

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2012 | Vol. 51 - No. 3



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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

"Preserving natural areas"—ACRES' marching orders seem straight forward. The meaning may seem obvious to you. The funny thing, while my interpretation seems just as obvious to me, it may be different from yours, and in some cases may contradict yours.

To some, preserving land dictates a completely hands-off approach: "Let nature do what nature does." To others, preservation of land requires certain "responsibilities" to preserve and protect, such as removing invasive species, preventing erosion, and restoring wetlands.

Some claim that by definition preserving land restricts trails, parking lots, and other visitor amenities that replace nature with man-made things. Others defend visitor amenities, citing the appreciation and connection to nature they can bring, resulting in more land being preserved.

To some, preserving land requires ownership of the land; to others, conservation easements or deed restrictions qualify as preservation. Still others feel that greater preservation is achieved through non-land-based methods such as legislative action and education.

Preserving land is a broad category that includes each position on the items listed above—each side of the argument IS preservation. So, what is ACRES' position on these matters? *ACRES' position is your position because you are ACRES.* ACRES is a membership organization, meaning its direction comes from you. My role and the rest of the staff's role are to implement your desires for the organization. The board's role is to create policies and oversight to ensure your desires are being met. That means you are in charge, literally. Now here's the problem—I *don't hear from you very often*. I need your input to ensure your goals for land preservation are being met. We (staff, board, and you) are currently developing ACRES' strategic plan that will guide the organization's efforts for the next five years. It may be clear to you what ACRES' focus should be; however, over 1600 of "you" are leading ACRES. That's 1600 definitions of land preservation. In order to find the balance that ACRES collectively desires, I need to hear your vision.

Don't be an absentee boss! Email me, call me at 260 637-ACRES (2273), or talk to a board member. ACRES board and staff are eager to help you achieve your land protection goals. Please share them with us.

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

jkissel@acreslandtrust.org



Fire Pink by Shane Perfect

WELCOME 76newmembers!

Joe and Leslie Armstrong
Jerry and Melanie Anderson
Tom and Sandy Beaver and Family
 gift from Randy and Carol Roberts
Sharon Beerbower
Kip and Andrea Benbow
Dave Bowers
Richard Bryant
Ann Colbert
 gift from Randy and Carol Roberts
Jamie Caldwell
Pam Carroll
Laura Compton
Michael Cumins
Eric and Rachel Dale
Barbara Daniel
James Paul Derloshon
 gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Martha Zee-Diller
Nancy Drewes
Greg and Natalie Dunnuck
Kent Dutchersmith
 gift from John and Joann Smith
Gary Eberly
Janet Ecklebarger
Allyson Ellis
Heather Moore Etheridge
Launda Ewell
 gift from Lonnie Hanson
Matthew and Theresa Farber
 gift from Custom Creations Hardwood Floors
Chuck Ferris
Richard and Nancy Frantz
Clay Geiger
Natalie Haley
Mello Hall
Steve Harrison
Mike Harvill
Leo Heimann
Tom and Gail Herendeen
Gary and Carolyn Hohenberger
Elizabeth Huffman
Reg Johnson
Cindy Krouse
Ashley Kvas
Nathan Lothamer
Ted Lautzenheiser
 gift from Al and Sue Diefenbach
Richard Livingston
Daniel Loney
Mark and Mary Ellen Maffey
Ken Manning
 gift from Custom Creations Hardwood Floors
Jim and Mary Ellen Martin

Jan Mathias
John Maxon
Patty McBride
 gift from Michael Lochner
Candy McDonald
 gift of Lonnie Hanson
Paula Meek
Allan Murphy
 gift from Mary Dygert
John Niemeyer
Paula Osborn
Tim and Rachelle Pool
 gift from Art Eberhardt
Sandra Reed
Annette Reifsteck
James Ross
Tina Schmidt
Margaret Shaffer
Mary Lu Snyder
Jeremy Sobecki
Stanley Springer
Wayne Stanley
Jan Steffen
Mary Steinauer
Sheldon Stokes
Mike Strasser
Bud and Debbie Stroh
Gary Torkeo
Bonnie Walters
 gift from Kip and Andrea Benbow
Norma Warren
Steve and Pam Whetstone
 gift of Glenna Cayot
Larry and Kent Wuest
Mitchell Van Zulen
 gift from Karen Griggs

new corporate members

Oliver and Martin Lakes Conservation & Improvement Association



STILL NOT A MEMBER?

