



Quarterly

Spring - 1994
Volume XXXIII No. 2



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Attention All Photographers!

Are you willing to go to great lengths for that special photograph?... Do you enjoy hiking the ACRES preserves and capturing its flora and fauna on film?... If so, we would love to have copies of your photographs. We are developing displays to show the general public the beauty of the plants, animals, and landscapes of the ACRES preserves.

We need 3x5's, 4x6's, 5x7's, or any size you wish to send us! We will not return the photographs, but would appreciate any photographs being sent to be considered a donation to ACRES. All photographs will be credited in the displays.

If you have any questions, please call the ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



ACRES member, Bob Weber, gets down and dirty to capture a spring ephemeral.

Fifth Annual Adopt A Tree Festival Set for April 16!

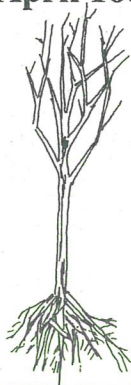
Come to the Wing Haven Nature Preserve for this traditional Spring event! Receive a free, native tree, build your own bird house, make a leaf print on a tee shirt or note card, do an orienteering tree trail, or just hike on a trail and enjoy refreshments!

Time: 10:00am to 5:00pm

Bring: Your family, friends, and a picnic lunch!

Where: Wing Haven is in Steuben County, on CR 400N, just east of SR 127 (Holiday Inn).

For further information, call Art Eberhardt (219-665-2421).



About the Cover - These huge oaks in the spring sunshine provide a solid anchor at one of ACRES most exciting projects - The Bicentennial Woods. Photo by Perspective, Inc.

ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Parks and Paula Adams
Ron Baber
Jeff and Sharon Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Bandemer
Eugene and Margaret Bock
Jay Brower
David N. Brumm and Kim S. McDonald and Family
Patricia and Sarah Click
Steve Crim and Family
Laura Edmunds
Eric Elam
Charles Evanson
Greg and Deb Fair
Dave and Melissa Fischer and Family
Greg Folck
David W. Ford
Robert Goldstine
Eleanor Green
Roy and Rita Hakel
Teena Hippensteel
Sue Kern

Dan Koontz
Skip McKlem
Elizabeth McNagny
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery C. Miller
Greg A. Pence
Kevin Richards
David and Sue Ridenour
Jack Ronald Family
Joseph J. Sickmiller
Martha L. Sittler
Dave and Bonnie Snyder
Alfred Bud Starling
Martha Trenkner
Michael and Sarah Trittipo
Rachel Troyer
Genevieve E. Warner
Jane and Earl Wells
Elaine L. Wilson
Lee and Mary Wilson
Phillip and Marcia Wright
Jim and Kathy Zimmerman
Robert Zimmerman

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.

Ann Augustyniak Lohse
Jack and Anita Dierkes

Cleon Fleck
Patricia, Marcia, and Carolyn McNagny

Other Special Friends...

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



The Turkey Vulture

A Bird for the Nineties

article by Tom Swinford
artwork by Paula Glasper

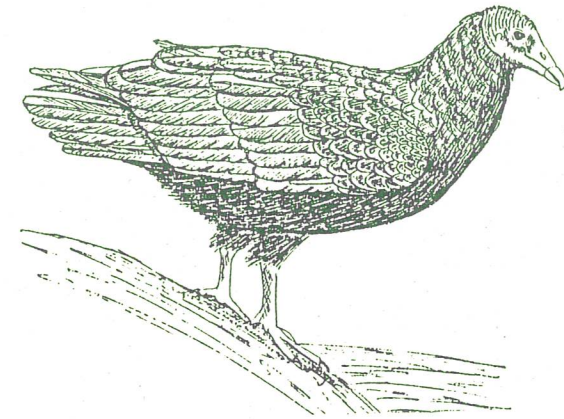
We do not have to travel to the Amazon rain forest, scale the mountains of Borneo, or visit the Arctic Circle to observe astounding natural phenomena. Case in point, the noble turkey vulture, a common large bird to be seen effortlessly riding the thermals over Indiana. The turkey vulture continues to flourish in a world fraught with adversity while the more romantic members of the vulture family, the mighty condors of California, are precariously close to extinction.

With a wingspan of six feet, the turkey vulture is the largest soaring bird in the northeast Indiana sky. Although generally referred to as a "buzzard" in the Hoosier vernacular, it is a true vulture belonging to the family Cathartidae. Included in this group is the turkey vulture's close relative, the immense California condor. The turkey vulture fills an important ecological niche. It is entirely a scavenger that efficiently goes about its business of ridding the world of roadkills and other such offal. It has survived virtually unchanged

for millions of years (since the Pleistocene) and has adapted admirably, and with relish, to the shift towards a service-based economy. The turkey vulture is found from the southern tip of South America to northern Canada, a testament to its adaptability. They are highly migratory - the bird you see out the window on the way to the lake, might have been in South America the season before. It seems that when times get tough, the turkey vulture just packs its bags and moves on.

