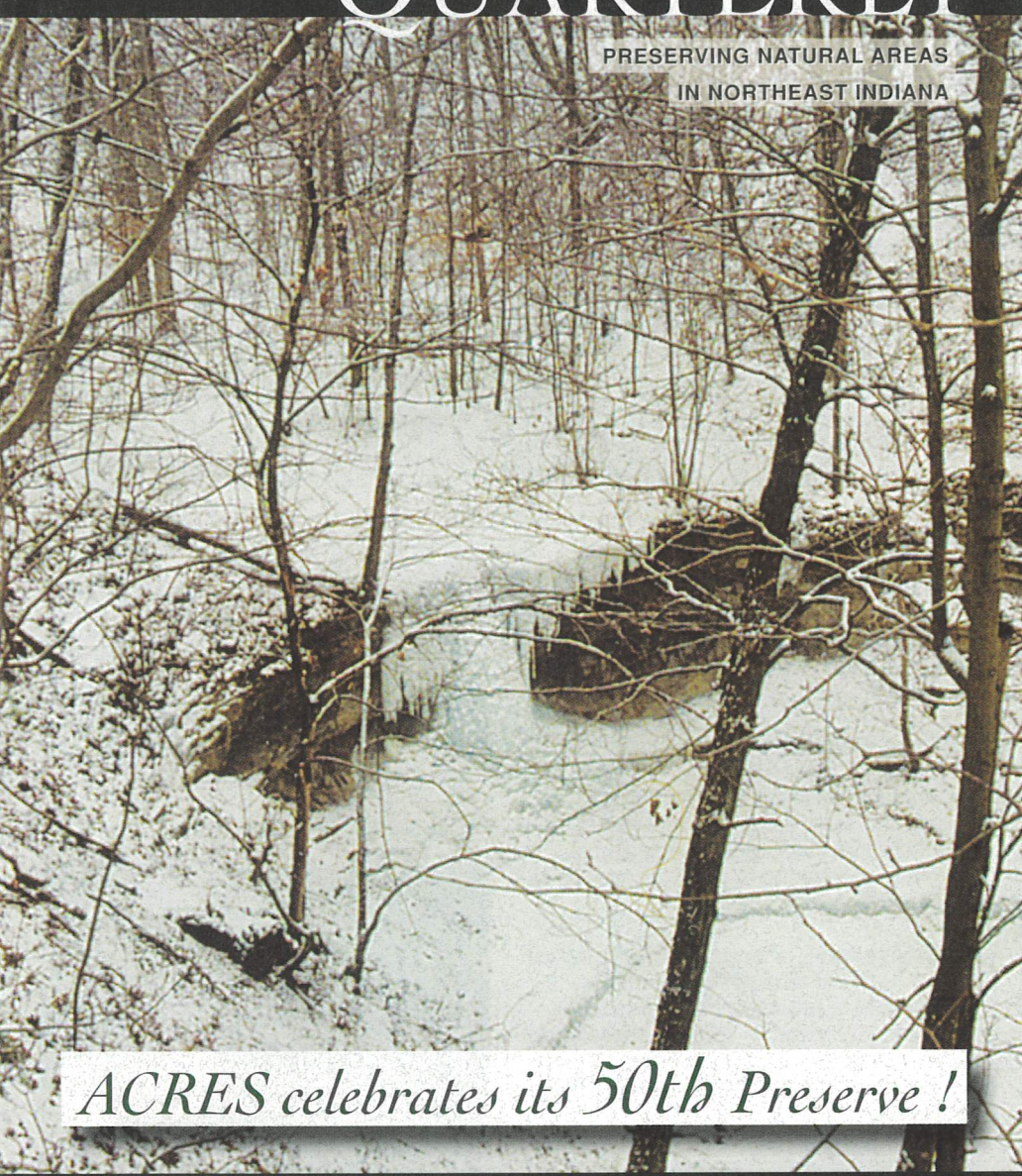


THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



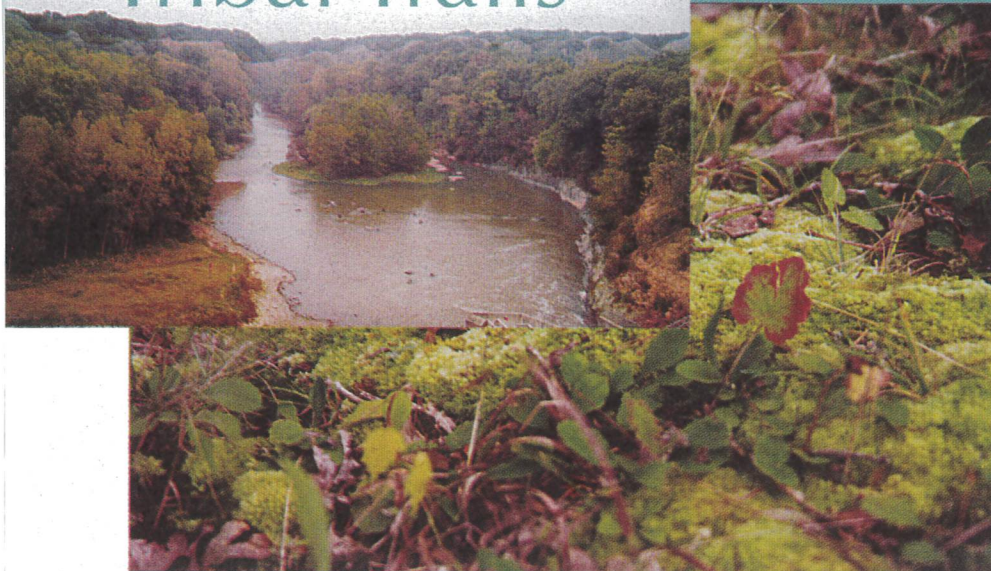
ACRES celebrates its 50th Preserve !

Tribal Trails Land Acquisition Project
Scott and Frances Nevin's New Preserve!
Remembering Jane Dustin
Memorials
Greg Mauk's Bridge for Dygert Nature Preserve
Snowflakes

WINTER 2004
Volume 43 - No . 1



Tribal Trails



Dear Friends of ACRES,

We are starting a challenging project to protect an 140-acre property in Wabash County. Called Tribal Trails or Camp Kokiwanee, the property was donated to the Girl Scouts in the 1950s by the Wabash County Kiwanis Club.

For 40 years, Camp Kokiwanee was operated as a Girl Scout Camp, introducing thousands of girls to an appreciation of nature. The Tribal Trails Council decided to