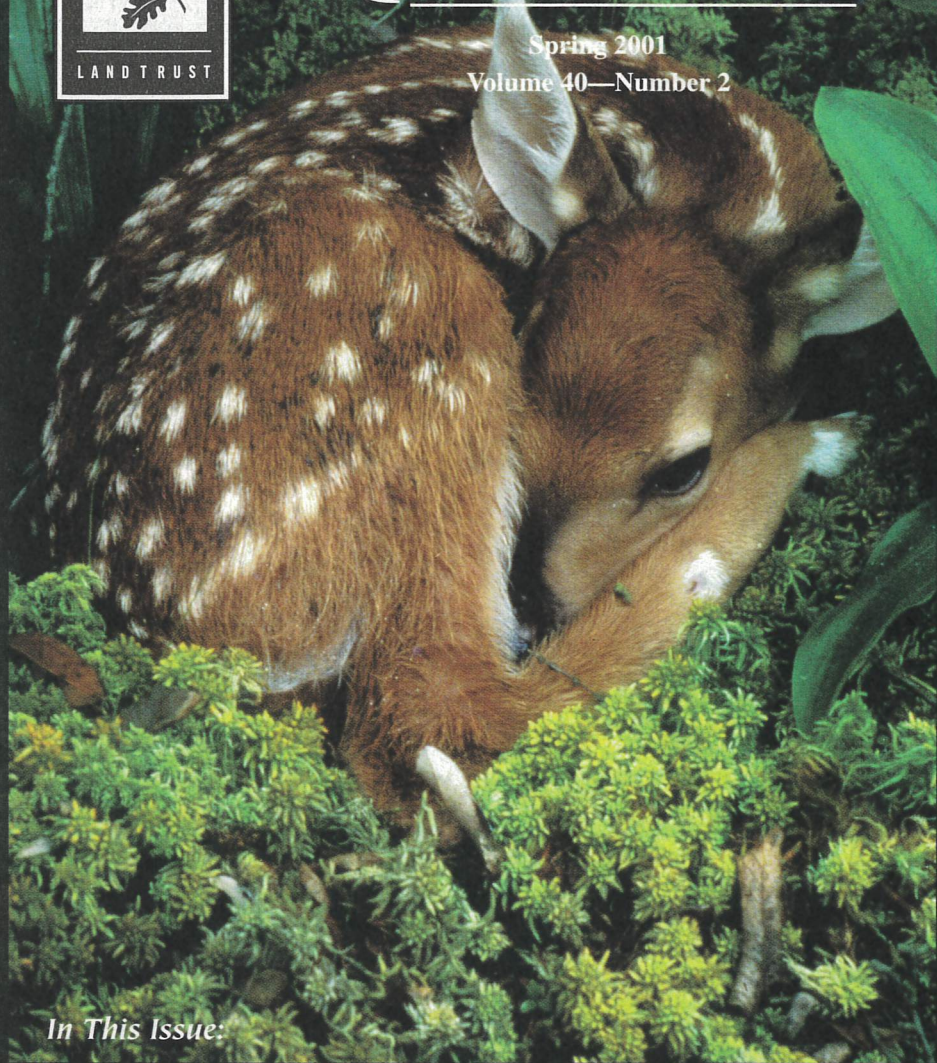


Preserving Natural Areas

QUARTERLY

Spring 2001

Volume 40—Number 2



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Time to Renew Your Membership!

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. --Aldo Leopold, a Sand County Almanac

Indiana's diverse and fragile landscape offers many joys to those of us who appreciate its beauty. By being an ACRES Member, you are crucial in our efforts to protect natural areas.

Making a Difference!

1- Join or rejoin: ACRES membership is our most important asset in acquiring and protecting the nature preserves. The Membership has been steadily growing, but we need to reach more people. 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. As always, thank you for rejoining.

2- Help ACRES purchase land: When you give a gift to one of the ACRES acquisition projects, your gift is matched at least 2:1. Your dollar goes farther with ACRES.

