

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Summer 2022 | Vol. 61 – No. 2



ACRES
LANDTRUST

Nurture Growth: We Can Do More!

Preserve Volunteers

Making a Difference in Your Own Backyard

Beyond Membership

Robin Wall Kimmerer Event

ACRES Stands Out with New Signs

From the Office Manager

Dear Members,

Together, the staff brainstormed this Summer *Quarterly's* theme, "nurturing growth," a phrase capturing a unique-to-ACRES call to action. ACRES is currently in the middle of a four-year strategic plan focusing on increasing the organization's capacity. While emphasis has been on increasing acquisition and expanding care of local lands we protect, it's also critical that we "nurture growth" in every aspect of the organization. To achieve our mission of permanently protecting land in our region, ACRES must welcome more members, donors, volunteers and other partners.

This issue focuses on the many ways you can help ACRES nurture growth, such as joining the Acorn Society, sharing ACRES with a friend, participating in a volunteer workday or even controlling invasive plants in your own yard. An obvious way you can "nurture growth" with us is through donations. As Office Manager, I process each donation, from a credit card donation for \$20 to a check for \$20,000. Growth in the number and amount of donations would allow us to grow the number of local acres protected and expand restoration projects to increase the health and vitality of our preserves. I also process payroll and issue payments. As the organization grows, so do our expenses. Donations pay for essentials needed to nurture growth, such as equipment repairs, liability insurance, seeds for restoration projects and printing this *Quarterly*. Growth in donations will also allow ACRES to welcome more staff and volunteers who carry out our daily work on and off the preserves.

As I process our financial and human resources needs, I'm often the first person to see growth at ACRES. As a home gardener who enjoys "nurturing growth," I know nurturing takes hard work, time and dedication. It's rewarding to see new leaves sprout, a blossom open, a butterfly feeding on nectar. It's exciting to imagine how ACRES can "nurture growth" on the land through increased acreage or by carrying out more stewardship projects in the preserves through each additional donation, new staff member or volunteer.

With your help, we can nurture the growth of special places and, in so doing, nurture the plants, animals and people that depend on these places. Thank you for nurturing growth with us.



Sincerely,
Natasha Manor
nmanor@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 104

Cover photo: It's been 36 years since the *Quarterly* front cover had people on it. For this edition, we wanted to do something different and celebrate YOU! ACRES members make our mission possible. We all work together nurturing growth and protecting places we love.



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 more than 7,300 acres in northeast Indiana and portions of southern Michigan and northwest Ohio. In addition to helping care for and restore our local land, your support also offers 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

acreslandtrust.org



WELCOME 87newmembers!

Chayla & Lloyd Adams
Stevie Addison
Sue & Jeff Albert
Kari & Bret Anderson
Scott Anderson
Theresa Archer
from Kari & Bret Anderson
Deanna Ashley
Mike, Kim & Beth Avila
Jenna & Kyle Bair
Shannon Baker
Howard Balkenbusch
Carolyn Bean & Ryan Johnstone
Nancy & Bruce Bender
Greg Bennett & Janine
Andrysiak
Ryan Blair
from CASS Housing
Bernd & Brigitte Buldt
Jake, Courtney & L.J. Butler
from Janet, James & C.J.
Canino
Lorey Cape
Frank & Cathy Chandler
Jennie Christman
Gary Crabill
Carrie Custer
Wendy Dapp
Teri deMatas
Jill Diedring
Darus Eifler
Hank Erdmann
Michele Farmer
from Angie Mapes Turner
Danielle & Jon Fuhrman and
Emily Fuhrman

Lynn Fuston
Elizabeth Gamez
Jacek & Matgorzata Gedzior
from Ania Hornberger
Victoria Gipson & Alan
Bridegam
Robert & Melanie Hall
Linda Hansen & Tim McElwee
Michael Harris
Patricia Harrold
Robert Hart
Joyce Haverstock
Jami Heaston & Leah Brannaka
Dick & Bonnie Heffelfinger
Dawn Hissong
from Sonia Ward
Carl Jylland-Halverson
Natasha Kauffmann
Sarah Kean
Mike Kelly
Gavin King
Katie Kronberg
Christer Lagerkvist
from Dawn Lagerkvist
Emily LaRue
Susan & Matt Lawrence
Suzanne Lenhart
from Angela & Kelley
Remington
Ann Marie Lynch & Bob Pastoor
Adam & Amy Mains
Andy & Angie McCleary
from Kirk Swaidner
John Michaels
Jessica & Jacob Miller
Samuel Minick

