

THE ACRES QUARTERLY

Fall 2022 | Vol. 61 - No. 3



ACRES
LANDTRUST

A Closer Look at Grass Lake

Headquarters Improvements Complete!

Wading into Ropchan Memorial's Bog

*Retiring Trails: Mary Thornton and Bock
Nature Preserves*

Next Level Conservation Trust

Dear Members,

Rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals are frequently documented on the places you've protected through ACRES. We get justifiably excited about these observations. They confirm that one of the reasons for preserving land—providing habitat—is being achieved.

I find comfort in knowing that our discovering these species didn't make them more rare or special: our observation doesn't elevate their importance or increase their viability. A plant or animal goes through its life cycle because it has a suitable place to do so, in a place with fewer disturbances than most. Observation by humans isn't required for its survival.

However, our observation does reinforce the value of the rare act of preserving land and everything on it. Land preservation and learning about the plants and animals that live on these lands opens us to what these animals and plants who live there need...opens us to learning how their lives are uniquely different from ours, that their lives are not about us at all.

I often remind people that ACRES "closed" properties are closed to only one species: humans. The absence of our one species helps thousands of other species thrive.

That we'll never see or be aware of most of the benefits of preserving land, now or in the future, is motivating to me because the little we do know is thrilling.

Celebrate the plants and creatures and their interactions that we know, dream of and read about, yet may not be aware of on our local lands. Your support of ACRES does more than you know—perhaps even more than you can dream of!

Sincerely,



Jason Kissel
jkissel@acreslandtrust.org
260-637-2273 ext. 102

Cover photo by Adam Balzer: A juvenile Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake coils among vegetation at Grass Lake in LaGrange County, Indiana. This closed preserve is strictly set aside as a nature sanctuary and for scientific study. The juvenile snake suggests the presence of a breeding population of the species, which is listed as endangered in the state of Indiana. Learn more about the species at Grass Lake and the preserve's unique natural system on page 4.

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

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from Anonymous

A Closer Look at GRASS LAKE

By Bridgett Hernandez

Since acquiring Grass Lake in 2018, ACRES has learned about several rare and endangered species living—and thriving—here at one of our most unique nature preserves. To better understand what makes this LaGrange County property unlike anywhere else in the state of Indiana, ACRES Communications Manager Bridgett Hernandez reached out to two botanists to learn more about the natural systems present here.

Grass Lake is a closed preserve, strictly set aside as a nature sanctuary and scientific study, so I was excited about the opportunity to join staff from ACRES and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo for a site visit in summer 2021. My job that day was to document the construction of a new Motus wildlife tracking tower, part of a worldwide project to study the movement and migration of small animals.

While there, I had some time to explore. Hoping to spot one of the property's carnivorous pitcher plants, I stepped gingerly through the low vegetation, listening carefully for the warning rattle of an Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.

While I saw neither pitcher plants nor snakes that day, I did spot dragonflies, and irises in bloom. Scanning the landscape, my untrained eye couldn't see what was remarkable about Grass Lake. On that hot, still June day, a cloudy sky reflected on the surface of the small "lake" which looked more like a pond to me. A flat grassland surrounding the lake buzzed with insects. I couldn't help but think: "This is one of ACRES' most unusual preserves?"

Pitcher plants bloom at Grass Lake. The carnivorous plants trap insects in rainwater-filled traps low to the ground. The flowers grow high above the foliage so pollinators don't become prey.



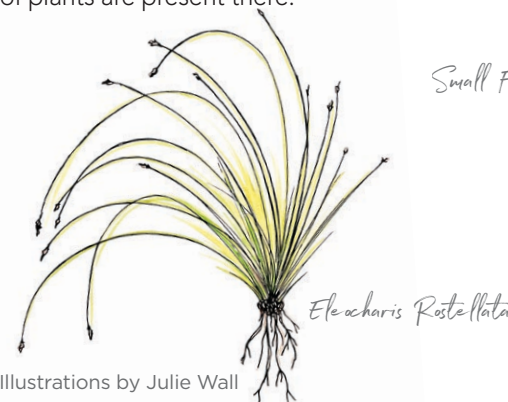
To learn more, I reached out to two botanists very familiar with the property: Scott Namestnik and Adam Balzer.

