

# THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Spring 2010 | Vol 49 - No. 2

*1960 celebrating fifty years 2010*



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**ACRES**  
LANDTRUST

## Letter from the Executive Director

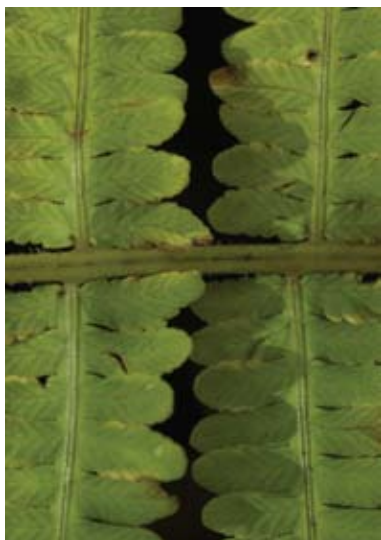


Photo by Shane Perfect

A high-tech nature preserve: those words don't seem to go together, do they? While in an electronics store, I realized that ACRES' nature preserves are far more advanced than any of the latest electronic gadgets. For example, the preserves are always available in high-definition, have 360 degree surround sound, are updated every second, and even provide a 3-D experience without having to wear those dorky glasses! They also provide many features not available through electronic devices: scents are abundant and varied, textures can be explored, and cold and warmth are present.

Too often, we miss the full grandeur of nature – even while walking through a nature preserve. We often overlook the endless variety of objects and creatures within the preserves simply because we don't put our observational skills to their highest use. During your next preserve visit, take time to fully experience your

visit. Appreciate the surround sound, feel the textures, kneel down and discover literally hundreds of different things within your reach; don't worry about knowing what they all are, simply recognize the variety of plants, animals, rocks, and other objects. If you peel back the leaf litter, you'll discover another world to explore.

When you take your time exploring the preserves, rather than just walking through them, you may find that you travel only 25 feet in an hour because of all the discoveries you have made! If a TV came out with all the advanced features available through a preserve visit, there would be one in every home. So why not enjoy the real experience at no cost? Visit a preserve this week, and take a child with you – children haven't learned to ignore their surroundings as much as adults.

Last issue I challenged you to take action to support ACRES in its 50th anniversary year. We have received tremendous response: many have sent in an extra \$50 for the 50th, we've had an offer of land, people are making donations through the website, and many are volunteering their time and talents.

As the chart on page 18 indicates, we are in the midst of unprecedented growth of the ACRES membership. You can do your part to help keep that steep incline heading north. First, please renew your membership – your continued support is very important. Memberships are due in the spring, so please check above your address on the back cover to see if your membership expires this June. Second, share ACRES with your friends and family. An ACRES membership is a great way to connect them with all the high-tech features of the nature preserves!

Sincerely,

*Jason*

Jason Kissel

Cover Photo: Dutchman's Breeches by Shane Perfect

## WELCOME 106new members!

Kelli Allen  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach  
Jim and Lana Antil  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach  
Sue Bair  
gift of Dr. Mary Lee Richeson  
Dennis Baker and Cameron Parody  
gift of Carol Roberts  
Garry Baker  
Heather Baker  
Jim Banks  
gift of Mitch Harper and  
Dawn Wilson  
Tom Baumgartner  
gift of Norm Cox  
Tom and Sandy Beaver  
gift of Carol Roberts  
Stanley and Beth Beer  
Chris and Gwen Beluschak  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach  
Jim and Susan Berghoff  
gift of Tim Gerardot  
Dave and Kristen Blankenship  
Bob and Cindy Burkhardt  
gift of Norm Cox  
David and Cathy Carlson  
Will and Ginny Clark  
gift of Norm Cox  
Jared and Erica Cordes  
Adam and Julie Cox  
gift of Norm Cox  
Sydni Gregg and Derek Decker  
gift of John and Kay Ormiston  
Will and Amber Deeds  
gift of David VanGilder  
Rod and Nancy Disbro  
Boyd and Lisa Doll  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach  
Christy Dowling  
Daniel Dumbauld  
gift of Lew and Ruth Dumbauld  
James Dumbauld  
gift of Lew and Ruth Dumbauld  
Joseph Dumbauld  
gift of Lew and Ruth Dumbauld  
Thomas Dumbauld  
gift of Lew and Ruth Dumbauld  
Margaret Eberly  
gift of Alice Kopfer

