

Preserving Natural Areas
QUARTERLY

SPRING 2002
Volume 41—Number 2

Wildflowers...see page 5

In This Issue:

- Time to Rejoin!
- New Members & Tributes
- ACRES' Mission
- Robert & Phyllis Robb
- Wildflowers of Indiana
- James M. Barrett III
- Field Trips & Special Events
- Special Thanks
- Land Acquisition & Management Fund
- Memorials
- The Back Page

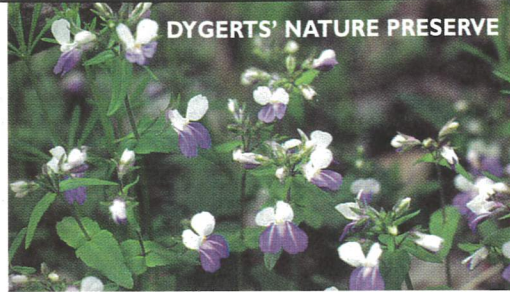
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE...

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy." -John C. Sawhill

Drive down any road in northeast Indiana and the amount of development taking place is startling and unnerving. Farms we once thought would never change are gone in a day of bulldozer work, woods are thinned and fragmented by housing subdivisions, road frontage becomes strip malls. What is missing is balance.

ACRES strives to provide balance, working to protect areas that are too beautiful, too rare, too precious to touch. The grandeur of the bluffs over the Wabash River at Tel-Hy, the call of the sandhill cranes at Wing Haven, the graceful green carpet of twinleaf and Solomon's seal at the Bibler Nature Preserve.

Your interest and concern enables ACRES' efforts. Membership dues and donations provide monies for staff, an office, management projects, programs



DYGERTS' NATURE PRESERVE

for children and adults, and the protection of new preserves. And in a state with a miserable track record of land protection and environmental degradation, you provide the balance.

HOW TO HELP...

Join or Rejoin: Your interest in ACRES' work is shown by your willingness to join as a member.

Volunteer: ACRES' volunteers have planted trees at the YWCA, repaired the bridge at The Bicentennial Woods, netted bats at the Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, organized the Adopt-A-Tree Festival, and completed so many more worthwhile projects. If you can spare a day a year, sign up for land management or special events (or both!).

Land Acquisition Projects: Give to the 238-acre "Wildwood" project in Kosciusko County, the 56-acre Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve in Whitley County, or the 58-acre addition to the Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve, Wells County. We have hikes scheduled at all of these sites this spring (please see pages 6 and 7: Field Trips and Special Events). Come out and see why these projects are so important!

Endowments: The Wing Haven Endowment (held by the Steuben County Community Foundation) and the Operations Endowment (held by the Fort Wayne Community Foundation) continue to grow-thanks to you. The Wing Haven Endowment is at \$40,000 and the Operations Endowment is more than \$20,000. ACRES is planning for the future, so please remember the endowments.

As always, we are happy for your interest!



"WILDWOOD"

CONSERVATION MEDAL FOR ROBBS



Photograph by Katie Bloom

The DAR Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter's Conservation Committee has awarded Dr. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Robb a Conservation Medal and Certificate in recognition of their foresight and generosity in protecting their 65-acre property south of Ball Lake, Steuben County. The Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve protects a beautiful, deep ravine which provides valuable habitat for migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, redstarts, and many other birds. The ravine has a lush wildflower display, with bishop's cap, black cohosh, Virginia waterleaf, baneberry, and trillium. Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve was officially dedicated as a state nature preserve in January 1997. Congratulations to Robert and Phyllis Robb!

New ACRES Members!

Mark and Jacqueline Akey
Gift of Nancy R. Sharp
Jimmie and Beulah Allman
Rosalie Bennett and Gerry Spinks
William and Cynthia Gravatt

Gift of Kathryn Moore
Dennis and Linda Den Hartog
Beth Krueger
Robert and Margaret Laatsch
Dan McDowell
C. Joe Ottinger
Carolyn Potts
Steven Riethmiller

Gift of Jean O. Riethmiller
Edith Stone
Jeff and Barbara Studebaker
Harriet E. Swick

Gift of Robert and Margaret Laatsch
William and Cynthia Vanderbosch
Gift of Kathryn Moore

