

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS



2002 Land Acquisition
New Projects
Tributes
New Members
New Preserve
Field Trips & Events

Memorials
A Wintry Visit
Weasels, Mice &
Shrews
Gifts from Members
The Back Page

W I N T E R
2 0 0 3

Volume 42-No. 1





PROJECTS IN 2002

ADDED 324-ACRES TO OUR NATURE PRESERVE SYSTEM

FLORENCE BADGER

Owing to the foresight of Florence Badger, thirty-six acres of farmland will bravely continue to exist in one of the fastest developing parts of Noble County. Florence left part of her family's farm to ACRES in her will. ACRES will honor her wish to keep this land sheltered from development and eventually return it to forest.

G. RICHARD AND MARY H. CULP

Surrounded by Amish and Mennonite farms, the 20-acre LaGrange County preserve is dominated by sugar maple trees, creating a canopy of gold in the fall. An expert in botany, Dr. Richard Culp was drawn to this woods and the wide variety of species that grace it. "I knew that this was something that should be saved," said Richard.

FOGWELL FOREST

In a project that took ten years, ACRES increased the 28-acre Fogwell Forest to 58-acres. The Fort Wayne Airport Authority gifted their 30-acre wetland mitigation project, which adds crucial buffer. This outstanding preserve was donated by Glenn Fogwell, Mildred Klopfenstein, and Mabel Corville. The 30-acre addition will revert to the Central Till Plain flatwood it once was and wants to be again.

WILDWOOD

ACRES' first preserve in Kosciusko County, Wildwood is the result of Bob and Alice Frantz's dream of protecting their land for all to enjoy. Years of effort - creating habitat, building trails, and introducing countless children and adults to nature - have resulted in a wonderful place, a tribute to their respect and affection for their 238-acre property.



Wildwood by Ron Everhart



NEW 2003 PROJECTS

ADDITION TO POKAGON STATE PARK

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks and Reservoirs and ACRES are partners in purchasing a 29-acre tract of land at Pokagon State Park's entrance. The tract includes the 1955 Pokagon Motel, located next to State Road 127 and visible from I-69.

Fred Wooley, Interpreter for Pokagon State Park, initiated the project and feels the buffer is crucial. The west border of the 29-acres is the east border of the state dedicated IDNR Potawatomi Nature Preserve. "At the boundary fence is a classic wetland habitat of our region", said Fred, "supporting tamarack trees and the rare showy lady's-slipper orchids."

ACRES is closing the project in February 2003 and will be working to raise \$625,000. Plans are for removal of the Pokagon Motel and the restoration of the land to woods. The importance of providing a wonderful natural landscape at Pokagon's entrance, one of only 23 state parks, is paramount.



Showy lady's-slipper orchids by Bill Krebs



ACRES hike at Willet's Lake by Carolyn McNaghy

WILLET'S LAKE

The 34-acre Willet's Lake or New Atwood Bog, located in Kosciusko County, is a surprise.

Walking out on what was once a lake bed, the sphagnum bog forms a springy, oval mat surrounded by poison sumac, willows, and red maple. Tiny flowers peek up through the moss and hummocks dot the bog with wild cranberries and blueberry bushes. Spectacular in fall, with the fawn-colored bog edged by golden ferns, scarlet sumac leaves and the orangish-red of the maples.

The woods surrounding the bog's edge has Canadian mayflower, a first for an ACRES preserve, shiny club moss, and orchids. Sasparilla, as exotic as its name, grows in the wetter areas, a puff of a flower over fan-like leaves. Abundant ferns convey a prehistoric feeling to the woods, with cinnamon, sensitive, and royal ferns.

Steve and Lynn Hossler purchased this property in 2000, with the goal of seeing the area preserved. On the IDNR's Heritage Register, a catalog of properties considered outstanding in their biological importance, Willet's Lake will become a dedicated state nature preserve.

