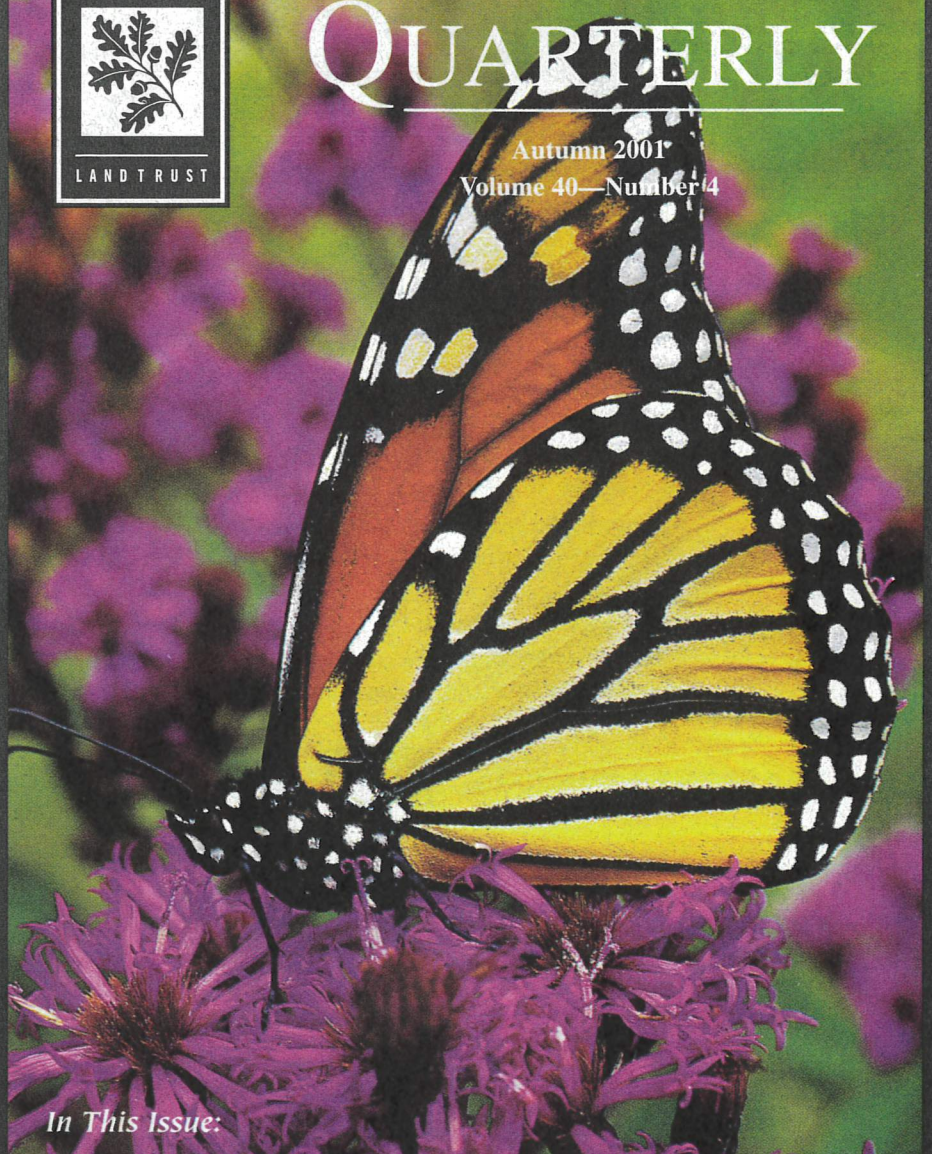


*Preserving Natural Areas*

# QUARTERLY

Autumn 2001\*

Volume 40—Number 4



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# ACRES Annual Dinner & Program

**Friday, November 9th**

6:30 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

## Monarch Butterflies - 2,000 Mile Journey

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory

1100 South Calhoun Street

Fort Wayne, Indiana

*\$15.00 for dinner  
and admission to the Conservatory*

Phone reservation to:  
Ethyle and Bill Bloch (219) 747-4450  
Mary and Howard Schneider (219) 484-3986  
*Reservation must be made and honored.*

**Reservation Deadline: November 7th**

### Menu:

Red pepper soup  
Carved Roast Beef and Turkey Sandwiches  
Quiche  
Fruit Salad and Relish Tray  
Fruit pies, cheesecake, and assorted cookies  
*Catered by Anastasia's*

### Guest Speaker: Earl Wells

*Formerly Director of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo,*  
internationally recognized as  
the finest children's zoo in the country.