sell one of their two camps in 2001. The Council kept their Girl Scout Camp in Logansport and sold Camp Kokiwanee to ACRES by sealed bid on December 10th.

ACRES will be looking to foundations and the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund to support this project. Local support weighs heavily with the foundations. We have raised \$121,000 of the \$625,000 purchase price and are confident we can finish the project with your help. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 from the ACRES membership.

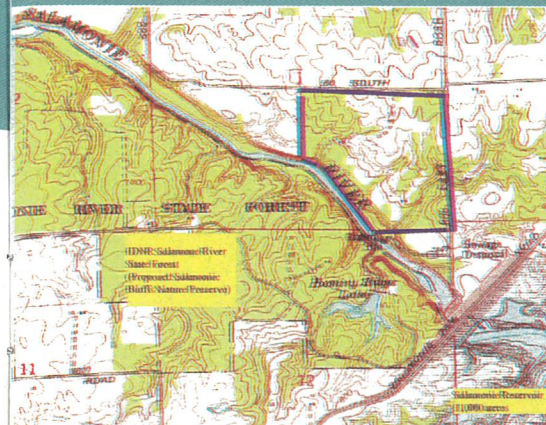
The 140-acre Tribal Trails Camp has 40 to 60 foot bluffs overlooking the Salamonie River, with limestone ledges forming small waterfalls in spring and one 25 foot high waterfall which flows throughout the year (see photograph on cover).

