

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D welcomed several new representatives to the Council in 2008: **Dwight Fish** an At-Large representative from Elkhart County; **Gene Haskins** representing Whitley County Commissioners; **Steve Provines** representing DeKalb County SWCD; **Mike Dirig** representing LaGrange County SWCD; and **Deanna Vazquez** representing DeKalb County Extension.

We appreciate the time and talents from outgoing Council members **Larry Mayers, Dick Haworth, and Mark Diehm.** ♦

Spring 2009 2008 Annual Report

See Inside:



- ⇒ **2008 Annual Project Report**
- ⇒ **Balance Sheet**
- ⇒ **Help Wanted**
- ⇒ **2008 Volunteers, Sponsors, & Contributors**

2009 Council Officers

Jim Penick, President
Dwight Fish, Vice President
Barbra Frymier, Secretary
Brian Campbell, Treasurer

What is an RC&D and Why Should I Care?

by Ron Lauster, Hoosier Heartland RC&D

First, RC&D stands for Resource Conservation and Development. An RC&D area usually covers several counties. People concerned with their community should care, because RC&D offers a unique way for local volunteers from across the community to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their area a better place to live. Such activities lead to sustainable communities, prudent land use, and the sound management and conservation of natural resources. Program objectives focus on "the quality of life" improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development.

An RC&D council establishes resource committees to inventory and evaluate special areas of interest. One committee may deal solely with inventorying community facilities and decide what additional facilities are needed; another may work with problems and opportunities in forestry. There may also be committees for human resources, industry, transportation, wildlife, and other areas that the council decides are needed. The council can request advisory assistance from local, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, and individuals. Often, agencies assist by providing technical advisors to the council's resource committees. Through an RC&D, local citizens can explain what they see as their problems and opportunities and what they want to do about their community's future.

Why do RC&D's have an emphasis on natural resources? Utilization of the resources at hand, both natural and human, is central to the RC&D approach. Many resources are renewable - that is, they continue to replenish themselves if managed properly. Communities can acquire immediate benefits from developing such resources, and continue to have the same or greater benefits year after year by conserving the resources as they develop them. RC&D is a local program. The local RC&D council makes decisions. An RC&D council may have representatives from county governments, municipalities, state agencies, comprehensive planning agencies, local, non-profit organizations, soil and water conservation districts, and local interested citizens. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the RC&D program. ♦

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D 2008 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:

2008 Active Projects

- Protecting 211 acres of farmland, including 61 acres of cropland and 47 acres of pasture, with a conservation easement.
- Coordinating fundraising efforts and financial administrators for restoration of historic round barn.
- Helping sponsors, consultants, nonprofits, and business start-ups on diverse projects and activities.
- Developing 2 Present Condition Documents for 550 acres being protected with recently donated conservation easements.
- Creating and updating list of current grant opportunities.
- Facilitating meetings and assisting a local group develop a county-wide park system.
- Assisting local groups promoting water quality and quantity management.
- Serving on steering committee & financial administration for closing local landfill.
- Promoting program encouraging farmers, hunters, & meat processors to donate livestock and game to local food banks.

2008 Accomplishments

- Tracked 183 volunteers, donating more than 1,210 hours, benefiting over 500,000 people.
- Documented 44 news articles in local newspapers.
- Displayed projects & activities at 5 workshops, field days, presentations, or exhibits.
- Partnered with regional community-based groups to provide services and products to over 135,000 disadvantaged people.
- Facilitated 9 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 fostering of 2 new jobs.
- Guided 1 new business start-up & 1 business expansion.

2008 Completed Projects

- Co-sponsored 2008 Indiana Master Naturalist training, Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife workshop, tree planting workshops, and the high school student Envirothon competition.
- Assisted 2 conservation groups in protecting 46 acres of woodland, wetland, and wildlife areas.
- Solicited input from sponsors, committees, and general public for local needs and concerns in updating area plan.
- Revised, submitted, and approved long range area plan.
- Published articles encouraging volunteer service - resulting in local citizens filling 100% of Council positions.
- Promoted sale & use of renewable fuels.
- Offered new forestry activities to underserved inner-city youth.
- Completed 3 Present Condition Documents for 267 acres being protected with recently donated conservation easements.



Balance Sheet December 31, 2008

	2007	2008
Operating Fund	\$ 3,536	\$ 8,285
Grants	\$ 1,909	\$ 1,909
Education Committee	\$ 844	\$ 1,398
Forestry Committee	\$ 3,962	\$ 3,956
Historic Round Barn	\$ 0	\$ 1,758
Land Committee	\$ 3,604	\$ 1,759
Water Committee	\$ 8,808	\$ 8,808
Total	\$22,663	\$27,873
Restricted Monies:		
Apollo Landfill	\$29,573	\$29,434
Land Stewardship Fund	\$44,393	\$58,464

Help Wanted

Have you, for one reason or another, found that you have some free time on your hands? Consider becoming a volunteer. Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community and your environment; and there are some great benefits for you, too. . .

