

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Winter 2014 | Vol. 53 - No. 5



ACRES
LANDTRUST

Quarterly Archive

Following Swainson's Thrushes

Winter Fun

Bears That Change Into Tigers

Maumee River Scenic Overlook

Back Page



Photo by Tony Fleming

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

ACRES' work—the preservation of land, is important. While there are many ways to confirm this importance, I want to focus on one: *new people keep stepping up to further ACRES' work.*

Fifty-five years ago, twelve people thought it would be a good idea to start Indiana's first land trust. Those twelve members have grown to twelve hundred, and the original 65 acres in one preserve (Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve) has grown to 5,454 acres in 90 preserves.

Just as trees in our preserves create new growth rings each year, ACRES relies on new people each year to grow the organization. Each day, new people visit their first nature preserve; each month, new people become members; each year, new people serve on the board of directors. It's this chain of support that makes ACRES successful and reinforces the importance of preserving land.

I wasn't even born when ACRES was started in 1960. When I was twelve and dreaming about inventing a fertilizer to grow the biggest trees in the Midwest, others were busy running ACRES and celebrating its 25th anniversary. Before we became involved, others stewarded ACRES. And we now know, with great assurance, that others will steward ACRES where we leave off. That's one of the many ways we know that the work of ACRES is important.

You and I are running ACRES now—it's our turn. It's our support that will determine ACRES' growth this year. Let's lay down a nice, wide growth ring in 2015. ACRES' supporters before and after us deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org

P.S. By the way, I'm thankful each day that I get to realize my twelve-year old self's dream of growing the largest trees in the Midwest—not due to my super-duper fertilizer, but rather to the centuries of growth that ACRES allows its trees.

WELCOME

29newmembers!

Irving Adler
Jay and Dawn Albright
Marlin Bauer
Kate Brogan
Michael and Mary Cahill
Jo Ann Carpenter
Gift from Craig Carpenter
Suzanne Davis
William Deans III
Raymond and Barbara Doyle
Bert Ewer
Gift from Phil Leisure
Mildred Ferguson
Bob Gould and Thom Johnston
Kirk Greene
Diana Hart
Steve and Cindy Hays
Jacob Hougham
Helene Jacquay
Richard Kenefic
Sandra Killila
Kaylee Lettau
Tim and Lisa McCormick
Gift from Tamara Wright
Reta Rutledge
Matthew Shumaker
Gift from Suzanne Dunn

James and Christine Smith
Gift from Sharon Pool-Smith
Terri and Chris Ulmer
Gift from Tamara Wright
Kathy Wagoner
Gift from Zimmer

life members

Ed and Mary Lou Hutter
Jack Horrell
Karen Horrell



STILL NOT A MEMBER?

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

memorials

Dennis Graham, DVM
From Betty Fishman
Theresa Schneider Stair
From Sandra Killila
Louis and Charlotte Andrews
From John and Barbara Kowalczyk



ON SNOWY OWLS

by Lee Casebere

Snowy Owls are birds of the arctic tundra. Generally they endure the harsh arctic winters as long as the food supply is good. Ptarmigan, hares, fish and- most notably - lemmings comprise their staple food items. Periodic "crashes" in the lemming population are often the reason the Snow Owls leave their northern haunts and visit the states in search of good hunting. Being birds of the open, they shun the forested areas on these southward sojourns and are most often seen in open farmland, marshes, beaches, and dunes.

On December 9, 1973 I saw my first, (and only, so far) Snowy Owl while driving through rural Allen County along Route 37. A week later after much contemplation of the mystery of its arrival near Fort Wayne, Indiana, I sat and penned the following:

A week has past since I saw my first Snowy Owl in the wild. I had always hoped to see one someday, but my vision of the time and place were not at all like the real encounter. I hardly expected one to suddenly alight on a utility pole while I was driving along a busy highway. Although I pulled off the road to watch it for a few brief minutes, it seemed more like a dream than reality, and I soon found myself driving away watching a living piece of the arctic fade out of sight through my rear view mirror.

During this past week I have often thought about that Owl. Exactly where did it come from? What prompted such a long journey? Why did it come to Indiana? Where is it now? Each question seemed to spur yet another, and answers came as mere speculations or as nothing at all. Even now there are more questions, some of them the same as before . . . where is that Owl now?

