

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



Annual Fall Dinner
Art and Marion Eberhardt
Surprises in a Sinkhole
Steve and Lynn Hossler's New Preserve
The River Greenway
Hoosier Osprey Release
Boy Scout Eagle Projects

AUTUMN 2003

Volume 42 - No . 3



Annual Fall Dinner

Friday, November 14, 2003

Dinner - 6:30 p.m. — Program 8:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Seminary — 6600 North Clinton Street — Fort Wayne, Indiana

Guest Speaker: Fred Wooley, Interpreter, Pokagon State Park

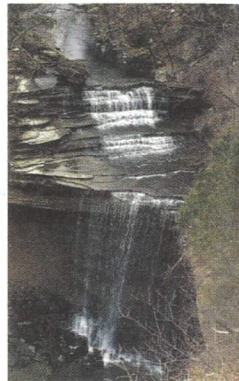
Celebrating 80 Years of Interpretation in Indiana State Parks & Reservoirs

From the humble beginnings of nature guides in the mid 1920's to the Interpretive Services of today, Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs feature a program that is rich in history, steeped in tradition, and lauded for high quality. Pokagon State Park Interpreter Fred Wooley will share some of this history and describe the programs and facilities of today. He will focus on not only the significance of interpretation on these unique

properties, but also how interpretation addresses the special stories of our heritage and the important work we do as the ACRES Land Trust.



Hemmer Woods
by Marion Jackson



Clifty Falls by Lee Casebere

Menu

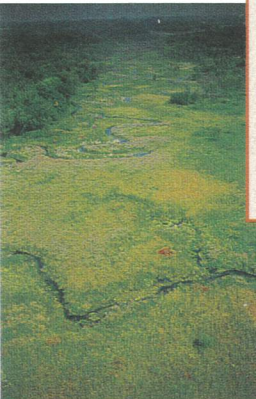
Roast turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy,
cranberry salad, peas,
pumpkin pie with the trimmings
Iced tea and coffee
Vegetarian: Regular meal without the turkey.

\$14 per person - Phone RSVP by Nov. 12th to:

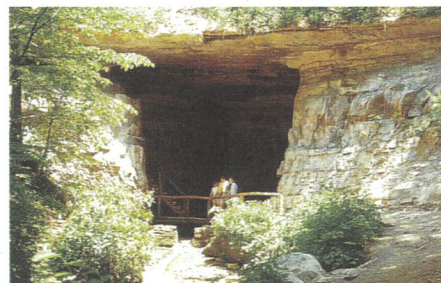
Mary and Howard Schneider 260-484-3986

Ethyle Bloch 260-747-4450

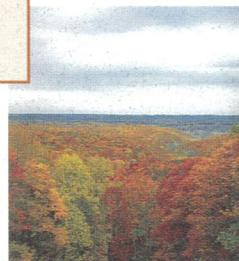
Reservations must be made and honored



Fish Creek by Richard Fields



Donaldson's Cave at Spring Mill
by Rich Powell



Brown County by Richard Fields

Cover:
Royal Walnut moth
by Ron Everhart

TRIBUTES

Frank Dulin

In honor of his 90th Birthday
From Irene Walters

**Andrew and Martha Conkling's
Wedding Anniversary**

From Kathryn and Nick Bloom

**Robert and Mary Bloom's
15th Wedding Anniversary**

From Kathryn and Nick Bloom

Special Thanks

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WELCOME

new members

Jack, Wendy, Abbey, Lainey and Luke Bentz
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Renee Wright

Art and Marion Eberhardt have devoted many hours to hosting the popular Adopt-A-Tree Festivals (now in its 15th year!) and the Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long. Marion was ACRES Recording Secretary for many years and Art has served on the Board of Directors since 1964. Thank you Art and Marion!



