

Preserving Natural Areas

QUARTERLY

Summer 2001

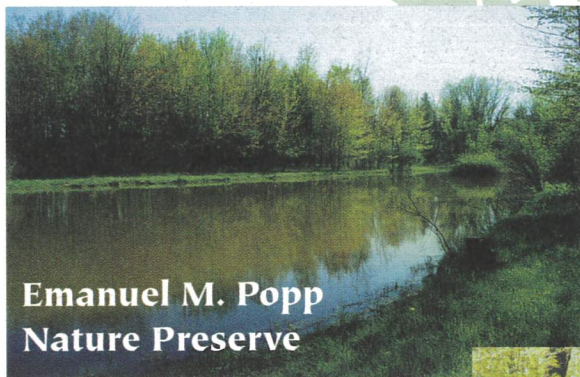
Volume 40 — Number 1

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Celebratory Open Houses!

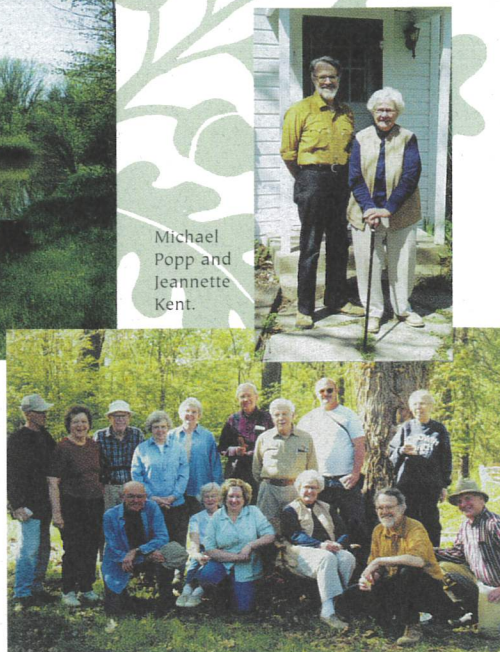
This spring, ACRES hosted three open houses in Allen, Kosciusko, and Whitley Counties. Providing a chance for ACRES Members to see new nature preserves, the open houses are also a fun social event.



**Emanuel M. Popp
Nature Preserve**

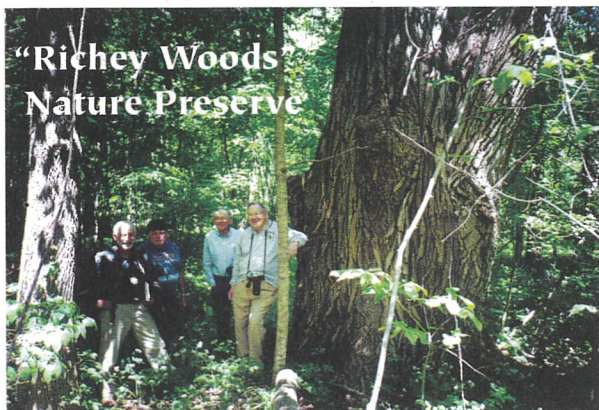
40-acres, northern Allen County

Arriving in America in the 1850's, Emanuel M. Popp homesteaded land along the Ely Run Creek. One hundred and fifty years later, Mrs. Jeannette Kent protected her grandfather's land as an ACRES Nature Preserve. Led by Else Matott, 35 visitors hiked the stately oak and hickory forest, with one of ACRES finest wildflower displays. The preserve has a small white cottage with green shutters, which was a retreat for the Kent and Popp families since the 1950's.



Michael Popp and Jeannette Kent.

Back row: Carl and Ruth Deimling, Art Matott, Marcella Ellenwood, Dorothy Jones, Art Eberhardt, Everitt Padgitt, Ken Millikan, Else Matott Front row: John Ellenwood, Marion Eberhardt, Carolyn McNagly, Jeannette Kent, Michael Popp, Douglas Fisher.



**"Richey Woods"
Nature Preserve**

Sam Schwartz, Don Richey, John Ellenwood and Bob Weber. Photo by Ken Millikan

Cover Photo: Indian Paintbrush by Bill Krebs

105-acres, Whitley County

Donald and Susan Richey and their children Anna (who flew in from New York for the event) and Melinda greeted friends and visitors to their farm. The Richeys have protected an 80-acre sugar maple woods in a life estate and a 24-acre wetlands with a conservation easement. Samuel Schwartz, ACRES Vice President, thanked the



"Wildwood"

Bob & Alice Frantz hold their cake with their children Mary, Bruce, and Phillip.

