

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2018 | Vol. 57 - No. 2



ACRES
LANDTRUST

*Endangered Native Plants and Critters
Flourish on Grass Lake*

Families Protect Little Lake Legacy

Stewarding Land: Walking Quog Lake

A Community of the Land

From the Executive Director

Dear Member,

I encourage you to spend some time studying the “deep map” on pages 16–17. Among other things, it depicts reasons people often share when asked, “Why do you support ACRES?”

When I joined ACRES twelve years ago as a member and employee, I did so because I valued preserving land for religious and “sense of place” reasons. At the time, I thought my reasons were in the minority, that maybe I should present a more science-based reason for caring about land so much. Over time, I’ve learned that those who value preserving land primarily for scientific reasons are not a majority. In my estimation, there are no majority or minority positions.

ACRES is composed of people who rally around the act of preserving land for varied reasons—all seeming to have nearly equal representation—such as habitat, recreation, science, religion, environment, sense of place, spirituality, human health, history, beauty, wonder, mystery, Earth’s health, and our infinite connections with nature. While most of us value nearly all the reasons to preserve land, when asked, we tend to narrow it down to just one or two of our most compelling reasons.

The beautiful thing is, the reasons we preserve land don’t conflict with one another since we all desire the same result. The act of preserving land is a means for each of us to express an even deeper core value. Each acre we preserve demonstrates our values and provides a tangible way to express our good intentions. The preserves are living proof of our values.

ACRES has been preserving land since 1960, yet the organization never takes a single position on why. ACRES doesn’t elevate one reason above another. I really appreciate that. In ACRES’ eyes, any reason for preserving land is just as important as another. So you can feel great about your reasons, and even better that you are being successful in affirming your values through ACRES.

Together we preserve land—and in the process, we do so much more.

Sincerely,



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

Cover Photo by Thomas Sprunger, taken during sunset
at McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve near Spencerville.



ACRES Land Trust preserves, protects and manages 115 properties totaling 7,052 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

116newmembers!

Joe Accetta
Earl Adams
Emma Altimus
from Janel Avery Rogers
Maureen and James Arata
Stephen Armstrong
Alan Ashbaugh and
Kana Yoshida
Isabel Atcheson
Karen and Bert Baker
Steven Barry
Sarah Beachler
Vanessa Biggs
from Lynne Jury Isenbarger
Linda Black
Nancy Brown
Mel and Vicki Budreau
from Craig and Nancy Bobay
Sharon Buffenbarger
Kathryn Burris
from Brian Johnson
Larry Butcher
Chris Campbell
Colleen Carpenter and
Todd Campbell
Tracy Carteaux
Pam Cecchi
Mark and Sue Christman
Megan Coale and
James Masterson
Don and Linda Conkle
Nancy and Lou Connelly
Denis Cook
John and Lois Critchfield
Jan and Bob Dantzer
Ruth and Kees DeWit
Kay Donaldson
Chris Fensler
Jodie Frecker
Roy Freygang
Ryan and Gretchen Fruchey
Todd Fruehling
Jodie and Damon Greven
Deb and Gary Grider
Marilyn and Galen Groves
Marty Hampton

John Hancock
Kris and Debra Hand
Lee Hawkins
Terry and Bonnie Height
Susan Heine
Jay Henschen
Ron and Emily Heymann
from Carolyn DeVoe
Jared Hill
Jason Hirsch
Kath Houser
from Lynne Jury Isenbarger
Ellen Hummel
Sherley Ignace
Katie Jackemeyer
Linda Jeffery
from Rachael King
Ben Johnson
Ron and Linda Johnson
Tamera Jones
John and Marty Knight
Andrei Lacsan
Eden Lamb
from Janel Avery Rogers
Bill Lambert and Alex McQuade
Julie Lepper
Ken Liston
Jennifer Long-Dillon and
Matthew Dillon
Beth Lundblad
Jan McCauley
Mary McDonald and Ward Miller
Deno Migliorini and Greta Miller
Therese Muhlbauer
Brian Mockenhaupt
Rianna Moening
Rachelle Mongosa
Laura Muntzinger
Brittany Myers
Matt Neeley
Aaron Nichols and
Frances Fieldhouse
JoLynn O’Connell
Randy and Leslee Ordway
Constance Overly
George Pauly

