

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS

SINCE 1960



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Summer 2008

Volume 47 – No. 3



Letter from the Executive Director



Forever, in perpetuity, permanent. These are powerful words that come with a lot of responsibility. I am proud that ACRES has never shied away from those words and what they mean. In fact, ACRES' commitment to preserving land in perpetuity is key to ACRES' success.

When you manage a property in the timeframe of "forever," you gain a much better perspective and a more thoughtful approach to management. When you project land management decisions 50, 200, or 500 years forward, you are not influenced by the environmental fads of the current year or decade. ACRES has the luxury of patience. Therefore, we can avoid the pitfalls that "instant" landscape management strategies can create.

To ensure permanence, ACRES is always in pursuit of the highest level of protection we can place on a nature preserve. That is why we own deed to 99% of our properties, the other one percent protected by conservation easements. Conservation easements are great tools and provide significant protection of natural areas, but ownership of the land provides a much higher level of protection. ACRES also adds the protection of state-dedicated nature preserve status to all of our properties that qualify. This status is the highest level of protection the State of Indiana provides for natural areas.

Once ACRES acquires a property as a nature preserve, the owner's name on that deed will always remain ACRES. We don't buy or trade properties when a "better" natural area becomes available. To clarify, I should mention that ACRES does own a few investment properties. These properties were acquired not for their natural value, but rather for their monetary value. Donors of these properties are fully aware and in agreement that ACRES retains the right to sell these properties and use the proceeds to purchase natural areas. We also have the option to convert these properties into natural areas and forfeit our monetary interest.

ACRES provides a unique opportunity for truly long-term investments. If you've had the privilege to visit the few remaining virgin hardwood forests within North America, you can begin to appreciate what ACRES properties will be like in a mere 100 - 150 years! Remember, ACRES has the luxury of patience, even if we don't. Permanence and preservation is our business.

ACRES Land Trust, for you, for nature, forever.

Sincerely,

 Jason Kissel

Jason Kissel

photo by Shane Perfect
cover: ruby-throated hummingbird by Mark Kuechler



black-necked stilt by Brad Bumgardner

corporate and business opportunities

ACRES provides a variety of partnership opportunities for businesses and corporations. Opportunities include business memberships, adopting a preserve, providing discounted or in-kind services or goods, sponsoring an ACRES event, discounted employee memberships, along with numerous other possibilities. Contact Jason or Angie at the ACRES office to discuss how to make your business a partner in preserving natural areas.

WELCOME new members!

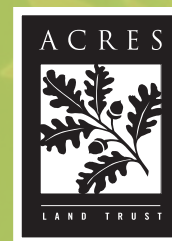
John and Carol Brooks
Bob and Nancy Brooks
Leroy and Vicki Cramer
Aaron and Kathy Demeritt
Marda Gerardot
Dr. William and Sarah Hathaway
David Heffelfinger
Teala Hellwarth
Amy Howell
Tim and Nancy Kendall

Craig and Diane Keoun
Robert and Jean London
Lyle and Nancy McDermott
Keith Noyer
Jeffery and Maria Osborne
Greg and Emily Pollander
Jason and Anna Rich
Anne Shirmeyer
Gerald Short
Barb Simper
Dorace and Lynn Smith
Donald and Linda Stebing
Steven and Nancy Stopher
Robert and Marie Stouder
Chad Thompson and Helen Frost Thompson

not even close to being new members!

The members listed below have shown great commitment and support to ACRES over several decades. These members have faithfully sent in their ACRES membership dues since the date listed beside their names. **Thank you for your dedication!**

David Griggs (1960)
William McNagny (1960)
Sam Schwartz (1960)
Jim and Pat Barrett (1961)
Ethyle Bloch (1961)
Bob and Janet Weber (1961)
Art and Marion Eberhardt (1962)
Ed and Nancy Eberhardt (1962)
Lynn Klopfenstein (1962)
Pat McNagny (1963)
Eva Claphan (1963)
John and Julia Oldencamp (1963)



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas since 1960. ACRES manages and protects 65 nature preserves totaling over 4,300 acres.

