

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS

SINCE 1960



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Spring 2008
Volume 47 - No. 2



Letter from the Executive Director

ACRES continues to be excitingly busy as this expanded version of the Quarterly demonstrates. In addition to the new nature preserves introduced in this Quarterly, we will be closing on three additional preserves prior to the summer Quarterly. The board and staff held a strategic planning retreat in February and developed the mechanisms for ACRES to achieve our ambitious goals through 2012. These goals aim to double the membership, increase the endowment, and expand ACRES' owned land to 5,000 acres, all while continuing the important tasks of educational programs, land management activities, and donor relations.

In the midst of all this activity – it's a shame that you don't have the opportunity to be in the ACRES office as much as we employees are. If you had the time to hang out in the office, you would, of course witness many mundane activities, but scattered among the daily business of ACRES, you would also be privy to numerous exciting and meaningful moments.

We often focus solely on the environmental benefits of ACRES' activities – which are extremely significant and the primary objective. I want to remind us, however, that there are many other benefits that your support of ACRES facilitates.

ACRES provides a mechanism for people to exercise many of their core beliefs. We provide meaningful opportunities for people of all demographic groups, we provide locations perfectly suited for reflection and contemplation, we satisfy people's desire to leave a legacy, we provide a sense of connection, and we satisfy people's desire to steward the earth. ACRES also provides an outlet for the true joy of giving. You'll often read in the Quarterly about a generous gift, but what doesn't translate is the sheer joy and values gained by the giver.

If you could be present to witness the joy of a donor, to watch a parent and child learning together, to read the testimonials from visitors on how a preserve visit changed their lives, to oversee the excitement of scientists who discover rare plants or animals on our properties, you would begin to grasp how truly valuable your support of ACRES is.

So, feel free to stop by and spend some time at the office. We would be happy to find some chores for you to do while you wait to witness the next exciting moment! Together we are accomplishing great things. Thank you for your part in ensuring ACRES' ability to continue to provide such valuable services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason Kissel", written over a horizontal line.

Jason Kissel

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again – ACRES memberships expire in June. Be sure to check the back cover of this Quarterly to see if your membership is due. Your membership expiration date is located above your name and address. Renew today – your membership contributions are very important to ACRES' continued success.

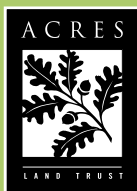
One of our goals is to double our membership by 2010 – ACRES 50th anniversary. We need your help in order to achieve this aggressive goal – we ask that you consider sharing ACRES with friends and family this year – an ACRES membership makes a great gift!

WELCOME new members!

Anonymous Life Member
Alison Stevenson
Almond Handshoe
Amy Oberlin
Amy Schwehn
Ann Clark
Barb and John Kowalczyk
Blaine, Joell, Rachel, Audrey, and Anna Stuckey
Brian Benfer
Catherine Blyth and Eric Olson
Chris and Carolyn Danielson - Gift of Ken Ludwig
Chris Shupert
D. C. Airgood
Dan and Pam Stouffs
Darci Zolman
Dave and Dee Dickmeyer
Dennis Gaither
Denver Howard
Donna Stucker
Eric and Kay Beemer
Frank Wooley - Gift of Fred and Jackie Wooley
Gary Wooley - Gift of Fred and Jackie Wooley
Jabin Burnworth
Jack and Suzanne Roebel
Jeri Kornegay and Linda Winchell
John and Sharlene Carroll - Gift of Laura Gooley
Kim and Monica Grubbs-Gift from John and Jackie Horn
Kuebler Family
Larry Koontz
Micheale Klingerman - Gift of Fred and Jackie Wooley
Mrs. Schwehn - Gift of Amy Schwehn
Phil & Jessie Bloom
Tom and Renee Keihn
Rhonda Nettrouer
Russel Johnson - Gift from Sharon Johnson Smith
Ted Bohman
Trevor and Julia Broyles

tributes

- In honor of Fergus & Sharon Moore from John Moore
- In honor of Thomas & Leelia Cornell for Kokiwanee from Jim & Linda Cornell
- In honor of Peter Kindraka from Jim & Penny Kindraka
- In honor of Pat Oppor from Andy & Jill Downs
- In honor of Rosemarie Bostelman from Vicki Fitzgerald



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960. ACRES manages and protects 65 nature preserves totaling over 4,300 acres.

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

acreslandtrust.org





ACRES Archive Article

ACRES Archive

Curtain Now Going Up On Nature's Grand Show **By Dr. John Klotz, Spring Quarterly, 1971 (condensed and edited)**

The curtain is going up on the greatest show on earth. Its nature's display of spring wildflowers. And we have ringside seats, because the most beautiful display of spring wildflowers in the world is found in the American Midwest.

Actually the curtain parted over a month ago, but few people recognized that the show had started, for the first of our spring wildflowers to bloom is the skunk cabbage. The flower itself is inconspicuous and as the name indicates, the entire plant has a rather undesirable odor. The foul odor of this plant has a purpose; the only insect pollinators that are active that early in the season are flies and other insects that are attracted by such odors.

The real curtain opener is the hepatica that is in bloom right now (April). Its flowers range in color from white to pink and lilac and a deep purple.

The leaves are three-lobed, shaped something like the human liver; this accounts for the plant's name. They remain green all winter. Indeed, the flowers have been there too since last fall; they need only a few warm days to emerge from the protective soil and bloom.

Another early bloomer is the bloodroot. It too, is in bloom right now (April-May). It's actually a poppy, and for that reason the flowers last for only a day or so. They are a beautiful white and come up protected by the green leaf, which clasps them until they are ready to burst into bloom.

The bloodroot gets its name from the blood-like juice, which the rootstock gives off, when cut or bruised. Don't dig out the root to check – Take my word for it.

The second act of the show, which is already beginning in some places (early May usually), has



Bloodroot by Shane Perfect



Jack in the pulpit by Shane Perfect

a new cast of characters. In wet meadows and along streams where the skunk cabbage bloomed and is not putting out large cabbage leaves, you find the marsh marigold; it's a buttercup.

Out in the woods with the hepaticas and the bloodroots the dog's tooth violet, nature's own Easter lily, is beginning to appear. The Dutchman's breeches soon follows. The flowers of this plant look like the pantaloons of a Hollander. Its leaves are delicate and carrot-like.

Another delicate flower that gets into the act at this time is the spring beauty. Each plant has a number of dainty pink flowers; the leaves look something like blades of grass. Along with it and the Dutchman's breeches, you'll see the wood anemone and the rue anemone.

Following this and overlapping a bit is a third act in which we have the trilliums. The wake-robin or

bloody butcher is the first of these to bloom. The big white grandiflorum will show up just as the second act draws to a close.

Then, toward the end of May we get a finale on our spring wildflower show. That's the time of the geranium, the violets, and the Mayapple. With that the show closes and we get an entirely different set of wildflowers: the early summer wildflowers of the woods, our Solomon's seal, Jack in the pulpit, and the like. At last the summer show moves out of the woods — it's too shady once the trees fully leaf out, and our wildflowers are then only found in the open places such as meadows.

It's spring! Now's the time to enjoy the show!

Be sure to join us on a spring wildflower hike – see events page for details.

WOODY VINES GRACE WOODLAND FRINGES

by Karen Griggs



Photos by Shane Perfect

Spring hiking is fun on a warm day before the trees all leaf out, and it is a good time to learn about the differences among woody vines. Avoiding only poison ivy because it causes an itchy rash, nature lovers can enjoy the dramatic sight of vines along the trail. They do not harm trees, and their role in the forest ecosystem has been well-established.