. . . you will be meeting new, diverse groups of people; developing lasting personal and professional relationships; and learning about people from all walks of life, different environments, and new industries. Volunteering offers an incredible networking opportunity and is the perfect vehicle to help you develop a new skill, discover a new hobby, or explore a new profession.

A survey carried out by TimeBank showed . . .

- ♦ 73% of employers would recruit a candidate with volunteering experience over one without
- ♦ 94% of employers believe that volunteering can add to skills
- ♦ 94% of employees who volunteered to learn new skills had benefited either by getting their first job, improving their salary, or being promoted

Volunteering is about giving your time, energy, and skills freely *and* unlike many things in life, you have the choice to volunteer. Volunteers predominantly express a sense of achievement and motivation generated from a desire and enthusiasm to help.

So get involved, expand your horizons, try something new; no level of time or talent is too small or goes unused when you volunteer.

You have the time, nothing to lose, and endless possibilities.

VOLUNTEER

You never know where it may lead!

Check with local organizations such as schools, humane shelters, natural resource groups, churches, nursing homes, food pantries, homeless shelters, and hospitals for volunteer opportunities in your area. You may also visit www.volunteermatch.org or www.networkforgood.org for more volunteer opportunities. ♦

Thank You

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

Individuals

Al Moore	Greg Hughes
Andrea Ledgerwood	Jim Penick
Barry & LeaBeth Smith	John Newsom
Bob Ledgerwood	Kathy Adams
Bob Neumann	Larry Mayers
Brad Franklin	Lucy Miner
Brian Campbell	Marcia McNagny
Brick Nelson	Mike Yoder
David M. Lane	Norval Poyser
Deb Knepp	Paul Federspiel
Don Minter	Richard Neff
Frances Krauskopf	Richard Ummel
Fred Wooley	Rick Eckert
Gene Lightner	Rick Meyer
Gene Myers	Ron Kauffman
Gordon Tripcony	Tony Culver

In Memory of

In Memory of Carolyn Saalfrank from Kathy Latz
In Memory of Richard Strayer from Kathy Latz
In Memory of Paul R. Federspiel from Gordon Bloom
In Loving Memory of Paul R. Federspiel from Kathy Latz
In Memory of Paul R. Federspiel from The Ledgerwood's

Businesses

Angola American Legion Post 31
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc. on behalf of ILMS
TLA Signs
Vestil Manufacturing Corp

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
LaGrange County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District
Noble County Commissioners
Noble County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Noble County Soil & Water Conservation District
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

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.

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www.wood-land-lakes.org

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RC&D Council Members

Jim Penick, President **Dwight Fish**, Vice President
Barbra Frymier, Secretary **Brian Campbell**, Treasurer

Deanna Vazquez **Jenny Spitzer** **Michael McCoy**
Gene Haskins **John Hulewicz** **Richard Taylor**
Greg Hughes **Kathy Adams** **Ron Smith**
Jack Herendeen **Lucy Miner** **Steve Provinces**
Janet Ordway **Mike Dirig** **Ted Gilliom**

This newsletter is a publication of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, a non-profit organization. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or have an address change, 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 or the office 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. 03.09

Upcoming Spring 2009 Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

APRIL 2009						
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JUNE 2009						
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| <p>Apr. 2 Canada Goose Control Seminar, 9-12, Salomon Farm, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact 812.334.1137 or swinks@dnr.in.gov</p> <p>18 DeKalb County Earth Day Celebration, 10-2, Rieke Park, Auburn, IN.</p> <p>18 Aquatic Vegetation Management Workshop, 9-1, Willowdale Park Pavilion, Elkhart Parks, Elkhart, IN. Contact 574.287.1829.</p> <p>23 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting, 4pm, Noble County Office Complex South, Albion, IN. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org</p> <p>May 9 INPAWS Native Plant Sale & Auction, 10am, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Wendy Ford at 317.334.1932 or wwford@comcast.net</p> <p>16 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 9-4, Bonneyville Mill County Park, Elkhart, IN. Contact Krista Daniels at 574.875.7422 or krista@elkhartcountyparks.org</p> | <p>May 16 LaGrange County Lakes Council Spring Seminar, 10am, Pine Knob Park, Howe, IN. Contact president@lagrangeparkcouncil.org</p> <p>30 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4:30, USDA Service Center, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact Jerry Hohla at 260.484.5848 or hohla@aol.com</p> <p>June 14-18 2009 National RC&D Conference, Albuquerque, NM Contact www.rcdnet.org/nationalconference.php</p> <p>17 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4:30, Matea Park, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact Jerry Hohla at 260.484.5848 or hohla@aol.com</p> <p>25 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting, 4pm, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org</p> <p>25 Renewable Energy 101 Seminar, 5:30pm, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org</p> |
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