

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Winter 2010 | Vol 49 - No. 1

1960 celebrating fifty years 2010



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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director



Photo by Shane Perfect

A dozen people with vision.
Sixty dollars.
Determination to preserve natural areas.
ACRES' beginnings in 1960.

1,315 members.
4,580 acres preserved.
Determination to preserve more natural areas.
ACRES' growth by 2009.

One person.
Determination to preserve swiftly disappearing natural areas.
What will you do today?

Fifty years ago, ACRES' founders recognized a need to preserve natural areas and established Indiana's first land trust. Instead of hoping someone else would take action, they acted.

As we enter into ACRES' next 50 years, it's our turn now. Instead of hoping someone else will take action, we must act. What will you do?

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel

P.S. If you want help deciding what to do, see page 17 for 50 ideas.

Cover photo: ACRES Archive, taken in 1961 at the first ACRES preserve.

A Look at How Our Logo Has Changed Over the Years



1961–1982
Tom and Jane Dustin



1982–2009
Sue Britton



2009
Britton Marketing & Design Group

WELCOME 74 new members!

Nate Allen
Denny Beck
Robin Brennan-Perez
Dr. and Mrs. R. Lance Burton and Family
gift of Joe and Diana Davis
Cathy Carrier
gift of Emily Pichon
John and Nancy Caywood
Jeanie F. Child
Kristine Conner
Craig Cook
Joan Cox
Miranda Davies
Adele Detwiler
David Didion
gift of Gerald Short
Sally Felger
Steve and Martha Ferguson
Marguerite Fitch
Kathleen Fleming
Sharol Fowler
Craig Fulmer
gift of Emily Pichon
Kathleen Goudy
Doug Grant
gift of Emily Pichon
Philip Grote
Barry Gynn
gift of Mary Gynn
Melinda Hammen
John Harley
Gene and Carol Heckber
Ted and Tedra Hemingway
Brian Hill
gift of Leslee Hill
Leslee Hill
Maria Hines
Edward Hobbs
Bernie Huesing
E. Jane Hawk and Vern Hueske
Arlene Hunt
Art Jasen
gift of Emily Pichon
Molly Jorgensen
gift of Emily Pichon
Gordon and Julia Kistler
Kosciusko County Visitors Bureau

Mike Kubacki
gift of Emily Pichon
Bret Kueber, MD
gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Tab Liechty
Al Ludwig
gift of Emily Pichon
Tim and Sharon McCaulay
Mike and Jennifer Milholland
Sandra Moyer
Sara Munsell
Erik Ottenger
gift of Emily Pichon
John Patton
Brian Payne Family
gift of Everitt Padgett
Steve and Nicki Post
gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Janet Prince
Paula Pritchard
gift of Emily Pichon
Buck and Phyllis Ritenour
gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
John and Joan Ruble
Sue Schlemmer
gift of Barbra Frymier
Leland Shaum Family
Elisabeth Shelly
James Somers
Suzan Stuckman
Cammy Sutter
Kathy Taylor
Terry and Elizabeth Thornsby
gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Mark and Ann Troutman
Shelly Van Daele
gift of Mary Gynn
Diana Vandeman
gift of Emily Pichon
Jim & Lee Vann
gift of Emily Pichon
Linda Wall
Michael and Michelle Wedaman
gift of Kathryn Bloom
Steve Wilson
Dave and Connie Wuellner
Rebecca Minser and Tina Zion
Constance Haas-Zuber

new corporate member
Raytheon

new life member
Tim Moore

Acquisition Update

by Jason Kissel

Cedar Creek Corridor

Cedar Creek in northern Allen County is one of the most unusual valley systems in the world, one of only three Indiana Scenic Rivers, and as you can tell from the map below, has been an area of interest for ACRES and other conservation-minded organizations.

The rich diversity of animal and plant life, the geological uniqueness, the unaltered serpentine channel of Cedar Creek, and the largely continuous forest canopy makes the corridor appealing to scientists. The presence of such a significant green space near Fort Wayne makes the area appealing to citizens and visitors as a recreational opportunity, a protection of their drinking water, and as a positive impact on the quality of life. The scenic beauty, proximity to Fort Wayne, and potential to provide large, private estate lots has also made the Cedar Creek Corridor very appealing to residential developers.

