

# THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Winter 2011 | Vol. 50 - No. 1



## In this issue:

- Acquisition Updates
- ACRES Receives Books
- Trees in the Winter
- Events
- Pedaling for Preserves
- Back Page



**ACRES**  
LANDTRUST

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In March I will begin riding my bicycle across America. Two other ACRES members will join me. Kevin Gray will be riding his bicycle the entire route, and my father, Dave Kissel, will be driving a support vehicle along with riding his bike several miles each day.

The trip is called "Pedaling for Preserves" since every rotation of our tires will raise money to support land acquisition and management of ACRES' nature preserves. It will be rewarding traveling through the varied landscapes of the southern United States (route from San Diego, California to St. Augustine, Florida, loosely following Interstate 10), knowing that each mile is helping to preserve a forest, wetland or meadow within ACRES' service area.

I will be sharing the scenes, struggles, funny moments, and successes with you on ACRES' website so you can be part of this adventure. The website will include an updated map allowing you to track our daily progress, and you will be able to post comments to us during the trip! The trip will be a celebration of land. Join us through pictures and video as we appreciate the land we are touring and celebrate the land that will be forever preserved as a result of the trip.

Slowly traveling 3,100 miles across the country will provide a lot of time to think. A large portion of my time will be spent thinking about ACRES and how I can further its mission of preserving significant natural areas. I encourage you to take time this winter and do the same.

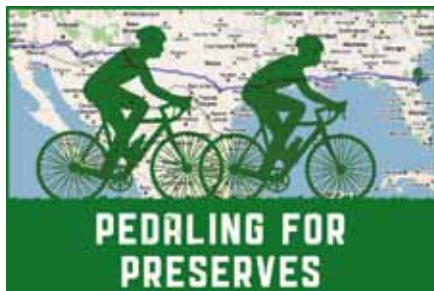
ACRES is built on the assumption that the work we do today will be continued by others in the future. That only works if we inspire the next generation of members, donors, leaders, and supporters. ACRES' staff and board can't do that alone. Only you can ensure ACRES' future success. What will you do in 2011 to ensure ACRES is able to celebrate its 100th and 250th anniversary?

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

P.S. See page 15 to join the Pedaling for Preserves adventure!



## WELCOME 63new members!

Dick and Sharon Alfeld  
Louetta Allen  
Kemuel Badger  
Bob and Martha Bohn  
Sondra Bowman  
gift of Kathy Royer  
Sean and Michelle Bradley  
gift of Randy and Carol Roberts  
John Browning  
Dawn Buchanan  
Isa and Elizabeth Canavati  
Mark Carboni  
Paul and Sue Clemente  
David Cramer  
Ron and Cathy Duchovic  
Mark Dumbauld  
gift of Lewis and Ruth Dumbauld  
Ted Dumbauld  
gift of Lewis and Ruth Dumbauld  
Randall and Cheryl Dunn  
Bradley Ellis  
Howard and Colene Fisher  
gift of Brett Fisher  
Stephanie Frischie  
Dianne Frandsen  
gift of Kathy Royer  
Arthur and Jane Hadley  
Michael and Linda Handlin  
The Harvey family  
gift of Dolores Tomusk  
Jay Heckler  
Mildred Heisler  
Gary Helfrich  
gift of Eric Helfrich  
David Hess  
Lou Ann Homan-Saylor  
Adeline Jackson  
gift of Buck and Belva Hatton  
Matthew and Nola Katinsky  
Gerry and Linda Kaufman  
Neil and Wendy Laymon  
Mike and Brenda Marckel  
Doug and Diane Martin  
Larry and Janet McClintock  
Rebecca Mertens  
Margaret Metzinger

Bud Miller  
gift of John Raub  
Allen Miracle  
Erin Moore  
Tom O'Neill  
Mary Partee  
gift of Ron Patton  
Barbara Passwater  
Kay Rekeweg  
Kirsten Roberts family  
gift of Randy and Carol Roberts  
Fred Ryman  
Robert Ryman  
Mike and Jeri Siebern  
Joe and Amy Smith  
Robin Stockberger  
Deborah Stuart  
Jeffrey and Baerbel Stumpf family  
gift of Edwin and Phyllis Stumpf  
Frank and Karen Vojtasek  
Dan and Tia Vorndran  
Allen Wentz  
Karin Wilcox  
Don and Marie Willoughby  
Richard and Marna Worman  
Mark and Marcella Yoder

### New Corporate Members

Gladieux Refinery  
Patty Tritch – ReMax Results  
The Steffen Group  
Sunshine Home Health Care

### ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960, ACRES manages and protects 77 nature preserves totaling over 4,750 acres.