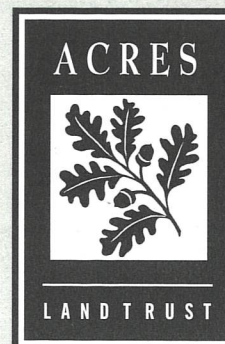
Tributes

Kent Sprunger

From Emily K. Burkhalter
for Wildwood

Robert and Phyllis Robb

From the Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter of
the Daughters of the American Revolution
for Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve



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 46808-2474
260-422-1004
email: acreslt@fwi.com
Web site: www.acres-land-trust.org

WILDFLOWERS

Sharp-lobed Hepatica *Hepatica acutiloba*

Looking as if they still have their coats on, fuzzy buds appear over mottled, leathery leaves in the first warm days of spring. Appearing even between patches of snow, hepatica opens into mounds of azure blue flowers.

Flowers can fertilize themselves and do not require visiting insects for pollination. Considering how few butterflies or bees fly about in late March, when the hepatica blooms, it is not surprising the flower found another way.

Bloodroot *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Well-known to the Indians whose name for it was Puccoon or dye, its perennial root stalk "bleeds" a bright orange-red when cut. Indians used the dye to color baskets and for war-paint. These fragile flowers can lose all of their petals in a slight breeze.

Prairie Trillium *Trillium recurvatum*

One of the trillium genus, which was completely new to the early colonists. The genus did not occur in Europe. The trillium are quickly recognizable by everything being in 3's - 3 leaves, 3 sepals, and 3 petals. Trillium is renowned for having the largest chromosomes occurring in any flowering plant.

Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum*

Adding a welcome touch of blue to the spring hillside, this flower is also known as crane's bill, because of the plant's long black seed case. The Greek word for crane is geranium. Related to the touch-me-not family, the geranium's seed pods pop open and catapult seeds into the air - some flying an impressive thirty feet! The pollen is bright blue - a rarity in the plant kingdom, where pollen is usually orange.

Dutchman's-breeches *Dicentra cucullaria*

The shape suggests Dutch pantaloons hanging upside down and the name caused controversy in Victorian times for being "suggestive". Bees swarm to the flower, but are cheated of the nectar which their short tongues cannot reach. Covered with pollen, the frustrated bees buzz to the next flower and so can pollinate a hillside and not get rewarded. But to the bumblebees go the reward - they simply chew through the spur tips to gain direct access to the nectar.

Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*

Growing along streams, this water-loving plant can turn a waterway into a band of gold or brighten any swamp or wet field. Marsh marigolds are one of the few plants that can grow in the center of a stream, gaining a foothold when the water is low and then hanging on tenaciously when the water rises. A native of Europe and North America, marsh marigolds often appeared in the plays of Shakespeare as cowslips.

Conservation happens through the dedication of individuals like...

JAMES M. BARRETT III

ACRES was fortunate to have one of Indiana's leading attorneys as a charter member of the new organization in 1960. During his thirty-nine years of service on the board of directors, Jim contributed his ideas, his work on projects, as well as an impressive amount of time as legal counsel for ACRES, including transfers of land.

"Jim Barrett has been an important part of conservation in Indiana for many years", said John Bacone, Director of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves. "Among his most significant contributions was his authorship of the Indiana Nature Preserves Act. This act established the infrastructure for Indiana's nature preserve system, which now consists of 185 nature preserves."

The Indiana Nature Preserves Act is recognized as the strongest in the country, thanks to Jim's dedication to detail and superb craftsmanship to the law. Jane Dustin, one of the founders of ACRES, said his goal was "to make as protected and as safe a haven for special natural places as is legally possible - that has been, since the late 1950s to today, the determination of Jim Barrett."

As one of the eight founders of ACRES, Jane said "his ingenuity and persistence" began the organization in 1960. One of the first tasks he tackled was writing the new organization's by-laws and articles of dedication. Today, the ACRES by-laws are seen as an example of excellence by other land trusts.

