



*Historic Hoosier Hills
Resource, Conservation & Development*

2012 Annual Report

*Empowering local people to carry out projects for the future.
A non-profit organization serving Southeast Indiana since 1968.*



Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

1981 South Industrial Park Road, Suite 1 - P.O. Box 407 - Versailles, Indiana 47042
Ph: (812) 689-4107 - Fax: (812) 689-6849 - Email: hhhills@seidata.com

Dear Friends of HHH,

During the 1980's and 90's when I was employed as the Natural Resource Manager at U.S Army Jefferson Proving Ground, periodically I received a newsletter from an organization calling itself Historic Hoosier Hills RC& D. It didn't take long for me to learn that RC & D stood for "Resource, Conservation and Development," but RC & D what? Was this group a Federal or state agency or a planning commission or was it a board or committee? I learned that it had components of all of these, and although I maintained only a periphery involvement in HHH, early advocates like Gary Conant and Bill Corning kept me apprised of projects and activities. I guess they saw some potential, and I remember Bill telling me that someday I would be heavily involved. Little did I know.

After the proving ground closed in 1995, there was a group of people who wanted to make sure that the sacrifices and contributions connected with JPG would not be forgotten. These good folks led to the establishment of the JPG Heritage Partnership, and we realized that we would be a perfect fit as an HHH project committee. 1990's coordinator Gary Conant helped us along until he retired, and then we began our long productive relationship with Terry Stephenson. To be honest, our group made some initial bad business decisions, and very quickly our original grant was spent. The JGP Heritage Partnership went quickly in debt, and it would have been very easy to fold. But many of our members were products of the Depression, and I learned that these folks did not walk away from their obligations. Bill Corning offered us a deal we couldn't refuse. HHH would loan us funds to pay off our debt, and we would make small payments back to HHH. This was quite a risk, but we parked cars at the Madison Regatta, sponsored a series of JPG history seminars, and received funds to re-print a long out-of print book entitled "Old Timbers" by Chilton Thomson. Slowly our debt was paid off, and today we are holding our own by selling JPG related books and DVD's. Our group will never be able to thank HHH enough for their show of support, and I think Bill is smiling from up above.

After I retired in 2010, Terry asked me if I would serve on the board. Feeling a sense of duty, I immediately said yes, and it's been quite a ride ever since. Influenced by the leadership of Ted Fowler and a knowledgeable board, I soon learned about the comprehensive good work HHH does. Whether it's protection of watersheds, community development, service projects, cultural and eco-tourism, or stewardship of other Hoosier resources, the committees under the HHH umbrella are diverse and far reaching. Each of you attending as project representative should be very proud.

Last year I was nominated as a vice president, and then very quickly found myself as the HHH chairperson. Suddenly all those issues including loss of Federal funding, the potential loss of state grants, and the need to raise revenue while operating as a non-profit business became a primary responsibility. Your board and staff have been working hard to develop an aggressive business model that will pave the way over the next few years. I am optimistic that HHH will thrive, but it means a re-commitment from all of you. You being here this evening demonstrates a belief and support of the mission.

Let me close by extending thanks to Program Manager Casie Auxier and Project Manager Terry Stephenson. Without their knowledge and professional expertise, HHH would be in a proverbial "world of hurt." I rely heavily on both, and really appreciate their support. And thanks to all the watershed staff for your professional dedication and to all the project committees for maintaining the dream. If you think your project worthwhile, never give up. And I promise you that we on the HHH board will try and live up to your expectations.

Kenneth Knouf
President

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ken Knouf

Dearborn County

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant

Jefferson County

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Jon Bond

Switzerland County

SECRETARY

Kaye Hunger

Ripley County

TREASURER

Kim Jolly

Ripley County

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Ted Fowler

Dearborn County

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Larry Bailey

Ohio County

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR

Terry Stephenson



Do We Really Need Another Non-Profit in the Area?

by: Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@hhhills.org

Recently while having lunch with a friend at a local restaurant I accidentally dropped a pen that had Historic Hoosier Hills imprinted on it. A lady behind me picked the pen up and handed it back to me asking what Historic Hoosier Hills was. I mentioned we were a non-profit covering 9 counties in Southeast Indiana and before I could go further she exclaimed “oh just what we need another non-profit”! I thought, where did that come from? Knowing she was not inclined to do much discussion at the time, I invited her to visit us on our website.