I have read that very few snowy owls that venture south during winter months ever make it back to the arctic. Although they are faced with many perils in a strange land, perils alone apparently fail to explain why many of them never make it back. So they say, snowy owls come south to escape adverse weather and hunger. The benefits are hard to picture. Why fly south to enjoy fine weather and a full stomach only to perish anyway?

I wonder if "my" snowy owl will make it back to the arctic? I suppose it has found out already that it has only exchanged one hostile environment for another. Now it is in man's world where predator becomes prey, and only the cunning creatures survive.

In spite of the dangers facing that bird, I am envious of its travels, whether they are adventures of mis-adventures. How nice it would be to travel far and wide with no strings attached. Although its journey was out of need and not for pleasure, at least owls lives are not cluttered with stop-and-go lights, thoughts and emotions, or perception of time I wonder where that owl is now?

Winter lifestyles

MIGRATORS:



Such creatures move seasonally from one region or country to another, usually to survive through the winter months. Watching the birds fly south together is a good indication that winter is on its way.

DORMANT:

Similar to hibernators, these creatures are asleep, or lying as if asleep. While not awake or active, they are capable of being activated if threatened or endangered. Bears, surprisingly, are not hibernators but are dormant creatures during the winter.



HIBERNATORS:

These creatures survive the winter in a state of inactivity, only their basic bodily functions operating to keep them alive. Many burrow deep into the ground to last out this state. A ground hog's annual rise to the surface indicates that winter will soon be leaving.



ACTIVE:

These creatures are just as lively and busy in winter as they are in summer. Having no slowing down of any body processes, these animals have the roughest winter since they must constantly search for food to sustain them.



Following Swainson's Thrushes

by Casey Jones

In this issue, we begin an annual article focusing on one subject throughout the seasons. This year, we'll follow the Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) as it migrates through ACRES' service area and beyond.

The Swainson's thrush is a Nearctic-neotropical migratory bird, a fairly common spring and summer visitor in and around the dense forests of ACRES' nature preserves. It passes through here from both its breeding grounds in the Northern United States and Canada and its wintering range in Central and South America. It's so common that the photo above was shot from the front window at Wildwood Nature Preserve. However, by the time this winter newsletter reaches you, it's highly unlikely you'll observe the Swainson thrush. According to eBird¹, fewer than 2% of total observations during winter are made in North America (Figure 1).

So, you ask, why write about the Swainson's thrush this time of year instead of kinglets, crossbills and siskins that return to our area in winter? I could say the thrush brings good thoughts of fair weather with mention of spring and fall migration, but the truth is that the Swainson's thrush migration pattern lends itself to a *Quarterly* article. (If you do want to think warm-weather thoughts, you can channel the warmth from thousands of Swainson's thrushes currently in Costa Rica.)

I won't highlight the species' characteristic visual and audible features — that's what your bird identification guide is for. Instead I'll describe the species' seasonal movements as well as its adaptability to long-distance migration, focusing specifically on the evolution of these migration routes.

There are two subspecies of Swainson's thrushes: the russet-backed (*C. u. ustulatus*) and the olive-backed (*C. u. swainsonii*). While I was reluctant to split these subspecies for the purposes of this article, an important reason for doing so concerns how we are able to study migration routes in passerines. The russet-backed chiefly occupies the Pacific

coastal regions whereas the olive-backed occupies the inland regions of North and South America. Why this divergence between the subspecies, and to what degree do the two subspecies differ?

The primary difference between the two subspecies is defined by their range. While some debate exists whether divergence began to take place before or after Pleistocene epoch, compelling evidence supports late-Pleistocene divergence². That is, as the glaciers retreated in North America, the olive-backed subspecies was able to exploit the new inland habitat rather than being restricted to a migratory route along the Pacific coast, the latter route now predominantly occupied by the russet-backed.

Visual and audible characteristics are rather indistinguishable, but abundant research has found significant differences at a molecular level between the two subspecies³, likely a result of the geographic divergence. As species diverged and no longer occupied the same range, so too their genetics diverged. This explanation for the evolution of migratory routes can also be recognized and understood for many other passerines throughout ACRES' region as well as these species' western cohorts such as bluebirds, flickers and meadowlarks.