1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, IN 46748-9723
260-637-ACRE (2273)
acres@acreslandtrust.org
www.acreslandtrust.org





ACRES Archive Article

photo by Al McSweeney

INDIANA'S LAKES by William R. Eberly – Spring 1962, Volume 1, No. 2

"The lakes of northern Indiana are the brightest gems in the corona of the state. They are the most beautiful and expressive features of the landscape in the region wherein they abound."

So wrote a prominent scientist some sixty years ago about one of Indiana's most valuable natural resources, her lakes.

Natural lakes are of several types. Isolated segments of an abandoned river channel which retain water are known as ox-bow lakes. They occur, for example, in the lower Wabash valley. There are many other kinds of natural lakes found in various parts of the world (one recent authority listed 75 types) but practically all of Indiana's natural lakes are the result of glacial action thousands of years ago.

Glacial lakes are concentrated in the northern section of the state. Most of these lakes occur in areas of glacial deposits known as moraines. The most extensive "lake belt" is in the Packerton moraine which extends diagonally from the n. e. corner of the state down as far as Cass county. Another aggregation of lakes occurs in the Maxinkuckee moraine which extends southward through St. Joseph, Marshall, and Fulton counties.

Two characteristics of lakes of interest to most people are size and depth. Compared with the largest lake in the world, Lake Superior, whose area is 31,000 square miles, our Indiana lakes seem quite small. The largest natural lake is Wawasee (2618 acres) followed next by Maxinkuckee (1650 acres) and James (1034 acres). The majority of our lakes are less than 500 acres.

Lake depths are quite often exaggerated, especially by those who live permanently around their shores. A geographer, writing of the lakes of Steuben County in 1830, said of one of them: "The bottom, as I have been told, was sought in vain with a line of 250 yards." There are some really deep lakes in the world, but none are bottomless. Lake Baikal in Siberia is 5600 feet deep. Deepest in North America is Great Slave Lake (Canada) which is 2500 feet deep. The deepest lake in the United States is Crater Lake, 2000 feet deep. The deepest Indiana lake is Tippecanoe, 120 feet, while only 2 or 3 others are deeper than 100 feet. A large number of lakes are 50-60 feet in depth.

One of the commonest types of glacial lake is the kettle-hole or pot-hole lake, more properly known as an ice-block lake. These were formed by large chunks of ice which broke off from the main body of the glacier and were subsequently buried by gravel and mud. The insulating effect of the dirt cover probably prevented the melting of the ice block for many years, during which time the ground surface above was smoothed over some. When the ice block finally did melt, it left a water-filled depression roughly the same shape and size of the original ice block. This accounts for the rather uniform depth of many lakes of this type since the ice blocks were broken off the same glacial ice sheet. These lakes tend to have a narrow shoreline, steep sloping sides of the basin, and a rather extensive flat bottom.

Lakes are really rather temporary features of our countryside. They are right now in the act of disappearing. Lake outlets are slowly eroding their channels deeper, thus lowering the lake surface. Man-made drainage has severely reduced the lake areas. In fact, the largest lake ever to exist in historic times in Indiana (English Lake in Starke County) was completely drained with the dredging of the Kanakee River in the last century.

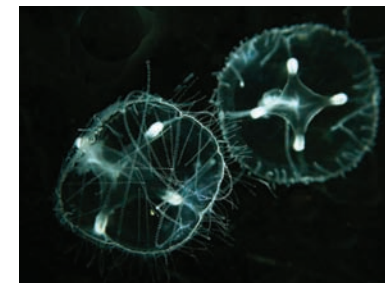
One author wrote, "A lake begins to die the moment it is born. There are more beds of extinct lakes in northern Indiana today than there are existing ones." Still another wrote, "Of all the features of the landscape, lakes are the most ephemeral. As long as they remain, they will continue to contribute to the service and delight of man, by affording means for that relaxation and healthful pleasure which the conditions of modern life demand." These words are just as true today as they were when written in 1897.

On the Trail of Freshwater "Jellyfish"

by Dr. James Haddock, Biology Department, IPFW

What is this interesting creature?