However, her comment made me take a closer look at our organization and ask the question – why does the area need a non-profit like Historic Hoosier Hills? Will projects go on without us? – Absolutely. Will the area succeed if our organization doesn’t exist? – Sure it will. Then what does Historic Hoosier Hills offer that makes it worthy of existence? My answer – it gives people hope and confidence that with motivation and a little guidance they can make a difference in their community. Historic Hoosier Hills works with fledgling groups to cultivate an idea and then provides services that help with structuring of the group and financing of the project. You can see evidence of this in the Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Report. There are many projects in the area that started with a simple vision and Historic Hoosier Hills provided the tools and encouragement to help the project succeed. We’ve been doing this for 45 years.

There are many forms of assistance Historic Hoosier Hills has to offer groups. You can find these on our website or ask any HHH Director, staff associate or project committee member to discuss details.

As for the lady at the restaurant, I never caught her name but I’m grateful for her quizzical nature about non-profits. Here’s wishing all non-profits the success that Historic Hoosier Hills has had throughout the years.

Mission & Vision of Historic Hoosier Hills

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

The vision of 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 high quality of life.

The Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the fourth Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the office at: 812-689-4107 or hhhills@seidata.com

All programs and assistance of the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientations and marital or family status.

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.

- ◆ Project Phoenix
- ◆ Little Grand Theatre Company
- ◆ Southeastern Indiana Media Arts Center

Project Phoenix

by: Tim Harmon, www.projectpnx.org



The past year has witnessed major milestones for Project Phoenix and our project house. Since the first of 2012 we have added framing to the interior of the house walls, purchased high efficiency foam insulation that was installed for free by Jackson Construction, re-plumbed the entire fresh water supply and drainage system in the house, had the entire home re-wired by a group of volunteers led by Dwayne Tandy, purchased new underground electric service to run to the house, installed new drywall throughout and hired Keith Watson to finish it for us. America's Window of Charlestown, IN very generously donated 25 high efficiency replacement windows to the house which our volunteers installed and what felt like miles of original baseboard and casing from the house was salvaged, stripped, sanded, primed, painted and reinstalled in the house with beautiful, professional results. A large group of our volunteers worked on painting the house walls and several dedicated volunteers, most notably Will Saufleay, Larry Mannix and Gary Partridge have spent many hours and long days painting and finishing trim, doors and other details. Buck and Carol Ann Rogers did a beautiful job of (among many other things) installing tile and finishing our bathrooms and we purchased new kitchen cabinets and countertops from Madison Winnelson who donated the installation expertise of Benny Anderson. We hired Brian Martin to strip and refinish all the wood floors in the house. Cecil Rowlett, Julie White and Ryan Meyers have also been among our most dedicated volunteers and have logged many hours at the house working on anything and everything as the project has evolved. Altogether our volunteers logged over 1600 hours in 2012!

On January 20, 2013 we held an open house for the public to see our newly remodeled house. With our newly installed furniture and other items in the house we have turned a run-down, abandoned shell into a warm, inviting home. Approximately 100 to 150 people attended our open house and got a chance to see what we have done and find out a little more about Project Phoenix.

We are now putting the finishing touches on our application paperwork and our policies and procedures for working with the families we will serve. The house is now technically 'open' and we would be able to host a family if they were to need it. 2013 will see us transition from a remodeling project into a service organization for the families in our community. We will finally be able to test the need for our service and will begin the process of learning what works and what does not. It is both an exciting and somewhat nervous transition time for us. But we know that God has watched over us all along and brought us the right people at the right time to make this a reality and we trust that His guidance and grace will follow as we move forward.

We invite you to check out our web-site 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 2013 will be a terrific year for Project Phoenix!



Phoenix House January 2011

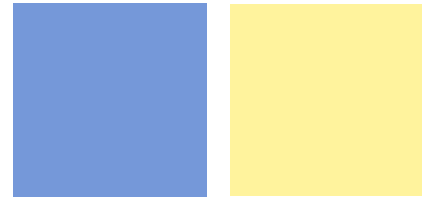


Phoenix House January 2012

Before and After Photos of the Project Phoenix House



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 ranging from natural resources conservation to historic events of Southeast Indiana. Below is a list of project committees that are using many unique approaches to provide educational opportunities and events within the HHH area.

- ◆ 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, www.hftlc.org

This past year Horse Feathers TLC has been making great strides. With a lot of hard work and perseverance we received our own 501 c 3. We also gained our certification from Path's International, the leader in setting the standards for therapeutic riding. In 2013 we are continuing to move forward. Opportunity to purchase some land located just a couple of miles from the town of Versailles. If all goes well with the zoning, health department and our fundraiser maybe we will be able to get started this year. What a day that will be. Therefore, since we have our own non-profit status we will be braking away from Historic Hoosier Hills. Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center would like to extend our thanks to HHH for all their help and guidance over the years and wish them the very best in the years to come.



