

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



New Land Acquisition Projects
Fredrick O. Mackel Nature Preserve
Field Trips and Events
Dygart's Woods
Salamanders
W. Glenn Fogwell
Pokagon Donors

SPRING 2004
Volume 43 - No . 2



land acquisition update

In a challenging year, ACRES is taking on very important projects and we need your help!

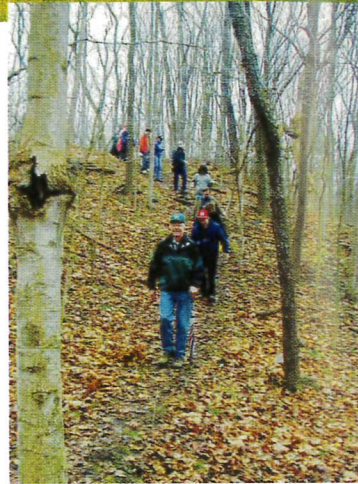
28.3-acre addition to Pokagon State Park, Steuben County
ACRES and the IDNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs are partnering to add land to Pokagon State Park. In 2003, we added 29-acres with the help of **The Nature Conservancy, Ewing Trust, Indiana Heritage Trust Fund, and individuals.** On April 5th, ACRES entered into a contract to acquire a 2nd addition of 28.3 acres for this beloved state park. We need to raise \$650,000 before the closing on September 15, 2004.

140-acre Camp Kokiwanee/Tribal Trails, Wabash County
ACRES has raised \$195,000 of the needed \$650,000 to complete this project. Our first project in Wabash County, this rugged area is bringing new surprises. **Bald eagles** roost along the **Salamonie River bluffs**, hillsides of **snow trillium** are blooming, a second **waterfall** was found, and **wild turkeys** gather in flocks in the evening. All donors will be thanked in the ACRES Quarterly and we will have a permanent marker for gifts of \$1,000 or more.

56-acre Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, Whitley County

Help bail out Carolyn! We have raised \$38,000 and need \$8,970 to finish this commitment. ACRES has an opportunity to add buffer to the original 56-acre preserve, but need to finish the first fund drive.

Thank You! Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director



Ted Heemstra leading a hike at Camp Kokiwanee by Mitch Harper



Photographs of skunk cabbage and Pokagon addition by Ron Everhart

Photograph of Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve and bluebells by Ron Everhart

WELCOME

new members!

Stephen and Diane Antrim
Karen Ball
Ked Ballinger
Brad, Erin and Eli Bennett
Mia Zara Birkenbeul
Gift of Dr. Marion T. Jackson
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Zee-Cheng Ritter Cox

Gift of Carolyn McNagny
Francis M. Cyran
Laurie Dickmeyer

Gift of Abby Parkison
Jon H. and Gloria J. Foor
Mary Guy
Michael Habeck
Robert Hawley, Sr.
David J. Hicks and Deborah L. Hustin
Dennis and Carol Horn
Jefferson Letter Service
Bruce Johnson
Phillip and Joanne Kelly
Andrea Kumler
Richard R. Kumler
Cindy Loos
Dan Mayers
Robert H. Miller
B. Mark and Reba K. McFarland
Mark Mowrey

Gift of Carolyn McNagny
Shawn E. Ogan
Ryan Othersen
Jed Pearson
Laura Stein and Tessa Gochtovt
Christine Storey
Sarah Thomas
Beverly Hume and Craig Thorne
Deb and Don Tinker
Gift of Edwin and Phyllis Stumpf
Lisa Vetter and Paul Siefert
Nancy Walters
Gift of Patricia McNagny
Rosemary Westrick

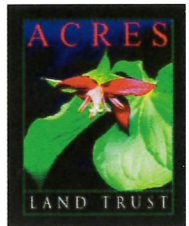
Cover Photo of Blue-eyed Marys by Paul McAfee

Renew your membership and give a gift membership for half price!

This spring, you can give a gift membership for **half-price** with your paid full membership! You can purchase as many half-price memberships as you like, but please submit them to the ACRES office (in the enclosed envelope) by **July 1st, 2004.**

Benefits of Membership:

- The ACRES Quarterly, with information on our free Field Trips and Special Events,
- The ACRES Brochure, with maps and directions to 40 of the ACRES Preserves, AND the updated Field Guide, a handy pocket sized version of the Brochure, will be sent to all current ACRES members this summer,
- Knowing you are making a substantial difference in northeast Indiana by supporting ACRES' land acquisition efforts.



