

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



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The individuals who make up the ACRES membership have always been the driving force behind our land acquisition projects. Your interest in what ACRES works to acquire has allowed the organization to protect more than 4,000 acres. Last year, we took on projects at a rapid pace, concerned about irreplaceable natural areas being subdivided or preventing properties next to existing preserves from being developed.

landacquisitionupdate

Now we need to finish three fund drives before we can tackle any new projects. The fund drives are:

- **80-acre addition to the 56-acre Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve:** Though the generous support of Wayne and Linda Boyd, Patricia McNagny, Ewing Trust, Martha Sittler Trust, Adams Trust, Scott and Susan Miller Family Fund, John and Marcella Ellenwood, Janel Rogers, and more than 100 ACRES members, we have raised \$196,740. We need to raise another \$104,000, so we are almost 2/3rd's of the way there!
- **140-acre Kokiwanee Nature Preserve:** ACRES needs another \$215,415 to finish this massive fund drive. There will be a permanent marker at the entrance to the preserve thanking everyone who donates \$1,000 or more to the protection of this fragile place.
- **80-acre Terry and Nancy Brammall Nature Preserve:** Terry and Nancy Brammall gifted 50 acres of their valuable and scenic land on Pigeon Creek, Pigeon Lake and Pigeon Pond. ACRES decided to buy 30 acres of buffer to protect their new nature preserve (please see article on pages 3 and 4). Need to raise \$95,000 to purchase the 30 acres. At the rate Steuben County is being developed, this is a small price to pay for a new 80 acre nature preserve.

You will receive a separate mailing from ACRES asking you to renew your ACRES membership and give to the Dygert, Kokiwanee and/or Brammall projects. We hope you will consider supporting these worthwhile efforts to protect these rare and beautiful natural areas.

-Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director



Dygert Preserve by Paul McAfee
Kokiwanee by Tim Kimmell
Crooked Lake by Bob Weber

Cover image: Singing tree frog by Sue Kern

There is much to be encouraged about in northeast Indiana. Bald eagles are nesting again along the Wabash and Salamonie Rivers, river otters are expanding their ranges, and wild turkeys have made perhaps too good of a comeback. To continue ACRES work, protecting the finest remaining natural areas in northeast Indiana for everyone's benefit, we ask for your help.

Join or Rejoin: Your interest in ACRES' work is shown by your willingness to join as a member.

Give a Gift Membership: Introduce a friend, co-worker, or fellow nature lover to ACRES. You can purchase as many half-price memberships as you like and continue to add to our 1,000 plus family, individual, and organization memberships.

Land Acquisition: Know that you are making a substantial difference in northeast Indiana by supporting ACRES land acquisition efforts. Your gift is matched at least 2:1 by federal, state or local funds. Your dollar goes farther with ACRES.

As always, we are happy for your interest!
Mary Anna Feitler, ACRES Membership Secretary

I'm Counting on You...
to renew your ACRES' membership!



Baby bald eagle by Richard Fields

WELCOME new members!

Dean Alford *Gift of Carla J. Brames*
John Boggs *Gift of Sam and Jill Boggs*
Egon Borgmann
William and Suzette Brown
Mary E. Bullerman
Clifford Burdge
Jean M. Cary *Gift of William and Allyn Stoller*
Frank and Susan Cyran
Dorothy Diehl
Kenneth A. Dooley
Marvin D. And Shirley Kay Drier
Bill D. Ewing
Wally and Amy Gibson
Ronald K. Highland
Noel H. and Patricia Holmgren
Keith Johnson *Gift of Terry Johnson*
Terry Johnson
Brian and Joellen Kline
Lynne M. Koch

Elizabeth and Terrence McCloskey
Roy E. McCorkle
Tim Moore
Shirley C. Needham
Ivan and Carolyn Painter
Richard L. Platt
Susan Rousseau
Joel and Susan Schartzer
Chet E. Schemahorn and
Angela R. Walter-Schemahorn
Donald and Pam Sebert
Jan E. Shupert-Arick
Jan W. And Jo Ann Sircey
Brian and Lisa Smith
Donald J. Smith
Bill, Dawn and Sydney Spurgeon
Carolyn Stachera
William and Allyn M. Stoller
Terry Storey
Larry Sydow
James Tobolski
Charles and Diane Wass
Howard L. Weiler
Dan and Judy Wire

Brammall Preserve



By Amy Oberlin, Reporter, Herald Republican and Carolyn McNagny, ACRES



ACRES has acquired its 10th nature preserve in Steuben County, the 80 acre Terry and Nancy Brammall Preserve located 3 miles east of Angola on US 20. With the addition of the Brammall's Preserve, ACRES protects more than 800 acres in the county.