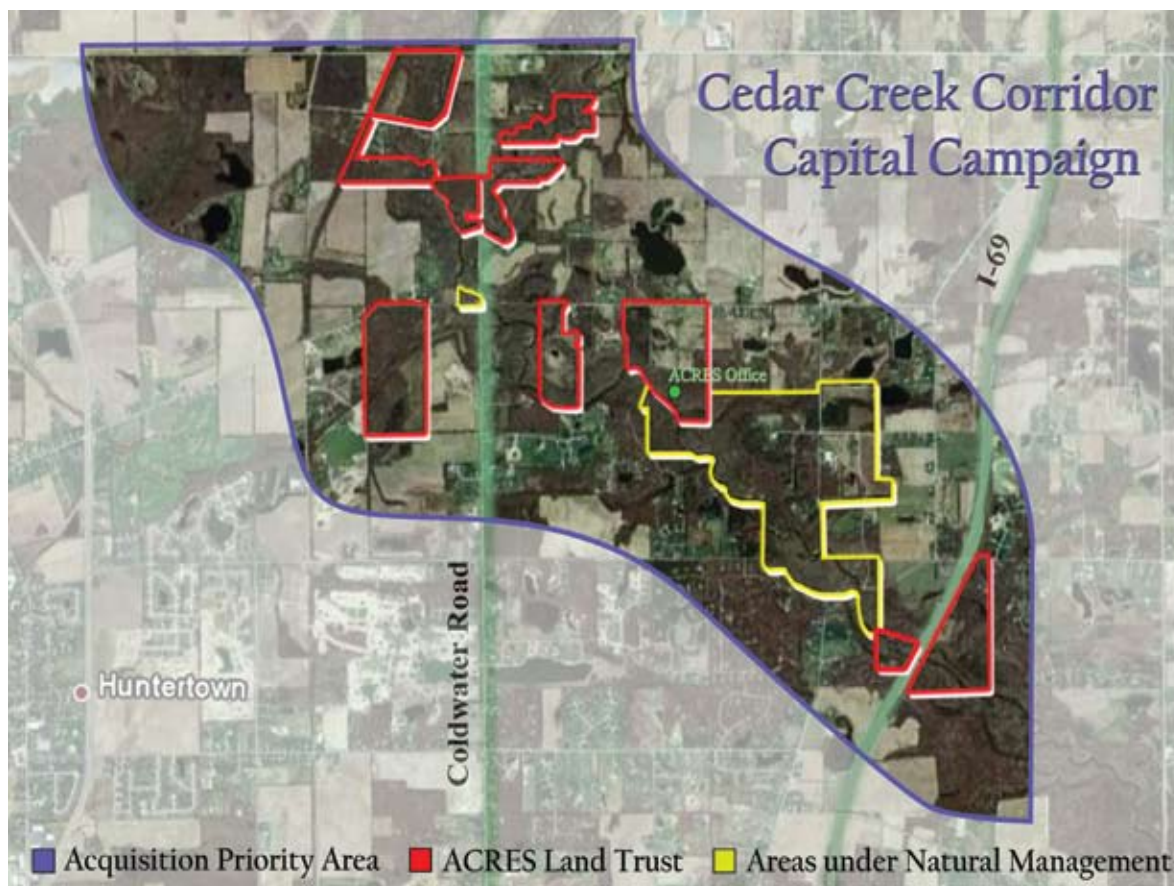
The appeal of the area for housing has resulted in a rapid increase of large tracts of land being subdivided within the corridor. This rapid change to the landscape prompted us to formulate our goals for the area. Since ACRES already has a high concentration of preserves along Cedar Creek, we recognized the potential to create a large, continuous

corridor of preserved land. As I began talking to land owners in the area, it became evident that if it weren't for the housing market collapse, many of the properties we are already pursuing would have been cleared for homes. We now have the ability to link our existing preserves together. That opportunity will likely not exist in just a few years.

This urgency has led us to action. The Cedar Creek Corridor Campaign, with the goal of creating a 1,000 acre continuous corridor of natural areas, is now underway. We are currently in the process of acquiring four parcels within the corridor, filling in some of the most critical gaps between existing preserves. Support from local residents has been wonderful, some donating land, some donating

conservation easements, and others considering bargain sales. However, portions of the land may need to be purchased at market value. We need your help to achieve this goal. Now is the time to act. Please consider how you can help us achieve this ambitious goal and preserve the Cedar Creek Corridor.