New and renewing ACRES' members will receive a static window sticker

Mary Anna Feitler
ACRES Membership Secretary

TRIBUTES

Hamilton and Joy Hunter's Birthdays

for Camp Kokiwanee Nature Preserve from their daughter, Diane Hunter Laramore

Fox Contracts Wabash Valley Refuse Wabash County Solid Waste District

for their help with Camp Kokiwanee



Dr. Frederick O.
MACKEL'S
Nature Preserve



While looking for a place to raise a family, Frederick and Alfrieda Mackel were planning on purchasing a house near Aboite Township. A chance drive to northern Allen County brought them to the stately white house they live in today.

The history and outstanding natural beauty of the area brought them to this place. "We thought it would be a good place for children", Alfrieda Mackel said. Raising four children, Jerry, David, Susan and Diane, who all became valedictorians at Huntertown High School and all became doctors, their thought was proven correct.

The land and house Dr. and Mrs. Mackel purchased in 1956 has a wealth of history. With land on both sides of Coldwater Road in northern Allen County, the property includes the juncture of Cedar and Little Cedar Creeks and the most famous mill site in Allen County: Stoner's Mill. Dr. and Mrs. Mackel's house is part of the history. Built before the Civil War, their house was home to various mill owners through the years.

Allen County has gone through such changes, it is difficult to imagine what the area was like when people first started arriving to a nearly untouched land. Families settled on large tracts, 80 to 160 acres was common, with dirt or plank roads, vast marshes and swamps as yet undrained, and wildlife that has long ago left: cougar, bear, and bobcats.

The only source of power was the rivers and streams that snaked through the wooded hill sides and marshes. In the early 1800s, mills began appearing wherever the rivers flowed fast and steady; mills for grinding corn and wheat, cutting timber, and carding wool.

Of the 35 mills in Allen County, the best known was Stoner's Mill, which lasted the longest and was in the most scenic area. Operating continually from 1834 to 1910, the mill was first a sawmill, built by two men named Blair and Wines, their first names lost to history. Equipped with an upright saw, the mill also had an eighteen inch "corn cracker" to process corn into meal. The resulting meal was very coarse and not popular with the local cooks, so the mill was known mainly as a saw mill.

The impressively large mill, 125 feet in length and 50 feet in height, was owned by Blair and Wines for only one year, being bought by Samuel Shryock in 1835. Shryock added a "run" and "burh", in the terminology of the old-time millwrights. The "run" referred to the channel that the race water entered into the mill and the "burh" referred to the round stone that ground grain or cracked corn. The race, a channel which directed the water towards the mill, extended a mile to the north into DeKalb County. Water was impounded by a 6-foot high and 100-foot long dam constructed of timber and rock.

Through the years, the ownership of the mill quickly changed hands, from Shryock to John Stoner in 1851, then George Kell, then Jacob Snyder. Three other "burhs" were added and the mill ground wheat as well as corn. Money was scarce, except for occasional gold or silver coins, so the mill operators received an eighth of a share of each load of grain or timber processed. The last operator was William Freese, who owned the mill until it closed in 1910. By that time, the other 34 mills were silent too.

Dr. Mackel has generously gifted 12-acres of his spectacular land for a nature preserve. The race for Stoner's Mill is still visible, a reminder of a once bustling mill. His gift will help buffer the adjoining Cedar Creek Nature Preserve, which has a Great Blue Heron Rookery.

Thank you for your gift, Dr. Frederick O. Mackel!

Photo Credits:
Dogwood blossoms and Cedar Creek by Ron Everhart;
Great Blue Heron Rookery by Beth Hough;
Stoner's Mill - Photographer unknown
Dr. Mackel and waterfall by John Ellenwood



fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

15th Annual Adopt-A-Tree Festival

Saturday, April 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, and Dave and Bonnie Snyder. Held at the 264-acre Wing Haven Nature Preserve, the Adopt-A-Tree Festival has a variety of events for children and adults: **take sweet gum, white cedar, and tulip trees home to plant; make a bluebird house or suet feeder; study pond water under a microscope; Cartoonist Lee Sauers will draw you from**



10 a.m. to

12 noon; **listen to dulcimer music; and make leaf T-shirts to take home!** 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 east onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or Art and Marion Eberhardt at (260) 665-2421.



