

# THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS  
SINCE 1960



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Fall 2008  
Volume 47 – No. 4



# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This letter is for all the non-members who are reading this Quarterly. Many of you pick up the Quarterly at a nature preserve, a local coffee shop, a library, an ACRES' event, a bookstore, etc. We're pleased that you share our interest in the outdoors. My challenge to you is to take the next step – become a member of ACRES.

ACRES is supported by others just like you – people who value natural areas and like to see portions of it protected. ACRES' mission is simple – to preserve significant natural areas. We have done this since 1960 by acquiring over 4,450 acres of natural areas within our 68 nature preserves.

We need your help. During the course of a year, we watch about 40 – 60 properties that would be ideal nature preserves get sold for other uses because our current funding level can not accommodate their purchase. We want the ability to preserve a greater percentage of these properties. Your membership is one step toward helping ACRES achieve this.

Our success boils down to a simple formula. The more support we get, the more land we preserve. That's where you come into the picture. You obviously place some value on the work ACRES does because you are visiting our properties or at least picking up our publication. I ask that you turn that interest into a tangible action and join the family of ACRES' membership.

Since guilt is often a good motivator, let me share some simple math with you. The copy of the Quarterly in your hand cost us 46 cents to print, and a volunteer has delivered it to wherever you picked it up. If you're an average of 50 miles away from our office, mileage costs would be \$2.92 per copy. There is a value of \$1,500 in design fees, so your copy accounts for 30 cents of this. Another group of volunteers stuffed this Quarterly with a remittance envelope (perfect for sending your membership dues in – hint, hint), and each envelope costs 8 cents. Then there's the staff time it takes to write and compile all the information, averaging 35 cents a copy. So in total, placing this copy of the Quarterly in your hand cost us \$4.11. We have made this investment in you. Why not return the favor?

Now, if you picked this up at one of our preserves, the average preserve is valued at \$375,000. Then there's the cost of the parking lot and staff time to maintain the trails. You get the idea. Your ACRES' membership is well worth the investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Kissel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Kissel

Cover photo by Gary Bendig  
[www.kohnes.com](http://www.kohnes.com)



Angel Wings mushroom by Jason Kissel

WELCOME

# new members!

Debbie and Steve Amidon  
Catherine Birdseye  
Kellie Brace and David Tegan  
Jaymie Brickley – gift of Priscilla Noll  
Patricia S. Brown  
Bob and Esther Burdick – gift of David and Barbara Kissel  
Suzanne Coleman  
Tim Diefenbach  
Stephen H. Downs – gift of Steve Hammer  
Craig and Jan Herold  
Thomas and Bonnie Holloway  
Beverly Hume and Craig Thorne  
Steven and Erin Jungbauer – gift of Steve Hammer  
Patricia Kohart  
Alice Kopfer  
David L. Lahman – gift of Steve Hammer  
David Lawrenz – gift of Steve Hammer  
Wilson Lutz – gift of Steve Hammer  
Judith and Dudley Luzadder  
Matt Marshall – gift of Sarah and Win Rood  
Debora Meek – gift of Alice Kopfer  
Daniel P. Naragon – gift of Steve Hammer  
Chuck Nunnally  
Steven Nunnally  
Tom Schmidt  
Terry and Alice Smith – gift of Steve Hammer  
Joy Stelte  
Andrew Stout and Shanie Dittus  
Michael and Linda Sullivan  
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Swaidner  
Kerby and Sabine Thomas – gift of Steve Hammer  
Jeffrey and Amy Vanover  
Ben Vineyard – gift of Steve Hammer

**If gifted during the months of November or December, take 1/2 off the regular dues as a special holiday price. All new members receive a full year membership and a welcome packet.**

## new life members

Ethel Bloch  
John and Joann Smith  
Ron Venderly

## new corporate members

Asphalt Drum Mixers  
Bart's Water Sports  
Cerulean Restaurant  
Donn - Roll, Inc.  
Lupke Rice Insurance and Financial Services  
Steel Dynamics  
UBC Pro-Build  
Mad Anthony Brewing Company



by Shane Perfect

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS & wish list

As always, a variety of office projects are available.

Spurgeon Nature Preserve (Noble Co.) boardwalk needs repair and the placement of 3 trail posts.

Johnson Nature Preserve (Allen Co.) maintenance garage would benefit from the construction of shelving and a work bench.