WORKS CITED

- ¹ eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relAug-2014. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Aug 2014.
- ² Ruegg, K.C. and T.B. Smith. 2002. Not as the crow flies: a historical explanation for circuitous migration in Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). *The Royal Society* 269:1375-1381
- ³ Ruegg, K., H. Slabbekoorn, S. Clegg and T.B. Smith. 2006. Divergence in mating signals correlates with ecological variation in the migratory songbird, Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). *Molecular Ecology* 15:3147-3156

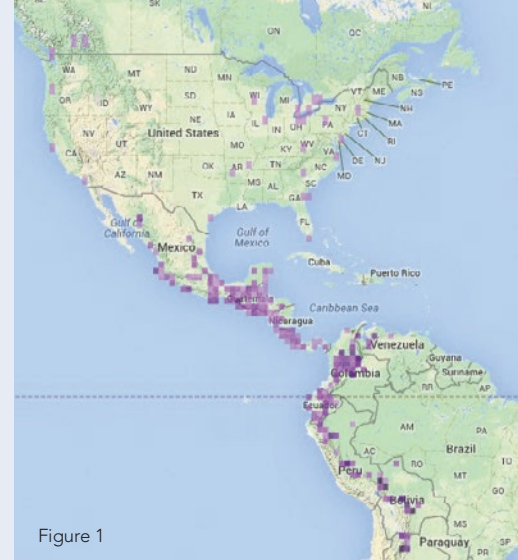


Figure 1
Historical frequency of Swainson's Thrush in their winter (December through February) range from eBird¹ observations (1900-2014).

Stay tuned for the arrival of the spring **Quarterly** when Swainson's thrushes also arrive — returning to our area from their wintering grounds. I will discuss specific ACRES' nature preserves where you would be most likely to find Swainson's thrushes, based on habitat. I will also suggest best dates and times to get out and try to spot them, according to historical records and weather patterns.

Have you been following a particular animal or plant species throughout the year? Send your observations to acres@acreslandtrust.org to be considered as an author for our **"Through the Seasons"** article.

did you *know*?

Land Acquisition Behind the Scenes

by Shane Perfect

When ACRES acquires land for a nature preserve, we guarantee never to sell or transfer the land or use it for any purpose other than a nature preserve. That's a big commitment.

Because of this commitment, we are very careful to ensure that the land ACRES selects as a nature preserve is worthy of such distinction—and that the process of acquiring land is thorough to ensure that no surprises come up in the future.

Once a property comes to ACRES' attention, the property is reviewed by an ACRES' staff member—usually myself or Jason Kissel. If we feel the property has potential for protection, we ask ACRES' many volunteer scientists to visit the property. This is what we call “the gathering of the ‘ologists”—biologists, geologists, ecologists, mycologists, ichthyologists, herpetologists, etc. Their findings help us determine whether the property has unique characteristics that make it worthy of preservation.

If a property meets this initial hurdle, it is reviewed by ACRES Land Acquisition Committee—a group of volunteers with varying expertise who rate the property using the Acquisition Criteria Worksheet, a two-page listing of desirable attributes within a nature preserve. If the property meets expectations of this Committee, it is recommended to ACRES' Board of Directors for acquisition. If the Board of Directors approves the property, then steps to acquire the property begin.

In addition to the normal paperwork required for any property transfer, ACRES goes to great lengths to ensure that we will be able to protect the property from current and future threats. The checklist graphics show a few of the steps taken during the last part of the acquisition process—taking an approved property from board approval to post closing.

Acquiring land is a core function of ACRES. Great care is taken to ensure that every nature preserve is acquired in a manner that helps ensure its highest level of protection.



