

*Historic Hoosier Hills
Resource, Conservation & Development*



2011 Annual Report

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



Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

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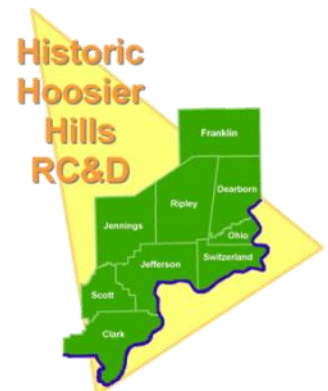
Friends of Historic Hoosier Hills,

While funding for RC&Ds, including Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH), was cut from the Federal government USDA budget, the strength of the HHH partnerships has allowed us to go forward. The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council (HHH RC&D) continues to be an independent and private not-for-profit organization that works to support a variety of community projects and administer several watershed grants. The funding cut for HHH has meant that we no longer are provided the services of a council coordinator by National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). We have also needed to rent office space and pay for computer and communications support. Since there had been repeated threats to terminate funding by Congress over the years, HHH had worked to be financially strong and able to continue to support partner projects. That work is now paying off.

Perhaps our greatest strength is the work of the excellent projects that contribute to the overall efforts of HHH and strengthen the Southeast Indiana region. Together we are working to preserve and improve our natural resources and the quality of life in the region. Going forward we need to call upon each other for support and expertise and expand our efforts. HHH is in a unique position to more energetically engage in regional rural community development in addition to resource conservation and development. Projects which impact the quality of life for the people in SE Indiana need to be cultivated and funded. Ideas for these projects need to come from community groups, financial support needs to be found, and local projects eventually need to be broadened for regional impact. And, we need to find more people in the community with good insights and expertise to support both HHH and individual projects. We need to identify people who are interested in supporting community quality of life in the region, both to serve on the HHH council and to work with projects.

HHH looks forward to having an even greater impact in supporting the people and communities of Southeast Indiana.

Ted Fowler
President



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Ted Fowler
Dearborn County

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Norbert Schafer
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Katie Collier
Switzerland County

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Terry Stephenson

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

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



What sets Historic Hoosier Hills apart

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

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

Sponsors of our organization include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, Conservancy Districts, and city and towns.

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

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

Currently, there are 36 project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills. Project committees may exist for 3-5 years until their purpose is met or their project is complete. At that time, they may dissolve their committee, evolve to an independent organization, or turn the completed project over to a permanent entity.

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

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

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

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.

community development

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

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

- ◆ Audubon Park
- ◆ Project Phoenix
- ◆ Little Grand Theatre Company
- ◆ Rising Sun Historic Downtown Program
- ◆ Southeastern Indiana Media Arts Center

Project Phoenix

by: Tim Harmon, www.projectphoenix.org



Project Phoenix has been hard at work over the past year. Since rolling in the first of two huge dumpsters we would fill since late February last year, our volunteers logged a total of 675 man-hours in 2011 doing renovations at our project.

To date we have stripped out all the old plaster and lathe from the walls and ceilings, framed up new walls, had a new roof and dormer siding professionally installed, torn out all the old plumbing, electric and heating systems, had new electric service run to the house by Duke Energy, repaired the heavily water-damaged front porch framing and done a great deal of brush clearing and pruning of the overgrown landscaping.

Currently we are working on replacing the HVAC system, as well as all the plumbing and electric service in the house. We have recruited a terrific small but dedicated group of volunteers who work with us most weekends and then are supplementing as we go with various skilled volunteers for things like HVAC, electric, ect.

Our new goal is to have the house finished and live-in ready by August 12, 2012.

With so much of our time being involved in actually working on the house this past year we decided to change our fundraising focus from hosting events to more targeted requests from local supporters and organizations. In the spring of 2011 we organized a Pledge Drive in the form of a targeted 300 piece mailing requesting donations. In a roughly one-month period this resulted in over \$5700 being raised. As the year progressed we would received a number of other donations including \$2500 each from North Madison Christian Church as River Valley Financial Bank, \$3500 from the Eleanor Birk Foundation, \$1000 from Central Credit Union and individual private donations of \$1000, \$2250 and \$10,000 from 3 different non-board member supporters.

