

ACRES CELEBRATES 40th Year

QUARTERLY

Autumn 2000

Volume 39—Number 4

In This Issue:

- ACRES Annual Dinner
- Nominations Sought
- Crooked Lake Addition
- New Members
- Wildwood
- Bats
- Cedar Creek Geology
- Field Trips & Events
- Charitable Trusts
- Maplewood Addition
- Elkhart River Basin
- Birdathon
- Bob Weber Photographs
- Thanks & Memorials
- The Back Page

ACRES

Annual Dinner and Guest Speaker

November 10th, 6:30 p.m.
Concordia Seminary Dining Hall
6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana
\$12.50 a plate

Phone reservations to:

Ethyle and Bill Bloch (219-747-4450)
John and Marcella Ellenwood (219-484-6081)
Reservations must be made and honored.

Menu:

Stuffed chicken breast, wild rice, green bean almondine,
cranberry salad, and chocolate cake.

(Vegetable pasta primavera available on request)

Please order either the pasta or chicken - no substitutions later, thanks!

Deadline: November 7, 2000

Woodland, Peatland, Lake, Stream, and Prairie: Northeast Indiana's Natural Areas

Guest Speaker: Thomas O. Swinford

Regional Ecologist with IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
for 6 years, Tom is an expert botanist and entomologist.

Tom will give an overview of the Northeast Indiana
landscape before the arrival of European settlers.

With beautiful slides by Tom, the talk will highlight
Indiana's rarer plants and wetlands.

Illustrations by Ethyle Bloch

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

ACRES' election of board members is upon us. If you would like to nominate someone for the board, please do so by October 30 by contacting the ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004. Mary Anna Entwisle, David Van Gilder, and Art Eberhardt 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 November 20, or you may vote in person on December 15, 2000, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the ACRES Office, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

An Addition for Crooked Lake Nature Preserve

by Pat McNagny, ACRES Member and Past President of Crooked Lake Association



Bernice Kessler loved her home at Crooked Lake, north of Columbia City. She loved her woods, her goats, Buttons, her dog, and the dozen or so cats who stopped by each morning and evening for gourmet cat food and table scraps.

Natives of Huntington, Bernice and her husband, Ralph Biddle, bought a summer home on Crooked Lake in 1953. After Ralph died, Bernice occasionally took a fishing trip to Port Clinton, Ohio, where boat captain Savoy (Bud) Kessler was the guide. She liked the rugged Navy veteran and, after their marriage, they wintered in Naples, Florida, where Bud, captained his fishing boat for tourists in the Gulf of Mexico and Bernice sold real estate.

In the summers, they enjoyed Crooked Lake, where they built a new home, raised goats, and even nursed an injured fawn back to health.

Enthusiastic supporters of the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve in 1981, they joined ACRES in 1983 and decided to give ACRES their wooded acreage at their deaths. Bud died in 1987, but Bernice remained active, serving on the Board of Directors of the Crooked Lake Association. With her diminutive

frame perched high in her 1980 Ford van, she was a familiar sight driving S.R. 109 in to Columbia City.

The Savoy F. and Agnes Bernice Kessler Nature Preserve will stand as a tribute to the Kesslers' love of nature and woodlands. At Bernice's death on February 20, 2000, the 1.31 wooded acres came under ACRES' protection. It is not a large woods, but its preservation helps protect the watershed of one of Indiana's cleanest lakes. The new preserve brings the total natural area preserved at Crooked Lake to 149 acres.

Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Reverend David Adams

- Gift of Ethyle and Bill Bloch

David and Donna Brennenstuhl

Erin Cooper

Dr. Gary and Mrs. Ann Dillon

- Gift of Carolyn McNagny

John, Seane, and Ian Ervin

Douglas Fitzgerald

David Greene

Melissa Hall and Family

- Gift from Jeff and Sue Britton

Nancy Hamlin Gift of Julia Hurley

Don and Rebecca Henry

Don Jones and Cheryl Skiba-Jones

Patricia Kinsey

Lynn and Carol Lehman

Gene and Elizabeth Lightner

Arthur and Marcia Litton

Marc McFall Gift of David and Barbara Swaim

Daniel and Mary Quigley

John Roe

Iris Thomas

Allen Wetter

Burton Wygant Gift of Marcia and Arthur Litton

Wildwood

Bob and Alice Frantz are special people. Their land, which they have named "Wildwood", has been a great joy to them. Phillip, Bruce, and Mary, their children, share their parent's appreciation and affection for the natural world and Wildwood. ACRES is excited to announce that we are working with the Frantz family



