

Fall 2005

WLL welcomes new Council member, **Michael McCoy**, representing the Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension Board.

Mike's interests are energy conservation, alternative energy sources, aquaculture and small scale sustainable agriculture. He owns and operates a business that has its roots in alternative energy applications. Mike sees water and air quality as the most urgent opportunities for WLL to address. ♦

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Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop, A New Tradition! will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Forestry and wildlife experts from Ohio, Michigan and Indiana will be offering you their expertise. Woodland and wildlife owners from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan are invited to attend this day-long workshop.

There will be presentations on new techniques for the control of invasive plant species. Concurrent sessions will include:

- Tree Planting Essentials
- Profitable Harvests
- Chainsaw Safety
- Woodland Wildlife
- Woodland Pond Management
- Wetlands
- Chainsaw Maintenance
- Woodland Appreciation

- Exploring Your Woodlands & Setting Hardwood Plantation Management
- Income Tax Treatment of Timber Transactions
- Hobby/Small Scale Maple Syrup Production
- Chainsaw Use
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Search for Cultural Artifacts in Your Woods
- Woodland Ecology Basics

Some sessions will be outdoors, so dress appropriately. There will be displays, a lunch and plenty of opportunity to interact with presenters to get your questions answered. Cost is \$20 per person **before October 1st**. Contact **Tom Eickholtz**, Steuben County Extension at 260.668.1000, x1400. ♦

Special thanks go to the volunteers, contributors and sponsors for their donations:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
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Basic Tree Care Workshop,

October 1, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. The workshop will involve some outdoor participation, so dress

appropriately. It is being hosted by the **Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR), Division of Forestry** and the **LaGrange County and Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.**

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about planting the right trees in the right place in your landscaping, recognizing pests and diseases, proper tree planting techniques, tree maintenance, pruning and risk management. Trees have many benefits in urban and residential areas. They absorb and block noise, create living spaces for birds and animals, screen out unsightly views, increase property values, and have many other environmental and economic benefits.

Pre-registration is required **by September 26, 2005** and the cost is \$15 per person, which includes educational materials, breaks and lunch. Make checks payable to Indiana Urban Forest Council and send to **April Murray-Clayton** at IDNR, Community & Urban Forestry, 6515 E. 82nd Street, Suite 204, Indianapolis, IN 46250. You can reach April at 317.915.9390, the **Steuben County SWCD** at 260.665.3211, x3 or **LaGrange County SWCD** at 260.463.3166, x3 for more information.

◆ *Submitted by Beth Williams, Resource Specialist, Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District.*

New projects & Activities adopted for 2005 include:

- * Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop
- * Council Retreat
- * Tree Planting Workshops
- * Bear Creek Watershed Facilitation

Wood-Land-Lakes' meetings are open to everyone. Come and share your project ideas.

Anyone wishing to attend will always be welcome. For assistance with your project, please contact the WLL office, 260.665.3211, x5 or a Council member to have your name and project placed on the agenda. ◆



Agritourism help with reaching the next level of success is here for potential & existing agritourism producers. The **Indiana Small Business Development Center**

(SBDC) is offering NxLevel, a course aimed at individuals who have started or are thinking about starting an agricultural based venture that is not tied to large-scale, commodity-style production.

The multi-week training course covers everything from planning, research, marketing, financial statements, deal-making & growth management. Materials are specifically designed for the individual who is searching for innovative ideas & enhance marketing opportunities in the area of agriculture. It is a practical, hands-on, common sense approach to developing your small agricultural business.

Scholarships are available through regional SBDC NxLevel programs for 3-member teams of one producer & 2 educators. Contact WLL for help in matching you with an educator who will assist you in building your agritourism business. Visit the Small Biz Toolbox on the www.nxlevel.org web site for the complete course outline. ◆



Save your native ash by helping take steps to see that ash trees do not vanish forever from Indiana and the Great Lakes region. We need to keep the Ash tree species alive until we can control the Emerald Ash Borer.

You can help by collecting seeds from native Ash trees (not from street trees). The following Ash trees are in danger of being destroyed: Black Ash, Blue Ash, Green Ash, and White Ash.

Ash seed collection instructions, ash fact sheets, photos, leaves, seeds and more can be found on the web Natural Resources Conservation Services' web site at www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/plantmaterials. For questions, contact **Ken Collins**, NRCS Forester, 317.290.3200, x 356 or email ken.collins@in.usda.gov. ◆



“**The Best Kept Secret**” is no longer and the “cat is out of the bag.” Congress has heard loud & clear that RC&D is important to their constituents. **Sharon Ruggi**,

President, National Association of RC&D Councils (NARC&DC), reported that at the time of the summer 2005 newsletter, the House of Representatives & the U.S. Senate restored funding to the RC&D program at \$51 million for **ALL** 375 councils.

Although the budget process was not yet complete, this is a huge victory given the overall federal budget constraints. **Roberta Jeanquart**, NARC&DC Executive Director stated “The Committee has restored this account, rather than accepting the proposal to defund the 189 RC&D Councils that have been in existence for twenty years or more. The Committee would expect such a budget proposal to be based on the effectiveness and performance of councils rather than on council age.” Stay tuned at www.rcdnet.org for updates. ♦

Making the Grade Stormwater Pollution Prevention During & After Construction workshops attracted 130 participants. Builders, real estate developers, contractors, excavators, engineers and local representatives learned about updates, site inspection, routine maintenance, pumping operations, material handling, spill prevention, and post construction practices.