Once again we want to thank Historic Hoosier Hills for their support and faith in Project Phoenix over the past several years and for naming us their project committee of the year 2010 at their annual dinner last spring. We were honored and humbled to receive this recognition.

Looking forward, we have exciting plans for 2012. In addition to our goal of completing working on our house and having it ready to be lived in, we will host our annual meeting in February and are looking to inject some new life into our board by adding some new board members and developing some new fundraising plans for the coming year.

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



Phoenix House January 2011



Current work continues inside



Phoenix House January 2012

Little Grand Theatre Company

by: Laura Ratliff, www.lgtc.com

The Little Grand Theatre Company made its debut in 2011. In our first season we worked to accomplish our goal of making live theatre accessible to Madison, Jefferson County and the surrounding communities.

We began our season in July with a Summer Theatre Workshop for local youth grades 3 through 12. Fourteen students, representing Madison, Southwestern and Prince of Peace schools and home school, participated in the three weeks of rehearsal leading up to the public performance of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Junior* on Saturday, August 6th. This premier presentation by LGTC, in the Main House of the Ohio Theatre, attracted an audience of over 150 people of all ages.



The second production of this first season was *All The King's Women*, performed in the Balcony House of the Ohio Theatre, on November 18, 19 & 20. It is a series of one acts and monologues telling the story of Elvis Presley through the eyes of 15 women. Some enthralled, some appalled and all obsessed. This show gave LGTC the opportunity to reach out to those who wanted to give theatre a try but wanted to start out small. It was also an opportunity for several of the actors to get back on the stage after time away from it. Overall, we had a cast of 11 with a range of experience from none to many years, making this a successful and enjoyable performance.

As 2011 came to a close, rehearsal had begun for our second production featuring kids of all ages in a production for all ages, *Percival The Performing Pig*. The cast of 28, once again represented the local grade schools, junior high schools and high schools plus home school. In addition to the kids, several adults contributed their talents on the stage. *Percival* was performed to sell out crowds in the Balcony House of the Ohio Theatre on January 27, 28 & 29th. This performance also featured Rusty Bladen performing songs perfect for the many families in the audience.



The first season of the Little Grand Theatre Company has been very exciting. We are looking forward to the final production of this season, *Steel Magnolias*, May 25, 26 and 27 in the Balcony House of the Ohio Theatre. We have also announced the show and dates for the Summer Theatre Workshop 2012 – *Winnie the Pooh Kids*, July 16-28.

Theatre is alive and well and growing in Madison!



education

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

Some project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills have a primary focus of teaching individuals about topics ranging from natural resources conservation to historic events of Southeast Indiana. Below is a list of project committees that are using many unique approaches to provide educational opportunities and events within the HHH area.

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

Denver Siekman Environmental Park

by: Janie Eldridge, www.dsep.info

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



Accomplishments at DSEP in 2011 included:

- 8 students participated in a Job Skills Training Program
- Renovated 1/3 of Red Barn for woodworking shop
- Website updated and kept current by a volunteer
- Received donation of over 25 hands on physical science activities
- Received grant to develop a alternative energy demonstration
- Conducted six off grounds workshops topics included environmental friendly landscaping, composting, container gardening and how to build a better rain barrel.

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

Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul & Jane Strasser, www.redwolf.org

THE BEARS ARE OUT. After two years of hard work in the hot sun by dedicated volunteers and part-time employees, last summer we completed their 4-acre outdoor enclosure for Red Wolf Sanctuary's four rescued black bears. Following a trail of fig bars, Tecumseh was the first to feel grass between his toes; the others soon followed. To see the bears outside in the grass, rubbing on trees, and generally enjoying themselves, is truly awe-inspiring and incredibly rewarding. The bears are now hibernating but the wolves are entering breeding season and their howls regularly fill the valley.

