



Quarterly

Autumn - 1995
Volume XXXIV No. 4



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ACRES Land Trust Annual Dinner Meeting

November 10, 1995

**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, 1995

**Decorations by Ethyle Bloch, Mary Schneider,
and Carolyn McNagny**

Guest Speaker: Tony Fleming

"Protecting our Groundwater Resources"

Tony Fleming is a hydrogeologist with the Indiana Geological Survey at Indiana University. Fleming is an expert on how groundwater occurs and the importance of protecting this vital, yet overlooked, resource.

Fleming will give an overview of the geology of northeast Indiana and its influence on groundwater flow. The relationship of several ACRES' nature preserves to the groundwater environment will be discussed.



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:

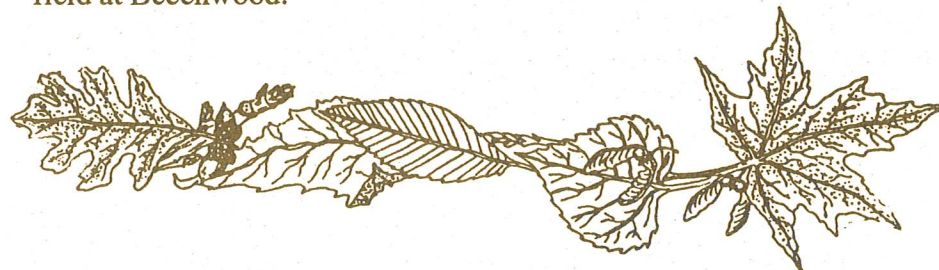
Wanda Baney-Dotson
Alan Bieberich
Mark Bieberich
Willis and Naomi Brand
Michael and Annette Buckley
Rose Clark
Melba K. Cone
Marcena S. Crossland
Jack Curtis
P.G. and Ann Goodrich
Dorothy J. Graham
Denver and Ida Hamman
Jane Hampshire
Pam Havlin
Dudley and Lynn Johnston
Dick and Mary Lee
Jim and Norma Malcom

Dave Marchand
Ron and Annetta Matthews
David and Mary McCutchan
Larry and Susan Meester
Frank W. Merriman, Jr.
Kathy Mettitt
Bill Minter
Karl and Vickie Niblick
Kathleen O'Neill
Pat Oppor
Don Parker
Ben and Renee Roush
Jack Schenkel
R. Paul Steffens
Barry E. Thelen
Ben Wirkner

News Briefs from the Executive Director... Carolyn McNagny.

Thanks to **Don Gorney** for his generous donation of not one, but two laptop computers for the ACRES office! Thank you for helping ACRES!

Don McCormick and **Phil Clark** for their work at replacing and rebuilding the board walk at **Beechwood Nature Preserve** in Steuben County. Working two days on the boardwalk, they made the preserve more enjoyable for everyone who visits. Thanks for their help in managing the Beechwood Nature Preserve! Continued thanks to Beechwood steward **Sam Boggs** for mowing the trails through the old field at Beechwood.



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.

Mabel Brommer

Mrs. Linda M. Blatnick

Sharon Brown

Carl and Mary Fowler

Mr. and Mrs. William O.

Gotschall

Diane Humphrey

Bob and Mary Hauser

Mary Inrow

Marie Kaiser

Mrs. Mooneen Ringenberg

John Stump

Dudley and Marjorie Wass

Joe and Karen Wyss

Maury and Lucy Wyss

Julia Fenton

Jim and Pat Barrett

Rob McCulloch

Jim and Pat Barrett

Jim Rodenbeck

Jim and Pat Barrett

To Honor Martha L. Bishop's 25th Year at Lincoln National Reinsurance Companies, gifts for the protection and management of the McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve.

Neal E. Arnold

Ann M. Cavanaugh

Joanne Collins

Judith Greengrass

Carolyn Grepke

James Hoerin

Mary F. Lee

Sherri McDonald

Linda Morris

Nancy O'Brien

Susan J. Souder

Joseph Schenkel

Ann Wallace

Renee C. Wright

Katherine Wyss

and her many friends with

Lincoln Reinsurance!

Nominations Sought.....

ACRES election of board members will come this fall. If you would like to nominate someone for the board, please do so by October 25. Contact a member of the nominating committee: Jim Haddock at 481-6314, Ben Roush at 484-3000, or Dave Gall at 426-2266.

The ACRES Board of Directors serves on Land Acquisition, Land Management, and Educational Committees and attends monthly board meetings. We welcome all nominations.

