

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



The Worldwide Amphibian Extinction Crisis
Sam Schwartz
Emerald Ash Borer
ACRES Archive – The Great Swamp
Giants in the Woods
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Winter 2007
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acres annual report

ACRES continued to expand its properties, support, and relationships within the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year. ACRES' activities included providing numerous special events, educational programs, recreational opportunities to the public, performing stewardship activities within the preserves, pursuing new acquisitions, and developing and fostering relationships with the many ACRES supporters.

"Nature Trust", the entertaining & educational ACRES radio show written and narrated by Jeff Britton, was expanded into six of Indiana's largest markets. The ACRES mission and message is now heard statewide.

Two noteworthy changes occurred this year. First, the ACRES office returned to 1802 Chapman Rd. in Huntertown (now the Tom & Jane Dustin Nature Preserve) after being located on Wells St. in Fort Wayne for over 10 years. The second change was that Carolyn McNagny, executive director for 14 years, resigned her position to pursue other interests. Her accomplishments for ACRES are greatly appreciated.

We are grateful for everyone's role in making ACRES Land Trust so successful. Without donors, volunteers, board members, partners, and members, ACRES simply couldn't exist. Thank you for protecting natural areas—your efforts provide environmental, social, and human benefits every day. ACRES is honored to work with you to protect these special places within Northeast Indiana. See you on the trails!



David VanGilder, ACRES President



Jason Kissel, ACRES Executive Director

FUNDING

ACRES net worth is strong, composed primarily of the property value of the preserves, but also supplemented by endowments and investment accounts. This fiscal year ACRES invested a portion of the endowment into twelve Community Foundations located within ACRES' service area.

As with most not-for-profits, ACRES' yearly financial challenge is to raise funds to cover operating and administrative expenses. These expenses are offset through memberships, grants, and donations.

Land acquisition projects are possible due to whole or partial gifts of property, funding through grants, donations, or fund drives, and often through the support of ACRES numerous partners including The Nature Conservancy and the State of Indiana.

ACRES continues to remain financially solid due to your support.

THANK YOU.

- **59 nature preserves**
- **900 memberships**
- **Preserves in 13 Counties within NE Indiana**
- **Over 4000 acres protected**
- **Over 30 Educational Programs offered, attended by 1,200 individuals**
- **2,400 volunteer hours spent on ACRES properties**
- **Over 10,000 visitors to the nature preserves**
- **7,500 web site visitors**
- **2 full-time staff members**
- **3 part-time staff members**

Welcome

NEW members!

Karen Aiken

Gift of Carol Thomas

Richard and Patricia Beitelshees

Gift of Don and Barbara Williams

John and Jacque Claphan

Gift of Eva Claphan

Michael Claphan

Gift of Eva Claphan

Wayne and Deanna Cooper

Gift of Eva Claphan

Victor and Margaret Cornell

Gift of Thomas and Leelia Cornell

Terri L. Gorney

Ward Hall

Marshall and Sharon Heckaman

James Hensel

Colleen Huddleson and Jason Swisher

Linda McOmber

Gift of Paul and Carol Spicer

Linda M. Neidrauer

Mary E. Schnitz

Dr. Gloria Shamanoff

Gift of Wayne and Linda Boyd

Judy Shaw

Gift of Scott Nevin

Laura Snipes

Paul and Carol Spicer

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Wild Birds Unlimited!

From Dec. 1st through the 10th, Wild Birds Unlimited offered a seasonal promotion to selected customers where 20% of their sales went toward one of the three organizations of their choice: ACRES, SPCA, and Second Chance.

Tributes/Thanks

Dustin entrance landscaping:

Phil Bloom

Carl Deimling

Ken Millikan

Free furnace cleaning:

Brockman Furnace Co.

