

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



Annual Dinner
Joseph Decuis Wine Tasting
Dustin Legacy
Web Master - Tim Kimmel
Art Eberhardt Photography
Prairies of Indiana
Brammall Open House
Stoner and Fitch Mill Program
Freeloaders of the Forest

FALL 2005
Volume 44 - No. 4



Don't miss these fun events coming soon...

ACRES' Annual Dinner

Friday, November 11th

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Program - 8:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Seminary Dining Hall

6600 North Clinton Street - Fort Wayne

\$15 per person

Please RSVP before November 9th

Call the ACRES Office at 260-422-1004

Menu

Tossed garden salad with mandarin oranges and pecans, ginger pork tenderloin, herb roasted potatoes, green beans almondine, and fresh rolls. Chocolate, strawberry and lemon mousse, iced tea and coffee.

A Year in a Prairie

Guest Speaker: Kevin Tunesvick,

Manager of Spence Restoration Nursery in Muncie.

Spence is the oldest restoration nursery in Indiana, with 180 acres in seed production and more than 600,000 container grown plants. Working to restore prairies, wetlands and woodland under story, Kevin has specialized in native plants since 1995. Searching out minuscule remnants of prairies along roadsides and in cemeteries, Kevin is gathering together Indiana genotype seeds and plants to create a foundation seed collection. Learn about the plants, how Kevin works to restore these natural areas, and take home a wildflower sack of seeds for your own area.

ACRES' *Wine Tasting*

Support your local nature preserves
and enjoy a lovely afternoon of wine,
great food, jazz, and beautiful
nature photography at

JOSEPH DECUIS

Roanoke - Indiana
Saturday, October 15th
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WINES COURTESY OF
VISENTIN

\$40 per person - \$75 per couple — Call 260-422-1004

Last Chance to Make Your Reservations - Tickets are Limited!

To make dinner reservations following the event
Call Joseph Decuis at 260-672-1715

Reminder:

The election of new board members is in November, 2005. If you would like to nominate an individual to the ACRES Board of Directors, please do so by October 15th by contacting the ACRES office at (260) 422-1004.

Christmas membership: Give a gift of land protection for Christmas! In November, the ACRES Office will give everyone a chance to give a special Christmas membership for family and friends. Susan Britton is designing Christmas gift cards that you can either have sent by mail to the giftee or we can send the card to you to give on Christmas day.

WELCOME

newmembers!

New Life Member
Don Gorney



thanks

A big thank you for our radio hosts:

Ethel McClelland
Ben Roush - Wild Birds Unlimited
Deborah K. Russell, President -
Cheer Baskets and Anastasia's
Pete Nosek, General Manager -
Potawatomi Inn
Jerry Mackel, M.D. -
Fort Wayne Orthopaedics
Jeff Britton

Tributes

William J. and Marita S. Cline

For their support of land acquisition projects

Park and Paula Adams

*For many gifts to the Land Acquisition
and Management Fund*

John and Marcella Ellenwood

*For their spectacular photographs and great
help with many projects*

Ron and Wilma Ball

For their gifts to the Pokagon State Park project

Sharon Brommer

For her support of land acquisition projects

John Yoder - John Yoder Construction Company

For his help with the chimney at Emanuel M. Popp

Happy Birthday to Steve Ross

From Kurt and Linda Kleinrichert

**Big Happy "75th" Birthday to my sweet Mom,
Kathryn Lentz,** from Susan "Lentz" Britton

Neil and Laura Ainslie
Michael and Sandra Biegas
In memory of Jon Sigl
Charles Borneman Jr.
Adam and Kathy Bottles
Edward J. Cable
Dr. Ron and Mrs. Jane Caldwell
Gift of Julia and David Hurley
Scott and Rhonda Darley
Gift of David and Julia Hurley

Julie Ann Hanricks
Michael D. Harpel
Ed and Kerry Hirschy
Nick and Judy Hoot
John and Jackie Horn
Sam Hyde
Rex and Darla Johnson
Bud Kaiser *Gift of Rob Kaiser*
Dennis Kaiser *Gift of Greg Kaiser*
Greg Kaiser
Rob Kaiser
Tim Kaiser *Gift of Rob Kaiser*
Thane and Kylie Knox
Michael Mettler and Jamie Feters
Ben and Deanna Mains
Richard and Burniece McClelland
Gift of Michael Biesiada,
Jeanine Herold and Veronica
Steve and Jackie Mitchell
Dr. Robin Polt and Mrs. Nancy Hill
Kevin and Catalina Rupp
Mark and Mary Ann Schaefer and Family
Gift of David and Julia Hurley
Rickey and Carol Spallone
Robert James Thomas
Beverly S. Wagner
Joan Western
Gift of David and Julia Hurley