The land was part of Terry and Nancy Brammall's farm and is located on Pigeon Creek, Pigeon Pond and Pigeon River. The Brammalls donated 50 acres of land and worked with ACRES on a bargain sale to acquire an additional 30 acres to create the new nature preserve. Since the property contains lake frontage and an undeveloped pond, the Brammalls were aware of the development potential of their property. Nancy Brammall said they wanted "to preserve the area so people could enjoy it instead of commercializing everything."

Their major goal was protecting Pigeon Lake, one of the largest undeveloped lakes in northern Indiana. At 61 acres, Pigeon Lake is owned by four property owners and so far has escaped development. Terry said that Pigeon Lake is worth protecting "just because there are so few undeveloped lakes and, if someone tried to develop it, they would ruin the thing." Their preserve protects more than 2,500 feet of Pigeon Lake's frontage along its southern shoreline.

Pigeon Lake has a IDNR access site on its western edge. In the summer of 2004, ACRES Board Member Jack Stark canoed the area. "Coming in from the west," Jack said, "is just an incredible scenic adventure." Sugar maples, willows, black oaks, and large-toothed aspen line the forested edge and woods ducks, mergansers, and buffleheads visit the area in the spring and fall.

"It is encouraging to see an undeveloped area like this being preserved," said Beth Williams, Resource Conservationist with the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District. "It truly compliments the ongoing conservation efforts in the Pigeon Creek watershed."

"You can canoe all the way from Pigeon Lake to Lake Michigan," said Terry

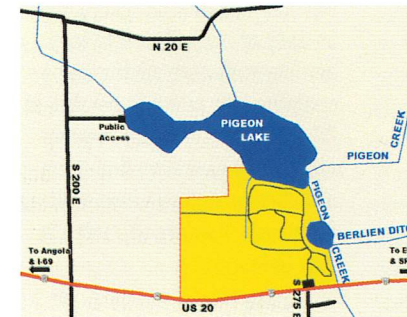
Brammall. "When I was a Boy Scout Leader, we started at Pigeon Lake and went as far as Twin Mills, located west of LaGrange, although we portaged in quite a few places."

Pigeon Lake may be the headwaters of the Pigeon River. "There are four streams that flow into Pigeon Lake," said Terry, "and one is called Pigeon Creek. And the main creek that flows out of Pigeon Lake is called by some people Pigeon River and by some Pigeon Creek, so you can decide."

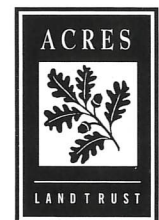
Having visited more than 50 botanical conservatories scattered across the United States, one of Terry and Nancy's dreams is to have the abandoned farm fields south of US 20 established as a botanical area. "It would be nice to have colorful wildflowers along the road," said Nancy, "so people driving by can enjoy them." A patch of berry bushes is planned, since people no longer go berry picking for blueberries, gooseberries, and other once common summertime treats. "Kids don't learn the basics of what there is in life," said Nancy, "here they can go out, wander around, and see how things grow." Terry said "we thought that the schools, being as close as they are, could use the preserve for a learning tool."

Jim Shearer and Art Eberhardt, former Board Members of ACRES, have an ambitious plan to create an arboretum at the site. "We would like to plant all 101 trees located in Indiana," said Art, "based of Dr. Marion Jackson's "101 Trees of Indiana" book..

On behalf of everyone who will appreciate and enjoy this beautiful nature preserve, our thanks to Terry and Nancy Brammall!



Photographs:
Terry and Nancy Brammall by Andy Barrand, Herald Republican
(left to right) Spatterdock, Pigeon Lake and Pigeon Creek by Tim Kimmell; Cardinal flower by Lee Casebere



ACRES' MISSION Dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 57 nature preserves in 13 counties.

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GRAY TREE FROGS

By Sue Kern

I have a habit of leaving my overhead garage door open whenever I work in my yard. Occasionally, a chipmunk will scamper in to snatch a sunflower seed that had landed on the floor the last time I filled my feeders. Or a toad may wander in for reasons known only to the toad. This evening was no exception. I was just finishing up for the day when I noticed what looked like a toad sitting in the middle of the garage. I walked towards it, hoping it would leave the same way it came. It hopped, not out the door, but up to the garage wall. It then jumped up 2 feet and stuck on the wall like one of those Garfields you see on car windows. Ok, this was definitely not a toad. It was a treefrog, a gray treefrog. I have heard their mating calls resonating throughout my woods but was never fortunate enough to see one until now.