Membership Secretary for 24 years:

Mary Anna Feitler

Laptop donation: **Brent Scare**

Computer donation: **Jack Stark**

Frequent help:

Al and Sue Diefenbach

Karen Griggs

Ron and Cheryl Noyer

For contributions to the Wine Tasting

& Nature Photography Invitational

Lloyd King

Matt and Belinda Lewis

Carolyn Linsenmayer

Steve Vorderman

Joseph Decuis

Rita Bailly

THANK YOU

FRANNIE

HEADINGS

ACRES 13-year volunteer has stepped down. She faithfully and accurately recorded the activities and decisions of the ACRES board. Sue Diefenbach is now serving as recording secretary.



Photo by Shane Perfect

The Worldwide Amphibian Extinction Crisis

By Amy Obringer, Ph.D., University of Saint Francis

Worldwide, there are over 6,000 known species of amphibians. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources reports that nearly 1/3 of this class is threatened with extinction. The anurans (frogs and toads) appear to be the most vulnerable.¹ The agent responsible for driving these species to oblivion – particularly those animals living at high altitudes – is a chytrid fungus. Chytridiomycosis is fatal to adult anurans; there is no known medicinal remedy.²

The establishment of captive husbandry and breeding programs is included in the emergency plan to save amphibian species from extinction. The basic premise is to maintain populations of vulnerable species in captivity



Anuran by Amy Obringer

until there is a remedy to treat the chytridiomycosis that is decimating wild populations. Once resolved, the species will be repopulated in its native environment.³

One major obstacle to this emergency plan is that temperate anurans breed poorly in captivity. The roles played by hibernation, humidity, light, temperature, and auditory cues in anuran reproduction is completely unknown. Following hormone injection, mating behavior can be induced in male temperate toads. The male toads will amplex with the females and release viable, motile sperm.⁴ Hormone administration, however, rarely induces egg release in female temperate toads. The seasonal cycling of temperature has long been speculated as essential for egg maturation and perhaps a cue to induce spawning.

The University of Saint Francis is collaborating with the

Colorado Division of Wildlife in an attempt to successfully breed an endangered temperate toad in captivity. The general goal of the project is to determine the role and significance of hibernation in breeding captive temperate toad species. The species to be investigated is the Colorado boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*). The boreal toad is listed as endangered in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico; it is federally classified as a candidate species that warrants listing under the Endangered Species Act. This species is found in the high elevations of the southern Rocky Mountains, and it has faced dramatic declines primarily due to chytrid fungal infection.⁵ The goal for researchers at the University of Saint Francis is to successfully and repeatedly breed the endangered boreal toad in captivity in order to establish a sizeable captive population. And then, once the chytrid fungus has been eliminated in the wild, the animals would be released to repopulate their natural habitats.

LITERATURE CITED

1. 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
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4. Obringer AR, O'Brien JK,

Saunders RL, Yamamoto K, Kikuyama S, and Roth TL. Characterization of the spermiation response, luteinizing hormone release and sperm quality in the American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) and the endangered Wyoming toad (*Bufo baxteri*). *Reprod Fertil Develop* 2000, 12: 51-58.

5. Colorado Division of Wildlife. <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/Amphibians/BorealToad.htm>

6. Browne RK, Seratt J, Vance C, and Kouba A. Hormonal priming, induction of ovulation and in vitro fertilization of the endangered Wyoming toad (*Bufo baxteri*). *Reprod Biol and Endocrinol* 2006, 4: 34.



Gray Tree Frog by Ron Everhart



Photo by Steve Ross

A Special Acknowledgement

Sam Schwartz

Sam has been involved with ACRES since it first was established. He became a board member in 1989 and served until 1999. He was a vice president for a few years, served on the education committee for almost 10 years, and became the second ACRES life member. Although Sam spent his working career as a microbiologist at Parkview Hospital, he considered his involvement with ACRES to be one of his most satisfying accomplishments. If there is a hike or outing, you can usually find Sam there and if you really want to learn all about nature, be sure to hike alongside him. He is always willing to share his knowledge.

