



Wood-Land-Lakes welcomed new Council Members: **Barb Frymier**, representing LaGrange County Commissioners; **Jenny Spitler**, representing Noble County SWCD; **Gene Yoder**, representing LaGrange County Extension; **Bill Hoover**, representing Whitley County Commissioners; **Richard Taylor**, representing LaGrange County Extension; and **Mark Diehm**, representing LaGrange County SWCD.

We appreciate the time and talents given by outgoing Council Members: **Richard Strayer**, **Gene Yoder**, **Chris Godlewski**, and **Bill Hoover**.

We look forward to the leadership of Council Officers: **Jim Penick**, President; **Greg Hughes**, Vice President; **Brian Campbell**, Secretary; and **Larry Mayers**, Treasurer.

Spring 2008

2007 Annual Report

See Inside:



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Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

... is a group of volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources. It is our vision that awareness, education, and wise-use will conserve and improve the future quality of our air, water, land, woods, plants, and wildlife.

Wood-Land-Lakes was established in 1994 by local citizens in DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. These people were interested in bringing individuals together to find solutions to rural development issues and provide opportunities for improving our area's environmental, economic, and social well-being.

Currently, our main projects and activities, benefiting the rural areas within the six counties, revolve around Education, Energy, Farmland Protection, Forestry, Land, Round Barn, Rural Community Development, and Water. We help provide both the structure and the process for addressing issues by: identifying the need, agreeing on a plan of action, securing the resources, implementing the plan, and evaluating the results.

Wood-Land-Lakes Council is directed by 21 members from the six counties we serve, with representatives from: **County Commissioners**, **Cooperative Extension Service Boards**, **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**, and **At-large** individuals or groups. We receive annual operating funds from these representative sponsors. Grants and donations are the common funding sources for projects and sponsored events.

Wood-Land-Lakes looks forward to continuing our vision of helping northeast Indiana citizens solve local natural resource problems on a local level.

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D 2007 Annual Project Report

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has made a significant difference in helping local volunteers solve local natural resource problems. We have partnered with regional groups, community-based groups, watershed groups, state, and federal groups to make a positive impact regarding local natural resources. Some of the projects and activities we have undertaken in the past year include:

2007 Projects

- ✔ Protecting 6 farms & woods, for a total of 830 acres of land, with conservation easements.
- ✔ Serving as financial administrator for historic round barn restoration.
- ✔ Serving on advisory board of local group promoting water quality management.
- ✔ Promoting & educating consumers about the benefits of purchasing locally produced food & farm products.
- ✔ Promoting program encouraging landowners to plant a row of produce to donate to local food pantries.
- ✔ Serving on steering committee & financial administration for closing local landfill.
- ✔ Promoting program encouraging hunters & meat processors to donate game to a local food bank.
- ✔ Evaluating "50-50-50" Arboretum Plan (planting Indiana trees, shrubs & wildflowers) at 4-H park.

2007 Completed Projects

- ✔ Facilitated watershed planning & awareness meetings.
- ✔ Facilitated start-up of nonprofit group, promoting urban forestry.
- ✔ Co-sponsored Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife workshop.
- ✔ Promoted sale & use of bio-diesel fuel.
- ✔ Co-sponsored seminar for managing stormwater.
- ✔ Hosted the 2007 Envirothon—a resource competition for high school students.
- ✔ Assisted in finding financial & technical resources to start up a local agribusiness.
- ✔ Permanently protected forest from future development.
- ✔ Co-sponsored 2007 grazing land field day.
- ✔ Co-sponsored 2007 Indiana Master Naturalist training.
- ✔ Assisted in the development of a comprehensive agribusiness resource guide.
- ✔ Co-sponsored 2007 tree planting workshops.
- ✔ Sponsored workshop managing established tree plantations.

2007 Accomplishments

- ✔ Coordinated 408 volunteers, donating more than 2709 hours, benefiting 61,129 people.
- ✔ Assisted a variety of nonprofit organizations in securing over \$980,945 for local use.
- ✔ Published 49 news articles in local newspapers.
- ✔ Displayed projects & activities at 11 workshops, field days, presentations, or exhibits.
- ✔ Facilitated 13 group meetings.
- ✔ Maintained up-to-date website with a variety of information.
- ✔ Published a quarterly newsletter of accomplishments, upcoming projects, and events.
- ✔ Assisted in the creation of 9 new jobs.
- ✔ Guided 1 new business start-up & 1 business expansion.
- ✔ Served 34,379 disadvantaged people.

Project Highlights . . .

. . . Eugene Myers land conservation agreement protecting 140 acres of land from future development. This is Wood-Land-Lakes first conservation easement in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

. . . Twenty-nine people became Indiana Master Naturalists in the first classes offered in Elkhart County. Participants were required to attend classes, take weekly quizzes, pass a final test, and then complete 27 hours of volunteer service in the community.

How Did We Get Our Name?

After holding public input meetings in each of the 6-counties served, the name Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), was chosen because it incorporated all of the local natural resource concerns that spanned the county lines.

