

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA



New Executive Director
Kokiwanee BioBlitz
Birdathon
Lloyd Garrison Tribute
Secretive Salamanders
Oh No, Ozone
Preserving the Seven Sisters Lakes

Summer 2006
Volume 45 - No. 3



new executive director



New ACRES Executive Director,
Jason Kissel

Dear Friend
of ACRES,

It is my great pleasure to join the ACRES team as Executive Director beginning on July 31st. I am excited about being a part of the legacy that

ACRES has created since 1960 and look forward to expanding upon that success.

Over the past two months I have gleaned a wealth of information about ACRES from the wonderful website (www.acreslandtrust.org), board members, other land trusts within Indiana, and several of you reading this letter. So, my introduction to ACRES, although still in progress, has begun. However, to many of you, I am a new name and new face, so let me introduce myself.

My first years of life were spent in Nebraska, Utah, and Idaho, but the majority of my childhood was spent in a rural area near Williams, Indiana (about 45 minutes south of Bloomington). As a child, my playground was the numerous caves on neighbors' properties, the Hoosier National Forest that neighbored our property, and the White River across the road. This daily exposure to nature developed into a deep appreciation of and respect for natural areas.

My interests led me to Purdue, where I graduated with a Forestry degree. After graduation, I worked in North Carolina for five years as a foreman for a tree care company, then curator of the tree collection and forest within the 1400-acre North Carolina Zoological & Botanical Garden.

In 2001, I returned to Indiana to serve as City Forester of Indianapolis, which

ultimately expanded into a position as Natural Resources Administrator. In this role I oversaw land management of the 11,000-acre park system of Indianapolis. Management strategies ranged from native habitat restoration and establishment, forest management, nature preserve management, street tree maintenance, formal landscapes, and floral display gardens.

I am passionate about protecting natural areas – both for their ecological value and for the benefits they offer visitors. I believe in strategic plans and measurable outcomes. In my experience “what gets measured, gets done.” I take great pride in developing new partnerships. I take stewardship responsibilities very seriously, whether it is stewardship of natural resources or stewardship of the financial resources of ACRES. I believe environmental education is the most powerful tool within our arsenal to expand support and appreciation of ACRES and the natural areas we protect.

I look forward to serving you and welcome the opportunity to meet you personally. Please feel free to contact me by phone, email, or in person at our new office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. A. Kissel".

Jason A. Kissel



WELCOME **new** members!

Tim Kimmel

Beth Snider

Jill Weaver

Life Members

Jitterbug Photography
Organization

Charles E. Baral

*Gift of James R.
and Linda S. Crouse*

Bob Barrett

Gift of Jim and Pat Barrett

Barry Becker

Gift of Bruce Flohr

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bock

Shirley Bumgardner

Susan Butterbaugh

Linda Dearing

Elisabeth Deimling

Kevin Dewald

Steve Flohr

Gift of Bruce Flohr

Laurie Freed

Gift of Mary Pinney

Angela K. Fulk

*Gift of James R.
and Linda S. Crouse*

Laura Gooley

Raymond Grivett

Daniel Hauschild

Jeff and Ann Hicks

Gift of Jim and Pat Barrett

Anne Higgins

Mrs. Barbara A. Hines

Ken and Peggy James

Frederick and Margaret Jenkins

Mark Jordan

and Caroline Chesney

Lloyd King

Barbara Landers

Doug and Dorothy Lewis

Nancy Lewis

John and Janice Long

Gift of Esther Deal

Lance Lothamer

*Gift of Fred, Jackie,
and Joseph Wooley*



Yellow Warbler Nest by Shane Perfect

Gil and Ede Marquissee

Gift of Don and Mary Gagnon

Bob and Judy Meyer

Gift of Sharon Johnson Smith

Rick and Joann Piatt

Donna Quackenbush

Gift of Bruce Flohr

Roger Reinhart

Wade Ritchie

Gift of Dawn Ritchie

David M. Ropchan

Jill Sensibaugh

Gift of Ruth Ann Weber

John and Joanne Smith

Jim and Linda Snapp

Gift of Sharon Johnson Smith

Terry and Margie Snyder

David and Kathleen Templeton

Lucas Tsetse

Gift of Myron Johnson

Evette Violette

Russell Voorhees

Darryl and Kathy Webber

Gift of David and Heidi Finley

Scott and Rita Werstler

Gift of Archie

and Betty Ferguson

Rolf and Adele Westman

Eric and Nancy White

Rick Widman

Gift of John C.

and Nancy L. Brier

Steve and Toni Wurst and Family

Becky L. Zimmerman



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)
email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



The weather Friday was perfect for a blitz when I arrived mid-afternoon. The ACRES staff and volunteers had worked hard over the last few months to be sure the preserve was ready for our visitors. The arrival of a couple of gray petaltail dragonflies in the activities area was a good omen. Several of us got good still photo shots of one clinging to a pine tree while munching on a widow skimmer.

