

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Winter 2014 | Vol. 53 - No. 1



*The Great Blue Heron
Owls*

Fund Development

Did You Know?

*Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve
and Ropchan Wildlife Refuge*

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

ACRES preserves land. This singular focus means much quality time spent on land—learning and talking about it, sharing pictures of it, and protecting it. However, each year I seem to talk less about land and more about people.

Nature does not create nature preserves: people do! People preserve land. This simple statement is a necessary reminder for me that while nature grows forests, creates wetlands, and populates landscapes with plants and animals, people decide how a particular piece of land is treated now and into the future.

Although it was not intentional, I have reminders all over my office of people who have preserved land. Everything on my walls and shelves is a reminder of these people. Here's a sampling of items in my office:

- A walking stick made by Art Hammer (largest overall donor to ACRES) and given to Jane Dustin (an ACRES' founder and volunteer executive director)
- A hat of Jim Barrett's (an ACRES' founder, major land donor, statewide conservation leader)
- A photo of Edna Spurgeon (ACRES' first land donor who demonstrated courage and faith in the young organization)
- A pry bar—a gift on our wish list from donors who also gave the largest cash gift in ACRES' history. (This is a reminder there is nothing too small or too large to ask for on ACRES' behalf.)
- A sticky note with \$10.25 on it — eight-year-old Emma's gift to ACRES. This reminds me of ACRES' immense responsibility to effectively utilize its donors' gracious support.
- Photographs of my family—acknowledging the role played by the families of ACRES' supporters. Donations of time, money, and land impact the donor's whole family.



Art Hammer, ACRES Archive

While outdoors, I'm nurtured by nature's beauty. Indoors, I could surround myself with photos of our beautiful preserves. Instead, I'm surrounded with portions of ACRES' family history. Great people with vision preserve land for ACRES. Your support of ACRES preserves land. You preserve land. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org

WELCOME

41newmembers!

Sean Anderson
Theresa Bailey
Phyllis Borg
Steve Britton
gift from Lori Britton
Andrew and Margaret Candor
Shirley Champion
Clara Conroy
Ian and Lyn Crighton
Jeff and Ann Crist
Jennifer Diehl
gift from Joseph Smith
Claire Doak
gift from Joe Doak
Michelle Federspiel
gift from Joseph Smith
Dave and Bev Fiandt
Luci Foltz
gift from Kay Rekeweg
Kami Fox
gift from Joseph Smith
Heather Harwood
Rosemarie Jeffery
Jim and Deborah Kaiser
Mary La Rocque
Charles Lake
Mark Laurent
Bob Loshe
Colleen Mayberry
gift from Renee Sinicola
David Meyer
Cynthia Molargik
John Nye

J. Tony Pohl
Stacy Rhody
gift from Joseph Smith
Bob Roskuski
Maraiah Russell
gift from Joseph Smith
Jason and Hannah Sims
gift from Ann Marlin
Neil and Diana Sowards
John and Carolyn Sowers
Al Stevenson
Brooke Stowell
gift from Joseph Smith
Ed and Barb Strubel
John Stuber
Halina Walsh
gift from Joseph Smith
Russ and Julie Williams
Jacqueline Orsagh and Jay Yentis

life member

Todd Hofmann



STILL NOT A MEMBER?
Scan this QR code with your smart phone to join today!

memorials

Jim Smith
from Sharon Smith and Joni Weber
Bob Weber
from the Ropchan Foundation
John Dustin
from Ken and Susan Till, Karen Griggs,
and Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Greg Gough
from John and Linda Mowry

tributes

Angie O'Neill
from Alice Kopfer
Betty Fishman
from Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Ev Hardy
from Louise Larsen



by Ted Heemstra

Photo by Fred Wooley

Most Hoosiers are familiar with the majestic Great Blue Heron, sometimes spotted standing on long, thin legs at the edge of lakes or streams as it looks for fish to spear with its sharp pointed beak. More often it is seen flying between its nesting site and feeding spot. Distinctive for its long neck folded back in an “S” shape and its legs trailing straight behind a short tail, it flies with a slow, steady flap of its broad wings which can measure more than 6 feet across.

In his classic Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America, Roger Tory Peterson describes the Great Blue Heron as “a lean gray bird often miscalled a crane, which may stand 4 feet tall. Its long legs, long neck, daggerlike bill, and, in flight, folded neck, indicate a heron. Its great size and blue-gray color, white about the head (in adults), mark it as this species.”

