

Spring 2010 2009 Annual Report

Welcome

We would like to welcome new Council Board Member, **Karen Fairfield**, representing **Elkhart County SWCD**.

Karen is a graduate of Indiana University, an advanced Master Gardener, and an Indiana Master Naturalist. Her hobbies include photography, reading, bird watching, organic gardening, and playing Bridge.

Karen is concerned about the dangers to plants and wildlife from habitat loss due to landscape fragmentation, occurring at an alarming rate in northern Indiana.

Karen is interested in education and creating ways to share the environment in a manner that is beneficial to every living thing. She believes that one person can make a difference in the world and would like to pass that belief on to others.♦

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“Partnering for Sustainability”

is the theme of the 2010 Conference of the North Central Association of RC&D Councils (Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). See scheduled events (back page) for more information.

Topics are envisioning the future of RC&D, with a variety of sessions including one being led by Master Facilitator and Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator, **Kathy Latz**.♦

Hello RC&D friends...

The time to call and write your legislators is **now** – requesting them to continue funding the RC&D Council programs across the nation. Recent information from USDA has indicated that the RC&D program is being cut from the 2011 budget. The focus of RC&D has always been to work as a non-profit arm for local people to solve local issues.

I ask each of you to write a letter showing the direct benefit Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has made in your community. I went to Washington DC on March 1-2 to attend the annual SWCD meeting and to lobby for reinstatement of the RC&D program funding. I made a presentation to our members of Congress pleading our case and making our voices heard.

Contact your legislators asking them to support the RC&D program. Getting involved at a grassroots level keeps us focused on the importance of protecting our natural resources and rural communities. Do not lose sight of how fundamental our work at Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has become to you and your family.

You can mail your letters to:

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510 and

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC, 20515

Sincerely,

Dwight Fish, President, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D♦



Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D 2009 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:

2009 Active Projects

Protecting 60 acres of farmland, including cropland, pasture, and woodland, 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 87 acres of conservation easements owners plan to donate.

Protecting 27 acres of cropland and woodland, with a conservation easement.

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 & game to local food banks.

Creating and updating list of current grant opportunities.

2009 Accomplishments

Tracked 129 volunteers, donating more than 1,414 hours, benefiting over 264,000 people.

Documented 37 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 188,000 disadvantaged people.

Facilitated 15 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 1 new job.

Assisted a variety of nonprofit organizations in securing over \$750,000 for local use.

2009 Completed Projects

Co-sponsored 2009 Indiana Master Naturalist training.

Completed 2 Present Condition Documents for 150 acres being protected with recently donated conservation easements.

Co-sponsored manure management field day.

Co-sponsored 2009 Conservation Camp and the high school student Envirothon competition.

Revised, submitted, and approved long range area plan and developed brochure.

Co-sponsored 2009 Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop and tree planting workshops.



Account Balances December 31, 2009

	2008	2009
Operating Fund	\$ 8,285	\$ 7,775
Grants	\$ 1,909	\$ 0
Education Committee	\$ 1,398	\$ 2,454
Forestry Committee	\$ 3,956	\$ 3,898
Historic Round Barn	\$ 1,758	\$ 2,238
Land Committee	\$ 1,759	\$ 859
Water Committee	\$ 8,808	\$ 8,779
Total	\$27,873	\$26,003
Restricted Monies:		
Apollo Landfill	\$29,434	\$13,083
Land Stewardship Fund	\$58,464	\$62,365

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D office is located in Angola and serves the six northeast Indiana counties of DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley. Contact Wood-Land-Lakes at **260.665.3211, ext. 5** or email to office@wood-land-lakes.org or visit our website at www.wood-land-lakes.org for more information or with ideas for projects.

What a Mediator Can Do . . .

A mediator is an unbiased, neutral, third party who assists people or groups untangle conflict and get back on track. A mediator is someone who is trained in confronting problems and makes no decisions; only the participants can make a decision.

Mediation is a voluntary, problem solving process bringing two sides together to resolve a dispute. Both sides are enabled to speak their minds fully and to hear each others' views. The mediator helps them find common ground, which is often masked by anger, fear, or misunderstanding. All parties agree to work together to explore difficult subjects and emotions.

Mediation differs from litigation in that it is not designed to determine who is right or wrong; no judge imposes a decision; and nothing is decided in mediation unless all parties agree to the terms. Mediation is brief, cost effective, efficient, and confidential.

