

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2017 | Vol. 56 - No. 2



ACRES
LANDTRUST

*Lee Family Perfect Lake Nature Preserve
Your Annual Meeting & Picnic
The Nature of ACRES' Springy Places
Nature Preserve Act turns 50!
The Art & Science of a Place in Forever*



From the Executive Director

Photo by Ben Wheeler

Dear Members,

It's easy to lose track of time in a preserve. Minutes quickly turn into hours. However, I want to describe an even deeper loss of time. In a preserve's interior, there are no indications of the year, decade, or even century you are in. Natural systems (forests, grasslands, wetlands) don't give us hints to the current time period.

In an ACRES preserve parking lot, your vehicle, phone, clothes, the homes in sight, the plane overhead, the powerlines, the road—all provide indications of the time period you are in. But once you step into the preserve, time periods are indistinct. A forest today looks largely the same as an equally aged forest in 1917, 1817, or 1717. Although each tree reveals how old it is, trees don't give away the time period they occupy. A white oak today is the same "model" as a white oak in 1417 (and will still be the same model in 2217).

Natural systems are predisposed to age undisturbed, and indefinitely. They are in no hurry because there are no deadlines—no endings. Natural systems are dynamic: while the ones you walk through today will be different in a century, there is no end to a system left undisturbed. Human preferences change quickly: you can easily assign a time period to what we create or manipulate, from clothing to technology. Natural systems' preferences are often indistinguishable, even over millennia.

These timeless spaces within the preserves provide unique opportunities. Without the reference of time, barriers are reduced, expansive thoughts are encouraged, and broader perceptions come into view. You can place yourself within eternity.

Preserves are timeless. This is why you and I, through ACRES, commit to protecting them forever.

Sincerely,

 Jason Kissel

Jason Kissel
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 2

Cover photo of Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run by Thomas Sprunger.
Explore this incredible preserve from the gorge at ACRES' 9th Annual Creek Stomp, Saturday, August 5. See page 13 for details.



ACRES Land Trust preserves, protects and manages 105 properties totaling 6,665 acres.

You can explore more than 70 miles of trails through forever-protected nature preserves, dawn to dusk, thanks to your member support.



1802 Chapman Road
PO Box 665
Huntertown, IN 46748-0665
260.637.ACRE (2273)
email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



WELCOME

93newmembers!

Hardin Aasand and Amy Kraus
Jeffrey Adams
Kellie Adkins
Debbie Aker
Samuel Barker
Bernie and Janet Becker
Shawn Bell
Kristi Bennett
Kathleen Benson-Chaney
and Victor Chaney
Hugo and Linda Bietz
Theresa Bissell
Lori and Audie Blaylock
Torrey Blevins
Bob Briones
Megan Butler
Beth Buyze
Susan Chisholm
David Cooper
John and Jennifer Court
Doug Crooks
Grace Danel
Mary Diskey
Sharon Dobbins
D. Larry Dockter
Gary Dunn
James Edlund
Julie and Joey Farison
Alesia Feiertag
Lori Gagen
Patricia and Lance Garrett
Garringer Family
Jessica Gawlik
John Gevers

Terri and Greg Habig
Ellen Harmsen
Larry and Julie Hook
Kenneth Hughes
Randal and Tonya Hughes
Rebecca Hughes
Jim Hunt
Linda and John Jackson
Mathew Kendig
Nick and Jana Leitch
Beth Lovitt
Steve and Kelly Lugabihl
Joan Luther
Don and Ann Marqueling
Jennifer and Mitch McGinnis
Jeremy McManama
Kathy Melmoth
Derek and Susan Mendenhall
Carole Meyer
Elizabeth Meyer
Maddie Miller
Michael Morris
Angel Moschel-Foster
and Brian Foster
Victoria Mumaw
Nancy Myers
Cindy Nieman
Ken and Beth Perkins
Steve Pomeroy
Audra Reinders
Amy Reinking
from Heather Barth
Sheri Rex
Christina Ricketts

Shelby and Rick Rogers
Roberta Schafer
Amanda Scheitlin
Bill Shady
William Shaw
Amber Sherman and
John Salway
Roberta Schafer
Kate Sedlaczek
James and Susan Smith
Samantha Smith
Lisa and Elbert Starks III
Becky Steinhoff
Gordon Steinke
Mark and Kathleen Suhovecky
Rachel Tobin-Smith
from Carol and Randy Roberts
Haley VanDerWee
Andrew Williams
Susan Williams
John and Susan Wuest
Paul Yoder
Nancy Yorke
Maxine Young
Alice Jeannine Walker
Daniel and Susan Westrick
Dale and Diane Wilson
Janelle Windsor
Xinyang Zhou

life members
Luther Eberly

tributes

Pat Barrett
from Patricia and Lance Garrett

Megan Ryan's 30th Birthday
from Roger Mitchell and Beverly Dowling

memorials

Rex and Millie Bear
from Trevor and Julia Broyles
Diane Compton
from Tina Puitz
Charles Foster
from Antwerp High School Class of '64
Jim Haw
from Gwen and Jim Seely
Ted Hemingway
from Joe and Nancy Conrad
Marshmallow Marshall
from Kellie Adkins, Laurie and John Arnold,
Jen Marshall, Emily Marshall