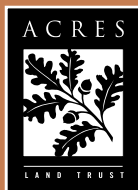
ACRES' office (Allen Co.) maintenance and fall clean up before winter sets in.

Many projects are available for our 50th anniversary in 2010 (history of ACRES research and compilation of a timeline chart, event coordination, etc.).

Expand Quarterly distribution, help distribute in your geographical region.

### ACRES' Wish list

Trailer to transport tractor and large equipment  
Fire proof safe  
Golf cart  
Treated lumber for boardwalks and footbridges  
Office desk with drawers  
Laser pointer  
Pens and pencils for preserve sign-in boxes  
Coffee maker



### ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960. ACRES manages and protects 68 nature preserves totaling over 4,450 acres.

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

[acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)





Flat Rock Creek by Sarah Rood

# Flat Rock Creek Nature Preserve

by Jill Noyes

For several years, it has been a private wish between my husband, Brad, and myself, to share the woods at my family's Paulding County, Ohio farm by way of ACRES.

It seemed to be an impossible dream. My parents, with whom I co-own the farm, are unlikely conspirators in a scheme like this. Besides, at the time, ACRES was not in Ohio. I never mentioned my hope to anyone other than Brad, who was enthusiastic about the idea. I did give my parents a membership to ACRES so that they might read the Quarterly and maybe be more attuned to the idea of giving some of the woods for conservation, years down the road.

I am the fifth generation owner of my farm; my daughter will be the sixth. Although the woods are not the most ecologically diverse property ACRES has, or the largest, it's a beginning in Northwest Ohio. It isn't the only natural area in the county, but it is a new start because it brings with it the support and enthusiasm of ACRES' members.

Hopefully, this will also be a new beginning in the preservation of Flat Rock Creek. Flat Rock

Creek in Ohio has, by the effort of some, and the neglect of others, been largely unchanged over the years. Its channel has not been altered, and it still has much of its tree canopy. A scenic river designation would be a good direction for this type of waterway, bringing with it the benefit of a healthy ecosystem and perhaps a little ecotourism. I am told that the area is attractive to birders, and my mother saw the evidence of an eagle passing through last autumn.

In the end, it was my mother who called me and asked what I thought of ACRES, and began the push to conserve some of the woods. She had always been a staunch supporter of preservation of her favorite natural area and childhood playground but now was starting to consider the benefits of a more public way to keep her favorite woods unaltered forever.

Some dreams, it seems, really do come true.

Join us at the grand opening of this new preserve on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The 50 acre preserve contains upland forest and flood plain forest divided by the serpentine flow of Flat Rock Creek. Come explore the new trails and enjoy the wildlife. See page 10 for more details.

Introducing...

# SAUGA SWAMP

# Nature Preserve

A snake-infested swamp is not on most people's list of prime properties to acquire. To ACRES however, this snake-infested swamp is an ideal property. What makes this property so appealing is that one of the snakes present on this property is the Massasauga rattlesnake and the "swamp" is made up of several high quality vegetation communities.

Sauga Swamp Nature Preserve, a 68 acre preserve, is located in Noble County, east of Wolcottville and north of Kendallville. Access within the preserve is difficult due to the wetlands and therefore will be closed to the public – at least initially.

The property contains half of a natural lake (Mud Lake) and the remainder of the property is wetland. The wetland habitats include sedge meadows, sedge fens, and willow/rice cutgrass swamp.



Photos: Mud Lake by Jason Kissel

## ACQUISITION UPDATE

**It was a busy summer for land acquisition activities at ACRES.**

We acquired 145 acres since the last Quarterly was printed! We also expect to acquire another 159 acres prior to the end of 2008.

In addition to Flat Rock Creek and Sauga Swamp nature preserves, ACRES has acquired three other properties.

In Steuben County 22.5 acres were added to the Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, bringing the total acreage to 110.

John and Marcella Ellenwood donated 4.2 acres near Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve in Allen County. ACRES hopes to continue expanding the preserve so the Ellenwoods' generous gift will one day be connected to Popp Nature Preserve.

ACRES also acquired the smallest acquisition in our history, a quarter acre lot along the Tippecanoe River in Fulton County. The property was donated to ACRES by Imogene Starke. Due

to its size, this property will not be open to the public nor treated as a nature preserve. ACRES retains the right to sell the property in the future if we do not need the property as a research station, river access, or other potential use.

