

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS

SINCE 1960



Early Spring Ephemerals

BioBlitz

12th Annual Birdathon

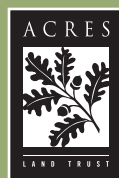
Events

History of a Terrestrial Salamander

Back Page

Spring 2009

Volume 48 – No. 2





Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Every time I see an ACRES entrance sign, I smile. I'm going to use this letter to explain why those wooden, hand-routed signs make me so proud.

The style of the signs has not changed since the first one went up in 1961 at the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve in Noble County. If we chose to, ACRES could now purchase metal signs that would allow us full color graphics and unlimited variety; however, we stick with the original design. Why? Because land is our sole focus, not signs or other amenities. Our signs take a supporting role, designed to blend into nature rather than detract attention away from it. We're about the land, not the things we place on it. Our signs reflect that focus.

The signs are still handmade by volunteers. There is something inviting and non-assuming about a hand-routed sign, with its occasionally skewed letters or uneven spacing. A computer-guided router could create precise, perfectly straight letters, but could never achieve the personality that a volunteer, working alone in a garage, imparts into each signboard. ACRES has always understood the value of volunteers and continues to rely heavily upon their assistance.

The signs are practical. They are inexpensive, they perform their function well, and they are durable. The money saved by utilizing inexpensive signs is used to acquire more land to plant new signs! The signs provide another glimpse into ACRES' priorities—we are vigilant about keeping costs low.

Be sure to really look at the sign the next time you visit an ACRES preserve. Appreciate its uniqueness, enjoy its simplicity, and honor the history that it represents. So, here's to the ACRES sign—the sentinel standing proud every day, telling ACRES' story by its construction and style along with its text.

If you feel you have what it takes to become an ACRES sign maker (all you really need is a router, some stencils and plenty of patience), give us a call, and become part of ACRES' sign making tradition.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Kissel'.

Jason Kissel

Cover Photo: Red Backed Salamander by Shane Perfect
Photo above from ACRES Archive

WELCOME 73 new members!

Roberta Archer
Christine Newman Aumiller
Norman and Marsha Berry
Walter J. Bixler
Jeff Blair
Mary Beth Bloom
Neal and Sally Butler
Johanna Byanski
Debra Cmar
Roger and Debra Cosbey
John and Lisa Didier
Tim M. Domer
Pat Doyle
Eagleson Family-gift of JP and Amber Eagleson
Earth Source, Inc.
Coti Ehinger
Evening Primrose Garden Club
Steve Fields
Jessie Gray and Sonja Ryggs-gift of William
and Katy Gray
William and Lena Gray-gift of William and
Katy Gray
Janet Gronczewski
Gwen Gutwein
Leslie Hamilton
Sally Hayes
Erna Van Helfteren-gift of David and Faith
Van Gilder
Marsha Heller
Andrew Horber
Casey Jones-gift of Steve Hammer
Jeffrey D. Jones
John and Carolyn Kissel
Willa Kline
Charles LeMaster
Yan and Muriel Linhart
Ray Lockwood
David Messmann and Family
James Meuninck
Stacy Lambright
Mark Leppek
Stacie Martin
Fritz and Linda Meyer
Jeff and Sally Miller-gift of Jim and Mary Shearer
Dan Mitchel
Michael O'Neil
Richard Pankop
Gene Pelter, Jr.
Dave and Suzi Pence-gift of Stan Pence

Michael Pereira
John Perez
Hugh Reusser
Jane Rhea
Donald and Mary Ritchey
Eric and Angie Ryggs-gift of William and Katy Gray
Todd Schaller
Amy Schreiber
David Shearer-gift of Jim and Mary Shearer
Robert Shearer-gift of Jim and Mary Shearer
John and Pam Steinbach
Stanley Steiner
Linda Stewart
Deb Todd
Ken Vanderpool
Craig Weaver
Jeffrey and Rhonda Whitacre
Allan White
Chelsea and McKenzie Wilkerson-gift of
William and Katy Gray
Don Wilkinson and Peggy Gaylord