Jerry Stratman and his beloved dog, Savannah Jane
from Tim Gerardot
Fred Mackel
from Marilyn Alexander, Mike Amorini,
Dick and Adie Baach, Fred and Mary Anna Feitler,
Fort Wayne Orthopedics, Daniel and Nancy
Hamlin, Cynthia and Daryl Korpela, Scott Miller,
MD, Angie O'Neill, Nancy Parker, Ellie Ray,
Janel Avery Rogers, Sam and Jan Schwartz,
Jon and Janna Steinke, Elizabeth Weatherford,
George and Martha Weatherford
Dexter Salway
from Amber Sherman and John Salway



Judge William Lee preserves conservation legacy: Lee Family Perfect Lake Nature Preserve



By Lettie Haver, Outreach Manager
Preserve photos by Shane Perfect

Preserving his conservation legacy, ACRES member and local civic leader U.S. Federal Judge William Lee has permanently protected 84 acres of breathtaking Steuben County landscape with ACRES.

The Lee Family Perfect Lake Nature Preserve forever extends Judge Lee's 50-year history of helping protect land.

"I'm motivated by this whole concept of doing something perpetual, permanent, of something that lasts," says Judge Lee. "Especially in today's culture. Forever? That's pretty neat."

"ACRES promises never to sell or develop this land," says executive director Jason Kissel. "Together with our members, we stand by the promise our founders made in 1960: we *will* protect this place forever."

Judge Lee's own "forever" story dovetails with ACRES' story: "I knew your founders. I was well-acquainted with Jim Barrett" says Judge Lee. "He wrote the Nature Preserve Act that protects what you do."

Judge Lee joined ACRES in 1967, the same year the Indiana legislature passed the Act that Barrett wrote. He purchased the Steuben County property in early 1970, a few months before he was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana, and only weeks before the first Earth Day.

"I'm motivated by this whole concept of doing something perpetual, permanent, of something that lasts. Especially in today's culture. Forever? That's pretty neat."

— Judge William Lee

"I knew people would be in my office wanting to prosecute water polluters," he says.

"At the time, there was no Environmental Protection Agency, so I devised a sort of Rube Goldberg plan, a system for prosecution. I set forth steps to put together evidence, investigative guidelines based on the Refuse Act of 1899, and it worked."

Judge Lee's work won three cases, defeating U.S. Steel, DuPont, and a local refinery. His efforts earned him the Izaak Walton League of America National Conservation Award in 1972. (He suspects Tom and Jane Dustin, two of ACRES founders, and active "Ikes" leaders, nominated him for the award.)

"The Perfect Lake land was a personal retreat for renewing my spirits."

Judge Lee enjoyed walking, cutting brush, mowing, maintaining his personal trail, sometimes fishing (mostly bass), and observing from "little interesting spots along seasonal streams."

"The place is an environmental wonder in terms of diversity," says Judge Lee.

An upland forest surrounds an esker running the preserve's length; both overlook a small lake, a high quality fen, a sedge meadow, and a marl flat.

He's seen a couple of foxes, plenty of wild turkeys, many deer and quail, and watched swans from a neighboring pond visit Perfect Lake. Once, while out walking, he scared off a coyote.

"One of the most interesting things I saw was a beautiful Ring-necked Pheasant.

And I watched a Bald Eagle catch a 10–12 inch bass it could barely handle, then struggle to fly off with it. I remember coming upon baby beavers swimming around. When their mother saw me, she circled, slapped her tail on the water, and they all disappeared—slick as a whistle."

"Through Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District publications, I became aware of the federally endangered White cat's paw pearly mussel. I understand the only place in the world it is known to exist is the Fish Creek watershed, of which my lake is the headwaters."

"You know, it's interesting that land can just 'be there,' not be cluttered up," says Judge Lee. To ACRES members, he nods, "I admire very much what you're up to."

Judge Lee protected his land with ACRES through a significant bargain sale. The Bicentennial Nature Trust and Steuben County Community Foundation provided additional funding.