Chicks on the Farm

by: Kayla Hubbard, www.chicksonthefarm.com

Chicks on the Farm is a local nonprofit dedicated o helping women landowner learn more about how to manage, conserve, and enjoy their land. Pat Larr and Betty Joubert, creators of Chicks on the Farm, are both recently retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

On May 12, 2012 Clark, Jefferson, and Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts partnered together with the Chicks on the Farm and Historic Hoosier Hills to host their second educational workshop, "Chicks on a Small Farm for Fun and Profit." This workshop was held at Larr and Joubert's 257-acre working farm in Nabb, IN. The workshop was focused on women landowners interested in learning more about how to take care of and enjoy the land that they love.

The workshop started off in a group session and had "break-out" presentations that covered a multitude of subjects. Morning presentations featured Pat Larr, owner of the farm and local meat goat producer, sharing her experience in small livestock management, including her crop of 40 baby goats. She also led the participants on a pasture walk and talk about good grasses for livestock, hay, and wildlife. "Mushroom Mike" Hayes showed the participants how to grow their own shitake mushrooms. Jason Larson, with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, led a discussion of ways to identify and eradicate invasive plants that can take over gardens, fields, and woodlands. The rounding out the morning was a short presentation on conservation practices and cost-share assistance programs. After the morning sessions, the participants enjoyed a lunch that was catered by Leroy's. Following lunch, the "chicks" in attendance had the option of installing purple martin houses or fishing on the lake.

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.

Call the Jefferson County SWCD for upcoming event or check out the website at chicksonthefarm.org.



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
- ◆ Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association
- ◆ Regional No-Till Committee
- ◆ Madison Growers Association CSA

Regional No-Till Committee

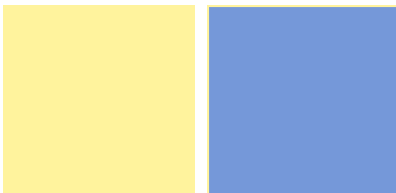
by: Kimberly Jolly, kim.jolly@in.nacdnet.net



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 & 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 2012 the Regional No-Till Committee successfully held three events, the 19th Annual No-Till Breakfast in February and two Cover Crop field days in March & November. The No-Till Breakfast was held at the Hopewell Baptist Church and brought in over 160 participants from 4 different counties. Nineteen volunteers from the South Ripley FFA Chapter helped with the event. This breakfast is the larger no-till event held in the Southeast Indiana area.

The first Cover Crop Field Day was held on March 15, 2012 and the second was held on November 8, 2012, with over 30 farmers in attendance at each event. The Ripley County SWCD has planted a cover crop plot at the Laughery Valley Ag Coop north of Osgood, Indiana for the past two years. These filled days are held to demonstrated the benefits of using cover crops in a farming rotation. Thanks to the Ripley County SWCD, South Laughery Creek Watershed Project and the Central Muscatatuck

Watershed Project these field days continue to be a great success. The Regional No-Till Committee is proud to promote no-till and other conservation practices for years to come.



George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Tami Kruer, grclandtrust@aol.com



The idea of forming a land trust emerged from a "Locally Led Conservation Process" held by the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in 1997. Community members and stakeholders gathered and prioritized the conservation needs for Clark County. Shortly thereafter a SWCD Land Use Committee was formed, whose main goals were educational in nature.

The increasing development in the county and a concern for loss of farmland, open spaces, and wildlife habitat prompted a desire to preserve the rural character and integrity of our county. The group believed that there was still good farmland and biodiversity in the region and the hope was to help protect those resources as changes occur. Another goal included the communication of information that would help private landowners steward their land in an environmentally sound manner.

From that process the Clark's Valley Land Trust emerged and was formed as a separate entity from the SWCD. Over time the land trust has changed its name to the George Rogers Clark Land Trust, continued its work on a regional basis, and filed new articles of incorporation and by-laws with the State of Indiana. Working with the Harrison County Land Conservation Program in Harrison County, IN and the Conservation Law Center in Bloomington, IN the GRCLT was able to establish conservation easements on approximately 150 acres in Harrison County.

