

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2019 | Vol. 58 - No. 2



ACRES
LANDTRUST

Cedar Creek Corridor Update

Philip and Jean Ross Preserve

Land Management Update

Beyond The Trails: The ACRES Mission



From the Executive Director

Photo by Thomas Sprunger

Dear Members,

We Midwesterners have a reputation of being hard workers. I think this is partly because we mimic the land we live on. We follow the lead of the plants and animals around us.

Your preserve visits this summer will immerse you in green. You'll be surrounded with plants operating at peak performance. All around you, energy is being captured and transformed into growth. Animals are reproducing and growing. In just one season, insects are churning through numerous generations. Life is exploding and thriving.

Even if only subconsciously, we notice the productivity of our forests, wetlands and agricultural fields around us. The land is teaching us to be productive too: to capture energy, to put it to good use.

ACRES preserves land for many reasons. Your own reasons are likely diverse. Perhaps a new reason to consider is how our land helps makes us who we are, productive Midwesterners. By preserving the land, we preserve the collective personalities of those who live on it. Our land both sustains and influences us.

Thank you for recognizing that land is worth preserving—for all the reasons!

Sincerely,

Jason Kissel

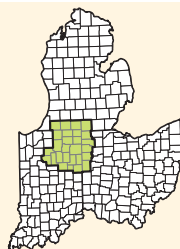
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 2

Cover photo of Seven Pillars of the Mississinewa Landmark
by Thomas Sprunger, taken after a late summer storm.



ACRES Land Trust preserves, protects and manages 115 properties totaling 7,094 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

145newmembers!

Michael Alejandro
Bethany and Scott Anspach
Laura Arnold
Joyce Augspurger
David Aurich
Dorothy Bass
John Becker
from Chris Ivancic
Ann Bogenschutz
Frank Butwin
Alice Campbell
Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht
and Tony Bracht
Sonia Checchia and Assem Nasr
from David and Faith Van Gilder
Joel Childs
from Ross Bitzel
Perry Childs
from Ross Bitzel
Mark and Denise Cleveland
Sarah and Dustin Conner
Lee Cook
Joe and Janet Corah
David Covey
Steve and Jane Crim
Shelly Cummins
Muriel Downey
R. Allen Drake
Jim and Merna Eisenbraun
Karla Ellis
Kent Ellis
John Fazio
Scott Feichter
Brenda Finkbeiner
Forest Park Elementary
PTA / Nature Club
Marilyn Franklin
Joseph Frazee
Joe and Jennifer Fugate
Dennis and Darlene Gaerte
Michelle and Mark Gerig
Bill and Linda Glass
Dana Goodman
Judy and Paul Goodwin
Holly Gorrell
Elizabeth and Lincoln Gray
Paul and Tauna Griffith
Lisa Grotemat
Conner and Kayla Guerzini
from David and Faith Van Gilder
Jessica Gumbert
Dave Hacker
Robin Haggerty
Wendy and Michael Hanauer
Julianne Harter

Ann and Tom Hathaway
Mary Hendrix
Kim Hill
Amanda Hoffman
Heather Hoffmann and
Darrell Caudill
Taylor House and Cole Finney
Brad and Kristin Huff
Dave and Jena Huffman
Susan Iannucilli
Sarah and Peter Jacobs
and Family
Julie Johnston
Brock Jones and Clare Parker
Doug and Sue Jones
Naomi Justice
from Luther Eberly
Ted Kalogris
Kevin and Kim Kamler
Mark and Kim Kaufman
Michelle Kern
David Kirk and Michael Greene
Beth and Alan Klotz
Greg Kniss
Sabrina Kruse
Martha Lemert
Sue Libbing
Al Lindsten
Seth and Stephanie Lochmueller
from David and Faith Van Gilder
Larry and Terri Long
Meg and Mark Madden
Ann Marshall
John and Tracie Martin
Luke and Cindy Maucione
Julie McComb
Deborah McCreary
Jan and Jeff McGowan
Jane McGraw and Rick Stoerker
Andre and Roxanne Melendez
Brian C. Miller, M.D.
Tom and Donna Miller
from Scott Miller
Preston and Amy Morrow
Megan and Logan Morton
Tyler and Summer Moser
Linda Mueller
Brad and Becky Nelson
Phillip E. North
Harry Oelschlager
from Sandra Slone
Robert Palmer
Gene Parker
Sara Parker-Milligan
Todd Pelfrey