Adopt-A-Tree photos by Art Eberhardt

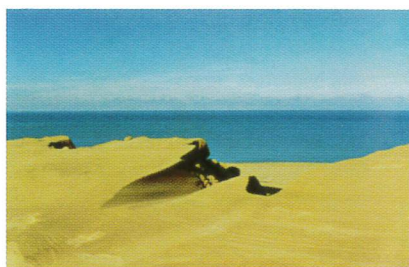


positive impact their organizations have on the quality of life in northeast Indiana. Where: The Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 331 E. Main Street, Fort Wayne Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

Conservation Conversation

Earth Day! Thursday, April 22nd, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Presented by: The Nature Conservancy
Tour the beautifully photographed "Preserving Place: Reflections of Indiana" exhibit; a buffet lunch donated by Pizza Hut and Casa Restaurants; and a panel of 5 land trust directors, including ACRES, will discuss the



On Top of Mount Baldy by Ellen Skye

Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve

Saturday, April 24th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Phyllis Robb, Donor of Robb Hidden Canyon with her husband Robert. One of the finest woods that ACRES owns, this lovely preserve deserves a visit at least once a year. Come see it at its finest with hillsides of wildflowers and visiting warbler flying north. One hour hike led by Phyllis Robb. Where: Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take SR 1 to Hamilton, then northwest on Belle-fountain Road to Ball Lake Road 201. Preserve on east side of Ball Lake. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

Bloodroot by Bill Krebs



fieldtrips & SPECIAL

Benefit Concert for Pokagon State Park Addition

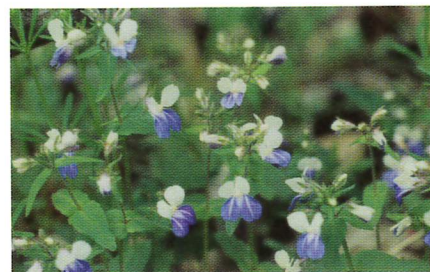
Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: David Rezits and members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic
Donation: \$10 to benefit the acquisition of 28-acres to the park. Enjoy a wonderful quartet of cello, two violins, and viola playing a selection of light classics, ragtime, and Broadway musicals.

By attending, you are helping to add land to this popular park while listening to outstanding music! Where: Pokagon State Park, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park exit (Exit 154) and follow signs to park. Concert will be at the Potawatami Inn, Lake James Room. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or Fred Wooley, Pokagon State Park at (260) 833-2012.



Pictured L-R, Naida MacDermid., Dessie Arnold, Olga Yurkova, David Rezits



Blue-eyed Marys, Bluebells and Blue Skies

Saturday, May 1st at 9:00 a.m.

Presented by: Dr. David Hicks, Professor of Biology at Manchester College. For those of you who have seen the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve in May, it is a very beautiful valley of blue-eyed Marys and a large variety of other wildflowers. Dr. Hicks is an expert in wildflowers and birds. 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. Contact: ACRES office at (260) 422-1004.

Rosewood at Wing Haven

Sunday May 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Jane and David Dawkins The five musicians of Rosewood will play a selection of favorite dance and music songs. Come out for a toe-tapping time! 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 east onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.



Popp Cottage by Ron Everhart

Emanuel M. Popp Open House

Sunday, May 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Stop by anytime!