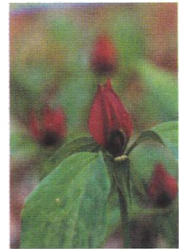
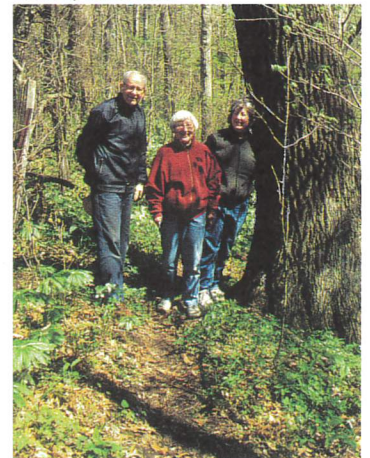
Lee Casebere, former ACRES board member and Assistant Director to the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, sums up the feelings of many when he says: "I've known Jim Barrett since the 1970's when I became actively involved with ACRES and served with him on the ACRES board for several years. To me, Jim was a gentleman who commanded respect, and whenever I was around him, I always felt a need to mind my manners. He was quiet and thoughtful with a sharp intellect. He listened intently, and when called upon, gave careful, sage advice. I doubt that there are many who can match his attention to detail, and that is a trait that served ACRES well when he provided legal services to them."

His love for the natural world is very deep as evidenced by



many of the matters that occupied his time over the years. Included among these things are several that are associated with the work of the Division of Nature Preserves: His years of active involvement with ACRES, the authorship of what became the Indiana Nature Preserves Act, and the setting aside of 87 acres of land where he and Pat have lived for many years as the James M. and Patricia D. Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve. Although our paths seldom cross these days, I have the highest regard for Jim and Pat, and consider them friends and soul mates."

Top photograph of Jim Barrett at Foxfire Nature Preserve by Bob Weber; Bottom photograph of Jim, Pat and Barbara Barrett by Sharon Little.



Photographs from top to bottom by: Helen Swensen (Hepatica), Lee Casebere (Bloodroot, Prairie Trillium, Wild Geranium), Nancy Malis (Dutchman's-breeches), and John Ellenwood (Marsh Marigold). Article by Carolyn McNaggy.

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

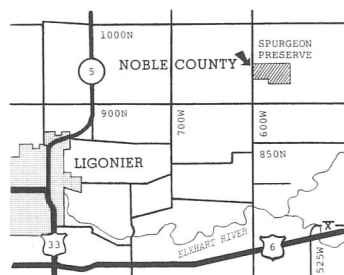
Experience the Lure of Spurgeon Woods

Saturday, April 27th

Presented by: Dr. Larry Yoder, Assistant Director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College. Join botanist Dr. Larry Yoder as we learn about the unique landforms at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve and see how they lead to Spurgeon's becoming home to one of the areas most diverse communities of native spring wildflowers. Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, hepatica, bloodroot, Celadine poppy, blue-eyed marys abound on the dramatic slopes left by the glacial ice. **When:** 10:00 a.m. for a two-hour hike. **Where:** Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland, Noble County. Take SR 6 west of Kendallville and then north on 600 W. Preserve located between 900 and 1000 N on east side of 600 W. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004.



Spurgeon Woods by Bob Weber



Benefit Concert for Wildwood!

Project with Tippecanoe Audubon Society

Sunday, April 28th

Presented by: David Rezsits and members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Enjoy a wonderful quartet of cello, two violins, and viola playing a selection of light classics, ragtime, and Broadway musicals. Bob Frantz will show slides of "Wildwood" during the first musical number. After the concert, visit the spectacular 238-acre "Wildwood." ACRES is working with Bob and Alice Frantz to protect their wildlife haven. **When:** 2:00 p.m. **Where:** North Manchester



Naida MacDermid, Dessie Arnold, Olga Yurkova, and David Rezsits

Public Library, Glen and Eleanor Blocher Community Room. At the intersection of SR 114 and 13, take SR 114 into North Manchester to the first stoplight. Turn north onto Market Street, drive three blocks. The Library is located on the east side of Market Street. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004. **Cost:** \$10.00 to benefit Wildwood.

New Preserve Celebration

at the 56-acre Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve.
Saturday, May 4th

A valley of the dainty blue-eyed marys and streams edged by yellow marsh marigolds await your eyes at the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, acquired in October of 2001. Join us for food, music, and the wildflower display! Erik Vosteen, Primitive Skills Instructor for 15 years, will be teaching cordage (making string from plants), how to throw an atlatl and fire starting with a hand drill. **When:** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Where:** Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, Whitley County. Take SR 109 north of US 30 at Columbia City to 400 N. Turn west on 400 N and then north on 50 W. Preserve on west side of 50 W. **Contact:** ACRES office at 260-422-1004.



Hawthorne by Bob Frantz

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Showing your colors at Robb Hidden Canyon

Project with Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

Sunday, May 5th



Photograph by Phyllis Robb

Through the generosity of Robert and Phyllis Robb, this 65-acre nature preserve was protected in 1995. On the southern hills around Ball Lake, the preserve has a spectacular ravine, towering trees, a winding stream, and a wonderful display of wildflowers. The DAR recognized Robert and Phyllis with a Conservation Medal in March for their dedication to natural areas preservation (see article on page 3). **When:** 2:00 p.m.

Where: Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve,

Steuben County. Take SR 1 to Hamilton and then northwest on Bellefontaine Road to Ball Lake Road 201. Follow Ball Lake Road 201 to the east side of Ball Lake. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004.

A Spring Morning Hike at Emanuel M. Popp

Saturday, May 11th

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff, Caretaker and Steward. A gift from Jeannette Kent in 1996, the 40-acre Emanuel M. Popp Preserve is one of 185 nature preserves dedicated under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act. Wildflowers abound around the feet of towering oak, hickory, and maple trees - a great place to hike! Larry has adopted the preserve and completed many improvements to the charming white cottage and trail system. **When:** Stop by anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. **Where:** Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69. Go north 1 1/2 miles on Tonkel Road and preserve is on west side of Tonkel at 12129. Preserve is normally open to the public by permission only. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004.



Photograph by John Ellenwood

Shooting Stars, Wild Hyacinths and the Wabash River

Saturday, May 18th

Presented by: Larry Bieberich, naturalist and botanist. A thick carpet of spring wildflowers grace this preserve, which increased in size from 29 to 87-acres in 2001. Larry and Karlann Bieberich are the stewards for the Acres Along the Wabash Preserve and will give a guided tour. After Acres Along the Wabash, Larry will lead a birding tour at the Limberlost Swamp project, now more than 1,250 acres in size in Jay County. **When:** 10:00 a.m. **Where:** Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve, Wells County. Take SR 116 northwest of Bluffton 3 miles. Will go through small town of Murray and then preserve is on south side of SR 116. **Contact:** ACRES office at 260-422-1004.



Shooting star photograph by Ron Everhard

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday, June 1st - Wing Haven Auction moved to E-Bay!

Cleaning out your attic or garage? ACRES is accepting donations of furniture, books, antiques, or artwork, with an estimated minimum value of \$50. Your gift to the Ebay auction can be deducted from your taxes. To donate items, call the ACRES office at 260 422-1004.

The Auction will help ACRES maintain Wing Haven's barns, studio, and house.



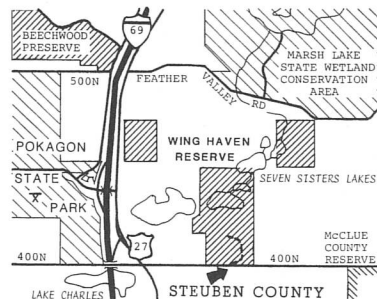
Photographer Ronald E. Everhard

Sunday, June 2nd

Professor of photography at Indiana University-Indianapolis, for many years, Ron will present his tips on taking great nature scenes and close-ups. In a 45-minutes slide show, Ron will show how he captured everything from a swallowtail on ferns to a green heron catching a fish.



Tiger Swallowtail on ferns by Ron Everhard



Ron's book "Plants and Animals of Indiana" will be for sale, as will four posters taken from photographs from the book. **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 north side of 400 N in 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004.

Thanks to:

John Ley Monument Sales

for donating the inscribed boulder for Jessie's Woods Nature Preserve

Diane Breese

for being a great steward of Mengerson Nature Preserve

State Farm Insurance

for their financial support

John and Marcella Ellenwood, Ethyle Bloch, and Mary Schneider

the brave bulk mail crew

Patricia McNagny

for proof-reading the Quarterly and helping with the cost of printing the Quarterly in color

REMC of Steuben County

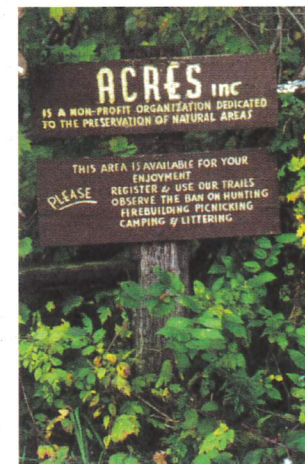
for delivering mulch to the Robb Hidden Canyon Preserve