Did you know that there is such a creature as a freshwater jellyfish? We are accustomed to thinking of jellyfish as being a group confined to saltwater or marine habitats. *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* is a small species about the diameter of a quarter that inhabits many freshwater lakes, and a few rivers, throughout North America and much of the world. It is a member of the Phylum Cnidaria which includes the hydra, the Portuguese-Man-of-War, both hard and soft corals, and the very familiar sea anemone.



jellyfish from planarian.net

All members of this well-known group are characterized by having radial symmetry (like a car tire), a simple body plan and stinging cells known as nematocysts, which they use to acquire food and defend themselves. If you've never felt the sting of a nematocyst while swimming in the ocean, then you just haven't lived! However, never fear! Freshwater jellyfish are very benign and will not harm you in any way.

Where does *Craspedacusta* live?

These round, little creatures exist for much of the year as very tiny, (a mm or two) stalk-like creatures called "polyps" that are attached to submerged branches and rocks scattered along the lake bottom. In the late summer and early fall, they develop into free-swimming medusae, the technical name for the "jellyfish" stage. It is during this time that they leave the lake bottom and move vertically to the shallower depths of the lake. They swim vertically by use of muscular contractions of their "bell" or umbrella.

What do they eat?

The primary diet of these small medusae are Daphnia (Cladocera) and copepods. In other words, the medusae are predators. Each tentacle contains thousands of the nematocyst stinging cells which lampoon the prey and paralyze them. Soon, they are drawn towards the mouth, swallowed whole and ingested within a few hours.

How is *Craspedacusta* related to the big picture of lake ecology?

Both cladocerans and copepods are very abundant in our lakes and play important roles in aquatic food chains. These arthropods are dependant, in turn, on the planktonic algae in the lake. Now it turns out that the algae have population spurts called "blooms" periodically during the year, especially when nutrients become very abundant in the lake water. When the algae exhibit a population spike, it is typically not long before their predators (the arthropods mentioned above) exhibit a population increase, too.

Join the search for freshwater jellyfish on October 4th.
See events page for details.



11th Annual Birdathon!

by Fred Wooley

By now, all of you ACRES members and friends who gave a pledge and a challenge to the ACRES Avocets birdathon team this year should have received your report in the mail. It was a good one! A record number of 152 species of birds were recorded by our team representing ACRES Land Trust!

It was actually a joint/combined team as the ACRES Avocets and Team Timberdoodlers, representing the Love Creek Nature Center, joined forces for a tremendous birding effort. Team members Kip, Carrie, Phyllis, Joe, and Fred met at the Love Creek Nature Center at 3:45 a.m. on May 17th and began birding at 4:00 a.m. with great enthusiasm. Well, with as much enthusiasm as can be mustered at 4:00 a.m.!

Actually, getting up in the middle of the night for a full day of birding and camaraderie with kindred spirits is really not difficult at all. You get charged, pumped, and filled with the anticipation of what birdlife and other incidental nature discoveries await in the day ahead. There may have been some dampened spirits when we stepped into the predawn dampness of a brisk wind and occasional spitting of light rain. The discouragement soon waned on our first stop and the calling of a distant barred owl. The slight threat of continued rain vanished as quickly as the previous night's sleep, and we were off and running.

Moving at a steady speed throughout Berrien County, Michigan, we enjoyed a pleasant mixture of walking and roadside birding. As many habitats as possible were visited with continued discussion of what hot spots could be checked out while being as efficient with our time as possible. We breakfasted, lunched, and snacked on the run, with calculated bathroom breaks along the way to tally as many bird types as possible before rolling into the finish line by 7:00 p.m.

And tally we did! Twenty-nine species of warblers, 10 species of waterfowl, 10 sparrows, 6 woodpeckers, and 4 kinds of vireos, to name just a few of the 152. It always fascinates us how the end of the day draws near, and there are always a few nagging birds that should be seen throughout the day, on any other day, but on Team Birdathon Day, we rush with a sense of eagerness towards day's end for a hopeful find.

Some more amazing totals

Nearly 100 birders comprising 24 teams representing various conservation groups, nature centers, and land stewardship organizations were in the field that day. All totaled, there were 198 species recorded.

Of equal success, was the funding generated by the 24 teams. When all pledges are collected, a total in excess of \$38,000 will be added to the treasuries of the organizations doing good work in the name of land stewardship, nature education and interpretation.