The benefits of woody vines to wildlife are numerous. They nourish birds and mammals, protect nesting and perching sites, and they grace our preserves with natural beauty.

Four woody vines begin to grow vigorously in the spring: wild grapes, Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and bittersweet.

Key features make vine identification easy: berries, color, vine size, and leaves.

Little-known benefits to wildlife are the berries from these woody vines. Colorful berries make identification easy. Wild grapes grow in clusters, turning from red to purple about six months from now. Blue berries are characteristic of Virginia creeper. White berries grow on the mature poison ivy vines. Bittersweet has orange

berries that split, revealing bright scarlet red fruit in the late fall, lasting until December.

The strong vines of wild grapes and Virginia creeper grace the edges of the woods and natural roadsides. Many children enjoy a swing on the grapevines that they see while hiking the trails in ACRES preserves, and some adults swing, too, remembering their hours alone in the woods. Rarely found along old fencerows now, the native bittersweet is very easy to identify.

Wild grape vines are known by their large-toothed, heart-shaped leaves and climbing habit, with tendrils. The bark is shredded. These vines climb high on tree trunks. When birds see them at the edge of the woods, they feast on the fruit clusters. George Petrides notes that almost 100 species of songbirds eat grapes, according to the *Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs*. Other wildlife species benefit as well, including grouse, turkey, skunk, gray and red foxes, coyote, raccoon, rabbit, red squirrel, and opossum. Fox grape, *Vitis labrusca*, has red-woolly felt under the leaves and on the twigs.

Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolias*, has five leaflets, like the fingers

In 1961 or 1962, a group of ACRES members encountered a large patch of poison ivy while working at the Spurgeon Nature Preserve. One of the workers, Elbert Roe, shared his recipe for a poison ivy "cure". According to Elbert, this recipe was provided to him by the Reliance Drug store in South Bend, Indiana.

Poison Ivy Remedy

1 ounce sasparilla
1 ounce yellow dock
1 ounce burdock
1 gram sodium potassium
1 pint gin

As Ethyle Bloch remembers, "The fellows working that day took turns taking shots of this remedy". We at ACRES cannot verify whether this recipe has any medicinal characteristics, but we can see how the gin could take your mind off the itch of the poison ivy! Thank you, Ethyle, for sharing this story with us. If you have an ACRES tale to tell, we'd love to hear it. Call, write, or email us your story. We are compiling pictures, stories and the history of ACRES for the 50th anniversary in 2010.

of a hand that emerge like spokes on a wheel. Virginia creeper grows to great heights, and it has dark blue berries in the fall. Its tendrils are slender with disks on the tips. Wildlife benefits of the Virginia creeper include berries for many birds, mice, chipmunks, and skunks. Deer, of course, enjoy the leaves and twigs that they can reach.

Leaves three? Let it be! Folk wisdom is often quoted when we see poison ivy, *Rhus radicans*, as we go on our hikes. Most people are highly allergic to the leaves and all parts of the plant of poison ivy. This plant has no thorns, but it is easy to identify and avoid because it has very hairy vines and three leaflets. It does grow in three shapes: as a small shrub, a climber, or vine. Dramatic differences in their leaves, bark, and berries make the other woody vines easy to distinguish from poison ivy, a plant that is very commonly found. Poison ivy should be avoided, not cut, however.

Petrides found that over 60 species of birds eat white poison ivy berries, including the bobwhite, pheasant and grouse. These white berries grow as round clusters.

Poison sumac bushes are not common. They grow around deep wetlands such as the Laketon Bog.

American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*, is a small vine, with smooth stems, growing up to sixty feet high, in tangled strands. The finely toothed leaves of bittersweet are egg-shaped or wedge-shaped. The leaves emerge at a sharp, right angle. Due to the pressure from collectors for decorations, the native bittersweet is not often seen. An invasive Asiatic bittersweet, *Celastrus oriculatus*, has nearly circular leaves.

Bittersweet benefits to wildlife include songbirds, grouse, pheasant, bobwhite, fox squirrel, and rabbit.

One day in the fall, I saw a large motor home with Florida license plates stop along my country road. A passenger hopped out and pulled all the bittersweet from my neighbor's fence row. This kind of plant material collecting has impacted our natural beauty because bittersweet is not often seen nowadays.

Karen Griggs is a professional writer and ACRES member from Ashley, IN.

New Preserves



Bock Windmill by Shane Perfect

Bock Nature Preserve

This 47-acre property is located in Kosciusko County on SR 14. It was acquired by ACRES through a generous gift from Carl and Jane Bock. The property is divided nearly in half between forest and an agricultural field that is being converted into native grassland. The forest contains a glacial till pond and an impressive collection of large trees. In addition to the oaks, sugar maples, hickories and beech, the preserve is home to a healthy population of blue ash. Blue ash is an interesting tree as its twigs are square. Its scientific name, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, is based on this shape; quadrangulata is Latin for "four-angled". Another unique quality is indicated by its common name because when exposed to air, its sap turns blue. The inner bark was commonly used to create blue dyes before synthetic dyes were available.

This preserve is a portion of a farm owned by Jane's family for over 100 years. Jane outlines the history of the property below:

My great grandfather, Martin L. Patterson, and his brother William Patterson obtained the property in 1890. Subsequently, Martin Patterson gave the property to my grandparents, Roy and Maude Patterson Jones in 1921. On July 7, 1936, my grandfather gave the 47 acres to my parents, Carlton "Hack" and Viola Jones Haskett for "\$1 with love and affection". When my mother died in 2002, the property passed to Carl and I. Now we are conveying it to ACRES "with love and affection".

The windmill at the entrance to this property will remain as a reminder of the properties' past agricultural use.

Carl and Jane Bock are both professors at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Carl is Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Jane is Professor Emerita of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Their work has included ecology and evolution of flowering plants in the Colorado alpine and high plains and the reproductive patterns of flowering plants. For 30 years, Carl and Jane conducted research on The Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch in southeastern Arizona. In a book about this work, *The View From Bald Hill*, they write that the landscape became "as familiar as the lines on an old friend's face." Jane is also an authority in the field of forensic botany, co-authoring a book on forensic botany with Dr. Meredith Lane and Dr. David Norris.

Please join the Bocks and many others at the grand opening ceremony for this property on May 31st. See the events page for further details and driving directions. This preserve is not open to the public until May 31st. After that date, it will be open year-round from dawn to dusk.

Clock Creek Nature Preserve

ACRES acquired a 35-acre parcel in Noble County that is known as the Clock Creek Nature Preserve. This property was acquired by ACRES as a gift from the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

The property contains an expansive fen meadow and is home to numerous rare plants including red baneberry, tall millet grass, alderleaf buckthorn, smooth gooseberry, showy lady's slipper and elliptical leaf wintergreen.

The property is very wet year-round and has limited access; therefore, the preserve will be closed for general use and only available during ACRES events or for permitted scientific study. ACRES hopes to acquire adjoining tracts in the future, allowing us to open the preserve to the public.

ACRES now owns 820 acres in Noble County



Clock Creek Nature Preserve by Jack Stark



Liverwort by Jack Stark

Lonidaw is a Native American name meaning Spirit Queen of the Woods. The wife of Potawatomi Chief Simon Pokagon, bore the name. This 30-acre preserve, located in Noble County near Kendallville, is well known for its trillium display that typically peaks near May 1st. The preserve also contains a kettle depression, Little Whitford Lake, along with numerous birds and other wildlife. The one mile trail leads you through beech and maple trees on the high ground and red elm, walnut and hackberry on the lower ground. Marsh marigolds as shown in this issue's center photo, ring the kettle lake, providing a burst of spring color.

