

QUARTERLY

Winter—1999
Volume 38—Number 1

Bobcats. Back in Indiana!

...Story on page 4



Photograph by Kevin Schafer

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Dear ACRES Members,



Indiana is incredibly behind in the amount of land that is protected in our state. We preserve less than 1% of our high quality natural areas, compared to 6% for Ohio, 8% for

Michigan and 5% for Kentucky. In the Great Lakes states, Indiana has fallen behind the others in terms of the number of land trusts operating and the number of acres protected.

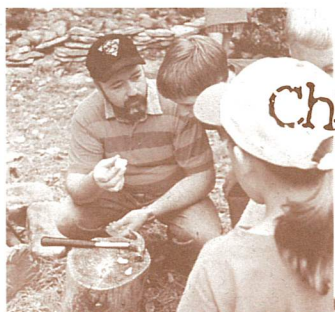
ACRES' mission is to protect natural areas for environmental education, scientific study and enjoyment. Thousands of people hike our nature preserves every year, in guided hikes or on their own. ACRES protects more than 700 acres in wetlands, which serve as excellent natural "water treatment" plants and greatly improves our drinking water. Our preserves provide sanctuary for Indiana's threatened plants and animals in diverse ecological areas, each deserving protection. If we are united in our goals as an organization we can accomplish anything. Let's turn this around!

Carolyn McNagly, Executive Director



Photographs by John Ellenwood

STATE	# OF LAND TRUSTS	ACRES PROTECTED
Illinois	31	43,384
Indiana	6	3,461
Michigan	38	46,929
Ohio	27	10,732
Wisconsin	43	15,117



Children's Hike...



Photographs by David Van Gilder

Jeff Britton led a children's hike at the Vandolah Nature Preserve last fall. One of the highlights was a "mystery" guest in a covered bucket. The children leaned forward to see who the guest was and a jabba-sized bullfrog leaped onto the lid. Quite a surprise to everyone!

Prairie Project Makes Progress!

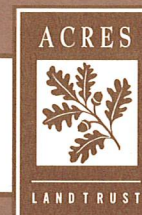
Now in its 5th year, the prairie demonstration plot is healthy and happy, as shown by the towering prairie grasses behind Fred Wooley. With seeds gathered from roadside plants within 10 miles of Wing Haven, Fred has brought back the tall-stemmed prairie that once occurred in the northern third of Indiana.



Photographs by John Ellenwood

Restoring a prairie took many hours of volunteer time, given by Boy Scout Troop 125 of Angola, Leroy Johnston, Bridgit Kaiser and Fred. Leroy and Bridgit spent days planting plugs of a variety of native plants. In summer, 7 foot tall big blue stem and Indian grass dominate the prairie with purple coneflower and yellow-flowering prairie dock contributing color.

ACRES Welcomes NEW Members!



Kathy Abraham
Eric, Linda, Sean, Evan and Annalise Anderson
Joe and Betty Andrews
Andrew and GERALYN Boyden
Kristy Bredemeier
Steve and Judy Clinton
John and Lucille Curran
Chris Dunn
Michael and Jacqueline Emberton
Clyde Ford
Cindy Lonergan and Karen Goldner
Ford W. Hudson
Charles and Jane Loomis
Mary McCormack
Allan Perry
Pamela Orcutt
Jim and Gail Rodenbeck
Tim Skiver
Eveline Smith
Greg Smith
Debra Stout
Laurence and Marianne Vandenberg
Patricia Watkinson
Rich Williams
Glaen and Sheryl Yordy
David and Pamela Van Zuilen

Tributes

Gift in honor of David Cordray
From his wife, Debra Noell Cordray

Happy 75th Birthday to
James M. Barrett III!
From Bob and Irene Walters



ACRES Land Trust
owns and manages 40
nature preserves in eleven
Indiana counties.
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474
(219) 422-1004 Phone/Fax
www.acres-land-trust-org

Bobcats, Back In Indiana!

By Kathy Quimbach, Information Specialist

For many years, bobcats have been viewed as mysterious creatures, rarely heard and even more rarely seen. A state endangered species since 1970, the bobcat has lived continuously in Indiana, a fact of which many people are unaware. The bobcat is primarily nocturnal with a territorial range reaching 25 square miles, making its contact with humans minimal.

