

QUARTERLY

Summer—1996
Volume 35—Number 3

Limberlost Swamp Restoration!

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LAND AQUISITION UPDATES

Thanks to all of the ACRES members who have donated to the Fawn River project and the E. M. Popp Nature Preserve! Please do not forget that the fund drives for these wonderful new preserves are progressing through 1996.

The E. M. Popp Preserve fund drive has reached the \$52,000 mark. ACRES has received over \$2,000 from our Membership and \$50,000 from the Indiana Heritage Trust program. ACRES' goal is \$158,000 to purchase and protect the preserve. We would not be in a position to purchase this beautiful 40-acre property without the generosity of Mrs. Jeannette Kent.

The Fawn River project is continuing to move forward, thanks to the efforts of Dave Gall. ACRES Members gave \$2,000 for this project. Thank you!

We received \$350 for Fawn River from YEA (Youth Environmental Association) and their leader, Dwight Pierce. YEA raised the funds by selling pretzels at their school and in the community of Decatur. The YEA students are interested in protecting muskellunge and otters. They also gave a donation to Scott Johnson's IDNR Nongame project to release otters into the Elkhart River in Noble County.

Preserving these properties depends on you!

Carolyn McNagny
Executive Director

Acres Annual Dinner & Guest Speaker



Lee Casebere, Assistant Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves, will talk on the native orchids of Indiana. An excellent photographer, Lee recently completed some photographs for Orchids of Indiana, published by Indiana Academy of Science. Indiana is home to more species of orchids than Hawaii. Make plans to come November 8th!

Cover Photo of Red Fox Kits by Rodger Rang, Member of Stockbridge Audubon and ACRES.

Remembering Dr. John Klotz



Dr. and Mrs. John Klotz

*In Loving Memory of Dr. John W. Klotz
January 10, 1918 - April 11, 1996*

ACRES was organized in 1960 largely as the result of the inspiration and leadership of Dr. John W. Klotz. In the late 1950s, Dr. Klotz moved to Allen County from Chicago, where he had been active with Friends of Our Native Landscape and with the Cook County Forest District. There he had become involved in the attempts to save the Indiana Dunes, partially through his acquaintance with Morton Arboretum botanist Floyd

Swink. His interests and concerns for natural areas meshed well with others in the northeast Indiana area who were also strongly supporting the drive to save the Indiana Dunes. Together, they founded ACRES, Inc. and were the first directors of the new organization.

Dr. Klotz came to Fort Wayne to work with the Concordia Lutheran Seminary in matters both of religion and of biological teaching. In addition to his teaching, he did library research for his writing about the living things he found in the natural areas of ACRES. The resultant articles were the Of Bogs and Logs columns, which were published in The Journal-Gazette every other Sunday from January 14, 1962, through August 25, 1974. His wife, Florence, aided with the articles, especially with the art work. ACRES plans to reprint these articles in book form in the near future.

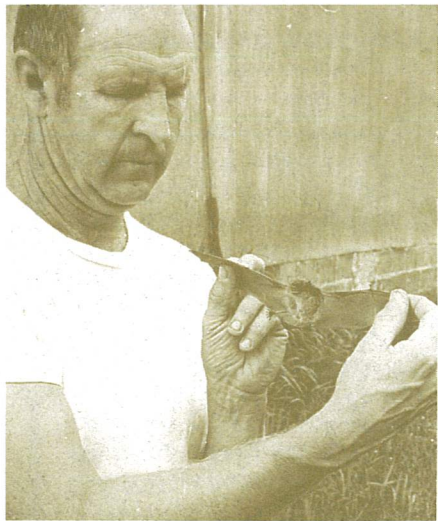
Dr. Klotz was the first president of the ACRES board of directors from its beginning in 1960 until 1971, when he and his wife departed for St. Louis, where their work centered around the Lutheran Seminary and the Concordia Historical Institute.

As a leader of ACRES, Dr. Klotz emanated a wonderful aura for drawing people together, and they sensed his strong base of morality and good judgement. We other board members became well aware of his extraordinary ability to delegate leadership among us. The work had to be done by us volunteers. There was no paid staff in those early years.

John Klotz was here at the prime time to lead an organization effort to make "outdoor museums" of some of our best remaining natural areas. In the last year or so, he has talked with us about the wonderful growth of the environmental movement, and he was especially pleased with the progress of ACRES in its first 36 years of existence. Dr. Klotz was truly the man of the hour in Northeastern Indiana in 1960. His kind does not appear among us often enough. We shall miss him greatly.

