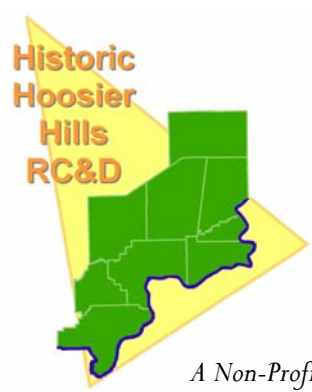




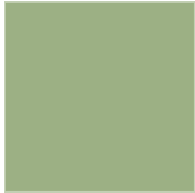
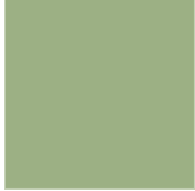
Empowering local people to carry out projects for the future.

2010

ANNUAL REPORT



A Non-Profit Organization Serving Southeast Indiana Since 1968.



Verailles State Park Lake

our

MISSION

Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Inc. is committed to serve as a catalyst to motivate local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the area and to properly develop, utilize and conserve our natural and human resources.

our

VISION

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D is a non-profit organization that is continually working to create a workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.

**Photo on front taken at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge by Ron Harsin, JPGHP Member.*

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Red Wolf Sanctuary located in Rising Sun, Indiana

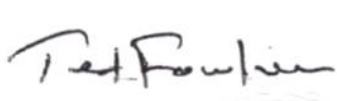


president's MESSAGE

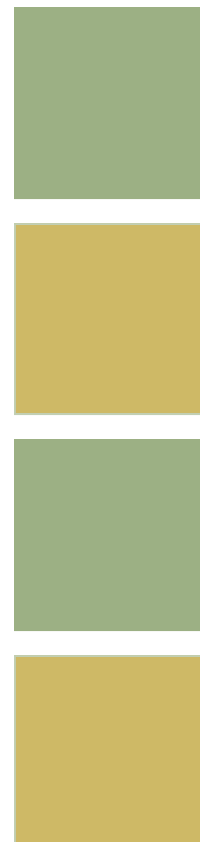
The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation and Development Council (HHH RC&D) is an independent and private not-for-profit organization that works to support a variety of community projects and administer several watershed grants. While funding for RC&Ds is likely to be cut from the federal government budget, the strength of the HHH partnerships will allow continued support of the many community partners. The implications of a funding cut for HHH is that we would no longer be provided the services of a council coordinator and we would not have support for office space and computers. These services and support are currently provided through the US Department of Agriculture through the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a major partner to HHH. Since there has been repeated threats to terminate funding by Congress over the years, HHH has worked to be in a position that is financially strong and able to continue to provide resources for partner projects.

Perhaps our greatest strength is the tremendous number of excellent projects that contribute to the overall efforts of HHH. Together we are working to preserve and improve our natural resources and the quality of life in the region. Going forward we need to call upon each other for support and expertise. HHH will be working to make this sharing of expertise across projects more structured and efficient. And, we need to find more people in the community with good insights and expertise to support both HHH and individual projects. We need to identify people who are interested in the work of HHH and our projects and show them how to become involved.

If you know of people in the region that could become involved in our work, please let us know who these good resources are.



Ted Fowler
President



coordinator's MESSAGE

When I first began my career as Coordinator for Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) I was in attendance at a local Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and was asked unexpectedly to give a brief explanation of what HHH was about. That was the longest 5 minutes I had spent in awhile and after I finished I made a pledge that I would never stumble through an explanation like that again.

So what is HHH RC&D? Everyone gives a little different twist to describe what HHH is about; mine has become quite succinct: "HHH - Helping You Help Your Community". After hearing all of the detailed explanations and numerous benefits of being associated with HHH I feel this catch phrase best describes the organization in down-to-earth terms.

The beauty of this organization is that it is purely "grass roots". Groups come to HHH with ideas that benefit their community and if their goals parallel those of the HHH Area Plan they likely will become a project committee. So then what happens? That's when things kick into gear and a series of tools and services are offered such as:

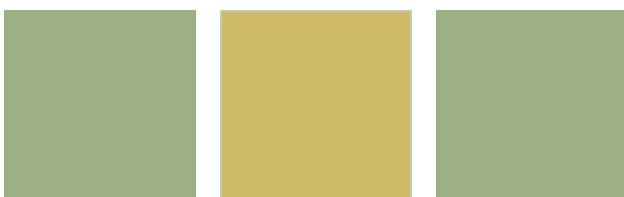
- Facilitated planning assistance
- Assistance in organizational structuring
- Assistance in annual and long range planning
- Assistance in budget development
- Grant researching and writing in some circumstances
- Grant submission using our 501(3)c status
- Administrative support

With this being offered we have had many groups come to us with their ideas and we have helped them succeed with their project and benefit their community.

Sure we occasionally have projects fail but many times we have found this due to several possible factors including lack of leadership skills within the group, unrealistic expectations, or lack of persistence. Although we offer assistance in development of these characteristics, they are distinctive to each group and that commitment must come from within the members of a particular project committee.

We are very fortunate here in Southeast Indiana to have so many groups and volunteers committed to improving the quality of life for others and to have a non-profit organization like Historic Hoosier Hills for those groups to partner with.

I encourage you to take a closer look at the many success stories found within this Annual Report and if you know of a group in "your community" that would benefit from association with Historic Hoosier Hills have them contact us.



Terry Stephenson
Coordinator





what sets US APART



Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservations, and Development (RC&D) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing unique opportunity to address regional concerns involving human and natural resource issues that occur within Southeast Indiana since 1968.

Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) is a process more than a program. It is governed at the grassroots level and assist groups with development and completion of projects that will benefit the region.