236-acres, Kosciusko County

In 2001, ACRES will be working to raise \$250,000 to purchase the "Wildwood" property as a nature preserve. The owners and caretakers of the farm, Bob and Alice Frantz, have given a substantial gift to help ACRES make this project a reality.



Jim Haddock, ACRES President

Our thanks to the Hearthstone Ensemble dulcimer group, ACRES President James Haddock for giving inspirational remarks and Bob Frantz for showing his memorable slides of "Wildwood".



Hearthstone Ensemble

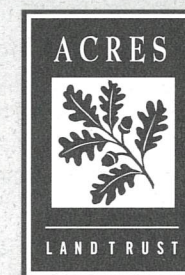


Richeys for their generous gift, Joyce Fry played her hammer dulcimer, and Donald Richey led a hike to the largest tree on their property, a massive 6-foot wide cottonwood.



Susan Richey

Photographs of open houses by John Ellenwood.



ACRES' MISSION

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

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Fort Wayne, IN 46808
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www.acres-land-trust.org



AN ICE AGE RELIC

Photo of Tamarack with cones by Bill Krebs

By T.O. Swinford, Regional Ecologist
IDNR Division of Nature Preserves

The fantastic wetlands found in Indiana's northern lakes region are living glimpses of the past. These peatlands contain many organisms, such as the unique tamarack tree, occurring in disjunct communities much removed from their far northern strongholds of today.

The numerous lakes and wetlands of northern Indiana were formed in the potholes, abandoned stream channels, and valleys carved out during the last period of glaciation which ended approximately 10,000 years ago. The fossil pollen record tells us that a broken landscape of wetlands and conifer forest soon covered post-glacial Indiana. This was the world of such Ice Age wonders as the giant ground sloth, the mastodon, and the giant beaver. This was also the world of humans as the "Paleo-Indians" were present, their tool kit

revealing a specialization in hunting the large game of the Pleistocene. As the climate warmed, the more familiar eastern hardwood forest swept in to replace the northern, or boreal, conifer forests. However, small pockets of these earlier plant and animal communities persisted in low, wet areas that are the bogs and other types of peatlands in evidence today.

The tamarack persists due to its ability to out-compete hardwood forests in these extreme conditions. It is able to tolerate the very low growth rate determined by the poor nutrient availability, cool year round temperatures and short growing season found in peatlands. Although sometimes called American larch, tamarack is a Native American word that today continues to enjoy high usage. The tamarack was probably the most abundant conifer in pre-settlement northeast Indiana where other conifers were rare. The tamarack is one of the most northern of all trees, ranging from the extreme northern limit of trees in Labrador, to here at the near southernmost end of its range in Indiana.

If you see an odd-looking "pine" tree with small, sparse bluish-green needles, and it is in a northern Indiana wetland, you are probably looking at a tamarack. The tree's curiously arranged needles turn a golden yellow in the fall before shedding. It has small (1/2 inch) cones present in the spring. The cones are bright red turning to brown as they mature later in the summer. Tamaracks often occur as straggly individuals but may form pure stands of graceful, pyramidal individuals. Strictly confined to wetlands in this part of its range, your best opportunity to view tamarack may be while boating on some of Indiana's beautiful natural lakes. Other views may be found at Pokagon State Park's Potawatomi Nature Preserve or at the millpond in the Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area.

Today, tamaracks are experiencing continuous decline in Indiana and have disappeared from many counties. Living at the southernmost end of its range puts the tamarack in a precarious position: at the very edge of tolerable conditions favorable to its



Looking across lake to golden tamaracks in fall. Photo by Lee Casebere.

growth. While known as a hardy tree in more northern climes, Indiana tamaracks appear to be very sensitive to disease and disturbance, such as drainage and runoff. When viewing a tamarack tree, you can be sure that you are a fortunate witness to the processes that have shaped our state—its rich diversity of life.

Three ACRES Nature Preserves are home to tamaracks: Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve, Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve, and Woodland Bog.



Welcome NEW ACRES Members!

