

QUARTERLY

Spring—1997

Volume 36—Number 2



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UPDATE ON LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Thank you to our foundation sponsors for their support of the Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve! The **Lincoln National Corporation** and the **Fort Wayne Community Foundation** gave grants of \$10,000 each for the new preserve. The **Indiana Heritage Trust Program** has pledged \$50,000. The Heritage Trust Program is funded through the environmental license plate, so remember to make your plate an eagle when you purchase your license plate this year.

The preserve was made possible through the generosity of Jeannette P. Kent, who donated two-thirds of the property to ACRES. Her unselfish act has protected this lovely 40-acre preserve for the citizens of Indiana to cherish. Jeanette Kent also established a maintenance fund for the property, which will help ACRES to manage the preserve.

Thanks to Dave Gall for his work on the Emmanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve and other land acquisition projects!



Dave Gall on a hike in the Bicentennial Woods with a group of school children

ACRES Welcomes New Members!

Bonnie Anderson
Sheila Benner
Sean and Michele Blair
Ron and Phyllis Brockmyer
Michael and Leslie Carr
Jim and Lorraine Cherry
Gregory B. Crandall
Linda Duxbury

Mrs. Thomas E. Eckert
Stan Follis
Nick and Connie Gast
Gordon Graef
Theresa Hammond
David L. Herbst
Delmer and Charlotte Lunde
William L. Martin

Evelyn M. Morrill
William T. Nichols
Donna Jean Ohning
John A. Raub
Jeff and Sue Testin
John Wuepper

Tributes

Happy Birthday to Art Hammer!

David and Sharon Smith

Tributes is a new section in the Quarterly to honor Birthdays, Anniversaries, and other happy events.

Cover: A Maryrose Wampler painting from her "Wildflowers of Indiana" book published by Indiana University Press.



Remember to Renew!

We're applauding your generosity (with all of our feet and hands)!

ACRES Membership has reached 800 for 1996-1997. Our goal is 1000 Members by the Year 2000. Please renew today and consider giving at the Share-the-Expense, Patron, or Benefactor level. Your commitment to ACRES is important to its growth.

Your Membership helps ACRES to:

- acquire new preserves,
- manage our existing preserves,
- provide havens for our native plants and animals,
- preserve natural areas for all to enjoy and cherish,
- offer educational programs to area school children,
- give special events, hikes, concerts, and canoe trips for our members & the public.

The ACRES Land Acquisition and Management Fund is our most effective tool to quickly acquire property for protection. In the last few years, monies from the fund have:

- financed appraisal and surveys for properties such as the Fawn River Nature Preserve,
- supported the acquisition of 460 acres in the Limberlost Swamp Remembered project,
- allowed the ACRES Land Acquisition Committee to commit to properties before a fund drive was completed as with The Bicentennial Woods.

Please help the Fund!

Mary Anna Entwisle, ACRES Membership Secretary



Polyphemus Moth Caterpillar by John Ellenwood

Thank you to our foundation and corporate sponsors!

**LINCOLN
NATIONAL
FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Fort Wayne
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

INDIANA HERITAGE TRUST FOUNDATION



ACRES Car Sticker when you renew! Cars are an unfortunate fact of life right now and you might as well use yours to advertise ACRES. We are sending you a static sticker for your car window and hope you will display it with pride. Let's get the word out on ACRES!

Hale-Bopp Comet

By Ed Eberhardt,
Retired Physicist and former ACRES Board Member

The presently-visible comet Hale-Bopp (April 1997) is truly a marvel to behold. If you've not seen it yet, try the north-western skies on a clear night shortly after sunset. It's even visible in the presence of the bright background lights of Fort Wayne if you can find a place to see the lower portions of the sky. Your first sighting will help you understand why the usually unpredictable appearance of comets, as recorded in the histories of mankind, has stimulated so much awe, curiosity, worship and forecasting of the future.

What is a comet? Basically it's a mountain-sized dirty ice chunk coming from a far distant region of our own solar system, called the Oort Clouds. These "clouds" are really a vast collection of similar ice chunks orbiting the sun but so far away that they are almost impossible to see before one of them, such as Hale-Bopp, just happens to "drop in" for a brief visit to our viewable portion of the solar system.

