

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



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Fall 2007
Volume 46 - No. 4



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Were you born in 1945, do you visit one or two ACRES nature preserves each year, and would you like to attend an outdoor concert at a preserve? If so, you are in good company, as this describes the “average” ACRES member.

Many of you participated in a survey that was conducted in early summer. Thank you! A full report of the survey results will be published in a future Quarterly, but I couldn't help giving you a sneak preview.

What surprised me most is that the majority of members do not utilize our preserves very often. About 88% of respondents make fewer than five visits to a preserve each year. I understand that for some there are physical limitations, and all of us can place a high value on the preserves without ever visiting them, but what an underutilization of such a significant resource!

ACRES now owns 61 nature preserves totaling over 4,200 acres. Each of ACRES' preserves are protected for a reason – they contain something of great natural significance. Spectacular forests, wetlands, grasslands, and geological features comprise the preserves. Beyond that, did you know that you can find in your ACRES preserves the following: more native orchid varieties than in Hawaii, numerous waterfalls, jellyfish (yes, native, fresh water jellyfish), trees over five feet in diameter, glow-in-the-dark mushrooms, Brushwood School made famous in Gene Stratton Porter's book, fairy shrimp, a collection of outhouses, ancient ocean reef fossils, and many rare or endangered plant and animal species?

It's all out there waiting to be discovered in your nature preserves. As Jeff Britton states on our statewide radio program, Nature Trust, “Get out there, take a hike!”

In an effort to help pique your interest in the preserves, this quarterly is premiering a two-page photo designed to bring a glimpse of an ACRES nature preserve to you. We devoted this space in the Quarterly for the photograph to serve as a vivid reminder of why ACRES exists – to preserve natural areas in northeast Indiana.

Make an effort to visit preserves this fall – they truly are amazing and ever-changing places. While at the preserves, be sure to record your visit at the sign-in box. Documented visits provide us, donors, and grantors with validation that we are meeting the needs of the public.

Discover nature, re-discover yourself.

Happy Hiking,



Jason Kissel

Cover and center spread by Stephen Perfect

Fungus (this page) by Shane Perfect

acres annual dinner & program

Friday, November 9th, 2007
6:00 – 7:55 p.m. Silent Auction
6:30 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program



MENU

Spinach and cherry salad with feta cheese, red onion and vinaigrette dressing

Apple and almond-stuffed chicken

Tri-roasted potatoes

Key West blend vegetables, pumpkin roll dessert

Vegetarian Entrée: Vegetable lasagna

with same sides as above (please request at reservation)

Cost for Dinner: \$20 / person -- You are welcome to attend the program if you cannot attend the dinner.

To make your reservation, contact the ACRES office by

November 1st.

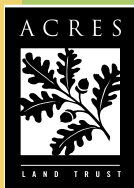
Program: Jason Kissel, ACRES' executive director, will provide an overview of accomplishments in 2007 along with presenting the strategic plan that will guide ACRES through 2012. The remainder of the program will highlight projects in ACRES' southern counties. Jason will make an exciting announcement concerning Munro Nature Preserve, and Ken Brunswick, IDNR regional ecologist, will provide an update on the restoration of the Limberlost Swamp. Ken will also highlight other nature preserves within the area. This program will inspire a greater desire within you to explore and participate in ACRES' projects within the impressive, but often under-utilized southern counties of ACRES service area.

Where: Concordia Lutheran Seminary dining hall
6600 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne
Visit ACRES website for Concordia directions and parking map.

Silent Auction: *We are seeking donations of ACRES-appropriate items for the silent auction. If you would like to donate an item, please notify ACRES by November 1st with a description and the value of your contribution.*

WELCOME
new
members!

