

ACRES CELEBRATES 40th YEAR!

QUARTERLY

Spring 2000
Volume 39—Number 2

Fens...Indiana's Everglades

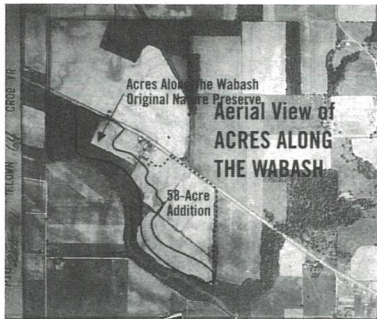
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LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

ACRES is having a busy year with land acquisition and needs your help! In the last 5 months, we have acquired 192 acres in four properties at the cost of \$422,000.



Your help is crucial in acquiring the Indian River and "The Spreads" Preserves and additions to Maple Wood and Acres Along the Wabash! Any donations will be matched 2:1 and we will honor all donors in the Quarterly.

Addition to Acres Along the Wabash!

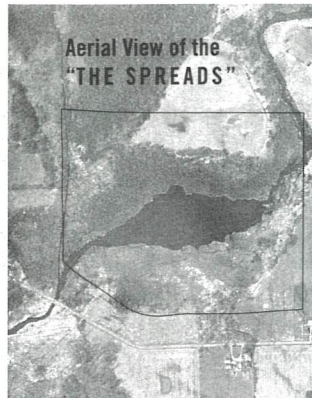
In April, ACRES signed the papers to purchase 58-acres as an addition to the Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve in Wells County. The original 29-acre preserve was a gift of Catharine and Roland Maxwell in 1973.

Huge sycamores, red and burr oak, and black maple trees border the Wabash River with a magnificent wildflower display of shooting star and wild hyacinth. The addition buffers one of the finest riparian habitats of the Upper Wabash River.

Our appreciation to the ACRES Land Acquisition Committee - Janel Rogers, David Gall, Nate Simon, David Van Gilder, Jane Dustin, Jim Haddock, and Ted Heemstra for their work on this project. ACRES needs to raise \$115,000 by January 2001.

New Preserve! "The Spreads"

Located about 1/2 mile north of the Indian River Nature Preserve (see Winter Quarterly) is ACRES' 42nd nature preserve. Temporarily titled "The Spreads", this 50-acre preserve will cost \$115,000. With the pedigree of being a notable marsh and an Indiana Heritage Site, the preserve is home to two state endangered species - massasauga rattlesnakes and marsh wrens.



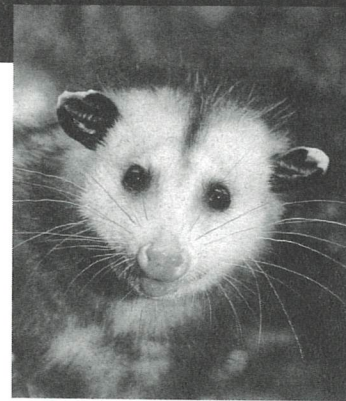
Thank you to Jeannette Kent and John Kent, who made ACRES aware of the importance of this site, and to Ted Heemstra, David Gall, and David Van Gilder who worked on its acquisition.



Carolyn McNagny
Executive Director

Cover and back page: Photographs of Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve and its wildflowers by Phyllis Robb (at left). The preserve was a gift in 1995 from Bob and Phyllis Robb.

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS - PLEASE RENEW!



Five ways you can contribute!

1. Be a Member! Check your mailing label on your Quarterly. If your label says 06/01, your membership is current. If it shows any year before 01, you have expired (and that's not good!). Please renew today!

2. Gift Memberships. ACRES has the goal of reaching 1,000 Members in 2000! If you know a friend, family member or nature lover who would enjoy ACRES, consider giving a gift ACRES membership for birthdays, anniversaries, or special occasions.

3. Birdathon to Benefit Wing Haven. Fred Wooley's Wing Haven Birdathon is in its 3rd year! Contributions of \$490 in 1998 and \$1,040 in 1999 encourage our intrepid Birdathon Team (Fred, Evie and Craig Kirkwood, and Ginger Murphy), to reach new heights of birddom. Donations benefit Wing Haven land acquisition fund. See enclosed Birdathon sheet to pledge.