One of the overlooks is called "Mossy Heights" and has spectacular views of the river. Yellow-throated

Dendroica dominica and Black-throated green *Dendroica virens* warblers nest in the ravines. The lowlands have a seep spring area where skunk cabbage, blue flag iris, and jewelweed grow.

On March 20th, we will have the first ACRES hike at the property. We hope you can join us. Our goal is to keep this area open to the public and protect this spectacular natural treasure!

Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director, ACRES



Photographs:
Cover: Waterfall at Tribal Trails by William A. Smith IV
Moss at "Mossy Heights", Salamonie River, woods by Beth Hough
Waterfall by Ron Everhart
Black-throated green warbler by Lang Elliott

TRIBUTES

Sam Schwartz
For becoming ACRES 2nd Life Member
and his dedication to the environment!

Ewing Trust
For their generous support
of the Pokagon State Park Addition

Harold Lentz
In honor of his 75th birthday
from Sue and Jeff Britton
"We love you Dad!"

ACRES can now receive donations
by credit card. For more information,
contact ACRES at 260-422-1004.

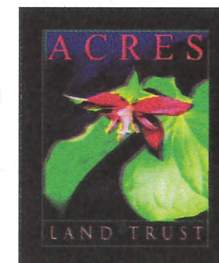


WELCOME new members

Jim Aikman and Chris Burke
Ron and Wilma Ball
Nancy Bradtmiller
Craig and Nancy Bobay
Samuel T. Boggs
James E. Bugert
Michael, Victoria and Alec Devine
Gift of Linda and Wayne Boyd
Frances R. Goff
Joan Gotschall
Gift of Sharon Brommer
David B. Grim
David and Sandra Haist
Robert and Phyllis Hancock
Phillip and Shirley Hasty
Jerry and Debbie Hohla
Tim J. Gerardot
Donald Kruse
Lewis Neal McHoes
Jim and Anna Mize
Ray McCune

Gift of Ethyle Bloch
Phyllis A. Penrod
Alex Reynolds
Gift of Jerry Reynolds
John B. Rufner
Ariene Ann Seely
Gift of Richard E. Seely
Patrick T. Sheean
Denny Sheets
Walter W. Smith
Gift of Dolores E. Smith
Josephine S. Wyss
Linda Harlow and
Little Disciples at Suburban Bethlehem

All ACRES
members will receive
a new static
window label,
pictured right
with their Spring
Quarterly.



Scott and Frances Nevin

by Edward Eberhardt, longtime friend and
ACRES Board Member

Scott and Frances Nevin have lived in their log cabin in the woods now for over 30 years, along with their many bird friends and widely scattered flowerbeds. And loved every minute of it, I'm sure. I remember well the flocks of gold finches feeding on their various feeders (they buy finch seed by the bushel) and the many hummingbirds buzzing each other for a position at their sugar water feeders. They even have a picture taken from their dining room picture window showing over 100 finches present all at one time — a golden yellow circus!

Of course they also have an ongoing "battle" to protect some flowers, like their flowering azaleas, from being eaten by the herds of wild deer from the nearby Chain O'Lakes State Park and elsewhere --- but that's expected. I recall their private "wars" with their host of vivacious, but pesky, red squirrels, who robbed the bird feeders and drove away the less pesky fox squirrels.

Their log cabin is of special interest since it was constructed from beech trees, which is rare. It was an abandoned log cabin in southern Indiana, taken apart and reassembled, without coding as to log positioning, near Albion in Noble County. But the cabin is big enough (almost!) for their traditional 15-foot Christmas tree every year.

Although intentionally adapted to this near-pioneering experience, Frances and Scott keep up with this modern world in terms of books, travel, television, and e-mail. Scott, in particular, using the latest technical journals and scientific literature, keeps up with the work



Scott and Francis Nevin by Carolyn McNagy

being done in cosmology, astronomy, and physics. And helps keep others informed --- including this writer. It should also be noted that Scott holds several important television-related patents resulting from his work for Philo T. Farnsworth, a primary television inventor, at the now-defunct ITT Tube Laboratory in Fort Wayne.

