



*Historic Hoosier Hills
Resource, Conservation & Development*

2015 Annual Report

Helping You to Help Your Hometown
A non-profit organization serving Southeast Indiana since 1968.



Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

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Dear Friends of HHH,

2015 was a busy and productive year for Historic Hoosier Hills. Many thanks to our partners, board members and friends of Historic Hoosier Hills who helped us reach out to our communities and develop new projects and programs that benefit our residents of Southeast Indiana.

We have several new projects that were brought on in 2015. Among them, the Rivertown Quilters Guild, Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Trail Club, and the 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydroplanes. As you can tell by the names of these groups, we have a very diverse and far-reaching blend of community projects and organizations. Each of these have a goal that contributes to our mission of **Helping you to Help your Hometown.**

2016 looks to be a challenging and exciting year for Historic Hoosier Hills. There are several programs that are in development. I can't get into specifics, I can tell you they involve a wide of ages, interests, and contributions to Southeast Indiana that will make our area a better place to live, work and play. Your help and support is needed now more than ever so we can continue our projects and program.

Again many thanks to all of you who support Historic Hoosier Hills. We would not be successful without the dedication and hard work of Terry Stephenson and Casie Auxier. These two individuals contribute much of their own personal time and efforts to making sure we deliver on our mission. We look forward to serving the residents of Southeast Indiana and working with each of you in the upcoming year.

Mike Pittman
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Madison, IN



Great Partnerships

by: Terry Stephenson, Projects Director



As we enter our 48th year of existence as a nonprofit in Southeast Indiana, we look back and see all the great partnerships that we've developed over the years. Although we've developed a great many affiliations in the past, we are on the constant lookout for new partnerships to develop.

As you read through this annual report you'll notice that many of the HHH project committees have recently graduated and become their own 501c3 non-profit. Having project committees' graduate and become independent is a principal goal of HHH and even though these projects have moved into the position of being an independent non-profit, we consider them a new partner with Historic Hoosier Hills. Forming partnerships gives an organization a competitive advantage and an opportunity to access a broader range of resources and expertise.

For partnerships to be successful there needs to be a common goal, along with in-depth planning, communication, flexibility, and commitment by each party involved. An excellent example of this is featured on the next page of this annual report. When the alliance of "STEM-PLUS" becomes successful in implementing their program, not only will the youth of Southeast Indiana benefit but the organizations that make up the alliance will become stronger by working together to a common goal.

Again, whether it's individuals, organizations, or units of government Historic Hoosier Hills is interested in forming partnerships. You could be next, check out this annual report and if you like what you see give us a call at 812-689-4107 and let's talk.



Mission & Vision of Historic Hoosier Hills

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

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

The Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the third Monday of each month. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the office at: 812-689-4107 or hhhills@seidata.com.

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

Southeast Indiana STEM+ Alliance

by: Ted Fowler, hills@seidata.com

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 to 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 to find ways to bring opportunities to students with initial after-school offerings of the 3D Printers Club and the STEM Bicycle Club. 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: the Eco structure in various counties, 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, Technology in our phones, Engineering in our cars 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% 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.

Project Support through a Story

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



There are many ways that we benefit HHH projects and partners, one in particular are the workshops that we host. In 2015 we offered a couple of different workshops locally that were well attended.

The first workshop "Marketing your organization – Why you should never stop telling your Story" participants learned that supporters of organizations don't simply want to know about the organization or the programs they provide, they want to know the impact that their donation makes in their community, this is best accomplished through the creativity of storytelling. Participants of the workshop learned how to share their stories in the hope that supporters will identify with some piece of that story and feel a connection to the organization. The workshop was instructed by Melisse May, with "Lead from Insights," who conveyed 20 years of marketing and facilitating experience spanning a fortune 500 company, smaller scale startup companies and not for

profit organizations. She received training by Andy Goodman of the Goodman Center, which is the recognized authority on storytelling.