Emily and Seth Poston
Eric and Jill Record
Jeanie Rhoades
Linda Ritchie
Sally Robinson
Sue Rowland
Bryce Runkle
Mike Ryan
from Joe Smith
John and Boo Salb
Jodi Sargent
from Becky Steinhoff
Shelley Scherer
from Joe Smith
Jeff and Vicki Schenher
Jim and Cheryl Schmidt
Toby and Beth Schoof
Heidi Schulenberg
Karen Schweitzer
Marleen Scott
Susan Seiman
Ginny Simerman
James Simons
Emily and Matthew Simmons
Larry and Paula Smith
from Carol Roberts
James Stangle
Rebecca Stoltzfus and
Kevin Miller from Joann and
John Smith
Kathy Swenson
Timothy Templin
Courtney Tritch
from Angie O’Neill
James and Beverly Troyer
Charissa Vela
Donna Veich
Larry Walter
Tom Watson
Barry Whitman
Chris Williams
Lisa Wylie
from Lynne Jury Isenbarger
Robert Young
corporate members
Tenax Corporation

memorials

Lucille Feichter
from Don Dager Family, Christopher Flick, Carrie
Meyer, Steven and Robin Aldred, John and Cheryl
Fiene, Cindy and John Van Vleet, Jane Till, Marilyn
Long, Judy and Gary Koontz, Mr. and Mrs. Jim
Etsler, Linda Stahl, Violet Coyle, Holly and
Thomas Bill, Deb Nutt, Mary Lou Hay
Pat Heemstra
from Elizabeth Evans, Mary Anna and Fred Feitler,
Philip Fischer and Marie Iannone, Janel Rogers

Steve Frey
from Jeanie Rhoades
Hidreth Williams
from Angie O’Neill
Ruth Kern
from Noel and Patricia Holmgren,
Shirley Needham, Bill Kern
Jack Williams
from Adaptek Systems, Inc.

Endangered, Native Plants and Critters Flourish on Rare Grass Lake Marl Flat

by Jeri Kornegay, outreach committee member and contributing writer

A stunningly unique habitat of native, endangered species flourishes on ACRES' newest acquisition eight miles southeast of LaGrange.

The 102-acre Grass Lake property contains a marl prairie—an unusual juxtaposition of acid-hungry plants heartily growing right along a boundary of basic soil-loving plants, atop the limestone-rich sand and gravel. Some say the marl is almost 30 feet deep; state geologists ran out of drill at 16 feet.

“Grass Lake is one of ACRES' most unique properties and we believe it's the largest marl flat in Indiana,” said Jason Kissel, executive director. Mining of both the underlying sand and gravel for concrete, and the alkaline-rich marl for fortifying cropland, ceased about 30 years ago. Since then, the property has remained largely undisturbed by humans and equipment.

In surveys, state ecologists have noted “highly significant” species of plants, birds, insects, endangered spotted turtles and other rare creatures that have claimed Grass Lake for their home, and for migrating stopovers.

Many of Grass Lake's native plants are on the state's endangered watch list: smooth gooseberry, cuckoo flower, autumn willow and red baneberry. There's also smooth sawgrass, beaked spikerush and shrubby cinquefoil. “Most are recently documented and are thriving,” said Casey Jones, director of land management.

The regenerating tamarack and pitcher plants are so profuse “you can't walk without stepping on one,” said Kissel. Famed Hoosier botanist Helen Starks marveled about Grass Lake during a visit in the 1980s.

Photo by Diana Lutz

The tamarack conifers are an important food source for migrating siskins, redpolls, crossbills and other tiny finches, said Jones, noting that birders on the nearby Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area have recorded 244 species, from ducks and herons to eagles, purple martins, doves and swallows.

An environmental consulting firm and state geologists are beginning inventories of Grass Lake this spring. Except to remove aggressive non-native invasive plants such as tall reeds and autumn olive, ACRES will not disturb the property.

Ruth Wilson sold Grass Lake to ACRES in December 2017, determined to protect her family's land and its precious habitat forever from further mining or development.

