

THE ACRES

QUARTERLY

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS
IN NORTHEAST INDIANA

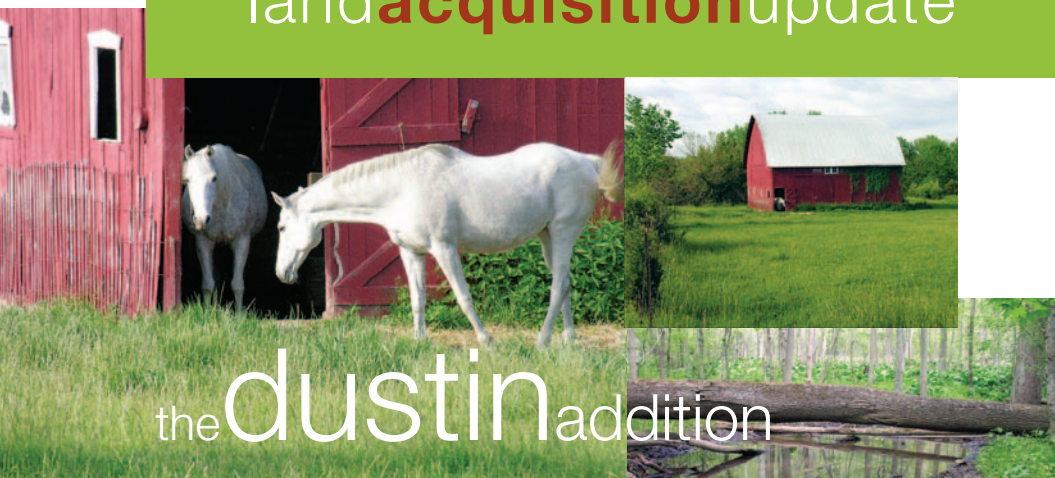


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Great Blues

Winter 2006
Volume 45 - No. 1



land **acquisition** update



the **dustin** addition

ACRES is continuing to move forward on our efforts to raise \$425,000 to acquire 44 acres as an addition to the 28.5-acre Thomas and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve. Mr. and Mrs. Dustin gifted in their estate the 28.5 acres and their arts and crafts home, with its massive stone fireplace, wooden deck, and slate floors.

ACRES has raised \$250,000 for this project with a grant from the English Bontor Mitchell Foundation, Jack Ewing Charitable Trust, Martha L. Sittler Trust, Indiana Heritage Trust Fund, IDNR Division of Nature

Preserves, and the ACRES membership, but we need to raise an additional \$175,000. ACRES goal is to purchase as much as we can of the 44-acre field.

Our "Option to Purchase" expires at the end of January 2006. Help ACRES acquire land adjacent to Cedar Creek, continuing Tom and Jane Dustin's dedication to protecting this spectacular river valley!

Please Note Web Address Change:

We are pleased to announce that ACRES' website, has changed to a simpler, classic format. The address has changed from **acres-land-trust.org** to:

acreslandtrust.org

WELCOME

new members!

Pine Tree Needles by Tim Kimmel

Mary Annis
John and Roberta Agnew
Charles R. Amiss and Catherine L. White Amiss
Shaun Blalock *Gift of Ralph and Mildred May*
Darrell and Paula Borders *Gift of Ralph and Mildred May*
Norma Carmin *Gift of Leslie Carmin Hammer*
Lee and Kathy Cochard
Al Crist
Eric and Julia Derloshon *Gift of Fred and Mary Anna Feitler*
Jon Diller and Family
Jason and Tracy Dohm and Sons
Gift of Douglas and Cora Fisher
Michelle Doublin *Gift of Andrea Kumler*
Richard and Suzanne Drewes
J. H. Feichter
Ron and Rhonda Felger *Gift of Linda J. Gaff*
Alice Friend *Gift of Lois Booth*
Joel Grulke *Gift of Harold and Kathy Lentz*
Curt and Jill Hansen *Gift of Mary McCormack*
Everett A. Hardy
Alan and Prudence Harnish
Richard and Mary Hertel
Monica and Penn Jensen
Gift of James and Penny Kindraka
James P. Jones
Becky and Greg Jordan *Gift of Ken and Julie Russell*
Karl Keiper
Bill Maxwell and Marcia Bates
Heather Maxwell *Gift of Andrea Kumler*
H.G. Merkler *Gift of David Brookmyer*
Richard and Merle Miers
Stan and Dee Mari Moore
Donna Nelson
J. Nelson and Mary Coats
Carol Niemann *Gift of Bonnie Niemann*
Michelle Niemann *Gift of Bonnie Niemann*
Leonard and Lorena Penner
Shane Perfect