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife created a bobcat database in 1989 to compile records of bobcat sightings. Confirmed and unconfirmed sightings provide clues regarding where bobcats live in Indiana and what type of habitat they utilize. During the last three years, the number of bobcat reports have increased sharply. Of the 20 confirmed reports in the database, ten occurred within that time frame. Realizing that the increase in reports could signal an increase in the population, the DNR decided to launch a bobcat population study.

Scott Johnson, biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, began the study in December, 1998. He plans to trap the elusive cats, fit them with radio collars and inject them with a microchip designed to identify each individual. The microchip is similar to those offered

by many veterinarians for dogs and cats. After the animals are collared, Johnson will track their movements from the ground and by helicopter in order to better determine their range and habitat needs.

The first phase of the study will focus on south-

central Indiana where the highest percentage of confirmed sightings have been reported. Information gathered there about the bobcats' habitat use will lead to the development of a model for determining potential bobcat habitat in the rest of the state. Information from the database has already shown that bobcats are in other areas of Indiana.



Photograph by Dwight R. Kuhn

occurred in each of Steuben, LaGrange, and DeKalb counties. The Steuben and DeKalb records date to 1993, but the LaGrange county sighting occurred in December 1998 close to Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. The bobcat was accidentally caught in a trap but was released unharmed.

The availability of habitat and prey species helps determine the distribution of bobcats. In Indiana, bobcats prefer a habitat composed of a mix of second growth woods with rocky outcrops and brushy fields with high rabbit and small mammal populations. Loss of habitat was one of the factors contributing to the bobcat's decline. Protection of habitat areas is one way to help them thrive.

Bobcats are one of the smaller wild cats, weighing between 15 and 25 pounds and ranging in length from 30 to 40 inches. They stand two

feet tall at the shoulder. Their fur is reddish-brown above and whitish below with black spots or streaks throughout the coat. Two main identifying characteristics of this cat are the large fur tufts on the cheeks and the 4-5 inch long stubby tail, from which the bobcat received its name.

These secretive animals do not pose a threat to humans. In fact, they benefit us by eating small to medium sized rodents such as mice, rats, squirrels, and chipmunks.

The bobcat population study is scheduled to run for several years. Results will help the Division of Fish and Wildlife develop management guidelines for continued bobcat conservation. If you see a bobcat, call the IDNR at (317) 232-4080 to add your information to the database.

HELP THE BOBCAT PROJECT

The bobcat project's funding comes primarily from contributions to the Endangered Wildlife Fund through the state income tax form.

Direct donations can be sent to the:

Endangered Wildlife Fund,
Division of Fish and Wildlife,
402 W. Washington St., Room W273,
Indianapolis, IN 46204.





OTTER PROJECT UPDATE

by Kathy Quimbach, Information Specialist
IDNR Division of Nongame

To date, 251 rivers otters obtained from Louisiana have been released at 10 sites in five targeted watersheds: the Muscatatuck River, St. Joseph River, Upper Wabash River, Tippecanoe River and Patoka River. A combination of radiotelemetry, aerial winter track surveys, bridge/stream surveys, observations and biological data obtained from recovered

individuals are used to monitor the post-release status and distribution of otters in Indiana. As a result of the releases, otters are believed to occupy 22 counties in the state, and reproduction has been confirmed or suspected from seven of the ten release sites. Twenty-seven of the 251 otters released to date have died, giving the otters an 89 percent survival rate. The last set of otter releases is being planned for late January/early February 1999 in the Blue River watershed in south-central Indiana.

Artwork by Chuck Ripper

The Great Backyard Bird Count!

Ben Roush, owner of the Fort Wayne Wild Birds Unlimited store, is pleased to announce that Wild Birds Unlimited is a major sponsor of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society Great Backyard Bird Count.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (February 19-22, 1999) is the first count that invites the public to count birds at birdfeeders and in backyards, local parks or other outdoor locations, and then report the findings online through the BirdSource web site.

The BirdSource web site is a revolutionary partnership between citizens and scientists. The data submitted to BirdSource from the Great Backyard Bird Count helps to define bird ranges, populations, migration pathways and habitat needs.

Through the BirdSource site, located at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/gbbc>, participants will receive almost instantaneous feedback to the Great Backyard Bird Count through graphics, animated maps and regularly-updated information. "With a click of your mouse, you can see which birds other participants across North America have seen!", explained Roush.

For more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count, call or stop by the Wild Birds Unlimited store located at Northcrest Shopping Center in Fort Wayne.