Last summer 3 wolves succumbed to the extreme heat, while these were not young animals it was a blow. We have asked our friends in the wolf world to let us know if they have unwanted pups in the spring as it is time to rejuvenate our packs.



We gave tours to groups from schools, churches, scouts, HHH, and many other organizations and families from nearby and from as far away as Europe. While the economy has hurt all non-profits, including Red Wolf Sanctuary, we have become a destination for 'stay-cations'.

Horse Feathers Therapeutic Learning Center

by: Jennifer Sturgeon, www.hftlc.org

In 2011 Horse Feathers TLC worked at what many would never try in these tough economic times or even in the best of times. That is, try to start a not-for-profit from ground zero. In 2011, our committee worked very hard to bring Horse Feathers TLC to the for front. Some of these goals were met and some are still being worked on for the future.

One of our committees first item of business was to seek out a lawyer that would help to finalize the paperwork needed to get Horse Feathers 501c3 not-for-profit status and as of now the paperwork has been received by the internal revenue and the committee is waiting for a response. Second the committee wrote grants to different foundations seeking assistance in purchasing property for the facility. Although several grants were wrote we did not receive any funds from the grantees in 2011. The Horse Feathers committee plans to continue the search for funding. Thirdly we held 2 fundraisers. Our annual chili supper and horse ride and Hoofin it for Horse Feathers Walk-a-Thon. Both fundraisers where a huge success in our further development of Horse Feathers. Lastly, we worked on spreading the word about who Horse Feathers TLC is and what we are about. This was done by getting our website up and running, producing brochure booklets, purchasing air time, attending public outings and attending meeting in the surrounding counties.

All in all Horse Feathers TLC had a very productive year. Yes, we did not reach our initial goal of purchasing the land, but we moved forward. We will keep doing what we do best and that is to continue to PUSHING ON!

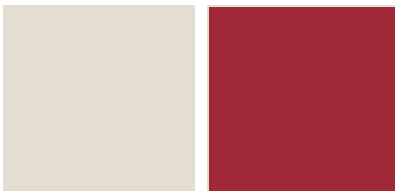


Conservation Education Committee

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

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

The Education Committee is currently working with the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project to hold a Wonders of Wetlands Workshop for educators and interested individuals. The workshop will be held on May 16 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the South Ripley Elementary School. Individuals will have the opportunity to visit a wetland at Dr. Bob Mulford's farm and do hands on activities that can be taken back to the classroom or used in the field. If you or someone you know are interested in attending this workshop contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office at 812-689-4107.



rural opportunities

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

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

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

Regional No-Till Committee

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



The Regional No-Till Committee is a proud project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D. The committee is made up of representatives from HHH RC&D, Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC), Watershed Projects, local chemical companies, past SWCD Board Members, and Ripley County farmers. Every year this committee meets in November to plan the events for the following year. In 2011 the Regional No-Till Committee successfully held three events, the 18th Annual No-Till Breakfast in February and two Cover Crop field days in March & November. The No-Till Breakfast was held at the Hopewell Baptist Church and brought in over 150 participants from 5 different counties. Twenty volunteers from the South Ripley FFA Chapter helped with the event. This breakfast is the largest no-till event held in the Southeastern Indiana area.

The first Cover Crop Field Day was held on March 14, 2011 and the second was held on November 15, 2011, with over 30 farmers in attendance at each event. The Ripley County



SWCD has planted a cover crop plot at the Laughery Valley Ag Coop north of Osgood, Indiana for the past two years. These field days are held to demonstrate the benefits of using cover crops in a farming rotation. Thanks to the Ripley County SWCD, South Laughery Creek Watershed Project and the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project these field days continue to be a great success. The Regional No-Till committee is proud to promote education and will continue to promote no-till and other conservation practices for years to come.