Waterleaf photo by Bob Weber

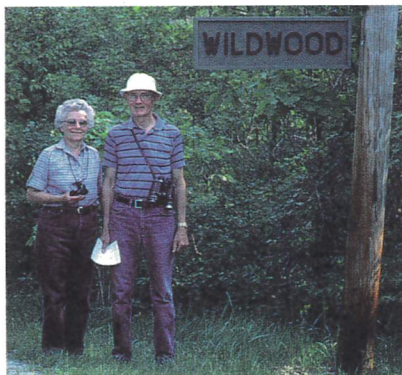


Photo of Bob and Alice Frantz by Bob Weber

to protect the beautiful 236-acre property that consists of wetlands teeming with life, an 85-acre woods with huge beech and oak trees, short grass prairies (including many resident bluebirds), pond, and farmland.



Fall Trees photo by Bob Frantz



Wildwood photo by Bob Frantz



Golden Ragwort photo by Bob Weber

"It is our fervent hope that the place which we call Wildwood will remain, as much as possible, in its natural state - no selling of trees, no draining of the swamps and always respect for the land and its inhabitants. We want it to remain a place where future generations can walk and sometimes 'stand very still'". -Bob Frantz

From Bob's book, If You Stand Very Still...



Sedge Grass by Bob Weber



Indigo Bunting photo by Bob Frantz

Bats

by Rosemarie Bostelman, ACRES Member

My recent ACRES experience has confirmed my friends' long-held suspicions that I'm more than a little batty! I accompanied Dr. Whitaker from Indiana State University on a bat species count at Bicentennial Woods on a Friday night in July.

Two elaborate netting systems were set up on the creek with teams to monitor our "catches". At dusk we waited to hear our bat detector signal that the critters were in the vicinity. We would then scan the nets with our flashlights until our beams revealed a bat enmeshed in the apparatus. Our team waded into the creek to disentangle our captive, observe and record the gender and species and release the bat. Over the course of several hours, ending at midnight, we netted 16 bats including 3 species - reds, little browns and big browns.

Thanks to Dr. Whitaker and his assistant, Sherry Gummer, I learned a lot about these fascinating mammals. Although they mate in the fall, the eggs are not fertilized and the babies born until spring. They only have one or two young at a time. I had long believed, based on what I've read, that bats consume large quantities of mosquitoes. This is not true of the seven species of bats that reside in Indiana. Too much energy would have to be expended to chase and consume such a small source of nourishment. However, many other insects are a protein source, such as larger beetles.

Dr Whitaker was so gracious in helping us learn about bats. Although this project was "old hat" for him (he has been all over Indiana 5 nights a week for the past 5 summers) he seemed to appreciate our enthusi-

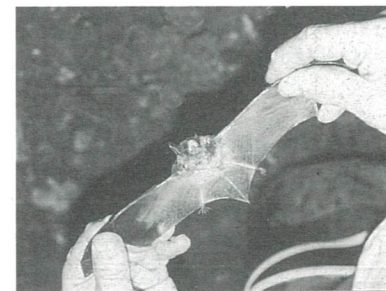


Photo by Rosemarie Bostelman

asm for the project. The two nets were a considerable distance apart. However, when a bat was netted Dr. Whitaker would climb the steep creek bank and hike back to our group, the entire trip carrying the latest find in his hand to share with us, even though it was a species we had previously seen.

About 1:00 A.M. we hiked out on Eagle Trail, packing a large load of equipment on the trip. I arrived home at 2:00 A.M. muddy, wet, exhausted and bug bitten (in spite of mass quantities of bug spray used). Did I mention the smile on my face?

Oh, we also discovered that we could guarantee the bat detector would signal a "find" every time by having Ellsworth Smith simply pour himself a cup of coffee and sit down on the creek bank!