Ferns at Willet's Lake (pictured left) by Paul McAfee

Tributes

Bill Weldon

for repairing the wooden map at the ACRES office

Randy and Carol Roberts
for their 10-year pledge to The Bicentennial Woods

William A. Smith IV and Sally Garrett Smith
Joel and Beverly Eikenberry
for their gift to Wildwood

Alicia Brinton and John Roe
in honor of their wedding from Chad and Jennifer Bailey Thomas F. and Holly W. McDow James Southers III and Martha Glass

Judy Archer-Dick and Charles Dick
for sponsoring WBNI radio spots and for being ACRES Benefactors

welcome new members

Chad and Jennifer Bailey
George G. Balsiger
Marilyn M. Chambers
Brian and Joan Clark
Carol L. Craft
Deana S. Davis
Ronald E. Dunn
Joel and Beverly Eikenberry
Gary Forbing
Phil and Linda Frantz
Carol A. Griffin
David and Sandra Haist
Rick and Crystal Haschel
Thomas P. Hogan
William and Carol Homrig
Gordon and Judie Johnson
Patricia L. Kemerer
Gary and Venessa King
Paul and Patricia Kocsis
Carolyn J. Linsenmayer
Ryan Matthews
Peter J. and Daphne E. Mildred
Martin A. Stern and Judith C. Nelsen
Angie O'Neill
Annie H. Sanders
Don E. Terman
Arbor Farms Nursery

White-breasted Nuthatch by Paul McAfee

Tiger Swallowtail by Ron Everhart

Sharp-lobed Hepatica by Tim Dygert

Cover Image: Tufted Titmouse by Paul McAfee

THE G. RICHARD AND MARY H. CULP NATURE PRESERVE

New Preserve!



G. Richard and Mary H. Culp

by Carolyn McNagny
Executive Director, ACRES

"My heart is still in Indiana", said Dr. Richard Culp. I had called him in Oregon and we were talking about his new preserve. "In all my travels", he said, "I have not found a place yet like the 20 acres I am gifting."

The G. Richard and Mary H. Culp Nature Preserve is nestled in Amish and Mennonite country, southwest of Shipshewana. With all the flat farmland of LaGrange County, this is a surprising pocket of rolling hills, wetlands, and woods. Amish buggies clip clop by on the dirt road and maple syrup buckets dot the neighboring woods.

The preserve is blessed with a diverse and interesting variety of plants. From the stands of sensitive and cinnamon ferns growing in the lowlands to the masses of putty root and wild ginger traveling up the hillsides, the woods is a botany lover's dream. And Richard would know, having graduated top of his class at Purdue University in botany and then receiving a Master's Degree in botany from the University of Michigan. He was studying at Michigan State for a Doctorate in botany when World War II started.

Strongly believing in nonresistance, Richard converted to the Mennonite Church and served in the Civilian Public Service for five years instead of the military. In the CPS, he had such diverse assignments as Education Director at a soil conservation camp, attendant at a mental hospital, and laboratory technician studying tuberculosis.

While serving in the CPS, Richard met his future wife, Mary Helen Powell. Describing her as "happy-go-lucky, pretty, with many boyfriends", Richard won her over and they were married. While raising six children, Richard and Mary lived in Indiana, Iowa, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. For ten years, Richard taught high school biology in the Mennonite Schools. Later he worked in osteopathic medicine and surgery for thirty-six years.

While in Indiana in the 1950s, Richard became aware of a 20-acre woods for sale and gladly purchased it from an Amish man. When asked why the woods was of interest to him, Richard said "I knew this was something that should be saved."

Mary also appreciated Richard's woods. "The woods was my joy," said Richard, "but my wife became interested. Mary was not a specialist, but enjoyed the beauty of the unspoiled woods."



