

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



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Spring 2007
Volume 46 - No. 2



ACRESland acquisition update

ACRES has been successful in obtaining several new properties! In addition, 44 acres were added to the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve in Allen County and 6 acres were added to the Dygert Nature Preserve in Whitley County.

A new, 72-acre preserve in Wabash County was purchased at auction in February. This property contains numerous waterfalls, unique geological features, and a tributary of the Wabash River, along with a significant forest. This preserve will be highlighted in the summer Quarterly.

A new, 149-acre preserve in Fulton County (our first property in Fulton County) was obtained through the combination of a purchase and a generous gift. The Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve is located along the Tippecanoe River. This property is highlighted in a separate article on page 4 of this Quarterly. The donor appreciation ceremony for this preserve will be May 5th – check the events page for more details.

We have several other acquisition projects in progress, including possible additions to the Tel-Hy and Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserves, and new properties within Allen, Kosciusko, and Noble Counties.

With fourteen counties in our service area, we rely heavily on members and other contacts informing us of properties worthy of protection. If you know of a property that you have always thought, "ACRES should look at this one," please contact us. It doesn't need to be for sale – in fact, we have the most success with properties that are not currently on the market. We obtain properties through several means, including donations, partial donations, purchase from realtor or owner, purchase at auction, bequeaths in wills, and life estates. So, please keep an eye out for natural areas. Your efforts could result in the acquisition of ACRES' next preserve.



Wabash Property by Jason Kissel

WELCOME new members!

Renee Baines
 Thomas M. Bartrom
 Kayla M. Bates *Gift of James and Gwen Seeley*
 Larry Boese
 Ruth Ann Briggs
 Willis L. and Ruth E. Brown
 Jack Diller
 Trish Downey
 Michael and Emily Elko
 Judy Feldkam *Gift of Randy and Carole Smith*
 Brian Grubb
 Ron and Ladonna Habegger
 Franck Hagendorf and Rosalie Becker
 Ed and Mary Lou Hutter
 Kelly Krinn
 Phyllis McGurk
 Eileen and John McKelvey
 Judith Meyers
 Connie Milam
 Richard A. Mink
 Phyllis "Jean" Morrison
 Larry and Diana Ramsey
 Jay and Pam Sagers
 Robert and Donna Streeter
 Rob Taylor
 Berry Vetter
 Julie Waterfield *Gift of Randy and Carol Roberts*
 Paul Winebrenner *Gift of Ray and Peg Scott*

it's time to renew!

Don't let your ACRES membership expire! ACRES memberships are due in June of each year. To see if your membership will expire this year, look above your name and address on the back cover and you will see your membership expiration date. If this line reads "Membership expires June 2007" its time to renew!

Your membership is very important to the continued existence of ACRES Land Trust. Membership dues help with operation, management, and acquisition expenses. More importantly, your involvement helps spread the word about ACRES.

Not only does your membership benefit ACRES, it also benefits you. Membership provides you with a subscription to the Quarterly publication, access to countless free programs offered throughout the year, discounts on fee-based programs, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are an integral part in helping ACRES preserve natural areas in Northeast Indiana.

Don't let this be your last Quarterly – renew today!

Coming Soon to a Mailbox near You, Maybe...

In April, ACRES will be performing a random survey of our membership in order to gain a better understanding of why you became a member of ACRES, why you were drawn to a nature organization, and what opportunities you would like ACRES to offer. If you are chosen by our random sampling strategy and receive a survey, please consider yourself one of the lucky few and eagerly fill it out. Completing the survey will only take 10 minutes, and it will greatly enhance our ability to serve you and other ACRES members. Thanks!

ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas in Northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 61 nature preserves in 14 counties.

1802 Chapman Rd.
 Huntstown, IN. 46748-9723

260-637-ACRE (2273)
 email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



by Shane Perfect
 Dustin Property



by Tony Fleming
 Wabash Property



by Tony Fleming
 Wabash Property



by Shane Perfect
 Dygert Property



Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve

Our Newest Preserve

The Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve, ACRES' first property in Fulton County, comprises 149 acres, including 5900 feet of Tippecanoe River frontage.

The Nature Conservancy considers the Tippecanoe to be one of the top ten rivers in the United States to protect because of the diverse plant and animal communities supported by the river. There are several federally listed endangered species found in the river, including three mussel and six fish species. Several of these endangered species have been documented in the river within the boundaries of the Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve.

