

Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development



2017 Annual Report

Helping You Help Your Hometown

A non-profit organization serving Southeast Indiana since 1968.



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Friends of Historic Hoosier Hills,

As Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development starts to celebrate fifty years of uninterrupted service to Southeastern Indiana, we take this opportunity to thank you for helping us succeed and to invite you to join us in a celebration of this accomplishment. Please join us on Thursday, April 26th at Ertel Cellars Winery to celebrate the challenges, changes and growth that HHH has seen throughout the years.

One thing that has remained constant through the years is our focus on preserving and improving our natural resources and the quality of life in the region. The work accomplished by our project committee volunteers contributes greatly and continues to make a difference. Of course, none of this would be possible without the employees of HHH past and present! Casie Auxier and Terry Stephenson continue to oversee the daily operation of Historic Hoosier Hills with determination and dedication that is essential. The success of HHH would not be possible without these two and they are appreciated greatly.

Once again, thank you for helping us make the past forty-nine years so successful. We look forward to greeting you as our special guest April 26th and celebrating our upcoming 50 years!

Sincerely,

Katie Collier
President



Lifetime Happiness

by: Terry Stephenson, Projects Director

An old proverb about finding happiness goes:

- If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap.
- If you want happiness for a day – go fishing.
- If you want happiness for a month – get married.
- If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune.
- If you want happiness for a lifetime – help others.

How true this is, helping others I mean. You'll see this so often in public when total strangers often stop to help others with a small task. I'm sure you've done the same and doesn't that give you a spark of happiness at the time. That's the feeling we get here at Historic Hoosier Hills as we see many of our project committees grow, prosper, and help others in their community.

During its history, Historic Hoosier Hills has been involved with education, communications, economic development, conservation on the land, water quality and various other ventures that benefit individuals and their communities. In addition, many services were provided to the numerous project groups and partners that we work with, helping them accomplish their mission. Through the interest and caring of countless individuals, people's lives have been enriched by way of people helping people.

2018 brings us to our 50th year anniversary as a non-profit here in Southeast Indiana and oh, what a ride it has been! Sure, we've had our ups and downs, but through it all we often got that charge of happiness that comes along when you know you've helped some group accomplish their dream. It's just the thing we do.

There have been so many involved inside and outside the organization that has helped Historic Hoosier Hills grow, there is no way to recognize everyone. If you have had contact with us over our 50 year history I want to thank you, and I hope you felt that spark of happiness while working with us.

So please, grab your favorite drink, relax and enjoy sifting through this annual report. See what projects your friends and neighbors have going on that's helping your community.

I truly believe Historic Hoosier Hills best years are still ahead. Here's to the next 50 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.

HHH grateful of retiring board member



A long time board member, Kaye Hunger, of Ripley County, submitted her letter of registration in March of 2017. Bringing strong leadership skills and valuable financial experience, Kaye, served as Secretary for Historic Hoosier Hills for many years. Kaye's willingness to volunteer additional time to help with events and seek sponsors and donations for Historic Hoosier Hills has been greatly appreciated. The board of directors wishes Kaye the best in her future endeavors.

Grazing for the Future Conference Held

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

In 2017, the Ripley County Soil & Water Conservation District came together with the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Historic Hoosier Hills, Central Muscatatuck Watershed, and the Indian-Kentuck Watershed to put on the Grazing for the Future Conference featuring Natural Geographic Wild's The Incredible Dr. Pol. The event comprised of 220 farmers, landowners, cattlemen, students, and agency personnel was held at the Clifty State Park Inn on August 17-18, 2017. This event highlighted the livestock industries and provided new information on technologies, rotational grazing, and an overall holistic approach to managing a livestock operation.



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 affect 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**
-

Little Grand Theatre Company

by: Laura Ratcliff



The past year has been another full of change for the Little Grand Theatre Company.

As we continue to find our footing after leaving our old home at the Ohio Theatre in downtown Madison, we have also faced some shifts on our board. Members Rick and Ann Lostutter decided to step back from the group to focus on time with their daughters - one who is now in her first year at Columbia College in Chicago, the other finishing her junior year at Madison Consolidated High School.

And though the past year has been light in the number of shows, our production of “The Wizard of Oz,” in May at North Madison Christian Church was by far our largest yet. North Madison Christian’s stage is the largest our group has performed on in recent memory. The addition of quality lighting, mics, sound and digital screens brought a new level of excitement for our audiences and our actors.