Many other acquisition projects are in progress throughout our service area as we strive to meet another goal: preserving the 5,000th acre in 2010.



memorials

Andrew David Bricker
from Kathryn Bloom

Barbara Vermeire
from Berenice Parham, Gerald
and Carol Venderley, Nadine
Crouse, Mary and Jerry Verbaagh,
Dr. James and Gina Arata, Joni
Weber, Mary Johnston, Ruby and
Joe Sprowl, Vicki and Dick Sievert,
Larry & Lisa Sprowl, Jerry and
Sharon Sprowl and Friends, Clem
and Mary Jo Verstraete, Dana
Hoffman, Evelina Worwag,
The Leadership Team at
Davenport University

Jerry Carsten
from John Carsten

Marilyn Wilt
from Andrew & Mary Gall

William Ferguson
from Jack & Jeanette Sunderman
and Angie O'Neill

Larry Bultemeier
from Jack and Anita Dierkes

Jack Root
from Jack and Anita Dierkes

Mary G. Cook
from Jeanie F. Child

Ruth Wilburn
from Jack and Cherie Stark

Erik Tomusk
from Tommy and Dolores Tomusk

Thomas Schmidt
from Karen Ericson

tributes

To the Kevin J. O'Malley Family
in honor of ACRES 50th
Anniversary from Richard
and Barbara Boerger

To Ben and Anna Kissel
from Jay and Pam Sagers

To Dr. Dan Hibner
in honor of ACRES'
50th Anniversary

To 50 good years
from Tommy and Dolores Tomusk

Photo by Shane Perfect

ACRES' Beginning

by James Barrett III,
an ACRES founder

The first 12 years of history 1960 – 1972



Photo of Jim from the ACRES Archive

In late 1959, Jane Dustin called a meeting of people concerned about the increasing loss of natural areas in Allen and nearby counties. Creating a formal organization was considered. The group contained biologists, naturalists, teachers, a soil scientist, a surveyor, engineers, dedicated conservationists and persons with administrative skills. Early in 1960, that group, with a lawyer added, continued to meet. On March 2, 1960, a corporation with twelve directors was approved as "Allen County Reserves, Inc." ("ACRES"). These initial directors, as well as all subsequent directors, have served without compensation.

A member of the original group, John Klotz, who had recently moved to Fort Wayne with his wife, Florence, to teach nature science at Concordia Senior College, served as president. He was

an ideal president, being associated with Concordia, and having the status of scientist-teacher. He wrote, and Florence illustrated, nature articles ("Bogs and Logs") for the *Sunday Journal Gazette*. The articles provided important publicity for ACRES, which was otherwise unknown to the public.

The directors first sought land in Allen County without success. They believed ACRES needed tax-exempt status to attract donors, but the IRS rejected its application. Fortunately, Edna Spurgeon donated her Noble County land in 1961. Like other early (and many later) donors, she was motivated by her love of the land, not its economic value. Her gift proved to be our "seed land." Upon seeing her deed, the IRS readily granted our application. Donors obtained economic appraisals when income tax deductions became

important. Because it had become clear that land in other counties was important to ACRES' mission, ACRES soon adopted its current name, at Bob Weber's suggestion.

Land acquisition soon followed with Beechwood (Steuben County), the Spurgeon addition in 1964, Woodland Bog (Steuben County) – at a tax sale with donated funds in 1965, and Bender (Noble County) in 1966. Not until 1974 did ACRES get land in Allen County – Fox Fire, given by Glenn Poe.

Growth in members and volunteers was as important as land. Activities for members and the public included field trips to natural areas, educational programs, the *Quarterly* magazine (originally issued three times a year) presenting current ecological and environmental interests, and an annual dinner open to the public followed with a presentation by a respected scientist or environmentalist.

ACRES' ability to assure donors that it would honor its commitments to them was essential. Its close relationship with The Nature Conservancy was important. As a representative of ACRES, I served on the board of trustees of the Conservancy's Indiana chapter. During this time period, the Conservancy stood as a backup in dealing with prospective donors, gave advice and helped to finance land acquisitions.

In 1966, Tom and Jane Dustin and I attended a program by George Fell of Illinois, about the nature preserve concept for areas dedicated by governmental agencies. On the way home, we discussed how the concept could be expanded to permit dedication of land owned by ACRES and other private entities. The proposed nature preserve legislation which I drafted, the Indiana Nature Preserves Act, contained important legal provisions not in the two other state nature preserve laws (Iowa and Illinois): dedication of non-government-held land; a statement of public policy for the protection of natural areas; and provisions

that dedicated areas are held in trust for present and future generations and are committed to their highest and best use. These legal provisions are vital to increasing the protection of natural areas, which the Act provided. With the help of environmentalists in the Izaak Walton League, Tom Dustin shepherded my draft through the legislature. Following negotiations with the State, it became law in 1967. By then, ACRES was well on its way to sustained natural area preservation efforts.