Sponsors of our organization include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, conservancy districts, and city and towns. One of our many partners, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provides a coordinator, office space, a vehicle, and other support. *Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D receives no federal financial support.*

Our number one goal is to provide the means for community groups to deal with many issues in our nine-county area in southeastern Indiana; by providing organizational, technical, and administrative assistance. We offer leadership and management development, promote conservation education, and provide workshops, tours, seminars, and other field days to help area volunteers reach their goals.

Our main objective is to help project committees achieve their goals and to educate and assist them in utilizing resources available to them.

Currently, there are 36 project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills.

Many of the committees exist for 3-5 years until their purpose is met or their project is complete. At that time, they may dissolve their committee, evolve to an independent organization, or turn the completed project over to a permanent entity.

We estimate more than 900 volunteers are serving southeastern Indiana through Historic Hoosier Hills. They have donated more than 35,000 hours last year to improve the economic viability and quality of life in this area.

We serve all residents in the nine rural counties of Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland Counties.

You can learn more about Historic Hoosier Hills and the project committees we work with on our website at www.hhhills.org.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

In the summer of 2010, Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) was awarded \$500 from the Switzerland County Community Foundation. The funds were requested for a new Fundraising / Grant Lending Library that is located in the HHH office. The funds were used towards the purchase of numerous fundraising and grant writing books that are now available to be used by our various project committees.



Then in the fall HHH was awarded \$250 from the Ripley County Community Foundation to be used towards the purchase of a monitor for brainstorming ideas, fundraising and grant videos and to help with proposal writings for our project committees.

In 2009, HHH received a donation of a conference room table that is located in the library and also funds to match the Ripley County Community Foundation grant from an anonymous donor.

If any of the Historic Hoosier Hills Project Committees are interested in coming in to view the library or to take advantage of the materials that are available it is now open and available for use.

In 2009, Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D was awarded a grant from the Tyson Fund in the amount of \$4000. The funds were requested for the purchase a vehicle that would be made available to all HHH employees. The vehicle would be used to meet with area landowners and our project committees to help them accomplish their goals. And in 2010, HHH was able to purchase a vehicle with the funds received.



Thank You
Ripley County Community Foundation,
Switzerland County Community Foundation
and the Tyson Fund
for Your Support!

fish & wildlife

With the abundance of wildlife in the area there is a constant need for landowner education in areas of wildlife management; whether it is an educational program for landowners on establishing wildlife habitat or controlling nuisance wildlife.

◆ Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club

Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club

Contact: laugheryvalley@seidata.com

The goal of the Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club is to develop a 52 acre tract of land into a multipurpose outdoor education facility to promote conservation and the wise use of our natural resources.

The following activities occur in 2010:

- 12 monthly meetings were held at our Club plus our annual business meeting in February which included the all game dinner, election of officers, yearly reports and fund raising auction.
- 2 Hunter Education courses were held in the spring and one in the fall with classroom and live fire exercises. Most of our students were youth and all passed the course.
- The first annual Bee Clinic was held at the Club with the state Apiarist and many information tables. The turnout over filled our facility so the 2011 Bee Clinic will be at the Milan V.F.W. in February.
- 7 monthly archery shoots where held from March to September. This is the Clubs greatest fund raiser but it is good education for our youth and cub shooters.
- The Annual Jr. Fishing Derby again this year. All of the young participants caught fish, all received a door prize and free lunch.



If you are interested in learning more about the Laughery Valley Fish and Game Club email laugheryvalley@seidata.com.



*Past Event held at the
Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club*



*Past Event held at the
Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club*

community development

Community development projects seek to empower groups by providing their groups with the tools they need to affect change in their own communities. Community development groups must understand both how to work with individuals and other groups within the community to effect positive change.

A wide variety of projects can fall under this category which can range from some fairly simple events to larger-scale efforts which may require significant funding and technical expertise.

- ◆ Audubon Park
- ◆ Project Phoenix
- ◆ Rising Sun Historic Downtown Program
- ◆ Spectrum Productions

Project Phoenix

By: *Tim Harmon, www.projectpnx.org*

2010 was a productive and exciting year for Project Phoenix. We hosted our first two fundraising events, a Sweetheart Banquet in February and a Golf Outing in May, which earned us over \$7500. We also made an unsuccessful but very high-profile bid for a Pepsi Refresh Grant. The publicity of these events has made our organization a widely-known presence in Jefferson County and brought us to the attention of local business and government leaders as well as the general public. We have actually received calls already from people who has suffered house fires to see if we were up and running.

Undoubtedly the most exciting news for us in 2010 was finding that the City of Madison was willing to donate a house to our group. After months of legal work, surveys, consulting and waiting, we finally took legal possession of the house in late February 2011. Now the real work begins! Actually, it already has, since we had our first work day at the house on February 26. Sixteen volunteers showed up and we got started with some general clean-up, added new door locks and started tearing out plaster walls and ceilings on the second floor. In the coming months we will complete the interior demolition work and replace the roof and update the wiring, plumbing, and heating and air systems.

We are also currently in the month of March conducting a fundraising drive via mail and email. We are sending out nearly 500 letters in our community to request donations of money, materials and volunteer time. We hosted an open house at our new property on Saturday, March 12 where the public was invited to come and see for themselves what we are doing.

Once again we want to thank Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D for all their support over the past year with our various fundraising and publicity efforts. By piggybacking their 501(c)3 status, we have been able to accept fully tax deductible donations and apply for grants. Thanks to HHH we've been able to hit the ground running.

We invite you to check out our website at www.projectpnx.org to find out more about us and our current activities. If you would like to get involved we would love to have you join our contact list or make a donation. With your support 2011 will be a terrific year for Project Phoenix!



Phoenix House "before"



Working hard tearing out walls



...and excavating a nice walkway

education

Many project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D work in the area of youth and adult education of one form or another during different phases of the project.



