

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Spring 2020 | Vol. 59 - No. 1



ACRES
LANDTRUST

Moving Forward in Alignment

From 1960 to Forever: Membership Update

Celebrate 60 Years Into Forever

ACRES Capital Campaign

Strategic Plan and Annual Report

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

I'm 46. ACRES is 60. I've not yet experienced what 60 years of existence feels like, let alone 60 years of effort toward the same goal. Sixty years is just the start of ACRES' goal to be here in 600 years and beyond. It's odd but true that ACRES' perpetual mission—its forever intent—relies on us, individuals with limited lifespans. This discrepancy challenges us to think and act in novel ways.

ACRES invites us to invest in things we can't finish. We can initiate protection on new places, and we can sustain care of land ACRES already owns, but we cannot finish the task. I see this daily. We care for ACRES' first property and the 116 others that have followed, we continue conversations that ACRES' founders, volunteers and employees started decades ago and we start conversations and projects we know won't materialize for several more decades, or even generations. We initiate and sustain ACRES' work. We don't complete it.

ACRES thrives with our enthusiastic support. We each bring our passion to ACRES: our own reasons for protecting places, our preferred methods and style. Then ACRES gives us the opportunity to shape collective values. Through member diversity, we take advantage of the many talents, approaches and opinions of people who care about the same end result: protecting land now and forever.

ACRES teaches us how our personal biases can blend with those of others, how our ideas can become stronger and better when we create and experience things collaboratively and when we share and shape ideas together.

ACRES has an attention span longer than our lifespan. We must continually renew the organization. We must inspire younger members so the mission doesn't die with us. Fortunately the land itself provides most of the inspiration. Our role is to introduce people to both the land and the organization, share your enthusiasm and share the places we protect together.

One of the benefits of ACRES' existence is sometimes overlooked: it makes us better people. ACRES challenges us to think beyond ourselves, to recognize our role in forever, to cooperate with others, to grow.

I'm glad ACRES has existed for 60 years. I'm grateful that others created and sustained the organization before I was born. I'm proud of the work we currently are doing together, and I have high hopes for those who will follow us. We make places better, and in the process, we make ourselves better too.

Sincerely,


Jason Kissel

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

Cover photo: "To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter ...to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or over a wildflower in spring—these are some of the rewards of the simple life."
— American naturalist John Burroughs, *Leaf and Tendril*, published April 1908.

Photo of white trout lily by Thomas Sprunger

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.ACRES (2273) | email: acres@acreslandtrust.org

acreslandtrust.org



WELCOME 112newmembers!

Roberta Abbott
Barbara and Robert A'Hearn
Allison Alliss
Tiffany Archer
Paula Ashley
gifted from Janet Kauffman
Roger Baeumler
Tammy and Tony Baker
Matt Brandenberger
Wendall Brovont
gifted from Todd Brovont
Matt Clark
Connie and Tom Clifford
Molly Colglazier
Cherry Conrad
gifted from Janet Kauffman
Terry Cornelius
Tony DeLieto
Maurice Douglas
Collin Drysdale
Martin and Trisha Duffy
Mary Anne Ellenberger
Jan Evard and Monty Millage
Nancy Eyles Salak
gifted from Janet Kauffman
Kris Frieden
Connie Fullerton
Ally Gaylor
Len Gillan
Steve and Carol Gottschalk
gifted from Teri Carr
Marcia Grant
gifted from Janice Eplett
Tommy Guest and Camile
Voglewede
Dave and Renee Hake
gifted from Bob and Kim Hake
William Harting and Olivia Snyder
gifted from Olivia Snyder
Aubrey Heath
gifted from Wendy Soltz
Kaity Jackson
Crystal Jones
gifted from Cathy Voors
Diane Jones
Kathy Jones
Jean Kauffman
gifted from Janet Kauffman
John Kauffman
gifted from Janet Kauffman
Mary Kauffmann-Kennel
Cortnee and Nicholas Kirby Family
Mark Kolkman and Deb Ulmer-
Kolkman

Chris Kolmerton
Charles Laurie
Michelle Lee
Ayla Leffel
gifted from Kyle Leffel and
Amy Unger
Ashley Lipina
Mitch Maisonneuve
Kelly Martin
James and Barbara Mast
Danielle McNally and Amanda
Noland
Keith McWithey
gifted from Molly Maish
Chris Mengerink
gifted from Maire Mengerink
Josh Metcalf and Emma Taylor-
Metcalf
gifted from Reena Ramos
Heath Miller
Michal and Kyle Miller
Lantz and Cindy Mintch
Lawrence and Debra Moran
Jack and Carrie Morris
Bob and Joy Olry
gifted from Don and Ann
Marqueling
Don Olsen
Hannah Opliger
Ashton Ousley
gifted from Steve and Kim Park
Steve and Kim Park
Tanner Park
gifted from Steve and Kim Park
Candy Parker
Mike Parnin
Davis and Susan Patton
Stephen Phillippp
Lindsay and Joseph Platt
Samuel Plew
gifted from Julie Cassel
Bob Poe
gifted from Stacey Jarrett
Marian Powers
Rodney Puterbaugh
gifted from Shondell Hobbs
Dr. Krishnan Ramani
gifted from Scott Mattson
Michael Rhodes
Carrie Robinson
Will Rocky
gifted from Elizabeth Rocky
Deb and Mark Rondot
gifted from Sue Mungovan and
Beth Anderson

