

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Fall 2012 | Vol. 51 - No. 4



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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

ACRES is fortunate to receive major monetary gifts from individuals and foundations. We often highlight these gifts through press releases and within the pages of the *Quarterly*. Although smaller donations don't result in newspaper headlines, they are of immense value to ACRES. I want to share two recent examples of donations that had relatively small monetary worth, but huge value.

An eight-year-old girl named Emma recently made a donation of \$10.25 to ACRES. She divides her money into three jars labeled "save," "spend," and "share." Emma and her mom had picked up a *Quarterly* at their local library and learned about ACRES. Emma liked that ACRES provides homes for plants and animals and decided to empty her "share" jar. She sent in her money so ACRES could do more good.

The second gift came from a 75-year-old man named Jack. Jack is a trustee of a family foundation that was established by him and his late wife to provide financial support for land preservation projects. The foundation has a history of providing major gifts to ACRES and other non-profits. The foundation reached its planned lifespan, and during the course of dissolving the organization, Jack ended up with \$17.87 left in the account that he donated to ACRES. Jack wanted the very last cent from this fund to benefit ACRES, as he believed his wife would have desired.

These gifts bode well for ACRES. Will the monetary value of these gifts (\$28.12) secure ACRES' financial future? No. But the true value they represent may. As long as ACRES continues to demonstrate its value in a way that inspires eight year olds, there is great hope in ACRES' future. As long as ACRES' reputation remains so stellar that a 75-year-old takes pride in associating his beloved wife's memory with ACRES, there is great hope in ACRES' future.

ACRES will likely receive several gifts of limited monetary value today and again tomorrow. But ACRES will never receive a "small" gift. Each gift demonstrates someone's support of, and trust in ACRES—and that will never be viewed as a small thing.

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

jkissel@acreslandtrust.org



Cover Photo by Shane Perfect

WELCOME

34newmembers!

Joy Baiz

Norman Bradley

Justin and Kristina Cole

Charles and Kim Chapman

Anna Colburn

Chuck and Kathy Dowe

Craig and Louise Dunworth

John Elliott

Mitch and DeAnna Fireoover

gift from Addie Piatt

Judy Hertel

Al Jr. and Jennifer Grossnickle

gift from Al and Peggy Grossnickle

Andrew and Lindsey Grossnickle

gift from Al and Peggy Grossnickle

Jean Hoover

gift from Kim and Monica Grubbs

Gary Jackson

William Kilgore

Jerry and Linda Lagle

Jamie McCann

Cliff Parr

Drew Racine

Rick and Peg Schilb

Mark and Meighan Siegwarth

Kim and Bev Stacey

Mike and Chris Stark

Jerry Sweeten

Hal and Andrea Thomas

Dale and Jody Warner

Jesse West

gift from Douglas and Kathryn Rogers

David Williams

new corporate members

Chase Bank

Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery

Earth First

new life members

Dave Brumm

Kate Ferguson

Matthew Mills

life members

Anonymous

Cheryl H. Allen

Ethyle Bloch

Wayne and Linda Boyd

David Brumm

Norm and Libby Cox

John and Marcella Ellenwood

Fred and Mary Anna Feitler

Sally Felger

Kate Ferguson

Richard Ford

Don and Renee Gorney

Tim Kimmel

Louise Larsen

Christopher and Kirsten Lasalle

Robin and Mary Lemberger

Dr. Jerry and Diane Mackel

Mr. and Mrs. R. Anthony McGuire

Paul and Debby Meade

Jerriah and Brandy Miller

Matt Mills

Noel T. Moore

Dan and Angie O'Neill

Mark and Laura O'Shaughnessy

Kevin and Karla Rahn

Tom and Cindy Reed

Douglas Rood

Samuel and Jan Schwartz

Robert Sennett

Leland and Sharon Shaum

Ellsworth and Sherry Smith

John and Joann Smith

Beth Snider

Arnie and Laura Snipes

Jack and Cherie Stark

David and Faith Van Gilder

Ron Venderly

Carol Wilcox

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Wright

Renee Wright

acres' wish list

Refrigerator for Dustin event barn

Compact SD card for digital camera

Postage Stamps

Rubber bands

Coffee




STILL NOT A MEMBER?

