

INPAWS Chapter ??

by: **Karen Fairfield**, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is considering formulating a Northern chapter of the Indiana Native Plant and Wild Flower Society (INPAWS) or a similar group. We would like to have your input to the following questions before we proceed. Please mail or email your responses to our address on page 4 of this newsletter. Thank you for your assistance.

Are you concerned with the loss of native plants and wildflowers in our area?
Would you like to learn more about native plants, wildflowers, and invasive plants? **Would you** like to take part in rescuing plants that are in danger of being destroyed? **Would you** help to eradicate invasive weeds and plants?
Are you interested in helping to educate the public about these issues?
Would you volunteer to help organize such a chapter?♦

Summer 2010

Inside . . . 

- ⇒ **Protected Farmland**
- ⇒ **Farm to Fork**
- ⇒ **Conservation Camp**
- ⇒ **Elkhart River Report**
- ⇒ **Thank You**

Presidential Perspective . . .

by: **Dwight Fish**, President of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D

The selection of time and money weighs strongly on our daily lives. How we spend either one adds so much to our quality of life. Sometimes we decide to share a little bit of both. The Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council is made up of farmers and business people, environmentalists and organic gardeners, rural and urban dwellers. We have all become stakeholders for a better northeastern Indiana.

All of us on the Council share one thing in common--our devotion to educating and promoting all things RC&D (resource conservation and resource development). It's that simple, and our mission hasn't changed since our creation - ***Volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources.***

Recently, our Land Committee put together the largest land easement agreement in our history - 7,600 acres. The newly protected farmland is located in White County and will directly benefit Saint Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D will be protecting this land from future development while assuring that it remains a working farm.

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator, **Kathy Latz**, was instrumental in moving this project forward, working with the **Land Committee** and the property owner's representatives. The volunteer time of the Land Committee shows the devotion and perseverance our membership has to our mission.

There is a push to reduce federal funding which is basic to furthering our mission as a strong and viable RC&D. The amount of funding coming from the Farm Bill (NRCS) helps keep our office available for needed services. But there is a portion of our funds that come directly from you, our supporters.

We ask that you look again at making a donation or asking family and friends to help fund, in a small way, the mission of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. Donations allow us to maintain the programs and people-oriented projects we have built our reputation on. We can't do this without your help. Thank you from the Council members and Staff for your continued support.♦

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D to Protect over 7,600 acres of Farmland

adapted with permission from a press release by: **Maureen Egan**
Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Marketing, Saint Joseph College

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D will hold the largest conservation easement donation in its history. The 7,634 acre White County, Indiana farmland easement will be donated through **Juanita K. Waugh's** Trust. Her trust designated Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D as the holder of the conservation easement, and in 2009 the Land Committee was approached to work out the details.

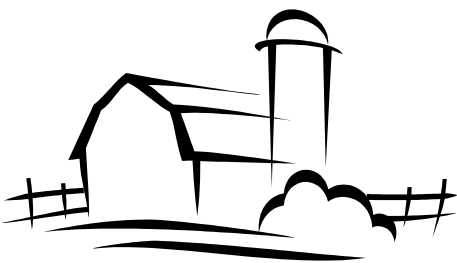
The purpose of the conservation easement is to enable the protected property to remain in agriculture and wind energy production. This farm will be permanently restricted from development and subdivision, maintaining the rural character of White County. The farm will be monitored annually to ensure that Ms. Waugh's provisions of the easement are upheld. **David Bechman**, one of the Co-Trustees, will continue as farm manager.

The farmland will be gifted by Ms. Waugh's Trust to **Saint Joseph's College (SJC)** in Rensselaer, Indiana. Currently, there are 19 operational wind turbines, with an additional 13 to be constructed, for a total of 32 wind turbines that will operate within the White County-based **Meadow Lake Wind Farm**. Collectively, the 32 wind turbines, once operational, will make SJC the largest private landowner with the most wind turbines east of the Mississippi River. Property taxes for the White County farm will be paid by SJC and they do not have intentions to request an exemption based on their own 501(c)3 not-for-profit status with the IRS.

Juanita Kious Waugh passed away on February 6, 2010, after spending many years managing her White County farm. Having considered many worthy charities/organizations as the beneficiaries of her farmland and its protection, Ms. Waugh chose Saint Joseph's College and Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D as the entities to forever preserve and protect the farming legacy of the land maintained by her family for over 100 years. The annual income generated from the farm will provide scholarships to students in memory of Ms. Waugh.♦

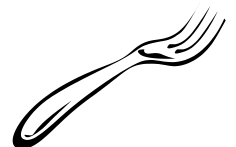
Noble County Farm to Fork Tour

submitted by: **John Bry**, Executive Director of NCCVB



The **Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau (NCCVB)** has launched the development of Indiana's first Farm to Fork Tour. Agriculture is certainly one of our strongest assets to explore in Noble County with regards to heritage and cultural tourism. The concept behind the project is to explore ways to promote the unique agricultural offerings found in Noble County. The group also hopes to identify additional opportunities to market local agriculture producers.