The heron family, *Ardeidae*, includes herons, egrets and bitterns.

The Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, is the best known and most widespread of all North American herons. In Stockbridge (Fort Wayne) Audubon Society's daily field checklist of 2005, the Great Blue Heron is reported to be common in the summer and uncommon in the winter in northern Indiana. A 1985 map of Indiana shows 51 nesting colonies of Great Blue Herons in 35 out of 92 counties.

The male and female are similar in size and color, making them indistinguishable

in the field. They share the task of feeding the hatchlings, one adult at the nest during the day while the other is away from the nest feeding. The adult birds have no distinctive call or song. Heron sounds are rarely heard except the “chatter” between birds on adjacent nests.

Great Blue Herons feed by both night and day but are most active at dusk and before dawn. They stand motionless in shallow water or on a perch from which they can catch prey as it comes into striking distance. Fish are swallowed head first as the heron remains standing. They also eat mice, insects and other small creatures.

About 20 years ago, in order to perform maintenance on the dikes, the Fort Wayne sewage treatment system's 50-acre terminal pond was drained. This resulted in numerous small shallow ponds on the exposed pond bottom, trapping many fish of all sizes. Nearby heron colonies soon discovered this bounty: for several days, as many as 55 Great Blue Herons were counted fishing and eating at these small ponds.

Hérons are “colonial nesters,” which means they nest in colonies. Herons build their loose stick nests in the outer branches of mature oak, maple or sycamore trees located near flowing streams. Nests can also be found in isolated woodlots. Nesting birds return to the same location year after year, usually arriving by late March to claim an existing nest to repair and use, or to build a new nest.

Old nests may be 3 to 4 feet across, arranged at least 6 to 10 feet apart. An active colony usually has an average of 75 nests, each containing four blue-green eggs which are incubated 28 days before hatching. Fed by both parents, hatchlings stay in the nest about 60 days, flying in and out for a week or two before abandoning the nest for good. Although herons can

live up to 20 years, the average lifespan is closer to six years.

Since herons catch most of their food in the water, it is not surprising that most herons in Indiana in spring and summer head south in early winter to find open water. Yet a few birds do stay in the area: in 33 of the last 40 years, the Fort Wayne annual Christmas count reported between one and 12 Great Blue Herons on count days.

Great Blue Herons are seen throughout Indiana. Since 1985, heron nests have been recorded in 13 of the 17 northeast Indiana counties served by ACRES. In northern Allen County, there is a colony of about 75 nests in a non-public ACRES' property along Cedar Creek.

In 1983, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources began recording information about nesting heron colonies with an every-five-year census. They visited each site to record the number of nest structures and how many were active, the number of trees with nests and their species, the name and address of the site's property owner, and the site's dominant habitat.

These identified sites revisited every five years resulted in a current picture of the Great Blue Heron's status. These reports show increases in the number of nests in active colonies and practically no change in the number of colonies. Thus, with this stabilized heron population, the every-five-year census has been discontinued. It is illegal to capture or kill a Great Blue Heron without a permit as they are protected by both state and federal law.

What does my membership do for ACRES?

ACRES is fortunate to have an incredibly loyal base of support through our members—and that means YOU! You are one of nearly 1,300 individuals and businesses making the commitment right now to support our mission of preserving natural areas.

From the first-time member who joins as a college student to the family membership being renewed for the 11th consecutive year, your continued support allows us to do the work that has resulted in more than 5,000 acres of land preserved since 1960.

Do you ever wonder how your membership is really used to benefit ACRES? The money you donate through your membership provides essential funding that ensures someone is at the office when a landowner calls to inquire about preserving their property. It funds safety gear and field equipment to keep the trails clear. Your donation helps us purchase land when it becomes available. By telling the story about your commitment to ACRES, your membership leverages funding from other sources like foundations and corporations. With only 130—rather than our current 1,300—members, we would not receive the support we do from foundations. From A to Z, your membership covers the nuts and bolts of preserving land.

Our Sustaining Members provide a distinctive level of support. Funding secured through this level of membership is used specifically for managing our nature preserves. Because of these members, ACRES is able to bring in teams of scientists to inventory new preserves and to use that information to create Preserve Management Plans. These plans ensure that those volunteering and working for ACRES know how to protect each preserve for the future, and that many years from now, other volunteers and staff will know what the land was like when it was acquired. Sustaining Memberships also help cover costs of keeping trails clear, installing visitor amenities at our open preserves, and generally managing the land. That we currently spend \$40 to \$50 per acre to manage our preserves means approximately \$230,000 in land management costs alone. Sustaining memberships help offset that cost, so the more Sustaining Members, the better able we are to manage the land we preserve. Both the ability to budget for these memberships and the ongoing support they provide are crucial for planning our land management strategies.