Nickolas Moore & Daniel Pryor
Jason & Stacy Morrison
Jose Ortiz & Angelica Martinez
from Reena Ramos
Cindy Parry & Mike Lemon
Kelly Paul
Diana & William Randall
Jim Reardon
John & Jennifer Rumble
Lana Sanchez
Rich & Kathy Schlipf
Norman Schmucker
Ted & Terri Shively
from Kari & Bret Anderson
Trent & Lisa Shively
from Kari & Bret Anderson
Steve & Sue Simerman
Todd & Sara Simpson
Joshua Smeltzer
Vicki Smith
Structural Engineering Services,
LLC
Ben Taylor & Allison Kowlowitz
Elliot Thornton & Suzi Herman
Tonya Threet
Timothy & Brianna Trout
Trina Vian
Sonia Ward
Diane Williams
Nate & Amanda Williams
Stephen Williams
from Nate & Amanda
Williams
Cherie & Carl Yarger
Molly & David Yuska

in memory of

79th wedding anniversary of
Eldon & Carol Summers
from Diana Harris
Bonnie Anderson
from Mary Anderson
Donald Arche
from Kari & Bret Anderson
Victor Bobay
from Diane Schaefer-King &
Lloyd King
Carl Deimling
from Katie Kronberg Fuston,
Peggy Lynn Fuston

Ruth Graft
from Julie Henricks, Steve &
Sue Simerman
Marsha Heller
from Angie & Dan O'Neill
Charles Leader, Jr.
from Truus Leader
Linda Lough
from Donna Burns-Stucker &
Doug Rice
Arthur Parry, Jr.
from Cindy Parry & Mike
Lemon

Joan Peryam
from Gary Crabill
Shawn Stiver
from John Stiver
Darlene Stucky
from Laura & Bob Sweiger

in honor of

Allen County Library Staff
from Susan & Eric Baier
Bob Bayer
from Gary Hogle & Barb Lahman

We Can Do More!

One-time donations to ACRES have ranged from \$1 to over \$3,000,000, and many amounts in between. We need and appreciate each of these donations.

As ACRES continues to nurture growth, increasing the amount of money donated is a necessary part of this growth in capacity. Listed below are some of the impacts possible through donations of varying amounts:

\$20	Materials for two members to attend an art workshop Box of hanging file folders Gallon of chainsaw bar oil
\$200	Habitat management on one acre (prescribed burn, mowing or forest stand improvement) Buys 500 tree seedlings A year's worth of business cards for all employees
\$2,000	Four months of postage 10 acres of warm season grass/forbs seed mix 10 acres of trees for reforestation Volunteer supplies and materials for one year
\$20,000	200 acres of invasive species management Materials, supplies and salaries for three summer college interns Purchase two acres of farmland or three acres of forest
\$200,000	Two years' worth of typical restoration activities Purchase 35 acres of rural, average-valued land Yearly salaries of Stewardship team
\$2,000,000	Purchase 200 acres of average developable, or fertile agricultural land Placed in an endowment, would generate \$80,000 annually, in perpetuity Covers two years' worth of operating expenses



\$20,000,000 to \$200,000,000

This level of donation would be transformative. It would allow ACRES to better meet the demand for our services. Currently, we are able to acquire only about 3-5% of the lands available each year that are a high priority for ACRES to protect. This means that each year we fail to acquire 95% of these projects: expansion of existing properties, high quality natural areas and income-producing lands that serve as buffers. This is frustrating!

We would not wonder how to spend such transformational donations. We already have properties ready to buy, lands already owned that are overdue for restoration and natural resource management, and programs ready to offer to further connect people to the land that sustains them. Transformational donations would mean that ACRES would be able to acquire 7,300 acres of land every five years, instead of our current rate of every 62 years!

