

QUARTERLY

Spring 1999

Volume 38—Number 2

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WING HAVEN ADDITION

Dear ACRES Members,

In 1998, we were successful, thanks to our Members, the Indiana Heritage Trust Program, the Kent Family Trust, Art and Anna Mae Parry, Art and Marion Eberhardt and The Nature Conservancy, in acquiring 36 acres as an addition to Wing Haven. Happily, ACRES has the opportunity to purchase 68 acres in 1999 as a second addition to Wing Haven. The property will cost \$192,000 and your support will be crucial in determining whether we will again be successful.

White Water Lily by Bill Krebs

Wing Haven harbors the Seven Sister lakes, which is one of the most ecologically significant ecosystems in the state. **Fringed gentians, sandhill cranes, cisco, marsh wrens...the list of plants and animals** that will benefit from our efforts is in the hundreds. There is so much to save - your gift will last forever!

Carolyn McNaghy, Executive Director

Birdathon 1999

Cheer on our Birdathon Team for 1999! Your support will benefit the 68-acre Wing Haven addition. Please fill out the enclosed Birdathon Pledge form and encourage our team of Fred Wooley, Maria Daly, Evie Kirkwood, and Ginger Murphy to top last year's record of 110 bird species counted!



Least Bittern
by James M. Richards

Welcome NEW Members!

Donna Boeglin
William and Lynne Bogardus
Konita Dolde
Dwight and Oxana Fish
Paul C. Fish
Rob Fosnaugh
Kevin and Melanie Gearhart
Mary K. Gynn
Myron L. Johnson
Sharlene Krause
Robert S. Langdon
Steve and Marilyn Newman
Chet, Julie and Katherine Nunan
Adam and Sonia Perillo
Peg and Ray Scott
Kevin R. Strong and Family
Richard and Jo Wolf
Chris and Erica Worrell
Nancy Wright
Howard and Virginia Zimmerman

Tributes

Sam Schwartz

The Parkview Laboratory Staff gave donations to Fawn River Nature Preserve and Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary to thank Sam for his many kindnesses.

Steve and Beth Hague
Vicki Niblick
Delaine Stump
Deb Fair

Jill Benninghoff
Laura Nellum
Nancy Wright
Cheryl Cook
Katie Ruprecht
Tracy Gustin
Alia Tomeh
Lisa Coley
Kathy Hart
Diane Whitlock

Arthur Hammer
David and Sharon
Smith

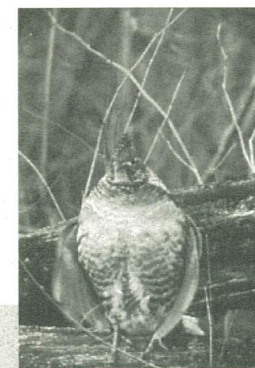
David Cordray
From his wife
Debra Noell

Ralph Thiele
Jean B. Stevenson

Rejoin!



We're drumming up support for ACRES! Help us feather our nest so we can protect our woods, wetlands, and wildlife. Indiana is too beautiful and diverse to abandon our endangered natural areas.



Our gratitude to those who give at the Share-the-Expense, Patron or Benefactor levels.



*Mary Anna Entwisle,
Membership
Secretary*

Drumming
Ruffed Grouse
by William Krebs
(See article
on page 10)

*Thank you to the
Bluffton Garden Club
for their strong support
of ACRES!*

LOOKING FOR AMPHIBIANS IN ACRES PRESERVES

Mary Linton
Biology Professor, Goshen College

Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, both in number of individuals and numbers of species.

In Northern Indiana that decline is largely due to loss of good amphibian habitat to urban and agricultural development. Since ACRES has preserved some of the remaining breeding ponds and forests and grasslands that amphibians use when not breeding, I asked to survey the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest and the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve for breeding amphibians.