Thomas and Constance Prather
Barth Ragatz
David Reichlinger
Stan and Emma Reidenbach
James L. and Margaret Russell
Gift of Ken and Julie Russell
Ken and Julie Russell
David and Nan Roe
Stephen and Stacey Salisbury
Jon F. Sands
Becky Schlemmer *Gift of Andrea Kumler*
Dean and Carol Scott *Gift of Larry Sydow*
Gloria J. Sherwood
Kerry Shipman
Tamara Simmons
Marilyn L. Smith
Gaya Snyder *Gift of Andrea Kumler*
John and Jan Tindall
Gift of Mike and Diane Whitlock
Anthony and Beth Wolf
Gift of Richard and Joyce Wolf
Wealth By Design



ACRES' MISSION

Dedicated to preserving natural areas in northeast Indiana, ACRES manages and protects 57 nature preserves in 13 counties.

2000 North Wells Street
Fort Wayne, IN
46808-2474
260-422-1004
email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org

bees



By Carolyn McNagny, Executive Director, ACRES

In October, Lee and Kathy Cochard were hiking the narrow trail between the fence row and the cornfield on their way back to Foxfire Nature Preserve. They saw a honey bee swarm forming a comb, resembling golden pancakes, on the underside of a sturdy branch about 15 feet off the ground. Lee contacted the ACRES office and we contacted a well-known bee keeper in Fort Wayne, J. P. Jones. Concerned about the swarm making it thru an Indiana winter, J. P. created a "bee condo" to protect them and wrote the following report.

The report of the fully exposed honeybee hive in a tree at Foxfire Woods and our subsequent inspection at the site, yielded a unique challenge to save the bees. Our first idea was to cut the beeswax sections with the bees from the tree and place them in a conventional beehive. With the oncoming November cold weather, it was felt that the hive would not survive the abrupt change in their habitat.

We therefore went with protecting the hive in the tree from the weather. We built an enclosure around the hive in the afternoon, November 2nd. This was done by the writer with the able help of my sister, Jane Thomas, and my good friend, Kay Cole.



Bee Pancakes (Above L and Below) by Shane Perfect; Beehive (Above R) by Bill Smith

We used a heavy corrugated box a little larger than the hive and slipped it over the hive from the bottom, stapled and duct taped it in place. We cut an entrance opening at the bottom toward the east and a feeding "door" on the west side. To protect the box from getting wet, we covered it with black plastic and covered the top of the area with neoprene sheeting. We left some comb honey in the feeding door as we were not sure there was enough honey in the hive to get thru the winter. We will inspect the hive from time to time to keep it fed and check on the enclosure. It is our hope that the hive will survive the winter and build up in the spring so that it can be put into a conventional hive in late April or early May next year.

- J. P. Jones, Beekeeper

Set off by overcrowding in a nest, a swarm of bees usually happens in late spring or early summer. A swarm can be a memorable sight, as 1,500 to a huge swarm of 30,000 bees bundling along together stays with you. Workers, drones and the all-important Queen will travel until they settle on a tree limb or bush, then send out scout bees to seek a cavity to nest in and then move.

For our Foxfire Woods bees, no suitable cavity must have been available, so they decided to set up comb construction in the open, which means certain death when winter arrives. J. P. Jones said

it is not the cold, so much as the wind, that would kill the hive. The problem became how to protect or remove the bees without harming them. If a beekeeper can capture the Queen of a swarm, she can be moved into a suitable container. The bees will then follow their Queen, in an orderly, single-filed procession, from their hive into the container. The bees are following the scent of her pheromones and the long line of bees can take hours to calmly hike from the swarm site into their new home.

J. P. Jones decided that removing the Queen was too hazardous to the hive, so instead decided to protect them on their branch. With the threats our native honey bee populations are facing from alien mites, it is good to have someone in their corner. Honey bees are important for pollination of fruit trees, vegetable and seed crops - mankind's food supply.

Not to mention being a fascinating and hard-working insect!

James M. and Patricia D. Barrett

Outstanding Philanthropist Award



[L-R] Ian Rolland, Patricia & James Barrett, and Mimi Rolland by Shane Perfect

Dedicating their lives to making a difference, James and Patricia Barrett received the 2005 Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the United Way and Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award was presented November 14th, 2005, at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne by Ian and Mimi Rolland.