The second workshop dealt with fundraising and was facilitated by Nick Parkevich, MPA, of Loring Sternberg & Associates. The 24 participants attending the workshop was introduced to various styles involved in fundraising such as personal solicitation which happens when the right person ask for the right donation in the right way. Other fundraising styles discussed included phone solicitation, grants, special events, direct mail, and electronic media. Those in attendance used the tools and information received at the workshop to help fund many events that happened during the fall and winter of 2015. You'll find several of their stories in this report.

community development

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

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

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

Project Phoenix

by: Tim Harmon, www.projectpnx.org



In 2015 Project Phoenix carried on with our mission of providing temporary housing for families displaced by a disaster. We received the following letter from a family who lived in our house for several months this past summer:

On June 4th our world was turned upside down. We lost our home and all we had in it. We were very blessed to have a great support system. As a mom I wanted to try and keep things as normal as possible for our daughter and grandmother. We were offered the Phoenix House and I must say it was a blessing. We didn't want to be a burden on anyone and we very much needed our space to sort out our future. The members were wonderful and very accommodating. The home brought us peace of mind and comfort during this period. We feel very blessed that there was something available and so convenient. We are very grateful for our stay. This is such a blessing to our community.

*Sincerely,
Cara Fox*

This family was a perfect example of why Project Phoenix exists and why our dedicated board of directors works to keep the Phoenix House maintained and ready at all times.



Thank you to those who came to learn more about Historic Hoosier Hills and how we can Help you Help your Hometown at the Annual Meeting in 2015!!

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.

- ◆ Denver Siekman Environmental Park
- ◆ Friends of Muscatatuck River Society
- ◆ Red Wolf Sanctuary
- ◆ Rivertown Quilters Guild
- ◆ Versailles Historical Society

Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul Strasser, www.redwolf.org



2015 was another busy year as we raised a new litter of three Grey Wolves (Dale, Elu, and Eau-Claire) With the help of staff and volunteers these three magnificent creatures have grown up to be very healthy and playful bundles of white mischief. Moved to their large outdoor enclosures we have placed Eau-Claire to be with last year's puppy Sioux. She had been alone since losing a fight with the female wolf Kiowa. Social by nature they need the companionship of each other and are great teaching example for our thousands of visitors.

As to ensure we never get any sleep we also raised two BOBCAT kittens. Dubbed Mingo (the Dingo) and Zuni (the loony) these spotted bundles of energy have been a constant source of entertainment as well as numerous cuts and scratches. Today they have been moved to their permanent home in our "Cat House" where visitors can view them race all over and pounce

on anything that moves (including us as we try to feed and clean them).

Not to be outdone a little girl coyote named CROW kept our workers busy. It is good that we have younger kids working here because I am too old and slow to try and catch a puppy as it zips past you inside it's large enclosure.

This year Red Foxes were the abandoned pets of the year. Sold by game breeders and with at least 49 different coat color variations they are readily purchased for hundreds of dollars to be house pets. Unfortunately the can't breed out the very strong scent glands which is usually the reason we end up trying to build enclosures for animals dumped (generally with out any financial support) for the remainder of it's 15 year life span.

Every year the rescue injured RAPTORS (Birds of Prey) Hawks, Owls and Vultures are often the birds we care for and try and return them to the wild.

This year we had a Mature BALD EAGLE that had been trapped in a leg hold trap brought in. Caked in mud, this magnificent **Symbol of our Nation**, was so covered in dirt that we could not see that its tail was white. Named EMMY after my Granddaughter she was so stressed and exhausted that it took two weeks to get her washed off and rested enough to be released. Because she would not eat on her own I had to force feed her a variety of nutritious meats and fish. My hands still bear the cuts and scars of a very large very ticked off bird with a 7 foot wingspan. We were able to release her back into the Blue Skies of Indiana where hopefully she will be able to reunite with her mate and be home in time to produce chicks this year.



It is truly an honor to be able to see magnificent wildlife free in the wild in the habitat that we have worked so hard to maintain at the Red Wolf Sanctuary's 452- acre wildlife sanctuary. None of this would happen however if it were not for the support and guidance that has been provided to a small non-profit organization through the efforts of the Historic Hoosier Hills and its dedicated staff and Board of Directors.

