

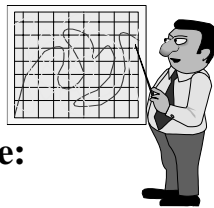


WLL welcomed new Council members **Janet Ordway, Ted Gilliom and Ron Smith**. We also welcome new Council Officers **Kathy Adams** as Vice President and **Larry Mayers** Treasurer in 2005.

Special thanks go to outgoing Council Treasurer **Cathy Seymoure**, serving 5 years; 2004 Vice President **Barb Frymier**, and member **Gary Zandstra**.

Who is Wood-Land-Lakes?

Wood-Land-Lakes (WLL) is made up of local volunteers who help solve local natural resource problems. They bring concerns to the Council and specify how the Council can help them to solve the problem. The Council weighs all requests of assistance against their mission of "volunteers working together for responsible stewardship of our natural resources" to judge how WLL can help. It can be that simple to get help and work with WLL to fit the pieces of the puzzle together.



WLL is Accountable:

People benefited: 19,724
Volunteers/Hours: 452/2,340
Workshops, field days, exhibits: 11
Seminars, presentations: 6
Facilitated meetings: 26
Farmland Protection: 2 farms, 380 acres
Committees: Education, Forestry, Land, & Water

Wood-Land-Lakes' success in obtaining, sponsoring and assisting others in seeking funds has resulted in over \$31,000 toward projects in NE Indiana in 2004. This shows a 18:1 investment return for the six county area as groups and committees continue to address rural development needs.

Spring 2005

2004 Annual Report

See Inside



- ⇒ **Projects & Activities**
- ⇒ **Balance Sheet**
- ⇒ **Special Thanks**

2004 Projects and Activities

Adopted:

1. Drainage Committee
2. Farmland Protection in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Marshall & Steuben counties
3. Fund Raising Brochures
4. Luckey Hospital Museum
5. Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan
6. Northeast Indiana Master Naturalist Program
7. Rule 5 Committee

Continuing:

1. Apollo Landfill Capping
2. Bio-diesel Fuel
3. Land Swap
4. Methane Gas Collection
5. Western Wetland Restoration

Completed:

1. Farmland Protection in Elkhart and Allen counties
2. Fund Raising Brochures
3. North Central Regional RC&D Conference
4. Pigeon Creek Watershed Plan
5. Rule 5 Workshops
6. Tree Planting Workshops
7. Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop
8. Volunteer Water Monitor Assistant

Wood-Land-Lakes 2004 Annual Report

2004 Projects and Activities

Farmland Protection included recent additions of two 160 acre farms in Elkhart and Allen counties. The farms are productive, working farmland. Pressure from housing subdivisions and industries is high. Both landowners wanted to prevent their family farms from being sold for anything other than agricultural uses. They wanted the land to continue to be used for cropland and woodland management, as was done with their ancestors. WLL now protects 8 farms with a total of more than 900 acres with conservation easements. All of the conservation easements held by WLL have been donated by the landowner. These farms will remain valuable natural resources protected in perpetuity.

Fund Raising Brochures, developed for agribusiness, agriculture, corporation and foundation, and wildlife groups, were developed by the Land Committee. These brochures will help committee members raise money for farmland protection and to purchase conservation easements from landowners. Funding for printing of the brochures was secured from **Purdue University** with the help of **Bill Hoover**.

Indiana hosted the **North Central Regional RC&D Annual Conference** at beautiful Pokagon State Park in Angola in March 2004. Over 200 people enjoyed Indiana's hospitality. Training topics included Starting a Not for Profit, Ways to Grow, Getting More From Your Land, Project Management, and more. **Hertha Meyer** and **Don Minter** made presentations and other WLL Council members attended the sessions. Tours highlighted local attractions of a winery, buffalo preserve, auto museum, and outlet shopping. Indiana was congratulated on the superb surroundings, food, entertainment, and for "raising the bar and hosting an outstanding event."

The **Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan** continues to gather momentum. As **V3 Consultants** draft the plan, a Steering Committee reviews, guides, and provides additional data as

requested. Feedback from a publicly distributed questionnaire led the Steering Committee, consisting of volunteers from public input meetings, to look at providing education to address specific practices and topics. In 2005, plans are for a spring meeting to present a draft watershed management plan. A final meeting will be scheduled in the fall with the completed Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan.

Two workshops highlighted changes to **Rule 5** regulations, affecting construction sites of 1-acre or more. WLL facilitated committee members from local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (**SWCD**) and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (**IDNR**). Rule 5 protects Indiana's waters from stormwater pollution, erosion and off-site sedimentation. The workshops informed and educated the public, with over 100 contractors, developers, and engineers attending. Exhibits from local businesses and consultants displayed innovative methods to control erosion and sedimentation. Each SWCD distributed brochures highlighting the Rule 5 revisions. The Planning committee is working with IDNR to address post construction requirements, along with changes in the Handbook for Erosion Control, in 2005.

Tree Planting Workshops were held February 12, 2004 in Auburn & Shipshewana. About 77 individuals interested in tree planting for windbreaks, wildlife & forest plantations attended. **Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop** was held November 6 in Bryan, Ohio. Over 200 woodland owners and wildlife enthusiasts from Ohio, Michigan and Indiana attended the day long event. A highlight of the program was a presentation on forest pests by **Dr. Deb McCullough** of Michigan State University. Other topics included timber taxes, tree identification, GPS mapping, creating wildlife habitat, with field tours and classroom instruction. The next Tri-State workshop will held in Steuben County, Indiana in 2005. **Wood-Land-Lakes** is a proud sponsor involved in creating and supporting forestry traditions.