We are prepared. We have planned ways to responsibly use your donation – whether \$2 or \$200,000,000. If our current projects are too small for your ideas, please let us share ACRES vision for what could be – what should be – and what lacks only funds to achieve.

We are ready to be wowed by your generosity of any amount. ACRES has the institutional history, internal controls, abilities, skills, experience and planning to accommodate a donation of any size.

We can do more, but we need your help. Money is one way to help. Please make a gift beyond your membership this year. Together, we'll make a big difference!



PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS

By Reena Ramos

ACRES is able to offer trails thanks to Trail Monitors and Preserve Stewards. Here's what they do and how you can get involved as a preserve volunteer.

How do volunteers help ACRES maintain preserves for visitors?

Volunteers make ACRES trails possible. Because ACRES mission is to protect local land, staff focus on acquiring properties, caring for land and sharing the message. Without volunteer help, ACRES would be unable to maintain trails across the region. Both Preserve Stewards and Trail Monitors have very important jobs keeping trails clear and preserves healthy. Most trail systems that visitors enjoy are fully maintained by volunteers.

Preserve Stewards do the "heavy lifting" by keeping trails and parking lots open and clear. Stewards can be seen mowing, spin trimming, chain-sawing and repairing boardwalks and bridges.

Trail Monitors do regular walk-throughs, picking up litter and removing debris from parking lots and trails. Trail Monitors also act as an extra set of eyes and ears on the preserve, reporting things like downed trees and prohibited activities like camping.

How do volunteers help ACRES mission of protecting land?

Hiking trails are a great tool to raise awareness about both the organization and the land. We hope that visitors who hike these preserves will appreciate the benefits of and beauty in protecting local land and will join in ACRES efforts. These opportunities to inspire visitors on the trails would not be possible without volunteers.

With volunteers taking on trail work, the stewardship team can focus on caring for ACRES preserves: for example, doing restoration work like invasive species removal to keep the preserves healthy.



Where do we need trail monitors?

Huntington County
LaGrange County
Miami County

Steuben County
Wabash County

Where do we need preserve stewards?

Allen County
Bicentennial Woods
Blue Cast Springs
McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve
Spring Lake Woods and Bog

LaGrange County
Fawn River Nature Preserve

Noble County
Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest
Lonidaw

DeKalb County
Heinzerling Family Five Points Nature Preserve

Steuben County
Marion's Woods

Hillsdale County (MI)
Kauffman Nature Sanctuary

**Preserve Stewards must be able to provide and transport their own equipment.*

What should I do if I'm interested in volunteering at a preserve?

To learn more about the Preserve Steward or Trail Monitor positions, visit the ACRES volunteer page at [acreslandtrust.org/volunteer](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/volunteer) or email ACRES Outreach Manager Reena Ramos at rmos@acreslandtrust.org. For a more casual volunteer opportunity, join a workday on the preserves. Volunteer workdays are free and open to the public. Find events listed online at [acreslandtrust.org/events](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/events).



Making a Difference in Your Own Backyard

By Evan Hill

Each year, the ACRES stewardship crew conducts invasive species management on more than 260 acres. Most of the year, the field crew consists of two to three experienced staff members. From May to August, during the summer intern season, the field crew doubles. Although we may be most productive during summer, invasive species management is a year-round task at ACRES.

Mid-February through early April is the only time invasive species get a break from us. During the growing season, our crew's main mode of attack is foliar spraying, a precise application of a carefully measured herbicide mixed with water and sprayed on photosynthesising plant material. In the dormant season, we switch from foliar spraying to cut stem treatments. This method entails cutting invasive brush low to the ground and applying herbicide directly to the cut surface where it will be absorbed and taken to the root system. During early spring, sap flow changes directions and leaf development begins. At this stage there are no leaves yet to spray, and sap flow renders cut stem applications ineffective.