John Arnold
Mike and Dana Baker
Brett and Kristie Bayan
Gift of Daniel and Terry Wilson
Kristen Bell
Gary Bendig
Mary Helen Bink
Gift of Mike and Dana Baker
Brad Bonnett
Margit Codispoti
Edward L. Crago
Gladys M. Cronise
Gift of Scott Nevin
Edwin Dally
Chris Dunn
Fort Wayne Structural Products Corp.
Patrick Griffin
Elizabeth Hasenmyer
Dawn Henderson-Davis
Kevin Leech and Deborah Hoehn
Kevin Kissel
Regina Leffers
Bob and Joy Maassel
Ron Marhenke
Jane Martin
R. L. Planck, D.C.
Dick and Carol Schwartz
Mark and Ann Shure
Mary Jane Slaton
Henry Smietana
Merrill Swaidner
Wabash River Heritage
Corridor Commission
M. Pat Ward
Robin Wilson
Jack Zenz
Megan Zink



ACRES' MISSION

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



1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, IN 46748-9723
260-637-ACRE (2273)
email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org

BENDER MEMORIAL FOREST NATURE PRESERVE

by Rachel Sherman

This Quarterly features the Bender Memorial Forest Nature Preserve on the center page. In 1966, Lloyd W. Bender donated 116 acres to ACRES. This property was the fifth preserve acquired by ACRES.

On the south branch of the Little Elkhart River, the Bender Memorial Forest contains a variety of plant communities: upland oak-hickory forest, old fields, and a lowland forest and sedge meadow. One of the most scenic natural features of the property is the old growth lowland forest adjacent to the river, where royal and cinnamon ferns grow. The meandering broad floodplain in this area is known as “the spreads” of the Little Elkhart River. Sizeable tree species on the property include swamp white and burr oaks, red elm, black willow, green and black ash, cottonwood and red maple. Because of its natural quality, 61 of the 116 acres have been dedicated through IDNR’s Division of Nature Preserves.

Lloyd Bender was a man of many talents, holding 32 different jobs in his lifetime. He was a teacher for 29 years and was the first to use visual aids in rural schools. LaOtto York Center was one rural school district Mr. Bender put on the map. Bender also started what had become an international organization for rural children. His group of “farm kids” was known as the Cooperative Study Club, which eventually turned into the international organization Rural Youth. Other civic duties included serving as founding president of the Noble County Historical Society and preserving the old



Photo by Shane Perfect

Albion Jail. This amazing man was a selfless giver not only to the environment but also to other aspects that make life worth living, until his death in 1979.

Be sure to visit the Bender Nature Preserve in Noble County to enjoy scenes such as the center page photograph, fall mushrooms, and many hours of serenity.

Lloyd W. Bender’s mother, Nellie Grace Bender, wrote several poems during her lifetime. On the next page is an autumn-themed poem from *Nellie* a compilation of her poetry.



Autumn

Autumn is like a Gypsy

Dancing and nodding her head

With gay scarf flying around her

Bright orange, yellow, and red

Her glances may freeze or warm you

All nature by this queen is led

Her couriers follow with blankets

For she puts all green things to bed!

– Nellie Grace Bender

SPECIAL THANKS!

Photo by Shane Perfect

Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

for awarding ACRES a \$10,000 grant in support of Nature Trust, our radio broadcast!

Matt Nietert Family for underwriting the cost to construct and install a road sign for the Vandolah Nature Preserve

Volunteer Naturalist: Gary Helmke for the creation of Dustin plant species list

Dave Brumm for organizing board minutes

Brad Lackey for donation of riding mower

Stewards

Nature Preserve stewards are individuals who devote repeated attention and care to a particular ACRES' preserve. Stewards "adopt" a nature preserve and perform some or all of the maintenance activities required throughout the year. With 61 nature preserves, ACRES certainly appreciates the helping hand that the stewards provide. Listed below are stewards who graciously support ACRES by maintaining their local nature preserve.

