

Receive our Newsletter

One of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council members said it best when he stated that, "continued publications are dependent on your contributions." Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has produced a quarterly newsletter since its inception, and plans to continue to do so in the future. The Council feels that this may be the best way to keep you updated. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter by mail, please help defray the cost of printing and mailing with your donation of \$10 or more.♦

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2011 Council officers to be elected at our annual meeting on February 24.♦



Tree Planting Workshop

Windbreaks - Wildlife - Forest Plantations

Do you have tree planting questions . . .

- How do I plant?
- What about fertilizer?
- What about weed control?
- What about insect problems?
- What steps are needed after planting?
- What do I need to do to prepare for tree planting?
- What kind of trees do I order?
- How many trees do I order?
- Where do I plant?
- When do I plant?

Don't miss the opportunity to learn the answers to these questions!
Attend a tree planting workshop!

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (cst)
Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area, North Judson, Indiana
Contact: Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022

and

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (est)
Wolfe Building, Shipshewana, Indiana
Contact: Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D at
260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org

Proper planting and good plantation maintenance practices will determine the success or failure to your newly planted seedlings. During this workshop you will learn many useful ways to be successful with the seedlings you plant.

All participants receive a useful packet containing the latest tree planting information and forest industry bulletins.

Registration for the workshop is \$10, which covers the cost of the educational materials provided (husbands & wives may register with one registration fee).♦

'Tis the Season

During this season of giving, we invite you to take a moment to look through our newsletter and website and consider a gift to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. In these tough economic times, make your gift to friends and loved ones last beyond the Christmas season by making a donation, in their name, to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. Your gift will continue to enhance rural communities by supporting activities and projects improving the area's environmental, economic, and social well-being. We will provide you with a nice certificate to present to your special person. ♦

Help Wood-Land-Lakes Grow

This coming year the Council has some openings for new members. Council members serve a 3-year term and may serve for 2 terms. The Council meets 5 times a year, on the 4th Thursday of February, April, June, August and October, from 4-6 p.m. in either Kendallville or Albion. The Council needs dedicated people who are interested in helping local people solve local natural resource concerns.

Some of the activities and projects in our newly approved 2011 work plan include assisting the Education Committee with the Envirothon and Conservation Camp, co-sponsoring a Tree Planting Workshop in LaGrange County, developing and monitoring conservation easements, and matching volunteer watershed groups with other groups that share their interests. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D continues to look for new opportunities to help with rural community economic development. Although the Council has a work plan, we continually add new projects as opportunities arise.

If you are interested in serving on the Council, or have a project that would improve our area's environmental, economic, or social well-being, contact our office soon. ♦

Cooking Up a Conservation Connection

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) will host their annual conference on January 10-12, 2011, in Indianapolis. The conference is on "The Power of Conservation." One of the sessions will highlight how SWCDs and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) councils share a mission of helping local people solve local natural resource concerns. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D assisted with coordinating these events in a number of counties. The SWCD and RC&D pulled together passionate volunteers and other groups to get the job done. One of the more successful activities has been the introduction and continuation of the Indiana Master Naturalist Program, which has trained about 100 volunteers in Elkhart County. **Nancy Brown**, Program Manager, has been instrumental in providing a first-class training experience, with classes filled to capacity every year. To get certification, volunteers perform community services, educate others, and give back to the local area. Nancy will share with conference attendees how working together has benefitted all of us. ♦

Connecting Children with Nature

Trees Indiana, an organization dedicated to educating and engaging youth environmental stewards, recently culminated its yearlong series of NeighborWoods projects with a major tree planting in the Fort Wayne Renaissance Pointe neighborhood. Youth from Trees Indiana's TreeKeepers program joined forces with 100 community volunteers and neighborhood residents to plant 50 trees in this central-city neighborhood. This project offers a unique opportunity for people to understand the contributions of trees to the health, beauty, and livability of their communities.