Some project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills have a primary focus of teaching individuals about topics

- ◆ Chicks on the Farm
- ◆ Conservation Education Committee
- ◆ Denver Siekman Environmental Park
- ◆ Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center
- ◆ Red Wolf Sanctuary
- ◆ Water Alliance for Vital Eco Systems

Chicks on the Farm

by: Lisa Jones, lisa.jones@in.nacdnet.net



On Saturday, May 8th, a successful first “Chicks on the Farm” workshop took place with 45 participants.

The event, titled “Take a Break, Have Some Fun, and Learn How to Improve the Land You Love...a Workshop for Women Landowners”, was the first in a series of workshops for women landowners who want to learn more about how to manage, conserve, and enjoy their land. These workshops and other on-the-farm experiences will take place on a 257-acre working farm in Nabb.

Following a hayride to the field, the women observed and participated in a demonstration of large-scale mechanical tree planting, learned the proper way to hand-plant a tree, found out about the benefits of wetland restoration to the environment, considered the use of conservation farm programs for increased income and better land conservation, did some bird watching, built a birdhouse, and had a fun day outside visiting with other women landowners.

Pat Larr and Betty Joubert, the original Chicks on the Farm, are both recently retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. They began planning Chicks on the Farm several years ago. This year, it became a reality as the Chicks on the Farm become a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills!

According to the 2007 Ag Census, from 2002 to 2007, the number of women as principle farm operators increased by 30 percent.

Future workshop and networking topics will include farm equipment operation, wildflower walks, soil quality improvement, pasture walks, wildlife habitat development, bird watching, building ponds, fly fishing, and forest management.



Denver Siekman Environmental Park

<http://www.dsep.info>

Denver Siekman Environmental Park (DSEP) had a very busy and fun 2010! The mission of DSEP is to provide a community life-long learning and recreational experiences outside the traditional education setting by creating and operating the Denver Siekman Environmental Park.



Some of the accomplishment for 2010 include:

- ◆ 1572 students attended 21 fieldtrips at the park
- ◆ Continuation of Phase 1 of the Silo Barn Project
- ◆ 7 students participated in the Job Skills Training Program
- ◆ Renovation of the Red Barn
- ◆ Received a grant from the Ohio County Community Foundation for marketing the park
- ◆ 4 Mystery Dinners were held
- ◆ Arbor Day Celebration with 250 trees given away
- ◆ 92 runners and 7 walkers competed in the Beast of the Southeast
- ◆ Grand Victoria Casino & Resort hosted the first Grand 5k Run & Walk Race
- ◆ Hosted high school and middle school cross country races

For more information regarding the Denver Siekman Environmental Park phone 812-438-1230, visit our website at www.dsep.info or stop by the park located at 3334 Walston Road in Rising Sun, Indiana.



Beast of the Southeast Race



Red Wolf Sanctuary



Mystery Dinner

Red Wolf Sanctuary

By: Jane Strasser, www.redwolf.org

In 2009 Red Wolf Sanctuary moved to the new facility in Rising Sun. To meet time and monetary constraints we had to move the bears to an indoor facility. They need to be able to run, play, and doze in the sunshine; to feel grass and soil under their feet. We have a 4 acre hillside for the bears adjacent to their indoor home but needed to build heavy duty 14 foot high fence on the hillside to provide the bears access to the outside.

2010 saw Red Wolf Sanctuary's first matching grant. An anonymous donor contributed \$10,000 in 1:1 matching funds toward the outside enclosure for the bears and we were able to more than match the grant raising over \$15,000 more for the 4 acre enclosure for the bears. We are using every resource at our disposal to complete the bear enclosure. The bears are just awakening from hibernation (if you sleep for months, you don't wake up quickly). They won't be active until late spring and we are working hard to ensure that they will be able to go out and graze on the fresh spring grasses (a favorite of bears) and to greet the rush of school groups that accompany the end of the school year.

education

- ◆ Chicks on the Farm
- ◆ Conservation Education Committee
- ◆ Denver Siekman Environmental Park
- ◆ Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center
- ◆ Red Wolf Sanctuary
- ◆ Water Alliance for Vital Eco Systems

Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center

by: Jennifer Sturgeon

Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center (HFTLC) is a non-profit Christian based facility, that will offer the community and surrounding communities many different opportunities. The foundation of the center will be based on Equine Assisted Therapy, Equine Assisted Learning, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Hippotherapy. Condensing these thoughts the equine is used as a tool to help the handicap and all other populations, heal mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially.

HFTLC is just that it is a Learning Center. In addition to the equine, HFTLC will set up to model a working farm. Included in this model will be the animals, chores and responsibilities that are associated with farm life. Furthermore, Horse Feathers will offer other programs and activities such as: a community and raised gardens, community service opportunities for probation youth, facility for teen NA and AA meetings, job readiness, supervised visits, parenting classes, cooking classes and many other possibilities that have not yet surfaced.

HFTLC is one of a kind. It has been designed to fill the voids that are lacking our communities. This will be a place where all walks of life can collaborate, whether you are young, disabled or a senior citizen looking to apply their life learned skills. Horse Feathers is a place to have fun, laugh, learn, and bond with nature.

In 2010, Horse Feathers put their efforts towards the awareness of the program. Horse Feathers has participated in health fairs, parades, county fairs, and other places of outreach. Also, with the help of Historic Hoosier Hills Horse Feathers was able to receive a grant from the Ripley County Community Foundation. With the funds received Horse Feathers will be able to purchase a printer and projector to further reach people in the community.

Land has been located and negotiated. It is HFTLC to locate the Learning Center in Versailles across from the Career Center. This will give our committee a central location, which will give area counties the opportunity to use the facility.

Horse Feathers held their first fundraiser in November 2010 in Friendship, Indiana. The event was a walk-a-thon/horse ride. It was a fun day for all.

Plans for 2011 are writing grants to the surrounding counties in hopes to raising the funds needed to get this project fully underway.