Jim Anderson for trail maintenance

Greg Batten, Gary Bogunia, Greg Schaller and Steve Wilson

Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve mowing and trail maintenance

Scott Beam for mowing Maplewood

Larry Biggerstaff for Emmanuel M. Popp mowing and trail maintenance

Sam Boggs & Ralph Thiele

for mowing Beechwood

Willis and Ruth Brown

for Munro Stewardship

Jon and Gloria Foor for mowing and trail maintenance at Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run and Kokiwanee

Clyde and Becky Ford

Lloyd Bender Preserve stewardship

Rod Hanes for mowing Seven Pillars

Richard Harber for mowing Fawn River

David Homan and Ethel McClelland

for mowing and trail maintenance of Wildwood

Robb Kaiser for mowing at the Madison School House site

Tim Kimmel & Nate Klikner for mowing, trail maintenance and step installation at Tel-Hy

Matt Lennon for Detering and Lonidaw

Ellen Ley for mowing and trail maintenance at Mengerson

Ralph May for mowing and trail maintenance at Bibler

Spurgeon Family - Wing Haven stewardship

New Wing Haven Caretakers



Wing Haven Studio by Art Eberhardt



by Jason Kissel

After two years serving as caretakers of Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Brad Bumgardner and Amber Edwards have resigned their duties and moved to northwest Indiana. Brad accepted the position of Head Interpretive Naturalist at Indiana Dunes State Park. His position involves heading up the Interpretive Services and Nature Center, as well as natural resource management on the 2,000-acre property. ACRES congratulates Brad on his exciting new job and thanks both Brad and Amber for their service to ACRES.

As one would expect, we had a lot of interest from individuals desiring to serve as caretakers of Wing Haven. Board members Chris Dunn, Jack Stark and myself interviewed several applicants and choose the Spurgeon family as the new caretakers for Wing Haven.

Bill and Dawn Spurgeon have been residents of the Angola area since childhood. They are high school sweethearts and have been married for 11 years. They have three beautiful daughters: Sydney age eight, Josie age two, and Mazzy who will be one year old in December.

Bill works at a local autobody shop and Dawn is at home with their daughters, whom they homeschool. In their spare time Bill likes to blacksmith and Dawn likes to do all kinds of crafts. As a family they participate in outdoor activities including camping, hiking, and canoeing. They also love spending time with family and friends whenever they have the opportunity.

The Spurgeons have already made numerous repairs and improvements to the Wing Haven buildings and are preparing programs and events for all ages to enjoy. Be sure to say hello and welcome the Spurgeons next time you meet them on the trails of Wing Haven. Welcome to Wing Haven and ACRES' Spurgeon family!



The Greatest River

of the Great Lakes Means Great Opportunities

Maumee River by Shane Perfect

by Donn P. Werling

The greatest river of the Great Lakes. No, I am not talking about the Grand River of Michigan, or the Chicago River for that matter, but rather the Maumee River, whose significant watershed and flow into Lake Erie should give it more fame than it receives.

What the river is to those who have taken the time to read its landscape makes it a heritage river where natural and cultural features abound. Since 1931, planners, preservationists, and historians have dreamed of preserving the river's character, thus enabling future generations to enjoy it for the natural resource it is, not just to drive by or over it.

After the Maumee torrent drained glacial Lake Maumee, paleo history left the old beach ridges of State Road 37 on the north, left US 30 to the south high and dry. The Great Black Swamp was left in between, all the way to Toledo. Few remnants of the swamp that rivaled the Everglades are left, but a few jewels remain.

The unbridled river provides habitat for herons, egrets, and even an occasional eagle. The river's edges are also home to trees among the largest in the region including a five-foot diameter white oak. Johnny Appleseed rowed up the Maumee's current with his apple seeds to establish three nurseries located on the

north bank of the river from Bruick Road to the Ohio state line. The river edge trees form an almost unbroken riparian forest on 20 to 30 foot bluffs where at least two pre-Columbian Indian burial mounds have been undisturbed for almost a millennia.

We call it the Maumee River today. An early Miami Indian name for the river was "Ottawasapeki" or "standing rock river." Perhaps the Miami took note of a Volkswagen van-sized boulder that stands upright in the middle of the river, the triangulated centerpoint of three ancient Indian burial mounds. The rock must be one of the larger glacial erratics brought down from the Canadian shield, and it is the only rock of such dimensions on the upper Maumee. Perhaps it was viewed as the signal stone for the Miami that they were nearing the village of Kekionga.