In the following two weeks I became a much wiser "batter" after having two cortisone injections, completing a series of prednisone ingestion and missing several days of work. Always, always use your flashlight to detect poison ivy before climbing the creek bank!

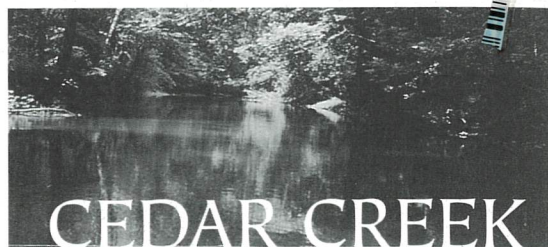
This experience reminded me why I am so fortunate to be a member of ACRES, an organization that promotes the conservation of and preservation of nature preserves while offering an opportunity to satisfy my curiosity about nature and have fun at the same time.

This Bat project made possible by grants from IPALCO and Great Lake Aquatic Habitat Fund.



Photo by Journal Gazette

the three faces of



Northwestern Allen County's Cedar Creek Valley is one of the most unusual valley systems in the world. The valley consists of three distinctly different sections, all with different histories.

The northern headwaters section crosses a former floodplain of the Eel River, resulting in a shallow valley with poorly-defined boundaries, whereas the central and eastern sections are deeply incised across the hilly Wabash Moraine, giving them the popular name, "Cedar Creek Canyon". However, only the steep-sided central tunnel valley section is truly canyon-like; the eastern downstream section, in contrast, has more gently sloping sides and a meandering stream channel, giving it a much more normal appearance.

The origin of the Cedar Creek Valley system is so complex that it probably is not completely understood today. However, many aspects of its origin can be identified from the features noted above and from other well-documented information.*

For example, the sequence of Wisconsin-age glacial features formed in this area show the following: (1) An early version of the Eel River formed at the edge of a small lobe of ice that came through the Saginaw Bay area. (2) The Lake Erie Lobe later covered the older Saginaw

Lobe and its topographic features, including the early Eel River Valley. (3) As the Lake Erie Lobe melted back to the site of the Wabash Moraine, a new version of the Eel River was established along the ice margin. (4) The central part of Cedar Creek formed as a sub-ice stream, draining the Lake Erie Lobe and carving the tunnel valley section in the underlying sediment. This early version of Cedar Creek, flowing westward, disgorged meltwater and produced an alluvial fan of sand and gravel at its mouth. Note that the tunnel valley section is younger than the headwaters section, suggesting that the older headwaters section of Cedar Creek somehow was "captured" by the younger downstream parts of the system.

Enter the St. Joseph River! As the Lake Erie Lobe melted farther northeastward, it formed the Fort Wayne Moraine, essentially parallel to the Wabash Moraine. Its meltwater then flowed between the two moraines and formed the St. Joseph River. Downcutting by the St. Joseph gave renewed energy to small tributaries along its path. One of these east of the tunnel valley became the downstream section of Cedar Creek. It is not known whether this section originally was a part of the tunnel valley section, whose stream originally flowed westward, or whether it was simply a small tributary that originally flowed eastward into the St. Joseph River. Because it is so different from the central tunnel valley section, perhaps the latter explanation is the most likely.

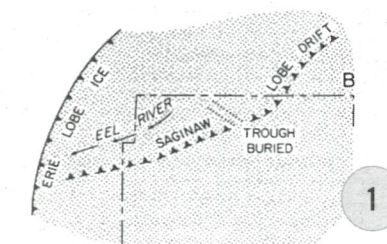
Eventually, the downcutting by the St. Joseph River affected all of its tributaries, many of which eroded headward across low places in the adjacent moraines. At Cedar Creek, the downstream section was affected first, then the tunnel valley section, then the headwaters section of the once mighty Eel

River. It is possible that floodtime overflow from the upper Eel River initiated the reversal of flow through the tunnel valley and thus aided the erosion process. With the addition of the headwaters of the Eel River, Cedar Creek took on its modern appearance, and its waters began to flow eastward across the Wabash Moraine and into the St. Joseph River.

