

QUARTERLY

Summer 2000

Volume 39—Number 3



ACRES CELEBRATES 40th YEAR!

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Photograph of Great Blue Heron by Paul McAfee

A REMARKABLE YEAR!



Photograph of Marsh Wren Nature Preserve by John Tyson

ACRES has the opportunity to acquire some special, high quality natural areas in 2000. This is a banner year, and it is only July. Thanks to everyone involved in ACRES for their encouraging support!

Protection of a Blue Heron rookery bordering Cedar Creek, Allen County: In May, ACRES purchased 9 acres as an addition to the existing 11 acre **Cedar Creek Bottoms Nature Preserve**. The rookery is located within the 9 acres, with more than 60 nests perched in the canopy of huge sycamore trees.



Photograph of Indian River Nature Preserve by John Tyson

Purchase of the new 30 acre **Indian River Nature Preserve** and the 50 acre **Marsh Wren Nature Preserve** (formerly "The Spreads") in LaGrange County. The two properties (acquired this spring) are wetlands and uplands located near Dallas Lake. Providing homes for many of our web-footed friends, the area has spectacular views of one of the largest marshes left in northeast Indiana. Our thanks to the **Indiana Heritage Trust Program** (remember to purchase your environmental license plate!) for their generous grant to the **Marsh Wren Nature Preserve**.

Acquisition of 58 acres as an addition to the 29 acre **Acres Along the Wabash**

Nature Preserve in Wells County. In July, ACRES received a significant grant from the **Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund** to help us buffer one of the highest quality riparian habitats along the Wabash River.

Addition of another 12 acres to the 54 acres being added to the original 68 acre **Maple Wood Nature Preserve**. ACRES is working with the LaGrange County Parks and Recreation Department (Mike Metz, Director) to provide important buffer for this beautiful old-growth maple sugar woods.

Janel Rogers, Chairman of Land Acquisition

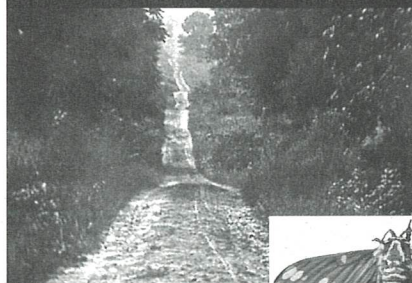


Above: Photograph of Wild Hyacinths at Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve by John Tyson



Left: Photograph of Shooting Star at Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve by John Tyson

LIMBERLOST SWAMP... RETURNING TO LIFE



ACRES continues to be involved in the Limberlost Swamp Restoration project in Jay and Adams Counties. Led by Ken Brunswick, Director of Limberlost Swamp, Inc., the project is approaching 1,000 acres protected and restored. The 17,000 acre swamp, made famous by Gene Stratton-Porter in the 1890s while being ironically destroyed at the same time by the local drainage boards, is making a slow and steady comeback.

Ken Brunswick says that "bur reed has come back to the wet areas, along with arrowhead and water plantain". In the spring, the marsh

LIMBERLOST RESTORATION HISTORY

1996	428 acres-Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve
1998	38 acres-Limberlost-Hart Outdoor Classroom
1999	152 acres-Limberlost Swamp Preserve
2000	26 acres-Limberlost Bird Sanctuary
2000	327 acres-Property acquired in July 2000

"had quite a few golden plovers for a day or two, passing through on their way north. In the remote areas of the marsh, three least bitterns are nesting. The Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve has become a haven for birds, with 7 or 8 American egrets, many varieties of ducks, and more than 20 Great blue herons visiting the area every day. Marsh hawks can be seen flying over the creek and may have a nest.