Wood for management & protection of trees, forests, & wildlife;

Land for agriculture, rural, urban, and public land uses, management, & protection;

Lakes for water quality, management, & protection of lakes, rivers, streams, ground water, & wetlands.

Our name, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, helps keep us focused on the 3 major natural resource priorities that were identified in 1994, and which are still a priority today. . . and will be a priority tomorrow.



Balance Sheet December 31, 2007

	2006	2007
Operating Fund	\$ 7,344	\$ 3,536
Grants	\$ 3,642	\$ 1,909
Education Committee	\$ 4,375	\$ 844
Forestry Committee	\$ 3,929	\$ 3,962
Land Committee	\$ 3,517	\$ 3,604
Water Committee	\$ 8,922	\$ 8,808
Total	\$31,729	\$22,663
Restricted Monies:		
Apollo Landfill	\$29,570	\$29,573
Land Stewardship Fund	\$36,793	\$44,393

More Project Highlights . . .

. . . **A six-generation, 56 acre farm has been protected** with a conservation easement in Whitley County. The **Hugo Martz family** has a long, rich history on this property and wants to preserve it for future generations.

. . . **The Fall Forage Field Day**, held in LaGrange County, drew a crowd of approximately 85 people, including 70 Amish.

. . . **Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry** were quite productive this year with 441 deer donated; and for the first time, 2,150 pounds of beef were donated.

. . . **Mike & Rhonda Yoder entered into a conservation easement** with Wood-Land-Lakes to protect 70 acres of their Elkhart County property from future development.

. . . **Completed a contribution agreement with NRCS** in which they paid for 50% of the payroll for a Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D program assistant.

. . . **Protected over 400 acres of land** from development by entering into a conservation agreement with a LaGrange County property owner. The property consists of mostly cropland with one-third being wooded.

. . . **4 new conservation easements**, bringing the total to 13. **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D now helps protect over 1,000 acres** of rural land from future development.

Thank You

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

Individuals

Al Moore	Jim Penick
Allen Haynes	Julie Knudson
Angie O'Neill	Kathy Adams
Annie Sanders	Larry Mayers
Bill Minter	Linda Neidrauer
Bob Ledgerwood	Lucy Miner
Brian Campbell	Marcia McNagny
Charles Arnold	Mike McCoy
Colleen Hake Boyd	Mike Yoder
Dave Hess	Nancy Manion
Dick Haworth	Paul Federspiel
Don Minter	Randy Moore
Dona Hunter	Renee Troyer Campbell
Ellen Jacquart	Richard Neff
Frances Krauskopf	Rick Eckert
Gene Lightner	Rick Meyer
Gretel Smith	Ron Oldsen
Jack Seifert	Scott Banfield
Jane Murray	Ted Gilliom
Jeff Burbrink	Tom Green
Jenny Spittler	

Businesses

Elkhart County 4-H & Ag Expo, Inc.
Indiana Lakes Management Society
Noble County Community Foundation
Steuben County Community Foundation
The Nature Conservancy

In Memory of

William S. Latz ~ from Bob & Lisa Ledgerwood
William S. Latz ~ from Kathy Latz

Sponsors

Elkhart County Commissioners
Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District
LaGrange County Commissioners
LaGrange County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District
Noble County Commissioners
Noble County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Noble County Soil and Water Conservation District
Steuben County Commissioners
Steuben County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
Whitley County Commissioners
Whitley County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Whitley County Soil & Water Conservation District

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.



1220N 200W, Suite J
 Angola, IN 46703-9171
 260.665.3211, x 5
 woodland-lakes@in.rcdnet.org
 www.wood-land-lakes.org

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RC&D Council Members

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

Barb Frymier **Jenny Spitzer** **Mike McCoy**
Dick Haworth **John Hulewicz** **Richard Taylor**
Gene Haskins **Kathy Adams** **Ron Smith**
Jack Herendeen **Lucy Miner** **Ted Gilliom**
Janet Ordway **Mark Diehm**

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. (3.08)

Upcoming 2008 Events

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- APR 3** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Elkhart Environmental Center. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- 17** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Abshire Park, Goshen. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- 17** Natural Resources Management for the Landowner Field Day, 6 pm—9 pm, Whitley County 4-H Center, Columbia City, IN. Contact Nadean Eldien at nadean.eldien@in.nacdnet.net or 260.244.6266, ext. 3.
- 19** Natural Resources Management for the Landowner Field Day, 8:30 am—1 pm, Purdue Harrold Forest, Etna, IN. Contact Nadean Eldien at nadean.eldien@in.nacdnet.net or 260.244.6266, ext. 3.
- 24** Wood-Land-Lakes Council Meeting, 4pm, Kendallville Public Library. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5.
- 24** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Bonneyville Mill Park, Bristol. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- MAY 1** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Boot Lake, Elkhart. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- 8** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Krider Gardens, Middlebury. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- 15** Indiana Master Naturalist Class, 4-7, Merry Lea, Wolf Lake. Contact Elkhart SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- JUNE 26** Wood-Land-Lakes Council Meeting, 4pm, Kendallville Public Library. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5.

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