

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D welcomes two new board members.

Dwight Fish, an At-Large Member from Elkhart County, is interested in watershed protection, land usage, habitat development, woodworking, carving, and writing.

Gene Haskins, representing Whitley County Commissioners, is interested in watershed issues, agricultural land-use, and wetland and wildlife habitats. He enjoys the outdoors, camping, and kayaking.

Using E-85?

85% Ethanol / 15% Gas

Several Wood-Land-Lakes staff and volunteers are using some combination of E-85 in their vehicles (cars, pick-ups, & SUV's). Some use a full tank of E-85, and some use part E-85 and regular gasoline combination.

We are wondering if you have an interest in either reading about the usage results and/or participating in an informal tracking of mileage, fuel cost, general driver observations, etc. on using E-85 in a variety of vehicles.

Give us a call at 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or email us at woodland-lakes@in.rcdnet.org and let us know if this is worth pursuing. If there is an interest, we will report on our website and in future issues of this newsletter, the results that everyday, local people are having with E-85.

Summer 2008

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Cornish Griffin Round Barn Restoration

Wood-Land-Lakes is coordinating the restoration of the Cornish Griffin Round Barn. This barn, located at 2015 S. West Fox Lake Road, Angola, Whitley County, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The barn, built around 1916, is the only known round barn in Indiana constructed with Indiana-made glazed tile.

The barn and silo roofs both need extensive repairs, at an estimated cost of \$75,000 to \$100,000. The owners of the round barn will sign a Preservation Easement with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This easement will permanently protect the Cornish Griffin Round Barn from demolition and major structural changes. It would also allow school groups and the public to tour the barn.

If you would like to pledge your contribution to the Cornish Griffin Round Barn Restoration project, please visit our [website](#) or call **Jim Penick** at 260.665.7447. Once enough pledges are promised, you will be asked to send in your money, which will then be tax deductible, as Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Over 1,000 Acres Protected

In 2007, Wood-Land-Lakes' Land Committee accepted 729 new acres of land permanently protected from development—as per the landowners' wishes. This is nearly double the amount previously protected, for a total of 1,432 acres of cropland and woodland in conservation easements.

The four new donated conservation easements are located in Elkhart, LaGrange, and Whitley Counties, and for the first time, St. Joseph County.

Wood-Land-Lakes is committed to protecting farmland from development. We not only promote and enter into conservation easements with local landowners, we also help other organizations get started . . .

- ♦ . . . In the past year, we assisted 2 other land trusts in protecting 50 wooded acres in Noble and Steuben Counties.
- ♦ . . . Prior to last year, we helped to protect a 248-acre southwest Indiana farm, which we later transferred to the local RC&D, after helping them organize to hold easements.

The word is spreading about the benefits of conservation easements. Wood-Land-Lakes has been receiving numerous inquiries. We plan to complete an easement for a 90-acre Elkhart County farm and for a 120-acre Whitley County farm in 2008.

For more about conservation easements, visit our [website](#) or call the office.

Tax Incentive for Land Conservation

GREAT NEWS! The tax incentive for family farms and ranches has been extended for an additional two years. It offers the same incentives as the one that had expired in January of this year. For more information, please visit www.lta.org.

Outdoor Education Lab Directory

"Information on existing Outdoor Education Labs is sorely needed," stated **Sam Carman**, Education Director with the IDNR. "The last directory, with more than 400 listings, was updated in 1994." Sam would like to revive and compile the directory. He needs your help in providing him with the individual Outdoor Education Lab's school contact information, such as county, school name, address, and phone number.

What constitutes an outdoor lab? If a school has made improvements to its property with the specific purpose of encouraging teachers to use the school's outdoor environment in their teaching, (examples--planting trees or shrubs, developing a pond or wetland, constructing facilities such as a group outdoor seating area or shelter, developing trails, a garden, etc.), then that school has an outdoor lab. Landscaping for aesthetics, without a plan for teachers to use it in their teaching, would not be considered an outdoor lab.

Contact **Sam Carman** with any information you may be able to provide at scarman@dnr.IN.gov or call 317.232.4119.

Natural Resources Management for the Landowner Workshop

submitted by Brian MacGowan, Purdue Wildlife Specialist

Twenty-three landowners from the region attended the "Natural Resources Management for the Landowner" workshop held in Whitley County on April 17 & 19. The attendees learned about wildlife and habitat management as well as forest management concepts and invasive plant species. Conservation practices including tree planting, wetland restoration, warm season grasses establishment, and tree regeneration openings were showcased. The goal is to hold another field day within the next few years. Watch our newsletter and [website](#) for information.

Conserve Butternut Trees

Researchers with the USDA Forest Service seek your help to conserve butternut -- a tree rapidly disappearing from the eastern U.S. forest because of butternut canker disease. They are collecting seeds or scion wood from butternut trees to preserve the genetic diversity of this beautiful and valuable tree. To report the location of trees, or for more information, contact **Keith Woeste**, Purdue University at 765.496.6808 or woeste@purdue.edu.

Does Your Group Need a Facilitator?

A facilitator is someone who helps groups of people to organize themselves, enabling them to find their own solutions to problems or tasks. A facilitator has the ability to pose questions to members in order to draw out and define the goals of the group. A facilitator also has the ability to keep the group on task ~ a facilitator simplifies the process of achieving a goal.

Kathy Latz, Wood-Land-Lakes Coordinator, is a trained and experienced regional and national facilitator who believes in “helping others think through what they want and organize themselves to achieve it.” She is currently assisting a Noble County parks group and a Steuben County watershed group. If your group or committee could benefit from having a facilitator, contact Kathy at 260.665.3211, ext. 5, or woodland-lakes@in.rcdnet.org.

Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp

The Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp will be held August 4-6 at Camp Whitley. Camp Whitley is a beautiful place for boys and girls between the ages of 9-13 to learn about conservation. It is located northwest of Columbia City (Whitley County) on Troy-Cedar Lake.

Conservation camp is organized by the Wood-Land-Lakes Education Committee and made available through the endeavors of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Wildlife Conservation Clubs in Indiana.

Education programs are presented by Natural Resource Specialists. Camp hands-on activities include wildlife, forestry, soils, and water programs. In addition, campers participate in arts and crafts, boating, swimming, and other sporting activities. Entertaining games, yummy refreshments, and special evening programs round out camp.

Application packets are available from your local Soil and Water Conservation District office starting in the middle of June. The fee for camp is \$100, and most SWCDs assist campers with this fee or help find sponsors who will.

Thank You

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

Individuals

Al Moore	Gordon Tripcony
Barry & LeaBeth Smith	Jim Penick
Bob Ledgerwood	John Newsom
Bob Neumann	Kathy Adams
Brian Campbell	Larry Mayers
Brick Nelson	Marcia McNagny
David M. Lane	Norval Poyser
Deb Knepp	Paul Federspiel
Frances Krauskopf	Richard Neff
Fred Wooley	Ron Kauffman
Gene Lightner	Tony Culver
Gene Myers	

Businesses

Angola American Legion Post 31

In Memory of

Richard Strayer ~ from Kathy Latz

Sponsors

DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District
Elkhart County Commissioners
Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District
LaGrange County Commissioners
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LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District
Noble County Commissioners
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Steuben County Commissioners
Steuben County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Whitley County Commissioners
Whitley County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Whitley County Soil & Water Conservation District

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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.

Water Activities

Be sure to check our [website](#) for water-related activities. We will continue to update our website with volunteer water testing classes, watershed management workshops, and other interesting educational opportunities.

