

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D welcomes DeKalb County Extension's new representative, **Deanna Vazquez**. Deanna completed the Indiana Master Naturalist Program. She was very appreciative of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D's impetus in getting a class started in northeast Indiana. Deanna has a strong interest in stormwater management, utilizing rain barrels to capture and control heavy rains, and reducing stormwater runoff and erosion. ♦

2009 Council Officers

- Jim Penick**, President
- Dwight Fish**, Vice President
- Barb Frymier**, Secretary
- Brian Campbell**, Treasurer

Winter 2008

See Inside:



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- ⇒ **Free Educational DVD's**
- ⇒ **Thank You**



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!

February 10, 2009, 7-9 pm in Shipshewana, Indiana
February 11, 2009, 1:30 - 4 pm in Warsaw, Indiana

Proper planting and good plantation maintenance practices will determine the success or failure to your newly planted seedlings. Many people have planted trees for windbreaks, reforestation, or wildlife habitat and have had rather disappointing results. At the same time, others have planted seedlings without losing a single one. During this workshop you will learn many useful ways to be successful with the seedlings you plant this year.

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. Contact **Arrow Head Country RC&D** at 574.946.3022 for more information.

The Tree Planting Workshops are sponsored by **Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Arrow Head Country RC&D Forestry Committee, and Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Forestry Committee.** ♦



Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) is continuing to accept donations of whole or partial deer, cattle, and pigs as well as monetary donations to help

offset butchering fees. Local food banks and pantries are in dire need for food, especially protein.

Deb Treesh, Northeast Indiana FHFH Coordinator, has a goal of donating enough meat for distribution to 200,000 families in northern Indiana. One deer can provide up to 200 meals. Partnering in this project with the farmers and hunters are 16 local butchers who have agreed to process the meat at a charitable rate. For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact Deb Treesh at treesh@fhfh.org or 260.541.0365.♦



Living snow fences are designed plantings of trees and/or shrubs and native grasses located along driveways, sidewalks, roads, ditches, homes, or farmsteads. These plantings create a vegetative barrier that traps and controls blowing and drifting snow.

Winter is a great time to start thinking about and planning a living snow fence. Check out our [website](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.♦

The Indiana Master Naturalist



program is designed to provide adults with a basic understanding of Indiana's natural resources. Participants will learn which furry mammals live in our area forests; be able to identify the invasive garlic mustard plant they can pull from their yards; discover which birds visit their backyards; search for what soil is underneath their feet; and discover how everything is connected!

March 5 to May 21, 2009

**Classes meet every Thursday from 4 - 7 pm
at various locations in Elkhart County**

**The class is limited to the first 20 registrants
Tuition is \$175**

This class is coordinated in Elkhart County and is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Contact **Elkhart County SWCD** at 574.533.3630, ext. 3 for more information.♦

A Whitley County Landowner is in the process of preserving his 120-acre farm near South Whitley. He will be donating the development rights to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D and permanently protecting the farm with a conservation easement. This farm adjoins another farm that the landowner protected in 2007.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, written agreement between a landowner and Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D in which the landowner donates their development rights and, thus protects the land from further subdivision or development. A conservation easement runs with the land. The landowner retains ownership of the land.

If you are interested in more information about conservation easements, check our [website](#) or call the office.♦

Join Us for an Alternative Energy

Seminar on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN.

“**Alternative Energy 101**” will be presented by **Leon Bontrager** of Home and Mobile Energy in Middlebury, IN. He will focus on the basic elements of wind and solar energy - system practicality, planning, and cost for residential applications. Leon has presented wind and solar energy seminars throughout the U.S. and installed hundreds of solar and wind-power systems in the Midwest. Watch for more information in future newsletters and on our [website](#) or [contact us](#).♦

Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon is a competitive learning event for high school-age students to test their knowledge of environmental resources, including soils and land use, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and the current environmental issue - “Biodiversity in a Changing World.” 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.

Before competitions, under the supervision of a team advisor, students spend time researching and studying to develop a greater understanding of the interaction between humans and the environment.

The Northeast Indiana Regional Envirothon competition will be held at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center at Wolf Lake, IN on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Contact **Julie Knudson** at jknudson@co.dekalb.in.us or 260.925.3066, ext. 3 ~ don't delay, the deadline for registration is January 31, 2009.♦



Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. . . .