Another key to their success may be the keen sense of smell which studies have shown the turkey vulture uses to locate carrion. A highly developed sense of smell is rarely encountered among bird species.

In contrast to the turkey vulture, its spectacular relative, the California condor, no longer exists in nature and is teetering on the brink of extinction. A majestic bird with an incredible wingspan of 10 feet, the California condor once commanded the skies over southern California coastal



mountain ranges. The enormous condors lived-in-plenty off the great herds of elk and other big mammals which populated the interior valleys as well as the dead whales and seals which frequently washed up on the coast. When the herds disappeared the condors numbers plummeted. A large population, however, continued to thrive on an abundant supply of carrion, compliments of cattle ranching in the area. The death knell of the condor was the changeover from ranching to crop farming in southern California.

By the 1970's, the mighty thunderbird of American Indian legend had been reduced to 40 some birds that subsided off ground squirrels, barely sustaining their massive bodies.

In the late 1980's, threatened with imminent extinction by land development and rodent control poisons, the last condors were rounded up by biologists and placed in 80 x 40

foot cages in the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Los Angeles' Zoo. A breeding program is underway, with some degree of success, but with irreversible loss of its habitat, the condor may well remain a curiosity in the zoo, a relic of days gone by.

In times like these, an irascible, tough, street-smart, irrepressible survivor is a wanted bird. Hence, I nominate the turkey vulture for the "Bird of the Nineties". The next time the headlines start to get you down, look to the sky and let your spirit soar with the turkey vulture.

Tom Swinford currently works for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. He has also worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves.

Paula Glasper is an artist and art teacher residing in Steuben County. She frequently contributes to the **Quarterly**.

Field Trips & Special Events

Easter Sunday. April 3. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

Saturday, April 16. Fifth Annual Adopt A Tree Festival.

See page 2 for details.

When: 10:00am to 5:00pm

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

Bring: Friends, family, lunches, walking shoes.

Costs: Free!

Refreshments will be served.

Contact Person: Art Eberhardt (219-665-2421).

Saturday, April 23. Seven Pillars Nature Preserve Wildflower

Walkabout. Come out and hike this beautiful hilly preserve, trails courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 501!

When: 10:00am

Where: At the preserve. Take US 124 (3 miles east of Peru) to 300 E, to 200 S.

Bring: Friends, lunch, and walking shoes.

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

Saturday, April 30. Special Preview Open House for Contributors to the Bicentennial Woods. See details on page 10.

Sunday, May 1. Public Open House of the Bicentennial Woods.

See details on page 10.

Sunday, May 1. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm). SPECIAL PROGRAM: Birds and their Habitats. Join naturalists and longtime birders, Bob and Ann Walton, on excursions both at Wing Haven and nearby McClue Nature Reserve to seek out the spring migrators, returning to northeast Indiana. In case of very inclement weather, slides will be shown in the visitors center.

When: 2:00pm

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve (Steuben County) on CR400N.

Bring: Walking shoes and binoculars.

Contact Person: ACRES Office (219-422-1004).

Saturday, May 7. Mustard Pull at Olin Lake Nature Preserve.

Join Rich Dunbar in this beautiful preserve and help pull the alien garlic mustard plant which threatens the habitats of our native wildflowers. Come and stay as long as you can for great exercise and a beneficial service. Support your local chiropractor!

When: 10:00am

Where: Olin Lake Preserve. La Grange County. CR 125S, one-half mile north of CR 600S.

Bring: Lunch, walking shoes, garden gloves.

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

Saturday, May 14. We're just Lousy with Lousewort Hike.

Lousewort, also known by the prettier name of Wood Betony, is just one of the wildflowers we will see! Join us for a one-mile hike along the wooded shoreline of Crooked Lake.

When: 10:00am

Where: At the Crooked Lake Preserve in Whitley/Noble County. On County Line Road, west of SR 9.

Bring: picnic lunch, walking shoes and other louses.

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

Sunday, May 15. Dedication of new ACRES area: The Munro Nature Preserve.

