

Summer 2005

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WLL welcomes new Council members **Roger Boots**, LaGrange County Commissioner; **Richard Strayer**, representing LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District; and **Jack Herendeen**, Noble County Commissioner.

Special thanks to outgoing Council members **Nancy Brown**, **Mark Pankop** and **Phillip Curtis**. ♦

New Rule 5/13 Workshops! Making the Grade; Stormwater Pollution Prevention During and After Construction workshops are planned for Tuesday, June 28 at the World War II Museum, Auburn, IN and Wednesday, June 29 at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen, IN. The goal of the workshop is to reduce the confusion associated with some of the elements of Indiana Rules 5 & 13. Anyone involved in land use changes--contractors, developers and builders--should attend this workshop.

Topics to be covered include:

- *Rule 5 & 13 Updates
- *Pumping operations
- *Post construction practices
- *Site Inspections/Routine Maintenance on-site
- *Materials handling and spill prevention
- *Top 10 Products and Practices

Exhibitors will be available to provide the latest information and materials related to stormwater and erosion control.

The half-day program is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The workshop is **free**. **Pre-registration is recommended, no later than June 17**, to ensure an adequate number of materials. Register for Auburn site with **Allen Haynes**, DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District, allen-haynes@iaswcd.org or 260.925.3710, x3. Register for Goshen site with **Eric Kurtz**, Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District, Eric.Kurtz@IN.nacdnet.net or 574.533.3630, x3. ♦ *Submitted by Karen Mackowiak, Rule 5/13 Committee*

Special thanks go to the volunteers, contributors and sponsors for their donations:

- Andrew Kennedy * Bill Latz * Bill Word * Bob McCormick * Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, Inc. * Chris Craft * Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. * Commonwealth Biomonitoring, Inc.* DeKalb County Commissioners * DeKalb County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District * Elkhart County Commissioners * Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District * Glenn Pratt * Hoosier Environmental Council * Indiana Department of Environmental Management * Joe Draper * Joe Tutterrow * John Law * Josh Goode * Kerry Daily * LaGrange County Commissioners * LaGrange County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District * Mary Jane Slaton * MulchPlus, LLC * Noble County Commissioners * Noble County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * Noble County Soil and Water Conservation District * Paul Federspiel * Shane McBurnett * Steuben County Commissioners * Steuben County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District * St. Joseph River Basin Commission * St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative * The Nature Conservancy * Triad Engineering, Inc* V3 Consultants * Whitley County Commissioners * Whitley County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service * Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District *





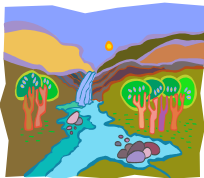
Master Naturalist program

from a participant's point of view. We received lots of great feedback from the participants, including:

"Great instructors, friendly classmates, lots of great supplementary info * It was fun * Lots to take away and share with others * Broad range of topics * Learned many facts to back up the argument that Indiana is not just a big flat corn field, it is actually very diverse and beautiful when you know what you are looking at."

The students have been able to use their new-found knowledge to: "Teach others * Explain insects and wildflowers with my lake association * Identify flowers in my woods * Bird with small children."

The instructors and leaders, some are professors, volunteered their time to us and are intensely interested in the fields of study. Already, the class has planned a July 23 get together to discuss their experiences in the field and how to become better Master Naturalists. We appreciated the special help from **Kate Ferguson, Ricky Kemery** and **Kathy Latz** in making this available to us. ♦



The Drain Game Workshop drew a crowd of over 100 people, looking for answers on who is responsible for controlling drainage and innovative projects. The

audience included contractors, county surveyors, environmental groups, farmers, landowners, and local & state agencies. There were comments from the participants about how great it was that this type of workshop was being offered, as people were "hungry" for this information.

Surveys listed additional topics for future workshops, such as innovative drain maintenance practices, case studies on successes & failures, environmentally friendly alternatives, and funding opportunities. Other suggestions included future discussions on legal responsibilities, roles & responsibilities of private & public entities, and incorporating planning & zoning into dealing with drainage issues. The Drainage committee has begun planning a follow up workshop for 2006 to address the input from the evaluations. ♦

Agritourism is a unique opportunity to provide farmers and rural communities greater economic viability while attracting tourists to Indiana and promoting this great state.



A NEW educational series of regional **Agritourism Opportunities for Indiana Farms & Rural Communities** workshops has been developed and will be held throughout Indiana:

- * Southeast Area -- June 8, 2005 @ Huber Orchard & Winery, Starlight
- * Northwest Area -- June 21, 2005 @ County Line Orchard, Hobart
- * Northeast Area -- July 18, 2005 @ McClure's Tate Orchard & Apple Dumpling Inn, Peru
- * South Central -- August 3, 2005 @ Freeman Family Farms, Bloomington
- * West Central -- August 25, 2005 @ White Violet Center for Eco Justice, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
- * East Central -- September 28, 2005 @ Ratcliff Tree Farm, near Springport

Some topics include resources available to assist rural entrepreneurs, developing business plans, introduction to the NxLevel Small Business Development Training program and much, much more. Contact Four Rivers RC&D, 812.354.6808, x5 or rivers4@sigeconet.net, for registration or additional information. Cost is \$25 and registration deadlines are 1-week prior to each workshop.