Trail Guide Training Day a Big Success!

On August 26, volunteers met at The Bicentennial Woods for Trail Guide training. Dr. David Miller of the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center led us on a hike and gave us advice on how to give nature tours. His advice was that the best tour you can give children is to let them discover and discuss. The tour guide need not provide all of the answers but work to arouse curiosity and thinking in the child. This motivates them to be interested and to look and learn.

We looked at the tall bell flower and discovered that the flower looked like an elephant's nose. This was fun. Then we looked at seed dispersal and how flowers grow on plants.

On the beginning of our hike, we discovered a group of ants herding leaf hoppers and milking them for nectar. Most interesting was watching water striders skate on the

surface of Willow Creek. We could see how they did this by observing their shadows beneath them. We saw a huge caterpillar feeding on Virginia creeper.

In all, Dr. Miller motivated us to look, be curious, and to ask questions. This is what we would want to pass on to the children who visit the Bicentennial Woods and other ACRES' properties.

Thank you, Dr. Miller.

by Nancy Malis, Naturalist and
Trail Guide



About the Cover -

This issue's cover was taken from the cover of a catalog advertising low-cost binoculars, spotting scopes, and other birding and nature observation accessories. We thank them for the use of the art and list their address below for anyone in the market for new optics:

Eagle Optics
716 S. Whitney Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
(608)271-4751



Field Trips & Special Events

Sunday, November 5. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm) Special program at 2:00pm.

Speaker: Ginger Murphy, IDNR Interpreter at the Salamonie Reservoir. The Red Cockaded Woodpecker is an endangered species in southeastern United States. The woodpecker needs 70-90 year old pine trees to hollow out their nests. Modern tree farming techniques are leaving the woodpeckers homeless and biologists are scrambling to find a solution. Find out the problems and perils of being a modern Red Cockaded Woodpecker and what humans are doing to prevent their extinction.

When: 2:00pm. Program will be a 45 minute slideshow.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Steuben County, on CR 400 North, just east of SR 127.

Bring: Family and friends.

Refreshments served.

Contact Person: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

Friday, November 10. ACRES LAND TRUST Annual Dinner Meeting. See page 2 for details.

Friday, November 17. Owl Prowl and Constellation Consternation at The Bicentennial Woods!.

Leaders: Jim Barrett and Carolyn McNaghy.

We will call in owls (hopefully!) and then stop in the meadow to look at the constellations and see the moon through a telescope.

When: 5:30pm (sun sets at 5:21pm).

Where: At The Bicentennial Woods. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Shoaff Road. Turn west on Shoaff. Parking area is located on the 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 your cars at dark.

Contact Person: Carolyn McNaghy, 219-422-1004.

Please note: In case of clouds on November 17th, we will still have the program to call owls. We will not reschedule.



Sunday, December 3. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm) Special Program at 2:00pm.

Join Art and Marion Eberhardt in a one hour **Christmas Sing-a-Long**. Art will play the dulcimer and we will gather around the pot-bellied stove. Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served.



Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Steuben County, on CR 400 North, just east of SR 127.

When: 2:00pm

Bring: Family and friends.

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



Sunday, January 7. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm) Plus Special Event Nearby: Cross Country Skiing at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge.

Come for an afternoon of cross country skiing if there is snow, hiking if there is not snow! We will ski (or hike) at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge, which is only a couple of miles from Wing Haven.

When: 2:00pm at the Ropchan Refuge parking lot, or carpool from Wing Haven (directions above under December 3 program) at 1:30pm.

Bring: Cross country ski equipment and warm clothing.

Contact Person: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

Sunday, January 28th. Rainforest Tour at the Fort Wayne Zoo.

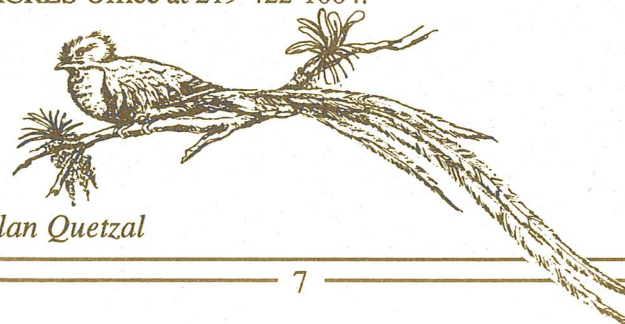
Speaker and Guide: Mark Weldon, Curator of the African Veldt & Indonesian Rainforest Exhibits.