LAND ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT FUND

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Photograph by Bob Weber

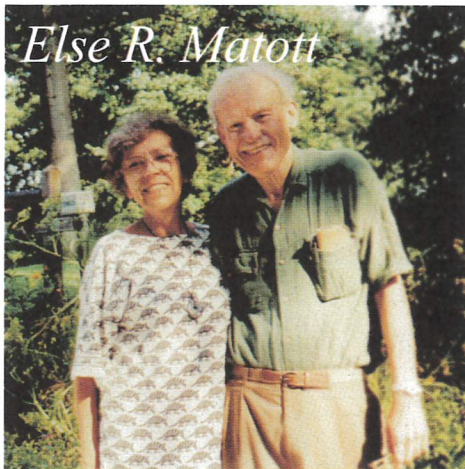
Thank you for your support!

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Daniel and Beth Zweig
Jan and Riet Zwiep



Photograph of Bill Lambert and Tom Crowe removing trees for a trail system. By John Ellenwood

Else R. Matott



By Arthur Matott, Else's husband

Born in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, Else grew up surrounded by vine-yard covered hills and to the west, up the Nahe Valley, red rock cliffs and forested slopes. The oldest girl, she often took her brothers and sisters hiking in the woods, along the river and in the parks surrounding the mineral baths for which Kreuznach is known. On these walks she grew to love the wild flowers, herbs, ferns, fruits

and berries, the birds and small animals. Later she knew them by their German, botanical and English names.

While in Germany, Else earned her "meisterbrief" or Master Hairdresser's Diploma after years of night study. In the early sixties, Else came to Fort Wayne to visit her sister, Bruni. She found work at the Harper Method Shop in the Lincoln Tower. Daringly, she soon took the opportunity to buy the salon. She worked long hours, saved and washed her own linens. She slowly built a loyal clientele which recognized her excellent work and brought others. Else was very strict about being on time and honoring bookings, but made many standing appointments and became lifelong friends. Else retired in 1993 after 50 years.

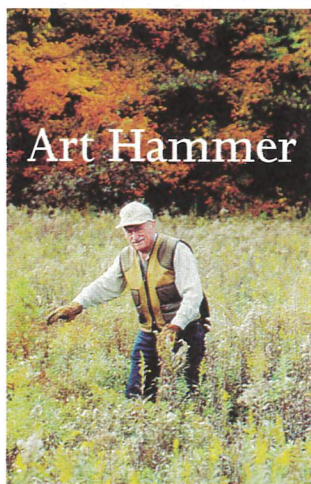
Else loved all people, forgave all people, gave of herself to all people—even difficult people—and was loved in return by all who knew her. She was gentle, kind and caring, always understating, but persuasive. She had rules for everyone to abide by—reasonable, constructive rules. She wanted all things done properly—easily, graciously, neatly, logically without noise, fuss or complaint.

At times almost innocent and naive, but always extremely independent, Else did not want to be a

burden. Thoughtful and organized, she quietly did many things well: dancing, skiing, canoeing, camping, hiking, gardening, cooking, spinning, dyeing, weaving, and for the last six years, painting. Always with laughter, a smile and sparkling eyes, Else was a delight to know.

Else traveled widely, but loved western Michigan above all places. She is there, her paddle resting, drifting on the Jordan's crystal current. Moving quietly amid gentle ripples, she is listening intently to the unbearably beautiful songs of the cedar waxwings. They fly very low, keeping just ahead, momentarily hiding in an overhanging hemlock, flying again as she approaches. They are her friends, sent to be with her, guide her, protect her. Else is absorbed into a perfect summer afternoon—joyful, fulfilled, awed by and deeply appreciative of life. This is the Else we all know and love and cherish forever.

It seemed like everyone who was involved with ACRES knew Else. Whether leading a nature hike, growing plants for her yearly spring plant sale, creating centerpieces for the Annual Dinner or introducing a new person to ACRES, Else was a devoted friend to the organization. A common phrase to hear was "I became interested in ACRES because of Else". She is missed by her many friends.



By Carolyn McNagny

Last fall, Art tromped into the office carrying an old cottage cheese container and a plastic hollow pipe. "Now I want you to take these red maple seeds, drop one down the pipe, then walk a couple of steps and do the same thing again" he said.

I looked down at the hundreds of fluffy red maple seeds in the container and asked him how he got them all gathered. "Took them up with a Dust Buster", he said, "at my friend's house. He was just going to leave them there!" Art added, as if horrified at the thought.

