

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I'm often surprised at some people's misperception of ACRES' supporters. Some stereotype ACRES' members as "Prius-driving, granola-eating tree huggers." Now ACRES does include some of those folks as members. However, ACRES has just as many members who could be stereotyped as "4x4-driving, gun toting meat eaters." And just like the rest of the population, many ACRES' members fall somewhere in-between.

Support of ACRES has nothing to do with choosing sides; in fact, support of ACRES is all about coming together. ACRES' members share a similar land ethic. They appreciate the value of using land for homes, business, industry, agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, etc., but also place a high value on preserving land for open space, nature, and recreation. ACRES' supporters recognize that sometimes leaving nature alone to perform its work is the "highest and best use" of land. The recognition of the value of land beyond its appraised value in the market place is what draws ACRES' supporters together.

Your values may reflect those of fellow ACRES' supporters if:

- You view time spent in nature as critical to your physical and mental health rather than something to do in your spare time.
- You view an old tree as a living sculpture developed over hundreds of years, rather than "over-mature" timber.
- You view nature as the real world and our manipulated landscapes as poor, artificial substitutes.
- Your long-term planning spans decades and centuries, not years.
- You view ACRES, rather than your financial planner, as the custodian of your most valuable investment.



Hawthorn fruit by Shane Perfect

We come to ACRES with many different backgrounds and beliefs, but we gather around a shared value—*preservation of the land that sustains all life*, including our own. I'm proud to be part of such a diverse group of people who make up the ACRES' family.

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel

Cover Photo: Cardinal by Doug Macdowall

WELCOME 29newmembers!

Michael Aker
Robert and Anita Baker
Dave and Ruth Boylan
Fred and Marcia Briggs
Esperanca Camara
Sarah Crismore
Danielle and John Emenhiser
Jim and Anne Freiburger
Jeff and Kimberly Hambrock
Barbara Hendrick
Mary Ibe
Joseph and Doris Ivaska
Phil Leisure
William Mannikko
Mark Murphy
Northeast Indiana
Flower Growers Association
Michael Perry
Larry Stevens
Louise Weber
Sally Welborn
Mark Wendt and Michele Williams
Patrick and LaDonna Wiltshire
Lisa Witmer
Donald and Rochelle Zumstein

new life members

Sally Felger
Richard Ford
Doug Rood
Laura Snipes

new corporate members

Waterfield Capital, LLC

acres' wish list

New and gently used hand towels
and dish cloths
Rags
Blank DVDs and CD-Rs
Postage stamps

Still not a member? Scan this
QR code with your smart phone
to join today!



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 79 nature preserves totaling over 4,850 acres.

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



ACRES
LANDTRUST



Find us on Facebook

Jim Barrett: Preserving the Earth, our Home

by Carol Roberts



ACRES Archive

A partner in Barrett and McNagny, Jim played many leading roles in our community supporting what he felt would benefit all citizens. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Philharmonic and served as director of Fort Wayne National Bank, Bonsib Advertising Agency and the Fort Wayne Art Museum and Art School. However, it was land conservation that he cared most deeply about. Anyone fortunate enough to know Jim understood he was always pushing at the edges where changes needed to occur, especially changes in how we understand our relationship to land. Jim was one of the founding members of ACRES Land Trust in 1960 and then provided legal counsel and services to the organization for decades. His influence went far beyond our area to affect land preservation policies statewide. Jim used his legal expertise to extend land protection to the “best of the best” natural areas remaining in Indiana by envisioning and authoring the Indiana Nature Preserves Act that created the Division of Nature Preserves, and established the State Dedicated Nature Preserve designation ensuring

Jim Barrett’s death on September 22, 2011, leaves a void in the life of his family, friends, ACRES, our community, and the conservation movement. For those who care about nature and the responsibilities of citizenship, there are few role models to match Jim Barrett. We celebrate Jim’s life and his visionary efforts that help us work toward preserving the earth we all share.

that Dedicated Nature Preserve status provides the highest level of land protection in Indiana. To date, 41,000 acres have been preserved under this Act established by Jim Barrett.