Karen and Edison Bender

- Gift of Patricia McNagny

Larry L. Biggerstaff

James A. Brenock

Gene and Joan Byer - Gift of Patricia McNagny

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Cline

Pauline Delk

George and Janet DeRoche

Joseph M. Doak

Gale Eller - Gift of Bonnie Niemann

Michael L. Faith

Leonard and Michelle Fenton

Grace Fulkerson

Robert Gebert, D.D.S.

Elaine V. Gee - Gift from Laurie Eberhardt

Beth Griggs

Karl F. Karn

Gary R. Klaehn

Wilson and Mary Lutz

David and Susan McTavish

Dr. Glenn and Mrs. Eva Merkel

Jean Newsum

Bob and Jeanie Phillips

- Gift of Patricia McNagny

Jon Pontzius

Donna Redding

Ellis Ralston and Barbara J. Steinkamp

Allen and Kathleen Riley

Dr. Paul E. Rothrock

Clyde "Apple" Sanders

Loren Schaefer

James J. Schafer

Evelyn Schnepf

Craig and Becky Semons

Jim and Jeanne Stump

Eugene Trabel - Gift of Mary Anna Feitler

Charlott A. Weybright

Stan and Bev Williams

Carolyn Wilson - Gift of Patricia McNagny

Ted Wilson

June H. Wolfe

Marty Wyall

Cathy French, Leader, and Troop 429

If you enjoy the ACRES
Quarterly, why not give a gift
subscription to other nature lovers
you know? Call (219) 422-1004

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

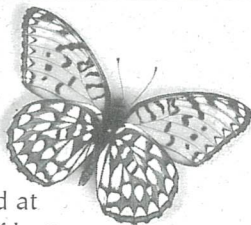


Butterflies and Moths

Sunday, July 22nd

Presented by: Ernest Shull, Author of *Butterflies*

of *Indiana*. Colorful and cheerful, butterflies are one of the delights of summer. Dr. Shull will show his collection of butterflies from around the world, which he started at the age of four! Learn how to identify the major groups of butterflies - many of which will be fluttering around Wildwood. Dr. Shull has found 80 species at this beautiful 236-acre property. **When:** 2:00 p.m. **Where:** "Wildwood", Kosciusko County. Take SR 14 three miles east of Silver Lake. Wildwood is located on the south side of SR 14, look for sign. **Bring:** Lawn chair or blanket - program will be outside if the weather is nice.



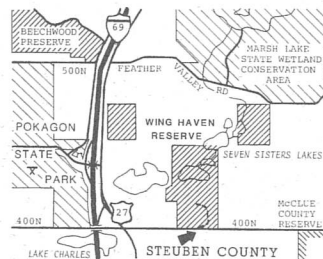
Wing Haven Canoe Trip

Sunday, August 5th

We will canoe through the Seven Sister Lakes, of which four are undeveloped. Starting at ACRES' Wing Haven Nature Preserve, be prepared to portage down to Gentian Lake. A side trip will be hiking the north shore of Gentian Lake. **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. **IMPORTANT: You are responsible for bringing a canoe or kayak, paddles, and life jackets.** **Contact:** ACRES at (219) 422-1004.



Birds of Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve

Saturday, August 18th

Presented by: Ted Heemstra, past President of Indiana Audubon, Stockbridge Audubon and ACRES. Able to spot a semipalmated sandpiper at 100 yards, identify small brown birds at a great distance - it's Ted! Considered one of Indiana's top birding experts, Ted will teach basic birding tips, show nesting species and their immatures. Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, a gift of Robert and Phyllis Robb, is a joy to visit. **When:** 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Hamilton, take Bellfountain Road northwest to Ball Lake Road 201.

