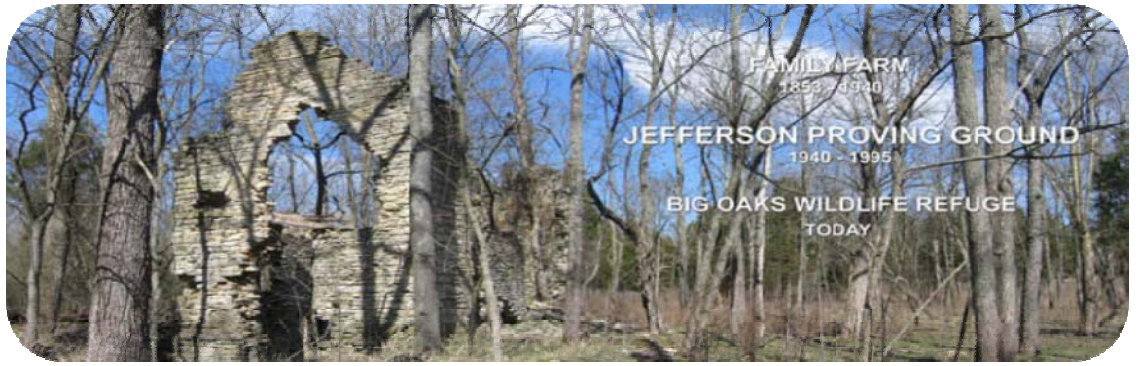


ANNUAL REPORT 2009



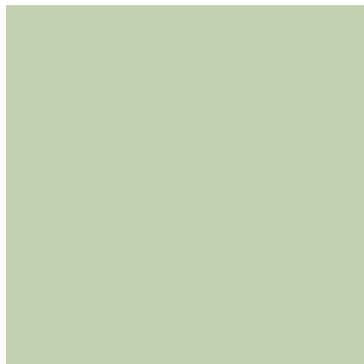


JPGHP viewing new DVD



Tanners Creek Watershed Cost-Share Practice Installed

Empowering local people to carry out projects for the FUTURE



Wildlife Field Day at Dale Sides Farm sponsored by Indian Creek Watershed & Switzerland Co. SWCD



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Red Wolf Sanctuary located in Rising Sun, Indiana



president's MESSAGE

The Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council continues to grow and take advantage of new opportunities. Over the past year new projects have been added to our efforts and funds have been identified to support continuing and new efforts. We continue to shape the nature of the growth and development of the region and to involve citizens with the fabric of our communities. The people who support our many projects with their wide diversity of skills and insights improve our quality of life and preserve and utilize our natural resources.

While there are new funding opportunities for HHH projects from private foundations, State funding, and Federal funding sources, the challenge is to promote ourselves and our projects. We need to seek out specific funding sources and write convincing grant and gift proposals, while we face constant decreases in direct funding for RC&D Council offices across the State and nation.

While so many people work to attain the goals of their projects, the challenge is to get more people involved with the projects and also with the management of HHH. We need to identify people who are interested in the work of HHH and our projects and show them how to become involved.

Perhaps our greatest strength is the tremendous number of 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. Now we must call upon our neighbors for support as we face our challenges and capitalize on our opportunities.



Ted Fowler
President



coordinator's MESSAGE

As you can see from this 2009 Annual Report it's been a productive year. Council and staff are assisting numerous project committees that are working to improve conditions in the areas of community development, education and natural resource conservation here in Southeast Indiana. Support to project committees from Historic Hoosier Hills can happen in many ways including – assistance in organizational structuring, budget development, researching and submitting grant proposals using their 501(c)3 status, data collection, administrative support and facilitated planning.

In 2009 Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council made additional strides in its effort to become a self sufficient non-profit organization. This is necessary as national funding for the RC&D program continues to suffer. HHH Council is being proactive by finding new ways to broaden funding opportunities while expanding their partnership base. Council has implemented several strategies to set this process in motion which include:

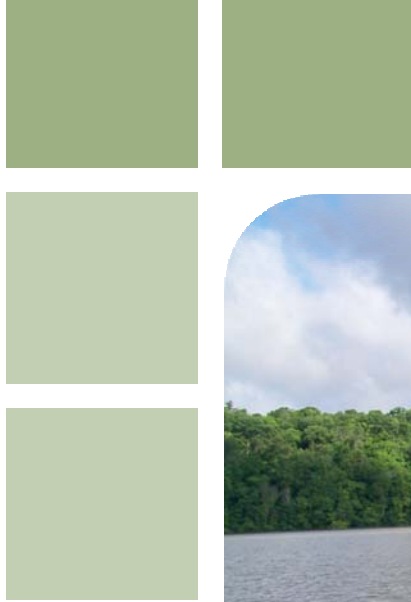
- Working with Community Foundations within the HHH area to establish endowments. Currently HHH has endowments with five Community Foundations within its nine county area.
- Working with our partners to expand our services and establishing a fee for service program.
- Development and implementation of a fundraising campaign.
- Development of a marketing strategy that not only promotes project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills but the organization itself.
- Initiating a method of recruiting potential Council members that will allow Historic Hoosier Hills to address specific needs which will help the organization to prosper.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D has a long and bright future ahead due to the efforts and strategies being put into motion. The collective efforts of HHH, its partners, project committees and dedicated volunteers will have a positive affect on the citizens of Southeast Indiana for generations to come.