Photographs of the Limberlost by Gene Stratton-Porter

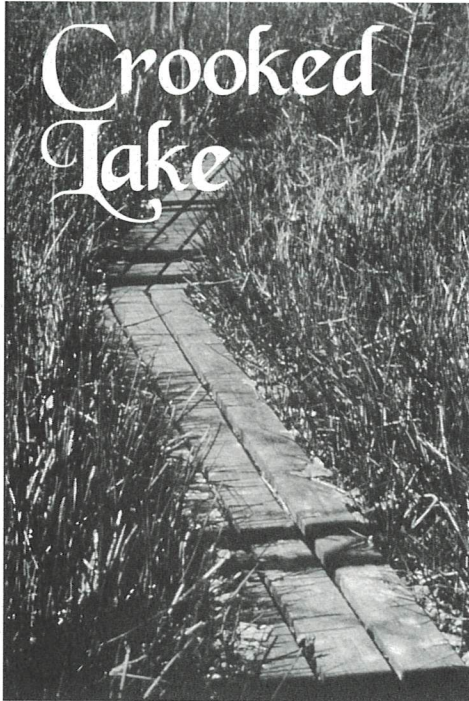
If you want to support this project, please mail donations and make checks payable to:
Limberlost Swamp Remembered, P.O. Box 603, Geneva, IN 46740

Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Bruce and Lorene Arnold
Tom and Cindy Bolinger
Robert and Kathy Britton
-Gift from Jeff & Sue Britton
Steve and Lori Britton
-Gift from Jeff & Sue Britton
Frank and Mary Brooke
Jane Cochard
Paul and Leanne Fischer & Family
- Gift from Jeff & Sue Britton
Tony Fleming and Victoria Ferguson
Amy Gerbard
Rebecca L. Gross
Paul and Rachel Herbig
Tom Hoffman
Robert Hough
Wayne and Stacey Huxhold

Chloe Smith-Guitard (age 5) and
Stephen Smith-Guitard (age 3)
-Gift from Diane Groenert (the Nana)
Michael and Patricia Maraldo
Debbie Perry
Judy Pursley -Gift of Julia Hurley
The Dwight Simpson Family
-Gift from Jeff & Sue Britton
Marge Smithson
Andrew J. Thomas
Iris Thomas
Steve and Michele Souder
Larry and Beatrice Stebing
Kathryn West
Pat Wickerham
Kevin and Kim Wilkinson
Allyson Zanetti

Crooked Lake



Article and photographs
by Paul McAfee

Crooked Lake Nature Preserve is one of the finest gems in Indiana's collection of dedicated preserves. There are 146 acres of protected land along Crooked Lake in Whitley County, with two loop trails. One loop trail is currently closed along the lake until the boardwalk is replaced, but you can still walk down the trail and back.

The second loop provides a pleasant hike and nature study any time of the year. From a well-overgrown farm field to mature forest, from seep-springs to the lakeshore of one of the cleanliest lakes in Indiana, this preserve offers a huge variety of plants and animals for hikers to observe.

Early spring is a refreshing time to visit the preserve. The earliest plants are emerging, such as skunk cabbage, bloodroot, and hepatica. The leaves

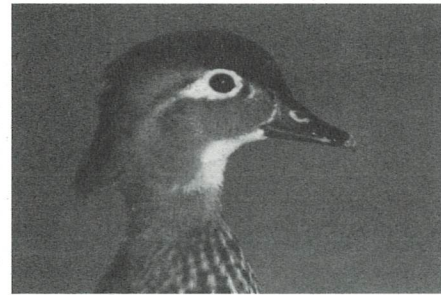
are not yet on the trees so it is easy to watch birds moving around the woods. You may even hear the occasional daytime call of the Barred Owl. There is almost always a deer to be seen somewhere on the preserve. I enjoy this time of year particularly since there are no mosquitoes or flies.

Mid and late spring are the glorious times at this preserve. The place is echoing with the calls of migrating birds. The lake hosts a wide variety of waterfowl and there is always a loon to be seen. The spring wildflower show is as good as anywhere in northeastern Indiana. Carpets of trillium, toothwort, spring beauties, and other wildflowers pave the way for a stress-cleansing walk on a bright spring day. You really should not let a spring go by without a hike through the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve.

If you feel brave enough you could venture in during the



Early spring Hepaticas and skunk cabbage.