Karen Perry
Beth Peter and Danny Reese, Sr.
Elizabeth Pomeroy
Barbara Porter
Joyce Portman
Tom and Linda Prince
Steve Pulley
Kelly and Craig Ray
Debbie Reahard
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Regier
from Lynn Klopfenstein
Wanda Remissong
Paul Richardson
from Betty Owens
Paul Rietman
Marvin D. Ritchhart
Richard Rooker
Chuck Schroeder
Kyle Sefchek and Brandy Goble
David Shipe
Mikah Simmons and Tice Ashurst
Mona Sleury
Brigid Smigelski
Kathy Smith
Marianne and Mike Smith
from Gil and Cheri
Joan Songco
Timothy Steck
Sarah Stein
Rick Stoerker
Grady and Janelle Stout
from Kirk and Linda Swaidner
Michael Stuart
Mitchell Stucky M.D., Natalie
Stucky and Scott Stucky
from Darlene Stucky
Zoe Swaidner
Janice Taylor
Lynn Taylor
Brandon Terry
Anne Thrush
Margaret Timm
Terry and Lois Tucker
Amy and Don Urban
Charles Wagner
Tim Wentz
Katy Wiley
from Dennis and Darlene
Gaerte
Al Wleklinski
Marcia Wood-Reitz
Jean Wyss
Linda Wyss
Athanasios Zaglarias
from Laura Muntzinger

ACQUISITION UPDATE

IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, 500 acres have been added to the Cedar Creek Corridor!

By Jason Kissel, executive director

Photo by Jarrid Spicer

The results of your supporting ACRES are evident not only on maps, but also as people fly over our service area. A great example is the Cedar Creek Corridor, the largest natural feature remaining in Allen County. It's not by chance that it's still there, but through years of effort by ACRES, the state, county parks, other nonprofit organizations and private landowners.

Land acquisitions in the corridor began with an 11-acre parcel in 1984 and have continued ever since, both individually and in phases. Over the past five years, ACRES set bold land acquisition goals that today have been fully achieved. During these five years, you helped ACRES acquire 503 additional acres in the corridor, acres worth over \$4,500,000. This acquired and paid-for acreage is now protected forever.

ACRES now owns just over 1,000 acres in the Cedar Creek corridor.

Although it took ACRES 29 years to acquire the corridor's first 500 acres, the next 500 acres took only five years. And we're just getting started. Many more "phases" are yet to come. Past, current and future acquisitions illustrate the importance of connectivity: Each new acquisition enhances the conservation value of previous acquisitions.

While ACRES excels at taking the long view, let's give ourselves the freedom to pause and consider this moment. In this moment, we celebrate. We added 500 acres of forever-protected land. We enhanced the work of ACRES members before us. We demonstrated that together, we are capable of big things. By investing in land, we made a tangible and lasting difference. And—we changed maps forever.

Because of your effort, the Cedar Creek corridor remains intact. Because you value places enough to invest in them, you ensure these places will remain. Cedar Creek is proof that your investment has paid off not only now, but that it will continue to do so forever. Thank you for protecting this place—and so many more.