Jason Kissel, ACRES Executive Director, remembers talking with Jim about writing the Nature Preserve Act. Jim would respond: “Oh, Jason, it was just paperwork,” then move the conversation to stories about exploring undeveloped land beside his childhood home, about hiking and backpacking in Wyoming’s Red Desert and Bridger Wilderness with wife Pat, children Ann, Bob and Barbara, and dear friends and conservationists Tom and Jane Dustin and their children. Jason explained: “Jim was guiding me toward the source of why he cared so deeply about land preservation... in large part because he loved people. He knew that experiences in nature are critical to people’s well being. He knew that the important work of conservation occurs through walks in the woods, in quiet moments of reflection, in debating the best use of land with other people, during moments of discovery.”

Jim focused his formidable intellect on gaining a deeper understanding of our relationship with the earth, our home. The paper Jim presented to the Quest Club in 1964 and again just last year explains his perspective on the essential unity of life on earth—his conservation ethic:

The millions of people each year who visit natural areas find a brief refuge from the demands of man-made life, have listened for a moment to the silence of the desert, have looked in quiet fascination upon the beauty of a bird or flower, have felt the challenge of the mountain peak—even perhaps have discarded the gadgets of everyday life, taken up a pack and hiked into primitive areas to know the deep and abiding satisfactions of primitive living under natural conditions... [While] many of us see wilderness in the stupendous and remote...in the high ranges of the Sierras and the vast ranges of the Colorado Plateau, like Thoreau, we know wilderness also exists in the commonplace, in the little things we seldom notice—in the sedges and brakes stirred by the blue black water of a spring thaw, in the ‘crystal globe’ of a single raindrop, in that ‘most subdued, but clear ethereal light’ reflected from the needles of a pine. . . . From our understanding of nature and our love and respect for it will grow an ethical basis for our defining our proper relationship to it.

In his search to define our “proper relationship” to nature, Jim came to know and share with others the folly of



Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve by Jarrod Spicer

owning nature—the dilemma of “living in a culture in which the natural world has been everywhere, relentlessly, transformed into property.” His passion for preserving what remains of wilderness in Indiana led him to help found ACRES and to author the Indiana Nature Preserves Act:

As our life becomes increasingly centered upon cities and as they spread across the land with our growing population, it becomes all the more important that the aesthetic, cultural and spiritual values which natural areas hold for us be preserved where they are readily accessible to everyone. Within and near our cities and suburban areas we must set aside open spaces for scenic beauty, hiking...and brief refuge from the demands of city life...The understanding of the community of life which will flow from ready contact with these areas will prove to be of far greater value...than the cost of withdrawing from commerce the few of them that remain. We will be poorer, not richer, if we measure the value of these areas solely by commercial development.

Jim taught through example that we don’t own nature any more than we own the deer that come to our forest or the birds that come to our feeders.

(Continued on page 7)

memorials

Jim Barrett

from Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Bill and Sally Smith
John and Marcella Ellenwood
Jack Hunter
Barrett & McNagny
Allen County
Public Library Employees
Patricia McNagny
Fred Mackel
Jackie Pietz
Julia and David Hurley
Mr. & Mrs. William McNagny
Kate Ferguson
Edwin and Phyllis Stumpf
Frannie Headings
Gwen Kaag
Debbie and Chuck Zumbrun
Richard and Adrienne Baach
Ethyle Bloch
Rosemary Bond
Tom and Sheila Fink
Peg Candor
Janel Rogers
Harry and Kathryn Schwartz
Dan and Angie O'Neill
Bill and Claire Pynchon
Andrew and GERALYN Boyden
Art Eberhardt
Ted and Pat Heemstra
Marion Koenig

Bob Frantz

from Mr. and Mrs. James Philpott
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wolfe
Ferne Baldwin
Allan White
David Lahman
Jack Dierkes
from Anita Dierkes
Ann Swaidner
from Jim and Mary Ellen Martin
Mona Teegardin
from Auburn Garden Club