Sam is also past president of the Stockbridge Audubon Society and was on the initial board of directors for the Little River Wetlands Project. He is involved with many activities having to do with the out-of-doors. Sam loves to backpack, canoe,

camp, and take on adventures with his friends. One of Sam's adventures, during his college years, started by driving south and went all the way to Cuba where he had a front row seat for one of Fidel Castro's speeches. He and his friends have fun adventures, especially on backpacking trips. Recently, he has taken up biking, kayaking, and nature-watching from his backyard with his wife, Jan.

Sam has been a real asset not only to ACRES, but also to numerous other environmental agencies. Thank you Sam!

fieldtrips&SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs contact ACRES Office at (260) 637-ACRE or visit acreslandtrust.org

WILDS OF THE WABASH

Saturday, January 20th 10 a.m.

Presented by: Ron James, Executive Director of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, ACRES member, and volunteer. The Miami called it Wah-Pah-Si-Ki and the French called it Ouabache. Its name arises from the clear water which flowed over white limestone beds. Whatever it means to you, the Wabash River eventually drains a good portion of our ACRES properties. Ron will tell you about its history and what the Wabash River means to ACRES, with brief virtual stops at some of our preserves in the Corridor, a look around the Historic Forks of the Wabash, and a visit to the Wabash River Water Trail access point. Duration: approx. 2 hrs. **Where:** Historic Forks of the Wabash, Huntington County, located at the southwest corner of the southern intersection of US 24 and SR 9. You will enter the park from US 24.



Wabash River by Ron James

BOXES FOR BIRDS

Sunday, February 11th 2 p.m.

Presented by: Brad Bumgardner, Pokagon State Park Interpreter and Wing Haven Caretaker. Meet at the Wing Haven Studio for a fun look at the different birds that you can bring to your yard with bird boxes. A special emphasis will be on bluebirds, (see page 13), but will also look at different box designs from bluebirds to house wrens, pileated woodpeckers, and prothonotary warblers. After a short talk, we'll head outside to check out (and clean out!) some bird boxes on the preserve, while watching for the various animals that use them during the winter months. Duration: approx. 1 hr. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154 (Pokagon State Park Exit), turn south on SR 127 and then take an immediate left onto 400 N. Wing Haven is 1 mile down 400 N on the left.



Bird box by Shane Perfect

CLOUDS

Sunday, February 18th 2 p.m.

Presented by: Dr. David Finley, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at Tri-State University. In a one hour presentation, Dr. Finley will discuss the four primary ways in which clouds form, as well as how to accurately identify clouds on the basis of elevation and other visual clues. With PowerPoint slides and cloud charts, he will also share some of his favorite photos and explain how light interacts with clouds to produce these beautiful scenes. **Where:** Wildwood Nature Preserve, Kosciusko County. About 3 miles east of Silver Lake on State Rd. 14. Entrance is on south side of road, one-fourth mile east of County Farm Rd.



Photo by Shane Perfect



Photo by Larry Yoder

MERRY LEA'S MAPLE SUGAR CAMP

Saturday, March 10th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Yoder, Assistant Director of Merry Lea and Bill Smith, ACRES Board Member and Merry Lea volunteer. Join ACRES Director Bill Smith and his sugar bush volunteers for pancakes, fresh maple syrup and a guided tour of the Yoder Sugar Bush, next door to the ACRES office. **Where:** Merry Lea Maple Sugar Camp - Yoder Farm, Allen County. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Chapman Road, turn east and drive to the Yoder Farm at 2427 Chapman Road. Park next to the red barn and walk ½ mile back to camp. **Reservations required. Call ACRES office at (260) 637-ACRE (2273).**

fieldtrips & SPECIAL EVENTS

For information on all programs contact ACRES Office at (260) 637-ACRE or visit acreslandtrust.org

INTRODUCTION TO CAVING AND UNDERGROUND WILDERNESS

Saturday, March 24th 10 a.m.

Presented by: Gene Pelter Jr., caver and Clyde Simerman, caver. Learn what is needed for a caving adventure, and preview sights to see. There will be a 45-minute informational talk, slide show, and equipment presentation. These two cavers will introduce the practice of caving with an overview that can get you started. **Where:** ACRES office, Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County.