GLOSSARY OF LAND TERMS

Esker: a long, winding gravel ridge deposited by retreating glacial meltwaters

Fen: see pages 8–9 for details on these "springy places."

Headwaters: the source waters of a river or stream.

Marl: unconsolidated or broken-up rock or soil made of clay and lime.

Sedge meadows: wet places dominated by grass-like plants called sedges and usually found between hilly land (uplands) and bodies of water.

Watershed: an area of land where all the water flows toward the same body of water.

IN YOUR WORDS: A Member Profile

NATURAL INDIANA:

A quest and vision from ACRES member Dick Loney

By Lettie Haver, Outreach Manager
Photos from a few Cedar Creek Corridor preserves

*“There wasn’t a woods I hadn’t been in,
or a stream I hadn’t been on within 20 miles
of my home, when I was a kid.”*

– Dick Loney

To date, long-time ACRES member and volunteer Dick Loney has seen roughly 467 nature preserves in Indiana. He’s also spent plenty of time on home turf, helping tend ACRES preserves. What comes of a lifetime quest—an insatiable curiosity for seeing and protecting natural Indiana firsthand? Where does one begin?

“It was the 1950s. We always explored as kids. Woods, streams, these were much more open in those days. The Yellow Creek off the South Branch Elkhart River was my home creek. It was all swirls and swimming holes with rope swings. We spent all our time there when we weren’t farming.” He started hiking when he was about 12 and along the way, made friends with the same interests.

“I was darn close to [being a] charter ACRES member. I saw the clippings for Spurgeon [ACRES’ first preserve]. I’d been there quite often before it was a preserve. I had friends who lived nearby who’d taken me for walks there, with permission, of course.”

“You know, I’ve been exploring with friends long enough that I’ve seen many places before they became nature preserves. The first preserve in Indiana—Pine Hills Nature Preserve, I used to practice rock climbing there.” [Pine Hills Nature Preserve is located within Shades State Park, west of Indianapolis. It is protected by Indiana’s Department of Natural Resources.]



Bicentennial Woods by Jarrod Spicer

Loney keeps two binders: one with a master list of where he’s been, and one with a page for each place he’s visited or driven by (he drives by closed preserves in winter when he can see into them). From his explorations, he records his general impressions: “No botanical assessments. A layman’s view.” He also keeps a bucket list by county, in case he’s headed nearby.

As a young adult, Loney worked for GTE as a lineman. “With gobs of overtime traveling. I’d stop in preserves along the way. It was a natural extension of my youth.” He later retired from the company after working in loss recovery, a position that also offered significant travel time.

Today, people call on Loney for advice on what to see when they’re heading across the state. He shares his experience: “Don’t try to see the juncture of the Ohio and Wabash.

You just can’t see it. There’s no vista.” The state’s largest spring? “Forget it. It’s on the map but there’s no trespassing, and they mean it.”



A closed preserve, by Jarrod Spicer



The Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
by Thomas Sprunger

Years ago, Loney volunteered with ACRES as a Preserve Steward, mowing, trimming and caring for our Wells County and Huntington preserves. “I used to be out every day, before my wife, Jean, developed Alzheimer’s disease.” He spent two years removing Japanese Bush Honeysuckle from Anna Brand Hammer. He was on the verge of total success when he suffered a stroke and a heart attack.

Today he continues to volunteer, now as a Trail Monitor, keeping an eye on and reporting on trails at Blue Cast Springs, Anna Brand Hammer, Munro, Maumee Overlook, and Acres Along the Wabash.

Favorite places? Loney has many. “The Kankakee Sands are one of my favorites. You’ve got to see the prairie wildflowers.”

Favorite ACRES preserves? “Cedar Creek. No matter where you are, it’s really great.

I’d say the same for Steuben County preserves, Ropchan Wildlife Refuge. Anna Brand Hammer is really great for flowers. It’s unexpected, but just great.”

His walks have given rise to Loney’s vision for ACRES, for preservation: “I see a lot of potential places worthy of protection in Kosciusko County. Lots of wetlands and rivers that wander through.”

*“My dream for ACRES overall is
corridors—connecting protected land
and saving more glacial features before
they all get developed.”*

EXPLORING THE PRESERVES

What is a Fen?

The Nature of ACRES' Springy Places

Beechwood Nature Preserve

by Nate Simons, Executive Director, Blue Heron Ministries

"Springy places" the early pioneers called them...probably because the pioneers frequently encountered springs of water emanating from these wet landscapes, or maybe because walking on these bouncy wetlands put a spring in their step. These globally rare ecosystems are also known as "fens" or "prairie fens."

Prairie fens are found in the glaciated regions of the upper Midwest: predominantly in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and southern Ontario, Canada. In Indiana, though a rare landscape type, fens are more common in the lakes region of Steuben, LaGrange, Noble, and Kosciusko Counties.