Wild Birds Unlimited is a part of the original and largest franchise system of backyard birdfeeding and nature specialty stores, with over 250 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in expert information and offers an exclusive line of products designed specifically for the hobby of backyard birdfeeding. Visit our Web site at www.wbu.com.



Herman F. Hammer Wald

Eagle Scout Project

On May 9, 1998, Jonathon Wolter, 22 Scouts from Troop 27, and four adults worked sprucing up the Herman F. Hammer Wald Nature Preserve. The Troop built bluebird boxes during a regular Scout meeting and then spent the day at the preserve setting up the boxes, establishing a trail for hikers to help them reach the woods, and repainting and moving the sign.



Congratulations to Eagle Scout Jonathon Wolter and thanks to Troop 27, the Scout Leaders, and Jonathon for their work!

Adopt a Bluebird Trail

Bluebirds, the birds "with the sky on their backs", are slowly making a comeback to our area. Jonathon's project of a bluebird trail will help one of people's favorite native birds. Six bluebird boxes were built

and set in a line along the fence row. We need a caring person to clean out the houses two times a year, more often if sparrows make nests in the bluebirds' houses. If you would like to adopt this bluebird trail at Herman F. Hammer Wald, please call the ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004.



Photographs by Cynthia Wolter



Volunteers Needed for ACRES Booth

Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show — Feb. 24-28

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Noon until 10:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am until 10:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am until 6:00 pm

Volunteers will work in 2-4 hour shifts. To volunteer for a shift, please call the ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

Field Trips & Special Events



Sunday, February 7.
Wing Haven Open House (1 - 5 pm)



Saturday, February 13th.
Chain O' Lakes Cross Country Skiing

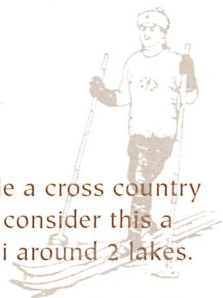
Since the temperature rises whenever we schedule a cross country ski trip, we decided to do our part to remove the snow. We consider this a public service. If, by some miracle, there is snow we will ski around 2 lakes.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Chain O' Lakes parking area. Noble County. Take SR 9 south of Albion to Park's entrance. Follow road to shelter.

Bring: Warm clothing and skis (or hiking boots).

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



Saturday, February 27
Winter Wetland Tours
The Sierra Club Wetlands

Project and ACRES are offering a tour of the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve and the Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve.

The properties offer a mix of open water, shoreline wetlands, and

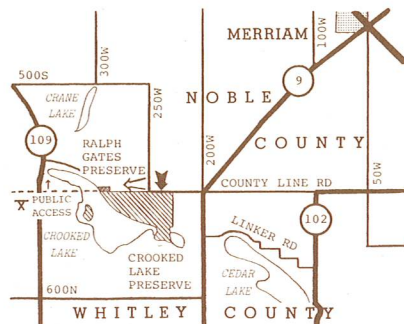
swamp forest bordered by fields and upland woods. There will be a break to warm up between the two hikes. Susan Thomas, Project Director for Sierra Club, will lead the hike covering the importance of wetlands and their interesting plants.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Crooked Lake Nature Preserve parking area, one mile west of SR 9 at the county line between Whitley and Noble.

Bring: Sack lunch, drinks will be provided. Dress warmly!

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



Photographs By John Ellenwood



Sunday, March 7,
Wing Haven Open House (1 - 5) pm

Field Trips & Special Events



Saturday, March 6th. Winter Tree Bud Identification

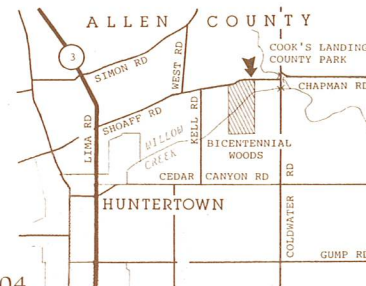
Dr. Jim Tobolski, Assistant Professor of Biology at Indiana Purdue University, knows his trees. Join him for a 1 hour walk to identify trees by their buds.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: The Bicentennial Woods Nature Preserve, Allen County.

Bring: Dress warmly! Hand held magnifying glass optional.

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



Friday, March 19th.

Nature Photography: An Evening with David Manter

A self-taught photographer for 15 years, David will give a 45 minute slide program. He will talk about why, when and how he took his photographs of wildflower, scenery and wildlife.