Little Turtle Library Staff

Rachel Heun
Mindy Landis
Anita Falls
Chris Pranger
Rosie Stier
Shirley Ignace
Katie Vinz
Donna Rondot
Kathy Witwer
Betty Fishman
Raymond Hapner and Melody Ellert
Stephen and Susan Harroff
Arthur and Anna Mae Parry
David and Judy Ruoff
Jack and Marquerite Seigel
Fred and Jackie Wooley
Ted and Tali Lanham
Ken and Susan Till
Robert and Linda Schwartz
David and Faith Van Gilder
Friends of Cedar Creek
Randy and Carol Roberts
Paul and Dorothy Shaffer
John and Pat Bonsib
Marion Jackson
Tom and Lynda Horton
Dorothy Lucas
PNC Wealth Management
Tom and Dianne May
Howard and Betty Chapman

Lacy

from Allen and Amy Glass
Elizabeth Seddon
from Jon and Bev Owens
Cheri Baumgartner
from Bill and Kathleen Fuller
George Nichols
from Bill and Kathleen Fuller
Ruth Kern
from Noel and Patricia Holmgren,
Shirley Needham and Bill Kern

Jim Barrett (Continued from page 5)

He and Pat responded to the question of what it means for a person to "own" part of a creek or a forest of 200-year old trees by donating to ACRES 125 acres of forested flood plain and hills along Little Cedar Creek, to be preserved forever—the James M. and Patricia D. Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve. Through both his actions and his writing, Jim moved us from the concept of land ownership to land stewardship.

At Jim's memorial service, Rev. Laurie Proctor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne quoted George Bernard Shaw to describe Jim: "Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." Jim did just that, his life "a gift to us, to future generations, and to this land and this earth that he loved." Thank you, Jim.



*Jim Barrett
1924 – 2011*

NATURE'S CALENDAR

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter,
Pokagon State Park

Late January – Robins in Winter?

Yes! Robins seem to be more and more frequent in our ACRES' regions. I often see robins in low, wooded wetlands where they find protection from brisk winds, and fruits from plants such as cranberry, nannyberry, red osier and gray dogwoods. Some robins could be local, but more likely they are robins from the north that come south and find our forests, yards, and foods to their liking. They often occur in small flocks.

February 7 – Full Moon

Algonquin people referred to this full moon of February as the Snow Moon. Go outside after a nice fresh snow, and use only the light of the Snow Moon high in the sky. You will be amazed how bright it will be! Take this *Quarterly* and read your favorite column with no other light than that of the full Snow Moon! It was also called the Hunger Moon, as the long winter could be taxing on food resources for Native Americans.

Mid-March – "Peent!"

The "peent" of a male woodcock! This small, rotund, long-beaked "shorebird" is actually more at home in scrubby fields than along the water's edge. At this time of year, males come to open areas at dusk and perform their "sky dance" so eloquently described by Aldo Leopold in his classic, *A Sand County Almanac*. The "peent" on the ground, the whirr of wings in flight, and the flute-light chortling at flight's zenith are welcome late winter sounds heralding the season to come.



Maple Syrup from Nature's Store, not the Grocery Store

by Trina Herber

Tree sap is tapped to produce maple syrup. This sap is the sugary liquid food inside a tree that last year's leaves produced during photosynthesis. In winter this sugar changes to starch and is stored in the sapwood in ray cells. When weather warms above 40°F during the day, generally mid-February, enzymes in the ray cells convert the starches back to sugars to "feed" the buds which will grow into leaves.

A daytime rise in temperature above freezing creates pressure in the sapwood which causes the sap to "flow" out of the tree if you release this pressure by creating a hole through the bark into the sapwood (tapping the tree). When night temperatures drop below freezing, negative pressure in the tree (in relation to atmospheric pressure) causes the tree to recharge itself with sap from the roots. Sap travels up the tree in the xylem—the water "plumbing" of the tree, down through the phloem—the food "pipes." The next 40°F day, sap flows again to feed leaf buds, and sap again will be released through the tap hole.