Essentially wet prairies, fens are unique wetlands on a slope, characterized by plant communities found in sun-drenched landscapes: A continuous flow of cool groundwater in and through fens makes them unique. Over time, these springy places develop a thick layer of peat as the production of roots plus the tops of sedges, grasses and wildflowers greatly outpaces decomposition under the anaerobic or saturated soil. (Saturated soil is produced by groundwater rich in calcium carbonates and magnesium bicarbonates but poor in nutrients.)

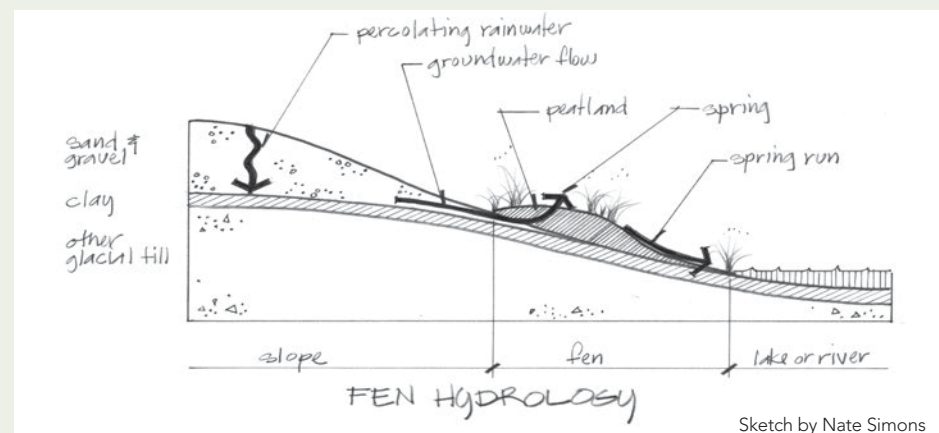
Under these conditions, a lush, diverse collection of prairie plant species thrive and accumulate peat...even in summers of drought.

Prairie fens are habitat for many of the Midwest's rarest plants and animals: These mineral-rich, yet nutrient-poor peatlands are home to poisonous things like Poison Sumac and the federally-endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes, as well as demure species such as the ubiquitous Tussuck Sedge, Blue-Joint Grass, Prairie Cord Grass and the beautiful Small White Lady's Slipper Orchid.

Marsh Blazing Star, Shrubby Cinquefoil, and the federally-endangered Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly also call fens home.

Interestingly, prairie fens are also home to plants that one would expect in drier uplands. Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, and even Little Bluestem often show up in these saturated peatlands

The hydrology of a fen system is complex: Rather than running off the land, rainwater soaks into the sandy and gravelly soils of the hills and plains near the rim of a glaciated valley. As the water percolates through the soil, it dissolves calcium and magnesium minerals. This mineral-laden "hard water" continues downward through the porous layers of glacial till until it encounters a dense layer such as clay. The groundwater travels along the tilted face of the clay layer until it finds an exit point at or near the base of a hillside. Here, the groundwater springs to the surface and continues its down-slope journey to a receiving body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. This groundwater frequently develops spring runs, or surface streams, as it carves its way through the sloped peat.



ACRES Land Trust members protect dozens of fens: A fen is located on the north shore of Little Gentian Lake at Wing Haven. The Wetland Loop Trail at Beechwood Nature Preserve meanders through a little fen where brush has been managed, and fire has been returned to the landscape. Sauga Swamp Nature Preserve in Noble County, Kokiwanee in Wabash County, the newly-acquired Perfect Lake Nature Preserve in Steuben County and the Walter H. and E. Marie Myers Nature Preserve on Flowers Creek in Miami County (the latter two not yet open to the public) have good examples of fens.

Lots of sunlight, an accumulation of peaty soil, mineral-rich groundwater flowing to adjacent rivers and lakes, a rich diversity of native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers make ACRES' springy places absolute wonders and reminders of original creation...a pleasure to visit and a pleasure to protect. Will you explore the fens you help to protect this summer?

Center Spread by Thomas Sprunger photographed at much-loved Kokiwanee in Wabash County. Kokiwanee features waterfalls, both flat and hilly climbs, fantastic wildflower displays and incredible views of the Salamonie River where Bald Eagles live and hunt. You've got to see this incredible place that you help protect, right here at home.



SHARE THE TRAILS HIKES

Saturday, June 3, 10 am

STEBEN COUNTY | Robb Hidden Canyon
425 Lane 201, Ball Lake, Hamilton, IN 46742

Celebrate National Trails Day! Explore trails through steep, wooded ravines and views from the grassy meadow overlooking Ball Lake.