When this visitor from "outer space" gets within a few hundred million miles of the sun, the solar radiation begins to heat up the surface of the ice chunk driving off clouds of gasses and dust, sometimes almost explosively and usually unpredictably. The sunlight then illuminates this gas/dust atmosphere producing a large bright halo area around the solid ice chunk core which we can then see. Part of this now-visible gas/dust atmosphere is then pushed away from the comet's core by the pressure of the solar radiation. This pushing action, in a direction away

from the sun, produces a sometimes spectacular tail such as the one we now see on Hale-Bopp.

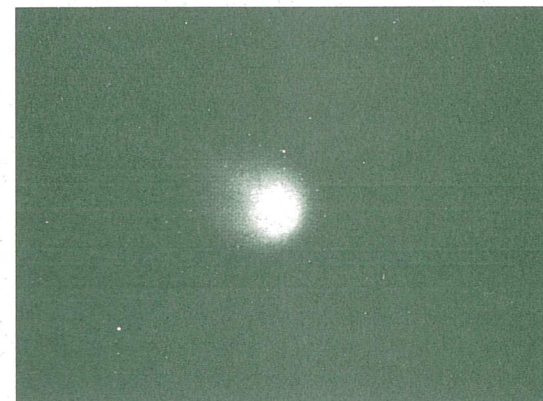
When observing any comet remember that the tail you see is not "behind" the core with respect to its direction of movement through space, (as it is with the tails behind meteors and space vehicles traveling through and heating up the earth's atmosphere). A comet's tail always extends away from the sun even when this means that the tail travels ahead of the core as the comet moves through space.

The comet Hale-Bopp is named in the usual manner after the sky watcher(s) who first report seeing a new comet, in this case Alan Hale in New Mexico and Thomas Bopp in Arizona. These two semi-amateur sky watchers reported seeing Hale-Bopp almost simultaneously, yet independently, in July 1995.

The enormous number of chunks of dirty ice, perhaps more accurately called icy rocks, making up the Oort Clouds are generally believed to be remnants of the building blocks of our solar system. In the case of Hale-Bopp, a better term for the core might be an icy mountain since its core is believed to be over 10 miles in overall dimension. As we observe comets in more detail and hopefully "land" some exploratory satellites directly on the surface of a comet's core, we may learn much more about how our solar system was formed.

For this writer, the most exciting result of the spectroscopic observations that we've already made on comets is the indicated presence of such carbon-based, i.e. organic, compounds as ammonia,

methane, alcohol, formaldehyde, cyanic acid, etc. in the comet's "atmosphere". Are these the starting materials for life on earth and (possibly) on Mars? Carbon-60 spheres (Popularly called "bucky balls" because of their resemblance both to soccer balls and Buckminster Fuller geodesic domes. As with DNA being a helix structure, the bucky ball is a sphere. Discovered in 1992 by two Texas physicists, bucky balls are also called the state molecule of Texas.) and related carbon micro-tubes have been proposed as carriers of life forms to our solar system. Will these be found in comet cores?

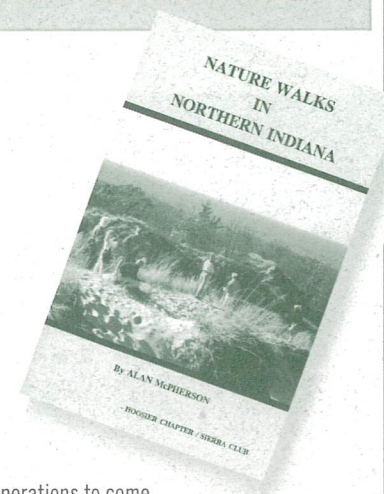


Nature Walks in Northern Indiana

This book describes in detail more than two hundred nature outing opportunities in northern Indiana and includes 20 ACRES Preserves. The book is divided into several geographical regions of Indiana, and includes the Dunes region, the Prairie, the Lake Plains, the Upper Wabash River Valley and the Till Plain. Outings into adjacent scenic areas in Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois are also listed.

The author, Alan McPherson, is a member of the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club, works as a naturalist, and holds masters degrees in parks and recreation, natural resources, and education. He has personally hiked and experienced the trails and outings described in this book. This guide will increase the enjoyment and awareness of the treasures we have in northern Indiana and the need to preserve them for generations to come.