ABOUT THE CEDAR CREEK CORRIDOR

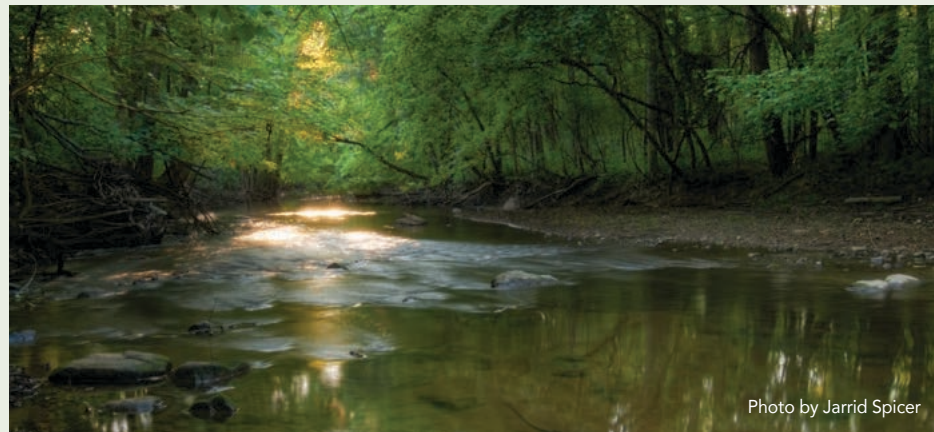


Photo by Jarrid Spicer

- Cedar Creek is one of only three rivers in the state to be designated in Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System under the 1973 Act of the same name. ACRES helped the waterway earn this designation in 1976.
- The Cedar Creek Corridor is the largest forested corridor in the region. Riparian (riverbank) and upland forests dominate the area, along with wetlands and gravel hill prairies.
- Vegetation in the Corridor includes the beautiful yellow lady's slipper orchid, gray beardtongue, tall meadow rue, golden Alexanders and the only populations of Indian paintbrush and yellow puccoon documented in Allen County.
- Wildlife found in the Corridor includes bobcats, turkey, mink, multiple freshwater fish species, river otters, Pileated Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons (including an active great blue heronry with over 75 nests), plus Green Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons.
- Cedar Creek occupies a tunnel valley—a deep, gorge-like canyon cut by meltwater flowing under pressure beneath the glacier. The tunnel valley is trenced into the Huntertown aquifer system, the primary groundwater source within the corridor.
- Recreation in the Corridor includes canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and hiking along ten miles of trails on closed loop systems within individual properties. As ACRES protects more land, linking trail systems will create a unique backcountry hiking experience.
- The extension of Fort Wayne Trail's Pufferbelly Trail will connect the Corridor to downtown Fort Wayne, Auburn and eventually, Angola. Partner organizations are also evaluating the potential for canoe and kayak trails through the Corridor.



Photo by Joan Garman

Photo by Jarrid Spicer



CEDAR CREEK CORRIDOR

PROPERTY	ACREAGE	ACQUISITION
Cedar Creek Bottoms	11	1984
Vandolah	47	1989
Whitehurst	4	1990
Bicentennial Woods	80	1993
Barrett Oak Hill	98	1995
Jessie's Woods	32	1995
Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary	19	1997
Cedar Creek	9	2000
Cedar Creek	8	2001
Mackel	28	2003
Robert C. and Rosella C. Johnson	12	2004
Tom and Jane Dustin	29	2005
Tom and Jane Dustin	44	2006
Orion Woods	30	2009
Founders Forest	59	2009
Shure Acre	1	2009
Chuck and Sharon Bodenhafer	8	2010
Barrett Oak Hill addition	24	2010
Cedar Creek	41	2014
James P. Covell	96	2014
Heinzerling Family Five Points	116	2014
Dorothy and Ray Garman	84	2016
Barrett Cedar Creek	84	2017
Mackel addition	6	2017
Founders Forest addition	32	2017
Founders Forest addition	44	2017
TOTAL PROTECTED TO DATE	1,046	ongoing

ACRES Properties

ACRES Conservation Easements

Conservation Partners

PHILIP AND JEAN ROSS PRESERVE Jean Ross forever-protects 23-acre Huntington County legacy

By Lettie Haver, advancement manager

"Phil and I are conservationists," says Jean Ross, sharing her own motivations and those of her late husband, Phil, for permanently protecting through ACRES their 23 acres of Huntington County land on the Wabash River.

The Philip and Jean Ross Preserve overlooks the Wabash River from a 40-foot bank along 900 feet of river frontage. A mature upland and wetland forest grows here, separated by a ravine from a younger forest, a meadow and their unique earth-berm home.

The Rosses stumbled onto the property in the late 1980s while looking for a place to build after having raised their family. The land was not listed. Word of mouth brought it to their attention.

"We saw it on a Thursday and purchased it the following Tuesday. It was just meant to be."

Together they designed their house, drawing on Phil's engineering experience, their conservation knowledge and their familiarity and appreciation for the home of Tom and Jane Dustin, two of ACRES' founders. An architect worked with them to approve and finalize plans.

Jean recalls the work she and Phil put into building their unique home by hand while

she was teaching third grade at Huntington County Community Schools. *"I would leave school, change into my jeans, grab hammer and nails, brush and paint, whatever, and get to work."*

Phil, who worked as an electrical engineer, planned and put in much of their electrical wiring and more. He plotted and installed their lane with a bridge over a stream. He chose an earth-berm design with the roof's slope nearly built into the land, as well as a geothermal heating and cooling system for energy efficiency.

"Even when I was 90 years old, I could walk up the berm and climb onto the roof to shovel off snow each winter. And I did."