Last fall, an ACRES program about mussels was held on this property. Participants were amazed by the rich diversity and abundance of mussel shells that were easily found just by wading at the river's edge. Participants also learned that the Tippecanoe river holds the largest and most significant population of the federally listed endangered club shell mussel.

This Preserve, with the Tippecanoe River forming its southern boundary, is a wildlife sanctuary with interesting flora and fauna. Visitors will be able to stroll through 70 acres of hardwood forests, 74 acres of pine woodlands, and 5 acres of wetlands, with the towering pine trees providing a dramatic contrast to the hardwood forest. The Preserve will be open to the public for hiking, bird-watching, and nature appreciation.

ACRES obtained the property through the generous gift of 120 acres from Patricia Kern Holmgren and Noel Holmgren, along with the purchase of the remaining acreage from the Kern Family Farms, owned by Patricia, Shirley Kern Needham, and William Kern. The Woodland Preserve is named in honor and memory of their mother, Ruth Kern, who was an equal partner with their father, Bob Kern, in developing and maintaining a successful Christmas tree business and in acquiring the land necessary to grow the trees.

This property, known locally as the Boy Scout Camp or Camp Wright, served boy scouts from East Chicago for about 20 years (1932-1952) until a camp was developed closer to that area. The land was purchased in 1952 by the Kerns from the Trustees of the William Wright Estate. Over the following three decades, Christmas trees were grown on about one-third of the property, and the remainder provided a relatively undisturbed habitat for wildlife. The family shared many happy times there enjoying wild flowers, birds, and many picnics with relatives and civic organizations.

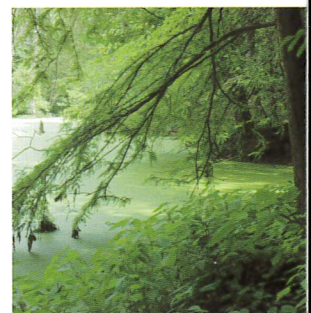
The Kern children, in naming this Preserve in honor of their mother, a devoted conservationist, stated: "Our mother had an abiding love of nature and the outdoors and an indomitable enthusiasm for life itself. It is especially appropriate to dedicate to her this beautiful piece of land that meant so much to our family. Preserving this land to protect a piece of Indiana's natural heritage will serve as a lasting memorial to Ruth Kern."

The Kern family, by providing 162 acres in the Bob Kern Nature Preserve (an Indiana Department of Natural Resources preserve east of Lake Manitou) and 149 acres in the Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve, has added 311 acres to those already preserved as public parks for future generations to enjoy.

A celebration of the Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve will be held on May 5th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please join us in celebration of the property's past and future, along with enjoying guided hikes, refreshments, and the company of old and new friends. Those who wish to bring their own picnic lunch are welcome to stay and enjoy the lovely woodlands.

This Preserve is expected to open for public use in July 2007.

Photos by Shane Perfect



Wild Caving

The Cavers' Motto: "Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time".

Photo by Rachel Sherman

Have you ever thought about exploring a cave? Well, if you went to the "Introduction To Caving and Underground Wilderness" on March 24th, you now have an idea of what caving is all about! But in case you didn't go, here's a quick review....

FOR YOURSELF AS A CAVER:

- Learn safe caving skills from responsible cavers.
- Know your limits, rest frequently, and watch for fatigue in others.
- Be properly dressed and equipped.
- Check the weather forecast before entering a cave.
- Keep moving and dress warmly.
- Let the slowest caver set the pace.
- If an immobilizing injury occurs, keep the injured caver warm, and seek help from a local cave rescue organization.
- If you get lost, conserve your light.
- Practice rope work on the surface under guidance of an expert before engaging in vertical caving.

FOR THE CAVE:

- Avoid disturbing cave organisms or their environment.
- Pack out everything you bring with you, including any trash you find.
- Carry appropriate containers to remove your urine and feces from the cave.
- Do not smoke or light fires in caves or near their entrances.
- Do not disturb archeological or paleontological artifacts.
- Do not damage formations or other surfaces of the cave.
- Stay on established trails to help keep other areas of the cave pristine.
- Participate in a project to preserve and rehabilitate caves, such as removing graffiti, picking up litter, and repairing broken formations.
- Educate landowners about the value of their caves.
- Clean karst features, such as sinkholes, that were used as trash receptacles.