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



Marion's Woods

by Jason Kissel



Marion by Laura Eberhardt

tributes

Harvey Hathaway, MD from the Eissey Family

memorials

Eugene Winicker from Laura Dauscher

Kate Johnson, ACRES land donor

Rev. John Klotz and Florence Succop Klotz
from Kenneth Klotz, Richard Klotz, Martin Klotz, Barbara
Klotz Gehrett, Alan Klotz, Nancy Klotz Bowen and Marilyn
Klotz Johnson

Neil Grider from Robert Ford

Alan David Stout from Gene Stout

Michael "Mikey" Holcomb
from Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley

Mona Case
from Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley

ACRES' mission is to preserve natural areas. By doing so, we often fulfill the goals of other organizations and people as well. ACRES' acquisition of **Marion's Woods** in Steuben County is a good example.

Art Eberhardt has been an ACRES' member since April 14, 1962. His late wife, Marion, was also active with ACRES and loved the outdoors—in particular, trees. Since her death, Art sought a way to honor Marion through an act of conservation.

Art serves on the Angola Tree Board and one of their projects, preserving an urban forest, led Art to think saving these woods might be the project to honor Marion with.

The 20-acre woods is a beautiful example of a maturing oak / hickory forest relatively free of invasive species and containing a diverse understory—a great find anywhere, and an amazing find within a city limits. Preservation of this forest was a priority for the Tree Board and important to the city. "It's a great opportunity when we can preserve a natural place like that where adults have walking trails they can go to near homes within the city," said Angola mayor, Dick Hickman.

The owners of the property, Aaron Steury and Don Wise, co-owners of A & D Specs (residential development and home construction), also had a mission for the property—to demonstrate their willingness to give back to the community that

Continued on p. 6

supports their business.

They offered the property to the Angola Tree Board at half its appraised value. The Tree Board fundraised for the next five years, obtaining money from individuals, businesses and community groups. But the funds raised were only a small percentage of what was needed. They contacted ACRES in late 2011 to see if we'd be interested in assisting with the project. We investigated the property, consulted with ecologists and botanists, and agreed that the property, although relatively small, was definitely worthy of becoming an ACRES' preserve.

The deadline to close before July, 2012, put ACRES on a tight schedule to find funding. Art decided this was the project he was looking for and donated 50% of the acquisition cost in honor of Marion. ACRES purchased the property in June before the rest of the fundraising was completed, using the revolving acquisition fund created by an anonymous donor in 2010. The Steuben County Community Foundation contributed \$9,500 toward the acquisition cost, and we have made a grant request to the US Forest Service. Many ACRES' members have already made donations toward this property—thank you! If you would like to contribute to this project, please indicate "Marion's Woods" with your contribution.

The property will be opened to the public when a parking lot and trail system are installed—likely this fall or early next spring.

The property became ACRES' 84th nature preserve. It achieved ACRES' goals of preserving land, Angola's goals of protecting green space, A & D Specs' goal of giving back to the community, the Tree Board's goal of preserving the forest, and many individuals' goals of assisting conservation efforts. Preserving the woods also fulfilled Art's goal of honoring Marion. A single act of preservation—yet the realization of many dreams.



Marion's Woods by Shane Perfect



Marion's Woods outlined in green

NATURE'S CALENDAR

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter, Pokagon State Park

Late October – Pick a day: One of my all-time favorite books is *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, especially the chapter on October. Leopold writes of the "red lanterns" of October, those deep, burgundy red, five and seven leafed leaves of blackberry that start at ground level and hang on thorny wands to hip-height. Even on overcast days, they give the warm glow of lanterns as they line and light the trails in open woodlands and along wooded edges. While Leopold often went from patch to patch of red lanterns with gun in hand in search of partridge, he was equally comfortable with binoculars around his neck. He enjoyed and captured a look and feel we can all find every late October in our ACRES' preserves.