Rivertown Quilters Guild

<http://rivertownquilters.com>

Last year was very productive for the Rivertown Quilters Guild. The guild was established in 2004 to provide an opportunity for people in the local community to share their interests in quilting and to educate the membership in best practices in the art of quilt making. Over the years our goals have expanded to include community outreach projects in which the guild supplies homemade quilts to the national Quilts of Valor project and the Yes Home in Manchester, IN.



In September, the guild participated in the Southeastern Indiana Expo with two booths to promote membership and to inform the public about the Quilts of Valor project. We were pleased at the interest in our guild and we had significant success in raising funds for Quilts of Valor. It was an honor to award three Quilts of Valor to veterans who attended this year's Expo. Many visitors took the opportunity to sign blocks and donate to support additional quilts for this great cause. Our guild members were also proud of the many quilts provided to the Yes Home for displaced children. Our intent is that each child is given a hand-made quilt to keep. We have received several moving thank-you notes from teenagers describing the warmth of the quilts and their appreciation for the efforts of

strangers who made them a quilt.

The guild has also made major improvements in organizational efficiency and communication. The revised by-laws helped us establish operating policies for officers and committees. We have developed tracking systems for the Quilts of Valor and Yes Home charity quilts through each phase of construction to the donation and final presentation. Members are recording volunteer hours and attendance at the charity work days, and these hours have increased. Our technology committee made significant improvements to our website with pictures of activities and we started a closed Facebook page for membership communication. Again this year, the annual guild retreat at General Butler State Park was a great opportunity for members to share their knowledge and expertise, as well as work on individual projects or charity quilts.

A success story worth sharing is about Buzz, a ninety-two year old WWII veteran. When serving in the Navy, a tremendous storm descended upon three vessels and caused the loss of two. Buzz was on the remaining ship that survived the storm. A young girl named Pam lost her father on one of the two ships that sank during that fateful storm. Many years later, Pam met Buzz and was excited to learn that he was in the same fleet as her father. An instant connection between Buzz and Pam formed as Buzz told Pam stories about his experiences, which would have mirrored her father's own stories. At Pam's request, we made a Quilt of Valor and presented the quilt to Buzz at the Veteran's Home where he resides. The presentation was made in front of family and friends, bringing tears to everyone's eyes. As a result, Buzz is enjoying a warm quilt on his bed and Pam has donated fabric and joined us at our Quilt of Valor workshops.



We are excited about all the improvements we have made over the past year and are looking forward to expanding our charity efforts in the future. 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. 2016 looks like it will be another busy and productive year for us!

rural opportunities

According to USDA Economic Research Service the beginning of the 21st century had rural America comprising 2,305 counties, containing 80 percent of the Nation's land, and being home to 56 million people.

With these statistics comes challenges and opportunities in the arenas of agricultural production and marketing; education; development of rural infrastructure and conservation within the rural landscape. Several of the current HHH project committees are addressing these very issues.

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

Regional No-Till Committee

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

In 2015 the Regional No-Till Committee held two workshops. The first event was held on March 5, 2015, the 22nd Annual No-Till Breakfast. This annual event is a partnership effort between the Ripley County Soil & Water Conservation District, Purdue Extension, and the Historic Hoosier Hills No-Till Committee. This event consisted of a presentation and round table discussion with Larry Huffmeyer, Ripley County farmer, and a panel of experts. In 2015 the event was held at the Versailles Baptist Church and over 150 individuals were in attendance.

The second event held was a Cover Crop Workshop. In the fall of 2014 the Ripley County SWCD planted a cover crop plot at Larry Huffmeyer's residence. Larry is a HUB Farmer for Ripley County and is part of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which is conducting research state wide to get time data. On March 31, 2015, the SWCD held a Cover Crop Field Day showing the importance of cover crops in the cropping rotation. Lunch was provided by the Regional No-Till Committee. In attendance were more than 35 farmers, landowners, agency personnel and others.



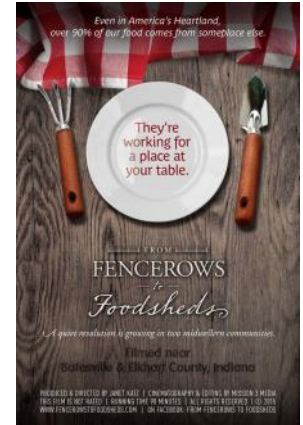
Laughery Valley Food & Growers

by: Deanna Hookway, www.foodandgrowers.org

It has been an eventful year for the Food and Growers Association.