FROM THE GROUND UP

To begin to understand what makes Grass Lake so special, one must look straight down. The soil here is an ash-colored, crumbly mixture of clay and lime called marl. It's littered with invertebrate shells belonging to snails and mussels. Marl-bottom lakes occur only in the northern portion of the state, and most marl deposits are still underwater. A marl flat is created when a lake is drained by humans or by natural process.

At Grass Lake, the whole area was once covered in water. What remains today is a small lake surrounded by the largest marl flat in the state of Indiana.

"When I first went out to the site, I was blown away by the expansiveness of that marl flat," said botanist Scott Namestnik, who surveyed the property for ACRES to find out what kind of plants are present there.



Illustrations by Julie Wall

Small Fringed Gentian



ACRES Land Trust 5



Wicket spike rush grows at Grass Lake.

Over the course of three site visits, Namestnik covered the 102-acre property in a zigzag pattern, recording the plants he saw using six-letter abbreviations and mapping out the preserve's micro communities.

He quickly observed that the marl flat is filled with high quality plants like the wicket spike rush, a sedge with a unique growth form. It starts upright, and as it matures, its stem gets longer and longer until it flops over and roots at its tip, forming a wicket.

As you walk through the marl flat, the plant makes a distinct sound underfoot.

"You hear it before you see it," Namestnik explained.

Along with many other species at Grass Lake, the wicket spike rush has a high conservation value, meaning it is restricted to remnant natural communities and does not grow in areas degraded by humans.

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Although there's not a lot of diversity among plants growing on the marl flat (within a one square meter quadrat, you might find seven species), the fen at Grass Lake abounds in diversity. The habitat is a portion of the marl flat that is covered in a layer of peat, which constantly has water running through it. This high-nutrient system supports a variety of wetland and prairie species. One square meter quadrat may contain up to 50 species!

Diverse natural communities at Grass Lake also support a variety of wildlife species, including several rare and endangered species. While working with a crew from Cardno doing invasive species removal on the property, botanist Adam Balzer has visited the site regularly over the past four years with herpetologist Brock Struecker. In the course of this work, Balzer has also been documenting wildlife and plants at the preserve.

He has spotted 21 species of reptiles and amphibians, including six species listed as state endangered, federally threatened and of state special concern.

"These have been chance encounters, looking through binoculars hoping to see something different than a painted turtle," he said.

One of Balzer's most exciting discoveries: finding a Kirtland's snake. This reclusive species is listed as state endangered. Unfortunately, it was dead and looked like it might have been attacked by another snake.

Balzer was also excited to find a juvenile Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, a species that's endangered in Indiana. Its discovery suggests the presence of a breeding population at Grass Lake.



PROTECTING GRASS LAKE

Grass Lake has remained largely undisturbed by humans since mining for sand, gravel and marl ceased about 30 years ago. That is unlikely to change under ACRES protection. That there are no plans to open trails at this closed preserve is largely to the benefit of the plants and animals thriving there.

Since my visit, I've often reflected on the fact that you don't have to visit a protected area to gain an appreciation for it and to want to protect it.

Knowing endangered species thrive on land protected by ACRES and our members is encouraging. But it also highlights the urgent need to acquire more natural areas: a great number of high-quality conservation areas across the region still need protection.

We can do more with your continued support. Please consider gifting a donation beyond your \$20 membership, or share ACRES with friends and family members by gifting a donation or passing on your copy of *ACRES Quarterly*. Together, we can ensure that more Grass Lake-quality natural areas get the protection they deserve.



The marl flat at Grass Lake is the largest known marl flat in the state of Indiana.

ACRES HEADQUARTERS



Headquarters IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE!

Thanks to your generous support, ACRES is pleased to announce the completion of its headquarters expansion at the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve!

The project took two years to complete and includes a newly-constructed maintenance barn, a new accessible trail and observation deck, improved lane access, new signs, accessibility improvements to the office and native landscaping. These improvements enable ACRES to better serve its mission to protect local land as well as those who make that mission possible.