NEW GLENNWOOD NATURE PRESERVE



Mayapple (top) Bog at the Glennwood Nature Preserve (above)



Wild geranium (above) Canadian Mayflower (below)



By Carolyn McNagly, Executive Director ACRES

For five years, Steve and Lynn Hossler checked the real estate ads and auction notices. Methodically looking for land to protect, they found a property in 2000. Impressed by the unusual plants he found at the site, Steve told Lynn, "This is a cool place, it's unique." As he headed out to the auction, Steve said "I'm going to get this place no matter what!" As Steve explained later, "I don't shop, I buy."

The property Dr. and Mrs. Hossler intended to protect was known for many years to the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves and ACRES as the New Atwood Bog or Willet's Lake. One of only 15 circumneutral bogs in Indiana, New Atwood Bog was on the IDNR's Heritage Register, a catalog of properties considered outstanding in their biological importance.

Ted Heemstra remembers driving around the area in the 1980s. "There was no way to access the bog," Ted said, "Driving around the 1 1/2 mile block, all you could see was corn fields with the bog visible far off in the distance." When Steve called Ted in 2000 and said he was looking to purchase land next to Willet's Lake and would ACRES accept it, Ted said "I was happy he thought of ACRES."

The new preserve is located northwest of Warsaw in Kosciusko County. Steve and Lynn live in Fort Wayne with their three children, but Lynn was born and raised in Kosciusko County. Steve commutes to Kosciusko Community Hospital where he is a Radiologist, President of Diagnostic Imaging and Medical Director of Radiology.

In naming the new preserve, Dr. and Mrs. Hossler wanted to honor Steve's grandfather, Glenn Manwarren. As a child, Steve would frequently visit his grandparents at their lakeside home in Illinois, staying for weeks at a time in the summer. Mr. Manwarren worked 2nd shift at International Harvester, but would take the time each day to hike with Steve through the countryside. "He inspired my love of nature", said Steve, "any time there was a nature show on, we watched it together."

The new 36-acre Glennwood Nature Preserve has an interesting past. Originally it was Willet's Lake, like any of the hundred of lakes in northeast Indiana. But local farmers dredged a channel in the 1920's, the water quickly drained and Willet's Lake became a bog. Bogs are characterized as wetlands with poor or virtually no drainage - all water input

is from precipitation such as snow or rain. By dredging a new channel from Willet's Lake, the farmers changed the hydrology of the area and created a bog.

And not just any bog. Because the lake bottom was marl, the stage was set for the creation of the more unusual circumneutral bog. Marl is calcium carbonate mixed with clay and the mineral rich substrate changes the pH to a near neutral 7.0, which is where the term circumneutral originated.

Over the last 80 years, floating mats of sphagnum moss spread across Willet's Lake. The low oxygen levels, because of minimal aeration, slowed decomposition and the mosses began to accumulate into mats of undecomposed dead plant matter or peat. Today, Willet's Lake is covered by floating mats of cattails interspersed with hummocks of mosses, ferns, and sedges, all resting on the peat. The hummocks are sturdy enough to support a person's weight. Jumping on this mat of decaying vegetation can result in movement many yards away, giving the name "quaking" bog.

The bog ecosystem has created an amazing habitat for a wide variety of plants. Sensitive, royal, cinnamon, crested shield, and toothed wood are some of the species of ferns. As a first for an ACRES preserve, Canadian Mayflower and Downy rattlesnake plantain orchid grow in the woods. Winterberry, Juneberry, and blueberry shrubs are scattered along the edge of the bog.

Lynn enjoys photography and said that the 35-acre natural area is the most beautiful in the fall. The area has a spectacular display of the orange-red of maples, a vibrant red edge of poison sumac, and the gold of the cattails. Standing at the edge of the bog, with the quiet of these beautiful areas surrounding you, makes you appreciate what a wonderful gift Steve and Lynn have given everyone!



Above photo of Steve and Lynn Hossler by Karen Ball. Photographs of Sensitive fern, Mayapple, Wild Geranium and the bog by Ron Everhart.

Sensitive fern (left)

Downy rattlesnake plantain leaves and flower (bottom and right)





Learn your Native Trees!