A graduate of Michigan State University in 1951 with a B.S.  
in Zoology, Earl worked for both the  
Lansing, Michigan and Rochester, New York zoos.  
Director of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo for 30 years,  
Earl is a consultant for zoos around the country.

**Monarch Butterflies - 2,000 Mile Journey  
Program will cover the efforts to monitor  
the Monarch populations  
through the Monarch Watch Program.**

Cover: Monarch butterfly photograph by Gary Meszaros. Monarch butterfly artwork by Ethyle Bloch.

**Correction:** Indian paintbrush photograph on the Summer Quarterly cover was by **Lee Casebere**.

## Charles J. Foster Nature Preserve

By Amy Oberlin of the  
*Herald-Republican, Angola*

The term hero isn't often used, probably because there aren't many around. But Charles Foster fits the bill. Mr. Foster owned two properties on Little Otter Lake near ACRES Land Trust's Beechwood Nature Preserve. One has his home on it and the other, located right at the front of Beechwood Addition, was a wooded lot with a stream running through it and 200 feet of reed-covered lake front.

Just recently, Mr. Foster was offered a sizable sum of money for the land, but he wouldn't sell it. Instead, he made it a gift to ACRES.

"This was my paradise down here. I wanted to make sure nobody touched it," Foster said, surveying the mini-forest from a ridge above.

Foster lives in a small cottage just two houses away from the new preserve. With the money he would have made from selling his other property, he could have had a big, two-story house like his neighbor. But he said he didn't need a big house like that.

"It's just me and my dog," he said.

He found it more important for him and his neighbors to have that beautiful buffer zone at the entrance to their addition. The trees are a natural screen from State Road 127 and Interstate 69 beyond it.

"It's the key to our privacy," Foster said. "This guarantees there will be no development



Charles J. Foster

back here." He said his neighbors were pleased to learn the little woods would be remaining forever. "They danced with joy in the streets when they found out what I was going to do with it," Foster quipped.

Not only has he made his neighbors happy and preserved a piece of land for himself to enjoy, but he has made himself a friend of the Little Otter Lake ecosystem as well.

"It's valuable for the lake," said Art Eberhardt, an ACRES Director. "Wetlands are valuable."

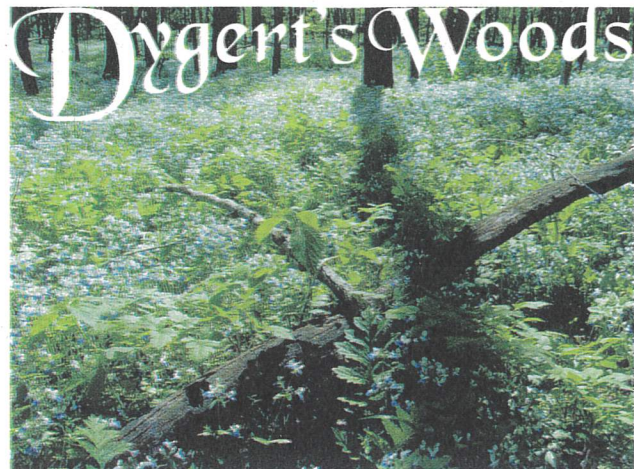
The stream running through the property and the wetlands act as natural water filters, helping to refresh the lake, which is part of the heavily-used Lake James chain of lakes. The new nature preserve adds scenic beauty and wildlife habitat to the lake.

Foster had planned on making the donation since 1987 and has it in his will. But with lake properties coveted as they are, he decided to give it now so that ACRES could protect it.