Want to go caving? Contact the Northern Indiana Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). They are a club for people who are interested in caving, which members' ages range from the teens through the sixties. They are available to help you do it right and to teach you more about caves and caving.

You are welcome to attend one of their meetings held on the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain, 6043 Lima Road in Fort Wayne, IN.

If you have any questions about getting started, contact:

Karen Tadsen
Chairman of the
Northern Indiana Grotto
at bentbat@hotmail.com
or call (260) 249-0924

CAVING FAQ

(answers provided by the Northern Indiana Grotto)

1. What is a "grotto"?

A grotto is a club for people who are interested in caving (Like YOU!). The Northern Indiana Grotto is just ONE of 200 local chapters of the NSS.

2. What is the NSS?

The National Speleological Society – the largest organization on the world dedicated to protecting, conserving, exploring and studying caves, check out NSS at www.caves.org.

3. Is caving hard to do?

Well, caves can give you quite a workout! But each cave is different. If you are a beginner, we'll start you out with an easy beginner cave. Then you can decide if you want to try a more challenging caving adventure.

4. Do I need special equipment?

We will provide a helmet and light, and knee pads. All you need to bring is two other sources of light (like a flashlight) and a pack with a bottle of water, snacks, and 4 D batteries for the helmet light. Oh, and bring a camera, because you'll want to take pictures.

5. What should I wear?

Wear old clothes and bring a flannel shirt and sweatshirt so that you don't get cold. Also bring a pair of gloves to protect your hands and some shoes with good tread on the soles (like hiking shoes or work boots). Also bring some clothes to change into when we're done caving! (There's a GOOD chance you will get muddy!)

6. Where will we cave?

We usually take new cavers to the Bloomington, IN area, though sometimes we might go a little farther south. It's DEFINITELY worth the drive.

7. How long will we be in the cave?

Time goes by quickly when you're caving! Cave trips can last from an hour up to six hours or more. It depends on how long you want to cave. It's up to you!

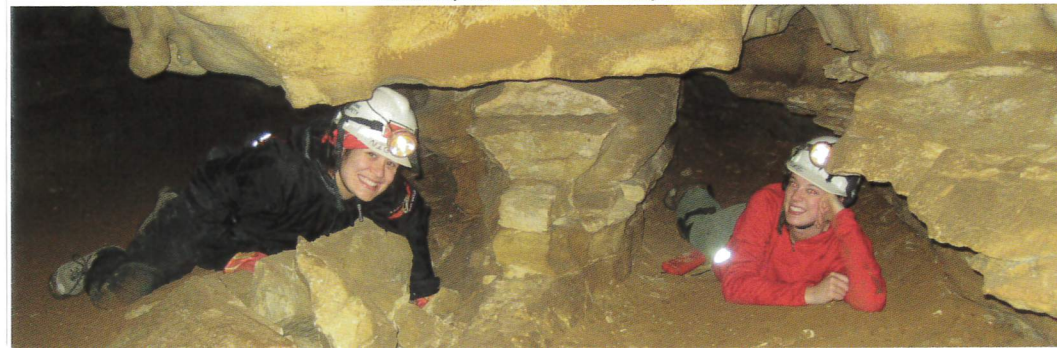
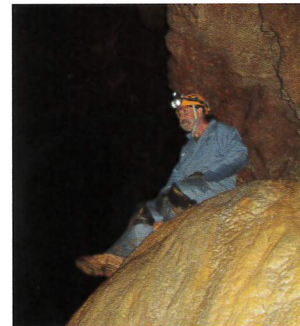
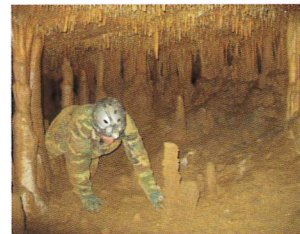
8. What if I panic and I want out of the cave?

Hey, if you're not having a good time, then we aren't having a good time! We'll take you back out of the cave right away, of course. But, I doubt that you'll want out. The air in caves is cool so there is little chance of you feeling "closed in." And you can choose not to do anything you feel uncomfortable with. So if there is a crawlway or area you don't want to go in, that's okay! We want you to have fun!