Wood Duck

summer months! It's hot, sticky, and sports a nice variety of biting mosquitoes, flies and who knows what other entomological dreams. With the preserve well guarded, the birds find it a most inviting place to raise a family. If you do manage to get there in mid-summer, and can stand to go slow enough, and peak around all of the vegetation, you will certainly find nests and young of many species of woodpeckers, sparrows, warblers, owls, thrushes, and hummingbirds. If you're extra quiet and lucky, you may also spot young deer, squirrels, fox or many of the other mammals that make Crooked Lake their home.

With fall comes fall colors and fall flowers. A crisp cool day will hold back the mosquitoes and reveal a selection of fall wildflowers that rivals the springtime show. Among the novelties are stiff gentians and great lobelias. The sleepy lake is soothing and once again full of traveling waterfowl. The woods and fields are teaming with birds. Some people have found that slipping out of work for an afternoon at Crooked Lake can really recharge your batteries.

Winter is a quiet time at Crooked Lake when snow blankets the grounds. The snow muffles the sound of the constantly busy chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, and nuthatches. The

snow also reveals the activities of the deer, squirrels, mice and other mammals at the preserve. If the snow is good enough, cross-country skiing is possible, although lately there seem to be few opportunities to go.

Crooked Lake does have some unusual and rare plant communities, so stay on the trails. As with all of Indiana's dedicated nature preserves, always feel free to pick up a piece of litter that other hikers may have inadvertently dropped. ACRES has provided us with many opportunities to enjoy nature in north-eastern Indiana, so let's take good care of the preserves.



Downy woodpeckers are common year-round residents at Crooked Lake.

HISTORY OF CROOKED LAKE NATURE PRESERVE:

In 1977, Phil and Patricia McNagny donated an 1.5 acre ravine to ACRES on the north shore of Crooked Lake. The gift was named the Ralph F. Gates Nature Preserve, in honor of Patricia McNagny's father, who was Governor from 1945-1949.

In 1979, the 91-acre Stewart farm, located on the north shore of Crooked Lake, was for sale for \$250,000. Patricia McNagny, David Walter, and Bill Thomson went door to door to the property owners on Little and Big Crooked Lakes to raise \$75,000. Through the efforts of Jane Dustin, ACRES supported the project and donated \$25,000. Del Auer, State Representative, steered a line-item through the state legislature for the remaining \$150,000. The Preserve became a dedicated state nature preserve in 1981.

In 1982, the Crooked Lake Property Owners added 10 acres to the Preserve along the natural channel between Big and Little Crooked Lakes. ACRES was involved in another acquisition to the Preserve in 1996, when 46 acres were added, including the "duck pond," a ten-acre wetland area.

The Crooked Lake Nature Preserve is under the ownership of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves.

Crooked Lake Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 19th - 6:00 p.m.
See Next Page-Field Trips & Special Events

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Fungus Amongus

Sunday, August 6th - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Ed Laurent, mycology expert. Join Ed for a 45 minute slide program on mushrooms, slime molds, and other fungus. Learn identification and the general life cycle of the often seen, but seldom understood, fungus. If it is damp, Ed will lead a hike to see what is lurking out and about.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154 (north of Angola) turn south on SR 127 and then immediately east onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N.

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



Photograph of Amanita Mushroom by Bill Krebs



Crooked Lake Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 19th - 6:00 p.m.

Bring your kayak or canoe to the public landing site for an evening canoe ride. The north shore of the lake is the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve, written about in Paul McAfee's article. After the canoe ride, we will haul out the lights for a night trip around the lake on a 30 year old cruiser to look for muskrat, turtles and gar.

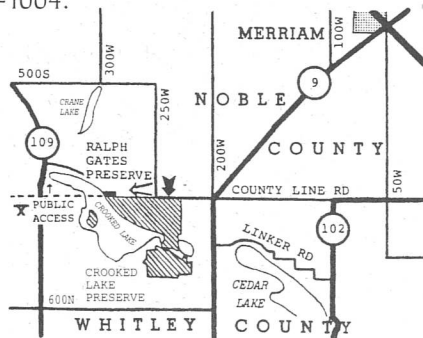
Where: Take US 30 to Columbia City, turn north on SR 109. Go 7 miles north to Crooked Lake Public Landing site on the east side of SR 109.

