

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS

SINCE 1960



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Summer 2009

Volume 48 – No. 3





Photo by Shane Perfect

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are preparing to celebrate ACRES' first 50 years of preserving natural areas! I want to give you a sneak preview of some of the planned activities:

- The celebration will officially kick off at this year's annual meeting on November 13. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, will be our guest speaker. His bestselling book describes how direct exposure to nature is essential for the physical and emotional health of children and adults.
- We are striving to meet the goal of 5,000 acres owned by the end of 2010, so I hope driving a "5,000th acre" post in the ground will be part of the 50th Anniversary celebration.
- We have partnered with the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to produce "Artology," a traveling art show. Artology will feature 20 of the best local artists who will produce works of art inspired by the nature preserves.
- There will be numerous special events, including those led by the founding members of ACRES, who will be sharing their perspective on ACRES' first 50 years.
- "Preserve Performances" will be held where hikers will encounter *plein-air* painters, the Ft. Wayne Ballet, poets, musicians including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and other artists as hikers travel down the path within a nature preserve.

So, that's a glimpse of things to come during the 50th anniversary celebration. Although these events will be wonderful, the real celebration takes place daily within the preserves. The generations of animals who have made the preserves their home and the expanding diameters of the trees document and celebrate each year of ACRES' existence. Please join me as ACRES celebrates its 50th anniversary, dedicated in honor of our forward-thinking founders.

Sincerely,

 Jason Kissel

Cover Photo: Black-Eyed Susan by Shane Perfect

WELCOME 51 new members!

Mary Ackerman
 Betsy Berry
 Dawn Bleeke
 Carl and Jane Bock
 Kevin Cassman
 Tim Claxton - gift of Mark and Anne Shure
 Brett Harding Duxbury - gift of Linda Duxbury
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eckert - gift of Mark and Mary Ann Schaefer
 Charmaine Ekroth
 Sue Ellison
 Kathryn Farnsworth
 Dave W. Fox
 Bill and Linda Garman
 Jan Gillig
 LaVon Graft - gift of Sandra Lamp
 Buck Hatton
 Gary Heller - gift of Ken Ludwig
 Dan Hoff
 Joe and Tammy Hyndman - gift of Eric and Linda Anderson
 Kris Jensen
 Barbara Jones
 Don Jones - gift of Betsy Berry
 Tom Karz
 Suzanne Kauffman
 Sue Kratzman
 Samuel Laird
 Sandra Lamp
 Heather Long
 Dale Lutz and Virginia Kremer-Lutz
 Jenny Maldono - gift of Gerald Short
 George and Jennifer Manning
 Darrel and Betty McGriff
 Gloria Mertens
 Northeast Indiana Environmental Health Association
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Piazza - gift of Kim and Monica Grubbs

Clifford Pomeroy
 Rivergreenway Consortium
 Ryan Romich and Jessi Butler
 Roger and Cindy Rose
 Kathy Royer
 Carl & Phyllis Saylor - gift of Dawn Bleeke
 Linda Summers
 Jason Taylor
 Sam Trappe
 Thomas Trentadue
 Deanna Vazquez
 Marilyn Wiedman - gift of Larry Wiedman
 Erma Wolfe
 Kevin and Linda Yant

new life members

Fred and Jackie Wooley

new corporate members

Zeigler's Window Coverings
 Lincoln Printing

ACRES wish list

- Compact disc player with radio
- Picnic table for the office deck
- Tools - A variety of hand tools would be handy: crescent wrench, screwdrivers, socket wrench and sockets, hammer, handsaw, etc.
- Birdseed



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 70 nature preserves totaling over 4,550 acres.

1802 Chapman Rd.
 Huntstown, IN 46748-9723
 260.637.ACRES (2273)
 email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



Meeting Prairie Plants: Flower Portraits



Fringed Gentian by Art Eberhardt

by Karen Griggs, Ph.D.

At first light on a July morning, before the day grew hot, I met two ACRES friends at a prairie restoration site in Allen County.