In November of 2012, a conservation easement was donated to the GRCLT for approximately 195 acres of the Spriestersbach Farm located in Charlestown, Indiana. The historic farm, dating back to the 1830's, will be protected from future development through the conservation easement. Therefore, one of the original goals of the land preservation discussions and land trust has been achieved.

The George Rogers Clark Land Trust continues to seek additional opportunities to assist landowners in protecting their properties for future generations. One additional easement is currently being drafted and will be recorded early in 2013. Landowners, who have an interest in pursuing a conservation easement on their land, should contact the GRCLT for more information.



Photo from the Spriesterbach Farm closing in November of 2012.



Laughery Valley Food & Growers

by: Kathy Cooley, www.foodandgrowers.org

Our committee is led by a dedicated steering team: Kathy Cooley, Patty Reding, Shelia Merkel, Chris Bruns, Mary Meyer, Bonnie Robbins, Mary Stephens, and Michael Hood, and Adam Israel.

We sponsor 3 main events and maintain a website that features information and resources to promote our mission. We often have over 700 hits per month on our website (www.foodandgrowers.org).

We started 2012 off with our **6th annual Growers/Producer seminar:**

The Journey to Local Sustainable Food: Targeting Success for Family Farms

It was held at the Sherman House Inn and Restaurant, Batesville Indiana on Feb 11, 2012. 61 participants came from central and southeastern Indiana.



Our speakers were:

- Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Specialist, Hancock County: [Food Trends](#)
- Lori Hoagland, PhD, Purdue University Soils Professor: [Healthy Soils](#)
- Greg Marlett, My Local Indiana: brief introduction into program
- Tom Holton, Owner of Red Barn Family Farm, Greencastle Indiana - a diversified farm. [You Can Do It](#)

Lunch was served featuring local products: Langeland Farm Hamburgers, corn meal and red beans

Some take home messages included:

- Local Food is a hot seller.
- Consumers are becoming more aware of where food comes from.
- Consumers are always looking for new food products, new packaging, and new ways to prepare food. They are also looking for more convenience, new delivery systems, and safer, nutritious food.
- Demand for fruits, vegetables, fish and pork will increase.
- There is an influx of ethnic population - particularly Asian and Hispanic and they will be looking for foods from their culture, displayed and sold in creative ways.
- Between 2000 and 2020 there will be a 19% increase in demand for tomatoes, 20% increase in demand for lettuce and fruit.
- Baby boomers will control 52% of the spending on food by 2015.
- 41% of men are now cooking at home.
- Dr. Lori Hoagland encouraged everyone to consider the analogy of having poor soil is similar to going on a trip with no air pressure in your car tires.
- Soil texture cannot change but soil structure can be impacted management. Good soil tilth should be very friable. It is important not to till when the soil is wet.
- Soil organisms help maintain soil nutrients.
- 1 acre of soil has 900# of earthworms and 2400# of fungi. These are the engines that drive the soil.
- You can suppress pathogens with the right microbiology of the soil.
- Cover crops can trap nutrients in the soil, can build organic matter and certain cover crops can suppress soil born pathogens.

Tom Holton believes in diversification. He raises animals, vegetables, children and does agritourism at Red Barn Family Farm. He quit his job 18 months ago to make a full time living on his farm.

The FGA also sponsors the **Batesville Farmers' Market** held on Saturdays in downtown Batesville

The Laughery Valley has many producers of fine quality vegetables, flowers, herbs, and crafts from local artisans. There is no reselling or wholesalers allowed at the Batesville Farmers' Market.

FGA Annual Meeting and Food Tasting, *Celebration of Local Food*, was held on September 20, 2012 at Walhill Farms. Ann Baron, Batesville Food Pantry Coordinator, along with Sr. Marge Wissman, addressed the topic, "Who will meet our community need for food?" James Bogart, Executive Chef of the Butcher Shoppe and Grill at Walhill Farm, prepared delicious local foods for a generous food tasting. It was delicious and filling.



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.

- ◆ Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership
- ◆ Heritage Trail Conservancy
- ◆ John Hunt Morgan Trail
- ◆ Southeast Indiana Film Project



Heritage Trail Conservancy

by: Bob Greene, www.heritagetrailconservancy.com

2012 was another memorable year for the Heritage Trail Conservancy (HTC). Heritage Park, our beautiful waterfront park in downtown Madison, expanded to 15 acres with the addition of 5 acres. This acquisition was made possible by generous donors and friends along with a special nature conservation fund established by Governor Mitch Daniels to celebrate Indiana's 200th birthday. Heritage Park is being developed into a signature green park that will highlight and enhance its natural environment for residents and visitors of Madison to experience and enjoy free of charge.