More than 40 singing and dancing actors’ performances were buoyed by amazing support on the light and sound board and back stage. Both children and adults joined together for this production and brought with them a few helpful parents, friends and others.

In all, the production was a symbol of everything we could hope for in our work: joyful, educational and inspiring.

Now, we move forward in 2018 setting up the final details for a summer children’s workshop production of “101 Dalmatians.” Following that, we’re looking at a fall mystery and then another musical in the spring, possibly returning to North

Madison Christian.

Though it hasn’t been easy moving forward without a natural home, we’re still striving to breathe life into our community and build bridges between ourselves and other organizations.

Here’s to a better 2018 and 2019, continuing to better ourselves and serve others.

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.

- ◆ Friends of Muscatatuck River Society
- ◆ Red Wolf Sanctuary
- ◆ STEM+ Alliance
- ◆ Rivertown Quilter Guild
- ◆ Versailles Historical Society
- ◆ SEI Community Gardens

Friends of Muscatatuck River Society

by: Tom Moore, www.fomrs.org

The Friends of the Muscatatuck River Society hold two annual clean ups: Kevin's Klean Up in the spring and the Shady Sweep in the fall. Kevin's Klean Up was held on Earth Day, April 22nd and included eight-three volunteers, 2,920 pounds of trash, and twenty-three tires. The Shady Sweep took place on Saturday, October 1st with eighty-seven people helping clean 3,627 pounds of debris along with forty-one tires. An amazing twenty-eight newcomers were initiated to the Shady Sweep on that Saturday. To date 3,281 FMRS volunteers have collected 242,834 pounds of litter and 2,286 tires. Jennings County and the City of North Vernon lend their services to aid the clean ups. The county collects and disposes of all the trash and provides sheriff assistance. The city provides a shelter house and access. Seven local restaurants and several individuals pitch in to feed the hordes of workers. Initially, the local soil and water district helped the FMRS build a structure for the group that will see it thrive for years. The Historic Hoosier Hills provides a sponsorship that enables the group to be solvent in the long term. It takes willingness and efforts of many in the community for the FMRS to operate, grow, and survive. We in the FMRS are grateful for our community.



The FMRS also helps host the WAYNE DURBIN-DAN SHADE- KEVIN JAYNE MEMORIAL RENDEZVOUS and the Orlo Bloomquist Memorial canoe race.

STEM+ Alliance

by: Ted Fowler

HHH has engaged with organizations, agencies, schools, colleges, and businesses to focus on STEM education, training, and careers. "STEM" stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The work of the Alliance will help students study and prepare for careers in everything from advanced manufacturing and agriculture to health care to information systems and computer programming to various fields of engineering and science. We are coordinating with the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative <http://greatercincsystem.org/> to find ways to bring opportunities to students with initial after-school offerings of the 3D Printers Club and the STEM Bicycle Club. Community Gardens are emerging as a focus area involving both schools and community organizations. Using activities like these students explore technologies and their applications, developing a variety of skills along the way. They see how technical fields overlap with everything from art, writing, or music to addressing societal needs. This is the plus in the STEM+ Alliance. Most importantly, students and parents will be able to explore possible careers and understand what students need to do in school to prepare for future training or college study. The Alliance will be a partnership of existing organizations: Ivy Tech, nature centers, government agencies, and a variety of community organizations.



Why focus on STEM education? STEM is everywhere, shaping our everyday experiences. Science is in nature and our everyday lives, Technology is in our phones and food supply, Engineering is in our cars and homes, and Math is in everything. Like it or not we are a technology driven society and those with STEM skills can negotiate challenges, have a higher quality of life, and a stronger earning potential. STEM careers are truly "helping" professions that solve the complex problems facing our communities and provide rewarding life work. 80 percent of jobs in the region over the next decade will require math and science skills. STEM job opportunities are growing twice as fast as other areas of work. STEM jobs pay more because of the extra training and general shortage of qualified women and men.

Join us as we work together to provide new opportunities for the region.

Rivertown Quilters Guild

<http://rivertownquilters.com>

The mission of the Rivertown Quilters Guild is to promote a community based interest in the art of quilting and to perform an important community service by supplying homemade quilts as comfort to those in need. In 2017, membership in the Rivertown Quilters Guild remained strong after thirteen years of continual progress. During 2017, members reported 1594 volunteer hours spent on making quilts that went to veterans, displaced children, and children in physical distress. We awarded 40 Quilts of Valor to WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans. Thirty-three member made quilts were donated to the YES Home so each young person could receive a new quilt to call his own. Guild members also donated homemade quilts to a local neo-natal unit and the Ronald McDonald House.