To Order: Send \$18.00 to Alan McPherson, P.O. Box 38, Kewanna IN 46939



Field Trips & Special Events



Saturday, May 3. Wildflower Hike and Spring Repairs. at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve.

Hike Leader: Else Matott, Naturalist.

Else will be leading a wildflower hike through this gem of a preserve. Learn about the many varieties of wildflowers that carpet the hillside. John and Rosemary Roush, Stewards for the preserve, will have several volunteer projects available like picking up trash along the road and helping to remove trees that are blocking the trail.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve, Noble County. Take SR 6 to 600 W, turn north on 600 W and the preserve is located between 900 N and 1000 N.

Bring: Walking shoes, work gloves, and picnic lunch.

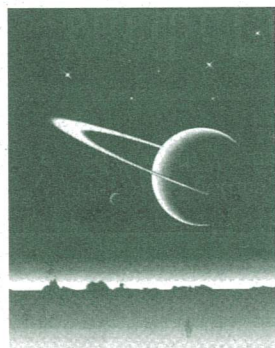
Contact: ACRES office at (219) 422-1004.



Bloodroot by John Ellenwood



Sunday, May 4. Wing Haven Open House (1-5 pm) Special Event: Hidden Life in the Solar System.



Speaker: Ed Eberhardt, retired physicist and former ACRES Board Member.

Recent discoveries of the possibility of life on Europe, Mars, and the Moon have been in the news. Ed will present the most recent information on the possibility of life on other planets such as bacteria and microorganisms. Ed worked at ITT on the satellites that were used in the first Mars probe and in the Voyager missions.

When: 2:00 p.m.

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

Bring: Family and Friends! Refreshments served.

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



Sunday, May 11. "Wildwood" Wandering.

Bob and Alice Frantz are the caretakers of wetlands and woods near Silver Lake that they have named "Wildwood". The property has miles of trails and we will take a one-hour hike through their beautiful woods. After the hike, Bob will give a program of nature slides.

When: 2:00 p.m. Where: Take SR 14 towards Silver Lake. Go west to SR 13 and then 4 mile past, property is south of SR 14 and there is a sign that says "Wildwood". **Bring:** Walking shoes, binoculars, and camera.

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



Wildflower painting by Maryrose Wampler

Field Trips & Special Events



Sunday, May 18. Children's Hike.

Thomas and Doris Schlemmer have a lovely rolling wildflower woods and a veritable zoo at their property. Join us for a hike through the woods led by Nancy Malis and Carolyn McNaghy and then Thomas and Doris will show the children their many unusual animals: Llamas, golden pheasant, peafowl, guineas, fancy chickens, emus, rheas, and horses. Doris, leader of the Allen County 4-H Llama Club, introduces children to the care and showing of Llamas.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Take the Allen County Line Road 2 miles west of highway 3 or two miles east of 205.

Bring: Your camera and walking shoes. Woods can be wet.

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



Sunday, June 1. Wing Haven Open House (1-5 pm) Special Program: Kinnegad Ceili Band (formerly Samarah)

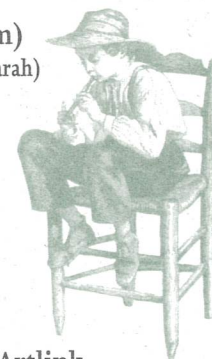
Bill Reeder, Jeffrey Reeder, and Connie Halt will play their fiddle, flute, penny whistle, and the Irish Bagpipes with lively Irish and Scottish dance music and songs. Come listen to the cheerful music in the rustic Wing Haven Studio!

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven, Steuben County.

Bring: Music lovers!

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



Saturday, June 7th. Helen Swensen's Art Show at Artlink.



Helen Swensen, who donated Wing Haven to ACRES, was a fine artist and completed many watercolor, ink and charcoal drawings. The majority of the works are signed and include a series of ladies' fashions, religious, landscapes, nudes, figure studies, and illustrations for children's books. Over 75 original pieces will be sold.

All proceeds will benefit the Wing Haven Management Fund. Don't miss this Sale!

When: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Artlink, 437 East Berry Street in Fort Wayne.

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



Sunday, July 6th. Wing Haven Open House (1-5 pm) Special Event: Photographing Nature.