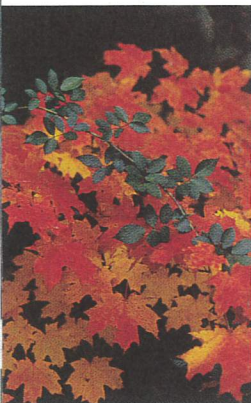
Saturday, October 11th

Presented by: Bob Bryan, Board Member of ACRES and Hoosier ReLeaf. With towering trees, some older than 250 years, and beautiful scenery, the 80-acre Bicentennial Woods is a wonderful tree sanctuary. Bob will take you on a one mile hike to learn leaf and bark identification. When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: The Bicentennial Woods, Allen County. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Shoaff Road. Turn west onto Shoaff and the preserve is located in one mile on the south side of road. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.



Photograph by Bob Frantz



Fall Leaves by Ron Everhart

Fall Colors at the McNabb Walter Nature Preserve

Saturday, October 18th

Presented by: Gary Helmke, Naturalist. Donated by Alwilda Walters to ACRES in August 1982, the 187-acre nature preserve is now open to the public. The woods was once a maple sugar camp and this lovely preserve adjoins the St. Joseph River. Hike with Gary through the forest as he talks about the impressive variety of plant species present at the preserve. When: 2:00 p.m. Where: McNabb Walter Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take SR 1 northeast of Fort Wayne. Continue thru Cedarville and Leo to Spencerville. Look for the sign to the covered bridge. Turn east, cross the covered bridge, and then turn right or west onto County Line Road. Turn onto Davis Road and the preserve will be on your left hand side. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

Ospreys in Indiana: Return of the Fish Hawk

Sunday, October 19th

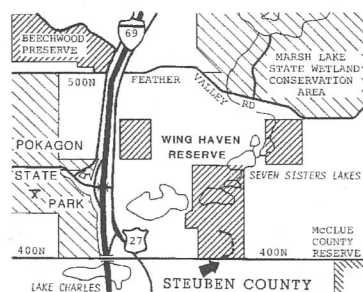
Presented by: Alicia Shifley, Education Specialist, IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Diversity Program. Learn about the important work of the Wildlife Diversity



Osprey by Scott Marshall

Program in Indiana - protecting bobcats, badgers, and many other endangered or rare species. Alicia will give a slide

presentation on the process of reintroduction of ospreys, recently released in Kosciusko County. 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 then immediately left onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.



Hike the Emmanuel M. Popp Preserve

Saturday, October 25th

Host: Larry Biggerstaff, Caretaker of the Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve. Visit this beautiful preserve, with its charming white cabin and impressive oak and hickory woods. A gift of Mrs. Jeannette Kent, the preserve is open to the public only twice a year. Larry will be your host and join him for a hot dog roast after your hike! When: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 the preserve is on west side at 12129 Tonkel. Preserve is normally open to the public by permission only. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004



Emmanuel M. Popp Cottage by Larry Biggerstaff

Sinkhole by Dr. Jack Sunderman



Indiana's Famous Sinkhole

Sunday, November 2nd

Presented by: Dr. Jack Sunderman, Emeritus Professor of Geology at IPFW. Studying the sinkhole since 1996, Dr. Sunderman will give a history of his exciting geologic discovery in our own Indiana! 40-minute slide program. 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 then immediately left onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

ACRES Annual Dinner Meeting and Program

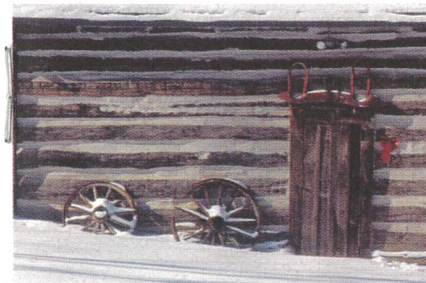
For reservation information, please see page 2.