Chuck Schuh
Larry and Donna Seiler
Darlene Selzer-Miller
gifted from Angie Selzer
and Murray Miller
Ronald and Marilyn Shannon
Erin Shaw and Clara Bowling
Jeremy Shroads
gifted from Margo Trevino
Ramer
Chelsea Silva and Michael Rotter
Cindy Spear
Kaitlyn Sproles
Fran Staszak
Ray and Ann Steup
gifted from Doug and
Michelle Dunakin
Susan Stewart
Mike Stone
Debra Stouffer
Jean Terrell
Kody Tinnel
gifted from Cory Allen
Jerrold and Kara Tobias
Andrea Torres
Margo Trevino Ramer
Anmarie Uber
Dr. Fred and Diana Vanderman
gifted from Norm Cox
Paul and Karen VanLeeuwen
gifted from Jim Hensel
Nicholas and Haley Vickrey
Steven Walter
Nalayah Warren
Nicholas Weber
gifted from Joanne Weber
William Wendling
Jim and Rose Wenrich
Joe Wheeler
gifted from Reena Ramos
Katie Wilson
gifted from Bryce Wiseman
Steven Winicker
gifted from Laura Dauscher
Erich and Emily Zumbaugh
gifted from Diane Zumbaugh
Mike Zumbaugh
gifted from Diane Zumbaugh

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Renewable Energy Systems
Seiler Excavating





Moving Forward In Alignment

2018-2019 Strategic Evaluation Findings & Updates

Following a period of unprecedented growth, the ACRES Board of Directors chose to focus the 2018–2019 Strategic Plan on evaluation. This time of reflecting together allowed us to prepare for continued growth. Here’s what we found, and how we’ve responded.

MISSION STATEMENT | What is our purpose?

ACRES founders spelled out, in a detailed half-page statement, how our mission would be achieved. Today, with 60 years of history, the ACRES mission statement has been refreshed to clarify the essentials of our original mission.

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.

Words matter. A few worth pondering:

- **“Owns”** tells *how* we protect land. ACRES holds the deed to ensure permanent protection. We will never sell or transfer land we promise to protect.
- **“Working lands”** clarifies that, in addition to natural places, ACRES protects land such as farmland and timber stands. (“Working lands” is not widely understood; your help getting the word out will make a difference.)
- **“For the benefit of all”** sums up *why* we protect land and why protecting land works. Vital natural places are critical to the wellbeing of all communities: the lives of humans, plants, and animals are linked. Diverse motivations for protecting natural places and working lands come together, achieving more than we can measure.
- **“Today”** is an essential prompt to take action. Without your participation right now, natural places existing *today* have little chance to thrive forever.



LAND MANAGEMENT | Committing to caring for our growing land

ACRES is responsible for caring for more places. Recent growth brought our total protected land from 5,000 acres in 2014 to over 7,000 by 2019. In five years, ACRES total land owned grew 40 percent.

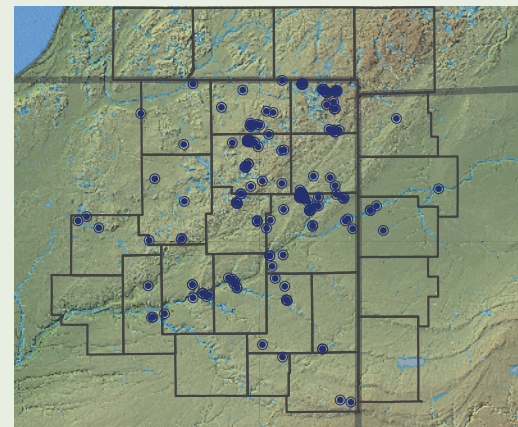
In response to our lands’ growing demands, and making use of Patricia Barrett’s bequest to our land management endowment established by her late husband, Jim Barrett, a founder of ACRES, we added a second full-time field staff position.

In addition, to further bolster land management efforts (especially efficiency in tackling non-native invasive plants), ACRES purchased during this five year period our first-ever heavy equipment: a utility vehicle, a skid steer, a forestry mulcher, a trailer, and a new heavier-capacity truck to haul it all. This equipment brings a tremendous shift in capacity to our work. With your support, ACRES is renewed by these efforts: we are helping our lands heal at a much faster pace.