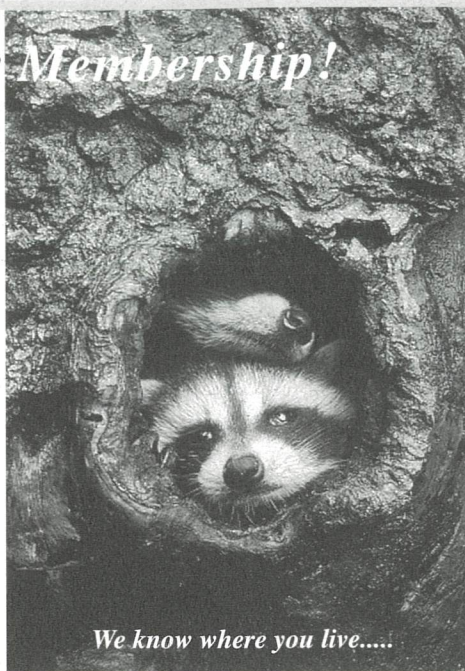
Projects in 2001:

- **"Wildwood"** - ACRES and Bob and Alice Frantz are working in cooperation to protect their 236-acre land of woods and wetlands in Kosciusko County. You are invited to an open house at "Wildwood" on May 5th. Please see page 6 for more information.
- **Acres Along the Wabash addition** - ACRES has been awarded a \$194,000 grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund. We need to raise \$32,000 as a match to receive the funds. In 2000, ACRES acquired 58-A as an addition to the 29-A preserve and is researching a 2nd possible addition in 2001.
- **"Spreads of the Elkhart" marsh** - This 3,700 acre marsh, located in LaGrange and Noble Counties, is being threatened by development. ACRES has purchased the Indian River and Marsh Wren Nature Preserves in this area and is looking to acquire additional wetlands and uplands in this important migratory waterfowl area. The marsh has the largest population of migratory blue-winged teal in the state, and is an important nesting and stop-over site for wood ducks, red-breasted mergansers, buffleheads, common goldeneyes, redheads, green-winged teal and canvasbacks. Support your local ducks!

3- Give to the Wing Haven and Operations Endowments: ACRES is happy to announce the Wing Haven Endowment has reached \$16,000 in one year and the Operations Endowment is at more than \$40,000!

- The Steuben County Community Foundation will match your donation for the Wing Haven Endowment with an additional 50 cents for every dollar you give through 2001.
- The Fort Wayne Community Foundation will match your donation for the Operations Endowment with an additional 20 cents for every dollar you give through 2001.

4- Become a Land Management volunteer! The Land Management Committee (David Deimling, Don McCormack, John Ellenwood, Tony Acosta, Bob Weber and Bob Bryan) help organize and lead 15 work days a year at the preserves. A rewarding way to contribute to the nature preserves: check the land management box on your remittance envelope to receive the work day notices.



We know where you live.....

Hoosier ReLeaf, YWCA and ACRES Tree Planting

On a blustery Saturday in March, bundled-up volunteers planted 60 five-foot trees at the YWCA. The sugar and red maple, redbud, green ash, hackberry, and burr oak trees were donated by Hoosier ReLeaf, a non-profit organization which supplies free saplings for growing on public areas. The tree planting was organized by Bob Bryan, an ACRES and Hoosier ReLeaf Director.

Special thanks to:

David Wenk, Arbor Farms Nursery
Felger's Peat Moss
Mark Ringenberg, Hoosier ReLeaf
Bob Bryan, Hoosier ReLeaf and ACRES Director
Jerry Allred, Hoosier ReLeaf
Angela Boerger, Hoosier ReLeaf
Sue Kern, Maintenance Director, YWCA
Teena Hippensteel, YWCA
Linda, Eric, Sean, Evan and Annalise Anderson, ACRES
John Ellenwood, ACRES
Nancy Jimenez, ACRES
Richard McNett, ACRES
Pat Oppor, ACRES
Allan Perry, ACRES
Robert Schultz, ACRES
Dick Sorg, ACRES

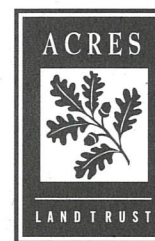
In its first year, a new tree needs five gallons of water a week in the dry months. To help take care of the thirsty trees in July and August, call the ACRES office at 219-422-1004. To learn more about Hoosier ReLeaf, call Bob Bryan at 219-627-0172.