We received a planning grant of \$30,000 from Interact for Health to plan a farmer education program in southeastern Indiana, one that will help farmers transition from growing commodity crops to growing specialty crops. The name of the program is SIFTI—Southeastern Indiana Farmer Training Initiative. We are nearing the end of the plan and hope to get an implementation grant to bring the training program to fruition. We are collaborating with Ivy Tech in Batesville to create and teach the program, and integrating local professional farmers as mentors to the students. Farmers currently growing commodities, new farmers, small farmers, agriculture students—all are welcome to participate. We are very excited about this program that will bring local food to the forefront in Indiana not only to consumers but to the farmers as well, making growing specialty crops a viable option in our region.

In 2014, FGA was chosen to participate in the Purdue Local Foods program, along with a similar group in Elkhart, IN. A result of that effort was a movie made by film maker Janet Katz, a doctoral student creating the movie as her thesis project, showcasing our efforts and Elkhart's efforts to build local food communities in our respective areas. "From Fencerows to Foodsheds" made its debut in Batesville this past summer to rave reviews. We had a great premiere event at the Gibson Theatre will well over 100 attendees. The movie is now available for purchase online and requests to show it in other venues continue to come in.



Our 2015 Winter Conference was a success, with over 70 attendees listening to seminars on herbs, local food diversification, brambles, marketing your farm as a business, and learning about FGA's plans for the upcoming few years. Planning for the 2016 conference started right away with ideas on creating a consumer track as well as a producer track, promising to make the 2016 conference the biggest one yet.



One of the most popular events that FGA hosts is our monthly potluck dinners. These dinners are held at various homes or businesses in the southeastern Indiana region. These are free to the public. Bring a dish to share of sustainable, local foods, if possible, and network with like-minded people interested in local whole foods. One of our events was held at the future home of Don Lamping. Don and his wife Beth and their 5 children are creating the home from an over 100 year old barn and it will be completely off the grid. Interest in seeing this home in the making was high, with well over 40 people attending the potluck. One person attending was Monica Yane. Monica grew up in the area and recently moved back and is in the process of building a log

home in the Oldenburg area. As a result of attending this potluck and meeting people who are interested in the same local foods issues that she is interested in, Monica decided to join FGA, not only as a member, but also to volunteer on our steering committee. Monica has great ideas, is very forward thinking, is a great cook of local foods, and has contributed immensely to our association. We are grateful for Monica and all those that share our vision.

At our annual meeting in September, we said thank you and goodbye to one of the founders of the Food and Growers Association, Sister Claire Whalen. Sister Claire has been instrumental in the development of FGA's vision regarding local food. At 87 years old, she is still going strong and a very committed member to her order and to the order of Earth. Sister Claire is an environmentalist in every sense of the word. Even though she stepped down from the FGA steering committee, she is still very much a part of our SIFTI initiative, and very much a part of the local food scene in our area. We would not be where we are without Sister Claire and her passion for local, sustainable, healthy food. Thank you Sister Claire Whalen!

Finally, the Food and Growers Association is in a position to take a big step, becoming our own 501c3 organization. To get to this point in our history, we have revamped our strategic plan with the help of Purdue University, have updated our bylaws, developed a new membership program and recruited some great people to be on our team. We have begun the process and are awaiting approval from the IRS. We will be graduating from Historic Hoosier Hills soon, but we are graduating because of your help in getting us started. Thank you HHH and thank you for all you do in the southeastern Indiana region.



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.

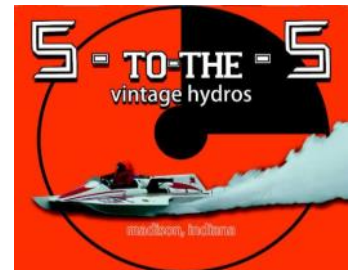
HHH committees dealing with tourism not only provide a valuable service by educating both visitors and residents of local historic events and locations in Southeastern Indiana but also provide a source of economic stimulus by bringing dollars in from outside the community.