Indiana's State Parks and Reservoirs

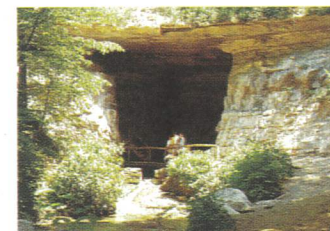
Presented by Fred Wooley, Interpreter, Pokagon State Park.

8th Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long

Sunday, December 7th



Wing Haven in Winter by John Raub



Donaldson's Cave at Spring Mill by Rich Powell

Presented by: Art Eberhardt, ACRES Board Member A happy event for a joyous season, the Christmas Sing-A-Long will begin your holidays on the right note. Jim Shearer and Marion and Art Eberhardt will lead you into perfect pitch. Cookies and hot cider served. When: 2:00 p.m. Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park exit (Exit 154), turn south on SR 127 and then immediately left onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

Surprises in a

by Dr. Jack A. Sunderman
IPFW Emeritus Professor of Geology

Much of earth's history has been deciphered from mountainous areas where rock types, sequences and fossils are readily visible. In much of the American Midwest, however, millions of years of stream erosion, later glacial erosion and the spreading of a blanket of glacial debris have either destroyed or obscured most of the underlying rock.

Imagine, then, what a surprise it has been to find below glacial debris (in the I.M.I. Pipe Creek Jr. Quarry in Grant County, Indiana), not the expected solid rock but a 30-foot-deep depression filled with strange sediment never before seen in this part of the world. After more than seven years of study, this feature, now known as the Pipe Creek Sinkhole, is still yielding geological surprises. Numerous fossils of reptiles, amphibians, mammals and various plants have been found in the sinkhole sediments. The animal fossils are mostly disarticulated bone fragments and teeth, several of which have been dated as about 5 million years old, or late "Tertiary."

My work has been to try to unravel the other mysteries of the sinkhole. My first days at the sinkhole were filled with remarkable surprises. Surprise (1): the feature being exposed by quarry machinery had steep walls, small side tunnels and huge randomly-oriented blocks of quarry rock. Surprise (2): bands of red, brown and white sediments curled and coiled in spectacular patterns along the walls and in undisturbed masses in places where the quarry machinery could not reach. Surprise (3): after absently picking up a few smooth pebbles from the



Sinkhole

floor, it soon became apparent that there were hundreds, if not thousands, of these pebbles and that they were all of the same composition and texture. It's a rock called quartzite. Surprise (4): dark gray-black relatively soft sediment, in addition to containing numerous fossils, also contained hard nodules with strange textures. Surprise (5): the pebbles I had collected all were derived from two types of sediment in the sinkhole — stratified brown sediments, and unstratified gray-black sediments, both of which also contain very coarse angular chunks of limestone and chert.

Information related to the above surprises already has led to the following conclusions. Conclusion (1): the steep walls, small tunnels and large blocks suggest the feature is an ancient sinkhole, produced by solution of the surrounding rock, with later roof collapse producing blocks of "breakdown." Conclusion (2): the bright colors of the sediments and their layered nature show they were deposited in an oxidizing environment and could not be glacial. Instead, they must be older, perhaps of the previous age known as the Tertiary. Conclusion (3): the large number and similar composition of the pebbles are nearly impossible for glacial processes to produce. This strongly suggests the pebbles also were brought to the sinkhole before glacial time, probably during the Tertiary. Conclusion (4): the dark color and associated nodules of the fossil-bearing sediments are typical of ponded sediments and a "reducing" environment. Conclusion (5): the pebbles were brought into the sinkhole along with coarse local

sediments, probably by a small local stream.