Written by Bob Weber, Founder and active Board Member

INDIANA BATS: Endangered...not a danger!



Dr. John O. Whitaker (above) presented ACRES programs this spring on the bats of Indiana. Author of *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals*, Dr. Whitaker's article "The Truth About Bats", excerpted below, clears up some common misconceptions.

"Bats are nothing but rabid mice with wings that attack people and get into your hair!" This is a common response of many Hoosiers who fear these misunderstood mammals that swarm the night sky. But do these thoughts really present an accurate picture of bat in Indiana? Definitely not.

Bats are probably the most maligned and misunderstood group of animals in Indiana, perhaps the world. Most people believe bats are birds, when in fact they are mammals. Bats have hair, not feathers, and bear live young which are nursed. Bats are the only true flying mammals, although others, such as flying squirrels, do glide.

Stories of vampires, rabies, lice and other parasites, and flying into humans' hair have done much to damage the bat's reputation, and all without cause. Due to a lack of information, most people fear and dislike bats.

There are no vampire bats in Indiana, nor in the United States for that matter. Vampire bats are small (body length about three inches) and occur in Central and South America.

Bats seldom carry rabies. Only about 4 percent of suspect bats (those that are found sick, dead, or for other reasons are sent to the rabies lab for testing) are diagnosed as having rabies. Unlike other animals, bats do not go mad and

attack even when they have rabies. Bats show no outward sign of the disease, except for a general lethargic behavior.

Bats do not have lice, although they do carry some interesting external parasites, most of which are totally harmless to man. Bats carry bat bugs, which are similar to bed bugs, but bat bugs do not attack humans. Bat bugs live only in bat colonies.

Finally, bats do not normally attack people, nor attempt to get in human hair. Bats do fly close occasionally, but these occurrences are probably an effort to capture insects flying nearby, or happen when bats and people are in a confined area such as a house or cave.

Bats have well-developed, sonar-like echolocation, a process by which sound waves are emitted to locate objects in the bat's flight path. Once the sound waves strike an object, the reflected signals (echoes) are received by the bat's highly specialized ears. A bat can determine the distance, size and direction of all objects from echoes it receives.

There are (or were) 12 bat species found in Indiana. All of them feed entirely on flying insects and studies have shown that a single gray bat may consume more than 3,000 insects in one night. Bats hibernate during the winter months when food is scarce. They are active from about April through October.

Dr. Whitaker is asking ACRES Members to report any bat colonies (5 or more bats) found in trees, to his office. The endangered Indiana bat, Northern Myotis, and Pipistrelles would be found in tree roosts and Dr. Whitaker would like to visit the roost to determine the species.

Please contact If you have any information or questions regarding bat colonies.: Dr. John O. Whitaker, Jr., Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809
Phone: (812) 237-2383



The 12 Indiana species can roughly be placed in three groups:

- 1. The solitary bats.** The Red, Hoary and Silver-haired bats. All are solitary and migratory. The Red and Hoary bats live among the foliage of trees and migrate south for the winter (the northern edge of their winter range is in southern Indiana). The Silver-haired bat migrates through Indiana in the spring and fall.
- 2. The social bats in the genus *Myotis*.** The social bats are colonial at least in summer and include five species of *Myotis* (Little Brown or Mouse-eared bats).
- 3. The other social bats.** Includes the Pipistrelle (our smallest bat), the Big Brown bat, Evening bat, and Big-eared bat. The Big-eared bat is extirpated (gone from Indiana for over 15 years).

INDIANA BATS	ENDANGERED STATUS	GENERAL ASSOCIATION	CAVES	BUILDINGS	TREES	ABUNDANCE	
SOLITARY BATS							
*Red bat, <u>Lasiurus borealis</u>					X	2	
*Hoary bat, <u>L. cinereus</u>					X	8	
Silver Haired bat, <u>Lasionycteris noctivagans</u>				0		X 7	
SOCIAL BATS							
I. Myotis (Little Brown Bat Group)							
*Little Brown bat, <u>Myotis lucifugus</u>			X	X	X	3	
*Indiana bat, <u>M. Sodalis</u>	F		X		X	4	
*Keen's bat, <u>M. keenii</u>						5	
*Gray's bat, <u>M. grisecens</u>	F		X			9	
Southeastern bat, <u>M. austroriparius</u>	S		X			11	
OTHER SOCIAL BATS							
II. EVENING BAT, BIG-EARED BAT, PIPISTRELLE, & BIG BROWN BAT							
*Big Brown bat, <u>Eptesicus fuscus</u>			X	X	0	1	
*Pipistrelle, <u>Pipistrellus subflavus</u>			X	X	0	6	
*Evening bat, <u>Nycticeius humeralis</u>	S			X	X	10	
Big-Eared bat, <u>Plecotus rafinesquei</u>	S					12	

