

**Northeast Indiana
Conservation Camp**



The Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp will be August 3-5 at Camp Whitley (Whitley County). This is a beautiful place for boys and girls ages 9-13 to learn about conservation. Hands-on activities include: wildlife, forestry, soils, and water programs. Campers also participate in arts & crafts, boating, swimming, and other sporting activities. Entertaining games, yummy refreshments, and special evening programs round out camp. Contact your local SWCD.

See Inside:



- ⇒ **Lawn Fertilization Made Easy**
- ⇒ **Receive Newsletter by Email**
- ⇒ **Brownfields ~ What Are They?**
- ⇒ **Protecting History & Heritage**
- ⇒ **Thank You**

We have our new 5-year Area Plan brochure available. Call the office or visit our website for your copy.



Manure Management Field Day

**Wednesday, July 29, 2009
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Whiteshire Hamroc Farm
Noble County, Indiana**

Whiteshire Hamrock will present their operation, with emphasis on the economics of manure, historical manure application compared to current application methods, and fertility management.

Tim Harrigan, Professor of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University, will discuss a manure slurry seeding process in relation to cover cropping.

Russell Baker, NRCS District Conservationist, will highlight the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in regard to manure management and cover cropping opportunities.

Noble County Pork Producers will be grilling their famous pork burger sandwiches - free for the first 100 participants who RSVP.

After lunch, we will proceed to a neighboring field within walking distance.

Dudley Parker, owner and operator, will show his manure slurry seeding equipment. You will see a demonstration with side-by-side comparisons of various equipment tools (Salford, Phoenix, etc.).

Barry Fisher, NRCS State Agronomist, will be on hand to discuss the tools, offer his insight, and answer questions.

This field day is being co-sponsored by: **Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, St. Joseph, Steuben, and Whitley County SWCD's**, in conjunction with **NRCS** and **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D**. Contact your local SWCD for more information.

Lawn Fertilization Made Easy

Healthy lawns reduce runoff and erosion, produce oxygen, absorb noise and pollution, provide cooling, and look great! Too much fertilizer is like trying to fill an already full gas tank in our vehicles. When fertilizer is applied before a rainstorm or is spread on sidewalks, paved driveways, or streets, much of it may be washed into streams, rivers, lakes, or storm sewers. It is like washing money down the drain.

Recommendations for proper lawn care include:

**Test your soil to find out how much fertilizer is needed.
Use fertilizer as needed & apply no more than 3 times a year.
Fertilize at the proper time.**

Maintain a buffer strip of natural vegetation bordering watercourses, ponds, and lakes.



Fall is a better time to prepare your lawn for the next year. Spring makes grass grow faster and needs to be mowed more often. Be able to enjoy your summer and spend more time with your family and friends. Fertilize once, in the fall, so you spend your summer in a lawn chair, instead of on a lawn mower.

Receive This Newsletter by Email

Local citizen volunteers and donors are a primary source of our funding and we try to use these donations wisely. If you would like to help us save a few trees as well as printing and postage costs, consider receiving this newsletter by email. Just call the office at 260.665.3211, ext. 5 and give us your name and email address. We will switch you from a paper version of the newsletter to an electronic version. Also, like you, we do not like to receive “junk” email so you can be sure we will **NOT** share or sell your email address. We will not be emailing you daily, weekly, or even monthly - only quarterly with the latest newsletter.



Do you know you can access a variety of information from our website?

Topics include: Education, Energy, Farmland Protection, Forestry, Historic Round Barn, Rural Community Development, Water, Land, Backyard Conservation, Resource Conservation & Development, Calendar of Events, Informative Web Links, History, Plans & Reports, Council & Staff, Brochures, Free DVD & CD-Rom's, and Current & Previous Newsletters.

We strive to maintain a resourceful, up-to-date website. Take a look for yourself at www.wood-land-lakes.org.

Brownfields What Are They?

