

Summer 2011

Welcome . . .

Diana Clingan, is our new at-large Council member. Diana and her husband farm as well as own and operate Noll Brothers Oil. Diana is interested in farmland protection - so much so that she and her husband have donated the development rights on 2 portions of their farm with a conservation easement. Wood-Land-Lakes' Land Committee has committed to protect the Clingan farm from subdivision and development forever. Diana is interested in preserving the rural character, history, and heritage of northeast Indiana.

We also appreciate the time and talents of outgoing Council members:
Gene Haskins and **Jim Penick**. ♦

Newly Elected 2011 Council Officers

Dwight Fish, President
John Hulewicz, Vice President

Mike Cross, Treasurer
Joyce Weber, Secretary

Dear Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Sponsors, Members & Friends:

Our successful Wood-Land-Lakes Council is still functioning and awaits your input. The recent budget cuts have brought the federal funding of our RC&D coordinator to an end - but the work of the Council does go on. First, a huge thank you to **Kathy Lutz**, our coordinator, for your great management and enthusiastic support of Wood-Land-Lakes and the many years you helped guide this organization to statewide recognition. Kathy has been reassigned new duties and will no longer function as our coordinator.

Secondly, our office has functioned so well because of our assistant, Lisa Ledgerwood. I have never known another office person who is willing to put so much effort and dedication into an organization for such meager wages. We can't thank (or pay you) enough for your hard work. Lisa will remain as our assistant as we move forward and record many new successes for Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D.

Also, I would like to thank the past council officers, boards, and committee members who have helped develop community based programs and events. You are the direct link to how well our mission has been received within our six-county service area. We have a great reputation because of you.

The newly elected Council officers will need your continued support as we start a new phase for Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. Our mission hasn't changed and our continuing obligations of farmland conservation easements, non-profit management services, stewardship programs, and many others will go on. This is where YOU have the opportunity to step up to further our success. When you have a community service project that needs support or guidance, contact us and put us to work. We are a group of volunteers with the knowledge and dedication to see projects through to completion. Our meetings are always open to new partners and ideas.

I was drawn to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D because of the people and this kind of service work. I plan to continue the Wood-Land-Lakes mission that was started many years ago. Thank you very much for your past support and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Dwight Fish, President



Excerpts from an email interview by **Bob Braley, KPC Media Group** with **John Hulewicz, Vice President of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D**

Bob: What is Wood-Land-Lakes' mission?

John: "Volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources."

Bob: What sorts of projects does Wood-Land-Lakes undertake?

John: Projects vary to some degree but generally all center around our natural resources and the need to conserve and recognize their importance. The council has been involved with four basic themes: promoting land conservation, strengthening water quality and quantity management, expanding rural community development, and stimulating land protection and management. Some past projects include farmland conservation easements, supporting Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, forestry workshops, woodland and wildlife workshops, and historic round barn restoration and preservation.

Bob: With the name Wood-Land-Lakes, many people assume this is something that is involved in nature preserves. Is that a primary aspect - or an aspect at all - of the work?

John: The name may more typify the landscape of the counties we all live and work in. Yes, those three words have meaning when we look at what we do but they do not limit who we are. No, we are not a true nature conservancy but in many ways we strive to conserve nature. We strive, either on our own or with other partners, to facilitate programs, projects, or events that will educate and stimulate natural resource conservation and/or development.

Bob: What does the loss of Kathy Latz mean to the group?

John: Kathy was our coordinator and she did just that - she coordinated and organized the endeavors of numerous individuals or groups, bringing their contributions and efforts together to make things happen. Her experience and ability to coordinate are irreplaceable. It will be up to the Council members to assimilate what Kathy did into their volunteer hours. What it really means is we have to step up our own commitment to Wood-Land-Lakes and morph into something even better.

Bob: What is the current status of the search for a new office location? I know that search has just acquired a new urgency.

John: In addition to a coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided Wood-Land-Lakes with office space. Those provisions were rescinded in May, therefore, we are currently looking for an office in a location that will well-serve our six-county area. It is important to note that in the interim, Wood-Land-Lakes is still conducting business to promote our mission and vision - we're just doing it from our homes right now. Our website and email will serve as our short term conduit of communication. We are hoping to find office space with a like-minded entity that would be interested in partnering with us.

Bob: What is the organization's status? Will it continue to operate as before, will it scale back, will it expand?

John: Great question and I would hope the Council can look at expansion rather than contraction. While many members are appointed to the Council board, individuals wanting to participate are not limited by factors such as geography, politics, or time. Committees have numerous members who are not Council members but have an interest in committee activities and want to volunteer their time or have a pet project. We would welcome more participation on our committees. The next Council board meeting is Thursday, June 23 at 4 pm at the Kendallville Library. It would be great to see some new faces! ♦

“This has never been done before.”