Wild geranium by John Ellenwood



Sensitive Fern by Ron Everhart

Thrilled with plants since he was a boy, Richard was impressed with the woods. "It had so many plants I like", he said, "and I don't think there is anything prettier than an Indiana woodland in spring. Of all the places I have lived, Indiana has the widest diversity. The state is a meeting place of north and south, east and west, where different ecosystems like the northern white pine, the western prairie, and the eastern mixed forest merge."

So many people see land only for its monetary value, looking to make a profit. Richard Culp saw this land as needing protection and only had one request. "I would like the sign at the entrance to say 'a testimony to the handiwork of God.'"



Richard Culp as horticultural assistant at the University of Nebraska.

Many Thanks To Those Who Gave to the LAND ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT FUND

**Parks and Paula Sheller Adams
Family Foundation
Robert Binder
Larry J. Burke
Eleanor A. Green
John and Joan Pichon
Lucas Satter
Arthur and Betty Seddon**

John A. Bacone
John and Barbara Baker
Craig and Diana Bartscht
Kate Birdseye
Ruth Brake
Willis and Naomi Brand
Linda Bustamante
Evangeline B. Claphan
Donald C. Cleary
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Cline
Mark and Cricket Dolezal
James and Karen Farlow
R. Michael and Debra S. Glasper
David and Mary Jane Griggs
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin A. Hall
Theodore J. and Mary Harris
Francis W. Headings
John W. Heilman
Eric and Mary Helfrich
Catherine S. Henschen
Alice B. Hoffman
Pamela Hoffman
Robert Hough
Daryl Hull

Molly Brogan & Bruce Hutsell
Marion T. Jackson
Glenn Kinduell
Bruce and Barb Kistler
Michael Maraldo
Terry and Constance Marbach
Jeff Marchant
Beth McCurley
Skip McKlem
Patricia A. McNagny
Richard J. McNett
John and Lavonne Miller
Louise Mountz
Priscilla Noll
Everitt J. Padgett
Adam and Sonia Perillo
Mark G. Petit
Avid Rayl
Barron Renkenberger
Court and Barb Robinson
Annie H. Sanders
Tom and Doris Schlemmer
Sharon Smith
Sox Sperry and Lisa Tsetse
Kevin Truelove
Daniel L. Tubbs
Barbara Vernasco
Daniel and June Walcott
Daniel and Terry Wilson
Fred J. Wooley
Richard Yingling
Ruby Yoder
Dan and Beth Zweig
Jan and Riet Zwiep

FieldTrips&Special Events

SHOREBIRDS AND HORSESHOE CRABS



Turnstone by Paul McAfee

Sunday, February 23rd - Time: 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Paul McAfee, past President of Stockbridge Audubon and Little River Wetlands

As a textbook example of everything being hitched together, the horseshoe crabs and millions of shorebirds are dependent on each other for their survival. Paul will give a 45 minute slide program on an ecosystem on the east coast, where each May the shorebirds that are flying north to breed make the Delaware Bay a major stopping point. With the horseshoe crabs laying billions and billions of eggs, the shorebirds are able to add 70% to their weight, giving them

enough energy to reach their northern nesting sites and create the next generation. **Where:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. Take SR 14 three miles east of Silver Lake. Wildwood is located on the south side of SR 14 and has a sign.

CHARLIE THE BLUEBIRD

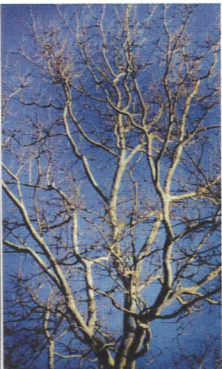
Sunday, March 2nd - Time: 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Conrad Getz, Bird Enthusiast

Conrad lives near Grabill, where he has created his own bird sanctuary with 17 feeders. Producing a digital video with music and narration on one special bluebird, Conrad filmed "Charlie" from the spring to fall. Learn how to bring bluebirds into your life and help the bluebirds continue to hold their own in Indiana. **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. The Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N in one mile.