Are you aware of an abandoned school, industrial building, gas station, restaurant, home, hospital, railroad tracks, or other similar sites? It could be an eyesore to a community, an under-used property, and/or a safety hazard. A brownfield is “property the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant,” as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



A recent workshop, held in Kendallville, identified the steps to working with brownfields. It noted numerous available technical and financial resources, as well as shared examples from local, state and national communities. Region IIIA Northeast Indiana Economic Development District sponsored this workshop.

Some of the benefits to redeveloping brownfields include: increased tax base for the community, disincentive to develop “greenfields” or farmland, clean up potentially polluted sites, and create a safe site that attracts other businesses.

Protecting History & Heritage

Information from Farmer's Exchange

Valparaiso attorney **Hugo Martz** grew up in Whitley County on the land his family has worked since 1837 - a place rich with history.

Hugo wants to honor his parents and protect the land that has given so much to his family. He is doing that by placing the land in a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a voluntary, written agreement between the landowner and Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D, in which the landowner has decided to restrict the use of the land. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is obligated to monitor the property to be sure that, in this case, the land is not developed or divided. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D will ensure that Hugo's wishes are upheld indefinitely, even if the land is sold to someone else.

The history of the land in the Martz family goes back to 1837, when Hugo's great-great grandfather obtained the patent deed, signed by President Martin VanBuren. Hugo's father and uncle were both born on the property.

Hugo's love of agriculture and the land drove him to protect it from future development. "You can't get it out of your blood," he said.

Working in Valparaiso, Hugo knows all too well about the urban and suburban encroachment upon prime farmland. Once land is developed, its use for agriculture is gone forever.

"I had wanted to preserve land for a long time," he said. "I'm a strong believer in preserving as much open space as possible."

Not only does Hugo feel that he is honoring his parents and ancestors by preserving the land, he is also honoring all farmers who have turned soil.

"We (as a society) do not appreciate what they went through," he said. "They would be disappointed if the land was now developed."

As an added bonus, people who preserve land with a conservation easement may enjoy federal tax benefits because the IRS considers this a charitable contribution, even though the property owner maintains ownership of the land.

Thank You

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

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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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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. 06.09

Upcoming Summer 2009 Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

JULY 2009						
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- July 11-15** Soil & Water Conservation Society 2009 Annual Conference "Delivering Conservation, Today and Tomorrow," Dearborn, MI. Contact www.swcs.org
- 17** Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4:30, North Webster, IN. Contact Lyn Crighton at 574.834.3242 or telwf@kconoine.com
- 18** Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4:30, Peru, IN. Contact Jamin Beisiegel at 765.473.7651 or jbeisiegel@puruutilities.com
- 18** Monarchs, Monitoring, Milkweed, and Migration Workshop, 9-4, Geneva, IN. Contact 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- 22** Monarchs, Monitoring, Milkweed, and Migration Workshop, 9-4, Winamac, IN. Contact 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- 22** Hoosier Riverwatch Advanced E.coli Workshop, 2:30-4:30, North Webster, IN. Contact Lyn Crighton at 574.834.3242 or telwf@kconoine.com
- 29** Manure Management Field Day, 10-2, Noble County, IN. Contact your local SWCD.
- 30** Identifying Aquatic Invaders Workshop, 4:30-7:30, North Webster, IN. Contact Hoosier Riverwatch at 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- Aug. 3-5** Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp at Camp Whitley in Whitley County, IN. Contact your local SWCD.
- 7-23** Indiana State Fair. Contact www.in.gov/statefair/fair/
- 15** Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 9-4:30, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Marie or Diane at 317.562.1338 or nrec@dnr.in.gov
- 27** Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting, 4 pm, Kendallville, IN. Contact 260.665.3211, ext. 5 or office@wood-land-lakes.org
- Sept. 12** Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4:30, South Bend, IN. Contact Brooke Artley at 574.277.4828 or bartley@sjcparks.org
- 19** Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Workshop, 8:30-4, Elkhart, IN. Contact Nancy Brown at 574.533.3630, ext. 3 or nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net