Joe Endres  
gift of Norm Cox  
Thomas and Christina Essig  
gift of Laura Dauscher  
Stan and Carol Fahl  
gift of Norm Cox  
William Frederick  
Lise and Jimmy French  
Ron Gehring  
Norm and Donna Gilbert  
gift of Norm Cox  
Meghan Gloudemans  
Mike Gloudemans  
Dan Gordon  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach  
Bonnie Hagerman  
gift of Alice Kopfer  
Betty Jo Harper  
gift of Ethel Klopfenstein  
Mel Hathaway  
Tom and Judy Hayhurst  
gift of Carol Roberts  
Frank and Becky Hill  
gift of Norm Cox  
Michael and Kristen Hochstetler  
gift of Paul Siefert and Lisa Vetter

Continued on Page 4

## acres' wishlist

Sweeper with hose attachments

Tools for preserve maintenance: hammers, hand  
loppers, rechargeable drill and power drivers,  
hand saws, power saw, shovels, rakes, post hole  
diggers, screwdrivers, gas weed wacker

Digital picture frame, 10" or larger with compact  
SD card capability

Birdseed

### ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since  
1960, ACRES manages and protects 74 nature  
preserves totaling over 4,620 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)



## New Members Continued

Mike and Sue Horton  
gift of Carol Roberts

Tom and Lynda Horton  
gift of Carol Roberts

Brian and Amy Howenstein

Andy and Kari Johnson

Larry Johnson  
gift of Janet Baltzell

Avonne Lee Knecht  
gift of Christy Dowling and Vicki Knecht

Ron and Kay Kummer  
gift of Norm Cox

Larry and Stephanie Lahr  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach

Jeanne and Steve Lewis  
gift of Carol Roberts

Birch Long  
gift of Heather Long

Gregory and Susan Lowe

Philip Ludwig

Lockwood Marine  
gift of Norm Cox

Paula Martinez  
gift of Lew and Ruth Dumbauld

Chuck and Pat McGregor  
gift of Norm Cox

Erin McKinney  
gift of Jeanette Wood

Kathryn Miller

Mike and Pat Miller  
gift of Carol Roberts

Tom Miller  
gift of Norm Cox

Tom and Joan North  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach

SaVanna Pichon  
gift of Pat Pichon

Lindsey Purcell

Nate Reynolds

David Ridderheim  
gift of Norm Cox

Eric Roberts  
gift of Randy and Carol Roberts

Ann and Dick Robinson  
gift of Carol Roberts

Christopher Ruoff  
gift of Judy Ruoff

Ann Schlagenhauf  
gift of Mark Schlagenhauf

Charlotte Schmitz

Steve and ReaAnn Seifert  
gift of Norm Cox

Justin Sellon  
gift of Brad Greenlee

Perry and Sue Shilts

Joyce Sines  
gift of Carol Roberts

Nick and Jill Sloffer  
gift of David VanGilder

Dorace Smith

Gary and Merda Smith

Jay Solomon

Duwane and Suellen Spurgeon  
gift of Ron Dunn

Don and Kathy Steininger

Norbert Strobel

Mark and Melinda Thoma

Randall and Teresa Thorne

Mike and Nancy Tippman  
gift of Carol Roberts

Lee and Molly VanStone  
gift of Norm Cox

Joe Venderley  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach

John and Barb Waszak  
gift of Norm Cox

Dick and Marni Waterfield  
gift of Randy and Carol Roberts

Natalie Wells  
gift of Al and Sue Diefenbach

Dana Wichern and Dave Platt  
gift of Carol Roberts

Lynn and Kitty Wilcox  
gift of Norm Cox

LD Williams  
gift of Norm Cox

Nate and Amanda Williams and Family

Justine Wolford

Jeanette Wood

Mack and Linda Wootton  
gift of Norm Cox

### new corporate members

Barb Hendrick and Craig Walker,  
Coldwell Banker—Angola

Halderman Farm Service

Mad Anthony Brewing Company

Raytheon

Upland Brewing Company

### new life members

Christopher and Kirsten LaSalle

It's  
Time to  
Renew!

## Acquisition Update

by Jason Kissel



by Jason Kissel

Since the *Winter Quarterly* was printed, ACRES has obtained two key pieces of the Cedar Creek Corridor puzzle!

ACRES has purchased a fifty-four-acre property that joins Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Mackel Nature Preserve, Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve, and the Bicentennial Woods. The property is diverse in habitats including forested wetlands, upland oak and hickory forest, riparian wetlands, meadow, and portions of Cedar Creek and Little Cedar Creek.

