

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2020 | Vol. 59 - No. 2



ACRES
LANDTRUST


From the Archives: Indiana's Lakes

Learning Land Protection

ACRES First Michigan Property

Eco Reflections: Year Four of Two Hundred

Member Profile: Angie O'Neill



From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

Of the endless stories worth sharing, it's hard to decide what gets printed in the *Quarterly*. For example, look to the right. The fact that there are 109 new members since the last issue is itself worthy of a story. And each one of these 109 new members has a compelling story, a unique connection with nature that ACRES helps them express.

We could highlight one of ACRES excellent programs that has taken place since the last *Quarterly*—each worthy of at least a page or two. We could share more about all the work being done in the preserves, including details of volunteer projects, successes with invasive control, the tens of thousands of trees planted.

And the preserves themselves? I often say, "ACRES could build a successful organization around any one of our properties." There's enough happening in each property to fill *Quarterlies* forever.

I hope you enjoy the glimpses into ACRES shared through this publication. While we try to capture for you both the ordinary and the extraordinary, it's the greater breadth of activity, people and places that, together, comprise ACRES. ACRES places and people are diverse, interesting, ever-changing, unique. The *Quarterly* would need to be 200 pages rather than 20 to capture even 1 percent of the stories happening since the last issue.

Please don't be satisfied with what we can offer you through publications, pictures, and social media. You deserve a full immersion experience. Go out this summer and see what you've accomplished: volunteer, attend events, walk the preserves. You make these special places possible—enjoy them!

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

jkissel@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 2

Cover photo: a male calico pennant dragonfly hunts for food amongst the unusual plants found at ACRES Grass Lake property. The 102-acre preserve contains a marl prairie, a habitat characterized by calcareous soil that appears white in color. The soils that formed here support a very unique—though not very diverse—variety of plants. Grass Lake is closed to the public to protect this rare habitat.

Photo of calico pennant dragonfly by Matt Weldon

ACRES Land Trust owns and protects natural and working lands, inspiring people to value, appreciate, and support these places for the benefit of all, today and forever. Today, we protect and manage 117 properties totaling 7,230 acres. In addition to helping care for and restore our local land, your support also offers more than 50 trail systems where you and others can explore thriving natural places, from dawn to dusk, at no charge. Thank you!

1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665 | Huntertown, IN 46748-0665
260.637.ACRE (2273) | email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

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WELCOME 109newmembers!

Eileen & Tony Alberding
Cat & Nolan Ahlersmeyer
David & Brenda Allbritten
Sandy Altman
Morgan Anderson
Ron Bame
from Sue Moore
Jon & Sarah Benson
Tim & Jane Bolinger
Mike & Kristi Boyer
Susan Brockberg
Jeff & Joan Brookins
Mr. Dana Christie
Neil Cindrich
Erin Clifton
Kevin & Mari Cornish
Joanne Crawford
Lorrie Daniel
Michael & Barb David
Amanda Deardorf &
Adam Relue
Tom DeCamp
from Dan McDowell
Chris DeMarco
Kathy Dickerson
Paul Dixon
Alex Duff
Gary & Anja Dulin
from Carol Roberts
Rachel Duncan
Kevin & Janica Eames
Larry & Bonnie Elarton
Richard Eldridge

Patrick Florea
Adele Fritz
Sheryl Fritz
Traci Fritz
Joni Fry
Rebecca Gagnon
Kelly Glass
Rob Gleason
Marianne Glick
Jill Gokenbach
Heidi Gray
from Patricia Gray
Connie Greenamyer
Carol & John Grinslade
Debby Gunden
Julie & Doug Hadaway
Richard Hall
John Hand
Hand Family Foundation
Michael Harvey
Thom & Ann Hathaway
Darrell Herd
Steve Hissong
Chris & Megan Hoff
Linda & Leonard Holets
Mark Holloper &
Edward Russo
Michael Horton
Carolyn Hughes
Chris & Curt Hunnicutt
from Natasha Manor
Krista Jefferies &
Trey Lantz