new life members

Paul and Debby Meade
Angie O'Neill
Kevin and Karla Rahn
Robert Sennett

current life members

Ethyle Bloch
Wayne and Linda Boyd
Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Don and Renee Gorney
Tim Kimmel
Robin and Mary Lemberger
Michael L. Lochner
Jerry and Diane Mackel
David and Judith Ruoff
Samuel and Jan Schwartz
Ellsworth and Sherry Smith
John and Joann Smith
Ron Venderly
Beth Snider and Jill Weaver
Carol Wilcox
Renee Wright

new corporate members

Fort Wayne Metals Research Products Corp.
Swiss Re
Wild Birds Unlimited

Early Spring Ephemerals

by Ellen Ley



Spring Beauty by Bill Bloch



Cut-Leaved Toothwort by Shane Perfect

Early spring ephemerals have been prized for thousands of years, not just for their fleeting beauty and scent, but also for their essential role in human survival. This article explores the source of the common and scientific names given to several spring wildflowers.

SPRING BEAUTY - *Claytonia virginica* is an early and welcome sight that says spring has arrived. It is a favorite of wildlife as well as humans since it sends up some of the first grass-like green leaves. Linnaeus named this plant after his friend and fellow botanist, John Clayton.

CUT-LEAVED TOOTHWORT -

Dentaria laciniata. The common names, Crow's Toes and Pepper Root, derive from the root, which has scales, or tooth-like projections, and a peppery sharp flavor similar to radish. "Wort" comes from the old English word for plant. *Dentaria* comes from Latin *dens* (tooth), refers to the root, and also relates to the practice of chewing the roots as a toothache remedy. The species' name *laciniata* (torn, jagged) refers to the way the leaves are cut, hence its common name.

BLOODROOT - *Sanguinaria canadensis*. Bloodroot has a blood-like liquid that will stain your hands if a rhizome from this plant is broken. The botanical name *Sanguinaria* literally means "bleeding."

TWINLEAF - *Jeffersonia diphylla*. The common name refers to the distinctiveness of the *diphylla* (a two-part leaf that appears to be two leaves). The scientific name was in honor of Thomas Jefferson for his knowledge and interest of natural history.

DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES -

Dicentra cucullaria has $\frac{3}{4}$ " pantaloen flowers which look like a line of upside-down, Old World breeches, hence its common name.

SQUIRREL CORN - *Dicentra canadensis* is similar to Dutchman's Breeches, with heart-shaped flowers and bright yellow tubers that look like several kernels of corn forming a round ball; thus, the common name.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT - *Arisaema triphyllum*. Jack-in-the-Pulpit is widely recognized due to the unique spathe (pulpit) and spadix (Jack), thus the common name. Squeezing the bottom of the pulpit and rotating it will produce a squeaky noise (the sound of "Jack" preaching).



Blue-Eyed Mary by Shane Perfect



May Apple by Shane Perfect

WHITE TRILLIUM—*Trillium grandiflorum*. Trillium comes from the Latin *tres* for three, *lilium* for lily, and *grandiflorum* for large flowered, or single large flower with three white petals.

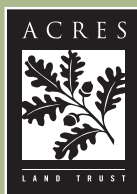
WILD GINGER—*Asarum canadense*. The ginger-like flavor of the rootstock gives it the common name. Another common name is Canadian Snake Root for the creeping, branching characteristics of the rootstock.

MAY APPLE—*Podophyllum peltatum*. Flowers of May Apple appear in May, although the “apple” appears later in the summer. The lobes of May Apple look like the webbed feet of aquatic birds, thus the scientific name *podo* for foot, *phyllum* for leaf, and *peltatum* for shield-shaped.

VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS—*Mertensia virginica*. Another common name is Virginia Cowslip. Virginia Bluebells are so named for the “nodding” lavender-blue, bell-shaped flowers. When pioneers first arrived they observed that bluebells were similar to the rough, spotted-leaved plant Lungwort, and tried to use it to treat lung problems. *Mertensia* is named for Frank K. Merten, a German Botanist.

This plant was first sent back to Europe by a young clergyman, John Banistor, who found the plants of the new world so strange that he feared his descriptions would not be believed.