4. ACRES Endowments. We are the proud parents of two spanking new endowments! ACRES has an operations endowment at the Fort Wayne Community Foundation with a 20% match available until September 2000.

We also have established an endowment for the management of Wing Haven. The Wing Haven Endowment, with the Steuben County Community Foundation, will be matched at a whopping 50% through December 2000! As ACRES' land holdings increase, the need to provide permanent funding for the organization is becoming crucial. Our thanks to Dick Walker, ACRES Treasurer, for his leadership in establishing the endowments.

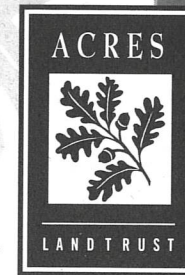
5. Land Acquisition Projects - You can give to any or all of the worthwhile projects to acquire and protect land. Indian River and "The Spreads" are being combined into one large fund drive for \$121,000. The 58-A addition to Acres Along the Wabash and the 54-A addition for Maple Wood will buffer beautiful natural areas.

Please see your remittance envelope for the different projects.

Note: Gift packets of ACRES stationery with photographs by John and Marcella Ellenwood to all donors above and beyond the regular memberships.

Mary Anna Entwisle, Membership Secretary

Your support makes a difference in your backyard!



ACRES' Mission:

Dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES protects 42 preserves in 11 counties.

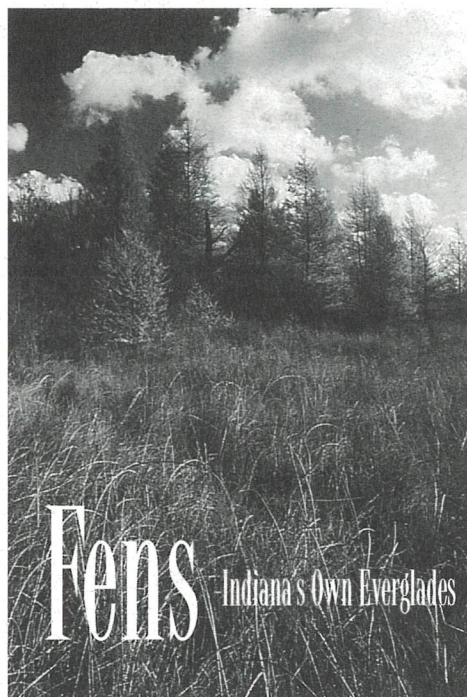
2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne IN 46808-2474
Phone and fax:
219-422-1004.
Web site:
www.acres-land-trust.org

Northeastern Indiana is truly blessed in its abundance of natural lakes and wonderfully diverse wetland habitats. The imprint of the Ice Age lies heavy on this landscape of rolling hills interspersed with deep sparkling glacial lakes. Today's bogs and peatlands represent ten thousand years of wetland development - many seasons of the cycle of growth and senescence since the melting of the Pleistocene ice sheets. Among the many peatlands, swamps, and marshes are a specific wetland type called fens. Fens are little known, but critical in terms of rare species habitat.

Fen is ancient English for a low, wet place and in old literature was referenced to evoke mystery and the unknown. Fens are found throughout central and northern Indiana on the glacial till plain, although most have been lost on conversion of the land. Northeastern Indiana probably harbors the greatest concentration of remaining high quality fens in the state.

Fens are characterized by open meadows dominated by grass-like sedge plants, often with a rich profusion of wildflowers. The peaty soils are kept saturated by a high groundwater table. Early accounts often refer to "wet prairie" or "acres of saw grasses". We know that vast sedge meadows formerly covered hundreds, if not thousands, of acres of wet sloughs and abandoned stream channel in northern Indiana. Unfortunately, precious few large fens have escaped drainage and most of our examples are "postage stamps". Fens, with their profusion of unique life, have always captured my imagination as "Indiana's everglades".

The importance of groundwater cannot be over-



November Gold In a sight both beautiful and rare, a healthy grove of tamaracks glows gold within a russet hued sedge meadow in a large fen in northeast Indiana. One of the few conifers to display a deciduous strategy, tamaracks are a tree of the far north barely hanging on here at the southern end of their range.

emphasized, for it above all elements probably determine the nature of the fen. The constant infusion of groundwater exerts a strong stabilizing effect upon fens. Cool in summer, warm in winter, fens will be in full flower while the surrounding landscape withers under drought. The unique properties of groundwater, as opposed to surficial runoff, offer life to the many rare and unique plants and animals which call fens home.