A gift of Ester Munro Cooper and Agnes Munro, this beautiful woods is located on the northern edge of what was once the Limberlost Swamp. Located at the site is the Brushwood Schoolhouse, written about in Gene Stratton Porter's, **Girl of the Limberlost**. Learn the history of this beautiful site and take a short wildflower hike. The Munro Nature Preserve is ACRES first preserve in Adams County.

Special Guests: Vickie Kibellus, well-known teacher and entertainer, will be giving a first person portrayal of Gene Stratton Porter at the Munro Nature Preserve. (Note: an article on the Munro Nature Preserve will be upcoming in the summer **Quarterly**.)

When: 1:00pm

Where: Meet at 1:00pm at the Limberlost State Historic Site. Take US27 south to the Limberlost Site in Geneva, Indiana. We'll carpool from there to save parking spaces. Or, meet at the preserve. In Adams County, take US 27 south to Geneva. Take SR116 west to CR400W, turn south. Munro Nature Preserve is located at the corner of CR400W and CR1100S.

Bring: Walking shoes and a folding chair.

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

More Field Trips and Special Events on Page 8.

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

Sunday, May 22. Wildflower Hike at the Bicentennial Woods.

Hike along the hills and dales of this 80 acre old-growth woods and its wildflower carpet.

When: 1:00pm

Where: Call ACRES office for meeting location (219-422-1004).

Bring: Walking Shoes.

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

Sunday, June 5. Open House at Wing Haven Nature Preserve (1pm to 5pm).

SPECIAL EVENT: Fiber Fair.

Else Matott and other members of the Spinners Guild will demonstrate wool and silk spinning throughout the afternoon. Come out to Wing Haven to learn more about fiber arts!

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

Saturday, June 11. Ropchan Wildlife Refuge and Ropchan Memorial Hikes.

Sam Ropchan left lasting memorials to his love of nature. Ropchan Wildlife Refuge is one of ACRES' largest preserves and Ropchan Memorial has a tamarack forest and an old glacial lake.

When: 10:00am

Where: At Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. In Steuben County, south of Fremont on SR 827.

Bring: Picnic lunch, walking shoes, and friends.

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

Sunday, June 26. Exploring the Tropical Rainforest.

Special Guest Speaker: Cheryl Piropato, Education Curator for the Fort Wayne Childrens Zoo. This presentation will bring the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the tropical rainforest. Live guest from the zoo.

When: 1:00pm

Where: ACRES office at YWCA, 2000 North Wells, Fort Wayne.

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

Sunday July 3. Open House at Wing Haven Nature Preserve (1pm to 5pm).

Canoe Trip - If you are interested in canoeing down the Mississinewaw River in June, please call Else Matott at 219-745-7877. This 1 hour trip will take us by both Seven Pillar properties! Call if interested!

Ethyle Bloch Retires from The ACRES Board of Directors

When the founders of ACRES met in December of 1959, Ethyle Bloch could not have known she was beginning 33 years of invaluable service to ACRES. The catalyst for the ACRES founders meeting in 1960 was the Save the Dunes campaign. They soon realized that we had our own treasures right here to protect.

That night, Ethyle accepted the nomination to become the fledgling group's treasurer, a post she held for 17 years. Ethyle has been in the forefront of promoting ACRES. By organizing field trips, indoor meetings, mailings, and the annual dinner, Ethyle has fostered public understanding of ACRES. Fellow board member, James M. Barrett, says that, "neither ACRES, nor the community, will ever be able to repay her for her dedication and service."

In serving twenty years, Ethyle's husband, Bill, was also a devoted member to the ACRES Board of Directors. In addition to their efforts in ACRES, Bill and Ethyle labored hard to protect Bill's family farm in Wisconsin. The property is now a dedicated Wisconsin Nature Preserve. "I applaud them both for their unselfish service in promoting greater public support of the preservation of nature", states ACRES board member, Bob Weber.

Ethyle herself has given much time and energy to promoting water quality. In the 1950's, she served on the Water Resources Committee for the League of Women Voters and adds that she has been "running around in polluted water ever since."

Another founder and ACRES board member, Jane Dustin, said that Ethyle has given "incredible service for natural areas preservation and environmental health". Over the past 33 years, Ethyle has accepted numerous appointments:

- first woman President of Indiana Izaak Walton League.
- member of National Board of the Izaak Walton League.
- longtime member of the Water Resources Committee of the National Izaak Walton League.
- Board Member of the River Greenway organization.
- Past President of Hoosier Environmental Council.

Dr. John W. Klotz, ACRES founder and national board of advisors, voices a common sentiment, "33 years is a long time to serve. Ethyle would say it is a long time to be privileged to serve. Ft. Wayne, indeed the entire state of Indiana and ACRES, have benefitted from the unselfish, untiring services of Ethyle Bloch. We wish her continued health and happiness."