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff, Caretaker
A gift from Jeannette Kent in 1996, the 40-acre preserve has an abundance of wildflower species, including Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, bloodroot, and trout lily, and towering oak and hickory trees. Larry Biggerstaff and Nick Craft will

be hosting a hot dog roast and hike. Where: Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69 to Tonkel Road. Turn north on Tonkel and go north 1 1/2 miles. Preserve on west side of Tonkel at 12129. Preserve is normally open to public by permission only. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

Attract Bluebirds and Baltimore Orioles

Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Conrad Getz, Bird Enthusiast

Conrad has been so popular we are bringing him back for an encore. Visit Conrad's bird sanctuary and learn how to increase the number and variety of birds to your backyard. Birds expected are warblers, Baltimore orioles, rufous-sided towhees, hummingbirds, and many more! Conrad has a viewing window at his home in Allen County. 15 person limit, please call for a reservation and directions. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

Sedges and Friends

Sunday, June 6th at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Paul E. Rothrock, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, Taylor University Gain an edge on the sedge with Dr. Rothrock, who is writing a book on Indiana's sedge species. In a 1/2 hour slide program followed by a hike. The program will be an introduction to sedges and other wetland and woodland plants. Learn how to identify the sedge family compared to grasses and reeds and recognize some of the common and interesting species at Wing Haven. 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 east onto 400 N. Preserve is located on the north side of 400 N. Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.



Carex lurida by Dr. Paul Rothrock

Kayak Charity Paddle for Pokagon State Park

Sunday, June 27th, 2:00 to approx. 6:00 p.m.

Presented by: Tim Barry, Owner, Pokagon Outfitters

A fun way to raise money for the 57-acre addition to Pokagon State Park! Paddle through undeveloped Marsh Lake, with its beautiful shoreline and resident sandhill cranes, and on through Little Otter, Big Otter, Snow Lake, and into the first basin of Lake James, where we will stop for an early supper at Pokagon State Park's beach. Eight mile round trip.

Where: Marsh Lake Nature Preserve Access Site, Steuben County. Take I-69 north of Angola to the Pokagon State Park exit (Exit 154), turn north on SR 127 and go to Feather Valley Road. Turn east onto Feather Valley and drive about 1 mile. Access Site is on south side of Feather Valley Road. Bring: Kayak, paddle, sunscreen, swim suit (optional), sunglasses, water and PACK A LUNCH! If you do not have a kayak, contact Pokagon Outfitters at (260) 495-9436 or ACRES at (260) 422-1004 with questions. **IMPORTANT:** Sponsor Paddle Sheets can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to you by calling



Kayakers by Ken Millikan

ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004. Bring your Paddle Pledge Sheet the day of the event and we will have a prize for the biggest pledge!

Sunday, July 4th: No program at Wing Haven



Goldfinch by Paul McAfee



By Paul McAfee

Once again, ACRES has stepped forward to preserve an exquisite parcel of northeast Indiana real estate. Originally destined for the sawmill, a few tears from Wendell Dygert's daughter convinced him to quiet the chainsaws and preserve the sixty acre woodland. A hike through the woods still reveals the markings of the foresters. Instead of a lumbering company, a neighbor with some workhorses came out to remove the crowns of the trees that had been cut. Most of the woods is still intact. ACRES ultimately became the owners of this gorgeous and unique woodland.

Unique it is! It is one of the few places in northern Indiana that has a grove of Kentucky coffee trees. Kentucky coffee trees are a peculiar tree in the same family as the redbud and honey locust trees. Like its relatives, the seeds are in a pea-like pod. In fact, they are in the same order as the pea plant. The scaly peeling bark and the large pods on the ground are the best way to identify this tree. The flowers are small, yellow and short-lived. The leaves are quite large, sometimes as much as one meter long. They

Dygert's Woods

are twice-compound which means that one leaf is actually composed of perhaps one-hundred leaflets. The leaves fall off very early in the fall, leaving the tree leafless for as long as six months of the year.

The seeds of the Kentucky coffee tree are reported to have been ground up for use as a type of coffee drink, although not very tasty. Indians roasted them and ate them. I tried to plant the seeds. After three years they are still in the pot with no sign of decay or germination. They are as hard as rocks.

On or around Mother's Day is the time to hike at Dygert's Woods. That is when the ground is carpeted with Blue-eyed Marys. I've never seen them anywhere except in Dygert's Woods, although I'm sure many of you will have stories to tell of other places where you've seen

them. The interesting thing about the plant is that it is a biennial that germinates in the fall. It spends the winter as a small green plant, then flowers in the spring. This gives it a head start over other plants, but it needs a relatively sheltered place to spend the winter so that it doesn't freeze.

The Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve has some unusual and rare plant communities, so stay on the trails. As with all of ACRES' preserves, always feel free to pick up a piece of litter that other hikers may have inadvertently dropped. ACRES has provided us with many opportunities to enjoy nature in northeastern Indiana, so let's take good care of the preserves.



Photographs by Paul McAfee



Salamanders!

By Sue Kern

What signs do you look for that winter is over and spring is right around the corner? Is it the first sight of a robin walking across a lawn searching for food? Or perhaps it's a Red-winged blackbird singing high atop a telephone pole? For me, it's hearing the western chorus frogs calling from the woods outside my window. I know that soon, around the end of March or first of April, the blue-spotted salamander will make its migration to vernal pools to begin breeding.

Blue-Spotted Salamander



Found predominately in hardwood forests in northern Indiana, the blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*) is medium sized. Adults range from 4 to 5.5" with tails that are approximately 40% of their body length. They are dark blue with light blue flecks on their sides and tail, reminding us of the old fashioned enameled cups and pots. These "sallys" belong to a group of salamanders called "mole" salamanders due to their habit of finding refuge underground in tunnels created by small animals. They love to burrow under rocks, leaves, and logs. In fact, you may even discover one under a favorite potted plant in your own back yard!

On a rainy Spring night, when the ground begins to thaw and nighttime temperatures climb above freezing, the blue-spotted salamander will begin its migration to vernal pools to mate and lay its eggs. These pools, which usually dry up during some part of the year, will ensure that few frogs and no fish will consume their young. After depositing two to ten eggs on twigs or leaves at least one inch below the surface, the female will abandon her offspring and return to a terrestrial lifestyle. After about a month the eggs will hatch. The young salamanders look similar to frog tadpoles but have external gills and longer bodies. It will take about two to three months before the larvae lose their gills and begin to resemble their parents. It is at this time that the young salamanders leave the pool to begin their life in the forest.

Life on dry land is no "bed of roses" for the young salamander. Predators abound throughout the woods. Fortunately, nature has built in a few defense mechanisms for these tiny creatures. When threatened, the blue-spotted salamander lashes its tail back and forth and produces a nasty secretion from two glands at the base of its tail. If a determined raccoon ignores this first line of defense and grabs the "sally's" tail it will only get a small morsel; because, you see, the tail will detach allowing the salamander to escape and the tail will later regenerate.

Red-Spotted Newt

The one thing that is consistent with Nature is its inconsistency. Such is the case of the Red-spotted newt. Unlike most salamanders it has a three-part life cycle; from larva to eft to adult.

The red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) got its name from the red spots set against a background of olive-green to brown on its four inch long adult body. Found in both deciduous and coniferous woodlands throughout most of Indiana, the immature larvae and adults inhabit mud-bottomed marshes, ditches, small lakes, and unpolluted ponds. The efts, being completely terrestrial can be found under logs and leaves.



Photos by Gary Meszaros



Breeding season occurs in early spring for the aquatic adults. It is during this time that the female will lay 200 to 400 jelly-covered eggs on submerged vegetation. The female has no maternal ties to her offspring and will abandon them to fend for themselves. Depending upon temperature, incubation will last three to eight weeks. Upon hatching, the aquatic larvae will feed on small aquatic invertebrates until early fall. Sometime around late August or September, the larvae will lose its gills, grow sac-like lungs and emerge onto land to begin the second part of its life cycle – as an eft.

The red eft looks more like a lizard than it does a salamander. It is bright red and about 1 1/2 - 3 inches long. The skin is rough and dry, not "salamander" moist and smooth. The tail is rounded. If you happen to be walking through the woods right after a warm summer rain, watch for this small creature. It wanders about through the undergrowth in broad daylight searching for small insects and snails as if it didn't have a care in the world. You would think that a bright red creature would remain in hiding until night comes and it could hunt in relative safety. Not this little one, it has its own built-in defense system. Its skin is highly toxic! The skin of the eft contains tetrodotoxin, one of the most lethal toxins known. Have you ever read about people in Japan dying from eating improperly prepared puffer fish or blowfish? It's the same toxin. The eft will remain in this stage for

another two to three years. At that time, the tail will flatten; it will lose all its red except for red spots, return to the water and begin its third and final stage of its life.

