

# THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Fall 2020 | Vol. 59 - No. 3



**ACRES**  
LANDTRUST

*Endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake*

*State Dedicated Nature Preserves*

*Mimicking Succession*

*ACRES Membership Drive*

*Member Profile: Jim Haddock*

## From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

Except for five years, I've lived in rural areas. From my viewpoint, the more remote our home is, the better. When people have visited the various homes we've owned, many often commented, "You live in the middle of nowhere!"

While some view large portions of rural or natural areas as vacant, nondescript, lacking in amenities, "nowhere," I don't share that view. I propose that natural land is more "somewhere" than developed land.

Land left intact tells ancient stories. Its contours describe the influence of glaciers, floods, wild swings in climate and vastly changing flora and fauna, going back eons. This history is lost when land is developed. Developed land's contours can describe only a few hours' work by a bulldozer in the recent past. I see such land as being transformed from a one-of-a-kind, only-place-just-like-it-on-earth place into a "nowhere."

Land left intact supports amazing diversity. The forested acres around our current home support hundreds of different plants and animals, each providing stories unfolding every day—some noticed only over time. We've watched as plant populations migrate within the property. We've learned which trees are preferred by generations of flying squirrels. Each species we share the forest with tells countless stories. Overall, the same acreage in town, or a suburban or country subdivision, likely supports many fewer plants and animals, far less diversity, fewer stories. A human-developed system (dominated by monocultures of turf grass, domesticated animals and human rules) feels to me much more like "nowhere" than a natural system's diversity.

Land left intact has its own character. It can speak for itself in a diverse choir and orchestra of natural voices. When replaced by an owner of developed land, the land's rich expression is reduced to a single, monochromatic, unaccompanied voice.

Please don't misunderstand me: I appreciate that many people prefer city life. Cities offer innumerable benefits, providing a different kind of richness. My purpose here is to defend the "somewhere" (rather than "nowhere") of undeveloped land, including our preserves. Undeveloped land means living places that witness both our long-term and our current geological, natural and human history, living libraries, living museums helping keep humans and ecosystems healthy.

I encourage you to visit "somewhere." Be in the middle of natural places. Watch, listen, question what you do not know, what you want to know. Then share your questions and stories.

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel

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

Cover photo: a male Brewer's Blackbird perches on a maple tree during a clear autumn day. This blackbird is migrating through Indiana to find a milder place to spend the winter. As a social bird, he can be seen nesting in colonies with up to 100 other blackbirds.

Photo of Brewer's Blackbird by Dave Fox

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](http://acreslandtrust.org)



# WELCOME 70newmembers!

Blaine Adams  
Kathryn Baker  
Terri Berg  
Kyle & Emma Beswick  
Sam Boneff  
Ernie & Veronica Bonkoski  
Joe Cartwright  
Julia Chapman  
from Jerry & Frances Long  
Anne Clark  
Beth & Ronald Clemens  
Adaline Cunningham & David  
Cunningham & Lorin Kaney  
Kelly & Swan Cupp  
Mr. Paul Dahm  
Carrie & Steven DeGroff  
Glen Devitt  
David Diehl  
Carolyn Erwin  
from Kari & Bret Anderson  
Daryl Erwin  
from Kari & Bret Anderson  
Jack Fisher  
Geoff Fox  
Ginger Garner  
Kathy Gawthrop  
from Alison Matheny  
Susan Goshorn

Lynn Bowen Greater  
Olin Lake Conservancy  
Phil & Eve Gulley  
Tim Hardiek  
Ann Hicks  
Debra & David Highland  
Elaine Hooley  
Anna & Carl Hornberger  
Cindy & David Houser  
Jodi & Timothy Jones  
Sharon & Mike Kacprowicz  
Ruth Kauffmann & Brian Roots  
Stephanie & Mike Kefer  
Jaron Kennel  
Joseph King  
Tim Kiser  
Nancy Klotz & John Bowen  
Nicole Lantz & Eric Sponhower  
Anthony Lardyell  
Charles Leader  
Russell Lowe  
Megan & James Masterson  
Lydia Thomas Maxwell  
Andrew McNair  
Carrie Menzie  
from Jim Bushey  
Dean Messick  
from Wendy Messick