BLUE-EYED MARY—*Collinsia verna*. Mary Blue-Lips is another name for Blue-Eyed Mary. Mary Blue-Lips are small bicolor flowers with white upper lips, and two lower protruding lips of a bright, true-blue color signifying “innocence” and “daintiness.” It is a rare annual (spring ephemerals are usually perennial). Even though it tolerates minor levels of disturbance, this plant is an indicator species of high quality woodlands.



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 68 nature preserves totaling over 4,450 acres.

1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntstown, IN 46748-9723
260.637.ACRE (2273)
email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



BioBlitz | Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13

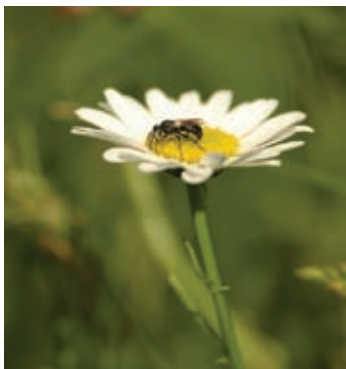
Join us for a **Biodiversity Blitz**, or **BioBlitz**, which is a 24-hour team event to identify every living thing at a selected nature preserve. The Wildwood BioBlitz will begin Friday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m. and end Saturday, June 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Specialists in the fields of trees, birds, wildflowers, salamanders and more will be working with you to identify hundreds of species of animals and plants before 4:00 p.m. Saturday. ACRES will post all findings from the BioBlitz. In addition to the species identification, there will be time for stargazing with Wildwood's new telescope and fun around the campfire on Friday night. Craft and nature activities for children will be available Saturday.



Snail by Shane Perfect

Meals will be provided in the 24-hour period with Pizza Hut sponsoring lunch on Saturday. Primitive camping will be available for everyone, but you must provide your own tent, sleeping bags, and other camping supplies. Potable water will be available.



Daisy by Shane Perfect

Register for the Wildwood BioBlitz by visiting the ACRES website at www.acreslandtrust.org and download a BioBlitz form, or call the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 and ask to have a registration form sent to you.

Children and adults are invited (must be 18 years of age to stay overnight without adult supervision). Cost – Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13: \$10 for ages 12 to adult, \$5 for children 11 and under. Friday or Saturday only: \$5 for ages 12 to adult and free for children 11 and under.

BUSINESS / CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ACRES will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. A variety of events and activities will be offered throughout the year that will provide sponsorship opportunities.

To explore ways to involve your business, please contact Jason or Angie at the ACRES office, 260.637.2273, or join us at our upcoming corporate event Saturday, April 18.

Memorials

Martha Bloom

from Gary and Janet Baltzell,
the Radiology Dept.– Parkview
Huntington Hospital, Tim and Cheri
Sorrell, Tom and Karen Grant, Ed
and Connie Hosier, Scott and Carin
Bultemeyer, Gus and Linda Burrell,
Paul and Doris Johnson, Cathie
Rowand, Kathryn Bloom and Family,
Joe and Randi Ellis, Tom and Judi
Flora, IT Dept.– Do It Best Corp.,
Parkview Hospital Radiology Dept.,
Katrina Kline, Forrest J. Wantroba,
Kent Wantroba, Fort Wayne Radiology,
Mary Beth Bloom, IDNR - Division of
Communications, 1st US Light Artillery
of 1812

Evelyn Gorney Broton

from Terri and Barbara Gorney

Bruce McCoy

from Mary Anna Feitler

Donald Moehlenkamp

from Mitch Harper, Paul and Rosemarie
Gilpin, Robert and Margaret Bliss,
Lois Hess, Ellsworth and Sharon Smith,
Walter and Sandra Riedinger, Larry and
Charlene Beivley, Brian and Ginger
Miller, Greg and Cindy Rose, Bill Keller,
Happy Walts, Aida Toffolo, Don, Deb
and Jeff Whan, Evelyn Dellman, Lisa
Hoover, Pat Hieber, Janice Hieber, Linda
Heddon, Frank and Carol Koehl, Tom
and Sandi Galloway, Greg and Matt
Dehner, Jeffrey and Rhonda Whitacre

Russ Oettel

from Mary Anna Feitler

Betty Shanyfelt

from Fred Wooley

Eugene Winicker

from Margaret Winicker

Tributes

To Dave and Suzi Pence

in recognition of their wedding
anniversary from Stan Pence

To Dave Pence

in recognition of his birthday from
Stan Pence

12th ANNUAL BIRDATHON

by Fred Wooley

*Interpreter at Pokagon State Park
and former caretaker of Wing Haven*



Bobolink by Doug MacDowall

*"One swallow does not make a summer,
but one skein of geese cleaving the
murk of a March thaw, is the spring."*

It's one of my favorite quotes from Aldo Leopold's classic work, *A Sand County Almanac*. I look forward to reading those words every year as much as seeing the first skein of geese as Leopold did, or the first red-winged blackbird on a wetland reed, or the first blooming hepatica on a sunny south slope of a warming woodland.

I feel the same thrill in witnessing a returning flock of sandhill cranes. In the last week, I recorded my first cranes of the new spring season. I heard them in two locations and saw them in two others. Two small flocks entered my world at Pokagon State Park, saying hi and goodbye in their raucous calls as they passed overhead. Another pair was settling down on the still snow and ice-covered marsh along the county road. A small flock of nine cranes swooped over my home, heading for a nearby fen. All along, though I was not there, I suspected that "our" cranes were either on site, or were soon to check in, at our Wing Haven Nature Preserve wetlands.

That's the beauty of helping to preserve a natural area. You don't have to be there to know they are doing their job of providing homes for wild creatures and plants. I get great comfort knowing that Wing Haven will always be there providing meadows, marshes, lakeshores and wooded hillsides for all things wild.

The wonderful collection of buildings and facilities continue to be home for our caretakers and the hub of so many special ACRES events and activities.

I get great comfort again in fundraising for Wing Haven and ACRES as I join a group of fellow birders for the annual Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon on May 16. Nearly 25 teams will be representing conservation organizations as we come together in the spirit of friendly competition to both have fun and support our organizations.

The year 2009 will mark 12 years that the ACRES Land Trust is fielding a team of birders in this annual birdathon. This year's event will be the 21st annual birdathon where teams representing conservation organizations come together in the spirit of friendly competition to bird, have fun, and raise money for their sponsoring organizations.

Our ACRES Avocets team recorded 152 species in 2008—a team record! Many of you supported our efforts with \$1,410.24 in pledges! What a great and generous effort! Thank you! We have now raised \$18,153.64 in the 11 years that we have birded for ACRES. The past Birdathons, in addition to helping with operating Wing Haven, have also helped ACRES add 104 acres to the original 160-acre Wing Haven Nature Preserve **and** add 57 acres to the now 1,260-acre Pokagon State Park.

How can you help raise money for the Wing Haven Preserve? It is easy. You will find a pledge form located inside the remittance envelope in this Quarterly; just fill out the form and send it in by May 16. Last year, our team saw 152 species of birds. If you had pledged a nickel a bird last year, you would have contributed \$7.60. If you had pledged a dime a bird, you would have contributed \$15.20... you get the idea! If you want to challenge our team, with an extra \$5.00 for a certain bird, maybe your favorite rare bird, please do so. This is a fun way to raise money for a very worthy cause.

As always, your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!



Green Heron by Fred Wooley

The Kosciusko County Community Foundation will be matching gifts made to the ACRES endowment through June 30, 2009. For every dollar you donate to the ACRES fund held at the community foundation, they will add an additional \$1.50. Please act now to take advantage of this generous offer.

Send your tax-deductible donation to the Kosciusko County Community Foundation and **be sure to indicate that the funds are for the ACRES Endowment Account.**

Kosciusko County Community Foundation
102 E. Market Street
Warsaw, IN 46580
574.267.1901

VOLUNTEER NEEDS & wish list

PROJECTS

- Ropchan Wildlife Refuge bridge repair
- Little Wabash River storage shed removal
- Johnson parking area wood fence installation
- ACRES' office deck is in need of a power wash and weather treatment

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these projects or for other needs we have, please call the ACRES office at 260.637.2273

WISHLIST

- Vacuum sweeper for the office
- Fax machine for the office
- Birdseed
- Set of cooking pans for the office kitchen
- White banquet table linens for special events
- Occassional use of an ATV for specialized management activity



Hickory Bud by Shane Perfect

Center photograph, nature preserve spring landscape by Christopher Jordan.





fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

WING HAVEN STUDIO OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 5, and Sunday, May 3, from 1-4 p.m.

20TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, David and Bonnie Snyder, and Paul Nailor. The Adopt-A-Tree festival offers a variety of events for children and adults: make a bluebird house or suet feeder, look at pond water under a microscope, and adopt a tulip poplar, red bud, white pine, or paw paw tree. Entertainment will be provided by Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin playing fiddle and dulcimer music, and Lee Sauer will be back again with his popular caricature drawings!

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County
From Angola, take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400 N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left (north) in 0.4 mile.



by Angie O'Neill



Black Swallowtail Caterpillar by Steve Brisco

ENTOMOLOGY

Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Vincent Burkle, IDNR entomologist
Join Vincent Burkle in learning about insects, then explore the woods in search of the insect world—where and how they live.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County.
From Warsaw, take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

WORK DAY

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.

Presented By: Jason Kissel
Help install primitive steps along the slopes of the trail system. There will be an abundance of wildflowers to enjoy during the breaks! Bring gloves.

Where: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run-Wabash County
From Wabash, take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. Follow SR 524 for 1.5 miles to Baumbauer Rd. and turn right (west). Preserve is on the right in 2.2 miles.



by Angie O'Neill

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

WILDFLOWER HIKES

Spurgeon Woodland Reserve – Noble County

Saturday, April 25, 3 p.m.

Presented by: John Smith

Directions: From Ligonier take SR 6 east 2.5 miles to 600W and turn left (north). The Preserve is on the right 2.25 miles.

Dustin Nature Preserve – Allen County

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Gary Helmke

Directions: From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112) take Coldwater Rd. north for approximately 7.5 miles to Chapman Rd., turn right (east) and go 0.75 mile. The entrance is on the south side of the road at 1802 Chapman Rd.

Dygert Nature Preserve – Whitley County

Sunday, April 26, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Mike Bosella

Directions: From Columbia City take SR 109 north of US30 for approximately 3.6 miles to CR 400N and turn left (west). Travel 0.5 mile to 50W and turn right (north). Preserve is on the left in 0.25 mile.



Trillium by Shane Perfect



Phlox by Lloyd King

Kokiwane Nature Preserve – Wabash County

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Dr. David Hicks

Directions: From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. When SR 524 curves to the east, continue east on Hanging Rock Rd. leaving SR 524. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right (south) on 500E. Continue on 500E for 1.5 miles as it turns into 50S. Preserve is on the right just before 600E.

Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run – Wabash County

Saturday, May 2, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Tony Fleming

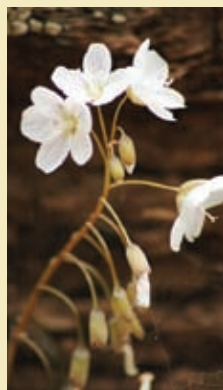
Directions: From Wabash, take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. Follow SR 524 for 1.5 miles to Baumbauer Rd. and turn right (west). Preserve is on the right in 2.2 miles.

Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve – Fulton County

Saturday, May 2, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Renee Baines

Directions: From Rochester take Old US 31/Main St. north to 450N. Turn left (west) and cross over US 31. Continue west for 3.75 miles to the preserve on the left.



Spring Beauty by Shane Perfect

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

ASTRONOMY

Saturday, May 2, 8 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join us for some star gazing through our new telescopes and enjoy a night hike.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. From Warsaw, take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

BIRDING AT ACRES ALONG THE WABASH

Tuesday, May 5, 4:30 p.m.

Presented by: Cardinal Audubon Bird Club

Come join this group and explore the diverse trees, wildflowers, and, of course, birds within this nature preserve.

Where: Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve, Wells County. From Bluffton, travel north on SR 1 for one mile to SR 116 (Dustman Rd.) and turn left (west). Follow SR 116 thru Murray approximately 4.6 miles. Preserve is on the left 1.25 miles past Murray.