Redback Salamander

Imagine being able to breathe without lungs or gills. Impossible, you say? Not for the redback salamander. It can survive just fine without either! The redback salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) is a small salamander, only three inches long at maturity. It has two color phases or morphs. The "redback" has an orange-red, red, or brownish red stripe on its back that runs from tail to head. The sides are usually dark gray. The "leadback" lacks the stripe and has dark sides color.

The redback is one of the most common salamanders in Indiana. It is found predominately in beech maple forests, but is present in almost any woods with moist soil and plenty of cover. It feeds on a variety of invertebrates, including mites, spiders, centipedes, beetles, and larvae. It will even climb trees at night in search of food. Nesting occurs in underground burrows or within rotted logs from May to September. The beginnings of parental care can be seen in this species of woodland salamanders. Unlike some other amphibians, the redback will not abandon her eggs to fend for themselves. She will defend them viciously against all predators, even her own species. When the young hatch they look like smaller versions of their mother, with the exception of tiny gills that will soon disappear. The young salamanders will stay with their mother, climbing up on her back and head for about two days, before leaving to begin a life of their own.

Redbacks breathe through their skin which must be kept moist in order for respiration to occur. They will avoid high acid soils at all costs. It appears that high pH levels cause a lethal disruption in the sodium balance in their bodies. It makes you wonder what acid rain could be doing to these remarkable creatures.

Salamanders form an invaluable niche in the ecological scheme of things. They are both predator and prey. They provide food to animals higher up on the food chain and they consume harmful insects such as mosquito larvae. So the next time you decide to take a stroll through a woodland at night, take a flashlight, walk softly and look carefully. You may discover one of Indiana's more fascinating animals.



Photos:
Violets at Dygert Preserve by Ron Everhart
Celadine poppy by Marcella Ellenwood

Frank Dulin
for additions to Pokagon State Park
David and Mary Culp

Jane H. Dustin
for the Cedar Creek valley
from Margaret E. Ballinger
Leila Lee Botts

David and Mary Culp
Robert and Judith Davis
Thais H. Heinzerling
Dr. Marion T. Jackson
Brian Koenig, Toni Koenig and
Amy Koenig Reino
Donald and Gretel Smith

W. Glenn Fogwell
for Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve

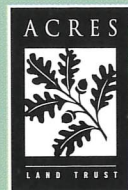
Ethyle Bloch
Jane and Tom Clayton
Bonnie and John Dye
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Lynn and Vicky French
Ted and Pat Heemstra
Jerry L. Krish
Carolyn McNagny
Patricia McNagny
Scott and Bonnie Niemann and Family
Ethel Nycum
Martin and Janice Nycum
Mary Roth
Sue and Steve Simerman
William A. Smith IV and Sally A. Garrett-Smith
Chris, Janet and Dane Tynor
Robert and Janet Weber

Vera Ropchan Kindraka
for Ropchan Wildlife Refuge
Steven and Elizabeth Harter
John L. and Julia Oldenkamp
Vivian Ropchan
Robert O. and Ann E. Yager

Stephen A. Loeschner
for Tribal Trails
Michael Walter

John F. Morsches
for additions to Pokagon State Park
Jack and Cherie Stark

Phyllis E. Thorne
for additions to Pokagon State Park
Beverly Hume and Craig Thorne



ACRES' MISSION We are dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana. ACRES manages and protects 52 nature preserves in 13 counties.

2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474
260-422-1004
email: acreslt@fwi.com

acres-land-trust.org

W. Glenn Fogwell

By Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director, ACRES

Glenn was a farmer and proud of his family's heritage in farming. His great-grandparents, Samuel and Matilda, arrived in Allen County in 1839. The Fogwells settled an entire section, which consists of 640-acres, of Allen County. On Ferguson Road in Lafayette Township, Samuel built an impressive house which stands today.

Glenn was a surprise. For someone who worked very hard all his life, he had many interests. He spoke to many of the local schools about his Indian artifact collection, beautifully mounted spear points, axes, and arrowheads. Woodworking was a passion and he recreated the barn on his farm in a scale model - a perfect replica at 1/24th the size.

