to Eva, Mike and Sue Claphan, John and Linda Mowry, and Carl and Ruth Deimling for providing the extra canoes!

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 (219-439-3906), Jim Barrett (219-423-9551), or Dave VanGilder (423-2581).

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 13, or you may vote in person on December 14, 1994, between 9:00am and 5:00pm at the ACRES Office, 2000 N. Wells St., Ft. Wayne, Indiana, 46808.

The Back Page...

The old apple trees of Wing Haven...

There are four old apple trees near the caretaker's residence at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. They were planted by the Swensons, sometime in the early 1940's. They are long past their prime as fine apple producers, with old gnarly branches, several dying each year.

It was suggested by some that the trees are too unsightly, too close to the home for safety from falling limbs.... that they should come out... Having lived here for some 10 years, I have come to really know these trees in all of their gnarliness. They are like old friends. I have come to enjoy them as I am sure the Swensons did for so many years. Sure, there are many more dead limbs, but I have enjoyed countless woodpeckers

seeking room and board in that sweet wood. I've had both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks rest on their limbs on sweeps by the feeders. This spring, in some of the dead, leafless branches, I caught glimpses of several types of migrating warblers. Views like that are rare in tall and totally leafed-out trees. And of course, this fall I continue to enjoy a tart treat of their somewhat wormy fruit as I pass underneath.

So I made the decision to let them stand another year. We'll get all that we can from these trees, as long as we can. I took out what branches may harm the home and what were soon to fall. I left big stubs for the cavity dwellers. One had **NINE** holes/homes in it! To gardening purists and arboriculturists, my apologies. To woodpeckers, enjoy....

- 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 Winter issue is **December 1, 1994.**  printed on recycled paper 

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Directors: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, VP; James M. Barrett, 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, Dennis L. Shoaff, David J. Miller, Janel A. Rogers. Carolyn McNaghy, Executive Director. 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.