

QUARTERLY

Summer 1999

Volume 38—Number 3



*Large Moths of
the Night...see page 9*

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LITTLE CEDAR CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



New Preserve Opening and Dedication

ACRES had a day of celebration for the new 28-acre nature preserve. More than 100 people attended the two hour event to honor the Mackel family for their vital support. Thank you to Jerry and Molly Mackel and their children John, Erin and Jennifer. Sheltering a lovely woods along Little Cedar Creek, the preserve

increases the land protected in the Cedar Creek valley to 868 acres.

Pat and Jim Barrett brought armfuls of lilacs and John and Marcella Ellenwood carefully delivered the cakes.

Thanks to all who made this day memorable!



John Mackel, Jerry Mackel, Alfrieda and Fred Mackel, and Diane Mackel Arvin

Photographs by John Ellenwood



ACRES Annual Dinner & Guest Speaker

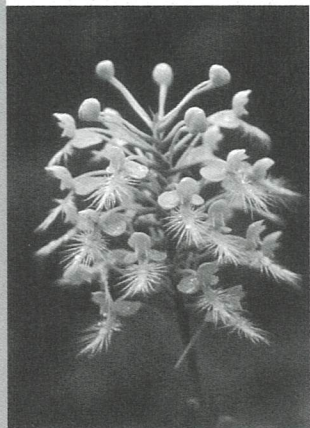
ORCHIDS OF INDIANA

Michael A. Homoya, author of *Orchids of Indiana*, will be speaking at ACRES 1999 Annual Dinner. Michael's beautifully photographed slides and scientifically fascinating talk on Indiana's 42 species of orchids makes for a memorable evening. A botanist with the IDNR since 1982, Michael devotes much of his time to searching for and monitoring endangered plants.

Mark your Calendars!

Concordia Seminary
November 12th, 1999

6:30 p.m. Dinner — 8:00 p.m. Program



Yellow Fringed Orchis

Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Felix Alexander
L. Bruce Ashe
Robert and Michelle Bandor
Tom and Judy Baumgartner
John and Beth Beams
Stan and Beth Beer
Cathi, Garry and Belinda Belcher
Jonathon and Valerie Brelje
Ella Burns
Carrie and Steve Chapman
John DeMarco
Hillary Evans
Leonard and Michelle Fenton
Michael and Debra Glasper
Steve and Beth Hague
Deb Hampshire
Terry and Judy Heck
Cindy Helmkamp
George and Sue Hiatt
Heather Hoffmann-Bedwell
James G. Jaeger

Dale and Joyce Joy
Jean Krebs
Shaun M. Moore
Kevin and Tammy O'Malley
George and Mary Morrison and Family
Helen Morse
Mark Newell
John Charles Nichter
Terry, Kathy and Melissa Pargmann
Calvin and Ruth Piepenbrink
Jack and Joan Richardson
Joel and Sara Robbins
Jean Sark
Bill and Mary Lou Shultz
Dean A. Slavens
Gary and Patricia Washington
Susie Watson

Girl Scout Troop 429
IDNR Division of Nature Preserves



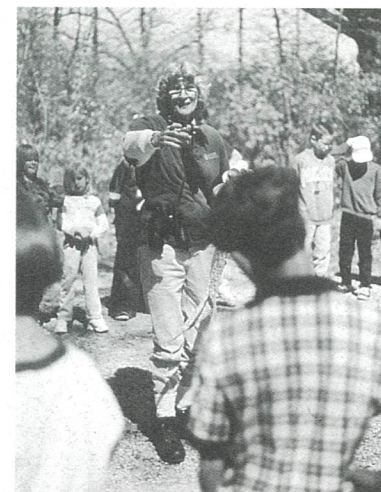
TRIBUTES

To Art and Marion Eberhardt
in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. From Susan C. Garber

To Danny C. Kaufman
in honor of his retirement from Fort Wayne Community Schools from his friends and co-workers. Gift will benefit the 68-acre addition to Wing Haven.