Pitcher Plant

To a botanist, the exciting plant community found on fens is an unusual combination of plants from far flung reaches; blazing star and prairie dock from prairies, orchids and fringed gentians from northern regions, and plants, such as horned

bladderwort, known on the Atlantic coastal plain. This hybrid community is believed to have resulted from the great shifting of entire forests and prairies in the turbulent period following the melting of the glaciers a scant 10,000 years ago. The plants which have found refuge in the fens seem to share one thing in common - the ability to tolerate the stressful conditions found in the extremely lime-rich, oxygen-poor, saturated muck and peat of the fens. These very same conditions have favored the formation of peat: incompletely decomposed dead plant matter which accumulates over time to form deep deposits.

Not to be outdone, many of our most fascinating and rare animals occur in fens. The federally

endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly, found in only a small handful of sites in the world, the declining massasauga rattlesnake,



White Lady's-slipper

Photograph by Delano Z. Arvin

and the charming elfin skimmer, North America's smallest dragonfly, all precariously hang on in fen remnants.

Change has been sweeping northeast Indiana at a pace not seen on the geologic time scale. Well served by interstate access points, some of our most outstanding areas of highest biological diversity face enormous challenges from development. Highway and parking lot runoff, nutrient input from fields and septic, and construction in groundwater recharge areas, all common disturbances near development, threaten our sensitive natural areas. Join ACRES and other conservation groups in working to protect these last fascinating traces of Indiana's rich natural heritage.



Blazing Stars in Sedge Meadow Gorgeous deep purple spikes of marsh blazing star make their contribution to the season long display of unusual wildflowers present in fens. In their open aspect and in the plant species present, fens share many affinities to prairies, and are sometimes classified as prairie fens.



The Magic of Groundwater Uncommon and rare fen plants grow in the marly soil conditions found around a groundwater upwelling with a fen. The giant halberd-shaped leaves and yellow daisy-like flowers of the prairie dock contrast with the fine leaves of the many sedge plants dominant in fens. Groundwater exerts a moderating influence on temperatures in the saturated soils around plant roots and for creatures burrowed in the peat.

Join ACRES on Sunday, June 4th for:
Fens - Indiana's Own Everglades - 2:00 p.m.
at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

Tom Swinford will give a slide program on fens,
followed by a tour of a Pigeon River fen.

See Field Trips and Special Events, page 7

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

11th Annual Adopt-A-Tree Festival.

Saturday, April 22nd - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, John Ellenwood, Jim Shearer, John Eddy, David Syler, and David and Bonnie Snyder.

What better way to greet spring than at Wing Haven? Make a bluebird birdhouse, learn to plant a tree, hike the trails, and listen to dulcimer music. Come out for this fun annual event! **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to exit 154, turn south on SR 127 and then immediately east onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N. Refreshments served. **Contact:** Art and Marion Eberhardt at 219-665-2421 or ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Jim Shearer and friend
Photo by Art Eberhardt

Fox Island 25th Anniversary!

Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th.

Bird hikes, wildflower walks and other festivities planned for this celebratory weekend. Contact

Fox Island at 219-449-3180

Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve.

Sunday, April 30th. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Else Matott, Naturalist.

One of our grandest displays of large-flowered trillium at any preserve, see this old-growth woods in all its glory. Preserve was gift of Glenn Fogwell, Mabel Corville and Mildred Klopfenstein in 1976. **Where:** Fogwell Forest, Allen County. Take Lower Huntington Road and turn south on Whippoorwill Drive and preserve located at end of road.



Photo of Dutchman's Breeches by Phyllis Robb

Else Matott's Wild Plant Sale.

Saturday, May 6th - 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Else has cacti, perennials and herbs. Proceeds will be donated to the Acres Along the Wabash addition.

Contact: Art and Else Matott at 219-745-7877.

Butternuts and Chestnuts.

Sunday, May 7th - 1:00 p.m. **Presented by:** Bill Deeter.

At the turn of the century, one of every four trees was an American Chestnut - by 1950 99% were gone - taken by a blight from China. Bill will talk about the blights affecting the Chestnut and Butternut trees, what can be done to restore them, and some encouraging signs of a turnaround. Bill has gathered thousands of butternuts from what is hoped are healthy trees. He is bringing 1,000 butternuts to Wing Haven and we will plant them after his program. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. **Bring:** Hiking boots and gloves if you want to help plant butternuts! **Contact:** Carolyn McNagny, ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Crooked Lake Wildflower Walk.