Their activities have included James' support of the beautiful restoration of the Allen County Courthouse and his giving the rededication address upon its completion and Patricia's being a founder of WBNI and her organizing the largest recycling event in the United States. Yet their greatest commitment has been to the environment. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett have generously given financial support and, as importantly, encouraged others in the Fort Wayne community to support natural areas' protection. Mr. Barrett was a founder of ACRES and an early member of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, giving his expertise as an attorney to help guide the organizations. He was heavily involved with ACRES land acquisition projects from the 1960s to the 1990s, working on the protection of more than 30 nature preserves.

Perhaps Mr. Barrett's most significant contribution to Indiana conservation was authoring the Indiana Nature Preserves Act for the state of Indiana. Giving pristine natural areas permanent protection, the Act was a landmark for the country and has served as a model for other states.

ACRES has saved more than 4,000 acres and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has protected 58,000 acres. Preserving their own 89-acre woods, an outstanding natural area along Little Cedar Creek, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett accomplished a legacy that benefits and inspires all of us.

Tributes



Winter Pond at Ropchan Wildlife Preserve by Tim Kimmel

Robert and Alice Frantz

For Wildwood
from Phil and Linda Frantz

**David Gall and
Margarita “Meg” McCarley**

Congratulations on their Wedding!

Florrie Jessup for Kokiwanee

Happy Birthday!
from Theodore P. Miller

Paul and Marla McAfee

For Paul's success, as Director of Little River Wetlands, with the 680-acre Eagle Marsh Project, the 3rd largest wetland restoration in the history of Indiana and for their help to ACRES

Davonne Rogers

For Kokiwanee
from David and Shirley Rogers

St. Joe Tree Farm

For their donation of a 6 foot Christmas tree

Parks and Paula Adams

For their help with the ACRES Land Acquisition and Management Fund

Andrew and Margaret Dirksen

For their strong support for Wildwood, Kokiwanee, and Wing Haven

Joseph and Elizabeth Huguenard

For their help to the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert, Pokagon addition, Wildwood and Kokiwanee projects

Ethel Klopfenstein

For watching over the ACRES booth

Carolyn Linsenmayer

For helping at the ACRES office

Joann Martin

For her generous support of Kokiwanee, Wildwood and the Dygert projects

Virginia Petit

For helping the Kokiwanee, Dygert, and other land acquisition projects

Memorials

B. William Andorfer

for the Oliver, Olin,
and Martin Lake Property
from Kathryn A. Bloom

Adolph Berger

for the Ropchan Memorial
Nature Preserve
from Katherine Berger

John and Martha Brenock

for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from James A. Brenock

David W. Doehrmann

for the Oliver, Olin,
and Martin Lake Property
from Kathryn A. Bloom

Henry Hoevel

for the Thomas and Jane Dustin
Nature Preserve
from Barbara Barrett
James M. and Patricia D. Barrett

Craig S. Hunter

for the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert
Nature Preserve
from John Graft
Robert and Jan Sadler
Barbara Sickles
Rose M. Wright

Vera Kindraka

for the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge
from Katherine Berger

Vera Kindraka

for the Ropchan Memorial
Nature Preserve
from Peter Kindraka

Ivan Painter

Hiker, boater, runner, ACRES member,
and wonderful brother-in-law.
for Indian River and Marsh Wren
Nature Preserves
from Joyce Gottschalk

Mark “Bo” Petit

for the Kokiwanee Nature Preserve
from Dorothy and Maureen McGary

Dr. William Mead

for the Evelyn and Wendell Dygert
Nature Preserve
from Phil and Phylis Kaiser

Frances M. Nevin

for the Scott and Frances Nevin
Nature Preserve
from Thomas and Jacqueline Powers

Al Ropchan

for the Ropchan Memorial
Nature Preserve
from Katherine Ropchan Berger

Bill Ropchan

for the Ropchan Memorial
Nature Preserve
from Katherine Ropchan Berger

Sam Ropchan

for the Ropchan Memorial
Nature Preserve
from Katherine Ropchan Berger

Eugene Winicker

for the Thomas and Jane Dustin
Nature Preserve
from Laura Dauscher

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or visit acreslandtrust.org

RAISING A BATCH OF HONEY BEES - Thursday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Presented by: J.P. Jones, Beekeeper for 24 years

J. P. Jones has been teaching children and adults about our native honey bees and their importance for the pollination of fruit trees and crops. Learn about beekeeping and how to raise your own batch of these hard-working insects.