Photo courtesy of the Michiana Caver and Northern Indiana Grotto



Photo by Shane Perfect

18TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 21st 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy, Dave and Bonnie Snyder, and Paul Nailor. Held at the 264-acre Wing Haven Nature Preserve, the Adopt-A-Tree festival has a variety of events for children and adults: make a bluebird house or suet feeder, listen to fiddle and dulcimer music by Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, look at pond water under a microscope, take home a bur oak, common chokecherry, juneberry, redbud, or white cedar to plant. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Take I-69 to Exit 154 (Pokagon State Park Exit), turn south on SR 127 and then take an immediate left onto 400 N. Wing Haven is 1 mile down 400 N on the left.

WILD WALKERS SCHEDULE

January 12th at Maplewood Nature Preserve (LaGrange Co.) w/carpooling

January 26th at Salomon Farm (Allen Co.) no carpooling

February 9th at Fogwell Forest (Allen Co.) no carpooling

February 23rd at Hammer Nature Preserve (Wells Co.) w/carpooling

March 9th at Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve (Allen Co.) no carpooling

March 23rd at Tel-Hy Nature Preserve (Huntington Co.) w/carpooling

April 13th at McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve (Allen Co.) no carpooling

Carpooling meets at North Side Park on Parnell/State streets in Fort Wayne and at the Solomon farm parking lot.

Presented by Renee Baines, Outdoor Education Coordinator, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. This group of hikers always has a good time! If you are looking for friendship and fun, join us on the second and fourth Friday morning of each month for exercise and beautiful scenery. Contact Renee Baines at Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation at (260) 427-6005 or check out the calendar on their website, www.fortwayneparks.org.



WING HAVEN OPEN HOUSES

Wing Haven by Al McSweeney

After about a year's hiatus, Helen Swenson's Art Studio is going to host open houses during the first Sunday of each month. From March to November, stop into the Wing Haven Nature Preserve and visit the 19th century art studio where Helen Swenson spent much of her creative time. Open 1-5 pm. In March, a Winter Wonderland will be hosted by: Karen Griggs, ACRES volunteer

trouble in acres country



EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald ash borer is a non-domestic insect specie that has caused great concern among citizens in Northeastern Indiana. With continued sightings at two ACRES properties, this pest has the potential to be as devastating to native ash trees as Dutch Elm disease was to American elms in the 1920's. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has confirmed that this pest was found in twelve Indiana counties.

Background Information:

Originating in Asia, the emerald ash borer (EAB) was probably introduced to the U.S. on solid wood packing crates or material brought into the Detroit, Michigan area. Detected in 2002, the pests probably initially made their way about 10-12 years earlier. Since its discovery, the insect has killed at least 8-10 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. It spread from the original Detroit location primarily by movement of infested firewood, in some cases nursery stock, and other wood products.

It is the larvae of the EAB that does the damage. They quickly “bore” into trees and ravenously feed upon the cambium of the ash tree. The cambium of the tree – found just underneath the bark – contains the water and nutrient-conducting pipes of the tree. When the larvae eat enough of the pipes, then the tree is severely impacted – usually dying within 2 years.

Female beetles can mate multiple times during the summer, and lay 65 to 90 eggs on the bark of a tree during their lifetime. The adult beetle is quite small and will fit on the head of a penny. It is speculated that the adult beetles can fly approximately 2-6 miles per year.

Symptoms: Evidence of infestation includes D-shaped exit holes on the branches and trunk. Vertical splits sometimes appear in the bark above the distinct serpentine feeding galleries. Often the bark of the tree will “loosen up,” revealing the distinct larval tunnels. Many trees appear to lose about 30 to 50 percent of the canopy in one year, and the tree is often killed after 2-3 years of infestation. When the upper portion of the trees die, dense root sprouting occurs at the base of the tree.

What is being done about EAB?

For the most part, the removal of ash trees around infestations has been discontinued because there is not enough money to continue this expensive process. In addition, new infestations in Indiana have shown that the pest has already spread beyond controllable boundaries. Recent finds of EAB have indicated that the pest has been present in Indiana longer than was first thought.