PRE TRANSFER

1. LA rating score _____
2. Is this a ☐ Gift Conveyance or ☐ Purchase Agreement
3. Sales disclosure from County GIS (typically 2004 or later) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
4. Retained Life Estate interests? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. IHT project ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. BNT project ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Is there funding / partners potential? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Does LA Committee recommend to Board? ☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Board approved? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Conveyance/Purchase Agreement Attorney reviewed ☐ Yes ☐ No
11. Signed conveyance or purchase agreement? ☐ Yes ☐ No
12. Life Estate rights retained? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. Donor Provisions other than life estate restrictions ☐ Yes ☐ No
14. Identify current and future land use restrictions (commercial or industrial) ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. Environmental Assessment desired? (commercial or industrial) ☐ Yes ☐ No
16. ACRES' staff to complete IDNR Environmental field report ☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Existing timber or other contracts ☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Enrollments or programs i.e. CRP, classified forest and wildland ☐ Yes ☐ No
19. Legal drains, ditch assessments? ☐ Yes ☐ No
20. Floodplain or Floodway ☐ Yes ☐ No
21. Current zoning _____
22. Planning Dept. Any zoning issues with opening to the public ☐ Yes ☐ No
23. Easements of record? ☐ Yes ☐ No
24. Regional Ecologist field inspection ☐ Yes ☐ No
25. Regional Ecologist observed species list ☐ Yes ☐ No
26. Species list, RTE species ☐ Yes ☐ No
27. Order Appraisal ☐ Yes ☐ No
28. Order boundary survey (want additional points on line?) ☐ Yes ☐ No
29. Document property with photos ☐ Yes ☐ No
30. Order Title insurance ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pre Transfer if Residence

31. Home inspection ☐ Yes ☐ No
32. Cost to insure ☐ Yes ☐ No
33. Future home use and/or demolition/abandonment ☐ Yes ☐ No
34. Minimal acreage cutout and planning requirements ☐ Yes ☐ No
35. Survey (location of septic/trenches and well) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Dedicated to preserve

CLOSING

36. Close by date _____
37. Identify Board officer to attend closing _____
38. Provide attorneys with seller/donors Corporate Authority Resolution (for signature authority if applicable, i.e.: Inc. or LLC ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
39. Visit property before closing to ensure its condition ☐ Yes ☐ No
40. Review settlement statement ☐ Yes ☐ No
41. Proration of property taxes, drainage assessments, etc. and applicable CRP/other payments ☐ Yes ☐ No
42. Prepare deed, sales disclosure, closing affidavit ☐ Yes ☐ No
43. Establish closing date, time and location ☐ Yes ☐ No
44. Settlement Statement less than \$10,000 - Chase bank cashier's check ☐ Yes ☐ No
45. Settlement Statement more than \$10,000 - Chase bank wire transfer ☐ Yes ☐ No
46. Request title company to mail copy of recorded deed/conservation easement document ☐ Yes ☐ No

Post Closing

47. Add to general liability insurance ☐ Yes ☐ No
48. Send gift letter if applicable after deed recording ☐ Yes ☐ No
49. File tax exemption ☐ Yes ☐ No
50. Send signed legal document to IDNR/TNC etc ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
51. Establish farm and CRP information with the FSA office ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
52. Is there a farm lease to enter ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
53. Preserve ☐ OPEN or ☐ CLOSED to public
54. Work with county highway and planning commission for required permits and approval for parking and signage ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
55. Contractor quotes ☐ Yes ☐ No
56. Follow up on zoning change with planning commission if applicable ☐ Yes ☐ No
57. Ensure receipt of recorded deed, CE, other document for office file ☐ Yes ☐ No
58. Enter property info into database ☐ Yes ☐ No
59. Plan opening event ☐ Yes ☐ No
60. Begin State Dedication paperwork ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
61. Initiate Preserve Management Plan ☐ Yes ☐ No
62. Initiate species list ☐ Yes ☐ No
63. Mark boundaries ☐ Yes ☐ No
64. Send letter of introduction to neighbors ☐ Yes ☐ No

Land Acquisition Criteria for Potential Projects

Indiana Heritage Trust

Project #:

Date Rec'd:

BICENTENNIAL NATURE TRUST APPLICATION

Project number

Summary Appraisal Valuation
Of

10.09± ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY
STEININGER R/E INVESTORS '11

Located to the Rear of

Center Spread: Bender Memorial Forest, Noble County, Shane Perfect

BEHIND THE SCENE

I loved the tree shadows on this wintery day in 2011 as I was looking west along the south branch of the Elkhart River. Lloyd Bender established ACRES' fourth nature preserve in 1965 with his generous gift of 55 acres. His generosity over the next ten years increased this preserve to 116 acres.



programs & EVENTS

BRUSH AND BOTTLE

Saturday, December 20, 2–6 pm

Presented by: Casey Jones

Enjoy a painting workshop at Wildwood as we render the winter landscape from the comforts of indoors. We will provide all painting supplies including; 16 x 20 canvas, frame, warmth of a wood stove and libations to aid in artistic expression. This is a good opportunity to create a personalized gift before the holidays! Limit of 4. RSVP required. Contact Casey to reserve your spot at **260-637-2273 ext. 6** or cjones@acreslandtrust.org

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

RESOLUTION REINFORCEMENT HIKE

Thursday, January 1, 1 pm

Presented by: Jason Kissel

Did you make a resolution to visit all ACRES' preserves this year, take more hikes, or get into better shape? Why wait? Start your year off right and join us for a hike. Short and longer hike options will be available.