Where: ACRES Office, Fort Wayne. Office is located at the YWCA, 2000 North Wells Street. Take Wells Street south of State Street for 2 blocks, YWCA on east side of Wells. ACRES Office is located upstairs in Building 4.



Bee pancake by Shane Perfect

CALLING ALL OWLS - Sunday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Wing Haven Studio will be open from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Presented by: Brad Bumgardner, Interpreter for Pokagon State Park and Caretaker of Wing Haven. Winter is the time of year owls build their nests, defend their territories, and challenge any owls that have the temerity to call in their area. An introduction to Indiana's owls will be followed by a short hike to Gentian Lake to call in owls.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve



Screech Owl by Gary Mesaros

MERRY LEA'S MAPLE SUGAR CAMP - Saturday, February 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Presented by: Larry Yoder, Assistant Director of Merry Lea, and Bill Smith, ACRES Board Member and Merry Lea volunteer. More than 1,400 schoolchildren tour this wonderful camp every year, introducing them to the art of maple syrup making. Join Bill and Larry for a one-hour tour of the camp, followed by a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and brand new maple syrup.

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 red barn and walk 1/2 mile back to camp.

Reservations required by calling ACRES office at (260) 422-1004.



Maple Tree Tap by Jeff Britton

CHIMNEY SWIFTS: AERIAL ACROBATS -

Sunday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Shirley Needham, Wildlife Rehabilitation and Board Member of Tippecanoe Audubon Society. Join Shirley for a 45-minute slide presentation on Chimney swifts: an insect-eating machine, graceful flyer, and migrant from the Amazon Basin in Peru. A decline in their populations has caused a nationwide movement to build wooden towers for the swifts to raise their young. Learn how to protect this little known bird!

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County.



Chimney Swift Towerby
www.chimneyswifts.org



Chimney Swift
by www.chimneyswifts.org

For Information on all programs contact: ACRES Office at (260) 422-1004 or visit acreslandtrust.org

BARK BUD AND TWIG - Saturday, March 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Steve Ross. Learn to identify our native trees by bark, bud and twig features. Steve gave very popular programs last year and gives memorable tips on telling a hophornbeam from an elm and an ash from a maple. Tree hike will be at the Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, which has some massive oaks and sycamores bordering the creek!

Where: Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Allen County. Take Coldwater Road north of Fort Wayne to Fitch Road. Turn west onto Fitch, cross bridge over Little Cedar Creek, and then turn south onto Sunlight Lane, which dead-ends into the preserve. **Reservations required by calling ACRES at (260) 422-1004.**



Beech by Ron Everhart



Seven Pillars by Carolyn McNaghy

GEOLOGY OF SEVEN PILLARS -

Saturday, March 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by: Tony Fleming, Professional Geologist for 20 years. The 25-foot high limestone cliffs, over hundreds of years, have been carved by the river into pillars stretching for more than a 1/2 mile.

Where: Seven Pillars Landmark, Miami County. From Peru in Miami Co., take SR 19 South and cross the Wabash River. Immediately after the river, turn left (East)

onto SR 124. Take SR 124 E about 3.5 miles to the Mississinewa River bridge, turn right (South) just after the bridge onto 340E (Francis Slocum Trail) about 2.0 miles and look for the ACRES parking above the Seven Pillars landmark on your right. **Carpool:** Meet at Starbucks at the Village of Coventry, north of US 24 and west of I-69 at 8.30 a.m.

FIRST WILDFLOWERS OF SPRING - Saturday, April 1st at 2:00 p.m.

Presented by: Jennifer Kleinrichert, ACRES Board Member. With Indiana's weather being as it is, you will either see the first wildflowers of spring or will trudge thru 2 feet of snow, but either way you get to see one of ACRES finest preserves: the Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. If the flowers are out and about, some of the most beautiful and temporal wildflowers can be seen, including the many beautiful shades of blue in hepatica or the pure white of bloodroot blooming.

Where: Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve, Noble County. Take SR 6 west of Kendallville to 600 W, turn north on 600 W and preserve is located on the east side of 600 N between 900 N and 1000 N.




Bloodroot
by John Ellenwood

17TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-TREE FESTIVAL - Saturday, April 22nd, 9:00 a.m. to

3:00 p.m. Presented by: Art and Marion Eberhardt, Jim Shearer, David Syler, John Eddy and Dave and Bonnie Snyder. 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 dulcimer music by Laurie Eberhardt and Peter Martin, look at pond water under a microscope, take home a tulip, flowering dogwood or white oak to plant.