It was a little corner of God's world. Phil and I felt we were stewards of land, never thought or used it as ours. We were there to take care of the land, to preserve it and to pass it on. That's what we're doing."

The Ross' connection to ACRES is personal.

"We knew Tom and Jane Dustin very well. I admired them as great conservationists. We met through the Izaak Walton League. Phil was president of the Huntington chapter. Tom taught me how to go to Washington, DC and talk with senators about the environment. I am an educator, so I would speak to our legislators as an extension of what I did every day."

Lifelong clean water advocates, both Phil and Jean felt it was important that clean water be delivered to all residents, no matter where they live. *"Traveling to New Orleans a year before Hurricane Katrina, we were astounded by the lack of flood prevention provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."*

"Phil and I were active environmentalists; the Dustins were gracious enough to teach, and we learned. We were relentless. After retiring, Phil went to Indy for years, bringing out

facts, holding whatever organization (state or private) responsible for their actions. It's been quite a ride.

"If anyone ever says, 'I'm just one person. What can I do?' The answer is everything. Get started."

"Even though I'm 92 now, this is still part of what I'm doing. I hope that somebody else will be able to pick up the reins. You can get started on a number of levels."

I would love to hear more about preserving wildlife. We have a responsibility as citizens to see that our government officials do that. If I have a message, that's it: It's our job as citizens to take care of land—the air and the water—the trees, wildlife, all of it. It's our responsibility to take care of it."

With your support, ACRES takes responsibility for permanently protecting the Ross land. ACRES still has funds to raise for this project.

ACRES' permanently protected land in Huntington County

1994	Tel-Hy	54
2004	Doermann	38
2010	Pehkokia Woods	97
2011	Little River Landing	53
2017	Victory Noll Acres	107
2018	Philip and Jean Ross Preserve	23

Center spread by Thomas Sprunger, taken at Pehkokia Woods, near Huntington. This 97-acre preserve boasts a rolling upland woods, dominated by oak and hickory trees. 20-foot ravines dissect this land. Mitigation crews recently completed earth work here, near the front of the preserve. Heavy equipment added gradual slopes to a man-made pond, creating more natural drainage.



ACRES NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

Saturday, June 1, 10 am

ALLEN COUNTY | McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve
16138 Davis Road, Spencerville, IN 46788

Celebrate National Trails Day in this 192-acre, state-dedicated nature preserve. Here, ACRES members protect a picturesque high south bank of the St. Joseph River, ravines of Davis Fisher Creek and an old-growth maple woods where a maple sugar camp operated for many years. The woods have sugar maple, tulip, red and white oak, beech, ash and sycamore along relatively flat trails.

Share the Trails Hikes are 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.

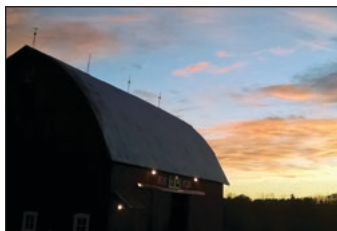
BLUEGRASTRONAUTS BARN CONCERT

FOR MEMBERS (Not a member? Join at the show!)

Sunday, June 2, 7 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 celebrate protected land with a group pleasantly stuck between years gone by and those to come. Two more performers join our pals The Matchsellers to form this four-piece string band. Come early to hike before the show, and feel free to bring a friend and YOLCAR (your-own-lawn-chair-and-refreshments).



ACRES INVASIVE PLANT I.D. & MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 15, 10 am - 3 pm

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

Join ACRES' land management specialists for an in-depth look at identifying the many invasive plant species present in northeastern Indiana. Following a cookout lunch provided by ACRES, the team will go over several methods to eradicate these plants.

Space is limited. RSVP to Evan Hill at 260-637-2273, ext. 3 or ehill@acreslandtrust.org.

ACRES SWIFT SUMMER SUNSET CARAVAN HIKE

Friday, June 28, 7 pm

STEUBEN & LAGRANGE COUNTIES

RSVP for beginning location; hike concludes at Fawn River Nature Preserve at sunset and includes Ropchan Wildlife Sanctuary and Ropchan Memorial preserves.

Join ACRES volunteers Janelle and Larry for a fast-paced, late summer evening hike through a few northern ACRES preserves. Swift hikes are invigorating, with restful stops while driving between preserves.

Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by June 25 to reserve space.