Early November – Leopold also writes of the "smoky gold of October," referring to the soft yellows of our northern, deciduous conifer, the tamarack. Up north by November, most of the great color is down and "the November wind hurries on," as Leopold so eloquently writes. Here, however, in our ACRES' preserves featuring these special wetland fens, you can still find the gold color in early November tamaracks. Visit them before the winds, driving rains, and early snows of late November knock them to the damp earth, leaving bare branches until tiny tufts of soft green needles return next spring.

December 28 – Full Moon. Pick a dark location near you and get there just after sunset to walk as the full moon rises. It's an early night, as this full moon comes on nearly the longest night of the year, one week past the winter solstice. Not surprisingly, colonial Americans referred to this full moon as the Christmas moon, or Christ's moon, the long night moon, and the oak moon. Algonquin people also called it the long night moon and the cold moon. While the days begin to get longer, nights will be long and cold for many moons to come. No need to hibernate and totally hunker down at home, though. Bundle up and enjoy the freshness of nature in winter in an ACRES' preserve.



Tamaracks by Fred Wooley

We're looking for articles and Back Page submissions for the *Quarterly*. Please consider sharing with us your knowledge, thoughts and experiences with nature. For more information, call Tina at 260-637-2273.

**We welcome articles from readers. ACRES edits articles for brevity, clarity, and grammar. Your name, address and phone number must be included with your submission.*



Soils—Reading the Land

by Steve Ross, Volunteer Coordinator and Preserve Manager,
The Nature Conservancy of Ohio

Fogwell Forest by Jason Kissel

Soils, being underground for the most part, are rarely observed and little understood by most people. And yet our culture routinely uses soil-related allusions (“I am firmly rooted in my beliefs”, for example) to color its language.

Why? I believe that we have an innate appreciation for soils due to our inextricable dependence on them for food and fiber, and as a substrate for native plant communities that comprise the most palpable part of our natural surroundings. Our appreciation for soils is underdeveloped, though, since we rarely observe them in an undisturbed state and, hence, make few real connections between soils and other facets of our surroundings that are more at hand. But soils are an incredibly useful tool in one’s ability to understand not only how our gardens grow (or not) but also what we might see or expect to see in the natural areas that we visit. So how do we begin to better develop our understanding of soils to help us to, as the old timer say “read the land”?

In learning anything about nature there is no substitute for making observations and then verifying your knowledge via research and communication with others. This is what we all do when we take a

hike at our favorite ACRES’ preserve, but how do we apply this system to soils? One effective way to approach learning is to slowly associate a new subject’s most basic concepts with already familiar subject matter. I’ll illustrate with some simple plant-soil-topographic relationships at two ACRES’ preserves that, if you have not visited, you should: Fogwell Forest in Allen County and Fawn River in Lagrange County.

In the uplands of both preserves, you see forest growing on relatively flat areas with occasional small topographic depressions. While at first these two areas may seem similar, the astute and regular observer will notice many differences including: 1) the upland depressions are seasonally wet at Fogwell Forest but not at Fawn River, and 2) the common trees at Fogwell Forest are different from those at Fawn River. (At this point you have observed, noted relationships, documented what you’ve seen—as least in your brain, and perhaps done internet

or field guide research. Now all that remains is to invite a friend to hike these and other preserves with you so you can get another opinion. Before you know it, you are “reading the land” using your knowledge of plants, geology and soils. If you spend a lot of time outdoors making thoughtful observations, you will progress through several stages of reading the land, and your mind will experience a running internal dialog such as the one I experienced comparing upland wooded areas at Fogwell Forest with those at Fawn River:

First Visit: “I sometimes need my rubber boots at Fogwell Forest but not at Fawn River.”

Second Visit: “Fogwell Forest has low areas that fill up with water while Fawn River has depressions that do not. And trees and other native plants appear to differ at these two places.”

Third Visit: “At Fogwell Forest I notice that soil brought to the surface by fallen trees is gray and feels sticky but at Fawn River this soil is uniformly brownish and gritty.”

Fourth Visit: “I’m glad I did some internet research: now I know Fogwell Forest lies on a geologic landform that normally ends up having wet and clayey soils while Fawn River lies on a geologic landform that normally ends up having well-drained sandy soils.”

