

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2011 | Vol. 50 - No. 3



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ACRES
LANDTRUST

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

ACRES' success has resulted in the ownership of over 4,850 acres of natural lands that will be preserved forever. Each preserve added increases the total amount of land we have a responsibility to manage; management includes invasive species control, restoration activities, boundary marking and enforcement, along with visitor amenities such as parking lots and trail systems. What hasn't increased proportionally with the growth of the nature preserves is the income for land management.

When David Homan and Ethel McClelland were hired to perform the field work for ACRES, there were 46 nature preserves. Now there are 79. How many staff have we added over the years to manage all the new properties? You guessed it: still just David and Ethel. While they are some of the hardest and most efficient workers that I know, the demands of the growing number of nature preserves have exceeded what two people can accomplish. We have partially compensated for the growth in land management duties by adding two summer internships (graciously funded by the Olive B. Cole Foundation) and are currently looking to fund an additional part-time, year-round position.

Although ACRES is the largest land trust in Indiana, it has fewer staff than our closest comparably sized land trust partners. This is because of our amazing volunteers. Our land management volunteers reported hours last year that totaled a full-time position – a wonderful gift to ACRES each year. These volunteers mow trails and parking lot areas, pick up litter, help at work days, clear trails, remove invasives, build boardwalks, benches and bridges, and help out in various other ways. Please consider ways you can keep our costs down by volunteering at a preserve near you. Also consider the new opportunity to help support land management activities that is introduced in this *Quarterly*: becoming a sustaining member of ACRES (see page 9 for additional details).

It's important to continue acquiring natural areas and equally important to continue maintaining existing preserves to the highest standards. As you consider how to support ACRES this year, please keep in mind the important task of land management.

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel



by Shane Perfect

Cover Photo: White-marked Tussock Moth by Steve Brisco

WELCOME 68new members!

Byron Applegate
Tina Benjamin
David and Sharon Bieberich
Kira Blacketor
Ronald and Mary Bonar
Kim Bowers
Beth Brewer
Tim Brott
Randy Brown
Ken and Trish Bugajski
Bruce and Donna Conklin
Everett Dale Currie
Clark Derbyshire
Ray Dosh
Diane Evans
Max Fraley
Susan Gilts
Kim Hartman
Thomas Hartman
Leonard Helfrich
Karl Henkels
Garry Hill
Jacqueline Hoopfer
Karen Kessler
gift of Beth Brewer
Terry and Caroline Kindsvatter
Barbara Konopka
Kristie Krebs
Chris Lee
gift of Phil and Sherilyn Wilcox
Chuck and Jeanne Lewis
Shawn Locker
gift of Mary Locker
Thom and Elaine Maher
Gary and Barbara May
Tim Meredith
Sue Metz
Charles Price
Ariel Quickery
Dhyana Raynor
Steven Richhart
Ned Risser
Neil and Tammy Rodgers
David Rowe
Jay and Betty Ruman
Mary Sarrazin

David and Kellee Schnepf
Ron Shreffler
Bill and Beth Silkworth
Martha Stoelting
Edith Stoneking
Jerry and Shirley Strope
Joyce Svoboda
Tim Swagerle
Dale Thomas Family
Margo Tritt
Evan and Joan Vaughan
gift of Doris Vaughan
Dave and Amber Wagley
Suzanne Walkup
John Watkins
Jonathan West
gift of Linda Duxbury
Brandon Wolf Family
gift of Richard and Joyce Wolf
Sandy Wyatt
Bonnie Wyss
Scott Young

Lifetime Member

Phillip and Marcia Wright

New Corporate Members

Best Buy
Pier Place
Vera Bradley
Votaw Electric
WANE-TV

ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 79 nature preserves totaling over 4,850 acres.

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



Acquisition Updates by Jason Kissel

ACRES Receives Largest Cash Donation in its History!

An anonymous couple from the Fort Wayne area, and long-time ACRES members, made a \$500,000 gift to create a land acquisition “self-lending fund”. This is the largest cash gift in ACRES’ fifty-one year history and also the largest cash gift the donors have made to an organization. In announcing the gift, the donors acknowledged their love for ACRES and its mission: preserving land in its natural state for future generations. “We were doing our estate planning and decided we wanted to support ACRES during our lifetime while also leaving a legacy that will continue to support the organization and protect land for future generations.”