Bring: Canoe or kayak, life vest, paddle, flashlight, and insect repellent.

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



Photograph of Painted Turtle by John Tyson



FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Rosewood Concert

Sunday, September 3rd - 2:00 p.m.

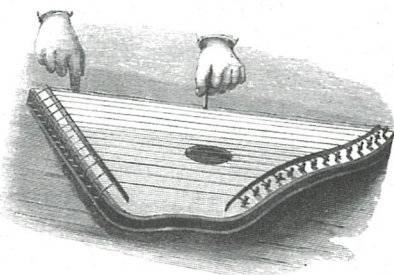
Back for an encore, the popular musical group Rosewood will play the traditional music of the British Isles. The musicians play the guitar, lap dulcimer, cittern, whistle, bass and banjo. Come out for a toe-tapping time!



Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154 (north of Angola) turn south on SR 127 and then immediately east onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N.

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

Wild Rose photograph by Bill Krebs



Tel-Hy Trek

Saturday, September 9th - 10:00 a.m.

We will hike the high bluffs of Tel-Hy down to the Wabash River. The preserve has magnificent beech trees, kingfishers along the river, and hillsides of wild ginger. **Where:** Tel-Hy Nature Preserve, Huntington County. Take SR 9 south of Huntington to 200 N. Turn east on 200 N and then south onto Etna Avenue. Take an immediate left off of Etna onto 300 W. Preserve located on 300 W in 1/2 mile on left side of road.

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



Photograph of Sundew by Bill Krebs

Mark your Calendars!

ACRES Annual Dinner

at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne
Tom Swinford, IDNR Regional Ecologist
presents a program on:

Fens, Bogs and Sedge Meadows:

Natural Areas of Northeast Indiana
Friday, November 10th
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Slide Presentation by Tom Swinford at 8:00 p.m.

For our younger ACRES members

Over In the Meadow

Over in the meadow,
In the sand, in the sun,
Lived an old mother toad
And her little toadie one.
"Wink!" said the mother;
"I wink," said the one:
So she winked and she blinked
In the sand, in the sun.

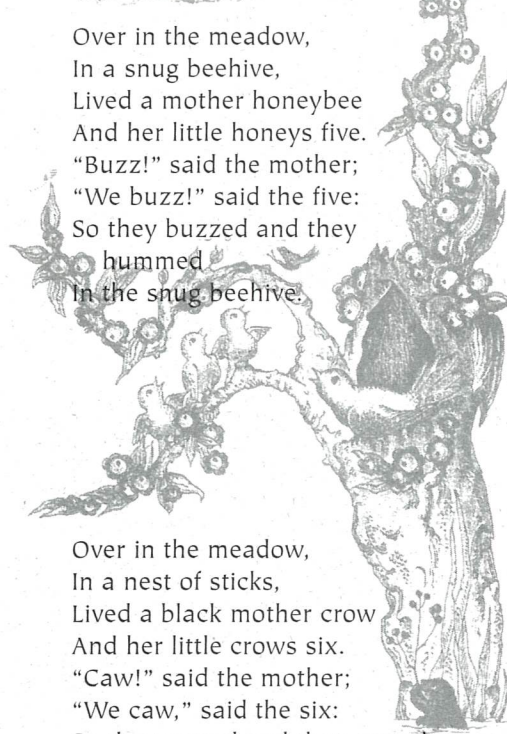
Over in the meadow,
Where the stream runs blue,
Lived an old mother fish
And her little fishes two.
"Swim!" said the mother;
"We swim," said the two:
So they swam and they leaped
Where the stream runs blue.

Over in the meadow,
In a hole in a tree,
Lived a mother bluebird
And her little birdies three.
"Sing!" said the mother;
"We sing," said the three:
So they sang and were glad,
In the hole in the tree.