HFTLC is welcoming any and all the opportunity to join in the work of this project. For further information contact Jennifer Sturgeon, jensturg@gmail.com, 812-667-5788.



forestry

Forestry projects generally concerns itself with managing forests to provide timber as raw material for wood products, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, erosion control, and more recently has been recognized as a reservoir for atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Current projects are working to educate landowners and those involved in the timber industry with the planting, management and harvesting of timber in Southeast Indiana.

- ◆ Woodland Committee
- ◆ Plant a Tree for You & Me

Plant a Tree of You & Me

by: Lisa Jones, lisa.jones@in.nacdnet.net

“Plant a Tree for You & Me” is a joint project of the Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Ripley and Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in cooperation with Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D.

The goals of this five-year project is to plant 100,000 trees in the seven-county area by 2012, and to help people learn to manage and take proper care of both existing trees, and those that they plant. The project kick-off event in August 2007 was well attended. To date there have been 61,501 trees planted, which have been documented in our program. There has been a favorable response to the project, which has gained a diverse group of sponsors.

We will continue to recruit sponsors throughout the life of the project. If you know anyone interested in becoming a sponsor, or would like to have the trees you plant count toward our goal of 100,000, please contact the Jefferson County SWCD at (812) 273-2070 extension 3 or Clark County SWCD at (812) 256-2330 extension 3.



rural opportunities

According to USDA Economic Research Service the beginning of the 21st century had rural America comprising 2,305 counties, containing 80 percent of the Nation's land, and being home to 56 million people. With these statistics comes challenges and opportunities in the arenas of agricultural production and marketing; education; development of rural infrastructure and conservation within the rural landscape. Several of the current HHH project committees are addressing these very issues.

- ◆ George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- ◆ Laughey Valley Food & Growers Association
- ◆ Regional No-Till Committee
- ◆ Madison Growers Association CSA



Troncin Property



Troncin Homestead

George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Tami Kruer, grclandtrust@aol.com

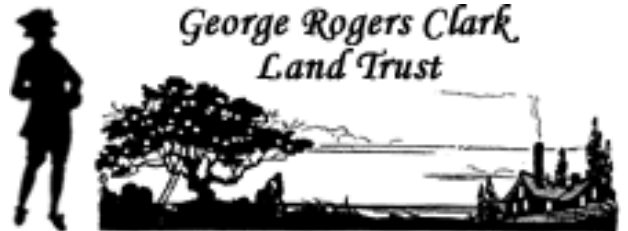
Many changes took place during 2010 for the George Rogers Clark Land Trust (GRCLT). In May of 2010, the land trust filed new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws with the Indiana Secretary of State. While GRCLT continues to operate under the 501(c)3 status of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D they are in the process of finalizing documents to achieve their own tax-exempt status.

Through working with the Harrison County Land Conservation Program in Harrison County, Indiana and the Conservation Law Center in Bloomington, Indiana the GRCLT was able to establish a conservation easement on the property of Ed and Dorothy Troncin in New Salisbury, which is located in Harrison County. The easement, which was recorded in July of 2010, consists of approximately 85 acres.

The Land Trust held its Annual Meeting in December of 2010, and elected the following officers: Jim Heitkemper, Chair; Pat Larr, Vice Chair; and Tami Kruer, Secretary/Treasurer. They continue to provide landowners with information regarding conservation easements and opportunities to protect their land. The George Rogers Clark Land Trust hopes to have another recorded easement early in 2011.

Mission:

George Rogers Clark Land Trust seeks to preserve and enhance the rural character, agricultural production and natural integrity of Southern Indiana through land stewardship.



Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association

by: Kathy Cooley, www.foodandgrowers.org

The Food and Growers Association has accomplished much over the past year and continues to grow and respond to the growing national trend toward developing a sustainable food system for our communities. Accomplishment include:

1. Development of a Strategic Plan. MP2 Planning out of Muncie, Indiana guided our steering team through the strategic planning process and wrote the final document for us.
2. Management of the Batesville Farmer's Market. The Food and Growers Association continues to provide the leadership to the city of Batesville and the farmer's to run a thriving Saturday morning market.
3. Support of the Laughery Valley Growers' FarmFreshCSA program by offering a page on the FGA website and assisting with publicity to attract subscribers.
4. Maintain a website to promote local food markets and local farmers and educate the public about the importance of eating a healthy diet.
5. Batesville Community School Corporation (BSCS) Farm to School team. The FGA collaborates with the Margaret Mary Community Hospital, the BCSC, and Purdue Extension to promote a school garden program and make strides toward using locally grown food in the school cafeterias.
6. Sponsored the 5th Annual Producer Seminar on February 26, 2011: Building Family Farms: The Journey Toward Local Sustainable Food. Three dynamic speakers shared their farming knowledge and experience with our local growers.



In 2011, FGA will be actively searching for monetary resources to fund the projects on our strategic plan. We will research available grants and discuss fundraisers.

Regional No-Till Committee

by: Kim Jolly, kim.jolly@in.nacdnet.net

The Regional No-Till Committee is a proud project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D. The committee is made up of representatives from HHH RC&D, Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC), Watershed Projects, local chemical companies, past SWCD Board members, and Ripley County Farmers. Every year, this committee meets in November to plan the events for the following year. In 2010 the Regional No-Till Committee successfully held three events, the 17th Annual No-Till Breakfast in March, and two Cover Crop Field Days.



The No-Till Breakfast was held at the Hopewell Baptist Church and brought over 150 participants from 5 different counties. Twenty members of the South Ripley FFA Chapter helped with the event. This breakfast is the largest no-till event held in southeastern Indiana.