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

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros

by: Rob Holt, rmholt11@hotmail.com

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros became a club in April of 2015 with the idea of hosting an American Power Boat Association (APBA) sanctioned vintage race boat event in the Fall of 2016. In October of 2015 met with Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors and on October 19, 2015, were approved as a project committee of HHH.



5 to the 5 is an APBA member and a non-profit organization in Indiana. The committee attended an APBA meetings in Chicago and have been put on the vintage schedule for September 17-18, 2016. The vintage division of APBA is excited about our race being added to their schedule and are looking forward to coming to Madison.

5 to the 5 is currently working in coordination with the City of Madison to help organize the Madison Vintage Thunder event.

5 to the 5 has held several meetings with Terry Stephenson and there is a long term goal of having a race boat museum in Madison. Several people on the Jefferson County Tourism Board have expressed to us the museum would be a great idea. The city of Madison appears to be in favor of our venture, because of the rich history of boat racing in Madison..

We are speaking with people in the community including Boy Scout leaders about starting a Casper boat model program. We hope to have that program up and running within the year.

There are currently 5 vintage race boats in our shop 2 boats our race ready and 3 boats are currently in the restoration process.

These boats are usually in need of major repairs when they are purchased at a minimal price. The restoration process can sometimes take several years in order to repair the boat back to its original state.

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros has made a lot of progress in less than a year and knows there is a lot more to be made. With the help of Historic Hoosier Hills, City of Madison and many volunteers 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros believes things will continue to grow.

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

After 6 years of focused and persistent determination the project committee of "Take the River" has a reason to celebrate - the film has its first PBS airing on WCET in Cincinnati on April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. The film is also scheduled to be shown on KET in June of 2016.

There was a lot of time and effort put to the research of the film by many historians to be sure of its accuracy and authenticity. It's also been a constant grind to find funding for the project with many funders both organizational and private to thank for supporting the project. Historic Hoosier Hills and Take the River Project Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank one individual in particular that never wavered from the project and contributed many of his own resources to make the film possible – our writer / producer Dennis Neary.

After the initial showing the film will be available by Historic Hoosier Hills through online streaming or DVD purchase at www.hhhills.org.

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

Norma Lou Irwin, President

The JPGHP was formed shortly after the closure of Jefferson Proving Ground in 1995 by former employees and folks who had pre-military family connections with the land. The mission of the project has always been to ensure that the public is aware of the installation's history and value of JPG to the nation and to the sacrifices made by Hoosier families when they were hurriedly forced to sell their farms and leave their lives behind. Entire communities vanished, and it is this story that must be preserved. Over the past 20 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 as well as an interactive display at the Indiana State Historical Society in Indianapolis.



For the year 2015, the group was very proud to have both sponsored and hosted the 20th Reunion of former JPG employees and all families who had a connection with the installation. The event was held at Old Timbers Lodge and attracted nearly 200 participants.

Heritage Trail Conservancy

Historic Hoosier Hills recently received the letter below from Bob Greene, Executive Director, for the Heritage Trail Conservancy and decided to share it with you in our Annual Report.

Dear Mr. Pittman:

This letter is to inform you that on February 4, 2016, the Internal Revenue Service sent notice to The Heritage Trail Conservancy, Inc. (HTC) that we have been approved for our very own 501(c)3. This letter notifying HTC of this action is provided as an attachment for your records.

Since HTC has achieved this tax-exempt status, we will no longer have reason to continue the fiscal relationship of sponsor/project that has served our organization so extraordinarily well for nearly 20 years. My leadership of HTC has only encompassed the last seven years of that time period but I can unequivocally state that the administrative team at Historic Hoosier Hills of Terry Stephenson, Casie Auxier, and Kim Jolly along with your Board, was one of the key components of the unprecedented growth of HTC that I had the privilege to preside over. Their utilization of best management accounting practices, assured our donors, vendors, and government agencies that we were trustworthy, credible and deserving of their support. I can't recall one time an invoice wasn't paid promptly or a donor wasn't supplied with a donation receipt. Not only was their handling of our financials impeccable but also their continual encouragement, inspiration and counsel helped enable me to persevere through difficult times. Yes, it's glorious that we now have our own 501(c)3 but I will miss the close partnership we've had over the years with HHH. Terry calls this our graduation from HHH. That's a cool way to look at it. But with every graduation there is gratitude mingled with sadness. I'll miss you all but will always fondly remember the part you played in helping HTC achieve its mission of raising the quality of life in our community by connecting people to nature, history and one another.

