



# Quarterly

Summer - 1995  
Volume XXXIV No. 3



COYOTES



***In This Issue:*** Active Members & News  
New Members  
Membership note  
Special Gifts

Volunteer Profile  
Field Trips/Special Events  
Amazing Jellyfish  
Smelling Hike... and More!

## ACRES Active Members Make Things Happen!

News briefs from the Executive Director

Thanks to **Rebecca Zastrow** and the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory volunteers for their help with the Arbor Day program for the Weisser Park school children. **Jim Shearer** dressed as "Oakadokey", **Don McCormack** sacked the trees and **Art Eberhardt** showed the fine points of tree planting to the children. **Donna Bragg**, **Else Matott**, **Barb Meyers**, **Gary Helmke**, **Marian Hedrick**, and **Nancy Malis** led the children on tree identification hikes.

### Eagle Project Gives Mengerson Nature Preserve a New Bridge and a Fresh Look!

**Bill Alter** attained his Eagle Scout Badge by planning and building a well-constructed, sturdy bridge across Bullerman Ditch at the Mengerson Nature Preserve near Fort Wayne. Bill, Scoutmaster **Jerry Alter**, and Scout Troop 434 built the bridge and completed a clean-up at the preserve. Many thanks to Bill Alter for his efforts, to **Roethele Lumber** for donating lumber to the project and to Troop 434! The workers are listed below.

Bill Alter, Eagle Scout  
Chris Alter  
Jerry Alter, Scoutmaster  
Jeremy Hoy  
Charles Bruner  
Marty Cecil  
Sean Richards  
Tim Sanger  
Phil Sanger  
Chris Sanger  
Jack Florent

Jeff Thorn  
Walt Stocker  
Chris Carvey  
Ben Davis  
Larz Swager  
Michael Bruner  
Joe Timmis  
Tim Albert  
Zack Florent  
Ed Eberhardt, Steward of Mengerson

Thanks to **WBNI, Public Radio 89.1** for its gift of file cabinets for the ACRES office and to **David and Linda Freund** for arranging the gift and bringing the file cabinets up the stairs!

Thank you to **Joe Rich** and the students of the **Blackhawk Christian Schools** for their work (in the rain) at the **Mengerson Nature Preserve**! **Ed Eberhardt** organized the work day.

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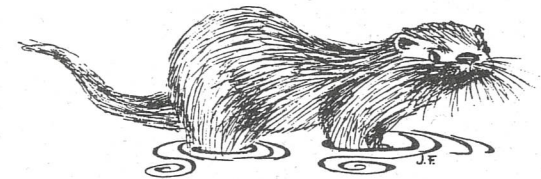
This issue's cover was done by Mark Muller of Iowa City, Iowa. Mike is an illustrator and an environmental educator.

## ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Carl Akers, Jr.  
James D. and Christine E. Barlow  
Steven L. Bennett  
Dr. Michael Bartelt & Debrah Roemisch Bartelt  
John H. Brandt and Mary Lieberman Brandt  
Constance B. Carroll  
Catherine Christoff  
Martha Fansler  
Richard Forrester  
Adam Geiger  
Roger and Alice Golden  
Paul L. Grush  
Steve and Lynn Hossler  
Robert Humphreys  
Helen Hunsaker  
Charles J. Kratz  
Ruth I. Langhinrichs  
Bob and Nancy Leszczynski  
Wilda Gene Marcus  
Pat MacWhorter  
Priscilla A. Noll  
Wally Orr and Ron Torborg  
John Osowski  
Phil and Sharon Patterson  
Denis R. Pauze

Rodney C. Peabody  
Adrienne Provenzano  
Alvin P. Riggins  
Lois Snouffer  
Arlie V. Sommer  
Anthony L. Swinehart  
Jack Thrush  
Ralph Vetter  
Robert and Patricia Walt  
William and Cecilia Weakley  
Marshal and Dottie Whitehurst  
John and Peg Williams  
Michael and Cheryl Zurcher

Organization  
WBNI, Public Radio FM 89.1  
Gift from David and Linda Freund



## A Note from the Membership Secretary...

What a pleasure to have so many of you renew so promptly this year. It certainly makes the ACRES Board of Directors pleased to know that interest is so high in what we do best: preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana. We are delighted to welcome our new members, more than thirty strong, to the organization. Do plan to participate in the activities we plan, from open houses to work days, there is something for everyone. If you have not renewed yet, please do. We need all of you! Thanks.