WHERE: Kokiwanee, Wabash County
5825 E. 50 S., Lagro, IN 46941



Photo by Shane Perfect

SNOW MOON HIKE

Tuesday, February 3, 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 woodburning stove and grab a cup of hot chocolate before a hike down to Little Gentian Lake.

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

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Saturday, February 7, 10 am

See page 17 for details.

BODY LANGUAGE OF TREES

Saturday, February 7, 2 pm

Presented by: Jason Kissel

Learn how to interpret what the bumps, leans, bends and other structural characteristics of trees can tell you about their health and history.

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



Photo by Shane Perfect

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

2015 HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Thursday, February 26 – Sunday, March 1

Visit the ACRES' booth at the Fort Wayne War Memorial Coliseum. Volunteers needed. See page 17 for more information.



MAPLE SYRUP MAKING AND PANCAKES—TWO LOCATIONS

If the smell of warm pancakes, sausage, fresh-made syrup and the cool, crisp air of winter sound inviting, then join us for this winning combination plus a guided tour of the sugar bush at Yoder's Sugar Bush in Allen County, and at Asherwood in Wabash County. Volunteers needed. See page 17 for more information.

Saturday, March 14, 9 am – 1 pm

Presented by: Bill Harmsen and Jason Kissel

No reservations required.

\$5/person (children under 5 free)

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

Saturday, March 14, 10 am – Noon

Presented by: Bill Smith and Larry Yoder

Reservations required. 60 spots available. Please register and pay at www.acreslandtrust.org

\$5/person (children under 5 free)

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



Photos by Heather Baker

2015 WILD WALKERS SCHEDULE FOR ACRES' PRESERVES

Contact Amy Hicks at amy.hicks@cityoffortwayne.org or 260-427-6005 for more information.

DATE	PRESERVE	COUNTY	TIME
3/13	Maplewood	LaGrange	9:00–10:30 am
4/10	Kokiwanee	Wabash	8:30–10:30 am
4/24	Detering/Lonidaw	Noble	8:30–10:00 am
5/8	Richey Woods	Whitley	8:30–10:30 am
6/12	Bicentennial Woods	Allen	8:30–10:00 am
6/26	Dygert	Whitley	8:30–10:00 am
7/24	Acres Along the Wabash	Wells	8:30–10:00 am
8/14	Robb Hidden Canyon	Steuben	8:30–10:00 am
9/25	Hathaway	Wabash	8:30–10:00 am
11/13	Popp	Allen	9:00–10:30 am
12/11	Dustin	Allen	9:00–10:30 am

WINTER FUN

by Tina Puitz

When I think of winter, my pulse quickens, there's a smile on my face, and I can't wait to bundle up and get outside to play in the snow.

Others may think of cold, biting wind and want to curl up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate. No matter what winter brings this year, think about going outside and visiting an ACRES' preserve. You can visit any of the open preserves, but parking areas at the following will be maintained and accessible throughout the winter:

Allen County: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
Kosciusko County: Wildwood Nature Preserve
LaGrange County: Maple Wood Nature Preserve
Stauben County: Wing Haven Nature Preserve
Wabash County: Asherwood and Mary Thornton Nature Preserve

Being outside can reduce stress, promote physical and emotional wellness, and may help you think more clearly. Remember: there's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. Here are some ideas for outdoor winter activities in an ACRES' preserve.