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to join today!

tributes

Bart and Cindy Culver
from Kevin Marose

Dr. William Hathaway
from Melvin and Sandra Hathaway and Wendy Eissey

memorials

Tom and Jane Dustin
from Brian Koenig

Leah Christman
from Lon Braun

Kate Johnson
from Eldon and Mary Anderson, Packard Area Planning Alliance, Kathryn Candioto, Andy and Jill Downs, City of Fort Wayne-Community Development, James Sack, Jr., Paul and Janie Hertel, Craig and Vinnie Nix, Carol Bower, Angie O'Neill, Sandra Lux, Tom and Mo Palmer, Caci Bromelmeier and Michael Walsh, Dana Bromelmeier and Daniel Jones, Bruce Lehman and Sandra Gebhard, Vic and Terri Schutte, Rhonda Jackisch, Peggy Keller, Bill and Kathy Johnson and Kirin Kennedy

Tom Bastable
from Fred and Mary Anna Feitler

Douglas MacDowall
from Stephanie Bauer, Sarah MacDowall, Laura Ginger, Phyllis Buttermore, Lyman Huffman, Paul and Diana Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Russel Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Igor Mazia and Jon and Elizabeth Huffman

Fred Johnson
from Tom and Leelia Cornell

Robert Frantz
from Richard Livingston

John McBride
from Michael Lochner

Ned Greulich
from Steve and Debbie Sarrazine

William Weldon
from Fred and Jackie Wooley

Robert Bates
from James and Gwen Seely

Nina Brown
from Kate Ferguson

Kathryn Thomas
from Cathleen Batzner

Bruce Kirschner
from Malinda Henning, William Henning, Sienna Knight, Libbie Dedman

Ruth Kern
from Patricia Holmgren, Noel Holmgren, Shirley Needham and Bill Kern

Betty Seddon
from Gordon Walter



Lupine by Jay Solomon

ACRES Land Trust Obtains Another Nature Preserve!

by Jason Kissel



Photo by Shane Perfect

ACRES acquired its 82nd nature preserve on May 8th, 2012,

The Richard Bruner Nature Preserve is located on Highway 20 about three miles east of Angola in Steuben County.

The Richard Bruner Nature Preserve is 43 acres of forests, wetlands and meadows. The property also contains Pigeon Creek and portions of Pigeon Pond. June Bruner offered the property to ACRES at a reduced price in honor of her late husband Richard Bruner. ACRES purchases many nature preserves through bargain sales. By offering a property below market value to ACRES, the land is preserved and the seller receives income, as well as, a tax deduction for the amount of the discount.

The property appraised for \$122,000, but was offered to ACRES for \$80,000. The Olive B. Cole Foundation provided a grant of \$60,000 toward the purchase price of this property. The foundation also funded two seasonal interns to perform trail and preserve maintenance within all of the 82 preserves.

The Richard Bruner Nature Preserve is adjacent to the 80-acre Brammall Nature Preserve—expanding the amount of contiguous preserved habitat. The property will be opened to the public after trails, pedestrian bridges, signs and other visitor amenities are installed. ACRES is looking for volunteers and donors to help prepare the Richard Bruner Nature Preserve for public use. This preserve is our 11th nature preserve in Steuben County, and we are actively pursuing the 12th, an urban woodlot on Calvary Lane in Angola.

Thank you June, Olive B. Cole Foundation and all ACRES members for creating the Richard Bruner Nature Preserve!



Photo by Jason Kissel

Jim Barrett Leaves Major Bequest

by Jason Kissel

James (Jim) M. Barrett III, who died in September, 2011, continued his support of land conservation by leaving a substantial bequest to ACRES. His legacy gift is among the largest ever received by ACRES.

Jim was instrumental in ACRES' founding, success and growth. He served as a founding member, board president, legal counsel, and was a faithful member for 51 years. He and his wife Pat donated 124 acres

to create the Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve in Allen County. Jim's conservation work extended beyond ACRES as well. Jim authored Indiana's Nature Preserve Act which to date has resulted in the protection of over 41,000 acres of natural lands throughout Indiana, and received many state and local awards for his conservation efforts.