Bob & Sue Jesse
Jennifer Keeler
Ryan Keiper
Brian Kircherberg
Erin Kircher
Cheri Knoblauch
Michelle Lebrecht
Madison Lyon
Steve Manor
Jennifer Maxwell
Amy McAlary
Ed Meyer
Phil & Jan Miller
Lynette Milne
Raymond & Amanda
Moon-Gabet
Sue Moore
Rudi Mucaj
from Reena Ramos
Julie Myers
Erin Patton McFarren
Mark Penrod
Penny Pereira
Adrianne Pontius
from Tedra Hemingway
DeAnna Przekora
Carol Rhudy
Cheryl Riley
Jeff Roberts
Steve Rogers
from Chris & Stephanie
Rogers
Tony & Emily Rondot

Dominic Ruffalo
Richard & Maria Ruhrold
Lowell & Theresa Rupert
Allen Scheiderer
Marshelle Schutte
John Sites
Ken & Patsy Snyder
Randi Speer
Dee Stanley
Frank Suarez
Joshua Summers
Stephanie Sweet
Scott Swymeler
from Mark Maffey
Mindy Taylor
Tim Taylor
Mark & Ruth Vosmeier
Mary Wolf
Gerald Yoder
Glenn & Judy Zwerneman

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Crowe Forest
Management
Dancer Concrete Design
Don R. Fruchey, Inc.
Mosaic Building Solutions

in memory of

Art Eberhardt
from Angie O'Neill, Mary Anna & Fred Feitler
Donna Gaebel
from Jessica & Jason Grossman
Scott Nevin
from Alan & Carolyn Critchfield, Sandra Dunn, Rev.
Gretchen Schneider, John & Cathy Petrie and Mary
Schneider
Jane Papsdorf
from Russell Papsdorf
Everitt J. Padgett
from Ellen Jeffries

in honor of

Tim J. Gerardot
from Steve Ross & Jennifer Kleinrichert
Bob Vollmer

Linda Ritchie
from John and Jan Alford, Kent & Heather
Castelman, Kelly Dreibelbis, Amy Hartzog &
Maureen Botteron, Lori Herbst & Lindsay Clark
Donat, Greg & Connie Hudak, Frank Suarez and
Andrea Thomas
Richard G. Sorg
from Dean & Crystal Castelman, Kent & Heather
Castelman, Ken & Linda Galloway, Margery
Manasco, Judy Roy, Mary Slater and Mike & Nancy
Tippman

from Suzanne Dunn
Maureen Voors & Crystal Jones
from Cathy Voors

ACRES Land Trust

ACRES Archive Article

Indiana's Lakes

by William R. Eberly

ACRES was founded in 1960 and since then has been producing the *Quarterly*, a much-loved seasonal publication. This article by William R. Eberly was printed in ACRES 1962 Spring *Quarterly*. Enjoy this archived article as we reflect back on 60 years of protecting local land.

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

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

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



Pigeon Lake at Brammall and Richard Bruner Nature Preserves by Thomas Sprunger

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

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



Little Gentian Lake At Wing Haven by Thomas Sprunger

Maxinkuckee (1650 acres) and James (1034 acres). The majority of our lakes are less than 500 acres.

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

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

steep sloping sides of the basin, and a rather extensive flat bottom.

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

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



PROTECTING LAND

Oak Farm & Detering Partnership:

Learning Land Protection through Meaningful Work

by Brett Bloom

In a nonprofit partnership, students and staff at Oak Farm Montessori School, near Avilla, Indiana, have partnered with ACRES for the last few years. Our first collaboration, students growing seedlings for ACRES in the school's greenhouse, quickly blossomed into more, led by Brett Bloom.

I am the Ecoliteracy Coordinator at Oak Farm Montessori School (OFMS). Every Friday afternoon I co-teach, with high school science teacher Wesley Kromer, a three-hour class called Eco Impact. The class is required for the first two years of high school. Our class focuses on understanding the impact each of us has on the environment and the positive benefits of doing service work. Some of our purposeful labor is on our campus where 50 acres—out of 100—are in various states of preservation, repair and future planning. There are wetlands, prairies and a forest—10 distinct habitats in all. It is important to high school students' education that they prepare themselves to contribute to their communities. We leave campus to do conservation work with land trusts like ACRES. This exposes our students to the varying missions and approaches of organizations seeking to change our relationships to the land here in northeast Indiana.