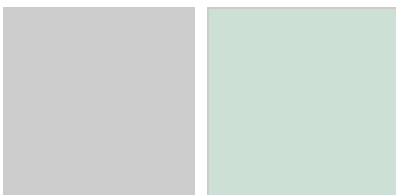
The guild monthly meetings provided an opportunity for members to learn about new ideas in quilting through outside speakers and member presentations. We had several meetings that were group participation events such as a quilt challenge, quilter's rummage sale and annual holiday party. The monthly Show N Tell portion of the meeting in which members displayed their creations was a popular way for experienced and new quilters to gain ideas for future projects. In 2017, more members made use of our closed Facebook page to share their creations, ask opinions and inform others of upcoming quilting events. Fellowship and fun opportunities such as the annual retreat and Soup N Sew days were well attended and reinforced bonds among members.

The guild participated in the 2017 Sewing Expo in Lawrenceburg by manning a booth to promote membership and inform the public about the Quilts of Valor project. Many visitors gave monetary donations to the cause and some Quilts of Valor were awarded. The guild also participated in a Sewer's Day Out event at the Boone County Extension Office last March. This event was another opportunity to promote the guild and to network with other guilds in the tristate area. Two local quilt shops have supported the guild with fabric donations and we are extremely thankful to Home

Grown Home Sewn Quilt Shop and Quilter's Garden for their generosity. Rivertown Quilters Guild also supported the Rising Sun Quilt Show by donating \$100 dollars as prize money for one of the winning quilts.

One of the most memorable events of the year occurred on the evening of Friday, September 29, 2017, at the Lawrenceburg IN Fall Festival. Sheila Stevenson and Kitty Parkhurst of Rivertown Quilters Guild presented five Quilts of Valor made by guild members to four Korean and Vietnam War veterans and one active service member. The QOV presentations followed the presentation of plaques to each of the five honorees by Paul "PG" Gentrup and Lawrenceburg Mayor Kelly Molluan. Nearly 10,000 festival attendees witnessed the presentations and cheered their appreciation.

Rivertown Quilters Guild, Inc., received official 501c (3) status in 2017; we want to thank Historic Hoosier Hills for their advice and guidance in this process. The guild has become a much stronger community entity as a result of undergoing the organizational steps that were necessary to become a non-profit. We hope to use our non-profit status to promote our work in the community and obtain additional funds for ongoing outreach projects. Please check our website at rivertownquilters.com to find out more about us. We are always open to new members and we welcome sewers at all skill levels.

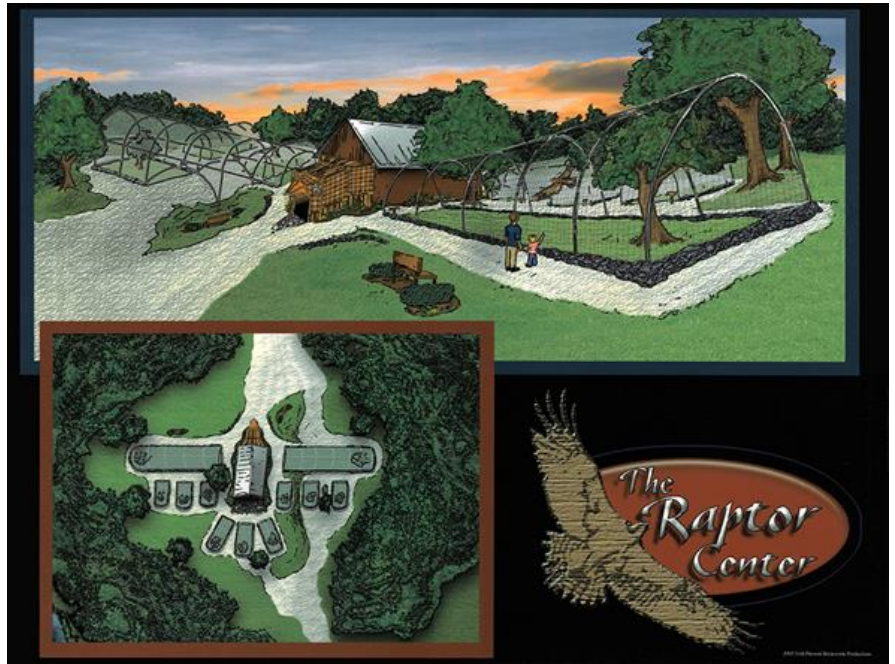


Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul Strasser, www.redwolf.org

2017 was a year where we rescued 2 BALD EAGLES. The first in April was a mature adult (they have the White Head and Tail). Blinded in one eye by some attacker and later injured by another female. This home-wrecker, who would take over her mate and nest. Suffering severe wing damage, the wounds became infected, leaving her near death. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Steve Hubbard, @ the Bright Vet. Clinic, "LIBERTY" aka "Brooke" was saved.