Pictured top to bottom: Dick Sorg, Carolyn McNaghy, Sue Kern and Teena Hippensteel



Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Jim and Bonnie Caseldine
Marion and Mary Clark
Krista and Mark Daniels
Teena Hippensteel
Dr. Donald and Mrs. Dorothy Hoffman
Sue Kern
Eileen R. Lee
Debra A. Leinker
JoAnne Michael
Michael Nelaborige
Mr. James Reifenberg *Gift of Dr. Samuel R. Thompson*
William A. Smith IV and Sally A. Garrett-Smith
Joanne A. Weber
Robert W. Young



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 43 nature preserves in 12 counties.

2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
219-422-1004
acreslt@fwi.com
www.acres-land-trust.org

THE MUSSELS OF ALLEN COUNTY



Purple wartyback
Cyclonaias tuberculata



Elktoe
Alasmidonta marginata



Catspaw
Epioblasma obliquata



Fragile papershell
Leptodea fragilis



Mapleleaf
Quadrula quadrula



White heelsplitter
Lasmigona complanata



Pimpleback
Quadrula pustulosa



Plain pocketbook
Lampsilis cardium

By Warren Pryor, Curator, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Since 1994, I have been studying the native freshwater mussels in and around Fort Wayne. My methods are simple, and my equipment is varied. Sometimes I'm on foot, sometimes in a boat, and sometimes in scuba gear, but my focus is always the same. I seek fresh, empty shells on the bank or the bottom, and about these I record the location, species name, length, width, height and weight. I am currently applying statistical analysis to the over 3,000 mussel observations in the data set, so it is too early to make specific scientific statements about the state of mussels in Allen County. I have learned a few things though.

You can only find mussels if you look for them. Many people look at our rivers and immediately write them off as unsuitable mussel habitat. Sure, there are some spots that are more likely than others, but I've been surprised time and again where mussel populations are to be found.

There are many mussel species in the greater Fort Wayne area. I have seen twenty-seven in all. If you've read this far, you are now obligated to carefully read (preferably out loud) their names. They are: mucket, elktoe, threeridge, purple wartyback, spike, catspaw, Wabash pigtoe, plain pocketbook, wavy-rayed lampmussel, fatmucket, white heelsplitter, fluted-shell, fragile papershell, pondmussel, clubshell, round pigtoe, pink heelsplitter, kidneyshell, giant floater, rabbitsfoot, wartyback, pimpleback, mapleleaf, lilliput, deertoe, paper pondshell and rayed bean. Fun, wasn't it?

Most people don't know much about native mussels. I'll bet many of the preceding names were new to you. If they had been birds, or flowers, or (gasp) even insects, they would have rolled off your tongue as easily as models of cars or brands of toothpaste. It's time to raise our community's mussel literacy, so let's begin with you, dear reader. Repeat the 27 common names above ten times a day for a week, and then share them with a friend.

Mussels are gorgeous animals. I sometimes get discouraged by the drudgery of data analysis. Usually that happens in early Spring when, fortunately, I can go to the river and hold a fresh pimpleback shell in my hand. Nothing in nature (for me) surpasses the snow white mother-of-pearl on its concave side, or the sleek, satin covering on its outer surface. Oh! and that cute little green smudge on its umbo!

All native mussels are protected by Indiana state law, and you may not legally possess even empty shells without the proper permit. There are a couple of species that are also protected by federal law. You can look all you want, but resist the temptation to slip the pretty ones into your pocket.

There are many useful references that can enhance your mussel watching, but the one that I recommend as a primer is:

Field Guide to Freshwater Mussels of the Midwest, by KS Cummings & CA Mayer. 1992.

Illinois Natural History Survey, Manual 5. ISBN: 1-882932-00-5.

It's inexpensive, fits in your pocket, and has concise descriptions and plenty of color photos.