To Nancy Malis
with special thanks for letting Vera Bradley take photographs in her lush Lily-of-the-valley patch. From Sue Britton

To David Gall
for his time and expertise on the Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary real estate transaction. From Carolyn McNagny



Nancy Malis leading children in a game of "owl and mouse" at The Bicentennial Woods. For the last six years, Nancy has led hundreds of children on environmental education hikes.

WEB ADDRESS:
www.acres-land-trust-org
e-mail ADDRESS:
acres.lt@aol.com

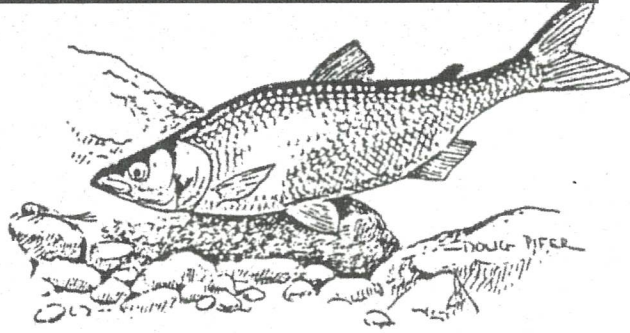
CISCO: Indiana's Natural Cold Water Fish

by Clint Litton

The enjoyment of nature can be achieved a number of different ways, but one particular path towards enlightenment is the pursuit of knowledge of the ecosystem around you. Indiana has a wonderfully diverse presence of animal species, many of which are commonly overlooked. But it is some of these very plants and animals that provide excellent insight into both positive and negative changes in the ecosystem that are taking place.

Take, for instance the cisco, a fish closely related to trout and salmon. Ciscoes have become so rare in the waters of northern Indiana that most people seem to have forgotten that they are still present. In 1955, ciscoes were a prominent species in 40 lakes in Indiana. Since then, numbers have dropped dramatically, leaving their presence in only 10 to 12 lakes in Indiana, including the Seven Sisters Lakes chain at **Wing Haven Nature Preserve**. The greatest population exists in Crooked Lake (next to the **Ralph F. Gates Nature Preserve**), which has been a focal point for studying the problems ciscoes have endured.

Similar to the living habits and conditions of trout, cisco require a stringent criteria of conditions for suitable living. Indiana's only natural cold-water fish, ciscoes dwell in the deeper layers of cold, clear water that sustain the high levels of oxygen vital for their survival. The water conditions required for their



successful spawning have been available, but the nests are threatened by predatory fish, affecting the eventual success of the cisco population.

Such predators as brown trout, which were first stocked in Crooked Lake in 1976 by the IDNR, are suspected of eating the cisco eggs and young. The IDNR has discontinued the stocking of brown trout, but still contends that the catastrophic event which plagued the ciscoes was a severe weather-related change that killed off approximately 90% of the cisco population in 1981. Biologists believe this die-off was due to suffocation caused by a lack of oxygen in the deeper waters. Now it is the predatory element, including native fish species such as bullheads and yellow perch, that are making any recovery of the cisco population such a difficult task.

Some attempts to assist the cisco population have been made through hatcheries and restocking. Ciscoes were introduced into Green Lake of Steuben County by IDNR 3 to 4 years ago, and have since showed signs of successful spawning and re-population. Other measures have been taken, such as the discontinuation of trout-stocking in most of the lakes where

cisco currently live. While problems in Indiana continue to threaten the existence of ciscoes in this area, they have been able to survive quite well in other areas such as Michigan and Canada.

They continue to struggle in Indiana lakes because the problem of keeping their environment suitable remains. The cisco habitat is being lost due to lake eutrophication, which has become accelerated in many areas from increasing land development, farming, algae blooms, and erosion. The sharp drop in cisco numbers is an indication that our ecosystem has been changing significantly, and may foreshadow the eventual fall of other plant and animal species if nothing is done to prevent further changes.

Lake and river enhancement groups have made steps towards this goal, informing people in lake areas that one of the most effective measures in achieving lake clarification is simply minimizing the impact we have on our surroundings. With a vast reduction in the ways we've been polluting the lakes with sediment and nutrients from farming and development since the 1960s, the lakes have naturally started



Crooked Lake by Bob Weber

to filter and clear up. Continuing this trend may provide some hope that the presence of ciscoes in our Indiana lakes can make a recovery. Success is dependent on our continued willingness and ability to clean up our lakes and streams.