Later we rescued a juvenile Bald Eagle that had contracted West Nile Disease. This male, dubbed "FREEDOM" has slowly regained his strength but the damage to his feathers requires he be held until he molts a new wardrobe next spring.



These RAPTORS as well as over 30 others came to the RED WOLF SANCTUARY in dire need of life saving care. Facilities to provide the proper space for their recovery in short supply.

We have started to fund raise to build a spacious RAPTOR facility. Plans call for large outdoor flight cages that will offer a space for recovery and opportunities to educate the public as to the role that our avian predators play in maintaining a healthy eco-system.

SEI Community Gardens

by: Shyra Tedesco, stedesco@ivytech.edu

The development of the Southeast Indiana (SEI) Community Gardens had a significant impact on the community with potential to not only sustain but to grow. We built the Community Garden Action Team to a contact list of 70 individuals representing the general public, Ivy Tech students and staff, and 30 community organizations. Our pilot community garden next to Beecher Presbyterian church in downtown Lawrenceburg had 19 individual plots and seven different gardeners, including Ivy Tech faculty and students, local businesses and organizations, and local families. We held four major community garden events with 40 – 75 attendees, bringing diverse members of the community together. At the end of the growing season, over 300 pounds of vegetables and herbs were donated to the Clearinghouse Food Pantry, feeding families in need. Impressively, the garden was established strictly on donations from a variety of community members and organizations. Toward the end of the season we received funding from the Dearborn County Foundation and were adopted by Lowe's Heroes as their annual community project. We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated individuals working towards healthy food security and awareness in our region and look forward to continued collaboration on this important initiative. The SEI Community Gardens provides a collective impact model for cultivating the community.



Members of the local community truly appreciated and enjoyed the garden. One specific family of seven epitomized our mission, working daily in the garden to provide nutritious food for the table and teach their children the benefits of gardening. They were the proud Guardians of the Garden. The kids were excellent at natural pest control as they loved to squish "June bugs". They were also very helpful with watering the garden and each other, laughing and shouting "We have to water the humans!". They even met the challenge of eating kale, stating, "This would be really good with some Ranch". Their eyes would light up when they noticed that perfectly ripened tomato that they could pick and take home for dinner. Everyone who drove,

walked or bicycled by commented positively about the beauty and the mission of the garden. Some folks would sit at one of the picnic tables at the garden to have their lunch; Others would even offer to help. Furthermore, local students were happy to have opportunities to give back to their community through community service in the garden.

Beyond the pilot community garden, we participated in the Main St. Farmers Market and Kids Day event, made plans for future sites, and made plans to initiate a Compost Trail. The Main St. Farmers Market was an excellent venue to reach out to the community, providing produce from the garden for free will donation, spreading awareness of our organization, and providing education on the benefits of gardening and composting. For Main St. Kids Day, we made “Mr. and Mrs. Lettuce Head” seed starter pots with over 100 kids, inspiring healthy eating and future gardeners. The kids were so excited to “grow their own salad”. Most of them had never grown anything from a seed before. In the upcoming season, we received funding from the Oxbow Conservancy to build the Central Elementary School garden and to place an indoor tower garden in the New Horizons Friendly Bean Café at the Lawrenceburg Public Library. We will also be building an outdoor patio garden at the library and offering gardening and cooking classes this summer. In addition, we are in the early stages of planning a community garden in Greendale and working with the Purdue Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation District to expand community garden development in Dearborn County. Our Compost Trail will be managed by Ivy Tech Service Learning students, collecting food scraps from local businesses and adding to the Beecher site compost pile, promoting zero waste and the production of natural fertilizer. We are excited to see what the future brings and appreciate the support of HHH helping our community “grow”.

Aurora High School Museum

by: Dan Geuder, danahs64@comcast.net

The Aurora High School Museum (AHSM) was approved as a Project Committee of Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) Resource, Conservation and Development, Inc. in March of 2017.