As the executive director of the Allen County Fort Wayne Historical Society, I have led many tours of the river highlighting its history and would be happy to do so for my fellow members of ACRES. The History Center's number is 426-2882, ext. 310.





fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

WING HAVEN STUDIO EVENTS

Presented By: The Spurgeon family, Wing Haven Caretakers

Oct. 7th 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. "The Spoonwright" Tim Cooper will be carving one-of-a-kind woodenware in the studio utilizing traditional hand tools.

Nov. 4th 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Stop by the studio to learn about the latest ACRES news and activities, or just stop in to warm up by the wood stove after a brisk hike in the preserve.

Dec. 2nd 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Come enjoy the music of the Folk Weather Girls, featuring Nancy Blough and Lois Loucks. Take a step back in time while enjoying the sounds of the folk harp, mountain dulcimer, autoharp, and penny whistle played by musicians in period clothing. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Angola, go north on N. Wayne St. four miles. Turn right (east) onto 400 N. For parking closest to the studio, enter at the gated driveway on the left, after 1/2 mile.



Wing Haven Studio by Jason Kissel

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

1st Thursday of each month: November 1st and December 6th.

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 of wild birds from Wildwood's picture window. Breakfast will be followed by a refreshing morning hike. Breakfast is served at 8:00 a.m., and the hike begins at 8:30 a.m. **Where:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. About 3 miles east of Silver Lake on SR 14. Entrance is on south side of road. 1/4 mile east of County Farm Rd.

SEED COLLECTION TOUR

October 13th, Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons - In cooperation with Blue Heron Ministries. Explore natural areas, old cemeteries, and railroad tracks along the Indiana-Michigan border while helping collect local-genotype seed for several prairie restoration projects. Seeds gathered during this collection tour will be shared with ACRES to help support the restoration at Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Be prepared to walk, wear a sturdy belt, bring a traveling lunch, and meet at The Chapel to carpool.

Directions: The Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, 2955 West Orland Road, Angola, IN. From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 north to Exit 150 (Lake James/Crooked Lake). Immediately turn left onto CR 200 W. In about 1 mile turn left onto W. Orland Rd.

Travel 0.5 miles to the stop sign. Take the right fork. Travel 0.5 miles to The Chapel (intersection of CR 300 W and Orland Rd.) Limit 12 persons! **Call** the ACRES Office to make your reservation (260) 637-2273.



Wing Haven by Shane Perfect

FALL FESTIVAL

October 20th, Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Presented by: The Spurgeon family, Wing Haven Caretakers

Celebrate the fall season at Wing Haven! Activities will include guided nature walks, crafts for children, blacksmith demonstrations, chainsaw carving, story telling, and making apple butter over an open fire. Don't miss this great family opportunity!

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve. See directions under the first event of this page.



Bittersweet from ACRES Archive

POPP NATURE PRESERVE OPEN HOUSE

October 21st, Sunday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff, caretaker. A gift of Jeannette Kent to the citizens of northeast Indiana, the Emmanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve is a state-dedicated nature preserve. Be sure to hike the trail that leads you into a spectacular old-growth woods, and enjoy a hot dog cookout compliments of Larry. **Where:** Emmanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69 to Tonkel Road. Turn north on Tonkel Road. The Popp Preserve is 1 1/2 miles, on the left (west) side at 12129 Tonkel Road.

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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NIGHT HIKE

November 3rd, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by: Bob Walton

As this Quarterly's archive article points out, night time isn't a time of rest for all creatures. Explore the dark with Bob, and enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight in the forests, fields, and wetlands of Wildwood Nature Preserve. You just may be surprised at all the activity and animal sightings that may occur. **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.



Horn Owl by Barbara Knight-Hale

ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM

November 9th, Friday 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES. Catch up with acquaintances and get the latest information about your ACRES Land Trust. (See page 3 for details.)