Hyde Brothers Bookstore

Fungus by Tim Kimmel



For more than 45 years, Thomas and Jane Dustin worked to protect land in the Cedar Creek valley. As dedicated environmentalists, they were involved in many battles to protect natural areas throughout the country, but first and foremost, their focus was Cedar Creek.

Thanks in large part to their efforts, more than 1,000 acres are now protected in this spectacular scenic river valley. In their estate, the Dustins have gifted to ACRES 28.5 acres of forested escarpment, including their arts and craft home. With a massive stone fireplace, wooden deck, and slate floors, the home blends in beautifully to the surrounding landscape.

ACRES has an option to purchase the 43.7-acre field that was part of the original Dustin property. If the offer is accepted, we will be starting a fund drive in November. Land in the Cedar Creek area is very valuable and it will be challenging to raise the necessary funds.

ACRES will continue to work to acquire land adjacent to Cedar Creek, continuing Tom and Jane Dustin's dedication to protecting this spectacular river valley.

Photos on this page by Shane Perfect, except for Checkerspot butterfly above by Tim Kimmel



ACRES Intern:

Rachel Sherman is working for ACRES as an Administrative Assistant. A Senior at University of St. Francis, Rachel is handling the membership and preserve databases, helping with programs, and working at the preserves.

She has been a welcome addition to the office!

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or visit acres-land-trust.org

THE BIG SIT

Sunday, October 9th - Presented by Sarah Hendricks, Environmental Educator, Fox Island County Park. Birding's most sedentary event! Great way to socialize and learn about birds. You sit and look for birds - it doesn't get any easier than this. Bird Count from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come anytime! 2:00 p.m. - Lecture on Ivory billed woodpecker by Sarah Hendricks, Environmental Educator, followed by panel discussion about local conservation efforts, including ACRES. Where: Fox Island County Park, Allen County. Take exit 201 (West Jefferson and West 24), head west on US 24, look for Wendy's on left. Turn left onto Ellison Road and go 3 miles, look for Fox Island on left. Contact: Sarah Hendricks at (260) 449-3180



Rose-breasted grosbeak by Tim Kimmel

ACRES WINE TASTING

Saturday, October 15th at Joseph Decuis -See page 3 for details.



Fungus by Tim Kimmel

GLENNWOOD NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday, October 22nd at 10:00 a.m. - Presented by Dr. Mike Bosela, Assistant Professor of Biology, IPFW. One of ACRES most beautiful preserves in the fall, this Indiana Heritage site is a circumneutral bog, meaning its PH is right between acidic and alkaline. The "quaking" bog site was once Willet's Lake, but is now covered with a floating mat of sphagnum moss, cattails, and an amazing variety of ferns. A gift to ACRES in 2003 from Steve and Lynn Hossler, the 37-acre preserve is one of our botanical treasures. Where: Glennwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. Take US 30 west of Warsaw. Turn north on 700 W and 700 W will dead-end into the preserve. Park at the blue gate where the trail to the preserve starts.

RAISE THE ROOF SING-A-LONG!

Sunday, October 23rd - 2:00 p.m. - Presented by: Lisa and Mark Woolever.

Come sing along, dance along and even play along with Lisa and Mark Woolever! Duo will do a lively variety of old-time music - ranging from pioneer fiddling to steel drum, to sea shanties, to Native American Indian tunes. Rhythm instruments will be available so everyone can play along with Native American melodies. Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Pokagon State Park exit (Exit 154). Turn south on SR 127 and immediately left onto 400 N. Preserve located on north side of 400 N in 1 mile.



fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or visit acres-land-trust.org

Emanuel M. POPP OPEN HOUSE

Friday, October 28th - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon -

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff, Caretaker

A gift of Jeannette Kent to the citizens of northeast Indiana, the Emanuel M. Popp Preserve is a dedicated state nature preserve. Come out to hike the old-growth woods, visit the charming Popp cottage, and Larry will be hosting a hot dog roast. Wild Walkers is having a hike at the preserve on the same day. Where: Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69 to Tonkel Road. Turn north on Tonkel Road and go 1 1/2 miles.