Center spread "Marsh Marigolds" by Shane Perfect





fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

STORYTELLING AT WING HAVEN

Sunday, April 6th at 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jim Carr

Come join us in the studio to participate in great story telling. Jim is an experienced storyteller who will hold your attention through his voice and animation. Entertaining for all ages.

Where: Wing Haven Studio, Steuben Co. From Ft. Wayne, take Interstate I-69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 127 exit. Go south on SR 127 to 400N, and turn left (east) on 400N. The Wing Haven Preserve is on the north side in $\frac{3}{4}$ mi.

WORK DAY

Saturday, April 12th at 10 a.m.

Presented by: ACRES

Garlic Mustard Pull at Bicentennial Woods and Barrett's Oakhill.

Where: Meet at Bicentennial Woods Nature Preserve, Allen Co. From Ft. Wayne, take Coldwater Rd. north to Shoaff Rd. Turn left (west) on Shoaff Rd. The preserve will be on your left in $\frac{3}{4}$ mi.



Photo by Shane Perfect



Adopt-A-Tree by Andy Barrand

19TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 19th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, Dave and Bonnie Snyder, and Paul Nailor

The Adopt-A-Tree festival offers a variety of events for children and adults: make a bluebird house or suet feeder, look at pond water under a microscope, and be sure to adopt a tulip poplar, black gum, or flowering dogwood tree. Entertainment will be provided by Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin playing fiddle and dulcimer music, and Lee Sauer will be back again with his popular caricature drawings!

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. From Ft. Wayne, take Interstate I-69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 127 exit. Go south on SR 127 to 400N, and turn left (east) on 400N. The Wing Haven Preserve is on the north side in $\frac{3}{4}$ mi.

BIRDING AT WABASH COUNTY PRESERVES

Saturday, April 19th, 8:45 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Presented by: Stockbridge Audubon Society, hike leaders Jim Haw & Ted Heemstra

Kokiwane birding begins at 8:45 a.m.

Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run birding begins at 1:00 p.m.

Come prepared to hike and bird watch with fellow bird enthusiasts. If you're a newcomer to the world of birding, there will be lots of experienced birders along who are always willing to share their knowledge. Come join us at one or both preserves.

Where: Kokiwane Nature Preserve and Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash Co. **To Kokiwane** from Ft. Wayne, take I-69 to exit 102B. 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 3.5 miles, turn right (west) onto Division Rd. Then travel 7.5 miles and turn left (south) onto 600E. Turn right (west) onto 50S and the preserve entrance will be on your left.

To Hathaway Preserve from Ft. Wayne, take U.S. 24 west to Lagro. Turn left (south) onto Lagro Rd., go through Lagro and then right (west) onto Baumbauer Rd. The Preserve will be on your right in 2 miles just past 200E.



Photo by Paul McAfee

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

WILDFLOWER WALKS

With five wildflower walks, there's no excuse to miss the wonderful spring wildflower displays this year! Come to the program nearest you or attend all of them — you will learn more about wildflowers, all while enjoying a spring hike. All hikes will be led by an experienced leader.

Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m.

Spurgeon Nature Preserve — Noble County

John and Joann Smith will guide you through ACRES' very first nature preserve.

Directions: From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 North to Kendallville/SR 6 exit. Take SR 6 west thru Kendallville and Wawaka to 600W and turn right (north) on 600W and go past 900N. Preserve is on east side. The nearest city is Ligonier, Indiana.



Sunday, April 27th at 2 p.m.

Acres Along the Wabash — Wells County

Dr. Richard Hurley will identify and interpret this preserve's diverse wildflowers.

Directions: From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 south to exit 86 (US 224/Markle). Turn left (east) and then turn right and stay on SR 116 through Markle. Just past Meridian Rd. on SR 116 (about 8 miles from the interstate) look for the ACRES parking lot on your right (south). The driving distance from Ft. Wayne to the preserve is 18 miles.

Saturday, May 3rd at 10 a.m.

Kokiwane Nature Preserve — Wabash County

Join Dr. David Hicks on a wildflower hike, and be sure to check out the 13 waterfalls while there.

Directions: Meet at the south entrance of Kokiwane. From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 to exit 102B. 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 3.5 miles, turn right (west) onto Division Rd. Then travel 7.5 miles and turn left (south) onto 600E. The state-owned tailwater fishing area parking lot will be about ½ mile on your right.

Saturday, May 3rd at 2 p.m.

Wildwood Nature Preserve — Kosciusko County

Dr. Paul Rothrock will lead the group through the diverse habitats of Wildwood.

Directions: 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.

Sunday, May 4th at 2 p.m.

Dyert Nature Preserve — Whitley County

Dr. Mike Bosela will point out many other wildflowers that are present if you can divert your attention away from the carpet of trillium that this preserve is known for.

Directions: From Ft. Wayne, take SR 30 west to SR 9 North to 400N. Go west on 400N to 50W. Go north on 50W. The Dyert Nature Preserve is on the west side.



Photos by Shane Perfect

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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



Photo by Shane Perfect

FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION DAY

Sunday, May 4th at 1 p.m.

Presented by: The Spurgeon family and Sadie Smith

Explore the abundant life within Wing Haven's water bodies. We will be collecting samples from the stream and lake then bringing them back to the studio to discover what we have found! Don't miss this great opportunity for adults and children to learn together.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. See page 12 for directions.

HATHAWAY PRESERVE AT ROSS RUN DEDICATION

Saturday, May 10th at 2 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Join ACRES staff, board, and fellow members along with state officials and donors as we celebrate this property's dedication as a State Nature Preserve.

This designation is the highest level of land protection for natural areas in Indiana. Come discover for yourself why this property warrants such high esteem. A brief ceremony will be followed by refreshments and guided hikes.

Where: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash Co. From Ft. Wayne, take US 24 west to Lagro. Turn left (south) onto Lagro Rd., go through Lagro, and then right (west) onto Baumbauer Rd. H.P. @ Ross Run will be on your right in 2 miles just past 200E.

CANYON CONCERT

Saturday, May 24th at 10:00 am

(rain date May 31st at 10 a.m.)

Presented by: Joyce Fry

A well-known performer and recording artist from Fort Wayne, Joyce Fry will perform acoustic music while surrounded by nature. Joyce will feature traditional instrumental songs on the hammered dulcimer and pennywhistle, while being accompanied by a guitar player. The concert will be held within the canyon area – follow the trail that leads west (right as you are coming from the parking lot) into the forest. No chairs or other seating will be provided, so be prepared to lean against a tree, sit on the ground, or bring along a blanket or stadium cushion to sit upon. It will be a wonderfully simple pleasure sitting in a spectacular canyon listening to beautiful music.

Where: Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 north to Waterloo/SR 6 exit and go east on highway 6 to SR 427. Go north on SR 427 to Hamilton. Turn west on Bellfountain Rd. then turn left (south) on Ball Lake Road 201.



Robb Hidden Canyon by Shane Perfect



Photo by Shane Perfect

BOCK NATURE PRESERVE OPENING

Saturday, May 31st at 2 p.m.

Come enjoy one of ACRES' newest preserves. Join us for a brief opening ceremony, refreshments and guided hikes.

Where: Bock Nature Preserve, Kosciusko Co. Located on SR 14 about 7 miles west of Silver Lake and 1.5 miles north of Akron. The preserve is located on the east side of SR 14, ½ mile south of where SR 14 makes a 90 degree turn south.

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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



Blue Jay by Paul McAfee

BIRDING AT ACRES ALONG THE WABASH

Tuesday, June 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

Presented By: Cardinal chapter of Audubon Bird Society
Come join the Cardinal Audubon Bird Club and explore the diverse trees, wildflowers, and, of course, birds within this nature preserve.