Scott met his wife, Frances, while helping scientists (including Frances) at an offshoot of the ITT Tube Laboratory in Roanoke, Virginia to learn how to manufacture the now-famous Night Vision Goggles. Evidence of the crucial importance of these goggles can be found by examining the picture on pages

23-24 in the latest (12/15/03) issue of *Newsweek* magazine. This picture, taken with a Night Vision Goggles camera, shows a view of an Iraq battlefield with two US soldiers also using goggles.

I wonder if Scott and Frances still struggle with "lambing" of their small flock of sort-of-pet sheep during heavy winter snowstorms? And do they get the sweet corn picked before the raccoons arrive?

For many years an annual early spring 'sugaring' was held by the Nevins and their neighbors on their combined acres of preserved mature maple trees.

For those fortunate enough to be invited to one of the Nevin's bountiful dinners, based on Frances' southern based skills, and served on a remarkable collection of antique tableware, while overlooking their woods and their birds, it is an event never to be forgotten.



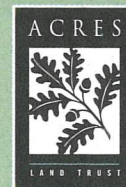
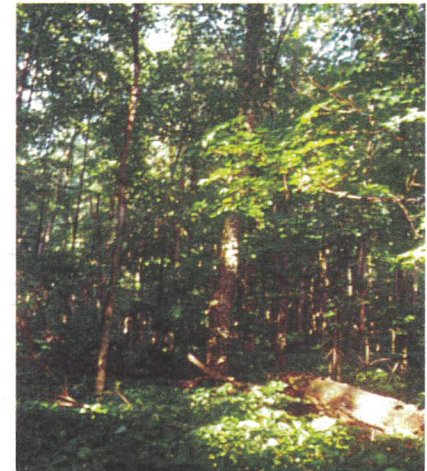
The retirees of the Farnsworth Tube Laboratory in Fort Wayne (now defunct), where so many novel types of light-sensitive devices were invented and built, owe a special debt of thanks to both Scott and Frances for keeping in touch with members of the group and initiating an "Old-Timers" meeting every year.

Scott and I correspond by e-mail almost every day. We met each other at work 64 years ago and have remained best friends. Scott and Francis' protecting their land pleases me to no end and I am very happy they are dedicating their land for a good purpose.

Scott and Frances Nevin have gifted their 100-acres of woods and fields to ACRES. It is moving to watch someone want to protect something that has become precious to them. Scott and Frances would like their gracefully rolling land to remain beautiful and provide a place for the birds and animals that they have cared for to find sanctuary.

Thank you, Scott and Frances, for your wonderful gift!

Photographs: Bluebirds, Barred owl, Baltimore oriole, woods, and sunning squirrel by Scott and Frances Nevin



ACRES' MISSION We are dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana. ACRES manages and protects 50 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

Children's Program - Recommended for Pre K to 3rd Grade

Winged Wonders at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Monday, February 16th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

A hands-on exploration of butterflies, birds, and bats at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo's Indonesian Rain Forest. Children get to dress like their favorite animal and learn how flight helps them survive. Adults get to be in a 90 degree exhibit and out of the snow. **Reservation required.**

Where: Fort Wayne Children's Zoo parking area, 3411 Sherman Boulevard, Fort Wayne.

Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.