We have a deepening partnership with ACRES. In 2016, OFMS built a greenhouse on campus to be used primarily with our middle school farm management program. Janet Canino, my predecessor and avid ACRES member/volunteer, had made an agreement with ACRES: they would provide us with seeds and soil, and we would work with students to raise native plants in the greenhouse. Once the plants were big enough, they would be planted in ACRES preserves. We started by raising

mountain mint and switchgrass. As we add plants to the list, this relationship continues.

In 2019, we took 12 students in Eco Impact to a large remnant wet prairie to collect seeds, spending an hour gathering as many Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) seeds as we could. Some were to be used in projects by the organization hosting us; the rest were for our restoration efforts. Students were noticeably impacted by the riotous color and vegetal lushness of the wet prairie, prompting some to reflect that they felt like they were "no longer in Indiana." I quickly pointed out that this is the Indiana that preceded settler colonization with its concomitant deforestation and wetland draining. I added that we were working hard to restore on our campus some of the land's original grandeur. This idea resonated powerfully with our students.

This school year, we decided to concentrate the work in nature preserves close to our school, where many members of our community live. About a quarter of our students commute from the Kendallville area, 7 miles north of Oak Farm. Two ACRES preserves are there: Detering Nature Preserve and Lonidaw.

On multiple occasions we met with ACRES land managers at both preserves. We removed invasive plants including autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, privet and burning bush. At Lonidaw, students gathered buckets



and bags full of walnut and tulip tree seeds, and planted hundreds of the seeds this past winter. Evan Hill, land management specialist with ACRES, gave us a bag of butternut tree seeds that we are attempting to raise into saplings. Our intent is to get as many trees started as possible. When the saplings are large enough, we will return to plant them at Lonidaw. We hope that our relationship with ACRES grows alongside these trees and the conservation adventure we are taking together.

I want to encourage other schools to explore similar efforts in giving students direct learning experience in wild places. This is one way we can cultivate a passion for protecting—and restoring more of—this beautiful place where we live.



Brett Bloom is the Ecoliteracy Coordinator at Oak Farm Montessori School. He works with students from pre-K through high school. Bloom leads the ongoing work at Detering Nature Preserve, providing students with a start-to-finish experience that ranges from removing non-native invasive plants to restoring the preserve with seedlings they propagate.

He is also a dedicated ACRES volunteer and is trained in leading Deep Listening walks at ACRES sites. In 2016, Bloom and Bonnie Fortune Bloom made a Deep Map of ACRES Land Trust that visualizes the enormous number of relationships unleashed through the simple act of protecting land. Check out the Deep Map at acreslandtrust.org/deep-map.

ACQUIRING LAND

KAUFFMAN NATURE SANCTUARY

ACRES First Michigan Property

by Janet Kauffman

ACRES Land Trust recently acquired 78 acres of rolling Hillsdale County land for permanent protection. Kauffman Nature Sanctuary is ACRES first Michigan property, bringing ACRES permanently protected land in the tri-state area to a total of 7,230 acres. ACRES will open trails on the preserve this fall.

Decades ago, when my family was looking for a place to farm hay, we walked the lane at this property, a straight-line lane past fields and fences. We took a right-angle turn at the back, into a woods with beeches and maples (the only trees I recognized then) and down a steep bank to the floodplain and stream. The stream was a shock—the water clear, very cold, shaded in forest, rippled at snags and rocks. Even though I planned to farm, that stream made an impression. I knew I'd spend as much time by the water as in the hayfield. Some landscapes match a person's mind—or soothe the spirit—and this place did that for me. I could farm hay, but also explore, meander, breathe easy.

After farming a few years, we abandoned the rocky sand-slopes and planted trees, and let sweet clover take over. We took down fences. We baled hay a while longer, then finally stopped farming completely and let the hayfield go wild. The farm's geometry slowly disappeared. Field boundaries and corners blurred as wilder spaces took shape—rolling glacial hills, a footpath winding into the woods.

In 1998, working with USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program, the landscape shifted again, drastically. Farm drainage tiles, old clay ones, were broken in low areas, restoring five pre-settlement wetlands. Within a few years, sedges, willows and cattails moved in, habitat

where green herons and sandhill cranes have nested. In the decades since, there's been an extraordinary flourishing of plant and animal life. The land is wilder, and also more familiar. I got to know it better as itself.