However, more involved regional questions remain. For example: (1) *How* were the pebbles transported to Indiana? Pebble shapes and sizes strongly suggest stream transport. (2) *When* were the pebbles transported to Indiana? The answer

to this question is derived from the paleontologic datings of the sinkhole fossils. The pebbles probably were transported to Indiana sometime before 5 million years ago, during

the late Tertiary. (3) *Where* did the pebbles come from? There is no local source, and the most likely bedrock sources are as far away as the Canadian Shield and the Appalachian Mountains. Comparison of the sinkhole pebbles with rocks from these possible primary sources, and even secondary sources in regions between the sinkhole and the primary sources, must be considered. (4) *What* stream system could have transported the pebbles from their primary source to northern Indiana? The answer to this question depends in part on the answer to question 3. If that answer is the Appalachians, then a well-known stream system, the Teays River, may have transported the pebbles to northern Indiana. There is one catch to this answer, however. The bottom of the buried bedrock Teays Valley, which originates in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains and passes just a few miles north of the sinkhole, is about 400 feet below the rim of the sinkhole! In other words, if the Teays River transported the pebbles to northern Indiana, it must have transported and deposited them on an upland surface, before the downcutting of the now-buried Teays Valley began!



- Dr. Sunderman has retired from 30 years of teaching geology at IPFW.
- I.M.I. is Irving Materials, Inc., one of the largest quarrying operations in the Midwest.
- The Pipe Creek Jr. Quarry is named after a small creek that flows nearby.
- The Jr. part of the name is used because an older quarry, now abandoned, is called Pipe Creek Sr.

See Field Trips and Special Events on page 7 for information on "Surprises in a Sinkhole" a special event given by Jack Sunderman on November 2nd.



ACRES' MISSION We are dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana. ACRES manages and protects 49 nature preserves in 13 counties.

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Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474
260-422-1004
email: acreslt@fwi.com

acres-land-trust.org

Photographs by Karen Ball

The River Greenway

By Jack Stark, Board Member of ACRES and The Greenway Consortium

The River Greenway in Fort Wayne is an eighteen-mile, paved pathway with branches along each of the three rivers. The zero mile marker is located at the junction of the three rivers on the grounds of the Filtration Plant.

The Greenway Consortium, Inc. is a volunteer group of Greenway supporters working in partnership with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation to support the Greenway and to encourage its use. Recently, the Consortium presented a plan to the Parks Department for expanding the Greenway system away from the rivers and out into the neighborhoods and, further, out into the county. The goal of this expansion is to connect the Greenway to desirable destinations both within and outside of the city. A long-term goal is to connect the city of Fort Wayne to other nearby cities and towns in our area such as New Haven, Hartsville, Auburn and Huntington.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Greenway Consortium needs help. They are seeking new members

and volunteers to help develop existing infrastructure resources for conversion into pathways to area destinations. There are many abandoned rail beds, and other infrastructure rights-of-way that could support new and safe pathways off of the routes used by motorized traffic. This effort is supported by the IDNR, The Rails to Trails Conservancy and the Indiana Trails Fund, Inc. But in order to enable this support, local volunteers are necessary to organize the effort and to plan the actions required to make these ideas become reality. If you are interested in helping to support these activities, you are invited to register as a volunteer or, better yet, join the Greenway Consortium. For more information, contact:

The Greenway Consortium
705 East State Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805
(260) 427-6004



The 16 brightly painted young ospreys, brought to Indiana from Virginia in early June, are up and flying. DNR biologists reared the state-endangered raptors at Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area near Warsaw. Released from rearing boxes in mid July, the birds readily took to the air and began diving for fish within hours of being set free. The birds were marked with different color paints and placed in 16-foot-high boxes, where they were fed until they were ready to fly. The non-toxic paint helped biologists differentiate the 3-month-old birds.

DNR's osprey project biologist John Castrale hopes that the birds will begin nesting near the release areas in the next three to four years. The osprey releases should speed recovery of the state-endangered bird in Indiana. Up to 64 more ospreys may be released at other sites in the next two years.

Ospreys are fish-eating birds, sometimes known as "fish hawks." They are smaller than bald eagles and fly with characteristic bent wings, making them look M-shaped from a distance.

Ospreys were regular migrants and local summer residents statewide in Indiana in the early 1900s. Osprey populations declined rapidly between 1950 and 1980 due to DDT pesticide usage and loss of wetlands. The banning of DDT, in combination with state conservation programs, has allowed the osprey to make a comeback throughout much of the United States. The DNR's osprey release program is funded by donations to the Wildlife Diversity Fund tax check off. Look for the eagle on Indiana's income tax form.