1. Take a hike. *The same preserve can look very different in winter compared to summer.*
2. Snowshoe! *(Snowshoes will make short work of deep snow on the trails.)*
3. Cross country ski.
4. Walk the dog *(on a leash, please).*
5. Have a snowball fight with the kids.
6. Bird watch. *Look for bird nests in trees.*
7. Take a walk in the falling snow *("Whose woods these are I think I know...").*
8. Have a winter picnic. *Take blankets, sandwiches and hot soup in a thermos.*
9. Take photos or draw pictures of the trees.
10. Snap a family photo at your favorite preserve, *then take it again in summer at the same spot.*
11. Exercise. *Hiking in deep snow can provide an awesome workout.*
12. Play.
13. Listen to how different things sound in the winter *(interpret that two ways...).*
14. Look for animal tracks.
15. Play tag.
16. Do a winter scavenger hunt.
17. Catch a snowflake in your mouth or look at it with a magnifying glass.
18. Draw shapes or write words in the snow.
19. Make a winter nature journal.
20. See what the rivers and creeks and waterfalls look like in winter.
21. Make a snow sculpture.
22. Look for squirrel nests.
23. Listen to the sound of falling snow.
24. Use a ruler to measure the snow.
25. Enjoy hot chocolate when you get home.

Share your experiences on ACRES' website, or on Facebook, or write a poem or story and send it to us. (It might just end up in the next *Quarterly*.)

funddevelopment

by Heather Barth

Have you ever wondered how a gift to an ACRES' endowment fund benefits the organization? Wouldn't it be nice to have your gift go even further?

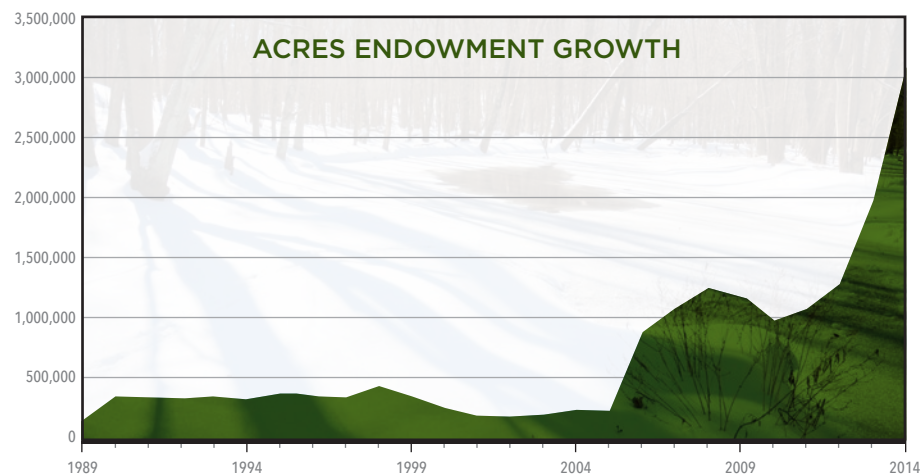
ACRES' endowment funds at community foundations serve two purposes. First, the interest earned on these funds supports the nature preserves owned and maintained by ACRES. We invest approximately \$50 per acre each year to maintain our open preserves, parking lots, trail systems, and boundaries. That equates to more than \$207,000 annually for maintenance. Revenue from our endowment funds goes a long way in supporting our efforts.

The second benefit of holding endowment funds at community foundations is that it's a great way for ACRES to support the local community at large. We value our connection with the citizens and leaders of the communities we serve. We take pride knowing that community foundations are able to continue their important work due, in part, to revenue from endowment funds they manage.

Community foundations sometimes have the opportunity to offer matching donations to gifts made to agency endowment funds. Due to a generous gift from the Lilly Endowment to local community foundations, many are currently able to provide these matching gifts. With a matching contribution from your local community foundation, your gift to an ACRES' endowment fund will go even further. Below is a partial list of foundations offering matching programs for ACRES endowment funds. Please contact the community foundation near you for more information.

*Adams County Community Foundation
Community Foundation of DeKalb County
Community Foundation of Grant County
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne*

*Huntington County Community Foundation
Noble County Community Foundation
Wells County Foundation, Inc.
Whitley County Community Foundation*



ACRES Land Trust 15

BEARS that change into TIGERS

by Jason Kissel



When you were a child, did you delight in finding woolly bears in the spring and early fall? Did you ever wonder where these black and rust caterpillars resembling fat pipe cleaners go in the winter, or what becomes of them?