Jim gave conservation personality; he made the abstract concept of conservation approachable through his example and passionate explanation. He challenged people to explore and evaluate what he termed one's "land ethic"—defining your relationship to, and value placed, on land.

"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." – Jim Barrett, Quest Club Paper, 1964

He deeply understood the connection people need with land and the values the land provides to those who interact with it. Jim valued that ACRES makes its preserves open to the public, allowing opportunities for daily introductions and creating a deeper awareness of nature. His will reflected this value on interaction with nature. Jim suggested that ACRES use the funds he provided for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of its nature preserves.

Respecting Jim's wishes, we have created an endowment account with the bequest and will use the interest gained for work performed within the preserves that retains and preserves their natural features. The endowment is called the James M. Barrett Land Management Fund, in honor of not only Jim, but his father and grandfather (who bore the same name) and the rest of the Barrett family who made such a generous gift possible.

Jim's impact on conservation continues through various ways. This endowment will help ensure well maintained preserves. His example of land ethic is trying to be followed by many, and all the current and future acres of land that were preserved through the Nature Preserve Act will continue to tell Jim's story today and forever. Thank you Jim.

NATURE'S CALENDAR

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter, Pokagon State Park

Early/Mid July – Pick a day:

The annual cicada is heard every summer and often seen during one of its life stages. Some see the white grubs in the ground or notice the dried husk of an empty exoskeleton clinging to a tree trunk. And some see the live adult, sporting clear wings from a chunky body and a big head with bulging eyeballs.

It's the sound, though, that is cause for pause and a smile. The male produces that long, drawn-out buzz which sometimes crescendos and then falls off to silence. Others gear up to a loud buzz and then pulsate for seconds on end before falling quiet. The cicada is often misidentified as a locust, which refers more to members of the grasshopper group.

Late July – With the buzz of cicadas, comes the presence of cicada killers! These humungous members of the wasp family, sometimes called sand wasps, lead solitary lives in our summer flowerbeds. The name comes from their somewhat gruesome act of capturing and paralyzing cicadas and dragging them into their tunnel dungeons where they are kept alive just enough to provide nourishment to sand wasp offspring.

August 2 – Full Moon. Folklore has coined it the Woodcutter's moon or Corn moon. Colonial America referred to it as the Dog Day's moon. Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. Normally thought of as a winter constellation, the very bright "Dog Star" can first be seen low in the east as the sun rises in late August, signaling another stretch of the "dog days of summer."

September 22 – Pack a lunch and a sweater and head to one of ACRES' wetlands now sporting the fringed gentian. You may find some at Wing Haven. The gentian's deep blue petals foretell the deep blue skies of beautiful autumn days to follow.



Fringed Gentian by Fred Wooley

We're looking for more articles and Back Page submissions for the Quarterly. Please consider sharing your knowledge about nature, thoughts and experiences with us. For more information, please call Tina at 260-637-2273.

**We welcome articles from readers. ACRES edits articles for brevity, clarity, and grammar. Your name, address and phone number must be included with your submission.*

The Importance of Nature Preserves to Our Children

by Dr. Michael Dick

The majority of children I encounter in my profession as a pediatrician seem to have little acquaintance with the natural world. The term “Nature Deficit Disorder” proposed by Richard Louv in his landmark book “Last Child in the Woods” describes how children suffer physically, emotionally and spiritually from their separation from the outdoors.

Video games, movies, anime, news programs and sometimes even nature shows present a distorted picture of nature. Every gentle summer rain is a killer cyclone, gigantic two headed sharks lurk in quiet streams, vampires blow up when exposed to sunbeams, every snake and spider is poisonous, ticks and mosquitoes are deadly, frostbite and skin cancer are virtual certainties, and germs are everywhere.

On the other hand, parents may give their children toxic mixtures of “natural” herbs in the opposite belief that nature is magical. Even worse and more common are families oblivious to nature. Through the efforts of both “helicopter parents” (like me) and liability-obsessed teachers, children are transported from school to video game console in a comfortable

and safe cocoon. And at school, children are rarely taken outside for classes; even looking out the window is discouraged.