* = Species that produce young in Indiana

ENDANGERED STATUS: F=FEDERALLY ENDANGERED; S=STATE ENDANGERED X=Normal Association; 0=Occasional Association
ABUNDANCE: DR. WHITAKER'S ESTIMATE OF RELATIVE ABUNDANCE; 1=MOST, 12= LEAST ABUNDANT SPECIES

BAT HOUSES By Ted Kruspig

Bat houses have only recently become popular in this country and surprisingly little research has been done on the various species and their preferences. Although research and experimentation are very much ongoing, some facts are known.

Temperature: Bats rely on solar heating for warmth and 85-95 degrees for rearing young. This can be provided by direction and color of the bat house. Southeast provides the most daytime sun, and dark color absorbs and retains heat. Vent holes in the sides may enable bats to more easily adjust their temperature. More than one house may be installed so they could fly from one house to the other easily to "cool off".

Gripping Surface: Bats also rely on close colonization for warmth, and a good gripping surface can provide this. Whether it be a very rough cut surface or a screen, such as hardware cloth, but something that resists rust is preferred. Spacing between roosting areas should be 3/4 - 1". Even varied spacing is more attractive.

Material: A good sturdy wood, free of toxins, paints, and preservatives. It should be fastened together with a non-rusting material. Long roosting areas allow bats to select their desired temperature.

Mounting of House: A bat house should be mounted on a tree, pole, side of building, free of branches or wires. Tree mounted houses may provide less sun and are more susceptible to predators. It should be within 1/2 mile of water - lake, stream, or river and close to natural vegetation and diverse agriculture. Avoid pesticides. Pesticides kill more bats than insects.

Ted is involved with the North American Bat House Research Project and Member of:

Bat Conservation International
P.O. Box 162602
Austin Texas 78716

Ted makes handmade bat houses upon request. Phone: (219) 471-9540

Field Trips & Special Events

Saturday, July 27th. Vandolah Preserve Butterfly Hike

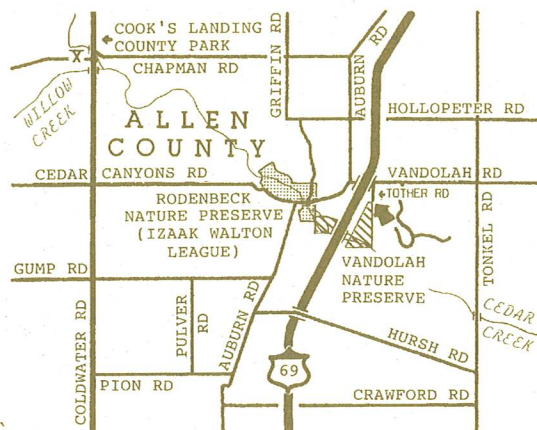
Don Gorney, Naturalist and member of Stockbridge Audubon.

Introduction to native butterflies in this one hour hike. We will look for butterfly eggs, chrysalis, cocoons and caterpillars, along with the adults.

When: 3:00 p.m.

Where: Vandolah Nature Preserve, Allen County, take I-69 to Dupont Road Exit and turn west on Dupont Road. Turn north on Auburn Road and continue straight when Auburn changes into Vandolah Road. Turn south off Vandolah road onto Tother Road.

Contact: ACRES office at (219) 422-1004.



Sunday, August 4th. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

Special Event: The Indiana Prairie Mystique

Dr. Larry Yoder, Director of the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center.

The American prairie once stretched from Indiana to Colorado. In eastern Indiana, the prairie mysteriously broke up into isolated patches. Learn about these Indiana prairie islands, their unique plants, and how you can become involved in prairie restoration. We will study the 1/2 acre prairie Fred Wooley has created at Wing Haven.