The property has been named Founders Forest, in honor of the twelve individuals who had the foresight and determination to create Indiana's first land trust: James M. Barrett III, Ethyle Bloch, William C. Bloch, Jane H. Dustin, Thomas E. Dustin, A.K. Hofer, Florence S. Klotz, Dr. John Klotz, Elmer Phelps, Glenn W. Poe, Werner Reifsteck, and Robert C. Weber.

Each of ACRES' 74 nature preserves is a fitting tribute to the founders. The preserves, their inhabitants, and their visitors benefit every day from the visionary actions of these twelve people.

Founders Forest is closed to the public at this time.

Thanks to the following donors, the purchase price for Founders Forest has already been covered by donations or pledges!

Indiana Heritage Trust, Wayne and Linda Boyd, David and Judy Ruoff, David and Faith Van Gilder, Orion Foundation, Jerry and Diane Mackel, Rob and Phyllis Robb, Andrew Stout, Jeanette Kent, and anonymous donors.

Due to the generosity of the above donors, your contributions to the corridor project will help acquire the next piece of the puzzle!

The "Shure Acre" was gifted by Mark and Anne Shure. Although the property is small (one acre), its location makes it a valuable asset to our goal of joining 1,000 acres in a continuous natural corridor. Thank you, Mark and Anne, for your donation!



# Night Flyer Seldom Seen

Reprint from a *Bogs and Logs* article,  
a public service feature of ACRES, Inc.

by Dr. John W. Klotz, ACRES first President

Humans have always been intrigued by flying and creatures that travel in the air. The legend of Daedalus and Icarus is one which comes from ancient Greek civilization. The earliest attempts to fly were modeled after the flights of birds, but only after the principles of aerodynamics were studied and used was it possible for humans really to fly.

But birds aren't the only creatures that fly; there are flying mammals. We're all familiar with bats that exploit the air as their habitat. And of other mammals supposed to fly, one is the flying squirrel. I say "supposed to fly" because they really don't fly; they glide. But they are unusual in that they are able to travel through the air.

The flying squirrel is about the size of a small rat. They're not too often seen because they're nocturnal animals. Once in a while they annoy people by taking up residence in their attic where because of their nocturnal habits they may appear to be a ghost. But they really prefer wooded areas.

The flying squirrel weighs only three to five ounces though they are from 9 to 14 inches long. A rather loose fold of skin extending along their side from the outside of the wrist to the hind foot produces a flat, kite-like surface when they spread their legs. Cartilaginous, spur-like supports at the wrists make it possible for the animal to extend the skin fold beyond their outstretched legs. Their



flattened tail is a further aid to a near-perfect gliding structure: they use this to steer. Most of the time is spent gliding from one tree to another; they're an arboreal animal seldom found on the ground.

Only when disturbed is the flying squirrel seen during the daytime; thus, several may live in an area without humans being aware of their presence. They live in old woodpecker holes or in some other cavity in a tree. Often they will also build outside leaf nests in the branches of trees. It's been suggested that fleas and mites drive them out of their usual homes. Their home range is usually about four acres.

Flying squirrels have sharp, curved claws, four on the front feet and five on the hind feet. They have soft, thick fur and large eyes. The fur is grayish on the back; the feet are dusty on top and the belly is pure white to the base of the hairs.

Most squirrels are cantankerous and don't get along with their fellows, but the flying squirrel is a sociable creature. Several of them will feed together without

any indication of antagonism. In winter they may band together in groups of 20 or more in a single den. It's not unusual to find 50 living together in dens in a single hollow tree.

In this area the flying squirrel has only a single litter each season. They breed in February and March with a gestation period of forty days. At birth they are more or less naked; only after about two weeks does the fur appear. Their eyes open between the 26th and 28th day and after five weeks they begin to nibble on insects and the tips of twigs. The female is a good mother and takes good care of her young. Farther south there are two litters a year.

Flying squirrels subsist largely on nuts and seeds. They also eat mushrooms, persimmons, apples, wild grapes, moths, insect larvae, and beetles; they probably eat the most insects of all the squirrels.

These little rodents live five or six years. They have many enemies including large owls, hawks, raccoons, weasels, bobcats and tree-climbing snakes.

You may never have seen a flying squirrel, but if you live near a wooded area there are probably flying squirrels in it. They just keep different hours from the ones you keep.