Meanwhile, back in the pediatrician’s office, I am caring for teenage diabetics, obese toddlers and inattentive grade school children. Psychological illness and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism are much more prevalent than when I was a young doctor. Pediatricians have had to become competent in caring for increasing numbers of children with adult illnesses such as hypertension and elevated cholesterol. Asthma and allergies are more common and puberty is occurring earlier. Is there a relationship between our distance from the natural world and the health of our children? If so, what is to be done?



Kids in Nature by Fred Wooley



Kids in Nature by Jill Noyes

Although I loved reading Sherlock Holmes as a youth, I used to laugh at Dr. Watson’s simplistic remedies. Today, I wonder. If you’re like me, a walk in a nature preserve is restorative. Richard Louv’s “Leave No Child Inside” initiative is on the right track. Just 30 minutes of (relatively) unsupervised daily play outdoors seems to help attenuate obesity. The positive benefit seems to be similar for inattention and depression. Unstructured time outside has hidden benefits we have yet to measure.

So how can ACRES Land Trust nature preserves be enjoyed by very young children? When children begin to walk at 15-18 months, they can explore short distances on preserve trails with parents (count on frequent breaks, snacks, plenty of fluids, and plans to carry them back if necessary). Children can be encouraged to see and enjoy natural wonders over, under, and around them (“What do you see? Hear? Touch?”).

Parents who explore ACRES’ preserves with school-age children might naturally reinforce observational skills and scientific thinking by bringing up topics such as water quality, geology, soils, natural communities and interconnected food webs, and invasive species, while observing wildlife without interfering.

Adolescents can discover that making a habit of exploring a nature preserve is not only a powerful and restorative break from their online existence but also will help them develop a land ethic. If these young adults don’t think the woods are “cool,” who will preserve our natural heritage when we adults are gone?

Those spiritually inclined might consider a moment of silence, reflection, or even prayer. If ever there was a place to connect to one’s spirituality, it is in nature. Experiences of joyful discovery in ACRES’ preserves can help both young children and teens restore and maintain mental and physical health.



Wetlands by Shane Perfect

Center Spread: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County, by Jerry McCoy

BEHIND THE SCENE

It was an early morning, fresh and clear on my walk along the Salamonie River, when around a bend, the rush of falling water drew me to this scene. The voice of running waters softened into a vernal tone as I walked down stream to compose and record this awakening memory.



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.

STALKING THE FEROCIOUS BUTTERFLY

Saturday, July 14, 10:30 a.m.

Presented by: Gary Helmke and Bill Smith

Do plants help butterflies or is it the other way around? How do they work together? Join Gary to find out how this relationship works.

WHERE: Fogwell Forest, Allen County,
9630 Whippoorwill Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46809



ACRES Archive

KNOCK, KNOCK. ANYBODY HOME?

Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Ron Zartman

Join Ron as he looks for animal habitats in holes in trees and the ground, nests and maybe even find a few surprises.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County,
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

BUTTERFLIES AND WILDFLOWERS

Thursday, July 26 10 a.m. Bock Nature Preserve
1 p.m. Wildwood

Presented by: Ethel McClelland

Bring a lunch and enjoy the day exploring for butterflies and wildflowers. Join us for one or both preserves.

WHERE: Bock Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County,
11630 S SR14, Akron, IN 46910
Wildwood, Kosciusko County,
409 E SR14, Silver Lake, IN 46982

11TH ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP

Saturday, August 4, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons

Join Nate as he leads an interpretive program, and relax as you explore the Seven Sisters Lakes. Bring your own canoe or kayak. Limit 25. Call ACRES' office to reserve your spot. 260-637-2273.

WHERE: Wing Haven, Steuben County,
180 W 400N, Angola, Indiana 46703

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Saturday, August 11, 1 – 5 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Looking for one more fun activity before school begins? Join David and Ethel for a back to school bash and have fun with nature's alphabet scavenger hunt, crafts, snacks and more.

WHERE: Wildwood, Kosciusko County,
409 E SR14, Silver Lake, IN 46982



Photo by Heather Baker

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Saturday, August 11, 9 p.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Come enjoy a night hike exploring the forests and fields of this preserve. If the sky is clear, we'll travel to the back of the property to an open field that offers wonderfully dark skies and a panoramic view of the Perseid meteor shower that will be at its peak! Bring a blanket to lie on.