When: 2:00 p.m.

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

Contact: ACRES office at (219) 422-1004.



Black-Eyed Susan



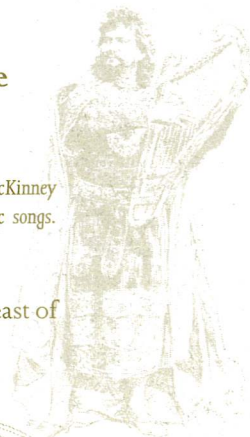
Sunday, September 1st. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) Special Event: Celtic Concert

Laurie Eberhardt-Martin (fiddle), Peter Martin (guitar, banjo and sings) and Ian McKinney (flute, hammer dulcimer, and penny whistle) present traditional American and Celtic songs. Come out for a toe-tapping good time!

When: 2:00 p.m.

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

Contact: ACRES office at (219) 422-1004.



September 21st. Freshwater Jellyfish II: The Sequel.

So we didn't see them last year. We will try again to canoe Olin/Oliver/Martin lakes to see the elusive freshwater jellyfish. We will canoe through 3 lakes for a 4 mile roundtrip. This year we are bringing a secret weapon: Jim Haddock, IUPUI Invertebrate Biologist. Jim will identify other invertebrates if we miss the efj's again.

When: 10:00 a.m.

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, life jackets, sunscreen, and someone to paddle your canoe.

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR OWN CANOE.



Sunday, October 6th. Wing Haven Nature Preserve Open House (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) Special Event: Tour de Wing Haven.

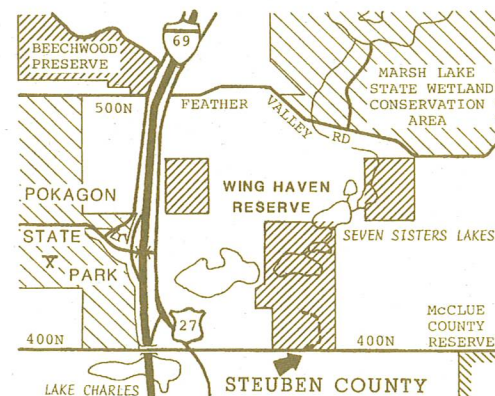
Bike Leader: Jim Shearer, world traveler, financial wizard, and nice guy.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Travel through the rolling countryside of Steuben County. The moderate to easy bike trip will be 8 miles long and we will stop for a break at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. Great exercise, good company, and beautiful scenery!

Bring: Water bottle and bike.

Contact: ACRES office at (219) 422-1004.



Robb Hidden Canyon has an Open House!



Bob and Phyllis Robb with walking sticks from Art Hammer



The dawn of the Open House day began rather inauspiciously: the check-out boy flipped the full size sheet cake for the Open House, complete with iced wildflowers, upside down in the grocery parking lot. But, thanks to the warm-hearted and gracious Robb family, the Open House turned into a happy and memorable day!

Bob and Phyllis Robb, their daughter and son-in-law, Ray and Shawna Niblick, greeted people throughout the day. Many of their friends from Ball Lake stopped at the tents to thank them for their generosity and to say how glad they were about the new preserve.

Thanks to Nancy Malis, who led wildflower hikes through the preserve, to John and Marcella Ellenwood, Everitt Padgett, Jim Shearer, Rosemary Cortez, and the many kind people from Ball Lake. Five scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, warblers, and beautiful wildflowers greeted those who hiked the ravine. What a wonderful addition to the ACRES Nature Preserves!

Wildlife Watch

The purpose of this column is to highlight the birds, plants, and animals that are seen, preserved and protected, at the different ACRES nature preserves.

✓ Wing Haven-Kathryn Moore & Don Gorney

Grass pink orchid
Least Bittern
Sandhill Crane

✓ Ropchan Wildlife Refuge - Don Gorney

Henslow Sparrow

✓ Ralph F. Gates (Crooked Lake Preserve)

- Jeff and Sue Britton, Carolyn McNagny
Beavers



✓ Tel-Hy Nature Preserve - Gary Helmke

Gary Helmke, naturalist, is completing a plant survey.
celadine poppy twinleaf
screech owl great-horned owl
alum root wild columbine
broadleaf & virginia waterleaf
ostrich fern (near registration box)

THE LIMBERLOST SWAMP RESTORATION



Professional Wailers-Gene Stratton Porter

The historic Limberlost Swamp was an extensive wetland comprising approximately 25,000 acres in Jay and Adams Counties. The area was Gene Stratton-Porter's working grounds and inspiration. Observing the slow destruction of this lush botanical environment and thriving wildlife habitat, she set out to preserve its natural history with camera and pen, and was launched on her successful career as an author. The Limberlost's splendor and grandeur have echoed throughout generations in such books as *Freckles* and *A Girl of the Limberlost*.