Saturday, July 1, 10 am

JAY COUNTY | Bibler Nature Preserve
5504 S. 400 E, Portland, IN 47371

Once part of a homestead called Spring Brook Farm, this preserve has once-cultivated farm fields, as well as grasslands and second-growth woods of oak, hickory and maple.

Saturday, August 5, 10 am

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Bock Nature Preserve
11630 S. SR 14, Akron, IN 46910

Enjoy tall-grass prairie plants and a beech/maple forest with tulip, sycamore, black cherry and blue ash.



THE MATCHSELLERS BARN CONCERT

Thursday, June 8, 6–8 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Dustin Barn
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748; The Barn entrance is east of the main drive

Celebrate protected land with world class hillbilly music, deeply rooted in bluegrass with a mix of old time tradition. Bring your own refreshments.

MIDNIGHT MOON MEANDER

Friday, June 9, 11:59 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Kokiwanee
5825 E. 50 S., Lagro, IN 46941

It's late! The nightlife and full-moon-lit waterfalls of this incredible place will be well worth your lost sleep. Come make some moon shadows with us. *Presented by the Kissel family.*

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Thursday, June 15, 6–8 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Dustin Barn
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748; The Barn entrance is east of the main drive

All volunteers welcome. Spend some time getting to know new and seasoned volunteers as we celebrate your efforts and show our appreciation of your time and talents. Dinner compliments of ACRES' staff. *RSVP by June 8 to tpuitz@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273, ext 4.*

SUMMER BARN CONCERT FOR MEMBERS

Thursday, June 22, 6–9 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Dustin Barn
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748; (entrance is east of the main drive)

Members, gather to enjoy a summer evening in the barn with great company, good food and drinks and the lively sounds of local band, The Distractions. Made possible by the Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation. *Hosted by Nancy and Joe Conrad.*

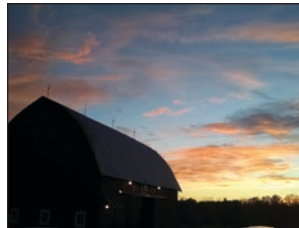


Photo by Dave Brumm

DEEP LISTENING FOR MEMBERS

Deep Listening explores the difference between involuntary hearing and the voluntary, selective act of listening. Participants will practice different methods of listening, or sonic meditations, experiencing the preserves in rich, wild and surprising ways. Sessions are introductory and standalone. *Presented by Brett Bloom, Deep Listening facilitator.* *RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call the office at 260-637-2273.*

Saturday, June 24, 10 am–1 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Saturday, July 29, 10 am–1 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run
1866 E. Baumbauer Road, Wabash, IN 46992

Saturday, August 26, 10 am–1 pm

NOBLE COUNTY | Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve
9478 N. 600 W, Ligonier, IN 46767

CREEK STOMP IX

Saturday, August 5, 10 am

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

It's that time again—time for your exclusive invitation to explore this amazing gorge off trail. You'll get up-close-and-personal with leeches, pinching crayfish, biting mosquitoes, fossils, waterfalls, cliffs, minnows, salamanders, and—if we are lucky—a snake or two. *Presented by the Kissel family*



Photo by Ringo Santiago

200-YEAR ECOLOGICAL REFLECTION KICKOFF PARTY

Saturday, Aug 12, 2 pm

STEBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven
180 W 400 N, Angola, IN 46703

Celebrate the kickoff of a 200-year study of Wing Haven through both art and science. Learn about Ecological Reflection, participate in hands-on activities, and enjoy the musical musings of The Goat's Beards—"a dynamic and ornery duo featuring fiddle, banjo and guitar." Learn more about this 200-year project on pages 16–17.

VICTORY NOLL TALK & WALK FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, August 19, 10 am

HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Victory Noll Acres
1900 W. Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750; Meet at the Administration Building

Explore land that is not yet open to the public. Learn about the land ethic of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters from a discussion with Sister Ginger Downey and Jason Kissel. Then, tour the Victory Noll campus, followed by a walk through the forests and fields of Victory Noll Acres.