Note from Carolyn McNagly, ACRES

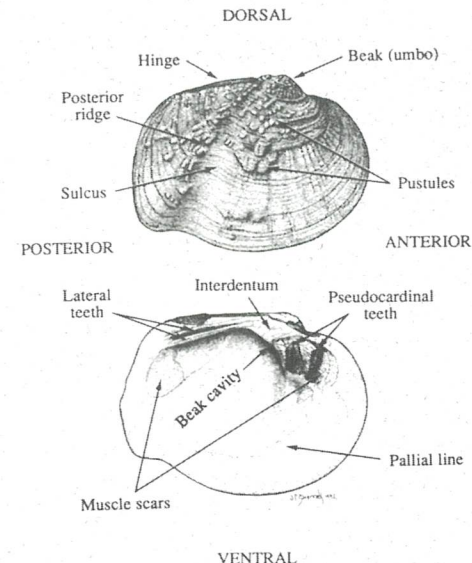
Warren Pryor and other biologists are studying the mussel populations because of concern in the decline of many species. Of the 300 species of mussels located in the United States, 52 mussels are listed as federally endangered, and another 70 have been proposed or are candidates for listing. No other major group of animals is so imperiled.

The mussels do not have the advantage of being able to move from their habitat. Living anywhere from ten to 100 years in their homes in the mud and sand of rivers and lakes, mussels are subjected to siltation from agriculture, pollution from herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals, channelization of streams and rivers, and over-harvesting. Many mussel species never recovered from the multi-million dollar pearl button industry of the late 1800's and early 1900's. The button-making industry collapsed in the 1940's with the advent of plastics.

With the unwelcome arrival of the zebra mussel from Europe in the 1980's, our native mussels are facing a new challenge. A mussel's food source is the organic matter, consisting of microscopic plants and animals, which it continuously siphons from the water. The zebra mussel population explosion was so rapid and complete they even cleaned up Lake Erie, but in doing so now threaten the native populations with sterile water.

Looking at the color photographs of the different species, you can tell the age of a mussel by the dark lines or ridges on the shell. The dark lines or ridges are believed to be formed during winter rest periods. The mussels also grow at very different rates, with the thin-shelled species (like the aptly named papershell) growing much faster than the thicker-shelled species such as mapleleaves.

The Nature Conservancy, IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, and ACRES are working to restore watersheds by planting trees, protecting riparian habitats, and reducing siltation, leading to an easier life for our native mussels.



For more information on mussels, we invite you to attend Dr. G. T. Watters special presentation on Sunday, May 6 at Wing Haven. Dr. Watters is Director of the Museum of Biological Diversity, Ohio State University. See page 7 for details.



by Barbara Barnes, ACRES Member

A chorus of clucking coots on Crooked Lake cling to the water...

Then disappear in a diving dash desiring a delicious dinner.

After bobbing thru weeds and reeds, their ball-like bodies reappear sending a splash of Bubbles, Babbles and Burps!

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



12th Annual Adopt-A-Tree Festival

Saturday, April 21st

Presented by Art and Marion

Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, Dave Syler, John Eddy, and Dave and Bonnie Snyder. Branch out and meet new people at this happy spring event! Free trees, hikes and music.

When: 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

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

Preserve located on north side of 400 N in 1 mile, on the left. **Questions?** Contact Art and Marion Eberhardt at (219) 665-2421 or ACRES Office at (219) 422-1004.



Wing Haven Studio Photo by John Tyson

45-minute slide programs scheduled for the Adopt-A-Tree Festival:

9:00 a.m. Frogs, Toads and Salamanders

Presented by: Dr. Mary Linton, Professor of Biology at Goshen College and Lindsey Teaching Fellow at Merry Lea Environmental Center

10:15 a.m. Native Landscaping

Presented by: Nate Simons, ACRES Director, Landscape Architect and Director of Restoration Services for Heartland Restoration

11:30 a.m. Indiana's Threatened Mussels

Presented by: Joe Draper, Field Representative, The Nature Conservancy's Upper St. Joseph River Area Fish Creek Project



First Hike at the Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve!

Sunday, April 29th

More than 28 species of wildflowers will be blooming their heads off for your enjoyment! The Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve was a gift to ACRES from Mrs. Jeannette Kent in 1997. The preserve is 40 acres in size and includes an impressive 20 acre old-growth woods, with towering sugar maple and white oak trees.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take I-69 to Dupont, turn east onto Dupont and go one mile to first light. Turn north onto Tonkel Road (also called SR 427) and go north one mile to preserve. Look for sign.

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.

At this time, preserve open by permission only.



Spring beauty photo by John Ellenwood

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Open House at "Wildwood"

Saturday, May 5th

Bob and Alice Frantz and ACRES are working together to protect their beautiful 236-acre property. Bob will be presenting a slide program of "Wildwood" you will not want to miss. Food, music, and celebration!