On trees 16" or larger in diameter, tap holes are generally ½ to ¾" diameter and 1½ to 3" deep into the sapwood at waist height. Trees over 24" in diameter can support two tap holes; over 32", three holes; over 38", four holes. Tapping does not harm the tree as only a small portion of the sap is removed. An average tap hole produces 10 to 25 gallons of sap per season, resulting in one to two quarts of syrup. On a highly productive day, a tap hole may produce up to one gallon of sap per hour! The damage to the wood and bark will heal in a year or two,



but that section of "pipes" will be closed off and no longer used by the tree.

While sugar maple trees have the highest sugar content, syrup can be made from other trees such as black, red and silver maples, sycamore, hickory and birch.

Sugar maple groves (sugar bushes) are parts of stands of old hardwood forests. Optimal conditions include an open canopy for maximized crown spread and a healthy understory to protect ground moisture and permit seedling/sapling maples. Sugar maples can grow to 100 feet tall with trunk diameters of 24" to 48". Their leaves, 5-lobed with pointed teeth, span 3" to 5".

During ideal harvest time (40-50°F days followed by frost at night), sap is clear and slightly acidic. As the season progresses acidity increases,



resulting in a darker sometimes bitter syrup. Unseasonably warm weather gives the syrup an unpleasant flavor.

Real maple syrup is healthier than imitation syrup (which is primarily corn syrup). Sap contains twelve nonvolatile organic acids, six sugars, proteins, calcium, potassium, manganese, magnesium, phosphorus, iron, copper, molybdenum and boron. One tablespoon of natural maple syrup gives 5% of your daily iron requirement and has the same calcium content as an equal volume of whole milk.

Syrup color and flavor are also determined by the amount of fermentation products in sap, pH of boiling sap, concentration of sugar solids, time of heating, and temperature of boiling sap. Syrup is almost done when the temperature rises 7.1°F above the

boiling point of water (which changes with atmospheric pressure). A gallon of syrup can be heated further to create 7 pounds of soft crumb sugar. Boiling to 26-28° above water's boiling point forms soft maple sugar while boiling to 30-33° above water's boiling point forms hard maple sugar.

While still hot, syrup is strained through wool or Orlon to remove larger particles of sugar sand (calcium and magnesium salts of malic acid). At higher elevations, more sugar sand from sap is tapped from maples. The final syrup product is about 67% sugar (mostly sucrose) and weighs 11 pounds per gallon (*water is 8.34 lbs/gal*). Syrup any lighter may ferment and produce mold in the bottle while heavier syrup may crystallize, resulting in sugar solids at the bottom of the bottle.

As average daily temperatures rise in spring, enzymes stop functioning, sugar is converted back to starch, and the sugaring season ends. The maple sugaring window is narrow—only about 30 days, so stop at ACRES' new Asherwood preserve in Wabash, Indiana, to see maple syrup produced the "old-fashioned" way and to enjoy a tasty treat!

Visit www.acreslandtrust.org to view upcoming events.

Photos by Shane Perfect

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Does your employer have a matching gift program? These companies have matched their employees' donations to ACRES:

Abbott Laboratories, Aon Foundation, Caterpillar Foundation, GE Foundation, Eli Lilly Company, IBM Corporation, Illinois Tool Works Foundation, Lincoln Financial Foundation, Swiss Re, United Way, Verizon Foundation

WILDWALKERS' FIRST WALK OF 2012

January 13, 8:30 a.m.

Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Road at the Learning Center, Allen County.

Call Renee with questions or to RSVP if you are new to the group at renee.sinacola@cityoffortwayne.org or 260-427-6005.

Center Spread: Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary 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.

SKI AND HIKE AT THE CANYON

Saturday, January 14, 10 a.m.
Presented by: Shane Perfect

Bring your cross country skis if you have them, your feet too, as we explore the trails.