ACRES and its private donors united with state and international funders in the

\$335,000 project to preserve Grass Lake: Bicentennial Nature Trust, The Conservation Fund, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves, The Nature Conservancy, and the state's President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Fund. “These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding and technical assistance made available as mitigation for impacts caused by the construction and maintenance of the Reynolds Topeka Electric System Improvement Project in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.” About \$25,000 additional is needed to complete the purchase.

Thank you for investing in the permanent protection of incredible places.





*"When we see land as a community to which we belong,
we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

— Aldo Leopold

Families Protect Little Lake Legacy

by Carol Roberts, board member and Quarterly editor

Just west of Albion, Indiana, Little Lake is ringed with red osier dogwoods brilliant against the early March snow. A stand of sugar maples is being tapped. Wooded hills rim the lake's north shore.

This five-acre lake (four acres of open water surrounded by one acre of wetland, hydrologically connected to the Elkhart River's south branch) and 19 adjacent acres have been protected for years: the north portion by two generations of the Richman family, and the south portion by three generations of Tiptons. Aldo Leopold's "when we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect" springs to life in Little Lake's

natural and human history. Today, thanks to the two families' generosity, Little Lake is forever protected by ACRES.

Trevor Tipton explains how, during the 1940s, his Grandpa Edward Tipton (grandfather of Stan, Tracy and Trevor) purchased the property and had an ice business on Little Lake. Using saws and spades, men cut the ice into cakes to sled to shore and sell to nearby farms and homes for their iceboxes. "Parts of the Ice House foundation are exposed on the property, and its stories still exist among the town's old timers."

For the Tiptons, the next 70 years at Little Lake also have meant a strong connection to nature. Their experiences illustrate *Silent Spring* author Rachel Carson's "the home of wildlife is also our home."

The Tiptons see deer, turkey, raccoon, beaver, and many bird species, including bobwhite quail, as well as bluegill, dogfish, and largemouth bass ("Dad caught an eight-pounder July 4, 1976"). Trevor smiles: "What a treat, eating fish we caught ourselves and cooked over an open fire!"

Trevor's mother, Gwen Tipton, remembers planting peonies, iris, and daffodils; finding wild mushrooms and raspberries, and (only once!) 10 or 12 huge snakes in a deep hole. "My husband never wanted the property sold outside the family."

Marilyn (Richman) Winslow recalls how Little Lake was used by local residents: "During the war (World War II), to not use gas, Albion residents would walk out from town to Little Lake, clear snow off the frozen lake, ice fish, and have fun skating. Because the lake is small, the ice was smooth. I remember everybody keeping warm with this huge bonfire."

"And in summer, people [from Albion] just walked out there and 'went fishing.' But nobody swam there because Little Lake is very deep with wetlands around it."

Why did both families choose to entrust their land to ACRES?

Marilyn explains: "Both Ethelyn, my home-economic-teacher mother, and Milfred, my USDA soil conservationist father, appreciated and loved nature and taught us this love of nature. So when my sister Marsha and I heard of ACRES, it was a

no-brainer to donate. We said, 'Let's do it!'"

Casey Jones, director of land management, confirms the ecological significance of the donors' decisions: "At a time when we see development increasing, becoming concentrated around natural lakes in Indiana, I find it valuable that ACRES is able to protect this 24-acre property, including the 5-acre lake's entire shoreline. Surrounded by emergent wetland vegetation such as tall ferns, the small wooded shoreline will remain in a natural state that waterfowl may find appealing as they fly over."

Trevor Tipton states emphatically: "After three generations of Tiptons have owned Little Lake, the best solution was to preserve it forever."

ACRES' vision to preserve and protect our natural environment is exactly what our father, John Tipton, would have wanted. He told us: 'Protect the beautiful lake and keep it as it was hundreds of years ago. May it always be a haven for wildlife and be preserved from development.'

"Thank you, ACRES, for making this possible."

CHALLENGING STEPS STEWARDING LAND: Walking Quog Lake with Botanist Scott Namestnik

By Phil Bloom, contributing writer

Photos above and top right, copyright The Conservation Fund by Ivan LaBianca, featuring Evan Hill, land management specialist, exploring Quog Lake.