Jackson Meyer  
from Josie Lowe-Meyer  
Justin Miller  
Michael Myers  
from Patrick Gillan  
Andrew Palmer  
Erica Parr & Jose Villanueva  
Trudy Perdue  
from Toni Mowery  
Nicola Perego & Giovanna  
Garlati  
Alicia Presswood  
from Matthew Presswood  
Naila Purnell  
Sally Schlueter  
Joshua & Lynette Scott  
Joshua & Talyssa Shepherd  
Amy & David Sites  
Craig Smith  
Linda Spry  
Sarah Stark  
Laura Walker  
Ann Walton  
Sarah Ward  
Christopher & Sarah Wright  
Ray Wyatt  
Justin & Charla Yoder

## in memory of

Jim Bloom  
from Andy & Martha Conkling  
Art Eberhardt  
from Jerry Moulder, Fred Wooley & Joseph Wooley  
Wilma Htoo  
from Justin Miller  
Peggy Skirvin  
from Staci Brown, Tim Hinds, Russell & Barbara Ulery  
Richard G. Sorg  
from Ken & Sarah Sorg

Roger McNett  
from Allen County Democratic Women's Club,  
Peter & Stephanie Eicher, Tim O'Grady & Kay  
Bolin, Mike & Jo Ann Dickman, Melody Ellert,  
Joan Garman, Mark Grieger, Frances Headings,  
Ed & Cynthia Powers, Jeanne Sheridan,  
Susan Wenger & Dennis Shipley

## in honor of

Harvey and Fran Hathaway  
from Mary & Wendy Eisse



## Endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Photo by Evan Hill

ACRES lets nature take its course on the preserves, with the exception of eradicating invasive species. Normally, an endangered or threatened species found on an ACRES property is recorded but not actively managed. This year ACRES is working to develop a management plan based solely around one specific, scaly species.



Buzzing cicadas, croaking frogs and the sound of a rattle add to the chorus of a morning marsh. You see a blue heron flying. Then...wait...did you hear a rattle? Curled up in the sedges you see a brown spotted snake with a rattle raised in the air, a kind warning that its personal space is being invaded.

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes are the only species of rattlesnake found in northern Indiana. These snakes are state endangered and federally threatened, granting them

protection against poaching. Loss of habitat is their biggest threat. ACRES protects several properties with suitable habitat for Massasaugas.

"Snakes were seen along the trails at ACRES Marsh Wren Nature Preserve, and we knew we had to act. Maintaining the trails with a mower was a threat to the snakes, so we decided to close the preserve to protect their population," said Director of Land Management Casey Jones. "They've also been spotted at surrounding closed preserves in LaGrange County."

Such snake sightings at these properties over the years led our crew to develop a management plan this spring. How many endangered snakes are at these properties? What more can ACRES do to protect the endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake?

Overseen by Land Management Specialist Evan Hill, ACRES developed a multi-year research project based on these questions. The project consists of different techniques to determine the size of the local population.

"Knowing how many snakes are out there may help us make informed management decisions," said Hill. "To maintain the population, it's possible we may need to manage these properties in a different way than we ever have."

A Massasauga's preferred habitat is large, open wetlands, like grassy marsh or wet prairie. Here they hunt for small rodents, frogs and occasionally other snakes, keeping these populations in check. In turn, the snakes become food for hawks and other raptors. During winter, they use abandoned crayfish burrows for hibernation.

"Research shows that enhancing habitat by reducing cover can help to increase Massasauga populations," says Hill. "This means removing brush that has begun to naturally move into these open areas. It's possible that enhancing wetlands and adjacent upland habitats will benefit many other native plant and animal species as well."

To record local numbers, Hill and a small group of specially trained volunteers are implementing various population monitoring strategies.

"Massasaugas are shy and rattle only when absolutely necessary. Their cryptic coloration makes them hard to spot among the grasses," Hill said. "We had to implement some unique methods to observe and record them."

Camera traps made out of buckets and trail cameras were constructed and set up at the properties. Fabric fencing was placed alongside each trap. Snakes will run along the fencing until they slither through the buckets for a snapshot. Each snake has a unique pattern, and from that pattern, Hill can determine how many different snakes pass through the buckets.



Camera traps are used to capture photos of snakes.



Multiple times a week, trained volunteers conduct in-person surveys. While walking on a set path, volunteers record how many Massasaugas they see or hear. Large cover boards placed around the property are checked for snakes basking in the sun.

ACRES also sent mail-in surveys to neighbors around the preserves. Responses indicated that many neighbors had seen Massasaugas in the area. Sadly, most were spotted alongside the road, having been hit by cars. Neighbors reported roadside sightings in one specific location.

"It appears that Massasaugas are crossing the road in a certain narrow area. It's possible, with the help of multiple partners, we could create a small wildlife crossing under the road," said Jones. "ACRES can protect and enhance the snake's habitat, but without addressing the active threat of vehicle-caused mortality, their population is still threatened."

As Land Management continues to receive results from the surveys, different perspectives are surfacing. New questions and solutions are part of an ever-updating management plan.

"We hope this multi-year study helps ACRES, and our neighbors, understand the situation Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes are in," says Hill, "We want to make the best decisions to protect this species from extirpation."

Thanks to support from the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Greater Olin Lake Conservancy, Irving Materials, Inc., and the LaGrange County Community Foundation, ACRES is able to continue this study.

# PROTECTING LAND



## Protecting Habitats in Indiana STATE DEDICATED PRESERVES

2013 State Dedication Ceremony at Blue Cast Springs

Indiana's system of dedicated Nature Preserves was created when an ACRES founder, Jim Barrett III, wrote the 1967 Indiana Nature Preserves Act, providing permanent protection for significant natural areas across the state, including ACRES properties. The Act states:

*As part of the continuing growth of population and the development of the economy of Indiana, it is necessary and desirable that areas of unusual natural significance be set aside and preserved for the benefit of present and future generations before the areas have been destroyed.*

This means that the State of Indiana has the ability to add a layer of protection through this legislation, determining that the highest and best use of these state-dedicated properties is in a natural state, for the public benefit. The Act outlines several reasons for this protection including providing research and educational opportunities, protecting habitats for plants and animals, providing living examples of our natural heritage and environmental systems, promoting the understanding and appreciation of the value of these areas and protecting them against destruction.

How does it happen? When ACRES identifies a property that might be a good candidate for dedication, we approach the DNR Division of Nature Preserves, providing data such as plant inventories and other relevant information. The state reviews the data, and if a dedication is justified, conducts a site visit with an ACRES staff member. Then the Articles of Dedication are drafted, including a master plan outlining the uses and restrictions on a particular property that both ACRES and the state compromise on and agree to. Because the Articles are legally binding, they are signed by the directors of the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Nature Preserves, as well as the state attorney general. This joint signing ensures that in addition to protecting the land through private (ACRES) ownership, the state also provides protection similar to, but stronger than, a conservation easement.

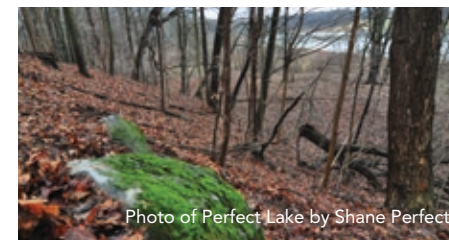
Today, more than 53,000 acres of Indiana land benefit from this added layer of protection. This land is owned by a variety of state divisions, city and county parks, universities and land trusts like ours. Of the more than 290 state-dedicated preserves, 35 are protected by ACRES and its members (more than 2,400 acres), second only to land dedicated by the state.