The Art Hammer Barn houses supplies and heavy equipment necessary for stewarding the land ACRES members protect. These items were once stored in various locations across our 27-county service area, costing the organization time and money when coordinating field work. Today the ACRES stewardship team begins and ends their day in one location and operates much more efficiently and effectively now that their tools, supplies and equipment are well organized and safely stored. The barn also provides much-needed



workspace for making equipment repairs, light construction and storage for surplus seeds, signs and other items.

Visitors to the preserve can explore a 1/3-mile accessible trail made of crushed, packed limestone that is suitable for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers and other mobility devices. Additionally, an accessible observation deck situated on a cliff high above Cedar Creek provides the perfect spot to sit for a spell.

Improvements to the office provide a warmer welcome to all who visit with brand new accessible parking and restrooms and a custom wall mural and merchandise display by The Hedge artist Julie Wall. Additional renovations add workspace for staff and volunteers alike and new technology in the meeting space means meetings, presentations and gatherings continue to be hosted on site. New native landscaping is home to more than 1,000 flowering perennial plants, grasses and sedges, shrubs and trees.

Major contributors to this project include the Geoff & Josie Fox Family Foundation, Cairn Foundation, Lone Coyote Foundation, Fairfield's Rare Coins & Jewelry, Sledd Foundation, NIPSCO, AEP Foundation, Edward & Hildegard Schaefer Foundation, Hand Family Foundation, a generous Allen County couple and many other thoughtful donors. ACRES members, Board of Directors, committee members and volunteers also played a pivotal role in the success of this project.

Please join us on Saturday, September 10 from 1 to 3 pm to celebrate ACRES headquarters grand reopening! Details on page 12.

Photo spread on pages 10–11 by Thomas Sprunger: A trail winds through fall foliage at Marion's Woods in Angola, Indiana. This urban nature preserve protects 19.5 acres of mature woods dominated by oak, hickory and cherry. Have you ever wondered why leaves change color each fall? Join ACRES for a fall foliage hike October 20 to learn about the science behind the seasonal display. Details on page 13.



FALL HIKES & events

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



POISONOUS PLANT HIKE FOR MEMBERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1 pm
WABASH COUNTY | Asherwood
7496 W. SR 124, Wabash, IN 46992

Though we love our native plants, not all of them love us back. Take a walk with Carrie Vrabel and learn about the historical significance of some of our most toxic wild plants and how to identify them, including the plant famous for causing the death of Abraham Lincoln's mother. Vrabel is a wild food forager, state-certified wild mushroom identification expert and founder of Wild Edible Indiana.

Space is limited. To register, email outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 to by September 2.

ACRES HEADQUARTERS GRAND REOPENING

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

After over two years of work to improve our headquarters, we are finally finished and ready to invite you to celebrate! Explore the new campus additions in this open-house style celebration. Make sure to grab a cupcake, get a nature-themed face painting and visit our feathered friends from Soarin' Hawk.

SEED COLLECTION WORKDAYS

Help us harvest native seeds alongside fellow volunteers. The seeds will be used for upcoming restoration projects on other ACRES preserves. No prior experience necessary. Workdays will begin with a short introduction to plant identification and harvesting techniques. All equipment will be provided. Long pants and closed-toed shoes recommended.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 4-6 pm
HUNTINGTON COUNTY | Pehkokia Woods
1570 Flaxmill Road, Huntington, IN 46750

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4-6 pm
STEBEN COUNTY | Wing Haven
180 West 400 North, Angola, IN 46703

BOARDWALK REMOVAL WORKDAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 10 am-1 pm
LAGRANGE COUNTY | Stark Nature Preserve
Address available with RSVP

Join ACRES' stewardship team for a chance to visit a recently closed preserve in LaGrange county. We will work together to remove the once necessary boardwalks from this forested wetland. Come prepared with waterproof knee boots and protective gloves.

Space is limited. To register, email ehill@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 ext. 103 by September 15.

FALL STORY TIME HIKE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 10 am
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY | Wildwood
409 E. SR 14, Silver Lake, IN 46982

Join fellow families and enjoy a fall-themed children's book along the trails. In partnership with South Whitley Community Public Library.