SERVICE AREA FOCUS | Zooming in

ACRES’ service area was expanded into Cass County, IN, and narrowed to the first counties into Ohio and Michigan. ACRES serves a 27-county area.

Continued on Page 6



ADVANCEMENT | Integrating divisions for focus, expanding for reach

Because ACRES is a marriage of land and the people who value it, we have reorganized into two main divisions: Land Management and Advancement. We protect land, and we serve people who help protect it.

To achieve this focus, ACRES integrated two areas into Advancement: fund development and communications and marketing/outreach; ACRES added a new advancement support position. This shift firmly roots all outreach activities in philanthropy: supporting people in their service to the land.

GOVERNANCE | Making it official

Following decades of declining participation in member voting, and observation of nonprofit trends, the ACRES Board of Directors voted to amend our bylaws and articles of incorporation, switching from a member-governed to a board-governed organization.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE | Dedicated space to serving the land

As the epicenter of a 7,000-acre (and growing) nonprofit serving people in 27 counties, the ACRES office is a hub of activity. After six decades of making do, ACRES is ready to create a modest campus—a headquarters for our work. Giving our work the space it deserves will further clarify our forever promise: ACRES is here to stay, and these lands aren't going to protect themselves.

We are building a new barn for field work; remodeling the Dustin home office for accessibility, customer service, and function; and creating an accessible trail with a Cedar Creek overlook to invite more people to appreciate and enjoy nature's majesty. Plans also include space to welcome land lovers to gatherings—a real home for the folks who are making this work possible, and for those who will join us.

Members, we're grateful to take these actions with your support for a healthy future for our nonprofit, our land, and the people who care for both.



View more on our strategic assessment and action at acreslandtrust.org/plan18.
See our next Strategic Plan on page 16.

“We protect land, and we serve people who help protect it.”

Photo spread on pages 8-9 by Thomas Sprunger: Wild geranium, a showy native wildflower common to much of the eastern United States, often blooms from late April into early June in dense, floppy patches in ACRES woodlands. Beginning in early April, spring wildflower displays will transform our woods weekly, reaching peak density in early May, weather depending. Will you explore ACRES' forever-protected places this season?



To expand our ability to protect and care for land, ACRES aims to grow our most transformative asset: MEMBERSHIP.

MEMBER SUPPORT MAKES ACRES POSSIBLE.

People like you who value land make all the difference, often in unanticipated ways. We look forward to achieving transformative goals with you.

Membership goals: By 2024, grow from 1,700 members to 2,400 members supporting ACRES through membership.

To do this, ACRES will attract new members while keeping the vast majority of today's supporters.

Membership levels are now simplified: \$20 annual membership. \$500 corporate membership. \$1,000 life membership. Any donation of \$20 or more counts as a regular membership, making nearly every donor a member. (No more separate annual membership levels for families, individuals or seniors.)

ACRES is taking a leap of faith that the financial loss of \$25 and \$40 memberships will be more than compensated by both robust support from new members and continued support of members who give beyond their membership dues.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

What better way to celebrate 60 years than welcoming more of the community to join us? On pages 10–11, you'll find 60 ways to help celebrate 60 years into forever—a variety of options to help ACRES grow membership, and more.

We've made new cards to help you easily share our mission, website, and contact information with friends and family. You can request a few ACRES “business cards” or brochures to help share ACRES. Our brochure includes a membership form. Call Reena Ramos at 260-637-2273, ext. 9 to request cards or brochures; or order them online at acreslandtrust.org/referral



ACRES Land Trust owns and protects natural and working land, inspiring people to value, appreciate and support these places for the benefit of all—today and **forever**.

office 260.637.2273 | email acres@acreslandtrust.org



Celebrate 60 years into forever with ACRES Land Trust!

2020 marks ACRES' 60th Anniversary. Will you help us plant seeds for the next 60 years? Here are a variety of ways to support our growth:

Join Us

- ☐ Join as an ACRES member: acreslandtrust.org/join
- ☐ Be the first to know—sign up for our newsletter: acreslandtrust.org/newsletter
- ☐ Like, follow and engage with ACRES on Facebook and Instagram
- ☐ Come to ACRES events: acreslandtrust.org/events/
- ☐ Become an ACRES volunteer: acreslandtrust.org/volunteer/

Explore On Your Own

- ☐ Take a hike!
- ☐ Explore ACRES stories in video: vimeo.com/acreslandtrust
- ☐ Plan a road trip to see preserves and towns farther from home
- ☐ Find your favorite preserve or place #myACRES
- ☐ Get your friends together for a hike and cup of joe
- ☐ Visit all open properties in a single county
- ☐ Look for every color of the rainbow on the trails and share what you find
- ☐ Explore stories on our blog: acreslandtrust.org/blog
- ☐ Take your dog for a walk—always on a leash
- ☐ Visit a new-to-you preserve
- ☐ Take a 20-minute listening hike (shhh! no talking); make a recording and share
- ☐ Follow your curiosity: explore birds, trees, flowers, sedges, soils, snakes, snails... then challenge yourself to learn more about your interests
- ☐ Explore the Cedar Creek Corridor website: cedarcreek.acreslandtrust.org
- ☐ Take a hike in the Cedar Creek Corridor, enjoying its 13.7 miles designated in Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System
- ☐ Read the Cedar Creek booklet: cedarcreek.acreslandtrust.org/booklet
- ☐ Look and listen more closely: What's new? Who made these tracks? Why are so many trees fallen in this preserve? What's growing on that tree?