Terry Stephenson
Coordinator





South Laughery Creek Watershed Clean-Up was held at the Versailles 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.

what sets US APART

Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation 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 is a process more than a program. It is governed at the grass roots 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 and city and towns. One of our many partners, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation District (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. Project committees may 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

2nd Annual Project Committee Tour

Have a community project idea, but unsure how to make it happen?

by: Beth Rumsey, Versailles Republican Newspaper

The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation and Development, located on Industrial Park Road in Versailles, assist many communities in a nine county area with land and water conservation; educational and business opportunities; tourism; farmland preservation and wildlife habitat improvement.

Several projects were highlighted in the 2009 Project Committees Tour held recently. The tour included a visit to the Red Wolf Sanctuary in Rising Sun as well as the Old Timbers Lodge in the Jefferson Proving Grounds.

According to HHH RC&D council president Ted Fowler, the organization was established in 1968 and is one of nine councils across Indiana. The non-profit organization partner with the USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service providing assistance to groups and communities in Ripley, Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Scott and Switzerland counties.

For example, Project Phoenix is a non-profit organization, operating as a project committee of the HHH RC&D, dedicated to provide support to families in Jefferson County who have lost their home due to a tragedy such as flood, fire, or tornado.

According to project chairman Tim Harmon, the organization plans to work with local churches and community organizations receiving referrals of families in need. Those who qualify will receive assistance with temporary housing as well as contacts and resources to get them back into their home or a new home.

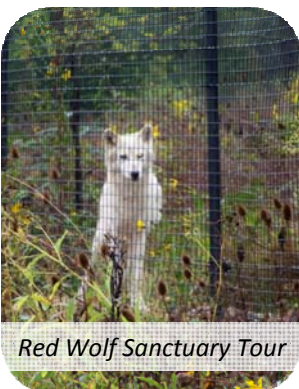


Tim Harmon informs participants about Project Phoenix.

The HHH RC&D supports educational endeavors such as the Denver Siekman Environmental Park (DSEP) and the Red Wolf Sanctuary in Rising Sun. The mission of both organizations is to provide the surrounding communities with life-long learning experiences.

Field trips to the DSEP provide first hand experience with nature and the environment. Approximately 1600 students attend educational programs in the park each year. According to Janie Eldridge, director of DSEP, the outdoor classroom programs are open to school groups, youth groups with specialized programs for preschoolers, girl scouts, cub scouts, and boy scouts.

According to Paul Strasser, director of Red Wolf Sanctuary, the goal of the organization is to teach children about wildlife in their area. Visitors to the sanctuary will have the opportunity to see a variety of bears, foxes, coyotes, wolves, and bobcats.



Red Wolf Sanctuary Tour

The Red Wolf Sanctuary began thirty years ago in Dillsboro and is currently located on 452 acres that includes 100 acres of prairie which provides a diverse habitat for wildlife. The prairie is home to birds such as sand hill cranes, hawks, owls, as well as golden and bald eagles.



Red Wolf Sanctuary Tour



Red Wolf Presentation



Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist, talks about how important RC&D's are to Indiana.

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's an educational program for landowners on establishing wildlife habitat or controlling nuisance wildlife.

The Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club has sponsored numerous educational activities related to wildlife and its management. They also sponsor hunter safety courses from time to time.

◆ Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club

Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club

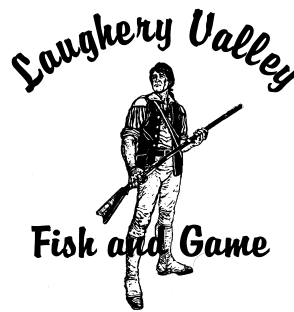
Email: lvgclub@gmail.com Phone: 812-667-6644

The goal of the Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club (LVFGC) 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.

Some of the programs that are offered at the Club include hunter education classes, shooting sports and instructions and wildlife management.

For more information on the LVFGC call 812-667-6644.

Below are pictures and fliers from events held at the Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club.




Introductory Beekeeping Workshop

This fun and informative workshop is designed to provide attendees with a basic understanding of what is involved in beekeeping.

Topics of Discussion:

- Why & How to Get Honey Bees
- Tools & Beekeeping Equipment
- Protective Clothing
- Honey Harvesting
- And More...



SPONSORED BY:
Southwestern Chapter of the Indiana Beekeepers & Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club


DATE: Saturday, March 21, 2009

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club
Friendship Road
5.8 miles south of Fireo, Indiana

COST: FREE

For more information contact Jim Oram at 812-571-0118 or email jim at joram @nalu.net.



5th Annual Junior Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 6, 2009
8 - 11 AM
Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club

The Junior Fishing Derby is for kids 16 years and younger.

Please Join Us for a FUN Filled Morning!



Lunch will be provided after the derby!

The Club is located at
4852 South Friendship Road
Vincennes, IN
812-667-6644



Contests with Prizes to be Awarded!

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.