The Cover Crop Field Days were held in March and November. Both Field Days had more than 30 landowners attend each event. The Ripley County SWCD has planted a Cover Crop plot each year since 2008. These field days show the benefits of using cover crops in a farming rotation. This committee is very active in education and will continue to promote no-till and other conservation practices for years to come.



rural opportunities

- ◆ George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- ◆ Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association
- ◆ Regional No-Till Committee
- ◆ Madison Growers Association CSA

Madison Growers Association CSA

by: Nick Ellis, madisongrowers.wordpress.com

Madison Area Growers CSA is in its third year of growing fresh, local vegetables for southeastern Indiana. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a unique model for sourcing food locally and supporting local farms. In exchange for a one time payment in the spring, the customer (share holder) receives a basket of fresh, locally raised vegetables once a week, for 20 weeks, during the growing season. We also offer an extended fall season subscription.

By sourcing our vegetables from multiple growers, we are able to provide the widest variety to our customers, while ensuring a dependable vegetable supply, should any one grower experience crop failure.



Fresh strawberries that were available in 2010.



Fresh Beets

Why is Community Supported Agriculture Important?

- ✿ CSA keeps food dollars in local community and contributes to the maintenance and establishment of regional food production.
- ✿ CSA puts “the farmers face on the food” and increases understanding of how, where, and by whom our food is grown.
- ✿ CSA’s direct marketing gives farmers and growers the fairest return on their products.
- ✿ CSA creates a sense of social responsibility and stewardship of local land.
- ✿ CSA supports the biodiversity of a given area and the diversity of agriculture through the preservation of small farms producing a wide variety of crops.

The Madison Area Growers CSA is committed to expanding the market place for local food and local agriculture by sourcing all our products locally and supporting local farms. We are based in Madison, Indiana but draw from farms in Jefferson, Ripley, Jennings, and Switzerland Counties in Indiana and Trimble in Kentucky.

For further information please call 812-599-6028 or see our webpage madisongrowers.wordpress.com or on Facebook, search: “Madison Area Growers”.

**Buy Local
Shop Local
Support your Community**



tourism

Southeastern Indiana offers a vast vacation opportunity for folks visiting the area for the first time or back for a return visit whether it is for leisure, business or other purposes. The area is rich with historic locations whether it be a walking trail along a canal used in the late 1800's or a driving tour of the route of the only Civil War action to take place north of the Ohio River back in 1863.

HHH committees dealing with tourism not only provide a valuable service by educating both visitors and residents of local historic events and locations in Southeastern Indiana but also provide a source of economic stimulus by bringing dollars in from outside the community.

- ◆ Clark County Museum
- ◆ Heritage Trail Conservancy
- ◆ Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership
- ◆ John Hunt Morgan
- ◆ Madison Riverfront Park
- ◆ Southeast Indiana Film Project



Clark County Museum

by: Garry Nokes

A group of local history advocates incorporated Clark County Museum, Inc. with the State of Indiana in August 2009 for the purpose of collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting artifacts and documents that represent and enhance understanding of the social, cultural, political, and technological history of Clark County, Indiana.

Since its founding the museum has acquired a number of significant items, including a U.S. Army switching locomotive and powder wagon from the former Indiana Army Ammunition Plant; a large collection of photographs and negatives from the estate of local photographer Norris Mode; and a significant collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century carriages, furniture, ephemera, and other artifacts belonging to an early Clark County family.

The museum operates in a temporary location provided by the Clark County Board of Commissioners in the county's government center. It received official recognition as a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization in January 2011 and is working with a local architectural firm on a survey of potential permanent museum sites.

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Ken Knouf, www.jpgheritage.org



The Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership (JPGHP) was formed in 1996, after the former Army munitions testing facility closed, in order to promote and foster an understanding and appreciation of Jefferson Proving Ground and its impact on the lives of the people in the area. Over its 14 years as an HHH committee, the 20-member organization has hosted a variety of historical seminars, conducted tours on the proving ground (now Big Oaks NWR), and has developed and marketed a number of publications, both reprints and brand newly published books. Books now available include 'Echoes of Jefferson Proving Ground' by Sue Baker, "Old Timbers" by Chilton Thomson, "A History of Saint Magdalene Catholic Church" by Barbara R. Jachimiak, Jean McClellan's "Come Visit," "Jefferson Proving Ground-Assorted Newspaper Clippings," and its newest publication, "Ripley County in WWII." This is another Ripley County newspaper clippings book and was developed through the contribution of Holton resident Evelyn Comer. There is also available a JPG history DVD, "For Our County," produced by Hanover College Professor Elizabeth Winters, that was shown several times on the Madison cable station.

Highlights of the 2010 operating year included final ready-for-printing of the oral history, "Reminiscences and Reflections-Jefferson Proving Ground" that will be distributed in early 2011. For more information visit our web page at www.jpgheritage.org.

tourism

- ◆ Clark County Museum
- ◆ Heritage Trail Conservancy
- ◆ Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership
- ◆ John Hunt Morgan
- ◆ Madison Riverfront Park
- ◆ Southeast Indiana Film Project

Heritage Trail Conservancy

by: Robert Greene, emailbobgreene@gmail.com

The Heritage Trail Conservancy celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2010 and it certainly shaped up to be an exciting one. We embarked on several new projects. To better reflect our expanded mission we changed our name from the Heritage Trail of Madison to the Heritage Trail Conservancy (HTC). As a volunteered-based organization we are now dedicated not only to the development of new nature and recreational trails in Jefferson County but to the preservation and management of the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources along the Heritage Trail greenway in order to provide primitive outdoor-recreation and educational opportunities for Trail users.

As a result of a marketing and public awareness campaign last year, the Trail has gone from one of little usage to where hundreds of walkers, runners, and bicyclists are using it weekly.



Recent developments include the following; a new half mile trail named Crooked Creek West with the cost donated by Vectren Energy and Riverside Contracting; trash receptacles, a comfort station, and dog waste stations donated by local businesses; a commercial power washer donated to clean off walking surfaces and graffiti.