Fifth Visit: “Having my botany friend along is great! She’s informed me that Fogwell Forest has a lot of trees that can thrive in soils that are seasonally wet while Fawn River has trees that prefer drier sites.”



Fawn River by Shane Perfect

Sixth Visit: “It’s all clear now! I need my rubber boots at Fogwell Forest because the underlying geologic material is relatively impervious to the downward flow of water; thus, during times of high precipitation, water accumulates in depressional areas. Although I learned about the geology from maps, I’ve confirmed this by observing repeated wet-dry cycles. I visit these places periodically so I can witness seasonal variations in wetness and the associated features of the greyish, clayey soils. I now know that, in general, grey soils might indicate wetness, even if I am not currently witnessing water. To verify this, I could visit that site in the spring, when I would expect winter snow melt and spring rains to be most evident in depressions near fallen trees and in exposed grey soil.

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Center Spread: Cedar Creek, Allen County, by Shane Perfect

BEHIND THE SCENE

A beautiful day in October of 2010 and two years later I can still feel the sensory sensations of that particular day: the leaves under my boots, the critters in their Fall scurry, a gentle breeze, the smell of fresh air, and running waters at the nearby confluence of creeks. I was hiking and photographing our Founders Forest Nature Preserve, 54 acres to the right in the photo, and Mackel Nature Preserve, 28 acres to the left on the eastern banks of Cedar and Little Cedar Creeks.



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.

OCTOBER ART FESTIVAL AT DUSTIN

6 pm every Thursday in October

Enjoy a casual art event every Thursday night in October within the Dustin Barn. Various artists will be featured including musicians, photographers, story-tellers, potters, and more. Come early and enjoy the trails within the preserve. Free drinks and refreshments will be provided. Check the ACRES website for details on each event.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County
1802 Chapman Road, Hometown, IN 46748.
Entrance to the barn is just east of the main entrance to the ACRES' office.



Dustin Barn by Shane Perfect

HIKE AND LEARN

Saturday, October 13, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Renee Sinacola

Check out this nature preserve in the city, earn a hike towards your Allen County Trailblazers medallion, get a chance to meet other local hikers and weigh-in on why ACRES is important to you. Everyone welcome!

WHERE: Mengerson Nature Reserve, Allen County
5895 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

PEHKOKIA WOODS OPENING

Saturday, October 13, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jason Kissel

Celebrate the opening of another nature preserve! A brief ceremony, guided hikes and refreshments will mark the opening of this 100-acre preserve.

WHERE: Pehkokia Woods, Huntington County. From Huntington at US 24 and SR 9 take US 24 north 0.80 miles to Flaxmill Road and turn left (west). Take an immediate left to stay on Flaxmill Road and travel 0.40 miles to the preserve entrance on the right.

POPP OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 21, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Biggerstaff

Hike the old-growth woods in this state-dedicated nature preserve, open only once a year. Enjoy an afternoon eating hot dogs by a bonfire and hiking in the woods.

WHERE: Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve, Allen County
12129 Tonkel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

QUAKING BOG HIKE

Saturday, October 27, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: David Hicks

What is a quaking bog? Join David to find out and explore the quaking bog at Glennwood. The gate will be open.

WHERE: Glennwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County
7008 W 650N, Etna Green, IN 46524

NIGHT SOUNDS

Saturday, October 27, 5 - 9 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join David and Ethel for a hot dog roast and hike into the woods for night sounds and sightings. RSVP to 260-352-2604.

WHERE: Wildwood, Kosciusko County
409 E SR14, Silver Lake, IN 46982



Feather 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.

BEECHWOOD - BACK FROM THE BEGINNING

Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Fred Wooley

In 1964, board members Bob Weber and John Klotz invited members on an "Ecological Treasure Hunt" as they sought what is special about this newest ACRES preserve to help design trails. Join interpreter Fred Wooley from neighboring Pokagon State Park for a re-creation, of sorts, of that hike 48 years ago. We'll look for current ecological treasures at a time of year when nature is settling in for the winter ahead.