PROPERTY NAME	YEAR DEDICATED	ACREAGE	COUNTY
Beechwood Nature Preserve	1970	80.25	Steuben
Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve	1971	64.58	Noble
Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest	1972	60.24	Noble
Woodland Bog	1972	20.31	Steuben
Acres Along the Wabash	1974	33.52	Wells
Fogwell Forest	1978	27.81	Allen
Ralph F. Gates Nature Preserve	1979	1.17	Noble
Ropchan Wildlife Refuge	1980	146.46	Steuben
Lonidaw	1982	30.13	Noble
Anna Brand Hammer Reserve	1984	20.00	Wells
McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve	1984	43.11	Allen
Asherwood	1988	60.54	Wabash
Mengerson Nature Reserve	1990	35.61	Allen
Art Hammer Wetlands	1991	120.16	Noble
Vandolah Nature Preserve	1992	46.67	Allen
Bicentennial Woods	1995	78.31	Allen
Barrett Oak Hill Nature Preserve	1996	85.75	Allen/DeKalb
Art Hammer Wetlands addition	1997	217.22	Noble
Popp	1997	19.85	Allen
Robb Hidden Canyon	1997	27.54	Steuben
Fawn River Nature Preserve	1998	135.03	LaGrange
Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary	1999	18.64	Allen
Marsh Wren Nature Preserve	2000	47.70	Marsh Wren
Ropchan Memorial	2001	80.67	Steuben
Wing Haven	2001	173.61	Steuben
Sauga Swamp	2009	66.72	LaGrange
Wildwood	2009	94.24	Kosciusko
Evelyn and Wendell Dygert Nature Preserve	2010	56.16	Whitley
Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve	2011	81.78	Allen
Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run	2011	49.80	Wabash
Blue Cast Springs	2013	54.94	Allen
Marion's Woods	2013	19.55	Steuben
Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest addition	2014	51.35	Noble
Kokiwanee	2014	130.02	Wabash
Spring Lake Woods and Bog	2015	99.40	Allen
Perfect Lake	2019	84.41	Steuben

**TOTAL ACRES: 2237.87**

The first ACRES property to be state-dedicated was Beechwood Nature Preserve, in 1970.

The most recent ACRES property to be dedicated is Perfect Lake, in 2019. Please join us for the dedication ceremony of this special place on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10 am. See page 12 for details.



ACRES members can contact the ACRES office to request a free copy of Jim Barrett's "Conservation Today" paper, written two years before the Indiana Nature Preserves Act.



## Mimicking Succession

ACRES protects more than natural areas. Working lands, such as agriculture fields in production, are also protected. ACRES currently protects about 500 acres of farmland, and some of this land will be restored to forest or wetland. This year, the ACRES Land Management team will use a different strategy to restore forest.

A farm field left to nature will begin to change over time. In the midwest, herbaceous plants, like grasses and wildflowers, are first to become established, and later, certain species of shrubs and tree saplings move in. Eventually, without disturbance, the field will become a forest of hardwood trees. This natural process of change over time is called forest succession.



*The progress of forest succession from a field to mature forest; artwork by Julie Wall*

"Historically, when ACRES took an agriculture field out of production, we planted native hardwood saplings right away. We often skipped over the natural steps of succession. We want to try adding those steps back in," said ACRES Land Management Director Casey Jones.

This fall, a historically farmed ACRES property in Allen County will be taken out of production, allowing the land management crew to implement their new restoration strategy.

Jones explained: "Instead of jumping right into trees, we will restore native grasses and flowering plants first, following the same process nature would. The intent is to mimic succession."

Giving a grassland time to become established allows essential nutrients and microbial communities to rebuild the impoverished top soil. Decomposing plants with deep root systems reestablish nutrient cycling, with the addition of carbon, nitrogen and other minerals. A forest planted after grassland may benefit from such restored soil communities.

Unfortunately, due to invasive species like autumn olive and bush honeysuckle, the ACRES Land Management team can never have a completely hands-off management strategy for any property. This restored Allen County farmland is no exception: it will need to be actively managed to keep invasives under control.

"Though it would be nice to let this property naturally go through succession, it's just not possible. We have too many aggressive invasive species that would take over the empty field before natives could get established," said Jones. "The once-existing native seed bank in the soil has also been depleted."

The Land Management team plans to seed the field this winter with native grasses and other early-successional plants. Snow packs the seeds against the soil, while the ground freezing and thawing moves the seeds even deeper for better germination. These adapted native seeds will survive the winter and begin to grow next spring.