Maple Sugar Camp at LaTierra

Sunday, March 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons, Executive Director for Blue Heron Ministries. The steam from evaporating maple sap and the sounds of music will fill the air at Blue Heron Ministries' new nature preserve. Nate Simons, Caretaker for Wing Haven, is also the Director of Blue Heron Ministries and is working on acquiring this 38-acre old-growth woods. This fund-raising event will feature live music; tours of the 38-acre sanctuary; maple syrup making demonstrations, and an opportunity to give towards the purchase of La Tierra. Enjoy pancakes with hot maple syrup and bring a friend! Where: LaTierra Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park exit (Exit 154) and follow signs to SR 120. Turn east onto SR 120, go through Fremont and continue 6 1/2 miles to State Line Road (1000 E), turn south and go 1 mile. Please RSVP so they know how many pancakes to make. Contact: Nate Simons, Blue Heron Ministries at (260) 316-2498 or email: stuartbheron@hotmail.com

First hike at Tribal Trails

Saturday, March 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Carolyn McNagly, Executive Director, ACRES. With dramatic topography and more than 2 miles of hiking trails, Tribal Trails presents outstanding views of the Salamonie River and the Salamonie Forest Nature Preserve. Welcome to bring your cross country skis if there is snow. Where: Tribal Trails or Camp Kokiwanee, Wabash County.



Take US 24 west of Huntington to SR 524 and turn south. Go through Lagro on 524 and across the bridge. Take first left off of 524, which will take you by Hanging Rock. Hanging Rock Road turns into 500 E and then 50 South as it curves. Tribal Trails located on south side of 50 South. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

Hawks

Sunday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Dr. Gary Tieben, Vertebrate Ecologist for the University of St. Francis.

For 20 years Dr. Tieben has completed research on the hawk populations for Allen County. Studying our resident red-shouldered, red-tailed, Cooper's, and rough-legged hawks in the winter months, Dr. Tieben will show how the



hawk populations are faring with the population pressures they face. Learn how to identify hawks. 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.

Wildwood on the Edge of Spring

Saturday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. Presented by: Bob and Alice Frantz.

The bluebirds will be back and the spring beauties, harbingers of spring and bloodroot should be blooming! There is always something new to see at Wildwood, a 238-acre wildlife sanctuary created by Bob and Alice Frantz. Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. Take SR 14 approximately 45 miles west of I-69. Pass 900 north and Wildwood is located on the south side of SR 14. Look for sign. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.



Conrad Getz and his 17 bird feeders!

Saturday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Conrad Getz, bird enthusiast.

We will be looking for early arrivers: Fox, white-crowned, white-throated sparrows, bluebirds, bluejays, and rufus-sided tohees. Many woodpeckers, including downy, hairy, red-bellied. Maybe rose-breasted grosbeaks and cedar waxwings. Conrad will talk about his bird sanctuary, the kind of feed to use and the layout. **15 people limit, please call for a reservation.** Where: Conrad Getz's House at 14002 Schwartz Road, Grabill. Take I-69 to Dupont Road and turn east. Continue after Dupont turns into SR 1 and go through Cedarville to Leo. At 4-way stop in Leo, turn right onto the Leo/Grabill Road. Go over bridge and turn right again onto Schwartz Road, continue to 3rd mailbox. Contact: ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

RON EVERHART PROGRAMS

Presented by: Ron Everhart, nature photography teacher for over 30 years.

Winter Photography

February 21, 2004

Fort Wayne IPFW

Where, why, when and how to take photographs of snow and ice.

Hours: 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

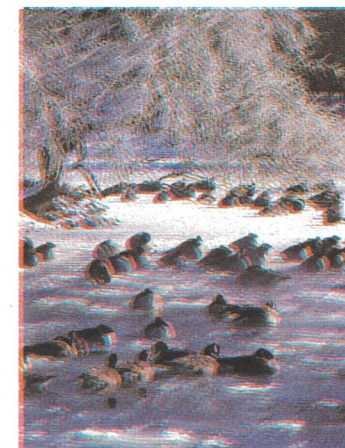
Nature Photography

March 31, 2004

Fort Wayne IPFW

Introducing 75 of the best places to photograph nature in the state. Hours: 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

Contact Ron Everhart at (317) 487-0447 or the ACRES office at (260) 422-1004.





Jane H. Dustin



Memorials for land acquisition in the Cedar Creek Valley, except where otherwise noted.