*ACRES thanks Charles Foster for caring enough about his neighbors, his lake, and his "piece of paradise" to see it permanently protected. The Charles J. Foster Nature Preserve will keep safe a clear stream flowing between masses of ferns, skunk cabbage, and jewelweed; a sheltering woods of red maple, cottonwood, and basswood; a sanctuary for ducklings among the cattails and painted turtles basking on logs. What a gift!*

Photographs by John Ellenwood



by Mary Dygert,  
daughter of Wendell and Evelyn Dygert

In the Fall of 1967, Dick Smith asked my folks if they would be interested in buying his 120 acre farm in Thorncreek Township, Whitley County. Though they were not really in the market, they agreed to a tour of the property via tractor-drawn wagon. The story goes that my mother noticed the spent, brown Hepatica leaves on the steep, north-facing hill and knew immediately that this farm and woods was where she could best nurture her grown children and the soon-to-be grandchildren and where she and my father could pursue their life-long interests in farming, gardening and wildflowers. So she promised my dad that she would mow the lawn if he would consent to the move and it was settled.

Over the 34 years that followed, the woods was a central focus of what was soon named Willow Wildwood. The Blue-Eyed Marys were discovered that first Spring and quickly identified. The grandkids helped build the bridge across the trickling or raging - depending upon the weather - tributary that fed the ditch towards the back of the property.

Blue-Eyed Marys (left) by Tim Dygert

An August wedding was held in the clearing at Sunrise; the big kids toasted marshmallows over the bonfire at Halloween, and in Winter we searched quietly for the Spotted Owl.

But Spring was always the most exciting time in the woods: finding the early Salt and Pepper flowers; little kids, big kids and grown-ups admiring and

gathering the soft colored Hepaticas, Spring Beauties, and Trout Lilies; hosting the annual wildflower walk by Clay Geiger's fifth grade class (followed by cookies and juice); noting each year the spread of the Blue-Eyed Marys onto the Trillium hill, until the hill was a bouquet of blues and whites; in later Spring, walking to see the Bishop's Cap, Wild Geraniums, Blue Phlox, and Waterleaf.

My mother grew up in the hills of Southern Indiana, but I imagine it was her Northern Indiana woods which helped inspire the following poem:



Wild Violet (left) and Marsh Marigold (above) by Tim Dygert



Trillium, Blue-Eyed Marys and Blue Phlox by Tim Dygert



Photograph of Evelyn and Wendell Dygert by Mary Dygert

*Thanks to Nate Simons,  
Tom Crowe, Janel Rogers,  
Ted Heemstra, Mary Dygert  
and Marcia McNagny for  
their help!*

Bluebells by Tim Dygert



### Hills of Home

Hepaticas hugging a rough brown hill  
Are Spring's soft answer  
To the South Wind's will.  
In comely garments of delicate hue  
They nestle amidst the vanishing snow.  
Eager children gather them one by one -  
Then run along home with the setting sun..  
At each year's awakening  
The lowly wind flowers  
Pipe to the children to follow anew  
The magic music of Spring's gentle hours.  
And in far-flung places - on other hills  
Children go seeking these harbingers still.  
Gladly they gather them one by one -  
Then run along home with the setting sun.  
Ever the young feel the joy of seeing  
Brown earth quickening into being.  
And as eyes grow dim,  
The Heart is atune  
When on Hills of Home  
Hepaticas bloom!

Thanks to my folks for recognizing the unusual beauty of their woods, loving and nurturing it, sharing it and now gifting it to the generations to come. Thanks to ACRES for being there to keep it safe.



Hepatica by Perry Scott

### ELECTION & NOMINATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*Nominations Sought*

ACRES election of board members is upon us. If you would like to nominate someone for the board, please do so between September 30 and October 30, by contacting the ACRES Office at (219-422-1004). Dick Walker, Jeff Britton, and Bob Bryan 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 Monday, December 10th or you may vote in person on Wednesday, December 19, 2001, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the ACRES Office, 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808.

## FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



### Hearthstone's Fall Concert

Sunday, October 7th

The brilliant fall colors will add charm to Wing Haven as *Hearthstone Ensemble* graces the studio with their music. Come join us for an uplifting hour of dulcimer music. **When:** 2:30 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 the north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Hearthstone Ensemble by John Ellenwood



### Canoe the Pere Marquette River

Friday, October 12th & Saturday, October 13th.