IDENTIFYING TREES WITHOUT LEAVES I



Sycamore by John Ellenwood

Saturday, March 15th - Time: 10:00 a.m.

Presented by Steve Ross, Owner of Lakeland Environmental Corporation - Learn how the soil and landscape position influence the plant community type. How to identify trees primarily from the bark, growth form and landscape position. Steve has worked on the Ecological Classification System for the Hoosier National Forest and served 3 years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist and wetland delineator.

Where: Crooked Lake Nature Preserve, Whitley/Noble County line. Take US 30 to Columbia City and turn north onto SR 9, go seven miles north to the Noble/Whitley County Line Road and turn west. Crooked Lake Preserve's parking area is located on the south side of the county line road in 1 mile.

IMPORTANT: Registration required by calling the ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004. Steve would like to keep the group to 6 people. Bring a small notebook and pen.

IDENTIFYING TREES WITHOUT LEAVES II

Saturday March 29th - Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, Whitley County. Take US 30 to Columbia City, turn north onto SR 109. Drive to 400 north (road signs will go 100 N, 200 N, etc.) and turn west onto 400 N. Drive until road T's into 50 W, turn north on to 50 W and entrance to Dygert Preserve in 1/4 mile. **IMPORTANT: Registration required by calling the ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.** Steve would like to keep the group to 6 people. Bring a small notebook and pen.

FieldTrips&Special Events

CLEAN-UP DAY AT THE YODER SUGARBUSH

Saturday, March 22nd - Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Larry Yoder, Assistant Director, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center - The Yoder Sugarbush is a big operation every spring.



Yoder Sugar Camp by Larry Yoder

One of the biggest days of the year is the Clean-Up Day, which Dr. Yoder says is like the circus leaving town. The last day of the maple sugar run is when the evaporator is taken apart, barrels are collected and cleaned and so are all those buckets! We will cook you a pancake and sausage breakfast for your efforts. **Where:** Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne. Cross Dupont Road and continue north on Coldwater Road to Chapman Road. Turn Right and go 1.5 miles to the Yoder farm at 2427 Chapman Road. Park in the

barnlot and walk 1/2 mile north to the Sugarbush. Please do not block other cars.

Invitation: If ACRES members would like to stop by and experience sugaring during the season, come by anytime from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from February 18th to March 21st - unless the weather conditions force cancellation. If you would like to visit in the late afternoon, please call the ACRES office at 260-422-1004 and we will make sure the sap is running. Visitors can lend a hand with gathering sap, stacking firewood and tidying up the camp.

MARYLANDS FARM - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Sunday, April 5th - Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Alison Adams and Ron Clifford invite you to their historic 10-acre farm to help feed the animals. From pigs to horses, sheep, peacocks, turkeys, pheasants, geese, ducks, chickens, and rabbits - plenty to feed! Children can help with sorting out hay, dipping out corn, taking animals straw - seeing how a farm used to be with a large variety of animals. Alison and Ron will show how to create a "living fence", which is common in England. **Where:** Take Lincoln Highway east into New Haven. Turn left onto Hartzell Road. Hartzell Road T's into Rose Avenue. Turn right onto Rose Avenue and Marylands Farm is at 549 Rose Avenue.



Rumpless Araucana by Stephen Green

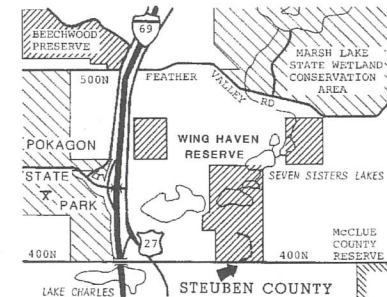
POKAGON STATE PARK AND AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT!

Sunday, April 6th - Time: 2:00 a.m.