Once a week for a year, December 2001 to December 2002, I walked with a friend or two, watching plants as they appeared, trying to identify species we didn't know. I got to

know trees—not only beech and maple, but tulip, basswood, hop-hornbeam, pawpaw. And wildflowers. Boneset, cleaver, mad-dog skullcap! It was an amazement, the comings and goings of plant life, the sequences of flowerings and seed-shapings.

The words "ecosystem" and "habitat" became visible. We were in them. The word "watershed" came to life as a flow of connections, wetland to stream to Great Lakes. This stream, St. Joseph Creek, flows to Bean Creek near Hudson, on south into Ohio, where its name changes to Tiffin River, and on to Defiance, where it joins the Maumee. At Toledo, these Michigan waters enter Lake Erie.

In 2004, a mussel survey documented 13 species in the stream, including the rare slippershell mussel, threatened in Michigan. There were stream searches for macro-invertebrates. Meandering bird walks.

It's wonderful to know that ACRES, the final owner, holds and protects this land now, in perpetuity. There's peace and real joy in that. My family and friends, and yours, can walk the trails as the two-footed creatures we are, among so many others, part of the ongoing life of this place—in its layers and tangles, soils and canopies—season after season.

Photo spread on pages 10-11 by Thomas Sprunger: The Ross Run gorge at ACRES Hathaway Preserve is a spectacular sight. Vertical cliffs as high as 75 feet encompass the stream and create rushing waterfalls. Salamanders, crayfish and snakes can be seen darting amongst exposed bedrock. Will you explore the wonders of ACRES protected places this season?





SUMMER HIKES & events

ACRES events are held rain or shine. Preserve maps and directions available online at [acreslandtrust.org/preserves](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/preserves)



ACRES NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 10 am
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Wildwood
409 E SR 14, Silver Lake, IN 46982

Celebrate National Trails Day with a hike through the forests, wetlands, and prairie of this protected nature preserve. Share the Trails Hikes are free to the public, donations encouraged. These casual, non-interpretive, volunteer-led hikes are easygoing social walks.

SHARING A SUNRISE FOR MEMBERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 5:30 am
WABASH COUNTY | Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark
4552 E. Hanging Rock Road, Lagro, IN 46941

Experience a rare opportunity to go off-trail to the top of Hanging Rock with a few other ACRES members as the sun rises over the Wabash River. Perched 65' above the river, Hanging Rock provides a spectacular panoramic view—a view enjoyed as far back as oral tradition extends. This short climb is moderately strenuous.

Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by June 9.



Photo by Shane Perfect

SUNDAE SAUNTER

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1 pm
STEBEN COUNTY | Robb Hidden Canyon
425 Lane 201, Ball Lake, Hamilton, IN 46742

Living up to its name, this protected property along Ball Lake includes “hidden” steep-sided, forested ravines. Join us on a casual hike through forest and grassy meadow followed by a “treat yourself” stop for an ice cream sundae at the local Capt’n Pete’s Dairy Dock in Hamilton.



NEW MEMBER OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 10–11:30 am
ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Are you new to ACRES? Welcome! Meet other new members and long-time volunteers while learning how your membership protects land. Hear ACRES history, updates on new projects, and get answers to your questions: How do we acquire new land? How will we protect it forever? Refreshments and light snacks provided.

TREKS & TAPS

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 5 pm
DEKALB COUNTY | James P. Covell Nature Preserve
Approximately 2727 County Road 52, Auburn IN, 46706

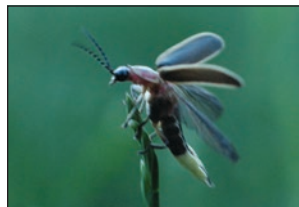
On this casual hike, explore the forested banks of the Cedar Creek Corridor and learn about ACRES future restoration plans. After the hike, join us for a “treat yourself” stop for drinks at the local Auburn Brewing Company.

EVENING FIREFLY EXCURSION

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 9 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | Fogwell Forest
9630 Whippoorwill Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Learn how and why fireflies light up the night! Make your way through the field and into the woods on this casual evening hike.

Presented by Jeff Ormiston, Environmental Educator for Allen County Parks and Rec.