WHERE: Beechwood Nature Preserve, Steuben County
5145 N State Rd 127, Fremont, IN 46737

FALL 1964 ACRES QUARTERLY

SPURGEON, BEECHWOOD - BOB WEBER & JOHN KLOTZ

The new interpretive, self-guiding nature trail at the Spurgeon Reserve has been completed through the inner woods. Klotz and Weber have devised an "Ecological Treasure Hunt" which will call for keen observations of all field trip goers. Your observations along the trail and through the unmarked areas of the Beechwood Reserve will provide clues for future marking, notes for our records and trail possibilities.

(Side note: ACRES present membership: 170)

ACRES' DOCENT TRAINING

Saturday, November 17, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Bill Smith

Join Bill for ACRES' Trail Guide Docent training. Come prepared to hike a nearby trail and bring materials helpful when exploring nature trails to share with the group. Call 260-637-2273 for a Volunteer Docent Application.

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

THANKSGIVING FEAST FOR THE BIRDS

Sunday, November 18, 2 - 5 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Help prepare a winter feast for the birds at Wildwood by making bird feeders and bird treats. Rain or shine. Stay for a hike into the woods to look for animal signs and tracks.

WHERE: Wildwood, Kosciusko County
409 E SR14, Silver Lake, IN 46982



Dark-Eyed Junco by Paul McAfee

(Field Trips & Special Events continued on next page)

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.

18TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Art Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, Jeanine Samuelson and Steve Eyrich

You're invited to join us for an old-fashioned sing-along around a wood-burning stove. Enjoy festive refreshments and join others in celebrating the holiday season at the Wing Haven Studio.

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



Sing-along by Shane Perfect

SOILS—READING THE LAND (Continued from p. 9)

All of this could also explain the predominance at Fogwell Forest of trees that thrive on wetter sites – Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Pin Oak, Red Maple, etc., and I can use these sorts of relationships to gain a bit of an understanding about natural areas anywhere...I AM READING THE LAND!"

"The next time I visit Fawn River, I need to verify if there is a difference in tree species on upland flats versus upland depressions. If not, I can assume the gravelly material is relatively thick, allowing for freely-drained soils even in low spots. I can also look for fallen trees or slumps or groundhog holes from which to make soil observations. If I see uniformly red or brown soils on both upland flats and upland depressions, then I have additional evidence of a freely-drained site—regardless of site shape and position.

Zen Visit: "Having visited these two places numerous times, each time making many observations and gathering as much information as I can, I have a deeper appreciation for the diversity in nature and a greater understanding of how relationships among soils, geology, flora, etc. result in a unique place that

deserves protection. I am grateful my quest to understand a bit about soils has required me to take multiple detours on a path to a more holistic understanding of what I see, hear and feel in a natural area. Excited about my new insight into nature and its endless wonders, inherent value, and importance to humans, I now feel a compelling obligation to share this appreciation and understanding with others."

If you want your brain to experience this sort of dialog when you go outdoors (and it will, if you take this path), then I invite you to begin this journey by attending the very next soils- or geology-related hike that you can. Or jumpstart your field knowledge of soils by asking your local cooperative extension agent to connect you with your local high school that has a soil judging team. Track down the soil judging coach and volunteer to help run some contests. You'll learn more in one day doing this than in a decade of reading articles by me. Happy exploring, fellow nature lovers!

volunteerPROJECTS

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS 2012

ACRES and the Boy Scouts of America have a long history of working together on projects in the nature preserves. Upon completion of their project, the Scouts receive their Eagle badge and ACRES honors them with our very own partnership badge.

Thank you, Boys Scouts of America! We look forward to many more projects in the future.