Over 100 years after drainage of the area was begun, efforts have been successful by Friends of the Limberlost, Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, ACRES Land Trust, and the IDNR Division of Museums and Historic Sites to restore a small portion of this valuable natural resource. Led by Kenneth Brunswick, who has dreamed of the area being restored for over 15 years, 188 acres of farmland was acquired in 1996. The tiles in the fields have been broken, the wetlands will be restored, and wildlife will be allowed to return to the Limberlost Swamp.

Purchase of the 188 acres was made possible through an Indiana Heritage Trust grant. The Indiana Heritage Trust is funded by the environmental license plate (remember to buy yours!) and the state legislature. Former State Senator Larry Macklin, from Decatur, supported the Limberlost Swamp Remembered project while still in office and wrote the legislation creating the environmental license plate program and Indiana Heritage Trust.



The Limberlost—photographed by Gene Stratton Porter

Thanks to the generosity over the years of ACRES Members, the ACRES Land Acquisition and Management Fund donated \$5,000 to the project. The Ropchan Foundation, established by ACRES Benefactor Sam Ropchan, donated \$50,000 to the project.

In 1997, the Limberlost Swamp Remembered project will work on acquiring new acreage. We will continue to keep Members updated on the project in the ACRES Quarterly. All contributors of \$25 or more will receive a certificate. You can purchase a foot of swamp (\$10), a personalized foot of swamp (\$25), a golden foot of swamp (\$100), a quarter acre of swamp (\$500) or a golden acre of swamp (\$1,000). I am the proud owner of a golden foot.

Please mail donations and make checks payable to: Limberlost Swamp Remembered
P.O. Box 603
Geneva IN 46740

Thank you! Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director

In Memory

From time to time people remember and honor loved ones and special people by making gifts to ACRES in their name. 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.

Forrest Wooley

Thomas and Kathleen Huck
Art and Marion Eberhardt
Fred and Jackie Wooley

Morris R. Pool

Sharon Pool Smith
Joanne A. Weber

Maynard Friend Jr.

Larry and Pat Pichon

Olivia Lemings

Larry and Pat Pichon

Barry D. Griffith

Dana L. Wichern

Dr. John Klotz

William C. and Ethyle R. Bloch
James and Patricia Barrett
Tom and Jane Dustin

Robert A. Johnson

Jake & Linda Gaff
Kenneth & LaVon Felger

Mary Ellen Girvin

Patricia A. McNagny

Dr. Donald Hoffman

Tom and Jane Dustin

ACRES Welcomes New Members:

Jim and Linda Allison
Arlene A. Bohnke
David F. Bracht
Paul L. Bracht
Amy Bredemeyer
Dana Bromelmeier
Phyllis Carter
Paul & Ruth Church
Kenneth D. Cole
Ronald L. Davis
Charles Diehl
Dennis & Marilyn Doerr
Ned & Tonya Flightner
Courtney & Mary Franke
Stephen E. &
Joyce A. Galloway
Jeff & Betty Goris
Joyce W. Gottschalk
Donald E. Grepke
Marilyn J. Gump
Juanita M. Harsch
John Hathaway &
Lynn Daigler
Steven & Jane Henschen

Judy Hestermann
Stanley Kamer
Gary Hogle & Barb Lahman
Aaron Homan
Michael Hummer
Paul & Patricia Hyndman
Mike Kirk
Jean Lee
Gerhard O. Maecker
Ann Marie Marlin
James &
Ruth Ann McDonald
Gary L. Miller
Teresa Neuhaus
Jerry Nichols, Jr.
Michelle Niemann
Paul & Mary Lou Oakes
Jim Oberley
Cynthia L. Posey
Randy Romero
Don & Julia Shaw
David & Sharon Smith
Randy & Carole Smith
Donald B. Snyder

Mike & Paula Strasser
Betty-Lee Sweatt
Robert & Bertha Tindall
Rose Touray
Vernon & Mary Trier
Mark Troutman
& Ann Wallace
Michael & Patricia Tyler
Daniel & Beth Warner
Lawrence &
Katie Wiedman
Cynthia Wilkin

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Youth
Environmental
Association (YEA)

Fremont
Environmental Club



Above: Laurie Eberhardt-Martin, Ellen's sister at work-day in May.