For more information on ciscoes and what can be done to improve the lake quality of Indiana's lakes, contact the IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife at (219) 691-3181.

Thanks to: Jed Pearson, IDNR Biologist; Larry Koza, IDNR Assistant District Biologist, for their factual assistance on this article.

Clint Litton, Junior at Indiana University in Bloomington, is interning for ACRES this summer. He has been a great help.



At **The Bicentennial Woods**, Washington Center School's 3rd and 4th graders were guided on environmental education hikes by Nancy Malis and Carolyn McNagny. Jim Shearer, Debby Meade, and Raine MacPhail sacked red oak and persimmon seedlings to give to the children.

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Thursday, July 29th

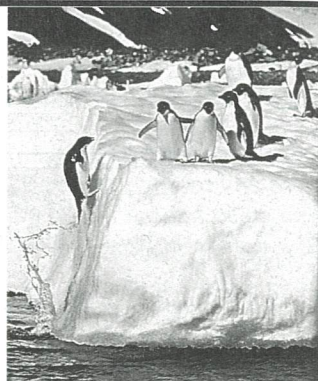
Ted's Excellent Adventure II.

Ted Heemstra, past president of ACRES, the Stockbridge (Fort Wayne) Audubon Society and the Indiana Audubon Society, will give a slide presentation of his trip to Antarctica. Be prepared for penguins.

When: 7:00 p.m.

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

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



Sunday, August 1st Children's Hike

Jeff "Wild Man" Britton returns for an encore children's hike. Jeff will bring giant pinecones, dinosaur bones, and a mystery guest. Find out what lives in swamp "muck" under a microscope. Learning can be fun and messy when presented by Jeff! Homemade ice cream will be served after the hike.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

Bring: Camera, bug spray and have children wear old pants with hiking shoes (no sandals).

Contact: ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004



Sunday, August 15th Colorful Wildflowers of Summer

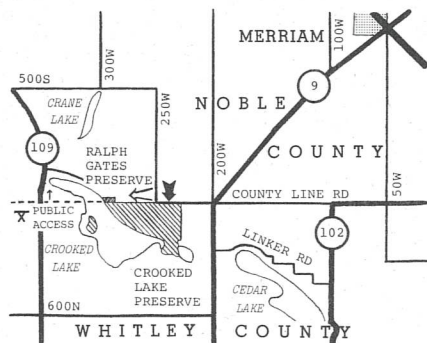
Grass-of-Parnassus, closed gentians, mallows, blue-eyed grasses, some of the unusual wildflowers gracing the sedge meadows of Crooked Lake Nature Preserve.

Gary Helmke, Naturalist, will lead a 1-hr. hike.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Crooked Lake Nature Preserve, Whitley County. Take SR 9 seven miles north of US 30. Turn west on County Line Road.

Contact: ACRES Office (219) 422-1004.



Turk's Cap Lily
by Lee Casebere

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Sunday, September 5th

What Ails the Quail?

Once a common sight in Indiana, Bobwhite Quail have become sparse. Bob Hettmansperger, Habitat Chairman

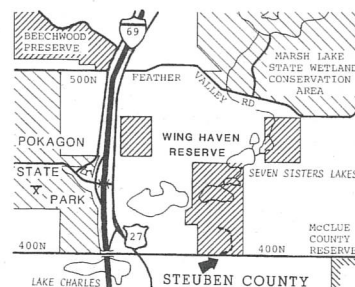
for Quail Unlimited, is one of many dedicated people restoring habitat for our besieged bobwhite populations.



When: 2:00 p.m. (30 minute slide program)

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, 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.



Saturday, September 25th Fawn River Canoe Trip

David Deimling, ACRES Director and experienced outdoorsman, will lead a canoe trip from the scenic town of Greenfield Mills to the 138-acre Fawn River Nature Preserve. We will stop to hike the preserve and then canoe on into Michigan.