Scott Namestnik's eagerness to explore Quog Lake last summer was quickly replaced with trepidation. "It has to be the most challenging site on which I've ever conducted a survey," he said of the ACRES Land Trust property in LaGrange County.

Namestnik works for Orbis Environmental Consulting, which ACRES hired to conduct a "floristic quality assessment" at the 126-acre property along the west side of Quog Lake.

What he found was a rich diversity of plants. What he didn't find were trails.

"An old boardwalk made of wooden pallets goes down to the lake, and the ground is unstable. You're basically walking on a floating mat that you occasionally stay on top of," Namestnik said.

As he discovered, you can fall through. "On those occasions, it's not easy to get out," Namestnik said. "It's extremely slow walking... logging? Once I kind of got stuck, wasn't

sure I was getting out. The only thing to grab is poison sumac."

Despite the difficulties, Namestnik documented 471 plant species—82 percent native to Indiana, three listed as state-endangered (rough-clustered sedge, two-seeded sedge, and American pennywort), and others considered threatened or rare.

Quog Lake, five miles south of LaGrange and a half-mile west of Oliver Lake, is one of eight properties in the area owned and managed by ACRES, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, or LaGrange County. Together, they protect just over 800 acres.

"On its own, Quog Lake is worth protection due to its unique features—floating bog, rare plant and animal species, great habitat," said ACRES executive director, Jason Kissel. "But its significance is also due to its location within a complex of other natural areas."

Scott Namestnik, left, supports ACRES' plant species inventories. He's leading an in-the-field Plant Workshop July 12–13. See page 12 for details—and act quickly: Namestnik is a popular teacher among plant-lovers. As a member, you have first dibs to reserve a spot.

Photo by Brad Slaughter

Except for occasional members-only guided trips, Quog Lake is off limits to public visitation. "It's primarily to protect the rare systems, plants and animals," Kissel said. "And yes, it's a difficult property to access—nearly all wetlands, and the floating bog can prove dangerous to walk on."

Namestnik was aware of Quog Lake after reading about it in *Natural Areas of Indiana and Their Preservation*, a book published in 1969 by Purdue University professor Alton Lindsey and two of his graduate students, Fr. Damian Schmelz and Stanley Nichols.

After Indiana's General Assembly passed the Nature Preserves Act in 1967, the trio crisscrossed the state to find and identify naturally significant sites worthy of protection under the new law. Their book became the blueprint for the DNR's fledgling Division of Nature Preserves, following in the footsteps of efforts ACRES had begun nearly a decade earlier.

Quog Lake is one of 154 sites Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols described. Most are now state-designated nature preserves. Namestnik's recent survey of Quog Lake mirrors Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols'

findings from the 1960s noting everything from pitcher plant to the poison sumac that Namestnik grabbed for balance after falling through the bog.

Namestnik made a total of five visits to Quog Lake during May, June, July, and September "to hit all the variabilities of seasons—some things not as obvious in spring are more obvious in the fall," he said.

Each foray involved a zig-zag meander, each different from the previous. The intent to cover as much of a site as possible wasn't doable at Quog Lake. "A square site would be easy," Namestnik said. "But the Quog Lake site was a bit more challenging because it is not square, has two lakes and several ditches (some unseen), and given the site's size, I wasn't able to cover as much as I'd planned in the allotted time."

"As a botanist, I try to stress that monitoring and knowing what you have is a part of stewardship," Namestnik said. "There's definitely a sense of accomplishment. I feel like my work is helping ACRES know and understand the resources present on their properties, and how best to manage for them."

Center Spread by Joanna Stebing, taken during sunrise at Kokiwanee. Stebing's curiosity for how the living world works led her to explore the preserves, then to join ACRES. Her enthusiasm for life drives her interest in photographing and sharing the diversity of life forms and moments she encounters. Stebing donates her photos to ACRES, helping protect the places she loves by inspiring others.