Monitoring: The IDNR has established trap trees for emerald ash borer to help determine if the pest has moved to new areas. Ash trees in selected sites are girdled (the outer bark is stripped off the lower portion of the tree). These wounded trees seem to attract the beetle if they are nearby. In this way, The IDNR can determine if the pest is already present or moving into a new area.

Quarantines: The USDA (in conjunction with the IDNR) has recently placed the entire state of Indiana under quarantine for this pest. This means that it is against the law to transport firewood (of any type) or ash nursery stock from these areas to areas that are not quarantined.

Research: Land Grant Universities such as Michigan State, Ohio State, and Purdue are doing their best to develop strategies for control, but at the present time, there is no way to stop this pest from killing ash trees in natural forest areas. This is exceedingly bad news, as ash tree lumber in the state of Indiana comprises a significant portion of Indiana's logging industry.

What can citizens do to help?

Citizens can be vigilant for the presence of EAB in their area by periodically inspecting the ash trees on their property. Excellent publications are available at the Allen County Extension office or online at Purdue University, other colleges and IDNR (see below).

Don't ever transport firewood of any type from quarantined areas. Burn any ash wood you might have as quickly as possible.

Can Any Ash Trees be Saved?

Currently, there is no cost-effective or reliable treatment for ash trees in Indiana forest communities. University research has shown that yearly tree injections or soil drenches of Merit (Imidacloprid) will help protect isolated ash trees from EAB. This material will also help prevent damage by other insects that attack ash trees.

It must be stressed that there is no 100% effective control against this pest; but certainly the Merit treatments have shown great promise.

Citizens certainly can hire industry professionals to have their trees injected yearly. Smaller trees or isolated trees on a property can also be treated by homeowners with yearly early spring or late fall soil drenches of Bayer Advanced Tree and Insect Control (available at area nurseries and garden centers that carry Bayer products).

Citizens must decide if they have the resources to help save ash trees in their backyards, or if they pay later for the cost of removal of potentially hazard ash trees which have been killed by this pest. Hopefully, new research will find a method which will help control this destructive pest.

For more information about emerald ash borer:

Allen County Extension office 260-481-6826 or www2.ces.purdue.edu/allen

1-866-NO-EXOTIC

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/>

<http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125--65294--,00.html>

Information obtained from the Allen County Extension Office.

Photo credits: Howard Russel, Andrew Storer, Deborah G. McCullough, and David L. Roberts





THE GREAT SWAMP - A GREATER

ACRES ARCHIVE ARTICLE

My interest in the Great Swamp from the beginning has been that I recognize in it something much more significant than just another wild area. I have always seen in a preserved Great Swamp not an end in itself, though doubtless many are satisfied with this level of achievement. Rather, I see the Great Swamp as the means to another end – one of vastly greater proportions than its 6,000 interesting areas of meadow, marsh, forest, and pond. I have always thought of the Great Swamp as an opportunity to give your millions of neighbors an experience in nature and in the out-of-doors; a chance, it is true, to enjoy a respite from the brick and asphalt and decibels of the city. But even more importantly, I believe, mankind has a stewardship responsibility for his environment that far transcends the Great Swamp. What we must do here is awaken, to whatever degree we can, large or small, a consciousness in the minds of your neighborly millions that this stewardship responsibility is an exacting requirement for mankind's continued enjoyment – yes, his habitation – of the earth.

In a sense, the Great Swamp and the other hundreds of conservation areas scattered across our country – wildlife refuges, parks, forests – are a kind of "sample" conservation. These areas are but samples of what once existed, saved in the main for the edification and enjoyment of those who will inherit the remains of our natural legacy. But irrespective of the fact that they are important far beyond their proportionate size, they constitute but a fraction – a sample – of the total American environment. They provide surcease for hundreds of millions of Americans every year, but what of the rest of America in which we work and live our everyday lives? Can we afford to save the "samples" while the inventory of the rest of our essential resources dwindles away?