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



# Acquisition Updates by Jason Kissel

## ACRES Acquires Another Snake-Infested Swamp!

Real estate agents would advise you against marketing a property as a snake-infested swamp, but for ACRES that's a wonderful description, especially when the snakes are endangered Massasauga rattlesnakes.

ACRES purchased a 32-acre sedge- and grass-dominated marsh community for several reasons, including: protection of wetlands of the Elkhart River, and of Massasauga rattlesnake habitat; providing habitat for many bird species including the endangered marsh wren; and the property's close proximity to ACRES' Marsh Wren and Indian River nature preserves.

In addition to frequently seen rattlesnakes, many other animals call this property home, including many species of turtles and frogs, numerous red-winged blackbirds, and sandhill cranes (seen nesting within this property last spring).

A big thank you to the Olive B. Cole Foundation for funding this wonderful new preserve!

The preserve is closed to the public at this time.



by Shane Perfect



## ACRES to Acquire Asherwood in 2024

Asherwood Environmental Center is a 160-acre forested property located in Wabash County. The property, owned by Marion Community Schools, has been used as an environmental education facility since 1978. Several buildings and features facilitate its educational mission: a 3,000-square foot nature center that was just completed in 2010, an older nature center, an outdoor aviary that is home to seven raptors including a bald eagle, miles of trails including ADA-accessible portions, outdoor classrooms, a functional sugar shack, picnic shelters, and a caretaker's residence.

The Friends of Asherwood, a non-profit organization dedicated to the property and programs of Asherwood Environmental Center, contacted ACRES a few years ago to determine if ACRES would be interested in managing and ultimately owning the property.

ACRES was immediately interested in the natural features of the property—160 acres of forest (60 acres of which are already a state-dedicated nature preserve), meandering creeks, established trails, and rolling topography. Then, once we became fully aware of the existing and potential environmental education opportunities, we were sold on the idea of acquiring Asherwood.



by Jason Kissel

Due to a deed restriction on the property, Asherwood cannot be transferred to ACRES until 2024. ACRES will manage and maintain the property in exchange for the deed to the land in 2024 for the price of \$1.00. So ACRES' expenses to operate and maintain the property over the next 13 years are, in effect, the acquisition payments. Estimated expenses to ACRES during the term of the agreement, including capital improvement projects, total well below the appraised value of the property, making this a bargain sale for ACRES.

Bill Harmsen, the new caretaker for Asherwood will provide general maintenance of the grounds, buildings, trails and property. Asherwood is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. ACRES will hold a grand opening event at Asherwood in the spring, but you are welcome to explore the property before then on your own, or attend the Sneak Peek program at Asherwood on February 19. See the events page for details.

Asherwood is located at 7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, Indiana. Please consider a donation toward the acquisition of this property.



by Shane Perfect



# ACRES Receives Books from Founding Member

by Faith J. Van Gilder

ACRES recently received a generous gift of several hundred natural history books from the personal library of founding member Bob Weber. A retired high school botany teacher, Weber wanted the books to have a good home where they would continue to help educate people about the natural world.

Browsing through the titles gives a glimpse into the many interests of Weber and his wife of 52 years, Janet. Born in southern Indiana, Weber attended Purdue and the University of Michigan, then taught at South Side High School for about 40 years, retiring in 1988. Many of his books came in handy in his classroom. "I used them for background a lot," Weber said.

The large number of Audubon, Nature Conservancy and Sibley Field Guides shows that the Webers enjoyed getting outdoors for hikes and excursions. In fact, for many years Weber was ACRES' key land management expert. Most of the guides cover the flora and fauna of the Hoosier state, but others focus on Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Nebraska, Florida and Canada, revealing the couple's love of travel.

"Most of our married life we would pick up books when we traveled different places, for example, museums," said Janet, who was a Latin teacher.

Far from being in pristine condition, many of the books show signs of being read and thumbed through. There are clippings, letters, even dried leaves tucked inside some of them. "My favorites were the ones on the history of Indiana and American Indians," said Weber.