If you would like to discuss becoming a Sustaining Member or your other ideas about how to promote ACRES' memberships to others, please contact Heather Barth, Director of Fund Development, at hbarth@acreslandtrust.org or 260.637.2273. All ACRES' members are crucial to our continued success, so whatever your level of membership, please know we are grateful for your investment in our mission of preserving natural areas.

Center Spread: Ropchan Wildlife Refuge, Steuben County by Shane Perfect

BEHIND THE SCENE

February 2013, I remember feeling like quite the explorer as I laid those first tracks, nary a woodland creature had yet to scurry across this fresh descent of crystalline water ice. Upon reaching Cemetery Lake, I was fortunate to observe a beaver playfully navigate about the waters fringe.

OWLS

by Jason Kissel

Great Horned Owl juveniles by Fred Wooley

The crisp night air in ACRES' preserves is often filled with the hoots, clicks, screeches and other vocalizations of owls. Owls have many interesting adaptations that make them great nocturnal hunters: feathers that make their flight nearly silent, powerful talons, a hooked beak, acute hearing, and of course, great eyesight.

To provide great vision in low light, owls' eyes are specialized in many ways. For starters, their eyes are very large. (Our eyes would be the size of softballs if they were proportionally as large as owls' eyes.) While most birds have eyes on the sides of their heads, the forward-facing and close-together eyes of owls give them the best stereoscopic vision of any bird. This provides tremendous depth perception, allowing them to hone in on prey with deadly accuracy.

Owl eyes are cylinder-shaped rather than round. Although these can-shaped eyes are more efficient at capturing light, they come with a limitation—they cannot move. To overcome this limitation, owls have 14 neck vertebrae (compared to our 7), giving their heads a wide range of motion. Owls can rotate their heads 270 degrees from side to side and beyond 90 degrees up and down.

Since their eyes are vital to their survival, owls have three sets of eyelids to protect them. The upper eyelid is used for blinking. The lower eyelid closes only during sleep. A third semi-transparent eyelid, called a nictitating membrane, protects, washes and keeps the eye moist. This eyelid closes diagonally across the eye, starting from the beak side.

January through March is breeding season for most owls in ACRES' preserves. As they call frequently to locate a mate and claim their territory, this is the best time of year to hear owl calls. And you often can call owls close to you by imitating their calls or by making high-pitched squealing noises (thus mimicking an injured animal—easy prey that the owl will investigate). Venture into a forest tonight to listen, call, and perhaps see an owl up close.

Owls:

- *See just fine during the day*
- *Usually have feathers on their legs and toes for insulation*
- *Have one ear higher than the other to help pinpoint the location of noises*
- *Are the symbol of misfortune, death, prosperity or wisdom, depending on which folklore you believe*



programs & EVENTS

ACRES' nature preserves host a growing number of events and activities—so many that we've decided to list only larger events in the *Quarterly*. You can read the full list of activities on ACRES' website where events are updated weekly, so check the website often at www.acreslandtrust.org/events

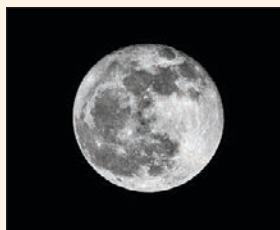
WOLF MOON

Thursday, January 16, 7 – 9 pm

Presented by: Shane Perfect

Gather with us in the historic log studio as the wolf moon brightens Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Warm up by the wood burning stove and grab a cup of hot chocolate before a hike down to Little Gentian Lake.

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



January Wolf Moon

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS AND CALL-OUT

Presented by: Tina Puitz and Casey Jones

See page 11 for details.

2014 HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Thursday, February 27 – Sunday, March 2

ACRES invites you to visit our booth at the Fort Wayne War Memorial Coliseum. Please consider volunteering for this fun event where you can meet lots of people, share your excitement and love of ACRES with others, and receive a free exhibitor's pass to the show. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Tina at acres@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273. Thank you.

YODER'S MAPLE SUGAR CAMP AND BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 15, 10 am – Noon

Presented by: Bill Smith and Larry Yoder

Join Bill and Larry for ACRES' annual maple syrup breakfast and learn how maple syrup is made. Only 60 spots available! Reservations required. This event fills quickly, so call early!