Over 200 areas throughout Indiana have been dedicated under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act. This law is unique and has served as a basis for other states' nature preserve laws.

Ethyle Bloch, Bob Weber and I, the remaining members of the first board of directors, are privileged to celebrate ACRES' fifty years with those who have brought this successful, professionally run land trust to the threshold of its next fifty.

acres' wishlist

Portable radio/cd player for the office
Two-wheel hand cart
Birdseed
Pens/pencils for preserve sign-in boxes
Copy paper

ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 71 nature preserves totaling over 4,580 acres.

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



Archive Article from the First ACRES Quarterly, Winter 1962

Winter Wildlife and Scenic Vistas offer you a
"Second World" to Enjoy

In winter, our woodlands and fields give entirely different impressions than at other seasons. But you must set out for yourself to receive these values. Even so, the natural scene can only suggest a few of its mysteries to the casual observer.

You will see the "muscle" tissues of trees in the forests, unobscured by form-hiding foliage; the shape of the land, its hummocks and ravines, concealed from view in summer; the long meandering of streams, the previously un-noted pools, the lengthened vistas which create new worlds of interest.

No winter is deep enough to discourage our beautiful and highly animated winter birds. Among others, you can expect to see the tufted titmouse, black capped chickadee, slate-gray junco, downy and red bellied woodpeckers, nuthatch and cardinals. With winter forage sometimes scarce, you can observe them all at close range if you hang some suet in the fork of a tree near the edge of a woods. When you return in a few days, you will see birds by the dozens.

But while these birds and many squirrels, rabbits, field mice and deer share the vigorous winter scene, chipmunks and other creatures sleep. As the season deepens, though, you will be surprised to find that many travelers have returned without letting you know, even before



the thermometer has climbed. Who can forget, on an icy night in February, the haunting mockery of the barred owl or the "huff?! huff!" of our great horned owl.

And only slightly thereafter, you will see at dusk in the cold sky the huge great blue herons heading for their gregariously organized communities in great sycamores on the edges of streams. If you are lucky, you may find a heronry early in the spring, and this is indeed a fascinating scene. No tropical jungle ever surpassed the sounds and sights

of a heronry when young have hatched in late March. And one of the curious things you will note is that turkey vultures, which will also have returned by this time, seem to cohabit the trees in perfect harmony. You won't get the connection until you see a young heron kick a partly eaten fish out of its huge stick nest and watch the vultures scramble for the remains.

But — back to the dead of winter. While you are identifying winter birds and other animal life, you will see that not all flora in nature has turned to lifeless (though beautiful) brown forms, like the fullers teasel.

On rocks and logs, the mosses, lichens and some fungi are thriving, and the dandelion and hepatica are green even under the snow.

Leaving the field for the ice-glazed pools of the lowlands, you may see a painted turtle swimming under the thin sheet, even though other turtles and aquatic or amphibious creatures such as frogs and salamanders sleep deep in the mud. Some fish may be frozen in solid ice, but they will thaw out and swim again in warmer times.

These "cold blooded" animals are said by scientists to be poikilothermal (become sluggish in winter) because their body temperature and metabolism (vital body processes assimilating food material to produce heat, build new protoplasm and eliminate old) are greatly reduced. "Warm blooded" creatures maintain temperatures and a metabolic rate consistent with their activity which makes them more the masters of ambient conditions than the "cold blooded" animals.

In the insect world (although you probably won't have the



opportunity to see this), honey bees keep "warm" in their hives by beating their wings when the temperature falls. This increased activity raises hive temperature to survival levels. Most adult insects die in the fall after the reproductive cycle is assured through egg, larval or pupal stages. You will see many cocoons on twigs and evergreens containing some of the 1962's insect generations. Some adults, such as mosquitoes, may not die but sometimes winter in hibernation in basements, cisterns and other protected places.

There's more — much more — to winter than icy streets, slushy walks and complaints of adverse weather. Winter gives you a unique opportunity, usually in uncrowded conditions, to observe some of our most beautiful and interesting life, and even death, in natural forms.