Forever grateful,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Bob Greene
President/Executive Director
The Heritage Trail Conservancy, Inc.

Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club

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

The Third Annual 2015 Christmas Train Show took over a month of preparation before the show was ready for the observation of the public. Even though this was our third Christmas Train Show, we began our preparation by presenting a train float in two local parades. We won prize money in both parades, which we used to purchase the lumber we needed to build our tables for the show.

We were also very fortunate to receive a sizeable donation from Paul Filter in Dillsboro, Indiana, who also decided to join our club. This was a great start to building our inventory to make our Christmas show one that the public would appreciate. We borrowed a large portion of our trains and accessories from Kevin Gerke, who also joined our club this year.

Other loans were made by Bernie Wallick, Mike Estep, Steve Nanni, and Charlie White. We worked many long hours, both day and night, designing and assembling our layouts, which was totally different than anything we had ever tried before. Some of the members had doubt that we would be able to get everything assembled by opening day, which was November 21, but we pressed on and the show was ready for our patrons to come in and enjoy.

The public received us very well, as we received many compliments about our layouts and how open everything was. We had several classes of school children from Rising Sun, Cave Hill Academy, and Bright attend our show and they were also greeted by Santa Claus. Some of the local nursing homes also were able to come and see the show and share some of their experiences riding trains.



It was very enjoyable to see the young and the not so young faces light up as they made their way around the room looking at each display and being in awe of the animated accessories that were in the displays. There were a number of younger children that got very upset when they had to leave the show. Therefore, we are working on producing some DVDs so that people can enjoy the trains year round.

Many of the not so young patrons would take the time to stop and tell us of their personal experiences of taking rides on the trains. We even had some men who had worked on the tracks or had run real trains and it was a lot of fun listening to them tell stories of their experiences.

This year's show was made possible by our working relationships with the Ohio County Tourism, Rising Sun Main Street, the City of Rising Sun, Interim Home Healthcare, The Peoples Federal Foundation, and many other donors. We also want to thank Historic Hoosier Hills for their guidance and for allowing us to be a Project Team with their organization. They have been very helpful in showing us how to organize and grow our group into being a great asset to the community of Rising Sun.

Again, we want to express our sincere thanks for all those who helped us in making the 2015 Third Annual Christmas Train Show one of the greatest shows in our community.

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

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

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

What an exciting year 2015 turned out to be for the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project (CMWP)! We are recently wrapped up our first year of the implementation phase and just began our second year of best management practices being installed in the 164,000 acre watershed. The CMWP covers parts of Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley and Scott Counties.



In September 2014, Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) project sponsor, was awarded \$449,914 from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management 319 Grant. A total of \$250,000 will be used for cost-share practices that will be installed in the watershed area.

As of December 31, 2015, a total of \$100,259 has been allocated locally on the cost-share program with the following best management practices to be installed:

- 850 acres of cover crops,
- 400 feet of fence,
- 1500 feet of pipeline to supply alternative livestock water,
- 8 watering facilities,
- 10 heavy use area protections,
- 1 access road,
- 50 acres of pasture renovation, and
- 1 roof runoff management system.



If you are interested in learning more about the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Cost-Share Program, contact Steve Franklin at 812-689-6410 extension 3 or you can visit www.hhhwatershed.org. You can also visit any of the Soil and Water Conservation District located in the watershed for more information.

Hogan Creek Watershed

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

Hogan Creek Watershed received its 3rd implementation grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) at the end of 2014 to continue its efforts in education and improving the water quality in the watershed. The grant was kicked off to a great start in 2015. Over 30 landowners/producers were interested in participating in the watershed's cost-share program. The project received \$200,000 to use to cost-share on best management practices focusing on full conservation systems.

In 2015, the Hogan Creek Cost-share Program provided 70% cost-share to 8 landowners/producers to convert 28.5 acres of cropland to hay/pasture, plant 354 acres of cover crops, and installed 9,785' of fence to exclude cattle out of a stream, 2 ponds, and a woods. These practices combined provided the following annual load reductions to the streams in the Hogan Creek Watershed: 1,364 tons of sediment, 1,906 lbs. of phosphorus, and 3,809 lbs. of nitrogen. Many other practices are planned to be installed in the next 2 years.

Hogan Creek Watershed Project has also continued with its education and outreach efforts. It participated in the annual River Sweep and had a site where volunteers came and picked up trash. The project also had a station during the Dearborn County Ag Days and the 4-H Camp where youth was educated about watersheds, the water cycle, non-point source pollution, and best management practices. Newsletters are mailed out to landowners in the watershed 3-4 times a year with outreach and educational information. The project also sponsored several field days and workshops to promote the use of best management practices and those events were very well attended too. Overall the Hogan Creek Watershed had a very good year.



Indian Creek Watershed

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

Indian Creek Watershed Project has come to its final finish date as of January 31, 2016. It has been a great final round to the project.

Since 2013, a total of \$313,700 has been spent on cost-share practices in the watershed and it is estimated at 24,904 tons of sediment, 19,910 pounds of phosphorous, and 39,387 pounds of nitrogen have been reduced per year in the Indian Creek Watershed. Thanks to the help of the Switzerland County Soil and Water Conservation District the Indian Creek Watershed achieved the following:

- 14 producers planted 648 acres of cover crops
- 2 producers planted 3 acres of critical area planting
- 14 producers installed 32,822 feet of fence
- 10 producers planted 640 acres of forage and biomass plantings
- 10 producers installed 50,681 square feet of heavy area protection areas
- 11 producers installed 13 alternative watering systems and 2,745 feet of pipeline
- 1 producer installed a pumping plant
- 2 producers installed 614 feet of a roof runoff structure
- 1 producer installed a pond

For more information on the Indian Creek Watershed contact the Switzerland County Soil and Water Conservation District or Historic Hoosier Hills 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

by: Allie Cline

The Historic Hoosier Hills Woodland Committee is a volunteer non-profit organization made up of landowners, professional foresters, and others interested in woodland conservation in southeastern Indiana. The goal of the committee is to provide leadership for enhancement of economic opportunities with HHH's counties through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources.

This year the woodland committee held monthly events from September 2015 through April 2016. No meetings were held December of 2015 or January of 2016.

Guest Speakers included Joe Robb from Big Oaks NWR, Jack Seifert, IDNR State Forester, Kathleen Prough, Chief Apiary Inspector for the IDNR: Division of Entomology, Phil Marshall, IDNR: Insect & Disease Specialist & Director of Division of Entomology, and Jean Herberg from the Exotic Feline Rescue Center. In March, the 18th Annual Timber Industry Meeting was held for loggers, timber byers, and anyone from or interested in the timber industry.

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 hills@seidata.com.

grant monies received in 2015

Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 3

IDEM - 319 Grant\$91,448.72

Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club

Interim Healthcare—Columbus Foundation.....\$1,500.00
Ohio County Community Foundation.....\$500.00

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....\$5,800.00
Dearborn County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....\$184.47
Jennings County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....\$206.77

Indian Creek Watershed Project - Phase 2

IDEM - 319 Grant.....\$127,309.06

Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association

Interact for Health.....\$25,000.00

Ohio County Soil & Water Conservation District

Ohio County Community Foundation.....\$1,070.72

Red Wolf Sanctuary

Salary Fund.....\$50,000.00

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

Ohio County Community Foundation.....\$3,929.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2015.....\$306,948.74

donations received in 2015

Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....\$20,694.70

Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....\$3,175.00

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership - One Funder.....\$100.00

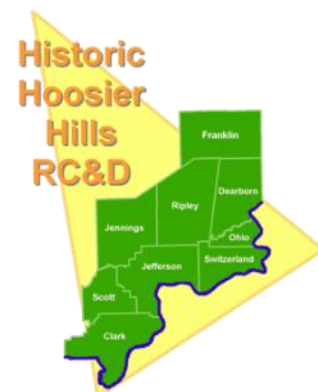
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail - One Funder.....\$250.00