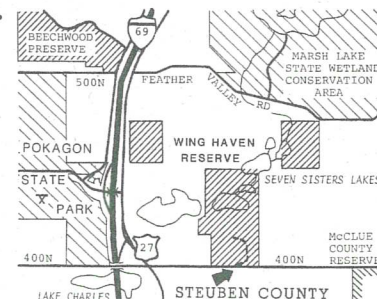
Bruce Plew, an excellent photographer, will give a 1/2 hour slide show and then offer tips on how to photograph wildflowers and birds.

Many of Bruce's slides were taken at ACRES' Nature Preserves. Come out for a relaxing afternoon!

When: 2:00 p.m.

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

Questions? Call ACRES at (219) 422-1004.



Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

A Grand Old Garden

by Gary Helmke, Naturalist

Edna Walker Spurgeon came into this world in the winter of 1885, and passed away in the winter of 1978 at the age of 92.

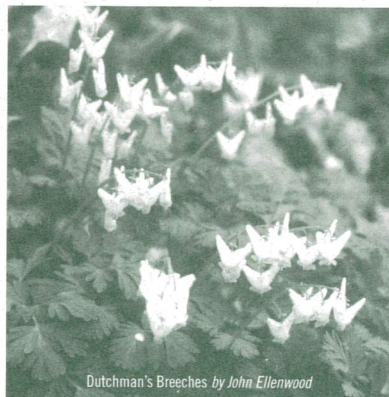
When Edna was one year old, her father, George Walker, purchased land south of Topeka, Indiana, and built a house where Edna lived throughout her life. In 1919, Edna married Theodore J. Spurgeon and worked as a schoolteacher. Theodore was a farmer and served in the Indiana House of Representatives. In 1925, they purchased the 65 acre woodland adjacent to their property. This woodland is now the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve.

Edna knew that for the woods to remain in its natural state after her death, she would have to seek the help of a Land Trust. Because she loved her woodland and believed in land conservation, Edna donated her woods in 1962 to a young group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. This first ACRES preserve was the first state-dedicated nature preserve managed by a non-profit organization in Northeast Indiana. Because of Edna's generosity 35 years ago, people today are enjoying one of the most majestic woodlands in Indiana.

The area is known locally as "The Knobs" because of its rolling upland with ridges, hills and mounds of stratified drift (a layering of soil deposited by glacial meltwater). Within the 65-acre preserve are some of the largest tulip and American beech trees in the state. In early spring, beneath the canopy of black cherry (the tree with the black bark that looks like burnt potato chips), oaks, tulip, and beech, the hiker finds a breath-taking display of wildflowers in shades of blue, red, yellow and white.

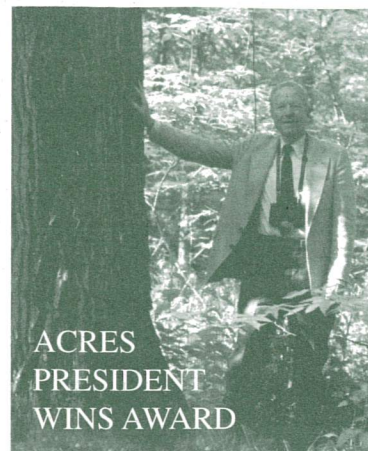
Of the many flowering species blooming along the winding trail, one can see wildflowers such as the Dutchman's Breeches, whose white blossoms look like a pair of pants. A close relative of the Dutchman's Breeches is the squirrel corn plant, whose white blossoms resemble a kernel of corn without its shell. The dainty Blue-eyed Mary (a member of the snapdragon family) lives in small colonies beside the trail. The upper two lobes of the Blue-eyed Mary flowers are white and the lower two a bright blue.

Another brilliantly-colored wildflower is the Celandine Poppy (also known as the wood poppy), whose four fragile petals are bright yellow on the top surface and whitish on the underside. Its leaves, a pale green, are deeply lobed. These are but a few of the many wildflowers you will see while hiking this lush and beautiful forest. A hike through the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve is well worth the effort, for its beauty is unsurpassed.



Dutchman's Breeches by John Ellenwood

Blue-eyed Marys
by John Ellenwood



On April 13th, the Stockbridge Audubon Society presented Ted Heemstra the Great Blue Heron Award. Having shown a lasting commitment to environmental issues in promoting education and environmental concerns, he is the first recipient.