There is a box of stories by renowned Hoosier naturalist Gene Stratton Porter, born in Wabash County and most well known for her *Girl of the Limberlost*. There is a set by Bluffton native and scientist Charles C. Deam (born in 1865), after whom the Deam Wilderness Area near Bloomington is named.



Bob Weber by Shane Perfect

A box of children's school "readers," poetry and classics, such as Aesop's *Fables*, are obviously older than the others. One is a small tattered 1831 textbook titled *Familiar Lectures on Botany*, by Almira H. Lincoln (born in 1793), which emphasizes the religious nature of scientific study. Weber says these were handed down from family members.

The collection includes a broad range of topics, including:

- Trees, shrubs, grasses
- Birds, bird-watching
- Insects – butterflies, mosquitoes, dragonflies
- Fish, amphibians, reptiles
- Wildflowers, ferns, mosses, orchids
- Geology, evolution
- Gardening, landscaping, houseplants
- Indiana and Fort Wayne history
- Native American history, art
- National parks and forests

Now stacked in piles and boxes in the ACRES library, the books will be cataloged and indexed by ACRES' member Doug Rood. Some general-reference books will remain at the ACRES office, along with field guides that hikers can check out and take with them as they hike the trails.

Other more general interest books, such as the oversize photography book, *Earth From Above*, will be part of a reading area at Asherwood Environmental Science Center near Wabash, according to ACRES' project manager Shane Perfect. There they will be enjoyed by visitors, including parents waiting to pick up children from activities.

Jason Kissel, ACRES' executive director, states: "This donation is representative of all the contributions the Webers have provided to ACRES over the past 50 years. The Webers have always used their talents to benefit ACRES' present and future. For example, the concrete trail markers Bob installed at Spurgeon in the 60s are still serving their purpose, the knowledge Bob and Janet shared with children while on ACRES' hikes is still being recalled in the minds of many, and these books will have a long life with ACRES, providing knowledge and inspiration to new generations of ACRES' supporters."

The Webers live in the Indian Village neighborhood in Fort Wayne, where Bob is still an avid reader. Newspapers, the *Saturday Evening Post*, *National Geographic* magazine and books about American Indians remain his favorites.

Although he doesn't get out to hike and travel as much as he used to, it's important to Weber that his library continues to inspire younger generations. "I hope [the books] have a good second life – or maybe even third or fourth," he said.

## tributes

To Jason, Amy, Anna and Ben Kissel and Adam and Kristen Bell from Pam and Jay Sagers

## memorials

Marion Eberhardt from Ethyle Bloch, Stockbridge Audubon Society Inc., Fred and Mary Anna Feitler, Angie O'Neill, Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley and Jim and Mary Shearer

Nancy Eberhardt from Ed Eberhardt, Ethyle Bloch, Jeannette Kent, Fred and Mary Anna Feitler, Ron, Ann, Ed and Nat Hendel and friends of Nancy Eberhardt

Kenneth Cole from Will and Nena Clark

John Boggs from Fred, Jackie and Joseph Wooley

Carl Bailey from Kathryn Bloom

Dr. Mary Lee Richeson from Nancy Chiavetta and Pat Deihl

Kenneth Castor from A Book Club

photo by Shane Perfect

# Trees in the Winter

by Lindsey Purcell, Urban Forestry Specialist, Purdue University

Trees must adapt to survive the cold, frozen conditions of winter. Because they can't just get up and move to a more suitable location, they must rely on physiological and structural adaptations.

## Foliage

Deciduous trees lose their leaves when day length shortens and temperatures begin to fall. This foliage shedding avoids the problem of maintaining live tissue when water is less available to plants.

Conifers or needled evergreens also drop "leaves" in part, but not all at once. Most retain needles for two to three years before shedding them. Evergreen needles have a thick, waxy layer called cutin that helps reduce water loss. Needles also have much tighter stomatal closures (stomata are the pores that allow air and water to pass in and out of the needle, which prevents desiccation). Needle retention allows evergreens to extend the photosynthetic season and take advantage of winter thaws and also permits slow rates of photosynthesis during cold weather. However, this can also compromise survival in terms of water loss and winter damage.