**ACRES now owns over 4,450 acres!**



by Steve Brisco

# Profile of a Conservationist:

## Does Age Matter?

by Patricia Oppor

Like you, I have a deep, abiding love for the Earth. Nature never ceases to amaze and to delight me, and it is where I go when I need to recharge my batteries. I am very interested in engaging people in meaningful discussions about the environmental challenges that we now face. I entered my master's work in environmental science with the hope of learning the most effective way to do this. There are many theories about what factors contribute to people's behavior, some of which focus on demographic characteristics like gender, age, race, education level or socio-economic status. My research focused on age.

In discussions with the leaders of several conservation groups in Fort Wayne, I had learned that their membership lists were heavily populated with seniors and relatively few young adults. For these organizations to remain viable in the long term, it is imperative to recruit younger members, making age a relevant factor for research.

Cohort theory suggests that as people reach early adulthood, national and world events occurring at that time profoundly affect the way the generation will view the world and respond to it. Moreover, studies have shown that this shared outlook persists throughout life and influences how people react to challenges and to life in general. In 1997, a market research firm published findings drawn from over 30 years of survey data. The firm found that people who experienced the World Wars and the Great Depression ("Mature" and "Silent" generations) shared a sense of duty, sacrifice, discipline and hard work. Their successors ("Baby Boomers"), who enjoyed economic stability and prosperity after World War II, commonly engaged in experimentation and self-exploration. For those born in the 1960's or later ("Generation X"), economic uncertainty tempered their quest for fulfillment with a pragmatism much like that of their grandparents.

I asked a random sample of ACRES' members to respond to a series of written statements about which personal experiences have made nature important to them, and which factors motivate them to act. The personal experiences included: Settings (being in the mountains, in a forest, on a beach, etc.); Sensory experiences (sights,

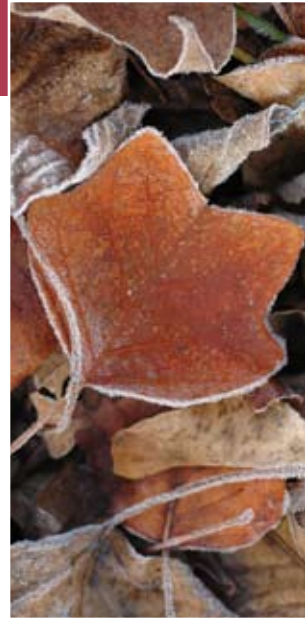
sounds, scents); Activities (boating, hiking, camping, etc.); Aesthetic qualities (scenic beauty); Tasks (gardening, caring for animals, etc.); and Childhood experiences (exploration, play, collecting things, etc.). The motivational factors included: Autonomy (self-determination; freedom of choice); Competence (ability to achieve a goal); Relatedness — altruism (helping others, giving back to the community); Relatedness — others' judgment (living up to expectations, being acknowledged, gaining respect); and Interest (desire to learn, to discover).

Of the ACRES' members surveyed, 64% responded to the questionnaire. Forty-eight percent of the respondents were men; 52% of the respondents were women. Eight percent were representatives of the "Mature" generation; 33% were representatives of the "Silent" generation; 46% were representatives of the "Baby Boom" generation; and 13% were representatives of the "X" generation. The eldest respondent was born in 1915 and the youngest respondent was born in 1983.

Of the six nature experience components, ACRES' members from the "Mature" and "Silent" generations perceived that "scenic beauty" made nature more important to them. Alternatively, ACRES' members from the "Baby Boom" and "X" generations perceived that "being in nature" (settings) made nature more important to them.



by Gary Bendig



"Tasks" were perceived as least influential by all members surveyed, except for respondents from the "Silent" generation who perceived that childhood experiences were the least influential.