We packed cameras and wildflower identification books while the early morning fog burned off, and we got soaking wet right away as we walked single file past tall yellow flowers bent over with heavy dew. The prairie trail led us near an upland wetland near a forest preserve in the headwaters of the Cedar Creek watershed.

I saw the sun rise behind a thistle and took a dramatic photograph from several angles.

Little birds and honeybees, deer and butterflies delighted us as we came near the large leaves of prairie dock, rattlesnake master, compass plant, thimbleweed, and other rather unusual prairie flowers. As the air became hot and muggy, cool dampness lingered at the base of the prairie grasses and flowers as well as in animal burrows underground where the air will be ten degrees cooler at the heat of the day.

Learning the names of the prairie flowers is pretty easy since they are so distinctive. Prairie dock has very large, coarse, deep green leaves close to the ground. Rattlesnake master flowers have a tall stem with spikey round buds before the flowers open up. The compass plant grows with leaves that line up north to south.

These brightly colored plants grow among tall grasses. Big bluestem and other grasses have extensive root systems, so they are drought-tolerant. Some prairie

flowers are well known to native plant lovers. These are the black-eyed Susan, spiderwort, meadow rose, turks' cap lily, and the prairie white fringed orchid.

Some of the flowers are in a family such as orange butterfly weed, familiar prairie milkweed, and pink swamp milkweed.

As the summer advances, small sunflowers, prairie coreopsis and prairie dock bloom with bright yellow flowers. Pale pink shooting stars are not often seen, but they do grow at the Acres Along the Wabash preserve in Wells County and northwest of Mongo along the Pigeon River in the state Fish & Game Area.

Late summer colors are quite distinct. Visitors enjoy the deep purple of fringed gentian and prairie gentian, the dark red of big bluestem grasses, light pink vertical spikes of gayfeather and button snakeroot. Late goldenrod, showy goldenrod, asters, and spotted Joe-pye-weed bloom before frost.

Not all plants in prairies are grasses and leafy plants called forbs. Oak trees grow far apart in some prairies called savannas. Hummocks of sedge and dogwood bushes grow in shrubby prairies.

ACRES has three preserves with prairies: Wing Haven in Steuben County, Tel-Hy in Huntington County and Wildwood in Kosciusko County.

Join us on September 12 at Wing Haven Preserve for invasive species control at this prairie remnant. Pack your own brown bag for lunch with Nate Simons on a gravel hill prairie.

5th Annual Wine Tasting and Photography Exhibit



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 5-7 p.m.

ACRES will present nature-based photographic artwork from local artists in this year's exhibit at the Artlink Gallery. Fine wines and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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

Where: Artlink - Contemporary Art Gallery, 437 East Berry Street downtown Fort Wayne

Call the ACRES office to order your tickets: 260.637.2273

Memorials

James Savage

from Dave and Judy Deimling,
Carl and Ruth Deimling

Donald Macon

from Bill and Kathleen Fuller

Margaret Shultz - Gorney

from Barbara and Terri Gorney

Ed Rousseau

from Mitch Harper and Dawn Wilson

Earl Davis

from Leelia Cornell

Thomas J. Schmidt

from Karen Ericson

Dan Listenberger

from Classic City Social Club

Alfred Moser

from the Cardinal Chapter of Indiana
Audubon Society

Dave Schroff

from Barbara and Terri Gorney

Joel Scharter

from Larry and Beverly Christensen

Tributes

To Mr. and Mrs. Mark Piazza

in recognition of their retirement, from
Kim and Monica Grubbs

announcements

SAVE THE DATE: PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP OCTOBER 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

This will be a hands-on nature photography workshop. We will start with a lecture/presentation and then go outside to explore the Dustin Nature Preserve with our cameras; followed by a critique and discussion session. Bring your camera, tripod, and questions. We will spend time one-on-one to help you become more familiar with your camera and discuss composition and techniques. Class size is limited.



by Ray Steup

Registration and payment required in advance by calling Sunny Schick Camera Shop at 260.424.1615.

Cost is \$10
Light refreshments will be provided.

Where: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County. From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112B) take Coldwater Rd. north for approximately 7.5 miles to Chapman Rd., turn right (east) and go 0.75 mile. The entrance is on south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.