Blue Jay by Paul McAfee

WILDWOOD AND BOCK WILDFLOWERS



Sweet Cone Flowers by Jason Kissel

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. at Wildwood, 2 p.m. at Bock

Presented by: Dr. David Hicks, David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Enjoy the wildflowers of these two beautiful preserves. Make it a family day and bring a sack lunch to Wildwood.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. From Warsaw, take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

Bock Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake.

Turn right (west) onto SR 14 and travel 6.5 miles to where SR 14 takes a 90-degree turn south. Preserve is 0.5 mile on the left.

FORAGERS DOZEN PLUS

Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim Meuninck

Discover the Foragers Dozen—edible wild plants that are nutritious, medicinal and free! Naturalist and author Jim Meuninck returns to show us how to eat free. Identify and taste fifteen edible wild plants that are easy to identify, easy to find, easy to grow, and taste delicious. Each plant has been used for centuries as both food and medicine. The presentation includes an introduction, foragers walk and numerous food tastings.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Angola, take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400 N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left (north) in 0.4 mile.



Jim Meuninck by Shane Perfect

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

LIMITED MOBILITY HIKE

Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Doug Rood

Enjoy an interpretive hike and explore what spring has to offer. This hike is designed for those who are challenged by hills and uneven ground.

Where: Acres Along the Wabash, Wells County.

From Bluffton, travel north on SR 1 for one mile to SR 116 (Dustman Rd.) and turn left (west). Follow SR 116 through Murray approximately 4.6 miles. Preserve is on the left 1.25 miles past Murray. Parking is limited, please call the ACRES office to make a reservation. 260.637.2273



by Shane Perfect



ACRES Archive

BIKE - N - HIKE

Saturday, May 30, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Jason and Amy Kissel

Bring along your bike and enjoy an afternoon of hiking and biking. We will start at Kokiwanee with a short hike, then hop on our bikes and ride to Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, enjoying the view of the Wabash River, Salamonie River, a bald eagle nest and Hanging Rock along the way. We'll take another short hike at Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, then bike back to Kokiwanee. There are moderate

hills along the route and the total distance on bike will be approximately ten miles.

Where: Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County.

From Wabash take US 24 east to 300E and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru Lagro as 300E turns into SR 524. When SR 524 curves to the east, continue east on Hanging Rock Rd. leaving SR 524. Travel 1.2 miles and turn right (south) on 500E. Continue on 500E for 1.5 miles as it turns into 50S. Preserve is on the right just before 600E.

CONCERT IN THE CANYON

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Hoosier Hobnobbers (Chere McKinley and Jim Cornell)

Come and enjoy the sounds of bluegrass within the canyon area—follow the trail that leads west (right as you are coming from the parking lot) into the forest. No chairs or other seating will be provided, so be prepared to lean against a tree, sit on the ground, or bring along a blanket or stadium cushion. It will be a delightfully simple pleasure sitting in a stunning canyon listening to beautiful music.



by Sandra Biegas

Where: Robb Hidden Canyon Nature Preserve, Steuben County. From Hamilton at SR 427 take Bellefontaine Rd. northwest 1.5 miles to Lane 201 and turn left (south). Travel 0.25 mile to Lane 201A and turn left. Preserve is on the left after the first curve.

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org

ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

BIOBLITZ AND WILDWOOD WEEKEND

Friday and Saturday, June 12 – 13, 4 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join us for a weekend of camping, family fun and environmental education. Programs will be available throughout the weekend. Spend the night in your tent within a primitive campground. Friday evening supper and Saturday breakfast and lunch will be provided.



by Steve Ross

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel three miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

WORK DAY AT WING HAVEN

Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Spurgeon Family

Join us in building benches and completing some general maintenance tasks. Tools and materials will be provided.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

From Angola, take SR 127 north 4.5 miles to 400 N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the left (north) in 0.4 mile.



by Shane Perfect

A STROLL AND A STORY

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family

Join the Kissel family for an easy hike through the woods. Investigate under logs, look for insects, and enjoy short nature stories along the way. This event is geared toward families with young children, but all are welcome to attend.

Where: Mary Thornton Preserve, Wabash County

From Wabash, on SR13 travel 2.6 miles north of US 24 to 300N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the right in 1.4 miles.