He remembered when, as a teenager, he stood in the fields by their house, watching the eerie waves of blue, green and red northern lights spread across the sky. "They continued on south, until the entire sky was lit with waves of color," said Glenn, "never seen anything like it".

The woods on their farm that later became Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve had a heron rookery. Glenn's



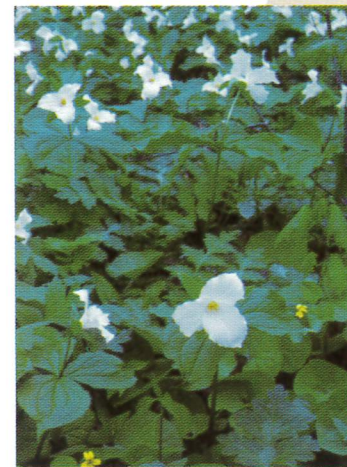
father, Albert, found a chick that had fallen out of its nest and brought it to the farm to raise it. The Fogwells set up a fence around their garden and kept the heron chick. "One day", Glenn laughed, hitting his knee, "we put a bucket out there with fish in it. Did that heron ever know what to do then! It tilted its head and wham!"

He met Dorothy at their local church, Mount Zion, a white-framed, steeple church that was torn down when the Fort Wayne Airport's runways were built. How they felt about each other can be seen in the photograph of them together. Glenn Fogwell and his two sisters, Mabel Corville and Mildred Klopfenstein, gifted the original 30-acre preserve in 1976. Glenn said he wanted to save the woods to "show people what was here, to show them the beauty of what was here." In 2000, another 30 acres were added as a wetland mitigation project by the Fort Wayne Airport Authority.

The forest features beech trees and giant oaks, flowering dogwood and paw paw, and a spectacular large-flowered trillium display. It is habitat for fox squirrels, raccoons, and great horned owls. Dr. Paul Rothrock completed a plant study at the preserve in 1997, documenting an amazing 243 species, including 10 fern species.

President when Glenn gifted the Preserve to ACRES in 1976, Bob Weber said "Glenn Fogwell was a good friend of mine and a true friend of ACRES. He never turned me down when I asked a favor for ACRES or for myself. Be it an offer of storage space for ACRES or a personal guide to some bean poles for me, I shall be ever grateful that he felt such a strong devotion to the land, trees, and flowers of Fogwell Forest."

Photograph of Glenn and Dorothy at an ACRES Dinner in 1984 by Bob Weber
Fogwell Forest by Ron Everhart



A BIG THANK-YOU!

TO ALL OF YOU WHO ADDED 29-ACRES TO
POKAGON STATE PARK

Businesses, Organizations and Foundations

ACRES, Inc.
Angola High School - Honor Society
Angola Middle School - 6th Grade Team and Craig Henney
Angola Garden Club
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Ewing Trust
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On to the
next addition!

Photos by Ron Everhart

ferns and fiddleheads



Sometimes you just want to grab your walking stick and really cover some ground. You want lots of fresh air, wind in your hair, to look over a field, see birds soaring overhead, check out the ducks out on the lake with your binoculars, and imagine familiar shapes in the big billowy clouds. But ferns make you stop right where you are.

You can't just plow through a stand of ferns. You can't pretend they aren't there. There's something too intimate and lush about ferns to just walk by without acknowledging them in some way. So, you must slow down, pause a moment, finally, stoop to get a little closer, perhaps let the soft fronds run over your hand. Maybe it's the way they arch over the ground, as if they were ashamed of something, or hiding something. If ferns could talk they would say quiet thoughtful things. Something sensible like: "I like wind," or "Do you know that deer live here?" If you could just wake them up long enough, perhaps they would tell you how whole forests of giant tree ferns once stood 50 feet tall and covered the warm humid earth.

Fun Web Sites: View the ancient tree ferns that still live in the Hawaii Volcanos National Park at simplethinking.com/hawaii/3dferns.shtml

Find native Indiana ferns for your garden at plantnative.com

Fiddleheads by Paul McAfee; Ferns by Ron Everhart

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 July issue is June 15th. For information on ACRES call 260-422-1004. www.acres-land-trust.org

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