PRESERVE GUIDE



ACRES LAND TRUST
Preserving Natural Areas
Since 1960

PRESERVE GUIDE

ACRES' 136 page **Preserve Guide** is available for \$10 a copy at the following locations:

Fort Wayne area: the ACRES office, Wild Birds Unlimited, Hyde Brothers book store, The Bird Seedery, Reigel's, and at all ACRES events.

Surrounding areas: Maplewood Nature Center, Kosciusko County Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Pokagon State Park Nature Center, Wabash County Historical Museum, Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center, and at all ACRES events.

LIBRARY

The shelves have been dusted, and the books are catalogued thanks to Doug Rood and Kate Ferguson. Visit the library at the ACRES office and check out books on birds, flowers, geology, insects, trees, wetlands and more. There are also many reference volumes. During a visit to the preserve, stop in for a quiet moment and find out the name of a bird or flower you have observed.



ACRES has a new website!



GET INVOLVED

Renew your membership, sign up for events, and check out volunteer opportunities online



FIELD NOTES

Post and share observations, comments, photos and video from your latest preserve visit



PRESERVE MAPS

The new interactive maps for the preserves are amazing. You can enter your address to find the nearest preserve and print directions and trail maps



DONATIONS

You can now donate online through our secure website

ACRES membership renewals began July 1st.

Don't forget to renew if you have not already done so. You won't want to miss
ACRES' 50th anniversary celebration in 2010.

Thanks!

INTRODUCING THE KENNETH GOBLE NATURE PRESERVE, BLACKFORD COUNTY

ACRES has acquired its first nature preserve in Blackford County! This 98-acre preserve was acquired through a generous donation by Donovan and Kathryn Stone.

The property is located near Montpelier, Indiana along the Salamonie River. It is named after Kathryn's father who loved the land and instilled in her a deep respect for the area and its natural resources. Kathryn is an avid naturalist and has documented many of the plant and animal species observed on the property. Some of the more uncommon animal species seen include: queen snake, massasauga rattlesnake, bald eagle, whip-poor-will, pileated woodpecker, cedar waxwing, and numerous warblers, including prothonotary warblers.

The property is entirely forested with the exception of the area around the home site, where the Stones continue to reside. The primarily mid-succession forest contains occasional stands of mature trees, some over four feet in diameter. A meandering stream flows through the entire property, spilling into the Salamonie River.

The Stones reserved a life estate on the property and the property will not be open to the public during their lifetime. ACRES owns several properties with this same arrangement. It's a great option for many landowners. They can continue to live on and enjoy the property while being freed from the property taxes and maintenance responsibilities that ownership brings (beyond the residence). Donations of properties have been a significant part of ACRES acquisitions through the years. Thank you to the Stones and all the other land donors who have generously preserved their land through ACRES Land Trust.



by Shane Perfect

HANGING ROCK NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK, WABASH COUNTY

ACRES has acquired Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark located near Lagro, Indiana. ACRES' involvement with Hanging Rock began in 1958, two years prior to our official incorporation as a non-profit organization. ACRES leased and managed the property for a period of about 30 years. The landmark and surrounding four acres were donated to ACRES by the same owner that was contacted in 1958.

Hanging Rock is located along the Wabash River east of Lagro, Indiana and about a mile upstream from the mouth of the Salamonie River. The large rock rises about 80 feet above the surface of the river and offers a flat surface on its pinnacle. The surrounding countryside can be viewed for miles. Because of years of undercutting, Hanging Rock juts out over the river and was historically used as a reference point in navigating along the Wabash River.

Geologist, Tony Fleming, describes Hanging Rock as "a remnant of an ancient bioherm—a localized, reef-like mass of rock formed from the remains of shelled organisms—which was exhumed (uncovered) by glacial and stream erosion during the

Ice Age. In fact, Hanging Rock has endured attack by oceans, glaciers, streams and weathering agents for hundreds of millions of years. The dolomite that makes up Hanging Rock is much harder than the enclosing rock, which helps to explain why Hanging Rock has endured for so long, and now stands up above its surroundings as a "pinnacle reef." Hanging Rock is part of the Wabash reef, which is one of the most famous in the world.