WILD WALKERS 2009 HIKING SCHEDULE

For more information call Fort Wayne Parks Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, Renee Baines, at 260.427.6005. All hikes are from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Apr. 10 Little Wabash River Nature Preserve

Apr. 24 Dygert Nature Preserve

May 8 Spurgeon Woodland Reserve

May 22 Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run

June 12 Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary

June 26 Tel-Hy Nature Preserve

SPECIAL thanks

Zeigler's Window Coverings

for donating window drapery for ACRES' conference room

Lone Coyote Foundation

for support of new website development

English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation

Chapman Fund

Churubusco High School students

for their assistance collating the Winter Quarterly: Colleen Bishop, Dylan Jones, Rachel Fehring and Joel Fehring

Al Diefenbach

for plowing the Dustin driveway over the winter

Quarterly distributors

David Brumm, Kate Johnson, Karen Griggs, Mary Anna Feitler

Don Gorney

for donating his *Mosses of Indiana* book for our library

Ron Patton

for purchasing *Wild and Scenic Indiana* photography book for ACRES' collection

Helen Parker

for donating three Charles Deam books: *Flora of Indiana*, *Shrubs of Indiana*, *Trees of Indiana* and two booklets: *Ohio's Birds...* and *Where to Find Them*, and *Annotated List of the Birds of Ohio*

Noel and Patricia Holmgren

for donating two books: *Manual of Vascular Plants* by Gleason and Cronquist and *Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual* by Holmgren

Richard Loney

for donating 16 books for the library collection: *Field Guide to the Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes of the United States*, *The Birds of Indiana*, *The Rivers of Indiana*, *The Butterflies of Indiana*, *A Morel Hunters Companion*, *The Natural History of Wild Shrubs and Vines*, *Common Marsh, Underwater and Floating-leave Plants*, *Eastern Forests*, *Forests*, *1001 Facts About Rocks and Minerals*, *Mushrooms and Other Fungi*, *Field Guide to North American Wildflowers*, *Know Your Poisonous Plants*, *Fern Finder*, *Prairie Primer*, and *A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants*

Richard Rodenbeck

for building two preserve benches

David Rezits

for his cello performance at our Valentine's Eve event

Doug and Kathy Rogers and Pat Johnson

for cleaning out the Dustin Barn

Christopher Jordan

for use of his photo for our corporate sponsorship advertisement in the *Northern Indiana LAKES* magazine

Thank you to all 17 of our Home and Garden Show volunteers!

This year was another measurable success, with 23 new members and over 200 interested in receiving this issue of the Quarterly.



by Shane Perfect



by Kathy Rogers

The Best of Nature Trust II is now available at the ACRES office for \$10. Nearly 200 episodes have aired and this new compilation features 20 new episodes. Nature Trust can be heard on public radio stations throughout Indiana, or you can listen to them from our website. A special thanks to Nature Trust's host, Jeff Britton.



Ice, Saws, and Genes:

The History of a Terrestrial Salamander Species in Northern Indiana



by Shane Perfect

Salamanders of this genus are completely terrestrial, completing all of their life cycle in cool, moist microenvironments found under fallen logs and rocks on the forest floor.

By Mark Jordan, an Assistant Professor of Biology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. This article shares the conclusion of a study introduced in the Summer 2006 Quarterly.

While it is unlikely you are reading this article in a place that is considered ideal salamander habitat today, I can guarantee that conditions were far less hospitable about 15,000 years ago. At that time, a deep sheet of ice covered northern Indiana, and the fauna we are familiar with rode out the continental cold in refugia somewhere south of Indianapolis. Using the current northern limits of species ranges in combination with estimates of where and when the ice sheet retreated, it is possible to approximate the arrival of the first colonizers to northern Indiana 9,000 - 13,000 years ago. This recolonization process can leave a genetic footprint on populations. Specifically, genetic variation is lost because only a few individuals are likely to venture out as pioneers and establish populations in new terrain of marginal quality.



from IPFW Biology Department

The descendants of these early colonizers have faced further challenges. The arrival of settlers to Indiana in the 19th century corresponded with a 90% reduction in forest cover. The forests that remain are small, isolated woodlots with a history of disturbance. In addition, roads and urban development further isolate populations harbored in the remaining forests. Under such conditions, forest-dwelling species are expected to lose genetic variability due to a reduction in population size and limited connectivity with populations in other forests.

