



Welcome new Council Board members **Joyce Weber**, representing **LaGrange County Extension** and **Don Moore**, representing **Noble County SWCD**. **Joyce** is a retired teacher with a passion for the environment. She has won numerous science and environmental awards. **Don's** main interest is water quality. He is the County Council President and very active on local boards in Noble County. We look forward to working with Joyce and Don. We appreciate the time and talents of outgoing Council members **Deanna Vasquez** and **Richard Taylor**.♦

Inside. . .



- ⇒ **Lake & River Enhancement**
- ⇒ **Green Triangle Group**
- ⇒ **Agricultural Conservation Easements**
- ⇒ **IDNR Contacts**
- ⇒ **Help Plan for 2011**
- ⇒ **Tree Management Workshops**
- ⇒ **Thank You**

Newsletter Changes for 2011

Due to budget constraints, as a result of fewer donations and sponsorships as well as funding reductions, the Council has been looking at ways to reduce expenses. The costs associated with this quarterly newsletter is a substantial portion of our budget. Beginning in 2011, we will email our newsletter to anyone who provides the office with a valid email address. Also, we will mail the newsletters to anyone making a \$10 or more donation to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D.♦

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 19-25, 2010. 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 community 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, **Dwight Fish**, 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. **Fish** states, "We bring people together to identify needs and foster opportunities in northeast Indiana. We help local people address local natural resource issues."

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.♦

Lake & River Enhancement (LARE) Funds Diverted

A recent decision made by the state of Indiana reverted Lake and River Enhancement money back to the general fund to ease budget shortfalls. **Pete Hippensteel**, a member of the **Indiana Lakes Management Work Group**, said eight LARE projects in Steuben County were among those around Indiana that have not been funded. He said over \$2.4 million in LARE money and nearly \$1.4 million in the conservation officers marine fund were reverted back to the general fund.

The goal of the **Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement** Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities.

A message (in part) from the **IDNR** stated, "Due to the ongoing budget issues facing the state, new LARE grant awards for Biological, Engineering, and Watershed Land Treatment projects have been suspended indefinitely. As you know, the state is facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis. All state agencies are pursuing emergency measures to contain spending and safeguard the state's balanced budget. These measures include postponing certain projects, realigning staff and other resources, and re-evaluating programs and procedures. As a part of this process, we are re-evaluating certain portions of the LARE program, including how funds are utilized. The LARE staff will continue to service the ongoing projects that have previously been awarded grants. These projects currently amount to over \$1.75 million."

Hippensteel thinks the state is violating a law that was enacted seven years ago, since LARE money comes from a dedicated fund. Indiana boat owners pay a fee which provides money for the LARE funds. Hippensteel urged lake association members to write to **Governor Daniels** and urge him to honor the dedicated funds for the lakes.

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Green Triangle Group Forms

John Bry, Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is seeking input on establishing the state's first "Green Triangle" that would package, market, advocate, and promote the wealth of recreational and environmental resources in and beyond Noble County. The Triangle is proposed to be bounded by U.S. 33 along the west, with the Noble, DeKalb, LaGrange and Steuben county lines to the north, and I-69 to the east. Detours to this area will be welcomed.

The initial meetings were facilitated by **Kathy Lutz**, where the group defined "green" as natural sustainable activities for creating healthier lives for ecotourism. The group discussed working together for a common theme, while maintaining their individual purpose. They also explored financing options and marketing. If you want to learn more about this, contact John at john@visitnoblecounty.com or 800.202.5761.♦

Agricultural Conservation Easements 101: A Farmland Protection and Estate Planning Tool

Mike Yoder, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Land Committee Chairman, and **Kathy Lutz**, Coordinator, shared Wood-Land-Lakes' land trust experiences at the seminar hosted by the **Indiana Farm Bureau** on September 10, 2010. The topic focused on starting the easement process with the landowner, establishing a basic philosophy while targeting one area of land protection, and the challenges a land trust may incur.

Other speakers shared the perspective of the American Farmland Trust, estate planning, appraisals, and state (IDNR) and federal (NRCS) protection programs.♦

IDNR Contact Information

Several changes in staffing have occurred in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Below is the updated listing of your local District Forester or Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D area.