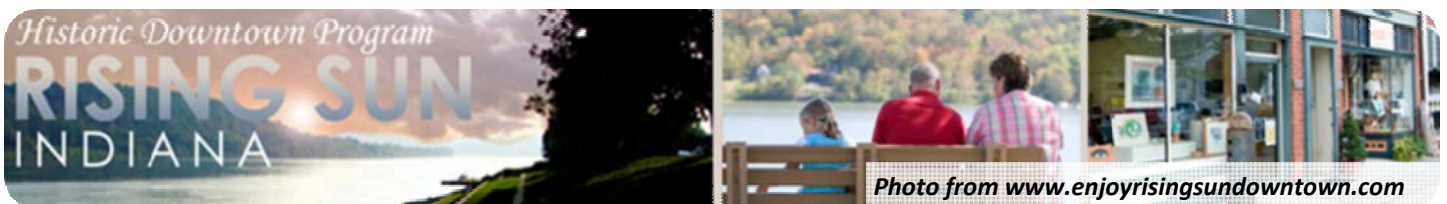
- ◆ Franklin County Water Main Extension
- ◆ Hayden Waste Water Treatment
- ◆ McKay Cemetery
- ◆ Project Phoenix
- ◆ Rising Sun Historic Downtown Program
- ◆ Southeastern Indiana Media Arts Center
- ◆ Versailles State Park Inn

Rising Sun Historic Downtown Program

by: Amy Hoffman, www.enjoyrisingsundowntown.com

The Rising Sun Historic Downtown Program, a nationally accredited main Street organization has had success in the past such as the 2003 Governor’s Arts Award for Art’s as Economics. It rode the wave of the gambling boat funds going from a broken downtown riverfront town to a place of promise. This wave has ebbed and the program had three different directors in a short time.

The Historic Downtown Program (HDP) needed a new focus and Historic Hoosier Hills was highly recommended as a great resource. Historic Hoosier Hills has aided HDP with a new mission and vision statement, met with the board and local interested parties to aid in creating goals and a plan. With this a new plan in place, we hope to build on our past and has distinct direction for the future. All of this was possible with the support from Historic Hoosier Hills.



Where Main Street Meets the River

Project Phoenix

by: Tim Harmon, www.projectpnx.org



Project Phoenix has set an ambitious goal of raising \$50,000 in 2010 for the purchase of a house to use for our primary mission. Toward that end we have had our first fundraiser event, which was a Sweetheart Banquet held on February 13. We seated 110 for a romantic Italian dinner, had some terrific entertainment and raised close to \$3000. All in all, we considered it an outstanding success. We are now working on plans for other fundraisers later this year which will include a golf scramble.

We are also on a major push this year to build awareness of our organization and secure funding from corporate sponsors, local foundations and various grant sources. One of the major steps toward this goal has been the development of a website at www.projectpnx.org. The site allows anyone access to information about our group anytime and gives them the opportunity to donate on-line as well. We have had a healthy number of visitors since it's launch in 2009.

We have also scheduled meetings with both the Madison & Jefferson County Fire Department Chief in March to garner support the various local fire houses and are contacting various civic organizations to be a guest speaker at their meetings.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D has been instrumental in our recent activities as a consultant as we develop a master plan for our future growth. By being about to be under their 501(c)3 umbrella we have been able to accept tax deductible donation and apply for grants.

Thanks to HHH we've been able to hit the ground running.

We invite you to check out our website 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 2010 will be a terrific year for Project



Compassionate Help When Disaster Strikes your Home

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.

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

Conservation Education Committee

by: Katie Collier, katie.collier@in.nacdnet.net

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Education Committee is made up of Natural Resources personnel and local educators who strive to provide exciting workshops designed to promote an understanding of conservation and local Indiana history. The goal of this collaborative effort is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, and knowledge of such subjects through reenactments, lectures, hands-on activities and the distribution of classroom-ready materials. Activities are designed to satisfy the goals of educational programs by complementing and enhancing existing curriculum. These workshops provide many opportunities to address lesson objectives and educational standards that can be used in formal and non-formal educational settings.



Big Oaks National Wildlife Tour Participants

On October 28, 2009, over twenty people were in attendance for a tour of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge formerly known as the Jefferson Proving Ground. Ken Knouf and Beth Black served as interpretive tour guides as the group drove through the grounds. Those in attendance were able to see the Oakdale School, follow the John Hunt Morgan Trail and tour the Old Timbers Lodge. The tour concluded with a visit to the Indiana Air National Guard. Due to weather we

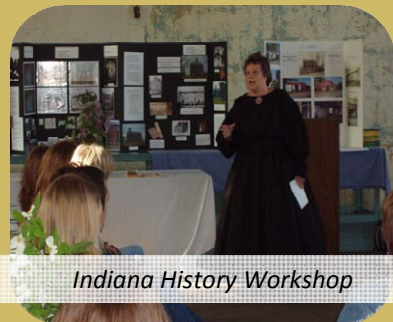
were unable to view a flyover but did get to learn about the work they are doing. The Education Committee is currently working to plan workshops for the spring and fall of 2010.



Indiana Air National Guard



Frogs, Turtles & Snakes Workshop



Indiana History Workshop

Denver Siekman Environmental Park

<http://www.dsep.info/>

BENEFITS FOR YOUTH:

The Denver Siekman Environmental Park (DSEP) a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D offers educational programming for all ages. DSEP strives to help teachers and students by providing various program opportunities for schools and other learning organizations primarily focused on environmental education. DSEP works closely with teachers, youth leaders, and others to provide a unique learning experience for both youth and adults while visiting the park.