SUMMER HIKES & events

ACRES events are held rain or shine. Preserve maps available online at [acreslandtrust.org/preserves](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/preserves)



SHARE THE TRAILS HIKES

Free to the public, donations encouraged. These casual, non-interpretive, volunteer-led hikes are easy-going, social walks, welcoming new folks to the trails and to ACRES.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 2, 1 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood
7496 W SR 124 Wabash, IN

Participating members bring home a complimentary ACRES water bottle, valued at \$10.

Saturday, July 7, 10 am

STEBEN COUNTY | Beechwood, Foster and Majneri Nature Preserves
5145 N. SR 127, Fremont, IN 46737

Saturday, August 4, 10 am

MIAMI COUNTY | Seven Pillars Nature Preserve
0.1 miles east of 3555 E. Mississinewa Road, Peru, IN 46970



ACRES archive

SWIFT SUMMER SUNDAYS

Join ACRES volunteer Janelle for fast-paced, multi-preserve 3+ mile morning hikes to beat the heat. *To carpool, contact Janelle: emailjanelle1@gmail.com*

Sunday, June 10, 9–11 am

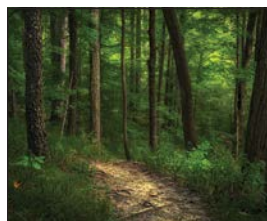
WHITLEY/NOBLE COUNTIES | Ralph Gates Nature Preserve and Crooked Lake Nature Preserve, A DNR property
Meet at 1040 E 700 N, Columbia City, IN 46725

Sunday, July 15, 9–11 am

NOBLE COUNTY | Detering Nature Preserve and Lonidaw
Meet at 1421 Kammerer Road, Kendallville, IN 46755

Sundays, August 5, 12, 19 and 26, 9–11 am

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



Thomas Sprunger

PRE-BIRD BLITZ BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, June 2 | Adams, Allen, Elkhart and Wabash Counties
Details: [acreslandtrust.org/birdblitz](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/birdblitz) or 260-637-2273

PLANT WORKSHOP: PRACTICAL FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON VASCULAR PLANTS

Presented by Scott Namestnik, Senior Botanist, Orbis Environmental Consulting

Thursday, July 12–Friday, July 13, 8 am–5 pm both days

Thursday meals on your own. Friday, ACRES will provide a home-cooked breakfast; Noa Noa Wood Grill & Sushi Bar will provide lunch.

Cost: \$150 members, \$200 nonmembers

Free lodging is available at Manchester University's Koinonia Environmental Retreat Center, 6147 S 650 E, Pierceton, IN 46562. Transportation between sites is not provided.

Learn in the field with an expert! Participants will spend only a few hours in a classroom; ACRES' Wayne Township Property in Warsaw, a rare native prairie that is closed to the public, serves as the main venue. To aid your learning, you will receive a custom folding chair and a notebook to create your own "field guide" for continued study. Following the workshop, you will receive a certificate of completion.

20 seats available, registration opens June 1 for current members, June 11 for nonmembers. Register at 260-637-2273.

Watch for more events online: [acreslandtrust.org](https://www.acreslandtrust.org).

THREE RIVERS FESTIVAL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, July 18, 2–4 pm

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

Celebrate our community's natural heritage. Meet staff, learn more about our work and explore the preserve on your own, or join a volunteer-led hike at 2:30. Light refreshments.

A LONGER HIKE

Saturday, July 14, 9 am

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

Shorter hikes leaving you longing for more? We'll cover at least 5 miles on this hike, through the forests and waterfalls of Kokiwanee, across the Salamonie spillway, and through the Salamonie State Forest. You'll have even longer hiking options if you want more! *Presented by Jason Kissel*

PROGRESSIVE CANOE TOUR FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, July 21, noon

LAGRANGE COUNTY | Oliver Lake
Just west of 540 E 450 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795

Enjoy an afternoon on the water with fellow ACRES members. We'll launch on Oliver Lake and make our way through The Spreads to Hackenburg Lake, and on to Messick Lake. Bring your own canoe or kayak—we'll provide snacks and water. Space is limited, with a limited number of canoes provided by P4C Paddle Club. *RSVP to Heather Barth by July 13 at 260-637-2273, ext. 5 or hbarth@acreslandtrust.org. Hosted by ACRES board member Craig Bobay and P4C Paddle Club.*