Jerry Stratman and his crew set up their outdoor kitchen and fed us barbecued chicken, homemade fries, and baked beans, cole slaw and desserts for our evening meal. After dinner, we split into three hiking groups. Brad Bumgardner led his group out to find owls. One of his calls kept a barred owl busy flying overhead searching for the origin for a half hour. Fort Wayne area bat rehabilitators Bob and Ann Walton were passing around a live bat

for their group to pet as I left with the third group, led by IPFW biologist Mark Jordan. Our group searched for reptiles and amphibians. Salamanders were easy—after a few minutes of peeking under logs, five of us held up red-backed salamanders. At Fawn Lake, we could hear the cricket frogs, green frogs, and a bull frog. It was hard to tell which was more fun: capturing a cricket frog to show or watching full-grown adults scurry after an escaped amphibian.

After the hikes, overnight campers started to retire to their tents. But not everyone was ready to quit for the night. We noticed the fireflies that were out early this year. A couple of people from Brad's group contemplated a midnight outing to search for more owls. When I left that night, several were still comparing stories around a campfire.

Rain came in the middle of the night and threatened not to let up, but that didn't stop us from our 6:30 a.m. bird hike. Everyone gathered around Dr. Gary Tieben, biologist from the University of St. Francis. All of us were dressed in raingear or armed

with umbrellas. Novices were shown how to operate the binoculars lent by Fox Island personnel. Then off we trooped! Rain prevented many sightings, but birds were calling and our own chirping noises inspired some more. One highlight of the hike was when we stood on the bluff at Mossy Heights and a great blue heron lifted up from its feeding spot and flew past us at eye-level.

We got back in time for breakfast: beverages, cold cereal, and warm biscuits with gravy. Thanks to Lagro Café, we were well-supplied. Then on to the morning blitz, which was a combined effort. We took the Little Fox Trail with geologist Tony Fleming and Dr. David Hicks, botanist from Manchester College, who together explained the different plant communities we passed through and how the local geology affected them. Dr. Mike Bosela, biologist from IPFW, served as a resource for those in the rear of the large group who couldn't hear the conversation up front. Along the way Dr. Hicks pointed out the twayblade and rattlesnake orchids.



We went back to home base for Pizza Hut pizza and a chance to get warm and dry. In the meantime, the rain stopped and the sky brightened. So, we were off to the afternoon blitz, this time in three groups.

Dr. Bruce Kingsbury, biologist from IPFW, led his group on a search for frogs,

turtles, and snakes. Dr. Hicks' group searched for more plants in a part of the preserve we hadn't visited yet. I was with the group guided by Dr. Jim Haddock, entomologist from IPFW, in a search for beetles and aquatic insects, armed with nets, tubs, and a bug box.

At four o'clock, the 24-hour

BioBlitz was over and the participants left with souvenir t-shirts in hand and great memories in mind. This was our first blitz, and Rachel Sherman's first big event to organize. One wouldn't know it by how smoothly it was run. Keep your eyes peeled, for there is sure to be another BioBlitz sometime next year.

Hike Leaders:

Dr. Mike Bosela, IPFW
 Brad Bumgardner, Pokagon St. Park Interpreter
 Tony Fleming, Professional Geologist
 Dr. James Haddock, IPFW
 Dr. David Hicks, Manchester College
 Mark Jordan, IPFW
 Dr. Bruce Kinsbury, IPFW
 Dr. Gary Tieben, U. Of St. Francis
 Bob and Alice Walton, Bat Rehabilitators

Thank you to all Kokiwanee Volunteers!

Mary Beth Bloom
 Tim Kimmel
 Jennifer Kleinrichert
 Steve Ross
 Christine Storey
 Jerry Stratman and crew



(Above L-R) Gray Petaltail Dragonflies; BioBlitz Hikers; Red-backed Salamander; and BioBlitz Group by Tim Kimmel; (Top Right) Cricket Frog by Tim Kimmel; (Bottom Right) Campfire by Shane Perfect

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

5TH ANNUAL WING HAVEN CANOE TRIP - JOINED WITH STEUBEN COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL LAND TRUST-

Sunday, July 30th at 2pm

Presented by: Nate Simons, Director of Blue Heron Ministries and Betty-Lee Hepworth, SCLCLT. Nate has hosted this trip for five years now; enough to be called an ACRES' annual event. A leisurely two-hour paddle through six of the Seven Sisters Lakes will showcase the beauty of northeast Indiana.