Art said "Now you take that hillside at Crooked Lake, where the open field goes up against the woods.

Think how beautiful those red maples will be to someone walking through that field in fall. We'll never see it, but they will be something to see against the woods."

I have never known anyone with such a powerful love of trees and a generosity of spirit that wanted other people to appreciate nature as he did. Art left more than 435 acres protected in the Art Hammer Wetlands, Anna Brand Hammer, and Herman F. Hammer Wald Nature Preserves. A familiar sight in his straw brimmed hat, very blue eyes and carrying a walking stick, Art was enthusiastically pursuing numerous projects, from playing tennis, to releasing quail, to ordering American chestnuts to plant in the spring.

One of his favorite activities was searching out land to add to his nature preserves, which he happily pursued with his friend, David Gall. From 1992 to 1995, they worked steadily to acquire eight properties, containing 150-acres, as additions to the Art Hammer Wetlands Preserve. The accomplishment delighted Art.

Every spring, Art would start planting trees as soon as the ground was suitable. He would order bald cypress, river birch, Norway spruce, butternut, shagbark hickory - and his favorites, the oaks. Even in his 80s, Art would plant hundreds of trees every spring and remember their names and when they were planted.



In the fall, friends would call him when the nuts and acorns began to fall from their trees. Art would gather buckets of acorns and plant them on the properties he owned, scattered in four counties. "I've always found it a miracle that a tree can come from something as small as an acorn", he said. The reward for Art was having the joy of seeing the trees grow, turning an open, bare field into a woods. And an equal reward was sharing that joy.

If the red maples grow on the hillside at Crooked Lake and hikers see them as a blaze against the woods, I am sure that Art would be just as delighted as if he was there himself.

Photographs of Art Hammer by Bob Weber

In Memoriam

Arthur W. Hammer

Andy and Marie Anderson
George and Doris Bagnall
James and Patricia Barrett
William and Ethyle Bloch
Roy A. Buskirk
Tom and Jane Dustin
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Mary Anna Feitler
Glenn Fogwell
Robert and Alice Frantz
David and Julia Hollingsworth
Dr. Jerry L. Mackel
Patricia A. McNagny
Kathryn L. Moore
Arthur and Anna Mae Parry
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Robb
Don, Carole and Kay Schoenefeld
William A. Smith IV and Sally Garrett Smith
Dale and Kim Thomas
Eugene and Gladys Tully
Robert and Janet Weber
for the Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve

Else R. Matott

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William and Ethyle Bloch
William and Dorothy Bloom
Tom and Jane Dustin
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Henry and Carolyn Ford
Robert and Hildegard Fritsch
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Bruce and Barbara Kistler
Carolyn McNagny
Patricia A. McNagny
Stanley and Elizabeth Newhall
Robert and Bertha Tindall
Mary Anna Wyall
for the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

Loyal Yoder

from his daughter Shirley M. Meighen
for the Cedar Creek Heron Rookery

Herbert Zinn

from Anita and Jack Dierkes
for Wing Haven

American Redstarts

I focused my binoculars on a small bird. At first it looked like the usual suspect, but when it took off, I saw a bright colorful flash of reds and oranges. An excited friend told me it was an American Redstart. When it *starts* to fly you see *red* (get it?)! I was thrilled since I hadn't seen one of these beautiful warblers before, and haven't since.

It occurred to me that a lot of the best things in life are obscured or hidden. When my husband traveled in Africa, the locals had a habit of calling the common birds, LBJs or Little Brown Jobs, there were so many of them. We do the same thing here. We look at a field and think to ourselves, it's green or it's brown. If you walk through that field, however, you see that there are colorful wildflowers, insects and birds flying up. Something may look a little boring at first, but chances are, if you look close enough and long enough, it may surprise you with something amazing..



American Redstarts: The male is a glossy black, with bright orange patches on its sides, wings, tail, belly and undertail. The female is gray-olive, white below with yellow patches. It commonly chases insects and when it perches fans its tail and spreads its wings, flashing its brilliant colors. Its song sounds like: zee zee zee zee zwoo (last note higher) and tsee tsee tsee tsee tsee-o (last syllable dropping.)

American Redstart by Lang Elliot author of *Music of the Birds*

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 **May 1**. For information on ACRES call 260-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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