Over in the meadow,
In the reeds on the shore,
Lived a mother muskrat
And her little ratties four.
"Dive!" said the mother;
"We dive," said the four:
So they dived and they burrowed
In the reeds on the shore.



Over in the meadow,
In a snug beehive,
Lived a mother honeybee
And her little honeys five.
"Buzz!" said the mother;
"We buzz!" said the five:
So they buzzed and they hummed
In the snug beehive.



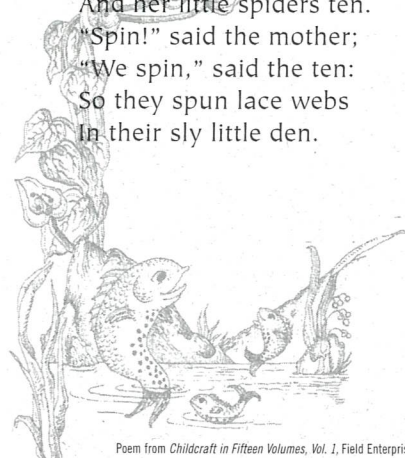
Over in the meadow,
In a nest of sticks,
Lived a black mother crow
And her little crows six.
"Caw!" said the mother;
"We caw," said the six:
So they cawed and they cawed
In their nest built of sticks.

Over in the meadow,
Where the grass is so even,
Lived a gray mother cricket
And her little crickets seven.
"Chirp!" said the mother;
"We chirp," said the seven:
So they chirped cheery notes
In the grass soft and even.

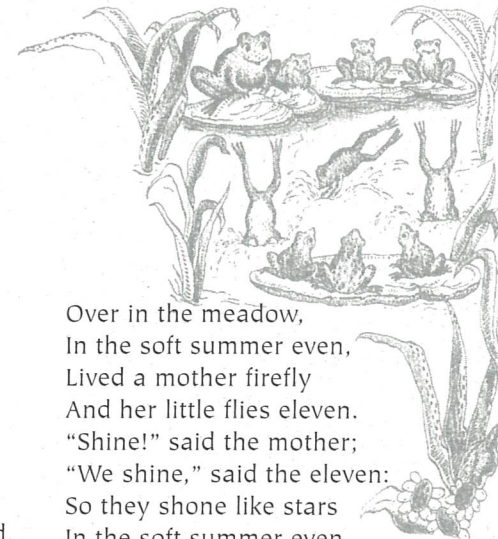
Over in the meadow,
By the old mossy gate,
Lived a brown mossy lizard
And her little lizards eight.
"Bask!" said the mother;
"We bask," said the eight:
So they basked in the sun
By the old mossy gate.

Over in the meadow,
Where the clear pools shine,
Lived a green mother frog
And her little froggies nine.
"Croak!" said the mother;
"We croak," said the nine:
So they croaked, and they splashed,
Where the clear pools shine.

Over in the meadow,
In a sly little den,
Lived a gray mother spider
And her little spiders ten.
"Spin!" said the mother;
"We spin," said the ten:
So they spun lace webs
In their sly little den.



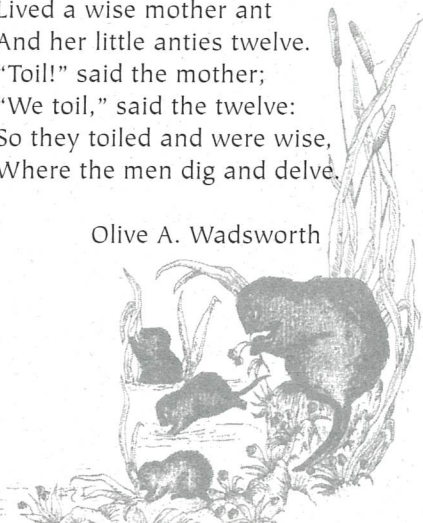
Poem from *Childcraft in Fifteen Volumes*, Vol. 1, Field Enterprises Inc. 1954



Over in the meadow,
In the soft summer even,
Lived a mother firefly
And her little flies eleven.
"Shine!" said the mother;
"We shine," said the eleven:
So they shone like stars
In the soft summer even.