There will be a light dinner of salads, desserts, and beverages at Betty-Lee's cottage, then back to Wing Haven. You will need to provide your own kayak or canoe and there will be a short hike to the lakes' entry site. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.



Kayaks by Amber Edwards



Wing Haven Homestead~
ACRES archives

HISTORY OF WING HAVEN- Sunday, August 6th at 2pm

Presented by: Brad Bumgardner, Interpreter for Pokagon State Park and Caretaker of Wing Haven. Come learn about the deep history of Wing Haven and its generous donor. Once the homestead of Ben and Helen Swenson, the 19th century log buildings are now occupied by our caretakers and open for programs. Brad Bumgardner will guide you through the recent and past history of this beautiful property. **Where:** Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.

DUSTIN OPEN HOUSE- Sunday, August 27th from 11am-2pm

Presented by: David Rezits and members from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic; Dr. Mike Bosela- Botanist, IPFW. Join us for a relaxing afternoon. Enjoy the company of ACRES folks, a hike through the newly acquired Thomas and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, and refreshments in the magnificent arts and crafts style Dustin home, complete with a massive stone fireplace, wooden deck, and slate floors.

Where: Thomas and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Allen County. Take Coldwater Rd. north of Fort Wayne and turn east on Chapman Rd. 1802 Chapman Rd. is about a three-fourths mile drive, located on the south side of road. Look for ACRES signs.



Dustin House by Shane Perfect

INCREDIBLE HAWKS- Saturday, September 9th at 2pm

Presented by: Shirley Needham, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Board Member of Tippecanoe Audubon Society. This will be a 45-minute presentation on hawk rehabilitation: rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing. You will learn about the natural history, hunting habits, physical features, niches, and challenges of an aviary predator. **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.



Fresh Water Mussels
by Richard Fields

AMAZING MUSSELS- Saturday, September 16th from 10am-12pm

Presented by: Melody Myers-Kinzie, Commonwealth Biomonitoring, Aquatic Biologist. Visit the newest addition to ACRES Land Trust. On the Tippecanoe River, an old Boy Scout camp and Christmas tree farm is the perfect place for a day away. Wade the waters with Dr. Myers-Kinzie searching for endangered species of mussels. Recent studies have shown endangered mussels and special mussel species of concern thriving here.

Where: Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve, Fulton County. About 5 miles northwest of Rochester on CR 450 N. The entrance is on the south side of road about one-third mile east of County Road 400 W.

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

FUNGUS AMONGUS

Saturday, September 30th at 10am

Presented by: Jennifer Kleinrichert, ACRES Board member and Steve Ross, ACRES Member/Volunteer. Take a one-hour hike identifying fungi and learning about the niche they inhabit, reproduction mechanisms, and lifecycles of different species.

Where: Fogwell Forest, Allen County. Find Lower Huntington Rd. near Fort Wayne between Ernst Rd. and Coverdale Rd. Turn south on Whippoorwill Drive and you will dead end at the preserve.



Combtooth Fungus
by Shane Perfect

WILD WALKERS HIKES

Presented by: Mike Graves, Outdoor Education Coordinator, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. Join this energetic group of hikers for friendship and fun times visiting nature preserves. Great exercise and beautiful scenery! Hikes will take place on the following Fridays (carpooling is available for each hike except for Vandolah):



Trail by Shane Perfect

August 11th at Lloyd Bender Memorial Woods from 7:30am-12:00pm

August 25th at Vandolah Nature Preserve from 8am-1pm

September 8th at Wing Haven Nature Preserve from 7:30am-12:00pm

September 22nd at Douglas Woods from 7:30am-12:00pm

October 13th at Hammer Wetland from 7:30am- 12:00pm

Driving directions for most sites can be found at acreslandtrust.org

Contact Mike Graves at Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation at (260) 427-6005.

BIRD-A-LONG WITH STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON SOCIETY, LITTLE RIVER WETLANDS, AND ACRES-

Sat. Oct. 14th from 8am-12:00pm

Presented by: Jim Haw and Ed Powers. Stockbridge Audubon Society, ACRES Land Trust and Little River Wetlands Project join forces to search for fall migrating birds! Join local expert birders, Jim Haw and Ed Powers on a tour of Arrowhead Marsh, Arrowhead Prairie, and Little Wabash River Nature Preserve! Novices to expert birders are welcome. Please meet in the grass parking lot at Arrowhead Marsh, and don't forget your binoculars! After touring Arrowhead Marsh we will carpool to the other side.

