



Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D welcomes Steuben County SWCD's 2010 representative, Sharon Gerig, to our Board.

We appreciate the time and talents given by outgoing Council Members: Brian Campbell, Greg Hughes, Janet Ordway, Jenny Spitler, and Kathy Adams.

2010 Council Officers

Dwight Fish, President
Gene Haskins, Vice President
Jim Penick, Treasurer

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is directed by 21 Council Board Members, and we currently have several vacant Council positions which need to be filled. The key to the Council's success is the commitment of local citizen volunteers solving our own natural resource problems. If you are interested in becoming a Council member, please contact any of the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Board Members or our office.

See Inside:



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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 9, 2010, 6:30 - 9 pm, Community Center, Angola, IN
February 10, 2010, 6:30 - 9 pm, 4-H Community Center, Columbia City, IN
February 10, 2010, 1:30 - 4 pm, Miami County Fairgrounds, Peru, IN

Proper planting and good plantation maintenance practices will determine the success or failure to your newly planted seedlings. During this workshop you will learn many useful ways to be successful with the seedlings you plant.

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 (husbands & wives may register with one registration fee). Contact Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022 for more information.

Launch Your Own Business

If you are interested in starting an independently owned business and live in a small rural community, there may be an opportunity to get training to build a strong business foundation. **Indiana Small Business Development Center** has partnered with **Rural Entrepreneur Network** to provide business workshops geared toward training rural entrepreneurs. In the first workshop participants will determine:

- ◆ If they possess the character required to start a business;
- ◆ If they have realistic expectations;
- ◆ Their current personal financial situation and amount of money needed to get started;
- ◆ Who will buy their products or services and where to direct their marketing; and
- ◆ If starting their business is a risk worth taking.

Contact our office if you would like to get a workshop scheduled in northeast Indiana.◆

Did you know . . . Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has over 50 educational and informative DVD's and CD-ROM's available for **FREE**. Contact our office or visit our website for more information.◆

Elkhart River Flooding

The **Silver Jackets** team (state and federal agencies collaborating to benefit local communities) continues to address flooding in the north branch of the Elkhart River. The **IDNR** is also working with **Noble County** officials to address the removal of obstructions in the north branch of the river, in hopes of alleviating some flooding.

The **Elkhart River Flood Focus** committee, meeting locally, would like to address flooding issues in the entire Elkhart River Watershed.

The **Elkhart River Restoration Association** is interested in having the Flood Focus committee serve as a subcommittee to address flooding issues throughout the entire watershed. If you are interested in being involved, please contact **Nancy Brown** at the **Elkhart County SWCD** Office at nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net or 574.533.3630 Ext. 3.◆

No Development Here!

Billy and Diana Clingan have chosen to protect 27 acres of their farm from future development by placing it in a conservation easement with Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. 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 being developed or divided. Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D will ensure that the **Clingan's** wishes are upheld indefinitely, even if the land is sold to someone else. This is the second of such easements the **Clingan's** have donated to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D; the first was several years ago when they chose to restrict development on 115 acres in Steuben County.

The **Clingan's** property is currently being farmed, and can continue to be farmed under the covenants of the conservation easement agreement. "What this means is, that long after we are all gone, the land will continue to be used for agricultural purposes and not have become a site for residential, commercial, or business development," said **Kathy Latz**, Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Coordinator.

The reason the **Clingan's** partnered with Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D and put their farm in a conservation easement, "Is to keep it for farm ground and not for houses," explained **Diana Clingan**. "Everybody wants a house in the country; but, if everybody puts a house in the country, you're just in the suburbs," she said. "We need to preserve the rural nature of what we have."

While property owners who donate their development rights to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D receive no money for the easement, they may be eligible for certain tax benefits. The **Clingan's** hope their example of permanently preserving their farm from development, will be an inspiration to others to do the same.

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D is committed to preserving farms, woodlands, pastures, prairies, and wetlands for future generations. Conservation easements help prevent the disappearance of farmland in northeast Indiana.◆

'Tis the Season

During this season of giving, we invite you to take a moment to look through our newsletter and website and consider a gift to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. In these tough economic times, make your gift to friends and loved ones last beyond the Christmas season by making a donation, in their name, to Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D. Your gift will continue to enhance rural communities by supporting activities and projects improving the area's environmental, economic, and social well-being. We will provide you with a nice certificate to present to your special person. ♦



Please accept my enclosed contribution of \$ _____ *Donations may be tax deductible.*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check all that apply.

My gift is: In Memory of In Honor of I do not wish to have my name publicized.

Name: _____

Please send notification of gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please mail certificate to me so that I may present it at my convenience.

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.**

Clear Lake Watershed Studies

The **Clear Lake Water Quality Committee** (Clear Lake Township, Steuben County) is currently conducting studies of Cyrus Brouse Ditch and the Clear Lake Watershed. They are looking for ways to reduce sediment and pollution entering the lake, as well as identifying sensitive areas in the watershed. ♦

Living snow fences are designed plantings of trees and/or shrubs and native grasses located along driveways, sidewalks, roads, ditches, homes, or farmsteads to create a vegetative barrier to control blowing and drifting snow. Contact our office or visit our website for a free informative CD about living show fences. ♦

Envirothon Competition

The Northeast Indiana Regional Envirothon competition (held in March) is a competitive learning event for high school-age students to test their knowledge of environmental resources. See calendar on back page for more information. ♦



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

Individuals

Billy & Diana Clingan
Bob Ledgerwood
Brian Campbell
Dave Hess
Deanna Vazquez

Don Minter
Gene Lightner
Jim Penick
Lucy Miner
Richard Neff

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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RC&D Council Members

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

Deanna Vazquez **John Hulewicz** **Richard Taylor**
Gene Haskins **Kathy Adams** **Ron Smith**
Greg Hughes **Lucy Miner** **Steve Provines**
Jack Herendeen **Mike Dirig** **Ted Gilliom**
Janet Ordway **Michael McCoy**

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. 11.09

Upcoming Winter Events

Updates at www.wood-land-lakes.org

January 2010						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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February 2010						
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28						

March 2010						
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28	29	30	31			

- Jan.11-13** **Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference "The Power of Conservation: Investing in Districts"** Downtown Hyatt Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: IASWCD at 317.692.7325 or visit <http://www.iaswcd.org>
- 12-14** **Ft. Wayne Farm Show, Memorial Coliseum**, Ft. Wayne, IN. Contact: Steve Guenther at 800.347.5225.
- 19-21** **Indiana Horticultural Congress & Trade Show**, Wyndham Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Tammy Goodale at 765.494.1296 or tgoodale@purdue.edu
- Feb. 9** **Tree Planting Workshop**, 6:30-9, Steuben County Community Center, Angola, IN. Contact: Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022.
- 10** **Tree Planting Workshop**, 1:30-4, Miami County Fairgrounds, Peru, IN. Contact: Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022.
- 10** **Tree Planting Workshop**, 6:30-9, 4-H Community Center, Columbia City, IN. Contact: Arrow Head Country RC&D at 574.946.3022.
- 25** **Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D Council Meeting**, 4pm, Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville, IN. Contact: our office.
- Mar. 25** **Northeast Indiana Envirothon Competition**, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake, IN. Contact: Julie Knudson at 260.925.3066, ext. 3 or jknudson@co.dekalb.in.us
- 26-27** **2010 Indiana Lakes Management Annual Conference "All Lakes, Great and Small"** Radisson Star Plaza, Merrillville, IN. Contact: Sara Peel at speel@lafayette.in.gov or 765.420.8505 or visit <http://www.indianalakes.org>