Saturday, May 13 - 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Else Matott, Naturalist. Hike the bluffs along the lake, colorful display of wildflowers, and great company make for a fun day! **Where:** Crooked Lake Nature Preserve, Whitley County. Take SR 9 north of US 30 7 miles, turn west onto County Line Road. Parking area 1/2 mile on south side of County Line Road.

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Warblers at The Bicentennial Woods

Sunday, May 21st - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Debby Meade and Tim Houghton, Stockbridge Audubon Society

Look for scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, red-eyed vireos, and other migrants at this 80-A old-growth woods. Redbuds put on quite a show along Willow Creek, an added bonus!



Where: The Bicentennial Woods, Allen County. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne. Turn west on Shoaff Road, Preserve located 1 mile west on south side of Shoaff Road. **Bring:** Binoculars!



Photo of Bicentennial Woods by Mike Scott

Photography Workshop with John Tyson

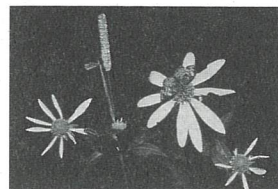
Saturday, May 27th. - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: John Tyson, Professional Photographer.

John is a nationally-published photographer and author of environmental subjects. He will teach basics of 35mm photography, including lighting, composition, and the requirements of location shooting. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

Bring: Camera and equipment. **IMPORTANT: Please pre-register for this program. Cost of \$25.00 per person to benefit Wing Haven. Refreshments served.**

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Fens - Indiana's Own Everglades.

Sunday, June 4th - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Presented by: Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist, IDNR Division of Nature Preserves. Tom will give a slide program (with some spectacular slides) at Wing Haven and then lead a hike of a Pigeon River fen. An ecosystem thousands of years old, fens have plants unique to their boundaries: horned bladderwort, blazing star, prairie dock, lady's slipper orchids, pitcher plants and sundews. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to exit 154, turn south on SR 127 and then immediately east onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N. **Bring:** Hiking or wading boots, wear pants, and bring your camera!



Indian River Canoe Trip

Saturday, June 10th - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Don and Pearl Wingstrom

The white water lilies may be in bloom and we will canoe from Dallas Lake along the Indian River to Hackenberg Lake. We will canoe north through the marsh to "The Spreads", if the water is high enough and time allows. This trip may include a white-man's artifacts dig (trash pick-up). **Where:** Don and Pearl Wingstrom's house. Take SR 9 north of Wolcottville, turn west at the stop light onto County Line Road/800 S. Follow 800 S. about 3 miles to 75 W. Turn north onto 75 W and then east onto 625 S (look for big Dallas Bay sign). Off of 625 W, turn onto Dallas Bay Drive and follow it left to the Wingstrom's house. **Bring:** Canoe, paddles, life preservers, pack a lunch and swimsuit if daring.



Photo by Bob Weber. Dave Deimling, Sam Schwartz, & Jim Barrett

Field Trips Continued...Next Page



Dragonflies of Indiana.

Sunday, June 25th - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: James Curry, Biology Professor, Franklin College. Indiana has exactly 100 species of dragonflies with marvelous names: Red saddlebags, Gray petaltail and Hine's Emerald. Dr. Curry has researched dragonflies for 10 years and this fall the Indiana Academy of Science will publish his book: *Dragonflies of Indiana*. A 45-minute slide program with a short field trip to Gentian Lake to see if any dragonflies are out and about. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Photograph by Bob Weber

WE'RE BRANCHING OUT!

20,000 trees are being planted at 4 ACRES preserves

this spring. Professional foresters Tom Crowe and Larry

Clemens are reforesting the 18-A field at the McNabb/Walter Nature Preserve and the 16.5-A field at Fawn River Nature Preserve. ACRES Land Management Volunteers will be planting another 500 trees at Maple Wood Nature Preserve and Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

Thank you to NIPSCO for providing the funds for 350 dogwood, redbuds, and hazelnut bushes for the entrance to Maple Wood. Art Hammer and Art Eberhardt are involved each year with acquiring trees for ACRES projects and for the Adopt-A-Tree Festival.