The response to this kind of a rhetorical question is obvious, of course. We cannot. Yet all one has to do is to pick up the paper any day to find more and more evidence that this corrosive process of fundamental resource neglect goes on apace. Fish die by the millions in the Mississippi, or in the Delaware, or in Lake Erie, or in countless other streams of the nation. Birds die in Madison and Kalamazoo, and eagles and peregrine falcons and red dish egrets quietly disappear. The brown pelican is the State bird of Louisiana, yet this year (1965), we captured several in Florida and sent these "samples" to the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans so that citizens of the Pelican State could see what one looks like.



These examples merely show that something insidious is happening to the very essentials of life on this planet. There is a deterioration in the quality as well as the quantity of the basic ingredients of environment – water, air, and land – that must be brought to people's attention in such a way that they can be made to recognize that we are approaching a time when not all of the euphoria our Madison Avenue friends and their exploitation allies can generate will be enough to prove that Rachel Carson was wrong.

Interestingly enough, I think, the very fact that wildlife is the first to react obviously to environmental pollutants makes the problems of human persuasion even more difficult. People give a passing glance at the quivering robin as it lies on its back in its death throes, and blithely give their elm trees another massive dose of DDT in hope of stemming the spread of the elm disease. Yet the full significance is missed. There is a warning there, yet few perceive it.

Allen Morgan, writing in the Massachusetts Audubon Magazine, puts it this way: "Your

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birds and our wildlife are part of the quality of our environment. And like the canaries in the trenches of France in 1918 whose early death presaged the presence of poison gas, they are a barometer of the approaching storm. The subtle pollution of air and water and soil, and the remaking of the landscape, simplifies nature's infinite diversity leading to enormous proliferation of a few species that can adapt and the disappearance of others. We face a world of asphalt and cement, city smog and suburban jam, honky-tonk recreation, and a wildlife community of starlings and grackles, ragweed and witch grass, rats and cockroaches, carp and suckers. Man himself is the ultimate loser if he allows it to happen!"

I have thought that I should perhaps end these remarks on this disquieting note, but the sense of impending misfortune that may have spurred you in your original efforts to save the Great Swamp impels me to continue with a final conclusive thought about the future role of the North Jersey Conservation Foundation.

You have organized, I assume, for the primary purpose of receiving gifts and contributions to be used in the preservation of wild areas. This is an important objective.

But I submit that they alone will not save the beauty, and the character, and the health of our country. For this we need across the land a more vital conservation education effort. I urge you, the members and directors of this fledgling conservation organization, to make the awakening of tomorrow's citizens your real and lasting purpose. It seems to me to be an essential that private organizations, like your Foundation, take on a part of this

From remarks made by John S. Gottschalk, Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, on the occasion of the Founding Dinner for the North Jersey Conservation Foundation, Morristown, New Jersey, October 14, 1965



the material immediates than to the long-range concern for our future welfare.

While there are many large private organizations - foundations, institutes, what have you - dealing in public education, I am convinced that there remains a large void here which you can help to fill.

I have no clear-cut program mapped out as a blueprint for such an effort. But with the talent you have shown for marshaling the capabilities of private citizens, with the wealth of educational resources lying in the many colleges and universities in this vicinity and with the realities of ruined landscapes, devastated river systems, and fouled atmosphere lurking just beyond your gates as a continuing reminder of what is needed, I believe you will find in your Foundation, not merely a succession of Great Swamps preserved, but a greater vision - helping to assure the future of the total American environment.

Mr. Gottschalk was the speaker at that year's ACRES annual meeting, providing a similar call to action to ACRES members.



Photo courtesy of Washington Biologists Field Club. Other photos courtesy of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

responsibility. For in any assessment of what will be required, public education must take a front rank; and public education at public expense will inevitably be more closely attuned to

GIANTS IN THE WOODS

Winter Tree Identification

By Mary Lou Hutter

My ambition as a budding naturalist is to study and recognize the types of trees which are leafless in the winter, and then to help others to recognize them too. To start with, the really big trees (the giants which grow to be around 100 feet high when mature) seem to be the easiest to try to identify by their bark. Seeds or nuts and any leaves lying in abundance in the vicinity can also be helpful clues. Tree bark can be very identifiable; color, rough or smooth, and deep or shallow ridge patterns. The trick is to learn how to tell a tree by its bark when it closely resembles the bark of another tree! Close examination is sometimes necessary, and studying pictures in reference books or information on the web can certainly help. I have chosen a handful of these leafless giants to identify.