## Water

Even in the winter, trees need a supply of water. There are three potential sources of water: the soil, internal tree reservoirs, and subnivean vapor absorption. The insulating effect of snow can result in ground thaws or prevent freezing in the first place, which means that the liquid form of water is often available in the soil. The sapwood of trees and branches also contains water, although this water is often frozen and unavailable. However, solar radiation energy and winter thaws can melt the sapwood water, making it available for transport throughout the plant.



by Ron Patton

Water cannot be moved while frozen, so temperatures must be near or above freezing for any translocation to occur. Water is moved through the xylem vessels, which consist of cells that make up long tubes called tracheids. The cohesive properties of water permit continuous columns of water to be pulled through these tracheids. If a water column is broken or frozen, it is nearly impossible to restore the column.

Conifers have some fascinating adaptations that overcome the problem of broken water columns. Within the transport tubes, conifers have tiny "check valves" between each tracheid. Ice formation and volume expansion increase pressure within a water column, causing the check valve to seal the ends of each tube. When warm periods occur and the water column is restored, water is supplied through the plant.

## Winter acclimation

Much like animals that hibernate, trees undergo changes that allow them to survive harsh winter weather. All trees have a "killing temperature" where ice crystals form within cells, resulting in cell death. The fact that killing temperatures vary among different species, between populations of the same species, and even among different tissues, dictates species ranges and hardiness zones for trees.

Plant acclimation is prompted by changes in the photoperiod. Absciscic acid (AA) plays a key role. Physiological changes include an increase in AA and lipids (soluble fats). Proteins also change as they depolymerize and cell membrane permeability increases. Solute concentrations within cells increase, slightly lowering the internal freezing point. Therefore, as temperatures drop, water outside cells freezes first. When freezing occurs, specific heat is created and small amounts of energy help internal cell fluids remain unfrozen. Twig temperatures actually rise several degrees during this process. Water moves out of cells attracted to the ice crystals in the pore spaces. This process effectively reduces the freezing point of cell water, avoiding the killing temperature.

## Other tree survival challenges

Each winter, trees face other challenges besides physiological issues. Snow accumulation and ice storms can be a major issue, especially to evergreen species. To offset this weight-loading problem, conifers grow in an excurrent shape and possess uniquely angled branching patterns that help shed snow. Conifers also possess longer wood fibers, which provide more flexibility.

Many of our furry friends, such as deer, mice and other rodents, find sustenance in the living bark of trees. However, if the bark is chewed and removed all the way around the stem, the girdling will kill the tree. Severe browsing of flower buds and shoots of deciduous trees can cause severe damage to young trees.

Because of their many mechanisms that help them endure nature's winter challenges, trees are truly survivors.

Center Spread: Seven Pillars by Gwen Gutwein  
oil painting

## NATURE'S CALENDAR

### January 19

- Full Moon. Algonquin people refer to this first full moon of the new year as the Wolf Moon.

### Late January

- Visit any of our preserves near a river or big lake with open waters such as Hanging Rock or Tel-Hy, and watch for wintering bald eagles. They may swoop down to take advantage of an unsuspecting wintering goose or coot.

### February – first week

- Visit an ACRES preserve with a wetland and listen for the first "kong-ka-reeeee" of the recently arriving male red-winged blackbirds. They return and set up battlefields for optimum nest sights to impress the females that arrive a few weeks from now.

### February – last week

- Visit those same ACRES wetlands and, if there is snow, look for spots in the muck where it might be disappearing, revealing the thick, pointed, green-purplish "bud" of a skunk cabbage. Some are now swelling and opening to show their thumb-like protrusions covered with tiny yellow flowers.

### March 1

- Visit Wing Haven Nature Preserve or Ropchan Wildlife Refuge Preserve and keep an ear cocked for the distant, ancient, haunting calls of sandhill cranes returning north as they have done over the eons.

### March 14

- You can almost mark your calendar now that on this day, the first eastern phoebe with its explosive little call and tail bobbing posture will show up on the fence rails at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve and begin thinking about what eave or hanging flowerpot will make a good nest site.

- Fred Wooley

ACRES Land Trust 9





## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

### WINTER STORIES

Saturday, January 15, 2 p.m.  
Presented by: The Kissel Family

Enjoy a short winter hike followed by refreshments and nature-themed stories. This program is designed for children, but all ages are welcome – who doesn't enjoy a good story?

**WHERE:** Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County, 1541 E. 300 N., Wabash, Indiana 46992

### BRUNCH WITH THE BIRDS

Saturday, January 22, 10 a.m.  
Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

View the birds at the big window at Wildwood while enjoying brunch and visiting with friends.  
RSVP 260.352.2604.