HTC is currently developing another ½ mile section of trail in downtown Madison along Crooked Creek. It involves purchasing a 2½ acre tract and securing easements from the Madison Railroad and the Indiana Department of Transportation. This new trail route will secure another urban area in downtown Madison for green space and for conservation best management practices.

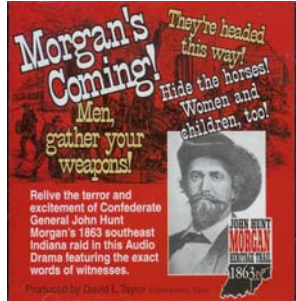
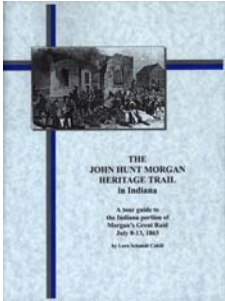
Organizationally, we have added several new board members that will be actively involved in helping fulfill our mission and vision for the Heritage Trail and Heritage Park. We are applying for a 501c3 this year. We could never have accomplished the remarkable progress we have enjoyed over the years without our partnership with HHH. To Terry, Casie, Kim and the whole Historic Hoosier Hills team, we thank you! The Heritage Trail Conservancy will always be forever grateful for your partnership with us. We couldn't have had finer people to work with in advancing our cause.



John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail

www.hhhills.org/JohnHuntMorgan

The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail is a 185 mile self-guided tour through the southern Indiana countryside following the trail of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his Raiders. The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail has been a project of Historic Hoosier Hills since 1996. In 2007, the Trail had an article in AAA Home and Away magazine and was sporadically mentioned in various newspapers. The nation-wide Civil War Discovery Trail list the John Hunt Morgan Trail as one of the suggested travel and education sites.

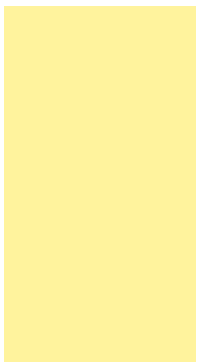
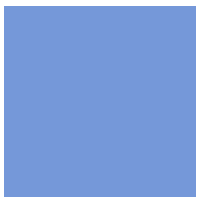


Historic Hoosier Hills has for purchase at their office the following John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail information: guidebook, self-guided cassette tape and cd and also have free self-guided travel brochure and student brochures. If you are interested in learning more about the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail check out our website at www.hhhills.org/JohnHuntMorgan or stop by the Historic Hoosier Hills office in Versailles.

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

by: Dennis Neary

Filming of the historical documentary "Take the River" continued in 2012. The project is sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, and is being created by The Southeastern Indiana Historic Film Project. This past September, events of Morgan's Raid were filmed, including General Morgan's raid on Versailles (pictured). When the film is completed it will be broadcast on WCET and WKET PBS stations. The one-hour program explores the history of 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
 - ◆ Indian-Kentuck Watershed
-

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

by: Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@hhhills.org

The Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project is currently wrapping up the first phase of implementation through an EPA 319 Grant from Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The project has been very successful throughout the last 3 years but 2012 brought many practices and events. Some highlighted events over the past year include:

- Partnered on a Regional No-Till Breakfast
- 3 Cover Crop Field Days
- County Fairs Displays
- Held a Pasture Walk
- Sponsored a Forestry & Wildlife Management Field Day
- Set up a septic system display at various locations
- Conducted a public meeting in October to discuss the watershed project
- Held an Wetland Educator Workshop



Cost-share for funds received by landowners total \$85,375.65. A total of 8 landowners participated and installed 13 different practices in 2012. These practices include 390 acres of cover crops, 24,156 feet of fence, 8 heavy use area protection, 1540 feet of pipeline, and 3 livestock tanks or fountains.

All these practices help save 2,296 tons of soil from erosion, which total to approximately 114.8 dump truck loads. There were also 4,832.1 pounds of Nitrogen and 2,416 pounds of Phosphorus prevented from entering our streams thanks to these practices.

For more information on events and cost-share please call (812) 689-4107. The Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project is scheduled to end on August 26, 2013. Total cost-share dollars for this project \$282,000.

Indian-Kentuck Watershed

by: Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@hhhills.org

Local landowners, Jefferson, Ripley, and Switzerland County SWCDs, with the help of Historic Hoosier Hills were key to the success of Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) being awarded a 205j grant from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in March to develop a watershed management plan for the Indian Kentuck Watershed. A total of \$175,560 was awarded. Jefferson County SWCD has contracted Historic Hoosier Hills to write the management plan.