Where: Arrowhead Marsh, Allen County. In Fort Wayne on Aboite Rd. From U.S. 24 turn south on Redding Rd. Aboite Rd ts into Redding Rd., turn south. Arrowhead Marsh is on the east side of Aboite Rd. within ½ mile, (just past the chicken barn). Park in the grassy lot adjacent to the metal Arrowhead Marsh sign.



Female Wood Duck
by Gary Mezaros from
"Creatures of Change"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- Friday, October 27th from 6:00pm-10:00pm

ACRES 2nd Annual Wine Tasting and Photography Invitational Contest, to benefit ACRES "Nature Trust" Radio Program. Hosted at the Steve Vorderman gallery in Roanoke and catered by Joseph Decuis. Tickets are \$40.00 person \$75.00 couple. Mark your calendars and look for full details in the Fall Quarterly.

Call the ACRES office to RSVP.

acresavocets

net 117 species on **birdathon!**

by **Fred Wooley**,
Interpreter at Pokagon State Park

While it was not a record day, it was a good day and any day out birding is a great day! The ACRES Avocets participated in the 9th Annual Team Birdathon in Southwest Michigan on May 20, 2006, and we recorded 117 species of birds.

The nationwide birdathon attracted nearly 100 birders on 24 different teams, representing various conservation organizations. The record for the day was 142 species. Combining all 24 teams' results, a total of 180 species were observed. Every team got some unusual birds and every team missed some common ones.

Our team of Michael Klengerman, Brad Bumgardner, and Fred Wooley began in the chill of a predawn darkness at 3:00am. Our first stops were for owls, nighthawks, woodcocks, and whip-poor-wills. We got some, but missed others. For the second straight year we were treated to the distant whip-poor-will-like call of the uncommon chuck-will's widow. Occasionally, in the deep dark, a startled catbird or robin would give a blurted call.

By 6:45pm we were racing to the finish line at the Love Creek County Park Nature Center in hopes of one more species.... a wild turkey,

or perhaps a kestrel. Brad was the first to bounce into the center and bolted out twice as fast with the last bird, a female purple finch at the feeders! Number 117 was logged in.

We all had our favorites. For Brad it was the long sought-after Connecticut warbler near daybreak. For Michael it was a late afternoon spotting of a red-shouldered hawk, banking over treetops. For me it was watching two male American redstart warblers locking bills and battling above us, backlit by a mid afternoon sun.

For those of you who pledged, thank you so much, and I hope we saw your favorite bird! The total estimate for all 24 teams at Team Birdathon 2006, was nearly \$35,000. Once the ACRES Avocet pledges are all in, we should be at a total of \$2,670!

Again, we thank you for your support as we raise funds for the operation and maintenance of our beloved Wing Haven Nature Preserve.

Until next year, good birding and outdoor adventures to you all!



American Goldfinch by Paul McAfee

Spring Birdathon Donors

Gifts are going toward management of the Wing Haven Nature Preserve.



= \$5 per bird



= \$1.50 per bird



= \$1 per bird

Wayne and Linda Boyd

Angie O'Neill

John and

Marcella Ellenwood

Robin Lemberger

Diane S. Humphrey

Norman and Sonia Myers

John Rullo

in memory of Nancy Rullo

Dean and Kathy Agee

John and Joyce Bacone

Jim and Pat Barrett

Kathryn Bloom

Michael Boltnick

Lois Booth and Alice Friend

Rosemarie Bostelman

Brad Bumgardner

Rob and Marilyn Chambers

Marion and Mary Clark

James Covell

Lorraine Davis

Alice DeCaprio
 Martie DeVries
 Art and Marion Eberhardt
 Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
 David and Heidi Finley
 Charles Foster
 Delles Gerig
 Karen Goldner
 and Cindy Loneragan
 Dale Guerin and
 Glenna Cayot-Guerin
 Marvin and Kate Hall
 Joseph and Nancy Harber
 Frannie Headings
 Robert W. Hawley Sr.
 Dan and Judy Kaufman
 Paul L. Kocsis
 Jerry Krick
 Margien L. Lund
 Charlotte Lunde
 Dr. Jerry L. and
 Mrs. Diane Mackel
 Pat MacWhorter
 Nancy Malis