We have specialized programs for preschoolers, girl scouts, cub scouts and boy scouts. We will also develop programs to meet the special topics for other youth groups.

DSEP field trips allow children to experience nature and the environment first hand. Repeated experiences outdoors are vital to children as they grow and learn. This way our future citizens will learn to appreciate nature and in turn, become stewards of our environment.

BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY:

Besides what we offer for the youth groups, local and surrounding school systems we also have available the following:

- ◆ Open to the public dawn to dusk 7 days a week 365 days a year.
- ◆ 2 shelters that can be rented in advance for family picnics or other events.
- ◆ Conference area seating for 60 for meetings, workshops, family gatherings and other events.
- ◆ Low-ropes course with certified instructors.
- ◆ A maintained turf walking trail which winds around the 64 acres. The trail is marked for 5K, 4K and 3K.
- ◆ We also provide a scenic location for weddings.

We also have regularly scheduled nature walks, bird watching walks, and the frog watch program as well as astronomy opportunities.

For more information regarding the Denver Siekman Environmental Park phone 812-438-1230 or visit our website at www.dsep.info/.







education

- ◆ 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 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
-  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.

Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center is just that it is a Learning Center. In addition to the equine, Horse Feather will be 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 garden
- ◆ 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

Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center is one of a kind. It has been designed to fill the voids that are lacking in 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.



Red Wolf Sanctuary

<http://www.redwolf.org>

Red Wolf Sanctuary has made great strides towards establishing a 452 acre environmental education center near Rising Sun.

Historic Hoosier Hills has assisted Red Wolf by:

- 3 Budget Development
- 3 Establishing a 100 acre prairie with the help of Ken Lane, District Conservationist and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 3 Construction of artificial wetlands also with the help of Ken Lane and the NRCS Greensburg Technical Team
- 3 Grant research
- 3 Administrative payroll assistance
- 3 Introduction of the project to area residents, commissioners and planning and zoning



If you would like more information regarding the Red Wolf Sanctuary visit their website at www.redwolf.org or phone 812-438-2306.



Water Alliance for Vital Eco-System (WAVES)

By: Cynthia Bodley, cynthia.bodley@gmail.com

WAVES has continued to hold workshops on Stream Ecology, Mapping and Navigation and Fish Printing in Dearborn County and has partnered with groups in the Tri-State Region when requested. In 2009, we have partnered with the Oxford Farmers weekly Market providing the opportunity for the children of the market attendees to experience the art of Gyotaku, or commonly called Fish Printing. This event was wildly popular and we were able to produce 50 – 75 works of art in a single Market day. The Stream Ecology program is offered on a weather permitting basis and in the Spring and Summer of 2009 workshops were held in Dearborn County and in Butler County, this is a science based program the youth of all ages and their parents enjoy immensely as they are literally immersed in the hands on science of water biology and come away with a greater understanding of the role we all play in water conservation. WAVES with its partners have been working on updating the map of Gladys Russell Nature Preserve they created in 2006.

In development over the last year has been a workshop focusing on the bones and skeletons of the animals we often find in the creeks and the woods. The signage and more specimen collection are being worked on and the program will be offered to the community in the late summer of 2010. Historic Hoosier Hills continues to be pivotal in its support of WAVES accomplishing the long term objective of establishing field based science programs that foster conservation education and conservation of our natural resources by providing grants administration and network enhancement as well as guidance in planning objectives.

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: Liz Jackson, Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association, jackson@purdue.edu



Alan and Rosemary Bolenbaugh of Columbus were honored with the 2009 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship award, presented by the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association. The Deam award annually honors the outstanding Indiana forest owner who demonstrates good forest stewardship. Charles Deam, Indiana's first state forester, was a pioneer in recognizing the need for protecting woodlands and managing our forest resources.

Alan and Rosemary own 112 acres in Jennings County and are very active on the Historic Hoosier Hills Woodland Committee. They are also Classified Forest landowners

and Certified Tree Farmers. Consulting forester Joe Schuerman assists them in their forest management. Rob McGriff, district forester, nominated the Bolenbaugh's.

Congratulations to the Bolenbaugh's for being honored as the 2009 Charles Deam Forest Stewardship Award Winners!

Below are fliers of the Woodland Committee's activities for 2009.



If you are interested in learning more about the Woodland Committee or would like to be added to their mailing list email hills@seidata.com or phone 812-689-6410 extension 5.

Plant a Tree for You & Me

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

“Plant a Tree for You and Me” is a joint project of Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Ripley, and Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts in corporation 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. To date there have been 25,620 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.



Conservation Planting

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 log onto <http://www.clarkswcd.org/PAT/openpage.htm> or contact any of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts listed above.