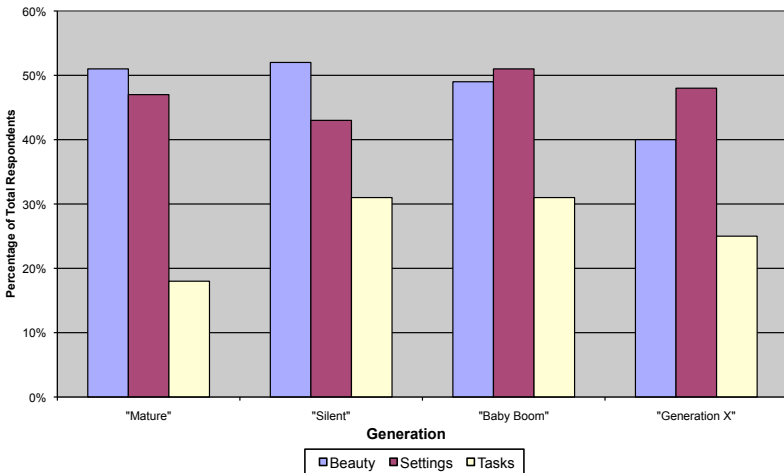
Of the five motivational components, all ACRES' members surveyed perceived that autonomy (free choice) motivated them most strongly to act. Similarly, all ACRES' members perceived that others' judgment was the weakest motivator.

Does age matter? It seems to matter when it comes to nature experience, if only to a small degree. My data certainly shows more similarities across the generations than

substantive differences. What I glean from my research, however, is a potential approach for recruiting younger members. If generations go forward with a shared consciousness, it would make sense to enlist the help of the younger generation in reaching out to their peers.

*Author's Note: This article is an extremely condensed version of my Master's thesis. ACRES' members generously participated in the survey portion of the research, and I am happy to share the results here. The full thesis is available at <http://www.taylor.edu/academics/graduate/mes/students.shtml>. Patricia Oppor, MES*

**Percentage of ACRES' Respondents Who Perceive That Beauty, Settings and Tasks Make Nature Important to Them**



**Center photograph spread**, taken by Shane Perfect, showcases a fall scene within the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve. This preserve is home to the ACRES' office which was once the home of the Dustins, two of the organization's founding members. The office is a cedar and stone building of rustic appearance that blends into the trees and rugged terrain that surround it. Cedar Creek, shown in the background, is a State Scenic and Recreational River, one of three rivers designated as such in the state of Indiana.





# fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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



by Shane Perfect

## WING HAVEN FALL FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 18th, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Presented by:** Bill and Dawn Spurgeon, Wing Haven caretakers

Come join us for our second annual Wing Haven fall gathering. There will be artists demonstrating their talents including blacksmiths, chainsaw carvers and primitive skills. Dulcimer music will be played in the studio, performed by the String-A-Longs and Friends, and there will be activities for children. Hike the beautiful trails while you are here. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 127 exit. Go south on SR 127 to 400N and turn left (east) on 400N. Preserve is on north side in about 3/4 mile. Nearest city is Angola.

## HABITAT WORKSHOP

**Saturday, October 18th, 9 a.m. - noon**

**Presented by:** St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

Are you wondering how to attract more wildlife? Learn more about creating a wildlife-friendly neighborhood at this workshop. Indiana Wildlife Federation education and habitat coordinator, Jerry Wheeler, and local certified backyard conservationist, Ellen Ley, will be sharing their experiences in conservation. There will be a cookout following the workshop. **Where:** Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen Co. From Fort Wayne, take Coldwater Rd. north to Chapman Rd. (5 miles north of Dupont Rd.), turn right (east) and go 3/4 mile, the entrance is on the south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.

## 4TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

**Saturday, October 25th, 3 – 5 p.m.** Please see page 12 for details.

## POPP OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, October 26th, 1 p.m.**

**Presented by:** Larry Biggerstaff, caretaker

Hike the old-growth woods in the Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, open only once a year. Enjoy a cozy afternoon by a bonfire eating hot dogs or walking the brisk fall woods. **Where:** Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Dupont Road east of I-69 to Tonkel Road. Turn left (north) on Tonkel Road and go about 1.5 miles. The preserve is on the left (west) side at 12129 Tonkel Road.