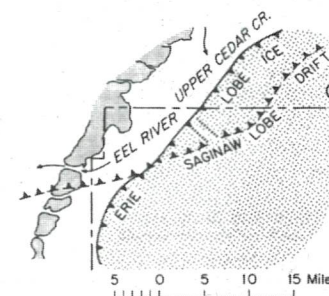
The process just described is called stream capture, or stream piracy. The St. Joseph River and its Cedar Creek tributary give us an excellent example of progressive stream piracy: the St. Joseph first captured the downstream section of Cedar Creek, then the tunnel valley section, and then the upper Eel River headwaters section, giving us today's Three Faces of Cedar Creek.

*Background information related to this article can be obtained in the following publications. Anthony H. Fleming, 1994, The Hydrology of Allen County, Indiana: Indiana Geological Survey Special Report 57, 111p. Ned K. Bleuer and Michael C. More, 1978, Environmental Geology of Allen County: Indiana Geological Survey Special Report 13, 72p.

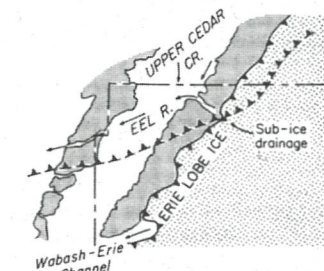
Note: Dr. Sunderman currently is President of the Fox Island Alliance, a volunteer group that supports the educational and environmental aspects of the Fox Island County Park. He also is helping the Alliance establish a series of Educational Roadside Signs designed to explain major glacial features of Allen County. One of the signs, planned for Metea Park, will describe the features of the Cedar Creek Valley.



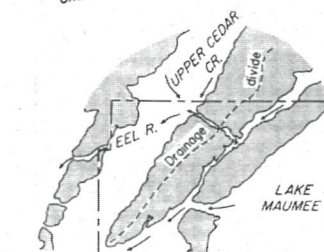
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Cedar Creek Wildlife Project

Cedar Creek is one of only three Indiana Scenic Rivers - along with the Wildcat and Blue. With the goal of keeping Cedar Creek a free-flowing, natural river, the non-profit group Cedar Creek Wildlife Project was founded in 1965 to:

- monitor the water quality and biological diversity,
- keep its members informed on threats to the river's health, and
- maintain a fund to benefit Cedar Creek.



**To join, send \$10.00 for residents of the Cedar Creek valley or \$5.00 for non-residents to:
Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, P.O. Box 140, Huntertown IN 46748**

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Ropchan Memorial's Fall Finery

Saturday, October 21st

Sean Carroll, Steward for Ropchan Memorial and ACRES Director, will lead a 1-hour hike to see the beautiful fall colors of Ropchan Memorial. From the gold of big-toothed aspens and abundant ferns to the bright red of winterberry to the purple sassafras leaves, the woods and bog give quite a display. ACRES is also having a work day at Beechwood Nature Preserve in the morning (10:00 a.m.) and we will be bringing sack lunches to Wing Haven before Sean's hike, if you'd like to join us.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take Road 120 two miles east of Orland to 750 W.

Turn north on 750 W and preserve is 1/2 mile on east side of 750 W.

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

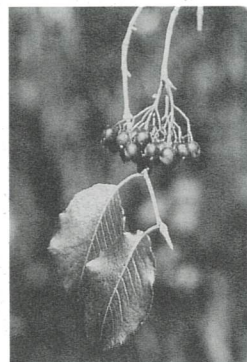
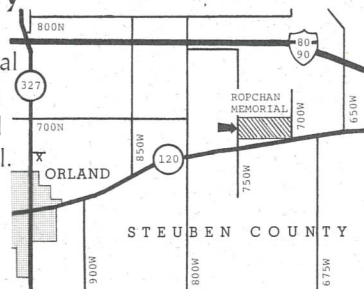


Photo by Bob Weber



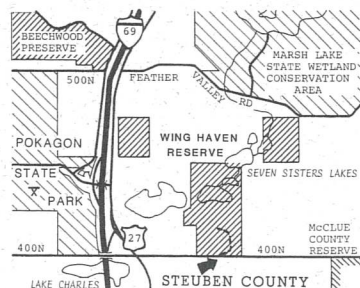
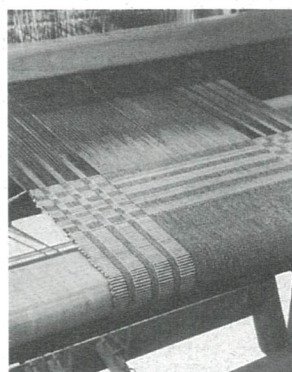
Weaving at Wing Haven