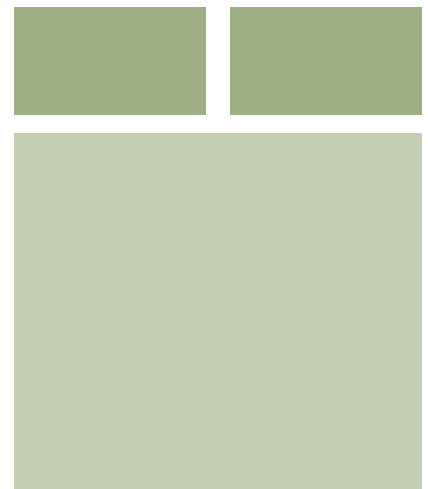
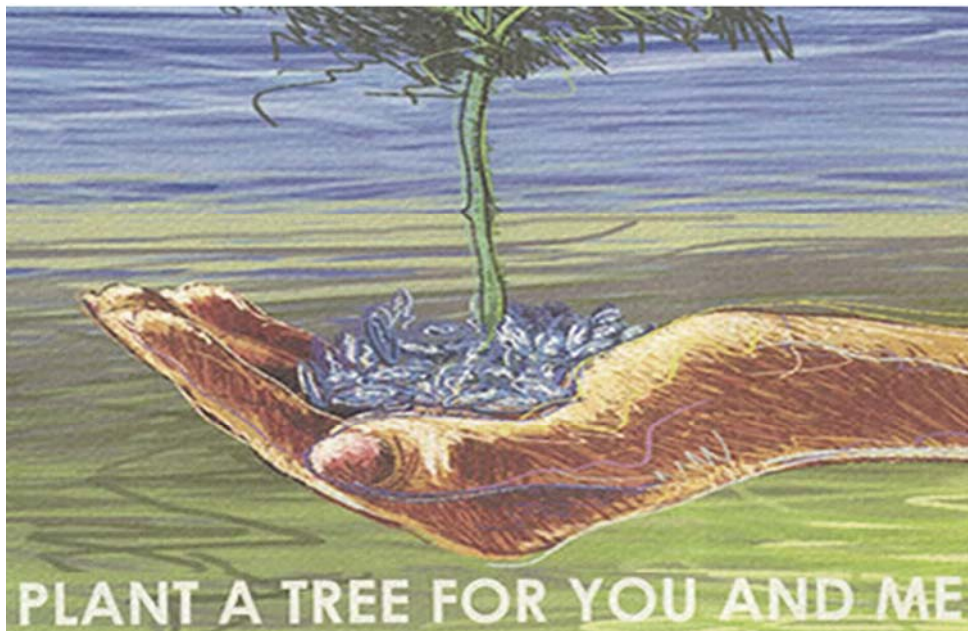
Conservation Planting



Riparian Buffer Planting



Utica Elementary School Tree Planting



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.

- ◆ Batesville Wastewater Project
- ◆ Branded Beef Project
- ◆ Forage & Livestock Committee
- ◆ George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- ◆ Jennings County Growers Coop
- ◆ Ohio Valley Creative Energy
- ◆ Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association
- ◆ Regional No-Till Committee
- ◆ Ways to Grow & Beyond

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 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 2009 the Regional No-Till Committee successfully held two events, the 16th Annual No-Till Breakfast in February and a Cover Crop Field Day in March. The No-Till Breakfast was held at the Hopewell Baptist Church and brought in 159 participants from 4 different counties. Twelve Earth Team Volunteers from South Ripley FFA Chapter helped with the event. This breakfast is the largest no-till event held in southeastern Indiana area.

The Cover Crop Field Day was held on March 13, 2009, with over 30 farms in attendance. The Ripley County



No-Till Breakfast—March, 2009



Cover Crop Field Day—March, 2009

SWCD had planted a cover crop plot in Milan, Indiana in the fall of 2008. This field day was to show the benefits of using cover crops in a farming rotation. This field day was so successful that an annual cover crop field day is planned for coming years. This committee is very active in education and will continue to promote no-till and other conservation practices for years to come.



George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Pat Larr

George Rogers Clark Land Trust was formed in 1999 as a result of the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District long-range planning and community involvement efforts. Trust founders coordinated with Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D to operate as a project committee under their 501(c)3 umbrella.

The Land Trust mission is “to preserve and enhance the rural character, agricultural production and natural integrity of Southern Indiana through land stewardship, education and partnerships.” George Rogers Clark Land Trust joins hundreds of other land trust across the county in offering landowners the tools they need to protect their farmland for future generations.

Land trusts protect land directly by buying or accepting donations of land or of conservation easements. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows the landowner to continue to own and use the land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

George Rogers Clark Land Trust, in cooperation with Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, is currently in the process of completing its first conservation easement on Ed and Dorothy Troncini's 83-acre farm in Harrison County. It has also completed preliminary evaluation and acceptance of a second easement on a 60-acre working farm, also in Harrison County, that has been in a family for three generations.



Pictured to the left is George Rogers Clark Land Trust director Jim Kleinstiver and landowner Ed Troncini walking the farm and discussing Mr. Troncini's desire to protect it.

Pictured to the right is one view from the Troncini farmstead.



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.

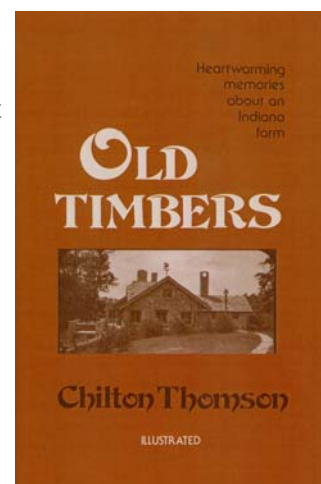
HHH committees dealing with tourism not only provide a valuable service by educating both visitors and residents of local historic events and locations in Southeastern Indiana but also provide a source of economic stimulus by bringing dollars in from outside the community.