The Pere Marquette is Michigan's only National Scenic River, winding through high banks of hardwood forests. We will drive to Ivan's Campground on Friday, camp overnight, and start early the next day on a 3 1/2 hour (12.5 mile) canoe trip including Rainbow Rapids, with Class I whitewater. Need to have experience canoeing or kayaking. **Drive time:** Ivan's Camp-



ground is approximately 4 1/2 hours from Fort Wayne, on M-37 three miles south of Baldwin at the Pere Marquette Bridge. An ACRES group camp site will be available. **Bring:** Canoe or kayak with you or rent from Ivan's by calling (231) 745-3361. Will need camping gear, food for Friday night, and ACRES will provide breakfast Saturday morning. For more detailed information, call the ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Painted Turtle by John Tyson



### NEW PRESERVE!

#### Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve

Saturday, October 20th

Celebrate a new ACRES preserve, thanks to the generosity and stewardship of Wendell and Evelyn Dygert! Nestled in a rolling section of Whitley County, the 56-acre preserve already has a network of trails. The Dygert family has generously opened their woods to schoolchildren for many years. **When:** 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, Whitley County. Take SR 109 north of US 30 at Columbia City. Turn west on 400 N and go to where 400 N T's into 50 W. Turn north onto 50 W and look for sign. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Photograph by Tim Dygert

## FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



### Thousands of Sandhill Cranes

Saturday, October 27th

Presented by: Ted Heemstra and Jim Haw, Stockbridge Audubon.

Trip to see the migration peak at Jasper-Pulaski, when an astounding 20,000-25,000 sandhill cranes visit this area. With a wingspan of 7 feet, the cranes can be seen wheeling into the fields in huge flocks and their trumpeting calls can be heard for miles. **When:** 9:00 a.m. **Where:** Meet at the Southwest Corner of the Park West Shopping Center, West Jefferson and Illinois Road, to carpool up to the Wildlife Area, return to Fort Wayne around 9:00 p.m. **Bring:** Don't forget your binoculars! **Contact:** Jim Haw at 219-485-7802 or ACRES at 219-422-1004



### Feeding Birds through the Winter

Sunday, November 4th

Presented by Dena Purcell, Certified Bird Feeding Specialist at Wild Birds Unlimited for 15 years.

How to keep your feathered flocks fat and happy throughout the winter. Dena knows what seeds and suet attract which birds, how to set up heated bird baths and roosting boxes, and other birding tips. **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 the north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Photograph by John Shaw



### ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting & Program,

Friday, November 9th

Held at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

For reservation information, see page 2.



### 6th Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long

Sunday, December 2nd

We'll lift the rafters at the Wing Haven studio with merry Christmas melodies! Jim Shearer, Art and Marion Eberhardt will lead you into tuneful tonality. Hot cider and cookies 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 the north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004.



Sunday, January 6th

No program at Wing Haven.

# The Days of Autumn

By Bob Frantz, Owner and caretaker of "Wildwood" with his wife Alice.



No one can say just when one season ends and another begins. There is simply no day or hour when anyone can say that summer has ended and autumn has begun. The last weeks of one season and the first of the next are so beautifully interwoven that we are hardly aware of the change. Even in August and early September, when we consider summer still with us, we see the first subtle signs of autumn. About the time that we are looking at the beautiful purple iron weed, the first of the goldenrod and the seed pods of the touch-me-not (you may wish to call it jewelweed) are beginning to mature, one may notice here and there a few leaves of the Virginia creeper are beginning to turn red and the leaves on some of the walnut trees are turning yellow and abandoning the twig where they have been since their late spring arrival.

When I am asked "when is the best time for fall color?", I can only answer "who knows." Is it when the climbing creeper, which reaches to the tops of many trees, becomes a dark rich red, while almost all trees are still green? Is it when the creeper is joined by the brilliant poison ivy and the burgundy raspberry leaves? Is it when the oaks are becoming spotted with red, some of the red maples are revealing variegation even in individual leaves, the sugar maples are miraculously transformed to a bright yellow and deep orange and the hickories have turned golden or a rich brown? Is it when the sassafras and the ash and the blue beech turn some to delicate and others to gaudy colors? Is it when most of the

leaves are still green and we see only occasional trees or branches changed or is it when there is hardly a green leaf remaining and the whole woodland seems to be lighted at dusk with the lights of a fantasy land? Or perhaps it is even when most of the leaves are on the ground and have formed a thick rich carpet of glorious and varied color on which we are allowed to tread.