Where: Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve, Wells Co. From Ft. Wayne, take I-69 south to exit 86 (US 224/Markle). Turn left (east) and then almost immediately take a right onto SR 116 through Markle. Just past Meridian Rd. on SR 116 (about 8 miles from the interstate), look for the ACRES parking lot on your right (south). Driving distance from I-69 to the preserve is 18 miles.

WILDWOOD WEEKEND

Friday, June 6th at 4 p.m. through Saturday, June 7th

Join us for a weekend of camping, family fun, and environmental education, all within Wildwood Nature Preserve. The weekend will start Friday evening with supper at 6:00. Programs will be available throughout the evening and night including: crafts for children, night hikes, astronomy, and, of course, a campfire. Spend the night in your tent within a primitive campsite. On Saturday the early morning risers will do some birding, and then breakfast will be provided. Numerous programs will be available throughout the morning including: vegetation studies, animal studies, activities for children, and outdoor skills. The event will conclude with lunch, although you are welcome to continuing enjoying the preserve until dusk.

Arrival time begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Campsite choices are "First come first served". ACRES will provide: water, lemonade and coffee throughout the event, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch, an event T-shirt, and primitive campsites in designated locations. Campers must bring all other necessary gear and essentials. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other family member.

To participate, make your reservations early. This event will be limited to 50 people. Additional information including a detailed itinerary will be sent to you with your confirmation.

Cost: \$25/adult \$10/child

Reservations required. Call ACRES' office at (260) 637-ACRE (2273)

Note: This event is for ACRES members only. If you're not a member of ACRES, join today!

FORAGER'S DOZEN

Saturday, June 21st at 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim Meuninck

Join naturalist and writer Jim Meuninck to discover (and eat) the Forager's Dozen — twelve wild plants that are easy to find, easy to identify and delicious. Each plant has been used for centuries as both food and medicine. The presentation includes an introduction, discovery walk and wild food tasting.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. See page 12 for directions.

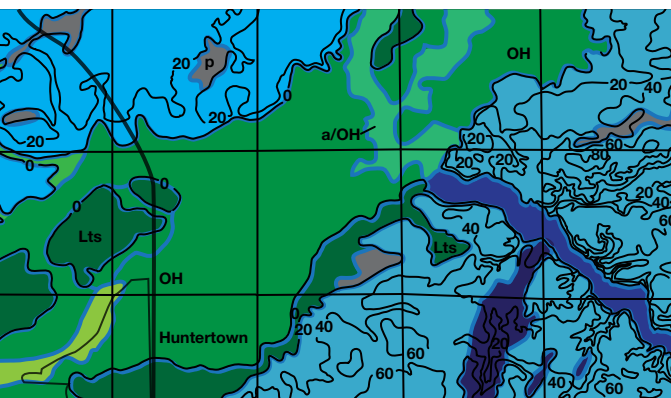


ACRES Archive

EYI On June 12th, ACRES is providing an informational luncheon at the Fort Wayne County Club for prospective business, corporate and foundation partners. Richard Phillips has generously sponsored this luncheon. If your business is a potential corporate supporter we would like you to join us for this luncheon and learn about the variety of ways available to partner with ACRES. Please contact Jason or Angie for more details or to make your reservation.

where on earth do you live?

by Jason Kissel



Where do you live? It's a simple question to which we typically respond with our address or town. But what if someone asked you what watershed you were in, what natural region you live in, or what the elevation of your property is? These questions relate to your ecological address – where on earth you live.

When my family moved here in the summer of 2006, my wife and I were faced with the challenge of finding a new home. We researched all the typical things one does when buying a home. By the time we were ready to purchase the home we now live in, we could spout off by heart how the property fit within numerous arbitrary, man-made boundaries (county, township, school district, zip code, zoning area, etc.). Just last week, I was

asked which secondary watershed I lived in – I drew a blank. I knew I was in the St. Joseph River watershed, but didn't know specifically how rain that fell on my land made it to the St. Joe. It made me realize that I also didn't know several other important natural characteristics of my address. Like me, I would bet that many of you reading this do not know all of the elements that comprise the natural context of your location.

Want to learn your ecological address? Here are the questions you need to ask to get started (along with some helpful sources of information). It is often most instructive to begin with the big picture, known as your regional setting, and then fill in the local details specific to your address.

your regional setting

What physiographic region do you live in?

Physiographic Divisions of Indiana, by Henry Gray, 2000, Indiana Geological Survey Special Report 61 (<http://www.indiana.edu/~igs>)

Which of Indiana's Natural Regions do you live in?

The Natural Regions of Indiana, by Michael Homoya et al, 1983, *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science*, v. 94, p. 245-268. Available at academic libraries and the ACRES office.
The Natural Heritage of Indiana by Marion Jackson.

What is your climate/ plant hardiness zone?

Seed catalogues, U.S. Dept of Agriculture (www.usda.gov)

How much precipitation falls on your county each year, what form is it in, and when does most of it occur?

National weather service (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx/>), your county soil survey available at the Soil Water Conservation District, a public library, or county extension office

What Biome are you in?

Botany and forestry textbooks, North American Biome map at <http://fp.bio.utk.edu/botany120lect/Biomes/biomemap.htm>

What landform do you live on, and what kind of rocks or glacial deposits comprise the underlying geology?

Quaternary Geological Map of Indiana, 1989, Indiana Geological Survey Miscellaneous Map 49; Indiana Geological Survey Special Report 57;

What soil type(s) exists on your property?

County soil survey

What vegetation cover types and natural communities are present where you live?

Natural Regions of Indiana article by Homoya et al (listed page 16), local nature centers and naturalists, your own observations

Where does your water come from?

If you have city or county water, what and where is the water source(s)?

If you have a well or spring, what is the aquifer and where is the recharge area?

Local USGS topographic maps for surface drainage. For groundwater and public water supplies, contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Water.

Where does your water go?

Start with the first ditch, stream, storm drain, etc. that drains the water on your property, then track your water all the way to the ocean using local topographic maps, followed by state and national maps showing major drainages (or go to www.earth.google.com).

What is the elevation of your property?

What are the highest, lowest, and average elevations? (local topographic map)

Where does your air come from?

This can get tricky to pinpoint, but in general you can get a good understanding of how your air is impacted locally. Find out the direction of your prevailing winds and see what you can find upwind (national weather service).

Which direction does your house face?

How does this orientation impact your utility bills, let sunlight into rooms, and help to grow plants indoors?

So, what's the point of knowing your ecological address? There are many, but for me the most important is to realize the connection you and your property have to your greater surroundings. You likely share at least a loose bond to those living on your street – your community so you can relate to where they live and share a common bond in part because of a shared address. The same is true once you understand natural boundaries; you'll have a new connection to your local environment and your "natural neighbors".

If this article has piqued your interest in where you live and you want to talk ecological addresses, come by the office and we'll chat. The office is easy to find, and directions are listed below:

We are located in the Central Till Plain, specifically the Bluffton Till Plain Section. Within this, we are

located in the north-central part of the Clayey Glacial Till Soil Region and Middle Devonian Rocks region (if you start entering the Antrim shale region, you've gone too far north). Find the summit of the Wabash Moraine overlooking Cedar Creek Canyon one mile above its mouth. Now that you're close, follow Cedar Creek through the canyon. Once you get to where the northern bank is 70' above the creek, look for three 28" diameter sycamore trees side by side on the northern bank, each with a significant lean over the creek. Walk north from the trees and the office is on top of the hill at an elevation of 860'.

A special thank you to Tony Fleming, professional geologist, for his review and input into this article.

11TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDATHON TO BENEFIT WING HAVEN NATURE PRESERVE

By Fred Wooley

Interpreter at Pokagon State Park and Former Caretaker of Wing Haven

I am pumped! As I type this, snows are still piled deep at the end of the Nature Center parking lot, but I know spring is right around the corner. By the calendar it's just days away, and although there is snow on the ground, I heard my first woodcock of the season this morning in the damp predawn chill of mid March. Killdeer and robins are back in good numbers. Just this morning I observed my first sandhill cranes of the new year, staking out a nest site ... Where did I see them? ... in the wetlands along the edge of Little Gentian Lake at our beloved Wing Haven Nature Preserve. While their home is intact, we continue to raise the funds needed to support one of our ACRES crown jewels.

The year 2008 will mark 11 years that the ACRES Land Trust has fielded a team of birders in the annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon. This year's May 17th event will be the 20th annual birdathon where teams representing conservation organizations come together in the spirit of friendly competition and bird to both have fun and raise money for their sponsoring organizations.

This year our team will be setting out to break our record of 137 species (tallied in 2002) as we continue to raise money for the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Wing Haven continues to be the venue for various events throughout the year. New caretakers, Bill and Dawn Spurgeon,

Fred Wooley and Michaele Klingerman at 2007 Birdathon
by Brad Baumgardener





Female purple finch by Maggie Lepley

and their friends, delighted visitors last October with an inaugural Fall Festival in the enchanting farm setting of Wing Haven. Open houses continue to be a Wing Haven staple at the Studio; and for peace and quiet, our trails offer just that every day, year-round.

Last year, many of you supported our efforts with \$1,796.90 in pledges! What a generous effort! Thank you! We have now raised \$16,743.40 in the 10 years we have birded for ACRES. The past 10 Birdathons, in addition to helping 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 is easy. Simply fill out the form below and send it in by May 17th (do it today, while it is on your mind!). Last year, our team saw 118 species of birds. If you had pledged a dime a bird last year, you would have contributed \$11.80. If you had pledged a quarter a bird, you would have contributed \$29.50 ... you get the idea! If you want to challenge our team, with an extra \$5.00 for a certain bird, maybe your favorite rare bird, please do so. This is a fun way to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your support!

2007 and 2008 birdathon contributions will be utilized to replace the roof on the Wing Haven Studio.

Yes, I would like to pledge _____ for each species of bird seen on May 17th by the Wing Haven Team.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Favorite Bird Pledge (extra \$5.00) _____

Please give this pledge form to Fred Wooley or mail to: ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, IN 46748

or just send a separate note with your remittance envelope

You will be notified of our success and your pledge amount after the May 17th, 2008 event. **All donors will be thanked in the ACRES Summer Quarterly and will receive a list of birds. All \$1.00 a Bird Club Members will receive special recognition.** Please call 260-637-2273 if you have any questions.

Thank you for helping Wing Haven Preserve and it's birds!



Fund Drive Info

Marsh Wren & Indian River (LaGrange County)

This preserve is a wetland wonderland. Half of marsh wren and the entire indian river property is only accessible by canoe. The acquisition of this property by ACRES protects two state endangered species; the marsh wren and the massassauga rattlesnake, both have been observed on these properties.

FUND DRIVE COMPLETE! \$178,000 raised

Barbra Frymier
Barron, Tina, James, Bradon,
and Gavin Renkenberger
Beth Ann Rohrer
David Homan
Don and Cheryl Wyckoff
Donald and Renee Gorney
Erin Cooper
Eugene F. Winicker
Gary Darnell
Gary Hogle and Barbara
Lahman
Glenn Kinduell
Gordon Bloom
Harold E. Cook
Jack and Karen Horrell
James L. Shearer
James Seeley
Jeanne C. Gehring
Jim and Rose Newton
John and Lavonne Miller
John H. Haschel
Kathryn Bloom
Kristy Bredemeier
Lorraine Davis
Margien Lund
Marion L. Kroll

Mark Jackson
Nancy Malis
Neil Grider
Patricia McNagny
Paul E. Rothrock
R. Michael and Debra S.
Glasper
Richard and Marian Harber
Richard McNett
Robert & Patricia Kinerk
Robert and Carolyn
Huwendick
Robert and Karen Griggs
Rodger P. Rang
Terry and Constance
Marbach
The Festival Choir
Thomas and Mary Jo Bland
Virginia Petit
Willard and Nena Clark
William and Marita Cline

Barb Meyer \$100
Carolyn McNagny
Diane S. Humphrey
Dr. Mary Lee Richeson
Elizabeth M. Perry

Gregory and Susan Mauk
Janel Rogers
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Marvin and Kate Hall
Parks and Paula Adams
Peg Zeis
Robert Binder

Mary C. Linton \$250 +
Ted & Pat Heemstra

Dallas Bay Estates \$500 +
Association
Dallas Lake Property Owners
Association
Eleanor A. Green
Mary Anna Feitler

Joyce Gottschalk \$1,000 +

Art and Anna \$5,000 +
Mea Parry

Cole Foundation \$50,000 +

USFWS \$100,000

Land Acquisition & Management Fund Donations Since 2006

A. Genevieve McHoes
 A. Philmour and Charlotte
 B. Terwilliger
 Andy Gebbard
 Backy L. Limmerman
 Barron and Tina Renkonberger
 Becky L. Zimmerman
 Beulah Allman
 Bill and Trudy McNabb
 Bob and Maria Gillespie
 Brian Johnson
 Brogan, Molly and
 Bruce Hutsell
 Byron Torke
 Carl and Barbara Bauer
 Carol L. Summers
 Carolyn Linsenmayer
 Catherine Hennen
 Charles and Susie Klingler
 Dale and Karen Buuck
 Dan and June Walcott
 Darlene L. Stucky
 Dave and Joann Stang
 David and Mary McCutchan
 Dawn Ritchie
 Dennis and Rhonda White
 Denver Sarver
 Donald and Suellen Mains
 Douglas MacDowall
 Ed and Cynthia Powers
 Edward J. Cable
 Evangeline Chapman
 Evelyn Schnepf
 Ford Hudson
 Frances Headings
 Fred Hartz
 George and Becky Kibe
 Glen Bickel
 Glenn and Jean Kinduell
 Greg and Susan Mauk
 H. Patricia Storrer
 Harriet Swick
 Harvey Hathaway
 Hazel W. Keller
 Jack and Jeanette Sunderman
 Jack Zen
 James and Christine Barlow
 James and Patricia Barrett
 James Haw
 James Scott and
 Sara Vanderbeck
 James W. Foster
 Jan and Riet Zwiep
 Jenean Gibbons
 Jim and Laura Brennan
 Joan Karbach
 Joe and Nancy Conrad
 Joe and Nancy Harber
 Joel and Susan Schartzner

John Heilman
 John Rullo
 Joni Weber
 K.N. and Kathy Miller
 Kathryn Bloom
 Keith and Louise Pomeroy
 Ken and Susan Till
 Kenneth and Mary Scrogam
 Kevin and Renee Kilbane
 Kurt and Roxanne Bachman
 Louise Larsen
 Marilyn J. Creason
 Marilyn K. Miller
 Mark Allen Hochstetler and
 Mary Margaret Maloney
 Mark DeBrock
 Mark Jackson
 Marvin and Doris Kaiser
 Mary McCormack
 Michael and Martha Zurcher
 Michael Lindvay and
 Glendine Mell
 Monte and Rita Smith
 Morgan Family
 Nancy Malis
 Neil Grider
 Paul and Patricia Koesis
 Phillip and Carol Perry
 Phillip and Jean Ross
 Ralph and Margaret McDowell
 Randy and Peggy Baumgartner
 Richard Lutz
 Richard McNett
 Richard Teets
 Robert and Carolyn Huvendick
 Robert and Marilyn Wilt
 Robert and Vivian Shire
 Robert Hough
 Samuel Thompson
 Scott Nevin
 St. Peters Lutheran Church
 Susan C. Vetter
 Thomas R. Quick
 Thomas Whaley
 Tim Eviston
 Tim Gerardot
 Todd Davis
 Tom and Doris Schlemmer
 Tom and Sandy Stucky
 Tony and Maggie Pechin
 Virginia Petit
 Virginia Richards
 Wayne Jenkins
 Wes Jehs
 Willard and Nena Clark
 William and Constance Carroll
 William and Linda Souder