Preserve is on east side of Ball Lake. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Pigeon River Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 25th

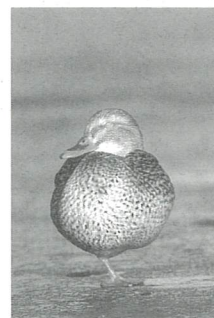
Canoe through the 12,000 acre Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area on the beautiful, winding Pigeon River! The 2 1/2 hour trip will be seven miles downstream with a small portage around the Nasby Dam. A perfect beginner's canoe trip, as the Pigeon River is 1 1/2 to 5 feet deep and flows at 5 mph. **When:** 9:30 a.m. **Where:** Meet at the Trading Post Canoe Rental, Mongo, LaGrange County. Mongo is located approximately 42 miles north of Fort Wayne on SR 3. Look for signs in Mongo to the Trading Post. **IMPORTANT: You are responsible for providing your own canoe, paddles, life jackets.** Don't have a canoe? You can rent from the Trading Post Canoe Rental. Call: 219-367-2493. **Bring:** Bug spray, change of clothing, and lunch. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



Captured on Film: Birds of Northeast Indiana

Sunday, September 2nd

Presented by: Paul McAfee, past President of Little River Wetlands, Stockbridge Audubon, and Environmental Education Association of Indiana. Known for his spectacular bird photography, Paul McAfee will present a one-hour slide program. Paul will give tips on technique and show his wonderful portraits of great blue herons, ducks, geese, shorebirds and other wetland birds. **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.



Mallard Photo by Paul McAfee



Children's Hike

Saturday, September 8th

Jeff "Wildman" Britton is back! Bring your parents to Vandolah Nature Preserve for an adventuresome hike and artifact search (you never know what "Wildman" will find) followed by a hot dog roast. No meal is complete without looking at pond water through microscopes afterwards! Expect a surprise guest. **When:** 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Vandolah Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take I-69 to Dupont Road, turn west onto Dupont and then north onto Auburn Road. Follow Auburn Road to Vandolah Road, continue under I-69 and then take an immediate right onto Tother Road. Preserve located on Tother Road. **Bring:** Sunscreen, bug spray, hiking shoes, long pants. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 219-422-1004.



In Memoriam

Loyal Yoder
Christina Nicklin

from Cedar Creek Wildlife Project for the Cedar Creek Heron Rookery

Gregory E. Irk

from Jay and Betsy Guylas for the Bicentennial Woods

ACRES ALONG THE WABASH



In 2000, ACRES received a \$108,300 grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor to add 58-acres to the 29-acre Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve, Wells County. We have raised more than \$17,800 of the necessary \$27,080 match from the ACRES membership. We want to thank those generous members who have supported this ongoing project!

Debby and Paul Meade
Pam and Peter Oleson
Art and Anna Mae Parry
Dr. Edwin and Mrs. Phyllis Stumpf

William Barnes Sr.
Alan and Jeannie Bieberich
Larry and Karlann Bieberich
Robert Binder
Thomas and Mary Jo Bland
Bob and Sharon Bryan
Willard and Nena Clark
Harold E. Cook
Marilyn J. Creason
John and Lucille Curran

Andrew and Margaret Dirksen
Mary Anna Feitler
Richard Forrester
James W. Foster
R. Michael and Debra S. Glasper
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hall
Catherine Henschen
Dr. Donald D. Hoagland
Jack and Karen Horrell
Diane S. Humphrey
Claude Keller Jr.
Else R. Matott
Carolyn McNagney
Kim Miller
Steve Nagy and Angela Quinn
Helen Nixon
John and Julia Oldenkamp
Virginia Petit
Edwin and Cynthia Powers
Janel A. Rogers
Michael Shaver
Mary Jane Slaton
Joanne A. Weber
Daniel and Terry Wilson

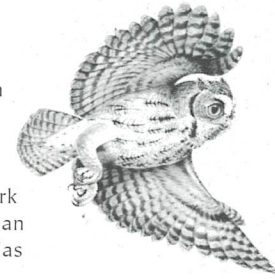


Acres Along the Wabash and Ragwort photos by John Tyson

Birdathon

Once again, Acres members make the 4th annual Birdathon a success. Thanks for your support of Wing Haven!