Most important, perhaps because of the quiet solitude as you walk in the rustling brown leaves and snapping twigs of the winter woods' floor or on its deep-pile white carpet, you may gain new insights into the vital importance of preserving the disappearing wilderness which is just barely still available to you now.

Center photo: Cedar Creek by Shane Perfect



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.



by Ethel McClelland

WINTER AT WILDWOOD

Saturday, January 16, 2 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Come out and enjoy the beauty of winter at Wildwood. Ski, hike or just sit and watch the birds out the front window. Hot drinks and soup provided.

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 three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

WORK DAY

Saturday, January 23, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Come help remove old wire fencing from the preserve. ACRES is going to plant trees in a 19-acre agriculture field next spring. Removing the fencing will eliminate a barrier for wildlife and allow new trails to be installed. Bring your gloves and your favorite wire cutters.

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 Shane Perfect

WING HAVEN OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 24, 1 – 4 p.m.

Presented by: Spurgeon Family

Stop by the studio to learn about the latest ACRES' news and activities or just stop in to warm up by the woodburning stove after a brisk hike in the preserve.

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



ACRES Archive

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING

Saturday, January 30, 2 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Are you interested in finding out what it takes to be a steward for an ACRES preserve? Meet with David and Ethel, caretakers at Wildwood Preserve, and find out how ACRES maintains their trails and how you can be a steward for one of our preserves. Requires dedication and commitment. Take a hike to see how trails are maintained.

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 three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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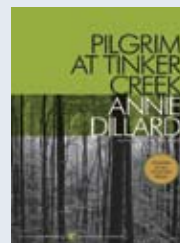
STEWARDSHIP TRAINING II

Saturday, February 6, 2 p.m. – Wing Haven Nature Preserve

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland, Bill and Dawn Spurgeon

Are you interested in finding out what it takes to be a steward for an ACRES' preserve? Meet with David and Ethel, caretakers at Wildwood N.P., Bill and Dawn Spurgeon, caretakers at Wing Haven N.P. and find out how ACRES maintains their trails and how you can be a steward for one of our preserves. Requires dedication and commitment. Will take a hike to see how trails are maintained.

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



BOOK DISCUSSION

Saturday, February 20, 3 p.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Include *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard in your winter reading list and join us as we discuss the book and your observations about it. Join us for refreshments, a fire in the fireplace, great discussion and good company.

WHERE: Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Caretaker Residence, Wabash County

From Wabash on SR13 travel 2.6 miles north of US 24 to 300N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the right in 1.4 miles.

WILDWOOD HIKE AND NIGHT SKY

Saturday, February 20, 5 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Enjoy a brisk night hike and view the winter sky through the Wildwood telescope.

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 three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.



ACRES Archive

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE FOUNDERS

Sunday, February 21, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jim Barrett and Bob Weber, two of ACRES' founders

Warm yourself by the fireplace while listening to stories and viewing slides from the early years. Bring your own slides and share in the fun. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

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.

2010 FORT WAYNE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

February 25-28

We need volunteers for the ACRES booth at the Coliseum. Share ACRES' mission with the general public, plus, get an exhibitor's pass to the entire show! Look for us at Booth #930. Please contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.



ACRES Archive

ACRES CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF INCORPORATION

Tuesday, March 2, 12 - 2 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES' Staff

Join the ACRES staff for cake and ice cream as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the official incorporation of ACRES.

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 AMBER RELEASE PARTY

Tuesday, March 2, 5 - 7 p.m.

Presented by: Mad Anthony Brewing Company

Join ACRES and Mad Anthony Brewing Company to celebrate ACRES' 50th anniversary with the release of ACRES Amber! Mad Anthony will donate \$1.00 for every ACRES Amber sold in March, and another \$1.00 for each ACRES growler (half gallon glass jug for carry out) sold while supplies last, and an additional \$1.00 for each fill and re-fill of our ACRES Amber. **Wear your ACRES' apparel to receive 10% off your evening's tab.** Drink beer, eat great food, and support ACRES. What could be better? Six packs of ACRES Amber and ACRES Ale will be available throughout the year at ACRES functions and the ACRES office.

WHERE: Mad Anthony Brewing Company, 2002 Broadway, Fort Wayne

MERRY LEA'S MAPLE SUGAR BUSH

Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Presented by: Bill Smith

Join Bill, Larry Yoder and fellow sugar bush volunteers for sausage, pancakes, fresh maple syrup, and a guided tour of Yoder's Sugar Bush near the ACRES office.