Andrew and Margaret Dirksen	\$100 +
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Beth Rohrer
 Cedar Creek Wildlife Project
 Cheryl Allen
 David Ropchan
 Denis Schwartz and Mary
 Arnold Schwartz
 Don Lieberum
 Environmental Management
 Hamilton and Joy Hunter
 James and Karen Farwell
 James and Nancy Mercer
 James and Svetlana Sack
 James Coffey and Georgean
 Johnson-Coffey
 Jerry and Debbie Hohla
 John and Joan Pichon
 John and Julia
 Oldenkamp Fund
 Jon and Gloria Foor
 Joseph and Karen Kimmell
 Kathleen J. Fuller
 Kiwanis Club of Northeast
 Fort Wayne
 Mark & Monica Debrock
 Norman R. and Sonia K. Myers
 Robert Binder
 Sam Schwartz
 Steve and Lynn Hossler
 Tony Fleming and
 Victoria Ferguson
 William and Lillian Waltz
 William and Rosemary
 Pletcher

Art and Betty Seddon	\$250 +
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Bruce Flohr
 Cardinal Chapter of the
 Audubon Society
 James Shearer
 Paul Rothrock

Robert and Alice Frantz **\$500 +**
 Robert and Sharon Bryan

Diane Humphrey	\$1,000 +
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Dr. Phillip and Marcia Wright
 John and Marcella Ellenwood

Anna Spurgeon Moll	\$5,000 +
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Martha L. Sittler	\$10,000 +
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Charitable Unitrust

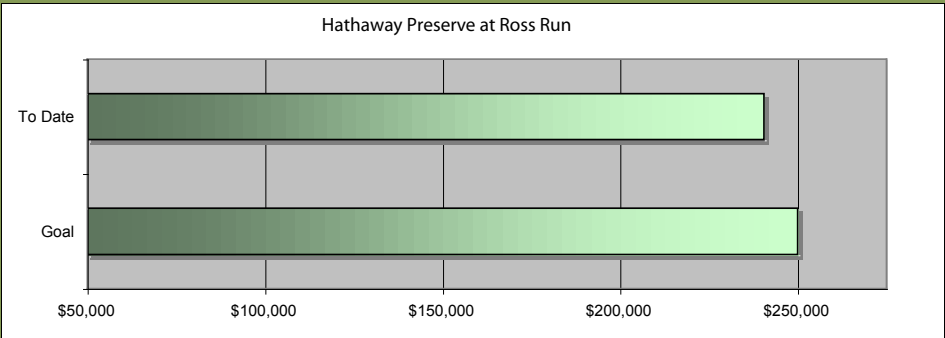
Year End Gifts 2007

Allman, Jimmie and Beulah	Irving Gravel	Wilson, Jeff
Bacone, John	Klopfenstein, Christine	Zehner, Jim and Judy
Brake, Ruth	Kocsis, Paul L.	Zenz, Jack C.
Brier, John	Krick, Jerry	
Carsten, John	Krull, Jeffrey	Finley, Heidi
Clark, Willard and Nena	Kruse, Pat	\$100 +
Coffey, James and Georgean	Leon, Jack	Foor, Jon and Gloria
Johnson-Coffey	McNett, Richard	Garriott, Russell
Conrad, Joe and Nancy	Mead, Warren and Sharon	Glasgow, Judith
Crouch, Mark	Mildred, Peter	Johnson, John
Cyran, Frank and Susan	Regadanz, Bill	Laatsch, Robert and Margaret
Darnell, Gary	Renkenberger, Barron and Tina	McAfee, Paul
Gavatt, Cindy	Richards, Al	McCutchan, David
Gebhard, Andy	Richeson, Dr. Mary Lee	Reynolds, Carole
Gehring, Jeanne	Ross, Steve and	Ropchan, David
Gottschalk, Joyce	Jennifer Kleinrichert	
Griggs, Karen	Rullo, John	Cardinal Bird Club
Gynn, Mary	Samek, Richard and Julie	\$250 +
Hagendorf, Becker	Schafer, James	Dircksen, Andrew and Margaret
Hamlin, Nancy	Scheeringa, Ronald	Dygart, Mary
Hanson, Lonnie	Summers, Carol	Humphrey, Diane
Hathaway, Harvey R.	Torke, Dr. Byron	Myers, Norman and Sonia
Hicks, Dr. David and	Valentine, Claude	
Deborah Hustin	Waikel, Laurie	Attero Tech, LLC
Horrell, Jack	Waldman, Douglas	\$1,000 +
Hough, Robert	Wehrle, Monica	Clark, Anne and Greg
Hudson, Ford	Wetter, Allen	Haist, David
		Total \$7000

Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run (Wabash Co.)

ACRES was fortunate to be able to acquire this 72- acre property at public auction in March of 2007. This property helps protect Ross Run Creek, a tributary of the Wabash River. Standing on bedrock bluffs, visitors are rewarded with panoramic views into the gorge 75' below them. The streambed is composed of continuously exposed bedrock and contains numerous runs and waterfalls.

\$500 +	\$25,000 +	\$150,000 +
Bishop & Carol Hathaway	The Nature Conservancy	Indiana Heritage Trust
\$5000 +	\$50,000 +	
Wabash Community Foundation	Harvey & Fran Hathaway	



Only \$19,500 needed to finish this fund drive!

Dygert Nature Preserve Fund Drive

The original preserve of 56 acres was generously provided by Wendell and Evelyn Dygert in 2001. In 2004, an additional buffer of 72 acres was added along the southern boundary, and an additional 6 acres were acquired in 2006. The 134-acre Dygert Nature Preserve is a popular hiking preserve and provides stunning wildflower displays each spring.

Donations Since Spring 2007

Alan and Jerri Sidel
 Andrew Gebhard
 Ben Weldon
 Bruce and Angela Palmer
 Carolyn Linsenmayer
 D.R. and B.A. Cook
 Donna and Mark Miller
 ELAN Home Systems
 Ellen Miller
 Ethel McClelland and
 David Homan
 Gary Darnell
 James and Carol Roush
 James and Katherine Fleck
 Jed and Cindy Pearson
 Joe Tower
 Lowell Beineke
 Margaret and Kenneth Booth
 Mark Jackson
 Norman and Carol Kempler

Norman and Sonia Myers
 Patricia and Dale Slusher
 Patricia McNagny
 Paul Rothrock
 Richard McNett
 Ross and Marilyn Gibbons
 St. Matthews United
 Methodist Church
 Willard and Nena Clark
 William and Marita Cline
 William Smith