WHERE: Robb Hidden Canyon, Steuben County,
425 LN201 Ball Lake, Hamilton, IN 46742



by Shane Perfect

HIKE AT SEVEN PILLARS

Saturday, January 21, 2 p.m.
Presented by: Kissel Family

Explore the ravines and hills of Seven Pillars Nature Preserve that cannot be fully appreciated in the summer due to being obscured by foliage. The hike will be just over one mile.

WHERE: Seven Pillars Nature Preserve, Miami County. From Peru take Broadway south to Riverside Rd. and turn left (east). Riverside Rd. turns into SR 124, continue east to Mississinewa Rd. and turn right (south). Travel 1.25 miles to a point where Mississinewa Rd. turns left and continue another 0.75 mile to the Preserve on the right. Continue east on Mississinewa Rd. to 415E for a view of the Seven Pillars Landmark.

THROUGH THE EYE OF THE CAMERA

Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m.
Presented by: Ted Rose

Ted will share his nature photography experiences and photographs and explain the process of getting pictures published. Ted is a photographer from North Manchester who published the book *Through the Eye of the Camera*.

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

FULL MOON FIRE CHAT

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
Presented by: Shane Perfect

Come enjoy the ambience of the full moon and good fellowship around a fire in the log cabin Studio.

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

PEDALING FOR PRESERVES PRESENTATION

Saturday, February 18, 2 p.m.
Presented by: Jason Kissel and Kevin Gray

Back by popular demand, Kevin and Jason will describe their 3,000+ mile bicycle trip across America through pictures, videos and stories.

WHERE: Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County,
1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, IN 46748

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.
Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join David and Ethel at the big window for the great backyard bird count at Wildwood. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available. Afterward, ski or take a hike in the preserve.

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



by Jerry McCoy

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.

2012 FORT WAYNE HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

March 1 - 4, 2012

Please contact the ACRES' office at 260-637-2273 if you are interested in volunteering.
For more information, see page 15.



by Shane Perfect

ASHERWOOD MAPLE SUGAR PROGRAM

Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m.
Presented by: Bill Harmsen and Kissel Family

If the smell of warm pancakes and sausage, fresh maple syrup and the cool, crisp air of winter sound good, then join us for this winning combination and a guided tour of the Sugar Bush at Asherwood.

Call early as there are only 50 spots available! Reservations required.

Program fee: \$5 per person. Call the ACRES' office, 260.637.2273, to reserve your spot.

WHERE: Asherwood Environmental Center, Wabash County,
7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, IN 46992

MERRY LEA'S MAPLE SUGAR CAMP

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.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, located near the ACRES' office.

Only 50 spots available! Reservations required. This event fills quickly, so call early!

Program fee: \$5 per person. Call the ACRES' office, 260.637.2273, to reserve your spot.

WHERE: Yoder's Sugar Bush, Allen County,
2427 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748. Park next to the red barn and walk 0.5 miles back to camp.

TEA AND CRUMPLETS

Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. - Noon
Presented by: Shane Perfect

Join us in the studio to enjoy some of Helen Swenson's artwork. Bring your favorite tea, and crumpet recipe. I'll have the griddle all warmed up and maybe some green food coloring.

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



painting by Helen Swenson

SALAMANDER SLEUTHING

Thursday, March 29, 6 p.m.
Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Leave no log unturned while helping David and Ethel search for salamanders while they update the wildwood reptile and amphibian survey.

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

Welcome, Jill and Brett!



After 12 years of teaching at Ivy Tech, **Jill Noyes** is joining us as the **Fund Development Manager**. In addition to teaching, she has experience with grant writing, event planning and program development. Jill has volunteered for ACRES as a preserve steward and helped with the Adventurer's Day Camp during the last two summers.



Brett Fisher will bring his experience with Salamonie State Park, Earth Source, Metea and Fox Island county parks to the nature preserves as a **Land Management Specialist**. Brett has a degree in Biology and a background in wetland environments. Be sure to say hello and welcome Brett if you see him out on the trails.