The most phenomenal development was a fundraising campaign last fall that raised over \$117,500 to match a DNR grant for the purchase of 10 acres of riverfront property for a trailhead park on the west end of Madison. The vision is to develop this property as a nature preserve which will serve the public as an urban ecological educational center.

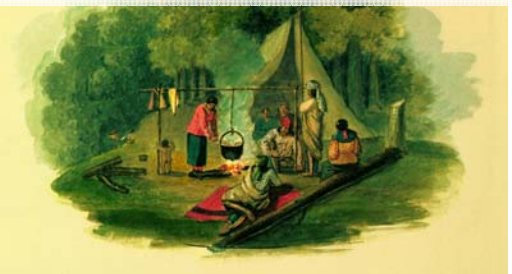
Southeast Historic Film Project

by: Bill Dichtl

In early 2010, the Southeast Historic Film Project, with former First Lady Judy O'Bannon playing a key role in the project, and with help from Historic Hoosier Hills, received \$25,000 from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation to begin work on a documentary film. In early fall of 2010 the group secured funding from the Dearborn County Community Foundation for an additional \$25,000. The film will highlight the history and people of Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland counties as part of the Bicentennial of the state of Indiana in 2016. The film will be about the people and history looking at where we came from, where we are, and where we are going.

With the funds from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation a short film will be produced to be used to solicit funds from other foundations and businesses. Filming and interviews have been conducted throughout 2010 that can be used in the longer documentary. The goal is to have the finished project to air on PBS stations in Indiana, Northern Kentucky, and the Cincinnati area. Initial conversations with PBS stations have begun with positive response from PBS.

Take the River historical documentary explores pioneer life in southeastern Indiana



watersheds

A watershed is simply the geographic area through which water flows across the land and drains into a common body of water, whether a stream, river or lake. Much of the water comes from rainfall and the storm water runoff. The quality and quantity of storm water is affected by all the alterations to the land--agriculture, urban development and the activities of people within a watershed.

Listed below are three projects sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D and two that are project committees of HHH.

Sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ Central Muscatatuck Watershed
- ◆ Indian Creek Watershed
- ◆ South Laughery Creek Watershed

Project Committees of Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ Hogan Creek Watershed
- ◆ Tanners Creek Watershed

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

by: Steve Franklin, steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net & Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@in.usda.gov

What a busy year it has been for the Central Muscatatuck Watershed (CMW). The second phase of the project began in August of 2009 but the cost-share project officially kicked-off in February 2010 at the first public meeting. CMW was awarded \$250,000 in cost-share funds and already all of the funds have been allocated to farmers in Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley and Scott Counties.



Best management practices that have been cost-shared on include:

- ◆ 47,505 feet of Permanent Interior & Temporary Fence
- ◆ 37 Heavy Use Area Protections
- ◆ 85 acres of Pasture/Hayland Seeding
- ◆ 1 Well
- ◆ 12 Alternative Watering Systems
- ◆ 1 Pond

The volunteer water testing began April and ended in October. The watershed project was lucky enough to have 9 individuals from the watershed area to complete the testing on Little Creek, Ramsey Creek, Harberts Creek, Quick Creek, Big Creek and Middle Fork Creek. All the volunteers spent one Saturday a month to complete testing on habitat, chemical and biological. Water testing will begin again in April 2011. A Hoosier Riverwatch Training will be held in the spring for any new and interested individuals who would like to begin testing waters.

The watershed project also partnered with the Rivers Institute at Hanover College that provided two summer interns, Erin VanDenBerg and Christina Adkins. Both interns were a great help to the watershed project. Erin and Christina helped to promote the watershed at the Jefferson and Ripley County 4-H Fairs, helped with the development of the watershed website (www.hhhwatershed.org), and they also completed water testing.

If you are interested in learning more about the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project or would like information about the cost-share program or volunteer water testing program contact Casie Auxier or Steve Franklin at (812) 689-6410 extension 5 or via email at casie.auxier@in.usda.gov or steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net. You can also visit the Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley or Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts for more information.



Indian Creek Watershed



by: Cary Louderback, cary.louderback@in.nacdnet.net

The Indian Creek Watershed had a very busy and productive 2010. Below is a list of the project accomplishments.

- ◊ Recruited potential applicants for cost-share.
- ◊ Reached over 100% allocation of the \$143,000 available for cost-share funding.
- ◊ Developed and implemented tools to track activities and funding.
- ◊ Maintained biweekly reporting and invoicing to IDEM, on schedule.
- ◊ Managed completion of over 50% of BMP implementations scheduled (\$73,518).
- ◊ Producers who have completed work are 100% paid (\$73,518).
- ◊ BMPs to expend the remaining implementation funds are fully planned and producers are scheduled to install those BMPs in 2011.
- ◊ Per the NRCS estimation worksheets, the following percentages of annual load reductions, identified as “goals” in the WMP, have been realized due to the BMPs:
 - ◊ Sedimentation – 230%; phosphorous – 18%; nitrogen – 70%
- ◊ Another \$75,000 worth of BMPs have been requested by producers (signed applications on file) and may be planned and installed upon receipt of additional funding.
- ◊ Match dollars reported, in the amount of \$128,976, have consistently exceeded established requirements. The total match required is \$188,141.
- ◊ Outreach and Education requirements, as identified in the grant contract, have consistently been accomplished well ahead of schedule.
- ◊ This grant was conditioned on **volunteer** water monitoring. Mrs. Bonnie Fancher, Switzerland County High School teacher and Steering Committee President, along with her Advanced Placement Environmental Science students have provided all of the testing, data compilation and reporting that is required. The ICWP has been a part of Mrs. Fancher’s project based teaching since 2001. The “hands-on” work provides wonderful opportunities for youth and adults to learn!
- ◊ The Indian Creek Watershed Project Steering Committee meetings have continued to be well-attended - the average number for 7 meetings during 2010 was 21.
- ◊ Many Partners and individuals worked together to develop and submit a grant application to IDEM on 8/30/10, in the amount of \$403,995, with \$202,000 in cost-share