Above: The Ellen Eberhardt Memorial Bench.

REMINDER!

Deadline for Fall backpacking trip is August 23, 1996. Cost is \$55.00, which includes September 26th dinner on trail. Please call Judy Esterline to make reservations or for more information at (219) 432-8455.



Ellen Eberhardt

Wing Haven Memorial Projects

Two Wing Haven projects, dedicated to the memory of Art and Marion Eberhardt's daughter, Ellen, were completed in May. Nineteen of the Eberhardt family came from California, Texas, Michigan, and Indiana, and included the newest grandchild of Art and Marion, Eli Silas Eberhardt-Martin.

The first project involved assembling a new trailside rest bench as a replacement for an earlier bench, said to have been the favorite contemplation place for the Wing Haven donor, Helen Swenson.

The second project was constructing of a new dock on the north shore of Little Gentian Lake, providing direct access, via canoe or boat, to over 20 acres of prime natural area. A technique was developed on site for driving long dock support posts many feet into the essentially bottomless muck. These posts had to start at the accessible lake end of the dock, and then be extended, a step at a time, toward the to-be-made-accessible shore end of the dock. Does jumping on the dock sound plausible?

Ed Eberhardt, retired ACRES Board Member



Above: Peter Martin, Douglas Eberhardt & Ron Hendel work on the dock at Wing Haven.

The Back Page...



There she was in her khaki skirt, red plaid jacket and sensible shoes. She was conducting a local bird count with five other adults up on the Saginaw Bay in Michigan, and had just spotted a

Northern Shrike. "What's a Northern Shrike?" this little third grader asked. She tried to help me focus on it with the binoculars until it came into my view. There was something exciting about catching sight of these birds that I didn't quite understand. Nevertheless, somehow I knew that it was important, and that's why we were there.

I was the only kid in the group that day. My Aunt Ethel Staudacher was a school principal and a member of the local Audubon Society. Often she would pick me up to go with her. I always knew there would be some kind of exploring and then a discovery. I felt important because I was with adults. I looked forward to it. She didn't take me to putt-putt golf or Hollywood movies. No,... I was

often taken to Audubon slide shows she helped put on at the local high school. Each film was on something different. We didn't travel much out of our area (being a large family) so I never could have imagined so many interesting, colorful, unusual, bugs and birds and fish, andI loved it! No...I couldn't have imagined it.

This past spring, I experienced that same excitement when all the varieties of spring migratory birds were in the trees of the Vandolah Preserve. It was a very exciting year to observe the birds! We saw many we had never seen before! One day there were six of us in our home with six sets of binoculars pressed to the glass, all of us exclaiming back and forth. The neighbor was calling with her own bird reports. We were practically giddy! I thought of Aunt Ethel. She would have loved it. I thought also of ACRES and why we preserve these trees for these birds and why we share our enthusiasm for nature with others. Nothing can replace it.

So...this back page is dedicated to my Aunt Ethel and all of the family or friends who were your "Aunt Ethels". They knew what was the real treasure in this life. Who needs Hollywood?

-Susan Britton, Editor

The ACRES Quarterly welcomes letters, articles, artwork, photos, and anything else of interest to our readers. Send any and all items to Susan Britton, Editor, ACRES Quarterly, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne IN 46808. Deadline for the Fall issue is September 1, 1996

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. VanGilder, Secretary; Mary Anna Entwisle, Treasurer; David P. Deimling, Ben Roush, Arthur Eberhardt, Sam Schwartz, Greg Craghead, Paulette Bremer, James M. Barrett III, Jane Dustin, David J. Miller, Janel A. Rogers, Dennis Schoff, Tony Acosta. Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director. National Advisory Board: Howard Michaud, Alton Lindsey, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough, Durward Allen, Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner. ACRES Quarterly is published by ACRES, Inc. at 2000 North Wells Street, 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. Susan Britton, Editor. MEMBERSHIP: 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.



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