9. What will I see?

A world you've NEVER seen before! Beautiful formations, sparkles and colors! And you might even see cave critters, too! It's really hard to describe....(YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!)

Photo below by Rachel Sherman; Photos to the right, Karen Tadsen



For information on all programs, contact: ACRES Office at (260) 637-2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

1st Thursday of each month (May 3, June 7, July 5)

Presented by: Ethel McClelland and David Homan, Wildwood Nature Preserve Caretakers and ACRES staff

Join Ethel and David for breakfast while enjoying the amazing view from Wildwood's picture window. A hike will be offered both in the morning and evening (for those who either have to work, or cannot break away from bed). Breakfast at 7 a.m., hike at 8 a.m. AND 7 p.m. Anyone interested in scheduling a special hike for your group or forming a Wildwood Hikers group, call Wildwood at 260-352-2604.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. About 3 miles east of Silver Lake on State Rd. 14. Entrance is on south side of road. 1/4 mile east of County Farm Rd.



Downy Woodpecker by Paul McAfee

PICK A PRESERVE TO HELP OUT AT!

Saturday, April 28th 1-4 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

Work Day! Attack invasives this spring at the Beechwood Nature Preserve in Steuben County and Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary in Allen County. Remember to bring gloves, loppers, and handsaw, but most of all remember to bring yourself.

Where: Beechwood Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Fort Wayne take I-69 north to exit 154. Take SR 127 north and under the interstate, right at the park entrance and northward until you see the ACRES sign on your left. OR Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Allen County. Northeast of Huntertown. From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112B) travel north on Coldwater Road. Turn left (west) onto Fitch Road (almost 9 miles from the interstate), then left (south) onto Sunlight Lane. Park in the grass beyond the cul-de-sac.



ACRES archive photo

RUTH KERN WOODLAND PRESERVE CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 5th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

Join us in celebrating the properties past and future, along with enjoying guided hikes, refreshments and the company of old and new friends. See accompanying article on page 3.

Where: Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve, Fulton County. From Fort Wayne take SR 14 west to Rochester, IN (about 60 mi.) Take Old US 31 (Main St.) north approx. 4.5mi. to CR 450N. Turn left (west) and cross US 31 - go another 3.75 mi. and look for ACRES outing signs on your left.



Monarch Butterfly by Shane Perfect

WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS

Sunday, May 6th 2 p.m.

Presented by: Dr. David Hicks, Botanist at Manchester College

Enjoy Kokiwanee's wonderful wildflower display while learning about your favorites.

Where: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County. Meet at the south entrance of Kokiwanee. From Fort Wayne, take I-69 exit 102B and travel southwest on US 24 to Huntington. Take SR 9 by continuing straight at the traffic light intersection of SR 9 and US 24. After approx 3.5 miles, turn right (west) onto Division Rd., then drive 7.5 miles and turn left (south) onto 600 E. The state-owned Tailwater Fishing area parking lot will be about 1/2 mile on your right.



Beechwood by Shane Perfect

For information on all programs, contact: ACRES Office at (260) 637-2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

BRING NATURE TO YOUR GARDEN

Saturday, June 2nd 10-11 a.m.

Presented by: Laura Stine, Senior Landscape Designer, and Judith Nastally, Assistant Manager, Neuhaus Nursery

To follow up our success at the 2007 Home and Garden show, ACRES is partnering with Neuhaus Nursery with a program centered around gardening with native Indiana plants. Laura will walk you through the beautiful Stellhorn Rd. location while giving information about how to garden with native shrubs, perennials, and trees.

Where: 8046 Stellhorn Rd. Fort Wayne, Allen County. On the corner of Stellhorn and Geoglein between Maplecrest and Wheelock.



ACRES archive photo

CEDAR CREEK CLEAN UP

Saturday, June 9th 1-4 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES in partnership with Isaak Walton League of America and Cedar Creek Wildlife Project

ACRES is participating in the National River Cleanup Week from June 2nd through the 10th with an event on the 9th. Join us in keeping our scenic river just that by picking up debris.

Where: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County

NOBLE COUNTY BUS TOUR

Saturday, June 23rd 9a.m.-6p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

ACRES is hosting our first-ever county bus tour, which has several exciting stops. See page 9 for more details. **Seats are limited, RSVP by May 18th!** For additional information contact the ACRES office at 260-637-2273 or acres@acreslandtrust.org



Hepatica by Shane Perfect

BACKYARD HABITAT

Saturday, June 30th 10 a.m.