CREEK STOMP XII—THE DIRTY DOZENTH TIME!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2 pm
WABASH COUNTY | Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run
1866 E. Baumbauer Road, Wabash, IN 46992

This spectacular creek is off-limits the rest of the year, so here's your chance! Get up close and personal with minnows, pinching crayfish and fossils as you make your way through the cliffs and waterfalls of the Ross Run gorge. You'll get wet, dirty—and inspired.

Water shoes are recommended. Presented by the Kissel family.



FOREST STORY TIME

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 10 am
WABASH COUNTY | Mary Thornton Nature Preserve
1541 E. 300 N., Wabash, IN 46992

Families are invited to a story-time session along the forested trails of this protected nature preserve. Listen to readings from nature-themed books and see plants (and possibly animals) firsthand!

Drinks and a snack provided. Hosted by the Kissel family and Andrews Librarian Nancy Disbro.

SWIFT HIKE AT KOKIWANEE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 3:30 pm
WABASH COUNTY | Kokiwanee
5825 E. 50 S, Lagro, IN 46941

Join us on a summer hike through the bluffs and forested streams of this nature preserve. This fast-paced hilly hike will total 4 miles, covering most of the trail system. Ample plant life awaits, and the possibility of seeing waterfalls and eagles too!

Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by August 19.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MEMBERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 6:30–8:30 PM
ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, Dustin Barn; 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748 (entrance is east of the main drive)

ACRES celebrates a 60-year anniversary by embarking on our first-ever Capital Campaign! With a goal of improving efficiency and accessibility, we are working hard to raise funds.

Join us at this benefit concert as we enjoy foot-stompin' tunes by The Goat's Beards, a local duo wielding fiddle, banjo and guitar. Come early to hike before the show, and feel free to bring beverages and lawn chairs.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online at [acreslandtrust.org/benefit-concert](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/benefit-concert) or by calling the ACRES office at 260-637-2273 by August 20.



To check the status of an event please call 260-637-2273 or email outreach@acreslandtrust.org

At the time of printing this issue of the Quarterly, exact plans for the capital project are still being worked out. For the latest information, visit [acreslandtrust.org/grow](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/grow)

Watch for more events online: [acreslandtrust.org](https://www.acreslandtrust.org).

Year Four of Two Hundred

with Musician Ken Jehle

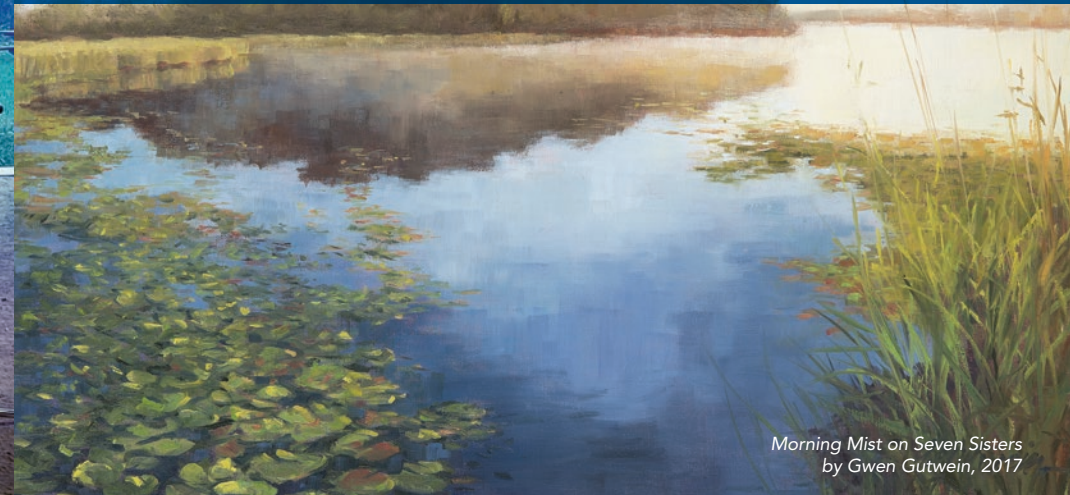
By Ken Jehle

As a musician, nature enthusiast and longtime supporter of ACRES Land Trust, I am very excited about the Wing Haven Ecological Reflections Arts, Humanities, and Sciences project. This 200-year project commissions an artist once a year to create a work. At the end of this “short-term” project, it is hoped this large body of work puts into perspective the gravity of ACRES commitment to protecting land forever. I consider it a great honor to be selected as the 2020 artist. I feel privileged to have my humble project added to this amazing collection!