When: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bob Frantz's slide program of "Wildwood": 10:30 a.m.

Where: "Wildwood", Kosciusko County. Take SR 14 west to 3 miles east of Silver Lake. "Wildwood" is located on the south side of SR 14, look for sign.

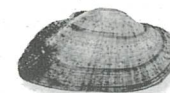
Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Meadowlark Photo by Lang Elliot



Introduction to Freshwater Mussels



Sunday, May 6th

Presented by Dr. G. T. Watters, Professor of Biology, Ohio State University. United States has 52 federally endangered mussels and 3 of them are located in Fish Creek, Steuben County.

Dr. Watters will give a slide program on our native mussels, their life-cycle, and what is being done to save them.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.



Mother's Day Concert with Members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic

Sunday, May 13th

David Rezits and friends from the Philharmonic will present an hour concert for your enjoyment on Mother's Day. Selection of light classics, ragtime, and Broadway musicals played on the cello, violin, viola, flute and oboe. Join us for a day of wonderful music, guided wildflower hikes, tea and cakes, and tours of Gene Stratton Porter's home. Concert at 2:00 p.m. with guided wildflower hikes at 1:00

and 3:30 p.m. **Where:** Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site, Rome City. Take SR 6 west of Kendallville and look for sign.

Charge: \$10 will benefit the acquisition of land bordering the Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site. No reservation needed.

Contact: ACRES Office at 219-422-1004 or the Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site at 219-854-3790.

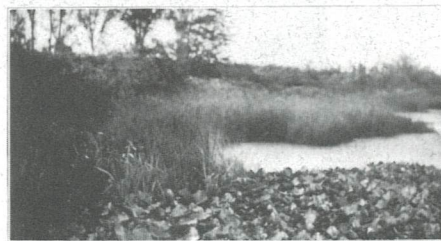
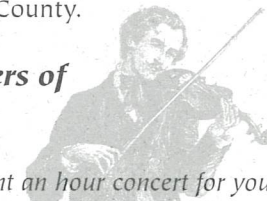


Photo by Gene Stratton Porter



Field Trips & Special Events continued on the next page...

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



New Preserve! "Richey Woods" Saturday, May 19th

Dr. Donald and Mrs. Susan Richey have generously donated a life estate on 80-acres of their family farm and are protecting a 24-acre wetlands with a conservation easement. Come see ACRES' first preserve in Whitley County. We will take a wildflower hike to see the large-flowered trillium. Bring the children - the Richeys have a menagerie of animals, including llamas, pot-bellied pigs, miniature donkeys, goats and geese. **When:** 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Take US 30 to Coesse and then take 500 E north from Coesse and cross old Lincolnway. Entrance in 1/2 mile past Lincolnway. **Contact:** ACRES office at 219-422-1004. **Notice:** At this time, property open to the public by permission only.



Llama photo by John Ellenwood



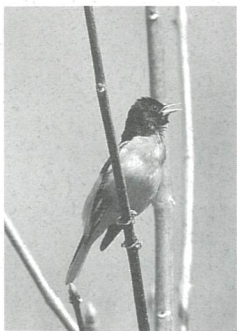
Spring Migratory Birds Saturday, May 26th

Presented by: Stockbridge Audubon Society's Ted Heemstra and Joe Steensma.

In Metea Park, we will look for late spring migrants and nesting species of the woodlands and fields. Blackbirds, thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows, indigo buntings, orioles and many other species should be seen. A checklist of birds will be provided for each observer.

When: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Where: Metea Park. Located 1/4 mile west of Leo Road (on State Highway 1) on Union Chapel Road. Meet at the pond/shelter area. **Contact:** Debby Meade, Stockbridge Audubon Society at 219-436-5617 if questions. **IMPORTANT:** Don't forget your binoculars!