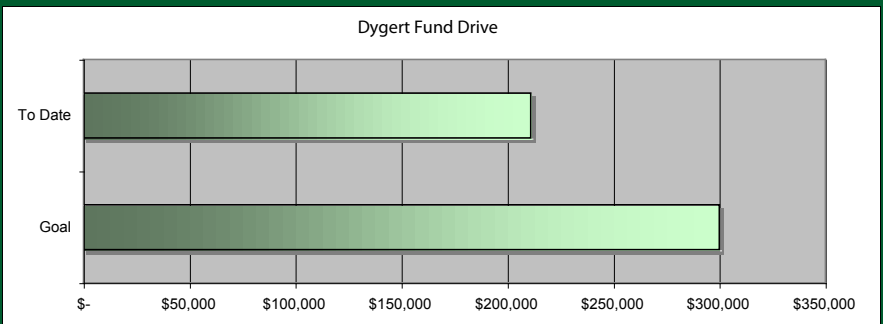
Cheryl Allen **\$100 +**
 James & Ann Tower
 John and Charlene Saggars
 John and Marcella Ellenwood
 Mike and Dana Baker
 Mike and Dana Bakers
 Ray Ridge
 Robert Binder

Steven and Joan Crooks
 Wilson and Billie Joyce Sims

Steve and Linda Dygert **\$1,000+**

Major Gifts prior to Spring 2007

Diane Humphrey
 Indiana Heritage Trust
 John and Hester Adams Trust
 John and Marcella Ellenwood
 Martha L. Sittler
 Charitable Unitrust
 Patricia McNagny
 Wayne and Linda Boyd



Tom & Jane Dustin Nature Preserve

In December of 2006 ACRES purchased a 44-acre addition to the existing 28-acre nature preserve - bringing the Dustin Nature Preserve to a total of 72 acres. With our adjacent nature preserves of Johnson (12.5 acres) and Whitehurst (4.5 acres) one can enjoy the trails and peacefulness of 89 acres along with vistas overlooking the scenic Cedar Creek. The ACRES office is located at the Dustin Nature Preserve.



Turtles by Angie O'Neill

Al and Sue Diefenbach
 Alan and Carolyn Critchfield
 Alex and Sharon Jokay
 Angie O'Neill
 Ann and Bruce Reidenbach
 Ann M. Carter
 Ann M. Noble
 Anthony and Gina McGuire
 Anton M. Schmidt
 Auburn Garden Club
 Barbara L. Boerger
 Barbara Putman
 Bruce and Kathryn Johnson
 Byron Torke
 Carl and Barbara Bauer
 Carol N. Telschow
 Christine A. Storey
 Cindy Loos
 Dan and Judy Kaufman
 Dan McDowell
 Dana Bromelmeier
 Daniel & Terry Wilson
 Daniel Koontz
 Daniel Wilson
 Danny A. McDowell
 Darlene Heare
 Darlene Stucky
 David and Mary Fyfe
 David Wagner
 Dawn Ritchie
 Dennis and Rhonda White
 Diane Schafer
 Don and Barbara Williams
 Don and Tess Reiling
 Don Cunningham
 Donald and Cheryl Wyckoff
 Donald Jones and
 Cheryl Skiba-Jones
 Dorothy Whitehurst
 Douglas and Dorothy Knuth
 Dr. Mary Lee Richeson
 Edward J. Cable
 Edwin R. Dobbins
 Elizabeth and
 Terrence McCloskey
 Esther A. Deal

Evelyn Schnepf
 Fayne E. Harter
 Ford W. Hudson
 Fort Wayne Area Association
 of Realtors, Inc.
 Frances Headings
 Frances R. Townsend
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 Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
 Gary and Susan Reynolds
 Gary Darnell
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 Gerald and Betty Sonnek
 Greg Marcus
 Gregory and Phyllis Jehl
 Harold and Pat Douglas
 Harriet Miller and
 Monica Wehrle
 James and Judy Zehner
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 James Neill
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 Jerry L. Krick
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 John and Julia Oldenkamp
 John and Linda Mowry
 John and Marge Ralph
 John B. Rufner
 John Bacone
 John Shire
 John Thistlethwaite and Kay
 Feichter Thistlethwaite
 Joyce Gottschalk
 Kathleen Fuller
 Ken and Susan Till
 Kenneth Scrogam and
 Mary Menge
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 Kirk and Liz Shuster
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 Leonard and Lorena Penner
 Lila O'Connell
 Lionel and Ann Kreamer

Lloyd King
 Lorraine Davis
 Louise G. Magoon
 Louise Larsen
 Lowell Beineke
 Margien L. Lund
 Mark Jackson
 Mary Ellena Bullerman
 Mary Jane Slaton
 Mary McCormack
 Mary Pat Ward
 Maumee Valley Farms
 Merry Lea Environmental
 Michael and Laura Dauscher
 Michael and Sarah Trittipio
 Michael J. Stagg
 Nancy Malis
 Pat Ward
 Peter and Pam Oleson
 Peter J. and Daphne
 E. Mildred
 Phil and Linda Frantz
 Philip and Jean Ross
 Philip and Phyllis Kaiser
 R. Paul Steffens
 Richard and Joyce Pacer
 Richard and Mary Hertel
 Richard Latta
 Richard Lutz
 Richard McNett
 Rick, Joann, Jason, Addie
 Piatt and Tim and
 Coleena Dinnius
 Robert and Janet Joesten
 Robert and Margaret Laatsch
 Robert and Phyllis Robb
 Robert Binder
 Robert Hough
 Ronald Patton
 Ruth Brake
 Samuel R. Schwartz
 Sara J. Hobson
 Stephen and Stacey Salisbury
 Steve and Pam Etheridge
 Steve and Susan Harroff
 Steve Nagy and Angela Quinn

Susan Vetter
 Terry and Constance
 Marbach
 Thomas and Mary Hogan
 Tim and Nancy Eviston
 Tim J. Gerardot
 Tom and Sandy Stucky
 Virginia Richards
 Warren and Sharon Mead
 William and Cathy Gething
 William and Marita Cline
 William B. Barnes, Sr.
 William J. Cline

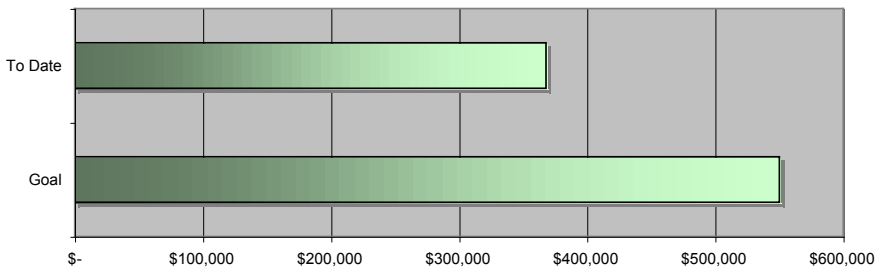
Al and Abby Saffold \$100 +
 Allen Wetter
 Andrew and
 Margaret Dirksen
 Anton Schmidt and
 Kathy Stark
 Archie and Betty Ferguson
 Art and Anna Mae Parry
 Ava J. Neal
 Barbara Barrett
 Bill and Linda Garman
 Bob Barrett
 Brent and Pamela Cousino
 Bruce Flohr
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 Dwight and Oxana Fish
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 Frances E. Wilder
 Glen and Chris Bickel
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 James and Penny Kindraka
 Jeff and ann Hicks
 Jefferson Letter Service

Jimmie and Beulah Allman
 Judith Nelsen
 Kirk and Liz Shuster
 Linda J. Gaff
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 Marvin and Kate Hall
 Mary Gynn
 Mary Linton
 Michael & Lynn Dustin
 Michael L. Shaver
 Norman and Sonia Myers
 Robert and Judith Davis
 Robert and Karen Griggs
 Robert and Sandra Lemon
 Robert Binder
 Ruby Yoder
 Shannon Coughlin
 Steve Ross and Jennifer
 Kleinrichert
 The Yoder Farm LLC
 Tony Fleming and
 Victoria Ferguson
 Willard and Nena Clark
 William and Cecilia Weakley
 Jack and Karen \$250 +
 Horrell
 Lee and Pat Casebere
 Peter and Mary Gustafson
 Robert Binder
 Ron and Mary Ann James
 Thomas and Mary Jo Bland
 Beth Snider and Jill \$500 +
 Weaver
 James Coffey and Georgean
 Johnson-Coffey
 Phillip and Marcia Wright
 Andy and \$1,000+
 Geralyn Boyden