There are two species of gray treefrogs in Indiana. The common gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) occurs in northern Indiana and rarely south of Indianapolis. The Cope's gray treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) is common in the southern part of the state but has been found as far north as Delaware County. The only way you can tell these two frogs apart in the field is by their calls. The voice of the common gray treefrog is a low melodic trill that lasts less than half a second with 3 – 7 seconds between calls. The Cope's is harsh, less melodious, and faster.



The gray treefrog is a medium sized frog, reaching a body length of around 2 inches. It has toad-like warty skin, which earned it the nickname tree toad. This frog is not always gray as its name implies. They can be green, brown, white, or gray. They have the ability to change color in a matter of minutes depending upon temperature, humidity, or light. They have whitish bellies with males developing a dark throat patch during the breeding season. Even though it has a white underside, the inner thigh is a brilliant yellow-orange, exposing a flash of color when it jumps, startling potential predators. This is an arboreal frog, leaving the safety of the treetops at night or during the breeding season. Large disks on each of its fingers and toes act like miniature suction cups enabling it to climb to heights of 20 – 30 feet. On warm summer nights, you may even find them attached to your windows waiting for insects that are attracted to your lights.

As nighttime temperatures climb to 50 degrees, the male gray treefrog begins its mating calls. Some people compare it to

a woodpecker's call. They breed in temporary pools in swamps, forests, or even a swimming pool. The male chooses a calling perch that is either hanging over or lying in a small body of water. It will be horizontal with little or no vegetation. Choruses of both species reach a peak in May and June but continue through July particularly in the northern counties. If you should happen to be lucky enough to find a calling male, look carefully. Normally, males will stay at least 30 inches away from each other during the breeding season. If you happen to observe a calling male with one or more noncalling males within a foot of him, these are satellite males. They are waiting for the calling male to leave so that they may claim his perch. As the saying goes, "location, location, location."

After mating, the female will lay two thousand eggs in groups of 10 – 40. She will attach these eggs to vegetation in temporary pools. By using temporary pools, the danger of fish devouring the young has been eliminated. At water temperatures of 70



degrees, the eggs will hatch in 4 – 5 days. The tadpoles are about a quarter of an inch in length and light yellow in color. They will live on a diet of algae and vegetation for the next 6 – 8 weeks growing to a length of around 2 1/2 inches. Their body color changes to an olive green with a bright orange-red tail. These tadpoles have a toxic skin secretion and it is believed that the orange-red tail is a danger signal to potential predators. The transformed froglets are smooth skinned and emerald green in color. At this stage, a juvenile gray treefrog may be mistaken for a green treefrog. The easiest way to tell them apart is the brown spot on the side of the gray treefrog's head right behind the eye. The green treefrog lacks this spot.

As the warm days of summer quickly change into cool days of late fall, the gray treefrog prepares for its winter hibernation. It will spend the winter on land, hiding under the leaf litter on the forest floor. Exposure to freezing temperatures can be deadly to an amphibian. Ice crystals within the body can tear blood vessels and severely damage organs. In order to survive, the frog uses a complex strategy called freeze tolerance, the ability to endure the actual formation of ice in its body. During this process, as much as 65% of their body water freezes, but their cells are protected by a special antifreeze. Before winter comes, the frog consumes large amounts of food, storing the starch in its liver. Freezing temperatures convert this starch into high levels of glucose. This blood sugar lowers the freezing temperature of water inside the frog's cells. The cells stay liquid even though the fluid around the cells turns to ice. To protect the heart and lungs during this reduced metabolic state, the heart, and breathing stops. As the temperature rises and the ground thaws, the gray treefrog will once again begin its melodic serenade.

Photos of gray treefrogs by Sue Kern

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE EVELYN AND WENDELL DYGERT PRESERVE

Saturday, May 7th - 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

Jerry Stratman, who attended Brat School in Wisconsin, will be cooking lunch in this fun day at the Dygert Preserve! Three hikes are scheduled, Steve Cornelius is bringing his wagon and horses for rides, and you can hike the new 80 acre addition to this wildflower carpeted preserve. **10:00 Dr. Mike Bosela:**



Wagon by John Ellenwood

to this wildflower carpeted preserve. **10:00 Dr. Mike Bosela:**

Wildflowers 1:00 Dr. David Hicks: Wildflowers and Trees **Membership drive:** If you are a member, bring a non-member and receive a bird feeder as a gift. **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. **Please RSVP to the ACRES Office: at (260) 422-1004.**



Oak by Ron Everhart

EMANUEL M. POPP OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 15th - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE.