ICW Cost-Share Practice Installed



Fairview Road Clean-Up

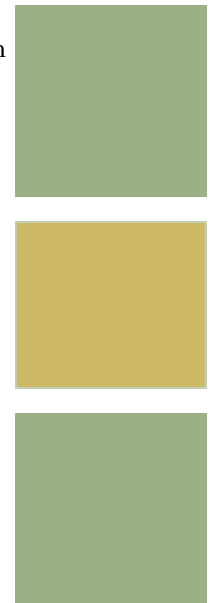
Though the Indian Creek Watershed Project has weathered some extremely difficult and time consuming circumstances, the work has continued on schedule, without interruption, and with unfailing



Governors Award of Environmental Excellence received in 2010

professionalism by all tasked with carrying out the project’s plans. The project’s large numbers of volunteers continue to participate; they are indispensable.

I believe the Indian Creek Watershed Project to be a “model” for other watershed projects. I am excited about continuing this work throughout 2011 and hopefully beyond!



watersheds

Sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ Central Muscatatuck Watershed
- ◆ Indian Creek Watershed
- ◆ South Laughery Creek Watershed

Project Committees of Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ Hogan Creek Watershed
- ◆ Tanners Creek Watershed

South Laughery Creek Watershed

by: Duane Drockelman, duane.drockelman@in.usda.gov & Kim Jolly, kim.jolly@in.nacdn.net

The South Laughery Creek Watershed Project (SLCWP) began Phase II implementation of their watershed management plan in April of 2009. In March of 2010 the SLCWP submitted a final report to the Indiana Dept of Environmental Management on their success with the first phase of their project. Phase II is currently on track to being better than the first phase thanks to 2010. Throughout the year many events took place including 6 Adult Educational Workshops/Field Days, 3 Clean-ups, 4 Student Presentations, and much more. The cost share program also had one of the best years with a total of \$242,550 being allocated with 110 projects being approved to a total of 43 landowners in the four SLC counties. The landowner breakdown for the 4 counties is as follows: Dearborn – 17, Ohio – 9, Ripley – 11, & Switzerland – 6. Of these landowners 16 of them installed or constructed 40 conservation practices from April 1st to November 30th. Practices that were installed or constructed include:



- ◆ 6 Alternative Watering Systems
- ◆ Pipeline – 1,000 ft
- ◆ Tanks – 7
- ◆ HUAP's – 7
- ◆ Pumping Plant – 1
- ◆ Pasture/Hayland Planting – 170 acres (10 farms)
- ◆ Fence for Pasture Grazing Systems – 14,730 ft (7 farms)
- ◆ Tree Planting – 1 (1 farm)
- ◆ Roof Runoff Management System – 1 (1 farm)

Other practices were completed by landowners that either received cost share from USDA Programs or non cost share funding for landowner in-kind.

Cost share funds paid to or earned by landowners up to the present time is \$49,028.15 which is 19% of the project total. In-kind funds for Project are a total of \$96,542.24 totally 35% of required in-kind.



School Presentations



South Laughery Creek Watershed
Cost-Share Practice Installed



Cover Crop Field Day

Hogan Creek Watershed

by: Heather Wirth, heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net



The Hogan Creek Watershed Project will continue its efforts to educate and provide cost-share to install best management practices (bmps) for landowners in the watershed. The project just recently received another implementation grant from IDEM. This grant will extend the project for 3 more years. The first implementation grant ended this past September and was very successful. The cost-share program funded the top 13 ranked landowners, 2 in Ripley County and 11 in Dearborn County out of 32 initial participants. The following practices were installed at 75 percent cost-share rate:

- ◆ 23,953 ft. of Fence
- ◆ 37 acres of Hay/Pasture Planting
- ◆ 40,586 sq. ft of Heavy Use Area Protection
- ◆ 1,610 ft. of Pipeline
- ◆ 10 Livestock Watering Facilities
- ◆ 1,172 ft. of Roof Runoff Management
- ◆ 2,661 ft. of Tile Outlet
- ◆ 1 Spring Development
- ◆ 2.5 acres of Critical Area Planting
- ◆ 2 Trickle Flow Collectors



These bmps installed saved an estimated 4,583 tons of sediment, 4,757 pounds of phosphorus and 7,453 pounds of nitrogen from polluting Hogan Creek per year. The project also offered 21 educational opportunities to a wide range of students and adults. The steering committee would like to invite any interested stakeholders to provide input and ideas to the committee or join the committee for this second implementation grant. The steering committee typically meets quarterly. Please contact Heather Wirth, project coordinator, if this interests you at 812-926-2406 extension 3 or heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net.

Tanners Creek Watershed

by: Heather Wirth, heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net



The Tanners Creek watershed passes over more than 68,000 acres of gently rolling hills and steep ravines. The headwaters begin at the south central section of Franklin County and flow approximately 20 miles until they reach its confluence with the Ohio River, just south of Lawrenceburg. Ninety-nine percent of the watershed's drainage area is located within Dearborn County. The watershed is comprised mainly of pasture and forest land.