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.



Saturday, April 17th Migrating Water Fowl at New Limberlost Preserve

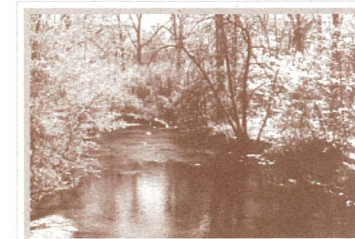
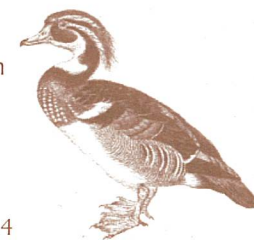
Celebrate having your taxes done! Ken Brunswick, Director Limberlost Swamp Remembered Project, will led a hike through the 428 acre restoration project. Grebes, pintails, blue and green-winged teal, wood ducks, and mergansers were seen during migration at Limberlost's wetlands last year.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Limberlost State Historic Site, beside US 24 Geneva.

This will be the 1st ACRES hike at this new preserve. Many ACRES members donated to the project and we hope you can see what you made possible!

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



Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, April 24th
Adopt-A-Tree Festival!

Sunday, May 16th
Celebration at the new Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

WING HAVEN ADDITION

*We have raised \$93,000 to purchase the
36-acre addition to Wing Haven.
Many thanks to all of you who gave!
Wing Haven is now 196-acres in size!*

+36-acres

Indiana Heritage Trust Program
Kent Family Trust
The Nature Conservancy
Arthur and Marion Eberhardt
Mrs. Dorothea F. Larsen
Art and Anna Mae Parry

Richard and Collette Beeler
Larry and Karlann Bieberich
Robert J. Binder
Thomas and Mary Jo Bland
Gordon Bloom
Barbara L. Boerger
Rosemarie Bostelman
Jeff and Sue Britton
Sharon Brommer
Bette A. Butcher
Paul Carmony
Sean Carroll
William and Connie Carroll
Glenna Cayot
Patricia Click
Andrea and David Cole
Mark DeBrock
Jack and Anita Dierkes
Andrew and Margaret Dirksen
Ed and Nancy Eberhardt
Larry and Judy Esterline
Charles J. Foster
Judith Glasgow
Joyce W. Gottschalk
Bruce and Deb Guebard
Anthony and Julie Hanchar
Fayne Harter
James Haw
Theresa Hazen
Catherine Henschen
David Homan

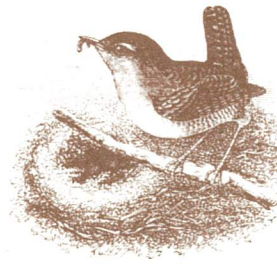
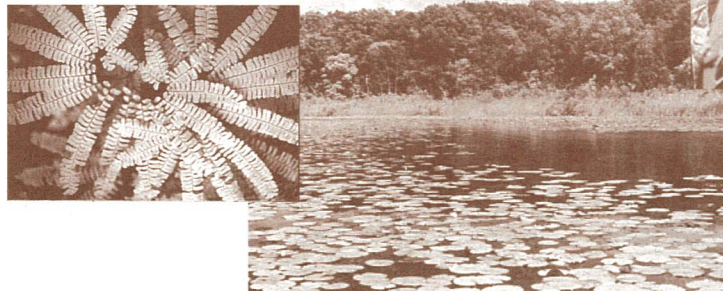
Jack and Karen Horrell
David and Julia Hurley
Tom Hurst
Marion T. Jackson
Joe and Ann Jenney
Melissa Kaiser
Scott and Anne Karr
Dan and Judy Kaufman
Richard and Sandy Kelty
Larry and Sue Lantzer
Larry and Linda LaRowe
Alton A. Lindsey
Muriel Majneri
Dr. and Mrs. D. G. Mason
Art and Else Matott
Greg and Susan Mauk
Paul and Marla McAfee
Ethel V. McClelland
Don McCormack
David and Mary McCutchan
George and Nancy McKay
Carolyn McNaghy
James Mercer
V. C. Moeller, M.D.
John and Linda Mowry
Mike Muchler
Raymund and Shawna Niblick
Peter and Pam Oleson
Kevin and Tammy O'Malley
Charles and Ruth Oswalt
Elizabeth A. Perry
Virginia Petit
Warren W. Pryor and Ellen
C. Fagan-Pryor
Bill and Judy Regadanz
Rick and Donna Rensch
David Rezits
Anne S. Richard