\$250 or Over:

Ethyle R. Bloch and Pam Bloch Malicoat
Willson C. Bloch
Lee and Patricia Casebere
Eva Claphan
Dr. Paul and Mrs. Debby Meade
Donald R. Dustin
Thomas E. Dustin
Michael, Lynn and Meredith Dustin
Christopher and Judith Gerow
Janel Avery Rogers
Steven Loescher
Dr. Sanford and Mrs. Joy Snyderman

Alison R. Adams
Jerry and Conny Amstutz
Jean E. Babb
Rita Fish Bailey
Dean P. Baker
James M. and Patricia D. Barrett
Charles and Cheryl Bauer
John and Diane Beuchel
Catherine E. Birdseye
Pat Bolman and Cheryl Hite
William F. and Margaret S. Briney
Jeff and Sue Bitton
Dana Z. Bromelmeier
Charlotte Ann Brooker
Ann M. Carter and Thomas A. Hughes
Dr. Jack and Mrs. Roslyn Collins

Mr. and Mrs. John D'Alessio
Barbara Derr and Katherine Schoelkopf
Vera and Frank Dulin
Arthur and Marion Eberhardt
Edward and Nancy Eberhardt
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Burnell and Barbara Fischer
Darrell Fish
Dwight Fish and Oxana Werbiensky
Paul C. and Louise Fish
Warren and Mary Fish
Betty G. Fishman
Robert and Alice Frantz
Daniel and Elizabeth Foster
Lorry Goldenberg
Robert and Karen Griggs
Harry and Helene Gustafson
Jane H. Harris
Theodore J. Harris Jr.
Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Susan Harroff
Frances W. Headings
Theodore and Patricia Heemstra
Mary Henney and
Charlene Henney Barbuto
David C. and Mary K. Hudak
Jack D. Hunter
Hank Huffman
Ellen M. Jacquart
Kitt and Karen Johnson

Philip and Phyllis Kaiser
George and Nancy Kasdorf
Ted and Tale Lanham
G. Irving Latz
Kathleen Latz and Paul Federspiel
Charles and Jane Loomis
Arthur Matott*
Paul and Marla McAfee
Patricia A. McNaghy
Ethel V. McClelland and David Homan
Terrence and Elizabeth McCloskey
Kathryn L. Moore
John and Julia Oldenkamp
Dan and Angela O'Neill
Richard and Joyce Pacer
Larry and Patricia Pichon
Edwin and Cynthia Powers
Herbert and Charlotte Read
Larry and Virgilene Rich
Alan D. Richards MD
Randy and Carol Roberts
Philip and Jean Ross
David and Judith Ruoff
Samuel and Jan Schwartz
Raymond and Martha Seaman
Michael L. Shaver
C. David and Ann K. Silletto
Mary Jane Slaton
Gerald and Betty Sonnek
Donald and Mary Stump

By James M. Barrett III, ACRES' Founder and Director for 40 years

Last November, Jane Dustin, one of ACRES' important founders, died suddenly. She was one of Indiana's strongest advocates for protection of the state's environments, especially its natural areas and - one of life's essentials - its waters.

She was one of the founders of ACRES, together with her husband, Tom Dustin, and twelve others. She helped develop ACRES' purposes and organization and, in 1960, helped incorporate ACRES as the first land trust formed in Indiana.

For forty years she served on the Board of Directors and was long its Secretary and head of the Land Acquisition Committee. Until ACRES hired an executive director, she carried on its correspondence and kept the records, storing them in the basement of their home. Dedicated to protecting natural areas, she aggressively promoted ACRES' acquisition of as many as possible. ACRES started slowly, but with her knowledge, skills, energy and persistence, and the help of its other active directors, ACRES has grown in stature and reputation and today is a respected land trust in Indiana.

Early in life, Jane and Tom understood that long-term protection of clean and healthy environments underlies human health and economic stability, an understanding not yet respected by many short-term human interests. That understanding, together with their traveling and camping experiences, also fostered their other environmental activities. To name a few in Indiana - establishment of Allen County's Fox Island park, with its dedicated nature preserve; crucial work in the creation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; passage of the Indiana Nature Preserves Act in 1967 (an important step for ACRES); opposition to the Maumee River widening; protection of their beloved Cedar Creek; and opposition to excessive stream clearing.

