

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D

welcomed 2 new Council Members. **Steve Provines**, representing DeKalb County SWCD, is interested in natural resources, grazing, and organic, sustainable, and biological agriculture.

We look forward to working with and learning more about new Council Member **Mike Dirig**, representing LaGrange County SWCD.

We appreciate the time and talents given by outgoing Council Member **Mark Diehm**.

Fall 2008

See Inside:



- ⇒ **E-85 Usage Results**
- ⇒ **Going Green on Fox Trail Farm**
- ⇒ **Area Plan Update**
- ⇒ **Share Your Harvest**
- ⇒ **New Email Address**
- ⇒ **Cornish Griffin Round Barn**
- ⇒ **National RC&D Week**
- ⇒ **Elkhart County Farm Protected**
- ⇒ **Thank You**
- ⇒ **Noble County Parks**

**** Attention Woodland Owners ****

Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop

Saturday, November 1, 2008

8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Prairie Heights High School (LaGrange County, Indiana)

Pre-registration required ~ \$30 per person before October 26 (\$40 after)

Forestry and Wildlife experts from Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan will be on hand to present a variety of topics and answer your questions at this unique workshop.

Session topics include:

- ~ Wildlife Harvest Management
- ~ Bats
- ~ Wild Turkeys
- ~ Invasive Plants
- ~ Lumber Grading & Scaling
- ~ Portable Sawmill Demonstration
- ~ Prairie Establishment, Management, & Benefits to Wildlife
- ~ Improving your Forest (Crop Tree Release, TSI, Intermediate cuts)
- ~ Intergenerational Transfer of Woodlands
- ~ Chainsaw Safety
- ~ Natural History of the Tri-State Region
- ~ Timber Markets & Economics
- ~ Tree Identification

Some sessions will be indoors and others will be outdoors. There will be an area of displays and other information, as well as a setting where you can talk with presenters, one on one, to answer your questions. The workshop includes lunch and a Woodland Management Resource CD. For more information contact: **Ohio State University Extension, Williams County, at 419.636.5608** or <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>

E-85 Usage Results

One reader who drives a 2006 Ford Taurus noted she uses E-85 locally in Steuben County, but when travelling, it is difficult to find gas stations who sell E-85. Another reader who drives a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado states that he gets better mileage by mixing 3/4 tank E-85 with 1/4 tank unleaded gas, as opposed to using E-85 alone. This allows him to still benefit from the lower E-85 prices without sacrificing mileage. He also notes that E-85 in Steuben County is considerably cheaper than in other counties. If you would like to participate in our informal E-85 usage survey, [contact the office](#).

Editors Notes: You can find gas stations selling E-85 gas at www.e85refueling.com (you can search by state or city).

You can now travel the first E-85 “Green Corridor” on I-65 from Gary, IN to Mobile, AL and have the ability to fill up at E-85 gas stations (near the interstate) the entire way. E-85 is already available close to the exits on I-69 (Angola, Auburn, Ft. Wayne, Gas City, Anderson, Indianapolis, and Greenwood) and US 31 (Elkhart and Kokomo), US 33 (Goshen), and St. Rd. 9 (LaGrange). You can travel from northeast Indiana to the Gulf of Mexico using only E-85 fuel.

Area Plan Update

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D’s 5-year Long Range Area Plan was approved by the Council at the August meeting. The Council held a retreat, lead by **Brian Campbell**, to seek input from Council Members and Sponsors. Input from the public was requested through the website, newsletters, and press releases. The updated plan includes a focus on renewable energy sources, capacity building, facilitation, and collaboration with regional rural community projects. The goals and objectives the Council wants to accomplish were based on the needs and opportunities of the area. The plan is the first SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Results oriented & Time-bound) plan to be submitted in Indiana.

Please note our new email address:
office@wood-land-lakes.org

Going Green on Fox Trail Farm

Members of the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council were treated to a tour of **Fox Trail Farm**, located in Noble County. Owner and Council member, **Mike McCoy**, has worked to rehabilitate the property and integrate alternative energy and sustainable practices.

Oxygen levels in the farm pond are managed by two aerators: one wind-powered and the other a rotary pump compressor, powered from either grid power or through a battery system charged by a solar array. The solar / battery system also provides power to a small cabin. Plans are in the works for a wind monitor.

The farm also includes a range of fruit trees, vegetable gardens, and alfalfa hay. Bee hives have been incorporated for pollination and the resulting honey is sold. A portion of the produce raised is donated to a local food bank.

Sustainable growing and farm management practices are used throughout the farm, such as buffer strips to limit and filter run off; extensive use of natural mulch to retain moisture; companion planting; and not using synthetic chemicals.

Contributed by **Brian Campbell**

Share Your Harvest

The **Community Harvest Food Bank** and **local food pantries** are asking farmers and local growers & gardeners to share some of their bountiful harvest with neighbors in need. Your donations will help provide fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to others. In August, a 3-4 acre plot of sweet corn was donated in DeKalb County. With fall hunting season coming up soon, make plans to donate a deer through **Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry**. They work with the **Community Harvest Food Bank** to make sure the venison is provided to local people who are not able to get as much protein in their diet. So far this year, 16 cows, 17 hogs, 291 chickens, and a buffalo have been donated. Help make a difference in others lives through your generosity and donations.