Janel Avery Rogers
John and Rosemary Rouch
Ben and Renee Roush and
Wild Birds Unlimited
John and Margaret Schenkel
Frances R. Schwartz
Marybeth Shumaker
Carol N. Telschow
Daniel R. Thiele
Dick and Jane Thomas
Samuel R. Thompson, M.D.
Tobi Van Dyck
Ralph H. Vetter
William and Cecilia Weakley
Bill Weldon
Earl and Jane Wells
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Wilder
Tom and Hope Wilson
Eugene F. Winicker
Fred and Jackie Wooley
Betty J. Wyckoff
Jim and Judy Zehner

Our sincere apologies for
any omissions.



Photographs by
John Ellenwood



Birdathon for Wing Haven

Wing Haven team of Fred Wooley, Maria Daly, Evie Kirkwood and Ginger Murphy participated in the Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon on May 16th. The team tallied 110 species in 13 1/2 hours of birding. Over 30 teams participated and over \$20,000 was raised for a variety of nature centers and conservation organizations.

The Wing Haven Team raised a total of \$543!

John and Joyce Bacone
Colleen Baker
Stephen and Ingrid Briody
Lee and Patricia Casebere
Terry and Pamela Coleman
Leonard and Deanna Cooper
David Deimling
Tom and Jane Dustin
Art and Marion Eberhardt
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Mary Anna Entwisle
Marjorie Gentry
Delles Gerig
Cloyce Hedge
Michelle and Roger Hedge

Ted and Pat Heemstra
Ronald P. Hellmich
Michael and Barbara Homoya
Mary Lee Hosey
Henry Huffman
Carolyn McNaghy
Jane Papsdorf
Connie Pociech
Janel Avery Rogers
Lauri J. Rowe and
Natural Options
Carter Snider
David and Bonnie Snyder
David and Pamela Van Zuilen

You
Made
A
Difference!



John Eddy, ACRES member and volunteer, built four benches for ACRES preserves. Based on a design by Aldo Leopold, the benches will be a welcome addition to Beechwood, Wing Haven, Ropchan Memorial and Robb Hidden Canyon.

Thank You John!



Photograph by Steven Fuller

A Winter's Tale

By Nancy Malis (edited by Rainn MacPhail)

As in the Greek myth of Ceres and Persephone where Ceres, mourning for her kidnaped daughter

Persephone, brings lifelessness upon the earth until her beloved daughter returns from the underworld, winter too brings lifelessness to the Northern Indiana forests and lands, but if you dig down into the snow or forest leaf litter into what appears to be lifelessness, you will find that the land is not lifeless at all. This apparent lifelessness is actually just a different way of existing until the warmth and light of Spring (the return of Persephone) returns and stimulates life towards new growth and activity.

There are many plants and animals that exist in this manner. Woody plants often drop their leaves, taking on the appearance of lifelessness, to make it through the winter months. Many perennials overwinter as rosettes buried deep under the leaf litter. Other plants "sleep" inside seeds and bulbs waiting for the proper temperature and moisture to return. Insects often survive in an immature stage or as eggs. Some insects spend their winter under heavy plant litter. Mammals often make it through winter by growing more fur or by hibernating like woodchucks or ground squirrels. Other mammals must alter their feeding strategies, such as storing food items, in order to survive, for food is scarce in winter. Birds often migrate or grow more feathers. Those birds that remain must also alter their feeding habits in order to survive. Aquatic life too must adjust to winter. Frogs, turtles, and

toads dig into the mud to sleep while fish often must move to slightly deeper waters or different regions of the pond or lake.

The new existence that occurs in winter offers many unique opportunities for a new understanding of Nature. Below are listed some special activities you and your family can do to enhance your knowledge of Nature in winter. Be prepared though, for entering this cold, harsh landscape requires special clothing. Dress warmly and stay dry.

Nature Activities for Winter

1. Walk the forest and look for tracks - play detective. What animal makes these tracks? Where is s/he going? What is s/he doing?
2. Collect small twigs (carefully) from trees and shrubs. Note the differences among the buds of the different twigs. See if you can identify them. Look for different colours and then make a rainbow collection-red osier dogwood, sassafras, willow, etc.
3. Sketch tree silhouettes. Note different shapes of trees and how they grow. Look for nests, holes, and insect galls. Who makes these? How are they made?
4. Dig into the leaf litter (may be under some snow) and put the litter into a box or on a plate. Bring inside. As the litter warms up, view with a magnifying glass and see if you can find any creatures in the litter. Replace the litter and creatures back where you originally found them when you are done.