Left to right: Art Eberhardt, Ted Heemstra, Bob Weber and John Ellenwood

After Ted's Excellent Adventure program at Wing Haven on April 4th, four past and present board members of ACRES take a well-deserved rest. Art and John recently installed new blinds for Wing Haven to help darken the studio for slide programs. Ted had over 40 people attend his program on Antarctica and has also given the program for schoolchildren. Bob, John and Art supply the many beautiful photographs that often grace the Quarterly and our publications.

ACRES has many wonderful volunteers who help the organization. Thank you!

Else Matott is having a plant sale!

May 17 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
3621 Indiana Avenue, Fort Wayne
Herbs - perennials - flower baskets

*Proceeds go to the
Fawn River
Nature Preserve.*



Spring Beauties by John Ellenwood

In Memory

Ben Hyde

Karen Bennett

Catharine Maxwell

Tom and Jane Dustin

Mildred Klopfenstein

Tom and Jane Dustin

Mary Tebbe

Mary Ann Stark and Friends

Betty Ordas

Tom and Jane Dustin

GULLS IN INDIANA

By Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director, ACRES

White-caps were on Crooked Lake in early April, the wind was blowing so fiercely across its surface. Flying near the wave crests was a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, bobbing and weaving down to the surface for food. Around them darted the small, quick tree swallows hunting the first spring insects. The flock of gulls was traveling through Indiana, migrating north from the gulf coast heading to their nesting areas in the arctic.



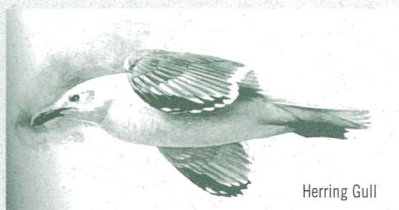
Bonaparte's Gull

The Bonaparte's Gull is an occasional visitor to Indiana in the spring and fall. Compared to the other gulls seen in our area, the Herring and Ring-billed, they are dainty and shy. The smallest, most delicate boned gull in the Western Hemisphere, Bonaparte's Gulls are the only gulls to nest in trees. They build sturdy nests of grass, moss, and twigs in spruce or fir trees in Canada and Alaska.

The adults are beautiful, with black heads and white patches trailing along their silvery-gray wings. The black coloring disappears from their heads in winter, leaving only a small black patch behind the eye. They have a buoyant flight, as if fighting to keep from shooting upwards. The gull is named after a nephew of Napoleon, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, who was a famous American ornithologist in the 1800s.

The Bonaparte's gulls flew all day in the persistent wind, with the wooded hillsides of the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve behind them, and the next day the flock was gone.

In contrast to the Bonaparte's Gulls, the more common gulls seen in our area are the Ring-billed and Herring gulls. Jim Haw, Stockbridge Audubon Member and well-known birder, says that the Ring-billed and Herring gulls have been in greater numbers and for longer periods in our area in recent years. One factor may be that the Herring and Ring-billed populations are increasing nationwide.



Herring Gull

The two gulls are similar, white with light gray backs and wings and spotted black wing tips. The Ring-billed gull is small with yellowish-green legs and the black bill band. Young Ring-billed gulls are a mottled, speckled color whereas young Herring gulls are a dirty brown. Not exactly exciting plumage, but the gulls make up for their lack of beauty with tenacity.

Gulls are not finicky about dinner and, according to Jim, "will eat everything and anything". In Fort Wayne, they can be seen around shopping centers, garbage dumps, and fast food restaurants. The gulls nest on islands in Lake Erie and periodically follow the Maumee River down to Fort Wayne. They have not historically been year-around residents of this area. For the last 2-3 years, Herring gulls have been nesting in the terminal ponds at the Fort Wayne sewage treatment plant. You have to admire a bird that has so adapted to this modern civilization.

To help appreciate these common birds, there is the story of Salt Lake City. In 1847, The Mormon settlers, led by Brigham Young, were fleeing religious persecution and arrived in the Salt Lake valley of Utah. Isolated from supplies from the east, they planted crops for their families as soon as they arrived. A plague of grasshoppers began to form clouds and feed on their crops, threatening the people with starvation. Huge flocks of gulls came from the Salt Lake and ate the grasshoppers by the millions. For saving their crops, the Mormons built a monument to the gull in downtown Salt Lake City.