This project will take a large amount of seed. Because ACRES hopes to include native species growing in Allen County,

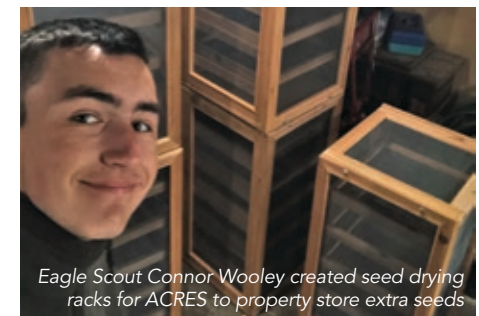
the Land Management team is organizing a volunteer workday at an ACRES preserve for seed collection.

Thanks to a generous donation of seed-collection bags from Gardeners Supply Company, ACRES will invite 30 volunteers to a workday this fall. Volunteers will learn a simple harvesting technique, then collect seeds from native grasses at Fogwell Forest located in southwest Fort Wayne. Land management will use the seeds collected at this workday for their winter planting.



"Harvesting gives volunteers an opportunity to get into the field directly, without needing to know plant identification or management techniques," said Jones. "I see this becoming an annual fall workday, a meaningful (and fun!) opportunity for volunteers interested in restoration."

*Read more about this volunteer workday event on page 13.*



*Eagle Scout Connor Wooley created seed drying racks for ACRES to properly store extra seeds*

Photo spread on pages 10–11 by Thomas Sprunger: ACRES preserves provide a place for nature to take its course. Most trees are left where they fall to become a source of food and shelter for plants and wildlife. Many species of fungi grow on dead wood, helping to decompose it and return nutrients back to the forest floor. While exploring an ACRES trail this fall, look for life around these decaying logs!





# FALL HIKES & events

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



## SHARE THE TRAILS HIKE & TRAILBLAZERS

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 10 am**

ALLEN COUNTY | Mengerson

5895 Stelhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Join ACRES volunteers on a casual, easy-going group hike through this forested wetland. Free to the public, donations encouraged.

## JAVA JAUNT

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9–11 am**

PAULDING COUNTY | Black Swamp Audubon Sanctuary

Address available with RSVP

Join ACRES for a one-hour hike through Black Swamp Audubon Sanctuary, a property normally closed to the public. Gather in nature's gold via blooms, birds, bees and butterflies. We will walk this mixed landscape of woods, meadow and wetland to find six types of goldenrod, prairie plants, visiting warblers and possible sightings of turkey and deer. Afterward, you are invited for a treat-yourself stop at the Genesis House in nearby Antwerp, Ohio, for some excellent brew or light snacks.

Space is limited. RSVP to [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 by September 15.



## DEEP LISTENING HIKE FOR MEMBERS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 3:30 pm**

ALLEN COUNTY | Mackel Nature Preserve along Cedar Creek

Address available with RSVP

Listen! Do you hear the noises of the fall season? Brett Bloom will help you explore the sense of sound as you hike through the Mackel woods, a preserve closed to the public.

Space is limited. RSVP to [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 by September 17.

## TIRE CLEANUP WORKDAY AT BRAMMALL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 this fall. Gloves and bags provided.

Space is limited. RSVP to Natasha Manor at [nmanor@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:nmanor@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 ext. 4 by October 8.



Photo by Janet Canino

## LEE FAMILY PERFECT LAKE NATURE PRESERVE

**STATE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10 am**

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. The event will conclude with a brief walk to the pond.

This preserve is closed and has no trails. Closed-toed shoes are recommended. Space is limited. RSVP to [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 by October 8. Read more about Perfect Lake at [acreslandtrust.org/perfect](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/perfect)

## POPP OPEN HOUSE FOR MEMBERS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1–4 pm**

ALLEN COUNTY | Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve

12129 Tonkel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Campfire hot dogs, refreshments and hiking in this mature forest open only once a year for ACRES members.

Presented by Larry Biggerstaff, Popp caretaker.



## SEED COLLECTION WORKDAY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 10 am–12:30 pm**

ALLEN COUNTY | Fogwell Forest

9630 Whippoorwill Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Join ACRES Land Management Specialist Evan Hill, along with other volunteers, for a workday to help harvest prairie grass seeds. No prior experience necessary. The event will begin with a short introduction to grass identification and harvesting techniques. Seeds will be used for upcoming restoration projects on other ACRES properties. All equipment will be provided.