Over in the meadow,
Where the men dig and delve,
Lived a wise mother ant
And her little anties twelve.
"Toil!" said the mother;
"We toil," said the twelve:
So they toiled and were wise,
Where the men dig and delve.

Olive A. Wadsworth



BOY SCOUT PATCHES



ACRES Education Committee (Sam Schwartz, Art Eberhardt, Greg Craghead, and Sean Carroll) helped design and approved the new ACRES/ Boy Scout patch. The patch will be given to boys who complete their Eagle project at an ACRES preserve.

In the last 7 years, more than 25 boys have received their Eagle Badge, the highest award a Boy Scout can receive, by completing a project at an ACRES Preserve. Giving many hours and a great deal of effort, the Scouts have built stairs, boardwalks, and bridges, established trail systems, planted prairie plots, routed signs, set up bluebird trails, and raised and released bobwhite quail.

IS EDUCATION PART OF THE SOLUTION?

By Sam Schwartz, Director and
Chairperson of ACRES Education Committee

Even a casual observer will note the rapid loss of open green space and natural areas throughout our part of the state. Farm fields and wooded areas are replaced with shopping malls and subdivided for new homes. While some people would say that conventional wisdom dictates that we do not stand in the way of progress, there is a growing awareness that suburban sprawl is a problem with many dimensions.

ACRES Land Trust is dedicated to acquisition and preservation of natural landscapes. Despite our exciting track record of saving many diverse parcels of land, there are insufficient resources to slow this tide of conversion to suburban sprawl.

The Education Committee of ACRES is dedicated to dissemination of information to members and non-members alike. We are constantly searching for venues to share our philosophy of preservation of the land and also providing opportunities for all interested persons to learn more about the natural world around us. Field trips and special events encourage all to learn more about our preserves and the flora and fauna which reside there.

Our various publications provide information to the reader so they can learn more about our organization, activities, and hopefully want to contribute to the overall preservation effort. Volunteers are always needed and are welcome to help in these efforts. We endeavor to continually expand and enhance our outreach through our new web site, as well as more traditional media resources.

Furthermore, we are reaching out to areas more distant from Fort Wayne by staging events and programs throughout our Northeast Indiana region. We do welcome other organizations in related endeavors to co-sponsor events and programs with us. Considerable inspiration, effort, and talent are drawn upon to achieve the goals we have set out for our organization. I would like to personally thank all who have helped us along the way.

Photograph of Sam Schwartz by Bob Weber

• *Our Executive Director, Carolyn McNagny, assists us in so many ways and manages to keep our efforts on track.*

• *Our Board of Directors and Officers support us administratively and provide financial oversight.*

• *Volunteers willing to devote time, energy, and special knowledge to assist in a variety of ways.*

• *Special thanks is extended to Susan Britton, our ACRES Quarterly, Brochure, and Field Guide Editor, for her dedication and high quality of editing and publishing.*

And of course, my fellow Education Committee members provide necessary vision, experience, and wisdom to promote our agenda.

• *Art Eberhardt has devoted 35 years to ACRES Board of Directors. He brings knowledge of ACRES history, natural history, photography, music, and a solid commitment to stewardship.*

• *Sean Carroll shares with Art, both a residence in Steuben County, as well as a solid academic background at Tri-State University. Sean provides a high level of expertise in computers for our committee and has been instrumental in setting up our web site, www.acres-land-trust.org.*

• *Greg Craghead came to our committee from Leadership Fort Wayne. He brings a rich corporate media resource knowledge base and has orchestrated various successful promotional efforts, including our Public Service Announcement.*



• *Do something for yourself, our environment, and posterity: join in ACRES' efforts and discover some way you can help!*

*Thanks, Sam Schwartz,
ACRES Education
Committee Chairperson.*

In Memoriam

Hy Goldenberg
Philip and Jean Ross

James O. Minogue
Don and Gretel Smith

**Jessie of Jessie's Woods
Nature Preserve**
Kate Birdseye

Tributes!

Ethyle R. Bloch
In honor of her 80th Birthday!

