

QUARTERLY

Autumn—1998
Volume 37—Number 3

Annual Fall
Dinner...
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Louis Agassiz Puertes

ACRES Annual Dinner



November 13, 1998
Concordia Seminary Dining Hall
6600 North Clinton Street,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

6:30 p.m. — \$12.50 a plate

You have a choice!

Roast pork with dressing or Broccoli Cheddar Quiche
All meals include waldorf salad, new potatoes,
green bean almondine, and pumpkin pie.

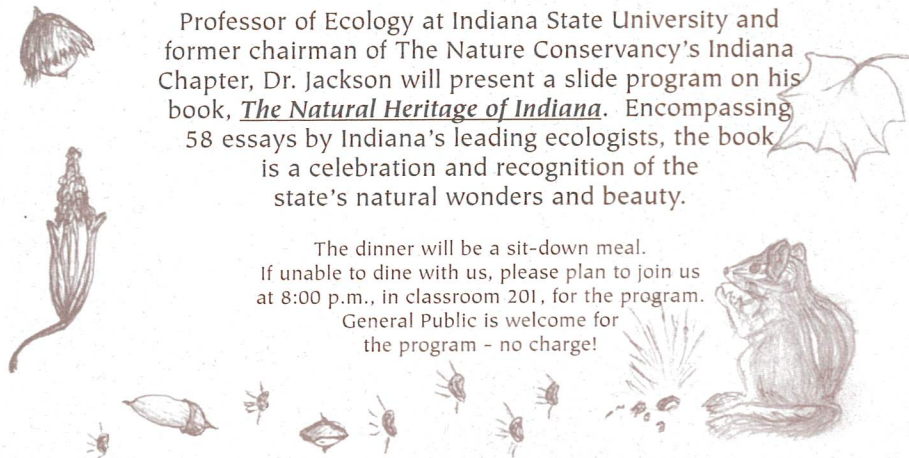
Phone reservations to:
Mary and Howard Schneider (219-484-3986)
or Ethyle Bloch (219-747-4450)

Reservations must be made and honored.
Deadline: November 9, 1998
Decorations by Else Matott

Guest Speaker: Dr. Marion T. Jackson

Professor of Ecology at Indiana State University and former chairman of The Nature Conservancy's Indiana Chapter, Dr. Jackson will present a slide program on his book, *The Natural Heritage of Indiana*. Encompassing 58 essays by Indiana's leading ecologists, the book is a celebration and recognition of the state's natural wonders and beauty.

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!

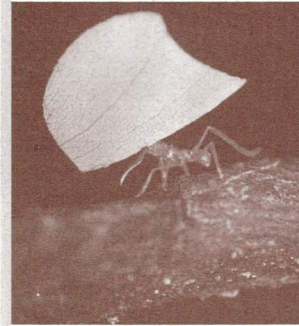


ELECTION AND NOMINATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ACRES election of board members is upon us. If you would like to nominate someone for the board, please do so by October 23 by contacting the ACRES Office at (219-422-1004). Sean Carroll, Sam Schwartz, and Jim Haddock are serving on the nominating committee this year.

If you are a current member in good standing, you will receive a return-by-mail ballot by December 30, or you may vote in person on Wednesday, December 23, 1998, between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the ACRES Office, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808.

Turn Stock into Land !



Leaf Cutter Ant

Burdened down by too much stock? Turn your stock into a powerful land protection tool, benefit ACRES and receive a tax benefit. Call

ACRES Treasurer Dick Walker at 219-483-3339 to see how to donate stock. *Many thanks to the generous individuals who have donated stock in past years!*

ACRES Treasurer: Richard E. Walker

Serving on the ACRES Board of Directors since 1997, Dick is giving many hours and his expertise to the ACRES financial concerns. Dick is a CPA who owns his own accounting firm on State Street in Fort Wayne. An outdoor enthusiast, he is a member of the Hoosier Backpackers.



Photograph by John Ellenwood

ACRES Welcomes NEW Members!

Mary Kay Aust
Dr. David and Mrs. Judith Campbell
Diane Dickson and Michael Moore
Keith, Dianne, Brian, David,
and Eric Frank
Kevin Fuze
Andrew N. Gebhard
Mark J. Gladieux
Mrs. William Haifley
Stan and Sally Hebbeler
Betty Lee Hepworth
Mary Lee Hosey
Marsha and Jack Hunter
Monica F. K. Jensen
Julie C. Johnston
Bruce and Irma Kelley
Emily LeCoque
Burvel and Laura Lemings
Michael and Grace Mastrangelo
John and Mary McKinzie
William and Joan McNagney
Debby Meade and Family
Dale and Marge Pence
Cal and Beth Royall
James S. Ruckel

James and Gwen Seely
Mary Louise Shupert
Richard A. Sieling
Helen Steussy
Lee A. Stewart
Duane and Fran Stidham
David and Barbara Swaim
Craig R. Thorne and
Beverly A. Hume-Thorne
Nadine M. Zabierek

P.E.O. Chapter BZ, Indiana

Tributes

Catherine E. Birdseye gave a donation in memory of "Dewey", a pet duck owned by Tyler Shippy. The gift will benefit the Fawn River Nature Preserve.



THE DRAGONFLY

By Nancy Malis, Naturalist

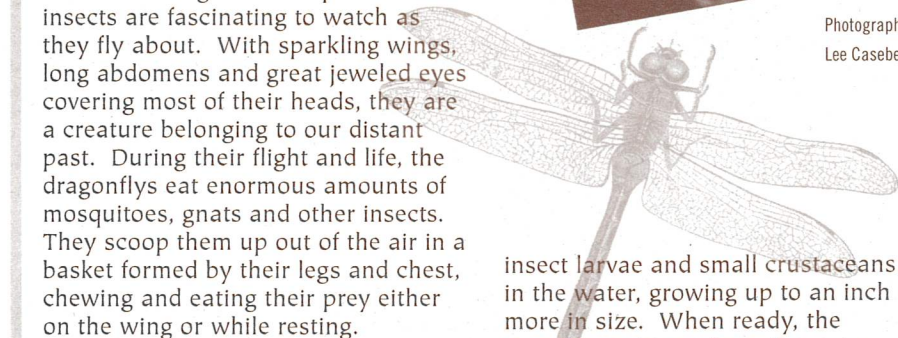
The Dragonfly or mosquito hawk (Insecta odonata) is a common insect seen flying around lakes, ponds and rivers. These graceful airplane-like insects are fascinating to watch as they fly about. With sparkling wings, long abdomens and great jeweled eyes covering most of their heads, they are a creature belonging to our distant past. During their flight and life, the dragonflies eat enormous amounts of mosquitoes, gnats and other insects. They scoop them up out of the air in a basket formed by their legs and chest, chewing and eating their prey either on the wing or while resting.

Dragonflies mate in flight; then the female deposits the eggs in the water on floating plant masses or plant stems or on sand. The eggs hatch into tiny nymphs that live underwater for several months or more. The spider-like six-legged nymphs feed on

insect larvae and small crustaceans in the water, growing up to an inch or more in size. When ready, the nymphs crawl out from the water onto a rock or grass, the skin splits down the back and out crawls a pale, much-rumpled adult dragonfly as we know them. In an hour or so, the wings unfold and dry and they are ready for flight to begin their job consuming mosquitoes.



Photograph by
Lee Casebere



Guide to Indiana Dragonflies to Be Published

Dr. James R. Curry, Ph.D. studied the dragonflies at the **Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve** for his upcoming book, *Field Guide to Dragonflies of Indiana*. For the last 6 years, Dr. Curry has traveled the state, photographing Indiana's 100 species of dragonflies. It is not an easy task to capture these swift insects. He has taken 200 to 300 photographs of each species to get quality images for his book. Indiana will be only the second state, behind Florida, to have a dragonfly field guide.

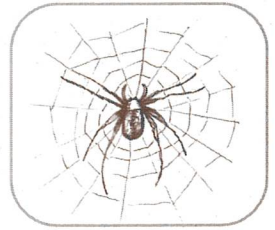
Dr. Curry said that he "is very impressed with the size and health of the population at the preserve. Dragonflies are good indicators of water quality." The species of dragonflies change from spring to fall, with each kind timed as to when they leave the water. If he visited the preserve every week for a year, Dr. Curry estimates that 40 to 50 species would be present. The latest species flying, in November, was the small, reddish meadowhawk.

Dr. Curry will be giving a dragonfly program for ACRES in Summer 1999

ACRES IS ON THE WEB!

www.acres-land-trust.org

We're on-line! Thanks to the countless hours and tremendous efforts of ACRES Director Sean Carroll, who created our web-site. The site has a directory of the preserves, a virtual cyber-hike, and information about the ACRES Land Trust. Art Eberhardt was in charge of photographs and artwork. Dial in for a visit!



Wing Haven Eagle Scout Project



By Fred Wooley, Caretaker/Naturalist, Wing
Haven Nature Preserve

The big gas auger seemed buried for ever! "Uggghhh!", was the occasional sound of one of the five men, one woman, and the Eagle Scout to be, Rob Culver, as we tugged, twisted and talked to the post hole making machine. It spun its way deep into the Steuben County glacial till only to get hopelessly tangled in a combination of roots and rocks. We tried everything to loosen its grip and were about to admit defeat and hang a routed sign on it... and then explain to the equipment rental company that their auger is now a sign post at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. After more head scratching, tugging, and makeshift levers and fulcrums, the big machine finally rose from the earth and the project was soon completed. We laughed at our near-defeat. Rob Culver of Angola, his parents, Don and Connie Culver, and three friends of the family got together at the Wing Haven Nature preserve on this June 13 to put the finishing touches on this project over one year in the making.

The project included making and installing trail signs at 15 locations (some with multiple signs), 6 building signs, a new landing at the deck behind the studio/visitor center, and a new bench at the visitor center parking lot. The trail signs were hand-routed on 1 by 6 treated lumber and mounted on 4 by 4 posts with cropped tops. The project was done in fulfillment of the requirement for young Rob Culver to achieve the high rank of Eagle Scout. Rob is a member of Angola Boy Scout Troop 125, of the Pokagon District of the Anthony Wayne Council.

True to the Eagle Scout project spirit, the project was completely planned by Rob. In the planning and completion process, he involved eleven other people; some were other scouts and some were adults with expertise and experience in construction. The entire project was documented in writing and with photographs. There were a total of 179 person hours on the project, including 49 by Rob himself.

The total cost of the project was \$387. Of that, \$290 was donated by:

**The Bundy Corporation
Fremont Moose
Don and Connie Culver
Angola Lumber Company**

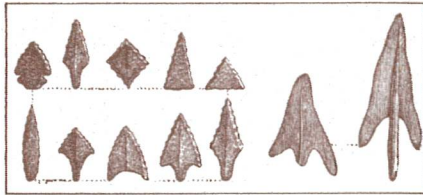
Thanks!

ACRES Land Trust thanks Rob Culver for his hard work and wonderful contribution to the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. It is a fine partnership that has evolved between ACRES and the Boy Scouts of America.

Field Trips & Special Events



Sunday, November 1.
Wing Haven Open House.
 (1 - 5 pm)
Special Event
Native Americans:
Archeology and Artifacts



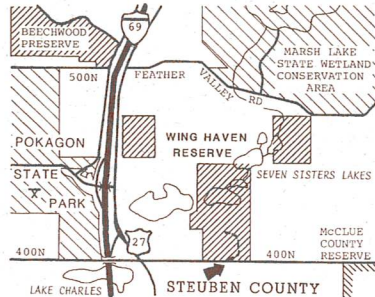
Jeannie Regan, Executive Director of the Forks of the Wabash, presents the fascinating Indian culture that surrounds all of us in northeast Indiana. Program will discuss where archeology digs are happening today, how to get involved, and the laws protecting sites. Jeannie will bring Indian artifacts and discuss their history. *You are welcome to bring Indian artifacts you have found and Jeannie will identify them or send you to someone who can.*

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154, turn south on SR 127, then immediately East onto 400 N.

Bring: Warm clothing, since program is in the Wing Haven Studio, heated by a wood stove.

Contact: ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004 for more information.



Friday, November 13th.
Annual Dinner and Meeting
 (see Page 2 for information)



Sunday, December 6th. Wing Haven Open House
 (1 - 5 pm)
Special Event: Old Fashioned Christmas Sing-A-Long

Musicians will lead in your favorite Christmas songs around the crackling wood-stove. This is the 3rd year for this popular holiday event! Hot cider and cookies will be served! Join the fun.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154, turn south on SR 127, then immediately East onto 400 N.

Bring: Warm clothing, since program is in the Wing Haven Studio, heated by a wood stove.

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



Field Trips & Special Events



Friday, January 22.
Indiana's Orchids: Twayblade to Lady's Slipper

Michael Homoya, Botanist and Plant Ecologist for 17 years with the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, has superb slides of Indiana's 42 species of orchids. Mike will introduce the orchids' habitats, blooming time, and botany in a 45 minute slide program.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: ACRES Office, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne. The ACRES Office is located at the YWCA complex, Building 4, upstairs.

*Special Note: Michael will be signing his book, **Orchids of Indiana**, after the program. ACRES will have his books for sale.*



Thanks to All Members Who Renewed!!!



In Memory

Arnold Rempert
 Patricia McNagyn

Bertha Grable
 Patricia McNagyn

Vincent S. Cook
 Tom and Jane Dustin

Tennis and Mary Mahoney
 Tom and Jane Dustin
 Else and Art Matott
 James and Patricia Barrett
 Mary Anna Entwisle



Photograph by Carl Deimling

KEEPING LAKES NATURALLY HEALTHY



by Kristine E. Bredemeier, ACRES Intern and senior at School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

Many dream of a lake with cool, crystal clear water where all they have to do is stick a leaf

worm on a hook and reel in a 15" bass. Dreams such as these are not a reality in most Indiana lakes. More likely, the scenario would be: silty, brownish-green water where all they reel in is a weed. Many lakes are struggling with a problem known as cultural eutrophication. Eutrophication is a natural process in which, over hundreds or thousands of years, a lake disappears by filling in with soil, dead flora and fauna, and other materials. Human processes such as using detergents, fertilizers, and septic systems, raising livestock, and creating waves with boat motors cause a lake to undergo this process in a matter of decades as opposed to centuries.

A lake is a complex mix of physical, chemical, and biological processes. Figures 1 and 2 portray some of the processes that result in the summer eutrophication of a lake. The first process is thermal stratification (Figure 1). As a lake warms in summer, the colder, denser water falls to the bottom of the lake and the warmer rises. Due to the density differences between temperature layers, water does not mix between layers. Consequently, any chemicals dissolved in the top layer or epilimnion will not reach the bottom layer or hypolimnion until the fall when the water cools enough to mix. This does not create a problem unless the bottom layer runs out of a nutrient crucial to the existence of the species living there.

Figure 1

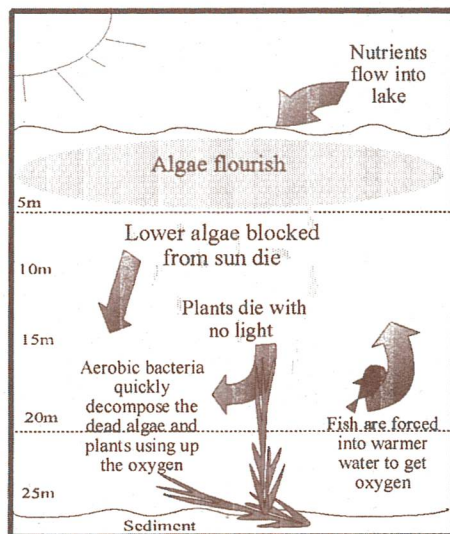
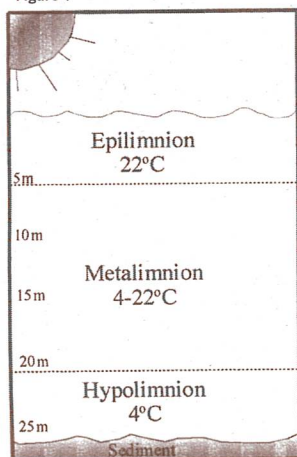


Figure 2

Eutrophication of a lake causes the hypolimnion of the lake to lose oxygen.

Suppose that a lake is by a golf course (Figure 2). The golf course owner applies fertilizer to keep the greens green. Unfortunately, the same fertilizer that makes the course green, also makes the lake green. The nitrogen and phosphorus in the fertilizer is the key nutrient in the propagation of phytoplankton (plant algae) and macrophytes (aquatic weeds). They flourish. Fishermen are delighted by this because the increased vegetation increases the food for fish. Swimmers and boaters may not be so happy with the unpleasant odors, colors, and the tangled weeds of the water. Soon, the algae, mainly the cyanophytes or blue-green algae, gain the upper-hand in the system. The algae will form a thick layer in the epilimnion. Light will not be able to reach the phytoplankton and macrophytes below and these plants will die. Excess sedimentation due to motors could also cause this light reduction through erosion caused by wave action. Aerobic bacteria in the metalimnion and hypolimnion quickly decompose the dead plants. As more and more plants die, more and more



oxygen is consumed. Eventually, the hypolimnion is completely devoid of oxygen. Without oxygen, fish are forced out of the lower reaches of the lake. This could make them more susceptible to predation or high temperatures in which they are unsuited. The classic Indiana example of this problem is the cisco. This silvery-white relative to the salmon has vanished from many lakes in which it was once plentiful due to a need for cold water.