- ◆ Clark County Museum
- ◆ Historic Sternwheeler Preservation Society
- ◆ Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership
- ◆ John Hunt Morgan Trail
- ◆ Madison Heritage Trail
- ◆ Madison Riverfront Park
- ◆ Southeast Indiana Film Project
- ◆ Whitewater Canal Trail Project

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Ken Knouf, info@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 a Historic Hoosier Hills committee, the 20-member organization has hosted a variety of historical seminars, conducted tours on the proving ground (now Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge), 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 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 2009 operating year included completion of the Ripley County WWII clippings book, the 2nd reprinting and distribution of "JPG-Assorted Newspaper Clippings Book" and near completion of an oral history tentatively entitled "Jefferson Proving Ground-Reminiscences and Reflections." We also maintain a

very popular web page that can be accessed at www.jpgheritage.org. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and rotate among Versailles, Madison, and North Vernon.

Officers of the JPGHP include:

President: Norma Lou Irwin: 812-579-6897

Secretary: Millie Busch

Treasurer: Ilene Harsin

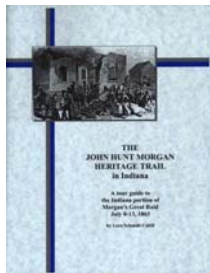
Army Liaison: Ken Knouf: 812-273-2551



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.

Madison Riverfront Park

Contact: Bob Greene, robertgreene@gmail.com

For almost three years, Bob Greene, has spearheaded a volunteer effort to restore and maintain the land for the proposed Madison Riverfront Park one of Historic Hoosier Hills newest project committees. Greene has been helped by crews from the Indiana Department of Corrections with support from the City of Madison, Jefferson County, and corporate and individual donations. So far, more than \$150,000 worth of labor, donations, and in-kind services have been invested to reclaim this former dump site to its former site. Once the Madison Riverfront Park is in place it



will be connected to the Madison Heritage Trail which is also a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills.

Historic Sternwheeler Preservation Society

Contact: Steve Huffman, captain@hpsi.org

Switzerland County is home to a unique non-profit that operates a vintage paddlewheel boat on the Ohio River. Located in Lamb, Indiana, the sternwheeler towboat Barbara H is the oldest operational vessel of its kind, and is a National Historic Landmark.

Although the boat had been used to do heavy work for many year, it had been maintained very well. The non-profit Historic Sternwheeler Preservation Society (HSPS) was formed in 2002, under the HHH umbrella, to handle the maintenance needs of the boat.



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: Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@in.usda.gov

The Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project began in 2005 when a grant committee consisting of representatives from Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, Jefferson County SWCD and the Friends of Muscatatuck River Society met and proposed a project to gather data and develop a management plan for the watershed. In 2007, Historic Hoosier Hills was awarded \$177,000 from an Indiana Department of Environmental Management Section 319 Grant. Section 319 grants award funds to projects to clean up non-point source water pollution in rivers, lakes and streams.



Phase I of the CMW (2007-2009) focused on planning and the following items were accomplished:

- ◆ Water Testing was performed by Environmental Labs of Madison and also trained volunteers on 8 sites, visual assessments were performed and recorded, stream clean ups were held along with workshops and field days
- ◆ A management plan for correcting and preventing non-point source pollution was developed for the watershed and approved by IDEM in August of 2009.

Currently, Phase II of the CMW (2009-2012) was made possible by a second Section 319 grant and the continued support of local partners. A total of \$507,000 was awarded to Historic Hoosier Hills for the CMW.

This second phase will focus on implementation of what was reported in the management plan which includes:

- ◆ continued talks to stakeholders in the community to address water quality concerns
- ◆ conducting outreach events and develop educational materials to spread the word about preventing non-point source pollution
- ◆ continue monitoring of stream conditions to understand how pollution levels change over time
- ◆ and the implementation of a new cost-share program with \$250,000 available to help fund the installation of best management practices on qualified lands and provide technical assistance to help plan conservation practices.

For more information regarding the CMW phone 812-689-6410 extension 5.

Indian Creek Watershed

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

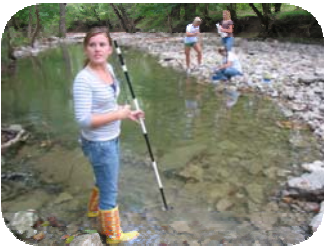
The Indian Creek Watershed Project (ICWP) watershed management plan was completed in 2007, paving the way for funding from a US EPA Section 319 grant through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, the project's sponsor. This first phase, commenced February 26, 2009, provides funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), as identified in the management plan, to help improve water quality in the watershed. This grant phase totals \$282,212.00, with \$143,000.00 earmarked for cost-share implementation. It also provides funding for a Watershed Coordinator and Cary Louderback was hired to fill that position. Since coming on board March 16, 2009, Cary has worked with many partners to:



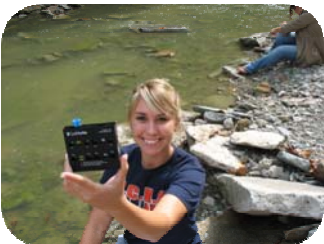
- ◆ Develop a Cost-Share Program.
- ◆ Recruit potential applicants for BMP implementation.
- ◆ Develop maps, plans and cost estimates for BMPs.
- ◆ To date, approximately \$140,000.00 has been allocated (98% of the \$143,000.00).