Woolly bears are the larva state of the Isabella Tiger Moth. In fall, they are on the move looking for a place to hunker down for winter—usually under leaf litter, bark, or a log. Once they find a suitable place, they curl into a ball and neither move nor eat again until spring. Their fuzzy hairs (setae) provide some protection against the cold, but the caterpillars' main defense against winter is to infuse their cells with antifreeze. This natural antifreeze, glycerol, allows the caterpillar's internal temperature to reach -6° to -9°F before freezing.

Many insects use glycerol and other kinds of alcohol molecules as cryoprotectants. While these substances don't always prevent freezing, they do slow ice formation and allow fluids surrounding cells to freeze (and unfreeze) in a more controlled manner, thus preventing cell damage due to rapid freezing or thawing.

In spring, woolly bears warm up and begin feeding. Within a few days, the caterpillars spin cocoons and pupate. In about a month, they emerge as Isabella Tiger Moths—their final life stage. The moths lay eggs that turn into larvae, starting the process all over. In northeast Indiana, there are usually two generations per year. However, the first generation is rarely seen because they complete their life cycle before fall and thus don't need to seek a place to overwinter like the second generation of woolly bears.

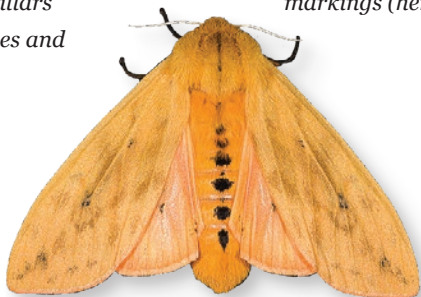
Bears that produce antifreeze and turn into tigers? Nature is amazing.

WOOLLY BEARS:

- Create a hairy cocoon
- Are also known as woolly worms or fuzzy bears
- Play dead by rolling up when disturbed
- Are not irritating to human skin unlike some haired caterpillars
- Have very small eyes and don't see well

ISABELLA TIGER MOTHS:

- Have a 2 inch average wingspan
- Cannot feed, so are short-lived in this life stage
- Lay hundreds of eggs
- Are primarily orange with black markings (hence the tiger name)



promotions/Announcements

Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer or RSVP for training, please contact Tina at acres@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273.

2015 HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Thursday, February 26 – Sunday, March 1

Help at the ACRES' booth! Share your excitement about and love of ACRES with others and receive a free exhibitor's pass to the show. All volunteers are encouraged to attend the volunteer training on Saturday, February 7 (see below).

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION/TRAINING

Saturday, February 7, 10 am

ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

If you are interested in volunteering either indoors or outside in the preserves, please plan to attend this orientation training. We will provide a general background on ACRES and speaking points to address the public, teach credit card processing, and provide a list of all volunteer opportunities.

MAPLE SYRUP MAKING AND PANCAKES

If you've never seen the process of making maple syrup, you're in for a treat.

Volunteers are needed at both locations (Asherwood and Yoder's Sugar Bush) for the following: parking, cooks, greeters, check-in and syrup sales.

Asherwood: Contact Jason Kissel at 260-637-2273 or jkissel@acreslandtrust.org

Yoder's: Contact Bill Smith at 260-438-4259 or wilgssal@aol.com



The Quarterly is Early!

Did you notice this *Quarterly* arrived earlier than usual? It normally would arrive in your mailbox in January. Our goal is to have the *Quarterly* align more closely with the seasons, so you'll be receiving the *Quarterly* in March, June, August and December. Thank you to Dave Brumm for this idea. If you have an idea you'd like to share, please email ACRES at acres@acreslandtrust.org.

Art for ACRES

Will take place at the Garrett Museum of Art July 17 through August 16, 2015, with an Artists' Reception July 17, 6 – 8 pm. All 2D and 3D art will be accepted including traditional mediums as well as photography and digital manipulation. The entry fee is \$25 for up to three pieces with cash awards totaling \$400. A percentage of the sales will benefit ACRES. As you visit the preserves, gather ideas, snap photos and create. For more information, please contact the Garrett Museum of Art at 260-357-4917.

MAUMEE RIVER SCENIC OVERLOOK

by Terri Gorney

Dan McCain grew up with an interest in history, waterways, and the outdoors. Dan's great-great grandfather, William McCain Jr, settled in Carroll County, Indiana, in 1826.

As a child, Dan played along the defunct canal in the Wabash River town of Delphi, Indiana. After retirement, Dan would play a pivotal role as a volunteer in the canal's restoration and make Delphi once again proud of its past canal days.