Come out of the cold and into the Indonesian Rainforest for this special program! Mark's program will show how the Rainforest exhibit was created and the goal of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in education and conservation. We will then have a private tour of the Indonesian Rainforest.

When: 1:00pm.

Where: Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, 3411 Sherman Blvd., Ft. Wayne. ACRES volunteers will guide you from the Zoo parking area to the Rainforest exhibit.

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Guatemalan Quetzal

A New ACRES Preserve! Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve

by Carolyn McNagny

A family's well-loved retreat is now a new ACRES nature preserve! Bob and Phyllis Robb have donated a beautiful, wooded ravine bordering Ball Lake in Steuben County. The new preserve will be 65 acres in size and includes a rolling farm field.

In the wooded ravine, a blanket of wildflowers covers the hillsides in spring. Miterwort, Black Cohosh, Virginia Waterleaf, Spring Beauty, and Trillium are just a few of the over 25 species of wildflowers growing beneath large beech and maple trees. Kentucky Coffee Tree is one of the unusual trees that prospers on the ridges of the ravine.

Bob and Phyllis Robb have owned this property since 1974. As Phyllis recalls, "our family spent many hours tramping the property. Our daughter, Shawa, liked identifying the wildflowers in the woods and helping me find plants, like mint and sassafras, for tea. Bob likes to pick raspberries. My favorite spot was

always the deep, wide ravine in the woods with the creek winding through the bottom. Few people knew it was there." The surprise people feel when they come across the ravine was what prompted the Robbs to name their preserve "Hidden Canyon".

Ball Lake was named after Gideon Ball, who registered the eastern half of the lake at the General Land Office in Fort Wayne on September 26, 1835. Ball Lake is 89 acres in size and is one of the cleanest lakes in Indiana. It is spring fed and is surprisingly deep for a small lake, with the average depth being 60-65 feet. One small spot is over 100 feet in depth.

In the early 1960s, an Auburn man was looking for a lake to test his invention - a small submarine. He brought it to Ball Lake and caused some excitement by testing it down to the deep depths. He received his patent.



The Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve will provide some valuable buffer for Ball Lake, protecting its high water quality. This is also important to the Fish Creek project spearheaded by the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Fish Creek flows into Ball Lake from the west and out of Ball Lake to the east.

**... the White Cat's Paw
Pearly Mussel is found
nowhere else in the world
other than in this very
Fish Creek!...**

Fish Creek is home to 74 species of fish and freshwater mussels. One mussel, the White Cat's Paw Pearly Mussel, is found nowhere else in the world other than this very Fish Creek! It is actually found downstream from Ball Lake, but by further protecting the lake and its watershed, we give added protection to this world endangered species.

Phyllis and Bob Robb have given much to protecting this valuable area since building a lake cottage here in 1965. They helped organize the Ball Lake Association and both served as various officers over the years. Through the years, they brought their children to the lake every summer and have many wonderful memories.

Phyllis says, "now that we've made arrangements to preserve this land, it is very satisfying to think that this lovely spot will always remain as it was the first time Bob and I saw it so many years ago. Bob and I are happy to be a part of a project that will preserve some of the unique features in and around the Ball Lake and Fish Creek areas for future generations to enjoy as much as our family has enjoyed them."



*Far left - distant view of the wooded ravine and winding creek.
Above - Dutchman Breeches at the base of a large tree.*

**ACRES is planning a
wildflower hike for May,
1996 at the Robb Hidden
Canyon Nature Preserve!
It will be a chance for all of
us to see this lovely new
preserve. Watch for details
in the next Quarterly. Bob
Weber, John Ellenwood,
Art Eberhardt, and others
on the land management
committee will be working
to establish trails, entrance
sign, sign-in box, and a
parking area. We hope to
have the preserve open to
the public by the summer
of 1996.**

Kentucky Coffee Tree

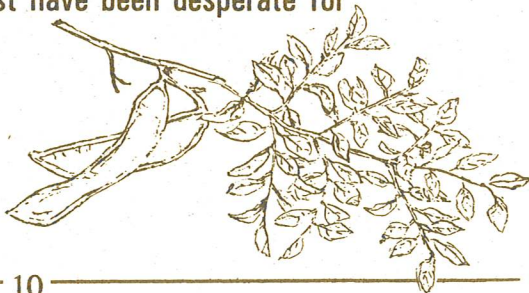
Gymnocladus dioica

A seldom recognized tree in Indiana is the Kentucky Coffee Tree. Several scattered trees are found at **Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve** along the west ridge of the ravine. Because they are one of the first trees to lose their leaves in fall, the practical settlers named it the dead tree.