Much work has been directed toward Outreach and Education requirements of the grant also. In 2009, again with the help of partners, the ICWP Coordinator was involved with:

- ◆ Wildlife Field Day
- ◆ Several classroom presentations
- ◆ Articles in local newspaper
- ◆ Public (Steering Committee) meetings
- ◆ Switzerland County Fair
- ◆ Speaking about BMPs at various meetings
- ◆ Roadway cleanups
- ◆ Public presentations



This grant was conditioned on **volunteer** water monitoring. Mrs. Bonnie Fancher, Switzerland County High School teacher, along with her AP Environmental Science students have provided **ALL of the testing , data compilation and reporting** required. Mrs. Fancher, in addition to donating her time generously, has also secured grant funding from the Dow Corning Company which has allowed for purchases of much-needed testing equipment for the students. The ICWP has been a part of Mrs. Fancher's project based teaching since 2001 and the ICWP will continue to be a part of her classrooms until at least 2012, probably longer if efforts to gain additional funding are successful. The "hands-on" work provides wonderful experiences for students to learn!



Indian Creek Watershed Project



One other 'condition' of this grant requires that In-Kind or match dollars, in the amount of \$188,141.00, be raised. To date, \$40,814.85 has been reported for match. Volunteer efforts are valued and counted.

For information , or with questions, about the ICWP events, cost-share, etc., please call Cary Louderback, ICWP Coordinator, (812)427-3126 Ext 109, or email: cary.louderback@in.nacdnet.net.



South Laughery Creek Watershed

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

The South Laughery Creek Watershed (SLCW) Project Phase I of the Implementation of the EPA 319 Grant from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will be complete on March 31, 2010. The project has been very successful throughout the past 3 years. Phase I cost share funding with landowners in the 4 county watershed of 112,000 acres (Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland), included allocation of \$193,000. Cost share funds were utilized on installing or constructing conservation practices to improve water quality.

Some highlights over the last 3 year period:

- ◆ 98 conservation practices were installed and completed on 23 farms
 - ◇ \$279,968.49 was awarded in cost-share funds to landowners from the SLCW Project
 - ◇ \$86,968.49 was landowners contribution to their projects

As a result of these conservation practices being installed a sediment load reduction of 7,904 tons per year is prevented from entering into tributaries or the South Laughery Creek stream channels. This also means that there is a reduction of 10,404 pounds of Phosphorous and 5,191 pounds of Nitrogen per year, prevented from entering the streams. For a visual effect, that would be the equivalent of almost 317 semi loads (25 ton capacity) to haul 7,904 tons of topsoil.





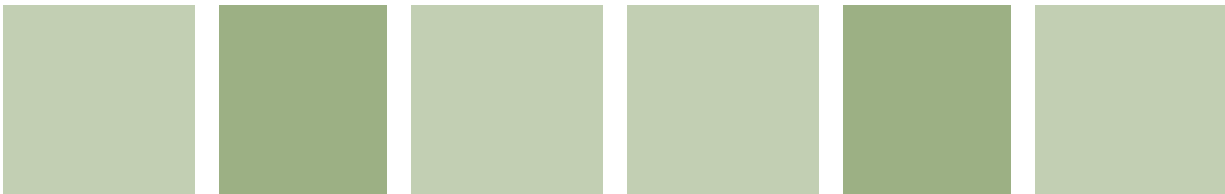
- ◆ Partnered with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to hold Adult Educational events such as:
 - ◇ Regional No-Till Breakfasts in Ripley County;
 - ◇ No-Till and Pasture Management Breakfasts in Switzerland and Ohio Counties;
 - ◇ Cover Crop, Pasture and Hay land, Wildlife and Forestry Field Days;
 - ◇ Stream bank Stabilization Workshops;
 - ◇ Stream and Roadside Clean-ups;
 - ◇ County Fair Displays and
 - ◇ Landowner Septic Systems Meetings.

- ◆ Provided Educational workshops and presentations to teachers and students:
 - ◇ 5 Educational Days with Elementary & High School Students,
 - ◇ Macroinvertebrate testing with High School Students, and
 - ◇ Provided Curriculum to Teachers on Water Quality.

The Second Phase of the Implementation began on April 1, 2009 and will commence on January 1, 2013. Total cost share funds available for this phase \$250,000.

For more information on events and cost share please call (812)

*Get involved today and let's make Laughter
a cleaner creek for everyone!*



Hogan Creek Watershed

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

The Hogan Creek Watershed Project includes approximately 19,000 acres in Ripley County around Sunman and Milan and about 63,000 acres in Dearborn County along Hwy 350. Hogan Creek outlets into the Ohio River in Aurora.

Hogan Creek Watershed Project had a successful year in 2009. Many educational programs and workshops were held to educate adults and children on water quality, macroinvertebrates, and best management practices (bmps). The Hogan Creek Watershed Project received a Dearborn County Community Foundation Grant and installed a pervious pavement parking lot in the Waterways Park in Aurora. It includes pervious concrete, pervious asphalt, and pervious pavers.