The history of Hanging Rock began during the Silurian era, about 400 million years ago, when a shallow, warm sea covered much of North America. Corals, sponges and many other marine organisms flourished in this environment and grew here in northeast Indiana in coral reefs, some of which formed exposed mounds and islands that stood close to sea level. Over time, all of these reefs were buried in the seafloor mud and were later compressed into layers of rock hundreds of feet thick. Ice Age glaciers stripped off much of the softer surrounding rocks before burying the reef again with layers of glacial till, sand and gravel.

About 13,000 years ago, the Wabash River Valley was affected by a cataclysmic event known as the Maumee Torrent, when a volume of water larger than modern-day Lake Erie drained down the valley in a matter of days or weeks. This huge torrent scoured out the bottom of the valley, removing most of the glacial sediment as it carved a deep, wide valley into the bedrock; the resistant dolomite of Hanging Rock was left behind as a pinnacle projecting out into the river's path.

Hanging Rock consists of silty dolomite and limestone. Very few fossils remain in their original growth positions because the central part of the reef has been eroded away, and many of the fossils were altered beyond recognition when the rock was converted to dolomite. The Hanging Rock of today is only a small part of the original reef that undoubtedly extended well across the present Wabash River, but the force of the Maumee Torrent and subsequent post-glacial erosion by the river removed the northern flank and central reef core, leaving behind the smaller remnant we see today."

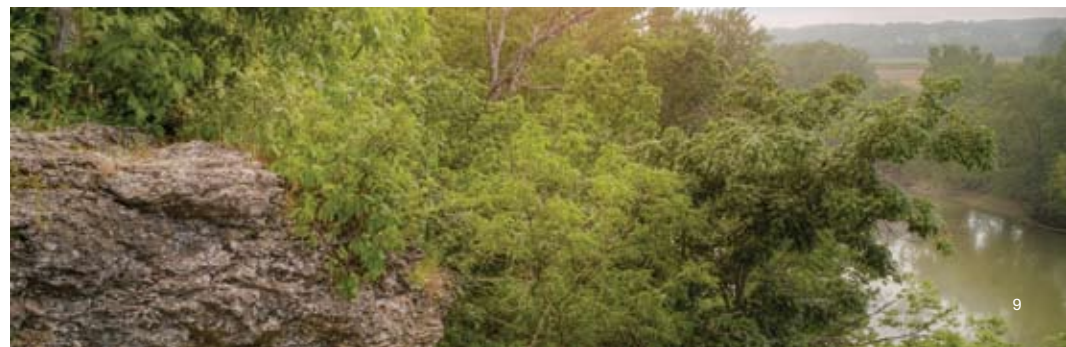
Beyond its geological significance, Hanging Rock is a landmark that is culturally important to current and past generations of Wabash County. Hanging Rock has inspired the Legend of Hanging Rock, which tells the story of two native American braves fighting to the death on top of the rock over a maiden, who in the end threw herself off the rock after her true love tumbled off during the fight. Numerous poems and songs also use Hanging Rock as their focal point. Hanging Rock is ACRES' fourth nature preserve in Wabash County.

Directions: From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel through Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. When SR 524 curves to the east, continue east onto Hanging Rock Rd. leaving SR 524. Preserve is on the left in 0.75 mile.

Center photo spread and photo below of Hanging Rock by Jarrod Spicer



by Sheldon Hine





fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

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

WING HAVEN OUTDOOR CONCERT

Saturday, July 18, 5 p.m.

Presented by: The Spurgeon Family

Enjoy the sounds of outdoor acoustic music performed by John Getz and the duo of Justin Steele and Keith Barnes. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic dinner and enjoy music at the barns. Bring a musical instrument along for a possible open jam session.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County
From Angola take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left in 0.4 miles.



by Shane Perfect



by Jason Kissel

BOCK PRAIRIE FLOWER HIKE

Sunday, July 19, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Gary Helmke

Join us for an interpretive hike and enjoy a carpet of prairie flowers at the Bock Preserve.