Community Foundation of
 Silicon Valley
 Ethel McClelland
 Ewing Trust
 Frederick and Pamela Jordan
 Herbert and Lorraine Weier
 Jack D. Hunter
 John and Marcella Ellenwood
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 Martha L. Sittler Unitrust
 Orion Foundation, Inc.
 Scott and Frances Nevin
 Scott and Susan Miller
 Family Fund

M.E. Raker \$5,000 +
 Foundation
 Journal Gazette Foundation
 Ian and Mimi \$10,000 +
 Rolland Foundation
 James and Patricia Barrett
 Olive B. Cole Foundation
 Vera Bradley
 Wayne and Linda Boyd
 David and \$25,000 +
 Judith Ruoff
 English, Bonter, \$50,000 +
 Mitchell Foundation
 Indiana Heritage \$150,000 +
 Trust

Tom & Jane Dustin Nature Preserve



Al Diefenbach
for snow plowing the ACRES driveway
all winter

Bob Frantz
engraving Wildwood Nature Preserves sign
letters and building a postage stamp divider
for the office

Christine Storey
donation of bird seed

Nancy Malis
donation of bird seed

Leelia Cornell
donating historical videos of Kokiwanee
Nature Preserve

Richard Wolf of Bruggeman Lumber
donation of lumber for bluebird boxes
and benches

Peter Mildred
building 12 bluebird boxes and 2 benches

Conrad Getz
donating his time to present Wonderful
World of Birds program

Blue Heron Ministries
in-kind service to burn the prairie at
Wing Haven

Wells Fargo Bank
for sponsorship of the new ACRES
preserve guide

Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
three year grant towards operating support

Neil Case
writing preserve descriptions for new
preserve guide

Karen Griggs
proofreading the Quarterly

Gouloff-Jordan Survey and Design, Inc
donation of survey equipment

Brian Utesch
serving his Leo High School internship
with ACRES

Margaret Distler
completing Homestead high school
volunteer service with ACRES

Home and Garden Show Volunteers
(There were 24 this year!)

Kate Johnson and David Brumm
delivering the Quarterly to local
distribution locations

Bishop Hathaway and Fred Feitler
construction of wooden donation boxes

Bill Smith
donation of office supplies

Olive B. Cole Foundation
for sponsorship of the new ACRES
preserve guide

Britton Marketing & Design Group
for Quarterly design and editing

projectPAGE

COMPLETED

- Several preserve benches have been constructed and placed on the preserves
- Highway directional road signs have been installed for Kokiwanee and Tel-Hy

CURRENT

- Installation of culvert under Dustin driveway to control washouts
- Invasive species control, year round (see events page for a scheduled work day)
- Site preparation for constructed wetland cells at Dustin NP
- Wood working to build sign in boxes and carry case for our new telescope
- Phase 2 of Dustin bird feeding station (build additional feeder and install audio microphone/speaker)

PROJECT UPDATES

- Trail GPS and creation of new preserve maps nearly complete
- Beechwood – The 21 acre oak savanna restoration is well underway. Invasive species have been removed from 1/3 of the total project site.
- Dustin – Our constructed wetland for the office sewage treatment is halfway complete. This system should be in place and operating by the end of May.

Prescribed Burns Scheduled for Spring 2008		
Wildwood NP	Kosciusko Co.	10 acres of prairie
Bock NP	Kosciusko Co.	25 acres of warm season grasses
Wing Haven NP	Steuben Co.	7 acres of prairie

* Prescribed burns are controlled fires to promote the health and propagation of these ecosystems

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



Wendell Dygert

Memorials

ACRES lost a dear friend in February. Wendell Dygert passed away but his legacy continues. Wendell and his wife Evelyn generously provided the original portion of the Dygert Nature Preserve in Whitley County. In addition to, and far greater than his legacy left through the nature preserve is the impact he had on his family and acquaintances. Wendell always took genuine interest in people and invested his time and energy in them. As one of his granddaughters said, "In the presence of Grandpa, I never doubted my value."

WENDELL DYGERT

*from Jed & Cindy Pearson
Carol & Norman Kempler
Bill Smith
Cheryl Allen
ELAN Home Systems
Dale & Patricia Slusher
Mark & Donna Miller
James & Ann Tower
Ray & Helen Ridge
Kenneth & Margaret Booth
Don & Betty Cook
Alan & Jerry Sidel
Bill Brigham
Doris Miller
Ben Weldon
Bruce & Angela Palmer
Ethel McClelland & David Homan
John & Charlene Sagers
James & Carol Roush
James & Katherine Fleck
Steven & Joan Crooks
Ross & Marilyn Gibbons
Ken & Cindy Wolfe
Wilson & Billie Joyce Sims
Steve & Linda Dygert
Joe Tower Family
St. Matthews United
Methodist Church
Ellen Miller*

ANNA FLOHR

*from Bruce Flohr
Jack & Cherie Stark*

DALE OSWALT

*for the Anna Brand Hammer
Nature Preserve
from Kathleen Fuller*

ED RINGENBERG

from Deb & Steve Sarrazine

THOMAS SCHMIDT

from Karen Ericson

GERI SMITH

from Kathleen Fuller

GERALD SONNEK

*from James & Lorraine Cherry Family
ITT Corporation
Richard & Marian Harber
Walter Williams
Jeff & Sue Strater
Dick & Jean Annable
Jack & Cherie Stark
Jim Crawford
Arnie & Cola Conrad
Mary & Richard Hertel
Larry & Loreen Niem
Francis & Alice Thompson*

JERRY STRATMAN

*from Dana & Robert Baker
Mary Helen Bink*

JOHN WRIGHT

from Frances Headings



Dandelion Spaghetti

I grew up in Grabill, a small town smack-dab in the middle of Amish country. Our house was on the end of a dead-end street, with fields on two sides. So I grew with the sights and sounds and smells of the country filling my days, and I can't think of a better way.

In the spring, the lilacs outside my bedroom window began to bloom. As soon as the temperature allowed, I left my windows open, letting the breeze bring in the delightful, fresh scent to wake me in the morning. It gave me great pleasure to cut a few bunches to arrange in a vase and give to teachers and

friends. The stand of bushes was my favorite playhouse, and the tiny, delicate flowers drifted down and got caught in my curly hair. To this day, the faintest trace of lilacs in the air takes me back to that time of peace.

Oh, and the dandelions! How I loved those yellow puffs of joy. To me as a child, the sign of spring was not the robin, but polka dots of bright yellow spreading across the rich green of the grass in our yard. I picked them in gigantic bunches, my hands sticky with the milk. (Which tasted nothing like real milk, by the way. I don't recommend it.) I never got the hang of making chains—the stems always broke too quickly, pulled by the heavy heads. So I made what I called "dandelion spaghetti," plucking off the heads for meatballs, the stems spaghetti, sprinkles of clovers and tiny bluebells for oregano and thyme. I had a restaurant in our tin shed, selling my dandelion spaghetti, pinecone stew, and mud cookies (gravel optional).

I always looked forward to when spring came to Grabill and my outdoor adventures began anew. And to this day, when the weather starts to warm, I still get a hankering for dandelion spaghetti.

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