## FLAT ROCK CREEK OPENING CEREMONY

**Saturday, November 1st, 2 p.m.**

**Presented by:** ACRES Staff

ACRES in Ohio – Thanks to the Rood family, we now have the first nature preserve in our recently expanded service area. Join us with the donors, family and friends to show our appreciation for this addition to ACRES' nature preserves. **Where:** Flat Rock Creek Nature Preserve, Paulding Co. From Fort Wayne, take Jefferson Blvd. east to New Haven and continue due east on Lincoln Hwy which turns into Dawkins Rd to the town of Edgerton. Go through Edgerton to SR 613 toward Payne, Ohio. Follow SR 613 until it joins SR 500 and follow SR 500 towards Paulding, Ohio. The nature preserve will be on the right-hand side about 4 miles east of Payne.



by Shane Perfect

## BODY LANGUAGE OF TREES

**Saturday, November 8th, 10 a.m.**

**Presented by:** Jason Kissel, ACRES executive director

Learn how to interpret what the bumps, leans, bends, and other structural characteristics of trees can tell you about their health and history. Come explore the trees with Jason while enjoying a hike along the preserve's cliffs and waterfalls. **Where:** Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash Co. From Fort Wayne, take US 24 west to Lagro. Turn left (south) onto Lagro Rd., go through Lagro, and then turn right (west) onto Baumbauer Rd. Preserve will be on your right in 2 miles.

# fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information to events.

## HURRICANES: INTENSE STORMS OF TROPICAL ORIGIN



Hurricane Isabel

**Sunday, November 9th, 2 p.m.**

**Presented by:** Dr. David Finley, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at Trine University

Dr. Finley will describe the formation, life cycle, beauty, and damage of these ferocious storms that generate enormous waves, heavy rains, and winds that may exceed 150 knots (167 mph). **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co. From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 127 exit. Go south on SR 127 to 400N and turn left (east) on 400N. The preserve is on north side in about 3/4 mile. The nearest city is Angola.

## ANNUAL DINNER

**Friday, November 14th, 6 p.m.** Please see page 13 for details.

## STAR GAZING



Moon by Mark Keuchler

**Saturday, November 22nd, 6 p.m.**

**Presented by:** David Brumm and Al McSweeney

ACRES has a new telescope, and we are excited to break it in for the first time. Come explore the skies with us. We should be able to observe the moons of Jupiter. Coffee, hot chocolate and light refreshments will help us keep our eyes wide open. **Where:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko Co. About 3 miles east of Silver Lake on SR. 14. The entrance is on south side of road, 1/4 mile east of County Farm Rd.

## WINTER HIKE

**Saturday, December 6th, 10 a.m.**

**Presented by:** Kissel Family

Come explore the winter woods of the Mary Thornton Nature Preserve. After a brisk hike that will highlight nature's adaptations for winter, we'll enjoy some warm wassail and cookies. **Where:** Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash Co. The preserve is east of Wabash and north of Lagro. From US 24, take 300E north to 300N and turn left (west) on 300N. The preserve is located at 1541E 300N on the south side of the road.

## 14TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

**Sunday, December 7th, 2 p.m.**

**Presented by:** Art Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, and Jeanine Samuelson

Get in the holiday spirit by singing around a wood burning stove and enjoying holiday refreshments. We invite you to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the holidays at the Wing Haven Studio. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 127 exit. Go south on SR 127 to 400N and turn left (east) on 400N. The preserve is on north side in about 3/4 mile. The nearest city is Angola, Indiana.

## CHRISTMAS FOR THE BIRDS



Nuthatch by Jon Ingleman

**Saturday, December 13th, 2 p.m.**

**Presented by:** David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Come join us at Wildwood to make Christmas treats for the birds and take a hike. Hot chocolate and treats for humans will be furnished. **Where:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko Co. About 3 miles east of Silver Lake on SR 14. The entrance is on south side of road, 1/4 mile east of County Farm Rd.

# CURRENT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

ACRES’ nature preserves host many different user groups. One of these groups is researchers. There are currently twelve active scientific studies being performed on ACRES properties. When ACRES’ is approached by researchers, their proposal is reviewed by the Education Committee to ensure the study will not harm the preserve and has value to ACRES.