Remember: This year's Adopt-A-Tree Festival is on Saturday, April 22nd!

Artwork by Jan Eberhardt

Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Elizabeth Alter Gift of Joy Hunter
Travis Ames
Richard H. Beckman
Don Main and Rosalie Emerick
Brian Good
Matt and Hallie Grant Gift of Patricia McNagny
William and Sharon Harris
Kathy Harvard Gift of Julia E. Hurley
John H. Haschel
Rick W. Haschel
Timothy D. Houghton and Cynthia L. Moore
Holly Hunter Gift of Joy Hunter
Joy Hunter

Glenn Kinduell
Brooks and Paula Langeloh
Gift of Patricia McNagny
Barbara Lee Gift of Joy Hunter
Matt "Goat" Merz
Carl and Nicole Miller
Roy Minnix and Carol Cooke-Minnix
Edward and Karen Paragi
Keith and Louise Pomeroy
Cynthia A. Porter
Brent Retebuch
Mary J. Slaton

BIG

Thank You To All of Our Wing Haven Addition & Birdathon Donors

68 acres — Started March 1999

English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation
Kent Family Foundation
Indiana Heritage Trust Program
Olive B. Cole Foundation
Waterfield Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Steuben County Community Foundation
Edward M. Wilson Foundation

Ducks Unlimited, Steuben County Chapter
Northcrest Elementary School

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✦ Joseph Wooley
Dave and Barb Yoder
Dale and Judy Zinn
Michael and Martha Zurcher



Gave to the Birdathon

BOLD TYPE - Gave to Wing Haven & Birdathon

Our sincerest apologies for any omissions.

LAND MANAGEMENT

ACRES is fortunate to have a great group of Land Management volunteers! More than 100 people are registered to receive the spring and fall work day notices and we schedule 10-12 work days a year. As we approach 3,000 acres in scattered preserves, our 26 Stewards, Land Management volunteers, the Boy Scouts and their leaders keep the preserves fixed up and ready for the public.

This winter, work days were held at The Bicentennial Woods and the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. David Deimling, Don McCormack, John Ellenwood, Ellsworth Smith, Carl Deimling, and Jason Skinner worked for two weekends repairing The Bicentennial Woods Bridge. The 48-foot truss

bridge spans Willow Creek and is one of the most impressive structures at any ACRES preserve. Built by Jason Skinner, Troop 430 of Faith Baptist Church, the bridge gives the hiker beautiful views through an arching corridor of trees along the creek. The plan required a generator, which John Ellenwood brought down by toboggan.

David Deimling, Chairman of the Land Management Committee, designed the repairs to the bridge and the group worked at hauling lumber, supplies and John Ellenwood's generator to the bridge on sleds. Thanks to a wealth of experience in woodworking, the group was able to straighten and strengthen the bridge. Don McCormack and John Ellenwood are both members of the Land Management Committee, along with David Deimling, Tony Acosta, and Bob Weber.

John and Rosemary Rouch are the Stewards for the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. For the last 5 years, they have faithfully checked the trail system, picked up large quantities of trash along 600 W, pulled garlic mustard and led work days. Noticing a large tree down across the trail, John, Rosemary, Art and Marion Eberhardt and I went WAY back in the preserve to cut a block out of the downed tree. Using wedges and a pile driver, John removed the chain-sawed sections of the tree, a feat that is not as easy as it sounds.

To join the Land Management Volunteers and receive the work days, call the ACRES Office at 219-422-1004. Our sincere thanks to all of you who help manage the ACRES preserves!

WORK DAYS

Sunday, April 30th. Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.
2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Work Day Leader: Ellsworth Smith, Steward.

We have baby tulip, white oak, shagbark hickory, redbud, and dogwood trees to plant in a 2 acre field. ACRES will have trees for all volunteers to take home to plant. Get in touch with your roots!

Directions: Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Fitch Road. Turn west on Fitch and go about 1 mile, then turn south onto Sunlight Lane. Preserve is located at the end of Sunlight Lane.

Bring: Work clothes and gloves, shovels, and buckets.

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

Saturday, June 3rd. Detering and Lonidaw.