Sunday, November 5th

Audrey Stone, weaver, will introduce the basics of weaving on a cherry loom built by ACRES Member Bob Guenhauer. Audrey will weave in 3 colors on a warp to show how weaving works and how a design can be changed. Audrey, Singular Handwovens, has woven since 1980 and is self-taught. After the program, chance for hands on experience.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park Exit (Exit 154), turn south on SR 127 and immediately left onto 400 N.

Preserve located on north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



ACRES Annual Dinner and Meeting

Friday, November 10th.

(See page 2 for more information)

Woodland, Peatland, Lake, Stream, and Prairie:

Northeast Indiana's Natural Areas

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

"Trees of Indiana" Author and Artist: Maryrose Wampler

Saturday, November 18th

Introducing her new book, *Trees of Indiana*, Maryrose will give a 1/2 hour slide program. This beautiful book will have artwork of each of Indiana's 72 native trees, including portrait of tree, blossom, leaf, winter twig, and fruit. Fred Wampler, as he did on "*Wildflowers of Indiana*", wrote the descriptions. Maryrose will be selling original tree artwork, books, and notecards after the program. Refreshments served.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: ACRES office, YWCA, Fort Wayne. Take Goshen Road into Fort Wayne, turn east onto State Street and then south onto Wells Street. The YWCA campus is located two blocks south on Wells Street on the east side. ACRES Office located in Building 4 upstairs. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Illustration from her "*Wildflowers of Indiana*" book

Deck the halls with music!

Sunday, December 3rd

Rolling into its 5th happy year, the Annual Sing-A-Long will be lead by Art and Marion Eberhardt and Jim Shearer. Get into the holiday spirit at the rustic Wing Haven Studio! Refreshments served.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park Exit (Exit 154), turn south on SR 127 and immediately left onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Winter Signs

Sunday, January 7th

Fred Wooley, Naturalist at Pokagon State Park, shows how to identify tracks and animal signs in winter snow. Chance to make your own tracks in the snow with snowshoes - a fun way to travel! Program consists of a half-hour slide show with an optional half-hour snowshoeing, weather permitting. **When:** 2:00 p.m.

Where: Pokagon State Park, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154. Follow signs into Pokagon State Park and to the Nature Center. **Please Note:** You will need to pay the park fee of \$2.00. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

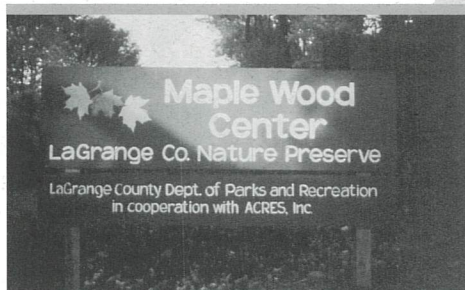
A charitable remainder trust is a type of life-income gift that allows a donor to make a gift to charity and, perhaps, to increase income from a low-yielding asset while creating a charitable income tax deduction and avoiding capital gains tax.

Example: An ACRES supporter, age 70, owns \$500,000 in highly appreciated stock. The stock pays \$10,000 (2%) in dividends each year. He donates the stock to a charitable remainder trust, reserving income of 8% of the value of the trust for his lifetime. In addition to tripling his income and avoiding capital gains tax on the transfer of the stock, the donor receives a tax deduction equal to the present value of the gift. Because the principal of the trust will eventually go to charity, the value of the trust is also excluded from the donor's estate.

Gift	\$500,000
Income tax deduction (present value of \$500,000 gift).....	\$278,215
Income tax savings (28% of \$278,215).....	\$77,900
Annual income (8% of trust).....	\$40,000

Benefit to ACRES, Inc.: At the time of the donor's death, the principal of the trust will be transferred to the ACRES to be used to support its land protection work.