WHERE: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash County,
1866 E Baumbauer Road, Wabash, IN 46992

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.

CREEK STOMP IV

Saturday, August 18, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Itching to fill your need for cool creek water and adventure? Then join us once again for Creek Stomp as we explore the spring-fed waters of Ross Run, a tributary of the Wabash River. Come prepared to get very wet as you discover the inhabitants of the creek.

WHERE: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash County,
1866 E Baumbauer Road, Wabash, IN 46992



Ross Run by Ringo Santiago

BEECHWOOD FEN

Saturday, September 1, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Shane Perfect and Jill Noyes

Join us as we hike thru the fen, across the stream, up the hill, thru the woods and around the bend to the oak savanna. We'll learn about the different ecosystems within Beechwood and the active habitat enhancement projects.

WHERE: Beechwood Nature Preserve, Steuben County,
5145 N State Rd 127, Fremont, IN 46737

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, September 13, 6 p.m.

See page 16 for more details.

LOOKING FOR THE FUNGUS AMUNGUS

Saturday, September 15, 1 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Enjoy a fall hike at Wildwood and search for the fungus that lives at the preserve.

WHERE: Wildwood, Kosciusko County,
409 E SR14, Silver Lake, IN 46982

PAW PAW PATCH

Sunday, September 16, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Go "way down yonder in the paw paw patch" to learn about and experience this wonderful, tropical-tasting fruit also called the Hoosier banana.

WHERE: Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County,
1541 E CR 300N, Wabash, IN 46992



Paw Paw by Shane Perfect

HIKE THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Sunday, September 16, 2 p.m.

See page 16 for more details.

MAKING SENSE OF NATURE II

Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Michael Gobert, Allen County Parks Naturalist

Through our senses we can open our mind and become more aware of the natural environment around us. Join Michael for a hike and various activities that will heighten our sensory awareness. See you there, it only makes sense.

WHERE: Wing Haven, Steuben County,
180 W 400N, Angola, Indiana 46703

Snakes!

by Dr. Bruce Kingsbury, Professor of Biology, IPFW
and Director of the Herpetology Center

You are walking along a trail and there, sprawled in front of you, right in your way, is a snake. What do you do?

Well, that depends. You might run the other way. But if you were me or my young nephew Rein, you might pick it up! I fondly remember Rein's excitement when he had the good fortune of finding a snake while hiking with Uncle Bruce. He grabbed it, proclaimed, "A snake!" and stared in wonder as it writhed around in his hand. At the time, we were in Pokagon State Park which has Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes, so I was relieved to see it was an Eastern Gartersnake. Rein was holding it rather tightly and the snake was not happy. "Ow," he said, "It's biting me." But my nephew didn't let go.

After a while I told him it was time to let the snake go. We were in a state park where you are not supposed to be picking things up, and I am not a fan of taking critters home anyway. He responded that he wanted to keep the snake. So I tried some logic. "This is its home." To this he replied, "Our home can be his new home." "Well his family is here," I reasoned. "Well we can be his new family." You get the idea. Mr. Snake eventually got released and no permanent damage was done to either Rein or the snake.

Regardless of the form of one's response to snakes, it is definitely a strong one for many people. How dangerous are snakes around here? Do they pose a hazard to hikers on ACRES' properties? Of the four venomous and potentially dangerous snakes in Indiana, only the Eastern Massasauga occurs in the ACRES' service area. However, Massasaugas are very rare, and even a snake lover would be lucky to ever see one. They like to live in wet, fairly mucky areas where poison sumac is the hazard that one should attend to most ardently. This all said, the Massasauga is a stunningly beautiful animal when encountered in the wild, and a part of Indiana's natural majesty. ACRES is instrumental in preventing its extinction in the area, so we should be proud that it lurks in those wilder corners of many of the swampier properties in the northeast part of the state. What about Cottonmouths? Many believe that Cottonmouths, also called water moccasins, are pervasive throughout the state; instead, they are one of Indiana's rarest animals. If they have not been entirely extirpated from the state, they likely only remain in one wetland near Jasper far to the south.