And through all of this change, up to the first hard freeze, we find the last of the year's flowers. They are the fall asters which are found in myriads of lavender clusters.

All the time that the leaves are changing from green to the many colors and seeds are ripening, other changes are taking place. The fox squirrels and chipmunks are feverishly active in gathering seeds and grain and nuts for storage for the cold days to come. The squirrels are busily burying nuts which they hope to find later and the chipmunks are cleaning the ears of corn which we put out, with unbelievable speed - filling their pouches and scurrying into their dens with the loot. With the first frigid temperature, they will retreat to their dens and will not be pestering us at the window bird feeder or digging holes in the lawn until spring. Even though the fox squirrels store food in the ground and in their leaf or hollow tree homes, they will be out all winter to assist the birds in entertaining us with their antics.



Photographs of Wildwood by Bob Frantz



There is really no end to the activities and changes taking place in autumn and eventually it merges quietly into the season which we call winter. Some leaves will remain on the oaks and small beeches as reminders that traces of autumn are carrying over even to the beginnings of spring. We are reminded once again of the continuing changes in the world of the out-of-doors and that there is really no beginning and no end, only the miracle of change.

*From Bob Frantz's book "If You Stand Very Still... Thoughts and Experiences from the Woods".*

ACRES is working to acquire the 237-acre "Wildwood" natural area, with the significant support of Bob and Alice Frantz. We have the goal of purchasing the property by spring 2002 and ACRES needs to raise \$250,000 locally to be successful. Our thanks to Debra Noell and David Cordray for their help with the fund drive!

Bob and Alice Frantz have opened their property for decades to anyone with a love of nature and beauty. We will be mailing a request for support with this fund drive in October. Help ACRES keep "Wildwood" as Bob and Alice have kept it - a sanctuary for wildlife and a legacy for the future!



Kathy Quimbach with John Castrale and immature bald eagle.

## In Memoriam

**Raymond Baumgartner**  
from Thomas K. Hurst

**Earl Brenn**  
Brother of Lorry Goldenberg, donor of Tel-Hy Nature Preserve  
from the ACRES Board of Directors

**Lee Brubaker**  
from Tom and Jane Dustin

**Kellie M. Franke**  
from Jack and Anita Dierkes  
for Wing Haven  
*May those who loved her, find solace in this quiet retreat.*

**Norma Habegger**  
from Thomas K. Hurst

**Thomas Stoodly**  
from Dale and Judy Zinn  
for Wing Haven

**Tobi Van Dyck**  
from James and Florence Iden  
for Wing Haven

**Mary Wigglesworth**  
from James and Patricia Barrett  
for the Cedar Creek Heron Rookery

**Kathy Quimbach** from Carolyn McNagny

Reaching thousands of Hoosiers as the ambassador for the IDNR Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, Kathy was "a state gem". She coordinated many of the state's high-profile wildlife reintroductions, including bald eagles, river otters, and peregrine falcons. ACRES was fortunate to have Kathy give programs on river otters and amphibians at the Wing Haven studio. Her enthusiasm, dedication and obvious love for her work will be missed.

Memorial contributions can be made to the program Kathy administered: *Endangered Wildlife Fund, IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington, W273, Indianapolis IN 46204. Please indicate that donations are in memory of Kathy Quimbach.*

## NEW 80 FOOT BOARDWALK FOR MENGERSON NATURE PRESERVE

Congratulations to Daniel Briney on completing his Eagle Badge project on July 7th! Daniel's Troop 27, veterans of two other boardwalk projects with Jason Neill and Anthony Selby, were an organized team. The efforts of Troop 27 have created 240 feet of great boardwalk, built through the old-growth woods at the beautiful, but occasionally soggy, Mengerson Nature Preserve. Our thanks to Daniel and Troop 27!

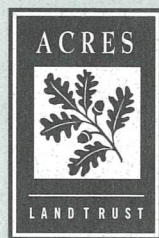
Daniel Briney, Eagle Scout  
Dan Mason, Scoutleader  
Jim Neill, Eagle Advisor and former Scoutmaster  
Mark Briney  
Matt Mason  
Joe Neill  
Jason Neill  
Dave Sonksen  
Colin Thompson



Photographs by James Neill (above)  
and John Ellenwood (below left).



