

Preserving Natural Areas

QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2002

Volume 41 — Number 3



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32-acre Addition to the 28-acre Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve!

Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve, acquired as a gift in 1976 from Glenn Fogwell and his sisters Mabel Corville and Mildred Klopfenstein, is doubling in size! In a wetland mitigation project by the Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority, ACRES received the deed to the 32.301-acre addition on June 25, 2002.

This fragile nature preserve is in southwestern Allen County, near where the highway department extended the Airport Throughway. The 32-acre addition will buffer the preserve, one of the few remaining flatwoods in the Central Till Plain Natural Region, which stretches from south of Indianapolis to the Fort Wayne area.

Dr. Paul Rothrock, Professor of Environmental Science and Biology at Taylor University, studied Fogwell Forest in 1993. Paul documented 243 species of vascular plant species, including a wealth of fern and woodland sedge species. Goldie's wood, Northern maidenhair, Lady, Silvery glade,

Lowland bladder, Broad beech, Sensitive, Lace-frond grape, and Rattlesnake were the fern species, which show the diversity of this state-dedicated nature preserve. At one time, all this land was part of the Fogwell farm. William Fogwell, Glenn Fogwell's grandfather purchased 270 acres of farmland and woods in the 1860s. In 1926, State Forester Charles Deam encouraged the family to enter the 28-acre woods into the "Classified Forest" program.

Thank you to Mike Deam, Attorney for the Airport Authority; Eric Frankel, former Director of Operations and Facility for the Airport Authority; James M. Barrett III, ACRES Founder and Attorney; and Ted Heemstra, ACRES Vice-President and former President for their work on this project since 1992.

With gratitude for their generous gift to all of us, thank you to Glenn Fogwell, Mabel Corville and Mildred Klopfenstein for creating this spectacular nature preserve: the 60-acre Fogwell Forest!



ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE



If you drive a car, you can help protect woods, wetlands and wildlife in Indiana. Buy an environmental license plate! Your donation of \$25 will go directly to land protection and all of Indiana's land trusts (23 in all) will benefit. Your plate purchase sends a message to our state legislators that we support the protection of natural areas.

In the last ten years, the environmental license plates, owned by more than 600,000 Hoosiers, helped to protect a whopping 29,000 acres with a cost of over \$46 million.

Remember the Eagle!



We're on the Radio!

Jeff Britton, ACRES Director and Education Committee member, is a new voice on WBNI and WBOI. John Gillespie, Monastic Chambers Studio, edits the spots and adds sound effects. Jeff is writing creative, lively, and thoughtful 2 1/2 minute spots to air weekly. You can catch this spot, which brings ACRES to the public, on:

- WBNI - Saturdays between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. after the opera
- WBOI - Wednesdays at 1:20 p.m.

Our thanks to Courier Printing for sponsoring the first month of "Nature Watch."

*Thank you to everyone
who renewed!*

New ACRES Members

Wandalee Cospier
Linda Diaz
Ron Everhart
Robert and Janet Joseten
Charles and Susie Klinger
Karen Littleford

Gift of Mary Ann Stark

JoAnn Martin
Lewis and Lois Miller
Dottie Haller

Gift of Dolores Tomusk

Karen Littleford

Gift of Mary Ann Stark

Thomas S. Worms
Becky L. Zimmerman

Bluffton Garden Club
Christoff and Christoff
Orion Foundation
Wild Birds Unlimited

Tributes

Ben Ables

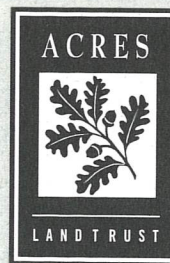
from Kathryn Moore

In honor of his Graduation from High School

Robert and Phyllis Robb

from Janeen Swift Peters

In honor of their protection of land owned by Gideon Ball, her Grandfather, which became the Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve.



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 45 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

ACRES of Color

Photos of ACRES Preserves
by Ron Everhart



Bellflower



Celadine Poppy at the Edna W. Spurgeon Reserve



Red maple leaf at
Robb Hidden Canyon Preserve



Wood frog at James M. and Patricia D. Barrett Nature Preserve



Nodding Trillium



Blue-Eyed Mary's at Evelyn & Wendell Dygert Preserve
False Solomon's Seal in Ralph F. Gates Nature Preserve



Purple violet with Virginia waterleaf
at Fogwell Forest



Large-
flowered
Trillium



Garter snake at Maplewood Nature Preserve

Emmanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve



Tiger Salamander by John Netherton

By Jeff Britton, ACRES Director, and
member of the Education Committee

My habit of turning over logs, (everyone has to have a hobby), has been rewarded several times by finding the large, formidable (for an amphibian) Tiger salamander. As the world's largest land-dwelling salamander, growing from 6 to 14 inches in length, it is a vision that stays with you.