Space is limited. RSVP to Evan Hill at [ehill@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:ehill@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 ext. 3 by October 22.

## NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 10–11:30 am**

HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Pehkokia Woods

1570 Flaxmill Road, Huntington, IN 46750

Join ACRES on a group hike through protected forest to celebrate National Take a Hike Day!

## KAUFFMAN NATURE SANCTUARY GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1–3 pm**

HILLSDALE COUNTY | Kauffman Nature Sanctuary

Parking lot is just west of 13211 Beecher Road, Hudson, MI

Join us in celebrating ACRES first Michigan property, Kauffman Nature Sanctuary. Acquired in winter 2019, this 78 acre preserve features wetlands, grasslands, forests and a headwater stream. Come anytime between 1–3 pm to chat with staff and explore a new trail system!

Space is limited. RSVP to [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@acreslandtrust.org) or 260-637-2273 by November 19. Read more about this acquisition at [acreslandtrust.org/kauffman](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/kauffman)

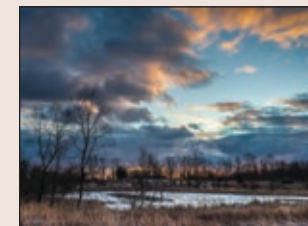


Photo by Thomas Sprunger

*Social distancing (keeping at least 6-feet of distance between individuals at all times) will be implemented at fall events. Please stay home if you feel ill or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19.*

*To check the status of an event please call 260-637-2273, email [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@acreslandtrust.org) or visit [acreslandtrust.org/events](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/events)*

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



# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

## A Growing Community of PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT LAND

Membership has been a cornerstone of ACRES since we organized as an official nonprofit in 1960. It took five years to top 200 members; we hit 1,000 in 2004, and today, our membership has grown to nearly 1,800 individuals, families and businesses. We remain grateful to each and every one.

Our 12 founders kicked things off in 1960 by pitching in \$2 each for their membership dues. We've managed to keep costs in check, adjusting amounts only four times in the past 60 years. Regular membership was increased to \$5 in 1976; to \$15 in 1993 and to \$25 in 2006. Just this spring we eliminated the various levels of student, senior, family and more. Now, anyone making a donation of at least \$20 is a member!

Today, members enjoy the full version of this newsletter, the *Quarterly*; as well as preserve postcards announcing newly-protected land; access to members-only gatherings and outings and the peace of mind knowing they're part of something much bigger than any of us as individuals, part of a growing community of people who care about land.

Members help keep our mission moving forward. Thanks to you, we're able to provide free access to open properties. And the most meaningful part of membership is that you provide so much more than the money you give. You're our best resource for spreading the word about our mission of protecting local land.



ACRES members enjoy an outing to Peace Farm, a property closed to the public.



*Here are just some of the ways you share ACRES with others:*

- *by passing along your most recent copy of the Quarterly*
- *by gifting memberships to your loved ones*
- *by inviting friends to explore a preserve with you*
- *by roping a neighbor into attending an event with you to see what we're all about*
- *by tagging us in preserve photos you post to social media*
- *by sharing our posts with your digital community*
- *by asking questions, providing feedback and letting us know when you have concerns*

Your membership with ACRES is one more voice that says "Protecting local land is important!" We have lofty goals for amplifying that voice over the next few years. We hope to increase our numbers to 2,400 members by the end of 2024. The math is simple: more people participating means more land protected and cared for. This is where YOU come in.

How can you help? If you aren't already a member, please join today. If you are already a member—thank you! Please renew your membership and continue to share ACRES with others in all the wonderful ways you already do.

### GIFT A MEMBERSHIP

Through the end of the year, we'll include a FREE preserve guide to each newly gifted member. And each current member who does so will be entered to win a special gift basket chock-full of ACRES gear.

[acreslandtrust.org/give](https://acreslandtrust.org/give)



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### Full Steam Ahead!

As our land management division has grown to better care for the land ACRES protects, it has become evident that we need to reconsider where we call home, and how to be more efficient and effective at maintaining equipment that is housed in various locations across our region.