CREEK STOMP X

Saturday, August 11, 2 pm

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

For the 10th summer, it's once again time to get up close and personal with leeches, pinching crayfish and biting mosquitoes, fossils, waterfalls, cliffs, minnows, salamanders, and—if we are lucky—a snake or two. You'll get wet, dirty, and inspired. *Presented by the Kissel family.*



Ringo Santiago

NATURE NOTEBOOK WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS

Wednesday, August 8, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

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

Join us to learn how to make your very own nature-inspired notebook. Local illustrator and printmaker Grace Harman will teach you everything you need to know to make a fun, functional notebook. All ability levels welcome! Snacks and supplies provided. Space is limited. *RSVP to hbarth@acreslandtrust.org. Presented by artist Grace Harman.*



Grace Harman

ACRES members, you're encouraged to bring friends and family to members-only events.



A COMMUNITY OF THE LAND

Protecting Land as Part of a Diverse, Enriching Community

by Lettie Haver, outreach manager

Why do you protect land with ACRES? ACRES members express diverse motivations for supporting this work. *Together, our collective membership is in service to the land*, with ACRES acting as intermediary in support of *people who invest in service to the land*. Without one, not the other. How do these communities connect?

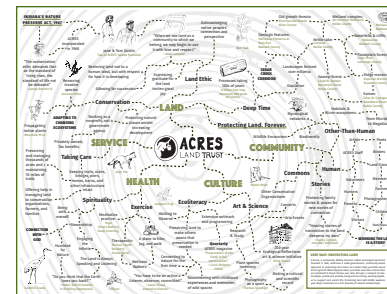
Through your membership, you're part of a dynamic ecosystem of support, each contributor enriching the outcome for the entire community. Your contributions serve your purpose while helping others express their own purposes through the action of membership. Regardless of your intent, your membership contributes to a vast network of supporters' interests.

Sounds cool, eh? But, how does it look? What does it mean? You see and hear parts of the story on the trails, over the campfire and at dinner tables of member outings, but how could you get a glimpse of it all at once? Flip the page to see ACRES' Deep Map, the culmination of a project by local artists and ACRES members Bonnie Fortune and Brett Bloom to help ACRES express and acknowledge *the variety of human motivations and (human and natural) outcomes served by protecting land*. Do you see yourself in the map? In more than one place? Anything unexpected?

Take a better look at the Deep Map on pages 16 & 17!



ACRES commissioned Fortune and Bloom to create a Deep Map to help you visualize both the parts and the whole of our community of support, to see both the trees and the forest.



To create the map, Fortune and Bloom spent months digging deeply, asking questions, and applying evaluative methods. They interviewed ACRES staff, volunteers, members and land donors on their personal inspiration for protecting places. They read the **Your Stories** section of our website, a collection of testimonials on participating with ACRES. They followed our social media, where people share and express their enthusiasm.

Then they synthesized these interviews, stories and expressions into major themes, creating outlines, categorizing, connecting dots and keeping some quotes intact. Fortune hand-sketched images of natural elements, and a few ACRES founders. You'll also find Helen Swenson's artist's studio cabin.

During an in-depth and often heartfelt discussion of Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants**, ACRES members generated rich feedback that unexpectedly shaped both the Deep Map and this story.

One participant said: *"I'd been studying the plants and the science, and it was work to memorize. My belief—that I'd never be knowledgeable enough to appreciate these places—became a barrier to my enjoyment. Kimmerer's book showed me it's okay if I just enjoy the places and the plants, that my spiritual connection is worthy. I don't have to study anything to love land, to be grateful. While I still enjoy some of the challenges of studying, and what I learn, I breathe better now. My whole self can participate. I can have fun."*

Other members affirmed how Kimmerer's book had validated their own natural, direct views of nature. Members read this book as an invitation to express their love for land.

After revising the Deep Map to make room for more expressions, the team—staff and the artists—spent time culling, adding to, editing, revising. The result overwhelms. It meanders, it overlaps, but it is by no means comprehensive. It's wild!

This web of support, of which you are a part, is strengthened by each member's participation.