John Castrale by John Maxwell

For more information visit:
<http://www.wildlife.IN.gov>

Painted osprey by Scott Marshall



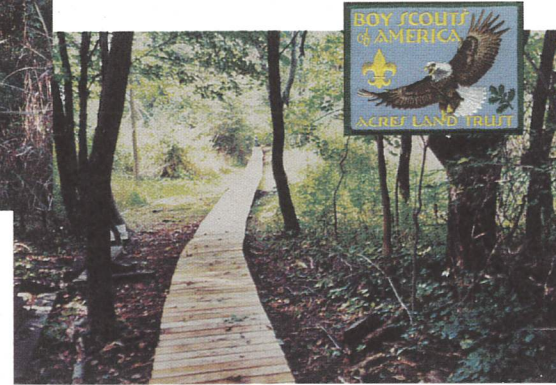
Patrick Jaicomo (left) and David Homan (right) at the Beechwood Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Patrick of Troop 125 completed more than 300 feet of boardwalk near the entrance to the preserve. Ethel McClelland, ACRES Land Management Specialist, said Patrick "...did a fantastic job!"



Ricky Jennings, Boy Scout Troop 1, built steps on a very steep hill at the Vandolah Nature Preserve, Allen County. Developing a new method to install steps, Ricky drilled holes into the ground and placed rebar to hold the steps in place.



BOY SCOUTS IMPROVE PRESERVES!



Roger McGowan (far right) and Boy Scout Troop 1, extended the existing boardwalk along Cedar Creek at the Vandolah Nature Preserve. More than 20 scouts came to help Roger.



Paddlin' for Pokagon!



In August, Pokagon Outfitters hosted a fund raiser for the Pokagon State Park addition. David Homan dressed as Chief Pokagon and Ethel McClelland as Princess Peaceful Waters for the event. More than 35 people attended. Thank you to ACRES Board Member Bob Bryan who raised the most money and got the wettest with his 180 degree roll.

Memorials

ANDY MAUK
from Fred, Jackie
and Joseph Wooley
for the 29-acre addition to
Pokagon State Park

The McNabb Walter Preserve is now open for visitors! Gary Helmke, Naturalist, has been cataloging the plants in the preserve this year and has written this article about a special plant that grows there.

The Wood Lily: A Flowering Surprise in McNabb Walter Preserve

by Gary Helmke, Naturalist

I began my volunteer work with ACRES in 1994. I was asked that spring to catalog the herbaceous plants in The Bicentennial Woods and thereafter have cataloged the plants in several other ACRES nature preserves. This year, I am cataloging the plants of a little known preserve, the McNabb Walter Nature Preserve, which is located 7 miles north of Leo, Indiana, on Davis Road.

In late April, the preserve blooms with large colonies of yellow trout lily and in early May an abundance of large-flowered trillium, wild geranium, wild ginger, and anise root bloom. Then in mid to late May there is an ocean of appendaged waterleaf, whose delicate one-inch lavender flower stand above the plant's leaves. McNabb Walter preserve also harbors large towering sugar maple, American beech and tulip poplar. The largest tulip poplar measures 4 feet in diameter.

While cataloging the plants in the McNabb Walter Nature Preserve, I found a lily that is rare because of over-collecting. The lily I am referring to is *Lilium philadelphicum*, or Eastern Wood Lily, which grows in sandy or acidic lowlands and open woodlands.

This beautiful lily grows to three feet in height and its stem bears 3 to 8 stemmed whorled leaves. There are from 1 to 5 erect open three inch orange to scarlet flowers, whose interior is a light orange to yellow with purple spots.



In centuries past, the native Americans relied on the wood lilies bulb, which is high in starch, as a food source and as a rodent repellent. The McNabb Walter Nature Preserve is a forest ecosystem for scientific research and study and preserves natural beauty like no other.



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 January issue is December 1. For information on ACRES call 260-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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