Salamanders are one of the most mysterious creatures I know. Some are totally aquatic, some are land-based, many go through both aquatic and land phases. Most of them undergo complete metamorphosis but some stay in the mysterious juvenile eft form their entire lives. Add the fact that some are newts and you have an altogether confusing group of animals.

All of the 350 species of salamanders breathe through their skin, some being so talented that their lungs have disappeared. They are all nocturnal, preferring leaf litter and rotting logs and generally sticking to moist damp shadows. If their skin dries out, they will quickly die because they cannot absorb oxygen. With our home being on a pond next to the Vandolah Nature Preserve, there are many places that fit the requirements for salamanders to thrive.

For many years, I had a goal of seeing the aquatic larva stage of the Tiger salamander. In Spring, the adults who were being so rudely disturbed by my log-turning hobby, travel down to the pond to lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the juvenile salamanders live like fish; they are great swimmers, have a weird looking fringe of gills around their heads and their being carnivorous only adds to the excitement.

This year, in mid-June, my long quest of seeking the secretive Tiger larvae was rewarded on the pond in the Vandolah Preserve. At night, while shining a powerful light down into the waters, Sue and I watched crayfish skitter along the muddy bottom and plenty of two-year-old bullfrog tadpoles fumbling with their new found legs. Then we saw them; dozens of 4 inch long, slender Tiger larvae with frilly gills ringing their necks. Darting like fish, they snapped at water fleas and tiny aquatic creatures so small I couldn't see them. We thought about catching one, but they seemed so fragile I didn't know how we could do it without injuring one. After fifteen minutes we quietly rowed back to the dock.

By the end of summer, the larvae will have transformed into the land-dwelling adults, losing their gills and developing the dark skin and olive spots of the Tiger species. Instead of water fleas, their major diet will become earthworms, large insects, other amphibians, and even mice. The adults will set up residence under the log in our yard, where they will live in the damp and dark, except for a couple of minutes of excitement every year when I go out and lift up their log.



Tiger Salamander larva by Gary Meszaros

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



Oliver, Olin, and Martin Lakes Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 3rd

Presented by: Ken Millikan, ACRES member

Starting at the public access site on Oliver Lake, we will canoe through Olin (one of the largest undeveloped lakes in Indiana) and then Martin (where ACRES has the 5-acre Martin Lake Nature Preserve) to a cute little pond called Smith Hole. Olin Lake has a fen along its north shore, which we will visit.



When: 10:00 a.m. for however long you want to stay. **Where:** North of Wolcottville on SR 9 to 450 S, turn west on 450 S and go 1 1/2 miles to Oliver Lake public access site. **Bring:** Pack a lunch. Canoe or Kayak, paddles, life jackets, sunscreen, swim suit, sunglasses, and tennis shoes if you want to see the fen. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004



The Traveling Insect Show

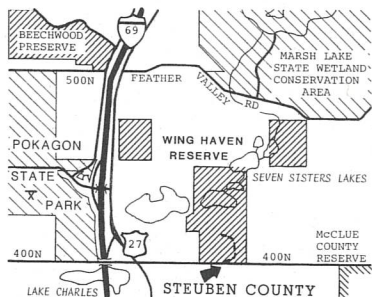
Sunday, August 4th

Presented by: Gary Moughler, IDNR Divis. of Entomology & Plant Pathology, Nursery Inspector

Meet the beetles! An introduction to insects, some neat insect stories, and where they are found. Gary



will bring his very own live tarantula, scorpion, and hissing cockroach (more than 3" long!). For children of all ages, but especially 1st through 5th grade. Anytime with a hissing cockroach is a good time! **When:** 2:00 p.m. for a 20 minutes program. **Where:** Wing Haven, 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.



Wetland Communities: Swamp, Bog, Fen and Marsh

Canoe Trip and Slide Program

Sunday, August 18th

Presented by: Paul Rothrock, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences.

Learn how the different plants and animals depend on each other in these complex aquatic communities. The difference between a bog and fen and a swamp and marsh will be explained, as will the plants characteristic to these communities. **When:** 2:00 p.m. for one-hour program. After program, Paul will lead a canoe trip around the Seven Sister Lakes to identify the aquatic and emergent plants around the lakes' edges. **Where:** Wing Haven, 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. **Bring:** Canoe or kayak, paddles, life jackets, sunscreen, hats. We'll have a small tractor and trailer to bring the canoes and kayaks up and down the hill. **Contact:** ACRES at 260-422-1004.



