

Spring 2007

2006 Annual Report

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Wood-Land-Lakes welcomed new Council members: **David Blue, Chris Godlewski, Greg Hughes, John Hulewicz, and Lucy Miner.** We look forward to new leadership from Council Officers: President **Jim Penick**, Vice President **Michael McCoy**, Secretary **Ted Gilliom**, and Treasurer **Larry Mayers.**

We appreciate the time that **Tom Green, Gene Lightner, and Loralee Taylor** gave to the Council. Other out-going members include **David Blue** and **Phil Curtis.**

Special thanks to past-President **Brian Campbell**, who will continue to serve on the Council. **Gene Lightner** plans to remain active with the Land committee, in addition to training others to monitor conservation easements.

Project Highlights . . .

. . . **Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry's** local chapter, coordinated by **Deb and Doug Treesh**, Corunna, expanded in 2006 from 4 to 15 counties; from 1 to 12 meat processors; from 5 to 167 donated deer; providing 31,000 meals to the hungry in northeastern Indiana. About 8,000 pounds of venison were provided to local food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters through the **Community Harvest Food Bank.**

Who or What is Wood-Land-Lakes?

Wood-Land-Lakes was established in 1994 by local citizens in DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. These people were interested in bringing individuals together to find solutions to rural development issues and provide opportunities for improving our area's environmental, economic, and social well-being.

We currently have three resource committees: Education, Forestry, and Land. Numerous project-specific committees conduct projects and activities benefiting the rural areas within the six counties. We help provide both the structure and the process for addressing issues by: identifying the need, agreeing on a plan of action, securing the resources, implementing the plan, and evaluating the results.

Wood-Land-Lakes Council is directed by 21 members from the six counties we serve with representatives from: **County Commissioners, Cooperative Extension Service Boards, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and At-large** individuals or groups. We receive annual operating funds from these representative sponsors. Grants and donations are the common funding sources for projects and sponsored events.

Wood-Land-Lakes looks forward to continuing assistance, helping northeast Indiana citizens solve local natural resource problems on a local level.



Wood-Land-Lakes 2006 Annual Project Report

Wood-Land-Lakes has made a significant difference in helping local volunteers solve local natural resource problems. We have partnered with regional, community-based groups such as Economic Development, Community Harvest Food Bank, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, watershed groups, and agritourism to make a positive impact regarding local natural resources. Some of the projects and activities we have undertaken include:

2006 New Projects

- ~ Developing a comprehensive resource guide for financial, technical, and other assistance for agribusiness.
- ~ Exploring the possibility of landowners planting a row of produce to donate to local food pantries.
- ~ Facilitating the start-up of a not for profit group promoting urban forestry.
- ~ Co-sponsoring Indiana Master Naturalist training courses.
- ~ Protecting a 125-year old forest from future clearing and development.
- ~ Facilitating meetings of local people to determine ways to provide off-season income for fairgrounds.
- ~ Coordinating effort for hunters and meat processors to donate game to a local food bank.
- ~ Evaluating "50-50-50" Arboretum Plan (planting Indiana trees, shrubs, and wildflowers) at 4-H park.
- ~ Assisting in finding financial and technical resources to start up a local agribusiness.
- ~ Sponsoring an educational workshop on managing established tree plantations.
- ~ Co-sponsoring seminar for managing stormwater.
- ~ Contracting for Council assistance.

2006 Completed Projects

- ~ Measured successes and accomplishments, and planned for future activities.
- ~ Co-sponsored Indiana Master Naturalist training courses.
- ~ Co-sponsored workshops for woodland owners on tree planting, and weed and insect management.
- ~ Hosted the annual Envirothon - a natural resource competition for high school students.
- ~ Co-sponsored a tri-state forest and wildlife workshop.
- ~ Protected 2 farms, for a total of 27 acres of land, with a conservation easement.
- ~ Contracted for a Council assistant.

2006 Accomplishments

- ~ Coordinated 450 volunteers donating more than 3700 hours.
- ~ Displayed projects and activities at 12 workshops, field days, presentations, or exhibits.
- ~ Assisted variety of not for profit organizations in securing over \$795,000 for local use.
- ~ Published 36 news articles in local newspapers.
- ~ Facilitated 13 public input meetings.
- ~ Maintained an up-to-date web site with a variety of information.
- ~ Published a quarterly newsletter of accomplishments, upcoming projects, and events.



Balance Sheet December 31, 2006

	2005	2006
Operating Fund	\$ 9,601	\$ 7,344
Grants	\$ 5,818	\$ 3,642
Education Committee	\$ 489	\$ 4,375
Forestry Committee	\$ 3,880	\$ 3,929
Land Committee	\$ 3,698	\$ 3,517
Water Committee	\$ 7,806	\$ 8,922
Total	\$31,292	\$31,729
Restricted Monies:		
Apollo Landfill	\$29,373	\$29,570
Land Stewardship Fund	\$31,977	\$36,793

More Project Highlights . . .

. . . **Charles Knight**, LaGrange County, donated a **conservation easement** on 23 acres of woods that have belonged to his family since the 1800's. Six generations will share their memories of the protected woods, from Knight's great-grandfather to his grandchildren.