Presented by Fred Wooley, Interpreter at Pokagon State Park

The IDNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs and ACRES have entered a partnership to purchase a tract of land at Pokagon State Park's entrance. The 29-acres is an important buffer and a valuable natural area in its own right. Fred initiated this project and will give a slide presentation on how individuals can help and how important this tract is to the wonderful natural landscape greeting all who pass through the park's entrance. **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. The Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N in one mile.



For More Information Contact: ACRES office at 260-422-1004.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

14th Annual Adopt-A-Tree Festival
at Wing Haven Nature Preserve
April 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**David Rezits and Members
of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic**
Concert to benefit Pokagon State Park Project
at Pokagon State Park Center
April 27th at 2:00 p.m.

MEMORIALS

William C. Bloch
from Lee and Patricia Casebere
Sharon M. Tsai
Fred and Jacquelyn Wooley
for the Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve

Lula Blighton
- sister of Robert Weber
from David and Mary Jane Griggs
for the ACRES Land Acquisition and
Management Fund

Louis W. Bunnell
from Lutheran Hospital employees
for the Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve

Barbara Frankhouser
from Dr. Chung-Seng Lee
and Dr. Shuishih Sage Lee
for the ACRES Operations Endowment

Else Matott
from Howard E. and Martha J. Blood
for the Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve



ACRES' MISSION

*Dedicated to preserving
areas in northeast Indiana,
ACRES manages and protects
47 nature preserves
in 13 counties.*

2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808 -2474
260-422-1004
email: acreslt@fwi.com
Web site: www.acres-land-trust.org

A Wintery Visit

To the Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve

By William A. Smith IV

December 5, 2002

It had been three days since our last snow and I looked forward to visiting Spurgeon. I wanted to see how the woodland looked after this two-inch snowfall. But I was somewhat disappointed to see the parking area showed signs of lots of vehicle traffic since the snowfall (I was hoping to be the first to visit the woods and track through its trails). As I passed through the entrance gate you might imagine my feeling of delight, when discovered no one had gone through to sign in at the registration box. I started up the path. As I walked, I was amazed to see the trail had indeed been heavily used since the last snow. Not by humans, but by critters.



I saw rabbit tracks, deer and squirrel, and field mice tracks. The tracks of rabbits looked like big exclamation marks in the snow. The deer tracks showed their unmistakable "V" shaped imprints. The squirrel tracks formed two sets of parallel imprints, as the squirrels hopped through the snow. And it was cute seeing the tiny tracks of mice moving from the base of one downed tree to another. It was very easy to see the tracing of their tail along the tracks. And I even found two areas where the mice had burrowed through the snow, making mole-like trails. It was very evident there has been lots of animal activity in Spurgeon. Later, as I studied the animal tracks more closely, I picked out the tracks of a coyote (their tracks make single line imprints, compared to the straddle tracks that a dog, or other four-legged animal would make). I found these same tracks on a fallen tree log (not too many dogs would jump up on a downed tree that was still 2-3 feet off the ground). He was probably trying to get a better view of his next meal. I saw fox imprints too (they were much smaller and had pad marks that were not as broad as a dog's). Very few sections of the trail didn't have animal tracks along the way. One section of the trail had a deer trail crossing that looked so well used that it must be a major highway for the deer.

As I found out, it appears the Spurgeon Trail system is used a lot more than I imagined. I took my time going up and down the glacier hills of this woodland - with its tall tulip and beech trees, and evidence of how Mother Nature can toss these trees around like match sticks in a wind storm. I wanted to take photographs of what I was seeing, but the sun kept playing hide n' seek among the clouds. At times I was "forced" to stop and wait 10-15 minutes for better lighting.



Animal tracks in snow by Bob Weber;
Greenbriar and tree by Ron Everhart



It was during one of those times two deer wandered across the trail, about 50-60 yards ahead of me. When they saw me they froze, and we stared at each other for several minutes before they moved on. The quietness of the woods was deafening. It's a shame it took me so many years to realize there is so much beauty to be seen in the woods. When I was younger, I always had too much on my agenda to "stop and smell the roses." Even in the woods, I was going from point "A" to point "B", and my objectives were always to get there as quickly and safely as possible. I was too busy to see the whole picture. I can only imagine how much I missed in the forest when I was younger. I've since made a promise to myself to try not to make that mistake again. I wish everyone could see and appreciate the beauty and wonder of The Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve.