Kathy Latz, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator, recently completed a 5-day Mediation Skills training course, which provided step-by-step, highly interactive, participatory sessions to test and hone her skills and understanding of the role of the mediator. Kathy was selected as a mediator for the NRCS Civil Rights Divisions' Alternative Dispute Resolution Cadre. Her role will enhance the agency's effort in resolving workplace and program delivery disputes involving NRCS employees and customers nationwide.

Kathy's continued education and experience in a variety of problem-solving techniques, gives Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D another tool in our tool box to help local people solve local issues.

Kathy is also available to local groups and individuals for mediation and facilitation assistance. Contact her at 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org for more information.♦



We Have Room, Do You Have Time?

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is directed by 21 Council Board Members, and we currently have several vacant Council positions. The key to the Council's success is the commitment of local citizen volunteers solving our own natural resource problems.

If you are interested in becoming a Council member, please contact any of the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Board Members or our office.♦

Thank You

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

Individuals

Annie Sanders
Bob Ledgerwood
Brian Campbell
Deanna Vazquez
Don Minter
Dwight Fish
Gene Lightner
Jim Penick

John Beatrice
Kathy Latz
Lucy Miner
Marcia McNagny
Mike Yoder
Oxana Werbiensky
Richard Neff
Rick Meyer

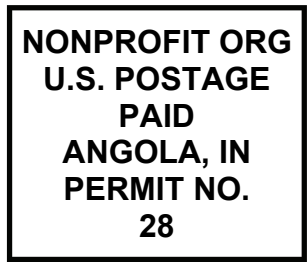
Businesses

Arrow Head Country RC&D
Mennonite Foundation
Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

Sponsors

DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District
Elkhart County Commissioners
Elkhart County Extension
Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District
LaGrange County Commissioners
LaGrange County Extension
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District
Noble County Commissioners
Noble County Extension
Noble County Soil & Water Conservation District
Steuben County Commissioners
Steuben County Extension
Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
Whitley County Commissioners
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.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RC&D Council Members

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

Barbra Frymier	Lucy Miner	Sharon Gerig
Deanna Vazquez	Mike Dirig	Steve Provines
Jack Herendeen	Michael McCoy	Ted Gilliom
John Hulewicz	Richard Taylor	
Karen Fairfield	Ron Smith	

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. 03.10

Upcoming Spring Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

March

- 11 Northern Indiana Soil Management Seminar**
 Thursday, March 11, 2010
 Goshen, Indiana
 Contact: Elkhart County SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3
- 15 Friends of the St. Joe River Association Annual Meeting**
 Monday, March 15, 2010
 Sturgis-Young Auditorium, Sturgis, Michigan
 Contact: <http://www.fotsjr.org>
- 22 Canada Goose Management Seminar**
 Monday, March 22, 2010
 Salomon Farm Visitors Center, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Contact: Urban Wildlife Biologist at 812.334.1137 or swinks@dnr.in.gov
- 22 Little Elkhart River Urban Workshop**
 Monday, March 22, 2010
 Contact: LaGrange County SWCD at 260.463.3471
- 25 Northeast Indiana Envirothon Competition**
 Thursday, March 25, 2010
 Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN
 Contact: Julie Knudson at 260.925.3066, Ext. 3 or jknudson@co.dekalb.in.us
- 26-27 Indiana Lakes Management Annual Conference "All Lakes, Great & Small"**
 Friday & Saturday, March 26 & 27, 2010
 Radisson Star Plaza, Merrillville, Indiana
 Contact: <http://indianalakes.org>

April

- 11-13 North Central RC&D Conference "Partnering for Sustainability"**
 Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, April 11-13, 2010
 Atwood Lake Resort & Conference Center, Dellroy, Ohio
 Contact: Buckeye Hills RC&D at 740.373.7926 or <http://www.crossroadsrccd.org>
- 15 Starting a Specialty Food Business in Indiana**
 Thursday, April 15, 2010
 Indiana Farm Bureau Offices, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Contact: Kevin Keener at 765.494.6648 or kkeener@purdue.edu
- 22 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
 Thursday, April 20, 2010 at 4:00 pm
 Noble County Office Complex, South, Albion, Indiana
 Contact: Kathy at 260.665.3211, Ext. 5
- 23-24 Indiana Master Naturalist Gathering**
 Friday & Saturday, April 23 & 24, 2010
 Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Contact: Ginger Murphy at 312.232.4143

May

- 8 INPAWS Native Plant Sale & Auction**
 Saturday, May 8, 2010
 Indianapolis, Indiana
 Contact: <http://www.inpaws.org> or info@inpaws.org

June

- 3-4 Indiana RC&D Summit**
 Thursday & Friday, June 3 & 4, 2010
 Contact: <http://inleaquercd.org>