FULL MOON HIKE FOR ACRES MEMBERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 8 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | Blue Cast Springs
21412 Bluecast Road, Woodburn, IN 46797

Take to the trails under the full moon and learn about the unique history of this preserve.

Space is limited. To register, email outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by October 6.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 12-1:30 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Barn
1992 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Volunteers, let ACRES staff serve you for a change! In gratitude for your service, share lunch, get to know other volunteers and learn how your combined contributions make ACRES run. Your time and talent protect land. We want to thank you!

RSVP to Reena Ramos at rramos@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 ext. 109 by October 3.



FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 4-6 pm
NOBLE COUNTY | Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest
1891 N. River Road W., Albion, IN 46701

ACRES Project Manager Ben Taylor will take you on an informative hike centered on the science behind the changing of the leaves: leaf senescence. Ben has a Forestry and Natural Resource background and assisted in studies centered on tree phenology during his time at Purdue University. Be prepared for potential wet conditions.

Space is limited. To register, email outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by October 18.



POPP OPEN HOUSE FOR MEMBERS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1-4 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | Emanuel M. Popp Nature Preserve
12129 Tonkel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Warm up at the campfire or take a hike through the forested trails at this preserve open only once a year to ACRES members. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

Presented by Popp caretaker Larry Biggerstaff.



BOOK DISCUSSION FOR ACRES MEMBERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1-2:30 pm
ALLEN COUNTY | ACRES Land Trust Office
1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Take time this fall to read *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. We will gather in the office to discuss our thoughts and takeaways from the book. Light snacks and refreshment provided.

Space is limited. To register, email outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by November 10.

NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY SWIFT HIKE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1-5 pm
STEBEN & LAGRANGE COUNTIES
Multiple locations

Fuel up your vehicles and join volunteer hike leaders Janelle and Larry for a caravan to three northern preserves. Meet and hike at Beechwood Preserve, then caravan to Ropchan Memorial Preserve and Fawn River Nature Preserve. Plan to hike 4 miles total, at a steady pace.

Space is limited. To register, email outreach@acreslandtrust.org or call 260-637-2273 by November 14.



Into the Thick of It Wading into Ropchan Memorial's Bog

By Reena Ramos

Each step into the bog meant a full commitment for leg muscles. It was like walking through brownie batter. Pausing to look up could mean a face full of sphagnum moss for those who didn't watch their footing.

I scanned the landscape of dark water with its clumps of lush plant life and floating mossy islands. Filtering through the canopy, patches of sunlight decorated delicate ferns and slender sedges with a golden glow. A bright serenade of bird songs contrasted with the sudden "plunks" of amphibious creatures abandoning air. Each step I took brought earthy scents of deciduous decay from pools of coffee-colored water.

The bog seemed a fantasy world carved in detail, left for whoever happened to stumble upon it. And stumble upon it we did, as the person next to me caught themselves on a log hidden in the depths of the murky water.



I turned to look at the intrepid crew I had joined for the day, a crew now knee-deep in muck, always watching for our primary foe: poison sumac.

A bog has an impressive ability to humble even the most experienced explorer.

When a patch of plants caught someone's eye, the resulting commotion drew us together to observe the little white flowers of an American shinleaf. Quite a find! The state of Indiana lists the plant as "rare." A man in a brimmed outdoor hat grabbed a worn yellow notebook and jotted down "*Pyrola americana*."

And our visit's purpose? Why, in balmy 90-degree weather, were we trudging through this wetland looking for wildflowers and the like?

Importance of a survey

Let's rewind this story back to my arrival. I had pulled into the parking lot of Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve, located in Steuben County. This 80-acre preserve was acquired by ACRES in 1973, and its trails are open to the public. However, that day we had permission to ditch the beaten path and explore uncharted terrain. (I should say "not recently" charted terrain. The last time a botanical survey was conducted at Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve was 1983, nearly 40 years ago.)

"This preserve possesses unique features which usually are home to more conservative plants. Although the 1980s species list on file shed some light on plant communities within the property, it was not providing the full picture," explained ACRES Land Stewardship Director Evan Hill.