\$5/person (children under 5 free). Call Bill Smith at 260.438.4259 or email at wilgssal@aol.com to reserve your spot. If you have attended before and would like to volunteer to help, call Bill at the number above.

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.



Photo by Ringo Santiago

ACRES' WISH LIST PARTY

Saturday, April 26, 1 pm

Presented by: Allyson Ellis, ACRES member

In recognition of ACRES' 54th year, we're having a party and we'd like you to celebrate with us. No party would be complete without gifts. Choose an item from the wish list (see page 13) and bring it to the party. No gift is too big or too small. Join us for refreshments, door prizes and a good time. To avoid duplicate gifts, please contact Allyson Ellis at 260-466-5202 or aellis@kconline.com to register your gift.

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

promotions/Announcements

Office/Administrative Volunteer Orientation

If you've always wanted to volunteer for ACRES by helping in the office, sharing information about the organization or working with the public, this is the meeting for you.

This orientation will prepare you for your volunteer experience by providing a general background of ACRES as well as some specifics. You'll learn speaking points to address the public, how to process credit cards and how to help with office needs. For more information, please contact Tina at tpuitz@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273.

Saturday, February 8 at 10 am

ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Land Management Volunteer Orientation

To reduce the distance volunteers have to travel, this land management orientation will be offered on two dates at two locations. Choose one:

Saturday, March 15 at 10 am

Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, 1866 East Baumbauer Road, Wabash, IN 46992

Saturday, March 22 at 10 am

Dustin Nature Preserve, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Volunteers will have an opportunity to understand the goals and objectives ACRES seeks to achieve throughout all nature preserves, as well as how best to execute these goals. It will also be a good time to meet and greet our new Land Management Specialist, Casey Jones. We will discuss protocol for visitor amenities and answer any questions you have. Those currently serving or interested in serving as Monitors will gain valuable information. Those interested in becoming Stewards of any of the nature preserves are strongly encouraged to attend one of these meetings.

Monitors are responsible for regularly reporting the condition of trail amenities, stocking sign-in boxes and sending in completed sign-in forms and may also include individualized initiatives such as managing invasive species. **Stewards** manage all responsibilities of a Monitor, plus, being able to maintain trail amenities (mowing and chainsaw work) with minimal or no supervision from the land management specialist. Think of it as "adopting" a preserve.

For more information, please contact Casey at cjones@acreslandtrust.org or 260-571-8347.

BLUE JEAN GALA

In 2014, ACRES is bringing back the Blue Jean Gala! We have much to do to prepare for the event and need your help. We are collecting poetry, songs, and music inspired by ACRES' preserves. We are looking for stories of your experiences in the preserves and how the preserves have impacted your life. And we need volunteers to help plan the event. Sponsorship opportunities are available as well. If you are interested in sharing your story, volunteering or being a sponsor, please contact Heather Barth at 260.637.2273 or hbarth@acreslandtrust.org

Did You Know?

by Tina Puitz

Do you know what it takes to get this beautiful *Quarterly* into your hands?



Three months ago, it was decided which articles would appear in the winter issue and which land acquisitions would be announced. Writers were given 4–6 weeks to write their articles. (In the case of the Great Blue Heron article, Ted Heemstra graciously agreed to write it in two weeks.) We write descriptions of special events and promotions that will take place during the three months covered by the Winter *Quarterly*. Names of individuals who have donated time, talent or goods are entered onto a spreadsheet on an ongoing basis to be included in the “special thanks” section. Everything is put into a Word document sent to Carol Roberts to be revised and edited, which takes from a day to a week to complete. Revisions and edits are reviewed, the Word document is sent to a designer, and the *Quarterly* begins to take shape, but the first proof contains no photos. Photos are being gathered and sent to the designer during the proofing process. The staff

makes revisions to the proof and these are sent back to the designer for a total of 3 to 4 proofs—a process that takes up to 4 weeks to complete. Once staff approves all content and photos, the *Quarterly* is sent to the printer who makes a color proof. Upon approval, it is sent to the presses where 6,000 *Quarterlies* are printed. In about a week, the new *Quarterly* arrives at the office.