Where: Wing Haven Nature Preserve, Steuben County. Contact: ACRES Office or Art and Marion Eberhardt at (260) 665-2421.



Skunk Cabbage

BY SUE KERN

For the most part, I enjoy winter. Few creature comforts can compare to returning from a brisk hike on a frosty winter's day to a crackling fire and a steaming cup of hot chocolate. I must emphasize "for the most part." Around the latter part of February I grow tired of cold hikes that are so "brisk," I can no longer feel my extremities. I MISS SPRING! I know there are wildflowers buried beneath all that snow, waiting for just the right moment to reappear but I can't wait until April. Wouldn't it be great if a flower would appear right about now, melt the snow around it, and once again allow us a glimpse of green earth? I know what you are thinking. "Sue, you put a little something extra into that hot chocolate, didn't you?" "No flower is going to appear while winter is still around." Well, for all you doubters, let me introduce you to the Skunk Cabbage.

You can find Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) in low-lying, saturated soils near ponds, streams, and wetlands throughout northern Indiana. Conservationists consider it an indicator species of wetlands because when you locate Skunk Cabbage there is a 99% chance that a wetland is nearby. The most conspicuous part of the Skunk Cabbage is the spathe, a four to six inch high bulbous hood that can be maroon, green, purple, yellow, or any combination of these. It is a bud that never opens. Its sole purpose is to enfold and protect the inner flower called the spadix, a function similar to the hood over Jack-In-The-Pulpit. Even when the flowers are in full bloom, the spathe never opens. The spadix, or flower head, is about 3/4 of an inch in diameter and contains many small, tightly packed, straw-colored flowers. If you look carefully through the narrow opening of the spathe, you will see the spadix.

Begin searching for Skunk Cabbage around the latter part of February or first of March, when the temperature climbs above freezing. It is at this time that something truly remarkable happens. You will notice that the snow around the Skunk Cabbage has melted. The plant is actually producing its own heat! Using starches that were stored in its roots during the past summer's growing season, the Skunk Cabbage combines these with oxygen to achieve a temperature inside the spathe of nearly 72 degrees. It can maintain this temperature for two weeks, day and night, even if the outside

Skunk Cabbages by Ron Everhart

temperature dips to 5 degrees. The oxygen consumed during this heat production is equivalent to that of a similar sized mammal. If you gently place your finger inside the spathe, you will feel the warmth of spring. Don't get too close or linger too long though because Skunk Cabbage has one more trick up its spathe.

Heat production is not just to help us through the winter doldrums. It is a way to get a head start on pollination. There are two theories as to why the Skunk Cabbage has its own little furnace. The first is that the heat produced attracts insects to the warmth of the spathe thus beating the competition for pollinators. The second is what I warned you about earlier. When the plant warms up it releases volatile organic compounds that emit an aroma, similar to, well, let me name the compounds and see if you can guess the smell. The compounds are putrescine and cadavarine. The stench combined with the color of the spathe attracts carrion flies and beetles that think they have stumbled upon the thawing corpse of an animal that had died over the winter. They enter the spathe and wander over the spadix looking for the source of that tasty fragrance. As they wander, they pick up enough pollen grains to fertilize the next Skunk Cabbage. After pollination, the fruit head begins to develop, and a tightly packed bud of green leaves appears beside the plant. At the same time, around April/May, the spathe will start to decompose; its job is done. Now the leaf bud will quickly unfurl. Each leaf is rolled in upon itself and wrapped around the next in a spiraling pattern.

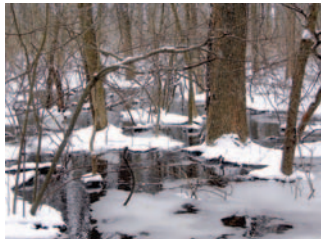


Skunk Cabbages by Tim Kimmel

By mid-May, the growth surge has peaked and the wetland is covered with three-foot diameter Skunk Cabbage plants. Their large size will capture as much food producing sunlight as possible. This food is stored in the root as starch, which will be utilized to produce heat next February. By the middle of June, the fruit head has become a deep wine-red colored ball about two inches in diameter containing numerous marble-sized seeds. Skunk Cabbage does not spread by branching rootstock, as many wildflowers do. It appears that the only way it can propagate is through seeds. By August, the leaves have decayed, the fruit head falls apart, dispersing its seeds, and all visible signs of the Skunk Cabbage have disappeared. The root system of this remarkable plant is practically indestructible. Skunk Cabbage can live for hundreds of years if its wetland remains intact. It has no taproot. Instead, a tough vertical rhizome with a rounded end grows up to two feet into the ground. Out of this rhizome or rootstock grows a mass of roots, some the thickness of a pencil, in all directions. These roots are unusual in that they have ridges that encircle them at regular intervals. Each spring, these ridges contract, pulling the stem and leaves down about 1/4 of an inch, keeping the plant close to the ground. I can tolerate the cold months of winter and the snow if I know that very soon the Skunk Cabbage will give me a small glimpse of spring.