I tightened my backpack as the ACRES crew (Stewardship Assistants Gavin King and Jenna Bair, Project Manager Ben Taylor and three interns), shimmied into waterproof waders and doused themselves in insect repellent. At the trailhead I greeted Nathanael J. Pilla, a smiling, brimmed-hat botanist from Orbis Environmental Consulting whom ACRES had commissioned to complete a new botanical survey of Ropchan Memorial.

A botanical survey is an inventory of what is growing in a specific space at a specific time. A tool used to understand the conditions and habits of a site, this survey can influence future research, monitoring or management practices. For example, we can identify which non-native invasive plants need to be managed, and whether there are rare, threatened or endangered plants to monitor.

"Identifying what a site has in terms of biodiversity is one of the first steps in determining how to best manage the property," Hill said.

Botanical surveys involve finding someone well-versed in plants, often a professional botanist, then setting them loose with a notebook. The botanist will scour the site, cataloging every plant, marking abundance and location. When they return (covered in battle scars, burrs and bug bites), the notebook will contain a list of plant species observed. (continued on page 16)





RETIRING TRAILS



Over 60 Years of Dedication and Trust

By Chris Fairfield

Refreshing our knowledge

Before our excursion, I looked at the 1983 survey, a typewritten list of plant names. This original survey aided ACRES for several years, allowing us a glimpse into the preserve and influencing our interactions. However, like all living things, habitats may shift as our earth changes.

Similar in purpose to medical physicals, regular surveys keep us informed about possible changes occurring on a preserve. A comparison of botanical surveys may reveal what changes occurred where, and from that information, we can explore possibilities as to why.

“Ideally we would have botanical inventories completed at every ACRES property. We are currently playing catch-up on these inventories, focusing now on properties that possess more unusual systems. Our goal is to conduct these surveys on a few properties each year,” Hill said.

By the end of the year 2022, two botanical surveys will have been conducted on Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve, one during July’s growing season, and another in September. Along with helping us understand what is currently growing, a new survey can expose differences in the plant community across time. How have plants here changed? Have our restoration efforts (or, in contrast, local development) influenced the plant communities? What can we do to better care for and/or monitor the land?

For a botanical survey to occur at a preserve after 40 years is an exciting experience that wouldn’t be possible without ACRES and our members. Because Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve will be forever protected in its natural state, future surveys can be conducted, and we can continue to compare, monitor and thus make the best stewardship decisions.

Since 1960, ACRES Land Trust has worked hand-in-hand with private landowners to permanently protect 7,300 acres of local land. ACRES understands a landowner’s connections to their property do not end with a land transfer: the memories and meanings they hold remain long after the deed changes hands. The Lembergers and the Bocks are two families that entrusted ACRES with their land and a part of their legacy.

Robin and Mary Lemberger purchased the Mary Thornton Nature Preserve, named for Mary’s mother, in Wabash County in 1991. They cared for the 15-acre woods. They built a home on the property and provided a haven for the abundant wildlife. At a Tippecanoe Audubon Society meeting, they learned about and joined ACRES Land Trust. They were impressed with ACRES focus on geologically significant features such as Hanging Rock and Seven Pillars. So in 2008, when Robin and Mary decided to move from the area, their first option was to call ACRES. ACRES agreed to include the woods in its forever care. The Lembergers remember: “We were thrilled that the woods and wildlife we had come to love would be safe.”

The Bock Nature Preserve had been in Jane Bock’s family for years. Its 47 acres in Kosciusko County had served as a working farm. As time went on, Carl and Jane Bock cared for the woods containing blue ash trees, abundant wildflowers and two kettle ponds. They established a grassland prairie on the retired farm field. Later, living out of state, the Bocks decided to search out a local caretaker for the family land. Jane Bock once reflected, “Making a blind phone call to something called ACRES is one of the wisest acts of my life.” In 2007, ACRES gladly agreed to begin stewarding the Bocks’ land in perpetuity. The land continues to support the thriving woodland, pond and prairie habitat for the benefit of all.