All of this may sound complicated and overwhelming when trying to manage over 7,300 acres. However, it is really quite simple: it only requires good attention to detail, and a strong commitment to improve the health of the land around you. All of this becomes easier if you are managing only a small section of overgrown fencerow, or the 20 acres of woods you own behind your house. In the Midwest, where many states are composed largely of private lands, it is important that owners of all properties, both large and small, are active stewards of the land around them. On the scale



that ACRES manages invasives, it is costly. But scaling that back to a fencerow, or even five acres behind your house, is inexpensive. Tackling invasives on a smaller scale is less daunting and can be done with tools you likely have in the garage or can find at the local hardware store.

Many invasive species we encounter in natural areas likely originated in someone's landscaping. Autumn olive, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, callery pear, burning bush and barberry are some of the more common invasive species you may encounter. You may recognize them from the landscaping around your home and neighborhood. Several native species/landscaping shrubs are great alternatives to these highly invasive landscaping plants. Consider replacing honeysuckle and autumn olive with redbud, flowering dogwood, witch hazel, hazelnut, ninebark, chokeberry or serviceberry. There is even a native alternative to burning bush. Eastern wahoo, our native euonymus species, is even more beautiful than the non-native variety. If you want to make a difference on your own property, native landscaping is a great place to start.

If you're interested in doing more, there are newly formed groups in your area that provide landowners with both a management plan and the knowledge to accomplish the goals set within the plan, free of charge. Such a group is the Indiana Invasives Initiative, which functions within the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM). If your property qualifies, you may be eligible for a cost-share program offered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Within this department, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a wide variety of programs offering financial incentives for invasive species management. ACRES also occasionally hosts invasive species workshops focusing on identification and appropriate treatment methods.

Stewardship in your own backyard not only improves the health of your own land but also helps limit the spread of invasives to the land around you—including, perhaps, the ACRES preserve down the road.

Join the stewardship crew for an invasive plant workshop on June 23. See page 12 for details.

Photo spread on pages 10-11: These side-by-side images of ACRES Black Swamp Audubon Sanctuary provide a perfect example of "nurturing growth." A controlled burn in spring reduced a field to a vast, empty plot. In just two months, new plant life emerged from the ash, filling the space with green grasses and colorful flowers. In the same way a controlled burn nurtures new life, your actions nurture growth at ACRES.



APRIL 2021



JUNE 2021

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2-3:30 pm

WELLS COUNTY | Acres Along the Wabash
182 S.E. SR 116, Bluffton, IN 46714

Celebrate National Trails Day with us as we hike along the bluffs of the Wabash River.



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER AUTHOR VISIT

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 15-16

Please join ACRES in welcoming Robin Wall Kimmerer to the area. See details on page 15.

CLEANUP AT HANGING ROCK

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 10:30-noon

WABASH COUNTY | Hanging Rock National Natural Landmark
4552 E. Hanging Rock Road, Lagro, IN 46941

Help us keep this preserve healthy and beautiful! Gloves, bags, visibility vests and light snacks provided.

ACRES INVASIVE PLANT I.D. & MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 5-7:30 pm

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

Join the stewardship team for an in-depth look at identifying the many non-native invasive plant species present in northeastern Indiana. Learn about the methods used to eradicate these invasive plants and how you can manage your own property.

Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by June 21.



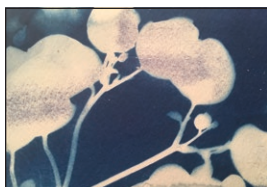
ART WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Get creative with local artist Erin Patton-McFarren who specializes in experimental cyanotypes. Using sunlight and parts of nature, create your own unique cyanotype print. Learn different techniques and take home your work after the event.

All supplies included. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by July 8.



NEW MEMBER OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1-2:30 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Are you new to ACRES? *Welcome!* Meet other new members and longtime volunteers while learning how your membership protects land. Hear ACRES' history and 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.

SUNDAE SAUNTER

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 10 am

LAGRANGE COUNTY | Fawn River Nature Preserve
just west of 10100 E. 800 N, Orland, IN 46776

Take a stroll through the forested trails and enjoy views of Fawn River. Afterwards, join us for a "treat-yourself" ice cream stop at Sweet Summers in Orland, IN.

BAT RESEARCH PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 5:30 pm

ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

"Hang" with Dr. Bergeson as we chat about bat research taking place in northeastern Indiana, including at a few ACRES preserves. Learn about native bat species, observe the research equipment and explore why these flying critters are so important.