Kathy Latz, Coordinator of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, has been facilitating the development of the group that is comprised of representation not only from the **NCCVB, but Noble County Economic Development, Noble County Cooperative Extension**, bed and breakfast owners, restaurant owners, community farmer's markets, and of course, producers that represent a variety of products. The Farm to Fork development group hopes to unveil the new tourism and marketing experience in 2011.♦



Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp August 2 - 4, 2010

submitted by: **Nadean Eldien**, Whitley County SWCD

The annual Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp is scheduled for August 2 - 4, 2010, at **Camp Whitley**, northeast of Columbia City on **Troy-Cedar Lake**. For years, the northeastern Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts have leased Camp Whitley to host the three day conservation camp.

The camp program includes hands-on activities in wildlife, forestry, soils, and water.



Campers will participate in:
Mini-Envirothon
Water Safety Program
Team Building Activities
Scavenger Hunt
Bird House Building
Swimming
Crafts, many more activities

Presentations and educational programs by:
Columbia City FFA Chapter
Local SWCD's
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Fort Wayne Zoo
Indianapolis Silly Safaris

The campers will earn "water bucks" during camp which they will use at a camp auction. There is always a large variety of nice merchandise, with every camper going home with something.

Camp is open to the first 80 boys and girls who turn in an application. Campers must be between the ages of 9-13. The fee for the three day camp is \$100. Please call your local Soil and Water Conservation District because many of them will help with the fee. **Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** will pay half of the first-time camper's fee. This is a good camp for your child, if they have never attended a camp before, since it is only three days long.

Applications and additional information are available from Nadean at Whitley County SWCD at 260.244.6266, ext. 3. The deadline for camp applications is July 23, 2010.♦

Elkhart River Report - Soon

adapted with permission from an article written by:
Bob Braley bobbb@kpcnews.net

The **Indiana Silver Jackets'** proposal on how to address flooding concerns in the West Lakes area (**Steinbarger, Waldron and Jones Lakes**) in **Noble County** is coming soon. They will present their proposed solutions in a public forum as well as online, if all goes as planned, said **Ken Smith**, the volunteer coordinator for the Silver Jackets on this effort.

The Silver Jackets are a multi-agency group of volunteers who pool resources for projects involving waterways that involve multiple jurisdictions in order to help coordinate efforts among agencies. Many federal and state agencies are represented among Silver Jackets members.♦



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

Individuals

Amy Thut	Jim Penick	Mike Yoder
Barbra Frymier	John Bry	Nadean Eldien
Bob Ledgerwood	Juanita Waugh	Nancy Manion
Deanna Vazquez	Karen Fairfield	Randy Moore
Don Minter	Kathy Latz	Richard Neff
Dwight Fish	Lenny Farlee	Rick Meyer
Gene Haskins	Marcia McNagyn	Sharon Gerig
Gene Lightner	Michael Hamang, Jr.	Tom Green
Greg Imbur	Mike McCoy	

Businesses

Fish & Willow Woodwrights
Fox Trail Farms
Rickle's Pickles
Wild Winds Buffalo Preserve

In Memory or Honor

In Memory of Gordon Bloom from Kathy Latz

Sponsors

Whitley County Extension

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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Deanna Vazquez **Mike Dirig** **Steve Provinces**
Jack Herendeen **Michael McCoy** **Ted Gilliom**
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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. 05.10

Upcoming Summer Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

June

- 15 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop**
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Metea County Park, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Contact: Sharon Hall at 260.484.5848, Ext. 3 or sharon.hall@in.nacdnet.net
- 15 Projects WET & WILD Combo Workshop**
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Bonneyville County Park, Bristol, Indiana
Contact: Nancy Brown at 574.533.3630, Ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net
- 19 GO FishIN - Family Learn to Fish Days**
Saturday, June 19, 2010 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact: NREC at 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- 24 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, Indiana
Contact: Kathy at 260.665.3211, Ext. 5
- 24 Projects WET & WILD Combo Workshop**
Thursday, June 24, 2010 - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Par-Gil Nature Center, LaGrange, Indiana
Contact: Nancy Brown at 574.533.3630, Ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net
- 28 Indiana League of RC&D's Teleconference**
Monday, June 28, 2010
Contact: Kathy at 260.665.3211, Ext. 5

July

- 1 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Training**
Thursday, July 1, 2010 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Winona Lake, Winona, Indiana
Contact: Darci Zolman at 574.267.7445, Ext. 3 or darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net
- 7 Project WET & Healthy Water Healthy People Workshop**
Wednesday, July 7, 2010 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Community Center, North Webster, Indiana
Contact: Darci Zolman at 574.267.7445, Ext. 3 or darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net
- 8 Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Training**
Thursday, July 8, 2010 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Community Center, North Webster, Indiana
Contact: Darci Zolman at 574.267.7445, Ext. 3 or darci.zolman@in.nacdnet.net

August

- 2-4 Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp**
Monday-Wednesday, August 2-4, 2010
Camp Whitley, Columbia City, Indiana
Contact: Nadean at 260.244.6266 ext. 3
- 26 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 4:00 pm
Noble County Office Complex, South, Albion, Indiana
Contact: Kathy at 260.665.3211, Ext. 5