Presented by: Ellen Wamsley-Ley, certified backyard owner

Bring nature to your backyard! How? Join us in Ellen's backyard to find out the what, when, and where of inviting nature into your habitat. Ellen is a certified backyard owner, which means the Indiana Wildlife Federation has deemed it a wildlife-friendly habitat area. By the way, she lives right in the middle of Fort Wayne, literally. Come check it out!

Where: 3105 Santa Lisa Court, Fort Wayne, IN. 46805. Off of Vance Ave. between Hobson and Anthony.



Backyard Habitat by Ellen Wamsley

WING HAVEN OPEN HOUSES

Feel like a hike? Before donating it in her will, Helen Swenson spent much of her creative time in Wing Haven's art studio. Stop in and see what inspired her wonderful talent. First Sunday of each month: April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, and July 1st from 1-5 p.m.



Swenson Art Studio by Ethel McClelland

ACRESprojects

Completed Projects - THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

- Due to the exceptional weather in the fall and winter, and with the help of a volunteer, we were able to install new steps and railing at the Foster Preserve.
- Over 9 tons of scrap metal and numerous piles of glass and junk were hauled out of the Foxfire Preserve. Thanks to our volunteers!
- Wood Duck boxes were installed at Little Wabash River, Cypress Meadow, Wildwood, and Stark Nature Preserves by Tim Gerardot
- Mike and Rachel Heastan
- David Hirschy
- Kerry Hirschy
- Steve Ross
- Jennifer Kleinrichert
- Jack Stark



Bluebird box by Gary Darnell



Wood Duck box Volunteers

Although it was a meager response February 11th at the Boxes for Birds program, three great volunteers signed up to help with our bluebird homes. Gary Darnell and Bill Vonderan have already built and installed two homes at the Lloyd Bender and four at Fawn River Nature Preserves. Meanwhile, Laura Gooley has cleaned homes at many of the Allen County preserves. A regular volunteer at Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Christine Storey, has built and installed five houses there. Thanks also to Judith Nelson and Steve and Lynn Hossler for their help.

Saturday, June 23rd 9a.m.-6p.m

Our first-ever county bus tour has several exciting stops. The day begins with a tour of the **Mid-America Windmill Museum** in Kendallville, which has a collection of more than 45 mills. Then we will board a coach bus and travel to the **Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site**, former home of one of the world's first and best nature photographers. **Fashion Farm** will keep all entertained with choices of hayride, planting pumpkins, touring their extensive green house, or taking gardening lessons. The day ends at **Merry Lea's Reith Village**; an entire village operated by green technology: wind and solar power, porous cement, specific wood, paint, and other building materials. Naturally, an ACRES tour would not be complete without naturalist-guided stops at two ACRES nature preserves. Don't worry about going hungry – a light breakfast, lunch at the family-owned Fashion Farm restaurant, and snacks throughout the day will be provided to keep you well energized.

Cost: \$55.00, non-member fee: \$65.00.
Seats are limited, RSVP by May 18th!

Windmill by Shane Perfect

Dygartfunddrive

Major Contributions

John and Hester Adams Trust
Wayne and Linda Boyd
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Ewing Trust
IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
and IDNR Heritage Trust Fund
Patricia McNagny
Scott and Susan Miller
Family Fund

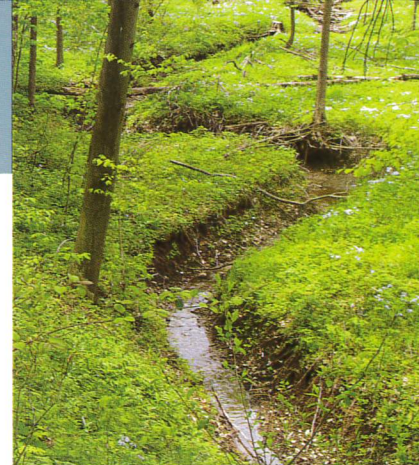
Over \$500

Janel Avery Rogers
James M. and Patricia D. Barrett
Robert Binder

Up to \$500

Cheryl Allen
Richard and Adrienne Baach
John and Joyce Bacone
Karen Ball
Carl and Barbara Bauer
Lowell and Judith Beineke
Mark and Mona Berghoff
Adam and Kathy Bottles
Dana Bromelmeier
Larry J. and Elizabeth R. Burke
Linda Bustamante
Charles and Frances Brown
Edward J. Cable
Leslie Carmin Hammer
Willard F. and Nena Clark
William J. and Marita S. Cline
Steve Cornelius
Rosemary Cortez
James and Linda Covell
Thomas Crowe
Pearl Curtis
Gary Darnell
Charles and Judy Dick
Andrew and Margaret Dirksen
Barry Dupen, Julie Davidson,
and Elena Dupen
James and Karen Farlow

Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Tony Fleming and Victoria Ferguson
Bruce A. Flohr
Thomas and Joan Foltz
Gary Forbing
Laura Frank
David and Mary Fyfe
Tim J. Gerardot
Albert Guillford
Mary K. Gynn
Virginia Harter
Catherine Henschen
Wade Hinton and Peg Maginn
John and Jackie Horn
David and Julia Hurley
Thomas Hurst
Lynn and Darlene Hyndman
Mark Jackson
Tina and Dan Jehl
Dr. Donald Jones and Cheryl Skibu-Jones
Glenn and Jean Kinduell
John Larsen
Louise Larsen
Mary G. Leggett
Robin Lemberger
Carolyn Linsenmayer
Cindy Loos
Richard Lutz
Louise Magoon
Richard and Sylvia Manalis
Ethyl McClelland
Don McCormack
Skip McKlem
Elizabeth McNagny
Peter J. and Daphne E. Mildred
Dr. Victor C. Moeller, MD
Kathryn L. Moore
Mary E. Myers
Norman R. and Sonia K. Myers
Ron and Ruth Nofzinger
Lila O'Connell
Kevin and Tamzon O'Malley
John and Julia Oldenkamp
Pat Oppor



Dygart by Shane Perfect

Ronald Patton
Patrick and Carolyn Pio
Herbert and Charlotte Read
Donald and Teresa Reiling
Barron Renkenberger
Dawn Ritchie
Paul E. Rothrock and Mary Ellen Rothrock
Lucas Satter
Tom and Doris Schlemmer
George and Betsy Schultz
Richard C. Sebald
Art and Betty Seddon
Jim and Gwen Seely
Robert and Vivian Shire
Kirk and Elizabeth Shuster
Jerry Stratman and Mary Dygart
Tom and Sandy Stucky
James Sweeney
Carol N. Telschow
Barry and Lynda Thelen
Jack and Carolyn Thrush
Daniel and June Walcott
Herb and Lorraine Weier
Marshall and Dottie Whitehurst
Mark and Denise Whittecar
Marty Wyal
David and Jane Young

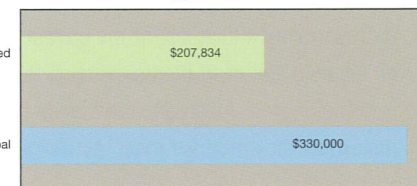
Dygart Fund Drive

Raised

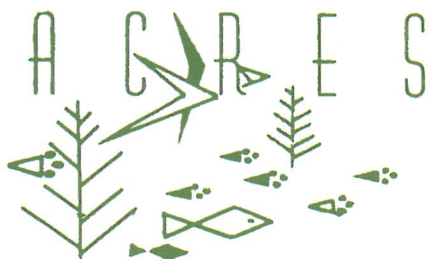
\$207,834

Goal

\$330,000



noble
county
bus tour



Spring Quarterly 1964

It is commonly said that man is the only animal that uses tools, and also that man is the only animal that has power to change his own environment. Neither of these statements is true.

A digger wasp uses a pebble to tamp down the earth over its buried incubator. A Galapagos finch takes a thorn in its bill to pry reluctant insects out of the crevices in which they are hiding. (This use of a tool by a bird was first observed on the Academy's expedition to the Galapagos Islands in 1905-06 by Edward W. Gifford, whose eye-witness account was regarded with considerable skepticism until David Lack in 1940 recorded the phenomenon in motion pictures exactly as Gifford had described it.) Undoubtedly other examples of the use of tools by animals could be cited. Nobody, to our knowledge, has made a serious study of this.