The donation established a revolving pool of funds for ACRES that expanded ACRES’ flexibility in acquiring land. The funds are not to be spent on land acquisition, but rather serve as a self-loan for ACRES. For example, if a property comes up for auction that ACRES has an interest in but has not raised the money required prior to the auction, the new fund would allow ACRES to purchase the property. ACRES would then replenish the fund as pledges and donations are received for the property purchased, leaving the principal of the fund intact. The donors stated: “It is clear the public sector has fallen behind in setting aside open space for recreation purposes for our citizenry. We hope our gift increases the acreage ACRES can protect by



by Paul McAfee

providing a revolving pool of funds. We are delighted to make such a meaningful gift to ACRES and hope that others will follow suit. We have enjoyed helping ACRES purchase land for several decades.”

This is an incredible gift that gives ACRES a new land-acquisition tool that will result in even more land being preserved. Thank you, anonymous donors, for your generosity and providing ACRES with a powerful tool for land acquisition.

ACRES members are so amazing. I am continually, pleasantly surprised at your generosity. Some give enormous amounts of time, others lend their professional expertise, some never stop being an ambassador for ACRES, and yet others are able to provide substantial monetary support. ACRES is honored to be the recipient of your collective generosity of time, talent and funds. Together we are making a tangible difference – we are preserving land.

New Preserve in Elkhart County

ACRES has acquired its first nature preserve in Elkhart County! Eby Bog, a 10-acre property just north of the I-80 and I-90 interstate, was gifted from The Nature Conservancy of Indiana to ACRES. The Nature Conservancy received the property from Harry Eby in 1988.

Even though the Eby Bog property is small, it contains a variety of unique plant communities including tamarack – red maple swamp, sedge meadow and forested fen. ACRES hopes to expand the property by obtaining adjacent properties that possess equally significant natural areas.

A big thank you to the Eby Family and The Nature Conservancy of Indiana for gifting ACRES’ 79th nature preserve!

Eby Bog is closed to the public at this time.



by Jason Kissel

memorials

Earl Davis
from Leelia Cornell

Mary Harriett Hornbacker
from Auburn Garden Club

Lloyd Parson
from Sharon Smith

Mary Foster
from Scott Young

Wendell Dygert
from Mike and Dana Baker

Nancy Rullo
from John Rullo

Jerry Stratman
from Mike and Dana Baker

To Bob Stoller
from Joanne Weber

Robert Joseph Houser
from Marg and Steve,
Jill and Jason, Ted and Barb
and Martha and Kelly,
Angie and Dan O’Neill

tributes

Angie O’Neill
from Alice Kopfer

by Shane Perfect

What's on Tap? Geology!

by Michael Prentice and Sally Letsinger

A group of geologists and hydrogeologists from the Indiana Geological Survey (IGS) have taken a keen interest in understanding the thick package (up to 300 feet) of unconsolidated sediments between the ground surface and bedrock in the Fort Wayne region. This sediment package serves several important functions, such as supplying drinking water and filtering waste water. Recently, ACRES has provided invaluable support by permitting the IGS to study these sediments on some of their properties.

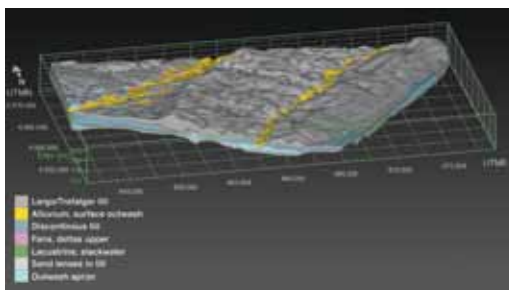
The region around Hometown, Indiana, was in the path of two large glacier ice lobes, one that moved out from Lake Erie and the other from Saginaw Bay during the last ice age and likely several preceding ice ages. Fluctuation of these ice lobes across the region, each one carrying considerable sediment, resulted in the building up of diverse deposits with complicated geometries. This complexity has important implications for local to regional groundwater distribution and flow.

A simplistic view of the sediment package is that it consists of three discontinuous layers. The central layer consists of sand and gravel that is referred to as the "Huntertown Formation". This formation is over- and underlain by sediment referred to as "till", that is dominated by clay but also contains some sand and gravel. The Huntertown Formation holds the bulk of the groundwater and constitutes an aquifer. The till deposits hold relatively little water and are referred to as "aquitards". The conventional wisdom is that surface water drains through the upper till, the Lagro Formation, so

slowly that these deposits protect the underlying aquifer.

Recent developments have raised questions about this simplistic model. Data indicates that the Lagro Formation is compositionally and spatially variable; therefore, it might be possible for contaminants to infiltrate through the deposit in places. The distribution of groundwater within the Huntertown Formation is variable because it is always on the move. To address such specific questions that directly pertain to use of the resource, the IGS has undertaken a tag-team study with the common objective of better understanding the Huntertown aquifer system.