## memorials

Eldon Knecht  
from Christy Dowling and  
Vicki Knecht

Jan Zwiep  
from Riet Zwiep

Georgianna Minick  
from Andrew and Jill Downs

Robert Griggs  
from The Riverdale High School  
Class of 1958

Mary Ann Stark  
from John and Linda Mowry,  
Michael and Sue Claphan, Jack  
and Cherie Stark, Bob and Mary  
Houser and Evangeline Claphan

Earl Davis  
from Leelia Cornell

Lorene Salsbery  
from Angie O'Neill

Lee Ann Bartolucci  
from Kathleen Fleming

## tributes

To ACRES' founders Jim Barrett, Ethyle  
and Bill Bloch, and Robert Weber  
on the occasion of '50th anniversary  
from Angie O'Neill

To Fred Mackel  
in honor of his 90th birthday  
from Jim and Pat Barrett

To H.R. Hathaway, M.D.  
from Mark, Wendy, Matt  
and Lauren Eissey

To Suzanne and Dave Hathaway, Sandy  
and Mel Hathaway, Shirley and Bil  
Hathaway, Nancy and John Hill  
from Harvey and Fran Hathaway

Photo by Shane Perfect



# ACRES' History by Ted Heemstra

1973-1985



ACRES Archive

The concept of protecting natural areas and nature preserves was gaining acceptance throughout the sixties and seventies. ACRES' impact in northeast Indiana was widening from four properties in Noble and Steuben counties to 14 properties in Allen, Noble, Steuben and Wells counties by the end of 1983. More importantly, members and volunteers were increasing during this period.

Overseeing the properties and guiding the organization was (and still is) the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Since incorporation, the Board of Directors has 18 members, 15 elected from the membership and three appointed. Five members from the membership are elected for a three-year term each year. Each appointed board member serves a three-year term. The appointments to the board are one each from the Nature Conservancy, the Indiana Department of Public Instruction and the Indiana Park and Recreation Association.

Board members served on one or more committees: Executive, Land Acquisition, Land Management, Nominating, Personnel, Fund Development, Finance and Education. Board meetings started with minutes of the last meeting, then committee chairs reported the activities and sought board approval for future activities (particularly for any expenditures). In fact, the board acted as a "committee of the whole" on many topics. Most board members worked on more than one committee and most board members participated in the field activities – work days at a preserve or inspection of a prospective property.

The Dustins' basement (now in the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve) was the "nerve center" for ACRES. Their phone number and address were listed for ACRES. ACRES' permanent files were in the Dustin basement. As Jane Dustin was the corporate secretary during this period, she was the clearing house for requests, suggestions, project and activity scheduling, volunteers, and potential preserve properties.

The mission of ACRES to find or identify, then acquire, high quality natural areas attracted a growing number of members. Among those were Sam and Adeline Ropchan. Sam was a Fort Wayne businessman with a strong interest in the outdoors. His activities with the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League led him to ACRES. In 1973, he and Adeline Ropchan provided funding for the acquisition of the 79 acres named Ropchan Memorial Nature Reserve east of Orland in Steuben County. Then in 1976, they enabled ACRES to acquire from three property owners the 184 acres encircling a cemetery, including Cemetery Lake.

The property south of Fremont in Steuben County was named Ropchan Wildlife Refuge.

Another member/volunteer with a deep interest in conservation was Art Hammer. In 1982, his first of many land purchases made to donate to ACRES was the 20-acre Anna Brand Hammer Reserve in Wells County, west of Ossian, named for his mother. This preserve has since been expanded to its current 40 acres.

Acres Along the Wabash was a gift from Catherine Maxwell in 1973. This preserve was originally 26.8 acres, running at least one mile along the north edge of the Wabash river. It has since been expanded to 86.7 acres.

A gift of Fox Fire Woods by Glenn and Winifred Poe in 1974 (7.9 acres) and Maumee River Overlook in 1976 (0.9 acres) both in Allen County, are two of the smaller preserves owned by ACRES. We have since established a policy of making 25 acres the smallest parcels we would accept. But of course, there are exceptions to this "rule" – the unique nature of the property (Seven Pillars in Miami County) or its proximity to an existing or proposed nature preserve (Gates Preserve) in Noble County.

In 1982, Alwilda and Martin Walters

offered ACRES the old sugar maple woods on their farm in Allen County, 32.45 acres. The land offered met all our criteria for acceptance as a nature preserve. However, a "hitch" developed. Martin Walters would not allow the woods to be surveyed but he still wanted to give it to ACRES. A compromise was reached. Walters gave the whole parcel containing the woods (over 150 acres), reserving a life estate on the farmland. The preserve has since increased to 192.2 acres.

In 1983, upon the death of Helen Swenson, ACRES received her 155 acres in Steuben County. This property included several buildings: a residence, studio, tack barn, garage and storage barn. ACRES accepted the property with the limitation included in the will: "this property to be preserved forever as a nature sanctuary for the preservation of wildlife and its natural habitat – not to be sold or otherwise used." Wing Haven was the name chosen for this preserve as it was the name of the campgrounds owned and operated by the Swensons fronting on Failing Lake, adjacent to the preserve.