- Mary Anna Entwisle, Membership Chair

## 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.

**Clarence E. Smith**  
Tom and Jane Dustin

**Byron "Barney" Stellhorn**  
Ethyle and William C. Bloch

**Mabel M. Brommer**  
Ethyle and William C. Bloch  
Carolyn McNagny

**Wilbur Groh**  
Fred and Jackie Wooley

**Wayne Witte,**  
father of Bette Butcher  
"We are hoping that Bette's  
companionship with nature will  
bring her some solace during this  
time of grieving."

In love and concern from:  
Linda and Brian Eltzroth  
Sue and Keith Shideler  
Kevin and Karen Frey  
Diane and Rick Hammer  
Ann and Darrel Walters  
Cheryl and Paul Thomas  
Cheryl and Dee Anstett  
Judy and Dick Ruselink  
Linda and Bob Chapman  
Iretta and Bruce Hanna  
Karen Covell  
Jeff and Susie Myers  
Gloria and Anita Brown  
Joyce Crouch  
Brenda Rummel  
Ed Yoder

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### Other Gifts that Honor:

To Carter and Sandy Snider. From: Louise Benson Lochner  
"Best wishes on your new land!"

Alan F. Diefenbach's Campaign Committee, for **The Bicentennial Woods**.

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### ACRES' Wish List....

*As our organization continues to expand, so, too, do our needs in our office. If you have any of these items to donate, or if you wish to purchase them directly for the office, they would be put to immediate use and be much appreciated:*

Lap top computer (IBM compatible)

Fire proof safe

Overhead projector.

THANK YOU!

## Volunteer Profile

### John Ellenwood: Unselfish Donor of Time and Talent

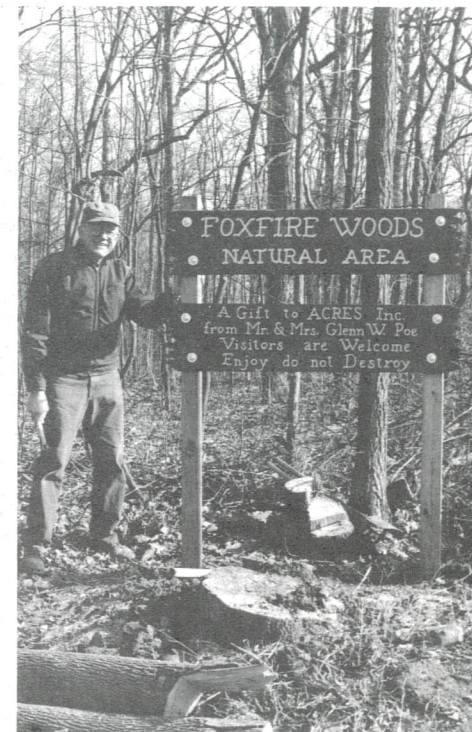
Since joining ACRES Land Trust in 1965, John Ellenwood has been a vital member of the ACRES organization. John became a board member in 1973 and became a tremendous asset to the land management committee. John is instrumental in the building of new sign-in boxes, the mowing of trails, and the general upkeep of all of the ACRES preserves. "When you want something done and someone dependable, you can count on John", said fellow board member Ed Eberhardt.

As ACRES President, Ted Heemstra put it, "when a task needed doing at one of the nature preserves, I never hesitated to ask John to help. If it was not for his pick-up truck and mower, most of the trails would be overgrown. He'd move fence posts, parking lot posts, and signs. We tried to be gentle with his truck, but I think we helped wear out two or three of his pick-up trucks."

In addition to his dedication to land management tasks, John has provided the organization with a high quality resource of slides and pictures. Bob Weber, fellow ACRES board member and long time friend and fellow photographer, had this to say about John. "He is one of the sneakiest photographers ever to visit a nature preserve with you. Not long after the hike, you may find he has a photograph of you in a most peculiar pose while you were bent,

twisted, or suspended in the act of using your own camera or binoculars. Retribution occurs to you, but then you quickly remember that he is one of the most unselfish donors of time and talent for the work to be done by ACRES."