16TH ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, September 9, 2–5 pm

STEBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven
180 W 400 N, Angola, IN 46703

Relax as you paddle Seven Sisters Lakes, then enjoy a light meal and social time with other ACRES members. Bring your own canoe or kayak—we'll provide the meal. *RSVP to Heather Barth by September 1 at 260-637-2273, ext. 5 or hbarth@acreslandtrust.org*



Forging a Path to Forever:

ACRES and the Indiana Nature Preserves Act

ACRES' founders were pivotal in establishing Indiana's Nature Preserve Act, protecting land across the state, forever. Pictured left to right are a few founders: Ethyle Bloch, Jane Dustin, John Klotz (with binoculars), Jim Barrett, unidentified, Werner Reifsteck, and Tom Dustin.

by David Van Gilder, *Board member, past board president and environmental law attorney*

Jim Barrett is a personal hero of mine. A consummate gentleman, Jim was learned, inquisitive, eloquent, kind, one of the most intelligent and careful attorneys I have known, and an expert in real estate law. Most remarkable is how his deep friendship with Tom and Jane Dustin led to Jim's authoring the **Indiana Nature Preserves Act**, a foundational law that for 50 years has been the basis of ACRES' promise to protect lands in perpetuity.



Jim Barrett

This is the story of the law and its origins here, in your land trust.

In 1967 ACRES Land Trust held just 164 acres of land and had little support except the vision, intelligence, and tenacity of its founders who included Tom and Jane Dustin, and James M. Barrett III of the Barrett & McNagny firm.

Prior to this, before ACRES was founded, the Dustins had invited Jim and others to their home to discuss how to identify and preserve local natural areas. Tom and Jane also brought Jim and Pat Barrett on

camping trips to Wyoming's mountains and lakes. As Jim later said, "Marvelous experience. Cemented it for me. Some of the best vacations I ever had." Thus the Dustins succeeded in establishing a life-long friendship and recruiting to ACRES' cause one of the best legal minds in the area.

Jim found only Illinois and Iowa had laws attempting to protect nature preserves. Realizing Indiana should have such a law, but with extra protection, **Jim drafted the statute to include three extra protections that set an insurmountable barrier to any interests that might want to strip protection from a nature preserve:**

1. A strong public policy statement: It is *"necessary and desirable that areas of unusual natural significance be set aside and preserved for the benefit of present and future generations before the areas have been destroyed."*
2. A clause guarding against future development pressures (when a community might try to find a "better" use for a nature preserve), by declaring the nature preserves are *"the highest, best, and most important use for the public benefit"*
3. A final strengthening portion preventing any interference with a nature preserve *"except after notice and public hearing, and specific and persuasive finding of imperative and unavoidable public necessity"* by the highest body of the Department of Natural Resources, AND the signature of the Governor of Indiana.

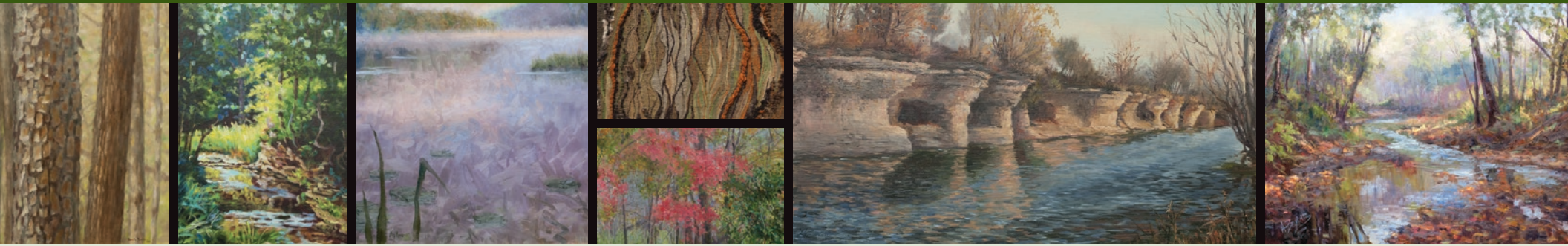
Since the 1967 law was enacted, ACRES has partnered with the Division of Nature Preserves which oversees the system of dedicated preserves. ACRES founders' high ideal and Jim Barrett's precise legal drafting have served us well. **With you and your fellow members' continued participation and the support of the Nature Preserves Act, ACRES will make good on its promise of protection forever.**

Many thanks to Annika Van Gilder whose notes from a May 1, 2011, personal interview with Jim Barrett supplied this article's Barrett quote. Find the entire text of the Nature Preserves Act at [Indiana Code 14-31](#), and links to other articles celebrating 50 years of nature preserves at [acreslandtrust.org/headlines](#).



James M. & Patricia D. Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve by Jarrid Spicer

ECOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS: *The Art & Science of a Place in Forever*



ACRES' commissioned art, left to right, by: Pamela Turnbow, Terry Pulley, Fred Deloresco, Jena Oke (top); Karen Moriarty (bottom); opposite page: Gwen Gutwein and Andrea Bojrab.

WHAT: A 200-year project compiling commissioned work by artists and scientists, an investigation into and reflection on how a particular place changes through time.