The referenced clause in Helen Swenson's will summarizes ACRES' responsibility assumed with any property interest it acquires.

The center spread is a painting of The Bicentennial Woods by Andrea Bojrab which is part of the ARTology exhibit. ARTology is ACRES' traveling art show featuring commissioned art inspired by the nature preserves. You can see Andrea's painting along with the other commissioned artwork at the following locations:

**Pokagon State Park (Angola)** February 25 – April 21

**Garrett Museum of Art (Garrett)** May 14 – June 27 (Reception May 14, 5-7 p.m.)

**The Arts Place, Inc. (Portland)** July 10 – August 22 (Reception July 10)

**Fort Wayne Museum of Art (Fort Wayne)** August 27 – October 23







## 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.

### COURTSHIP OF THE WOODCOCKS

April 3-10, Two hours before sunset

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Bring your lawn chair and join others to experience the courtship dance of the woodcocks at Wildwood. Be sure to check ACRES Facebook page for daily updates.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County



by Chris Barlow

### SALAMANDERS, FROGS, SNAKES & CREEPY CRAWLERS

Saturday, April 10, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Chris Barlow

Join Chris Barlow on a hike to look for salamanders, frogs and other creepy crawlers in the woods. After the hike we will make a "rattling rattlesnake" craft.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

### GARLIC MUSTARD PULL AND PESTO COOK-OFF

Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Ellsworth Smith

Bring your work gloves and appetite and join us in pulling garlic mustard at Bicentennial Woods and then to the ACRES office at the Dustin Preserve for cooking garlic mustard pesto. ACRES will provide the recipes, ingredients and garlic mustard. Samples will be available to take home.

**WHERE:** Bicentennial Woods, Allen County

### STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON FIELD TRIP

Saturday, April 17, 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Presented by: Jim Haw and Ted Heemstra

Join the Stockbridge Audubon group for a hike. If you like, bring a snack and picnic lunch to enjoy with fellow hikers.

**WHERE:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

### WORK DAY AT DETERING

Wednesday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Help with trash cleanup and removal of invasives at Detering Nature Preserve. Bring your loppers, hand saws, gloves and a trash bag.

**WHERE:** Detering Nature Preserve, Noble County

### 21ST ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, David and Bonnie Snyder, and Paul Nailor.

Enjoy a variety of events for children and adults: make a bluebird house or suet feeder, look at pond water under a microscope, and adopt a tulip poplar, red bud, white pine, or paw paw tree. Entertainment will be fiddle and dulcimer music and caricature drawings.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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### WILDFLOWERS HIKES

**Bicentennial Woods - Allen County**

Tuesday, April 27, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Bill Smith

This program is geared toward children but all ages are welcome.



by Jason Kissel

**Kokiwane Nature Preserve - Wabash County**

Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m.

Presented By: Tony Fleming

This program includes geologic history of the Salamonie Gorge.

**Wildwood Nature Preserve - Kosciusko County**

Wednesday, May 5, 2 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

After the hike, make a wildflower bookmark as a remembrance of the day.

**Lonidaw Nature Preserve - Noble County**

Saturday, May 8, 2 p.m.

Presented by: John and Joann Smith

Join John and Joann for one of the peak weekends for trillium and other wildflowers.



by Shane Perfect

### EATING ON THE WILD SIDE

Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim & Jill Meuninck

Jim and Jill present the Forager's Dozen and new research on nutrition, longevity and disease prevention. The Meunincks will help you identify edible wild plants and mushrooms. There will be food to taste including wild edible pizza and other surprises.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

### RAINBOW ACRES TOUR

Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Jim and Sharon Smith

Join Jim and Sharon on a tour of their property called "Rainbow Acres" and their home built from cord wood and tamped earth. You will explore the numerous wildlife plantings and learn some land stewardship ideas you can use on your own property.

**WHERE:** 4960 E. 600 N., Churubusco, IN 46723

### PAINTING INDIANA SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Judy Houk

Join local artist Judy Houk in the Wing Haven artist studio for a watercolor painting class. At the end of the day, you will take home a wonderful painting of a native wild flower. This is an adult painting class for ages 18 and up, all artist levels invited. Class space is limited to 15 guests. RSVP to Judy Houk at 260.665.3719. \$5.00 material fee.

**WHERE:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County



painting by Judy Houk

## fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

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### WORKDAY AT THE DUSTIN PRESERVE

Monday, May 17. Join us anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Bring your own lunch.