John left the ACRES board of directors in 1994. We are happy to know that John will continue to be involved with land management. ACRES is fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable friend and we look forward to seeing John and his wife, Marcella, at future ACRES' functions and work days.



## ***Field Trips & Special Events***

### **Saturday, July 29. Wildflower Woods Walk**

Gene Stratton-Porter, Indiana's well-known naturalist and author, had a goal of collecting and planting every Indiana wildflower in the gardens of her Sylvan Lake home. Join Pat Bolman, the naturalist and gardener for the State Historic Site, for a tour of the gardens, lakeshore, and Gene Stratton-Porter's home.

When: 11:00am.

Where: At the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site. Take SR 9 two miles south of Rome City. Turn East on Limberlost Road. Watch for signs.

Bring: Family and friends, walking shoes, insect repellent.

Refreshments served. Donations to the Historic Site are appreciated.

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

### **Sunday, August 6. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Monthly Open House (1pm to 5pm).**

### **Saturday, August 19. Canoeathon and Search for Freshwater Jellyfish.**

Bring your canoe and we will spend the afternoon at the Olin/Oliver/Martin Lakes! We will canoe through 3 lakes for a 4 mile roundtrip and hike the Martin Lake Nature Preserve (5 acres). We hope to see the Freshwater Jellyfish (please see article in this issue) and the Cardinal Flower. Martin Lake is a seldom seen ACRES Nature Preserve with large white, red, and chinquapin oaks.

When: 10:00am.

Where: At the IDNR access site on Oliver Lake. Take State Road 9 three miles north of Wolcottville to 450 South. Turn west and access site is on 450 South.

Bring: Insect repellent, picnic lunch, swim suit, tennis shoes, change of clothes, sunscreen, and someone to paddle your canoe.

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

### **Sunday, September 3. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm)**

### **Saturday, September 16. Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve Canoe Trip.**

Come and see this large (247 acre) and diverse nature preserve located along the Elkhart River in Noble County. We will canoe along the shore of Waldron Lake to see the 10 acres stand of Tamaracks which Art Hammer recently added to the preserve.

When: 10:00 am.

Where: Meet at the IDNR access site on Elkhart River. Take State Road 6 to the west of Kendallville. Turn north on 100 West. Turn west on 900 North and go about 1/2 mile. Turn north on 125 West. Access site is on the west side of 125 West.

Bring: Canoe, Picnic lunch, insect repellent, sunscreen, tennis shoes, and friends.

Contact Person: Rich Dunbar (IDNR Regional Ecologist) 219-691-3401.

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

### **Sunday, October 1. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1pm to 5pm) Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation Center Program.**

Back by popular demand, the Wild Wings raptor rehabilitators will give a live demonstration of hawks and owls. Learn how you can help to protect these magnificent birds of prey and help Wild Wings in their efforts to build a "Hawk Hospital"!

When: 2:00pm

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

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

### **Sunday, October 8 Benefit Concert for ACRES.**

Relax at beautiful Wing Haven Nature Preserve and enjoy classical music presented by David Rezits and musicians with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. The one hour concert will be presented in the Studio.

When: 2:00pm at the Wing Haven Preserve. Steuben County, On CR 400 North, just east of SR 127.

Bring: Family and Friends.

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

Refreshments will be served.

**All proceeds will benefit ACRES - Support you local Land Trust!**

Contact: ACRES Office, 219-422-1004.

### **Mark your Calendars!**

#### **Friday, November 10. ACRES Annual Dinner.**

Tony Fleming, IDNR Groundwater Geologist, will be our guest speaker at Concordia College in Fort Wayne. Further details in Fall Quarterly.

# Enjoying the Amazing Jellyfish of Indiana

by Ken Millikan

Upon being told that jellyfish inhabit Olin Lake in LaGrange County, Indiana, I got excited about seeing some of these creatures. It was off in a canoe, not really knowing what one jellyfish looks like or where exactly to even look for them. While paddling and looking around, no jellyfish were apparent to me. Wondering if I would see one this day and being hungry from all of the work, I settled down for a lunch on the lake in the canoe. After being filled up, I proceeded to enjoy floating over the blue-green water..