The cost-share program was in full swing and installed many bmps throughout the watershed to improve Hogan Creek's water quality. In 2009, 2,075 ft of fence, 608 ft of roof runoff, 462 ft of subsurface drain, 12,998 sq. ft of heavy use area protection, 260 ft of pipeline, 1 water tank, 710 ft of underground outlet, 9.1 acres of pasture seeding, and 1 trickle flow collector were installed. As a result of these installed practices, 2,199 tons of sediment, 2,228 lbs of phosphorus, and 3,722 lbs of nitrogen will be saved each year. There is a large interest in landowners within the watershed to install these practices on the ground.

In August, a second 319 implementation grant was submitted to IDEM in hopes to receive more money in the future to continue the successful cost-share and educational programs.

For more information about the Hogan Creek Watershed Project, contact Heather Wirth, watershed coordinator, at 812-926-2406 ext 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.

The Tanners Creek Watershed (TWCP) has been very successful and has brought many exciting practices and events including cost shared practices totaling \$19,754.53 in 2009. The BMPs installed were 1,956 ft fence, 385 ft of subsurface drain, 4,752 sq. ft of heavy use area protection, 455 ft of pipeline, 4 water tanks, 6.3 acres of hay/pasture planting, and 335 ft of animal walkway. These BMPs kept 547 tons of sediment, 623 lbs of phosphorus and 1,243 lbs of nitrogen out of Tanners Creek in 2009.

Activities that TCWP participated and/or sponsored were:

- ◆ 3 Workshops/ Field Days
- ◆ 1 Urban Workshop
- ◆ 4 Classroom Presentations
- ◆ Ag Days
- ◆ Arbor Day
- ◆ Storm drain markings
- ◆ 2 Watershed Presentations
- ◆ 2 Committee Meetings
- ◆ 8 Publications



grant monies received in 2009

Total grant monies awarded to Historic Hoosier Hills in 2009 amounted to 1.3 million - that money will move through our system over the next 3 years as money is spent on projects and the funds are disbursed by grantors.

Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 1

IDEM - 319 Grant	\$76,285.45
Wal-Mart Foundation	\$400.00

Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 2

IDEM - 319 Grant	\$8,122.90
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Denver Siekman Environmental Park

Columbus Area Arts.....	\$3,622.00
Ohio County Community Foundation.....	\$200.00
Rising Sun City Council.....	\$15,000.00
Ohio County Council.....	\$15,000.00

Indian Creek Watershed Project

IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$36,133.86
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Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,960.00
Tyson-Versailles Fund.....	\$4,000.00

Red Wolf Sanctuary

Salary Fund.....	\$26,500.00
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South Laughery Creek Watershed

IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$183,208.59
Dearborn County Community Foundation.....	\$2,250.00

Versailles Lions Club

Ripley County Community Foundation.....	\$15,000.00
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W.A.V.E.S.

Dewald Family Foundation.....	\$36,000.00
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Ways to Grow

USDA Rural Development.....	\$13,716.24
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TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2009.....\$441,399.04

donations received in 2009

Friends of Muscatatuck River Society - Various Funders.....	\$1,064.60
Heritage Trail of Madison - Various Funders.....	\$1,900.00
Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association - Various Funders.....	\$3,616.50
Madison Riverfront Park - Various Funders.....	\$16,000.00
Project Phoenix - Various Funders.....	\$300.00
Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Various Funders.....	\$289.84
Historic Hoosier Hills - One Funder.....	\$200.00
Versailles Historical Society - Various Funders.....	\$60.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2009.....\$23,430.94

2009 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2009

Branded Beef.....	5,374.15
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project.....	260.19
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(7,658.40)
Conservation Education Committee.....	1,002.67
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
Denver Siekman Environmental Park.....	6,054.90
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	10,292.75
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,184.60
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	2,111.00
Grazing Lands Water Quality.....	304.55
Heritage Trail of Madison.....	3,645.02
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	(5,623.19)
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	551.57
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	11,416.50
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	25.00
Laughery Valley Food & Growers (Farmers Market Funds).....	4,140.70
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	2,491.35
Leadership 20/20 Program.....	1,819.73
Leadership Institute.....	6,984.02
Madison Riverfront Park.....	14,000.00
Phoenix House.....	836.36
Plant a Tree for You and Me.....	983.97
RC&D Council.....	46,105.11
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	7,640.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	2,020.32
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	593.81
South Laughery Creek Watershed.....	(8,296.54)
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(145.72)
Switzerland County Watersheds.....	718.23
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	1,013.77
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	28,414.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	9,352.62
Ways to Grow.....	24,621.14
Woodland Committee.....	3,196.12
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009.....	\$176,809.30

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/09

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
Heritage Trail of Madison.....	3,100.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	500.00
RC&D Council.....	17,780.50
Woodland Committee.....	6,888.93
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009.....	\$33,199.43

2009 Historic Hoosier Hills Council Members

Ted Fowler
President

Dan Stropes
1st Vice-President

Norbert Schafer
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

Dan Stropes
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

Kitty Perkinson
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

John Holzer

STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Sherrill Miller

Staff & Contact Information

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042



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WEB: www.h hills.org

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Central Muscatatuck Watershed



Central Muscatatuck Watershed
Water Testing

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



RC&D 2009 Tour



RC&D 2009 Tour



Education Committee Tour

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

Phone: (812) 689-6410 extension 5

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**Historic
Hoosier
Hills
RC&D**