WHERE: Our Wing Haven preserve near Angola with an artist studio and rich diversity of plants, birds, mammals, and aquatic species in 3 major ecosystems: glacially carved kettle-hole lakes bordered by a wetland fen system; upland forests; rolling grasslands/meadows.

WHEN: 2017 – 2217

WHY: A short-term project of 200 years helps you and future generations of ACRES members visualize land in the unfathomable scale of *forever*.

Curating work in the arts and sciences from a specific place over two centuries will provide a wealth of content, inspiring people like you to see land and its protection in a new way. 200 years of reflection will cultivate great joy, affection and support for this place, and for protecting land.

HOW: ACRES is working with professionals to outline guidelines for commissioning art. Manchester University and Purdue University are already developing science protocols.

To fund the project, ACRES has placed seed money in an endowment: The Lupke Foundation has pledged \$100,000, and an additional \$60,000 in pledges and gifts has also been secured. Interest on this endowment will pay artists and scientists to create artwork and conduct research. ACRES' goal is for the endowment to reach \$1 million.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE: You're invited to launch the project with a Kick-off Party on Saturday, August 12, 2 pm. See page 13 for details.

"It's hard for most of us to visualize what forever means. This 'short-term' project of 200 years reinforces ACRES commitment to forever, gets people thinking about time differently, and demonstrates how ACRES views land-changes over two centuries."

– Jason Kissel

by Carol Roberts, Board Vice President and Quarterly Editor

Edna Spurgeon was a woman with vision. A half century ago she donated her beloved Noble County land to a new, little-known organization. The Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve became ACRES' first preserve. Spurgeon's motivation? Not the land's economic value, but our promise to preserve it *forever*.

**Just how much can land and how we relate to it change over two centuries?
Take a deep breath.**

- 1817** Indigenous peoples lived here. "A primal forest covered some twenty million acres of the Indiana territory, one of the greatest stands of hardwoods anywhere on earth" (Scott Russell Sanders. *Wild and Scenic Indiana*. 2005).
- 1917** The great hardwoods had become rare: "Only 6% of Indiana was covered in woodlands, the rest stripped of trees...most wetlands drained to yield millions of tillable acres" (Sanders).
- 2017** Wing Haven's original old-growth forest, which had become pasture land, is now returning to a mature forest. Jason Kissel calls this "a pretty big shift in just 200 years."

These time-line snapshots demonstrate incredible change in a short span of 200 years. To highlight the alternative, dramatic story of preservation, ACRES is creating an Ecological Reflections project. Kissel explains that "ideally, we'll reach a million dollar endowment so we can support a full-fledged artist-in-residence program (each artist living and creating art at Winghaven for 3 to 6 months), and robust ongoing science research on the property. This two-century stream of documented information coming from Wing Haven will make a clearer, closer connection to this land."

Artists inherently seek inspiration through nature. In this project, you will see something distinct through each artist's eyes. You will have opportunities to enrich your life through the arts generated, and the scientific data collected. And those who follow you will also have this legacy of information to help them see, feel, understand, and value natural places. People will be inspired to protect land.

Kissel says ACRES commitment to forever is reinforced through the "seasonality" of coming back to the property. *"Nature is at Wing Haven every day, every season. We're getting into the rhythm of the preserve by continuing this project for two centuries. It is an ecological reflection on the land."*

1919 1920

ACRES ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1 - 4 PM

Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Dustin Barn and ACRES Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Parking is at the Dustin Barn, located east of the main drive

Celebrate the land you love on land you protect with your fellow members!

Our Annual Meeting is a picnic. You're welcome to come and go as you please. Share a guided hike, chat with your fellow members and relax with simple food and great music.

You'll find picnic tables and benches in the barn, or you can bring your own picnic blanket, favorite lawn chairs, even frisbees, kites, and binoculars. You help protect this land — come out and enjoy it!

Annual Meeting Schedule

1:00 pm	Annual Report by Jason Kissel, executive director	Dustin Barn
2:30 pm	<i>(Jason will speak twice, welcoming members who arrive later)</i>	
1:15 - 3:45 pm	Bluegrass by Audie Blaylock and friend	Dustin Barn
	Homemade Stew Buffet by ACRES Board Members	Dustin Barn
	Meat and vegan options. Breads, fruits and veggies, too.	
	Dessert Buffet	ACRES Office*
	Vote on board members	ACRES Office*

Choose Your Own Adventure - Optional Guided Hikes

All hikes leave from the Dustin Barn

1:15 - 2:15 pm	Forest Bathing — Christy Thomson, certified Forest Therapist
	Flat hike above Cedar Creek — Jeff Ormiston, Naturalist, Allen County Parks
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Nature Literature Trek & Talk — Theresa Ransbottom, ACRES volunteer
	Hike down the ravine to Cedar Creek — Larry Yoder, Director Emeritus, Merry Lea