Disclaimer: The author makes no warranties about the legal conclusions stated herein and this is not interested as legal advice to any individual. This summary should not be used as a substitute for obtaining advice and counsel from a qualified professional of your choice.



Adding to Maple Wood!

66 + 64 = 130 acres

Purchased in 3 parcels, the addition doubles the size of the preserve, an old-growth maple sugar woods. The land will be owned and managed by the LaGrange County Parks and Recreation Department.

To the ACRES members who supported the 66-acre Maple Wood addition, thank you!

Collette Beeler
Robert Binder
Thomas and Mary Jo Bland
Rosemary Cortez
Bob and Jackie Gunzenhauser
Mark Petit
Ben and Renee Roush
James and Gwen Seely
Carol Thomas

For information, contact
ACRES at (219)422-1004



Ethel McClelland & David Homan:
Ropchan Wildlife Refuge Stewards

One of ACRES largest preserves, the 184-acre Ropchan Wildlife Refuge, was adopted by Ethel and David seven years ago. They have built a 2.5 mile loop trail system with several smaller trails. Mowing more than a mile of trails several times a summer, removing downed trees, and repairing bridges are part of their dedicated stewardship of the preserve. You can visit their preserve in Steuben County - the best thank you is hiked trails!

Elkhart River Basin Protection

by Theodore H. Heemstra
Vice President, ACRES



Most of the Elkhart River Basin is in Noble County with some in LaGrange County. As of October 2000, ACRES has at least four nature preserves in this basin. ACRES endeavors to manage all its properties to minimize man's impact on them. At each preserve we provide a small parking lot and hiking trails in "non-

critical" areas. Aside from these "improvements", we maintain preserves to be as natural as possible.

Many of ACRES' nature preserves are associated with water, either a lake or flowing stream. A few of the streams are classified as regulated drains which are managed by the county drainage board. Once the water course is established, as a regulated drain, the drainage board has an easement 75 feet back from each side of the drain to access the drain for maintenance. Access and maintenance by the drainage board has the possibility of grossly disturbing the natural properties of the area traversed by the stream.



Buttonbush

Recently, the Noble County Drainage Board and the Joint Noble/LaGrange County Drainage Board declared the North, Middle, and South Branches of the Elkhart River to be regulated drains. The procedures for establishing regulated drains are part of the Indiana Code. We believe the boards did not follow these procedures. Furthermore, ACRES' nature preserves will not be benefited by the boards' action. After making verbal and written objection to the boards' decisions, we filed an objection to their action in the Noble Circuit Court, asking the Court to set aside the boards' orders.



Lizard's-Tail

We dislike challenging any authority's actions or decisions. If the drainage boards' actions are allowed to stand, it is likely an accomodation could be reached with the existing boards relating to the work they deem necessary at this time near ACRES' nature preserves. However, we are not willing to allow the actions taken by these boards to become a precedent for these or other drainage boards to follow. Thus, we are challenging these actions in the Noble Circuit Court. We believe our donors and supporters will agree with our actions to protect the existing and future nature preserves in the Elkhart River basin.

Photos by Bob Weber

Birdathon in 3rd Year!

Congratulations to the keen-eyed birdathon team: Fred Wooley, Evie and Craig Kirkwood and Ginger Murphy. In a banner year, our team saw 111 species. The birdathon has raised \$2,750 in 3 years for Wing Haven!

John Bacone
Kathryn Bloom
Barbara Boerger
Lois Booth
Lisa Boroff
Steve and Ingrid Briody
Sue and Jeff Britton
Neil and Mona Case
Lee and Patricia Casebere
Eva Claphan
Julie Clary
Terry Coleman
Rosemary Cortez
Art and Marion Eberhardt
Mary Anna Entwisle
Judy Esterline
Delles Gerig
Don Gorney
Bekcy Gross
Juanita Harsch
Allen Hetrick
Stanley and Esther Hutsell
Leroy and Sharon Johnson
Roger and Jucille Johnson

Dan and Judy Kaufman
Charlotte Lunde
Margien L. Lund
Pat MacWhorter
Nancy Malis
Dr. Donald G. Mason
Paul and Marla McAfee
Mary McCormack
Carolyn McNagny
Pat McNagny
Debby Meade and Family
Carolyn Miller
Amy Oberlin
Charles and Ruth Oswalt
Jane Papsdorf and Bob Cablk
Allan Perry
Sharon Peterson
Ed and Cynthia Powers
Janel Rogers
Beth Ann Rohrer
Stephen Shambaugh
Mike Siebern
Phillip Smith
Carter Snider



