

ACRES Land Trust 2009 Accomplishments Summary

Education & Outreach

- √ Conducted over 60 environmental education programs
- √ Volunteer Appreciation dinner for over 60 active volunteers
- √ Redesigned website launched and build of an online store for January 2010 launch
- √ Acoustic concert at Robb Hidden Canyon
- √ Booth at Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show attracting 1,000 visitors
- √ Production of Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall *Quarterly* – 30,000 distributed
- √ Production of Corporate Opportunities 2009 presentation
- √ Highly successful Annual Dinner meeting and lecture featuring Dr. Richard Louv with attendance over 500 individuals.
- √ The 5th Annual Wine Tasting & Photography Exhibit was held at the Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery downtown Fort Wayne which drew a crowd of 150 people. 62 local and regional photographers competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards.
- √ Over 25,000* visitors attended education programs and hiked ACRES preserves in 2009. (* - voluntary sign in at ACRES preserves, actual number is approximately 3 times that amount).

Land Acquisition

- √ Hanging Rock Nature Preserve in Wabash County – 5 acres
- √ Orion Woods in Allen County – 30 acres
- √ Shure Acre Nature Preserve in Allen County – 1 significant acre
- √ Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary addition in Allen County – 54 acres

*Secured a signed Purchase Agreement for 97.14 acres in Huntington County

Land Management

- √ Implemented prescribe burns on 20 acres to aid warm season grassland communities.
- √ Maintained trails, parking areas, bridges, boardwalks, visitor amenities and monitored 72 nature preserves, totaling over 4,550 acres.
- √ Two Eagle Scout projects completed on ACRES preserves
- √ Opened 2 nature preserves to the public: Stark Nature Preserve in LaGrange County and Badger Nature Preserve in Noble County
- √ Removed 20 acres of invasive species for an Oak Savanna restoration
- √ Planted 10,000 tree saplings at Brammall Nature Preserve in Steuben County
- √ Obtained State Dedicated designation for Wildwood Nature Preserve in Kosciusko County

Fund Development

Grants

- √ ACRES members responded to a year end solicitation asking for \$50. for the 50th anniversary to the tune of \$20,000.
- √ Received grant award from NIPSCO; Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation; English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation; and Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation for 2009 operating support.
- √ Received a matching grant from Kosciusko County Community Foundation for ACRES endowment fund.
- √ Received grant assistance from Kosciusko County REMC for the Bio Blitz at Wildwood.
- √ ACRES Board Fund Development Committee instituted a corporate membership drive and assisted with solicitation for the 50th anniversary events and land acquisition projects.
- √ Received a grant from Ropchan Foundation for an addition to Mud Lake Preserve.
- √ Received a grant from the Edward & Ione Auer Foundation for Allen County 50th anniversary Preserve Performance and Artology.
- √ Received grant award from Wabash County Community Foundation for Hanging Rock visitor amenities.
- √ Received a matching grant award from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation for the ACRES endowment fund.
- √ Received a grant award from the Cole Foundation for 2 work study interns
- √ Received grant awards from Indiana and Michigan Power; M.E.Raker Foundation; the Rolland Foundation; D.Humphrey; Mary Scrogam for the Annual Dinner and author/speaker Richard Louv.
- √ Presented a successful Wine Tasting and Nature Photography show with sponsorships from Ziegler Window Coverings; Indiana & Michigan Power, Lake City Bank, and the Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation.
- √ Secured over 20 partners for the Richard Louv presentation and follow up discussion.
- √ Achieved success with the fund drive to acquire 55 acres as part of the Cedar Creek Corridor Capital Campaign.
- √ Secured funding for the 50th anniversary Artology exhibit from the Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation, the Orion Foundation, the Lupke Foundation, the Edward and Ione Auer Foundation, Diane Humphrey and Swiss Re.

Marketing

ACRES hired a part time professional event planner and marketing person to assist ACRES with the planning and implementation of the 50th anniversary special events resulting in the largest ever attended annual dinner and lecture and largest ever attended Wine Tasting and Photography Show.

Membership Development

- √ 300 new members were added
- √ Kick off of corporate/business membership and sponsorship drive at a luncheon sponsored by Rick Phillips. One hundred business and corporations initially targeted for solicitation. By year-end ACRES had 15 new Corporate members.

Board Development

- √ The Board participated in a strategic planning retreat to outline strategies to accomplish the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan. Board members volunteered for newly formed committees as well as existing ones.
- √ Began initiative to collectively generate \$50,000 of revenue stream in recognition of our 50th anniversary

Service Learning

ACRES facilitated and supervised three interns for service learning projects.