Sand Hill Crane by Bill Christie

SANDHILL CRANES AT JASPER PULASKI

November 10th, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES and the Stockbridge Audubon Society
The sandhill crane congregation at Jasper Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area ranks as one of Indiana's biggest wildlife spectacles. At the peak of the fall migration, 20,000 or more cranes gather there before flying on to Florida for the winter. Now there is also the chance of seeing whooping cranes from Wisconsin as well. **TWO DEPARTURE TIMES:** 9:00 a.m. for general birding (bring picnic lunch), OR 2:30 p.m. for the evening migration only. Thousands of cranes gather at sunset. Both groups will return around 9-9:30 p.m., stopping for a fast food supper on the way home. **Where:** Both departure times

leave from SW corner of the Park West Plaza, West Jefferson Blvd. and Illinois Rd. in Fort Wayne. **Call** the ACRES Office to make your reservation (260) 637-2273.

INTRO TO NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY "WHEN, WHERE AND HOW"

December 1st, Saturday, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Presented by: Bill Christie

Have you ever wondered, "Why don't my pictures turn out like those in the Quarterly?" Well, here's your chance to learn from a professional photographer! Bill will provide guidelines and tips on taking great nature photographs. Bring your questions, and learn how to overcome the challenges that outdoor photography can pose. **Where:** ACRES office/Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County. From Ft. Wayne, travel north on I-69 to exit 116. Turn left (west) onto Dupont Rd., right onto Coldwater Rd for 5 miles and then right onto Chapman Rd. After ¾ miles, look on the right for the "ACRES Land Trust Office" sign. Limit 25: **Call** the ACRES Office to make your reservation (260) 637-2273.

13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

December 9th, Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marian Eberhardt

Historically known as Helen Swenson's Art Studio, this large Wing Haven cabin is the site of ACRES' annual Christmas Sing-A-Long. Join us in the cozy studio for an afternoon of singing your holiday favorites with acoustic accompaniment, great food, and a wonderful sense of community and Christmas spirit. Feel free to bring your favorite holiday dessert to share.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. See directions under the first event of this page.



Photo by Andy Barrand

Night Hikes by Pat Bolman Spring 1980 Vol. XIX, No. 2

The fields and woodlands become different worlds after the sun has set, and an atmosphere of mystery surrounds those who are participating in such an activity for the first time. Although walking through any natural area after dark is an interesting experience in itself, there also are many fascinating phenomena worth pointing out. Hold on just a second - here are a few words of caution:

Don't go into areas you are not familiar with. Don't go along trails which are near cliffs, ledges or other potentially dangerous places!

Now! Get your flashlights – but keep them off until you really need them. If you should need a flashlight to see where you are walking, keep it pointed towards the ground and not up into the trees or over the fields.

Seek out a spot near a stream or pond or down in low moist areas, stand awhile with ALL lights out, and look for little green dots to appear on the ground. They are the color of radium on a wristwatch dial.

Sometimes, hundreds of them, sometimes, only one – then, as if someone threw a switch, they all go out. This is repeated many times. While they are glowing close – in on a “dot,” turn your light on, and meet the glowworm!

The next time you are around a pond at night, hold your flashlight on the end of your nose and look down the beam of light as you slowly scan the

shore. You probably will see some rather bright glowing objects - they might be the eyes of frogs (oops! or beer cans).

Note: Take the flashlight off your nose before going out in public.

You can search for spider eyes in leaves and on logs and in tree trunks. Look down the beam of light until you see some bright dots. Close in and surprise!! It's a spider – or, April Fools, they might be dew drops. But spider eyes usually look a little different. Children consider it a great accomplishment when they can tell the two apart. Especially when they are more than a hundred feet away.

A mixture of brown sugar, old banana, stale beer, and a cake of yeast can be smeared on trees about an hour before dark. About an hour after dark, go out and check your “baited” trees. They should be host to moths, ants and all sorts of other nighttime critters.

I like taking night hikes during a full moon. It will pay you to keep records of the things you have seen on your night hikes, and soon you'll have a wealth of information not to be found in any book.

***Join us on Saturday November 3 at 6:30 p.m.
for a night hike!***

See the events page for details.