Presented by Dr. Scott Bergeson from the Wildlife Lab at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by August 7.



CREEK STOMP XIV FOR MEMBERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 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. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by August 11.



LIFETIME MEMBERS COOKOUT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 6-8pm

ALLEN COUNTY | Tom & Jane Dustin Nature Preserve Events Barn
1992 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

ACRES would like to welcome lifetime members to a barn party to celebrate protecting local land. As all good barn parties require, we'll provide food, drinks and live music! Invitations to follow. (A life membership is a one-time donation of \$1,000 or more. Join, or upgrade your membership, at acreslandtrust.org/donate).

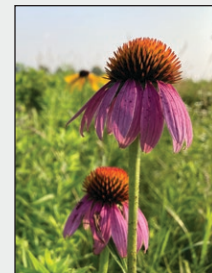
FIELD FLOWER HIKE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2 pm

HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Pehkokia Woods
1570 Flaxmill Road, Huntington, IN 46750

Enjoy the final blooms of the season along the trails, and learn to identify some of these native flowers and grasses that thrive in the sun.

Presented by Pehkokia Woods Preserve Steward John Laatsch. Space is limited. RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by August 19.



BEYOND MEMBERSHIP



Your membership helps ACRES protect land, steward preserves and provide free and low-cost programs and events throughout the year. Have you ever wondered what more you can do to help?

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Make a gift to the ACRES fund at your local community foundation.
- Check with your employer to see if they provide a match to your ACRES donation.
- Set up a monthly or quarterly recurring donation.
- Include ACRES in your will. Please be sure to let us know so that you can be included as a member of the Acorn Society!
- Name ACRES as a beneficiary on an investment account or life insurance policy.

SERVICE

- Recreate responsibly by following preserve rules when you visit one of our trail systems. Encourage others to do the same.
- Give back to the land by participating in a volunteer workday.
- Work with ACRES staff to create a preserve workday for your friends, family or co-workers.
- Pick up litter at the next preserve you visit.
- Write a letter to your local legislator to tell them that protecting local land matters.



SHARE WITH OTHERS

- Bring a friend (or group of friends!) on your next preserve visit.
- Bring a guest to attend an ACRES event with you. (Yes! Please bring guests to member events.)
- Arrange for a member of ACRES staff to give a presentation to your service club, book club, garden club or religious group.
- Gift a membership to someone else.



Robin Wall Kimmerer

Please join ACRES in welcoming Robin Wall Kimmerer to the area June 15-16, 2022.



Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, professor and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, which has earned Kimmerer wide acclaim. Her first book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing, and her other work has appeared in *Orion*, *Whole Terrain* and numerous scientific journals.

As a writer and a scientist, Kimmerer is interested in restoring not only ecological communities, but also our relationships to land. She holds a B.S. in botany from State University of New York and an M.S. and Ph.D. in botany from the University of Wisconsin, and is the author of numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte ecology, traditional knowledge and restoration ecology. She lives on an old farm in upstate New York, tending gardens both cultivated and wild.

FUNDRAISING RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 6:30–8:30 pm

The Conservatory at Joseph Decuis
191 N. Main Street, Roanoke, IN 46783

This reception gives guests the opportunity to chat with Robin in a cozy setting. Tickets are \$100 per person with all proceeds benefiting ACRES mission to protect local land. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided. Music by Ken Jehle. Space is limited. Tickets may be purchased at acreslandtrust.org/specialevents.

TREK & TALK FOR MEMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 10:30 am – noon

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

Members and their guests can join Robin for a walk through Wing Haven as part of ACRES 200-Year Ecological Reflection of this preserve. Space is limited. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

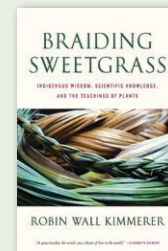
RSVP to hbarth@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273, ext. 105.