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff, Caretaker

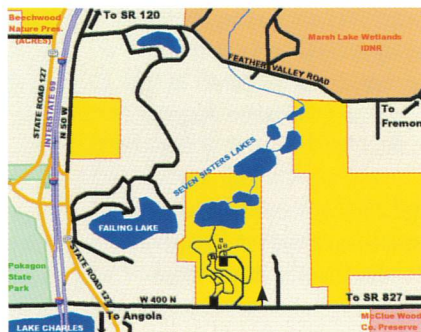
A 40-acre nature preserve, located in a rapidly developing part of Allen County, has a 20-acre old-growth with a beautiful display of wildflowers, including Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, bloodroot and trout lily. Come out to hike, see the charming Popp cottage with its green shutters and stone chimney, and Larry will be hosting a hot dog roast. **Where:** Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69 to Tonkel Road. Turn north on Tonkel and go 1 1/2 miles. Preserve is on west side of Tonkel at 12129.

Preserve is normally open to the public by permission only. **Contact:** ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

WING HAVEN VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Saturday, May 21th 10:00-12:00 and then cookout.

Located at the 264-acre Wing Haven Nature Preserve, we need to replace broken window panes and re-glaze windows on the log barn and stable buildings, remove some wire fencing and split rail fence and re-hinge stable barn doors. Cookout after the work day. Come out for a fun day and help maintain the beautiful Wing Haven Preserve! **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park Exit (Exit 154). Turn right (South) on SR 127 and immediately left (East) onto County Road 400 N. Preserve is located approximately 1 mile on the north side of 400 N. **Contact:** Shane Perfect, ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.



fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE POKAGON PARK ADDITION

Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: David Rezits and members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic

Donation: \$10 to benefit the acquisition of 57.3 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:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154, turn south on SR 127 and then immediately east onto 400 N. Wing Haven is located on the north side of 400 N in approximately 1 mile. **Contact:** ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.



Goldfinch by Paul McAfee

FROGS AND TOADS

Sunday, June 5th, 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Pat Oppor, Research student at IPFW Department of Biology and ACRES Board Member. Studying frogs and toads for the past year, Pat Oppor has completed her research project on how quickly they repopulate manmade wetlands. Come out for this 1/2 hour PowerPoint presentation.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154, turn south on SR 127 and then immediately

east onto 400 N. Wing Haven is located on the north side of 400 N in approximately 1 mile.

Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.



American Toad by Ron Everhart

Celebration at the Limberlost Camp on Oliver Lake

Saturday, June 25th - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mark and Myrna Peterman, who made the protection of 115-acres on Oliver, Olin and Martin Lakes possible, are having an open house at their Limberlost Camp. Bring your kayak or canoe so you can visit this spectacular new nature preserve, you can hike the area or we will have lawnchairs on the bluffs. Oliver Lake is the largest undeveloped lake in Indiana and this is your chance to see it. Come out for a fun day!

Dedication ceremony at 12:00.

Where: Limberlost Camp, LaGrange County. Take SR 9 north of Wolcottville to 450 S (look for Oliver Lake sign). Turn west onto 450 S and go one mile and then turn left onto 150 E, which dead-ends into Limberlost Camp.

Contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004.





In Honor of LeRoy K. Schultess

LeRoy Schultess was born in Garrett, Indiana, the son of the town's mayor, George M., and Elizabeth Schultess. His father was one of the three founders of the Creek Chub Bait Company.

With degrees from the University of Michigan and Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Mr. Schultess made a conscious decision to return to a small town to practice law. He moved to LaGrange in 1935 and practiced law for 65 years until the day he died. Judge Howard Petersen, a lifelong friend, said Mr. Schultess was "an astute banker and an excellent trial attorney, because he had great common sense and a degree of tenacity." Well known in LaGrange, Mr. Schultess always looked the part of a gentleman and attorney. Susan Glick, a colleague and friend, said Mr. Schultess "never appeared in public without a tie." "Working at his immaculate home, you could see him on a high ladder," she said, "cleaning out the eaves and he would be in a white shirt, with the sleeves rolled up, and a tie."