Emanuel M. Popp Preserve by Larry Biggerstaff

PROGRAM WITH STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SANDHILL CRANES at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area



Sandhill cranes By Richard Fields

Saturday, November 5th - TWO DEPARTURE TIMES

9:00 a.m. for general birding in the afternoon - Pack a lunch

2:00 p.m. for cranes only. Both trips return 9 to 9:30 p.m., stopping for a fast food supper on the way back. Leaders: Jim Haw and Ed Powers for A.M. Ted Heemstra for P.M. Where: Meet in Fort Wayne at the southwest corner of Park West Plaza, corner of Jefferson Ave. and Illinois Road. Park West Plaza north of Jefferson Pointe. Contact: Jim Haw, Stockbridge Audubon at (260) 485-7802 or ACRES at (260) 422-1004.

ACRES ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING

Friday, November 11th - See page 2 for details

11TH CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG!

Sunday, December 4th - Get in the holiday spirit at Wing Haven's log cabin with joyful singing! Join Jim Shearer and Art and Marion Eberhardt for this favorite holiday event. Sharon Smith will cater her rum balls and other delights. 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.

WILD WALKERS HIKES

Presented by: Mike Graves, Outdoor Education Coordinator, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.

Friday, October 14th — 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

—**Olin Lake Nature Preserve** Carpool from the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation office at 7:30 A.M., located at the corner of State and Parnell streets **OR** meet at the Olin Lake Nature Preserve at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, October 28th — 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

—**Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve**

(ACRES Preserve open by permission only) Meet at the Preserve entrance. Stay for Larry Biggerstaff's hot dog roast after the hike! Contact Mike Graves at Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation at (260) 427-6005.



Trail by Tim Kimmel

Memorials

Frances Nevin

For my precious aunt Frances, the most wonderful person I have ever known
for the Scott and Frances Nevin Nature Preserve
from "Brat" Judy Shaw

Alexander Ropchan

Brother of Sam Ropchan and shared his interest in conservation
for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from David M. Ropchan

Jim Western

for the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve
from Julia and David Hurley

Jon D. Sigl

Friends from all over the country, nature conscious, snow skier, good person
for the additions to Pokagon State Park
from Fred and Joanne Anderson
Michael and Diana Anstett
Sandra Baade
Craig and Ann Benson
Michael and Sandra Biegas
Jack and Anita Dierkes
Paul and Janet Estes
Phil and Judy Gibson
Robert and Jacqueline Godfrey
Donald and Rene Scheimann
Dale and Judy Zinn

ACRES web site gets an upgrade...



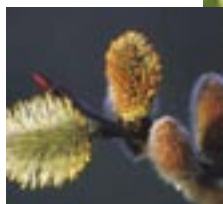
Photo of Tim by Shane Perfect

thanks to Web Master Tim Kimmel

The best way to find out what is happening with ACRES and to get maps to the preserves is our excellent web site, operated by Tim Kimmel. The web site is very interactive, with a section call "Notes from the Field", with recent sightings at the preserves and announcements, which is updated regularly and keeps everyone informed on events. Starting in early 2006, "Open Projects" will have volunteer opportunities for groups or individuals. With 57 nature preserves, we need help in maintaining the preserves. Ethel McClelland, ACRES Land Management Specialist, will be coordinating volunteer efforts. Other highlights of the web site: Play one of the "Nature Trust" radio spots featuring Jeff Britton and Jon Gillespie; tour a virtual hike of an ACRES preserve; or find maps, descriptions, and photographs of the different nature preserves.