Turkey Forever

by Neil A. Case

"The turkey is a much more respectable bird (than the bald eagle)," Benjamin Franklin wrote, "and withal a true original native of America." Franklin proposed that the turkey be made the national bird instead of the bald eagle.

In Ben Franklin's day, the range of the wild turkey was what was or became southern Maine, southern Michigan, and southeastern South Dakota south to the Gulf of Mexico, west into Colorado and eastern Arizona and south into the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Wherever there were forests in that area, according to the accounts left by pioneers, there were turkeys. They were common, they were American (except the turkeys in Mexico) and they were numerous.

A wild turkey is a big bird, three to four feet from top of head to tip of tail. Males average 13 to 15 pounds, females 8 to 10, but males can weight over 20 pounds, even over 30. Domestic turkeys have grown to 70 pounds, so heavy they couldn't fly.

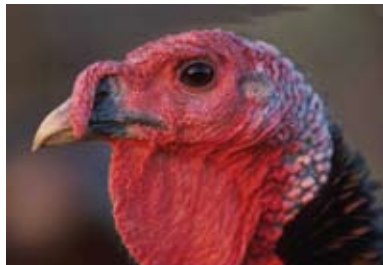
A wild turkey beneath the trees in the shade or perched in a tree overhead in the shade or with the light above is brown. But a wild turkey in a shaft of sunlight shining through the trees in a forest or in the sunlight in a field at the edge of a forest is glistening coppery bronze barred with shiny black.

A male turkey is a gobbler or a tom, and a female is a hen. An immature male is a jake, an immature female is a jenny, and a younger bird is a poult. A flock of turkeys is a rafter, and from pioneer days there are accounts of rafters with a hundred birds. Explorers and early travelers reported seeing several rafters, hundreds of turkeys in one day.

The numbers of turkeys fell as the birds were killed, trees were cut, and forests cleared. By 1900 wild turkeys lived only in scattered pockets of their original range. They were gone from 19 states including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

But turkeys remained in memory everywhere. There were reminders, too, in a popular song, *Turkey in the Straw*, a dance, the turkey trot, another bird, the turkey vulture, and in the southeast still another bird, the Anhinga, which was often called water turkey. There were domestic turkeys, too. And, of course, there was Thanksgiving, turkey day.

People began to try to reestablish wild turkeys in portions of their old range. First they raised and released turkeys. That failed. Turkeys raised in pens



Wild Turkey by Paul McAfee

didn't learn how to survive when their food wasn't provided in trays and they had to avoid predators.

Then people started trapping wild turkeys, transporting them and releasing them in parts of their old range where forests were returning. New York got turkeys from Pennsylvania. Vermont and New Hampshire got turkeys from New York. Iowa got turkeys from Arkansas and Missouri. Indiana got turkeys from Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa.

Turkeys have not only been restored to states where they had been in pioneer days, but they have been established in states where they hadn't been originally. Wild turkeys now live in every state of the U.S. except Alaska.

It seems from its present distribution Ben Franklin's suggestion of making the turkey our national bird would have been a good idea. But before anybody starts a petition for change, consider that the turkey bears the name of another country. It got that name because it was thought by pioneers to be the same as the turkey-cocke or guinea of the Middle East. Also consider the connotation associated with turkey. Being called a turkey is not a compliment.

Finally, think what it would have meant to the space program at the landing on the moon if the turkey had been our national bird. Instead of proclaiming, "The eagle has landed," Neil Armstrong might have said, "The turkey has landed," or even more ludicrous, "The gobbler has landed."



Photo by John Ingleman

projectPAGE

Completed

- Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve - Clifford Pomeroy has repaired and replaced the steps.
- Kokiwanee Nature Preserve - Christine Storey and her crew removed three truckloads of cement blocks.
- Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run - Trail installation by Jon and Gloria Foor, Tim Kimmel, and Chris Storey.

Current

Dustin fence – Lloyd King has been removing fence between the Dustin and Johnson Nature Preserves

To volunteer for current projects, please call the ACRES Office at 260-637-2273.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check your expiration date!