IDNR District Foresters

Hank Hefner District 3 (DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben & Allen Counties)
260.782.0430 hhefner@dnr.in.gov

Tim Eizinger District 2 (Whitley County)
260.782.0430 teizinger@dnr.in.gov

Steve Winicker District 1 (Elkhart County)
574.896.3538 swinicker@dnr.in.gov

IDNR Fish and Wildlife Biologists

Jason Wade District 3 (DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Huntington & Allen Counties)
260.468.2515 jwade@dnr.in.gov

Tom Hewitt District 4 (Whitley County)
765.473.9324 thewitt@dnr.in.gov

Linda Byer District 2 (Elkhart County)
574.896.3572 lbyer@dnr.in.gov ♦

Help Plan for 2011

The Council is preparing the annual plan for 2011. If you have some ideas or input, we encourage you to contact one of the Council representatives or the office. The project or activity must fit within Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D's mission of "**volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources.**" We look forward to hearing from you as we work toward implementing rural community projects to strengthen northeastern Indiana. ♦

Tree Management Workshops

If you want to learn more about woodland invasive plants and how to manage your tree plantation, workshops are underway to help you.

Battling the Woodland Invaders is a workshop that will discuss invasive insects, diseases, and plants that are threatening your woods. You will learn how to identify these and some effective tactics to keep these invaders in check.

A **Tree Plantation Management Field Day** will focus on managing hardwood tree plantations. You will learn why and when to manage your plantation, how to prune, thinning and crop tree release, available funding opportunities, and a hands-on training session with a forester.

More details will be available on our web site. If you are interested in attending either or both of these sessions, please contact us. ♦

Thank You

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

Individuals

Andrew Straw
Brian Musser
Dan Davis
Don Minter
Dwight Fish

Gene Lightner
Jim Penick
Kayleen Hart
Lucy Miner

Marcia McNagny
Mike Yoder
Richard Neff
Rick Meyer

Sponsors

Steuben County Commissioners

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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RC&D Council Members

Dwight Fish, President **Gene Haskins**, Vice President
Jim Penick, Treasurer

Barbra Frymier	Karen Fairfield	Ron Smith
Don Moore	Lucy Miner	Sharon Gerig
Jack Herendeen	Mike Dirig	Steve Provinces
John Hulewicz	Michael McCoy	Ted Gilliom
Joyce Weber		

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. 09.10

Upcoming Summer Events

September

- 11 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop**
 Saturday, September 11, 2010 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
 St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend, Indiana
 Contact: Brooke Artley at 574.277.4828 or bartley@sicparks.org

- 11 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop**
 Saturday, September 11, 2010 - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
 Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Contact: NREC at 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov

- 13 Diverse Cover Crop Field Day**
 Monday, September 13, 2010 - 5:30 pm to Dusk
 J.A. Scott Farms, Pierceton, Indiana
 Contact: Kosciusko County SWCD at 574.267.7445, Ext. 116

- 17-18 Indiana Farm Bureau's New Food for Thought Value-Added Adventure Bus Tour**
 Friday - Saturday, September 17-18, 2010
 Leaves from Indianapolis, Indiana
 Contact: Tiffany Obrecht at 317.692.7823 or tobrecht@infarmbureau.org or www.newfoodforthought.com

19-25

National RC&D Week

- 21 Three-County Forestry Field Day**
 Tuesday, September 21, 2010 - 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
 Dean Morehouse Farm, New Paris, Indiana
 Contact: Elkhart County SWCD at 574.533.3630, Ext. 3

- 24 Projects WET & Healthy Water Healthy People Combination Workshop**
 Friday, September 24, 2010 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Elkhart Conservation Club, Elkhart, Indiana
 Contact: Nancy Brown at 574.533.3630, Ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net

- 25 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop**
 Saturday, September 25, 2010 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
 Elkhart Conservation Club, Elkhart, Indiana
 Contact: Nancy Brown at 574.533.3630, Ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net

October

- 28 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
 Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 4:00 pm
 Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, Indiana
 Contact: Kathy at 260.665.3211, Ext. 5

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org