You might call it a living, symbiotic network. Whatever your motivation for protecting places with ACRES—fun, duty, joy, love, legacy, respect, responsibility, inspiration, discovery, awe, curiosity, a sense of belonging—*your gift serves the land and our community of the land*.

INDIANA'S NATURE PRESERVE ACT, 1967



"The conservation ethic demands that as the standard of living rises, the standard of life not be debased."
—James Barrett III

ACRES
incorporated
in 1960



Removing
invasive
species
Autumn Olive



Propagating
native plants
Mountain Mint

Preserving
and managing
thousands of
acres and
maintaining
70 miles of
trails

Offering help in
managing land
to conservation
organizations,
farmers, and
families

CONNECTION WITH GOD



Sandhill Crane

"Do you think that the Earth
loves you back?"
—Robin Wall Kimmerer
in *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Humbled
by Nature

The Land is Always
Speaking and Listening

Engaging the
Infinite

Stewardship

Being
with
oneself

Spirituality

Meditative
practice:
Yoga
Forest Bathing
Deep Listening



Trillium

Therapeutic:
Mental Health
Recovery
Stress Relief

Wellness
Walkers

"You have to be an active
listener, observer, committed."
—Jason Kissel,
executive director



A place to hike,
jog, and walk

Exercise



Leopard Frog

Walking to
Observe

Ecoliteracy

Preserving land to
make others
aware that
preservation is
needed

Connecting to
nature for the
first time

Reconnecting with childhood
experiences and memories
of wild spaces

Acknowledging
native peoples'
connection and
perspective



Burr Oak

Processes taking
100s of years
A fallen tree may
represent 300 years
of history.

Protecting Land. Forever.



Marsh Wren

Other Conservation
Organizations

Art & Science

Research
& Study

Quarterly
ACRES magazine
"Preservation of the
Earth is our
preservation."
—Carol Roberts,
Editor

Plant species
inventory

Photography
as a sport
Thomas Sprunger



200 year
Ecological Reflections
art & science initiative
Wing Haven

Making a cultural
and scientific
record

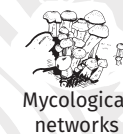
Old growth forests:
Bicentennial Woods
Allen County

Geologic features:
Hathaway Preserve at
Ross Run
Wabash County

CEDAR CREEK CORRIDOR

Landscapes formed
over millennia

Glaciation



Mycological
networks

Wetland complex:
Art Hammer Wetlands
Noble County



Massasauga
Rattlesnake

Waterfalls & cliffs:
Kokoiwanee
Wabash County

Floodplain forest:
Fawn River
LaGrange County

Ridge moraine:
Ropchan Memorial
Stueben County

Kames:
Edna W. Spurgeon
Woodland Reserve
Noble County

Kettle lake:
Lonidaw
Noble County

Swamp forest:
Lloyd W. Bender
Memorial Forest
Noble County

Habitats &
Micro-ecosystems

From Microbes
to Megafauna

Other-Than-Human

Artists Poets

ACRES Staff Birders
Land Donors

Volunteers Members
Farmers

Hunters Photographers
Parents Children

Visitors Retirees

Protecting family
stories & places for
new stories of
connection

"Hearing stories of
connection to the land
deepens my own."
—Nancy Conrad,
member volunteer

WORKING THE LAND IS A STORY

DEEP MAP: PROTECTING LAND

A forest, a community: ACRES, Indiana's oldest and largest land trust founded in 1960, embraces a multi-generational, community-based approach to protecting land. How can a forest help you think about the long term? What happens when you think more like a forest than an individual? A forest thrives over time through a network of relationships—plants and animals, living and non-living—working together to support and enrich life. Protecting land with ACRES awakens your deep connection to a rich diversity of natural relationships.



Matt Dunno—Welcome to the Land Management Team!

ACRES is growing! With support from the Barrett Land Management endowment and restoration funding programs, in March, ACRES hired Matt Dunno as a land management specialist. Until now, ACRES has paid contractors to perform limited-scope restoration work. Now, by hiring our own staff and buying equipment using the same funds, we bring talent and tools in-house, allowing us to care for more land, beyond program projects. In short time, we'll manage far more land. (ACRES will continue to hire contractors as well.)