Listed below is a summary of the current studies:



Indiana Geological Survey by Adam Perfect

| Study Name                                  | Preserve                           | Affiliation                                       |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Mycology Inventory                          | Bibler                             | Ball State University                             |
| Mussel Habitat Study Along Maumee           | McNabb - Walter                    | University of Saint Francis                       |
| Beetle Control of Purple Loosestrife        | Wing Haven                         | Indiana Department of Natural Resources           |
| Red Spotted Salamander Habitat Preference   | Numerous Preserves                 | Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne |
| Mussel Inventory Along Tippecanoe           | Ruth Kern Woodland                 | Commonwealth Biomonitoring                        |
| Deer Tick Study                             | Wildwood                           | Manchester College                                |
| Aquatic Plant Survey                        | Lonidaw and Wing Haven             | Taylor University                                 |
| Emerald Ash Borer Survey                    | Tel-Hy                             | Indiana Department of Natural Resources           |
| Wildwood Flora Inventory                    | Wildwood                           | Taylor University                                 |
| Three Dimensional Surface Till Stratigraphy | Dustin, Bicentennial and Kokiwanee | Indiana Geological Survey                         |
| Flora Inventory                             | Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run      | Manchester College                                |
| Flora Inventory                             | Mengerson                          | Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne |

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Photography Exhibit

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 3–5 P.M.

This year, ACRES is taking the exhibit to The Village at Winona. Arts, eateries, shops, and shoreline are all included with your event ticket.

**Catered by:** Flying Fish Catering from the Cerulean Restaurant

**Tickets:** \$40 per person or \$75 for two  
Discount rates are available for groups.

**Where:** John Eric Hawkins’s Gallery “D,”  
The Village at Winona.  
801 E. Canal St. Winona Lake, Indiana

Call the ACRES’ office to order your tickets: 260.637.2273

### SPONSORS:



Lupke Rice  
INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Vera Bradley



# Annual Dinner

**Friday, November 14th**

Concordia Lutheran Seminary Dining Hall  
6600 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne

## **Dinner at 6:00 p.m.**

**Costs:** Dinner – \$20/person

Call the ACRES' office to make your dinner reservations by Friday, November 7th.

**Program at 8:00 p.m.** Free for ACRES' members. Please call in advance to reserve your program ticket if you are not attending the dinner. \$10 for non-ACRES' member. Seating is limited, so order your tickets early.

**Isle Royale Wolf & Moose Study**, at 50 years, is the longest continuous predator-prey study ever conducted. Renowned wildlife biologist Dr. Rolf Peterson will be our guest speaker at this year's annual dinner. He has been the lead researcher for the project the last 38 years. He will be available after the program for a book signing session. Copies of his most recent book, *The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance*, will be available.



## **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.

## **Menu**

Casa Concordia salad

Sunflower bread

Pork medallions with seasoned baby bakers

Venetian blend – asparagus, red pepper strips, broccoli and sugar snap peas

A vegetarian entree of Grande ole Florentine ravioli with pesto alfredo will also be available

Chocolate mousse for dessert.



## **SPONSORS:**



**M.E. Raker  
Foundation**



## announcements

The Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run fund drive is complete! Thank you to all the donors who contributed to this spectacular property.

Indiana Heritage Trust  
Harvey and Fran Hathaway  
The Nature Conservancy  
James and Patricia Barrett  
Wabash Community Foundation

Bruce Flohr  
William and Sarah Hathaway  
Bishop and Carol Hathaway  
Frances A. Wright  
Robert Binder  
Jon and Gloria Foor  
Fred and Mary Anna Feitler  
John P. Johnson  
Ed and Cynthia Powers  
Jean Gronendyke  
John Carsten  
Terry Marbach  
Jeffrey L. Crockett

## SPECIAL thanks

### Steve Hammer

for extending gift memberships to 10 new members! Thank you for spreading the word about ACRES.

### Wayne Boyd and his staff at ADM

for all their work on the new Bicentennial Woods bridge

### Bruce and Kate Johnson, and David Brumm

for helping with quarterly distribution

### Allen Hedrick

for our new Fox Fire entrance sign

### David and Ian Brumm

for maintenance work around the office

### Ian Brumm

assisting with survey work at the Bicentennial Woods bridge

### UBC Pro-Build

for donating the treated lumber for the Bicentennial Woods bridge decking

### Donn-Roll, Inc.

for donating all the assembly hardware for the Bicentennial Woods bridge

### Jay and Pam Sagers

new stewards of Cypress Meadow, Little Wabash River and Fogwell Forest

### Brian and Alexis Zuchinsky

new stewards of Mengerson Nature Preserve

### Gary Helmke

for plant species identification

### Jack Stark and Nate Simons

board members who attended recent acquisition closings

### Dave Dickmeyer

crafted wooden display for brochures at ACRES office

### Robin Wilson

planted wetland plants within the Dustin constructed wetland

### Gouloff-Jordan Survey and Design

surveying and legal descriptions

### Russell Engineering

assistance with the Bicentennial Woods bridge engineering

### Al McSweeney

editing the preserve directions for the new Preserve Guide

### Audrey Van Gilder

for fulfilling her Carroll High School National Honors Society community service hours with us