On June 10, 2017, the AHSM put on a fund raising dance and silent auction at the Aurora City Park Pavilion. In addition to raising funds for the AHSM, the event also served to publicize the museum effort in the community. We teamed with the Aurora Lions Club for food service and the River City Classics Car Club for classic car displays at the event. Approximately 200 people attended.



The AHSM established a permanent location at 232 Main Street, Aurora, Indiana just prior to the Aurora Farmers Fair. During the fair, the AHSM hosted the AHS Alumni Hospitality Room, called the “Devil’s Den” in reference to the Red Devil mascot of Aurora High School. The Devil’s Den was also inspired by memories of the local Canteen from the 1950’s and 60’s that was a favorite gathering place for AHS students. The Devil’s Den, started in 2009 by the AHS Class of 1964, has attracted hundreds of AHS Alumni, family, and friends each year.

With the establishment of the AHSM, the memorabilia donations accelerated in 2017, with new memorabilia was added to the displays weekly. The AHSM established regular visiting hours on Wednesday and Friday from 5 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, with special hours available by appointment.

On November 25, 2017, Main Street Aurora welcomed the AHS Museum during Small Business Saturday with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

The AHSM began conducting video interviews of AHS Alumni, teachers, and others related to AHS to capture their stories and other memories of their experiences growing up and attending schools in Aurora. These interviews will be part of the history of AHS that the museum is preserving and sharing.

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.

- ◆ **5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros**
- ◆ **Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership**
- ◆ **John Hunt Morgan Trail**
- ◆ **Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project**
- ◆ **Conductors of Southeastern IN Model Trail Club**

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros

by: Ron Harsin, rharsin@seidata.com

This past September 2017, the 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros organization hosted their second annual Madison Vintage Thunder hydroplane two day event in Madison, Indiana. 30 vintage hydroplanes hit the water several times over the weekend to provide non-stop action for the spectators on shore.



The oldest vintage hydroplane of the weekend was the Barracuda owned by Tim Settle, it was originally built in 1948. The newest



hydroplane was possibly the Miss Jean owned by the event coordinator, Dave Johnson. Additionally, the Miss U.S. unlimited hydroplane which was commissioned in 1956 by owner, George Simon was in attendance and driven by former unlimited driver, Jack Schaefer, Jr.

Dave Johnson and Rob Holt along with a group of volunteers hosted the event as a memorial to former unlimited hydroplane owners Graham Heath and Bill Cantrell who also drove. Both families were represented at the event and were given memorial plaques to commemorate the life achievements of each of the individual drivers.

At noon, there was a break in the hydro action for lunch, however, the pit area was opened up for the public to get close to the hydroplanes, take pictures, and meet the vintage owners and drivers. Several families took advantage as boat owners provided small children the opportunity to get their pictures taken while sitting in the cockpit of a vintage hydroplane, giving those children a memory that will last a lifetime.

The Saturday and Sunday event drew a larger crowd than the previous year with spectators from babies to individuals in their 90's providing a wholesome family gathering that was enjoyed by all. While the event was staged free to the public, donations were accepted, and local businesses provided sponsorship funds that paid for the cranes, rescue team, and other associated costs involved in putting on the event.

This coming September 22 – 23, 2018, the 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros plans to continue the event in Madison, by placing even more hydroplanes on the Ohio River than last year. This coming event will also be a "Free To The Public" event that the entire family can attend.



Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Norma Lou Irwin, President



Like the Energizer Bunny, the JPGHP keeps chugging along. Formed shortly after the closure of Jefferson Proving Ground in 1995, this group is a small-dedicated group of former employees and folks who have a pre-military family connection with the land. The mission of the project has always been twofold: to ensure that the public is aware of (1) the installation's history and value of JPG to the nation and (2) the sacrifices made by Hoosier families when they were hurriedly forced to sell their farms in 1941 and leave their lives behind. Entire communities vanished, and it is this story that must be preserved. Over the past 20 plus years, the committee sponsored seminars, published and sold a number of new books and reprints, developed a DVD on JPG's history, initiated a web page, and funded and designed a permanent exhibit on JPG at the Jefferson County Historical Society in Madison. The group also helped to develop an interactive display at the Indiana State Historical Society in Indianapolis.