Where: Bock Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County
From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn right (west) onto SR 14 and travel 6.5 miles to where SR 14 takes a 90-degree turn south. Preserve is 0.5 mile on the left.

MCCLUE PRESENTATION AND GUIDED HIKE

Sunday, July 19, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Terri Gorney and Fred Wooley

Hear an historical perspective on the McClue Reserve by Fred Wooley and get a sense of what wild Steuben County looked like in the first half of the last century. Terri Gorney will speak about Maurice McClue as she got to know him through transcribing his journal. A guided hike to the McClue Reserve will follow the program.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County
From Angola take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left in 0.4 miles.

FIREFLIES

Friday, July 24, 9 p.m.

Presented by: Jason Kissel

Did you know there are 30 different species of fireflies in ACRES' preserves? Participants will learn how to tell one species from another while enjoying the light show and night hike.

Where: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash County
From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lago. Travel through Lago as 300E turns into SR 524. Follow SR 524 for 1.5 miles to Baumbauer Rd. and turn right (west). Preserve is on the right in 2.2 miles.



by Shane Perfect

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

THE WORLD OF SALAMANDERS AND TOADS

Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Bruce Kingsbury

Join us and explore the world of salamanders and toads, where they live and hide.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County
From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel 3 miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.



by Shane Perfect



by Shane Perfect

8th ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP

Sunday, August 2, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons and the Spurgeon Family
Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the Seven Sisters Lakes with an interpretive program led by Nate Simons. Then join us for a cookout after the canoe trip. All paddling levels welcome. Please bring your own canoe or kayak.

You must register if you are staying for the cookout.
Cookout \$5. Call Bill or Dawn Spurgeon at 260.668.8761 to make your reservation.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County
From Angola take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left in 0.4 miles.

RUTH KERN HIKE & TOUR OF EARTH CURE FARM

Saturday, August 8, 1 p.m.

Join the ACRES staff for an informal hike and enjoy a snack provided by Earth Cure Farm. After the hike, Earth Cure Farm invites you to visit their farm (15 minutes north) to see a sustainable and organic system of farming.

Where: Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve, Fulton County
From Rochester take Old US 31/Main St. north to 450N. Turn left (west) and cross over US 31. Continue west for 3.75 miles and the preserve will be on the left.



by Angie O'Neill

BUTTERFLIES AND BLUE SKIES

Saturday, August 15, 2 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland
Join David and Ethel as they search for and identify butterflies and enjoy the blue skies on their hike.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County
From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel 3 miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

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ACRES Archive

HISTORY OF KOKIWANEE

Saturday, August 15, 4 p.m.

Presented by: Leelia Cornell

Join Leelia Cornell to learn of the history, stories and people, past and present, who bring Kokiwanee to life. There will be a special unveiling of a plaque honoring the donors to Kokiwanee.

Where: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County
From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel through Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. When SR 524 curves to the east, continue east onto Hanging Rock Rd. leaving SR 524. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right (south) on 500E. Continue on 500E for 1.5 miles as it turns into 50S. Preserve is on the right just before 600E.

ROSS RUN FUN

Saturday, August 22, 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

We're going to have some old-fashioned fun in the creek during this event. Come prepared to get wet, dirty, tired, and maybe even a little scratched up as we explore the magnificent gorge at this preserve while learning about geology and habitat. We'll be turning over rocks, playing in the water, and sifting through mud. If you're brave enough to join us, wear your old tennis shoes and grubby clothes.

Where: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash County
From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel through Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. Follow SR 524 for 1.5 miles to Baumbauer Rd. and turn right (west). Preserve is on the right in 2.2 miles.



by Jason Kissel

WETLANDS AND THE SOIL/WATER INTERFACE

Saturday, August 29, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Matt Jones, Water Resource Education Specialist, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality
Glimpse into the importance of wetlands and their key role in water quality. Join Matt in a hands-on demonstration on the filtering abilities of different soil types. See how wetland soils filter pollutants from the water.