There are many simple things that lake residents can do to reduce the flow of nitrate and phosphate chemicals into their lakes. The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) outlined preventive measures in its booklet *Your Lake & You* by Karen E. Vigmostad. The first measure is to conserve water inside and outside of one's lake house. Taking shorter showers or turning off the water while lathering helps. Installing water saving devices in toilets and faucets will also decrease water consumption. Only half of household water consumption is inside the house. The other 50% is used outside where it has more direct access to the lake. Lawn watering accounts for most of this water usage. Use water-conserving sprinkling methods and avoid washing cars in an area where the water will drain into the lake. Use only phosphate-free, biodegradable detergents.

Septic systems also have an impact on lakes. There are two parts to a septic system. Solids settle in a tank and then the liquids flow through a drain field where microbes decompose the wastes and the soil absorbs the nutrients that cause eutrophication. It is important that this discharge is frequently monitored to ensure the efficiency of the nutrient

removal. There are state regulations and zoning laws as to how far a drain field must be from the lake. NALMS recommends installing the drain field at least 100 feet away from the lake.

Cultural eutrophication can also be prevented by shoreline management of erosion and run-off. Buffer strips and wetlands absorb fertilizers and other nutrients before they enter the lake. NALMS suggests leaving a 20-30 foot natural, unmowed, vegetative strip along the bank. Silt from erosion blocks light in much the same manner that the algae does. Sea walls actually accelerate erosion by amplifying the wave energy that causes erosion. Rocky or vegetative shorelines are better than seawalls because they absorb the energy.

The decomposition of plant matter reduces the lake's oxygen content in the same way that the dead aquatic vegetation does. Do not dump yard wastes into the lake. Composting reduces the need for fertilizers. A mulching lawn mower quickly returns the nutrients to the yard while composting creates nutrient rich soil that can be reused.

The rate of eutrophication in a lake can never be stopped, but it can be lowered to a natural level. A few small changes in lifestyle can increase the life of our lakes significantly. Do your part to protect our northeastern Indiana lake heritage.

NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5543
Madison, WI 53705
E-Mail: nalms@nalms.org
Homepage: <http://www.nalms.org/>

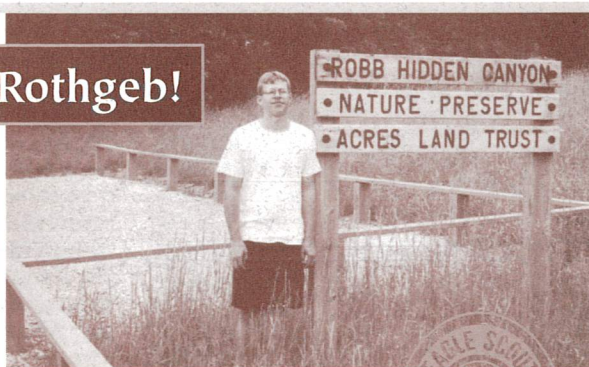
Your Midwestern Lake Organizations Suggest:

- Don't feed your lake: reduce or eliminate lawn fertilizers.
- Leave or create at least a 20 to 30 foot buffer strip at the edge of your lake.
- Maintain your septic system.
- Maintain emergent plants at your water's edge.
- Don't dump lawn clippings or other waste in your lake or near the shoreline- compost instead.
- Control shoreline erosion.
- Check your boat and bait bucket so you don't bring zebra mussels to your lake.
- Learn and observe water laws & regulations.
- Use natural stone to protect the shoreline.
- Respect the property of others.
- Maintain a 10 mph speed limit on small lakes.

Thanks, Kevin Rothgeb!

Making a Difference at Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve

Kevin Rothgeb and Troop 27 Bethany United Methodist Church, built an excellent fence for the parking area at Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve. Kevin designed the fence and organized his troop to complete the project in one day. Troop 27's Scout Leader, Jim Neill, has been involved with Boy Scout projects at other ACRES preserves.



Paddle, Pack, Push and Pedal: The Kekionga Voyageurs

After many adventures and happy times, the Kekionga Voyageurs are hanging up their paddles. Founded in 1965, the outdoor group was formed to canoe, and then branched out into backpacking, cross-country skiing and biking. Heinz Wahl was their first president and recognized that paddling "is much like life - it just ain't always an easy downhill course". This was said after a trip to Sugar Creek in the 1960's, where the group overshot the takeout and had to paddle determinedly upstream against a 6 mph current.