The bur oak has a very beautiful medium ridged bark with patterns of "V's" pointing either up or down on the trunk. Acorns are very rounded with a short stubby point. The branches are not straight but somewhat twisted and the ends give the tree a bushy appearance.



Bur oak



White Oak



Tulip



Beech



Sycamore

The white oak bark has a distinct faintly whitish-gray, scaly, irregularly narrow ridged look to it. The acorn nut is about the shape and size of a small olive and the cap has warty scales. The shape of a mature open grown tree looks somewhat like a mushroom, with the top rounded and the branches gracefully stretching outward, and the tips bending toward the ground.

The mature tulip tree is a giant – which is straight as a telephone pole up for about fifty feet or so before branching out. The bark has deep diamond-shaped intersecting ridges.

The beech tree has a beautiful smooth, grey bark. Unfortunately, it is rarely seen without initials carved on it! A bristly, outer fruit husk may still be evident hanging from the branches. Look for these beauties in moist, well-drained sloping areas.

The sycamore is the *MOST* easily identifiable giant tree in eastern North America. It's the one which has medium to giant white patches on a maturing trunk and branches; Native Americans called them "ghost trees." These trees really like moist soil and can be found along rivers and streams.

Maybe you would like to give yourself a challenge the next time you take a hike in the woods. If so, take your reference book with you and start identifying leafless trees. It is a great conversation starter too.

Photos by Al McSweeney

projects



Cardinal by Paul McAffree

Current Project

Dustin House/Office Bird Sanctuary

Lance Lothamer and Holly Meyers are volunteering to help design, build, and install feeders on the south side of the Dustin home. Our bird sanctuary will be viewable from the windows of the sun room. Lance has already donated a log bird feeder and squirrel feeder.

NEEDS: Donations of feed and feeders, baffles (vent pipe), shepherd's hooks, etc. Let us know what works in your backyard!

Future Project

Building for Bluebirds

During this quarter, (January, February, and March), ACRES is looking for volunteers to help take care of our bluebirds. Join Brad Bumgardner at the Wing Haven Nature Preserve February 11th for the Boxes for Birds program (see page 6), call the office, or e-mail if interested. ACRES currently has bluebird boxes at several of our preserves and want to expand available nesting areas.

NEEDS: People to *build, donate, and correctly care for* these new homes.

Bird Dough Recipe

"Marvel Meal"

from John K. Terres

1 cup peanut butter
4 cups cornmeal
1 cup shortening
1 cup white flour

Mix together all ingredients to a cookie dough consistency. That's all! Spread it into tree bark crevices, or into a tree limb feeder with several small holes in it. Hang it outside for the birds to enjoy!

More than 56 species are attracted to this mixture, according to Terres.

Taken from: Bird Watcher's Digest, Jan/Feb, 1987

Completed Project

ACRES first ADA approved trail has been established at our Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve. The ADA approved trail at the Acres Along the Wabash is completed and will be ready for use in the spring. We also hope to have the interpretive signs up by then. It will provide a nice view of the Wabash River for people who have been unable to access it before now. It is a short trail but worth the view.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sam Boggs
Jeff Britton
Chris Dunn
Steven Hammer
Gary Tieben

267 members returned ballots for the 2007 - 2009 Board of Directors vote.

The individuals listed above were selected as board members:

Thank you for taking the time to vote!