Jonathan Snyder, Troop No. 55, Thunderbird District, Anthony Wayne Area Council, Chartered through Izaak Walton League
Construction of preserve sign-in boxes

Josh Grimm, Troop No. 55, Thunderbird District, Anthony Wayne Area Council, Chartered through Izaak Walton League
McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve: installation of a 60' boardwalk



by Josh Grimm

Ryan Schatko, Troop No. 419, Thunderbird District, Anthony Wayne Area Council, Chartered through Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
Vandolah Nature Preserve: installation and repair of benches, replaced wooden steps, and repaired two existing boardwalks

Justis Koch, Troop No. 398, Miami District, Anthony Wayne Area Council, Chartered through Lifeway Wesleyan Church
Fogwell Forest: installation and repair of benches, new 40' boardwalk, and blazing a new trail loop



Nick Burrell, Troop No. 19, Miami District, Anthony Wayne Area Council, Chartered through St. John the Baptist Church
Mengerson Nature Reserve: installation of new boardwalk and benches

call for Volunteers

ACRES is looking for volunteers to help at Asherwood Maple Sugar Camp. Give tours, explain the maple sugar process, sell maple syrup and cook pancakes at breakfast. If interested, please contact the ACRES office at 260-637-2273.

Sign routing for preserve entrance signs

Remove cement blocks from Kokiwanee. If interested, contact David Homan at 260-352-2604.

promotions/announcements

WILDWALKERS FALL SCHEDULE

Hikes are 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

October 12 Acres Along the Wabash, Wells County

October 26 Wildwood, Kosciusko County

November 9 Payton County Park, Allen County

December 14 Eagle Marsh, Allen County

Contact Renee Sinacola (an ACRES Board member) with questions: 260-427-6005 or renee.sinacola@cityoffortwayne.org.



I Gave a Gift by Trina Herber

Last Christmas, I gave gifts to family and friends, as many folks do. I gave things I know they like—books, DVDs, candles, gift cards... One person on my list was my sister-in-law's boyfriend. Having spent only a little time with him, I didn't know too much about him except he was a relaxed, patient guy who enjoys good food, the benefits of exercise and all aspects of nature. My gift to him seemed to be a no-brainer to me—an ACRES' membership, a Preserve Guide and a tree identification book from the ACRES' office book sales shelf. I had gifted ACRES' memberships before to friends with children or friends who enjoy hiking, but what an unparalleled response I received this time! He was delighted! He knew of ACRES through a friend. He has visited Vandolah, Fox Fire Woods and the office at Dustin and embraced ACRES' mission. Also, unknown to me, he had been wishing for a Preserve Guide! This is what gift-giving is about—to bring joy to someone by giving them a thoughtful gift they appreciate and will cherish the whole year through. I know that he and my sister-in-law will be setting foot to the trails in many ACRES preserves in the near and distant future. I couldn't be happier to have given a gift that will bring moments of peace, awe and exhilaration time and time again.

*All new gift memberships are half price in November and December.
New memberships only, not renewals.*

ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, November 10

University of St. Francis – North Campus

2702 Spring Street, Fort Wayne 46808

Panel presentation of ACRES' founders,
long-term members, donors and volunteers

4 p.m. Annual Meeting, Panel Presentation
and Election of New Board Members

5:30 p.m. Dinner, \$25/person

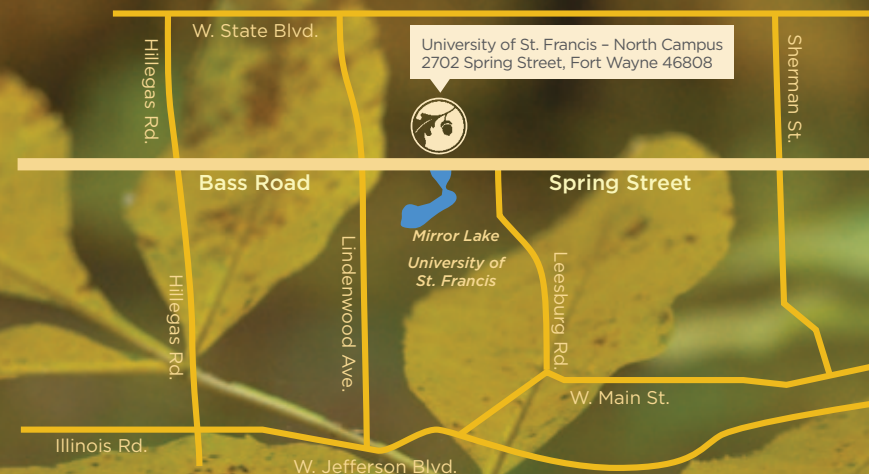
Dinner Menu Stuffed Pork Tenderloin
or Roasted Red Pepper and Vegetable Pasta

Mixed Green Salad with House Vinaigrette, Carrots,
Mashed Potatoes, Cheesecake

Beverages Water, Iced Tea and Coffee

For reservations for dinner, order online at www.acreslandtrust.org,
call the ACRES office at 260-637-2272, or stop by the office at
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748
by October 29.