My group has been investigating these two historical processes in the Eastern Red-Backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) in northeast Indiana. Salamanders of this genus are completely terrestrial, completing all of their life cycle in cool, moist microenvironments found under fallen logs and rocks on the forest floor. These conditions are especially important for them because they lack lungs, breathing entirely through their skin. To survive with this set of characteristics it is necessary to be small in size and avoid dispersal through sunny places like a corn field. Therefore we expect that forest loss has had a large impact on this species and, like all species, is at increased risk of extinction when genetic diversity is limited.

We tested this idea using samples from ten forests, including several ACRES properties, along with a set of genetic markers similar to those used in DNA fingerprinting. We first discovered that

the size of forest is related to the chances that salamanders are found at a particular site. This suggests that recent forest loss does, in fact, impact populations. Surprisingly, however, we were unable to detect a genetic effect of recent forest loss in spite of low genetic variation across all sites. We believe that this result is due to a loss of genetic diversity that occurred before settlers arrived, quite possibly dating back to the original colonization of the area by salamanders after the glaciers moved north. Indeed, statistical models suggest the presence of ancient population declines in these populations that occurred much earlier than 200 years ago. In other words, it appears that genetic diversity is low as a consequence of post-glacial history, and because of this, it is difficult for further declines to have occurred even though modern human activity affects populations. Maintaining forests is vital to wildlife but we cannot forget the long history of a species when attempting to understand and mitigate the effects of landscape change in the present.



by Bruce Kingsbury

WE ARE REDESIGNING OUR WEBSITE!

Be sure to explore our new site once it is launched this spring.

www.acreslandtrust.org

ESTATE PLANNING

Have you considered mentioning ACRES, Inc. in your will and estate plans? Perpetuate your gifts during your lifetime to gifts after your lifetime! Consider letting us know if you name ACRES in your will or estate plan so we may ensure your specific goals and desires are met. Thank you!

It's renewal time — please check the expiration date above your name.

THE **BACK** PAGE

by Frank Hill

THE REVIVAL

As nature's anesthesia wears off
we walk from the black-white freeze frame of winter
into the multi-colored landscape of spring.

Each step we take on the warmer, softer earth
exerts a downward pressure
causing the plants to pop up,
as though the roots we step on
are the tails of sleeping cats.

Be careful of the shy crocus.
Tip toe around the trillium.
Don't step on the morels.
Know your place in the big picture.

The greening forest canopy.
Trees letting the young leaves
have the front seats.
The exposed branches of winter
hiding behind the forest's newfound foliage.

Birds acting like they discovered spring.
Emerging burrowing animals welcoming the warmth,
out of practice at looking over their shoulders.
Winter's silence making way for
the enthusiasm of spring.

The countryside breathes.

Snow contracts.

Water expands.

Redbud, dogwood and crabapple blossoms explode,
demanding attention,
proving you don't need vocal chords to shout.
And all of it showing the wait for this
annual revival was worth it.



Immature Oak Leaf by Shane Perfect

Directors: David Van Gilder, President; Richard E. Walker, VP; William A. Smith IV, VP; Steven Hammer, Secretary; Norm Cox, Treasurer; Tony Acosta, Samuel T. Boggs, Nancy Bradtmiller, Jeff Britton, Neil Case, Chris Dunn, James Haddock, Richard Hurley, Nancy Leininger, Emily Pichon, Carol Roberts, Nathan Simons, Gary R. Tieben. **Membership Secretary:** Mary Anna Feitler; **Recording Secretary:** Sue Diefenbach; **Staff:** Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Ethel McClelland and David Homan, Land Management Specialists; Angie O'Neill, Fund Development Manager; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Administrative Assistant/Education Manager. **ACRES Quarterly:** Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Indiana, for the interest of its members, friends, and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. ACRES, Inc., is a non-profit, charitable corporation, incorporated under the laws of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. **Membership:** Life Member, \$1,500; Benefactor, \$500; Patron, \$150; Share-the-Expense, \$75; Club/Organization, \$50; Family, \$40; Individual, \$25; Senior Citizen and Students, \$15. Payable annually, July 1 to June 30.