Those words rarely stopped the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council, committees, or other volunteers, when the concept fell within the mission of the Council. Individuals and groups have come to Wood-Land-Lakes with ideas they wanted to see become a reality: getting organized, administering financial assistance, providing an umbrella nonprofit, and more. Wood-Land-Lakes has this unique quality of helping others to help themselves.

I have always been amazed with how Wood-Land-Lakes can make things happen. If a barrier blocked one way of getting to the goal, the Council and committees looked for another way. Often that included reaching out to more partners and resources.

I am confident that Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D will find a way to make things happen, now and in the future.

Kathy Latz

INPAWS Event

Submitted by **Karen Fairfield**

In September, the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) will present a series of talks by Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Dr Tallamy is the author of *Bringing Nature Home, How you can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Professor Tallamy is a dynamic speaker who delivers an intriguing message, discussing the role native plants play by sustaining insects and wildlife.

These events offer a great opportunity to learn more about native plants and gardening for wildlife (see calendar for dates and locations). We hope you will considering attending one of these events. Seating is limited and we are anticipating many will want to attend. ♦

Fund Raising Request: By now you know about the closing of the Angola office of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D and your direct support is needed now more than ever. **We are asking YOU, our supporters and members, to make a yearly donation of \$35.00 to help defray the costs of maintaining our services and programs.** Thank you for your support! ♦

Thank You

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

Individuals

Andrea Ledgerwood	Jake Hulewicz	Marcia McNagny
Annie Sanders	Jane Hardisty	Martin Franke
Bob Braley	Jill Noyse	Mike Cross
Bob Ledgerwood	Jim Downs	Mike Walton
Brian Campbell	Jim Penick	Mike Yoder
Brian Musser	John Hulewicz	Nancy Manion
Dave Dolezal	John Newsom	Rene Campbell
Dave Hess	Joyce Weber	Richard Neff
Diana Clingan	Karen Eagleson	Rick Eckert
Don Minter	Karen Fairfield	Rick Meyer
Don Moore	Karen Griggs	Roger Kult
Dona Hunter	Kathy Latz	Sharon Gerig
Dwight Fish	Kayleen Hart	Steve Provinces
Garry Weybright	Kimberly Neuman	Tom Eickholtz
Gene Haskins	Lavon Miller	Tom Green
Gene Lightner	Lenny Farlee	Tom Saggars
Gretel Smith	Lucy Miner	

In Memory or Honor

In Memory of June Fee Haskins from Kathy Latz

Businesses

Angola American Legion Post 31
Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County
Kendallville Chamber of Commerce
Kendallville Public Library
Larry's Lock & Safe Service

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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.



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Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Members

Dwight Fish, President **John Hulewicz**, Vice President
Joyce Weber, Secretary **Mike Cross**, Treasurer

Allen Stout **Diana Clingan** **Mike Dirig**
Barbra Frymier **Don Moore** **Sharon Gerig**
Bill Schmidt **Karen Fairfield** **Steve Provines**
Dave Dolezal **Lucy Miner**

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 our office.

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.

Upcoming Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

June 23 **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 4:00 pm
Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, Indiana
Contact: Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D office at
office@wood-land-lakes.org

June 24 **Protecting Our Watersheds Workshop**
Friday, June 24, 2011 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Natural Resources Education Center
Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact: NREC at (317) 562-1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov

July 15 **Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring**
Friday, July 15, 2011 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
North Webster Community Center, North Webster, IN
Contact: Lyn Crighton at (574) 834-3242 or
telwf@kconline.com

Aug. 2-4 **Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp**
Tuesday - Thursday, August 2-4, 2011
Camp Whitley, Columbia City, Indiana
Contact: Nadean at (260) 244-6266, ext. 3

Aug. 5-21 **Indiana State Fair**
Indianapolis, Indiana
www.in.gov/statefair/fair/

Aug. 25 **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**
Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 4:00 pm
Noble County Office Complex, South, Albion, Indiana
Contact: Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D office at
office@wood-land-lakes.org

Sept. 10 **Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring**
Saturday, September 10, 2011 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Elkhart Conservation Club, Elkhart, Indiana
Contact: Nancy Brown at (574) 533-4383, ext. 3 or
nancy.brown@in.nacdn.net

Sept. 10 **Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring**
Saturday, September 10, 2011 - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact: NREC at (317) 562-1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov

Sept. 14 **Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology
and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware**
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:30 pm
IPFW, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Contact: Karen Fairfield at (574) 536-5262 or
k.fairfield@frontier.com

Sept. 15 **Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology
and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware**
Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7:30 pm
IUSB, South Bend, Indiana
Contact: Karen Fairfield at (574) 536-5262 or
k.fairfield@frontier.com