D.G. Mason, M.D.
 Paul McAfee
 Pat McNagny
 Sandra McNeil
 Billie Jean McQuithy
 Dave and Holly Meyers
 John and Linda Mowry
 Peter and Pam Oleson
 Charles and Ruth Oswald
 Jane Papsdorf
 Ed and Cynthia Powers
 Bill and Judy Regadanz
 Janel Rogers
 Beth Rohrer
 Mrs. Jean Sark
 Joel and Susan Schartzer
 Stephen and
 Paulette Shambaugh
 Don and Gretel Smith
 Bill and Kim Smith
 Phillip R. Smith
 Dave and Bonnie Snyder
 Michele Souder
 Jack and Carolyn Thrush

Carol Telschow
 Jim and Bev Wagner
 Thomas Whaley
 Fran Wilder
 Fred Wooley
 Joseph Wooley
 Jim and Kathy Zimmerman



Cattails by Richard Fields

Lloyd Garrison tribute

From interview with Diana Thornhill-Miller By Rachel Sherman

We would like to acknowledge and remember Lloyd Garrison. He bequeathed a gift to ACRES which is going toward the acquisition of the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve. Lloyd died at the age of 97, January 19th, 2001. Seeing the new millennium was the least of many great things he accomplished. During his time here, he was very active in the local Unitarian Universalist Meeting House where he and his wife, Rose, met and adopted the Thornhill-Miller family. The Garrisons, with no children, adopted Diana Thornhill-Miller, James Miller and their children as their own.

The Garrisons lived on a seven-acre estate on the northwest side of Fort Wayne. As active environmentalists, they contributed to ACRES and the World Wildlife Foundation among other environmental organizations. Gardening, keeping the local animals fed, and heating

their house simply with wood were also tell-tale signs of their environmental efforts. With continual care of his seven acres until his death, Lloyd kept up the everyday chores, persisting from the fruits of his labor and land.

Very spiritual and environmentally conscious, the Garrisons loved to read and lived a conservationist lifestyle. We are thankful for their gift to ACRES, which is extremely instrumental toward the acquisition of the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve.



Lloyd Garrison by Diana Thornhill-Miller

Secretive Salamanders

everywhere and nowhere

By Mark A. Jordan, Ph.D.

Department of Biology ~
Indiana University-Purdue
University Fort Wayne

One would suspect that an abundant predator within an ecological community vital to the function of Indiana forests would be routinely sighted and well known to any Hoosier naturalist. A description of the natural history of this creature, however,

might cause you to reconsider. It is only active on the forest floor during rainy evenings in the spring and fall. During the day in these parts of the year, it hides beneath rocks and decaying logs. In June-August, hot days cause it to retreat up to one meter below the forest surface. It feeds on an assortment of invertebrates, including worms, beetles, springtails, termites and other consumers of detritus. Mating occurs on land during periods of surface activity and eggs are laid in the cavities of rotting logs. The species I describe is perhaps the most abundant vertebrate in northeast Indiana, the red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*).

Red-backed salamanders are of conservation interest because they are viewed as good indicators of forest 'health'. Cool, moist microhabitats created by a



Red-backed Salamanders by Scott Gibson

dense overstory of trees and large amounts of downed vegetation are critical for maintaining viable populations. As a result, older forests with minimal disturbance are sites where you find these salamanders.

This type of forest habitat is now rare in northeastern Indiana, and the ones that do

exist are essentially islands surrounded by agricultural fields, roads, and other human development. Although red-backed salamanders are very abundant, a recent study suggests that they are in decline in Indiana and other sites across the eastern United States. Organizations such as ACRES are important for preserving remaining forests and their residents.

Both ACRES and The Nature Conservancy not only preserve older forests, but also help to restore them. My research

group is involved in studying whether reforestation provides habitat for red-backed salamanders. Over the past year we have been sampling forests of different age and isolation (including ten ACRES properties) to determine where salamanders are found. Preliminary results suggest that forests must have trees at least 40 years old and, must be immediately adjacent to an older forest.



Red-backed Salamander by Gary Mezaros from "Creatures of Change"

In addition to studying forest restoration, we are working to understand whether salamanders in the older forests are likely to persist into the future. Fragmentation of forests reduces their size and increases isolation. Both factors can lead to a loss of genetic diversity in resident populations because of the possibility of reduced population size and limited migration of individuals among sites. We are measuring genetic variation using DNA markers in ten red-backed salamander populations found in mature forests across the region. This will allow us to test the hypothesis that loss of

habitat is an important source of decline in this species.

Red-backed salamanders can be spectacularly abundant, but only under the right conditions. The next time you visit an ACRES site with a mature, upland forest in the spring or fall, have a look at the forest's "underworld". Roll over a log or two (but remember to put them back!) and there is a good chance you will uncover this important but enigmatic component of the forest ecosystem.

thanks!