Weasels, Mice, & Shrews

by John O. Whitaker, Jr.
Professor of Life Sciences,
Indiana State University



White-footed mouse by Joe McDonald

Weasels and mice are mammals that people perhaps don't see too often and probably don't know too much about. We here give some information on those species of weasel and mice that are likely to be found in the ACRES preserves in northeastern Indiana.

There are two species of weasels in Indiana unless you count the mink, which is closely related to weasels.

Weasels are our smallest mammalian predators, and feed heavily on mice. The two kinds of weasels in Indiana are the least weasel and the long-tailed or New York weasel, 11 to 22 inches long, with the males being larger than females. The tail of the New York weasel is about 3 to 6 inches long. The mink is about 19 to 28 inches long.

The weasels have thin tails whereas the mink's tail is bushy. The weasels are rich brown above and white or yellowish below, whereas the mink is dark brown, often with a few white spots on its chest. The mink does not turn white. The long-tailed weasel feeds heavily on white-footed mice, the least weasel on meadow mice and minks feed heavily on muskrats.

Long-tailed weasels mate in late summer, but exhibit delayed implantation. This means the eggs are fertilized shortly after mating, but implantation in the oviduct of the female does not occur in a few days as it does in most other mammals. Rather it is delayed until late winter and the young are then born in spring. Delayed implantation does not occur in the least weasel or mink. The long-tailed weasel occurs in numerous habitats, open to wooded, the least weasel is most often in open fields, and the mink is an excellent swimmer and lives along creeks, lakes, ponds and marshes. Weasels and minks are active all winter. All three of these species live in the ACRES preserves. The long-tailed weasel and mink are probably quite common, the least weasel is rare.

Besides the Norway rat and house mouse, there are seven kinds of "mice" living in the ACRES preserves. These are the prairie deer and white-footed mice, the meadow, prairie and woodland voles, the bog lemming, and the meadow jumping mouse. The white-footed mouse is the common mouse of woodland areas and the prairie deer mouse is most common in cultivated areas, but occurs in other areas where vegetation is sparse. It is our only small mammal that is more abundant where less ground cover occurs. It uses the soil as its cover, and remains even when the crops are harvested or the ground is plowed. Both these species are pretty little mice with large ears, large eyes, white bellies, and long tails. The tail of the white-footed mouse is slightly more than half the total length of the animal; the tail of the prairie deer mouse is slightly less than half the total length. The young of both these species are slate gray above, white below. The tail of mice is often used for balance, and the fact that white-footed mice spend much time aloft in trees or shrubs explains the longer tail. The white footed mouse often stores food, such as black cherry seeds in a hollow limb, or wheat or wild bird seeds in a drawer (this species is often found in buildings, along with the house mouse, a non-native species).

From top to bottom:
Long-tailed weasel weasel by IDNR file
White-footed mouse with babies by Dwight Kuhn
Least weasel by Ron Austing

The voles have shorter tails, much shorter ears, smaller eyes, and fur that is dark above and often only slightly lighter below. The white-footed and deer mice spend much time above the ground, where they feed on seeds and insects. Voles spend much more time in burrows, but feed mostly on roots and green plants. The meadow vole is the common vole of the area and occurs in lush grassy fields. The prairie vole is uncommon in the area but occurs in drier grassy fields, and the Woodland vole, also uncommon, occurs in burrows in woods. The bog lemming looks much like the Meadow vole, but is very uncommon. Despite its name, it seldom occurs in wet areas. It occurs most often in lush grassy or bluestem fields. The meadow jumping mouse is tiny but can leap up to three feet (its cousin, the woodland jumping mouse can leap to 10 feet, but this species does not occur in Indiana). The meadow jumping mouse is brownish above, has yellowish sides and is white below. It has moderate sized eyes and ears, but very large feet and an extremely long tail, again