Where: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County.
From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112B) take Coldwater Rd. north for approximately 7.5 miles to Chapman Rd., turn right (east) and go 0.75 mile. The entrance is on south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.



ACRES Archive

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

WING HAVEN WORK DAY

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons

Learn about prairie plants and their management while performing invasive control at Wing Haven's prairie remnant. Pack your own brown bag for lunch on a gravel hill prairie.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County
From Angola take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left in 0.4 miles.



by Shane Perfect

WILDWOOD DEDICATION

Saturday, September 12, 2 p.m. dedication, hike at 2:30 p.m.

Presented by: Dedication by John Bacone, Director for the IDNR Division for Nature Preserves

Join ACRES in dedicating the Wildwood Nature Preserve. Enjoy a hike after the dedication and enjoy the wonder of Wildwood.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County
From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel 3 miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.



by Shane Perfect

5TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Saturday, October 3, 5-7 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

ACRES will present nature-based photographic artwork from local artists in this year's exhibit at the Artlink Gallery. Fine wines and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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

Where: Artlink – Contemporary Art Gallery, 437 East Berry Street downtown Fort Wayne. Call the ACRES office to order your tickets: 260.637.2273

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Saturday, October 10, 6 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

We would like to express our appreciation to our volunteers. We are able to accomplish what we do with the generosity of your time and talents. If you are one of our many volunteers, we would like to celebrate your efforts with a catered dinner compliments of the ACRES staff and Board.

Reservations are required. Please contact the ACRES office to make your reservation by Monday, October 5.

Where: The barn at the Salomon Farm, 817 W. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne



by Shane Perfect

projectPAGE

COMPLETED

Shay Johnson constructed 99 bird boxes for his Eagle Scout Badge.

The Johnson Nature Preserve gravel parking lot has been constructed.

The Florence E. Badger Nature Preserve in Noble County is now open to the public. The 36-acre preserve was donated to ACRES in 2002. An entrance sign, gravel parking lot, sign-in box, and trail system have been installed for visitor use.



by Rachel Johnson

CURRENT

Coordinate a work day with your friends, co-workers, or organization members at your favorite preserve or a preserve near you. If you can round up the volunteers, we will put together a list of needed projects for that preserve. Have some fun, meet new people and help ACRES take care of a preserve.

Elevated boardwalk construction at Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run (50')
Boardwalks at Badger (20') and Fogwell Forest (40').

Dustin barn is in need of some repair work: replace door track system, window pane replacement.

Constructing Preserve benches - we could use twenty more.

ACRES fun facts

- 32 counties served
- 62 miles of trails
- 70 nature preserves
- 180 volunteers
- 1,343 members
- 3,331 program attendance in 2008
- 4,550 acres protected
- 13,000 visitor sign-ins in 2008

WILD WALKERS SUMMER HIKING SCHEDULE

For more information, call Fort Wayne Parks Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, Renee Baines at 260.427.6005.

All hikes are from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

July 10 Popp Nature Preserve

July 24 Wildwood Nature Preserve

Aug. 14 Hammer Wald Nature Preserve

Aug. 28 Bender Memorial Forest Nature Preserve

Sept. 25 Detering Nature Preserve



by Ethel McClelland

SPECIAL thanks

Cindy LeMaster and Roberta Archer
helping with our corporate mailing

**Dee and Colleen
Bishop, Rachel
Fehring, Cindy
LeMaster and
Carol Krisko**
assisting with
collating the
Quarterly



by Shane Perfect

All of our Quarterly distributors

Richard Looney
constructing preserve benches

Jack Stark
assisting on the Majneri
boundary location

Norm Cox and Steve Hammer
attending land acquisition closings

Dale Schulze
building two preserve benches

Ben Puitz
scooping lard at the Maple Sugar Bush
event, stuffing remittance envelopes into
the *Quarterly* and reorganizing and
cleaning the storage room and basement
at the office