Woodland Committee - One Funder.....\$50.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2012.....\$24,269.70

Help to Support Historic Hoosier Hills

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



2015 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2015

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	\$587.03
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 3.....	(13,787.92)
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Trail Club.....	(770.98)
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	9,531.68
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	46,693.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	5433.09
Hogan Creek Watershed.....	467.80
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	(11,125.28)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	641.89
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	1,654.66
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	1,994.23
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	85.06
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	13,196.56
Leadership Institute.....	(293.23)
Little Grand Theatre.....	720.00
Oak Heritage Conservancy.....	3,746.46
Ohio County Soil & Water Conservation District.....	942.23
Phoenix House.....	53.56
RC&D Council.....	20,395.16
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	11,940.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	10,234.09
Regional No-Till Committee.....	190.09
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	466.26
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	826.25
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	12,370.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	16,421.14
Whitewater Watershed.....	56.58
Woodland Committee.....	1,560.00
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015.....	\$136,941.44

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/15

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	19,427.95
Woodland Committee.....	7,321.84
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015.....	\$34,338.63



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

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Kim Jolly
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PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Terry Stephenson

February 29, 2016

Dear Historic Hoosier Hill Committee Members and Supporters,

As we prepare to gather to celebrate another successful year for Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, we ask that you as committee members and supporters remember HHH in your charitable giving plans for 2016. While preparing for another year of hard work with the committee or organization that you serve, it's important to stop and reflect on the ways that Historic Hoosier Hills has helped your group prosper. Please consider setting aside part of your budget to support the work of Historic Hoosier Hills with a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Historic Hoosier Hills provides a number of greatly needed services to its committee's and members, including payroll services, grant writing and the use of the 513C umbrella. In 2015, we provided assistance to numerous committees with over 200 members and volunteers.

Our work has a powerful impact not only on the people that we work with directly, but also on the larger community as a whole. We are completely reliant on grant funding and charitable donations in order to be able to continue to provide these services. That is why we ask you to remember Historic Hoosier Hills with a charitable gift in support of our important work during 2016. Any amount you can share will be greatly appreciated and put to good use right here in Southeastern Indiana.

If your committee as a whole, or you as an individual would like to support Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D please send a check of \$10, \$25 or more to Post Office Box 407, Versailles, IN 47042. Your generosity will have a positive impact on not only within your area of interest but also the larger community. Every gift matters and will help you help your hometown!

Regards,

Katie Collier
Vice President
Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

A special "Thanks" to the businesses who helped to sponsor the Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Report:

McDonalds

Southeast, Indiana
Aurora 🍔 Batesville 🍔 Greendale 🍔 Lawrenceburg 🍔 Versailles

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Rely on Friendship

2015 Staff & Contact Information

HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS RC&D:

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Historic Hoosier Hills Program Director

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Educator

Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@hnhills.org

Historic Hoosier Hills Projects Director

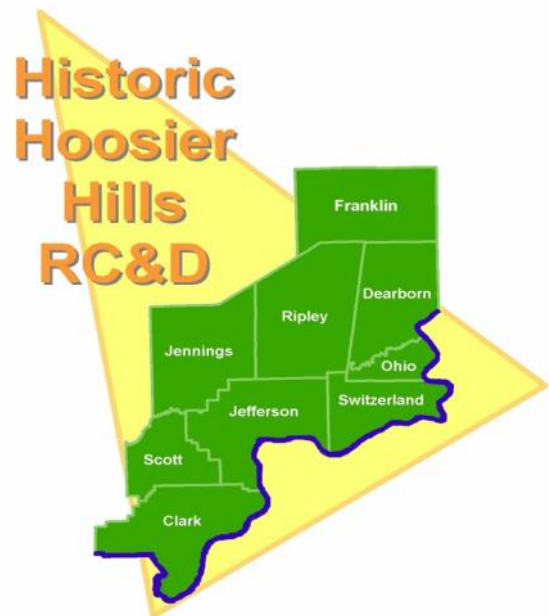
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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