A Volunteer Water Monitor Assistant coordinated and continued water testing of 26 sites in Elkhart, LaGrange, Kosciusko, Noble, St. Joe and Steuben counties. **Barb Frymier** coordinated this program through WLL's Education Committee. Barb's first goal was to have monitors in place in all the counties. She conducted an inventory of testing equipment, recruited, trained and assisted volunteer water monitors for all sites previously monitored. She worked with Hoosier Riverwatch to enter all water data into the statewide database, completing her second goal. Special thank you to the **St. Joseph River Basin Commission** for supporting this worthy project.

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

**Balance Sheet
December 31, 2003**



General Fund	\$ 4,729
Grants	\$ 6,749
Education Committee	\$ 516
Forestry Committee	\$ 6,245
Land Committee	\$ 4,730
Water Committee	\$ 7,335
Total	\$30,304
Restricted Monies:	
Apollo Landfill (Wilson Family Fdn Grant)	\$30,383
Land Stewardship Fund	\$19,433

December 31, 2004

General Fund	\$ 6,691
Grants	\$ 5,818
Education Committee	\$ 516
Forestry Committee	\$ 3,939
Land Committee	\$ 4,223
Water Committee	\$ 7,676
Total	\$28,863
Restricted Monies:	
Apollo Landfill (Wilson Family Fdn Grant)	\$29,448
Land Stewardship Fund	\$30,767

- | | |
|---|--|
| Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. | Kathy Latz |
| Allen Haynes | LaGrange County Commissioners |
| Alliance of Indiana Rural Water | LaGrange County Lakes Council |
| Andy Carr | LaGrange County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service |
| Annie Sanders | LaGrange County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Arrow Head Country RC&D | Larry Clemens |
| Bill Hoover | Larry Mayers |
| Bill Lambert | Lucy Miner |
| Brian Campbell | Marcia McNagny |
| Carolyn Saalfrank | Mark Ringenberg |
| Cathy Seymoure | Max Bailey |
| Cheryl Jarrett | Mike Yoder |
| Dave Hines | Northeast Indiana Purdue Cooperative Extension Service |
| Dave Knopp | Norval Poyser |
| DeKalb County Commissioners | Nutec Supply |
| DeKalb County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service | Paul Federspiel |
| DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District | Phil Tocco |
| Don Minter | Purdue University, Forestry Department |
| Dona Hunter | Rae Schnapp |
| Doug Keenan | Randall Jacobs |
| Ed Pippenger | Rene Campbell |
| Elkhart County Commissioners | Rick Meyer |
| Elkhart County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service | Scott Banfield |
| Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District | Steuben County Commissioners |
| Frances Krauskopf | Steuben County Lakes Council |
| Gene Lightner | Steuben County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service |
| German Roasted Almonds | Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Gonzalee Martin | Steve Parker |
| Gordon Bloom | Toby Days |
| Gretel Smith | Tom Crowe |
| Heartland Restoration Services, Inc. | Tom Sagers |
| Hertha Meyer | Val Slack |
| Hoham, Smith & Co., Inc. | Whitley County Commissioners |
| Hoosier ReLeaf | Whitley County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service |
| Indiana Soybean Board | Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| J.F. New & Associates, Inc. | William A. Nerney |
| Jack Seifert | |
| Jane Loomis | |
| Jerry Smith | |
| Jim Schwanke | |
| Joe Draper | |
| Judith Bucolo | |
| Julie Knudson | |
| Karen Mackowiak | |



1220N 200W, Ste J
 Angola, IN 46703-9171
 260.665.3211, ext 5; Fax 260.668.8887
 e-mail: woodland-lakes@in.rcdnet.org
 web site: www.wood-land-lakes.org

**NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ANGOLA, IN
 PERMIT NO.
 50**

RC&D Council Members

Brian Campbell, President **Kathy Adams**, Vice President
Hertha Meyer, Secretary **Larry Mayers**, Treasurer

Dick Haworth **Loralee Taylor** **Rudy Stegelmann**
Doug Strock **Mark Pankop** **Scott Wise**
Gene Lightner **Nancy Brown** **Ted Gilliom**
Janet Ordway **Phillip Curtis** **Tom Green**
Jim Penick **Ron Smith**

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. 3.05

Upcoming 2005 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	31	

- APRIL** Indiana Master Naturalist Program, Fort Wayne Training Courses — Apr. 2, 5, 9, 12, 19, 23, 26, & 30, www.indianamasternaturalist.org/student.html
- 3-5 North Central Regional RC&D Conference, Dubuque, IA
- 6 The Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing Workshops @ 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Allen County, Elkhart County, LaGrange County and Steuben County Extension offices, Aadron Rausch, 888.398.4636
- 7 Planning Committee Mtg. for Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife 2005 Workshop @ 10 a.m., Pokagon State Park, Director's Room, Tom Eickholtz, 260.668.1000, x1400
- 9 Tri-State Emerald Ash Borer Workshop @ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Pokagon State Park, Angola
- 24 Soil & Water Stewardship Week through May 1st

28 WLL Council Mtg. @ 4 p.m., Kendallville Public Library, 260.665.3211, x5

MAY 4 The Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing Workshops @ 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Allen County, Elkhart County, LaGrange County and Steuben County Extension offices, Aadron Rausch, 888.398.4636

JUNE 16-17 7th Annual National Value-Added Ag Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, Jane Anderson, 765.496.3099, jane1@purdue.edu

23 WLL Council Mtg. @ 4 p.m., Kendallville Public Library, 260.665.3211, x5