In 2017, the partnership applied for and was selected to receive a \$2,000 grant from the Jefferson County Genealogical Society for reprint of Barbara Jachimiak's Saint Magdalene Church. The original Catholic Church structure was located on JPG and dated back to 1861. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in the early 1940's when the Army began its ammunition testing. This little book tells the story of the early church and the subsequent relocation of its parishioners and will again be available in early 2018.

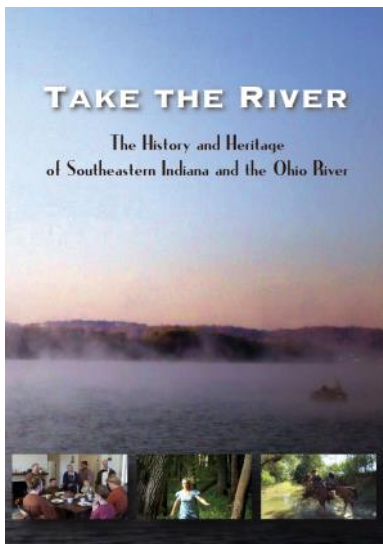
At this point, the JPGHP is considered a graduated committee very proud of accomplishing most of what it intended to achieve. However, the glue that keeps the group meeting is its ties to the former Jefferson Proving Ground. In various ways, the installation changed all of us, and a bond has formed that motivates us to stay close. We should all be so lucky, and a huge thanks to HHH for its continued support and encouragement.

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

by: Richard Ullrich

In 2011, five years before Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration, Richard Ullrich, Jr., former mayor of Aurora, had a dream of creating a Bicentennial program about the history of the people of southeastern Indiana and broadcasting it to the greater Tri-State area of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. And in 2016, through the help of Historic Hoosier Hills project manager Terry Stephenson and Casie Auxier that dream became reality, as *Take the River*, an hour-long Ken Burns' style documentary aired on PBS station WCET in Cincinnati in April, on all 16 PBS stations in Kentucky throughout June and on WFYI PBS in Indianapolis in November of 2016.

Stories in *Take the River* include an exploration of a 3,000 year old ancient citadel in Dearborn County, a Revolutionary War battle on the banks of the Ohio River near Laughery Creek, early pioneers of the area and their Native American neighbors, accounts of the Underground Railroad in southeastern Indiana, Morgan's Civil War Raid through our area, the glamorous steamboat era, the 1937 Flood, a nostalgic look at Ohio River memories and much more. The documentary focused on the four southeastern Indiana counties of Dearborn, Ripley, Switzerland and Ohio counties and incorporated filming at historic area sites such as Venoge, and the historic Thiebaud Homestead outside of Vevay, the Versailles Courthouse and all up and down the Ohio River, including aerial footage shot from a helicopter.



The historic, HHH sponsored project reached an extensive PBS audience throughout the tri-state area, as far north as Indianapolis, the greater Cincinnati area and throughout all of Kentucky. And has been screened twice to full audiences at the Lawrenceburg Public Library. Recently the program was distributed via DVDs to all schools in Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties for use in Indiana History classes in 2017 and for years to come, funded by Celeste Calvito and her company, CalComm Indiana.

The program showcased the four-county southeastern Indiana area to the greater tri-state area viewing public, while educating, entertaining and filling our area's viewers with pride and knowledge of their own culture and heritage.

If you haven't seen *Take the River* yet, you can purchase a DVD online at: hhhills.org.

Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club

by: Charles White, Facebook: *The Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club*

The members of the Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Association looked forward to the Fifth Annual Christmas Train Show with great anticipation. We added some new attractions to the display this year. Added to one of the displays had a ski lift gondola which really caught the eye of many patrons. Also added to the same display was an HO John Deere along with a couple of other HO layouts. In addition, the Fox Farm display was added to, especially one of the large barns and larger fields. The Christmas/Thomas the Train displays was also expanded and there was a large elevated triangle display added along with many ceramic houses to create a large town.



We had over 2,100 attendees this holiday season and one of the most memorable things that happened this year was a youngster came in and was so excited that he asked if he could join our group. We accepted him into the group, his grandmother paid his dues on the spot, he started operating, and watching different train displays throughout the show. His grandmother was very excited also for him and she told us many times how we made this young man very happy.

We had people from all over the country attend our show once again this year. We had people from Louisville, Kentucky, Washington State, Cincinnati, Ohio, Northern Ohio and Northern Kentucky, along with many locals and tri-county locations. We also had a local young women that has been to every show we have presented and a young man who has been brought to the show by his grandmother, that never want to leave because they enjoy it so much.