John Bacone
Lawrence Benjamin
Kathryn Bloom
Lois Booth
Jeff and Susan Britton
Brad Bumgardener
Lee Casebere
Eva Claphan
Willard and Nina Clark
Terry and Pam Coleman
Harold and Pat Douglas
Tom and Jane Dustin
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Mary Anna Feitler
Arthur George
Delles Gerig
Lorry Goldenberg
Lonnice Hanson
Juanita Harsch
Frannie Headings
Ted Heemstra
Heather Hoffman
Diane S. Humphrey
Judy and Dan Kaufman
Patricia Kinsey
Larry and Sue Lantzer
Margien Lund
Charlotte Lunde
Pat MacWhorter
Nancy Malis
D. G. Mason
Paul and Marla McAfee
Mary McCormack
Carolyn McNagney
Patricia McNagney
Richard McNett
Charles and Ruth Oswalt
Jane Papsdorf
Cynthia and Ruth Porter
Ed and Cynthia Powers
Anna S. Richard
Stephen Shambaugh
Carter Snider
Samuel R. Thompson
Fran Wilder
Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley



Barred Owl from Reader's Digest of North American Birds

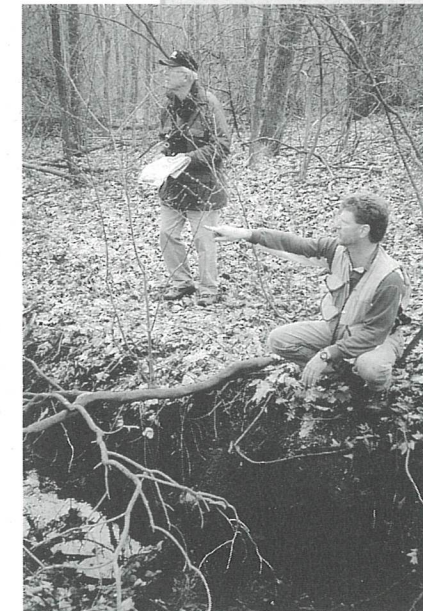
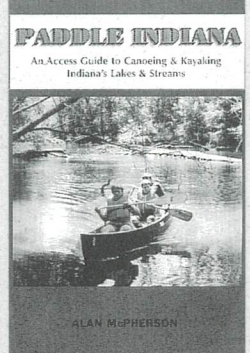
PADDLE INDIANA

by Alan McPherson

"With the popularity of kayaking and Indiana's wonderful lakes and reservoirs, we wanted a guide that covered more than just rivers,"

said author McPherson. The new 399-page guide book gives detailed information on 70 lakes and 35 rivers. Each lake and river has a detailed description of access points, hazards and its appeal to paddlers.

This guidebook leads the canoeist through several ACRES nature preserves including Wing Haven and Art Hammer Wetlands. It can be purchased from the ACRES office for \$18. Call 219-422-1004.



Ted Heemstra (left) and Nate Simons, ACRES Directors and members of the Land Acquisition Committee, survey a possible acquisition property. Photograph by Art Eberhardt.

Sixteen Wonder-Filled Years —



I can remember vividly walking up the lane to Wing Haven for the first time. It was February of 1984. A good snow covered the ground and since the lane had been untraveled for months, much less plowed; the few ACRES board members and myself parked at the entrance gate and walked up the lane.

At the time, I had been working just across the highway at Pokagon State Park for four years, but never made it over to this fine natural area. Its owner, Helen Swenson, passed away the previous April and left this 160 acre gem to the ACRES Land Trust. Like myself, some board members were seeing it for the first time.

Anticipation and excitement was high as we walked up the first hill, rounded the curve, and came down out of the woods into the open field. I still was not prepared for what I was about to see. Continuing down the lane and looking through the leafless trees, I could see a scene unfold that took me back in time, certainly to a world I had never known. The best way I could describe it was like seeing the historic village at Spring Mill State Park for the first time. Both scenes feature old log buildings and rustic

shelters tucked into the landscape as if placed there by an artist. In the case of Wing Haven, indeed that was the case.

Here was the homestead of Helen and Ben Swenson. They operated the Potawatomi Inn from 1936 to 1948. Later, they owned and operated the Wing Haven Resort on the north side



Wing Haven studio, Gentian Lake and iris (pictured right) by John Tyson.

of the Seven Sisters Lakes. On this south side of the lakes, they built their home, a respite from the hubbub of their busy public lives. It was a place where Helen would hone her painting and nature photography skills. It was a place for her to garden, feed wildlife, raise farm animals, and observe and be inspired by the wonders of nature. Now it was becoming the Wing Haven Nature Preserve and would do the same for others for years to come. Little did I know then, that it would do so much for me.

We toured the grounds and investigated the outbuildings, the two-story log studio, and the rustic and beautiful log home. At one point, board member Bob Weber turned to me and asked, "Fred, do you think you could live here and take care of this place?"

A Wing Haven Farewell by Fred Wooley



I looked around and could hardly contain my excitement. "Yeah, I can do that..."

And that we did for 16 years. Not enough space occurs here for me to capture the essence of living in such a beautiful place for these past 16 years. Jackie and I, our dog Lucy, and later our son Joseph, had an opportunity that few can claim. We lived in the center of one of the most unique natural areas in Indiana, if not the Midwest.

We watched the seasons come and go. As caretakers, we got to know the trails, the lakes, the ravine, the woods, old meadows, and all of the dramas of nature that played out before us. From the big events of heavy snows and sandhill crane nests to the subtleties of a sunrise over the barns and fireflies in the fields, we lived it all. Yes, there was work to do, but a labor of love to be sure.

I only have two regrets. One was that I never met Helen Swenson. I feel like I know her though, through living in her home, tending to her plants, and enjoying the same scenes that she did. Secondly, there was never enough time. There was always more to do than we had time to do. We all feel that crunch, possibly Helen did too. I do not know.

Our family has now moved on now. It was with incredible mixed emotions to leave our home at Wing Haven. I am still the Park Interpreter at Pokagon State Park, but we have recently moved to nearby rural Fremont. In 1997 we purchased 21 acres of land and just last year built a new

home. In that home, we tried to build in some of the amenities that we so enjoyed at Wing Haven. We have already been working on restoring some of the old farmland and have been enhancing the fence rows with various plantings. In a way, maybe, we will someday create our own little Wing Haven.

We got to meet and work with a variety of very incredible people. The ACRES board members were always most generous and accommodating through our years there. We enjoyed a wonderful working relationship. Guests to the Sunday open houses and members and visitors to the trails at various times through the seasons added to the experience as we crossed paths or talked over the split rail fence.

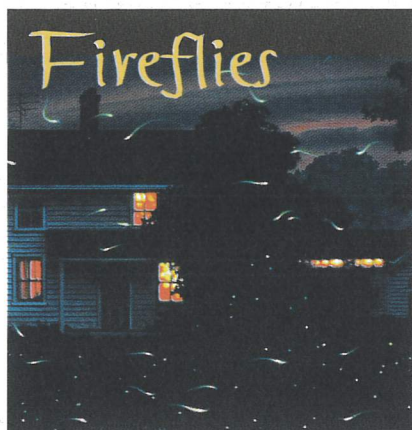
There will only be one Wing Haven. We are most thankful for the years of good life and the inspiration that it gave us. It is comforting to know that it remains in the good stewardship of a new family and the broader family of ACRES. It will always provide inspiration for any who travel up that long lane.

Thank you Helen Swenson and thank you ACRES Land Trust.

—Fred Wooley



Wing Haven barn with yellow mustard by John Ellenwood.



Note from the Editor: This Back Page is written by guest writer, Lydia Brown, age seventeen, from Bay City, Michigan.

Every summer night, the fields of Indiana glow and sparkle. Stalks of grass emit sparks that fly up and fade. Cities of fairy-like lights blink on and off, fly up and around leaving jet trails of light. I'd only seen one or two fireflies in my life, that is,

until I came to visit my friends, the Brittons, in Leo, Indiana, for the summer.

The Michigan-Indiana border must be equipped with some kind of firefly repellant. We just don't see that many where I live. Once, my little brother found one on a camping trip. I remember how excited we were; how we took turns cupping the unfortunate insect in our hands. You can only imagine my delight when I looked out the car window to see a golden field of them. The hands of the earth were cupped so you could see them all; dancing in their own candlelight.

The abundance of the natural beauty woven into every day is phenomenal. The things we drive past everyday on our ways to work- the things we see out of our living room windows- everything is astonishingly lovely. If you look at everything as if you were seeing it for the very first time, and I suggest that you do, our world becomes more beautiful than you could imagine. Even the little light-up bugs are amazing.

-Lydia Brown



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 Fall issue is August 1, 2001. For information on ACRES call 219-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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MEMBERSHIP: Benefactor, \$500; Patron, \$100; Organization/Club, \$50; Share-the-Expense, \$50; Family, \$30; Individual, \$20; Senior Citizen, \$15; and Student (through High School), \$15. Payable Annually. **Membership year is July 1 to June 30.**