On the first warm, rainy night in April 1998, my student assistant and I hiked to the east end of the Spurgeon Reserve to listen to the calls of any frogs and toads taking advantage of the fine amphibian weather to seek mates. In the small woodland ponds on the south side of the reserve we heard many spring peeper *Pseudacris crucifer comcifer* and western chorus frog *Pseudacris triseriata triseriata* males singing lustily. These two species are the first to appear in the spring and the cold weather had not deterred their emergence from hibernation. As we continued on to the swamp, which crosses the Reserve's boundary on the northeast end, we found spring peepers and western chorus frogs again,

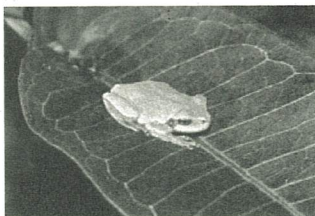


Bullfrog by Bill Krebs

but most of them were singing in the part of the swamp which is off the property. Three weeks later, we night-hiked the Spurgeon Reserve again and the peepers were still calling a bit in the small woodland ponds. In the larger swamp, the eastern gray tree frog *Hyla versicolor* and the green frog *Rana clamitans* joined the peepers. By our June hike, the small woodland pools were silent, but the eastern gray tree frog and green frog were still seeking mates.

On the same nights, we surveyed the Bender Forest, particularly the connected temporary ponds and spring-fed swamp. We heard the same amphibians singing there, as well as a Great Horned Owl and a chorus of fox yips. I look forward to the new trail markers in Bender Forest since I got lost every night I hiked there. But maybe I should thank the current trail system for the chance to hear the foxes.

I do thank ACRES and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Non-Game Fund) for the opportunity to listen in the Spurgeon and Bender Preserves. My work continues this spring - teaching new assistants to appreciate temporary ponds and swamps for their rich communities.



Green Tree Frog by Bill Krebs

Robb Hidden Canyon Eagle Scout Project

Mark Scott, Troop 354, started his Eagle Project for Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve in the snow on March 13th. The Troop used a toboggan to carry the lumber for the project to the ravine.

Over the next 4 weekends, Mark and Troop 354 completed an excellent project of a tulip log bridge and 30 feet of stairs. The Troop split into two groups with the younger scouts creating a trail system and the older, more experienced scouts building the bridge and stairs.

Our grateful thanks to Mark Scott, his father Mike, Scout Master Mike Becker, who donated the lumber for the stairs, and Troop 354! Along with Kyle Cyr's project of last fall, the trail system for Robb Hidden Canyon is (almost) complete and is one of ACRES' best.

Mark Scott, Eagle Scout
Mike and Michelle Scott
Mike Becker, Scout Master
Patrick Becker
Mike Bgrendal
Chad Cole
Loren Cole
Bryan Cordes
Dan Finkal
Steven Fox
Brad Friburger
Brett Herrington

Ray Jones
Steve Leonard
Brandon Lipkons
Dan Ritmeyer
Dusti Siefer
James Spencer
Mike Vischon
Mike Walker



Photographs
by Mike Scott



Mark Scott-New Eagle Scout

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Dogwood by
Bill Krebs



Saturday, May 1st — May Day Stroll

The ravines at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve are a carpet of wildflowers and shouldn't be missed! Else Matott, Naturalist and Artist, will identify the colorful spring flowers at one of ACRES' finest preserves.

When: 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve, Noble County. Take SR 6 west of Kendallville to 600 W, turn north on 600 W and preserve is located between 900 N and 1000 N.

Bring: Picnic lunch [if you would like to hike the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest in the early afternoon] and walking shoes.

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



Sunday, May 2nd — Wing Haven Open House (1-5 p.m.)

Special Event: Hearthstone Hoedown

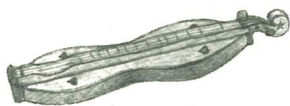
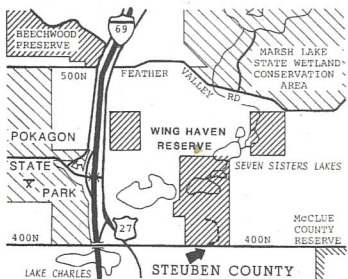
Hearthstone, a group of eight musicians and singers, will treat you to a concert of early folk music. Hear tunes that Indiana's settlers played in the 1800's, including humorous ballads and nonsense songs. If you can carry a tune, and even if you can't, you are

welcome to sing along! Hearthstone is part of the Settlers organization, which promotes and teaches Early American crafts and traditions. On May 7th, Settlers will host their annual Swinney Homestead Herb Sale in Fort Wayne. Call Lea Woodrum of Settlers at (219) 489-7115 for more information.

When: 2:00 (45-minute concert)

Where: Wing Haven, Steuben County. Refreshments served. You are encouraged to hike the trails at Wing Haven to see hillsides of Large-flowered Trillium in bloom!