Munro Nature Preserve

Munro Nature Preserve was a gift to ACRES from Mrs. Esther Munro Cooper and Mrs. Agnes Munro in 1994 and consists of 25.6 acres. It is the only ACRES preserve in Adams County. It is located at the corner of CR 400 W and CR 1100 S. This is the site of the old Brushwood Schoolhouse. The school was originally named Hartford Township District Number 6 and was built in 1903. The site is on the northern edge of the historic Limberlost Swamp and was frequently mentioned in “Girl of the Limberlost” by Gene Stratton Porter. The land was purchased by the Munro family from the Porter family. There is current interest to preserve and restore what remains of the old Brushwood School.



Photo by Shane Perfect

The Munro Preserve was dedicated as a classified forest on May 15, 1994. A short loop trail winds through the growth of oaks, shagbark hickory, sugar maple, black walnut, basswood, ironwood, blue beech, elm, black cherry, paw paw, and ash trees. A total of 27 ferns and wildflowers have been identified at the preserve. It is a beautiful area to take a short peaceful walk.

Memorials

Jeremy Dawkins

Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve:

*Rick, Joann, Jason and Addie Piatt,
and Tim and Colleena Dinius*

Lee and Mellie Johnson

Kokiwanee Nature Preserve:

Thomas and Leelia Cornell

Don McCormack

**The Land Acquisition and
Management Fund:**

William and Linda Souder

Elizabeth M. “Betty” Perry

Kokiwanee Nature Preserve:

*Melissa Novachocoff,
Mike and Mary Creech,
David and Martine Meeks*

Scott Parriott

Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve:

Jean M. Carmean

Mary Ann Tolle

Kokiwanee Nature Preserve:

Leelia and Thomas Cornell

*“Mary Ann was a driving force in the preservation
of the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve aka Tribal Trails
Girl Scout Camp” -Leelia*

Edward Wade

**The Land Acquisition and Management
Fund:**

Art and Anna Mae Parry

Catherine E. Winchell

Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve:

Jerry and Betty Sonnek

Donald Wingstrom

Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve:

Kenneth and Lori Koffler



Photo by Shane Perfect

ACRES' MISSION



Dedicated to preserving natural
areas in northeast Indiana,
ACRES manages and protects 59
nature preserves in 13 counties.

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

acreslandtrust.org



Photo by Barbara Knights-Hale

A Season of Slumber

In times past, the bare-limbed trees, long nights, and biting chill of winter signified to all that the time had come to slow down. Humanity emulated the animals, retreating into cozy dwellings where they sustained themselves on foods harvested late in autumn and passed the time in peaceful reflection. Today, most people proceed ruddy-cheeked through winter's frosts, ignoring the profound effects cold weather has on their bodies and their minds. Yet the beauty and significance of wintertime cannot be so easily overlooked. As the temperature plummets, leaving the air crisp and the landscape bare, we tend to crave warmth and relish rich foods. The presence of loved ones seems more comforting when blustery winds rattle window panes and we feel compelled to conserve our energy by engaging in only the most soothing of activities.

Though your daily schedule may remain more or less the same no matter what time of year it is, you will find in winter many opportunities to honor the way in which you are impacted by this most magical of seasons. At first glance, the world may seem desolate during the coldest months. Yet there are many unique and stimulating sensory experiences to be had—in the intricate beauty of individual snowflakes, the patterns of frost that form on your windows, the tang of smoke from wood-fueled fireplaces, the crunch of freshly fallen snow under your feet, and the briskness of the air. Do not be afraid to venture joyfully out into the cold and the snow as you may have when you were a child. A tingling and reddened nose is a small price to pay for a clear mind and invigorated soul. If your body articulates a desire to rest, give yourself permission to spend your free time reading, writing in your journal, daydreaming, engaging in artistic pursuits, playing board games, working a puzzle or learning something new about the world around you.

Many plants, like the tulip and the apple tree, would not blossom in the springtime were it not for the period of dormancy that is the gift of winter's chill. Their example can inspire us to use this season of slumber to cleanse ourselves of spiritual and emotional detritus like flora shedding lifeless foliage so that we, too, may emerge from under the frost refreshed and renewed when spring arrives.

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ACRES Land Trust
1802 Chapman Rd.
Huntertown, IN 46748-9723

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