For help during relocation of the ACRES Office we want to thank:

Neal and Carl Case

John Ellenwood

Tim Kimmel

Nate Klinker

Ken Millikan

Janel Rogers

Bill Smith

Jack and Cheri Stark

For help on the Thomas and Jane Dustin Project:

Kevin Malott and Malott Contracting, Inc.

for donation of labor and time

Northeastern REMC

for donation of labor and time

Devin and Brenda Willis

for their generous support

ACRES' hiking community

for picking up trash at preserves (aka "ACRES Angels"); Things are looking great, Thank You!

Steve Carnes

for donating 1400 trees which were planted at the Wildwood Nature Preserve

Marian Hedricks

for managing the ACRES booth at Fox Island's Sol Fest

Kell Drilling

for their donation of time and labor on the Johnson Project

Lloyd King

for gifting a beautiful Bicentennial Woods photo

Jack Stark

for all of his commitment and extra time with the Land Management Committee

Wild Birds Unlimited and Ben & Renee Rouch



for sponsoring 10 months of ACRES' statewide Nature Trust radio program

For Sponsoring the first annual Kokiwanee BioBlitz:

Brockman Heating and Air Conditioning

Commonwealth Biomonitoring

Industrial Solutions Group

Pizza Hut

Tippecanoe Audubon Society

Wabash County Solid Waste District

Oh No, Ozone!

By The Advance Environmental Science Class
at The University of St. Francis

The Advanced Environmental Science class at the University of Saint Francis this year investigated the issue of ozone attainment in Allen County. The importance of this issue cannot be overstated— it affects our air quality, the health of those with respiratory problems, those who could develop them, and the economic well-being of our community.

Many have heard of Ozone Alerts that warn of being outside in the summer and breathing the air; this ground-level ozone is generally known as “Bad” ozone. According to AIRNow,

“Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of health problems, including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and congestion. It can worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. ‘Bad’ ozone also can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue.”

High levels of ozone or O_3 are more common when it is sunny with little or no wind. The sun provides ultraviolet energy that breaks some of the bonds that hold oxygen (O_2) together. This bond-breaking power is important in the formation of ozone because before ozone can form, there must be free particles of oxygen. On sunny days with no wind, air pollutants such as nitric oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) build up in the air that we breathe. These chemical precursors of ozone, NO_x and VOCs, have oxygen particles bonded to them that can be knocked off and often form ozone. Some of the worst producers of these pollutants are small engines on lawn mowers, leaf blowers, weed eaters, chain saws, and idling car engines.

Fortunately, Allen County does not

have to issue Ozone Alerts very often.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has set up standards that create two designations for counties with regard to ozone in the air. Either a county meets the standards set that allow for the good general health of a population (attainment) or the county does not (non-attainment). Most people do not realize how heavily industry is regulated by the EPA to conform to strict guidelines concerning the release of NO_x and VOCs. Although industry is a large contributor of pollutants, statistics

indicated that automobiles account for 45-56% of the chemical precursors to ozone.

Rising costs associated with health care and insurance affect everyone. Also,

according to a State of the Air report released by the American Lung Association, approximately 67% of the Allen County population is at-risk for complications stemming from increased ozone. These at risk groups include asthma sufferers, people with bronchitis, emphysema, and cardiovascular diseases, children, and senior citizens. One reason for industry leaving the Allen County area (or not deciding to move to Allen County) at such an alarming rate might be related to regulations that are becoming too costly and burdensome for companies, thus making it harder and harder for them to remain competitive in today's markets. Many companies are moving out of the U.S. to locations that have fewer regulations to help protect people and the environment.

Perhaps citizens make a difference. Allen County is walking a very fine line along the threshold of the attainment designation. If we continue on the path that we have already achieved, we will remain an attainment area.

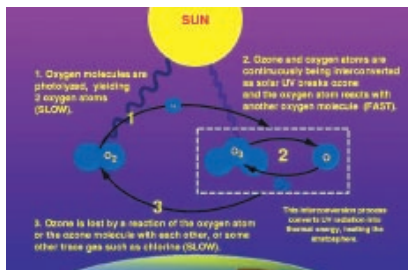


Diagram from Wikipedia Encyclopedia
Similar reactions occur at ground level with VOCs and NO_x .

Attainment designation is critical to our area and our economy. If we are labeled non-attainment, then we are limited in expansion of certain industries and new growth. Allen County has developed a maintenance plan to remain in attainment, and it is working. We are slightly under the limits set. If there is a hot, muggy summer, we could bounce over the threshold, placing Allen county immediately under the constraints of the non-attainment designation.