5. Observe the winter forest and then write a poem, story, or draw/paint a picture. Share it with others.

BRIDGES FOR VANDOLAH WETLANDS!

By Jeff Britton, Steward for Vandolah Nature Preserve

Eagle Scouts do it again!

Remember how hot it was in the Summer of 1998? Remember the mosquitoes about the size of Japanese Zeros swarming over Pearl Harbor? Well, Kris Stewart was out there in the Vandolah Nature Preserve cutting a swath through the marsh grass down to the river to put a two-part walkway up over a swampy area. It was a critical piece of our overall plan to lay the ground work for completing the path UNDER I-69. They had post hole augers, dozens of bags of cement, lumber, real engineers and enough scouts to help Cecil B. DeMille shoot another epic film about Egypt.

I trekked out to the location when it was finished to check it out. After jumping up and down on it to see how secure it really was, I began to refer to the modest walkway as a BRIDGE. It was so solid I think they must have tunneled down to bedrock.

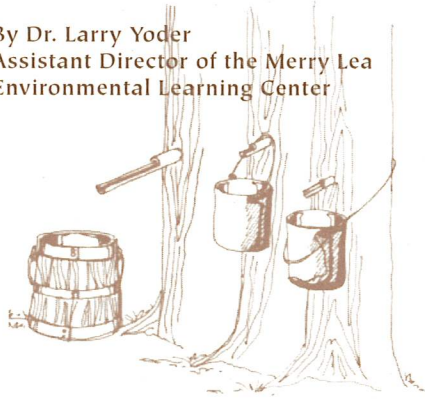
Thanks to Kris Stewart, Troop #2 from St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Scout Leader Randy Young, and Dan and Linda Stewart, our great-great grandchildren will be trekking across the bridge to Cedar Creek in the year 2098!

Congratulations to Tim Diefenbach for being awarded his Eagle Badge! Working with the raptor rehabilitation organization *Soarin' Hawk*, Tim built a hacking box, a "halfway" house for owls between human captivity and being released to the wild. Two Barred Owls were given a second chance because of his efforts.



To Plant A Sugarbush

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



A grove of producing maple trees bears witness to some very deliberate human decisions over several generations. A tappable maple tree should be at least 12 inches in diameter. Under most growing conditions that means about 50 years must pass after the tree's first summer. By the time most folks contemplate planting a sugar bush, it's too late to ever make use of the trees they planted. That, in turn, means that any trees we tap are there only because someone before us decided to plant trees they would never live to tap. Or, for some reason, people decided not to clear, cut, or sell trees of producing size. In all of North America, virtually any tree that produces sap today exists only because of a conscious choice or an accident of human decision. Human hands touch every part of our landscape.

Dr. Yoder and his family own a maple sugar camp in northern Allen County. Hundreds of schoolchildren visit the camp in March.

In Memory

Molly Mackel

Eldon and Ruby Bailey
Dr. J. Robert and Mrs. G. Edwards
Dr. Steven and Mrs. Robyn Fisher
John and Carol McArdle
Mills Brothers Farms

Fort Wayne Orthopaedics

David Paul J. Almdale, M.D.
Michael A. Arata, M.D.
James G. Buchholz, M.D.
Ronald G. Caldwell, M.D.
F. Theodore Chaykowski, M.D.
Jerald L. Cooper, M.D.
Steven A. Cremer, M.D.
Daniel J. Cummiskey, M.D.
Dominick DeTommaso, D.P.M.
Steven E. Fisher, M.D.
B. Matthew Hicks, M.D.
Thomas L. Lazoff, M.D.
Barry W. Liechty, M.D.
Michael L. McArdle, M.D.
Kevin A. Rahn, M.D.
Robert M. Shugart, M.D.
Karen F. Sloane, D.P.M.
Ron VerDerNoord, M.D.
Mark E. Zolman, M.D.