The snakes most likely to be seen on ACRES properties are not dangerous at all. For example, rather than Cottonmouths, Northern Watersnakes are the commonly seen denizen of ponds and wetlands in northern Indiana. The Eastern Gartersnake and closely related Eastern Ribbonsnake may be the snakes most frequently encountered on the trail. Those species usually have bright yellow stripes running the length of their body, so they are easily identified. No snakes with stripes in the Midwest, or North America, for that matter, are venomous or dangerous in any way.

Most of our snakes are actually quite small and inconspicuous. Perhaps the most common snake in our area is the Northern Brownsnake. A forest dweller only about a foot long, the Northern Brownsnake is very secretive and fossorial (fossorial refers to having an association with some aspect of the soil, in this case the leaf litter on the forest floor where the Brownsnake spends most of its time). Other local secretive species include the Northern Ring-necked Snake, Red-bellied Snake and the Eastern Milksnake. In late summer, you might encounter baby snakes of all sorts, but they are generally very secretive. Where are baby snakes coming from? Some of our snakes lay eggs in early summer, while others carry their young to term,

the so-called live-bearers. Either way, the babies are out and about in late summer and early fall, looking for something to eat before winter sets in. On occasion, eggs are laid in association with buildings and other structures, so babies or even the eggs themselves might be encountered by the unsuspecting.

Back to that snake on the path. What to do? Get as close as you are willing and take a picture for your album. Then go around the snake, giving it some space, and enjoy the rest of the hike, flush with the excitement of your discovery. And if you can't figure out what species it was, send me the picture and I will identify it for you. Happy hiking!



Gray Rat Snake by Paul Rothrock

promotions/announcements

WILDWALKERS SUMMER SCHEDULE

July 13, 8:30 - 10:30 Camp Scott (Fort Wayne), Allen County
July 27, 8:45 - 10:15 Loblolly Wetlands Preserve, Jay County
Aug 10, 8:30 - 10:00 Wing Haven, Steuben County
Aug 24, 8:15 - 10:15 Brammall Nature Preserve, Steuben County
Sept 14, 8:30 - 10:30 Flat Rock Creek Nature Preserve, Paulding County, OH
Sept 28, 9:00 - 11:00 Metea County Park, Allen County
Contact Renee Sinacola (an ACRES Board member) with questions: 260-427-6005
or renee.sinacola@cityoffortwayne.org

ALLEN COUNTY TRAILBLAZERS IS GEARING UP FOR ITS SECOND YEAR.

Join us for the 2012 Kickoff on Sunday, September 2, from 2-4 p.m. at Metea County Park. ACRES Land Trust, Allen County Parks, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Fort Wayne Trails, Little River Wetlands Project and New Haven Parks and Recreation have partnered to provide the trail network for an annual hiking rewards program.

Simply hike the required trail lengths and receive a walking stick to attach your annual accomplishment medallion.

For more information visit www.allencountytrailblazers.org

ALLEN COUNTY
TRAILBLAZERS



Hike The Appalachian Trail

Sunday, September 16, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jennifer Pharr Davis, Appalachian trail record holder

Join Jennifer to hear about life on the trail and her record setting hike last year. Find out more about Jennifer's experiences at blueridgehikingco.com. A hike will follow the lecture. RSVP to the ACRES office at 260-637-2273. Limited availability.

This is an Allen County Trailblazers eligible hike.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

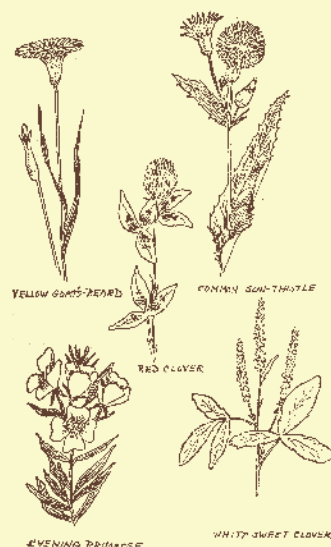
Thursday, September 13, 6 p.m.