Thank you ACRES supporters who added \$1,410.24 to the ACRES Land Trust Wing Haven Fund for needed repairs to our popular Studio/Visitor Center. It is much appreciated. We hope you all visit this nature preserve gem in Steuben County, enjoy the comfort of our quaint and cozy visitor center, and get out to enjoy the many birds that call Wing Haven home.

red-winged blackbird by Mark Kuechler

Another New Wabash County Preserve!

ACRES has acquired another nature preserve in Wabash County! ACRES acquired the preserve through a generous bargain sale from Robin and Mary Lemberger. Robin and Mary have been members of ACRES since 1999 and have managed this property as a nature preserve since acquiring it in 1992. Their love of nature and of this property prompted them to ensure that it will be preserved in a natural state permanently.

The preserve is 15 acres of oak hickory forest that is converting itself into a beech maple forest. The understory is native and diverse, and the property contains ephemeral wetlands that provide great amphibian habitat and breeding areas. Even though the property is relatively small, wildlife is abundant.

In addition to the nature preserve, the property includes a two-acre parcel containing a residence that ACRES will treat as an investment property. Jason Kissel and his family will lease this property while fulfilling the role of caretaker for the nature preserve. They will also maintain the nearby Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run.

Some of the current residents that you may encounter are: ground hogs, fox squirrels, bats, fox, turkey, coyote, owls... toads, turtles, salamanders and frogs...hairy, downy and red headed woodpeckers, ruby throated hummingbirds, Baltimore orioles, indigo buntings, red-tailed and coopers hawks and American kestrel to name just a few, so come out and explore with us to see what else you might see.

Thank you Lembergers, for your generous donation to ACRES and for your stewardship of this property while under your care.

This preserve will open to the public Saturday, September 13th - see the events pages for information about the opening celebration.



new Wabash preserve by Jason Kissel



photo by Paul Spicer

Edna W. Spurgeon

was the first land donor to the ACRES Land Trust in 1961. She loved her woods, known as the Knobs. The photograph in the center of this quarterly features the 65-acre reserve.

There is a 1.2-mile loop trail that takes you through a climax beech-sugar maple forest, which includes an old-growth grove of beech trees

The Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve has a spectacular wildflower display in the spring featuring trillium, blue-eyed mary's, blood root, hepatica, celandine poppy, dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn. The interesting topography of rolling hills is due to glacial deposits of sand, gravel, and a few boulders, while ravines were carved by its melt water.

This reserve in Noble County, is state dedicated, the highest form of protection for a natural area in Indiana. Edna passed away in 1978 at the age of 92, but her legacy lives on.

To visit the reserve, take Interstate 69 north from Fort Wayne to Kendallville/SR 6 exit. Take SR 6 through Kendallville and Wawaka to 600 West and turn north on 600 West and go past 900 North. Reserve is on east side in 1/2 mile. Nearest city is Ligonier, Indiana. The Edna Spurgeon Woodland Reserve has a wonderful hike in store for anyone visiting.

center spread photo by Jarrod Spicer



fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at (260) 637-2237 or visit acreslandtrust.org.
ACRES programs are held rain or shine. Call the ACRES office for carpooling information to events.

MASSASSAUGA RATTLESNAKES

Saturday, July 19th, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Dr. Bruce Kingsbury, Professor at IPFW

Bruce Kingsbury will talk about the region's only venomous snake, an endangered species, the reclusive eastern massasauga. Using findings from the work of his research team, Kingsbury will tell us about their habitats, how they move about, and how they hibernate - under water!

Where: Maplewood Nature Center, LaGrange Co.

From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 to the Angola/ SR 20 exit and go west on SR 20 to 400E. Turn south on 400E and then back east on 100S. The Nature Center is on the south side of 100S in about 1/2 mile. Nearest city is LaGrange, Indiana.

BOCK BIRD HIKE

Friday, July 25th, 1 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES Staff

Join residents of Timbercrest Retirement Home for a bird hike through one of the newest ACRES' nature preserves. Bring your favorite bird guide and binoculars, and be ready to share an afternoon hike in the beautiful Bock Nature Preserve.

Where: Bock Nature Preserve, Kosciusko Co.

Located on SR 14 about 7 miles west of Silver Lake and 1.5 miles north of Akron. The preserve is located on the east side of SR 14 - approximately 1/2 mile south of where SR 14 makes a 90-degree turn south towards Akron.