In 2010, the Tanners Creek Watershed provided 75% rate cost-share to many qualified landowners within the watershed to install bmps. The installation of bmps helps protect the water quality of Tanners Creek and its tributaries. The following bmps were installed in 2010:

- ◆ 6,026 ft. of Fence
- ◆ 21.5 acres of Hay/Pasture Plantings
- ◆ 29,228 sq. ft. of Heavy Use Area Protection
- ◆ 54.6 acres of Upland Wildlife Planting
- ◆ 225 ft. of Animal Walkway & Trails
- ◆ 1,350 ft. of Pipeline
- ◆ 3 Livestock Watering Facilities
- ◆ 166 ft. of Roof Runoff Management
- ◆ 335 ft. of Tile Outlet

By installing these practices, the following pollutants will be saved each year for the life of the practice: 546 tons of sediment, 800 lbs of phosphorus and 1177 lbs of nitrogen.



grant monies received in 2010

Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 2

IDEM - 319 Grant	\$67,717.56
Wal-Mart.....	500.00

Clark County Community Foundation

JUEA.....	\$25,000.00
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Denver Sickman Environmental Park

Ohio County Community Foundation.....	\$3,000.00
Rising Sun City Council.....	15,000.00
Ohio County Council.....	15,000.00

Friends of Muscatatuck River Society

Wal-Mart.....	\$1,000.00
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Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center

Ripley County Community Foundation.....	\$1,242.00
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Indian Creek Watershed Project

IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$129,114.29
Switzerland County Community Foundation.....	600.00

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,900.00
Ripley County Community Foundation.....	250.00
Switzerland County Community Foundation.....	500.00

Red Wolf Sanctuary

Salary Fund.....	\$17,000.00
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Southeast Historic Film Project

Dearborn County Community Foundation.....	\$25,000.00
Rising Sun Regional Foundation.....	25,000.00

South Laughery Creek Watershed

IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$150,402.72
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W.A.V.E.S.

Dewald Family Foundation.....	\$36,000.00
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TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2010.....\$518,226.57

donations received in 2010

Friends of Muscatatuck River Society - Various Funders.....	\$119.25
Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....	\$49,925.00
Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association - Various Funders.....	\$1,020.00
Project Phoenix - Various Funders.....	\$350.00
Historic Hoosier Hills - One Funder.....	\$74.15
Regional No-Till Committee - Various Funders.....	\$800.00
Woodland Committee - Various Funders.....	\$2,655.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2010.....\$54,943.40

2010 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2010

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project.....	98.42
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(6,471.87)
Clark County Museum.....	18,076.69
Conservation Education Committee.....	1,002.67
Denver Siekman Environmental Park.....	4,220.55
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	10,292.75
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,520.55
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	13,781.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	64,310.40
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	(6,235.81)
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	524.05
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	1,566.03
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	40.00
Laughery Valley Food & Growers (Farmers Market Funds).....	2,340.70
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	3,559.05
Leadership Institute.....	13,769.83
Phoenix House.....	2,869.26
Plant a Tree for You and Me.....	603.97
RC&D Council.....	57,643.66
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	7,640.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	(16,523.27)
Regional No-Till Committee.....	601.23
Ripley County Contribution.....	33.05
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	593.81
Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project.....	21,866.19
South Laughery Creek Watershed.....	(11,320.32)
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(41.66)
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	854.82
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	28,194.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	6,442.92
Ways to Grow.....	24,621.14
Woodland Committee.....	3,777.61

TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010.....\$251,291.31

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/10

CSP Workshop Fund.....	140.44
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	1,300.00
Grazing Land Water Quality Project.....	304.55
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	18,302.42
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
Woodland Committee.....	7,019.24

TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010.....\$33,215.05

2010 Historic Hoosier Hills Council

Ted Fowler Norbert Schafer Larry Bailey Kaye Hunger Kimberly Jolly Katie Collier
President 1st Vice-President 2nd Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Asst. Secretary

CLARK COUNTY

Vacant
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Art Haire
County Commissioner Representative

DEARBORN COUNTY

Ted Fowler
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant
County Commissioner Representative

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dave Hartman
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant
County Commissioner Representative

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Norbert Schafer
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

William Ford
County Commissioner Representative

JENNINGS COUNTY

Rob McGriff
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Mike Ochs
County Commissioner Representative

OHIO COUNTY

Vacant
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Larry Bailey
County Commissioner Representative

RIPLEY COUNTY

Kimberly Jolly
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Kaye Hunger
County Commissioner Representative

SCOTT COUNTY

Bob Tobias
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant
County Commissioner Representative

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Katie Collier
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Jon Bond
County Commissioner Representative

CITY OF AURORA

John Borgman

CITY OF RISING SUN

Vacant

TOWN OF VERSAILLES

Denessa Benkie

STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Sherrill Miller

Staff & Contact Information

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South Laughery Creek Watershed Educator

Cary Louderback, cary.louderback@in.nacdnet.net

Indian Creek Watershed Coordinator

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE:

Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@in.usda.gov

RC&D Coordinator

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

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Versailles, IN 47042

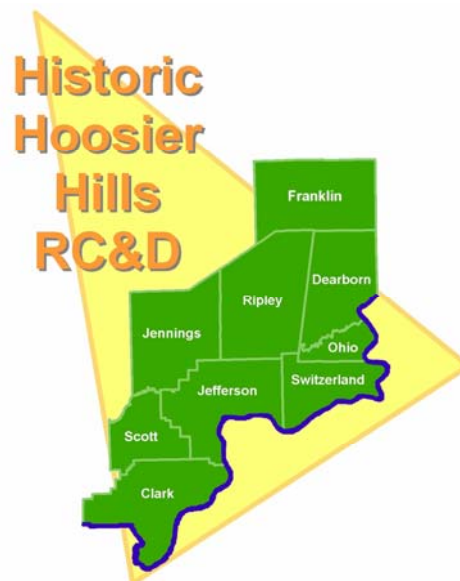
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Central Muscatatuck Watershed



Indian Creek Watershed Workshop

Empowering local people in
Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Jefferson,
Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, &
Switzerland Counties
to carry out projects for the future



Woodland Workshop



Ripley County Field Day



Past Annual Meeting

1981 South Industrial Park Road, Ste. 1
PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042

Phone: (812) 689-6410 extension 5

Fax: (812) 689-3141

**Historic
Hoosier
Hills
RC&D**