Ed Eberhardt
In honor of his 80th Birthday!

Jim and Pat Barrett

Special Thanks to...

SCHENKELSHULTZ
ARCHITECTURE

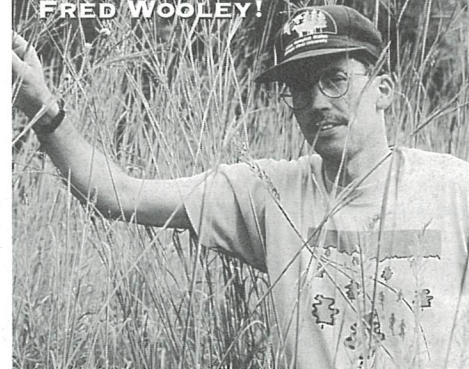
For the Acres Along the Wabash
Nature Preserve's map created by
Bill Eviston and Christy Forish

Dr. Edwin Stumpf for his
generous gift to the Wing Haven
Endowment.

Art and Anna Mae Parry for their
strong support of the 68-acre
addition to Wing Haven.

Bruce Arnold for his expertise with
the computers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
FRED WOOLEY!



Fred with the prairie he restored at Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

Fred is the Chief Naturalist at Pokagon State Park and the Caretaker at Wing Haven.

Fred has received the Distinguished Professional Interpreter Award for the National Association of Interpreters, Region 4. Region 4 covers Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Ontario, with 425 members and this is the highest honor for the region.

Fred is known for his dedication to environmental education and has been setting a standard of excellence in interpretation at Pokagon State Park and Wing Haven.

Kathryn Moore, naturalist, is looking for nature enthusiasts to hike the preserves with her. Kathryn has offered to complete plant surveys on all ACRES Preserves. Have a great time and help ACRES document our flora! Call Kathryn at (219) 627-2278.



ACRES



LAND TRUST

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

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

Monarchs

Imagine God's view...looking down through the clouds to a little orange dotted line, fluttering along the coast of northern Canada, all the way down to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. It's the monarch butterfly migration. In the entire world, no butterflies migrate like the monarch of eastern North America. How do these little "flower-nectar powered" creatures fly up to 2,000 miles, sometimes crossing an ocean? Beside their main energy source of nectar, monarchs eat milkweed, which gives them a poisonous chemical defense to predators such as birds, frogs or mice. They use "thermals," or updrafts of warm air, that allow them to glide, using less energy on the long journey. When monarchs migrate, they are in a physiological state called "reproductive diapause" and will not lay eggs until their diapause ends in early spring. Although summer generations of monarchs live only 2-5 weeks, the late-summer/early-fall individuals can live up to 8-9 months to survive the migratory trip to and from their overwintering sites in Mexico.

Many of these butterflies fly north after winter to feed on milkweed, particularly in the "corn belt" of the Midwest. In 1999 Cornell University scientists published a study showing that pollen from genetically engineered maize plants contains a toxin that kills monarch larvae. Today, more than 25% of the corn crop is planted with genetically altered seeds.



Chrysalis by Bill Krebs



Photograph of Adult Monarch by Bob Weber

Genetically modified crops have provoked very little controversy in the U.S., unlike Europe, where they are banned in many areas. The Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Foundation at the University of Minnesota is conducting studies to assess the potential impact on monarch populations and to use this information to affect EPA decisions on regulation of this technology.

Imagine God's view... why tamper with the original formula?

To Support the monarch studies or to receive the Monarchs in the Classroom educational program, contact the:

Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Foundation,
C/O Karen Oberhauser
2078 Skillman Ave. W.
Roseville, MN 55113 www.mbsf.org

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, 2000. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004

www.acres-land-trust.org

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MEMBERSHIP: Benefactor, \$500.00; Patron, \$100.00; Organization/Club, \$50.00; Share-the-Expense, \$50.00; Family, \$30.00; Individual, \$20.00; Senior Citizen, \$15.00; and Student (through High School), \$15.00. Payable Annually. **Membership year is July 1 to June 30.**