Kenneth and Susan Till
Howard and Karen Traxmor
David and Faith Van Gilder **
David M. Wagner,
Millennium Environmental
Michael Walter
Robert and Janet Weber
Rosemary Westrick
Frederic and Prudence Widlak
Daniel and Terry Wilson
Jean M. Wise and William P. Wise

Brian, Sally and Amy Witwer
Fred and Jackie Wooley
Ruby M. Yoder
Friends of Sugar Creek
Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League
Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League
Staff of the IDNR Division of Water
Staff of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
Arthur E. Cox and Fort Wayne Metals Research
Products Corporation
Lauten Construction Company

Not to be missed were our two families' backpacking trips in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains - Jane with cooking utensils hanging off her pack, banging down the trail, or sitting beside a trail, her backpack still on, picking all the whortleberries within arm's reach from the berry patch around her, so she could add them to her pancakes. Tom would carry a prodigious pack and their camp was always tidy and inviting. Both of them would leave the mountains stronger in both body and spirit than when they entered. All these occasions also exemplify their passionate interests and energies.

Elsewhere, they fought dams in Dinosaur National Monument and the Grand Canyon and sought to protect their most beloved areas of Wyoming's Red Desert, the areas around Steamboat Mountain and the Boar's Tusk, loveliest of desert lands.

Jane's wide knowledge of laws and practices affecting environmental issues, especially those bearing on water quality, enabled her to become chairperson of the Izaak Walton League of America's Water Quality Committee. Honored for her environmental work, she received the League's highest recognition, the Founder's Award, and more recently an IPALCO award.

Perhaps the best local tribute to Jane (and Tom) is the comment by Allen County Commissioner Ed Rousseau, often their opponent in local drainage issues, as quoted in the December 1st Journal Gazette, "They both contributed very much. And they put the rest of us to the test, whether we're following the law. They worked very hard for what they believed in, and that's what they'll be remembered for. With people like Jane and Tom around, you'd better be doing it right."

We will miss her greatly.

* for the Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve
**for the ACRES Operations
Endowment

Photograph of Jane Dustin
by Patricia Barrett

Photograph of Cedar Creek
by John Ellenwood

Memorials

Linda Davis

for the Pokagon State Park Addition
from Virginia Petit

Frank Dulin

for the Pokagon State Park

James and Patricia Barrett
Ethyle R. Bloch
Pat Bolman and Cheryl Hite
Charles L. and Kathleen M. Brinkman
T. Andrew and Margaret Candor
J. Nelson Coats
Jeffrey R. and Barbara C. Davies
Deana S. Davis
Patricia A. DeWald
William and Sharon Harris
Nicholas L. and Dorothy N. Heiny
Phillip R. and Alice D. Herrick
G. Irving Latz
Paul and Marla McAfee
Alan and Edee McMahan
Carolyn McNagny
Dan and Angela O'Neill
Edwin and Cynthia Powers
Laura Ress
Denis G. and Mary Arnold Schwartz
Samuel and Jan Schwartz
Grant Smith
Lynn B. and Dorace F. Smith
Jack and Jeanette Sunderman
Jan and Riet Zwiep
Staff of Dulin, Ward and DeWald
June Ball
Teresa Brown
Candi Eck
John Haney
Mary Hildinger
Jessica Ogle
David Overholt
Sandy Stevens
Terri Venable
Kirsten Roberts and Tom Herbert
for The Bicentennial Woods

Theresa E Hazen

for Tel-Hy Nature Preserve
from Ethyle Bloch
Leonard and Mary Ann Hazen
Mike Hazen
Carolyn McNagny
Samuel and Jan Schwartz