ACRES leadership explored many options: do we stay where we are or move to another location? After several lengthy discussions, our Board of Directors made the decision to stay put at the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve.

It hasn't been easy getting to this point. We identified what was needed: one convenient location to store and maintain equipment and supplies, and better access to the office and trail system. We then decided that while we were doing this, we would add event space. As staff began working with a local contractor to hammer out details, we quickly outgrew the project budget approved by our Board of Directors. So we went back to the drawing board, settling on our initial priorities of maintenance space and improved accessibility.

We're now taking a "phased approach," planning for an event space, but not building it as part of the current project. For now, we have a perfect spot for a party tent and we still have room to host groups in the office itself and at the Dustin Barn, as well as in places like Asherwood. Rest assured, we still have plenty of places to gather.

And although we're running about a season behind, by the time you read this article construction on the project will have begun. The entire project, including re-landscaping with native plants, is estimated to be complete by Summer 2021. At that time, we'll host a party to welcome you to our new and improved headquarters. In the meantime, we need your help!

This is ACRES first-ever capital campaign. We need to raise money to pay for these new and renovated facilities, which help us better care for the more than 7,200 acres of land the ACRES community collectively protects. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Please make a donation today at [acreslandtrust.org/grow](https://acreslandtrust.org/grow) or mail your check to **ACRES Land Trust Capital Campaign**, PO Box 665, Huntertown, IN 46748-0665.



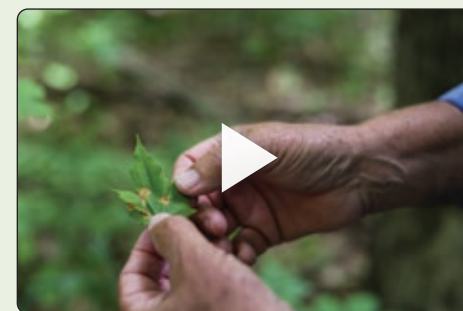
ACRES Member Jim Haddock with Executive Director Jason Kissel

## MEMBER PROFILE – JIM HADDOCK

ACRES Member Jim Haddock agreed to sit down with Executive Director Jason Kissel for a video interview. Jim shared stories of his experience with the organization and motivation behind his continued support.

When Jim paid his first membership dues of \$2 in 1975, ACRES Land Trust owned and protected 332 acres of land, was supported by 497 members and was run by volunteers. Over the past 45 years, Jim has done his part to help grow the organization into what it is today: a land trust owning and protecting 7,230 acres, supported by 1,700 members and seven staff.

Jim has served as ACRES board member, board president and volunteer. He has a passion for learning. After earning a PhD in Entomology from the University of California, Jim put his knowledge to work teaching others through his position at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne. While Jim's interests and motivations for supporting ACRES are varied, you'll notice his conversations often return to science and teaching. Some of his classrooms are ACRES preserves.



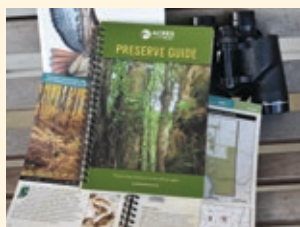
Check out the video at  
[acreslandtrust.org/yourstories](https://acreslandtrust.org/yourstories)

Thank you, Jim, for sharing your expertise, interest and support of ACRES—and for giving us a glimpse into why you value ACRES through this video.



## GEAR UP FOR THE SEASON!

**Buy ACRES gear at the office or online at [acreslandtrust.org/shop](https://acreslandtrust.org/shop)**  
Show your support, or grab a gift for a fellow land lover with ACRES gear!



### ACRES Preserve Guides

A durable guide to more than 50 trail systems open dawn to dusk. \$10 in the office; \$13 online with shipping and handling. (Don't miss our gifted membership promotion on page 15)



### ACRES Double-walled Hot/Cold Stainless Steel Beverage Bottles.

Keep your hot drinks hot this winter and your water ice cold in the summer. \$10 in the office; \$15 online with shipping and handling.



### ACRES Bottle Holder Slings

Hike and explore, hands-free. Turquoise, amethyst or gray/green. Slings include a pocket and fold up for storage. \$10 in the office; \$13 online with shipping and handling.