Matt joins Land Management Specialist Evan Hill in the field, fighting non-native invasive plants, restoring natural places, and managing trails, boundaries and more, depending on the day, the weather, and what each preserve needs.

Heading into the rain, chainsaw in tow, Matt says, *"That's what I love about the job. There is no typical day. Tomorrow will probably be completely different."* Prior to joining ACRES, Matt most recently served as part of the Crowe Forest Management team, and he volunteered and worked under contract for ACRES. He is experienced in woodworking, carpentry and cabinet-making.

Dunno's days on the land date way back to close friends dubbing him "otter" for his attraction to playing in water. Today, Matt's family shares his enthusiasm for natural places: *"A typical day with my wife and kids is outdoors, shutting off electronics, getting away from modern society. My kids love it. I love watching them grow in it. My kids have a heart for nature."*



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

Be the first to see ACRES' new 10-minute video illustrating how your investment protects the places people love. Before the sun sets, we'll share a summer evening in the barn with great company, light snacks and drinks, and live music a la ***The Matchsellers***: world-class hillbilly music deeply rooted in bluegrass with a mix of old time tradition and shenanigans. Then, we'll watch **ACRES' world-premiere movie**—a 10-minute story on enjoying and protecting the places we love. *Made possible by the Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation. Hosted by Nancy and Joe Conrad.*

Beginning July 16, you can watch and share the video online: acreslandtrust.org/watch

Laura Colpitts, Art Eberhardt, Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, Larry Samuelson, Jim Shearer, Dan Shepherd, Carol Spallone and Janelle Windsor volunteering at Adopt-a-Tree Spring Festival

Kris Connerly, Joe Conrad, Nancy Conrad, Dana Bromelmeier, Laura Colpitts, Chris Fairfield, Judy Schroff, Janelle Windsor, Sandy Lamp, Tedra Hemingway collating the *Quarterly*

Chris Fairfield, Dani Faurote, Carol Spallone, Russ Voorhees and Janelle Windsor leading hikes

Home & Garden Show volunteers

IN-KIND GIFTS

Ralph and Mary Campbell
bird seed and chainsaw oil

Darrell Fish
copy paper

Rosi Koch
stamps

Jeri Kornegay and Lyn Winchell
coffee

Ann Marie Marlin
bird seed

Angie Quinn, Pembroke Bakery & Café
baked goods

Doug Rice and Donna Stucker
coffee

Tenax Corporation
trail fence, deer fence, geo grid, freight

wish list

Bug spray

Car wash gift cards

Coffee

Copy paper

Forever stamps

Gas cards

Postcard stamps

Snacks for summer events

Office and Volunteer Manager Tina Puitz says goodbye

It comes with much joy and sadness that I am leaving the staff of ACRES. The past nine years have been fun, challenging and rewarding. I was blessed to work with some amazing people over the years. Amazing staff members who made me laugh and cry through good times and bad, but at the end of the day, made me want to return and do it all over again. Volunteers who contributed in so many ways and gave me the opportunity to be their friend. And, visitors who brought a smile to my face as they shared their stories of walking through the preserves. I will miss the beautiful view from my desk watching the squirrels, deer, turkeys and pileated woodpeckers. I thank you all for enriching my life and I leave today as a better person having known you.

Thank you, Tina, for your 9-year service to ACRES Land Trust. Best wishes and happy trails!



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER

21

Annual Member Meeting

Sunday, October 21 at Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve

DIRECTORS: Steven Hammer, President; Carol Roberts, Vice President; Joe Conrad, Vice President; David Schnepf, Treasurer; Norm Cox, Secretary; Craig Bobay, Connie Haas Zuber, Bob Hake, Ashley Motia, Marc Levy, Stan Moore, Angie Quinn, Dawn Ritchie, Janel Rogers and David Van Gilder.

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

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MEMBERSHIP: Life Member, \$1,500; Sustaining, \$500; Corporate, \$500; Club/Organization, \$50; Family, \$40; Individual, \$25; Senior or Student, \$15. Dues payable annually.



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*7,052 acres protected, for good,
for future generations. Thank you!*