While protecting and maintaining these trees, the TreeKeeper youth learn first-hand how their positive actions produce positive results. You can learn more about Trees Indiana programs by visiting them at www.treesindiana.org. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D assisted Trees Indiana by serving as their umbrella organization, allowing them to apply for their initial grant. ♦

Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon is a competitive learning event for high school-age students to test their knowledge of environmental resources. The Envirothon builds awareness and helps show tomorrow's leaders the positive and negative effects that individual, business, and community actions can have on the environment.

High school Agriculture Departments, Science Departments, Academic Teams, Environmental Clubs, Home Schools, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts, and Girl Scouts are encouraged to compete. The Northeast Indiana Regional Envirothon completion will be held at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center in Wolf Lake, Indiana (Noble County) on Thursday, March 10, 2011. Contact your local county **Soil and Water Conservation District** for registration and sponsorship. Registration deadline is February 11, 2011. ♦



Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D

has 2 dibble bars to loan. These work great to make tree planting a breeze. Contact us to make arrangements to borrow a dibble. ♦

Conserving Agricultural Land

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D's Land Committee, chaired by **Mike Yoder**, will meet soon to re-evaluate their priorities for accepting conservation easements on farmland. An easement is a voluntary, written agreement between the landowner and a qualified conservation group. The landowner wants to restrict the use of their land, specifically preventing development from subdivisions, and commercial or industrial sites. The contract is legally binding and lasts for the life of the land, binding future landowners by the original agreement.

At this time, the Land Committee holds 18 conservation easements, totaling over 9,000 acres. Over 85% of this land is working farmland and about 10% is woodland. Each of these easements is monitored annually, by volunteers, to assure the easement is being upheld. ♦

Watershed Facilitation

There are a number of watershed or sub-watershed groups that are organizing. By definition, a watershed area consists of the land that drains into a specific lake, river, or stream. These groups are looking to the future, to develop short- and long-range plans, which address water quality concerns in their area.

Is your group just getting started? Will you need to hear from others in the area? Does your group need to clarify your focus or goals? Are you thinking about applying for grants, and need to have a plan in place for taking action?

This may be a good time to bring in a facilitator, someone who can help the group organize themselves, find out the public concerns, and develop their own solutions. **Kathy Latz**, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator, is a trained facilitator and has assisted many groups who want to "do it right the first time." If your group wants to learn more, contact Kathy. ♦

Did you know . . . Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has over 50 educational and informative DVDs and CD-ROMs available for **FREE**. Contact our office or visit our website for more information. ♦

Thank You

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

Individuals

Annie Sanders
Barb McWhorter
Don Minter
Dwight Fish
Glenn & Susan Pratt

Jim Penick
Joyce Weber
Kathy Latz
Mike Yoder
Ron Smith

Businesses

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
Public.Resources.Org, Inc.

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. 12.10

Upcoming Events

January

10-12 Indiana Association of SWCD Annual Conference
The Power of Conservation: Clean Water, Healthy Soils
Monday-Wednesday, January 10-12, 2011
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Contact: Jennifer Boyle at 317.692.7519 or
jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

18-20 Ft. Wayne Farm Show
Tuesday-Thursday, January 18-20, 2011
Memorial Coliseum, Ft. Wayne, IN
Contact: 800.347.5225

18-20 Indiana Horticultural Congress & Trade Show
Tuesday-Thursday, January 18-20, 2011
Wyndham Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
Contact: Tammy Goodale at 765.494.1296 or
tgoodale@purdue.edu or visit www.inhortcongress.org

February

16 Tree Planting Workshop
Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 1-4 pm (cst)
Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area, North Judson, IN
Contact: Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022

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Wolfe Building, Shipshewana, IN
Contact: Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D at 260.665.3211, x5
or office@wood-land-lakes.org

24 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2011, 4:00 pm
Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, IN
Contact: Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D at 260.665.3211, x5
or office@wood-land-lakes.org

March

10 Northeast Indiana Envirothon Competition
Thursday, March 10, 2011
Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN
Contact: Julie Knudson at 260.925.3066, ext. 3 or
jknudson@co.dekalb.in.us

25-26 2011 Indiana Lakes Management Annual Conference
Friday-Saturday, March 25-26, 2011
Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN
Contact: www.indianalakes.org

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org