Named for the Kekionga (which means "the Berry Patch") Indian Tribe, the Voyageurs gave a generous donation to the Fawn River Nature Preserve. Doug and Irene Lewis, Art and Else Matott, Bob and Bert Tindall, Juliette Spears, Henry and Carolyn Ford, and Tam and John Vogel are some of the members of ACRES and Kekionga Voyageurs.

Happy trails and thank you!

Honoring the Memory of Molly Mackel



Molly Mackel

Molly Mackel was a supporter and driving force behind the creation of Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Dr. Mackel, her husband, provided ACRES with one of her favorite quotes:

"When I can care for the sunlight on the river enough to imagine that it will be there without me, when I have faith in its being there, then my self rests in a world beyond itself and I am no longer afraid to die. When I can see the faces of those I love smiling after I am gone, then I can take pleasure in being here. But I do not have to be here; my pleasure is knowing I can let go."



Jeffrey and Diane Arvin and Family
Mary Kay Aust and Family
Dr. James and Mrs. Lynn Babcock
William and Marsha Baltes
James and Patricia Barrett
Randall and Cindy Barron
David and Jane Bowers
Edie Campbell
Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Margaret Coats
Jerald and Alexandra Cooper
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Cumiskey
Al, Sue and Tim Diefenbach
Denise K. Doctor
Tom and Jane Dustin
Eric and Georgia Elam
Mary Anna Entwisle
Daniel and Evelyn Gallagher
John R. Giant
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Randy and Carol Roberts
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Dr. August and Mrs. Delores Tomusk
Dr. and Mrs. J. Phillip Tyndall
David and Faith VanGilder
William and Nancy Vonderau
Rosanne Wuthrich

Bethel 508 Class of Trinity English Lutheran Church
Cedar Creek Wildlife Project
Exporior Corporation
Fort Wayne National Bank
Medical Group of Fort Wayne
Oxford Financial Advisors Corporation

The Back Page...

by Jeff Britton, Guest Writer

It was chilly this Saturday morning. Cold actually, so we built a fire in the fireplace.

During the day I noticed the squirrels dashing around with stuff in their cheeks. How long had they been doing that? I saw flocks of birds hanging around on phone lines? Frogs were looking taut and thin. I slapped at a fly and actually hit it. Yup! Stuff was slowing down. Had things really progressed so far without my noticing? Heck! I was still getting ready for Summer. Did I even have a vacation yet?

While my unreadiness doesn't pose the same trouble it would have if I was a bird or a squirrel or a frog about to sleep deep in the mud, oddly enough - even with the fireplace roaring, I still found myself a little panicky. What was this ominous feeling that lasted all day? Then it hit me. I got into the car and drove down the street to the little farm market.



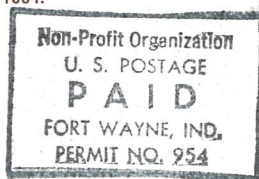
When I returned home, I sat in the back overlooking the pond not wanting anything to distract me. I dug into the half a peck of crisp Cortland apples, rubbed it on my jeans and bit into one. The juice was uncon-

trollable. It splashed up onto my nose. The inside of my mouth puckered with a tangy, yeasty, sweetness. With one bite, I remembered picking apples in Michigan, and the Bintz cider press, and old wormy apples from the wild orchard in Kawkawlin, and stealing apples from the old crabby guy down the road who once caught Lee Wentworth, who promptly wet his pants out of fright.

Knowing my childhood was still intact I went back into the house, confident that I would make it through this winter just fine. I guess that's what was really bothering me. You can't face winter without the strength, wonder and curiosity of a 12 year-old in your heart. And all it takes to find out, is one really good apple.

The ACRES Quarterly welcomes letters, poetry, articles, artwork, photographs 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 46808-2474. Deadline for Winter issue is December 1, 1998. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004.

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



DIRECTORS: David Gall, President; James D. Haddock, VP; Ted Heemstra, VP; Robert C. Weber, VP; David VanGilder, Secretary; Richard E. Walker, Treasurer; Mary Anna Entwisle, Membership Secretary; Tony Acosta, Sean Carroll, Greg Craghead, David Deimling, Jane Dustin, Arthur Eberhardt, Don McCormack, David J. Miller, Janel A. Rogers, Dennis Schoff, Sam Schwartz. **STAFF:** Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director. **NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD:** Lynton K. Caldwell, Frank Kirschner, Alton Lindsey, Howard Michaud, M. Graham Netting, Richard H. Pough. **ACRES QUARTERLY:** 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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