### ACRES Beanie

Combat the cold weather with a comfy beanie! View more colors online or in office. \$15 in the office; \$18 online with shipping and handling.



### ACRES Ballcap

Spruce up your look with an embroidered ballcap. View more colors online or in the office. \$15 in the office; \$20 online with shipping and handling.



### ACRES Brimmed Hat

This wide-brimmed hat, complete with adjustable straps and a neck flap, is a perfect choice for any outdoor adventure. View more colors online or in office. \$30, available only in the office.

Shop online: [acreslandtrust.org/shop](https://acreslandtrust.org/shop) or in the office. ACRES is open Monday–Friday from 9 am–4 pm. Due to the nature of our work, we may be in the field.

*Please call ahead to be sure we're here to help you.*

*The health and safety of our ACRES family is paramount, as is the public health of our communities. Please wear a mask and social distance while in the office.*

# SPECIAL thanks

Stephanie Bailey  
Leading Native Garden Workdays  
Doug Bishop and Boy Scout Troop 430  
Mengerson Clean up/Improvements  
Bonnie Bloom  
Video interview and editing  
Dave Brumm, Mary Campbell, Laura Colpitts,  
Kris Connerly, Nancy and Joe Conrad, Tedra  
Hemingway, Mark Maffey, Shane Perfect, Louise  
Pomeroy, Judy Schroff and April Steury  
Summer Quarterly assembly and distribution  
Volunteers  
Chris Fairfield and Mary Anna Feitler  
Archive Projects

Dave Hicks  
Kokiwane Wildflower Hike Video  
Parkview and a generous Allen County couple  
Donation of three AED units  
Louise Pomeroy  
Office Support  
Keith Pomeroy  
Mackel Improvements  
St. Paul's Youth Group volunteers  
Asherwood Improvements  
Volunteer Preserve Stewards, Caretakers,  
Trail Monitors  
ACRES Board of Directors and  
Committee Members

## 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](mailto:acres@acreslandtrust.org).*

ACRES Memberships  
Your ACRES stories and photos from the trails  
Batteries (AA, C & D)  
Bosch belt sander  
Bosch 10–15amp portable jobsite table saw  
Bottled Water  
Chainsaw backpack(s)  
Compostable cups, plates, bowls, and dinnerware  
(no Styrofoam please)  
Extractigator Classic, Up Rooter, and or Weed  
Wrench  
Facebook and Instagram followers and contributors  
Farm Store credit (money can be added to  
ACRES Inc. account)

Fireproof filing 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  
Mike's Car Wash Gift Cards  
Metal tiered shelving  
Paper towels  
Snacks for events (individually wrapped)  
Stihl or Husqvarna bar oil  
Stihl or Husqvarna 2-cycle oil  
Trash bags (33 gallon or larger)  
USB Flash drive

*Questions? Please contact [acres@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:acres@acreslandtrust.org).*

***Share our story!*** Will your organization or group benefit from learning about ACRES? Contact us for a presentation: [outreach@acreslandtrust.org](mailto: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; Evan Hill, Land Management Specialist; Casey Jones, Land Management Director; Natasha Manor, Office and Volunteer Manager; and Reena Ramos, Outreach Manager.

**ACRES Quarterly:** Carol Roberts, Editor; Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665, Huntstown, 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.



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

In October the great restlessness came,  
the restlessness of birds before migration...  
The woods were as restless as the birds.  
I stood under tulips and ashes, maples,  
sourwood, sassafras, locusts, catalpas, and oaks.  
I let my eyes spread and unfix, screening out  
all that was not vertical motion, and I saw only  
leaves in the air—or rather...vertical trails of  
yellow color-patches falling from nowhere to  
nowhere. Mysterious streamers of color unrolled  
silently all about me, distant and near.

[And on the ground] the woods were a rustle of  
affairs. Woolly bears, those orange-and-black-  
banded furry caterpillars of the Isabella moth,  
were on the move. They crossed my path in  
every direction; they would climb over my foot,  
my finger, urgently seeking shelter.

from Annie Dillard. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, 1974.



[acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)