7th Annual Nature-Based Art Exhibit Winners



First Place: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run by Becky Ford



Second Place: Wing Haven by Shane Perfect



Third Place: Hanging Rock by Fred Briggs

ACRES' Nature-Based Art Exhibit and Volunteer Dinner 2012

ACRES is looking for your creativity by providing an opportunity for you to display your artwork in the newly renovated Dustin barn. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held in mid-September, and we invite you to share your artwork with us. All mediums are accepted. Please watch future *Quarterlies* for more information.

Helen Bassett, Barbara Boston, Marge and Ron Costa, Edward Scott and Don Thornton stuffing the *Quarterly*

Our *Quarterly* distributors

Ringo Santiago designing the *Quarterly*

Karen Griggs and Carol Roberts editing the *Quarterly*

Bonnie Robbins donating insulated drink cooler

Robert and Debbie Sinacola donating file folders

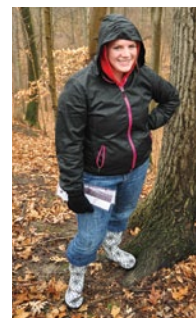
Taylor Puitz organizing supplies in the office

Fire Protection, Inc. of Auburn donating fire extinguisher for the office

Tyler Brown and James Kirchner constructing the boardwalk at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge

Faithful stewards who helped with the preserves in 2011

Volunteers who helped with programs at ACRES



Kimberly Bennett our fall intern, for her hard work helping at the office

by Shane Perfect



by Ethel McClelland

Thank you to Cargill, Kosciusko Community Foundation and Kosciusko REMC for their continued support towards children's activities at the Wildwood Nature Preserve.

Steve and Lila Hammer donating birdseed

Neil Schlichtenmyer constructing 30-foot boardwalk at Mengerson Reserve

Dennis and Bonnie Brown donating a freezer for Asherwood's aviary

David Brumm organizing and preparing the nature center at Asherwood

Sue Diefenbach assembling gift packages for the annual dinner

volunteerPROJECTS

Boardwalk sections

ACRES benches

Painting at the office

Maple Sugar volunteers at Asherwood

Trail GPS

ACRES' Docent Training

March 24, 10 a.m. - Noon

ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Rd, Huntertown, IN 46748
Join Bill Smith for training to be an ACRES Trail Guide Docent. Come prepared to hike a nearby trail and bring materials to share with the group that would be helpful when exploring nature trails. Call 260-637-2273 for a Volunteer Docent Application.

The Fort Wayne
HOME & GARDEN SHOW
WWW.HOME-GARDENSHOW.COM

Thursday, March 1 - Sunday, March 4

Please consider volunteering for this fun event where you can share your excitement and love of ACRES with others, make new friends and receive a free exhibitor's pass to the show. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the ACRES' office at 260-637-2273. Thank you.

theBACKpage

Utter Stillness Rules These Woods

by Matthew Brown

Like Frost's snowy evening, only quieter.
The horses under my hood will never question
stopping here now, nor in these anonymous times
would I have any idea whose woods these are
or where his house is, if I did not know
these woods were set aside.

Utter stillness rules these woods;
the silence is solid; darkness
wells up in me as joy. There is not
a twig in motion. Ragged bare
battered tops of trees take their rest
in a glow of night. The only movement is
a drift of crystal flakes that meander,
soundless to their places in the
banks of the forest floor. Underground,
in hollows of trees, many creatures
rest and winter; roots, buds, bulbs
lie loaded with explosive springtime.
Would that such an energized silence
ruled in me.



by Gary Darnell

Beyond the window
a white appears as if from fog,
a white containing its own light.
Outside, every tree, every branch
and each dry weed is frosted
with a condensation of snow;
seeds that cling to the ash
are now glass ornaments,
more than ornaments.
It's as though the waters themselves
had stood up as trees
filled with light.

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

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Ethel McClelland, David Homan and Brett Fisher, Land Management Specialists; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Office Manager/Education Manager; Jane Munk, Marketing and Event Manager; Jill Noyes, Fund Development 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; Sustaining, \$500; Corporate, \$500; Club/Organization, \$50; Family, \$40; Individual, \$25; Senior or Student, \$15. Dues payable annually.