



Concrete that Drinks, called Pervious Concrete, is a new innovation that excites **Luke Gascho**, Executive Director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Lake. Merry Lea is one of the first places in this area of the state to incorporate this new product, poured in April for their sidewalks.

Pervious concrete is concrete that allows water to flow through it, while still functioning as a conventional pavement. "It has been exciting to watch rain fall on the walkways and see it go straight through rather than running off," Luke commented.

"I like the concept that the water runs through the concrete, which slows down the runoff. It also provides some filtering of the water as it passes through the concrete and six inches of gravel," said Luke. Concrete pours in other areas of the country have proven that the concrete will hold up in more severe climates, and stand up to multiple freeze/thaw cycles.

Luke expressed gratitude to WLL Coordinator **Kathy Latz** for connecting Merry Lea to **Rich Gardner** of the Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA). Kathy shared, "When I learned about an interest to showcase pervious concrete in Northeast Indiana, Merry Lea's Rieth Village seemed like a good fit. Construction was just beginning using a Green Building Design with environmentally sustainable techniques. The timing was good for incorporating this into their plans."

To learn more about pervious concrete and possible installation, see IRMCA's website at www.irmca.com, talk to Kathy or visit the new walkways at Merry Lea to see the finished product!

Submitted by Luke Gascho, Executive Director, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center ♦

See Inside: 

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- ⇒ **New Projects**

WLL Welcomes New Council Members, Lucy Miner, representing Noble County Extension, and **David Blue**, representing Elkhart County Commissioners. Lucy has been involved with the forestry committee for many years. She spearheaded Indiana's 50 Trees, 50 Shrubs and 50 Wildflower project at the 4H Park in Albion (see related article, pg. 3).

David is interested in assisting with the Upper St. Joe Fish Attractors Project. He enjoys gardening, sculpting, painting, fishing, bird-watching, boating and spending time with his family. We look forward to working with them. ♦

A Fall Northeast Indiana Master Naturalist Program is being organized by **Julie Diehm**, 2005 Master Naturalist graduate. Julie is securing speakers and sites in LaGrange County for September or October classes. A committee will meet to determine size of class, cost, and times. If you are interested in being on a list for notification, use the Easy Message on the web site at www.wood-land-lakes.org to submit your name. ♦

Northeast Indiana

Conservation Camp is scheduled for August 8-10, 2006 at Camp Whitley. This is located northwest of Columbia City in Whitley County on Troy-Cedar Lake. Boys and girls between the ages of 9-13 will learn about conservation, wildlife, forestry, soils, and water.



Application packets are available from your local Soil and Water Conservation District office. The fee for camp is \$100, and most SWCDs will assist campers with this fee or help find sponsors who will. Please call your local SWCD for more information. *Submitted by Nancy Brown, Elkhart County SWCD*◆

Help Create the Vision with the Friends of the St. Joe River Association (Lake Michigan). There will be a full-day forum on July 11 (see calendar) culminating in Finding a Voice for the St. Joe River. After holding two mini-workshops in mid-June, this forum will bring together the actions necessary to achieve the goals set forth in the St. Joe River Basin Watershed Management Plan. This plan can be found online at www.stjoeriver.net.

A critical element of the plan includes identification of an organization or partnership that can insure the goals and action items are completed. Ultimately, the goal is protection and preservation of the St. Joseph River in the Lake Michigan Basin. The success depends on a good mix of people and groups to give their input.

To register, contact **Marcy Colclough** at 260.925.1137, ext. 25 or **Dona Hunter** at 260.463.3471, ext. 3.◆

Save a Stamp and a Tree while helping WLL become more cost-effective. Make a conservation contribution by receiving WLL's newsletter electronically. There are two ways to do this. You can access the newsletter through the web site at www.wood-land-lakes.org or we can email you a copy. Please let us know your preference by emailing to woodland-lakes@in.rcdnet.org or using Easy Message on our web site.◆

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

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WLL Held its First Council Retreat

in February. Council President, **Brian Campbell** led the members in discussion.

Members spoke about the uniqueness of WLL, not only because it is a multi-county organization, but that there are no tightly defined borders of what all can be done through WLL.