When: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Greenfield Mills, LaGrange County. Take SR 120 west of I-69. Turn north on 1100 E and then west on 750 N. Park next to mill pond (which still has a working mill!) **IMPORTANT: You are responsible for your own canoe!** Please call the ACRES office if you would like a shuttle back to Greenfield Mills. There will be several portages. Canoe trip will be 2 1/2 hours and 4.2 miles.

Bring: Picnic lunch, and someone to paddle your canoe.

Contact: David Deimling, ACRES Director, at 627-5985.



Fawn River by Art Eberhardt



Sunday, October 3rd

Woodworking at Wing Haven

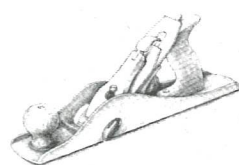
Learn woodworking techniques from Bob Coggaburr, master woodworker.

For eight years, Bob has been making curly maple and walnut lamps. He will show his technique to create these magnificent lamps.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

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

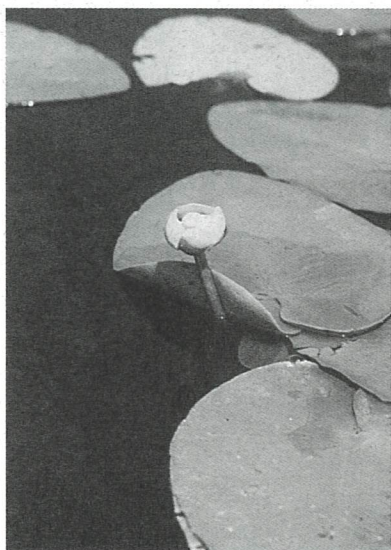


Water Lilies

One of the beautiful things about paddling a small craft through the water is observing the aquatic water life. Long-legged stemmed plants with floating flat leaves and beautiful floating flowers dance to and fro when the water is disturbed by the wind or paddle. These water lilies are widely distributed in the Eastern U.S. in the shallows of the lakes, ponds, and rivers. They grow from the bottom with a thick branching rootstock.

Several species inhabit Indiana lakes and ponds. The white water lily, the scented white water lily and the yellow water lily are the ones most sighted.

The white water lily, *Nuphor tuberosus*, delights boaters with large floating



Spatterdock by Bob Weber

leaves and white flowers that open in the July morning and then close near noon. These floating plants anchored by a long stem and root are an oasis for insects, frogs and snakes. Wildlife eats the seeds and rootstocks.

Especially admired is the scented white water lily, *Nymphaes adorata*. It differs from the white water lily with its notched floating rounded leaves that are reddish purple below and its fragrant

white flowers.



White Water Lily by Bob Weber

The yellow water lily, (cow lily or spat-dock)

Nuphor advena isn't so greatly admired. It grows near the white lily. Its stout rootstock and notched leaves are firmly rooted to the bottom of the lake and can clog waterways. The leaves can be erect, flat and floating or submerged in the water. The spat-dock has limited food value for wildlife.

There are other water lilies that live in the Eastern U.S. waters and can be observed with the yellow and white lilies. They are the water shield, little water lily, fanwort and lotus. All are very interesting with showy pink, yellow or white flowers and flat floating leaves.

Large Moths of the Night

Selected text from *Moths of the Limberlost* by Gene Stratton-Porter.



CECROPIA

In connection with Cecropia there came to me the most delightful experiences of my life. On a perfect night during the middle of May, all the world white with tree bloom, touched to radiance with brilliant moonlight, I placed a female Cecropia on the screen of my sleeping-room door and retired. Past midnight I was awakened by soft touches on the screen, faint pullings at the wire. I went to the door and found the porch, orchard, and night-sky alive with Cecropias holding high carnival. I had not supposed there were so many in all this world. From every direction they came floating like birds down the moonbeams. Repeatedly I counted close to a hundred, and then they would so confuse me by flight I could not be sure I was not numbering the same one twice. With eight males, some of them fine large moths, one superb, from which to choose, my female mated with an insistent, frowsy little scrub lacking two feet and having torn and ragged wings. I needed no surer proof that she had very dim vision.