Give Back to the Land

- Contact Heather Barth at hbarth@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 ext. 5
- ☐ Make a gift to the ACRES fund at your local community foundation
 - ☐ Ask your employer to match your ACRES donation
 - ☐ Make a gift to ACRES that supports the management and care of land
 - ☐ Support ACRES by making a monthly gift: acreslandtrust.org/give
 - ☐ Include ACRES in your will
 - ☐ Name ACRES as a beneficiary on your investment account or life insurance policy
 - ☐ Add a donation to your annual dues payment
 - ☐ Make a gift that supports the purchase of new land
 - ☐ Talk to your employer about becoming a corporate member

acreslandtrust.org

Create, Express, Be Inspired by the Land

- ☐ Create your own ACRES playlist for preserve visits or drives, then share with us
- ☐ Tell legislators that local land matters
- ☐ Create a short video about why ACRES matters to you. See page 14 for more details.
- ☐ Write a poem or short story about what you see in a preserve
- ☐ Sketch, draw, color or sculpt a preserve-inspired piece
- ☐ Add to your nature or conservation reading list
- ☐ When did you first recognize your love of land? Write about it and or thank the people who inspired you
- ☐ Create a journal noting natural transitions, wonders and curiosities
- ☐ Create a themed photography study and share with us
- ☐ Reflect on what protecting land means to you and draft your own land ethic statement
- ☐ Consider what a well-nourished ACRES will look like in 2080 (60 years from now)

Work the Land

- ☐ Get hands-on preserve experience by participating in a workday
- ☐ Donate to a tree planting to help restore preserves
- ☐ Pick up litter in the preserves. Share your efforts on social media: #KeepACRESbeautiful
- ☐ Work with ACRES to create a preserve workday for your group
- ☐ Plant native plants and remove non-native plants from your own land

Share ACRES

- ☐ Wear ACRES gear: acreslandtrust.org/shop
- ☐ Gift a membership to someone else: acreslandtrust.org/give
- ☐ Tell the world—share your support of ACRES on social media
- ☐ Bring a friend to an ACRES event
- ☐ Share your ACRES adventures on social media and tag #ACRESadventure
- ☐ Share ACRES with your group or invite us to speak: Scout, church, service club, garden club, book club, etc.
- ☐ Find places to share ACRES brochures, then let us know: rramos@acreslandtrust.org
- ☐ Share our Facebook posts, inviting your friends to help us grow
- ☐ Encourage a teacher to use ACRES preserves for field trips, study and reflection
- ☐ Encourage your workplace to offer an ACRES outing or wellness incentive program
- ☐ Host a conservation book discussion with friends and family or group
- ☐ Offer the ACRES leaflet or brochures at your place of business
- ☐ Request ACRES materials to share (card/brochures/leaflets): acreslandtrust.org/referral
- ☐ Encourage another generation—invite an older or younger person to explore trails

SPRING CLEANING

Ready for some fresh air? Rejuvenate yourself—and the preserves. This is a great time of year for a little spring cleaning as plants won't be growing over litter. Gloves, bags, visibility vests and light snacks provided. Bring a friend and take yourselves on a hike afterward!

Thursday, March 5, 10 am

NOBLE COUNTY | Detering Nature Preserve
1421 Kammerer Road, Kendallville, IN 46755

Thursday, March 12, 10 am

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Eastlake
3010 Frontage Road, Warsaw, IN 46785; meet behind Hansen Skating Center, where parking is available.

Thursday, March 19, 10 am

DEKALB COUNTY | James P. Covell Nature Preserve
Approximately 2727 County Road 52, Auburn IN, 46706



60TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 7, 1–3 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Join ACRES as we celebrate 60 years of protecting local land! Have a bite of birthday cake, explore the Dustin Preserve and hear more about how we can grow this year.

ASHERWOOD MAPLE SYRUP AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR MEMBERS SATURDAY

Saturday, March 14, 9 am–noon

WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood
7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, IN 46992

It's sugar bush season! You're invited to breakfast and a guided tour of ACRES' maple sugaring operation. \$5/person, children under 5 free. Come early and/or stay late and explore this incredible place your membership helps protect. *Presented by Jason Kissel. No reservations required.*



Photo by Heather Baker

TIRE CLEANUP WORK DAY AT BRAMMALL

Saturday, March 28, 10 am–12 pm

STEBEN COUNTY | Brammall and Richard Bruner Nature Preserves

2630 E. US Highway 20, Angola, IN 46703

Help ACRES remove shredded tires and debris from the trails. Gloves and bags provided.