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



by Ethel McClelland

### NEW YEAR HIKE

Saturday, January 22, 2 p.m.  
Presented by: The Spurgeon Family

Join us for a winter hike and then return to the studio for fellowship, a snack and warm up by the woodstove. If your New Year's resolution is to get fit, this would be a great way to start.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N, Angola, Indiana 46805

### WING HAVEN OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 13, 2-4 p.m.  
Presented by: The Spurgeon Family

The studio will be open for you to warm up after a hike or just come visit us next to the woodstove. Bring a craft, paint, or read a book in this wonderful woodland setting.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N, Angola, Indiana 46805



by Fred Wooley

### PRESERVE STEWARDSHIP

Thursday, February 17, 2 p.m.  
Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Join David and Ethel to learn about trail maintenance and invasive species and find out how you can help when hiking the preserves.

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

## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.

### DUSTIN FULL MOON HIKE

Friday, February 18, 7 p.m.  
Presented by: Tina Puitz and Heather Baker

Discover the Dustin Nature Preserve by the light of the full moon! Dress for a brisk winter walk along the snow-draped trails of the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve. Afterwards, come inside the ACRES office (former home of Tom and Jane Dustin) for hot chocolate and s'mores by the fireplace.

**WHERE:** Dustin Nature Preserve, ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Indiana 46748



by Mark Kuechler

### ASHERWOOD SNEAK PEEK

Saturday, February 19, 2 p.m.  
Presented by: The Kissel Family

Enjoy a guided winter hike and explore all that Asherwood has to offer: the nature center, aviary with six raptors, miles of trails, a sugar shack, and many other natural wonders.

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

### 2011 FORT WAYNE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

March 3-6

Please contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 if you are interested in volunteering. For more information, see page 17.



by Shane Perfect

### FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING

Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.  
Presented by: Paul Rothrock

Join Paul to look for the first signs of spring. There will be winter twigs to investigate, and maybe the skunk cabbage will be flowering. If the weather is on the chilly side, you can duck into the warm house for hot chocolate.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County, 409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake, Indiana 46892

### MERRY LEA'S MAPLE SUGAR CAMP

Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.  
Presented by: Bill Smith

Join Bill, Larry Yoder and fellow sugar bush volunteers for sausage, pancakes, fresh maple syrup, and a guided tour of Yoder's Sugar Bush, located near the ACRES office.

Only 50 spots available! Reservations required. This event fills quickly, so call early! Program Fee: \$5 per person. Call the ACRES office, 260.637.2273, to reserve your spot.

**WHERE:** Yoder's Sugar Bush, Allen County

From Fort Wayne, take Coldwater Road north to Chapman Road, turn right (east) and travel 1.25 miles to 2427 Chapman Road. Park next to the red barn and walk 0.5 miles back to camp.

# fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273 or visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)  
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information.



## BLUEBIRD HOUSE HIKE

Saturday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Presented by: The Spurgeon Family

Come and hike with us as we clean and repair bluebird houses. We will also be building some new houses for our feathered friends. This is a great event for the whole family!

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County, 180 W. 400 N, Angola, Indiana 46805

by Ralph Campell

## POETRY READING AND REVIEW

Saturday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Matthew Brown

Enjoy a reading by Matthew Brown, author of *In the Silence of These Woods*, while sitting fireside within the cozy ACRES' office at the Dustin Nature Preserve. *In the Silence of These Woods* is a collection of poetry inspired by ACRES' nature preserves. Obtain your copy of the book from the ACRES' office or website before the event so you can share your observations.

**WHERE:** Dustin Nature Preserve, ACRES Office, 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown, Indiana 46748

## SALAMANDER SHUFFLE

Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Bring your flashlight to look for salamanders and other night wildlife.

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

## DANCE OF THE WOODCOCKS

March 28 - April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Bring your flashlight, and venture back to Lost Acres to watch for the spring woodcock dance.

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

## KIDS' SPRING FLING

Tuesday, April 5, 1-4 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Come look for signs of spring and enjoy hiking, a bat program with Bob Walton, making crafts and having fun. RSVP to 260.352.2604

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



by Sarah Rood

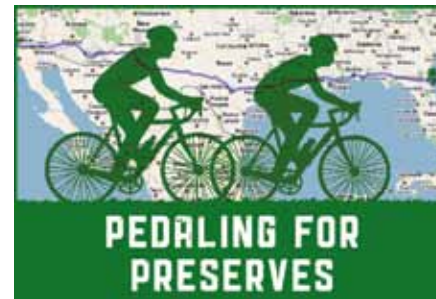
## TREE PLANTING

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. - noon

Presented by: ACRES staff

Join us as we do a hands-on tree planting on two acres of crop field within Founders Forest. We will need lots of hands as we plant over 1,000 black walnut, black cherry, red oak, bur oak and tulip trees.