The purpose of the Indian Kentuck Watershed Management Plan will be to summarize available data that influence water quality in the watershed and develop a plan for a community to achieve solutions to address water quality concerns. Project tasks and goals include taking an inventory of the watershed to assess how it is impacted by individuals' actions, have professional water quality monitoring completed by IDEM, provide community education and outreach through field days, workshops, creek clean-ups, and public presentations, publish new articles, flyers, brochures, and signage, and develop an Indian Kentuck Watershed Management Plan.

If you are interested in learning more or interested in becoming involved in the Indian Kentuck Watershed Project contact Historic Hoosier Hills at 812-689-4107 or email hhhills@seidata.com.

Indian Creek Watershed

by: Cary Louderback

The Indian Creek Watershed Project (ICWP) had another excellent year in 2012. The original \$143,000.00 in cost-share assistance funding was increased by \$50,000.00 through a grant contract extension from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Other grant funds were increased proportionally, extending the grant period by another year- to February 25, 2013.

Indian Creek Watershed Project

Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed include:

11 Alternative Water Systems	9 Pipelines @ 2,455 ft.	9 Heavy Use Area Protection Pads
9 Watering Facilities	19 Fences @ 48,164 ft.	9 Seedings & Reseedings @ 68 ac.
3 Cover Crops @ 121.3 ac.		



Estimated load reductions are: Sediment - 18,060 tons/year; Phosphorous – 16,905 lbs./year; Nitrogen – 33,796 lbs./year

These practices were installed by 17 stakeholders, over more than 1,300 acres, and affected more than 850 head of livestock.

Seventeen Advanced Placement Environmental Science students from Switzerland County High School have been trained as volunteer monitors for the 2012-2013 school year. These highly trained student monitors have been at work testing the Ohio River through ORSANCO RiverWatchers.

IDEM has given notification that a second round of funding has been approved for allocation by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This new grant is expected to fully fund ICWP's grant request: \$202,000.00 for cost-share to producers; \$201,955.00 for project expenses; for a total of \$403,955.00, and requires \$269,303.00 of in-kind match funds, for a total project value of \$673,258.00. The funding will be for a thirty-six (36) month period, 2013 – 2016, with the exact date of commencement to be determined.

South Laughery Creek Watershed

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

The South Laughery Creek Watershed Project was created to educate citizens of the watershed about conservation through community involvement while utilizing leadership, teamwork, and resources effectively. This project has successfully completed the 2nd Phase of implementation through an EPA 319 Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management totaling \$419,000! The grant contract had an end date of January 31, 2012, and we are proud to say that many exciting events have taken place and \$250,000 cost share has been paid to landowners in the watershed. Some highlighted events over the past year were: No-Till Breakfasts, Cover Crop Field Days, Presentations & Displays at County Fairs and Annual Meetings, Presentations at Ag Days, Development and mailing of newsletters, and completion and submission of the Final Report.



Total of \$420,557.41 in conservation practices put on the ground with cost share being \$250,000. There were 15,791 tons of sediment, 13,579 of Phosphorus, & 13,896 of Nitrogen saved in South Laughery Creek Watershed.

- 70,993 feet of Fence
- 221.2 acres of Pasture/Hayland Seeding
- 30 Heavy Use Area Protection
- 3,970 feet of Pipeline
- 17 Tanks/Fountains
- 19 Alternative Watering Systems
- 17 acres of Timber Stand Improvement
- 20 acres of Brush Management
- 3.6 acres of Tree Plantings
- 4 Roof Runoff Systems
- 1,050 feet of Underground Outlets
- 1 Spring Development

This is the final phase of the South Laughery Creek Watershed Project as new funding was not approved. Since the beginning in the late 90's the South Laughery Creek Watershed has had over 100 educational events and gave \$445,000 worth of cost share. Despite the absence of new funding the South Laughery Creek Watershed is very proud of the things that have been accomplished and the conservation that has been put onto the ground. The South Laughery Creek Watershed staff would like to thank the Steering Committee, Historic Hoosier Hills, IDEM & EPA, the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, but most importantly the Landowners for making this Watershed Project such a success!