Skunk Cabbage by Tim Kimmel
Skunk Cabbage Field by Ron Everhart



ACRES is continuing to raise funds on the 38-acre Jack L. Stark Nature Preserve and the 140-acre Kokiwanee Nature Preserve. We want to thank those people who have given while we work to finish the drives.

Jack L. Stark Nature Preserve LaGrange County

Have raised \$25,000 of the \$57,000 goal
The Indiana Chapter of The
Nature Conservancy **\$25,000**

Kokiwanee Nature Preserve, Wabash County

Bold are people who have given \$1,000 or more, * indicates how many times people have given to the project.

*Have more than \$200,000 left to raise
of \$650,000 fund drive, which includes
management costs*

Jack Ewing Charitable Trust Indiana Department of Natural Re- sources* State Parks and Reservoirs Indiana Heritage Trust Fund Ropchan Foundation



Stark Woods and Kokiwanee Water Fall by Tim Kimmel

Martha L. Sittler Fund
Stockbridge Audubon Society
Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren
Cardinal Chapter of Indiana Audubon Society
Elmhurst Garden Club

Jefferson Letter Service
Northeast Fort Wayne Kiwanis Club
Salamonie Reservoir Crew
Anonymous
Parks and Paula Adams
Jeannie Adkison *
Neil and Laura Ainslie *
Cheryl Allen *
Charles and Catherine Amiss
Richard and Adrienne Baach
George Balsinger
James M. and Patricia D. Barrett III
Carl and Barbara Bauer *
Lowell and Judith Beineke *
Brad, Erin and Eli Bennett
Mark and Mona Berghoff
Suzette Bergstedt
Robert Binder *
Thomas and Mary Jo Bland *
Ethyle R. Bloch *
Craig and Nancy Bobay
Robert and Myrna Bohlmann *
Lois Booth

James A. Brenock Tribute to John and Martha Brenock

Charles and Kathleen Brinkman
Jeffrey and Susan Britton
Sharon Brommer
David J. Brookmyer
Neil C. Burchett *
Dorothy A. Burke-Burslan
Roy and Karen Buskirk
Karen S. Buuck
Maritza R. and Frank A. Casagrande
Willard F. and Nena A. Clark *
William J. and Marita S. Cline *
James B. Coffey

and Georgean C. Johnson-Coffey *
Alex and Dee Cole *

Sandra Connelly
Thomas and Leelia Cornell *
James and Linda Crouse
David and Mary Culp
Steve and Cynthia Cunningham
Todd Davis
Gary Darnell
Esther A. Deal
Jeff Dean
David Deimling
Barbara Derr and Katie Schoelkopf *
Andrew and Margaret Dirksen
Michael Dobbs and Linda Binek
Mark and Cricket Dolezal
Kenneth A. Dooley
Harold and Anita Douglas
David and Ruth Eiler

John and Marcella Ellenwood *

John and Jean Elliott
Tim and Nancy Eviston
Bill D. Ewing
James and Karen Farlow
Fred and Mary Anna Feitler
Mildred M. Ferguson
Anthony H. Fleming
and Victoria Ferguson *
Bruce A. Flohr
Jon H. and Gloria J. Foor *
Clyde and Becky Ford

Richard E. Ford

Bob and Alice Frantz
Linda J. Gaff
Tim J. Gerardot *
Don Gorney
Rick and Sara Greer *
David and Michelle Grim *
Mary Guy
Mary K. Gynn *
David and Sandra Haist
Marvin and Kathryn Hall
Iris Hanson
Fayne Harter
James Haw
Frannie Headings *
Marian A. Hedrick
David J. Hicks and Deborah L. Hustin
Wade Hinton and Peg Maginn
Dennis D. and Carol Horn
Jack and Karen Horrell *
Betty A. Huff
Joseph and Elizabeth Huguenard
Jack Humbrecht
Diane S. Humphrey *
Hamilton and Joy Hunter