I don't see us building statues to Herring or Ring-billed gulls anytime soon, but it's nice to know they are helping to recycle.

ARCH Announces Limberlost Legacy Combining Preservation & Conservation!!!

ARCH, Fort Wayne's Historic Preservation Organization, announces a very special event. "Limberlost Legacy" is a tour of the sites of Gene Stratton Porter's inspiration. Porter, a Hoosier Novelist, popularized the Great Limberlost Swamp and Northeastern Indiana in her numerous fiction and non-fiction works. Her most popular book, The Girl of the Limberlost, revolved around the town of Geneva, the Brushwood School House, and the beautiful and mysterious Limberlost swamp.



Illustration of Royal Regal (Royal Walnut)
by Gene Stratton Porter

"Limberlost Legacy" includes a tour of the Limberlost Cabin Historic Site in Geneva; a guided nature walk in the Limberlost swamp remnant preserved at the ACRES Munro Nature Preserve; a visit to the Brushwood School Site -- the real-life school house of fictional heroine Elnora Comstock; and a chance to help with tree-planting efforts at the Limberlost Restoration Project Site.

The cost for this event is \$15.00 for non-members, and \$12.00 for ARCH, ACRES, Friends of the Limberlost, and Limberlost Girl Scout Council Members. Reservations will be taken only from May 1 through May 9, 1997, and may be made by calling ARCH at (219) 426-5117.

Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and beverage, and hiking boots and bug spray are suggested.

Contact: Angie Quinn, Executive Director, ARCH: (219) 426-5117.

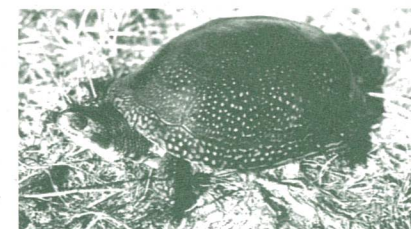
WILDLIFE WATCH

The purpose of this column is to introduce members to the wonderful variety of animals that the ACRES preserves shelter and protect. Send your reports into the ACRES office.

☒ **Vandolah Lowlands-Blanding's Turtle**
Don Gorney

☒ **Crooked Lake-Bonaparte's Gulls & Tree Swallows**
Marcia McNagny

☒ **Vandolah-Twinleaf**
Kathryn Moore



Blanding's Turtle

The Back Page...

It had been a hectic, stressful week. I had just returned from Los Angeles, "the city of pavement" where I'd had some business to take care of. I had jet lag and deadlines coming out my ears. I was burned out and discouraged. Do you sometimes feel surrounded by the problems of living in such a fast-paced society? Do you wonder when it will stop? To make things worse, the magnolia blossoms on the tree out my window had been frozen to brown in the late frost. It was a small thing comparatively, but it added to the "Stop! I want to get off this planet!" feeling, I had this past week.

TROUT LILY



Today the weather was at least cooperating. It was warm and sunny with a lovely cool breeze. I shoved my work aside and took a walk. Near the Vandolah pond's edge a large fish jumped. The water sparkled. As I came closer to the edge of the wood a great-horned owl, spooked out of its perch in a near tree, startled me as it flew off. I hadn't seen it until it was flying away. I looked down briefly just as my foot almost came down on a new yellow trout lily.

There it was in the middle of the yard! It blended in so well. I hadn't seen it. As I lifted my head then to look where I could step next, I realized I was surrounded by them. How delightful! Hmm... Seems we can't always see the good things around us. Sometimes they are so close. Sometimes right under our feet. Sometimes we can refresh ourselves by just making the effort to take a walk, get some air and enjoy the creation.

Our lives may seem more hectic than we like in these days of modern technology, but we still have *some* choices. There are many reasons we choose to preserve our natural resources, and one of them is hope. We need to have the balance that nature brings into our life picture. We don't want to live in a "city of pavement".

So... the moral of this story (I tell myself) is "Quit whining! It's Spring!!". Now is one of the best times of year to get out in an ACRES preserve or state park and bring that wonderful fresh reality into your head. Take some kids along. They can remind you of the awe and delight of a first discovery. My guess (if you live on the same planet as I do) is that you'll agree....see you out there! 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 Summer issue is June 1, 1997.

ACRES Land Trust
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474
Address Correction Requested

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