Photo by Janet Canino

DEEP LISTENING HIKE FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, April 11, 3:30 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Mackel Nature Preserve along Cedar Creek

Listen! You might be surprised by what you hear! Brett Bloom will help you explore the sense of sound as you hike through the woods of Mackel, a preserve closed to the public. *Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by April 6.*

ACRES members, you're encouraged to bring friends and family to members-only events.

"WAKE UP, WOODS" READINGS AND HIKE

Co-hosted with the Indiana Native Plant Society

Saturday, April 25, 10–11:30 am

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
Dustin Barn, just east of 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

We'll share readings from the new children's book, *"Wake Up, Woods"*, written by retired Indiana state botanist Michael Homoya, with illustrations by Bloomington artist Gillian Harris and verses by Sycamore Land Trust educator Shane Gibson. After a few short readings, we'll explore these woods waking up on a short walk. INPS will bring books available to purchase for \$18.95 each. *Space is limited; a number of spots are reserved for INPS members. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273.*



WILDFLOWER HIKES FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, April 18, 2–4 pm

WABASH COUNTY | Kokiwanee
5825 E. 50 S, Lagro, IN 46941

Discover the spring wildflowers and enjoy the waterfalls along the Salamonie River. This is a great way to introduce others to ACRES, so don't forget to bring a friend! *Hosted by Dave Hicks and Jason Kissel. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by April 16.*

Saturday, May 2, 1–3 pm

NOBLE COUNTY | Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve
9478 N. 600 W, Ligonier, IN 46767

Explore 65 acres of this state dedicated nature preserve to enjoy and learn about a variety of spring wildflowers. *Hosted by Tony Fleming and John J. Smith. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by April 30.*



THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP AT MENDERSON

Saturday, May 2, 10–12 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Mengerson Nature Reserve
5895 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Get in the spring cleaning spirit and join a nationwide movement to pick up litter in community spaces like ACRES' urban Mengerson Nature Reserve. Gloves and bags provided.



NATIVE PLANT SALE & FIELD GUIDE PRESENTATION

Sunday, May 3, 2–4 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve
Dustin Barn 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

NICHES Land Trust volunteer Dan Childs will present his new field guide *"Into the Woods,"* featuring beautiful color photographs of Midwestern flowers. Afterwards, discover and purchase Indiana native plants that are perfect for your garden or yard. Proceeds benefit ACRES.

SWIFT WILDFLOWER WALK

Friday, May 8, 2020, 1–5 pm

MULTIPLE COUNTIES | Multiple preserves

ACRES volunteers Janelle and Larry will lead an afternoon caravan to enjoy spring wildflowers at three different preserves. This fast-paced, hilly hike totals 4.5 miles, with an overview of Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve, Ralph Gates Nature Preserve (in the DNR Crooked Lake Nature Preserve), and Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve. *Space is limited. For starting location, RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by May 1.*

Continued on page 14

SPRING HIKES & events

Continued from Page 13

WING HAVEN SPRING CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 16, 1-5 pm

STEBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven
180 W. 400 N, Angola, IN 46703

Celebrate the spring season amongst the ridges and lakes of Wing Haven. Make your own trail mix and grab a drink as you enjoy music in the historic artists' cabin. Local musician Ken Jehle and friends will present an original acoustic composition, commissioned as part of our 200 Ecological Reflections project at this preserve. Learn more about our 200 Year project and see previously submitted work: acres200er.org

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FIELD DAY AT LEE FAMILY PERFECT LAKE NATURE PRESERVE—AN IDNR EVENT

Saturday, May 30, 10 am - noon

STEBEN COUNTY | Lee Family Perfect Lake Nature Preserve
Just north of 6500 S 100 E, Pleasant Lake, Indiana; approximately 1/3 mile north of the intersection of E 700 S; This is a closed preserve; we are parking on a neighbor's land with permission.