www.acres-land-trust.org

Art



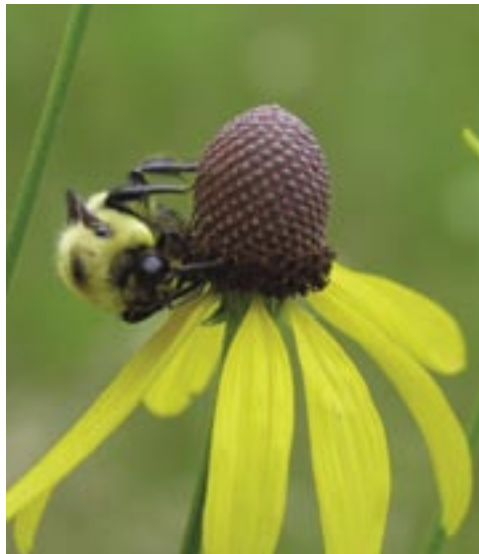
For more than 40 years, Art Eberhardt has steadfastly given his guidance and efforts to preserving natural areas in Indiana. Serving on the ACRES Board of Directors from 1964 to 2004, Art has documented the history of the people and places of ACRES - taking hundreds of photographs and creating videos of Pokagon State Park and ACRES. Thru it all, Art has protected many great memories with his photography.



Prairies

By Nate Simons, ACRES Board Member

Photos of ACRES' Tel-Hy and Wildwood prairies by Tim Kimmel



"Indiana was once so thickly covered with trees when the pioneers arrived that a squirrel could cross the entire state from east to west without setting foot on the ground." So went the quote I remembered from fourth grade Indiana history class. And so I believed, until I discovered prairies. The central and southern parts of the state may have been densely forested, but a northern Indiana squirrel would have had a tough time making a straight-line westward trip by tree (unless he was a flying squirrel).

Little understood even by botanists and naturalists until almost the mid-twentieth century, these essentially treeless landscapes were thought to be barren lands...incapable of growing anything of substance. Defined by soils thick with organic matter from decomposing plant roots, a dense sod of native grasses and wildflowers (called forbs), extremes in temperature and moisture, and a dependence upon fire to sustain them, these sun-drenched ecosystems covered approximately thirteen percent of the land surface of the state. Charles Deam, Indiana's premier botanist, estimated that nearly every northern Indiana county had at least an acre of prairie at one time. Some





counties in northwest Indiana (White and Newton Counties for example) were entirely covered by this landscape type. Although generally dominated by open oak and hickory woodlands, the northeast Indiana counties of Lagrange and Steuben contained several large, thousand-plus acre tracts of treeless land. The first settlers encountered these openings in the oak woodland and discovered that they did not need to spend valuable time clearing trees before planting their first crop of wheat. The place names still remain...Pretty Prairie, Lima Prairie, English Prairie, Jackson Prairie...on cemetery entrances and old country churches.

Prairies are the most botanically diverse ecosystems on earth next to rainforests. High quality remnant prairies contain approximately twenty plant species per 1/4 square meter. Dominated by knee-to-head-high grasses like Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, and Side-Oats Grama, Indiana prairies featured a six-month long, ever-changing display of color. The canvas of verdant grass was stroked with violets, purples, and golden yellows from composite family members such as Blazing Star, Tall Coreopsis, Prairie Dock,

Stiff Goldenrod, and Smooth Aster. The legumes were also well-represented by the likes of White Wild Indigo, Showy Tick Trefoil, and Lead Plant dabbling the masterpiece with whites, mauves, and purples. The painting was alive with the flutter of butterflies, the buzz of native pollinators, and song of grassland birds.

Few places like this remain in Indiana, or in the world. The landscape that greeted early pioneers nearly disappeared with the introduction of the plow and the cessation of landscape fires. Now less than a tenth of one percent remains of the original prairie. Remnants of this once familiar scene can still be found where plow was forbidden and where fires occasionally escape. Old pioneer cemeteries and little used railroad rights-of-way contain the stuff for which squirrels touched the earth. These vestiges contain the seeds of hope for a renewed landscape...a northern Indiana landscape dotted once again with small oceans of grass, a pallet-full of color, the activity of nectar and seed-seekers, and the blaze of fire.

Come to the ACRES Annual Dinner and Meeting on November 11th to hear Kevin Tunesvick talk on "A Year in a Prairie". See Page 2.





Stoner and Fitch Mill Program



Dr. Jerry Mackel and Dr. Frederick Mackel photo by Shane Perfect

More than 50 people attended the “Stoner and Fitch Mill Sites” program on Saturday, September 24th. Dwight Fouts, President of the Stockdale Mill Foundation, led the hike with his wife Suzanne and Bud and Joanne Rise.