Baltimore Oriole photo by Lang Elliot

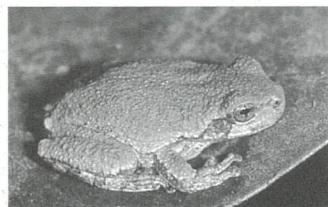


Amphibian Monitoring Workshop Sunday, June 3rd

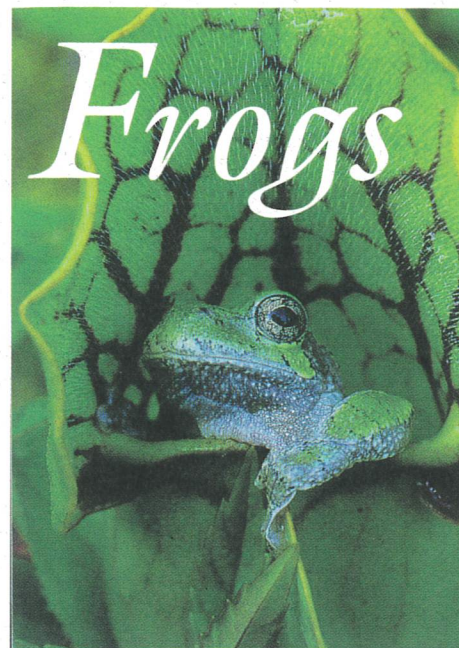
Presented by: Kathy Quimbach, Director of Education, IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife's Nongame Division. Learn the calls of Indiana's 19 native frogs and toads to help track their populations. Scientists are concerned about the unexplained drop in the amphibian populations. You can help by monitoring their locations by learning their songs.

When: 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park Exit (Exit 154), turn south onto 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.



Spring Peepers photo by Bill Krebs



Grey Tree Frog

by Kathy Quimbach, Director of Education, IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife's Nongame Division

The calls of frogs and toads are standard musical accompaniment to Indiana's spring and summer evenings. Wetlands, ponds and temporary stands of water become symphonies of sound when frog breeding season arrives. There is some indication that this music is fading, so the Indiana Department of Natural Resources began a program in which volunteers help monitor the status of amphibians.

The Indiana Amphibian Monitoring Program began with a pilot project in 1999 and went statewide in 2000. Part of the national North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the goal of the Indiana program is to establish reliable baseline information about amphibian distribution and abundance in the state. This information is gathered by volunteers trained to create and implement frog and toad breeding call surveys.

Combining the years 2000 and 2001, an approximate total of 626 individuals were

Photography by Gary Meszaros from his book *Creatures of Change*.

trained for amphibian monitoring through eight workshops held throughout the state. This year, Indiana's Amphibian Monitoring Program has volunteers monitoring 39 random routes (those already assigned to the state), 53 atlas routes (driving routes set up by the volunteers) and 104 stationary sites.

The information gathered from the surveys will show frog and toad populations trends from year to year. It will also provide valuable information on frog and toad breeding seasons and habitat preference. This data will be used to create management strategies so frog songs can continue to be heard throughout Indiana.

Get involved with monitoring Indiana's native frog and toad populations. See program on page 8.



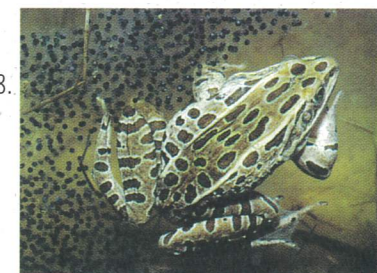
Gray tree frog



Green frog tadpole



Bullfrog



Leopard frog with newly laid eggs

Thanks to:

**Sand Point Greenhouse
Family and Friends Cafe
Dash-In
Queenie's**
for displaying the ACRES Quarterly

David Van Gilder and **Ted Heemstra** for their expertise in legal matters.

Nate Simons for giving his program on native landscaping and his work with on the Land Acquisition Committee.

Else Matott and **John Rouch** for leading the wildflower hike at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve and for their dedication to ACRES.

Send Ed an email!

Ed and Nancy Eberhardt recently moved to San Francisco from Fort Wayne. Having forgiven Ed for telling us that he would be living under the Golden Gate bridge in a houseboat, you can contact him at his apartment (on dry land). Ed would like to hear from his friends with ACRES!

Email: edeberhardt@earthlink.net

Else Matott's Plant Sale!



Saturday, May 5th
9:00 to 12:00

Perennials, herbs and trees for sale. Proceeds benefit the Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve project. For information, call Else at 219-745-7877

In Memoriam

Lloyd Garrison

From James and Patricia Barrett
Rosemary Cortez
Tom and Jane Dustin
Ed and Cynthia Powers
Lloyd had 10 acres on SR 33 with a pond and was proud of his fox and deer. Nature was very important to him and he loved wildlife.