*Picnic, \$10**/person. Visit acreslandtrust.org/annualpicnic for picnic reservations, or call the ACRES office at (260) 637-2273 or stop by at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748 by **September 8**.*

**Golf carts available to escort you from the barn to the office if you need a ride*

***All members welcome at no charge. Tickets for picnic only.*

SPECIAL thanks

Our *Quarterly* distributors

Preserve Workday crews

Ralph and Mary Campbell, Laura Colpitts, Kris Connerly, Joe and Nancy Conrad, Pam George, Tedra Hemingway, Richard Pacer, Judy Schroff collating the *Winter Quarterly*

Dave Brumm

helping set up the booth at the Home and Garden Show

Dana Bromelmeier, Beth Buyze, Joe and Nancy Conrad, Katia Cook, Luther Eberly, Charles Enea, Evan Hill, Pam George, Lettie Haver and Tony Torres, Mary Lou Hutter, Warren Mead, Theresa Ransbottom, Kathy and Doug Rogers, Ellsworth Smith, Joann and John Smith, Bob and Donna Streeter, Haley Van Der Weele, Darrell and Sue Will

working the booth at the Home and Garden Show

Leslie Carmin

helping with mailing at the office

Shane Perfect and Thomas Sprunger photographing the preserves on assignment

Jeri Kornegay volunteering to write

Carol Roberts editing and revising the *Quarterly*

Bill Smith

donating copy paper

Taylor Puitz

helping at the office

Preserve stewards, caretakers and trail monitors

Maple Syrup making volunteers

Rich Bailey refinishing the office floors

Laura Colpitts, Joe Conrad, Pam George, Chuck Lake, Pam Morton, Theresa Ransbottom, Russ Voorhees and Fred Wooley leading guided hikes

Pam George planning our Annual Meeting & Picnic

Tony Fleming, Dave Hicks and John Jay Smith leading wildflower and geology hikes

Art Eberhardt and Jim Shearer hosting the Adopt-A-Tree Festival

Theresa Ransbottom and Kirk Swaidner leading our spring Book Discussion

Dave Brumm and Daniel Faurote helping with our booth at the IPFW Family Resource Fair; Volunteer contributing writers

Rob Tayloe and Sons welcoming Noble County Passport explorers

Carol Spallone and Ashley Motia helping with the Giving Back Fort Wayne Volunteer Fair

wish list

Gift cards for program refreshments

Postage stamps

Digital video camera

Invitations to present ACRES to your group

Gas cards for preserve photographers

ACORN SOCIETY BREAKFAST

Thursday, Sept 14, 7:45 am

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Office

1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Members of the Acorn Society, a group of planned giving donors, are invited to gather to celebrate their lasting community legacy through planned giving. *RSVP to Heather Barth at hbarth@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273, ext. 5.*

SAVE THE DATE: BLUE JEAN GALA

Friday, Oct. 6

Look for more details in the fall *Quarterly*.

DIRECTORS: Steven Hammer, President; Carol Roberts, Vice President; Joe Conrad, Vice President; David Schnepf, Treasurer; Norm Cox, Secretary; Craig Bobay, John Clark, Pam George, Connie Haas-Zuber, James Haddock, Ashley Motia, Angie O'Neill, Mark O'Shaughnessy, Angie Quinn, Dawn Ritchie, David Van Gilder, Michelle Briggs Wedaman.
Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Feitler; Recording Secretary: Sue Diefenbach.

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Heather Barth, Director of Fund Development; Lettie Haver, Outreach Manager; Evan Hill, Land Management Specialist; Casey Jones, Director of Land Management; and Tina Puitz, Office and Volunteer Manager.

ACRES Quarterly: Carol Roberts, Editor; Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Rd., PO Box 665, 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.





I was hiking through Beechwood, when I turned a corner on the trail, coming upon a deer, a doe, staring right at me. The doe started to run to my left, stopped, came back, and then ran to my right where she once again turned back. She repeated this start-and-stop-turnaround pattern once more before finally running over the top of a small hill off the side of the path.

“Hmmm, that was weird,” I thought and continued on the trail toward the next turn, through the place where the doe had been reluctant to leave. Turning the corner this time, I found a little itty bitty fawn just sitting there!

I froze in my tracks, making sure not to get any closer, snapped this photo (at 750mm; I was not as close as it appears) and rapidly retreated the same way I came so the mother could quickly return.

– Ben Wheeler, ACRES member and contributing photographer

***What wildlife will you find on your next preserve visit?
Thank you for protecting natural places, for good.***