Much of this 84-acre property occupies a prominent esker, with vistas over a small lake. Perfect Lake is an undeveloped lake with a marl bottom and healthy aquatic communities, marsh areas, and wetlands, including a high quality fen/sedge meadow/marl flat. There are no trails at the site. Expect soggy conditions. Hike led by State Botanist Scott Namestnik. *Limit 20 participants, RSVP online at bit.ly/DNRPerfectLakeHike by May 28.*



LEE FAMILY PERFECT LAKE NATURE PRESERVE STATE DEDICATION CEREMONY

Saturday, May 30, 12:15 pm

STEBEN COUNTY | Lee Family Perfect Lake Nature Preserve
Just north of 6500 S 100 E, Pleasant Lake, Indiana; approximately 1/3 mile north of the intersection of E 700 S

Tom Swinford, Assistant Division Director, IDNR Division of Nature Preserves, will join land donor Federal Judge William Lee, in honoring Perfect Lake as Indiana's 289th state-dedicated nature preserve. The designation provides additional protection to this land under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act of 1967. ACRES founders were instrumental in writing and working to pass this act. A brief walk to the pond will conclude the event. This preserve is closed and has no trails. Expect soggy conditions. Read more about Perfect Lake: acreslandtrust.org/perfect

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

Saturday, June 6, 10 am

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Wildwood
409 E SR 14, Silver Lake, IN 46982

Join ACRES on a hike through protected prairie and forest to celebrate National Trails Day!

CALL FOR SUBMISSION:

Will you create a short video on why you value ACRES?



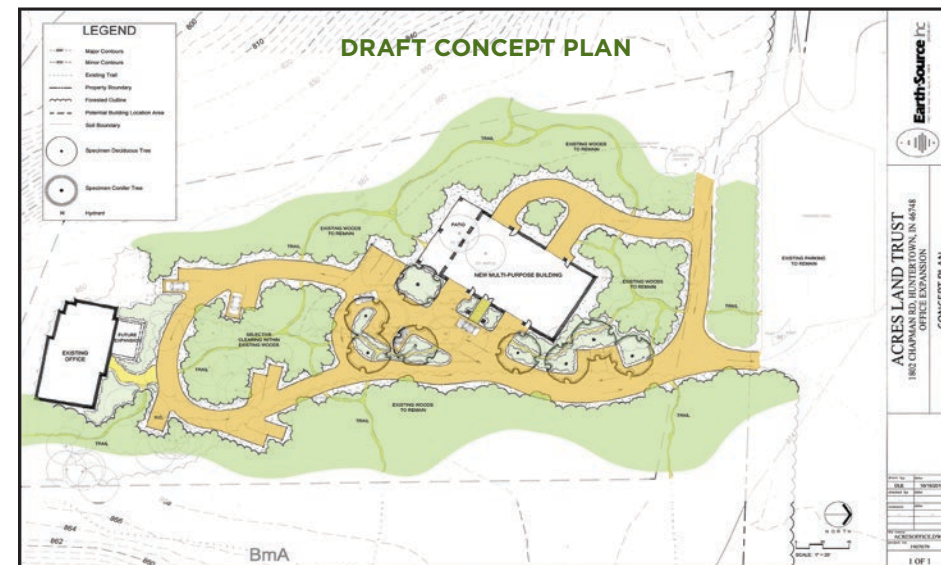
Why do you support ACRES in protecting your local land? We want to see and hear your story!

Don't worry, no professional skills needed to participate! ACRES is looking for simple, honest storytelling with no fuss about it. Your video may make it on our website or Facebook page to show why folks like you support land protection!

Learn how to submit your video and see simple tips at acreslandtrust.org/video

ACRES Invites You to Help Expand Our Headquarters

After 60 years, it's time! ACRES Land Trust is launching a Capital Campaign to help build a barn and renovate the home it uses as an office. Your investment will help care for our expanding acreage, following a period of 50 percent growth in the land we own and protect together.



"We're protecting more land than ever and we've simply run out of room to work," says Jason Kissel, Executive Director. "To restore and manage land, we need space for our equipment and projects. We also need site and office improvements for efficiency, customer service and accessibility for our growing business and for our members."

"After 60 years of making do, running the organization out of people's homes, finally investing in proper workspaces is prudent and long overdue," adds Kissel.

Learn more about our plans for growth and how you can help at acreslandtrust.org/grow.

What will your legacy be?

Your planned gift ensures natural places and working lands thrive today and for future generations, forever.

Planned gifts give ACRES Land Trust the resources to plan for the future. By making your plans known to ACRES, you will become a named or anonymous member of the Acorn Society.

Speaking with us today clarifies your goals and options, giving you the assurance that your wishes are understood and will be met.

Planned gifts take many forms: bequests by will or living trust; retirement assets such as 401(k) plans; real estate; life insurance and more.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss planned giving with you. Please contact Advancement Director Heather Barth: 260-637-2273, ext. 5 or hbarth@acreslandtrust.org



MISSION

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*.

EMPHASIS OF STRATEGIC PLAN: Increase overall capacity of the organization in order to increase the amount of land acquired each year and expand the care of existing land.