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

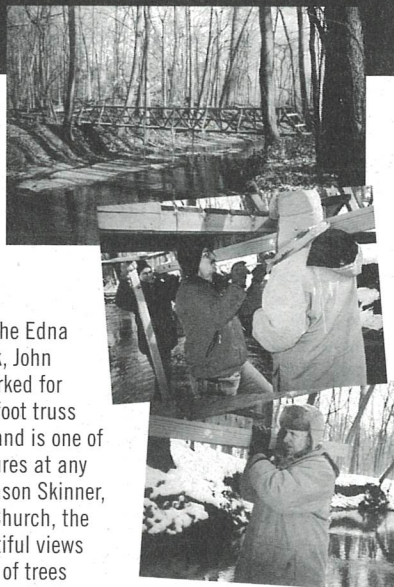
Work Day Leader: Barron Renkenberger, Steward.

Barron watches over two ACRES preserves and we will be helping him pick up trash along 700 N at Detering Nature Preserve. If we finish fairly quickly, we will also be painting over graffiti at the cement shelter at Lonidaw.

Directions: Take SR 6 east of Kendallville to Lonidaw Preserve located at corner of SR 6 and 700 N.

Bring: Old clothes and gloves. Pick-up trucks would be nice. If we paint, ACRES will supply everything needed.

Contact: ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Photograph by John Ellenwood.
Top to bottom:
Bicentennial Woods Bridge;
Don McCormack, David Deimling;
Ellsworth Smith



Photograph of John Rouch by Art Eberhardt

In Memoriam

Hy Goldenberg

Hy and Lorry gave ACRES one of our finest preserves, the 42 acre Tel-Hy Nature Preserve, in 1995. With panoramic views of the Wabash River, the preserve has high bluffs with huge beech and oak trees. Many people involved with ACRES will miss Hy's sense of humor, kindness and love of life.



Mark Berghoff and

Mona Yoder-Berghoff

William and Ethyle Bloch

Joan M. Clapp

Thomas and Jane Dustin

Edward and Nancy Eberhardt

John and Marcella Ellenwood

David and Becky Gall

Ted and Pat Heemstra

Louis and Maxye Henry

Robert and Edna McKay

Carolyn McNagny

Patricia McNagny

Kathryn L. Moore

Emmaline O. Purviance

Donald Richey and Susan Hafner-Richey

Phillip R. Smith

Joann Williams

Editorial and Advertising staff of TL Enterprises

W. Louis Billiter

Louis was born in a log cabin on the Asher Fisher/William N. Billiter farm near Mt. Etna. He was very involved in FFA. Winning first in Huntington County Fair, he won a blue ribbon and a trip to Indianapolis. Tribute to be used for continuing restoration by Quail Unlimited of the Tel-Hy Nature Preserve's prairie.

from his sister,

Theresa E. Bilitzer Hazen

James O. Minogue

James was one of the founders of the Virginia Native Plant Society and President of the North American Rock Garden Society, which has more than 20,000 members. His daughter, Mary Anna Entwisle, is an ACRES Director and has served as the ACRES Membership Secretary for 17 years.

Tom and Jane Dustin

Ralph May, Steward of Madison Township School and Bibler Nature Preserves.

The two Jay County Preserves were generous gifts of Sam Bibler. Ralph and Sam are lifelong friends and, since Sam lives in Kalispell, Montana, Ralph watches over his nature preserves for him.

The boulder was carved to memorialize the Madison Township School and has a drawing in the rock of the school. This summer, Ralph has arranged for a parking area to be installed at the preserve and Boy Scouts are building a 1/2 mile loop trail system. Thank you, Ralph, for your help to ACRES!



THE COLORS OF SPRING!

I'll never forget the first time I fell in love with color. I was probably six years old. Someone showed me a robin's nest filled with little blue eggs. Until that point I never knew such a beautiful blue existed. It's amazing how something like that can be so exciting and can stick with you the rest of your life. I guess that's why I am a sort of "professional color selector" now. In the marketing field of work, I choose printing colors almost every day. So it was with fond reflection that I chose Robin's Egg Blue for the border of this Spring's Quarterly cover.



After winter's gray and brown, we all look for spring's first green to leap up out of the ground. But ...even that can't compare to the first time you see a scarlet tanager against a green tree, a field of wood violets, or a robin's cache of pearly, blue-green eggs. Forests and fields are showing off some of their most vibrant colors right now. Want to take a couple of years off? Get out on some of the Acres' trails and take some time to wander and wonder!

Until next time...

Susan Britton

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, 2000. 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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