Hogan Creek Watershed

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

The Hogan Creek Watershed is roughly 83,000 acres with approximately 64,000 of them in Dearborn County and the remaining acres are in Ripley County. The headwaters of the watershed start near Sunman and west of Milan and flows into the Ohio River in Aurora. Approximately 50% of the watershed is woodland, 47% is agriculture, 2% urban, and the final 1% is water. The Hogan Creek Watershed Project is currently working on its 2nd Implementation grant through IDEM's 319 Watershed Program. This grant, which includes both cost-share and educational components, started in November of 2010 and was recently extended through January 2015. IDEM was able to give the project an additional \$80,000 that was not used in previous grant projects to put towards the cost-share of best management practices in the Hogan Creek watershed.

The grant's cost-share program was developed and approved the end of January 2011. Some of the practices available for cost-share include: animal walkways, cover crops, filter strips, grassed waterways, heavy use area protection, pasture/hay planting, fence, livestock watering systems, roof runoff, riparian buffer, and tree/shrub establishment. The cost-share rate is 70% with not to exceed rates and practice and landowner caps. In 2012, the following practices were installed:

310' Pipeline	864' Underground Outlet
2 Watering Facilities	1 Riprap Pad Outlet
8,578' Fence	112' Roof Runoff Management
26,077 sq ft of Gravel HUAPs	77 ac. Cover Crops
13.1 ac. Hay/Pasture Planting	1 Water Control Structure
	1.6 ac. Tree Planting



The estimated load reductions from the installation of these practices are 316 tons of sediment, 449 lbs of phosphorus, and 805 lbs of nitrogen a year. Many other practices are planned and designed and are waiting to be installed. Applications are still being accepted for the cost-share program if the land is located within the watershed boundaries.

The watershed project has participated and held many educational events in 2012.

- Sent out quarterly newsletters to landowners in the watershed
- Apr. 17 & 18th – Presented information on pollution, watersheds, and best management practices to 732 third graders and 82 adults in the county during Ag Days
- April 27th - Presented information on the importance of trees and conducted many educational activities related to trees for Greendale's Arbor Day Celebration to over 25 fifth graders from St. Lawrence school
- June 16th – Held River Sweep - 2 clean-up sites and 90 volunteers
- Oct. 24th – Held a Rule 5: Self Inspection Workshop – 16 contractors/surveyors attended
- Nov. 30th – Held Conservation Tillage Workshop – 65 people attended – Nutrient management and soil health topics were discussed

The Hogan Creek Steering Committee is always looking for more people who are interested in the watershed project and water quality to join the committee. The committee normally meets on a quarterly basis.

If anyone is interested in the project and would like more information, please contact Heather Wirth at the Dearborn Co. SWCD office at (812) 926-2406 ext 3 or email at heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net.





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 time in Southeast Indiana.

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

Woodland Committee

by: Duane Drockelman, duane.drockelman@hhills.org

The HHHRC&D Woodland Committee is a volunteer non-profit organization made up of landowners, professional foresters and others interested in woodland conservation in Southeastern Indiana.

The goal of the committee is to provide education and leadership for enhancement of economic opportunities within the nine county HHHRC&D area through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources. Membership is open to all persons interested in these resources.

Committee projects involve providing educational opportunities dealing with managing woodland to provide timber for wood products; wildlife habitat; water quality; erosion control; recreation; esthetics and recognized as a reservoir for atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Our Committee has been very active this past year with meetings having educational presentations on various topics: Walter Gray, Indiana Geological Survey - Earthquakes in the past, present and future in Indiana; Aquatic Control Company - Pond and Wildlife Management; Phil Marshall, Indiana State Entomologist – Woodland Insects and Disease concerns; and a presentation on - Indiana Expeditions of Forests at Work. Other activities included the annual Timber Industry Meeting held at SEPAC; and was a partnership sponsor of the Woodland and Wildlife Management Field Day held at Dr. Mulford's Capability Farm this past Fall.

The Committee also completed work over three days (approx. 180 hours) on an invasive species and timber stand improvement South Laughery Creek Watershed cost - share project on the Gary and Pat Conant woodland tract in Ripley County. This was done as a committee fund raising project.

Plant a Tree for You & Me

by: Melanie Davis, www.clarkswcd.org/PAT

In August 2007, seven area Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) set out to make a difference in the tree cover of southern Indiana. They began a project called **"Plant a Tree for You And Me"**.

The primary goals of this five year project were to help the citizens of southern Indiana plant 100,000 trees in the seven county area by 2012, and to educate them about the benefits of trees and their management.