Dr. Jon and Mrs. Judy Ingleman

Marion T. Jackson
Ron and MaryAnn James
Dan and Tina Jehl
Don and Linda Jervis *
Robert and Janet Joesten
Gordon and Judie Johnson
John Johnson and Selena Kyle *
William and Shelley Jones *
Philip Kaiser
Dan and Judy Kaufman
Phil and Joanne Kelly
Glenn and Jean Kinduell
Kurt and Linda Kleinrichert
Linda A. Kotasek
David and Patricia Kruse
Andrea Kumler *
Richard Kumler
Robert and Margaret Laatsch
Michael LaMasters
Diane Hunter Laramore
Louise A. Larsen *

Amy Leander

Robin H. Lemberger
Doug and Irene Lewis
Cindy Loos *
D. J. Lundquist *
D. J. Lundquist and Mike Lundquist
Richard Lutz *

Frederick and Alfreda Mackel

Jay Macy
Jeff Marchant
Greg Marcus
Wilda Gene Marcus
Terry and Constance Marbach

Joann Martin

Dorothy and Maureen McGary
John and El McCorry
Danny A. McDowell
Kerry McFall *
Elizabeth McNagny
Marcia McNagny
Patricia A. McNagny *



Arthur and Betty Seddon
 James L. Shearer
 Ron and Gloria Sibray
 Phillip and Peggy Siders 🌿
 David W. Sittler
 Marsha L. Shively
 Ronald and Gloria Sibray
 Aurel R. Sittloh
 Dean A. Slavens
 William A. Smith IV and Sally Garrett-Smith
 Sharon M. Solloway
 Michele Souder
 Jack and Cherie Stark 🌿
 Martin Stern and Judith C. Nelsen
 Edith Stone
 Christine A. Storey 🌿
 Jeff and Barbara Studebaker 🌿
 Mary and Don Stump
 Doug Sundling
 Dick, Lisa, Elizabeth, DeClaire, and
 Christopher Teets
 Robert James Thomson
 Gary and Sharon Tieben
 David and Faith Van Gilder
 Brian Wagner
 Gordon E. Walter
 Michael Walter
 Nancy Walters
 William and Cecilia Weakley
 Bill and Esta Wheatley
 Dr. Kathy Bussert-Webb and Robert Webb
 Herb and Lorraine Weier
 Alvin L. Wennemar
 Kurt and Kathleen Westman
 Dennis and Rhonda White 🌿
 Margret Winicker
 Denise Whittecar
 Phil and Sheri Wilcox
 Daniel and Terry Wilson
 Brian and Sally Witwer
 Richard and Joyce Wolf
 Fred and Jackie Wooley
 Frances A. Wright 🌿
 Marcia Wright
 Donald and Cheryl Wyckoff
 David and Jane Young
 Richard and Liz Young 🌿
 Joyce E. Zarnoch
 Robby, Becky, Lily, Sam Zolman

Membership Fees

ACRES is raising its dues after June 30, 2006. Will be a \$5 increase for Individual (from \$20 to \$25) and a \$10 increase for Family (from \$30 to \$40). Share the expense will increase from \$50 to \$75 and patron from \$100 to \$150.

We value our members and have not raised our dues since 1996. We do so now to help defray operation costs and hope you will continue to be part of the ACRES organization!

- Mary Anna Feitler,
ACRES Membership Secretary

William F. McNagny
 Richard J. McNett
 Peter J. and Daphne E. Mildred
 John and Lavonne Miller
 K.N. and Cathy Miller
 Lewis and Barbara Miller
 Theodore P. Miller
 Donald and Rosemarie Moehlenkamp
 Louise Smith Mountz
 Norman and Sonia Myers 🌿
 Steve Naragon and Pam Higgins
 Virginia A. Nixon
 Lila O'Connell
 Kevin and Tamzon O'Malley
 Tom and Paula Oldag
 Peter and Pam Oleson 🌿
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Computer Network and Database Volunteers Needed

If you can help the ACRES office with network management or Microsoft Access, please call (260) 422-1004 or email Shane Perfect at: spperfect@acreslandtrust.org. We need help entering data on the 57 preserves in the new land management database.

Blue Jay by Paul McAfee
 Dustin Cedar Creek by Shane Perfect





October at Glennwood Nature Preserve

By Dr. Paul Rothrock, Professor of Biology, Taylor University

Walking Stick by Tim Kimmel

Is it a bog or a fen or a swamp? This was the underlying question during the October field trip to the new Glennwood Nature Preserve led by Dr. Mike Bosela of IPFW. The 37-acre preserve, a generous gift to ACRES from Steve and Lynn Hossler, has been identified as a circumneutral bog. But as explained by Mike, the conceptual boundary between various types of wetland communities is somewhat artificial since there seems to be a spectrum of community types. For the several dozen participants out on a beautiful autumn day, the exact moniker was ultimately resolved by our first hand experience of the unique ecology and flora of this site.