ACRES Land Trust has commissioned me to compose a musical work. I have chosen to write a piece for three classical guitars. In my opinion, the classical guitar is the perfect choice for this work. It is a natural instrument. It requires no electricity. It is made of wood. It uses minimal paint or stain, relying entirely on the wood’s natural color and the beauty of the grain for visual appeal. The guitar is portable and easily taken to nature preserves for performances. Finally, the nylon strings’ soft, soothing tones are quiet and reflective, like the peace you feel on a nature walk.

I named the piece I wrote “Wing Haven Chamber Music.” The work is a “cryptogram” that contains the name “Wing Haven” encoded into the notes of the main melody of the song! This is easily done by setting up cypher or encoding scheme to convert the letters of the alphabet into notes of the musical scale. Although this piece is considered chamber music and written for a classical guitar ensemble, it is not a “highbrow” composition but meant to appeal to a large audience. It contains exciting rhythms, large dynamic swings, musical interplay between the parts and several popular music elements.

Jehle’s music piece marks the fourth year of the Ecological Reflections arts and humanities portion. To learn more about and donate to the project, and to check out previous commissioned work, head to acres200er.org.



Morning Mist on Seven Sisters
by Gwen Gutwein, 2017

Started in 2017, the ACRES Land Trust 200-Year Ecological Reflections project compiles commissioned work by artists, humanities scholars and scientists as an investigation into and reflection on how a particular place changes through time. ACRES project is part of a nationwide network of programs dedicated to long-term, interdisciplinary reflections at sites of ecological or cultural importance.

ACRES chose to spotlight Wing Haven, a 255-acre preserve near Angola with a rich diversity of plants, birds, mammals and aquatic species. Land donors Helen and Ben Swenson lived on the property until 1983. Helen was an active artist who found inspiration in nature. In her artist’s studio, which remains on the property today, she created paintings that captured the splendor of budding flowers and the rich colors of the earth.

Although 200 years may sound like a long time, it’s only a brief snapshot in the life of the land. Through this project, ACRES aims to help current and future generations visualize land in the scale of forever. Curating works in the arts, humanities and sciences—from a specific place and over two centuries—will provide a wealth of content, inspiring people to see and understand land and its protection in a new way. This year, local musician Ken Jehle was invited to Wing Haven to create a piece inspired by the land.



Connected, by Hannah Burnworth, 2019



Map of Wing Haven, by Adam Johnson, 2018

Fantastic Fireflies

by Carol Roberts

*Fluttering white-fire insects! Wavering small-fire beasts!
Wave little stars about my bed! Weave little stars into my sleep!*

— Ojibway chant

Sunlight fades, midsummer stars appear. The air fills with small insects, soft-winged beetles, creatures of grace harming no one, bringing delight and joy to children, to adults. Many of us have childhood memories of seeing fireflies. ACRES member Michelle Bradley says “our children are instantly immersed in Nature’s wild world when these pyrotechnic superpowers begin flashing and flying: ‘Look! Lightning bugs!’”



Tom Dustin (1923-2016), an ACRES founder, described fireflies laying eggs along Cedar Creek’s edge. From their home (now ACRES office), he and his wife, Jane, watched “emerging clouds of lightning bugs in tens of thousands making the bank look like the New York City skyline from the New Jersey Palisades across the Hudson River.”

Today, fireflies are disappearing...primarily because of habitat loss. The airborne fireflies we watch have spent up to 95 percent of their lives in larval stages, living in moist soil/mud/leaf litter, growing, pupating one to two years. Females lay eggs in creek banks, in our gardens and yards and lands where trees and grasses grow, where log and leaf litter offer the soil moisture necessary for their larvae to develop (Firefly.org).

Mike Raupp, an entomologist at University of Maryland, College Park, affirms the value of moist places. He found that “following cool wet springs, the larvae’s underground diet of snails, slugs and other bugs” translates into “very high populations of beautiful adult fireflies.”

As dusk descends, each firefly emerges from the vegetation that sheltered it during the day. It then creates light by sending oxygen to a fuel (luciferin) within its light-producing cells. Females hiding in the grass send luminescent mating signals to males flying overhead: “Find me! I’m here, waiting!” Different flashing patterns represent different species’ visual signatures, each beginning to flash at a different time after sunset.