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



Saturday, May 8th — Limberlost Work Day

The Limberlost Swamp once covered 13,000 acres of Jay and Adams Counties. Made famous by the author, Gene Stratton-Porter, the swamp was drained around the turn of the century. Today, a bit of the great swamp is back. The 466-acre Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve, acquired in 1997, is being planted into native grasses. We will remove heads from Canadian thistle, pull garlic mustard, build boardwalks and set a trail.

When: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Where: Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve, Jay County. Take SR 27 south of Geneva to SR 18, turn west on SR 18 and drive 3 miles to 250 W, turn north and go 1/2 mile.

Bring: Sack lunch. Wear work boots, long pants, and bring thick gloves. Clippers, hammers and saws will be needed.

Contact: Ken Brunswick, Director, Limberlost Swamp Remembered at (219) 997-6494 or Carolyn McNaghy, Executive Director, ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004.



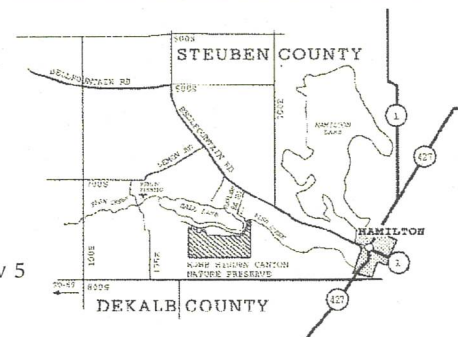
FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Sunday, May 9th Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve Hike.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 354 have done excellent work on the new trail system! Eagle Scouts, Kyle Cyr and Mark Scott, spent many weekends building a stair system. Kevin Rothgeb, Troop 27, created a wooden fence for the parking area. In the spring of 1997, we saw 5 Scarlet Tanagers, in vivid red and black, along with a wonderful variety of migrating warblers.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Take SR 427 or SR 1 to Hamilton, go west on Bellfountain Road to Ball Lake Road 201. Preserve located next to Ball Lake. **Bring:** Binoculars and hiking boots. **Contact:** ACRES Land Trust at (219) 422-1004 for more information.



Fiddleheads
by Bill Krebs



Sunday, May 16th — NEW PRESERVE! Celebration at Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary!

We are proud to present a lovely new preserve along Little Cedar Creek in Allen County. Mark your calendars for a day of fun with wildflower hikes, folk music, and food. We will also hike the James M. and Patricia D. Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve, which adjoins the Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

When: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Allen County. Take Coldwater Road approximately 8 miles north of Dupont, turn west on Fitch Road. Go about 1 mile to Sunlight Lane and preserve is at the end of Sunlight Lane.

Bring: Hiking boots and camera.

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



Sunday, June 6th Bill Krebs: Nature Photographer

Join us for a relaxing afternoon at the Wing Haven Studio. Fred Wooley, Naturalist at Pokagon State Park and Caretaker at Wing Haven Nature Preserve, will present a 1-hour slide program of Bill Krebs' excellent nature photography. We will have note cards and several of Mr. Krebs' photographs for sale to benefit the new 68-acre Wing Haven addition.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven, Steuben County. Take I-69 north of Exit 154 (Pokagon State Park exit), turn south on SR 127 and then take an immediate left onto 400 N. Wing Haven is located on 400 N.

Contact: ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004



Trout Lily
by Bill Krebs

Sunday, July 4th. No open house at Wing Haven due to the Holiday. Have a Happy 4th of July!

IDNR Division of Nature Preserves

1999 Field Trips

Join the Division of Nature Preserves, rain or shine,
for hikes that will be led by DNR staff.

Potawatomi Nature Preserve
(in Pokagon State Park)
and McClue Nature Preserve-Steuben County
Saturday, May 22nd, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hike Leaders: Fred Wooley and Rich Dunbar

Pokagon is a diverse park with beautiful woods and wetlands. A few years ago the woodlands were seriously damaged by deer. After several special deer hunts, the woodlands are recovering. We will go behind the scenes to see an area where deer were excluded by a fence, which dramatically shows the changes deer caused in the park. Then we will take a walk to see signs of the park's recovery. We will view Lake Lonidaw and the surrounding high quality fens, floating wetlands, and marsh. We will car pool to McClue Nature Preserve, where we will enjoy an abundant wildflower display in a beautiful wooded area undamaged by deer.

Meeting Site: Toboggan Slide parking lot at Pokagon State Park.

Park Entrance Fee: \$2.00 (\$5.00 for out-of-state vehicles).

