

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Fall 2010 | Vol 49 - No. 4

1960 celebrating fifty years 2010



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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In our routine life, we have many optional, yearly expenses. I've listed a few common ones below:

Cable / Satellite Television Service	\$540 / year
Individual Gym Membership	\$500 / year
Season Tickets to your favorite team	\$500+ / year
Morning Coffee Purchases	\$260 / year
ACRES Individual Membership	\$ 25 / year

I ask that you take time to consider the value you place on the work of ACRES versus common expenses in your life. Do you receive more value than \$25 / year from ACRES?

Contrast in your mind the experience and value you gain from a one-hour nature preserve visit versus the same hour spent watching TV. Which has more value?

An investment in ACRES benefits your health, your environment, your community, and your family. And you know what? I suspect you'll feel a lot better writing a \$500 check to ACRES rather than the cable company. Wouldn't you like to see ACRES grow and expand over the next 50 years as much as your local gym?

If ACRES' work is as valuable to you as your routine expenses, please consider making a donation to ACRES this fall.

It also takes other means of support to continue the mission of preserving natural areas. Perhaps you're not in a position to write a check to ACRES right now, but you value what we accomplish as a group and want to increase your support. Consider volunteering or telling others about the work of ACRES. Even after 50 years of service, it's amazing how many people aren't aware of ACRES. Introduce your friends to the wonderful surprise of ACRES. During November and December you can provide gift memberships for ½ price!



by Mark Yoder

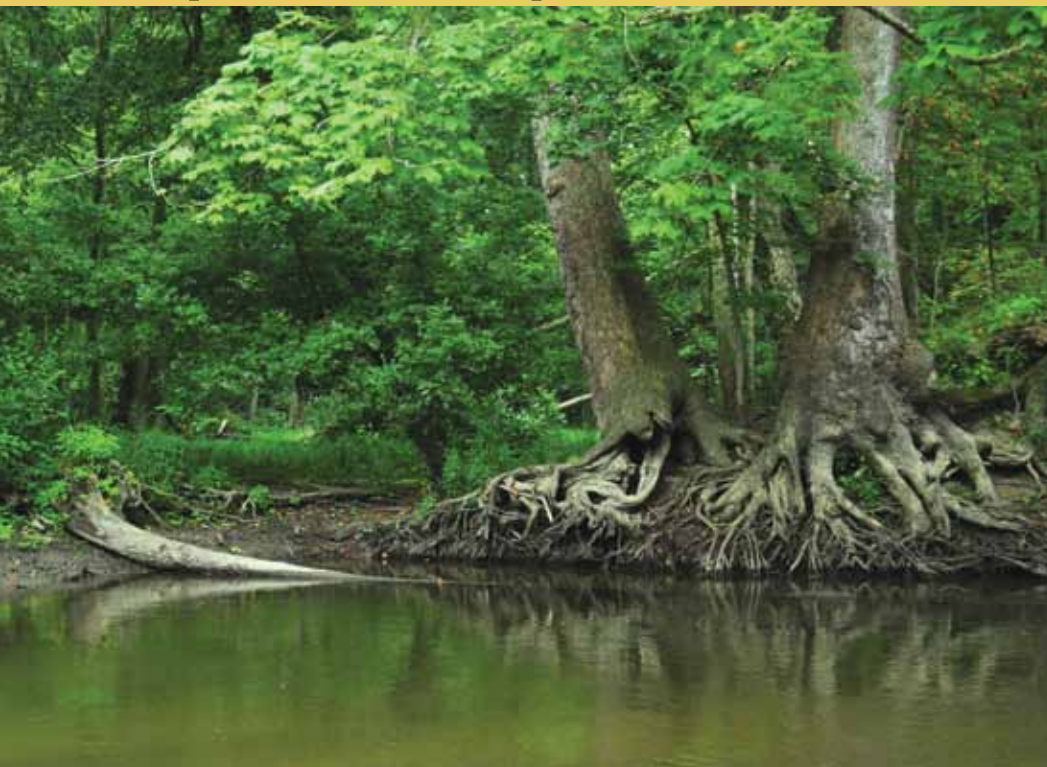
Thank you for making ACRES' first 50 years possible and for ensuring our continued success over the next 50 years.

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

Acquisition Updates by Jason Kissel



photos by Shane Perfect

Chuck and Sharon Bodenhafer Heronry Preserve

Chuck and Sharon Bodenhafer recently donated nearly eight acres of strategically located and environmentally significant land to ACRES. The property, combined with the neighboring ACRES nature preserves along Cedar Creek, is home to a heronry—a place where herons nest.

Ted Heemstra, long-time member of ACRES and past board president, has inventoried this particular heronry every five years since 1998. The latest count (2008) revealed 108 active, of the 122 total, great blue heron nests. Herons have been observed nesting at this site for well over fifty years.

The Bodenhafers explain the motivation behind their gift: “We can think of no better recipient for the heronry than ACRES, and no better time than on their 50th anniversary. We hope that our donation of this land will spur others to consider gifts of land for the purpose of preservation.”

This donation is also very important to expand the preservation of land along the Cedar Creek Corridor as it connects two existing ACRES nature preserves. Thank you, Bodenhafers, for your generous support of ACRES.

The Chuck & Sharon Bodenhafer Heronry Preserve is closed to the public at this time.

Barrett Oak Hill Addition

Jim and Pat Barrett have expanded their long history of generosity toward ACRES by donating a 24-acre addition to the James M. and Patricia D. Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve which brings their total donation to 114 acres. The property is located within the Cedar Creek Corridor in northern Allen County. Jim Barrett, who is one of the founders of ACRES, and Pat understand that land’s true value is not always its economic value:



“Wilderness is the natural scientist’s finest laboratory—an irreplaceable one. It provides him or her with a benchmark—an example of a healthy, self-renewing, whole community. Nature preserves protect the diversity of life. In that diversity lie the secrets of the health and stability and growth of the whole community. Those undisturbed communities we call nature preserves exemplify the highest levels of elaboration and diversification in nature. The whole includes each of its parts. None may be extracted without injury to all.

Nature preserves exist so that a deeper understanding of the ways natural communities live may be gained by everyone who visits them. The understanding of the community of life which will flow from ready contact with these areas will prove to be of far greater value to people than the cost of withdrawing from commerce the few of these nature areas that remain. We will be poorer, not richer, if we measure the value of these areas solely by economic value.”

The Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve is primarily forested and contains scenic ravines leading to Little Cedar Creek which serpentine through the property. Spring wildflowers and wildlife are abundant on the property. The original 89 acres of the preserve are a State Dedicated Nature Preserve, a designation reserved for the “best of the best” natural areas remaining in Indiana. Jim authored the Nature Preserve Act legislation that created state dedicated nature preserves. Dedicated Nature Preserve status provides the highest level of land protection in Indiana.

The Barrett’s impact on ACRES cannot be understated; they helped form the organization. Jim provided the state of Indiana a mechanism to preserve land. He and Pat have not only donated their land, but also countless hours of their time.

Thank you, Barretts, for your 50 years of generosity and service to ACRES!

ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Rhinehart Music Center – IPFW campus
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne
3 p.m. Annual Meeting and Public Lecture
Michael Fay, National Geographic

"Think Big"

In 2001, Michael Fay set out on a 2,000-mile walk through the heart of Africa. As a result of this historic expedition, Gabon established its first system of national parks.

Inspired by this success, Fay set his sights on all of Africa, spending eight months on the Megaflyover project capturing a hundred thousand digital images and sparking further action for conservation.

Michael Fay resolved in 2007 to see for himself how Earth's tallest forest had been exploited in the past and is being treated today. He wanted to find out if there was a way to maximize both timber production and the many ecological and social benefits standing forests provide. If it could be done in the redwoods, he believed, it could be done anywhere.

Members:

3 p.m. Annual Meeting and Public Lecture
 Reception immediately following lecture in the nearby Walb Ballroom
 Dinner (approx. 5 p.m.), \$25/person

Non-Members:

3 p.m. Public Lecture
 \$5.00 for partner organizations
 \$10.00 for the general public
 Seating is on a first come, first served basis, so order your tickets early.

Dinner Catered by Catablu

Field Green Salad with Gorgonzola, Cranberries, Nuts and Balsamic Vinaigrette
 Chicken Parmesan with Mozzarella and Tomato Sauce
 Ziti Pasta with Zucchini, Broccoli & Squash with Olive Oil
 Freshly Baked Bread and Creamy Butter
 Vanilla Cheesecake with Berries and Whipped Cream
 Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Parmesan

Complimentary Beverages: Wine, Beer and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Call the Rhinehart music center box office at 260.481.6555 by November 5 to reserve your tickets and RSVP for dinner. Box office hours to buy tickets: M-Fri 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Cash, Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted for payment.

Thanks to our lecture sponsor, M.E. Raker Foundation
 Sponsors still being sought for venue expenses.

memorials

Mary Jane Roberts
 from the family of Margaret Lee Planalp

Nancy Eberhardt
 from Richard and Joyce Pacer, Jackson
 Erffmeyer, Dan and Judy Kaufman,
 John and Marcella Ellenwood, Carol
 Shedd, Larry and Judy Esterline, John
 and Marge Ralph, Lois Bruns and Art
 and Marion Eberhardt

Wendell Dygert
 from Mike and Dana Baker

Jerry Stratman
 from Mike and Dana Baker and Mary
 Helen Bink

Donald Moehlenkamp
 from Tom Redman

photo by Taylor Puitz

to the
 following for their
 contributions and help with

ACRES LandTrust BLUE JEAN GALA



NIPSCO
 Petroleum Traders Corporation
 Lake City Bank
 Grabill Bank
 Steel Dynamics, Inc.
 Fort Wayne Museum of Art
 Northern Indiana LAKES Magazine

Indiana's News Center
 John and Carol Brooks
 Patty Tritch, ReMax Results
 Emily Pichon
 Britton Marketing and
 Design Group
 ARTology artists
 Tudor Wines, Santa Barbara, CA

The Next 50 Years by Jason Kissel

Present-2060



Photo by Jerry McCoy

The last three *Quarterly* issues reviewed the accomplishments of ACRES' past 50 years, highlighting the impressive work of the founders, land donors, Carolyn McNagny, and many others. This article turns our attention to ACRES next 50 years. As I have talked with the founders, each stated in admiration: "I never dreamed ACRES would be where it is today." It's hard to predict what an organization will look like 50 years into the future; however, there are some predictions I feel safe making.

ACRES' mission will endure. There will be no need to change the focus of the organization. "Preserving natural areas" is an unending task with timeless values.

Many new leaders will emerge.

New donors, board members, staff, and members will lead ACRES over the next fifty years. Some of these leaders are in high school or college right now, others are attending our youth programs or hiking through the preserves developing an appreciation of natural areas, and many of our leaders for the next 50 years have not been born yet. You may have noticed an increase in youth activities offered by ACRES this year—we view this as leadership development as well as youth education.

Use of ACRES preserves will continue to increase. Every day and every decade

the preserves become more unique. The forested preserves will one day become the "Redwoods of the Midwest" —a distinctly different environment due to the age of the forest. As development of rural areas increases, the preserves will become unique, isolated islands of natural areas. That is why you see the current focus on expanding existing preserves: we want the "islands" to be as large as possible. Balancing increased visitor use and its impact on the nature preserves will likely become a much greater concern over the next 50 years.

The existing 77 preserves will still be there, along with many more new ones.

Once ACRES' name is on a deed, it will not be sold or otherwise transferred ever again. The investment made to date and in the future will have everlasting returns.

Societal support of land preservation will fluctuate.

ACRES will experience varying levels of monetary and societal support over the next five decades. One would hope the value of land preservation will become increasingly important to society, but ACRES must be equally prepared for both a dramatic increase in support and conversely a dramatic decrease in support. ACRES' long-term viability is dependent on financial and organizational planning that understands and compensates for fluctuations.

Methods, techniques and technology will change.

In order to remain relevant, ACRES will need the flexibility to adapt as land preservation techniques, business models, and personal interactions change due to new technology and changing societal norms. Our current website, *Quarterly* style, logo, ways of

communication, etc. will all be outdated in a mere few years if we don't modify them. In 50 years some of our current activities will seem primitive and old-fashioned. ACRES will not change what we do, but we must be willing to change the way we do it.

ACRES will still rely on an army of volunteers. Volunteers are a necessity to ACRES. As the number of nature preserves and the scope of the organization grows, our volunteer support will also need to increase. A hallmark of ACRES' success is that we are able to keep overhead very low, due largely to volunteer labor. Every task performed by a volunteer provides savings to ACRES, allowing more land to be preserved.

As an 87-year old celebrating ACRES' 100th anniversary, I will likely state, "I never dreamed ACRES would be where it is today," and I will have great pride in the organization knowing that I, just like you, played a role in ACRES' success. The founders and other early leaders of ACRES have done their part. Now it's your turn. Yes, you. ACRES is not any one person or any particular sub-group of people (board, staff, etc.). ACRES is a group of diverse people united under a common goal—to preserve natural areas. Together we are ACRES. What legacy are we going to create over the next 50 years? What are you going to do?

ACRES began with twelve people fifty years ago, and look what they did! We begin our next fifty years 1,500 members strong. Just think what we can accomplish! Don't let "what are you going to do?" become a rhetorical question. Find an answer and make a difference!



ACRES



ACRES
LAND TRUST
1960 celebrating fifty years 2010

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.

See directions to the preserves on page 14.

ARTology RECEPTION

Thursday, October 7, 6 - 9 p.m. Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Admission is free.
Please see page 16 for details.



by Jack Stark

HIKING STARK NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday, October 9, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Brett Fisher, biologist, and Jack Stark

Be one of the first to walk among the flora and fauna of this preserve. Brett and Jack will show you the way while identifying plants of interest.

WHERE: Stark Nature Preserve, LaGrange County

4th ANNUAL WING HAVEN FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 16, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Presented by: The Spurgeon Family

Come and join us and watch many area artists such as blacksmiths, chainsaw carvers, weavers, potters and more demonstrate their crafts. Children's activities, food and bake sale will also be available, and don't forget to hike the trails of this beautiful preserve.

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

BIKE AND HIKE

Saturday, October 16, 1 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

Enjoy a fall bicycle tour of several ACRES nature preserves in Wabash County. You can choose from a 5, 10, or 50-mile route. Refreshments and hikes will be available at the ACRES preserves along the routes. All routes will begin and end at Kokiwanee.

WHERE: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County

HANGING ROCK GRAND OPENING

Sunday, October 17, 2 p.m.

Presented By: The Kissel Family

Celebrate the new visitor amenities at Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark (parking area, signs, observation deck) and learn about the folklore, local history, and the worldwide geological significance of Hanging Rock.

WHERE: Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark, Wabash County



by Jason Kissel

THE SOUNDS OF RECYCLING

Sunday, October 24, 3 p.m.

Presented by: Les Gustafson Zook, professional harpist

Who says recycling and music don't mix? Check out Les and his recycling bin full of wacky home-made instruments. He'll be singing songs promoting environmental awareness accompanied by the likes of a pizza box banjo, a canjo, a Spam™ can fiddle and more.

WHERE: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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See directions to the preserves on page 14.

POPP OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 24, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff

Hike the old-growth woods in this state-dedicated nature preserve open only once a year. Regain your energy at a hot dog roast hosted by Larry.

WHERE: Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County



by Paul Rothrock

SCAVENGER HUNT AT WILDWOOD

Saturday, November 6, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Tony Fleming, geologist

Join Tony Fleming as he interprets the geologic landscape of Wildwood. Enjoy exploring the woods and completing a scavenger hunt looking for things to be thankful for in nature.

WHERE: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

INVASIVE PLANT WORK DAY AT WING HAVEN

Saturday, November 6, 1 - 4 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons and Bill Spurgeon

Bring your boots and work gloves and spend an afternoon removing invasive plants.

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County



by Jason Swisher

ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, November 13, 3 p.m. Rhinehart Music Center, meeting and speaker Michael Fay from National Geographic. Reception and dinner immediately following in the Walb Ballroom. Please see page 6 for details.

TALKING TURKEY

Sunday, November 21, 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

A half-hour presentation highlighting fun facts about wild turkeys will be followed by turkey-themed kids' activities. The program will give you lots of interesting discussion starters for your Thanksgiving meal!

WHERE: Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County

16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m.

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

We invite you to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the holiday season at the Wing Haven Studio. Sing around a wood burning stove and enjoy festive refreshments.

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

directions to PRESERVE EVENTS

(See events listings on pages 12-13)

Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, 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.

Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County

From Fort Wayne 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.

Hanging Rock, Wabash County

From Wabash take SR 13 North 2.75 miles to US 24 and turn right (east). Travel 3.5 miles to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru 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.

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 50 S. Preserve is on the right just before 600E.

Stark Nature Preserve, LaGrange County

From LaGrange, take SR 9 north for 5.5 miles. Turn left (west) onto SR 120 and travel 2.5 miles. Preserve is on the left (south) side of SR 120.

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.

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 Don Luepke



acres' wishlist

Gas-powered power washer
New membership data base
New copy machine
New telephone system
New computer server

Cisco Fish Thrive in Olin Lake

by Karen Griggs

Cisco fish, in the salmon family, live in the pristine aquatic habitat of Olin Lake, one of the twelve northeastern Indiana lakes where they have been found. Olin Lake is in close proximity to Martin Lake, Smith Hole, and Oliver Lake through narrow connecting streams, so the cisco may move through that small chain of lakes within the same watershed, but they are not migratory. The shoreline of Olin Lake is largely undeveloped, and the first nature preserve in that area was established in 1975.

Jed Pearson, a fisheries biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said that the cisco fish population declined dramatically but has recently remained steady due to pollution control measures. The aquatic habitat declined in other lakes in the region, as sediment and poor water quality spread, so the cisco could not survive in those waters.

Adult cisco range in length from twelve to 20 inches. Their mouth is small, for feeding on microorganisms such as plankton. They thrive on good water quality, cold temperatures, high dissolved oxygen levels and abundant plankton. According to Dr. Robert Gillespie, a biology professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, degradation of water quality affects the cisco's food source, lowers the oxygen level, and warms up the cold temperature that they need. Cisco are in a somewhat precarious position, he said. "Cisco here in Crooked Lake at the Whitley-Noble County line are in the southernmost area of their range, perhaps the furthest south in North America." A 1982 IDNR study of cisco die-off in Crooked Lake documented the effects of a low oxygen period.

According to Pearson, the cisco are known to have a mild whitefish flavor. Their reproduction occurs rather late in the fall, before ice covers the lakes. The fish normally lay their eggs during the last week of November, just after Thanksgiving. Since cisco spawn so late in the season, their nesting success is limited by the temperature. Thus, fall nesting contributes to their low population.



CARL D. ROLFSEN STEWARDSHIP AWARD

ACRES Board of Directors President David Van Gilder has been nominated for the Carl D. Rolfsen Stewardship Award of the Foellinger Foundation.

The award nomination highlighted how David's leadership has contributed to the success of ACRES as demonstrated in at least three of the Ten Basic Responsibilities identified by Board Source in its book, *Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Second Edition*. ACRES chose to highlight examples of his leadership in the areas of

strategic planning, support and evaluation of the Executive Director, and board development.

As a nominee, David will be honored along with all the nominees at a luncheon provided by the Foellinger Foundation in October. The winner of the Stewardship Award will receive a Foellinger Foundation grant of \$10,000 operating support funds and up to \$7,500 for special board development training.

Good luck David and thank you for your continued service to ACRES.

ARTology

ACRES' traveling art show featuring commissioned art inspired by nature preserves, will be at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art from August 27 – October 23. A free reception featuring these pieces along with Kids ARTology and ACRES photography exhibit will be Thursday, October 7 from 6 – 9 p.m. What a great opportunity to view all of the art pieces in one place. All ages are invited.



PEDALING FOR PRESERVES

Jason Kissel, Executive Director of ACRES Land Trust, and **Kevin Gray**, a member of ACRES, will be riding their bicycles across America in 2011 as a fundraiser for ACRES.

When March – April 2011

Distance Approx. 3,100 miles

Trip San Diego, CA (back tire in Pacific Ocean) to St. Augustine, FL (front tire in Atlantic Ocean)

Look in the Winter *Quarterly* for details on how to pledge, donate, sponsor and follow the progress of the ride.

Please consider a year-end gift to ACRES in celebration of our 50th anniversary!

ACRES has been very successful in preserving and protecting nature preserves for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone. We have all been the beneficiaries of the hard work and dedication of the ACRES founders and donors over the years.

There are many ways you can financially support ACRES with a year-end gift:

- \$50 for the 50th anniversary
- Including ACRES in your will and estate plans

Attorney David Van Gilder has volunteered to help you write your will at his downtown office 436 E. Wayne Street, Fort Wayne. This is a free service as part of the Planned Giving Council. You can schedule a confidential appointment with David for Tuesday, November 16 from 9 a.m. to noon by calling 260.424.8132.

- Naming ACRES as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Donating to a special land acquisition project or education project of ACRES. Next year's summer youth education day camps, for example!
- Donating your land for future generations
- Memorial gifts or tribute gifts to honor loved ones
- Donating to the ACRES Endowment funds of the Community Foundation in the county where you live

Here is a special invitation from the Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation for your year-end giving. ACRES and the Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation have many friends in common, and it's exciting to offer ACRES' friends the opportunity to have their gift to the ACRES endowment matched 20%.

Our goal is to reach the maximum amount offered by the Foundation, \$10,000, by receiving \$50,000 in gifts from our members and friends by December 31, 2010. For example, a gift of \$1,000 to the Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation for the ACRES endowment fund would be matched to become a \$1,200 gift. All gift sizes are most appreciated. Thank you for considering a gift to grow our endowment in Allen County which benefits over 20 Allen County preserves.

Gifts should be made payable and sent to:

Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation
Attn: ACRES, Inc. Endowment
555 E. Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

SPECIALthanks

Bill and Linda Garman

donation of tools and birdseed

Bob and Bea McCarthy

preparing *Quarterly* for mailing

Churubusco HS group: Colleen Bishop, Jesseb Roth, Theodore Pearson, and Rachel Fehring

inserting remittance envelopes in the fall *Quarterly*

Ford Meter Box Foundation

capital improvements at Hanging Rock

Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation

50th anniversary support

Waterfield Foundation

general operating support

Molly Puitz and Taylor Puitz

helping with projects around the office

ACRES Adventurer Youth Day Camp volunteers and presenters

Volunteers: Jill Noyes, Heather Baker, Sarah Rood, Kim Ginder, Ryan Noyes, Taylor Puitz and Molly Puitz, and Presenters: Rick Kemery, Bob Walton, and Ron Zartman



by Heather Baker

Peace Lutheran Preschool

donation to the ACRES Adventurer Youth Day Camp

Terri Gorney

donation of the book, *Of Prairie, Woods & Water*

NISOURCE Charitable Foundation

grant for land acquisition in the Cedar Creek Corridor

Olive B. Cole Foundation

grant to expand the Marsh Wren Nature Preserve with additional acreage

Neil Case and Dan Logsdon

staffing the ACRES' booth at the Little River Wetland Project open house

Laurie and Gary Proctor and Suzanne Walkup

maintaining landscape beds at the ACRES office

To the volunteers that helped make "Kids Day at Wildwood" a success

Darci Zolman, Paul McAfee, Shirley Needham, Kyle Jones, Casey Jones, Mick and Melinda Walters, Kody Nass, and Jake Homan

Kosciusko County REMC

funding for Kids Day at Wildwood

To our *Quarterly* distributors

Britton Marketing and Design Group

designing the *Quarterly*

Indiana Michigan Power

printing the Blue Jean Gala postcard invitations

Volunteers for the Kids Preserve Performance

Laurie Proctor, Jana Olsen, Daniel Lauriola, Sydney Spurgeon, John, Ben, Taylor and Molly Puitz

To our summer interns for their hard work

Katy Carpenter, Nathan Sell and Matthew Jehl



by Ethel McClelland

Margaret Distler

helping at the ACRES office this summer

Mary Campbell

donation of the book, *Hard Green*

Bob Weber

significant donation of many books from his personal library for the ACRES' library

Neil Case

helping with parking area at the Mengerson Nature Reserve

Al Diefenbach

grading the driveway at the office

Dave Brumm

framing and documenting Kids ARTology artwork

Laura Snipes

donation of the book *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals*

Evelyn Strasburger, Roberta Archer and Garry Baker

helping with Blue Jean Gala mailing

Anne Higgins

donation of nature books

George Thomas and Tim Johnson

making cornhole games for the Blue Jean Gala

Trina Herber

donation of handmade bean bags for cornhole games

We invite you to browse through our online store.

Notecards with ACRES preserves-inspired art

ACRES apparel – tee shirts, sweatshirts, and hats

ACRES merchandise – books, CDs and gifts

All gift memberships through the end of December are half price!



acreslandtrust.org

projectPAGE

Projects

Construction of a utility shed at the ACRES office

Remove old farm fence at Dustin NP to eliminate a wildlife barrier

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our projects, please call the ACRES office at 260-637-2273.

Completed projects

New parking lot at the Dustin Preserve that will accommodate school buses.

New parking lot at the Mengerson Preserve.

Hanging Rock visitor amenities.

the **BACK**page

by Matthew Brown

This poem is from *In the Silence of These Woods*, a collection of poems based on observations in ACRES' preserves. The book can be purchased online at acreslandtrust.org

Out on Cedar Creek

Goldfinches hover and play
where goldenrods sway.
Heavy-scented bushes
hide the fields.

On the tip of a boxelder branch
three "ash" leaflets have fused
into a single maple leaf,
- Ash-leaved maple.

From a bluff above a mudslide
I made my way,
by a path of venerable oak trees,
way down to Cedar Creek.

A chickadee climbs head-downward
on bark that shares its color;
strong clear currents
push through the steep valley.

Sweetgum: the stars come out,
unfolding like butterflies as if
on the rim of a crater lake, far from
everything, spreading out the stars
of its leaves, and then the beek-encrusted

globes of its seeds, that look like
a different part of the universe.

"I try to see everything as exotic"
- that is what Elizabeth said,
and I have found it an important part
of Silence.

Do not fling, but carefully set aside,
values and prejudgments that came
along for the ride. Let thoughts come
and go with a simple nod.

Look again at silver maple, ash-leaved maple;
see their design as if you had had to come
around the world, or from another galaxy,
to see it.



by Kathleen 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 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; Corporate, \$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.