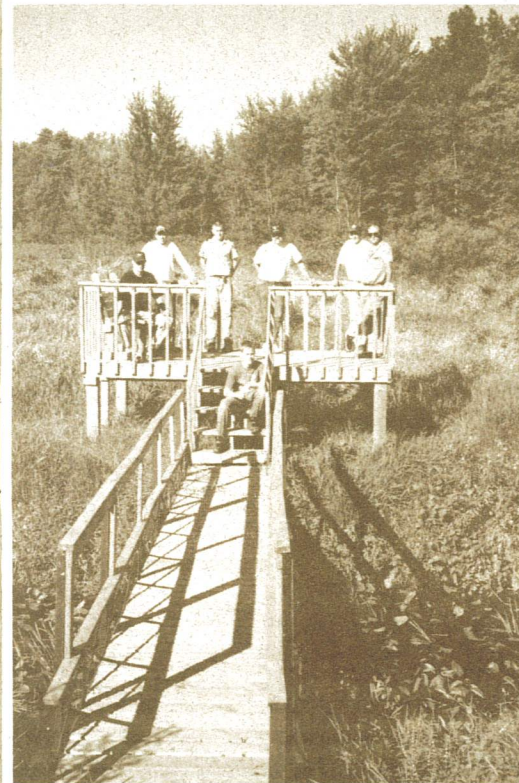
In the summer, the twice compound leaves give the crown of the tree a feathery look. Each leaf has 50-100 leaflets and the leaf can be 36" long. The bark is almost black and the pulp is an unusual caramel color. The Indians used the pulp to treat insanity and the bark as a cough medicine.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree was one of the first trees sent back to Europe from the new world, probably because of its unusual pods. The 5-10" pods are found only on the female trees. The large seeds were ground up and used as a coffee substitute. Based on reports of people who have tried it, someone must have been desperate for coffee.

by Carolyn McNagny



Outstanding Eagle Scout project highlights beautiful wetlands at Ropchan Refuge!



Erich Kaiser (pictured third from left on platform) of Angola, Indiana, has successfully completed a major project at the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge in Steuben County, just south of Fremont, Indiana on State Road 827.

Erich finished a bridge, which traverses a drainage ditch, and established a much-needed return trail back to the parking lot. This provides a means for hikers to stay in the preserve and not have to venture out onto the busy highway.

If that was not enough, Erich designed and constructed a raised observation platform, complete with railings and a custom bench. It is truly one of ACRES' finest trail structures in our system.

Many thanks to Erich, the scouts under his direction, and the parents who helped in this tremendous effort!

The Back Page...

The Scouting Experience...

Boy Scouts are no strangers to ACRES Land Trust. Over the years, we have benefited numerous times through their service projects. Everything from preserve clean-ups, to making and putting up signs and fences, to planting trees, to putting in trails, the list goes on.

The height of time and commitment in the realm of projects, and certainly the pinnacle of a Boy Scout's career, is that of the Eagle project and award. Here, a scout takes a brief idea from a sponsoring organization and designs a facility or program, develops a plan to accomplish it, organizes a working group of scouts and parents, and gets the job done. We featured one of many Eagle Scout/ACRES joint projects on page 11.

Equally as long-lasting as the products themselves, are the experiences that these young men carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Last week, I had a chance to attend the biannual awards night for our local Scout Troop 125. The room was packed with boys and dads in the traditional khaki Scout uniforms and beaming parents sharing the joy and excitement of their sons' accomplishments. The night was filled with tradition and every moment provided a snap shot of a Norman Rockwell painting. It's truly Americana at its best.

My hat goes off to the young people and to both Girl and Boy Scout leaders and parents. Your contributions are appreciated in more ways than you will ever know. Thank you.

- 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, 1995.**

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

Address Correction Requested

Directors: Ted Heemstra, President; Robert C. Weber, VP; David Gall, VP; James D. Haddock, VP; David C. Van Gilder, Secretary; Mary Anna Entwisle, Treasurer; David P. Deimling, Ben Roush, Arthur Eberhardt, Sam Schwartz, Greg Craghead, Paulette Bremer, James M. Barrett, Jane Dustin, David J. Miller, Janel A. Rogers, Dennis Schoff, Tony Acosta. Carolyn McNaghy, Executive Director. National Advisory Board: Howard Michaud, Alton Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durward 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.