### Adam Perfect

for serving his Leo High School career exploration hours with us

### Nicholas Goudy

for working around the Dustin Nature Preserve

### Master Naturalists

from this year's class that have been volunteering

### Britton Marketing and Design Group

for designing and editing the Quarterly



Fox Fire Sign

## FAREWELL, RACHEL

Rachel Sherman has been an ACRES' employee since 2005 working primarily with education, events, membership, and accounting. She moved to Arizona in early September. We certainly miss her and wish her the best in her adventures. Thank you, Rachel, for all your quality work and efforts – good luck out West!

## NEW PRESERVE GUIDE

Our highly anticipated new Preserve Guide will be printed in November. This 136 page, spiral bound guide will feature our nature preserves that are open to the public. Current members will receive a copy in a December mailing. Additional copies can be obtained for \$10.00 each – a great idea for a Christmas gift.



wetland plant installation

# projectPAGE

## COMPLETED

- Dustin Nature Preserve constructed wetland septic system is complete and operational.

## CURRENT

- Bicentennial Woods bridge – the concrete footers are in place and installation is under way.
- Wing Haven invasive species control and wetland enhancement on 30 acres are under way. This project is a partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The Dustin barn is being cleaned for future events. Windows in the upper loft need repair.
- Bock Nature Preserve warm season grasses scheduled for a prescribed burn this fall.

## NEW

- Metal fabrication of sign-in boxes – keeping track of visitors, your comments and feedback are essential. Contact the office for a template and details. This would be a great high school shop class project.
- Tel-Hy Nature Preserve (Huntington Co.) Cool season grasses are scheduled for mowing and disking this fall for mid-term CRP management. ACRES is seeking use of equipment and labor to perform this management.

## Memorials

### Paul Fish

from Robert and Nancy Lambert  
Joe and Hannah Fish

### Gordon Benton Graef

from Linda Duxbury  
Brett Harding Duxbury  
Tom and Ruby Butts  
James and Lucy Hoffman  
Eileen Huffman  
The Keller Family

### Wendell Dygert

from Mike and Dana Baker for the  
Wendell and Evelyn Dygert NP

### Dan Listenberger

from James and Marilu Brunson  
Paul and Olive Gerard  
Emory and Dawn Frech  
Current Mechanical

### Kathryn Moore

from Mary Anna and Fred Feitler  
Bruce Flohr for Hathaway Preserve  
Don Gorney

### Jerry Stratman

from Mike and Dana Baker for the  
Wendell and Evelyn Dygert NP

### Albert J. Knight

from Deb and Steve Sarrazine

squirrel by Gary Bendig



Willow Creek by Al McSweeney



by Mark Kuechler





by Catherine Hill

Kokiwanee Nature Preserve is a kind of secret weapon for parents who want their kids to enjoy being outside in the presence of trees. It is a big place. It has a river. There are steep bluffs above the river so tall that it would hurt if you fell down them. Adding to the atmosphere is the fact that this is a former Girl Scout camp, modestly haunted by vacant bunk houses.

In late September, on the Mossy Heights Trail with a five and a three year old, I find myself wishing I were a little more like my friend Jeff Britton, who knows about the things we're looking at. Ask him

what he's going to order at a restaurant and his answer will eventually go on to include either flying squirrels or the history of the great glacial lake Maumee. And then he will stop himself and say "I can tell you more if you want." In comparison, the outdoor wisdom I can pass on to my children pales:

"Don't stand so close to the edge of the waterfall."

"Look at the pretty flower."

Fortunately, when your kids are this young, you can easily create the appearance of wisdom. I stop the slow march every once in awhile, point vaguely off the trail and say "That tree is what you call a shagbark hickory."

Another successful tactic this day is to announce that we are walking the same trails explored by Billy and Blaze in the children's story *Blaze and the Lost Quarry*. "There's the smooth stone!" says June, "We must be close to the lost quarry!" We never did find that quarry, but Kokiwanee is large, and we left a few trails unexplored for next time.

*Scott teaches English at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne.*

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