In 1969, when Dan was a District Conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, he was transferred to Allen County as a District Conservationist. (Glenn Poe, an ACRES founder, had held this position until his 1969 retirement.) Dan settled with his daughter in the Woodburn area. He bought a home dating back to the 1860s—a home on the banks of the Maumee River between the Wabash & Erie Canal and the river—and soon became curious as to the history of this home and property. Dan writes, "I was intrigued with the far end of this rural property as I learned that it once was known as Ashton Mill." In time, Dan wanted to make sure this little piece of history was saved.

Dan became friends with Tom and Jane Dustin and in the mid-1970s served on ACRES' board. In 1976, Dan decided to give a little "gift" of natural history to ACRES in honor of the country's bicentennial. He donated what is now ACRES' Maumee River Overlook in Allen County. Just under one acre, it is a wooded bluff overlooking the Maumee River. From there, sweeping views of the river and Bull Rapids downstream can be seen, especially in late fall and winter when leaves are off the trees.

This preserve inspired Matthew Brown to pen a few lines called "River Overlook" in his small book of poems titled *In the Silence of these Woods*. He questions: "How did a saw mill ever get a foothold where I can scarcely get one, on this bank slippery with mud?"

Dan McCain has come full circle in life. He lives in the home that his grandfather built, the home where he was born and raised. Dan likes to say that he "volunteers" at the Wabash & Erie Canal Park when, in fact, Dan was the driving force behind Canal Park. He led a campaign to raise \$3 million to make this dream a reality. Today in Delphi he is involved with Delphi Historic Trails, Canal Park, and Wabash & Erie Conference and Interpretive Center.

The Interpretive Center with interactive exhibit galleries was built in 2003-4 with mostly volunteer labor. The American Association of State & Local History named the Center the "best new volunteer-driven museum in this United States." Dan has motivated many people to donate and volunteer for this project. He was given the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest recognition the governor of Indiana can bestow upon a citizen. Dan currently serves on the Society of Indiana Pioneers board of governors in Indianapolis and the Canal Society of Indiana.

Hoosier native Dan McCain is an example of the difference one person can make. Indiana is a richer place because of his efforts. Our hats are off to you, Dan!



Maumee River Scenic Overlook by Larry Bieberich

SPECIALthanks

Glen and Chris Bickel
donating a garden cart

Dave Boylan, Marge Costa, Don Thornton,
Mary and Ralph Campbell, Allyson Ellis,
Angie O'Neill, Carol Gaham, Bill Kilgore
and Judy Schroff
collating the *Quarterly*

Carol Roberts
editing the *Quarterly*

All our *Quarterly* distributors

Granite City Food & Brewery
donating beer for the Barn Series

Tim and Nancy Eviston
donating a book of stamps

D2 Land and Water Resource
donating coir logs at various preserves

Cheryl Allen
donating 2-17" flat screen monitors

Advanced Disposal
donating waste removal services

Keith and Louise Pomeroy
hosting the Popp Open House

Jeannette Kent
donating books from her collection

Cheryl Noyer
donating coffee for the office

iAB Wealth Advisory employees
Joe Byers, Alice Kopfer, Sherri Chaney,
Jennifer Witmer and Marian Steffen
helping at the office

Fred and Sally Meeks
donating firewood

Michael Perry
donating postage stamps



Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960,
ACRES manages and protects 90 nature preserves
totaling 5,454 acres.



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



1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, 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, John Clark, Joe Conrad, Pam George, Connie Haas-Zuber, James Haddock, Mary Ibe, Ashley Motia, David Nugent, Angie O'Neill, Mark O'Shaughnessy, Angie Quinn, Adam Turner, Michelle 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., 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.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Photo by Savanna Vaughn



Nature replaces our walls with bridges, something ACRES Land Trust's Tina Puitz saw hiking six Noble County preserves with her daughter, Molly. The teen had agreed to go but wasn't excited. Soon, however,

it was Molly leading the way, Molly examining a snail, Molly pointing out a snake, Molly blazing a way through downed trees. "There was a calmness between the two of us; we didn't talk very much," Tina says. They didn't have to. And when they did talk? Tina remembers that "our conversation was different. We talked about our surroundings and the things we had seen. I think we wanted to hold on to the moment we had."