One team, led by hydrogeologist Dr. Sally Letsinger, takes a bottom-up approach to the problem by gleaning lithologic information from data sources such as water well records. Dr. Letsinger's team constructed a digital geologic framework model (shown below) to depict their current understanding of the types, shapes, and distribution of the various aquifer units. This geologic model is being used as input to a groundwater flow model of the aquifer system. The results of the flow model will provide information needed to understand how water flows through the sediments, and how we might best protect the water from contamination.

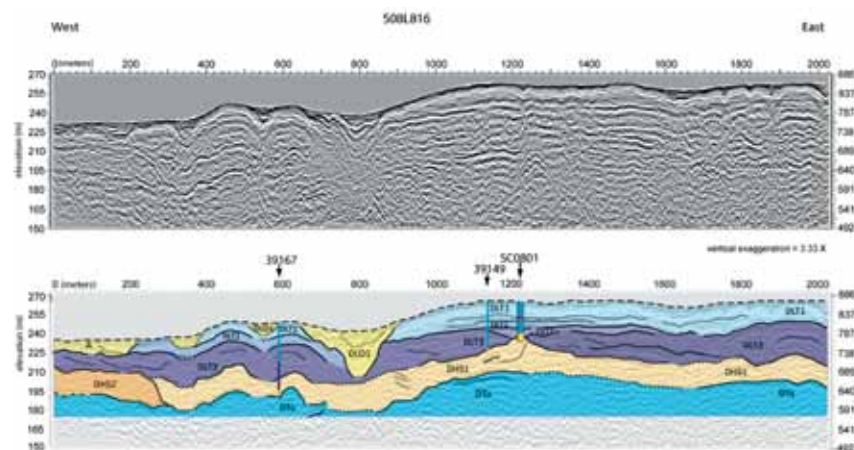


The other team, led by glacial geologist Dr. Michael Prentice, is taking a top-down approach by studying the details of the Lagro Formation. To the casual observer, the surficial till is homogenous from top to bottom, commonly 100 feet down from the ground surface. Dr. Prentice's team has employed different techniques to determine the physical properties and composition of the till and how these properties vary spatially. It is these properties that determine how rainwater flows through the formation to recharge the underlying aquifer. The team has examined sediment cores recovered from drilling through the formation – even

X-raying them to see details we can't see with our eyes. In addition, the team collected seismic-reflection profiles–geophysical data that images the subsurface (shown below).

All these techniques provide insight into the formerly unseen complexities of the till that influence underlying aquifer sensitivity.

Groundwater is a vulnerable and irreplaceable resource. Its abundance and quality are strongly influenced by the sediments through which it flows. The IGS is studying this important issue and the sediments beneath Hometown are a fine outdoor laboratory for their work.



ACRES Avocets score nicely in the 2011 Team Birdathon

by Fred Wooley

May 14, 2011 in Berrien County, Michigan, was uncharacteristically cool and rainy off and on all day. The ACRES Avocets had a respectable day given conditions, with 126 species of birds recorded!

We are proud of our 126 species and equally as proud of all of you who graciously pledged to our cause of supporting ACRES Land Trust and our beloved Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Four people gave an extra \$5 for an extra special bird. We were able to cash in an extra five on the indigo bunting, blackburnian warbler, eastern bluebird,

and my special bird, the red-breasted nuthatch.

The Blackburnian provided not only an extra \$5.00 to our cause but, for Avocet team members, a special treat as we got that bird in the very same binocular view with a male, scarlet tanager! It was a rare treat and one that makes getting out into the field so hopeful of special moments.

The total raised for 2011 is \$1,305.86! Great job, ACRES supporters!

I also want to thank team members Linda Smith, Phyllis Barents, Kerri Lyle, Tom Steele, and Kip Miller.

What is a Preserve Management Plan?

by Tony Fleming

A Preserve Management Plan (PMP) is a living document, a road map to guide each preserve's management based on empirical observation and knowledge of the preserve's specific attributes and management challenges. PMP's are tools to allocate scarce resources to effectively address short- and long-term management issues and concerns.

Why Create a Management Plan?

ACRES' preserves have expanded dramatically in number, total area and geographic distribution: ACRES manages 79 preserves encompassing some 4,850 acres of highly diverse natural areas in northern Indiana, southern Michigan, and northwest Ohio. This growth brings responsibility for an increasingly complex array of stewardship tasks and a critical need to identify each preserve's unique attributes that may require special management to maintain them in perpetuity—to fulfill ACRES' mission.