**WHERE:** Northern Allen County, northwest corner of Shoaff and Coldwater roads, just west of Cook's Landing county park. Park at Cook's Landing or Bicentennial Woods.



Jason Kissel, Executive Director for ACRES Land Trust, and Kevin Gray, a member of ACRES, will be riding their bicycles across America in 2011 as a fund-raiser for ACRES. Each mile traveled will help preserve a forest, wetland or meadow, within ACRES' service area.

**Time of Trip:** March - April

**Approximate Trip Length:** 3,100

**Starting Point:** San Diego, California  
(back tire in Pacific Ocean)

**Ending Point:** St. Augustine, Florida  
(front tire in Atlantic Ocean)

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

100% of pledges and donations will support ACRES' land acquisition and management activities. Contributions are tax deductible.

## FOLLOW

You can follow the trip's progress through frequently updated maps and postings from Jason on ACRES' website, [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)

## PLEDGE

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per mile traveled (3,100 miles total)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for every day Jason & Kevin ride 100+ miles (5-15 likely)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ if Jason & Kevin ride 200+ miles in one day (one...if that!)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for every sign passed that includes ACRES (e.g., Shady Acres Campground)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for every bug swallowed that flies into Jason's or Kevin's throat while riding!

## DONATE

I'd rather donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ instead of making a pledge.

## SPONSOR

We are seeking sponsors to help offset the riders' costs as both will be on unpaid leaves of absence and have made a significant financial investment in this trip. Sponsorship opportunities include equipment donations or discounts, and donation of gift cards or pre-paid gift cards to be used for lodging, meals, pain medicine for aching muscles, etc.!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Make a pledge or donation online at [www.acreslandtrust.org](http://www.acreslandtrust.org), return this form to ACRES, 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748 or call the ACRES office at 260.637.2273.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Blue Jean Gala

June 9, 5-9 p.m.

Joseph Decuis Farm

## acres' wishlist

Cooking pots and pans for the office kitchen

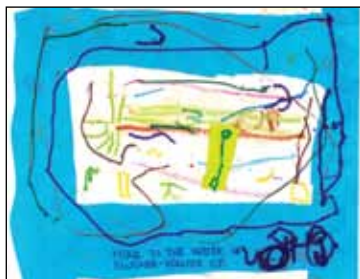
Birdseed

Shop Vac

24 lb. white paper



## Kids ARTology Contest Winners



Parker Vogt  
age 0-4



Tim McDonough  
age 5-9



Jessica Ruggiero  
age 10-13



Taylor Puitz  
age 14-18

### 6th Annual Art Exhibit Winners



First Place:  
Becky Ford



Second Place:  
Jerry McCoy



Third Place:  
Judy Oxenger-Johnston

## WILDWALKERS WINTER SCHEDULE

January 14

Salomon Farm,  
Allen County, 8:30 – 11 a.m.

January 28

Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary,  
Allen County, 9 – 11 a.m.

February 11

Pokagon State Park,  
Steuben County, 9 – 11 a.m.

February 25

Mengerson Nature Preserve,  
Allen County, 9 – 11 a.m.

March 11

Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve,  
Noble County, 9 – 11 a.m.

March 25

Stark Nature Preserve,  
LaGrange County, 8:45 – 10:30 a.m.

For more information call Renee Baines,  
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation  
Coordinator, at 260.427.6005 or email  
[renee.baines@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:renee.baines@cityoffortwayne.org)

## ACRES Extraordinary Staff

by David Van Gilder, President of ACRES

In the photo below, we have captured a rare event, not often seen in the natural world—the entire ACRES staff together and not moving! This extraordinary group has worked without ceasing, and in a spirit of great calling, to make the 50th anniversary year so successful. Personally, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I give heartfelt thanks to Jason, Angie, Shane, Tina, Ethel, David, Jane, and their supportive families and friends for the extra hours, ingenuity, and commitment to ACRES mission each has given.