ACRES wants to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers and show our appreciation of their time and talents helping ACRES. If you are one of our many volunteers, please join us for a cookout at the Dustin barn. Dinner compliments of ACRES' staff and Board. Please call to make reservations at 260-637-2273.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748. Entrance to the barn is east of the main entrance to the ACRES' office.

FLORENCE KLOTZ MEMORIAL

Florence Klotz, an ACRES founder and member for 52 years, died on Easter Sunday. Florence illustrated many of her late husband's (John Klotz, also a founding member) articles called "Bogs and Logs" that helped promote ACRES and the natural world. The Klotzs and other ACRES founders were true pioneers, establishing the first Indiana land trust, and providing the model for the now 26 land trusts working in the state. Florence's creativity, leadership, music, impact, and presence will be greatly missed.



ACRES Avocets record 122 species on a "slow" day for birding

by Fred Wooley

Proceeds from the 2012 Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon to benefit Wing Haven!

Seeing 122 species of birds in one day is a great day of birding by any standards! For a 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. effort, however, in mid May, in southwest Michigan, by a team of six experienced birders, it might be considered "slow."

The best part for ACRES Land Trust is that we raised \$1509.12 for Wing Haven! Many thanks to the loyal supporters who made pledges and provided the background spirit for team Avocet. Some of you pledged an extra \$5.00 for your favorite bird! Linda Gaff, Angie O'Neill, and Jackie Wooley, we saw your pileated woodpecker, scarlet tanager, and orchard oriole respectively. Thank you!

This year marked the 24th Annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon and marked the 15th year that the ACRES Land Trust has fielded a team. Over those 15 years, we have now raised a total of \$25,540.20. Most of that has gone towards Wing Haven. On some years, it went towards our assistance in the purchase of additions to Pokagon State Park.

Just prior to a downpour, we stood knee deep in prairie plants at the Sarrett Nature Center and enjoyed the call and great looks of a Henslow's sparrow. The many moods of a birdathon can be fleeting in time, but long in memory.

Many thanks again to all who pledged your support and continue to provide for ACRES so that we can provide homes for not only birds, but for all plants and animals that find homes in our preserves.

THANK YOU to all who gave to the 2012 Birdathon. The following pledged \$1.00 or more per bird: Diane Humphrey, Robin Lemberger, Jerry Mackel, Mark and Anne Shure and John Rullo in memory of Nancy Rullo.

Save-the-Date!

November

10

ANNUAL DINNER at the University of St. Francis

Investing in the Future

by Dick Walker, ACRES' Treasurer

Two kinds of stewards are crucial to carrying out ACRES' mission: land stewards and investment stewards. Land stewards maintain the trails and care for the environment. Other stewards safeguard ACRES' investments which are a result of membership dues, donations and gifts. While some invested monies are used for operating expenses, most of this money is used to acquire new preserves.

Why invest? As we accumulate funds from membership dues and donations, we invest these monies in various ways. For example, some of the money is invested in certificates of deposit with various banks. These certificates are one hundred percent insured by FDIC and are scheduled to mature at various dates over a period of several years.

Some of the monies are invested in equities—mutual funds and bonds. We use Grabill Bank to manage our investments. However, to limit our exposure to companies with policies detrimental to the environment, we require Grabill Bank to use environmental screens when purchasing stocks and bonds.

We also have investments in Community Foundations located in the counties within our service area. We use a percentage of the income from these investments for our operations and administrative budget, for example, office expenses and preserve maintenance.

The Board of Directors is aware of their fiduciary responsibility to our members. The Board has restricted some funds designated by donors, such as funds to purchase land or to maintain preserves. At the Board of Directors' meeting, they closely monitor and review investments. Board members pledge to act responsibly and wisely to invest all monies for the long-term future of ACRES.