BOOK DISCUSSION AND SIGNING

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 6:30–8:30 pm

Allen County Public Library, Main Branch
900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Robin will talk about her work, take questions from the audience and be on hand to sign books after her presentation. Books will be available for purchase at the venue that evening. Tickets are \$20 per person with all proceeds benefiting ACRES mission to protect local land. Tickets may be purchased at acreslandtrust.org/specialevents.



announcements

Welcome, Summer Interns!

As always, there is a lot on the summer to-do list, beginning with invasive species management on 200 acres along Cedar Creek. Over the next three years, these 200 acres will be covered multiple times. Follow-up spraying will also be completed on areas covered last year. The last two years, ACRES has restored nearly 200 acres of native habitat across our service area, all of which will require periodic maintenance.

Visitor amenity improvements at Asherwood and ACRES along the Wabash will also begin, focusing on removing old boardwalks and bridges and replacing them where needed. Interns can also expect to accompany a botanist while conducting a species inventory on an ACRES preserve. To aid in their professional development, each intern will also be given the opportunity to shadow a professional in the field they are most interested in. Many thanks to the Olive B. Cole Foundation for its support.



Jude Hoversland *Purdue University*

I am currently a freshman at Purdue University, majoring in Wildlife and considering a minor in Aquatic Sciences. I chose ACRES for my summer internship because I feel ACRES will help me in my future of forestry and natural resources, and I think their mission is great. I lived most of my life surrounded by woods, so I've done a lot of hunting, fishing and enjoying what nature has to offer.



Christopher Shively *Trine University*

I am a sophomore studying at Trine University, looking at pursuing a degree in either accounting or forestry at Purdue University. I grew up farming, and I love being outdoors. I enjoy hiking, hunting and camping. I am excited to be joining the ACRES crew and working hard to take care of the environment and animal habitats.



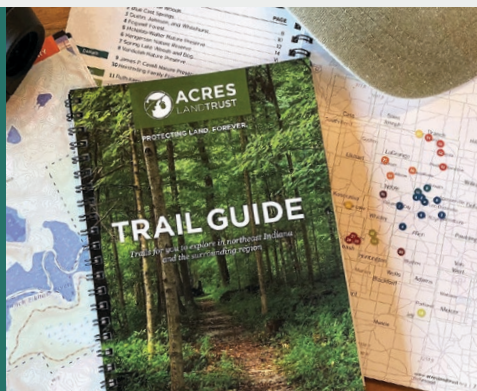
Tom Eyrych *Purdue University*

I am a junior currently majoring in Wildlife at Purdue University. I very much enjoy hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities. I am excited for my internship at ACRES as I believe it is an excellent opportunity to gain some hands-on experience in environmental management.

WE'VE UPDATED OUR TRAIL GUIDE!

The new, full-color guide includes updated maps, photos and descriptions of the trail systems at 31 ACRES preserves.

The new Trail Guide is available for purchase at the ACRES Land Trust office, or you can visit acreslandtrust.org/shop to order online or to see a list of retailers across our service area.



ACRES Stands Out with New Signs

You may have noticed that ACRES preserve signs have a new look! As part of our ongoing efforts to improve visitor amenities, we are replacing wooden preserve signs with aluminum signs.



In addition to being better able to withstand the elements over time, the new signs also increase visibility and strengthen the ACRES brand. The high-contrast, green-on-white lettering is much easier to see for those driving by. The new signs also prominently feature the ACRES logo. In the past, ACRES preserves have often been mistaken for state and county parks. It is important that the new signs are distinct, thus raising awareness of ACRES and our efforts to protect land throughout the region.

By 2025, we plan to have new signs posted at all ACRES preserves, including closed properties. Many people drive by land protected by ACRES without even realizing it. Adding new signs to these places will help raise awareness of the organization and the scope of our work in the region. With closed preserves outnumbering preserves open to the public, the new signs will also help reinforce that our primary mission is protecting land, not offering trails. Signs at closed preserves will include a "No Trespassing" warning.

At open preserves, we've installed two new signs at our trailheads. The first sign features eye-catching and easy-to-understand graphic icons to illustrate preserve rules. As part of ACRES commitment to protect the land we own, we want to encourage visitors to help us keep these habitats undisturbed.