Bicentennial Woods Update

ACRES will be hosting an Open House Weekend at the Bicentennial Woods!

Preview Open House for Donors to the Project

April 30

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Donors will receive an invitation in April.

***It is not too late to be a donor to the Bicentennial Woods!** If you would like to help acquire and protect the Bicentennial Woods, please call the ACRES Office to receive a fund drive brochure at 219-422-1004 or send a donation to:

The Bicentennial Woods
ACRES, Inc. Land Trust
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808

Open House for the Public

May 1

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

There will be articles in local papers around the time for this open house, or call the ACRES Office at 219-422-1004 for the location of The Bicentennial Woods.

ACRES will be offering guided hikes through The Woods. If you would like to be a hike leader, please call the ACRES office at the number listed above.

This event is sponsored by Scott's Food Stores! We would like to thank Cheryl Scott and Scott's Food Stores for their support!



ACRES will be handing out information at Scott's Food Stores on May 21 and 22. We hope to have displays and volunteers for as many Scott's Food Stores as possible. We need volunteers for Scott's in Columbia City, Angola, Auburn, Kendallville, and Fort Wayne! If you can spare some time for your land trust, please call Carolyn at the number above. Thank you!

Brent Kuhn and Troop 180

In December, Boy Scout Brent Kuhn organized a work day at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge in Steuben County. A 25 foot bridge was built under less than favorable weather conditions. The bridge greatly improved the trail for the public and we appreciate everyone's hard work on the project.

Troop 180 has worked before at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge, building boardwalks and bridges. Without their help, the trail would be impassable.

Brent Kuhn	Matt Ordway	Brian George	Dennis
Andy Miller	Phil Miller	Nathan Norton	Crozier
Jamie Lingo	Aaron Spirek	Helga Lingo	Pat Miller

Rick Harkins, Scoutmaster

Jim Shearer, ACRES Board of Directors

Art Eberhardt, ACRES Board of Directors

Thank you!

Thank You to Farm/Garden/Home Shows Volunteers!

Thank you to all who helped at the Fort Wayne Farm Show and the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show!

Karen Sivley organized both shows and we are grateful for her hard work in getting the word out about our organization.

Thank you also to Dave Gall and Dave Deimling for acquiring, sanding, and transporting a 18 inch thick, 4 foot across, 600-800 pound section of a 200 year old tree to the Home and Garden Show! It was fascinating. Remember to come to the Bicentennial Woods Open House to see a living tree of the same size!

Brenda Collins	Else Matott	Glen Fogwell	John Ellenwood
Ed Eberhardt	Art Eberhardt	Kathryn Moore	Nancy Baker
Ethyle Bloch	Jane Dustin	Tom Bennett	Karen Sivley
Mike Muchler	Michelle Doerr	Barbara Barratt	Dennis Schoff
Dave and Becky Gall	(age 10!)	Art Hammer	Ted and Pat Heemstra
	Bob Weber		

Springtime is Renewal Time for ACRES!

Springtime is the time of renewal in the natural world and it is also the time of renewal for your ACRES membership. We know you enjoy the **Quarterly** and we know you value what ACRES does. Please renew promptly. It helps tremendously!

Remember that ACRES, Inc. Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) corporation and gifts and donations to the Land Acquisition and Management Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by Federal Income Tax laws. More importantly for ACRES, these contributions provide the 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

The Back Page...

A couple of items stand out for me in this issue.... the first being the call for renewals on page 11. June is the time when ACRES' membership year begins anew. Please look down now at your mailing label. If it says "6/94", your membership is about to run out this June. If it has a date even older than that, consider yourself lucky as your membership has been carried for some time. As gracious as ACRES would like to be in your membership time period, considering your graciousness in supporting us in the first place, we can't afford to extend this grace period forever. Please renew, or rejoin today. We save your membership dollars by re-

questing renewals through the newsletter, rather than special and constant mailings as other organizations do. Please renew now. Thanks.

The second item is the much heralded Bicentennial Woods. In every issue since last Spring's **Quarterly**, we have featured a "Bicentennial Woods Update". The donations have been quite generous as we continue to move towards our goal of paying for this acquisition. And now, we're even ready to pull the sheet off of this baby and show it off! Check out the May 1 open house or the May 22 wildflower hike to "The Woods". It is something on which your board has been working long and hard, and something of which we can all be quite proud.

- 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 Summer issue is **June 1, 1994.** ♻️ printed on recycled paper 

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Fort Wayne, Indiana
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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 McNagny, 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.