Ring-billed gull photo by Paul McAfee

Bonnie Snyder
Carol Telschow
Jill Thomas
Samuel R. Thompson M.D.
Anna E. White
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilder
Tom Wilson
Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley

Steuben County Library Staff



Photo of Dr. Curry by John Ellenwood

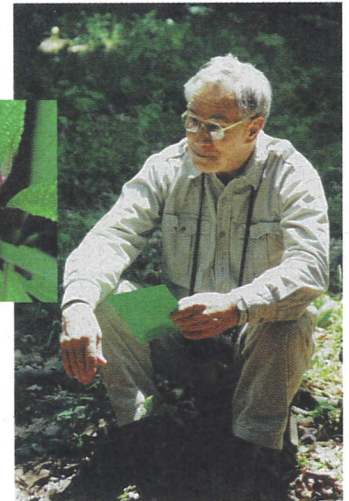
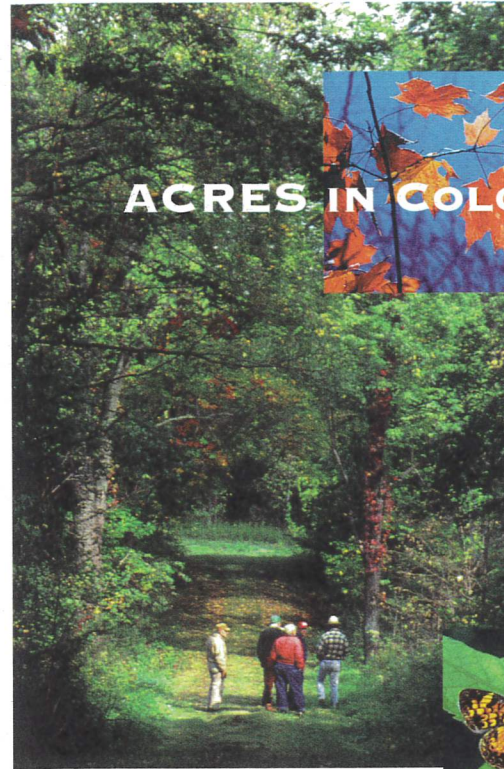
Dr. James Curry: Dragonfly Expert

This July, Dr. James Curry presented a slide program on dragonflies to more than 60 children and adults in a packed Wing Haven studio. After the program, an enthusiastic group followed Dr. Curry to the dock on Gentian Lake, while he netted skimmers, meadowhawks, and clubtails. Our thanks to Dr. Curry!

40 Years of ACRES Photography

ACRES IN COLOR

Bob Weber has given ACRES his slides collection - hundreds of images of wildflowers, birds, Boy Scout projects, land donors, landscapes, work days and the nature preserves. The slides are a historical record of the ACRES organization, to which Bob (photograph below) has given his time as a Founder, President, Director and Land Management Chairman. On the ACRES Cover and this page are some of the beautiful images he has captured for all of us to appreciate.



Special Thanks!

Else Matott for raising the baby sycamore trees to be planted at Seven Pillars Nature Preserve.

Richard Walker, ACRES Treasurer, for his financial expertise.

John and Marcella Ellenwood for their generous gift to the ACRES Operating Endowment.

Dr. Larry Wiedman, for leading the hike at Tel-Hy Nature Preserve.

Our chainsaw gang: **Don McCormack, Ellsworth Smith, Don Mullenkamp, John Ellenwood, and Beth Hough** Many of ACRES' Allen County preserves were hit with wind storms this spring and summer. Chainsawing is hard work and we appreciate their efforts!