Birds of Beaver Lake and Conrad Savanna Nature Preserves
Newton County

Saturday, June 5th, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Hike Leaders: Cloyce Hedge, Roger Hedge, and Tom Post

Beaver Lake is a 640-acre nature preserve administered by the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. One of Indiana's largest "landscape prairies", this site has long been a popular destination for birders. Also known as the "Prairie Chicken Refuge", Beaver Lake no longer has prairie chickens, but several grassland birds still breed here. Among the species we hope to see are dickcissel, upland sandpiper, blue grosbeak, Bell's vireo, and Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows. We will also caravan to nearby Conrad Savanna where over 300 acres of oak savanna are protected. Birdlife here includes red-headed woodpecker, lark sparrow, and summer tanager.

Meeting Site: Go 3 miles north of Enos on US 41, then east 1 mile on CR 400 N, and north 1 mile on CR 200 W. Park along the east side of the road next to Beaver Lake Nature Preserve.



For directions or more information, call Division of Nature Preserves: 317-232-4052;
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W267, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

No reservation is required and hikes go rain or shine. The guided hikes are free and open to the public and intended to showcase some of the least known IDNR Preserves.



The Search for a Rare Orchid

Quiet Beauty: Small Whorled Pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*

Interview with Michael A. Homoya,
Author of *Orchids of Indiana*

In presettlement times and for much of the nineteenth century, orchids were evidently common in Indiana, presenting little need to espouse their conservation. An 1880 price list of native plants sold by W. C. Steele of LaPorte illustrates this well. His list includes thirteen species of orchids for sale, many for as little as one penny each. They were offered in increments of one dozen, 100, or 1,000! And all were collected within ten miles of his home!

Today, forty-three species of orchids grace Indiana's woods, bogs and fens, from the dainty coral-root to the substantial, 2-foot yellow lady's-slipper. Four (4) species have been expirated from the state (not present for at least 15 years) and 16 species are threatened, rare, and endangered.

Perhaps the most challenging genus to find is *Isotria*, which consists of only two species: *I. verticillata* and *I. medeoloides*. To find and see the flowers of *Isotria* is no easy task, for in addition to the over all rarity of the species, only a small percentage of a population blooms in any given year. In some years, a population, which may be as dense as 60 stems per square meter, may have no blooms at all. Thus, even knowledge of an exact location of this uncommon orchid provides no guarantee that a visit during the appropriate blooming time (May-June) will yield a view of the flower.

The Small Whorled Pogonia is listed as federally threatened with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Populations of the orchid were found at 5 sites in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri. Plants no longer exist at 4 of those sites. The Illinois population was a cluster of orchids in a remote area, which was studied for 15 years, and the last Small Whorled Pogonia quietly disappeared.

The genus *Isotria* is characterized by the whorled arrangement of its 5-6 leaves



positioned atop a herbaceous stem. This characteristic is apparently unique among orchis, yet the name *Isotria* does not reflect this...*Isotria* is from *isos*, for "equal", and *tria*, for "three," in reference to the orchid's three sepals of equal length. The flowers are yellowish-green.

Michael said the Small Whorled Pogonia is a challenging orchid to find, because "it's all green for one thing." The 4-6" Small Whorled Pogonia is distinctly different from the Large Whorled Pogonia by the length of the sepals. The sepals of the Large remembers a spider, with the Small having sepals that are the same length as the flower. Strongly believing that the Small Whorled Pogonia is present in Indiana, Michael says it is a woodland, shade-loving orchid.

Michael is challenging the ACRES Members to look for the Small Whorled Pogonia. He feels the orchid would be extremely rare, but "it is very, very possible" that it could be located in Indiana. If an ACRES Member finds the orchid, they will receive a signed copy of Michael's *Orchids of Indiana* book and the admiration of the rest of us.

Orchids of Indiana by Michael A. Homoya
is for sale at the ACRES office.
Call (219) 422-1004 to order.

Bill Krebs: Nature Photographer



Woodcock

ACRES has received a gift of hundreds of nature slides from Jean Krebs. Her husband, Bill, passed away in 1990 and she wanted his excellent slides to be seen by the public.

For 15 years, Bill devoted his spare time to photography.

Spending hours waiting for the perfect light or for the best pose, Bill would be in the field from dawn to dusk. His stepson, Robert Stroman, remembers his father waiting hours for the light to illuminate a shot in the way he wanted. Jean said the majority of photographs were taken in Michigan, where they frequently camped. Bill kept a file on when and where the different species of wildflowers would bloom. The Ruffed Grouse photographs [page 3] were taken from his car window at the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife area.