SHADED 5K WALK / JOG

Saturday, June 29, 2 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood
7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, IN 46992

Enjoy a casual walk or jog through the shaded forests and hills of Asherwood. This is not a typical 5K event with t-shirts, timing equipment, prizes, etc. but rather a chance to pursue your fitness goals with other nature lovers in a great setting. Water and restroom facilities available on site.

A SECOND LISTENING SESSION - ACRES' NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN

Thursday, July 25, 6 pm

HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Victory Noll Center, Guadalupe Room
1900 W Park Dr, Huntington, IN 46750

Review preliminary plans and provide your input into ACRES' next strategic plan that begins in 2020.

Hosted by board president Steve Hammer and Jason Kissel.

CANOE TOUR FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, July 27, 8 am

NOBLE COUNTY | Art Hammer Wetlands
9706 N 125 W, Wawaka, IN 46794

Paddle a portion of the Elkhart River through this 356-acre preserve featuring a swamp forest, small lake and low wetlands, into Waldron Lake, then enjoy a light lunch. Bring your own canoe or kayak—we'll provide the meal.

Space is limited. RSVP to Evan Hill by July 22 at 260-637-2273, ext. 3 or ehill@acreslandtrust.org

CREEK STOMP XI

Saturday, August 3, 3 pm

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

This spectacular creek is off limits the rest of the year, so here's your chance: 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

JAVA JAUNT

Thursday, August 8, 9 am

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin, Robert C. and Rosella C. Johnson and Whitehurst Nature Preserves
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Join us for a casual hike through this 88-acre complex of meadows and woodlands followed by a "treat yourself" stop for coffee at Well Grounded Café in Huntertown.

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

RESPONDING TO DISTURBANCES: Following up on new land management strategies

By Lettie Haver, advancement manager

Beechwood Nature Preserve in summer

"How did that work?" asks director of land management Casey Jones, in response to months of grinding up non-native brush on a whole new scale for ACRES.

Summer 2019 offers a chance to evaluate the effectiveness of our land management crew's first couple of seasons putting new, heavy equipment to work. This included shredding many acres of non-native invasive Autumn Olive and Bush Honeysuckle and removing dead Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven).

Although ACRES anticipates these places will improve after significant intentional disturbances from our new machinery, we don't want any surprises to go unnoticed. The crew will investigate during the growing season. Staff will return to projects to see whether invasive plants were successfully destroyed, and which, if any, plants have taken their place.

We worked when plants were dormant. Now we'll be able to see how they responded. Although we expect good results, every situation is different. Land doesn't stick to a script. We're making time to follow through.

Project notes

- On 96 acres of protected land near Kokiwanee, the crew will evaluate the results of mulching invasive brush.
- On the 157-acre Walter H. and E. Marie Myers Nature Preserve on Flowers Creek near Chili, they'll monitor their spring reforestation work: ACRES planted 43,000 native hardwood saplings in 80 acres of marginal farmland, the largest single-site planting in ACRES history. The team sowed native wild rye among the saplings to reduce pressure from invasive plants, giving the trees room to grow.



This spring, ACRES reforested a record-breaking 80 acres of farmland on the Myers Flowers Creek preserve in Chili.

A little help from our friends

In January 2019, students enrolled in a Trine University conservation course taught by Assistant Professor of Biology Samuel A. Drerup began caring for the Beechwood Nature Preserve adjacent to Pokagon State Park. It was a semester-long immersion in land management. Students spent weeks of class time learning land management strategies and techniques, including battling non-native invasive species and exploring how land ethic impacts land.



ACRES staff shredded non-native invasive shrubs at Beechwood Nature Preserve, as part of a partnership with Trine University Conservation students.

"It's important for students to get their hands dirty and see how large projects are done," says Drerup. "An underlying theme of the course is how an individual's land ethic and bias influence land management decisions. I hope to express to them that although there are many different ways to approach conservation, none really wrong, each way comes with its own consequences."

In total, ACRES expanded the restored area by mulching more than 10 acres of very dense invasive brush, and Trine University students covered more than 14 acres on foot. Here are some conservative estimates of the total effort at Beechwood:

5 workdays x 2 hours per workday x 12 volunteers per day = at least 120 hours of labor

This investment is worth more than \$3,000—matched with nearly the same investment of our own staff time. Staff applied a little more than 2.5 gallons of herbicide to treat the cut stems of invasive brush and used about 100 gallons of diesel fuel to operate the forestry mulcher.