For humans who watch these small lives soaring aloft, their on-off lights waxing and waning in brilliance, it’s one part of a magical summer night. For fireflies, these light shows are crucial to their species’ survival.

Join ACRES on an evening excursion to learn more about and (we hope) watch these glowing insects. See event information on page 12 or visit [acreslandtrust.org/events](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/events).



ACRES Member Angie O'Neill pictured with Executive Director Jason Kissel

MEMBER PROFILE

Angie O'Neill

Angie reluctantly agreed to be interviewed on video to describe her 50-year relationship with ACRES. Reluctant, because she didn't want the attention on her, and she was nervous. But she agreed because it would help ACRES. That's Angie—her desire to help greater than any obstacle that tries to get in the way.

I consider Angie an expert in relationships. She doesn't use processes, methods, or tactics to build relationships. Instead, she is genuine: kind, concerned about the important things in life, eager to invest in and learn about others. She's the type of person you want to be around. Thankfully, she's been around ACRES a lot. Angie has served ACRES in multiple ways over the years—as a board member, volunteer, member, employee, partner, donor, advisor and connector of people.



Check out the video at
[acreslandtrust.org/yourstories](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/yourstories)

Angie is motivated to help ACRES because of her love for land, desire to steward it well, faith in God and desire to leave a legacy. Perhaps you can relate. I encourage you to view the video: in just five minutes, you'll gain a 50-year perspective on ACRES.

Thanks for sharing your ACRES story, Angie!

Welcome Summer Land Management Interns!



Iris Norton *Purdue Fort Wayne & Texas State University*

As a freshman, I studied biology at Purdue Fort Wayne. I went into the year not knowing exactly what I was looking for, except that I am passionate about the outdoors and eventually need to be studying and working outside. I now plan on transitioning my studies from biology to agriculture. I love to learn about conservation and sustainability.

With the ACRES internship, I'll finally be able to put real work into what I've learned. The internship will be a rewarding experience for me and I'm super excited for this summer.



Donald Rader *Manchester University*

I am currently studying biology and environmental studies with a focus in natural history. I chose ACRES because of the diverse opportunities offered through the internship and my passion for preserving the environment.

ACRES offers many of the experiences I am pursuing in my field of interest and am excited about this summer season. I am interested in environmental preservation and am in hopes of pursuing a career in either wetland mitigation and storm water management, or wildlife and environmental conservation.



Kendyl Smith *Indiana University*

I am currently majoring in environmental science with a minor in political science. I chose ACRES because their internship program will provide me with experiences and knowledge that will help me understand the practical implications of what I am currently learning in the classroom. I was born and raised in Auburn, Indiana, and grew up hiking the ACRES trails near my home.

I am so thankful for this opportunity to be immersed in the environment I love, while getting real world field training. I am excited to be working with ACRES this summer!

Many thanks to the Olive B. Cole Foundation and the Geoff & Josie Fox Family Foundation for supporting ACRES summer land management program.

Lettie, Thank You!

With warmest regards, ACRES recently bid farewell to team member Lettie Haver. Lettie was instrumental in creating the "voice" and tone of ACRES you hear today. Her insights into the value of storytelling, and of reaching folks in all walks of life, led to deeper and broader connections with individuals, funders, media and more.

Lettie's inquisitive spirit and her enthusiasm for and service to protecting local land is greatly missed. We wish her all the best in her next adventure.



SPECIAL thanks

David Allbritten, Gary & Janet Baltzell, Julie Carrier, David Doudt, Arnold Marrero and Harry Oelschlager
Eastlake Spring Cleaning volunteers
Morgan Anderson, Lila & Steve Hammer, Amy & Anna Kissel, Bryce Runkle, Grady Stout and Kirk Swaidner
Asherwood Maple Syrup and Pancake Breakfast volunteers
Bo Bailey, Dave Brumm, Charles Enea and Kirk Swaidner
Helping burn brush piles
Gary & Janet Baltzell, Julie Carrier, Chris Ivancic, Mark Maffey, Brian Myers, Jed Pearson, Ed Peters, Kim Poffenberger, Neil & Diana Sowards
Detering Spring Cleaning volunteers
Dana Bromelmeier, Beth Buyze, Laura Colpitts, Kris Connerly, Charles Enea, Patrick Ewing, Harold Eyer, Chris Fairfield, Dani Faurote, Bob Hake, Tedra Hemingway, Mark Maffey, Peg Maginn, Dawn Ritchie, Doug and Kathy Rogers, Lisa Seiler, Daniel Shepherd and Bill Smith
Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show volunteers