Estate of Mary Loeschner
generous planned giving

Zeigler's Window Coverings
donating window drapery for ACRES'
conference room

Kate Ferguson
donating table linens

Nicholas Goudy
workdays around the office

Ropchan Foundation
land acquisition assistance

Doug and Kathy Rogers
staffing the ACRES booth at Auburn
Earth Day

Roberta Archer
staffing the ACRES booth at Earth Day
in Franke Park

Holly Slick
staffing the ACRES booth at Little River
Wetland Projects' open house

**Cindy LeMaster, Mark and Anne Shure,
Cindy Reichwage and John Puitz**
staffing the ACRES booth at Sol Festival

**Fred Wooley, Mr. Ludy and the Fremont
High School Environmental Club**
pulling garlic mustard at Wing Haven

Bill Hathaway
donating a sweeper and fax machine

Mark and Anne Shure
donating plastic storage containers

Adrienne Roberts
helping around the ACRES office

Britton Marketing and Design Group
designing and editing the *Quarterly*

Tim Hubert
donating birdseed

Jim Meuninck
donated half of his book and video
proceeds from the wild edibles program

John Kline
our neighboring farmer at Marsh Wren
Nature Preserve, donated materials and
labor to install a 30' culvert and gravel
approach for parking area

Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation
generous and continued financial support

Gary Tieben
presenting a land acquisition project to the
Indiana Heritage Trust board

Stockbridge Audubon Society
donating nesting boxes

Bio-Blitz presenters and volunteers

**To all those who gave to the 2009
Birdathon. The following pledged
\$1.00 or more per bird:** John and
Marcella Ellenwood, Diane Humphrey,
Robin Lemberger, and John Rullo in
memory of Nancy Rullo.



Scarlet Tanager by Ralph Campbell

12th Annual Birdathon a Success by All Measures!

by Fred Wooley

The 21st annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon is history, and for the 12th straight year, I had the good fortune of traveling to Berrien County, Michigan, representing ACRES Land Trust with a team of birders to bird and benefit our land trust and activities in Steuben County. This year we again designated the Wing Haven Nature Preserve as our focus for fundraising to support the facilities and programming in one of ACRES' and Steuben County's natural and cultural history gems.

It was not our team's best day in the field as far as the number of species observed and recorded, but it was a great day nonetheless for both birding and fundraising for Wing Haven. Someone once said, "a bad day birding (fishing, camping, golfing, shopping, fill in your blank...) beats a good day at work any day!" I can't really say that it was a bad day of birding though, considering we tallied 132 species! It's just that we were 20 birds shy of our 152 recorded total from last year.

This year, we blamed the weather for a slightly lower number. Predictions were for light rain, possible storms, and that's exactly what greeted us just past midnight...that, and there were the two county sheriff deputies greeting us and wondering what we were doing at the Love Creek County Park Nature Center at that hour of the morning! Try explaining a birdathon in the middle of the night to an officer who has limited knowledge of birding! Fortunately, Love Creek County Park Naturalist Kip Miller was able to convince him we were there for a very legitimate reason, and that the big van backed up to the door in the middle of the night was really there to load birding equipment. The rest of the day was without incident!

Back to the day and the rain. Our team of Kip, Kerri, Lynda, Phyllis, Wayne, and I broke camp at the crack of 4 a.m. and were off and running. We donned caps and rain gear as we squished along to our first stop. A light drizzly-mist was in the air. Missing in the air was a response from a barred owl as Kip expertly, vocally, reproduced the characteristic eight-hoot call of this lowland, woodland denizen. Tape machines of any kind are not allowed for birdathon, but human hooting, whistling, pishing, and buzzing is, and we resorted to all of the normal tactics throughout the day.

No barred owl appeared on the first stop, but the second stop proved productive on a dark, deserted county road. We piled from the van as the wet woods dripped in darkness around us. Kip whistled the tremolo of a screech owl, and within a minute something shot by my head. I pointed in the direction it flew. Kip fired up the flashlight and the beam fell on a beautiful little gray phase screech owl. One more whistle and it launched towards us and hovered like a kestrel over a field of mice. Beautiful. I was



by Pat Underwood

The ACRES Avocets search the sand cherries and other dune shrubs for the elusive prairie warbler. We got it!

satisfied already and we still had over 14 hours to go!