"I hope that we can continue to extend and expand this partnership for several years to come," says Jones. "This is an ideal relationship, incorporating a practical application of ecology lessons. Field experience seems to be diminishing in the curriculum, so it is very encouraging to see that Trine supports such endeavors. I'll do whatever I can to help support it, too."

NiSource funds were used to help cover expenses associate with this joint venture and to purchase a local genotype native seed mix.

Summer Interns

Summer land management interns will focus on fighting invasive plants on our lands in the Cedar Creek corridor. This work is part of our third year of a five-year Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the US Department of Agriculture.

EQIP's focus on invasive brush removal allows ACRES funding to focus on this year's work monitoring and spraying Japanese stiltgrass. Newly discovered in 2015 in the Cedar Creek area, Japanese stiltgrass is now in retreat, but we must be vigilant to keep this plant from totally overtaking forest floors, as it has in the southeastern United States.

The ACRES summer land management interns are supported with funding from the Olive B. Cole Foundation and a Lilly Endowment internship through Manchester University. Learn more about 2019 interns on page 18.

BEYOND THE TRAILS: Meeting our mission to protect land, forever

By Lettie Haver, advancement manager

Photo by Thomas Sprunger

Members have shared how eager they are to receive the most recent ACRES preserve postcard announcement, showing how their membership matters. (We also hear that many of these postcards are hanging proudly on refrigerators throughout the region.) Thank you! Your commitment to protecting land drives ACRES.

Recently, a few members have asked, “When will ACRES put trails in all these new preserves? Is the organization falling behind?” These questions tell us that 1) some supporters assume trails are our work’s end-goal, and 2) we need to clarify that trails serve ACRES’ larger purpose, our mission—protecting land. The postcards are a sign of progress in serving this mission.

I sat down with Joe Conrad, board vice president and member of our Land Management and Protection committee to ask questions about trails. For seven years, Conrad has served this all-volunteer, staff-led committee that reviews and makes recommendations on land acquisitions, then guides the land’s use and care once ACRES acquires it.

Joe, what has Land Management and Protection planned for trails on our newest acquisitions?

“It’s never been ACRES’ primary mission to provide trails for people to walk,” says Conrad. We’re in the business of preserving land in its natural state, keeping it from development, protecting the natural environment with the least amount of human disturbance. So in one sense, trails disrupt the larger picture of what we’re trying to accomplish.”

But you’re a trail enthusiast. And you know that many people who support ACRES love to hike and want to share the trails with others. How do you reconcile this?

“That’s not to say I’m anti-trail. It’s of course good for people to experience nature. The more people appreciate and love nature, the more land we can protect.

While trails serve a variety of community needs, they are not our central mission, which is the land itself. So it’s a balance. Because we offer more than 70 miles of trails, it can be easy for people to miss the bigger picture because they are most familiar with hiking.

They love these places and sometimes join because of their experience. So, we need to be asking people to see beyond trails, to see the preserves, and ACRES itself, as far more than places to walk.

Our committee helps make tough choices and recommendations about this balance: where do trails need to be in a place, or in a community? How many trails do we need to manage and maintain to efficiently meet our goal of protecting land without overshadowing it by becoming a recreation organization? Maintaining trails is labor intensive: ACRES staff and volunteer time clearing trees and branches that have fallen over paths, creating and maintaining parking lots, etc. instead of restoring land.

We’re recognizing that some people who see ACRES as a trail provider are expecting that each time we acquire land, we’ll be adding a trail. This is not what we’re all about.

Trails are not our mission. Other recreational organizations serve that goal. When we look at similar organizations, we find that some groups with an explicit mission to offer public recreation have a lower-than-ACRES ratio of trails to total land owned.”

Organization	Density of Trails
Local county park systems	1 mile trail / every 50 acres
ACRES	1 mile trail / every 101 acres
Similarly sized land trusts in Indiana	1 mile trail / every 177 acres
DNR Nature Preserves	1 mile trail / every 334 acres

Dawn Ritchie, board member, Land Management and Protection committee chair and Greenways & Trails Manager for the City of Fort Wayne adds some data: “Many local communities have invested a great deal of time and money developing multi-use trail systems for biking, walking, running and rollerblading. In August of 2017, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported nearly 3,800 miles of trails in our state. Almost 95 percent of Hoosier households live within five miles of a trail, according to the DNR. So, trail needs are being met; it is not a high priority for ACRES to create new trails when our resources can be more wisely spent achieving our core mission of protecting land.”