Mr. Schultess was recognized many times for his years of public service. He was the Director of the LaGrange County Community Foundation, a 32nd degree Mason, and received the highest honor possible from Rotary as a Paul Harris

Fellow. The entire county of LaGrange recognized him in 1991 by electing him Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Schultess was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, gardener and fisherman. As he told a reporter, "Fishing is a disease, thank God there is no cure." "He said the first time he went to a lake was in a basket," said Ms. Glick, "his father took him to their lake cottage when he was a baby and he fished from the time he was a little bitty kid." One of the joys he found with living in LaGrange was all the scattered lakes to explore and fish.

"He liked beauty," said Judge Petersen, "and believed that God's presence in our world was in the creation of nature." In honor of her Uncle, Mr. Schultess' niece Judy and her husband David Ruoff have donated very generously to a 115-acre project to protect shoreline on Oliver, Olin and Martin Lakes. It is hoped that Mr. Schultess, with his abiding love of nature and lifetime enjoyment of fishing, would approve.

Olin Lake Photographs
by Tim Kimmel



David and Judith Ruoff

John and Joyce Bacone
Gordon Bloom
James A. Brenock
Roy and Karen Buskirk
Gary and Elma Chapman
Willard F. and Nena A. Clark
Gary W. Darnell
John and Marcella Ellenwood
John L. Elliot-Ervin
James and Karen Farlow
Barbra Frymier
Geoff and Betsy Gephart
Richard and Sara Hobson
Dan and Judy Kaufman
Louise A. Larsen
Judge William and
Mrs. Judith Lee

Charlotte Lunde
Richard E. Lutz
Arthur J. Matott
Patricia A. McNagny
William F. McNagny
William and Mary Jo Mikulski
Peter and Pam Oleson
Jane Papsdorf
John N. Pichon, Jr.
Don Ryan
Evelyn L. Schnepf
James and Mary Shearer
Joanne A. Weber
Allen W. Wetter
Frances E. Wilder
Thomas J. Whaley
Fred and Jackie Wooley

The largest undeveloped lake in Indiana is Olin Lake, located in LaGrange County. The northern half of Olin Lake was protected in 1982 as the Olin Lake Nature Preserve.

Working with Mark and Myrna Peterman, the southern half of Olin Lake and part of the Limberlost Music Camp is protected, making the Olin Lake and Mark and Myrna Peterman Nature Preserves 321 acres in size. ACRES' part of the fund drive was for \$50,000, to cover the earnest money and transfer costs. We have raised the necessary funds thanks to the generous people listed above. **Thanks to all who donated to the fund drive!**

Memorials



Howard Blood

*A lover of nature, hiking, skiing and canoeing
for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from Douglas and Irene Lewis*

Melva Eddy

*for the addition to Pokagon State Park
from Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley*

Marion Stewart Kroll

*for the Fawn River Nature Preserve
from Nick and Kathryn Bloom*

Frances M. Nevin

*for the Scott and Frances Nevin Nature Preserve
from Crystal E. Bryant
Gladys M. Cronise
James and Karen Ellis
Bruce and June Johnson*

Avis E. Rayl

*for the addition to Pokagon State Park
from Sharon Godfrey*

Marguerite "Mick" Swanquist

*for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from Richard and Liz Young*



An Appreciation for Nature

This won't come as a shock to people who know me, but I'm not a huge nature buff. When I was a little girl my dad used to take my brother and me on nature hikes. He'd spend time trying to teach us the various plant and tree names we'd come across. My grandfather is a huge bluebird fan and can name just about any bird that might grace your backyard. I, however, am a disgrace to my family. I can tell you what a flowering dogwood looks like (but only if it's flowering) and a few wildflowers but birds are an unknown entity. At least with flowers in a certain genre, like

trilliums, they all, for the most part, look the same. But with birds, you've got the male and female who look completely different. Now how am I supposed to keep them straight?

There are several birdfeeders just outside of my window and throughout the day, birds come and go. I don't know a single one. Okay, that's an exaggeration, I saw a cardinal this winter- I knew that one. Another one I know is the hummingbird. In particular, the ruby throated hummingbird. Last summer I was fortunate enough to see one up close. One thing that has always fascinated me is how fast they fly. They zip and zoom all over the place before you can say, "Look there's a hummingbird." They can hover mid-air drinking the nectar from flowers and don't even get me started on their tongue! I don't know if you've ever been able to see it in action but that "sucker" is fast! (I wonder if they ever get indigestion?) Another thing I love about the ruby throated hummingbird is, well, its ruby throat and kelly green

metallic feathers. The colors are so vibrant and they shimmer when the light catches them. Well, at least the male is that colorful, I have no idea about the female, I'd better go look that one up...Hang on! Wait a minute... I'm kind of getting into this! Don't tell anyone okay?

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

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