As regards modifications of the environment, all animals and even plants exercise this ability in some degree. Ants cultivate aphids for the honeydew they produce much as we raise dairy

cattle, and they transport the aphids to new pastures. Woodpeckers bore holes in trees to make their nets. Beavers fell trees, build dams and store water. Burrowing animals – ground squirrels, pocket gophers, moles, earthworms – are important agents in soil-improvement, turning over and aerating the soil, and facilitating penetration of rainfall.

Birds and animals are important agents in disbursing the seeds of plants. Plants themselves, in the very process of their growth, modify the water content and the chemistry of the soil in which they grow. A tree by its shade prevents many kinds of plants from growing beneath it, and encourages others which thrive in a shady environment.

Biologists have the problem of dealing with unforeseen consequences of changes man has brought about in the natural order. They are asked to restore fish to our streams and to save vanishing species of birds and animals. On the other hand, they are asked to control species that have become too abundant through reduction of their natural enemies, e.g., killing of predators. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the only way the biologist can make sound recommendations is through the study of these species in their natural environment.

Wilderness is not to be confused with

wasteland. It is not sufficient to have large areas of mountain and desert set aside as wilderness because they are of little use for anything else. We need wilderness areas of coniferous and of hardwood forests, and of ocean shore, and of meadow and prairie. In particular we need to save the very few remaining pieces of arable land untouched by the plow. Even small samples are better than none.

Wilderness areas, with limited access, are clearly of the highest importance to science as standards of reference – natural laboratories to which biologists of today and of the future can repair to answer the recurring question, "What was the natural order – what was the situation before man changed it?" R.C.M.

Portions of an editorial by Robert C. Miller. Reprint from *Pacific Discovery* (Vol. XII, No. 2, March-April 1959, p. 1), a bi-monthly publication of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

Memorials

Robert Griggs

for the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
from Peter and Mary Gustafson

Roy Allen

Avis June Gibson

June Stuff

for *Acres Along the Wabash*
from Kathleen J. Fuller

Neal McHoes and Skip McHoes

for the Land Acquisition and Management Fund
from A. Genevieve McHoes

Dale Rinehold

for the Little Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
from Kathleen J. Fuller

Virginia M. Adams

from Rosemarie Bostleman and Dick Young

Tributes

For Kokiwanee Nature Preserve

To Thomas and Leelia Cornell from James and Linda Cornell
To David Homan and Ethel McClelland from Tom Armstrong



Thank you to David Gall
for framing Helen Swenson's
hand-drawn Wing Haven map,
dated 1951.

Thank you to Kevin Schwartz
for completing your eagle scout
project - six benches which will
go to three different ACRES
preserves.

**Thank you to Korte & W.
C. Borchelt and Sons** for
donations of vent pipe as
baffling for Wood Duck boxes.

Little Cedar Creek Nature Preserve by Shane Perfect

Thank you to Britton Marketing and Design Group for donation of Quarterly design
and editing.

**A special thank you for the generous bequest of Mary G. Cook, a long time supporter
of ACRES.**



Kathryn Moore

A member since 1962, Kathryn Moore now
resides in St. Charles, Illinois. At a farewell
get-together last November, Kathryn Moore was
appreciated and praised for her contributions

during her time in northeast Indiana. Kathryn
grew up in the town her grandpa Grabill
founded. He persuaded the railroad to run
its tracks through this area. She has a
published book on the history of Grabill, titled
Remembering Grabill, Indiana 1902-1950.

Kathryn had many collections: bricks, baskets,
rocks, hats, masks, jewelry made of natural
origin, feathers, and stamps (her very first
collection) just to name a few. She loved
visiting the unusual and unique. Kathryn truly
loved nature and showed it by supporting
organizations that protected natural spaces.

We will miss Kathryn's presence in the area
and all the delightfulness she brings by loving
nature. Here at the ACRES office, we are
reminded daily of Kathryn through her artwork
that is displayed within the office.



Wood Duck by Paul McAfee

10th Year Spring Birdathon to Benefit

Wing Haven Nature Preserve

by Fred Wooley,
Former Caretaker of Wing Haven
and Interpreter at Pokagon State Park

This is the 10th year that the ACRES Land Trust has
fielded a team of birders in the annual Southwest
Michigan Team Birdathon. This year's May 19th event
will be the 19th annual such birdathon where teams
representing conservation organizations come to-
gether in the spirit of friendly competition and birding
to have fun and raise money for their
sponsoring organizations.