But the process is not yet complete. While the *Quarterly* is being printed, Tina is creating two mail lists, one for current, honorary and complimentary members, and another for memberships up for renewal. These two mail lists are sent to a mailing service that checks for address changes and sends those changes back to ACRES where the database is updated. 1,600 *Quarterlies* are delivered to the mailing service and 4,400 to the office. In the next two days, the mailing service sends current members their *Quarterly* in an envelope; members up for renewal receive in an envelope a *Quarterly*, a renewal notice and a remittance envelope. Within the next few days, the *Quarterly* arrives in your mailbox.

Still the process continues! A group of ten volunteers comes to the office to insert remittance envelopes into the remaining 4,400 *Quarterlies* which are then sorted into distribution piles: 440 are put into postal mailers, boxes and envelopes and mailed to libraries and other environmental organizations; 800 are set aside to be placed in preserve boxes in each preserve; and 2,060 are prepared for 15 volunteers to hand-deliver to coffee shops and businesses. The remaining 1,100 *Quarterlies* stay at the office for visitors and to be used for presentations and booths. Just as one season follows another, we are (happily) never finished. As the Winter *Quarterly* is distributed, we have already begun creating the Spring *Quarterly*—here we go again!

Submit your photos, stories and ideas—they may just end up in a future issue.

from the **FIELD**

As the newest addition to the ACRES Land Trust staff, I must first thank you—our membership. Thank you for your support that has enabled me to pursue my interests in managing and preserving the natural landscape I’ve come to know and appreciate more than any other area in the state. I am excited to get out in the field and become more familiar with all of ACRES nature preserves. I look forward to meeting all our current volunteers and recruiting new volunteers to assist with a very large list of ongoing and new initiatives. You also can expect to see an improved consistent and efficient approach to maintaining visitor amenities.

—Casey Jones, *Land Management Specialist*

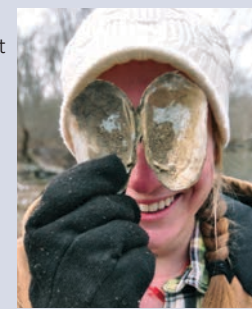


Casey by Shane Perfect



Savanna Vaughn is completing a six-month internship working on Preserve Management Plans. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Biology with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology from Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne. Thank you to the Olive B. Cole Foundation for providing this and other internships.

This is what happens when the interns go in the field with Shane to monitor a Conservation Easement.



Savanna by Shane Perfect

ACRES' WISH LIST PARTY

See page 10 for an invitation to ACRES' Wish List Party.

OFFICE NEEDS

Copier paper (24 pound)
“Forever” postage stamps
Convertible hand truck
Rubber bands
Desk organizer
Buckets for cleaning
Collapsible easels
Birdseed
Sharp kitchen knives
Cutting boards
Digital camera for events

STAFF/VOLUNTEER FUEL

Coffee
M&Ms
Homemade cookies
Bottled water
Any gummy snack or treat

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Shares of stock
Donations
Prepaid gas cards
2013/14 Toyota Tacoma Pickup Truck
Access Cab, 4 x 4, V6 Automatic

COMPUTER NEEDS

External hard drives, 500 GB to 1 TB
Flash drives 1 GB and up
Compact SD cards
21” computer monitor
Laptop docking stations
Computer chairs

PRESERVE NEEDS

ACRES benches (plans provided)
Craftsman 19.2 volt batteries
Stihl chainsaw
Battery operated field tools
6' x 8' or 6' x 10' trailer for land management
Kobalt toolbox with Kobalt tools
Stihl or Husqvarna bar oil
Stihl or Husqvarna 2-cycle oil
Small air compressor with tank
6-tool Makita 18-volt Lithium-ion combo kit, Model #LXT601
International Commercial Backpack Sprayer YT-189
International Hand-held Sprayer YT-10
Available at Agro-Chem (Wabash),
Kaman Industrial Technologies (Fort Wayne)
or forestry-suppliers.com

Visit the ACRES' website for a more comprehensive list.

ROPCHAN MEMORIAL NATURE PRESERVE AND THE ROPCHAN WILDLIFE REFUGE

by Terri Gorney

Sam and Adeline Ropchan joined ACRES in 1960. Sam proudly told his friends and family about it in their Christmas letter of 1973. Earlier in 1973 he also announced their generous “gift” to ACRES, the Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve in Steuben County. The Ropchan Wildlife Refuge, also in Steuben County, followed in 1976 and was dedicated May 1977.

Born in 1905 into a large, poor family in western Canada, Sam wrote in his unpublished biography: “Thinking about our very early days on the farm, I have...memories [of] being cold, hungry and crying frequently, generally about food...Our first house...was in part a sod hut with one wall of range lumber, and a door with a window in it.” According to the 1940 census and his army enlistment papers, Sam’s education went as far as 5th grade.