Note: The Cornish Griffin Round Barn is located at 2015 S. West Fox Lake Road, Angola, IN (Steuben County). We incorrectly reported (Whitley County) in our last newsletter.

National RC&D Week

Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council joins thousands of volunteers and community leaders across Indiana in observing "RC&D Week," September 21-27, 2008. Indiana currently has 10 councils serving 72 of its 92 counties. Each year, Indiana RC&D Councils complete over 100 projects, helping to address local issues.

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D was established in 1994, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by local citizens from **DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley Counties**. There was interest in bringing people together to find solutions to rural development issues.

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council is made up of representatives, chosen by each of the six county's **Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, and Extension Services**. Currently, **Jim Penick**, Council President, guides the group as they organize projects concerning natural resource management and improvement; land, water, and forest management; rural community development; land conservation; and education. **Penick** states, "We bring people together to identify needs and foster opportunities in northeast Indiana. We are volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources."

Thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors serving our communities, through the RC&D Councils. **YOU** are making a difference in the quality of life right here in your own backyard.

Elkhart County Farm Protected

Brooks Construction, near Goshen, protected about 90 acres of farmland with a conservation easement. Their goal is to keep commercial or industrial development and housing subdivisions from occurring on this land. About 80 acres of the farm are in corn and soybeans. The homestead was built in the 1880s and was part of the **Hershberger** family farm. The farm will remain an agricultural buffer between the industrial area to the north and other farms in the area.

Thank You

Wood-Land-Lakes is successful due to the support of Volunteers, Contributors and Sponsors. . . .

Individuals

Al Moore	Larry Mayers
Bob Ledgerwood	Lucy Miner
Brian Campbell	Mike Yoder
Dave Holloway	Paul Federspiel
Don Minter	Richard Ummel
Dona Hunter	Rick Eckert
Greg Hughes	Rick Meyer

In Memory of

Carolyn Saalfrank ~ from Kathy Latz

Businesses

TLA Signs
Vestil Manufacturing Corp.

Consider making a donation to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D in **Memory or Honor** of a friend or loved one. What better way to honor an outdoor, nature loving person than to contribute to an organization that will help improve the natural environment that he or she holds so dear! We will notify the honoree or family of your donation.

Noble County Parks

Earlier this year, a group of Noble County citizens met to discuss establishing a county parks department, as suggested in the new county comprehensive plan adopted in 2007. Monthly meetings have been lively, informative, and productive in determining the direction and type of entity best suited to accomplish this goal. Participants include: **elected county officials, city park department directors, ACRES, and local citizens**. **Kathy Latz**, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator, has done an excellent job facilitating the meetings.

As progress was made, the task force decided they needed an "umbrella organization" to help obtain grants and to serve as their financial administrators. The group requested, and was extended, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D's Council for support as the task force moves forward, in following state law, to establish an independent entity.

Contributed by Hertha Meyer

RC&D Council Members

Jim Penick, President **Greg Hughes**, Vice President
Brian Campbell, Secretary **Larry Mayers**, Treasurer

Barb Frymier **Janet Ordway**
Dick Haworth **Jenny Spitler**
Dwight Fish **John Hulewicz**
Gene Haskins **Kathy Adams**
Jack Herendeen **Lucy Miner**

Mike Dirig
Mike McCoy
Richard Taylor
Ron Smith
Steve Provines
Ted Gilliom

This newsletter is a publication of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, a not for profit organization. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Kathy Latz, Coordinator, at 260.665.3211, ext 5.

All meetings of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, 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 RC&D prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs or family status. 9.08

Upcoming Fall 2008 Events

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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NOVEMBER						
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23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Oct 1-18** World Wide Water Monitoring Month
- 3** Project WET / Healthy Water Healthy People Workshop, 8-4:30, Elkhart County Historical Museum, Elkhart, IN. Contact Nancy Brown at Elkhart County SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net
 - 9-12** Nature Photography Workshop 2008 at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. Contact 260.799.5869.
 - 16** "Porous Pavement - How is it Performing?" Webinar. For more information & viewing locations visit www.purdue.edu/intlap
 - 23** Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting, 4:00 pm Kendallville Public Library. Contact office at 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org
 - 30** Apollo Landfill Steering Committee Meeting, 1:30 pm at NISWMD, Ashley, IN. Contact Linda at 800.777.5462.

- Nov 1** Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop, 8-4 at Prairie Heights High School, LaGrange County. Contact 419.636.5608 or www.woodlandstewards.osu.edu
- 5** Project Wild & Project Learning Tree Training at the Rieth Center, Goshen, IN. Contact Nancy Brown at Elkhart County SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net
 - 14** Law of Easements: Legal Issues & Practical Considerations in Indiana Seminar, 8:30-4:30 in South Bend, IN. Contact Lorman Education Services at 866.352.9539 or www.lorman.com
 - 17** Indiana League of RC&D Councils, Video Conference.

Check www.wood-land-lakes.org calendar for updates on events.