Presented by: ACRES

Help spruce up the Dustin Nature Preserve in preparation for the Preserve Performance on May 22. Check and clear trails, clean up around the barn, general cleaning in the office and help from Master Gardeners to work the landscape areas. Bring your gloves and hand tools.

WHERE: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County

### PRESERVE PERFORMANCE AT THE DUSTIN PRESERVE

Saturday, May 22. See Page 17 for details.

### NOBLE COUNTY BIKE AND HIKE

Sunday, May 23, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Jason Kissel and Dick Walker

Take a 12-mile or a 42-mile bicycle trip through rural Noble County, stopping along the route at ACRES' nature preserves to take brief hikes and refuel with snacks and drinks. Pace of the main group will be relaxed; advanced riders can set their own pace. Route maps available at: [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org) under events.

WHERE: Starting and ending for both routes will be at the DNR public access to Waldron Lake. From Rome City on SR 9 take 1000N (Front Street) west for 2 miles. 1000N will curve to the right and turn into 1050N, continue on 1050N for 1.75 miles and turn left (south) onto 125W. DNR public access will be on the right in 0.75 mile.



by Shane Perfect

### CAMPING WEEKEND AT WING HAVEN

June 11 – 12, 4 p.m. Friday – 4 p.m. Saturday

Presented by: Spurgeon Family

Join us for a family-friendly camping weekend within a primitive camp site. At 1 p.m. Saturday, join Dave and Holly Meyers from Soarin' Hawk and Raptor Rehab for story telling and see a redtail hawk, short-eared owl, and screech owl. Children's crafts will be available throughout the weekend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday. Please RSVP by June 7 by visiting our website at [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org), email [acres@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:acres@acreslandtrust.org) or phone at 260.637.2273.

COST: \$25 per family or \$10 a person

WHERE: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

### ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Tuesday, June 15, 5 – 7 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

We would not be able to accomplish everything we do without the generosity of your time and efforts. Join us for our annual volunteer recognition dinner, compliments of the ACRES staff and Board. Please RSVP by June 8 by visiting our website at [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org), email at [acres@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:acres@acreslandtrust.org) or phone at 260.637.2273.

WHERE: Mad Anthony Brewing Company, downtown Fort Wayne at Broadway and Taylor.

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### BAT WATCHING

Friday, June 18, 8 p.m.

Presented by: David Homan and Ethel McClelland

Come watch the evening spectacle of bats feeding just before dark, and enjoy an evening hike.

WHERE: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

### FROGS, FROGS, EVERYWHERE FROGS

Saturday, June 19, 3 p.m.

Presented by: Amy Kissel and Nancy Disbro

Amy will lead a children's hike through the forest, stopping at the ponds to search for frogs. Nancy will read frog stories and lead us in making a frog craft. Snacks will be provided – a hoppin' good time for the whole family!

WHERE: Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County



by Ralph Campbell

### DIRECTIONS TO PRESERVES

#### Bicentennial Woods, Allen County

From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112B) take Coldwater Rd. north for approximately 7.5 miles to Shoaff Rd. Turn left (west) onto Shoaff Rd. Preserve is 0.25 mile on the left.

#### Detering Nature Preserve, Noble County

From Kendallville at US 6 and Main St. travel approximately 1.0 mile east to Kammerer Rd. (700N) and turn left (north). Preserve is immediately on the left.

#### Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County

From Fort Wayne (I-69 exit 112B) take Coldwater Rd. north for approximately 7.5 miles to Chapman Rd., turn right (east) and go .75 mile. The entrance is on south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.

#### Kokiwane Nature Preserve, Wabash County

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

#### Lonidaw Nature Preserve, Noble County

From Kendallville at US 6 and Main St. travel approximately 1.0 mile to Kammerer Rd. (700N) and turn left (north). Travel past Detering Nature Preserve entrance to 1000E (Allen Chapel Road) and turn left (north). Preserve is on the left in 0.25 mile.

#### Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, Wabash County

From Wabash on SR 13 travel 2.6 miles north of US 24 to 300N and turn right (east). Preserve is on the right in 1.4 miles.

#### Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County

From Warsaw take SR 15 south for 12 miles to the town of Silver Lake. Turn left (east) onto SR 14 and travel 3 miles. Preserve is on the right (south) side of SR 14.

#### Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County

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



## ARTology contest

ACRES is hosting a youth art contest as a companion to the ARTology commissioned exhibit celebrating ACRES' 50th anniversary. The artwork will be judged, and prizes awarded, by the following age categories:

- 0 – 5 years
- 5 – 9 years
- 10 – 13 years
- 14 – 18 years

Artwork Guidelines: Must be inspired by one of ACRES' 74 nature preserves. Finished dimensions must be 8.5" x 11", 2-dimensional, and submitted unframed.