Only 50 spots available! Reservations required. Program Fee: \$5 per person.

Call the ACRES office at 260.637.2273. This event fills quickly, so call early!

WHERE: Yoder's Sugar Bush, Allen County

From Fort Wayne, take Coldwater Road north to Chapman Road, turn right (east) and travel 1.25 miles to 2427 Chapman Road. Park next to the red barn and walk 0.5 miles back to camp.



ACRES Archive

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.

BIRD EGGS

Saturday, March 20, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Come explore the world of bird eggs on the first day of Spring! Learn why eggs are shaped the way they are, physical properties of eggs and many other fascinating egg facts. The program will be followed by egg-related craft making. A great family event!

WHERE: Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Caretakers Residence, Wabash County
From Wabash on SR13 travel 2.6 miles north of US 24 to 300N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the right in 1.4 miles.



by Shane Perfect

BREEDING WARBLERS OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

Sunday, March 21, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Don Gorney, ACRES life-member and current president of Amos Butler Audubon Society, serving Central Indiana.

It's spring and the warblers will be winging their way back to Indiana. Eighteen species of the colorful warbler family nest in northeast Indiana. Join Don to learn about these 18 species, how to identify them by sight and song, their habitat requirements, locations where they breed, and conservation concerns affecting their nesting success. After this presentation you will be ready to go afield and find these 18 colorful species and other members of the warbler family.

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 miles. The entrance is on south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.



by Shane Perfect

STRING-A-LONGS

Saturday, March 27, 3 p.m.

Presented by: Spurgeon Family

Spend the afternoon at Wing Haven tapping your feet while listening to the mountain, folk sounds of the String-a-Longs.

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

INVASIVE SPECIES

Saturday, March 27, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Rich Dunbar, Division of Nature Preserves Regional Ecologist

Learn how to recognize invasive species and see firsthand the damage they produce on the land. Rich will explain ways to eradicate invasive species and why they need to be removed. Hands-on removal of invasive species will take place.

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 three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.



by Jason Swisher

projectPAGE

Completed

The Dustin Preserve has a new bird feeding station thanks to the hard work from Boy Scout Troop 3055 Den 5. Plan a visit today to relax and watch the birds.

Bridge at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge in Steuben County

Current Needs

Construction of five wooden display easels

Construction of a limited mobility ramp for ACRES' office interior

Painting and general office repairs at the Dustin Nature Preserve

We would like to add wooden bike racks to a few of the preserves along biking routes.

Call the ACRES office for design template

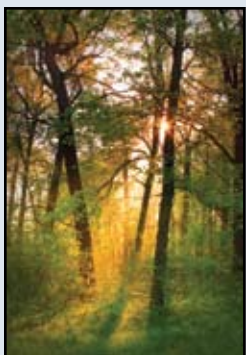
If you are interested in volunteering with ACRES, please contact the office to see how you can GET INVOLVED, 260.637.2273



ACRES Archive

promotions/announcements

5th Annual Wine Tasting and Photography Exhibit winners



1st Place by Jerry McCoy



2nd Place by Becky Ford



3rd Place by Jarrid Spicer

Tom and Jane Dustin, two of ACRES' founders, were inductees in the charter class of the Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame which recognizes individuals with Indiana ties for their contributions to the state's natural or cultural heritage.



ACRES is now on Twitter. Follow us at twitter.com/ACRES_landtrust. Thank you, Heather Baker.



You can also become a friend of ACRES Land Trust on facebook.com/ACRES.landtrust. Thank you, Colleen Bishop.

The LaGrange County Community Foundation will be matching gifts made to ACRES' endowment through March 31, 2010. For every dollar you donate to the ACRES fund held at the Community Foundation, they will add an additional \$0.50. Please act now to take advantage of this generous offer. Send your tax-deductible donation to the LaGrange County Community Foundation and be sure to indicate that the funds are for ACRES' Endowment Account.

LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.,
109 E. Central, Suite 3, LaGrange, IN 46761 260.463.4363

50 WAYS for you to support ACRES' 50th anniversary

1. Contribute an additional \$50 to ACRES over your 2010 membership price
 2. Contribute to a land acquisition project
 3. Adopt a nature preserve for stewardship costs associated with it
 4. Purchase a gift membership(s) for friends and family to help ACRES reach to the goal of 1,500 members in 2010
 5. Purchase 5 Preserve Guides at \$10 each to give to friends and family
 6. Volunteer your expertise to assist ACRES
 7. Ask your employer to match your gift to ACRES
 8. Solicit your workplace for a business (\$50) or corporate (\$500) membership
 9. Attend the ACRES events honoring our founders and celebrating art and nature
 10. Donate a portable defibrillator
 11. Visit the ACRES library, and purchase books for your own library
 12. Encourage teachers and students to use ACRES' nature preserves
 13. Contribute an article to the *ACRES Quarterly*
 14. Contribute one of your photographs for the *ACRES Quarterly*
 15. Sponsor the cost of an *ACRES Quarterly*
 16. Donate lumber to ACRES for its boardwalks, bridges, signs, etc.
 17. Leave ACRES a gift in your will
 18. Discuss with your accountant a Charitable Gift annuity to benefit ACRES
 19. Make a gift to the Community Foundation in your county to benefit ACRES
 20. Get a group of friends together to host a fund-raiser for ACRES' 50th anniversary
 21. For your heart's health, hike an ACRES preserve every chance you get
 22. Talk to ACRES about your land to see if it qualifies as a new nature preserve
 23. Donate online at www.acreslandtrust.org
 24. Purchase new ACRES apparel sporting the new logo
 25. Volunteer to be a trail guide
 26. Talk up ACRES with the groups you belong to and ask ACRES to be a guest speaker
 27. Thank the original founders for their foresight by writing a letter to the editor or some other public acknowledgement
 28. Bring a friend to an ACRES event
 29. Introduce your friends and colleagues who may be interested in a financial gift to ACRES
 30. Support ACRES' marketing efforts by contributing the price of advertising for ACRES
 31. Volunteer for an ACRES committee
 32. Contribute to the Land Management Fund for the care and maintenance of ACRES nature preserves
 33. Gather your friends and attend the first ever bona fide ACRES fund-raiser, the Blue Jean Gala
 34. Volunteer to "scrapbook" the ACRES archives from the past 50 years
 35. Provide snacks for ACRES educational hikes
 36. Volunteer to assist with the Preserve Performances to be held for ACRES' 50th anniversary
 37. Volunteer to do outside gardening around the ACRES office in the spring and fall
 38. Volunteer to assist with the many "booth" opportunities at events and fairs
 39. Volunteer to create ACRES' wooden preserve benches
 40. Volunteer to rehab or create ACRES' preserve signage
 41. Help "stuff" remittance envelopes in the *Quarterly* for distribution to outlying areas
 42. Assist with distributing the *Quarterly* around our service area
 43. Enjoy the beauty of all the ACRES preserves to reflect and feed your adventurous spirit!
 44. Contact ACRES to establish automatic withdraw donations
 45. Join the ACRES family on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/ACRES.landtrust
 46. Share ACRES tweets on our Twitter site – www.twitter.com/ACRES_landtrust
 47. Provide some of your photos and video footage for the ACRES Archives
 48. Purchase our 50th Anniversary commemorative ACRES Ale
 49. Involve your scout or youth group on an ACRES project
 50. Do all 49 above
- Call the ACRES' office for more information about any of the items on this list**

SPECIALthanks

Colleen Bishop, Dylan Jones, Rachel Ferring, Tiffany Wallace, Alex Eyer, Dee Bishop, Ben Meeks and Claire Cook
assisting with collating the fall *Quarterly*

Noble County Disposal
donating the dumpster to remove cement at Art Hammer Wetlands N.P.

Terry Grove
clean up at Art Hammer Wetlands N.P.

Clean up crew at Hanging Rock N.P.

Michael Gerbers
constructing new bridge at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge as his Eagle Scout project and the many donors who supported him

Thanks to IPFW Philosophy Dept.
helping move signs at Mengerson and Fogwell Nature Preserves

Oasis Book Club
helping with mailing of nomination ballots

John, Ben & Molly Puitz
set up and selling of merchandise at the Volunteer Dinner

Our sponsors for the wonderful Annual Dinner and Lecture
M.E. Raker Foundation, Indiana & Michigan Power, Mary Scrogam, Diane Humphrey, and the Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation

IPFW Rhinehart Box Office
taking reservations for the Annual Dinner

Partner organizations for the Annual Dinner
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Roanoke Elementary School, Little River Wetlands Project, Merry Lea Environmental Center, Allen County Parks, Indiana Master Naturalists, National Association for Interpretation, Region IV, East Allen County Schools, Northwest Allen County Schools, Bishop Luers High School, Canterbury High School, Southwest Allen County Schools, Concordia High School, YMCA, Friends of the Parks, Great Kids Make Great Communities, Land Trust Alliance, Midwest Region, Blue Heron Ministries