Check, Cash, Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted methods of payment.



EDNA W. SPURGEON WOODLAND RESERVE

By Terri Gorney

Edna Walker Spurgeon was one of those rare individuals who saw the value of her woods in its unique qualities and beauty rather than its economic value.

The beech, sugar maple and tulip trees on this property are among the largest in the state. The Spurgeon and Walker family roots are almost as deep as the trees in this area: they were among the first settlers in Noble County.

Edna Walker married Theodore J. Spurgeon, a WWI veteran who had served in France. Her father-in-law, Amon Spurgeon, was a life-long resident of Elkhart Township in Noble County. His 1918 obituary stated he was "one of its most prominent and public-spirited citizens and successful farmers; his word was always as good as a government bond." The Spurgeon family owned about 400 acres in the area of the present-day preserve. Edna's mother, Sarah Lepird Walker, was born a little over a mile from the Spurgeon homestead.

Theodore, Edna and three others were early conservationists who in 1925 purchased the land where the preserve is now located in order to protect the woods. After Theodore's death in 1959, Edna sought a more permanent protection that would ensure the woods would remain in their present state after her death. In 1962, she was pleased to learn that her land nestled in northern Noble County had been named the Edna Spurgeon Woodland Reserve in her honor. It has the distinction of being the very first of over 80 nature preserves that are now protected by ACRES Land Trust.

The Spurgeon reserve is comprised of 65 wooded acres with simple path trails surrounded by agricultural fields, younger woods and old pastures. Locally known as "The Knobs," it has linear ridges of gravel and sand from the last glacier. The preserve provides great habitat for migratory warblers and the red-headed woodpecker.

Edna's favorite time of year must have been springtime when the woods are a magnificent display of colors. Large-flowered and sessile trillium, blue-eyed Mary, bloodroot, hepatica, celandine poppy, Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn cover the ground beneath the mighty trees.

Edna lived to the age of 92 and was buried next to Theodore in nearby Lake Park Cemetery.

Cheers to the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve for achieving its half century anniversary—and to the woman who made this milestone possible.



Edna Spurgeon, Ethyle Bloch & John Klotz

SPECIAL thanks

Mark Maffey
making preserve benches

Louise Pomeroy
helping weekly at the office

Carol Roberts
editing the *Quarterly*

Our *Quarterly* distributors

Sue Diefenbach
giving time and talent as recording
secretary for the Board of Directors

Volunteer Center volunteers: Helen Bassett,
Barbara Boston, Marge Costa, Ron Costa
and Don Thornton collating the *Quarterly*

John Carston
painting ACRES' signs for the preserves

Mary Anna Feitler
giving time and talent as membership
secretary

Molly Puitz
collating the *Quarterly* and helping
at the office

Ben Puitz
field work and helping at the office

All those who helped clean up after the summer
storms and helped with trail maintenance

Holman Excavation
donating fill for parking area at Wildwood

Cheryl Noyer
donating office supplies

Roger Wagoner
disking for warm season grass management
at Wildwood

Dave Dickmeyer
crafting and installing wooden cocktail
tables in the Dustin event barn

Dylan
helping install the new preserve sign
at Wing Haven

Thank you to our two interns, Jarod Logsdon
and Mandy Courtright, who worked hard this
summer enduring 100 degree temperatures,
fallen storm trees and drought conditions.
Thank you to the Olive B. Cole Foundation
for sponsoring these internships.

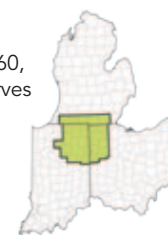


ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960,
ACRES manages and protects 84 nature preserves
totaling over 4,965 acres.



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Leaf Tree by Shane Perfect

All things are bound together ...all things connect.

– *Kahlil*