Elements of a Well-Constructed Preserve Management Plan

An effective PMP:

- 1) provides clear, science-based direction for stewardship activities and can be readily adapted to changes on the land over time;
 - 2) identifies key physical, biological, and cultural resources defining the preserve's character;
 - 3) explains geo-ecological processes and features sustaining preserve resources;
 - 4) identifies threats to the preserve and recommends and prioritizes stewardship tasks appropriate to the threat's risk and urgency;
 - 5) highlights educational and scientific opportunities presented by preserve-specific features and organisms.
- Formulating a Preserve Management Plan**
- Information is assembled on a wide range of topics from different media (e.g., text, photos, maps in ACRES' archives, or compiled from outside sources such as interactive web media), or by direct observation at the preserve. Key topics include:
- 1) the preserve's cultural history (e.g., prior land uses, legal restrictions);
 - 2) natural history (e.g., interactions of geologic features, hydrology, plants, animals, fish, insects that produce distinct natural communities);
 - 3) visual observations and inventories by experienced personnel to assess the preserve ecosystem's integrity and gauge threat levels (e.g., invasive species, water quality, boundary encroachment);
 - 4) assessment and documentation of available management tools;
 - 5) review of the preserve's historical uses and its management by ACRES.

ACRES is Taking a Systematic Approach to Developing Preserve Management Plans

ACRES has amassed a vast amount of information about its preserves. To organize this in a systematic format readily accessible to future preserve managers, ACRES initiated a pilot program in 2010: interns collected information into prototype PMP's which ACRES is now developing into a comprehensive, electronic "template" to guide development of PMP's for all its preserves. These PMP's include live links to websites maintaining key types of data (e.g., NRCS on-line soil surveys, geological surveys, county GIS systems), and standard appendices covering topics common to many preserves (e.g., life cycles of invasive plants).

This summer the template will be refined using experiences from preserves with different ecosystems and management considerations: a terrestrial preserve with an old-age forest in a rural setting; a preserve in an urban setting; a large wetland with limited terrestrial access; a preserve with fragile features that experiences heavy visitation. Both the template and resulting PMP's will be made available as a web-based resource to ACRES' staff, contractors, interns and volunteers.

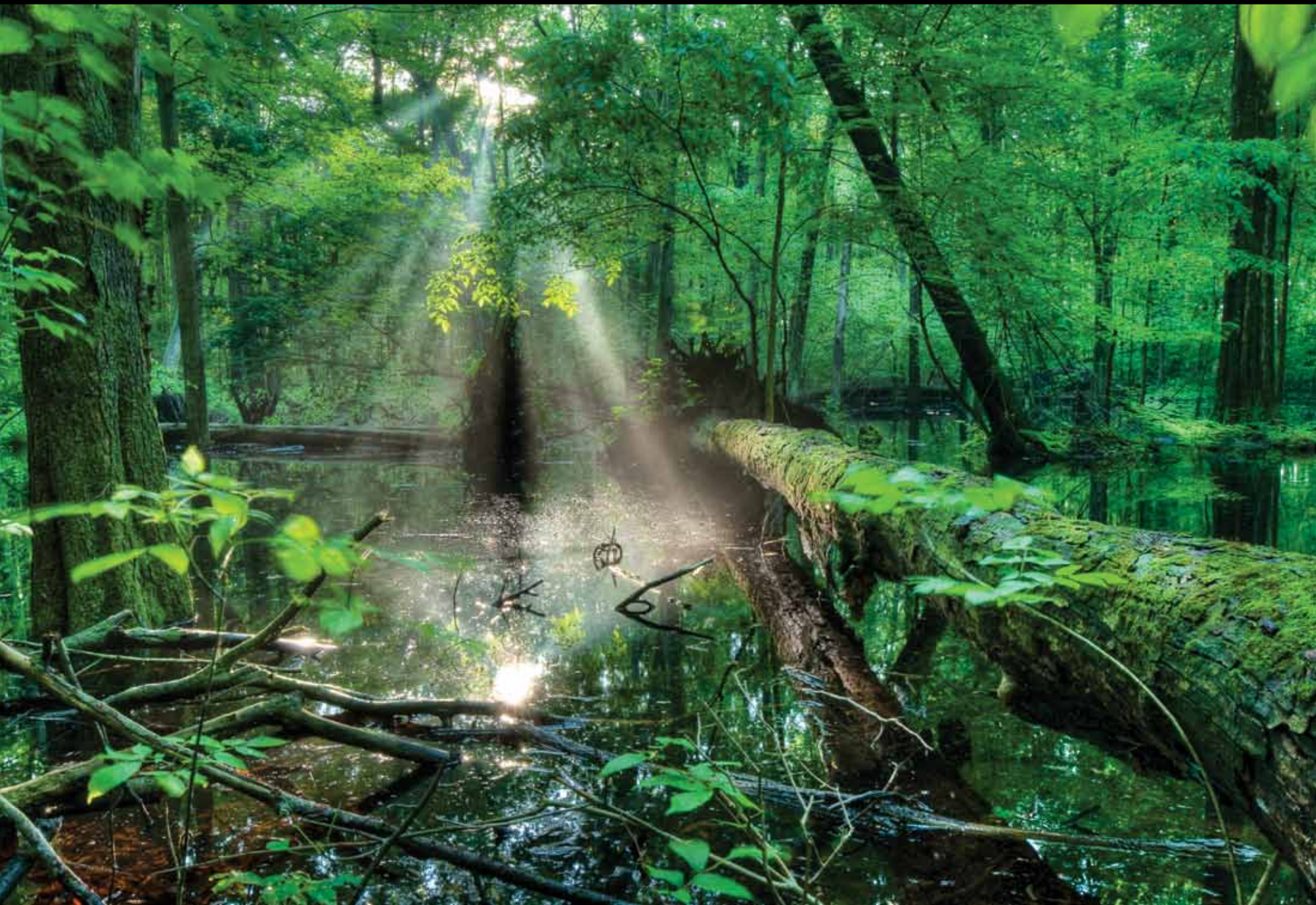
Sustaining Membership Level to Enhance Preserve Management