We also added an exit sign that visitors will see as they leave the preserve, a sign asking: "Did you enjoy your visit? Please donate to help protect this place and many more like it" along with a QR code to donate. Many people don't realize that ACRES trails are made possible by our members. This new sign aims to change that. We're excited to deliver these messages to visitors after they've just been inspired by a great visit!



Save The Date
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

ACRES HEADQUARTERS GRAND REOPENING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1-3 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

After over a year of work to improve our headquarters, we are finally finished and ready to invite you to celebrate!

Join us at this open-house style celebration as we appreciate the new improvements. Grab a drink and snack, chat with fellow ACRES folk and explore the campus additions.



Art Hammer Barn

Walk through the maintenance barn with the stewardship crew. This barn helps ACRES care for the land by protecting tools and equipment and offering a space for the stewardship crew to work.

Accessible trail and Cedar Creek observation deck

Hike on the quarter mile accessible trail, and enjoy the forested ravine of the Cedar Creek Corridor from the observation deck.



Improved lane access and new signs

Drive up the improved driveway, and see if you can spot the new signs, additional parking and accessible parking.

Office renovations and native landscaping

Stroll through the office with staff, checking out the accessible bathrooms, new office spaces and beautiful nature mural. Observe the blooming native gardens in front of the office, and shortgrass prairie along the Art Hammer Barn.

Thank you for helping us reach our Capital Campaign goal and making these improvements possible!

ACRES Board of Directors and committee members
Asherwood Maple Syrup Tasting event volunteers
Dave Brumm
Office maintenance & special projects
Donna Burns-Stucker
Donating coffee beans
Janet Canino
Leading a spring cleanup at James P. Covell Nature Preserve
Laura Colpitts
Office support
Patrick Ewing
Donating bird seed
Chris Fairfield, Mary Anna Feitler, Bob Palmer and Carol Spallone
Archive projects
Carol & C. B. Hathaway
Donating garden trowels
Tedra Hemingway
Donating copy paper
Ford Hudson
Donating ground coffee and bottled water

Eric Maginn
Retiring from stewarding the trails at Fawn River
Erin McKeever
New Member Open House volunteer
Michael Newburg and Wyatt Snow, Boy Scout Troop 125 of Angola, IN
Volunteering at Wing Haven
The Papers, Inc.
Tour by Rodger, Tina and Vicki
Jarrid Spicer Photography
Discounting drone video footage
Spring Cleanup Volunteers at James P. Covell Nature Preserve and Pehkokia Woods
Spring Quarterly assembly and distribution volunteers
Julie Wall
Leading an art workshop for members
Woodburn Lions Club
Hosting an ACRES presentation
Volunteer Preserve Stewards, Caretakers, Trail Monitors

wish list

To order from ACRES Amazon Wish List, visit acreslandtrust.org/wishlist

Bird seed and suet blocks
Bottled water
Kestrel 3550FW Fire Weather Meter (new or gently used)
Lawn tractor (gently used)

Litter/trash grabbers
Office Depot gift cards
Paper towels
Paper plates

DIRECTORS: Dawn Ritchie, President; Joe Conrad, Vice President; Wayne Shive, Vice President; Mark Maffey, Secretary; Veronica Mertz, Treasurer; John Caffray; Janet Canino; Dan Ernst; Bob Hake; Brittany Hall; Jill Noyes; Rob Parker; Kidane Amare Sarko; Carly Thompson; Terry Thornsby; Chris Fairfield, Recording Secretary

STAFF: Jason Kissel, Executive Director; Jenna Bair, Stewardship Assistant; Heather Barth, Advancement Director; Bridgett Hernandez, Communications Manager; Evan Hill, Stewardship Director; Gavin King, Stewardship Assistant; Natasha Manor, Office Manager; Reena Ramos, Outreach Manager; Ben Taylor, Contract and Project Manager

ACRES Quarterly: Carol Roberts, Editor | Published by ACRES, Inc., at 1802 Chapman Road, PO Box 665, Huntertown, 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

“The trees act not as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don’t yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to all of us. We can starve together or feast together.”

— ROBIN WALL KIMMERER, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* (2013).



ACRES
LAND TRUST

acreslandtrust.org