With the sun over my shoulder, the water appeared to have lots of floating debris in it. None of this debris appeared to be alive and I noticed what looked like cottonwood tree seeds floating at various depths. Suddenly, I realized that these "seeds" were actually moving up and down and at angles with the very mild water current. Upon looking closer it was .... WOW .... tiny jellyfish!.... a whole cluster of them spaced out in the water!

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**Upon looking closer  
it was .... WOW ....  
tiny jellyfish!...**

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Although I could only see them

to a depth of 24 inches in the aqua waters, there they were.... hundreds of jellyfish! Floating in the canoe, I observed the jellyfish disappearing and reappearing in new groups. Watching jellyfish pump its bell up and down is a beautiful sight. Taking a paddle and causing a swirl whipped these jellyfish around as fast as the water moved. Now the challenge was to "catch" one of these animals.

A few of the jellyfish were coming very close to the top of the water near the canoe. After a few feeble attempts at scooping up with my closed cupped hand while the canoe rocked, I got lucky. Imagine your hand holding enough water that a jellyfish could "swim" in it. The little pool was not over an inch deep as this marvel unfolded.

The jellyfish continued pumping its bell in my hand as I tried to study it further. It appeared very transparent with translucent areas. Four tiny sacs were symmetrically located in the center of the bell. I could not identify too much else about it and returned it to its home undamaged. I was curious and awed by this animal. I observed more of these fresh water jellyfish, admiring how fragile they appeared and yet how tenacious they really are.

Freshwater jellyfish are free-swimming relatives of sea anemones, corals, and hydroids. They have a centrally located mouth ringed with tentacles that contain stinging cells. Because they lack a brain, jellyfish swim by muscular pulsations of the "bell umbrella". These contractions are controlled by a very simple nervous system linked to its sense organs. The jellyfish's sense organs are sensitive to light, gravity, chemicals in the water, and touch.

These soft-bodied stunners are carnivorous. They sting and immobilize their prey and digest them. The jellyfish's digested body waste are expelled out of a single opening. The fresh-water jellyfish will grow to 8/10s of an inch in diameter and its body is less than 5% organic matter. Contrast this with the largest jellyfish that can have up to 614 tentacles, but cannot harm or penetrate human skin.

The free-swimming medusae is the sexual stage of the jellyfish. They are either male or female. The four sacs observed are the reproductive system. These medusae are found from July to October while the rest of the year is spent in a larvae then polyp stage. Fresh water jellyfish are considered extremely rare according to the Illustrated Encyclopedia of Wildlife.

There are only four species of free-swimming, fresh water,

jellyfish known in the world. *Craspedacusta sowerby* is the one I had in my hand that late September day.

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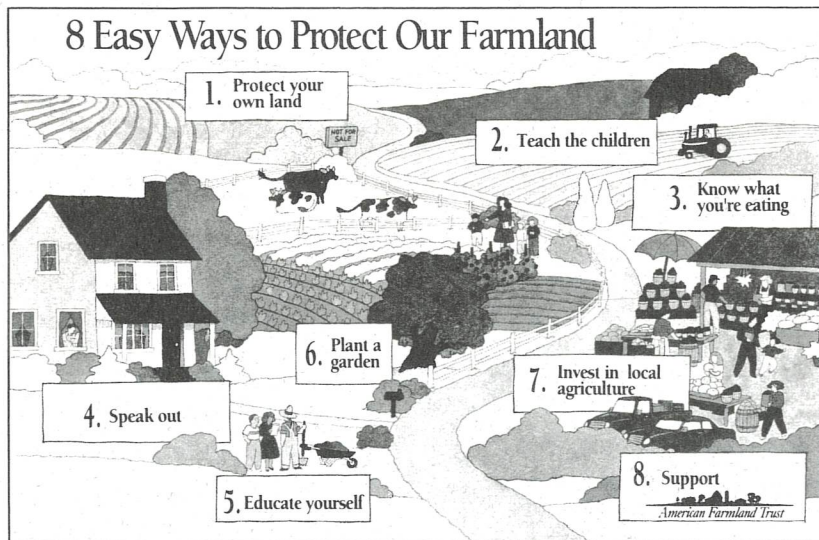
I appreciate the person who told me about them and I treasure the experience and excitement of viewing these creatures. I can only encourage you to try to find these animals and join in the enjoyment and fascination they provide. Jellyfish in Indiana?... yeah.... right.... It further opened my eyes and mind to the amazing world of nature.