American goldfinch by Brian Utesch

7TH ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP

Saturday, July 26th, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons and the Spurgeon Family

Join us for a relaxing afternoon on the Seven Sisters Lakes. Nate will lead an interpretive program on the water, and you are welcome to discover the beauty of the ACRES property on your own. All paddling levels welcome. Bring your own canoe or kayak. If you don't have access to a canoe or kayak, call the Wing Haven Nature Preserve at (260) 668-8761 and we'll help make arrangements.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co.

From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 27 exit. Go south on SR 27 to 400N and turn east on 400N. Preserve is on the north side of road in about 3/4 mile. Nearest city is Angola, Indiana.



photo by Gary Darnell

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at (260) 637-2237 or visit acreslandtrust.org.

WING HAVEN OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 3rd, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Spurgeon Family – Wing Haven Caretakers

The Wing Haven Studio will be open for the public to enjoy from 1 – 4 p.m. Helen Swenson spent much of her creative time in Wing Haven's art studio. Stop in and see what inspired her wonderful talent.



ACRES Archive

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co.

From Fort Wayne, take Interstate 69 north to Pokagon State Park/SR 27 exit. Go south on SR 27 to 400N and turn east on 400N. Preserve is on north side in about 3/4 mile. Nearest city is Angola, Indiana.

POND SCOPING

Saturday, August 9th, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Darci Zolman, Kosciusko County SWCD
Hike to Wildwood's pond equipped with nets, magnifying viewers, and identification guides. Darci will show you just how intricate the ecology of ponds can be.

Where: Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko Co.
Preserve is about 3 miles east of Silver Lake on SR 14. The entrance is on the south side of road, 1/4 mile east of County Farm Rd.



topography map

OUTDOOR SKILLS

Saturday, August 16th, 2 p.m.

Presented by: Brad Greenlee and Jason Kissel

Join Brad and Jason for an introduction to using compasses and topographical maps, skills useful in backpacking and orienteering. Bring your hand-held GPS device, and Brad will demonstrate how he mapped out all of ACRES' trails.

Where: Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen Co.
From Fort Wayne, take Coldwater Rd north to Chapman Rd (5 miles north of Dupont Rd), turn east and go 3/4 mile. Entrance is on the south side of road at 1802 Chapman Rd.

WING HAVEN OUTDOOR CONCERT

Saturday, August 23rd, 6 p.m.

Presented by: Spurgeon Family – Wing Haven Caretakers

Come enjoy music by local folk musician John Getz at the beautiful setting of the barns at Wing Haven. Come early and go for a hike on the trails, pack a cooler for a picnic dinner and enjoy the music and setting.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co.
See directions above.

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at (260) 637-2237 or visit acreslandtrust.org.

HISTORICAL LANDSCAPES OF STEUBEN COUNTY

Sunday, September 7th, 1 p.m.

Presented by: Nate Simons

Historically, much of the landscape of northeastern Indiana was an oak ecosystem containing a continuum of communities such as marsh, fen, prairie, barrens, savannas, and oak woodland. Due to a variety of changes, much of this landscape type has been lost. Nate Simons, ACRES board member and director of Blue Heron Ministries, will present a program that peers into what these ecosystems may have looked like and will address local efforts undertaken to recover what was once lost.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben Co.

See directions on page 10.



ACRES Archive

NEW WABASH COUNTY PRESERVE GRAND OPENING

Saturday, September 13th, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Kissel Family – Property Caretakers

Join us to celebrate ACRES newest nature preserve in Wabash County! Refreshments will be served and guided hikes will be offered.

Where: Wabash County

The preserve is east of Wabash and north of Lagro. From US 24, take 300E north to 300N and turn west on 300N. The preserve is located at 1541 E 300N on the south side of the road.