Long-tailed weasel
by Erwin and Peggy Bauer

associated with the jumping behavior. Some people think that most mice hibernate, but this is not so. All the mice mention here are active all winter, except for the meadow-jumping mice, which hibernates from early October to late April. The meadow jumping mouse feeds on seeds (especially of various grasses), fruits (blackberries and strawberries), and on subterranean fungi.

Most people know about moles and their digging abilities, but may not know about shrews. Three species of shrews live in this area: the masked shrew, the short-tailed shrew and the least shrew. The eyes and ears of shrews are tiny almost invisible. Shrews have pointed snouts and spend most of their time in underground runways. At least some species of shrews have well developed echo location (radar) which helps them find their way. Short-tailed shrews are most often in woods, masked shrews in moist areas in woods or fields, and least shrews occur in dry open fields. Moles and shrews are called insectivores, but moles especially feed on earthworms. The short-tailed shrew is large (about 4 inches long) and dark gray, and feeds heavily on earthworms. The least shrew is very small and brown. It feeds on caterpillars and like the masked shrew, feeds on small insect larvae.

Next time you happen onto a small mammal in northeastern Indiana you may be able to more easily determine its identity.

Dr. Whitaker serves on the ACRES Advisory Board and led the Indiana bat study on Cedar Creek in 1999 and 2000. Author of numerous books, including "Mammals of the Northeast", available at the ACRES Office by calling 260-422-1004.



I loved this poem when it was read to me by local author, Leigh Boyden, who, by the way is only 11 years old. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Color, There is No Such Thing

Blue is not a color
Blue is the vast oceans
Blue is the endless sky
Blue is the tiny drop of rain

Yellow is not a color
Yellow is the huge sun
millions of miles away
Yellow is the luscious flowers
that grow in the meadows
Yellow is the sky
before a huge rainstorm

Green is not a color
Green is the soft grass
under your feet
Green is the trees where
the birds take refuge
Green is the inside of a new sapling

Orange is not a color
Orange is the harvest moon in an autumn sky
Orange is the wind twirling the leaves like dancers
Orange is the pumpkins carved and a delight to children

A rainbow is not made of colors
But of nature itself.

Photographs by Lee Casebere

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

ACRES Land Trust
2000 North Wells St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID
Fort Wayne, IN
Permit No. 954

Directors: David Van Gilder, President; Theodore Heemstra, VP; Janel A. Rogers, VP; Sam Schwartz, VP; Pat Oppor, Secretary; Richard E. Walker, Treasurer; Tony Acosta, Nancy Bradtmiller, Jeff Britton, Susan Britton, Bob Bryan, Sean Carroll, Greg Craghead, Art Eberhardt, Nancy Leininger, Nathan Simons, William A. Smith IV, Jack Stark.
Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Feitler **Recording Secretary:** Frannie Headings **Staff:** Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director; Ethyl McClelland, Land Management Specialist; David Homan, Land Management Specialist **National Advisory Board:** Lynton K. Caldwell, Marion T. Jackson, Frank Kirschner, Richard H. Pough, Craig Tufts, John O. Whitaker, Jr. **ACRES Quarterly:** Published by ACRES, Inc. at 2000 North Wells Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the interest of its members, friends, & others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural lands in Indiana. ACRES, Inc. is a non-profit, charitable corporation, incorporated under the laws of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. **Editor:** Susan Britton **Membership:** Benefactor \$500.00; Patron \$100.00; Organization/Club \$50.00; Share-the-Expense \$50.00; Family \$30.00; Individual \$20.00; Senior Citizen and Student (through High School) \$15.00. **Payable Annually. Membership year is July 1 to June 30.**