Lutheran Surgery Employees

Kendra Courtney
Linda Diaz
Linnea Johnson
Judy Lothamer
Liz Lydy
Sue Mullins
Peg North
Pat Thomas-Snyder
Leslie Wilson

Versel A. Rathbun

"Who enjoyed fishing and the great outdoors during his 86 years of life"
Anita and Jack Dierkes

Tad J. Christlieb

"A young man who loved life and the out of doors"
Bette Butcher

Edna C. Meyers

Dale and Judy Zinn
Jack and Anita Dierkes.



Photograph by Carolyn McNagyn

LIMBERLOST

Dear ACRES Members,

Learning of the great Limberlost Swamp in Gene Stratton Porter's books greatly



intrigued me as an adult. I had grown up in Jay County--surely nothing so exotic, so remote, ever existed in this part of the country! As I researched further, I was stunned not only to learn of the extent and conditions of the area, but to realize just how easily and quickly such a large part of our natural history can be lost and forgotten.

My intrigue with Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost drew me to Limberlost State Historic Site (LSHS), formerly Gene Stratton-Porter's home. I worked as a LSHS volunteer or employee for more than 12 years.

I became aware of Ken Brunswick's individual efforts to restore Limberlost wetlands in 1991 while serving as president of The Friends of the Limberlost, the community support group for Limberlost State Historic Site. ACRES generously accepted the challenge of assisting one driven individual and a fledgling group of volunteers in achieving the goal of bringing back the Limberlost.

In the spring of 1997, 428 acres of Limberlost wetland were dedicated as the Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve. The position of a full-time naturalist at LSHS is imperative to the continuing growth of the restoration program. No additional properties may be purchased until such a position is filled.

Ken Brunswick, coordinator for the wetland restoration, has worked tirelessly to acquire, oversee and manage the properties through a grant from the Indiana Heritage Trust Program, and is more than qualified to accept the position of naturalist at LSHS, should he choose to. However, the state budget proposed for July 1, 1999, which is expected to be finalized by the end of January, not only does not include funds for new employees, it also requires a 5% cut to the Division of Museums and Historic Sites.

The only way to make changes in the proposed budget is for non-state employees to impress state legislators with their strong desire to see needed appropriations made.

Through the combined efforts of many groups, businesses and individuals such as yourselves, we have succeeded in purchasing and restoring a small portion of the 13,000 acre Limberlost. The Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve is a fabulous beginning, but it is only the first step. The momentum of acquiring and restoring wetland properties must be maintained or all that has been gained from efforts to this point will be diminished.

Your continued support in this matter is urgently needed, and will be greatly appreciated for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Marla J. Freeman
Friends of the Limberlost

The Legislators who control this decision are:

Rep. Michael A. Ripley
2990 S 650 E
Monroe, IN 46772

Ronald D. Liggett
7483 S 1000 S
Redkey, IN 47373

Senator David C. Ford
210 W. Main Street
Hartford City, IN 47348

Jeffrey K. Espich
P.O. Box 158
Uniondale, IN 46791

The Back Page...

Beavers and Turkeys and Deer, Oh my!

By Guest Writer, Jeff Britton

As some of you know, our house is surrounded by the Vandolah preserve. Here's a winter report:

- The beavers have returned to Cedar Creek. They walked across Kris Stewart's bridge (see article on page 13), and have resumed building a dam which several years ago created a wetlands enjoyed by hundreds of nesting birds. They have also tried to fell a 200 year-old beech tree, around which we are planning to install some chicken wire to discourage them. I saw one, once, with his great big front teeth. He looked like he belonged in second grade. (Remember YOUR picture from second grade?)
- There is also a positively prehistoric looking flock of wild turkeys now roaming the preserve. Listen and you can hear them calling to each other, especially in the old orchard. They are currently attacking our bird feeders and

squirrel corn. They don't enjoy the snow much. It's humorous to watch them "see-saw" back and forth, trying to balance their big uncoordinated bodies up on the narrow tree branches.

- In addition, since the snow has arrived, the deer have established superhighways through the preserve. They line up along the back terrace of our house, like a church potluck line, and are munching our evergreens. No pruning will be necessary at the Britton's come spring!
- It is certainly worth the effort to try to hike, beautiful Vandolah, this winter, but if you come...bring some corn, or some hay, or some willow branches or some fresh lumber, or something! Anything edible! Heck, I could use a ham sandwich! Everyone is hungry and munching away in Vandolah!

Until next time...warmest regards from the Brittons

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 Spring issue is March 1, 1999. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004

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