If your mailing label lists an expiration date of June 2007, this will be the last quarterly you receive. To avoid this catastrophe, renew by phone, mail, in-person, or on-line. Thank you for supporting preservation of natural areas in northeast Indiana!

Leave a Legacy

"It is the land on which we all depend in the last essence. It is the land and the very soil, the trees and water, the dales and glens, which we love. Without vision, a land will die. Without inspiration we remain disconnected from the immortal order of all things." – Richard Lieber, founder, Indiana Department of Conservation

Mr. Lieber's words remain relevant to us today. Have you considered mentioning ACRES, Inc. in your will or estate plans? Why not perpetuate your gifts during your lifetime to gifts after your lifetime? Consider letting us know if you name ACRES in your will or estate plans so that we may ensure your goals and desires are met. Thank you!

New Fund Development Manager

ACRES is proud to introduce our newest employee, Angie O'Neill. Angie began her part-time position as Fund Development Manager for ACRES in August. Angie is no stranger to ACRES; she has been a member for many years and has even served on the board of directors. Previously,



Photo by Shane Perfect

she worked as the Associate Director of Philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy, Program Manager for the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Senior Donor Relations Officer for the Fort Wayne Community Foundation, and Vice President of Programs for the Foellinger Foundation. Angie has also served in a marketing and park management role for the IDNR and Fort Wayne Parks system.

Angie's experience provides her with excellent insight into fund-raising opportunities within northeast Indiana. She has a true passion for preserving natural areas and has already proven to be a great asset to ACRES.

Welcome to ACRES, Angie!



Hiking Indiana covers the long and short of it when it comes to hiking and backpacking trails in the Hoosier State.

Author Phil Bloom highlights 65 trails, including three ACRES properties and a section-by-section breakdown of

Indiana's longest footpath — the Knobstone Trail.

Each trail features vital information (location, distance, special attractions, USGS maps, trailhead facilities) and is followed by an overview of what hikers will see along the way. A map accompanies each trail description.

Organized in nine "chapters" based on geography, *Hiking Indiana* serves as an informative tour guide to hiking opportunities at state parks, nature preserves and the Hoosier National Forest.

Hiking Indiana is available for purchase at the ACRES office for \$16.95.

Special Thanks!

TO OUR SPONSORS FOR
THE ANNUAL WINE TASTING
AND PHOTO EXHIBITION
ON OCTOBER 6, 2007

Vera Bradley
Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation
Van Gilder and Trzynka P.C.

Club Soda
WineTime
Devin and Brenda Willis

*Thanks also to all the photographers
who participated in this event.*

Memorials

KAHRL METZ

from Thomas & Morag Miller





Photo by Shane Perfect

Autumn Leaves

Kids like leaves. They'll jump in leaves. Make houses out of piles of leaves. Make leaf cookies and leaf pies in their pretend leaf kitchens. They make mazes out of leaves and walk through them like they have been lost in the leaves forever. Eventually they get tired...not from raking and swearing under their breath like I sometimes do, but from leaping in...dancing in...swimming in...leaves. When Autumn kids get tired, they lay down and pretend they are sleeping in leaves.

When kids lay in the leaves, it is inevitable that they will pick up a few to look closely. It is probable they will save a few of the most colorful samples. They gently bring these beauties home, carried by the stems like precious flowers of autumn. But of course, it is already too late. The leaves are dying. Fast and furious.

The next morning when they wake up, they will find their leaves on their bedside table. The leaves, once explosions of color and plump "leafy-ness", are now curled and dried and pretty much useless.

While it is sad, these crumbly things are no longer just mere

leaves. They are transformed once again. They now represent one of the greatest lessons of life: that beauty is not just a thing, it is also the moment in which the thing exists.

How easily these things - spent treasures - are brushed into the wastebasket. But how deeply the memory of a perfect fall day sinks into memory, infusing all future fall days with expectation and meaning.

In the future even a single beautiful leaf is enough to bring back the joy of one single perfect day. One leaf, drifting back and forth to earth like a rocking cradle, will be just enough for you to remember it all.

And just enough to get you into a sweater and stepping out the door into a crisp fall morning and pick up a rake.

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