Studies have shown that there are usually only four to six hot, muggy, summer days in our area that raise ozone levels to the point of being hazardous. During these days, there are several things that you can do to decrease health risks and help us stay in attainment:

- Reduce driving by using public transportation, car pooling, walking, or biking. Fort Wayne's CitiLink will let anyone ride the bus for free on Ozone Action days.
- Avoid painting, stripping, and refinishing during these days or use paints with little or no VOCs.
- Wait until evening to mow the lawn, use a spill-proof, vent-free gas can to refuel at home.
- If you can't avoid driving, then don't speed, combine errands, turn off your engine if waiting longer than 30 seconds, and refuel in the evening.

Listen for Ozone Alerts and then do what you can do from the list above. Even YOUR little effort can go a long way towards keeping Allen County in permanent ozone attainment.

Everyone can benefit from these four suggestions, even if not residing in Allen County. There is more air quality information about northeast Indiana at <http://www.in.gov/idem/air/amb/data/ozone/o3data.html>. For regional ozone values, go to the "Regional O3" link, and for specific sites in Indiana go to the "Online Ozone Data by Site" link (both in upper left corner of webpage).

meet the caretakers

ACRES caretakers live in the homes on these preserves and keep a close watch over the property, buildings and trails.

If you see one of them out, be sure to say hello.

Larry Biggerstaff, at the Emmanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve since 2000

The Popp property is Larry's "Waldon Pond". Larry has been a friend to the Popp preserve for many, many years prior to his caretaking days and says he wouldn't want to imagine not taking care of the property.



Larry Biggerstaff
by John Ellenwood



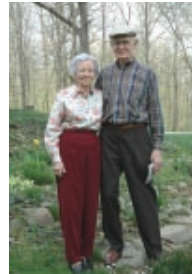
Frances and Scott Nevin
by Phyllis Hall

Scott Nevin, at the Scott and Frances Nevin Nature Preserve since 2003

The Nevin property has a beautiful log cabin nestled in the woods with a wonderful bird sanctuary which they have provided. Scott is quite a character and even the squirrels have fun out here. The last photo Scott showed us was of a fearless squirrel trying to chase an owl off the top of a ladder.

Bob and Alice Frantz, at the Wildwood Nature Preserve since 2002

Occasionally known to provide guided tours, Bob and Alice care over the trails, buildings, pond and wetlands. That old 1959 Ferguson tractor has seen Bob and Alice through many years around the property and, we hope, many more to come.



Alice and Bob Frantz
by Terri Penrod

Brad Bumgardner and Amber Edwards, at Wing Haven Nature Preserve since 2005

Our newest Caretakers, Brad and Amber, seem a perfect match for one of our most visited nature preserves. Their enthusiasm for nature is obvious when talking about the beauty of Wing Haven.



Brad Bumgardner and Amber Edwards by Art Eberhardt

Preserving the Seven Sisters Lakes



Seven Sisters Lake by Art Eberhardt

By Betty-Lee Hepworth,
Steuben County Lakes
Council Land Trust, Inc.

The pristine Seven Sisters are a small cluster of six and, at high water, seven lakes that were created by the recession of the Wisconsin Glacier which once covered northeast Indiana. The lakes are surrounded by rolling and, in several locations, steep topography. ACRES Land Trust preserves two lakes, portions of two additional lakes and surrounding land equaling 264 acres. Oakhill once owned 203 acres surrounding the largest lake called both Failing or Gentian.

Ralph and Shari Trine purchased Oakhill at a Sheriff's Sale held on Thursday morning, May 25, 2006 in Angola, Indiana. Oakhill was a religious camp once owned by Calvary Temple in Fort Wayne.

On October 17, 2005 an article entitled "Oakhill Likely to be Sold" appeared in the Steuben Herald Republican newspaper. Fred Wooley, an interpreter for Pokagon State Park and ACRES member, called a meeting

at the Pokagon State Park Nature Center, inviting local land trusts, Pokagon, and IDNR officials to discuss the possibility of raising funds to purchase Oakhill as an eastern extension to Pokagon State Park. The organizations at the meeting were positive about the idea, but knew it would be a difficult task. Terry Coleman, from the Steuben County Lakes Council Land Trust (SCLCLT) and IDNR Regional Manager, volunteered to be the liaison for attending groups.

Pat Martin, SCLCLT's attorney, kept everyone informed about the latest developments, and on April 6, 2006 the SCLCLT called a meeting at Pokagon State Park with IDNR officials and local land trusts – ACRES, Blue Heron Ministries, Wood Land and Lake, and Charles McClue Nature Reserve, to ask if they would endorse the idea of raising funds for the purchase of Oakhill. They said, "Yes!"