Photo of Wing Haven by John Ellenwood

Otis Brown

from Karen and Bob Griggs

Edgar C. Kruse

for Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from Anita and Jack Dierkes

Eula Payne

for the Marsh Wren Nature Preserve

sister of Mary Lee Richeson. A great bird watcher; Eula would go to southern Texas along the Rio and watch the bird migration. Thought of the earth as a beautiful place and honored it.
from Beth A. Lauer
Nancy C. Kilduski
J. H. and Rose Newton
The Festival Choir
Mary Lee Richeson

In Memoriam

Gregory E. Irk

for the Bicentennial Woods

John and Pamela Lipasek and Family
Richard Pfister and Anne Mettler and Family
Bernard and Geraldine Nichols
William and Beverly Peters
Robert Beeching
Edward and Marlene Russell
Norman and Jill Thomas and Family
Craig Hunter
Kenneth and Kelly Steiner and Family
Ted Giliom and Betsy Hart
Janet and Wayne Doughty
Keith and Lois Pomeroy
Edward Prange
Alvin and Candy Somerlott
Jim and Cheryl Felger and Daughter
Stanley Robinson
Jeff and Barb Eggers and Family
Kathie, Randy, and Alison Irk
Friends at Ratheon

Gregory enjoyed the day after Thanksgiving hike every year at the Crooked Lake Preserve with his wife Kathie and children Randy and Alison.

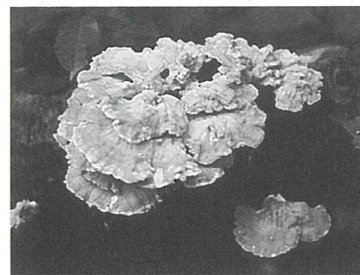


Photo of Chicken of the Woods fungus by Bob Frantz

Tobi Van Dyck

for Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from Friends and Co-workers at the
Steuben County Library



Photo of Bicentennial Woods by Mike Scott

William D. Fitch

for Bicentennial Woods-

Where William played as a boy.
from Alice Fitch Deck and Jerry Deck

Barb Keller

Shared many happy times together
on Lake Anne.
from Peg Zeis

Glenivere "Sally" A. Watson Lee

for Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from Anita and Jack Dierkes

Floyd Swink

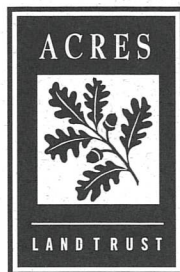
from Kathryn Moore

Hy Goldenberg

donor of Tel-Hy Nature Preserve with
wife Lorry
from Kathryn Moore
James M. and Patricia D. Barrett

Betty Wilson

for the Cedar Creek Bottoms Preserve
from Tom and Jane Dustin

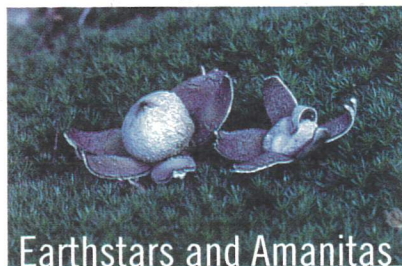


ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 42 nature preserves in 11 counties.

2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
219-422-1004

www.acres-land-trust.org
e-mail: acreslt@fwi.com



Amanitas Poison Mushroom



Bird's Nest Fungus



Shelf Fungus



Red Cup Fungus



Chicken of the Woods Fungus



Coral Fungus

Earthstars and Amanitas

O.K., I am often a sentimental gal, when it comes to nature and its sublime beauty, but let's just be plain spoken about this: Fungus and molds are on that downward, death and decaying side of the life cycles. But if we can put slime molds to the slide, er, side for a moment, there are some redeeming elements about many of the others. (*And..well, all right, I'm sure there are good reasons for those slippery slime molds too... Ew!*)

I realized this first-hand as I walked through Vandolah a couple of weeks ago and came upon a giant, brilliant yellow and orange fungus about two feet across (*See Chicken of the Woods fungus to the right*). "Wow!" I said to my husband, Jeff, who was hiking with me. "If you want to see another "wow", he said, "you should see the giant white puffball the size of a soccer ball in our

yard!" Sure enough, there it was. Like someone had just kicked it into the yard and left it.

But aside from these giant versions, there are many small varieties that are pretty beautiful if you can just forget their names for a moment. (*And that, ..well,... that also some of them are very poisonous.*)

Chicken of the Woods photo by Bob Frantz. Earthstar photo above and all other photos 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 Winter issue is December 1, 2000. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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