Both trail systems will close to the public December 31, 2022, as part of ACRES’ comprehensive plan to update visitor amenities at our nature preserves. Learn more at acreslandtrust.org/raisingourstandards.

Next Level Conservation Trust

Since 1992 the State of Indiana has provided funding to acquire land for conservation purposes. Originally called the Indiana Heritage Trust, the fund has since been renamed the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust. The primary funding comes from sales of the environmental license plates. ACRES has received millions of dollars from this fund over the years, so your purchase of these plates is yet another way to support ACRES and other conservation landowners in Indiana.

This spring the state announced a new funding source for land conservation — the Next Level Conservation Trust, funded by the American Recovery Act. This \$25 million fund will provide a great boost to the acquisition projects of ACRES, other land trusts, DNR and local park departments.

Be sure to thank your elected state officials for supporting the creation of this fund and encourage them to continue supporting conservation funding.



What's even more exciting than spotting a state endangered turtle at an ACRES preserve? Spotting that turtle laying eggs!

ACRES Stewardship Assistant Jenna Bair captured these photos of a state-endangered Blanding's turtle laying eggs at a closed property in the Cedar Creek Corridor.

The turtle's distinguishing characteristics include a yellow chin and throat and a smooth, black shell with light flecks and streaks. Females lay their eggs around June, and may travel over a half a mile to find a satisfactory nesting site. Using her back legs, the female constructs a hole into which she deposits six to 21 elliptical eggs. Hatchlings emerge around August or early September.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, fragmentation and loss of wetland habitats has led to the Blanding's turtle's population decline. Your ACRES membership helps this species and many more by supporting the protection of natural areas, including over 1,000 acres in the Cedar Creek Corridor. Thank you!



SPECIAL thanks

Andrews-Dallas Township Public Library
Partnering on reading and craft event
ACRES Board of Directors and Committee Members
Archive project volunteers:
Chris Fairfield, Mary Anna Feitler, Bob Palmer, Carol Spallone
Adam Balzer
Interview for *Quarterly* article
Greg Batten
Leading ACRES staff and interns on a hike at Ruth Kern Woodland Preserve
Berne Rotary, Salamonie Senior Luncheon and Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club
Hosting ACRES presentations
Tim Brauch
Hike leader for National Trails Day
Dave Brumm
Office maintenance and special projects
Deck construction volunteers
Dan Ernst
Native garden landscape design and plant selection
Daryl & Carolyn Erwin
DeWalt hammer drill
Steve Etheridge
Booths and event volunteer
Kristie Fuller
2009 John Deere 620 Gator
Garlic Mustard Workday volunteers
Hanging Rock cleanup volunteers

Chris Herrell
Hosting ACRES for a tour of Pike Lumber Company
Jeri Kornegay
Event coordinating
Jeri Kornegay & Lyn Winchell
Toilet paper and event snacks
Julia Lawson
Donating plants
Matt Mabis
200-Year Ecological Reflections artist
Scott Namestnik
Interview for *Quarterly* article
Native Garden Workday volunteers
Shirley Needham
Hosting ACRES for a site visit
Office support volunteers: Louise Pomeroy, Laura Colpitts, Sue Diefenbach
Louise Pomeroy and Lyn Winchell
Stuffing gift envelopes in new trail guides
Quarterly assembly and distribution volunteers
Summer stewardship interns: Tom Eyrich, Jude Hoversland, Christopher Shively
Christy Thomson
Leading a forest bathing hike
Volunteer preserve stewards, caretakers and trail monitors
Volunteers who helped clear the trails at Fogwell Forest after June's severe wind storm downed several trees
Wildflower hike leaders: Dave Hicks, John J. Smith, Tony Fleming

wish list

To order from ACRES Amazon Wish List, visit [acreslandtrust.org/wishlist](https://www.acreslandtrust.org/wishlist)

ACRES memberships	Insect repellent
Your stories and photos	Large trash bags (30-50 gallon sizes)
Coffee	Mike's Carwash gift certificates
Forever postage stamps	
Individually-wrapped snacks that won't melt in the heat	

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In October the great restlessness came, the restlessness of birds before migration...The woods were as restless as the birds.

I stood under the 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



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