The original artwork will be returned to artist; however ACRES Land Trust

retains the right to replicate the artwork for its use.

We hope the exhibit will include a variety of art forms: drawings, paintings, fabric, photography, poetry, anything goes. If its 8.5" x 11" and we can frame it, it qualifies.

The art will be displayed at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Winners of the contest will be notified by mail.

Contest entries must be received by August 6, 2010.

Send or deliver entries to:

ACRES Land Trust  
1802 Chapman Rd.  
Huntertown, IN 46748

### Brown Bag Lunch Series

ACRES is bringing a little nature to downtown Fort Wayne. Join us for a lecture series during your lunch hour, 12 noon to 1 p.m. The first three topics are – Birds with Dr. Gary Tieben on April 20, Insects with Dr. James Haddock on May 12 and the Cedar Creek Watershed with Dr. Robert Gillespie on June 9. You bring the lunch, we'll bring the nature! Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Downtown Fort Wayne

### ACRES joins forces with Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation

ACRES and the Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation have many friends in common and it's exciting to offer ACRES' friends the opportunity to have their gift to the ACRES endowment matched 20%!

Our goal is to reach the maximum amount offered by the Foundation, \$10,000, by receiving \$50,000 in gifts from our members and friends by December 31, 2010.

For example, a gift of \$1,000 to the Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation for the ACRES endowment fund would be matched to become a \$1,200 gift. All gift sizes are most appreciated! Thank you for considering a gift to grow our endowment in Allen County which benefits the Allen County preserves.

Gifts should be made payable and sent to:

Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation  
Attn: ACRES, Inc. Endowment  
555 E. Wayne Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The LaGrange County Community Foundation and Kosciusko County Community Foundation have also assisted ACRES with matching grants for ACRES endowment funds that they hold. Thank you for your support!

## Save the Date

**Blue Jean Gala** and art auction at the John and Carol Brooks Barn, Saturday, October 2, 2-5 p.m. This fundraising event will include a nature-based art show featuring over 100 artists. For ticket information and corporate tables, contact the ACRES office.

**Annual Dinner** Saturday, November 13, 3 - 4:30 p.m. meeting, dinner begins at 5 p.m.

## Preserve Performance at the Dustin Preserve

Saturday, May 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature as they work their magic together. Wander along the trails and listen to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, or a poet, or dulcimer music and watch the Fort Wayne Ballet or a potter or a plein air painter as they interpret the beauty of nature before your eyes. For directions to the Tom and Jane Dustin Preserve, see page 15. Cost: \$5 per car.



## Kids' Preserve Performance at the Wing Haven Preserve

Saturday, July 24, 1-4 p.m.

Join James Coffey, M. Ed. for the musical adventure "All Aboard The Wildlife Express!" along with plein air painters, dancers, and storytellers as they engage children in mimicking nature and their surroundings in various art forms. Sponsored by Blue Vision Music, Dekko Foundation and Steuben County Community Foundation. Cost: \$5 per car.



# projectPAGE

We will be working extra hard this spring and summer to spruce up the preserves during our 50th anniversary. Enjoyment of the preserves is at an all time high. On going projects include, construction of preserve benches, boardwalk sections, parking lot and trail maintenance, sign installation, and much more. We already have a donation of gravel for a new parking area at Hammerwald.

We will have two full-time interns that will be working in the preserves all summer long. Give us a call at the office, 260.637.2273, if you would like to get involved in one or more of our many projects.

Preserve Benches – we could use about 20 more. Call the office for the design plans.