Skunk Cabbage and Marsh Marigold by Ron Everhart

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS



The Role of Wetlands in Preserving Indiana's Prehistoric Past

Sunday, September 1st

Presented by: Anthony L. Swinehart, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, Museum Curator, and Director, Hillsdale College Biological Station, Hillsdale College

A one-hour slide presentation that summarizes nearly ten years of work on the fossils and other remains found in Indiana wetlands and the importance of these remains in interpreting Indiana's past climate and ecology. Anthony will bring mammoth, mastodon and rhinoceros bones, excavated from a sinkhole. The influence that wetlands have had on Hoosier culture and industry will also be discussed. **When:** 2:00 p.m. **Where:** Wing Haven, 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. **Contact:** ACRES Office at 260-422-1004.



----- In Cooperation with the Tippecanoe Audubon Society -----

Two Bird-Banding Workshops

Presented by: Jim and Janet Meyer

Jim and Janet Meyer have been banding birds for more than twenty years. The data they collect is compiled by the Bird-Banding Lab and ornithologists researching bird populations and migration patterns. Jim and Janet have banded more than 23,000 birds, a procedure that does not harm the birds.



Saturday, September 14th

When: 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.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 260-422-1004.



Janet Meyer with a red-headed woodpecker by Bob Frantz



Sunday, September 15th

When: 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Come anytime, but the early worms get the birds!

Where: Wing Haven, 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.

In Memoriam

Louis A. "Sam" Bibler

from the ACRES Board of Directors and Staff
for the two preserves he donated: the Madison
Township School and Bibler Nature Preserves

Mabel Corville

from the ACRES board of Directors and Staff
for the preserve she donated: Fogwell Forest

Wayne Cosper

from Carolyn McNaghy
ACRES Board of Directors
for Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve

Robert Fredrick

from Tom and Jane Dustin
for the Cedar Creek Heronry Project

Arthur W. Hammer

from Janel Avery Rogers
Jeff and Susan Britton
for the Art Hammer Wetlands Nature Preserve

Mary Jean Jinks

from William A. Smith IV
for the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

Else Matott

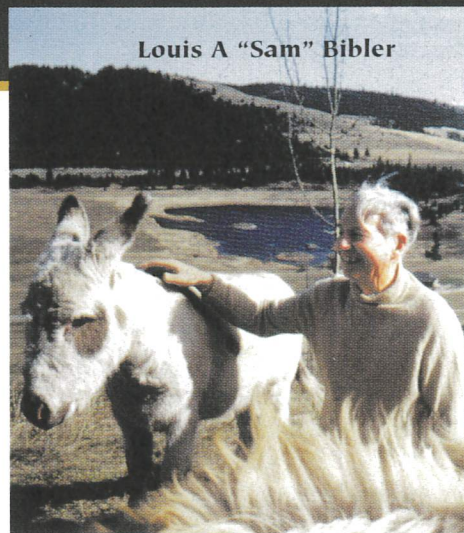
from Jeff and Susan Britton
Bradley and Donna Lehman
Elizabeth J. Monnier
for the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

James N. Smith

from Joy Hunter, his sister

Shirley Walter

from Dale and Judy Zinn
for the Wing Haven Nature Preserve



Louis A "Sam" Bibler

by Ralph May, friend of Sam Bibler and Steward for the
Bibler and Madison Township School Nature Preserves

Louis A. "Sam" Bibler passed away at home on June 6, 2002, at the age of 86. He was a visionary and, to those who knew him well, he was a true and devoted friend. Raised in Jay County, he left home to fight in World War II and served as a bombardier on a B-17 flying 25 missions over Europe, including the first raid on Berlin. After the war, he went to the University of Washington and followed his interest in the outdoors by obtaining a degree in geology. He began his geological career in a company that was to later become Exxon. Realizing potential opportunities, he and a friend soon left to form and operate their own and very successful company developing oil and gas resources in both Canada and the United States.

Sam finally settled in Kalispell, Montana, but never forgot his roots. He authored the book "Back Home Again", which was published in 1999, that is a collection of his experiences growing up in Indiana. He also saw the need to preserve his heritage and donated the Jay County farm he grew up on to Acres in 1997, to ensure future generations would be able to experience natural environments that had left such an impression on him. We praise him for his generosity, and thank him for being a friend to so many.

ACRES 5th Annual Birdathon a Success!

Land Trust has had a team participate for five years and has raised \$5,709.20 dollars.