by Steve Hammer, ACRES President

Preserving natural areas – that is ACRES' mission in its simplest terms. For more than fifty years, ACRES has been fulfilling its mission due to the passion and generosity of its supporters. As we continue to expand beyond our 79 existing preserves and nearly 5,000 acres, we must continue to take seriously our commitment to preserve and protect these natural areas forever. It is this commitment that inspires us to establish a new level of financial support for those members who share this dedication to the proper management of our properties.

Sustaining members pledge to provide an ongoing commitment of \$500 annually to support the land management budget of ACRES. This funding will enhance our ability to do what we say we will do — protect these natural areas forever. This means providing visitor amenities where appropriate, adding educational content to enhance appreciation, reducing the impact of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, monitoring ecological integrity and protecting against any other encroachment. Our goal is 500 sustaining members, providing the \$250,000 needed annually to carry out our commitment to these properties, and our commitment to all those who rely on ACRES – our visitors, past donors, our partner organizations, government agencies, local educators and all who value having natural areas preserved, forever.

Looking ahead 500 years from now, I predict many will be grateful that our sustaining members joined in this significant commitment to protect natural areas, forever. There are many who came before us who brought ACRES to where it is today – we have a responsibility to continue ACRES' success, inspiring those who will come after us to carry on the important work of land preservation. **This is your invitation to join me as a sustaining member of ACRES.**



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.

LETTERS FROM NATURE

Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Shane Perfect

Within the woodland understory, wetlands and meadows of the preserves - nature secretly reveals the letters of the alphabet. Let's search for them and see how many we can find. Bring the kids.

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N., Angola, Indiana 46703



by Shane Perfect

WILDWOOD ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT

Thursday, July 21, 2 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join David and Ethel in the annual butterfly count and explore the preserve at the same time.

WHERE: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County, 409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake, Indiana 46982



by Angie O'Neill

10th ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP

Saturday, August 6, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons

Join Nate as he leads an interpretive program, and relax as you explore the Seven Sisters Lakes. Bring your own canoe or kayak. Limit 25. Call ACRES' office to reserve your spot. 260.637.2273

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N., Angola, Indiana 46703

CREEK STOMP III

Saturday, August 6, 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

It's time once again for the brave to converge on Ross Run Creek to discover what the creek will reveal this year. Past year's finds have included: crayfish, leeches, salamanders, snakes, fish, insects, fossils and waterfalls. You will get soaked, bitten by mosquitoes, and maybe even a little bruised up or scratched, so as always - no sissies allowed!

WHERE: Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Wabash County

From Wabash, take US 24 east to 300 E. and turn right (south) towards Lagro. Travel thru Lagro as 300 E. 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 Ringo Santiago

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit acreslandtrust.org
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HIKE AT BOCK NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday, August 20, 1 - 3 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Enjoy a relaxing summer day at the Bock Nature Preserve hiking among flowers and butterflies.