Lois Elizabeth Holtmeyer

for ACRES Land Acquisition
and Management Fund
from John and Marcella Ellenwood
Ruth Eudaley
Tom and Jackie Foelber
Rene Nonneman
Janne Ross
Samuel and Jan Schwartz
Gordon and Kay Walter
Marshall and Dorothy Whitehurst

Andrew Mauk

for the Pokagon State Park addition
from Terry Johnson and Deb Bickford
Gregory A. and Susan H. Mauk

Nami Plummer

for the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve
from Arthur Matott

Thomas J. Schmidt

for Pokagon State Park
from Karen Ericson

Eugene Winicker

for the Tribal Trails Project
from Aurel R. Sittloh
Alvin L. Wennemar
Margret Winicker
Joyce E. Zarnoch



Photographs: Rose-breasted grosbeak by Lang Elliott
Bloodroots by John Ellenwood



Photographs of Dygert's Bridge by Ethel McClellan



A NEW BRIDGE FOR DYGERT'S

AS A MEMORIAL TO
ANDREW MAUK

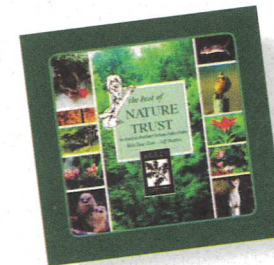
A beautifully constructed bridge was donated by Greg Mauk for the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve. The bridge was given in honor of Greg and Susan Mauk's son, Andrew.

Sean Carroll, ACRES Board Member, arranged the 750 pound bridge to be moved into place by Tri-State University's football and basketball players. Trying to carry the bridge through the hilly terrain of the Dygert Nature Preserve was a challenge! The arching bridge is now in place.



"BEST OF NATURE TRUST" NOW AVAILABLE!

For \$10, you can now enjoy the Best of Nature Trust, the ACRES' radio program hosted by Jeff Britton on Northeast Indiana Public Radio. It's great for road trips. It's also kid tested and approved..they seem to enjoy it as much as adults. To order your copy, call the ACRES' office at 422-1004.



BY SUSAN BRITTON

Snowflakes

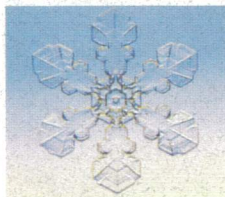
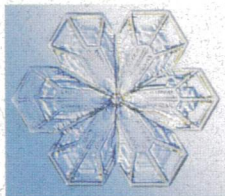
"From ten thousand feet above the earth a snowflake falls. Its journey starts when ice forms around a nucleus of dust and is blown by the winds through clouds where the crystals blossom into tiny stars. Because it weighs next to nothing, a snow crystal may take hours to fall. Imagine the billions upon billions of exquisite ice sculptures floating down from the sky during a single snowstorm. All impermanent, all unnoticed." - Kenneth Libbrecht

My husband, Jeff, bought me a wonderful book recently; *The Snowflake: Winter's Secret Beauty* by CalTech physicist Kenneth Libbrecht, with photography by Patricia Rasmussen (see photos right), published by Voyageur Press. It not only describes the science of how snowflakes form (to the best of current understanding), but also includes page after page of incredible color photographs of numerous snowflakes, plucked out of the air as they fell and quickly photographed. It took my breath away.

William Bentley, a farmer in Vermont, first developed the art of snow crystal photography in the 1920's using his crystal photo-microscope. He produced a large album of snowflake images, awakening the world, for the first time, to the hidden wonders of snowflakes. Libbrecht and Rasmussen use modern technology to take it a step further.

"Snowflake watching is akin to birdwatching," says Kenneth. "Both are easy, fun outdoor recreations. To observe snowflakes you need little more than an inexpensive magnifying glass. Add to that a gentle snowfall, and these miniature masterpieces can be witnessed firsthand. Your car windshield is a great place to start!"

The latest news and views of **snow-crystal research** can be found on his web site, www.snowcrystals.net



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

ACRES Land Trust
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Fort Wayne, IN 46808-2474

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