Left to right: David Homan and Ethyle McClelland (Stewards), Bob Bryan, and Bill Smith build a much-needed boardwalk thru a swampy section of the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. Sean Carroll, Carl Deimling and Bob Bryan transported the lumber to the site and the work was completed on one very muddy morning. *Thank you!*



### ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 44 nature preserves in 12 counties.

2000 North Wells Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
219-422-1004  
email: [acreslt@fwi.com](mailto:acreslt@fwi.com)  
Web site:  
[www.acres-land-trust.org](http://www.acres-land-trust.org)

## Welcome to Our New ACRES Members!

### Thanks to:

**Neuhouser Nursery**  
for displaying the Quarterly

**David Deimling**  
for organizing projects for  
Land Management

**Bob Bryan**  
**Sue Kern**  
**James A. Brenock**  
for caring about the 65 trees  
planted at the YWCA by  
ACRES and Hoosier ReLeaf

**Pizza Hut**  
for their help to our volunteers

**Garland Galleries**  
for giving their time and  
expertise

**Pike Lumber Company**  
for their support of  
environmental protection and  
help to ACRES

Michelle and Robert Bandor and Family  
Angela Boerger *Gift of Bob Bryan*  
Diane Brees  
Pat and Liz Bryan *Gift of Bob Bryan*  
Thagrus and Dorothy Burns  
Kathleen C. Bush  
Greg and Anne Clark  
E. Ann Crippin  
Jim and Karen Farlow  
Bruce and Beverly Frantz *Gift of Bob and Alice Frantz*  
Philip and Linda Frantz *Gift of Bob and Alice Frantz*  
Ray and Sharon Garcia  
Neil Grider  
William and Henrietta Gulish  
M. L. Iddings Gype  
Dr. Joan Karbach  
Lionel and Ann Kreamer  
Richard and Sylvia Manalis  
Jeff Marchant  
Skip McCarthy  
Sandra McNeil  
Steve Naragon and Pam Higgins  
Kenton Neuhouser  
Ron Nofzinger  
J. H. Oster  
Barb and Court Robinson  
Mark and Jean Sanders  
Donald Schroeder  
Tory Smith *Gift of Sharon and Jim Smith*  
Lynette A. Snyder  
Dolores, August, and Tiia Tomusk  
Kevin Truelove  
Daniel L. Tubbs  
Charlotte A. Weybright  
Thomas J. Whaley  
John and Leslie Wilson  
Mary and Wayne Young *Gift of Bob and Alice Frantz*  
Burton Wygant *Gift of Art Hammer*

### Tributes:

**Carl E. Bauer**  
*from Carl R. and Melissa L. Bauer  
for the Cedar Creek Heron Rookery*



*Pike*

LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

*Like a Brand, Hardwoods*

# The Back Page



Lil' Tony McGuire tells Jeff everything he knows about frogs, and it's a lot.

When I was growing up, kids played outdoors a lot. We became acquainted with things that lived outside, because we were out there, making forts or pretending we were archeologists who could dig all the way to China. In addition, my Aunt Ethel, regularly, took me out to Audubon hikes, where we learned exciting facts about nature and science.

*knew* a lot of nature basics - things we didn't know when we were that young. Perhaps kids don't get outdoors as often as they should, but it's possible that the combined efforts of parents, educators, nature groups, and shows like *Bill Nye, the Science Guy*, have had a very positive impact, creating exciting venues for kids to learn about science and the world we live in. Our science books were never as interesting as the science programs today.

So...maybe all these efforts are really paying off! What a child enjoys when they are young, is usually something they continue to value when they are older. And that promises to be good for them, good for the environment, and well....good for all of us adults, who secretly watch Bill Nye all the time, on the sly.

Until next time...  
Sue Britton



Photographs by John Ellenwood

I have often had some concerns, along with many parents, that kids don't get outside as much, since more time is spent, indoors, with computers and electronic games.

Last week, however, after the ACRES Children's Hike in the Vandolah Nature Preserve, my husband Jeff made an encouraging comment. He said it seemed like the kids that came with him on the hike, *already*

Jeff "Wildman" Britton being quizzed with nature facts on the kid's hike.

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 the Summer issue is December 1, 2001. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004. [www.acres-land-trust.org](http://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.**