WHERE: 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.



by Jason Kissel



PEDALING FOR PRESERVES PRESENTATION

Saturday, August 27, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jason Kissel, Kevin Gray and Dave Kissel

Re-live the 3,010 mile cross country bicycle ride through maps, photos, videos, and many, many stories.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

PRAIRIE REMNANT STEWARDSHIP DAY

Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons - Blue Heron Ministries

Located in the northwest corner of this 264-acre preserve is a prairie remnant discovered by Nate in 2003. Join us as we remove invasive species to expose this native seed bank to the sun. Bring a sack lunch and liquid hydration.

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N., Angola, Indiana 46703

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS AT WILDWOOD

Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Joe Letsche, Naturalist

Join us for a presentation on the results of the 2011 Wildwood Reptile and Amphibian Survey. We'll explore the how's, when's, and why's of the snakes, frogs and salamanders that use our nature preserve, then we'll take a short hike afterward and get our hands dirty. Geared for teens and adults, but all are welcome.

WHERE: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County, 409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake, Indiana 46982



by Shane Perfect

Center Spread: Maplewood Nature Preserve, LaGrange County, by Jarrod Spicer

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m.

We would like to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers and show our appreciation of their talents and time spent helping ACRES accomplish what it does. If you are one of our many volunteers, please join us for a cookout at the newly renovated Dustin barn. Dinner compliments of ACRES' staff and Board. Please call to make reservations at 260.637.2273.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748. Stay on Chapman Road just past the main entrance to the Dustin Nature Preserve and look for the barn to your right.



by Shane Perfect

PHOTO SHOOT AT ASHERWOOD

Sunday, September 18, 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Kissel Family

Explore Asherwood with your digital camera, then share your photos and experiences with the rest of the group on the large screen in the nature center. This is not about the quality of the photography, so don't worry about your photography skills. It's all about sharing your experience within the preserve.

WHERE: Asherwood Environmental Center, 7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, Indiana 46992



by Shane Perfect



\$10 PRESERVE GUIDE

ACRES' 136 page Preserve Guide is available at the following locations:

Fort Wayne area: the ACRES office, Wild Birds Unlimited, Hyde Brothers Booksellers, The Bird Seedy, and at all ACRES events

Surrounding areas: Pokagon State Park Nature Center, Wabash County Historical Museum, Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center, and at all ACRES events

NATURE'S CALENDAR

by Fred Wooley, Park Interpreter,
Pokagon State Park

Early July – pick a day....

- Summer flowers and fruits abound! Visit open old fields and enjoy the feast. Black raspberries are fully ripe! Take a container to enjoy some back at home over ice cream or cereal. Elderberry shrubs are in full flower: their flat panicles of white blooms look like Grandma's doilies lying over green branches. Take home one of these panicles of flowers; when your pancake batter starts to bubble, gently press the petals against the batter and pull away. You are left with a beautiful, tasty addition to your morning breakfast treat!

July 15 – Full Moon

- Pick the darkest ACRES preserve near you, and get out there just after sunset to walk as the full moon rises. Algonquin people refer to this full moon of July as the Buck Moon or Thunder Moon. It was also known as the Summer and Hay Moon in colonial America. Think about other names based on natural events around you during the July full moon.

July 20

- It's a time of year for baby animals. Woodland preserves will have pint-sized raccoons spilling out of tree cavities and onto the forest floor for nights of foraging with mom. Along wooded edges and field borders, young woodchucks will have to keep at least one eye out for circling hawks looking for a quick meal of an unwary rodent. At dusk, juvenile barred owls will be testing their hunting prowess on moths and bugs on the open forest floor and, we hope, eventually, take on more substantial rodent fare themselves.

August 11

- Beautiful, large, white water lilies seem to suddenly appear from the deep, dark, water depths of Little Gentian Lake at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve. Some native peoples thought that these were actually shooting stars from the night before. The reasoning sort of makes sense as we reach the peak of the Perseid meteor showers of August 11.

Late August

- Just as we have forgotten the pink-purple of our fingers, sticky from picking black raspberries in mid June, in late August we dye our fingers black-purple with the ripening of more robust blackberries. Visit old fields, but get there before birds and raccoons get them all!

September 10

- For many, Labor Day signals the end of summer. In ACRES preserves, a certain vine sends up the red flag of coming fall. Actually, green Virginia Creeper leaves are there all summer, blending with surrounding tree leaves. Before most leaves turn, the Virginia Creeper vine turns deep red, resembling bright flames shooting up tree trunks, shouting out; "The end of summer in the natural world!"



by Fred Wooley



Adventurer Day Camp

Join us for a week full of nature exploration! Enjoy pond scoping, nature hikes, crafts, and educational presenters. Children will need to bring a brown bag lunch. Pizza Hut will provide lunch the last day of camp. Snacks and water will be provided. Limited to 15 children per week.