. . . is a group of volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources - bringing people together to identify needs and foster opportunities in the economic, environmental, and social areas of northeast Indiana - providing local solutions to natural resource problems.

Our [Long Range Area Plan](#) (pdf) identifies issues and strategies to achieve realistic goals such as, **promoting better land conservation; strengthening water quality and quantity management; expanding rural community development; and stimulating land protection and management.**

Local citizen volunteers and donors are a primary source of funding for Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D's projects and activities. During this season of giving, please consider making a donation to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. There is no level of time, talent, or financial commitment that is too small.♦

Please accept my enclosed contribution of \$ _____

Donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check all that apply.

I do not wish to have my name publicized.

My gift is: In Memory of In Honor of

Name: _____

Please send notification of gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please complete and mail this form with your contribution made payable to: **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D; 1220N 200W, Suite J; Angola, IN 46703-9171.**

LakesNet is a forum with an opportunity for citizens in Kosciusko, Noble, and Whitley Counties to grow as leaders in protecting our waters. In an area where the social, cultural, and economic well-being of communities is so closely tied to their lakes and streams, leaders must be prepared to protect and improve the quality of these precious resources.

For more information, visit the LakesNet website at <http://water.grace.edu> (education link).♦



Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D now has 2 dibble bars to loan. These work great to make tree planting a breeze. [Contact us](#) to make arrangements to borrow a dibble.♦

Did you know . . . Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has nearly 50 different educational and informative DVD's and CD-ROM's available for **FREE**. All we ask is an upfront donation of \$5 (per address) to cover shipping charges.

Topics include: Forestry, Water, RC&D, Energy, Land, Community Development, and Agritourism Resources. For specific titles of each video, visit our [website](#) or contact the office and we will send you a copy of the available DVD's & CD-ROM's.♦



Thank You

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

Individuals

Andrea Ledgerwood
Bob Ledgerwood
Brad Franklin
Greg Hughes

Kimberly Neumann
Lucy Miner
Mike Yoder
Richard Neff

In Memory of

Paul R. Federspiel ~ from Kathy Latz
Paul R. Federspiel ~ from Gordon Bloom
Paul R. Federspiel ~ from Bob & Lisa Ledgerwood

Businesses

Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc. on behalf of ILMS

Sponsors

Steuben County Commissioners

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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office@wood-land-lakes.org
www.wood-land-lakes.org

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This newsletter is a publication of Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, 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 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 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. 12.08

Upcoming Winter 2009 Events

JANUARY 2009						
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

FEBRUARY 2009						
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

MARCH 2009						
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				

- Jan. 12-14** Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Contact IASWCD at 317.692.7325 or visit www.iaswcd.org
- 13-15** Ft. Wayne Farm Show, Memorial Coliseum, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact www.tradexpos.com/ftwayne/
- 19-21** Indiana Horticultural Congress & Trade Show, Indianapolis, IN. Contact www.inhortcongress.org or 765.494.1296.
- Feb. 10** [Tree Planting Workshop](#), 7-9 pm, Wolfe Community Building, Shipshewana, IN. Contact Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022.
- 11** [Tree Planting Workshop](#), 1:30-4 pm, Central Park Pavilion, Warsaw, IN. Contact Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022.
- 25** Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo - Balancing Inputs, Yield, and Conservation, ACD Museum, Auburn, IN. Contact www.sjrwi.org or 260.484.5848, ext. 3.
- 26** [Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting](#), 4 pm, Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, IN. [Contact office.](#)
- Mar. 5** [Indiana Master Naturalist Class](#), 4-7, Elkhart County. Contact Elkhart County SWCD at 574.533.3630, ext. 3.
- 12** [Indiana Master Naturalist Class](#) - See March 5 for information.
- 19** [Indiana Master Naturalist Class](#) - See March 5 for information.
- 25** [Northeast Indiana Envirothon Competition](#), Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN. Contact Julie Knudson at jkudson@co.dekalb.in.us or 260.925.3066, ext. 3.
- 26** [Indiana Master Naturalist Class](#) - See March 5 for information.

Check www.wood-land-lakes.org calendar for updates on events.