Wabash County Bus Tour

Saturday, September 27th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Back by popular demand! Since our Noble County bus tour was such a hit last year, we are continuing our county bus tours within ACRES service area. This year we will tour the nature-based features of Wabash County. We will meet at **Kokiwanee Nature Preserve**. We will immediately board the bus and head to the first stop, **Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run**. Then we're off to **Charlie Creek Gardens**, a special treat for the gardener in you. Lunch will be served at **Eugenia's Restaurant** within the Honeywell Center in Wabash. After lunch, we will stop along the Eel River and tour the **Stockdale**

Mill. Then we'll explore the **Disko Gravel Pits**! Tony Fleming, professional geologist, will be present throughout the tour pointing out the unique geological features that are present within Wabash County, including the exposed bedrock within the gravel pits. Finally, relax at **Manchester College** while learning about some of the latest environmental research. Arriving back at Kokiwanee, you will have the chance to explore this premier preserve that has become a favorite for many people.

Cost: \$60 per person. This includes all attractions, lunch, and plenty of refreshments along the way. This trip will be limited to 50 individuals, so call the ACRES office early to **make your reservation!**



photo by Jason Kissel

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs, contact the ACRES office at (260) 637-2237 or visit acreslandtrust.org.

FRESHWATER JELLYFISH AT OLIN/MARTIN LAKE

Saturday, October 4th, 10 a.m.

Presented by: Dr. James Haddock, Professor of Biology, IPFW

You can find freshwater jellyfish right here in northeast Indiana. Dr. Haddock will introduce us to these creatures while on a canoe trip and hopefully we'll catch them in action. Bring your own canoe or kayak. If you don't have access to a canoe or kayak, call the ACRES office for help making arrangements.

Where: LaGrange County.

We are meeting at a member's residence on Oliver Lake. Take SR 9 three and a half miles north of Wolcottville to 450S. Turn west, and travel 1.2 miles. Then turn south on Lane 150E. Parking is at the end of the lane.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Saturday, October 4th, 6 p.m.

Presented by: ACRES

Once again, we would like to express our appreciation to all of our volunteers. We would not be able to accomplish everything we do without the generosity of your time and efforts. If you are one of our many volunteers, we would like to celebrate your efforts with a catered dinner, compliments of the ACRES staff and Board. Reservations are required. Please contact the ACRES office to **make your reservation by Wednesday, October 1st.**

Where: Salomon Farm, 817 W. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne

Save the Date

More information about these two events will be printed in the fall *Quarterly*

Wine Tasting and Photography Exhibit:

Saturday, October 25th, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

This year's event will be held at John Eric Hawkins' Gallery in the Village of Winona at Winona Lake.

Annual Dinner:

Friday, November 14th

Concordia Theological Seminary

Dinner at 6 p.m., Program at 8 p.m.

At the 1963 annual dinner, Dr. Durward Allen spoke about a new research study documenting the interactions and interdependence of wolves and moose at Michigan's Isle Royale National Park. The study is now celebrating its 50th anniversary—the longest continuous predator-prey study ever conducted. Dr. Rolf Peterson will be our guest speaker at this year's annual dinner to update us on this fascinating study. Dr. Peterson has been the lead researcher for the project for the past 35 years.



2007 Volunteer dinner by Shane Perfect

SPECIAL thanks



Wing Haven Seed Scattering
Sydney Spurgeon (left) and Emmy Lou Lepley (right) by Shane Perfect

Ellsworth Smith

and all those who work on controlling
invasive species

To all of our photographers for use of their
work in our publications

Everyone who constructed benches from
our Winter projects page

Jerry Amstutz

for maintenance on the Dustin driveway

Brian Utesch, our Leo H.S. intern

finished a 6 - month internship with ACRES

Rick Phillips

for hosting our corporate and
foundation luncheon

Carol Brooks

assisting with administrative tasks

Heather Mickle and

David and Mary Heffelfinger

maintaining landscaping at the ACRES office

Wayne and Linda Boyd (ADM, Inc.)

for assistance with Bicentennial Woods bridge

To all who helped scatter seed at the
Wing Haven prairie.