It is so gratifying to see many of our patrons return to our Christmas Show every year and tell us how it has become a family tradition. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in November for the Sixth Annual Christmas show.



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-Kentuck Watershed**
-

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

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

As the year concludes and a close-out of the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 3 Grant ends lots of great best management practices have been installed the past 3 years. The project has installed cover crops, heavy use area protections both concrete and gravel, pipeline, fence, access roads, watering facilities, hay/pasture seeding, roof runoff systems, critical area planting, and animal walk paths. A total of \$250,000 was given to local residents in Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, Ripley, and Scott Counties.



A new 319A Grant was received from Indiana Department of Environmental Management on December 15, 2017, a total of \$177,000 is now available for cost-share in the Central Muscatatuck Watershed for Phase 4. If you are interested in learning more about the new grant or applying for cost-share please contact Steve Franklin at 812-689-6410 extension 3.



Indian-Kentuck Watershed

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

In January 2016 the Indian-Kentuck Watershed was funded through a 319A Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Agency an exciting couple of years it has been. A total of \$225,000 was received to implement best management practices in high priority areas of the watershed. During the first year the total amount of funds was allocated to the following practices in Jefferson, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties:

- Heavy Use Area Protection – Concrete & Gravel Access Roads
- Watering Facilities
- Pipeline
- Hay/Pasture Seeding
- Cover Crops
- Fence
- Roof Runoff Structures
- Animal Trail & Walkways
- Critical Area Plantings



It is the steering committees goals to get all the funds spent this year and to be able to apply for additional funding for the future.

If you are interested in learning more about the Indian-Kentuck Watershed Cost-Share Program please contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office at 812-689-4107.





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**

Woodland Committee

For more information on the Woodland Committee email hkhills@seidata.com

The Historic Hoosier Hills Woodlands 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 leadership for enhancement of economic opportunities with HHH's counties through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources. We service Clark, Scott, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley, Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn, and Franklin Counties.

In 2017, the Woodland Committee held 6 different meeting with exceptional speakers at each event. Of the meetings held included discussions on forestry ecology, harvesting, tour of Napoleon Hardwood, wildlife, power line safety, and invasive species.

The Woodland Committee is always looking for new landowners. Membership is always free and is open to anyone who has an interest in natural resources. If you would like to be included in the Woodland Committees' mailing address or if you have any ideas on workshops or field days that you would like to see held please email your information to hkhills@seidata.com.



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**
- ◆ **Madison Growers Association CSA**
- ◆ **Regional No-Till Committee**

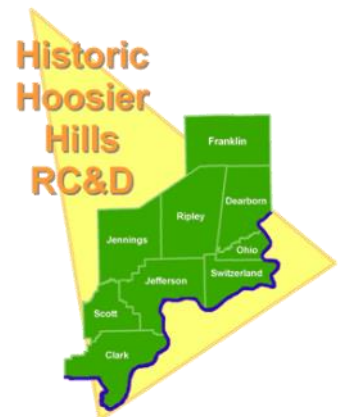
grant monies received in 2017

<i>Catch A Ride - LifeTime Resources</i>	
IDEM - INDOT Grant	\$1,016,035.00
<i>Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 3</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant	\$168,555.97
<i>Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club</i>	
Interim Healthcare—Columbus Foundation.....	\$1,000.00
United Community Bank.....	\$250.00
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$6,400.00
Dearborn County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....	\$188.61
Jennings County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....	\$185.52
<i>Indian Creek Watershed Project - Phase 2</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$96,810.57
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2017.....	\$1,289,425.50

donations received in 2017

<i>Aurora High School Museum - Various Funders.....</i>	\$3,497.00
<i>Hereford Lake Preservation - Various Funders.....</i>	\$750.00
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....</i>	\$664.15
<i>Friends of Muscatatuck River Society - One Funder.....</i>	\$1,000.00
<i>George Rogers Clark Land Trust - One Funder.....</i>	\$100.00
<i>5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros - Various Funders.....</i>	\$18,554.51
<i>Southeast Indiana Community Gardens - Various Funders.....</i>	\$900.00
<i>Regional No-Till Committee - Various Funders.....</i>	\$4,349.00
<i>Woodland Committee - Various Funders.....</i>	\$71.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2017.....	\$29,885.66

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 an 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.



Helping you Help your Hometown!!!