Ages: 7-13

Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cost: \$80/week

July 5-8 (Tues. – Fri.)

**Wing Haven Nature Preserve
(Steuben County)**

180 W. 400 N., Angola, IN 46703

**Special Presentation
(Open to the Public)**

Thursday, July 7, 2011 10 a.m.

**Go to
acreslandtrust.org/adventurers
for more information.**

Calling all Youth Writers

ACRES is looking for articles to publish in future Quarterlies written by people ages 11 to 21. Get the creativity flowing by visiting a preserve or remembering a special time experienced outside. We'll accept all forms of nature-based writing from poems to articles. If you have a photo to include, send it along. Submissions should be in the form of a Word document. If you're older than 21, don't let that stop you from submitting something. We're all young at heart.

ALLEN COUNTY TRAILBLAZERS



Allen County has a new hiking program coming to you this fall.

Little River Wetlands Project, ACRES, and the Allen County and New Haven Parks and Recreation departments have partnered to provide the trail network for an annual hiking rewards program. Simply hike the required trail lengths and receive your annual accomplishment medallion.

For upcoming information and fall kickoff, visit
allencountytrailblazers.org

Changing of the Guard at Wing Haven

The Spurgeon family has resigned their position as caretakers at Wing Haven. The demands of serving as caretakers were beginning to infringe upon the time available for their growing family. Thank you, Bill, Dawn and girls, for all the work and love you put into Wing Haven. We appreciate all the fun, life and creativity your presence added.

Shane Perfect, ACRES' project manager, and his family will serve as the new caretakers. Be sure to welcome Shane, Holly, Colt and West as you see them out and about at Wing Haven. Can't wait to see all the photographs Shane and Holly will no doubt produce from the property!



Perfect family by Christopher Heath

Wing Haven Nature Preserve, 264 acres of forests, ravines, natural lakes and prairies, was donated to ACRES in 1983 through the estate of Ben and Helen Swenson. Wing Haven is located at 180 W. 400 N., Angola, IN, and is open daily from dawn to dusk.

Nomination of Board of Directors

Election of new board members will soon be here. Current ACRES members in good standing are eligible to nominate an individual for the Board of Directors. Contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or acres@acreslandtrust.org before October if you would like to make a nomination.

Save The Date

Annual Dinner
December 3, 2011
University of Saint Francis

Membership Dinner
and Public Lecture

Scott Russell Sanders - Guest Speaker

Wildwalkers

Summer Schedule

Hikes are 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

July 8
Bicentennial Woods, Allen County

July 22
Fawn River Nature Preserve,
LaGrange County, 8:45 – 10:30 a.m.

August 12
Emmanuel M. Popp Preserve,
Allen County

August 26
McClue Nature Preserve,
Steuben County

September 9
Franke Park, Allen County

September 23
Brooks Property, Allen County,
9 – 11 a.m.

Our Quarterly distributors

Doug Rood

donating books for the library

Britton Marketing & Design Group

designing the Quarterly

Karen Griggs and Carol Roberts

for editing/revising the Quarterly

Terri Gorney

donation of bird suet and trail gloves

Linda Kaufman, Bob and Bea

McCarthy, Ted and Tedra

Hemingway, Garry Baker,

Judy O'Dwyer, Barb Clark

and Donna Stucker

collating the Quarterly

Bruce and Gail Montgomery

donation of work gloves

Yoder's Sugar Bush

for donating maple syrup

Kosciusko County REMC

for EnviroWatts grant for youth education programs at Wildwood Nature Preserve

Brad and Jill Noyes family

for construction of the boardwalk at Ropchan Wildlife Refuge

Olive B. Cole Foundation

Ione and Edward Auer Foundation

Mimi and Ian Rolland Foundation

NIPSCO

Community Foundation of Greater

Fort Wayne

Indiana Michigan Power

Kosciusko County REMC

Kosciusko County Community

Foundation

LaGrange County Community Foundation

for operating support of LaGrange County preserves

M. E. Raker Foundation

for program support

Foellinger Foundation

for operating support

Pizza Hut

Steuben County Community Foundation

for support of the ACRES Adventurer Day Camp at Wing Haven Nature Preserve

Susan Anderson

for cataloguing the Bob Weber book donation and coordinating the placement of books in the library and office

Special thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Blue Jean Gala:

Joseph Decuis Farm, WANE-TV, Indiana Michigan Power, NIPSCO, Lake City Bank, Petroleum Traders, Vera Bradley, Best Buy, Northern Indiana LAKES Magazine, John and Carol Brooks, Northside Galleries, our Silent Auction contributors, and all our volunteers