Current HABITAT ENHANCEMENT Projects

ALLEN COUNTY

Barrett Oakhill
USF&W Partners program, invasive species control and reforestation – 18 acres

Dustin
NRCS WHIP program, invasive species control and reforestation – 37 acres

MIAMI COUNTY

Seven Pillars
FSA CRP enrollment for riparian buffer – 3.8 acres and NRCS SAFE reforestation – 20 acres

NOBLE COUNTY

Clock Creek
USF&W Partners program, invasive species control for sedge meadow/fen habitat – 12 acres

CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
SAFE	State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement
USF&W	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

STEBEN COUNTY

Beechwood
NRCS WHIP program, invasive species control to promote an oak savanna – 21 acres

Wing Haven
USF&W Partners program, invasive species control – 22 acres

NRCS WHIP program, invasive species control and reforestation – 16 acres
Volunteer and in-kind efforts, invasive species control to promote prairie remnants – 12 acres

WABASH COUNTY

Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run
FSA CRP enrollment, reforestation – 24.5 acres

Kokiwane
NRCS EQIP program, invasive species control – 20 acres

WHITLEY COUNTY

Dygert
NRCS SAFE program, reforestation – 16 acres

SPECIALthanks

Richard and Barbara Boerger
donating books for the library
Peg Maginn and Dave Prible
constructing two preserve benches

Jamie McCann
scanning photos and slides
Noreen Walker
donating washcloths for the office

University of Saint Francis
donating two dissecting microscopes

John and Marcella Ellenwood
donating Helen Swenson painting
to Wing Haven

Ruth Bracht, Louise Pomeroy, Dave Brumm,
Heather Baker, Judy Schreff, Barb Gorney, Ben
Kissel, Volunteer Center volunteers Ed Scott, Ron
Costa, Marg Costa, Don Thornton, Helen Bassett,
Barb Boston, Donna Stucker and Allyson Ellis
collating the *Quarterly*

Jay Solomon
donating photograph for Ethel McClelland's
retirement gift

David Brumm
office maintenance

Annika Van Gilder
Canterbury School community service hours.
Congratulations on your cum laude honor
and graduation!

Brad Greenlee
preserve mapping

Mike Meighen
grading the office driveway

Aryona Ostrander, Reuben Ryan, Brian Musser,
Nate Simons and the two tennis girls
from Trine
invasive control work day at Wing Haven

Phil Bieberich, Mike Miller, Zach Holsinger, John
Brittenham, and Nate Simons
volunteering for the prescribed burn on Wing
Haven prairie

To everyone who helped at Kid's Day
at Wildwood

Blue Jean Gala sponsors, volunteers
and guests

Franklin & Williams Attorneys at Law
in-kind deed preparation for
acquisition closings

Penske
donating truck rental



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 82 nature preserves totaling over 4,965 acres.

 Find us on Facebook

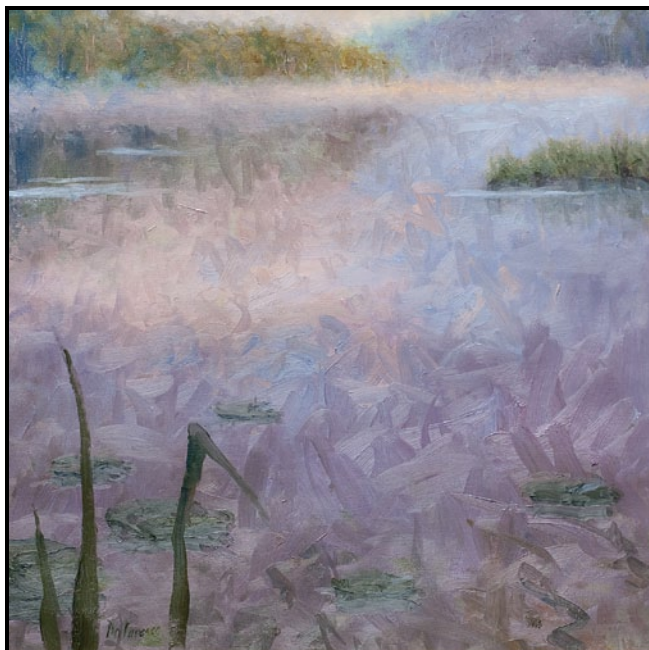


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STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; David Homan and Brett Fisher, Land Management Specialists; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Office Manager/Education Manager; Jill Noyes, Fund Development Manager
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MEMBERSHIP: Life Member, \$1,500; Sustaining, \$500; Corporate, \$500; Club/Organization, \$50; Family, \$40; Individual, \$25; Senior or Student, \$15. Dues payable annually.



Martin Lake Nature Preserve by Fred Deloresco

Nature always tends to act in the simplest way.

– *Bernoulli*