From 1827 to 1885, 35 Allen County mills were operated as sawmills, grist mills and flouring mills. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Frederick and Mrs. Alfrieda Mackel and Dr.

brammallnaturepreserveopens



On August 20th, ACRES had an open house at the new Terry and Nancy Brammall Nature Preserve, located three miles east of Angola on the north side of SR 20. More than 50 people attended and Dr. Paul Rothrock led a wildflower hike. Terry Brammall was



unfortunately unable to attend, as he is awaiting a transplant in Ohio, but his wife Nancy greeted their friends and new visitors to the preserve.

Dean Light and Mary Ann Castleman with
Nancy Brammall (center) by Paul Rothrock
Photos of preserve by Tim Kimmel



Jerry and Mrs. Molly Mackel,
ACRES protects two of the 35
mill sites that were originally
in Allen County: the Fitch Mill
and the Stoner Mill.

Stoner Mill from archives
Hike Day by Shane Perfect





Earlier this summer, I was hiking one of the trails near Pokagon State Park's wetland. As I walked along the trail, the canopy grew thicker and the sunlight began to fade. The forest floor changed from rich wildflower- green to the earthen-brown of fallen oak leaves. Suddenly "something" caught my eye not ten feet away. I say "something" because usually if I cannot give a name to a plant I can generally tell that it is either a wildflower or fungus, but I had no idea where to place this. It looked liked someone had taken a handful of pinecones and planted them vertically in one small clump. If I cannot identify a plant in the field, I will do the next best thing; take a photo to look up later. I got down on my stomach to take a picture at "ground level." At this vantage point, one clump grew into four, scattered in a twenty-foot radius. When I returned home, I downloaded my images and started searching through every wildflower and fungi book I had. As it turned out, my "something" was an herb called squawroot.

Squawroot (*Conopholis Americana*), is a member of the Broomrape family. This parasitic plant is usually found near red oaks. The spike is thick, fleshy, and cream-colored, about three to eight inches in height with yellowish white flowers. It emerges sometime in April and in late spring or early summer begins blooming from the bottom up. Squawroot will continue to bloom for about three weeks. Propagation occurs by developing flowering spikes from its roots or by reseeding itself through animal droppings. It is believed that the tiny seeds will only germinate near an actively growing root tip of the red oak. The seed's first root or radicle grows into the oak's root until it connects with the vascular

Freeloaders of the Forest

By Sue Kern

tissue. The Squawroot root then changes into a specialized organ called a haustorium, which absorbs water and other nutrients directly from the oak's root. As summer progresses into fall, the plant will wither and turn brown. By the time winter rolls around it has become shriveled and black.

When we purchased our six acres of woods, I made up my mind that by the end of the first summer I would learn everything there was to know about my beech-maple forest. One of the books I was reading stated that an associate of beech was beechdrops. Ok, it has some connection with chewing gum? I soon discovered that beechnut was the gum and beechdrops were plants that could be found around the bases of beech trees. That did not seem so difficult. All I had to do was search around the trees and eventually I would locate it. Those of you who are familiar with beechdrops know that they have no beautiful flowers, no pleasing scent, and are short plants bearing a striking resemblance to a bunch of dead sticks. It took me almost one month to locate and identify these associates of my beloved beech trees.

Beechdrops (*Epifagus virginiana*), can only be found near an American beech.

Lacking chlorophyll, these annuals parasitize the roots of this tree for survival. Ranging in height from five inches to around a foot and a half, their stick – like stalks have tubular braches with scale-like leaves held flat



against the stem. The upper flowers are the only colorful part of this plant. They are reddish, brown, or yellowish with purple stripes, but they are sterile. The lower flowers are cleistogamous, meaning that they are self-pollinating and produce the seeds but never open. Botanists believe these seeds are dispersed by rain and germinate in the spring. Beechdrops mature slowly. By July, they are still only a half-inch tall, appearing on the soil as small white tubercles. The plant is fully mature by late August. It will bloom until October, but by the end of November, the plant dies. It is fortunate for the beech that beechdrops are annuals. As this plant grows, it receives its nutrients by encasing its "roots" around the beech roots. If the beechdrops did not die in November it could severely damage the tree.