LUNA

One morning there was a tap at my door, and when I opened it I found a tall, slender woman having big, soft brown eyes and a winning smile. In one hand she held a shoe-box, having many rough perforations. A smile sprang in answer to hers before I saw what she carried. For confession must be made that a perforated box is a passport to my good graces any day.

I lifted the lid slightly to take a peep, and then with a cry of joy, opened it wide. That particular shoebox had brought me an Actias Luna, newly emerged, and as yet unable to fly. I held down my finger, it climbed on, and was lift to the light.

"Ain't it the prettiest thing?" asked the woman, with stars sparkling in her dark eyes. "Did you ever see whiter white?"

Together we studied that moth. Clinging to my finger, the living creature was of such delicate beauty as to impoverish my stock of adjectives at the beginning. Its big, puffy body was covered with long, furry scales of the purest white imaginable. The wings were of an exquisite light green colour; the front pair having a heavy costa of light purple that reached across the back of the head: the back pair ended in long artistic "trailers," faintly edged with light yellow. The front wing had an oval transparent mark close to the costa, attached to it with a purple line, and the back had circles of the same. These decorations were bordered with lines of white, black, and red. At the bases of the wings were long, snowy, silken hairs; the legs were purple, and the antennae resembled small, tan coloured ferns.

The caterpillars of Luna greatly prefer oak leaves. Because the oak is of such slow growth it is seldom planted around residences for ornamental purposes; but is to be found most frequently in the forest. For this reason Luna as a rule is a moth of the deep wood, and so is seldom seen close to a residence making people believe it quite rare. Because it is of the forest, the brightest light there is to attract it is the glare of the moon as it is reflected on the face of a murky pool, or on the breast of the stream rippling its way through impassable thickets. There must be a self-satisfied smile on the face of the man in the moon, in whose honour these delicate creatures are named, when on fragile wing they hover above his mirrored reflection; for of all the beauties of a June night in the forest, these moths are most truly his.

BOB WEBER: A Lifelong Commitment to Nature

By Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director
Bob is one of the kindest and finest people I have known. In interviewing different people for this article, they all referred to Bob as a friend. Lee Casebere, Assistant Director to the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves and past ACRES Director, said "Bob is a gentleman and a modest man of class and character. I am proud to know him as a friend."



Bob Weber taking one of hundreds of slides for ACRES.
by John Ellenwood

A Biology and Botany teacher for 38 years at South Side High School, Bob inspired his students with his enthusiasm, high ideals, and his thorough knowledge of his subject matter. Jennifer Manth, Principal at South Side, said "the attribute which makes Bob so special in my mind is that he lives what he believes. He has a keen interest in people of all ages learning for the joy and pride of learning. He never does anything for the glory or reward involved. He does something because he believes they are right and noble. To me, Bob personifies the way all people should think of learning."

In 1960 Bob was one of the Founders of ACRES and thought of the name, which originally was Allen County Reserves. He has shown a deep and unwavering commitment to the organization through the years. Bob served as President from 1972 to 1981 and today benefits the organization as Vice President. He was Chairman of the Land Management Committee for 18 years and continues to be active in the Committee. John Ellenwood has worked side by side with Bob

managing the ACRES preserves and they have established numerous trail systems. It is difficult to stump Bob on the identification of plants and a common phrase on a hike with him includes "what's this?". "Bob has taught me almost everything I know about wild plants, says John, "and I wish he had been a Biology teacher at South Side High School when I was there."

When Ted Heemstra, ACRES president from 1982-1997, became involved with ACRES in the early 1970s, he worked under Bob's direction at the preserves. "He could find very difficult jobs for the volunteers, including carrying heavy concrete markers to the far end of the Edna W. Spurgeon Reserve", laughed Ted. "I felt that Bob's sincere efforts to improve the preserves for the public made our work as volunteers worthwhile."

Since the 1960s, Bob has been involved in one preservation effort after another, including Fox Island County Park, Forks of the Wabash, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Wing Haven, Limberlost Swamp Restoration, and many others in northeast Indiana. He has served as a Director of the Ropchan Foundation since 1977, a foundation dedicated to the establishment of nature preserves, and was a Founder of the Forks of the Wabash project.

Art Hammer, ACRES Benefactor, has taken Bob first to see the three properties that eventually Art donated to ACRES as preserves. When I called Art, he said "you can't expect me to say everything there is to say about Bob in a few minutes. Bob's been very helpful and he's been a good friend. I couldn't ask for anyone better!" Which sums up how so many of us feel.



SPECIAL THANKS!

John and Rosemary Rouch
for their careful watch of Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve, giving their time to keeping the trails ready for visitors and the preserve protected from harm.

Frannie Headings
for serving as Recording Secretary and keeping accurate and detailed minutes of the ACRES Board meetings.

Ethyl McClelland and David Homan
for their dedicated stewardship of Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. They mow the trails with a push mower and maintain one of the largest ACRES trail systems (2.5 miles!)



John Ellenwood (pictured left)
John, Land Management volunteer, has built more than 25 steel sign-in boxes for ACRES, including this one for **Acres Along the Wabash**. Creating them from his own design, John appreciated the donation of steel and machinery from the Tolkeheim Mold Shop. After lifting a wooden sign-in box's lid at **Fogwell Forest**, and being greeted by a bustling honeybee hive, I think the steel boxes are a wonderful improvement. [The honeybees were taken by a beekeeper to the Fox Island Nature Preserve.]
Thank-you, John!
Carolyn McNagny

In Memory

**Juanita A. Braungart
and Robert K. Braungart**

Bob was Art Matott's first cousin and flew 52 missions as a B-17 pilot in North Africa and Italy in WWII. Gift to the 68-acre Wing Haven addition.

Art and Else Matott

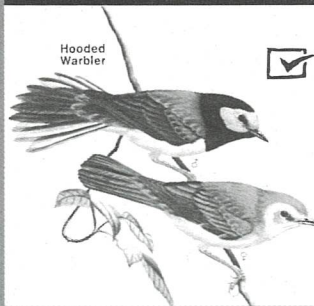
Jerry Reinking
Dale and Judy Zinn



Larry and Karlann Bieberich, Stewards for **Acres Along the Wabash**, have given many hours to improving their preserve.

Wildlife Watch

This column appears in the Quarterly from time to time, to highlight the birds or animals that are seen at the different ACRES nature preserves. Some hikers will send us their sightings and we'll print them here. The purpose is to introduce members to the wonderful variety of animals that the preserves shelter and protect.



✓ Jason Dohm saw at Vandolah Nature preserve:

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Black-throated Blue Warbler

Eastern Phoebe
Red-eyed Vireo
White-eyed Vireo
Veery
Wood Thrush
Warbling Vireo
Indigo Bunting



I'm looking over the recent pine cone collection one of our ACRES friends thoughtfully gave to us. They are fascinating, REALLY, all those incredibly different shapes: some pronged, some prickly, some ringed, some tiny, some gigantic. They don't look like each other, or anything else in the world, for that matter. Why do we collect such things? (we ask ourselves) Why do we even care? (ask some of our friends) And... how will you ever dust those? (asks my mother) Well.....I don't know!

On the other hand, why do so many folks

travel great distances to museums and galleries to see man-made creations? Because some of the stuff is, visually, also quite amazing! Great works of art are worth huge sums of money, while our newly-acquired pinecone collection is worth about 50 cents.

Still, I can't help thinking, that I have never seen an artist create anything so amazing as a simple pinecone. In fact, most people don't realize there are even more than one kind. Nature provides its own incredible art, if we take a look. I guess that just because it's free, doesn't make it worth less. That's the cool thing about nature preserves. They are God's free, living, museums, that everyone can appreciate. And, besides that, the show changes daily.

So, here we are, happily living in our own little pine cone museum. And...we never have to worry about installing a \$100,000 security system, or bidding at Sotheby's for new pine cone acquisitions.

Until Next Time... Susan Britton

Pine Cone Branch by Bill Krebs

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 fall issue is September 1, 1999. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004

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