One portion of the preserve may be classified as swamp in that it is a wooded wetland with deep organic soil. Here Mike pointed out dominant woody plants that included red maple, pin oak, and spicebush. Even at the end of October, we could recognize some lovely herbaceous species on the forest floor, especially dramatic ferns - spinulose shield fern, sensitive fern, royal fern, and cinnamon fern. A particular delight was the discovery of the “fern ally” called shining club moss. As its name implies, it looks like a large moss; however, it has the reproductive behavior and complex tissues of a fern. Tree-size relatives of clubmoss dominated the wet forests of the

Hikers by Shane Perfect; Glennwood floor by Tim Kimmel





Glennwood Field, Berries, and Club-moss by Tim Kimmel

Carboniferous geological era and formed a large portion of the metamorphosed plant material we call coal.

Several of the newly blazed trails at Glennwood lead through the woods to the bog itself (where ultimately a boardwalk will be installed for comfortable viewing). We generally think of a bog as an acidic, nutrient poor habitat with peculiar plant species such as leatherleaf, sundew, and bog rosemary. By contrast, a fen, bathed in mineral-rich groundwater, has a more neutral or alkaline condition and a different, more diverse suite of plant species. At Glennwood, the circumneutral bog blends traits of bog and fen into one. Two features we associate with bogs were very evident - a floating mat and hummocks of Sphagnum moss. Mike was able to show us the slow undulation of the ground as we bounced on the organic mat. Our natural trampoline was formed by intertwined rhizomes of abundant hardstem bulrush, sedges, and cattail.

Dotting the bog are hummocks of damp moss. Poison sumac clumps seem to provide the

nucleus for growing these mounds since the largest ones usually had a sumac clump right in their center. Other hummocks had winterberry or highbush blueberry shrubs. We wondered whether these damp mossy spots might harbor cranberry and tiny acid-loving herbaceous species. However, that question will only be answered after future visits since, by the time of our foray, these plants would be dormant.

Nonetheless, we did enjoy an additional species of special note, the tamarack or larch tree, and it was in its prime during October. The tamarack is a coniferous tree species of northern wetlands. It is also one of two North American conifers that, like broad-leaved trees, drop their leaves every autumn. During our visit the needles, not yet shed, were showing their soft autumn yellow.

Glennwood Nature Preserve protects an enchanting piece of Indiana and Kosciusko County natural heritage. This northern swamp and circumneutral bog can be enjoyed in any season.

Glenwood Field and Trail by Tim Kimmel





Heron Rookery by Tim Kimmel

Great Blues

By Guest Writer Ted Heemstra

I have been counting nests at a great blue heron heronry in northern Allen County since the early 1980s, when a statewide effort was started to survey the populations. The majority of people call a colony a rookery, but I prefer the name heronry, as a rook is a bird from England and has nothing to do with our American herons. Every 5 years, I receive a call from John Castrale, the IDNR Division of Nongame's Bird Biologist, who has birders count the populations at 138 heronries statewide. The heron nesting colonies have been slowly increasing in size and in 2003, when the statewide count was last done, there were 7,600 nests.

The great blue heronry that I monitor is now owned by ACRES, which acquired it in 2001. To reach the herons can be problematic, as they set up colonies along rivers and streams, when trees of a decent size are available. The ACRES heronry is in the floodplain and wading boots are a requirement to reach the site. The nests are located in massive sycamore trees, with 75 nests (at last count) in the white branch tops, quite an increase from the 25 nests I found in 1982.

It is surprising that such a majestic bird, herons measure four feet tall with a seven foot wing span, can sit in such a flimsy looking nest. The adults cooperative on the nest building and on raising the 2-3 chicks. At sunrise, there is an exchange on the nest, with one adult leaving to hunt thru the day, coming back at dusk. The other heron then goes out and hunts thru the night, looking for fish, frogs, crayfish and insects, until the following dawn.

The herons arrive in our area in March, about the same time as the turkey vultures arrive, and either fix up last year's nest or make new ones. Returning year after year to the same spot, there are records of heronries in continuous use since the 1830s. I am glad that ACRES protects this growing heronry.

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