It is now the "dog days" of mid August. The spring gala is over and its participants have returned to their day-to-day routines. The mayapple's blossom, with a fragrance no perfume can rival, is gone. Its leaves have changed from vivid green to pale lime. The Wood Thrush that greeted the sunrise and sang until the trees were covered in shadows is now silent. I have gone hiking today, not to dismay the end of spring but to search for an old friend. About this time, every year, I will suffer through stifling humidity, hordes of mosquitoes that seem to locate every area of exposed skin, to seek out Indian pipe. Like a good friend, it is waiting for me, in almost the exact same spot. As I kneel down to photograph it, I imagine a stark white, bony finger, bent at the first digit, trying to escape from its earthly tomb. In a couple of weeks, it will blacken and then disappear for yet another year.

Indian pipe (*monotropa uniflora*), is a "flowering plant" belonging to the same family as blueberries! It's ghostly – white translucent stem covered with small scale-like leaves rises four to ten inches above the leaf litter. It will always be found in the deep shade of the forest; lacking any chlorophyll, there is no need to see the sun. It has no true roots, just a dense mat of root fibers. Without chlorophyll, leaves, or roots, how can this plant survive? This was something that puzzled scientists for decades. It was first thought that Indian pipe was a parasite living off other plants.

That idea was soon dismissed because it lacked roots and was never found attached to anything. Next, they believed it was a saprophyte that survived on decaying plant matter. That theory was also discarded. How could it live off decaying matter without any roots? Botanists have finally classified them as obligate myco-heterotrophs, which is a fancy way of saying they form a sort of ménage à trois among themselves, a fungus, and a tree. The fungus in this case is a species of either *Russula* or *Lactarius*. This fungus provides essential nutrients and water to its host tree in exchange for sugars that only green plants can produce. Root filaments from the fungus then connect with the Indian pipe furnishing it with nutrients. In turn, the Indian pipe will provide the fungus with a type of "fertilizer" that helps it increase in growth and population, which provides more nutrients for the tree.

With everything going on underground why bother with the stalk? Do not forget, it is a flowering plant and needs to reproduce. Each plant has a single, white, five-petaled flower that, that when young tilts downward. After fertilization, the flower turns upward, the stalk thickens and turns black. The seed capsule splits open releasing tiny, sawdust-like seeds into the air.



Indian pipe by Tim Kimmel
Squawroot and Beechdrops by Sue Kern



ACRES' MISSION

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

2000 North Wells Street
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email: acreslt@fwi.com

acres-land-trust.org

Butterflies in winter

THE **BACK** PAGE

By Guest Writer and ACRES Director , Jeff Britton

If ever there is a vision of the warmer seasons, it is the site of butterflies floating above a garden of beautiful flowers. Soft iridescent wings fluttering and darting. Perhaps you know some of the names and look for fritillaries, angle wings, painted ladies, skippers, satrys and nymphs.

A commonly recognized butterfly is the monarch. As the weather begins to cool, it begins a remarkable migration of thousands of miles. But they are the exception. Most butterflies stay right where they are...here in the midwest...all year long. Butterflies hibernate. Whether or not a butterfly hibernates is dependent on species and the time of the year it has emerged from its cocoon. Butterflies that hatch early in the season mate and lay eggs. Those that hatch later in the year are the ones required to hang on for dear life all winter long, as do any remaining caterpillars, pupae or eggs.

How do they do it? How does such a fragile creature like a butterfly endure the rigors of winter? Location, location, location. Any location that keeps them out of the wind and provides some measure of insulation is essential. As the weather cools and the food sources diminish, a butterfly's metabolism slows down as it enters diapause. Butterflies find space in leaf litter on the forest floor or under a porch. They crawl down deep in the crevice of tree bark like shagbark hickory or within the deep fissure in the bark of oak or willow trees to rest for the winter months. You might find them in old bird houses or in hollow trees looking very much like a dead leaf. All these places provide shelter for overwintering butterflies. Not all of the hibernating butterflies make it. They may have been attracted to a hole used by some other creature counting on a little warmth only to be eaten or damaged in the movement of the animals.

Woodpeckers forage all winter long prying in every nook and cranny seeking some source of protein even if it is half frozen. So...if you consider these fragile creatures when you are tucked into your own down comforter on a blustery winter night...you can't help but appreciate them a little more when you see them again next spring. In fact, it wouldn't hurt if you planted a few more of those cone flowers or butterfly bushes you were thinking about.

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

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