2017 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2017

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros.....	\$8,557.56
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	587.03
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 3.....	(19,129.28)
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Trail Club.....	1,191.60
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	45,628.16
Hereford Lake Preservation Society.....	40,067.53
Hogan Creek Watershed.....	467.79
Indian-Kentuck Watershed Phase 2.....	(6,893.67)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	540.87
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	2,196.75
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	1,696.89
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	100.32
Leadership Institute.....	675.14
Little Grand Theatre.....	720.00
Madison Archery.....	970.00
Oak Heritage Conservancy.....	1,849.04
Phoenix House.....	53.56
RC&D Council.....	17,142.44
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	11,940.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	3,820.34
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	656.26
Southeast Indiana Historic Film.....	1,770.38
STEM+ Alliance.....	4,721.50
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	758.02
Versailles Historical Society.....	9,370.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	16,421.14
Whitewater Watershed.....	83.97
Woodland Committee.....	381.57
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017.....	\$148,917.76

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/17

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
RC&D Council.....	23,263.97
Woodland Committee.....	7,357.32
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017.....	\$34,418.51



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

April 17, 2018

Board of Directors & Staff

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Mike Pittman

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Terry Stephenson

Dear Committee Members and Supporters:

We would like to take a minute to thank you for taking interest in Historic Hoosier Hills. HHH, as we like to call it, has been around for many years and not only are we a not for profit organization full of diverse individuals, but we are a close group built from the grassroots of Southeastern Indiana. Committees from our nine sponsoring counties come to us for assistance in grant writing, payroll services, administrative support, technical support and much more. We provide a safe haven for organizations and committees that are trying to accomplish goals that benefit our communities. These groups in most cases are working towards their own 501(c)3 status but for now fall under our umbrella. Through partnerships in our committees we touch thousands of people each year in our rural area of Indiana. We could not do this without the support of everyone.

HHH, like any organization, has had its growing pains but the past few years have been full of promise and growth. When I was younger my father told me to understand where you are going you must know about your past. It is on this concept that we acknowledge our past, rejoice in our triumphs and learn from our mistakes. In 2018 we still feel that HHH is stronger than we have ever been and we are very excited about our future.

Our tag line is Helping You Help Your Hometown, this is the grassroots concept that has lead our organization since the beginning. To continue this philosophy of building from the ground up requires support and backing from the residents and landowners of our nine county area. So today we ask you to please JOIN US! Help us Help you Help your Hometown!!! You can do this in many different ways. You can volunteer to be on a committee, you can ask to be considered for the Board of Directors, and you can also bring ideas or projects you have in mind that fits our mission. Finally, you can also give monetary donations. These donations are one of the many ways we stay self-sustaining. Please consider contributing to our cause, supporting the organizations and committees that are working for the greater good in your backyard. Mother Teresa once said "it's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving". I invite you to give graciously, give with a loving heart, give what you can and if you can't that's okay!!

I want to leave you with this, we are a great organization, we have great goals, we know where we have been and we know where we are going...but we can always use some help along the way. So please join us in Helping you Help your Hometown.

Thank you,

Kimberly S. Jolly
Treasurer
Historic Hoosier Hills

2017 Staff & Contact Information

HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS RC&D:

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

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

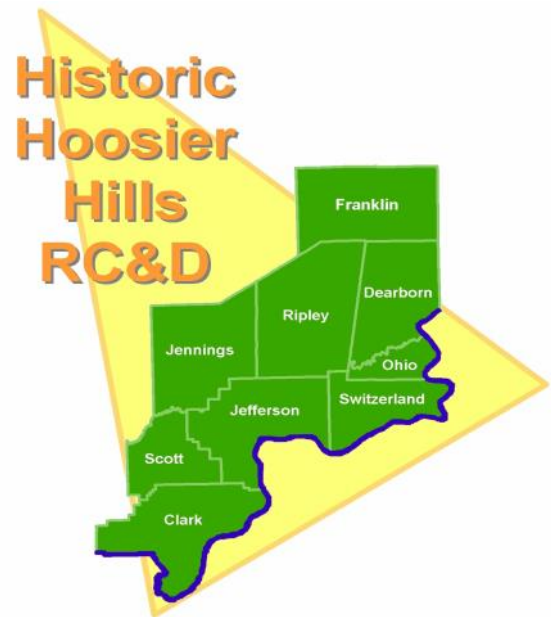
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042



PHONE: 812-689-4107

EMAIL: hhhills@seidata.com

WEB: www.hhills.org

A special "Thanks" to those who helped to sponsor the Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Report & Annual Meeting:

Terry & Gayle Stephenson

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