Tina, Angie, Ethel, David, Jason,  
Jane, and Shane

*Thank You*

To Tony Acosta, Nancy Bradtmiller, Nancy Leininger and Chris Dunn for their service as members on the Board of Directors. The five board members for the new term, Norm Cox, David Van Gilder, Emily Pichon, Bill Smith and Connie Haas Zuber, have been elected by the membership. Thank you for voting.

## The Fort Wayne HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Thursday, March 3 –  
Sunday, March 6, 2011

ACRES invites you to visit our booth at the Coliseum. Please consider volunteering for this fun event where you can meet lots of people, share your excitement and love of ACRES with others, make new friends and receive a free exhibitor's pass to the show. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the ACRES office at 260.637.2273. Thank you.



Annual Dinner  
by Holly Perfect



Blue Jean Gala by Shane Perfect



50th Birthday by Claire Cook



ARTology at Garrett by Shane Perfect



Adventure Day Camp by Heather Baker



Performance at Dustin Preserve by Rob Borel

# SPECIALthanks

**The 69 ACRES' members who each contributed \$50 for the 50th anniversary**

**Indiana Michigan Power**

printing of the annual dinner flyer

**Eric and Mary Baade Charitable Trust – managed by Wells Fargo Bank**

grant assistance for new copy machine

**Gladioux Refinery**

gift for land acquisition in Huntington County

**Wabash County Community Foundation**

Hanging Rock preserve visitor amenities

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

Indiana Michigan Power, NIPSCO, ARTology supporters and contributors, Jill Davis and Grapes in a Bottle for providing discounted wine, all volunteers and attendees, education programmers, Bradley Gough Diamonds, Bishop Luers Key Club, Southwest Allen County Fire District, Brandon Steffen for his auctioneer skills, Tim Johnson for constructing cornhole games, Heather Baker for painting cornhole games, Trina Herber and Karen Humbrecht for seamstress skills, and especially--John and Carol Brooks for their hospitality

**Richard Kessens**

donation of birdseed

**Glen Bickle**

donation of wheelbarrow

**Ethyle Bloch**

donation of the book *Plain Ol' Charlie Deam*

**Cheryl Noyer and Mary Campbell**

donation of office supplies

**Robert and Jacqueline Gunzenhauser**

donation of nature books

**To our Quarterly distributors**

**Britton Marketing & Design Group**

designing the Quarterly

**Wendy Gricius**

donation of office printer

**Karen Griggs and Carol Roberts**

proofreading the Quarterly

**Carolyn Houser**

donation of tools

**Dr. Robert Robb**

donation of rope

**WM Imaging Solutions**

donation of copier for Asherwood

## projectPAGE

### Projects

Install primitive stairs at Hanging Rock

Boardwalk sections for the Ropchan Wildlife, McNabb-Walter and Fogwell Forest Nature Preserves

Painting at the office

Enhancements to the Dustin barn for future events

Fabrication of metal preserve sign-in boxes

*If you are interested in volunteering for any of our projects, please call the ACRES office at 260.637.2273.*

### Completed projects

Boardwalk at Dygert Nature Preserve by the Columbia City Rotary Club – thank you!



by Gene Smith



## theBACKpage

### Recent notes from preserve visitors

Cool bird noises  
**EVERYWHERE!**

*My dad has brought me here my entire  
life. Now that I'm in Texas, I come  
here every time I come home!*

**Love it here!**

**Yippee**

*My kids had a blast!*

**This place is  
amazingly  
awesome.**

Hike here almost every week.  
Thanks! Love this place.

Great! Close to home.  
Seems a "local secret".

*Been coming  
here for 45 years.*

**ACRES preserves  
are true sanctuaries.**

**ACRES  
ROCKS!**

Nice! Saw this driving by and couldn't  
resist. A spontaneous trail run. Will be  
back after school with my daughter!

*Love to come out and  
take pictures and just  
walk and enjoy!*

**DIRECTORS:** Steven Hammer, President; Emily Pichon, VP; William A. Smith IV, VP; Norm Cox, Secretary; Richard E. Walker, Treasurer; Samuel T. Boggs, Neil Case, James Haddock, Trina Herber, Richard Hurley, Emily Pichon, Carol Roberts, 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; Angie O'Neill, Fund Development Manager; Shane Perfect, Project Manager; Tina Puitz, Administrative Assistant/Education Manager; Jane Munk, Marketing and Event 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; Corporate, \$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.