Strategies and Associated Goals Grow ACRES Capacity by:

- Increasing number of members from 1,700 to 2,400

Overall Income

- Expanding planned giving program, The Acorn Society, from 30 participants to 100 (*see more on page 14*)
- Acquiring more working lands as an additional source of income
- Reaching new corporate donors/sponsors
- Growing endowment from \$4.1 million to \$5 million

Relationships

- Strengthening and adding relationships with state and federally-elected officials
- Building new relationships with partner organizations

General Awareness

- Expanding awareness of our mission through 60th anniversary celebration
- Improving on-site communication
- Acquiring an additional 1,000 acres of land
- Controlling invasives on 1,000 acres
- Standardizing care of visitor amenities
- Restoring 250 acres
- Increasing volunteer engagement

ACQUISITION

PROPERTY	ACRES	COUNTY	NOTE
Quog Lake	12	LaGrange (IN)	Brings preserve total to 138 acres
Sauga Swamp	16	Noble (IN)	Brings preserve total to 82 acres
Phil and Jean Ross Preserve	23	Huntington (IN)	A growing 373-acre corridor
Eby Bog	23	Elkhart (IN)	

TOTAL ACQUIRED 74 acres added in newly acquired places

PEOPLE PARTICIPATING

8 Staff members
 18 Board members
 169 Volunteers giving 2,000+ hours
 1,708 Members
 6,271 Facebook followers
 30,000 Estimated preserve visitors

CARING FOR LAND

433 Acres of invasive plant control
 55,000 Trees planted
 50 Trail systems maintained
 115 Properties maintained and protected

HIGHLIGHTS

- ACRES acquired the 25-acre Elkhart Bog (not to be confused with the Eby Bog expansion) to hold temporarily on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Our tree planting news was picked up by the Associated Press and printed in newspapers nationwide. Dana Myers (who, with her husband, Duane, donated Walter H. and E. Marie Myers Nature Preserve on Flowers Creek where we planted the majority of the trees) was delighted to hear from her children in California and Chicago that they saw news of their family lands in their local newspaper.
- With support from the Olive B. Cole Foundation and Manchester University, ACRES hired four summer interns to bolster land management during the growing season.
- Reena Ramos (former ACRES summer intern) joined our team in a new position as an Advancement Coordinator, supporting our growth.
- At our Home and Garden show booth and at outings all year long, more visitors and acquaintances than ever before said, “Yes, yes! I do know about ACRES!”

YOUR INVESTMENT: FINANCIAL REPORT

NET WORTH

Value of Nature Preserves	\$24,769,944
Bank Accounts	\$1,212,221*
Equipment	\$269,355
Investments & Endowment	\$5,515,424
TOTAL	\$31,766,944

*\$500,000 is restricted as a self-loaning account for new acquisitions.
 ACRES has no long-term liabilities.

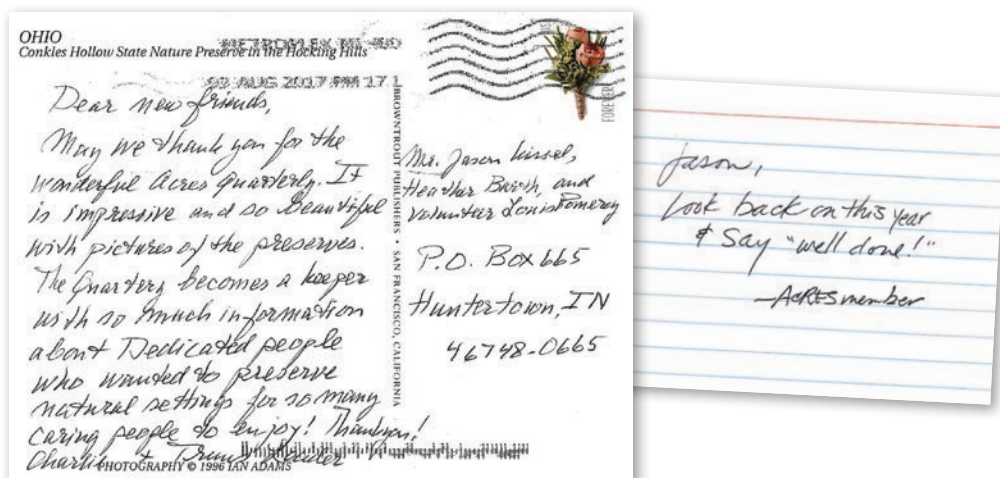
REVENUE / EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Revenues	\$1,737,154
Expenditures	\$884,619**
NET REVENUE	\$852,535

**By accounting standards, cost to purchase land is considered a ‘transfer of an asset’ and cannot be shown here as an expenditure.