Britton Marketing and Design Group

for designing and editing the *Quarterly*

Karen Griggs

proofreading the *Quarterly*

Jarrid Spicer

for donating a fine art photograph

Creative Framing

for the framing of a photograph

Brad Greenlee

mapping for the new Indiana Land
Protection Alliance brochure

Swiss Re

Steuben County Community Foundation

Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne

Ropchan Foundation

Olive B. Cole Foundation

Wells Fargo Bank

Kent Family Foundation

Mimi & Ian Rolland Foundation

Waterfield Foundation

Edward M. and Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation

announcements

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Help us streamline the ACRES volunteer program. Send us your email address, and we will start sending out an ACRES task list from which you can pick and choose volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are a core component that makes this organization successful.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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, (260) 637-2273 or acres@acreslandtrust.org, before October if you would like to make a nomination.

projectPAGE

COMPLETED

- Scrap metal and junk piles have been removed from Bock, Brammall, Dygert and Johnson
- Bock entrance is complete, preserve was opened to the public on May 31st
- Prescribed burn for Wildwood prairie was a success
- Caleb Sperry completed his Eagle boyscout badge rebuilding the boardwalk at Mengerson



Caleb Sperry (Eagle project) by Ethel McClelland



Wildwood prescribed burn by Shane Perfect

CURRENT

- ACRES office constructed wetland is in final stages of construction
- Bicentennial Woods – removing remnants of failed bridge and installing the new steel bridge
- Construction of 8' boardwalk sections for various preserves
- Design for Acres along the Wabash interpretive sign is complete, printing and installation to follow
- Plant installation for constructed wetland

FUTURE

- Ropchan Memorial bridge reconstruction
- Installation of wood routed trail signs at Dustin NP
- Wire farm fence removal at Dustin NP

If you would like to volunteer for or assist in any of these projects, please call the office and let us know.

Memorials

Wendell Dygert

*Dr. William Brigham
James and Janef Conaty
John and Kathy DeWitt
NAIFA
Shelia Roesler
Dean Sangalis
John and Eunice Vogel*

Frank Merriman

*Robert and Phyllis Robb
Hugh and Carol Toner, for
the Tom and Jane Dustin
Nature Preserve*

Bud Howell

Mike and Diane Whitlock

Lester Sundling

*Robert and Carolyn Huvendick,
for Acres Along the Wabash
Ken and Donna Ballinger
Charlie and Sharon Cowens
Bill and Kathleen Fuller
Dr. Lawrence Purcell
Ted and Melanie Shady*

Pauline Kehn

*Kathleen J. Fuller, for
Acres Along the Wabash*



yellow lady's slipper by Kathryn Moore

Bill Abrams

Debbie Sarrazine

Kathryn Moore

*Ruth Brake
Lee and Pat Casebere
Larry and Judy Esterline
Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
for Tom and Jane Dustin
Nature Preserve*

NATURAL SOUNDS OF SUMMER



cicada: ACRES Archive

I left the house at dawn, and it was as if Rachel Carson's warning in *Silent Spring* had come true. "No birds sang." The robins that have sung from trees in our yard as the sky was getting light earlier in the year were silent. The house finches and house sparrows flitting back and forth to our bird feeders were silent. The house wren whose mate had built a nest in the birdhouse in the back yard no

longer sang. The brown thrasher that had sung every morning from a tree in the pastures fencerow was quiet.

The disaster Carson forecast in her book hadn't happened. The use of DDT was banned more than thirty years ago. The birds survived and continue to sing. Their dawn chorus, however, is a feature of the spring and early summer. Now, in late summer, that chorus has ended.

As I walked around the yard, a cardinal sang once, twice, as if, I thought, it was letting me know that not

all birds are silent this time of year. A crow flew over, calling, and a song sparrow sang from a bush at the edge of our yard. I walked down by the barn and saw barn swallows, heard their twitter as they darted about.

I walked out to our marsh where male red-winged blackbirds had divided the area, and each had sung from its chosen sector throughout the day, earlier in the year. Now the redwings were gone. A family of Canada geese drifted on the water and honked their displeasure at my presence on the shore. I left them in possession and returned to the house.

Hours later, when the sun was well up and the temperature climbing, I went out again. There still wasn't any bird chorus, but there was a chorus, the sound of several cicadas buzzing, each starting low, its buzz rising to a crescendo, then trailing away.

Leaving our property, I often go to a nearby park and walk through a woods. There, I still hear catbirds and often a red-eyed vireo or two. The last time I went to the park, I heard a scarlet tanager. But the sound I hear most is the hum of mosquitoes as they swarm about my ears.

As the day ends and darkness returns, new voices are heard these hot summer days. Loudest and most persistent are the calls of two more insects, cricket and katydid. But the late summer days end without the songs of birds, just as they begin.

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