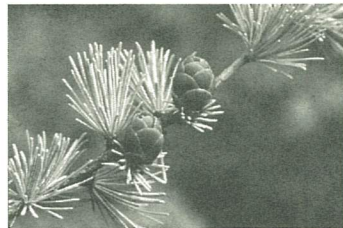
Bill's photographs were published in several magazines, including *Outdoor Indiana* and *The Conservation Handbook of the World Wildlife Fund*. Nancy Malis, ACRES Volunteer, has spend scores of hours sorting, identifying, and labeling the slides.

Our sincere thanks to Jean Krebs for her generosity in sharing this beautiful testimonial to Bill's love of nature.

On Sunday, June 6th, ACRES presents a slide program on Bill Krebs' nature photography (See page 7).



Mycena sp.



Tamarack

Recreated Buffalo Wallow at Bibler Preserve

In the 15th century some 60 million buffalo grazed from the Atlantic west to the Rocky Mountains. Northern Indiana had pockets of prairie, and the Buffalo migrated through the state in huge rumbling herds. Buffalo would create large saucer-like depressions where they rolled, dust-bathing to relieve itching and ridding their coats of insects.

Destruction of the buffalo began in 1830 and by 1900 fewer than a 1,000 remained.

Sam Bibler, donor of the Bibler Nature Preserve, had a buffalo wallow recreated at the preserve in Jay County. An impressive tribute to an impressive animal.



Bibler Boulder surrounded by Buffalo Wallow by Ralph May

In Memory

Joseph Schindler
Thomas K. Hurst

Betty Smith
Anita and Jack Dierkes

Dr. Jack Eisaman
Patricia A. McNagny
Dr. Jack Eisaman, a long-time summer resident at Whitley County's Crooked Lake, generously supported the 100-acre Crooked Lake Nature Preserve acquisition in 1979.

Philip Hampson
Scott A. Miller

Janet Latz
Tom and Jane Dustin
Patricia A. McNagny

Jewel Laperruque
Patricia A. McNagny

Dr. Floyd Coleman
Karen and Bob Griggs

Ruth Gearhart
Louis and Sharon Bunnell
Leslie and John Wilson

Gretchen Yoder
ACRES Board of Directors and Staff

Thank you Home and Garden Show volunteers!

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Dale and Joyce Joy
Doug and Irene Lewis
Raine MacPhail
Don McCormack
Nancy Malis
Warren Mead
Pamela Orcutt
Everitt Padgitt
David and Sharon Smith
Dick and Kathleen Sorg



Special Thanks!

Douglas R. Rood
for creating maps for ACRES nature preserves! Douglas researches the areas for accuracy.

Tony Parks
for watching over the Tel-Hy Nature Preserve as Steward.

Dave Gall
for handling the negotiations for the 68-acre Wing Haven addition.

Ralph May
for his stewardship at the Bibler Nature Preserve and Madison Township School Nature Preserve.

The Back Page...

By Jeff Britton



Last Fall I put down this 6 x 6 timber expecting to use it the next day. I got sort of busy OK? Five months later, I got back to it.

By this time a whole colony of critters had taken up residence beneath it. It was a virtual metropolis of bug life. Of particular interest to me as I rolled the log over was a red-backed salamander. I picked it up and held it in my hand to watch it closer. It was about 3 1/2 inches long with a terracotta stripe down it's back. Since it was early in the season, it was pretty sluggish. I wondered how long it would take for the heat of my hand to warm him up.

Since I love kids and I love teaching kids stuff, I called my nephew over to

show him. As it happened my lecture on territory, mating and lifecycle - which I thought of as brief - somehow shifted in time scale by the time it got to him. He thought it took an eternity.

What had minutes before been a sleepy amphibian, suddenly transformed into a slippery sprinter. He dashed between my fingers and down my sleeve. Trying not to crush him, yet prevent him from reaching my armpit - the most ticklish spot on my body - I slipped from modest middle-aged uncle to modern dancer. I pogo'd, I did the twist, I cha-cha-cha'd. Finally, the common red-backed salamander slid out my shirt and under a wet piece of bark. That is how a 1/4 oz salamander knocked over a creature (me) approximately 13,000 times its own weight.



Thanks to Lee Sauer, of Cartoons Caricatures, Angola, IN

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 46808-2474**. Deadline for Summer issue is **June 1, 1999**. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004

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

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