Mikey Williams

donation of CD clock radio

Ralph and Mary Campbell

donation of seed corn

Anonymous Stewards

for picking up trash in the preserves



by Shane Perfect

Lucy Luedeke

for her hard work on the Blue Jean Gala while interning at ACRES

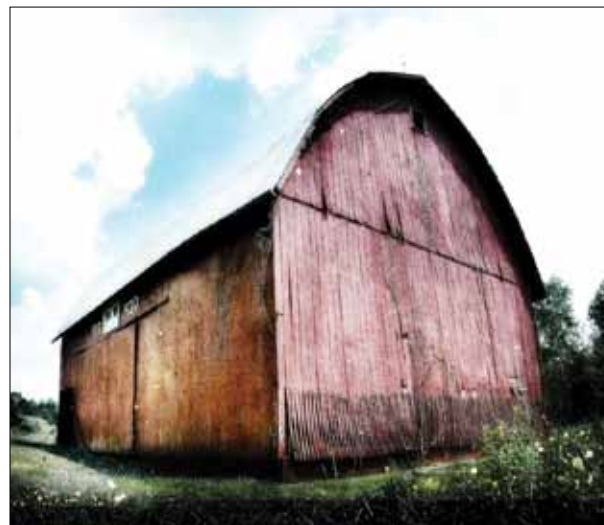
Thank you to all our presenters at ACRES Adventurer Day Camp

The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, the Ropchan Foundation, Huntington County Community Foundation, Rick Phillips support of Little River Landing acquisition

Taylor and Molly Puitz

for their help with organizing the Blue Jean Gala tickets

Thank you to all those who gave to the 2011 Birdathon. The following pledged \$1.00 or more per bird: Mary Anna Feitler, Robin Lemberger, Mark and Anne Shure, and John Rullo



by Holly Heath Perfect

DUSTIN BARN - Conversion to Event Space

We are enhancing the barn located within the Dustin Nature Preserve to facilitate programs such as day camps, concerts, fund raisers, and educational presentations. Work to be performed includes adding electrical service and lighting; repairing the foundation; reframing windows; adding crushed limestone for a ground surface; repairing of doors, siding and downspouts; and installation of a gate and driveway. There is still a lot to be done. Call to find out how you can get involved.

PEDALING FOR PRESERVES

Thank you to everyone who supported the Pedaling for Preserves trip. Through your generosity, **\$10,000** was raised for land acquisition and management! The trip was a wonderful experience. We had great weather, toured through spectacular landscapes, and had fun enjoying all the local food, stories, and people.

To see pictures, maps and daily commentary from the trip, visit: www.acreslandtrust.org/pedaling

Be sure to join Jason, Kevin and Dave on August 27 for a presentation of the trip.

See page 13 for more details.

Pedaling for Preserves by the Numbers:

- 3,010 miles ridden
- 13 days of 100+ miles
- 4 bugs eaten
- 14 blown tubes
- 29 "ACRES" signs seen
- 91 miles per day average

acres' wishlist

Fabrication and welding of metal sign-in boxes

Router for lettering wood signs

Plastic coat hangers
Toaster for office

the**BACK**page

by Trina Herber

Nature Rejuvenates Us

The coyote howl that will freeze you in your tracks...The eerie call of an owl at dusk...The cheerful chirp of spring peepers...The mesmerizing hum of a field of crickets...The rustle of the wind in the canopy...

We revel in the peace and solitude of the forest. It calms and centers us. It melts away stress.

The warm sun on our faces...The soft breeze on our skin...The strain in our calves... We drink in each sensory experience...It liberates us. With each sensation, we more deeply appreciate nature. The interconnectivity of all creation is increasingly apparent as we continue our hike.

The "call of the wild" is ingrained in us. For some, it is overwhelming and irresistible. Others have suppressed it. Many of us long to throw off the shackles of the civilized world and be at one with creation. Luckily, it is a dream that can come true if for just an afternoon at any ACRES preserve.



by Shane Perfect

DIRECTORS: Steven Hammer, President; Emily Pichon, VP; William A. Smith IV, VP; Norm Cox, Secretary; Richard E. Walker, Treasurer; Renne Baines, Samuel T. Boggs, Neil Case, James Haddock, Trina Herber, Richard Hurley, Mary Ibe, Carol Roberts, David Schnepf, Gary R. Tieben, David Van Gilder, Connie Haas-Zuber. Membership Secretary: Mary Anna Feitler; Recording Secretary: Sue Diefenbach.

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Ethel McClelland and David Homan, Land Management Specialists; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Office Manager/Education Manager; Jane Munk, Marketing and Event Manager.

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