This year our intrepid birding team of Michael
Klingerman, Brad Bumgardner, and myself will be
setting out to break our team record of 137 species
(tallied in 2002) as we continue to raise money for the
Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

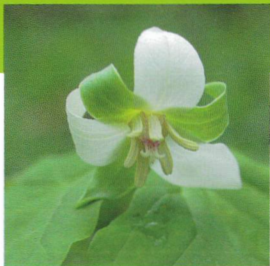
There continue to be repairs needed on the historic
structures and infrastructure of this unique nature
preserve. Visitors at the renewed first-Sunday-of-the-
month open houses and special events appreciate the
upkeep to the grounds and buildings. Last year, visi-
tors with eagle eyes enjoyed views of young sandhill
cranes as they nested across the lake from the Wing
Haven pier. Those who missed the cranes were still
treated to the lakeside views and the calls of yellow
warblers, marsh wrens and wood ducks.

Last year, you supported our efforts with \$2,688.20 in
pledges! That was a team record for us! Thank you!
We fell only \$54.00 short of reaching our 9-year goal

of \$15,000.00. We will certainly
pass that mark this year, and hope
to set a new annual record. The past
nine Birdathons, in addition to help-
ing with operating Wing Haven, have
also helped ACRES add 104 acres
to the original 160-acre Wing Haven
Nature Preserve AND add 57 acres
to the now 1,260-acre Pokagon
State Park.

How can you help raise money for
the Wing Haven Preserve? It's easy.
Simply fill out the form on the right
and send it in by May 19th (do it
today, while it is on your mind!).
Last year, our team saw 117 species
of birds. If you had pledged a nickel
a bird last year, you would have con-
tributed \$5.85. If you had pledged a
dime a bird, you would have contrib-
uted \$11.70...you get the idea! If
you want to challenge our team with
an extra \$5.00 for a specific bird,
maybe your favorite rare bird, please
do so. This is a fun way to raise
money for a very worthwhile cause.

Oh yes, as always, your contribution
is tax deductible as allowed by law.
Thank you!



**Don't let this be
your last Quarterly.
RENEW TODAY!**

Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Dues Schedule:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ☐ Life Member | \$1,500 |
| ☐ Benefactor | \$ 500 |
| ☐ Patron | \$ 150 |
| ☐ Share-the-Expense | \$ 75 |
| ☐ Club/Organization | \$ 50 |
| ☐ Family | \$ 40 |
| ☐ Individual | \$ 25 |
| ☐ Senior Citizen | \$ 15 |
| ☐ Student (through high school) | \$ 15 |
| ☐ Please send receipt | |
| ☐ Please send ACRES Brochure | |

I am sending an additional:

\$_____ Gift to the ACRES Land Acquisition
and Management Fund

\$_____ Gift toward the completion of the
following fund drive:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ☐ Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Marsh Wren/Indian River Nature Preserves | \$ _____ |

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail to:
ACRES Land Trust
1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, Indiana 46748-9723



Dogwood – ACRES Archive

Spring is part of the rhythm of our lives. We may try to influence its design by taking a vacation to a climate which suits our tastes, but most of us allow spring to be imposed on us by our choice of where to live.

Snow melt or spring rains may soften the lawns or saturate the streams. Migrating birds might pass overhead. Forests slowly turn green.

Spring is the new year in its infancy. Coming out of hibernation are crocuses, forsythias, tulips, trilliums, dogwoods, redbuds, azaleas, camellias, lilacs, rhododendrons, morel mushrooms and yes, even dandelions.

Untended fields and vacant lots benefit from the yellow glow of the persistent and ubiquitous dandelions. We tromp on them as we chase our kites, supported by the coquettish breezes.

To find trillium, dogwood and redbud we may drive through the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. Georgia may be where we awaken to wisteria, camellias and azaleas. Southern Indiana or northern Michigan may be our morel mushroom sanctuary. Mackinac Island in June is the place to be for lilacs. Pella, Iowa and Holland, Michigan are among the communities harboring and touting tulips.

Residents everywhere, from Sault Ste. Marie to the Florida Keys, preserve and encourage local beauty, from water fowl to flowering trees and plants. They do this not just for themselves but also for visitors.

Sometimes we are the resident. What will we do?
Sometimes we are the visitor. What will we see?

ACRES Land Trust
1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, IN 46748

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