Ken Millikan is an ACRES Land Trust member and volunteer from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ken has donated much time to working at The Bicentennial Woods and the Vandolah Nature Preserve.

## A Special Land Trust works for Farm Land

The American Farmland Trust is very busy this year as our U.S. Congress debates and forms new 1995 Farm Bill legislation. If this issue interests you, please contact them now for membership and further information. Below is what is written on the back of their promotional postcards (also available).

"The American Farmland Trust is the only national, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to saving the land that feeds America. Join AFT's team by becoming a member, distributing AFT materials in your community or giving AFT memberships to your friends. Contact AFT's National Office at 1920 N. Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington D.C. 20036 (202)659-5170."



## ACRES Active members.... continued from page 2.

The **Sixth Annual Adopt-A-Tree Festival** was a success with over 400 visitors coming to the **Wing Haven Nature Preserve**! **Ellen Eberhardt** created a Tricky Treasure Hunt, **Dave and Aaron Syler** helped children build 29 bluebird boxes, and **Dave and Bonnie Snyder** helped children and adults drill their own log bird feeders. **Art and Marion Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, John Ellenwood, Else Matott, Gary Helmke, and Lila Noll** gave their time and talents to the day. Thanks to all!

Over 60 people attended the **Tel-Hy Nature Preserve Open House** and it turned into a beautiful, windy day. **David Rezits** played his Cello, **Bob Weber** led a tree hike, and **Hy Goldenberg** gave a tour of his famous outhouse collection! Trails will be marked by the fall of 1995 and we would encourage all ACRES members to come see this spectacular nature preserve

## A Smelling Hike

by Nancy Malis

If your nose does not object to that tiny magical, golden dust that is produced by plants, take a smelling trip to a natural area. It can offer a delightful variety of wild fragrances in any season. Some smells are friendly and soothing, while others can be strange and unappealing.

In spring, tree blossoms send a delicate sweet fragrance through the air that makes your heart and soul break into a personal song. Later, sweet cicely and crushed sassafras send up an odor that takes your thoughts and taste buds into the candy stores. Cut the wild ginger root and smell, close your eyes, and you may find yourself back in Grandma's kitchen. The sight and smell of pink bergamot will send you fluttering into the air like a butterfly looking for nectar. The soil, the trees, and the small and big plants mingle together and give off a pleasant forest smell.

Not all odors are pleasant, however. Crush a sycamore leaf or a milkweed stem and take a whiff. Your eyes will open and your nose will close. You will jerk back and exclaim, "OOHH!"

Living in our modern cities with smells of car exhausts and other fumes causes our noses to shut down. Take a break for something fresh. Take a smelling hike and have a nasal education.



Nancy Malis is a long-time ACRES Land Trust member. She often assists with ACRES outdoor education activities and special events.

# *The Back Page...*

## **A Soothing Summer Rain...**

It had been 16 days today without rain. All life around seemed to ache for it. The lawn here at Wing Haven was turning brown, reminiscent of late-August, and here it is only mid-June. The grass actually seemed to crack under foot as the dry blades stood brittle in the hot sun like brown needles on a long-discarded, old Christmas tree. The parched earth was as hard as concrete. The garden was powder dry as deep as the hoe sliced. Plant leaves were drooping and curling under the stress of no moisture. Birds took turns at the bath. One titmouse, who could not wait, visited a slightly trickling hose that I had at the base of a tree and stuck its beak into the tiny stream like a thirsty school boy at the

hallway fountain. Even our dog could hardly wait for me to set down the watering can so she could lap up its luscious contents before I tipped it over onto the cosmos and salvia.

And then, seemingly out of nowhere, the eastern sky, of all places, began to darken. It seemed so strange to come from that direction, but it made no matter as those first few drops that hit my sticky skin were as welcomed as a dip in a deep pool. As the rain came, the earth and my senses seemed to come alive. Colors became richer, smells became stronger. The sound and feel of rain was beautiful. I literally soaked it all in and it was truly one of those magical moments where my body felt at one with the earth in that we were both quenching a long thirst for something so basic to life... water, and a fresh summer rain.

- Fred J. Wooley, Editor

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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 Autumn issue is **September 1, 1995.**

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**Fort Wayne, Indiana**  
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**Address Correction Requested**

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