Red fox photo by Gary Meszaros.

Florence W. Miller

From William and Ethyle Bloch

Harriet Mims

From Phillip R. Smith
Paul and Sharon Rumohr

Christina Nicklin

From Tom and Jane Dustin
for the Cedar Creek Heron
rookery

Sylvia Strilich

From Steve and Debbie Sarrazine

Mona Rae Witte

From Patricia McNagney

Loyal Yoder



Loyal & Ruby Yoder

From:

Mary Berghoff
William and Ethyle Bloch
Andrew and Geralyn Boyden
Jeff and Sue Britton
Alan and Susan Diefenbach
Tom and Jane Dustin
Richard and Evelyn Gerke
Greg and Karen Gunder
John and Mary Hilger
Myrna Igney
Fred and Pam Jordan
Jim and Billie Jo Kucher
Carolyn McNagney
Kathryn Moore
Ruth Ott
Jay and Marlene Redding
Walter and Marscell Sloffer
Allen County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Fay Earnhart
Cathy Kiefer
Greg Lake
Bill Lambert
David Lamm
Jeremy Palmer
Sharon Schlaudroff
Cassandra Vondran
Staff of Merry Lea Environmental
Learning Center

THE RELATIVE VALUE OF THINGS

by Larry Yoder, son of Loyal Yoder and Assistant Director of the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center.

The Yoder family has generously opened its maple syrup camp to the public for decades, allowing schoolchildren and adults to share in the wonderful process of making maple syrup.



I was in junior high school when a timber buyer came by our farm one winter Saturday morning. He told us about the riches going to waste in our ten acres of hard maple. He'd be more than happy to help us tap this unrealized wealth. My father listened politely. The buyer assumed that my father shared the world view of most folks: natural things like trees and soil and gravel deposits are commodities to be marketed and exchanged for cash. Indeed, my father had worked in our neighborhood sawmill and my uncles ran my maternal grandfather's mill for quite some years after Grandpa's death. We know well the sound of the circle saw and the wonderful aroma of freshly cut hardwood lumber.

"Prices for hard maple are up right now," he told us.

"No, I really don't think we're interested," my father replied.

"But you can really turn some cash on this offer," the buyer countered.

"That may be," my father replied, "but what would we do come sugaring time next spring? Did you ever try to eat money on your pancakes? It tastes awful."



Spotted salamanders by Gary Meszaros

WHAT LIVES IN THE MUD?

All winter long I looked out of the frozen window at the frozen pond, which had as much as a foot and a half of ice on it at one time. This winter, for whatever reason, I looked at all that ice and my thoughts traveled to 15 feet down and I imagined all those turtles and

frogs sleeping deep down in the mud.

Not a very cozy thought, I'll admit, but a rather mysterious one. Think about it. Radio waves travel invisibly to your radio, bringing music. Electricity flows from a generator, through zillions of miles of wire just to help you make toast. All these invisible activities are going on, yet we rarely think about it. But one of the more mysterious invisible events is how the frogs and turtles decide that things have changed enough 15 feet above their heads [which must be like a mile and a half for us] to start to wake up. How do they know the difference between

sleeping in the mud and waking up in the mud? How do these creatures rouse out of that sticky mess just in time to see the green leaves unfurl?

It is no wonder that they climb out on warm rocks, take a deep breaths, and sing all night long. When you compare the bullfrogs' size to their sound, it would be like you and I talking to each other over coffee at about the same decibel level as the horn on your car.

When I was a child, I thought everything outside was dead during the winter months. But that is hardly the case. That brown mud's alive! It is always fun for me to realize something is quite different and far more interesting than what I had originally thought.

-Susan Britton

Special thanks to Frannie Headings and Rodger Rang for taking me to see a saw-whet owl, right after I expressed, in the last Back Page, my wish to see one of those small, beautiful birds. It was a real thrill!



My niece, Elyse, digging through mud looking for organisms.

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 June 1, 2001. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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SPRING 2001

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ACRES QUARTERLY: Published by ACRES, Inc. at 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana for the interest of its members, friends, and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural lands in northeast Indiana. ACRES, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. **EDITOR:** Susan Britton.

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.**



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Preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana