



Quarterly

Winter - 1994
Volume XXXIII No. 1



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Volunteers Needed!

ACRES member, Karen Sivley has arranged for ACRES to have booths at the Fort Wayne Farm Show and at the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show. This is our chance to reach many people (over 35,000 attend the Farm Show and over 40,000 attend the Home and Garden Show) and tell them about ACRES! This our chance to greatly increase the public's knowledge of the importance of protecting natural areas, The Bicentennial Woods project, and ACRES!

Fort Wayne Farm Show Tuesday, January 18, 8:00am to 5:00pm
Wednesday, January 19, 8:00am to 8:00pm
Thursday, January 20, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show Wednesday, March 2, 12 Noon to 10:00pm
Thursday, March 3, 12 Noon to 10:00pm
Friday, March 4, 12 Noon to 10:00pm
Saturday, March 5, 10:00am to 10:00pm
Sunday, March 6, 11:00am to 6:00pm

Volunteers will work the booth in 4-hour shifts. If you can spare some time for your land trust, we need your help! Learn more about farm machinery than you ever thought you would know! To volunteer for a shift, please call Karen Sivley at:

219-429-4705 (days)
219-484-6569 (nights and weekends)

Thank you!

Big Thank You To Bulk Mail Mailers

Thank you to those who have helped with the bulk mail in 1993! Your energy and enthusiasm (and short notice -ed.!) is greatly appreciated.

Ethyle Bloch
Sharon Brommer
Mabel Brommer
Art and Marion Eberhardt
Ed and Nancy Eberhardt

John and Marcella Ellenwood
Bob and Jackie Gunzenhauser
Else Matott
Mary Schneider

If you would like to be a bulk mail helper, please call the ACRES office at 219-422-1044.

About the Cover - This issue's cover was done by Kyle Kammeyer, age 7, of Angola, Indiana. Kyle is one of the students in an art class taught by Paula Glasper, whose artwork is regularly featured in the **Quarterly**. Kyle and his classmates did pen and ink drawings to make into holiday greeting cards. We thought his snowman scene would make a delightful greeting on our Winter **Quarterly**.

ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Stanley and Marjorie Abramowski
John and Ruth Bendik
Mary Berghoff
Rosemarie Bostelman
Jill Borkenstein
Kim R. Bryan
Robert E. Bryan
Larry and Elizabeth Burke
Richard and Brenda Collins
Carl and Ruth Deimling
Harold Eyer Jr.
Anna Graham
Wilhelmine Hartman
Lucy W. Huffman
David and Julia Hurley and Family

Miles L. Joseph
Bruce and Barb Kistler
Thomas and Martha McIntyre
Bob and Linda Miller
Sandra E. Monroe
Richard and Linda Morris
Max Parker
Fred and Cynthia Rasp
John and Rosemary Rouch
Richard and Anna Schorr
Karen E. Sivley and Tom D. Bennett
Lou and Bev Stine
Thomas L. Stucky
David and Holly Wenk
Cynthia L. Wilkin

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.

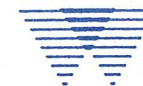
Lydia Morsches
Patricia A. McNagny
and family

James F. Graham
Dorothy J. Graham for
The Bicentennial Woods

Gene Wyal
Kekionga Voyageurs for
The Bicentennial Woods

Other Special Friends...

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



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN



WILD WINGS

Raptor Rehabilitation
&
Flight Recovery Center

Few things are as graceful and inspiring as a hawk riding the thermals high overhead or an owl gliding softly through a silent woods. As the hustle and bustle of modern society begins to close in on their world, birds of prey increasingly need our help to hold their own.

Hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles are called raptors, or birds of prey. They have keen vision, sharp talons, and hooked beaks. These tools, along with breathtaking speed and agility, enable them to hunt for their prey. But the special talents they possess are no match for the insults being inflicted upon them by humans. Each year, hundreds of raptors in our state are injured by colliding with power lines or vehicles, by being caught in steel leg-hold traps, ingesting poisonous chemicals, and by senseless shootings.

We have come a long way in reversing some of the negative attitudes of the past, towards raptors. Cessation of DDT use, conservation laws protecting

raptors, and modern day rehabilitation and falconry efforts, help contribute to the current populations of birds of prey. These changes have been brought about because of the concern and commitment of individuals to the welfare of these spectacular birds.

Janie Fink is one of those individuals. Janie became involved with birds of prey by first becoming concerned and aware of the threats to some of their populations and then by deciding that she wished to use her biology and pre-med background to make a difference. She started the Peregrine Falcon Release program two years ago. Working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Jamie helped organize releases for Peregrines in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and South Bend.

Janie has also recently complete her Master Degree in Biology by documenting the distribution of Bald Eagles in Indiana. Remarking that some

people view such work as being glamorous or exciting, Janie said it was "very long hours in a noisy helicopter" for 3 days every 2 weeks for 6 months.

But through her other projects, Janie's first concern and preoccupation has been Wild Wings, a raptor rehabilitation center. Janie founded Wild Wings in 1991 after asking, "if people can have hospitals, why can't hawks and owls?" The "hawk hospital" was established to meet the growing need to care for birds of prey that have collided with the industrial world.

"... if people can have hospitals, why can't hawks and owls?"

At Wild Wings, Janie works with a dedicated team of volunteers: St. Joe Center Veterinary Hospital provides all surgical and medical services, State Conservation Officers notify Wild Wings of injured birds of prey and provide law enforcement to help protect raptors in the wild, and concerned naturalists and educators donate their time and expertise. State and federal permits are required for handling the birds of prey, so volunteers receive training before working at the center.

Two kinds of residents are at the rehabilitation center: long term educational birds and short term injured patients.

Wild Wings currently is responsible for a dozen patients. One of the many challenges faced at Wild Wings is providing a food source for the birds. In one day, the rehabilitation center uses over 30 mice. Since about 100 mice cost \$45.00, the cost of running the center becomes obvious.

In the future, Wild Wings plans to build a facility in northeast Indiana, a place where the public can learn about and see hawks and owls. But in the meantime, Wild Wings could use our help. There are many ways you can help protect hawks and owls, eagles, and falcons. If you would like to donate money, raise mice, donate new lumber or building supplies, or volunteer, please contact Wild Wings by writing:
Wild Wings
P.O. Box 6032
Auburn, Indiana, 46706

If you find an injured bird of prey, please call a Conservation Officer or call the Wild Wings digital pager at 219-427-5833.

And don't miss the February 20th program by Wild Wings at the ACRES office!

- by Carolyn McNagny
ACRES, Executive Director

photos from autumn Wild Wings program on page 11.

Field Trips & Special Events

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

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, 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 McNagny, ACRES office (219-422-1004).

Saturday, January 22 Cross-country Ski at Merry Lea!

Join us for a day of skiing (or hiking if there is no snow) at the beautiful Merry Lea Environmental Center.

When: 11:00am

Where: Kesling Farm at the Merry Lea Environmental Center. Take U.S. 33 to Wolf Lake. Turn south on State Road 9 and follow signs.

Bring: Lunch and ski equipment.

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

February 6 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

SPECIAL EVENT! Join Else Matott and Carolyn MaNagny for a **Winter Weed Hike and Nature Crafts Workshop!** Come at 1:30 to learn the winter seed plants that are an important food source for the birds and small animals, as well as beautiful. Then gather around the wood stove in the studio and we will make herbal and pinecone wreaths. Bring pinecones if you can. Take home a gift or a present to yourself!

When: 1:30 pm to 3:30pm

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve (Steuben County)

Bring: Hiking boots, pinecones (optional).

Costs: \$2.00 for non-members, \$1.00 for members.

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

Sunday, February 20. Wild Wings!

Janie Fink, Raptor Biologist, will present a program concerning birds of prey in a modern world, the challenges they face, and what individuals can do to get involved. Those attending the 1:00 and 2:30pm programs will meet some fine examples of Hoosier raptors in person!

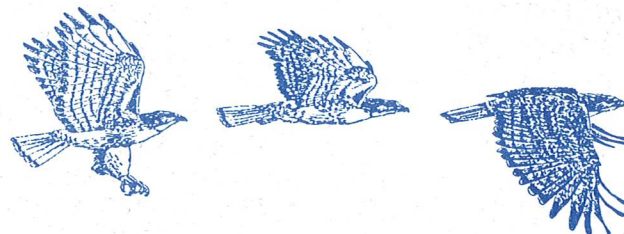
When: 1:00pm and 2:30pm

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

Cost: \$2.00 (all donations will be given to Wild Wings to help fund their rehabilitation center).

Refreshments will be served.

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



March 6 Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm).

Saturday, March 26 Steward and Land Management Volunteer Gathering

Informal meeting to discuss land management problems and solutions for the 29 ACRES Nature Preserves. After lunch, we will hike The Bicentennial Woods. If you are interested in becoming a land management volunteer-steward, or if you are a steward of an ACRES Nature Preserve, please don't miss this meeting! **Prior Registration Required.**

When: 10:00am

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

Bring: Hiking boots and work clothes.

Lunch will be provided.

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

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

Proceeds from some events are to cover the costs of facility rental, special materials, or cost of speakers. Profits in excess will be put into ACRES Land Management and Acquisition Fund.

Persons interested in work days, please call Bob Weber at 219-747-6030.

From Bladdernuts to Butternuts...

The Bicentennial Woods Provide a Home and You Can Too!

The Bicentennial Woods' most noticeable residents are towering and majestic trees. American Sycamore, Black Oak, Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, Cottonwood, and White Ash grow in the rich soil and remind us that not only manmade buildings can make us feel small. The trees in the Bicentennial Woods, Fogwell Forest, Herman F. Hammer Wald, and other ACRES preserves are native American trees, which are becoming increasingly rare on our developed landscapes.

In our cities, Sugar Maples and Sycamores are being replaced by Japanese Crabapples and Bradford Pears. The Sycamores, Walnuts, Hickories, Maples, and other native trees are deemed too messy, too big, or not technicolor enough in the fall. A tree that grows to 30 feet in height and can live to 30 years is considered preferable to a tree that can reach 100 feet and can live to 250.

And any Oak or Maple that grows straight and true in a woodlot is just not considering the consequences.

This is a short plea for those who cannot speak for themselves-- our American Trees.

It must be hard for a species named the Bladdernut tree to compete psychologically with a Bradford Pear or a Golden Rain Tree, without having the additional problem of having to defend itself

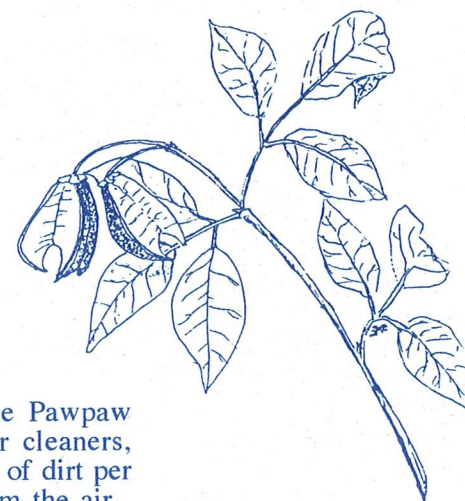
for not being fashionable. Many of our native trees have unique names like Hackberry, Blackhaw, Tuliptree, Burr Oak, Hoptree, and Bitternut Hickory and they are as valuable as any hybrid-strained, cultivated species and have the additional charm in being unique to our homeland.

Many of our native trees... are as valuable as any hybrid-strained, cultivated species and have the additional charm in being unique to our homeland.

Pignut Hickory is used for skis and tool handles. Cedar Waxwings and woodpeckers enjoy the fruit of the Hackberry tree. The husks of the Butternut's fruit contain a yellow dye which was widely used during the Civil War when other dyes were scarce. Butternuts are an important food for rabbits and white-tailed deer.

The wood of Flowering Dogwood trees is very hard and splinter-resistant and is used for making items such as weaving shuttles and golf club heads. Bladdernut, because of its dense underground root system, can be planted for erosion control. Ohio Buckeye wood is used to make artificial limbs due to being lightweight, soft, and durable. Opossums, squirrels, and raccoons

BLADDERNUT



seek out the fruit of the Pawpaw tree. Sycamores are air cleaners, removing 30 metric tons of dirt per hectare (2.47 acres) from the air. And if that isn't enough for you, the fruit of the hoptree can be used to brew beer! (all trees mentioned in this paragraph grow in The Bicentennial Woods)

The American trees are being crowded out by development, introduced diseases, and lack of appreciation. Some native trees are in trouble. Butternut, or White Walnut, is disappearing due to an introduced fungus and is becoming so rare it may be listed as an endangered species. The same thing happened to another American tree and if you talk to children about actually roasting Chestnuts on an open fire they consider you prehistoric.

We can help our native trees. By simply being aware that there is a problem is one step, and by telling others that there is a problem is a big second step. When you purchase trees for your yard, ask for native trees and accept no substitutes. Many nurseries receive so few requests for native trees they do not have many in stock. But there are

nurseries that carry them if you are willing to look. Two places from where you can order inexpensive native trees are the Jasper-Pulaski Nursery and the Kosciusko County Soil and Conservation District. Either call or write for an order form.

Jasper-Pulaski State Tree Nursery
R.R. 1, Box 241
Medaryville, Indiana, 47957
219-843-4827

Kosciusko Soil and Water
Conservation District
217 East Bell Drive
Warsaw, Indiana, 46580
219-267-5726

And to develop a further appreciation of native trees, go to an ACRES nature preserve in any season of the year and look around you.

- by Carolyn McNagney
Executive Director

Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve Receives Welcomed Repairs

The spectacular "knobs", as the area that encompasses the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve used to be called, had many visitors in November. Eagle Scout David Allen led Boy Scout Troop 744 and ACRES volunteers in a successful work day at the preserve. Two foot-bridges were built, the trail improved, and the brush surrounding the parking area was cleared. A big thank you to all pictured and listed below for giving their time on a snowy November 6, 1993! The day wound up on a perfect note as Scoutmaster Mike Allen saw a Great Horned Owl at dusk. The owl perched on a branch for about 5 minutes before flying silently away.

Tony Akens
David Allen
Karin Allen
Mike Allen
Peter Allen
Chris Batiz
Don Batiz
Josh Callicoa
Jeff Cherry
Jerry Cline

Chris Dietz
Jeff Dues
Matt Freers
Alice Golden
Kurt Kritzman
Tyson Kritzman
Shane Noonan
John Rouch
Rosemary Rouch
Matt Rush

Ron Valentein
Mark Watson
Tom Watson
Katie Wood

Jim Haddock, ACRES Land
Management Committee
Bob Weber, ACRES Land
Management Committee



We would also like to thank Don McCormack and Jack Suter for their hard work in repairing and, in some areas, replacing the fences at the Edna W. Spurgeon Reserve. Don also worked on the fence at the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest. For a great job at both preserves, thank you!

Bicentennial Woods Update

The Bicentennial Woods has received generous support from Lincoln National Corporation, Fort Wayne National Bank, and NIPSCO. We are very grateful for their support in helping ACRES protect The Bicentennial Woods for the citizens of northeast Indiana to enjoy and cherish.



**FORT WAYNE
NATIONAL BANK**
MEMBER FDIC



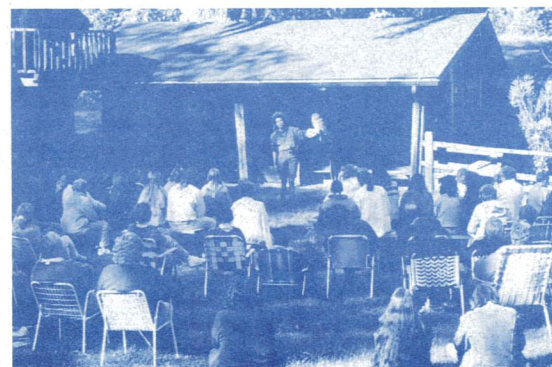
*We're Putting Our Energy
Into Helping You.*

Thank you!

A Wild Wing Day!

Janie Fink, raptor biologist, presented a program this fall at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. A Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, and Barred Owl were the educational guests at the program. Over 75 people came to learn about birds of prey and what we can do to help protect them.

related story on page 4.



The Back Page...

New Year's Resolutions

With the New Year's holiday comes the age-old tradition of making New Year's resolutions. The only tradition coming even close in popularity would be... oh, the breaking of New Year's resolutions...

Of course there are the usual resolutions to loose weight, quit smoking, do taxes early, etc.... I would like to suggest a couple of easy ones. By nature of your membership to ACRES you already show a commitment to the natural world, especially in northeastern Indiana. One resolution would be to just reaffirm your commitment to ACRES by volunteering for a work project, becoming a property steward, or give a little ex-

tra support to one of our special projects, such as The Bicentennial Woods, or The Seven Pillars Nature Preserve.

By all means, resolutions do not have to be painful, or involve work. They can, and should, be fun! How about promising yourself more time to explore in your favorite ACRES preserve, or discover a new one?.... Or how about a resolution to spend more time with your family in the out-of-doors, or introducing a special friend to the wonders of nature you have come to love?...

Being outside in the fresh air is great exercise, which could, in turn, help you loose weight and take your mind off smoking... and then.... there's those taxes.....

- 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, 1994.** ♻️ printed on recycled paper 

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