Less than two months were left to raise the money. Many meetings

were held with local groups such as the Community Foundation, TNC, Indiana Heritage Trust and etc., trying to piece the fund-raising puzzle together. Terry Coleman approached Ralph Trine about the possibility of purchasing Oakhill for a public nature area. Mr. Trine met with John Davis, IDNR Deputy Director, and Terry Coleman. "We think this a very worthwhile project," said Trine. After the Trines bought the property with the intent of turning it over to the IDNR they said, "There will never be a 'for sale' sign on Oakhill again."

MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAMS

Matching gift programs are offered by many different employers and organizations. It is a great way to instantly boost a contribution given to your organization of choice. Many matching gifts programs will match a 1 to 1 ratio as long as a minimum amount is gifted. The Illinois Tool Works Foundation will match a gift 3 to 1. Just imagine how your organization of choice would benefit if everyone could instantly double their gift! Even as a retiree of G.E. your gift is also eligible in the program. The following is a list of ACRES' registered matching gifts programs:

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
G.E. Matching Gifts Foundation
United Way California Capital Region
Illinois Tool Works Foundation
Eli Lilly and Company,
Matching Gifts Program
Caterpillar Foundation

If your employer or foundation of choice has a matching gifts program, we just might be eligible to receive a match.

Memorials

John Rouch

for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from Rosemary Rouch Pletcher

R. Lawrence “Larry” Huff

for the Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from Clyde and Martha Dively
for the Land Acquisition and Management Fund
from Neil E Grider

Don McCormack

for the Bicentennial Woods
from:
Cheryl Allen
Marlin and Julia Bauer
W.E. and Lou Gerdau
Connie and Ronald Wilkins
Deborah Willig

Charles Fullhart

for the Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from:
Bernice Andes
Mary Ann Cree
Diane Humphrey
Harold and Barbara King
Carolyn McNagy
Arlene Stoller
Robert and Vera Deal
Dennis and Rhonda White

Nancy Rullo

for the Wing Haven Nature Preserve
from John Rullo
“Nancy would have loved Wing Haven. She spent much of her time volunteering at an animal rehabilitation center in Illinois. Her favorite was feeding the baby birds.” ----John Rullo

Robert Griggs

for the Thomas and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
from Fred and Mary Anna Feitler



Common Fleabane by Tim Kimmel

Tributes

Patricia A. McNagy

In honor of proofing the ACRES Quarterly for 10 years
For the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve
from James and Patricia Barrett

Evelyn and Wendell Dygert

For the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve
from Charles and Frances Brown

Bob Barrett and Jeff & Ann Hicks

For the Thomas and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
from James and Patricia Barrett

In honor of their continued patronage:

James and Anne Heger since 1997

Donald D. Hoagland, PhD. since 1996

Greg Marcus since 1995

Denis R. Pauze since 1993



Skunks by Erwin and Peggy Bouer

skunk stalking THE **BACK**PAGE

By Guest Writer Meghan Britton

I think I'm beginning to get paranoid.

I have weird animals hanging around my

house. I have a black squirrel that stuffs himself so full of birdseed that he has to lay down to breathe. I have a raccoon who scales the side of my house and sits on my windowsill at night and just looks at me. But now it's gotten serious. My place seems to be infested with...skunks.

I can handle the gluttonous black squirrel and an overly friendly raccoon who likes to watch TV, but the skunks? I have my limits!

It all started a few nights ago. I had pulled a late night at the office and was about a minute from home when I smelled that skunky smell. I drove a bit further and turned onto my street as the smell grew more and more pungent. I was about to get out of my car when I saw a black and white thing lurking in the shadows next door. I froze. "Pepe Le Peu" was in my neighbor's front yard and he was waddling toward me...towards my house. MY HOUSE!

Since he didn't appear to be in any big hurry, I prepared to sleep in my car. But when I saw him dive into the shadows, I decided to go for it. I ran to my front door and flung myself inside, slamming the door behind me.

A little while later, I decided to water my flowers on my deck. After watering them, I turned around to walk back in and found myself face to face with aforementioned skunk. We're talking three feet away. Not good.

The skunk stepped backward when I shrieked. Which bought me time to race to the door. Heart racing. Hands shaking. Flowers wilting and drooping over dead before the door slammed shut behind me.

When I came home the next night, it was twice as sad since there were now two skunks. And every night since? Skunks!

So now, I put diet bird seed out for the chubby squirrel. The TV watching raccoon isn't too bad, but the tapping on the window when I don't turn on COPS at 9pm is getting old. But the skunks? So far, shrieking and running seems to work the best.

ACRES Land Trust
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