Over those hours we visited many birding hot spots in Berrien County. The pace was steady but not rushed, so we got new birds at every stop and great looks at many birds we do not often see. The weather cleared later in the day. We got some "target" birds, missing a few that we should have gotten and probably would have

gotten on any other given day. Thanks go to Tina in our ACRES office, who sent me the list of "special" birds that some of you pledged an extra five dollars if we saw. I smiled each time we tallied one. Of those 12 special birds (house wren, indigo bunting, rose-breasted grosbeak, osprey, scarlet tanager, olive-sided flycatcher, wild turkey, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, robin, phoebe, and orchard oriole), we missed just two of them, the flycatcher and osprey! Next year!

Many thanks to all of you who pledged this year. All totaled, we had 45 people make pledges that came to \$1,598.12 for ACRES and Wing Haven! Thank you everyone! Of the nearly 95 birders in the field that day, representing 25 teams, approximately \$38,000 was raised for various nature and conservation organizations. It was a success for all, by all measures!

Annual Dinner

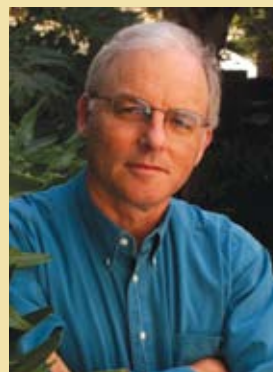
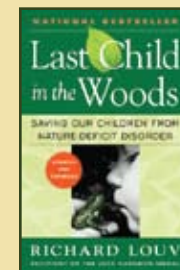
Friday, November 13

Rhinehart Music Center at the IPFW campus

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Lecture at 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker, Richard Louv



Richard Louv is a futurist and journalist focused on family, nature and community. His most recent book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, has stimulated an international conversation about the future relationship between children and nature. Louv is the chairman of the Children & Nature Network, an organization helping build the movement to connect children with nature.

To reserve your tickets call the Rhinehart box office at 260.481.6555.

Dinner: \$20 members only

Lecture: \$10 for non-members. Free for ACRES members.

THE BACK PAGE

by Erin Hukill

SIGNIFICANCE

Following a seldom used path I travel.
Feeling the coolness in the air
Light filters through the translucent green leaves
Listening to the quiet and all it encompasses.

Freedom bubbles from an unremembered core.
Sensations spreading outward releasing their
tantalizing tonic
My mind drifts to places long forgotten
Distant memories begin to take form beckoning
me to remember.
I feel hapiiness.

The thick green carpet floating on the
motionless surface
Pungent odors seeping through
Turtles keeping watch from the muddy bank.
Stillness broken only by peels of laughter and
splashing paddles as they laboriously cut
through the deep heavy plants
Moving the canoe forward.

Time continues its journey, too, taking me with it
Pushing onward through the present
Creating new experiences to remember
Reminding me of experiences past.



by Shane Perfect

Directors: David Van Gilder, President; Richard E. Walker, VP; William A. Smith IV, VP; Norm Cox, Secretary; Steven Hammer, Treasurer; Tony Acosta, Samuel T. Boggs, Nancy Brodtmiller, Jeff Britton, Neil Case, Chris Dunn, James Haddock, Richard Hurley, Nancy Leininger, Emily Pichon, Carol Roberts, Nathan Simons, Gary R. Tieben. **Membership Secretary:** Mary Anna Feitler; **Recording Secretary:** Sue Diefenbach; **Staff:** Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Ethel McClelland and David Homan, Land Management Specialists; Angie O'Neill, Fund Development Manager; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Administrative Assistant/Education Manager. **ACRES Quarterly:** Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Indiana, for the interest of its members, friends, and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. ACRES, Inc., is a non-profit, charitable corporation, incorporated under the laws of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. **Membership:** Life Member, \$1,500; Benefactor, \$500; Patron, \$150; Share-the-Expense, \$75; Club/Organization, \$50; Family, \$40; Individual, \$25; Senior Citizen and Students, \$15. Payable annually, July 1 to June 30.