MEMBERS WRITE



ACRES' kudos belong to you! Would you like to share a note with your fellow members?
Mail to: ACRES Land Trust, 1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665, Hometown, IN 46748

memorials

Jim Bloom
from Mary and Dennis Andrews, the Asbury Family, Gary and Janet Baltzell, Andrew Behrens and Jennifer Cross, Jeff Bloom, Kathryn Bloom, Karen Bloom, Phil and Jessie Bloom, Robert and Mary Bloom, Dale, Margie, Lauren and Kristin Bowen, Linda and Robert Burrell, Glenn and Peggy Conkling, the Dalrymple Family, Judy and Doug Diebel, David and Jane Dawkins, John, Courtney and Rachel Donner, James and Laura Dwire, Dawn Henderson-Davis, Fred Jordan, Dee Kindred, Brandon and Cara Maroney, Beverly Ray, Robert and Phyllis Robb, Jeff and Jo Rohleder, Philip and Mary Ann Schnelker, Korrine Stanski, Cheryl Tucker, and Kent Wantroba

Michael Cummins
from Dr. James Roberts, DMD

Theresa DiCesare
from Kyle Leffel and Amy Unger

Judy Eckert
from Rebecca Stockert

Jason Farren
from Tim Gerardot

Paul Kruppen
from Dale and Rosa Kruppen, Deb and Ted Neuenschwander, Rebecca Rupright

Ron Noyer
from Brent and Nancy Burris, Richard and Joyce Pacer, Keith and Louise Pomeroy, Sam and Jan Schwartz

Margaret Schrein
from Jack and Janis Woodruff

Matthew Shumaker
from Suzanne Dunn

Shawn Stiver
from John Stiver

Mrs Phyllis Stumpf
from Terry Stumpf

Daniel Thiel, Sr.
from Mark and Denise Cleveland

Evangeline B. Yentes
from Downtown Angola Coalition

tributes

Darlene L. Stucky
from Scott and Ann Stucky

Leslie Carmin and Louise Pomeroy
Office projects
Hudson Ford
Donating coffee
Flowers Creek Tire Cleanup workday volunteers
Flowers Creek Tire Cleanup workday food donations
DeRozer's Donuts in Peru, Connie Doud, Rick Duff, Patty McGuire and Bryce Runkle
Kokiwane Bridge Repair
Brad Huff, Kevin Nance, Roger Snyder and Kirk Swaidner
Sabrina Kruse
Donating bird suet
Mark Maffey
Donating funds for a new chainsaw and donating suet blocks
New Member Open House Volunteers
Tedra Hemingway and Angie O'Neill
November Autumn Olive workday volunteers
Gene Pelter Jr.
Donating suet blocks
Cheryl Pirogato
Discounted interpretive panel writing
Popp Open House Volunteers
Larry Biggerstaff, Louise, Keith and Gage Pomeroy

Carol Roberts
Editing and revising the *Quarterly* and more
Bryce Runkle
Organizing the Flowers Creek Tire Cleanup Workday
Share the Trails First Hikes Leaders
Nancy and Joe Conrad, Tim Brauch, Eric Maginn and Tim Ormiston
Share the Trails Swift Grand Tour Hike Leaders
Janelle and Larry Hicks
Bill Smith
Donating copy paper
Thomas Sprunger
Discounting photography
Tres Beaux Gardens
native landscaping at entrance to Tom and Jane
Dustin Nature Preserve
Volunteer preserve stewards, caretakers and trail monitors
Larry Watson
Trail maintenance and tree removal in Kokiwane
Well Grounded Cafe
Hosting Land Management Committee Meeting
Winter *Quarterly* assembly and distribution volunteers

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)
Car washing soap
Chainsaw backpack(s)
Compostable cups, plates, bowls and cutlery
Extractigator Classic, Up Rooter and or Weed Wrench
Fireproof file cabinets (new or used, letter or legal size, 3-4 drawers)
Husqvarna 550 XP chainsaw(s)
Gas cards
Large trash bags

MacBook Air (3)
More Farm Store credit (money can be added to ACRES Inc account)
New and renewing ACRES members
Portable AED
Short video testimonials on why you value and support ACRES. See opposite page for instructions.
Small paper lunch bags
Working lawn mowers
Invitations to share our story—contact us for a presentation: outreach@acreslandtrust.org

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.

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Heather Barth, Advancement Director; Matt Dunno, Land Management Specialist; Lettie Haver, Advancement Manager; Evan Hill, Land Management Specialist; Casey Jones, Land Management Director; Natasha Manor, Office and Volunteer Manager; and Reena Ramos, Advancement Coordinator.

ACRES *Quarterly*: Carol Roberts, Editor; Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665, Hometown, Indiana, for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. ACRES, Inc., is a nonprofit, charitable corporation, incorporated under the laws of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes.

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

HERE. TODAY. FOREVER. SINCE 1960

Happy 60th Anniversary ACRES Land Trust!

Thanks to member support, ACRES and the places we protect together are thriving.

How will you support ACRES' next growth spurt?

Will you take part in our 60 Ways to Celebrate checklist on pages 10 and 11? Meant to inspire fruitful activity all year long, this list is lush with options. Every action counts.

The time has come for ACRES' nutrient-rich soil to sprout new life. Let's make it happen!



acreslandtrust.org

ACRES Land Trust
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