Wayne has had a resident screech owl in his yard for some years now. We went around the house where the back deck was well lit with a bright floodlight. Sure enough about 20 feet away and about 20 feet up was a gray phase screech owl, perched out in the open, looking right at us.

"This is too easy and too good to be true," I thought. The best was yet to come.

Wayne disappeared into his house and soon emerged with a white lab mouse (he raises them for his research) and a leather glove. My partner, Brad, put on the glove and the mouse rested on the back of his out-stretched hand. We watched and held our breath as the owl looked our way and then leaned forward. Then, from somewhere behind us, a second owl swooped in, nearly taking our heads off, grabbed the mouse with a striking blow, and vanished into the darkness! Everyone's eyes were like saucers and the first bird of the day was counted.

From Wayne's, we went to several other stops for owls, nighthawks, woodcocks and whip-poor-wills. As the sun rose, so did our total of species. We drove and walked and visited grasslands, lakeshores, woodlands and wetlands. Some 14 hours later, we tallied a grand total of 137 species!

Our team, the ACRES Avocets, secured pledges from 51 faithful contributors and the total raised to benefit the Wing Haven Nature Preserve came to \$1,555.10! A total of over \$25,000 was raised by the other 22 teams

(combined, we saw a total of 194 species!), so there were many winners, following this long day of birding.

Many thanks to everyone listed below, who gave so generously. Sixteen of you challenged us with special birds and we recorded eight of them! For a list of these birds and a total list of all of the birds seen, you can contact the ACRES office at (260) 422-1004.

Jim and Pat Barrett
Mona Berghoff
Flaim C. Cupp
Charles J. Foster
Paul McAfee

Aene Abernathy
Kathryn Bloom
Lois Booth
Jeff and Susan Britton
Marilyn Byrne
Lee and Pat Casebere
JoAnn Coggeshall
Lorraine H. Davis
David and Judy Deimling
Harold and Pat Douglas
Jane Dustin
Mary Anna Feitler
Delles Gerig
Marvin Hall
Frannie Headings
Allen Hetrick
Heather Hoffman
Joan Karbach
Dan and Judy Kaufman
Beth Krueger

Margien L. Lund
Charlotte Lunde
Pat MacWhorter
Nancy Malis
D. G. Mason, M.D.
Carolyn McNaghy
JoAnne Michael
Max and Helen Parker
Cynthia Porter
Ruth Porter
Ed and Cynthia Powers
Janel Rogers
Beth Ann Rohrer
Jim Shearer
Marsha L. Shively
Bill and Kathy Shuman
Phillip R. Smith
Bonnie Snyder
Dick Sorg
Steve and Michele Souder
Carol Steele
Carol N. Telschow
Frances E. Wilder
Jim and Kathy Zimmerman



Meadow Lark by Lang Elliott

Simple Pleasures

I was half way through my morning routine one day, when I decided to just sit down for a few moments with my cup of tea. I was looking outside and silently hoping that the Indigo Bunting I saw twice this week (which we rarely see out here) might stop by again, before I headed off to the busy office.

Anyway, as I was sitting there, feeling all sublime, I tried to flatten out a curled wad of ACRES visitor forms Jeff had brought down from the Vandolah Nature Preserve registration box, so we could hand them off to Carolyn McNagny. I started to read the visitor names and comments. One fellow from Auburn simply wrote, "I think it is nice getting out of the house and coming out here."

I know it sounds mushy, but I instantly felt a rush of pride for that preserve at the top of the hill. It's simply there - free to the public. It's not exciting or extreme in any way. It's quietly lovely - a real place.



For those of you (and you know who you are) who made it

possible, I'd just like to say thanks. For those of you who want to make more preserves possible, one might easily suggest donating to the current land acquisition projects. Property owners know they can trust ACRES to preserve their lands beyond their lifetime. It's a wonderful thing, isn't it?

So...if you want to feel all warm and fuzzy inside, consider donating or volunteering your time to ACRES. How many opportunities do you have to build something that will outlast you?

*Until Next Time,
Sue Britton*

PS: If you can't afford to donate to ACRES right now, but still want that warm, fuzzy feeling, then I suggest you do what my husband, Jeff, did recently.

He took some of the fibers from the lint trap in our dryer, after drying some sweaters and sweatshirts, and put them out for the birds to pick up to build their nests. He liked the thought that some bird is snuggled into its nest with parts of his old sweater woven into it. Maybe that's what attracted the Indigo Bunting. :-)

Indigo Bunting 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 Fall issue is August 1. For information on ACRES call 260-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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Dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana.