

# THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Spring 2011 | Vol. 50 - No. 2



**ACRES**  
LANDTRUST

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# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I've opted to receive email newsletters from other non-profit organizations I'm involved with—it saves money, time and paper. However, even though the ACRES' *Quarterly* is available on-line, you won't find me opting out of receiving a hard copy.

I love the sensory experience of the *Quarterly*: the smell of paper and ink (the office always smells so good when all the *Quarterlies* arrive), how the *Quarterly* feels in my hands, and of course the overwhelming visual treat that each issue offers.



by Amy Kissel

Even though we choose the photography months before and have seen the images over and over, when I pick up a new issue of the *Quarterly*, the photos surprise me every time. Their location, framing, and relationship to other graphics within the *Quarterly* give the photographs a brand new feel.

One of my favorite parts of each issue is the center spread. It creates a moment allowing you to interact with a natural scene, free from any other influence. There are no photo credits, announcements, page numbers, etc.—just you interacting with a natural space. This is what ACRES is about, providing opportunities for you to experience nature in ways that are unique and meaningful to you.

Explore the preserves this spring and experience countless center spread moments. Talk about a sensory experience—the *Quarterly* is wonderful, but it's a pale representation of the discoveries awaiting you within ACRES' 78 nature preserves. The *Quarterly* is not meant to quench your longing for natural spaces, but rather to be an enticement whetting your appetite. Enjoy the *Quarterly*, but don't be satisfied with it—explore the real world this spring. Take a hike!

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel

P.S. A huge thank you to Britton Marketing & Design Group for their free and fabulous design work on the *Quarterly*. Your team creates a work of art each issue.

P.S.S. My dad, Kevin Gray, and I should be a little more than halfway through the Pedaling for Preserves cross-country bicycle trip when you first receive this *Quarterly*. Visit [acreslandtrust.org/pedaling](http://acreslandtrust.org/pedaling) to discover exactly where we are, view pictures from the trip, and correspond with us.

## WELCOME 52new members!

Ben Armour  
gift of Casey Armour  
Andrea Baker  
Marlane Baker  
gift of Andrea Baker  
Jane Bechtold  
Charles and Terri Berg  
Pat Blasco  
gift of Michael Findley  
Linda Tannas and Steven Bloomfield  
Michael Burns Consulting  
Dave and Janet Chrzan  
Bruce Conklin  
Glenn and Katherine Davis  
Michael Dick  
Doug and Cathy Edwards  
Maggie Faley  
Todd Findley  
gift of Michael Findley  
Lucy Foltyniak  
Ron Hamm  
Chris Heidegger  
Lucy Hess  
Mike and Kathi Heyes  
Gary Hogle and Barbara Lahman  
gift of David Lahman  
Maxine Huffman  
Judy Johnston  
Forrest and Janet Keefer  
gift of Sarah Venturi  
Jeanette Lahman  
gift of David Lahman  
Steve Linsenmayer & Ellie Bogue  
gift of Carolyn Linsenmayer  
Jerry and Jackie Long  
Britt Magneson  
Michael McCulloch  
Jerry and Kay Musgrave  
Evelyn Pauly  
Dudley Ranson  
Don and Anne Reitz  
Ken Remenschneider and Sharon Hoag  
gift of Tom and Leslie Remenschneider  
Ringo Santiago and Cathy Schaefer

Frederica Schaefer  
gift of Jim and Pat Barrett  
David and Mary Lahman Sollenberger  
gift of David Lahman  
Christy Spencer  
gift of Michael Findley  
Larry Stephenson  
gift of Bruce and Julie Flohr  
Mark Stuerzenberger  
gift of Adele Detwiler  
Craig Swanson  
Justin Venturi  
gift of Sarah Venturi  
Scott and Kelly Vorpahl  
Prudy Widlak  
Lisa Wiley  
Susan Wyatt

### New Lifetime Members

Jerriah and Brandy Miller  
Mark and Laura O'Shaughnessy  
Tom and Cindy Reed

### New Corporate Members

Barton Lake RV  
Joseph Decuis  
University of Saint Francis

### ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 78 nature preserves totaling over 4,800 acres.

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



**ACRES**  
LANDTRUST



# Acquisition Updates by Jason Kissel

## Little River Landing

ACRES has had a long relationship with the Historic Forks of the Wabash, Inc (the Forks), a non-profit located in Huntington, Indiana at the confluence of the Wabash and the Little Wabash Rivers. The Forks educates the public about the rich history of the confluence—its use by Native Americans, early settlers and traders utilizing the Erie and Wabash Canal systems. ACRES helped the Forks acquire an island within the Wabash River in the early 1990s.

In 2009, the Forks approached ACRES about purchasing a 43-acre peninsula between the two rivers. ACRES immediately thought to involve Little River Wetlands Project (LRWP)—a land trust dedicated to restoring and preserving the watershed of the Little Wabash River. They were interested in the project, so ACRES and LRWP decided to pursue acquisition of the land as partners—each would own 50% interest in the property and would share management of the property as a nature preserve.



Photos by Jack Stark

While ACRES works closely with many land trusts throughout its service area, sharing information, advice, and resources, this is the first time we will jointly own a property with another organization.

Because access to the peninsula is inconvenient, we negotiated inclusion of ten acres north of the Little Wabash River to allow the possibility of adding a pedestrian bridge across the river in the future. This ten-acre parcel also connects

to Huntington's trail system, which hosts thousands of trail walkers each year.

The interior of the peninsula was planted in native hardwoods 12 years ago, and this re-forestation effort is doing very well. The riverfronts of the property contain mature trees including sycamore, silver maple, willow and other riparian species.

ACRES and LRWP need to raise a combined \$66,000 for this acquisition. The Nature Conservancy of Indiana (another land trust partner) contributed \$20,000 toward the project and the Ropchan Foundation contributed \$20,000—leaving \$26,000 yet to raise. Please consider a donation to help fund this newest preserve.

ACRES now owns 78 nature preserves that total over 4,800 acres! Visit Tel-Hy, our other Huntington County nature preserve.

The Little River Landing Grand Opening will be May 21, 3-5 p.m. Join us! See directions on page 14.



## tributes

To Mike and Jake Castellaw  
from Chuck D. Lewis

To Bob and Alice Frantz  
from Phil and Linda Frantz

## memorials

Marcielle Harnish  
from Charles and Ruth Oswalt  
and the Cardinal Chapter of  
Indiana Audubon Society

Barbara Schafer  
from Lucy Hess

Bill Jensen  
from Terrance and Yvonne  
Wagner, Karen Piekarski and  
Joseph and Mary Becker

Earl Davis  
from Leelia Cornell

Lona Jane Caylor  
from Elizabeth Leonard and  
Barbara Elliott

Lorry Goldenberg  
from Angie O'Neill

photo by Shane Perfect

# The Spotted Turtle, a Fen Favorite

by Diana Lutz, Interpretive Naturalist and  
Certified Interpretive Guide at Pokagon State Park

ACRES Land Trust preserves include a variety of beautiful and pristine glaciated regions, each containing its own ecosystem, meeting all the specialized daily habitat requirements needed for the survival of a wide variety of flora and fauna. The Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), listed as endangered in Indiana, is one of these specialists in habitat requirements. These requirements vary depending on the topographic conditions available and include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows and vernal ponds. In Indiana, fens are the preferred habitat of the Spotted Turtle.

A fen is a peat-covered wetland with constant moving, mineral-rich ground water beneath the surface. Above-ground water levels in a fen may vary from a few inches to knee deep. In July and August, as the air temperatures rise, it may look as though the fen is drying up, but the water table will be just below the substrate. The plant life in a fen is dominated by hydrophytes, which grow in water or soil that is oxygen-deprived, due to high water saturation. Examples of hydrophytes include many species of sedges, rushes, sphagnum, and cattail; shrubby cinquefoil; red-osier dogwood and poison sumac.

This type of habitat can be encountered as you trek through Beechwood, Clock Creek, Sauga Swamp and Wing Haven nature preserves.

The Spotted Turtle is a semi-aquatic North American turtle in the family Emydidae. The family includes, but is not limited to, Blanding's Turtle, Wood Turtle, and Eastern Box Turtle. Spotted turtles are endemic to eastern North America, with their range including Illinois, Indiana, Lower Michigan, Ohio and southern Ontario. The population continues east through Pennsylvania, New



by Diana Lutz

York, into Quebec, and the entire Atlantic coastline from Maine to Florida.

The Spotted Turtle is a small turtle (3.5 to 5.4 in) with a smooth, low, oval black/brown carapace (top shell) overlaid with small rounded yellow spots. The yellow polka dots vary with some turtles having no spots, while others can have up to 125 spots scattered across the carapace and face.

Males generally have a brown chin, brown eyes, a concave plastron (bottom shell), and a long, thick tail. The female is more colorful with a yellow chin, orange eyes, flat plastron and a shorter, thinner tail. At hatching, the almost-round turtle is a blue-black color. Sometimes it is born with no spots, but generally is born with one yellow spot per scute (a plate/scale on the carapace). As the hatchling grows, size and number of spots increase.

The Spotted Turtle is a very colorful, shy, timid creature. It has a very easy-going disposition and displays no aggressiveness. Unfortunately, these features make it desirable for collecting and poaching. In addition to collecting and poaching, Spotted Turtle populations decline due to loss of habitat to construction, drainage, mowing, agriculture, overgrazing and the dominance/ impenetrability of invasive plant species. Predation by raccoons, skunks and muskrats takes turtles. Road mortality is also a problem, as it is for all wildlife.

Spotted turtles are cold-tolerant (heliothermic) and survive in cooler environments. They emerge from hibernation earlier in spring than most turtles and are most active at this time. Being heliothermic, they are early morning baskers on sedge tussocks, but disappear into the protection of sedges and other plants as afternoon temperatures rise. To avoid the heat as summer progresses, the spotted turtle has a unique behavior referred to as aestivation, a period of dormancy described as summer hibernation. The turtle seeks out cool refuges to lower body temperatures. Aestivation varies in length of time, as well as when it occurs. As a Spotted Turtle researcher in Southwest Michigan, I found that aestivation occurred when higher air temperatures were present (usually in July and August) and with low amounts of precipitation. To aestivate, the spotted turtle buries into the muck and mud among plant roots. With the presence of ground water just beneath the surface, the turtle can wait out the dry heat above ground. The length of aestivation I observed was anywhere from two days to three weeks. As air temperature decreased in late summer and early fall, the turtles emerged.

Hibernation occurs when a turtle becomes inactive during the cold and may extend up to six months.

Hibernation begins to take place in late September. To hibernate, the turtle must burrow down beneath the muck, mud, plant roots, and below the frost line. Old muskrat tunnels are frequently used as hibernaculae. I have observed both solitary hibernation (one turtle in a hibernaculum) and communal hibernation (up to four turtles in a hibernaculum). Communal hibernation is unique, with turtles "stacked" beneath the substrate. Males, females and juveniles were all found within this hibernaculum, suggesting that hibernaculae are not sex biased. This infers that turtles may be "staging" for future reproductive advantages, putting them in close proximity during spring mating. Less precious energy would be spent in locating a mate.

While studying the Spotted Turtle and its behavior, it was apparent each turtle maintains individualistic characteristics. With the use of radio telemetry, I was able to track the movements of the Spotted Turtle and the size of their home range, the area used by an animal during a given year. Home range varied with each turtle, from one acre to over eight. The landscape preferred was always the pristine fen, which reinforces the good work ACRES Land Trust is accomplishing in preserving these imperiled habitats. While on your walk in one of these precious preserves, keep your eyes open—look for, but don't touch—the turtle with the yellow polka dots!

by Bruce Kingsbury



# Would you like to become a Docent for an ACRES Preserve?

by Bill Smith , ACRES' Vice President

ACRES Land Trust is in the planning stages for developing a Docent Program that would offer guided tours or lectures about our many preserves.

What do we mean by "docent"? Webster's dictionary defines "docent" as; (1) A teacher or lecturer at some universities who is not a regular faculty member, (2) A lecturer or tour guide in a museum or cathedral. The word "docent" comes from the Latin word *docere*, meaning to teach. The same could be applied to being a docent for one or more of our ACRES preserves; a teacher, lecturer or guide for a preserve who is not a staff member of ACRES Land Trust.

Typically docents must be at least 18 years of age. Unique skills, such as being an Indiana Master Naturalist, are very helpful, but not required. Enthusiasm, a desire to learn, and commitment are always the most valuable characteristics of a docent.

Our docents would be trained volunteers whose major responsibility would be to guide groups of people through our preserves, helping them to better understand and appreciate unique geologic features, trees, flowers and wildlife that might be found in a specific preserve. Our docents might also give presentations to community groups telling them about some of the natural exploration opportunities available to them.

## Docent Commitment

Docents are required to complete an application, participate in our training program and conduct at least three preserve tours or community talks each



by Shane Perfect

year. The training program would be refreshed each year.

## Why should I consider becoming a docent?

Docents can expect to be rewarded with lifelong learning opportunities in geology, unique features in our preserves, experience the camaraderie of ACRES, other docents and staff, have satisfying experiences from sharing your knowledge with ACRES' visitors, and have another excuse to enjoy the great outdoors. Maybe you already have some unique insight about some of our preserves. You can be on the ground floor in helping us develop our Docent Program.

## How do I get started?

Contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 if you are interested in becoming a docent or helping develop the program.



The *Joseph Decuis* FARM hosts the

## 2011 ACRES Land Trust BLUE JEAN GALA

Thursday, June 9  
5 - 9 pm

### OUR CURRENT SPONSORS:



A unit of American Electric Power



John and Carol Brooks

Corporate Sponsorships Still Available

*Carriage Rides, Farm Tours,  
Kids Activities & Hiking*

*5:30 Dinner Bell &  
Welcoming Remarks*

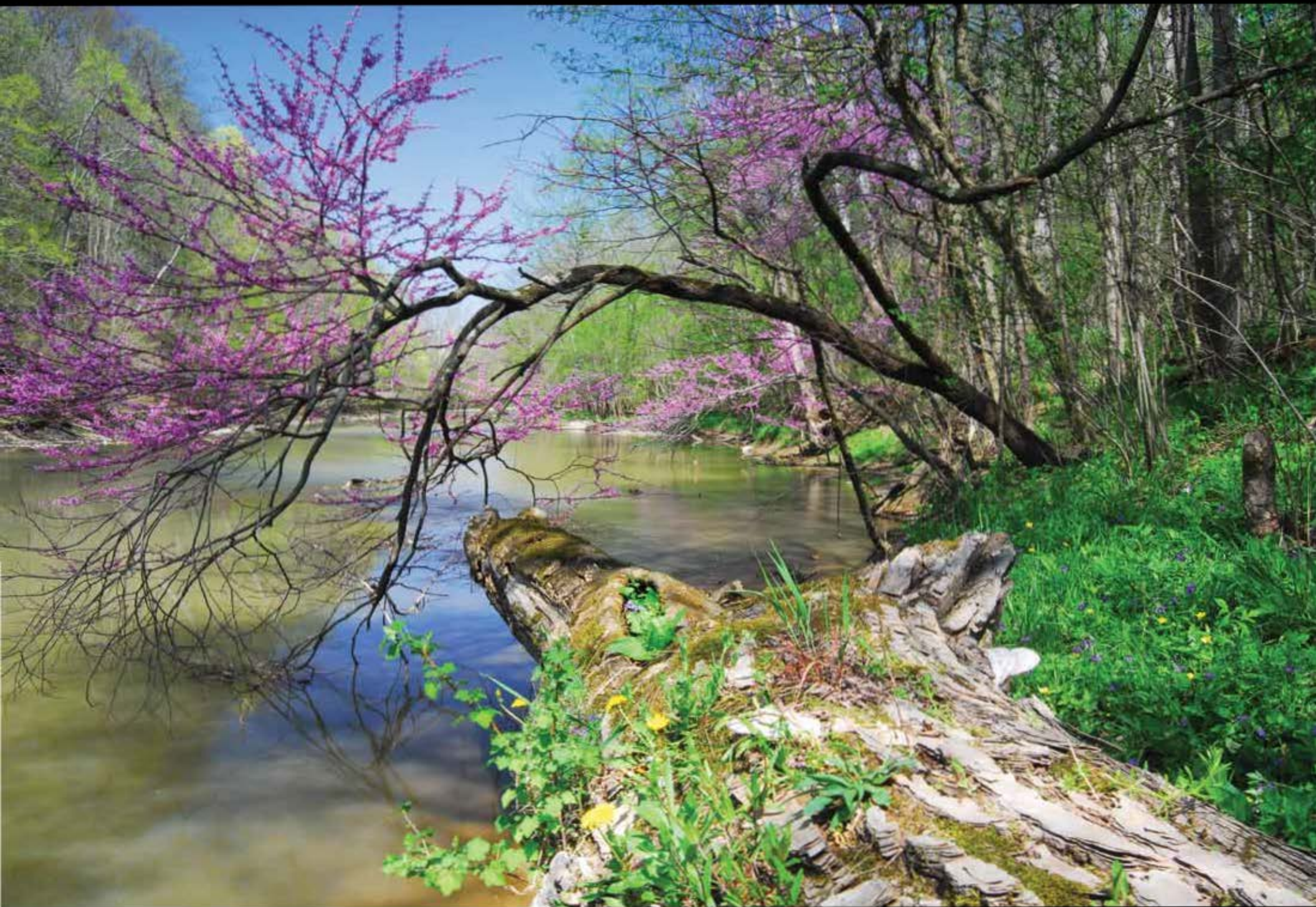
### Featuring:

- Joseph Decuis Cuisine & Wine
- Original ACRES Microbrew Beer
- A tantalizing Silent Auction
- Roots 'in around with the Possum Trot Orchestra
- A mesmerizing bonfire

\$50 Adult • \$25 Child (12 and under)

**RSVP by May 26**

[acreslandtrust.org/BJG2011](http://acreslandtrust.org/BJG2011)  
260.637.2273



## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

### WILDFLOWER HIKES

#### Bender Memorial Forest – Noble County

Saturday, April 23, 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m.

Presented by: John and Joann Smith

Visit this preserve in bloom two times and see the differences.

**WHERE:** Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest, Noble County

From Albion take SR 9 south 0.5 mile and turn right (west) onto West River Rd. (250N). Follow West River Rd. for 1.25 miles. Preserve is on the right.



by Ethel McClelland

### PRE-EARTH DAY EVENT TREE PLANTING

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. – noon

Presented by: ACRES' staff

Join us in celebrating Earth Day as we do a hands-on tree planting on two acres of crop field within Founders Forest. We will need lots of hands as we plant over 1,000 black walnut, black cherry, red oak, bur oak and tulip trees.

**WHERE:** Northern Allen County, northwest corner of Shoaff and Coldwater roads, just west of Cook's Landing County Park. Park at Cook's Landing or Bicentennial Woods.



### 22ND ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Presented by: Art Eberhardt, Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, David and Bonnie Snyder, Paul Nailor and Lee Sauer.

Enjoy a variety of events for children and adults: make a bluebird house or suet feeder, look at pond water under a microscope, and adopt a white cedar, scarlet oak, sugar maple or flowering dogwood tree. Entertainment will be fiddle and dulcimer music and caricature drawings.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N., Angola, Indiana 46703

### BIRD BANDING AT WILDWOOD

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jerry Sweeten, Associate Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies, Manchester College

Join Jerry and learn how to bird band and why. Bird banding will be from 9 a.m. to noon. Stay for a light lunch and then try your hand at bird crafts or enjoy a hike at 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County, 409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake, Indiana 46982



by Shane Perfect

## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

### NATURE SIT-IN

Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m.

Presented by: Jane Munk

Join Jane for a nature sit-in by letting nature come to you. Sit quietly and observe nature through your senses, then share your observations and experiences with the group.

**WHERE:** Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Rd., Hometown, Indiana 46748

### VERNAL POOLS

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim Haddock, Professor of Biology, IPFW

Join Jim and learn about vernal pools. What are they? Where can you find them? What are they for? Come and enjoy the adventure.

**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.



by Shane Perfect

### TRAIL BLAZING WORK DAY

Saturday, May 14, 2 – 4 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

Help create a new trail through the 19-acre reforestation field on the south end of the property. Bring your shovel and gloves. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

**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.

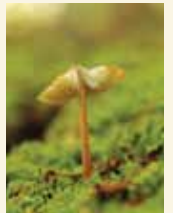
### EDIBLES, MEDICINALS AND THE FUNGUS AMONG US

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim and Jill Meuninck

Edible wild plants and wild mushrooms have been used as food and medicine since, well, since the beginning. Learn to identify which wild plants to eat for better health. Discover what nutrients and phytochemicals do in your body and where to find them, even in your own backyard. Jim and Jill Meuninck prepare several edible plant dishes that surprise the taste buds and make you feel good about it. Also, take an herb walk and identify free food and medicine right at your feet.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N., Angola, Indiana 46703



by Shane Perfect

Center Spread: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County by Jon Ingleman

## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

### WILDFLOWER HIKE

Sunday, May 15, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Renee Baines

Go wild over the wildflowers in bloom as Renee leads you on a hike through the woods.

**WHERE:** Fogwell Forest, Allen County,  
9630 Whippoorwill Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46809



by Marissa Jones

### FOTO FUN

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Shane Perfect

Seeking all photographers, all levels of experience and anyone looking for a fun time. Join Shane in taking pictures of the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve and sharing them with the group in an informal setting and social event.

**WHERE:** Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, ACRES Office,  
1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Indiana 46748



by Hans Hofer

### GRAND OPENING

Saturday, May 21, 3 – 5 p.m.

Presented by: Little River Wetland Project and ACRES  
Land Trust (co-owners)

Join us for the grand opening of the Little River Landing  
Nature Preserve.

**WHERE:** Little River Landing, Huntington, Indiana  
Begin the tour at the Historic Forks of the Wabash which  
is on the west side of Huntington, Indiana, at the junction  
of US 24 and SR 9.



### BLUE JEAN GALA

Thursday, June 9, 5-9 p.m.

See page 9 for details or go to [acreslandtrust.org/BJG2011](http://acreslandtrust.org/BJG2011)

### CONCERT IN THE CANYON

Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.

Presented by: John Getz

Come and enjoy the acoustical sounds of John Getz. Follow the trail that leads west (right as you are coming from the parking lot) into the forest. No chairs or other seating will be provided, so be prepared to lean against a tree, sit on the ground, or bring along a blanket or stadium cushion. Enjoy the simple pleasure of sitting in a stunning canyon listening to music.

**WHERE:** Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, Steuben County  
From Hamilton at SR 427 take Bellefontaine Rd. northwest 1.5 miles to Lane 201 and turn left (south). Travel 0.25 miles to Lane 201A and turn left. Preserve is on the left after the first curve.

### PLANTS IN MOTION

Sunday, June 19, 2 p.m.

Presented by:  
The Kissel Family

Plants are constantly in motion, moving in response to light, gravity, water, obstacles, etc. These movements, called tropisms, will be explored while we hike and discover plants in motion.

**WHERE:** Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County,  
1541 E. 300 N.,  
Wabash, Indiana 46992



by Jarrod Spicer

### GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT

Saturday, June 25

Be part of the Great American Backyard Campout. Join in the fun for a day or bring your tent to camp out overnight.

Saturday:

1-4 p.m. – hiking and  
afternoon crafts

5 p.m. – hot dog roast

7 p.m. – storytelling around  
the campfire and night hike

Sunday:

Light breakfast followed  
by a bird hike.

Please call 260.352.2604  
to make your reservation.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County,  
409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake,  
Indiana 46982

## NATURE'S CALENDAR

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter,  
Pokagon State Park

### April 18

- Full moon. Pick the darkest ACRES' preserve and get out there just after sunset to walk as the full moon rises. Algonquin people refer to this full moon of April as the Pink Moon. It is also known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, Egg Moon, or the Fish Moon. Think about important events in nature in your own backyard for the April full moon.

### Late April – pick a day....

- Though the buds are red, which give this tree its name, the tiny blossoms are a beautiful pink. Visit an ACRES' preserve and enjoy the pink hues of woodland edges sporting the understory redbud tree.

### May 1

- It's a day of new arrivals. The busy house wrens will be singing up a storm around the nest boxes at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Baltimore orioles will be belting out their robust calls from tree tops in all of ACRES' preserves. It's time to put out your sugar water and grape jelly for orioles and hummingbirds right now. They are all back today!

### May 10

- A week ago, it was the redbud; this week, flowering dogwoods are in full bloom, adding their pure white to low woodlands in mature forests.

### Late May

- All spring there has been a progression of calling frogs in all of our ACRES' wetlands. Now it is the gray tree frog's turn. Listen for their coon-like trills in the forested areas of ACRES' preserves. Check your car in the parking lot. There may be one stuck to your windshield glass!

### June 7

- Pick any ACRES' preserve with nice wetlands such as Cypress Meadow, Wing Haven or Art Hammer Wetlands and check out the cattail plants. Look for cattails that have flower heads that look soft, but not the dark brown soft of fall. On June 7 many will have a bright green, covered-with-yellow-gold look. Put your middle finger to your thumb, give the stalk a sharp flick, and watch the huge puff of bright yellow pollen explode into the air!



by Heather Baker

**Ages: 7-13**

**Days: Monday – Thursday**

**Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Cost: \$80/week**

Join us for a week full of nature exploration! ACRES Land Trust proudly presents the 2nd annual ACRES Adventurer's Day Camp. Enjoy pond scoping, nature hikes, crafts, and educational presenters. Learn about: tree and plant species, Indiana woodland animal species (salamanders, frogs, etc.) and their role within our environment, plus much more! Children will need to bring a brown bag lunch. Pizza Hut will provide lunch the last day of camp each week. Snacks and water will be provided. Limited to 15 children per week.



## Adventurer Day Camp

### Locations:

**June 20-23 (Mon.-Thurs.)**

**Dustin Nature Preserve**

(Allen County)

Sponsored in part by the Edward and Ione Auer Foundation  
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748  
Special Presentation (Open to the Public)  
Wednesday, June 22, 2011 10 a.m.

**June 27 – 30 (Mon.-Thurs.)**

**Asherwood Environmental Center**

(Wabash County)

7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, IN 46992  
Special Presentation (Open to the Public)  
Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10 a.m.

**July 5-8 (Tues.-Fri.)**

**Wing Haven Nature Preserve**

(Steuben County)

180 W. 400 N., Angola, IN 46703  
Special Presentation (Open to the Public)  
Thursday, July 7, 2011 10 a.m.

Go to  
**acreslandtrust.org/adventurers**  
for more information.  
Registration begins  
**March 1, 2011.**

## Rolling Renewal Date

It's time to renew! Beginning with this issue, we're changing to a rolling renewal. In other words, if you send in your renewal June, 2011, your subscription will expire June, 2012. In an effort to serve you better and because of our new database, we're able to track these dates and will be giving you a renewal reminder when your membership expires.

## Matching Gift Opportunities

A great big ACRES thank you to our many members and donors who request matching gifts from their employer to benefit ACRES! Have you asked your employer if they have a matching gift program? Please let us know.

As many of you are aware, ACRES preserves land FOREVER so it is fitting to have endowment funds to help maintain those preserves in perpetuity.

ACRES has an endowment fund at the Community Foundation in every county where there are ACRES preserves. Thank you so much to the many donors who contributed year end gifts to the endowment funds of Allen (Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne), DeKalb, LaGrange, Steuben, Kosciusko, Whitley, Grant, Noble, Wells, Huntington, Wabash, Miami, Fulton, Blackford, Jay and Adams counties.

GREAT NEWS. The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has now increased their matching program to match \$1 for every \$1 given to the endowment fund up to \$10,000. When you consider your long term giving plans for ACRES, please remember the various community foundation endowment funds – and help us GROW them to maintain the increasing number of acres ACRES protects.

## Please bear with us.

ACRES has completed a major database conversion. We are making every effort for a smooth transition, but we know there may be mistakes along the way. Please bear with us as we continue our training and updating all your records. If you notice we've missed you, please contact us at

**acres@acreslandtrust.org**  
or  
**260.637.2273**

*Thank you  
for your understanding  
and patience.*

## Wildwalkers Spring Schedule

*All hikes are 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.*

**April 18**

Beechwood Nature Preserve,  
Steuben County

**April 22**

Olin Lake, LaGrange County

**May 13**

Dygert Nature Preserve,  
Whitley County

**May 27**

Schwartz Farm, Allen County

**June 10**

Wildwood Nature Preserve,  
Kosciusko County

**June 24**

Pisgah Nature Preserve,  
Kosciusko County

## PEDALING FOR PRESERVES

Jason and Kevin are well on their way pedaling across the country. It's not too late to donate and follow their progress at [acreslandtrust.org/pedaling](http://acreslandtrust.org/pedaling)



by Shane Perfect

Thank you to our sponsors:



Chris Stauffer

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## Wayne and Linda Boyd

for their generous support of ACRES land acquisition projects

## Olive B. Cole Foundation

for support of the ACRES land management interns for summer 2011

## Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne

for operating support

## Edward and Ione Auer Foundation

for support of arts and education projects



by Tom Bishop

**Churubusco HS group: Danielle Johnson, Theodore Pearson, Janelle Gouwens, and Colleen Bishop** collating the *Quarterly*

## Britton Marketing & Design Group

designing the *Quarterly*

## Our *Quarterly* distributors

### Carol Roberts

editing the *Quarterly*

### Ropchan Foundation

for the assistance with the Little River Landing property acquisition

### Al Diefenbach

snow plowing driveway so staff could get to work. Gee, thanks Al!

### Jack Stark

building shelving unit in the basement at the office

### Garry Baker

stuffing remittance envelopes in the *Quarterly*

### Cheryl Noyer and Bill Smith

donation of office supplies and children's books

### Darrin Johnson

Eagle Scout project constructing a boardwalk at Fogwell Forest

### Anthony Gannon

Eagle Scout project constructing a boardwalk at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge

### John Broski

Eagle Scout project constructing a bridge at Cypress Meadow

## Tri State Vacuum

discount on a new sweeper for the office

## Eel River Outdoor Power, Inc., North Manchester

donation

## Bruce Montgomery

establishing address designations for the ACRES preserves

## Susan Anderson

cataloguing books in the library

## Chris Walker

painting in the office

## Taylor & Molly Puitz

helping in the office

## Pizza Hut

support of ACRES Adventurer Day Camp

## To our Home and Garden Show Volunteers

## FAREWELL

Angie O'Neill will retire from her part-time position of Fund Development Manager on June 22. Angie has greatly enhanced ACRES' donor relations, grant writing and corporate support. Her passion, knowledge, skill and tact will be greatly missed. Although Angie's contractual relationship with ACRES will end, she plans to spend a large portion of her free time being another one of ACRES' super volunteers.

Angie, it is impossible to overstate the value you have provided to ACRES. Your sincere desire to preserve natural areas and further ACRES' mission is obvious. Your poise and stellar character made you not only a great representative of ACRES but also an absolute pleasure to work with. Thank you for everything you have done (and will continue to do) for ACRES. We wish you all the best – you deserve it!

Please join us at the ACRES office on the first day of summer (June 21) at noon, to kick-off Angie's new beginning!

## Projects

Join us for some hard work, fresh air and wildflower displays at the following ACRES' preserve work days.

Please consider bringing any of the following equipment: loppers, trimmers, hand saws, trash bags and your energy.

Questions? Please contact David or Ethel at 260.352.2604 or Email: [mcclelliv@frontier.com](mailto:mcclelliv@frontier.com)

### HUNTINGTON PROPERTY

Tuesday, April 12, 1 – 4 p.m.  
Install gate and preserve sign,  
trail maintenance

### DETERING

Thursday, April 28, 1 – 3 p.m.  
Trail maintenance, invasive removal, trash pick up

### ASHERWOOD

Saturday, May 7, 1 – 4 p.m.  
New roof on shelter, trail maintenance

### ACRES ALONG THE WABASH

Thursday, May 12, 2 – 4 p.m.  
Trash and river cleanup, thistle control.  
Enjoy the nice display of wildflowers.

### HATHAWAY PRESERVE AT ROSS RUN

Saturday, May 14, 2 – 4 p.m.  
Establish new trail - bring shovels

### McNABB-WALTER

Monday, May 16, 10 a.m. – noon  
Remove metal, trail maintenance, pull wire fencing. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the wildflowers.

### DUSTIN AND JOHNSON

Thursday, May 19, 1 – 3 p.m.  
Office and grounds cleanup, trail maintenance

### WING HAVEN

Saturday, June 11, 2 p.m.  
Trail maintenance and general clean-up

### ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE

Monday, June 13, 10 a.m. – noon  
Trail maintenance, invasive removal,  
boardwalks, bridge repair, remove wire  
fencing, trash clean up

## MENGERSON

Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. – noon  
Trail maintenance, invasive species control,  
trash cleanup throughout preserve

## Completed projects

24 ft. boardwalk Fogwell Forest  
107 ft. boardwalk - Ropchan Wildlife Refuge  
40 ft. bridge - Cypress Meadow



by Shane Perfect

## acres' wishlist

Work gloves  
Heavy duty lawn and leaf bags  
Treated lumber, lengths of 6 feet or more, all dimensions  
Manequin  
Birdseed

the**BACK**page

by Bob Frantz

## Spring Peepers

It happens every spring. On the first warm day, whether it is in March or not until early April, a mighty chorus of little high-pitched voices burst forth from every swamp. To me, this is the first real sign of spring. The little tree frogs which we call spring peepers emerge from their winter bed of mud, where they have been in hibernation since the first hard freeze, to announce to all who will listen that spring has indeed arrived. It warms my heart and renews my faith in the continuity of life. When the peepers first begin to sing, there isn't a lot to show us that spring is here except that it is the first real warm sunny day. Very likely the red wings and grackles have arrived from the south, and perhaps a few wood ducks and mallards, but for the most part the surroundings are still rather drab. The snow has all, or at least mostly disappeared, leaving the dead and matted leaves and grass exposed. The skunk cabbage is probably showing itself, but green grass, leaves and flowers are still a little ways off. Nevertheless, there is an air of expectancy. We know now that beyond the shadow of a doubt—if indeed during the long winter we had any



by Shane Perfect

doubts—the lush growth of spring is soon to come.

In the meantime, let's not waste time yearning for things which are to come. Let's just be glad for the pleasure of the moment: the happy chirping of our little friends, the announcers of spring—the noisy spring peepers.

– April, 1980

**DIRECTORS:** Steven Hammer, President; Emily Pichon, VP; William A. Smith IV, VP; Norm Cox, Secretary; Richard E. Walker, Treasurer; Samuel T. Boggs, Neil Case, James Haddock, Trina Herber, Richard Hurley, Carol Roberts, Gary R. Tieben, David Van Gilder, Connie Haas-Zuber. Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Feitler; Recording Secretary: Sue Diefenbach.

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