Council members felt wildlife issues and public education were some of the areas missing from the plan. “Without education, you can’t move forward with the other goals,” **Mike McCoy** said. The council decided they wanted to be more proactive in wildlife issues, education, and community involvement.

The Council will look into what kinds of activities are already being done, so no duplication occurs. Then new projects can be examined. It was also decided to update the current area plan. Members were pleased with this opportunity to discuss the current WLL issues and favored having a retreat next year. *Submitted by Kayleen Hart, Council Assistant* ♦

Park Trail is Closed, as reported by **Lucy Miner**, Project Coordinator of the 50-50-50 Project (50 Indiana Trees, 50 Indiana Shrubs and 50 Indiana Wildflowers). Lucy announced the closing walking Trail E at the Noble County 4-H Park in Albion. Trail E and its plant species were destroyed when contractors cleared a county ditch beyond the 75 foot right of way.

Please join the Forestry Committee on June 29 at 2:30 p.m. in the Noble County Public Library, Albion. Discussions will be on future educational workshops, fall planting, and the 4-H Park. Public is welcome. ♦

A Tri-State Woodland & Wildlife Workshop

will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2006 in Quincy, Michigan. Woodland and wildlife owners from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan are invited to attend this day-long workshop. More details will be available in the fall newsletter. Be sure to mark your calendar now. ♦



Experience Works and WLL wants Northeast Indiana to learn more on how to benefit from this. The goals are to provide seniors with an opportunity to earn money while obtaining new skills. This can also provide community service groups with workers.

If you answer “yes” to the three questions below, from either of the two lists, you may qualify.

Are you:
55 or older?
Unemployed and need to work?
Wanting help in finding a job?

Or

Are you part of a community service nonprofit group that is:
Willing to train older workers?
Needing part-time help?
Offering to supervise new workers?

If you are a potential employee or employer, or know someone that could benefit, contact WLL. ♦

Solid Rock Forestry hopes to profit from the Emerald Ash Borer. They are one of the first businesses in the nation with the USDA certification. With their portable debarker, they can go to emerald ash borer-infected sites, debark the trees, and ship the wood back to their plant to make firewood, mulch and pellets.

This new Steuben County business has received funding from the Region 3A Agricultural Value-added Revolving Loan Fund committee. The committee is funded by an Indiana Rural Development Council grant for projects in Northeast Indiana. *Submitted by Hertha Meyer, Chair of Agricultural Value-added RLF committee* ♦

New Projects adopted in 2006 include:

- *LaGrange Naturalist Program
- *Council Assistant
- *Knight Woodland Protection
- *St. Joe River Watershed Awareness
- *Arboretum Plan
- *Plantation Management Workshop
- *Trees IN ♦



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Dick Haworth **Kathy Adams** **Ron Smith**
Gene Lightner **Loralee Taylor** **Ted Gilliom**
Jack Herendeen **Lucy Miner** **Tom Green**
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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. 6.06

Upcoming 2006 Events

JULY						
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SEPTEMBER						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUL Finding a Voice for St Joe River (Lake Michigan)
11 Watershed Organizational Forum, 9-3:30 pm,
 Sturges Young Auditorium, Sturgis, MI, Marcy
 Colclough 260.925.1137 x 25, or Dona Hunter
 260.463.3471 x 3

22-26 Soil & Water Conservation Society 2006 Annual
 Conference, Keystone, Colorado, www.swcs.org

AUG Northeast IN Conservation Camp, Camp Whitley,
8-10 Whitley Co, contact local SWCD office for more
 information or an application

9-20 Indiana State Fair, IN State Fairgrounds,
 Indianapolis

24 WLL Council Meeting, 4 pm, Kendallville Public
 Library, Kendallville

28 IN League of RC&D Councils Meeting, TBA

SEPT NETworking in Tourism: People, Places, Partners,
10-13 National Extension Tourism Conference, Vermont,
 www.esf.edu/NET 2006

18 2006 Northeast IN Master Naturalist Celebration, 6
 pm, Allen Co Extension Ofc, Ft Wayne,
 260.481.6826 x 3