Trails are a part of how ACRES protects land, but we’re so much more. Thank you for protecting land forever with us.



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER
28
ACRES Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
Saturday, September 28, 11 am

OCTOBER
20
ACRES Annual Member Meeting and Picnic
Sunday, October 20, 1 pm

Welcome Summer Land Management Interns!



Tate Allen, Purdue University
I am currently majoring in Forestry and minoring in Wildlife at Purdue University. I chose ACRES because I felt like we both have similar values towards the environment. I like how ACRES maintains our forests for future generations to enjoy. I also like how you educate our communities on all the benefits that come with preserving our natural areas.

I have grown up in the outdoors fishing, hunting and hiking. I have a great appreciation for our environment and the life that it holds. I am excited to be working with ACRES this summer.



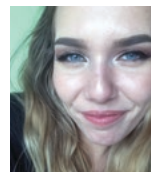
Carman Draves, Manchester University
I'm studying history, environmental studies with a natural history concentration, and general music with a piano emphasis at Manchester University.

I chose ACRES because I saw Dave Fox's name on a pamphlet, and he was one of the people who shaped my childhood. Dave was the man who sparked my interest in geology.



Shannon Felger, Purdue University
As a future Environmental Science major, I chose ACRES for obvious reasons. I come from a farming family and have grown up increasingly enthused with the outdoors, whether that be hiking through ACRES trails next door, or simply spending my summers exploring new and beautiful places across the country. I have refined those interests over the years to narrow my concentration of study down to both Land Use and Sustainable Agriculture Systems.

With this in mind, I cannot wait to see what valuable things my internship with ACRES will teach me this summer!



Jessica Gumbert, University of Saint Francis
Hey there! I am an Environmental Science major with a concentration in Conservation Biology. I chose ACRES because I'm passionate about

conservation and have been going to the Bicentennial Woods for as long as I can remember—it's one of my favorite places to visit. ACRES is an amazing opportunity for me to get into my field and take the first steps towards my dream of becoming a conservationist!

Many thanks to the Olive B. Cole Foundation and the Lilly Endowment internship support through Manchester University for supporting ACRES summer land management program.

memorials

Julia Hathaway
from Laura and Arnie Snipes

Phyllis Stumpf
from Margaret Stumpf

John Ellenwood
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tributes

Rebecca Minser & Tina Zion
from Pat Oppor and Cheryl Spieth Gardiner, Conni and Robert Toth, Lauren Warner and Erick Leffler, Donna Whitenack, David and Pam Whitenack

Photo by Janet Canino



Many thanks to the eggs-cellent volunteers who scrambled to clean up ACRES' Caprarotta Family Natural Area following an uneegspected spill of nearly a quarter million eggs and egg accessories when a semi truck slid off the road.

Cheers, too, to our sponsors: Borden, Goshen Brewing Co., Earth-Source Inc., Orthocity Brewery & Smokehouse, Knepp Sand & Stone and Roberts Signs and Apparel.

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wish list

Order from ACRES' Amazon Wish List: Under "Find a List or Registry," search for "ACRES Land Trust" or request a link at acres@acreslandtrust.org.

Cedar lumber, any length:
1" x 4"; 1" x 8"; 1" x 12"; 4" x 4"

Coffee

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Sign Language | Look for encouraging signs of growth on your next ACRES outing.

Interns will support field staff in installing new signs at the exit of ACRES preserves. By this time next year, we aim to have ended the myth that these places protect themselves, and also to have welcomed many more ACRES members into taking responsibility for the land we protect. Happy trails, friends!



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

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The Waking

by Theodore Roethke

*I strolled across
An open field;
The sun was out;
Heat was happy.*

*This way! This way!
The wren's throat shimmered,
Either to other,
The blossoms sang...*

*Far in the wood
A nestling sighed;
The dew loosened
Its morning smells.*

*I came where the river
Ran over stones:
My ears knew
An early joy.*

*And all the waters
Of all the streams
Sang in my veins
That summer day.*

Theodore Roethke (1908–1963) grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, where he viewed his father's work as a greenhouse keeper as "a reality harsher than reality." Focusing instead on the rooting and budding in nature around him, he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1953 for "The Waking" (1953). Remembered as a great teacher of poetry, he instructed beginning writers: "Write like someone else."



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Seven Pillars Nature Preserve by Thomas Sprunger

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