Products & Practices-Things That Work was the most highly rated session topic. Committee members prepared a power point presentation of actual constructions sites, depicting problems with practical ways to fix them. About 80 evaluations were returned, with many comments on the “valuable” sessions of the workshops. The committee will continue to take before-and-after photos of problem areas with ways to fix them and identify areas for specific structures. Thanks to all committee members and exhibitors for making this a “**VERY IMPORTANT**” workshop. If you were unable to attend, you can request copies of the hand-out materials from your local SWCD. ♦



Students from northeast Indiana’s first Master Naturalist Program

have contributed over 500 hours of volunteer services to various local nonprofit groups. The students will become certified Indiana Master Naturalists at the September 20, 2005 ceremony, after they complete 24 hours of volunteer, naturalist community service. Each will receive a certificate and a pin.

Eight classes were held in April 2005, ranging from naturalist topics such as water & wetlands, geology, birds, insects, forest ecology, wildflowers, natural resources, and trees. In May, the volunteers began offering their help and using their newly acquired knowledge to lead nature hikes, be trail guides & interpreters, control invasive plant species, work in nature centers, lead birding hikes, assist in natural inventory, and much more.

Little River Wetlands Project, Acres Land Trust, Pokagon State Park, Gene Stratton Porter, Hoosier ReLeaf, Izaak Walton League, Ft. Wayne Children’s Zoo, IDNR, local SWCDs and WLL sponsored the volunteers. **Teresa Rody**, IDNR Interpretive Naturalist at the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services said, “I feel very lucky to have the chance to work with volunteer **John (Kennedy)**. He has gone far above the required hours and is a joy to work with.” She also said that “he has steadily taken on more responsibility and increased his comfort level with each session. We hope to utilize John’s great skills and rapport with our visitors with preschoolers.”

Within 4 months, **BRIAN GRUBB, CAROLYN LINSENMEYER, CINDY CANTRELL, DENNIS MCBRIER, DOUG ROOD, ETHEL KLOPFENSTEIN, JIM BUGERT, JIM LITTLEJOHN, JOHN C. KENNEDY, JUDITH NELSEN, JUDY SMITH, JULIE DIEHM, JULIE HENRICKS, LANCE LOTHAMER, LAURA LEEUW, LUCY MINER, MARTHA BLOOM, and ROBIN STARK** have partnered with over 15 different natural resource groups. Thanks to all the volunteers & sponsors for making this so successful.

If you are interested in becoming an Indiana Master Naturalist, give your name & contact information to WLL. You will be contacted when there is enough interest in providing another class. ♦



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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
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This newsletter is a publication of Wood-Land-Lakes, a not for profit organization. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please contact Kathy Latz, Coordinator, at 260.665.3211, ext 5.

All meetings of Wood-Land-Lakes 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 to have your name and project placed on the agenda. Wood-Land-Lakes prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs or family status. 9.05

Upcoming 2005 Events

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| <p>OCT 1 Basic Tree Care Workshop @ 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Potawatomi Inn, Angola, Beth Williams, Steuben County SWCD, 260.665.3211, x3 or Dona Hunter, LaGrange SWCD, 260.463.3166, x3</p> <p>14-17 Land Trust Alliance National Rally, Madison, WI, www.lta.org</p> <p>15 Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop, 8:15 a.m.-4 p.m., Pokagon State Park, Angola, Tom Eickholtz, 260.668.1000, x1400 or register online at www.woodlandstewards.osu.edu</p> <p>18 World Water Monitoring Day</p> <p>22 Economics of Energy Efficiency: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Workshop @ 9-11 a.m., Merry Lea Farmstead near Wolf Lake, Noble County, Jennifer @ Merry Lea Environmental Learning Ctr. 260.799.5869 or jenniferhs@goshen.edu</p> <p>27 WLL Council Mtg. @ 4 p.m., Kendallville Public Library, 260.665.3211, x5</p> <p>NOV 5 IN Master Naturalist Mtg. @ 9 a.m.-Noon, LaGrange, Julie Diehm, 260.463.3471, x3</p> | <p>7 IN League of RC&D Councils Mtg., Location TBA</p> <p>9 IDEM Watershed Networking Mtg. - Best Management Practices for Indiana Watersheds @ 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., RSVP required by October 24, 2005, visit www.iaswcd.org/IDEMfallRSVP2005</p> <p>14 Education Committee Mtg. @ 9 a.m., Noble County Community Foundation, Ligonier, Julie Knudson, 260.925.3710, x3</p> <p>17-18 Experience the Diversity of Food: Production Through Consumption Conference, Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Cincinnati, OH, OSU, Office of Continuing Education - Conf. Mgmt. 614.292.8571, Registration form - www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm</p> <p>DEC See our web site, www.wood-land-lakes.org, for future December events.</p> |
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