Dave Brumm
Set up/tear down of Home & Garden Show booth
Laura Colpitts
Detering Spring Cleaning host
Laura Colpitts, Nancy Conrad, Diane Jones, Deb Kaiser, Rene Marvin Ramos and Lisa Seiler
Office Support volunteers
Chris Fairfield, Mary Anna Feitler and Carol Spallone
Archive work
Janelle and Larry Hicks
Swift Hike and Bald Eagle Watch hosts
George Kibe
Making and repairing ACRES signs
Spring Quarterly assembly and distribution Volunteers
Kirk Swaidner, Larry Watson and Grady Stout
Asherwood maple syrup collection volunteers
Volunteer Preserve Stewards, Caretakers and Trail Monitors

wish list

Order from ACRES Amazon Wish List: Under "Find a List or Registry," search for "ACRES Land Trust" or request a link at acres@acreslandtrust.org.

Batteries (AA, C and D)
Bosch belt sander
Bosch 2hp (or greater) plunge router
Bosch 10" 15amp portable jobsite table saw
Bottled water
Car wash soap or gift cards
Chainsaw backpack(s)
Compostable cups, plates, bowls and dinnerware (no Styrofoam please)
Extractigator Classic, Up Rooter, and/or Weed Wrench
Farm Store credit
(money can be added to ACRES Inc account)
Fireproof file cabinets
(new or used, letter or legal size, 3-4 drawers)

Gas cards
Hardware store gift cards
Husqvarna 550 XP chainsaw(s)
Kobalt toolbox and tools
MacBook Air (could use 3)
Metal or heavy-duty plastic tiered shelving
Paper towels
Stihl or Husqvarna bar oil
Stihl or Husqvarna 2-cycle oil
Small paper lunch bags
Snacks for events (individually wrapped)
Trash bags (33 gallon or larger)
Working lawn mowers

Questions? Please contact acres@acreslandtrust.org.

Share our story! Will your organization or group benefit from learning about ACRES? Contact us for a presentation: outreach@acreslandtrust.org

DIRECTORS: Steven Hammer, President; Dawn Ritchie, Vice President; Joe Conrad, Vice President; David Schnepf, Treasurer; Mark Maffey, Secretary; John Caffray, Dan Ernst, Bob Hake, Ben Hess, Stan Moore, Carol Roberts, Janel Rogers, Wayne Shive, Jerry Sweeten and Julie Wall. Chris Fairfield, Recording Secretary.

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MEMBERSHIP: Life Member, \$1,000; Corporate Member, \$500; Annual Member, \$20. Dues payable annually.

In April 1963, Jim Barrett, an ACRES founder and author of the Indiana Nature Preserves Act, wrote *Conservation Today*, a compelling, mind-opening story of how people, plants and creatures sustain life on earth, our mutual home.

Reading this story, you are walking with Jim, exploring, listening, finding beauty in nature close by, seeing and understanding how “no form of life lives alone, independently of land.” You are discovering how “from our understanding of nature and our love and respect for it will grow an ethical basis for our defining our proper relationship to it.”

Conservation Today urges us to “reawaken to the miracle that is life, to see the common drama which all living beings share here on earth, and to assume the obligation of stewardship which our unique relationships with the rest of life imposes on us.”

Especially in summer, it’s hard to miss this “miracle that is life”: the trill of the crickets, the oak’s green leaves waving overhead, the voice of a warbler, the symmetry of a fern, monarchs feasting on milkweed, fireflies flickering at night—everywhere, an abundance of beauty close by, assuring us that what Jim’s paper is showing us is true.

ACRES has reprinted this paper to celebrate our 60-year anniversary. You can read this paper online, for free, at acreslandtrust.org/publications. If you are interested in a printed copy, please call ACRES at 260-637-2273 or email acres@acreslandtrust.org.



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ACRES Land Trust
1802 Chapman Road
PO Box 665
Huntertown, IN 46748