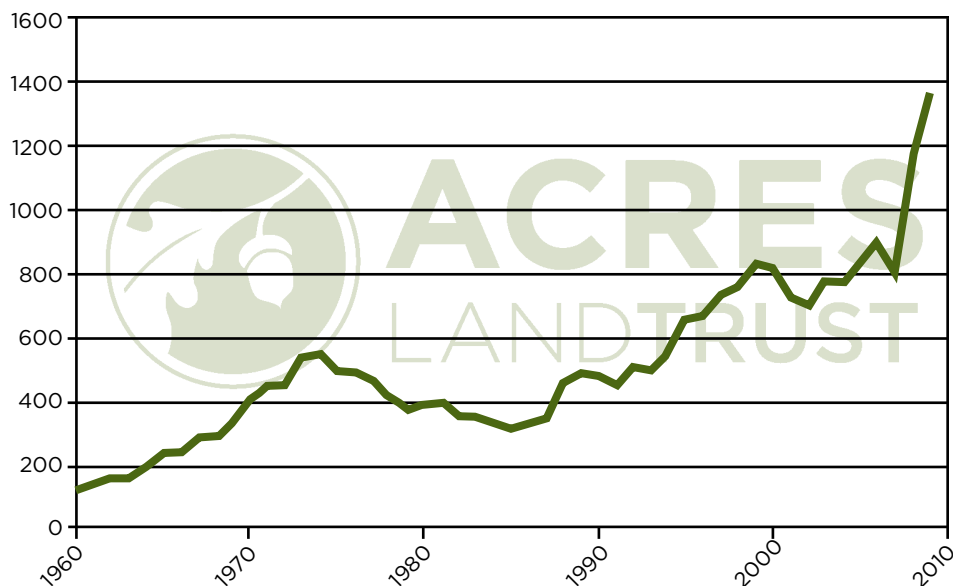
## Volunteer Needs

Share your general knowledge of your favorite preserve with others by being an ACRES docent. If you are interested or would like more information about the program, please contact Bill Smith, ACRES Vice President, at 260.489.9047.

## Call-out for presenters

ACRES could use your expertise. We are looking for presenters for our quarterly events. If you would like to share your knowledge with others about the preserves, please contact the office at 260.637.2273 for more information or to offer your services.

## ACRES Membership 1960 – 2009



# SPECIALthanks

**Thanks to all the members and friends who donated \$50 for the 50th in the first quarter**

**Ropchan Family**  
**Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation**  
for ACRES' 50th anniversary support

**English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation**  
operating support

**Wabash County Community Foundation**  
support for Hanging Rock NP  
visitor amenities

**Namaste Foundation**  
land acquisition

**Culver Family Foundation**

**Olive B. Cole Foundation**  
support of two college interns

**Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne**  
operating support

**Carol Roberts**  
donation of a crock pot for the office

**Bill Smith, Hyde Brothers Book Store, Larry Biggerstaff and Glenn Bickel**  
donated copy paper for the office

**Churubusco HS group: Colleen Bishop, Theodore Pearson, Jesse Lich and Tiffany Wallace**  
inserting remittance envelopes in the winter *Quarterly*

**Garry Baker**  
inserting remittance envelopes in the winter *Quarterly*

**Bill and Linda Garman**  
donated pens and bird seed

**Cheryl Noyer**  
donated office supplies

**Sean Didier, St. John the Baptist School-Ft. Wayne**  
loaning a slide projector for Fireside Chat event

**To all of our Home and Garden Volunteers**

**Kerry McFahl**  
donating funds for parking lot gravel

**Tim Johnson**  
building table tops in the Dustin barn and shelving in the Johnson garage

**Johanna Byanski**  
donated cd player for office

**Julie Lepper**  
donation of bird seed

**Dick Rodenbeck**  
constructing wooden bike racks

**Edy's Ice Cream**  
donation of ice cream for ACRES' 50th birthday party



by Shane Perfect

Check out our new online store for ACRES' apparel and other merchandise



[acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)



## the **BACK**page

by Sue Britton

Many people tell me fall is their favorite season ... and sure, it has its golden moments, but fall foreshadows shorter days and dead leaves. Now, spring is (dare I say the word) "magical." Such a trite word, right? But put yourself in my shoes for a moment, last May. I was trying to get out on the trail for some exercise, and I was pretty grumpy about it after the long winter and too many bowls of chicken and dumplings.

Stepping out on the lane, I bent down to tie my shoes and when I stood up, "wham!" the fragrant blend of honeysuckle and honey locust blooms hit me square in the face. I stepped back ... took a deep whiff, smiled involuntarily, thought, "so things could be a lot worse," and headed into the Vandolah preserve. The spring warblers were warbling like it was ... well ... spring. At the bend in the path, a little black squirrel (new to our area) peeked out at me from the back side of a tall red pine, scrambled around the trunk, following me and chattering like he wanted to play or something. I thought I was beginning to imagine things. Anyway, I began to dust off my outlook for the better when I came to the top of a hill, where the wind blew so

strong that an entire blizzard of little locust tree blossoms showered down on me for about 500 feet, like I was some, er, woodland bridesmaid??? I know... I can't believe I just said that ... but it was remarkable! Maybe you had to be there. Actually, you can be there. This May, try a short hike through the apple and locust trees in the Vandolah Nature Preserve to get your free, seasonal attitude adjustment. You may get lucky and discover that spring is your favorite season, too!

Tip: Try a windy day.



Photo from ACRES Archive

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

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