Now, 2012 has arrived, and 65,905 trees have been reported as planted for the project to date. Workshops on tree planting and tree care have been held, and many trees have been sold in SWCD trees sales.

Plant a Tree for You and Me will officially end in August of this year, but the SWCDs will continue their educational efforts, and the promotion of tree planting. We hope that you will continue (or start!) planting trees, and that you will let us know when you do by visiting the Plant A Tree website at www.clarkswcd.org/PAT/openpage.htm to record your plantings.



PLANT A TREE FOR YOU AND ME

grant monies received in 2012

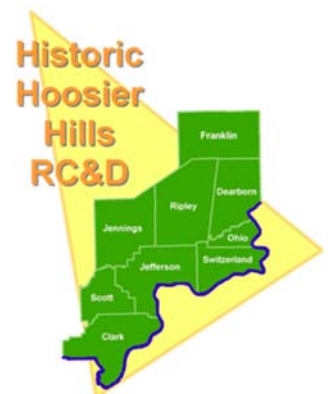
<i>Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 2</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant	\$126,201.16
Ripley County Community Foundation.....	\$330.00
<i>Denver Siekman Environmental Park</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$41,618.69
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,600.00
<i>Indian Creek Watershed Project</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$93,522.37
<i>Red Wolf Sanctuary</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$2,000.00
<i>South Laughery Creek Watershed</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$169,635.69
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2012.....	\$438,907.91

donations received in 2012

Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....	\$23,925.38
Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....	\$822.50
Project Phoenix - Various Funders.....	\$2,300.00
Southeast Indiana Media Arts Council - Various Funders.....	\$800.00
Woodland Committee - One Funder.....	\$5,764.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2012.....	\$33,611.88

Help to Support Historic Hoosier Hills

Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) is a non-profit organization serving the counties of Dearborn, Clark, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott and Switzerland Counties. Funding for HHH is provided by donations, dues, administration and service fees. HHH receives no other funding. If you are interested in giving a donation to HHH your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Enclosed in the Annual Report is a postcard and envelope that you can fill out and either mail back to HHH or give it to a board member. We hope that you will take the time and consider HHH now and in the future.



2012 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2012

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project.....	\$50.92
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(8,179.02)
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Conservation Education Committee.....	1,002.67
Denver Siekman Environmental Park.....	9,017.77
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	9,610.93
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	15,543.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	13,595.84
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	(5,696.37)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	(743.60)
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	923.54
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	3,787.75
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	54.57
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	3,796.79
Leadership Institute.....	11,124.84
Phoenix House.....	389.26
Plant a Tree for You and Me.....	188.97
RC&D Council.....	21,046.08
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	7,640.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	209.15
Regional No-Till Committee.....	(1,389.18)
Ripley County Contribution.....	(233.58)
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	516.26
South Laughery Creek Watershed.....	(6,972.12)
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(176.75)
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	714.71
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	28,194.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	24,621.14
Woodland Committee.....	7,086.44
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012.....	\$139,079.64

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

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	18,957.61
Woodland Committee.....	7,194.80
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
Grazing Lands Water Quality.....	304.55
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012.....	\$34,045.80

2012 Historic Hoosier Hills Council Members

Ken Knouf
President

Vacant
1st Vice-President

Jon Bond
2nd Vice-President

Kaye Hunger
Secretary

Kimberly Jolly
Treasurer

CLARK COUNTY

Vacant
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Art Haire
County Commissioner Representative

DEARBORN COUNTY

Ted Fowler
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Brad Dawson
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

Al Riggle
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

AT-LARGE

Ken Knouf
Jefferson County

2012 Staff & Contact Information

HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS RC&D:

Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@hhills.org
Historic Hoosier Hills Program Director
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Educator

Steve Franklin, steve.franklin@in.nacdn.net
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Conservation Technician

Duane Drockelman, duane.drockelman@hhills.org
South Laughery Creek Watershed Coordinator

Kimberly Jolly, kim.jolly@in.nacdn.net
South Laughery Creek Watershed Educator

Cary Louderback, cary.louderback@hhills.org
Indian Creek Watershed Coordinator

Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@hhills.org
Historic Hoosier Hills Projects Director

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

LOCATION:

1981 South Industrial Park Road, Suite 1
Versailles, IN 47042

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042

PHONE: 812-689-4107

EMAIL: hhills@seidata.com

WEB: www.hhills.org



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

Phone: (812) 689-4107

Fax: (812) 689-6849

Email: hkhills@seidata.com

www.hkhills.org

**Historic
Hoosier
Hills
RC&D**