Connie Haas Zuber, Amy Kissel, Heather Baker, Ben Meeks, Bruce and Kate Johnson, Norm and Libby Cox, Roberta Archer, John Puitz, Kim Heine and Roberta Hackett
helping with registration, selling merchandise and taking photographs at the Annual Dinner

David Van Gilder
volunteering for ACRES at the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Indiana "Write a Will" day

Donna Bair, George Bair, Roberta Archer and John Puitz
helping at the Wine Tasting & Photography Exhibit

Dave Brumm and Roberta Archer
staffing booth at the University of Scouting event

All who helped with the Fall Gathering at Wing Haven

Steve Hammer
assisting with collating envelopes in fall *Quarterly*

Aaron Crowe
serving a partial internship from Leo High School

Dave Brumm
collating a bulk mailing

Barb Gorney
helping out at the ACRES office

Wayne and Linda Boyd, Dave and Judy Ruoff, Orion Foundation, Dr. Robert and Phyllis Robb, Randy and Carol Roberts, David and Faith VanGilder, Dr. Jerry and Diane Mackel
supporting the Cedar Creek Corridor Capital Campaign for land acquisition

Cindy LeMaster
filming the Richard Louv lecture for Access TV

Kelly Lacy
scanning historical photos

Thank you to our interns: Heather from ITT Technical Institute, Claire and Ben from Leo High School



Heather Baker



Claire Cook



Ben Meeks

2010 ACRES Events

save the dates

January 26 – February 15
Artology at Honeywell Center in Wabash

February 25 – April 21
Artology at Pokagon State Park – Potawatomi Inn

March 2
12–2 pm 50th anniversary open house at ACRES' Office
5–7 pm ACRES' Amber Release Party at Mad Anthony Brewing Company in Fort Wayne

May 14 – June 27
Artology at Garrett Museum of Art

May 22
1–3 pm Preserve Performance at Dustin Nature Preserve

June 11 – 12
Camping weekend at Wing Haven Nature Preserve

June 15
5–7 pm Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Mad Anthony Brewing Company in Fort Wayne

July 10 – August 22
Artology at Arts Place in Portland

July 24
1–3 pm Kid's Preserve Performance at Wing Haven

August 27 – October 23
Artology at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

September 24
50th Anniversary Gala and Art Auction at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

October 16
11am – 5 pm Fall Gathering at Wing Haven

November 12 (tentative)
Annual Meeting

ARTology is ACRES' traveling art show featuring commissioned art inspired by the nature preserves.

The Preserve Performances will feature various artists performing along the trail system within a preserve.

The Gala is a fund-raising event to celebrate ACRES' 50th anniversary. The event will include a nature-based art show featuring over 100 artists, and the Artology collection will be auctioned at this event.

the **BACK**page

by Sue Britton

The Pond Closes its Eyelids for the Winter ...

As we are folded into the Indiana winter and watch the ponds freeze at Vandolah Nature Preserve, I am reminded of a quote by Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) in *Walden* (1854):

"Every winter the liquid and trembling surface of the pond, which was so sensitive to every breath, and reflected every light and shadow, becomes solid to the depth of a foot or a foot and a half, so that it will support the heaviest teams, and perchance the snow covers it to an equal depth, and it is not to be distinguished from any level field. Like the groundhogs in the surrounding hills, it closes its eyelids and becomes dormant for three months or more."

It is always a snug feeling to know nature tucks in for the cold season. Don't you love the snow-cushioned hush of a heavy snow? You open your door or window just to listen to

how loud the quiet is. In Vandolah, even the owls are silent. It is so dramatic ... I can never get enough of winter. More snow is more exciting and more beautiful. The warmth of a fire and glowing lamplights remind us of our vulnerability – and how fortunate we are to have a roof over our heads and a warm bed to sleep in, like the pond with its blanket of snow.



Photo by Jerry McCoy

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 Bradtmiller, Neil Case, Chris Dunn, James Haddock, Trina Herber, Richard Hurley, Nancy Leininger, Emily Pichon, Carol Roberts, Gary R. Tieben, Connie Haas-Zuber. **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. Jane Munk, Marketing and Event 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.