. . . **Elkhart County Fair Board** past presidents brainstormed concerns, needs and solutions with facilitation from Wood-Land-Lakes. All participants felt the facilitated sessions were a good investment of their time, keeping them on track as they waded through some sensitive issues. They continue to work together on committees to address the priority areas before developing their business plan.

. . . **Indiana Master Naturalist** classes expanded from 1 to 3 counties, with LaGrange and Elkhart offering training to area residents. After completing courses on birds, trees, geology, insects, wildlife and wetlands, students give back to the community by volunteering in naturalist-related activities.

Wood-Land-Lakes is successful due to the support of Volunteers, Contributors and Sponsors. Thank You!

Individuals

Al Moore	Harry Dexter	Marcia McNagny
Allen Haynes	Jack Herendeen	Martha Miller
Ann Harris	Jack Seifert	Maryjane Deel
Bernice Meyers	Jane Avery	Mike McCoy
Beth Warner	Jane Hardisty	Mike Yoder
Beth Williams	Janet Ordway	Monica Yoder
Bill Hoover	Jason Kauffman	Nadean Eldien
Bill Minter	Jim Anspach	Nancy Brown
Bob DuCharme	Jim Penick	Nancy Manion
Bob Ledgerwood	Joe Tutterrow	Noel Eckert
Brian Campbell	John Deem	Pam DeCamp
Charles Knight	Joyce Pacer	Paul Federspiel
Chris Egolf	Judith Bucolo	Ralph Taylor
Chris Godlewski	Judy Weber	Randy Moore
Darrell Jones	Julie Diehm	Randy VanWagner
David Blue	Julie Knudson	Renee Troyer Campbell
David Holloway	Kara Lopp	Richard Neff
Deb Treesh	Karen Mackowiak	Richard Strayer
Diane Jones	Kate Ferguson	Rick Eckert
Dick Haworth	Kathy Adams	Rick Meyer
Dick Kyler	Kathy Hopper	Robert Hawley
Don Minter	Kayleen Hart	Ron Matthews
Dona Hunter	Keith DeHaan	Ron Miller
Doug Treesh	Kevin Hoffelder	Ron Smith
Dwight Craft	Kimberly Neumann	Steve & Dixie Liens
Eric Kurtz	Larry Lichtsinn	Ted Gilliom
Frances Krauskopf	Larry Mayers	Tim Hartman
Gene Lightner	Lisa Iddins	Tom Crowe
Gordon Bloom	Lucy Miner	Tom Eickholtz

In Memory of Richard L. Baker, founding Board member of Wood-Land-Lakes, Kathy Latz
In Honor of Kathy Latz, Paul Federspiel

Businesses

Albrights	Indiana Deer & Elk Association
Angola Middle School	Izaak Walton League
Anstead Meats	Krider's Meats
BCCI-Management Co	Lengacher Meats
Bales Butcher Shop	Lengerich Meats
Best Deal Auto	Manley Meats
Community Harvest Food Bank	Midwest Woodlots
D&C Meat	New Haven Custom Meats
D&D Meat Processing	Pyro Mation, Inc.
D&D Photography	Steuben Co. Community Foundation
Garrett Bank	TLA Signs
Goss Grocery	W W Locker
Hargers Meats	Wal-Mart
Hilgers Market	Whitetails Unlimited of Noble County

Sponsors

DeKalb County Commissioners
DeKalb County Purdue Cooperative Extension
DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District
Elkhart County Commissioners
Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension
Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District
LaGrange County Commissioners
LaGrange County Purdue Cooperative Extension
LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District
Steuben County Commissioners
Steuben County Purdue Cooperative Extension
Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
Whitley County Commissioners
Whitley County Purdue Cooperative Extension
Whitley County Soil & Water Conservation District



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RC&D Council Members

Jim Penick, President **Michael McCoy**, Vice President
Ted Gilliom, Secretary **Larry Mayers**, Treasurer

Barb Frymier **Gene Yoder** **John Hulewicz**
Bill Hoover **Greg Hughes** **Kathy Adams**
Brian Campbell **Jack Herendeen** **Lucy Miner**
Chris Godlewski **Janet Ordway** **Richard Strayer**
Dick Haworth **Jenny Spittler** **Ron Smith**

This newsletter is a publication of Wood-Land-Lakes, a not for profit organization. If you do not wish 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. 3.07

Upcoming 2007 Events

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

APRIL 12 Elkhart Co Master Naturalist class
19 Elkhart Co Master Naturalist class
22 Earth Day
26 Wood-Land-Lakes Council Meeting, 4 pm,
 Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville
26-28 Midwest Land Trust Conf, Indianapolis
28 Elkhart Co Master Naturalist class
29 Stewardship Week

JUNE 3-9 Indiana Resource Conservation &
 Development Week
6-9 Indiana Rivers Rally, Purdue University,
www.riversinstitute.org
11 IN League of RC&D Council Meeting, Indy
23-24 Women in the Outdoors Workshop,
 Fremont
28 Wood-Land-Lakes Council Meeting, 4 pm,
 Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville

MAY 1-6 Stewardship Week
12 Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Water
 Monitor Training, 8:30-4, Steuben Co
 Lakes Council, 260.665.1730