A new web site, www.agritourismworld.com, offers help for beginning or established farms to improve their marketing and internet presence. Agritourism World is a national internet directory for agritourism farms that provides a comprehensive search engine to help tourists locate agritourism farms. Woodland-Lakes encourages everyone to attend and support opportunities to expand agritourism efforts and bring attention to northeast Indiana. ♦



A Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Woodland and wildlife

owners from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan are invited to attend this day-long workshop. More details will be available in the fall newsletter. Be sure to mark your calendar now. ♦

Water Fact: Did you know that 1,000 square feet of roof or pavement can collect up to 600 gallons of water from 1 inch of rain?

Place a barrel or cistern under a downspout and use it to water plants or siphon off water for the garden. A garbage can is easily converted to a cistern by attaching a spigot and hose. A cover will keep out leaves and other contaminants. *From The Lake Michigan Federation's, www.lakemichigan.org, quarterly publication The Lake Effect Fall 2004 issue. ♦*



Value-Added Agriculture Revolving Loan Funds will become available to some northeast Indiana counties. On **February 3, 2005**, **Lt. Governor Becky Skillman**

announced the recipients of forty Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC) grants. More than \$6.2 million will be distributed to a wide variety of projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Indiana's rural counties.

Among the recipients of the grant is **Region III-A Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission**, located in Kendallville. Region III-A was awarded \$90,400 to set up a revolving loan fund for value-added agriculture projects. About \$80,000 of the award is expected to be used to directly fund eligible value-added agriculture proposals through 2006.

Pending the final revolving loan fund guidelines, two or three projects in Northeast Indiana may benefit through lower interest rates and subordinated debt. The projects will require some combination of equity and/or conventional financing.

A Loan Review Committee is being developed to implement the guidelines for the grant. Region III-A has invited Wood-Land-Lakes to appoint a representative to the Committee Board. **Hertha Meyer**, WLL Council member and Secretary, has volunteered for this position. Contact **Nate Cole** or **Dave Koenig** at 260.347.4714 for additional information. ♦

GREAT BIODIESEL NEWS!

Our Energy Committee has been working with fuel suppliers, school corporations, and City, County & State Departments of Transportation for the past two years to promote the sale and use of Soy Biodiesel fuel.



On February 1, 2005 **Brian Clayton**, NorthCentral energy manager in Goshen, announced that soy biodiesel is now available at NorthCentral Cooperative's diesel pumps. Pumps located at its EnergyPlus 24 stations in Angola, Fremont, and Goshen will provide B-2 diesel fuel, a 2% blend using soy.

A third Goshen fueling station will open in June with one pump offering B-20, using 20% soy. The fuel may be used in any engine that uses diesel fuel. Home heating oil that contains 2% soy is also available. Large orders can be hauled to farms and businesses in Steuben, Noble, LaGrange and DeKalb counties.

The benefits of using biodiesel fuel are many, including:

- * Provides extra lubricant for engines, extending the life of the engine
- * Decreases toxic emissions,
- * Pulls sulfur out of the diesel for cleaner-burning fuel, and
- * Helps out local farm economy by using Indiana soybeans.

The availability of the new 2 % fuel and home heating oil will result in North Central using 500,000 gallons of soy additive per year, which will use up 333,000 bushels of soybeans. This will contribute to both the local and national U.S. farm economy. ♦ *Submitted by Rudy Stegelmann, Energy Committee Chairman*

New Projects & Activities adopted at the April 2005 WLL Council meeting include:

- * Stormwater Workshops
- * Drain Game II Conference
- * DeKalb County Parks Initiative
- * Long Range Plan Update ♦



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All meetings of Wood-Land-Lakes serving DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley counties are open to the public. Anyone who wishes to attend will be welcome. For assistance with new projects, please contact a Council member to have your name and project placed on the agenda. Wood-Land-Lakes prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs or family status. 6.05

Upcoming 2005 Events

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| <p>JULY National Association of Conservation Districts' North 10-13 Central Regional Conference, Ft. Wayne, Greg Lake, 260.484.5848, x3 or www.nacdnet.org/meetings/NC</p> <p>16 Basic Stream Monitoring Training @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fish Creek Trail near Hamilton Lake, Aaron Wartenberg, 260.484.5848, x115 or arwartenberg@yahoo.com</p> <p>18 Education Committee Mtg. @ 9 a.m., Noble County Community Foundation, Ligonier, Julie Knudson, 260.925.3710, x3</p> <p>18 Agritourism Opportunities for IN Farms & Rural Communities Workshop @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., McClure's Tate Orchard & Apple Dumpling Inn, Peru, Four Rivers RC&D, 812.354.6808, x5 or rivers4@sigecom.net</p> <p>AUG 1 Indiana League of RC&D Councils Mtg., NRCS State Office, Indianapolis</p> | <p>9-11 Northeast IN Conservation Camp, Camp Whitley, Cost \$80, contact local SWCD office</p> <p>10-21 Indiana State Fair, Indiana State Fair Grounds, Indianapolis</p> <p>25 WLL Council Mtg. @ 4 p.m., Kendallville Public Library, 260.665.3211, x5</p> <p>27 Tour of Cressmore Prairie, Lake County, Sponsored by Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, DePauw, www.inpaws.org</p> <p>29 Indiana League of RC&D Councils Retreat @ 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., REMC office, Indianapolis</p> <p>SEPT 17 Landscape Design & Storm Water Management Workshop @ 9 - 11 a.m., Elmhurst, IL, Jennifer 260.799.5869 or jenniferhs@goshen.edu</p> |
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