By 1930, Sam was living in Chicago with his brother Alexander. In that year’s census, his place of birth was listed as “English Canada.” Sam was a wholesale manager by profession, living in Fort Wayne by 1935, residing in the same home in 1940, making \$1800 annually. He had become a U.S. citizen and served his adopted country in WWII. His enlistment papers show that he was born in “British Canada.”

Sam loved the outdoors: fishing and hunting were favorite pastimes. In August 1949, he took flying lessons under the GI bill and became a private pilot. Some of his best times were solo flights over some of the most beautiful places in North America, logging over 2500 miles in his Cherokee plane. His last flight was October 26, 1974.

Sam became a successful businessman in Fort Wayne, owning Universal Merchandise. In the 1950s, he became active in the Fort Wayne chapter of the Izaak Walton League, which led him to ACRES.

Art Eberhardt remembers that when he saw the land that became Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve advertised for sale, he thought it was available at a good price. He remembers area residents were using it as a dump, and volunteers and county trucks were needed to clear the debris. At this time, Sam Ropchan was looking for land to donate as a preserve and agreed to provide the necessary funds.

Ropchan Wildlife Refuge’s 184 acres surround a cemetery and include Cemetery Lake. According to Art Eberhardt, some of this land was Helen Skelton’s; Helen sold her land below market value so it would be preserved. (Helen was a descendant of the Farnhams and McClues who settled in Steuben County in the 1830s.)

By 1979, Mark DeBrock had visited Ropchan Wildlife Refuge 47 times, writing his observations and noting the habitat was good for a wide variety of mammals, salamanders, turtles and frogs.



Sam & Adeline Ropchan

Sam founded the Ropchan Foundation which provided funds for the purchase of lands in northeastern Indiana for conservation purposes, and he served as its president for ten years. To promote world peace, he and Adeline also founded the Ropchan Peace Fund through the Peace Study Institute.

We are grateful Sam chose to adopt Fort Wayne as his home—he definitely made a difference in northeastern Indiana. In his eulogy, his second wife, Marla, asked: “How do you sum up his life in 60 minutes?”

Adeline died in August 1981 and Sam in April 1987. Both are buried at Lakeside Cemetery south of Fremont, surrounded by nature that they preserved for us all to enjoy.

SPECIALthanks

Carol Roberts for revising and editing the *Quarterly*

Our *Quarterly* distributors

Ralph and Mary Campbell, Allyson Ellis, Judy Schroff and Louise Pomeroy for collating the *Quarterly*

James O. and Alice F. Cole Foundation

Culver Family Foundation

Edward and Hildegard Schaefer Foundation

Kosciusko County Community Foundation

Ropchan Foundation

Dave Brumm for donating office and land management tools

Lincoln Printing for donating printing services

Tres Beaux Gardens for donating plants for the office entrance

Spike Jones for donating carpet cleaning services at Wildwood

Joyce Svoboda for donating a kayak and Dave Brumm for picking it up

Heather and Damon Barth for donating refreshments for Blue Cast Springs state dedication

Richard and Mary Hertel, Bill Smith and Ralph and Mary Campbell for donating tarps and office supplies

Randall and Carole Smith for donating postage stamps

Weed, Inc. for donating septic service

Congratulations to David Van Gilder who received the Randall T. Shephard award, the state’s highest award for pro bono work. Thank you, David, for your hard work (for ACRES and many other non-profits).



Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 86 nature preserves totaling over 5,082 acres.

 Like our new page at www.facebook.com/ACRES.LT



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Huntersville, IN 46748-9723

260.637.ACRES (2273)

email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org

DIRECTORS: Steven Hammer, President; Carol Roberts, Vice President; David Schnepf, Treasurer; Norm Cox, Secretary; Craig Bobay, Neil Case, Joe Conrad, Pam George, Connie Haas-Zuber, James Haddock, Mary Ibe, Renee Sinacola, Adam Turner, Richard E. Walker, Michele Briggs Wedaman.
Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Feitler; **Recording Secretary:** Sue Diefenbach.

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Heather Barth, Director of Fund Development, Tina Puitz, Office Manager/Education Manager; Casey Jones, Land Management Specialist

ACRES Quarterly: Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntersville, 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.



Photo by Shane Perfect

*In nature there are neither rewards nor
punishments — there are consequences.*

— Robert Green Ingersoll