George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Tami Krueer, grclandtrust@aol.com



In 2011, the George Rogers Clark Land Trust (GRCLT) assisted one additional landowner in placing a conservation easement on their property in Harrison County, Indiana. Through working with the Harrison County Land Conservation Program in Harrison County, IN and the Conservation Law Center in Bloomington, IN the GRCLT was able to establish a conservation easement on the property of Clarence Hausz in Lanesville, Indiana. The easement, which was recorded in March of 2011, consists of 63 acres.

During 2011, the GRCLT established an endowment fund with the Harrison County Community Foundation. The fund will be used to preserve important natural land areas and family farms through the support of land protection projects, land stewardship activities and environmental education programming in Harrison County, Indiana.

While GRCLT continues to operate under the 501(c) 3 status of the Historic Hoosier Hills RC & D they have finalized and submitted documents to achieve their own tax-exempt status. This process should be concluded in 2012.

Work is currently in progress for an additional conservation easement on a large tract of land in Clark County, Indiana. Discussions are also taking place to assist other land owners in Clark and Harrison Counties.

GRCLT continues to provide landowners with information regarding conservation easements and opportunities to protect their land. Those interested in pursuing a conservation easement on their land, should contact the GRCLT to receive more information.

Laughery Valley Food & Growers

by: Kathy Cooley, www.foodandgrowers.org

The Food and Growers Association continues on its mission to develop a local, sustainable food supply for the Laughery Valley and environs.

Highlights of 2011 are:

- 5th annual Growers Seminar held on Feb 26th. Thirty-five growers and supporters of the FGA gathered to hear 3 inspirational and knowledgeable speakers talk about soils, agritourism and potential new markets. This meeting continues to be a great place to network with all of those involved in the local food/farming industry.
- Batesville Farmer's Market – Market master and vice president of the FGA: Patty Reding continues to grow and improve the market. The Batesville market, along with 3 other nearby markets were selected to run a pilot program to be able to sell fresh produce to people on food stamps. Our annual market breakfast was held indoors at Amack's Well and provided needed funds and education for the those individuals who would be using the SNAP program will now be able to use those consumers about the value of eating locally grown foods.
- Annual meeting – Our annual meeting was a huge success this year. It was held at the Sherman House and chef Chris Stange prepared a delicious buffet featuring all foods provided by local farmers.
- The FGA became a member of My local Indiana (www.mylocalindiana.com).
- The FGA was a supporter of Batesville School Corporations's Farm to School program which included building garden classrooms at Batesville High School and Batesville Primary School.



In 2012 the FGA will continue its mission and look to increase its web based presence and develop partners with city government and other non-profits.



tourism

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

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

- ◆ **Clark County Museum**
- ◆ **Heritage Trail Conservancy**
- ◆ **Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership**
- ◆ **Southeast Indiana Film Project**



Heritage Trail Conservancy

by: Bob Greene, www.heritagetrailconservancy.com

The Heritage Trail Conservancy has had many exciting developments in 2011.

In April, after a \$250,000 fundraising campaign, Heritage Park, a 10-acre parcel along Madison's western riverfront, was established as a Heritage Trail Conservancy property. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources recognized Heritage Park as a natural treasure worthy of preserving and provided a Heritage Trust Fund Grant of \$123,000 to cover half the purchase price of the property. This partnership with the DNR has provided a conservation easement to preserve the park as green space. We hope the area will soon feature native trees, wildflowers, habitat enhancements, and a floating Living River Interpretative Center.



The Heritage Trail has recently benefited from a Transportation Enhancement Grant that has allowed the purchase of a blighted property. This acquisition will provide the route to cross Crooked Creek and for a trailhead. Ramps will be constructed on the approaches to the Madison Railroad's Stone Arch Bridge to make the walkway over the bridge more accessible. Peter Ellis P.E., a friend of the HTC, did the design work. In addition, the HTC commissioned nationally renowned historic structure specialist, James Adams, PhD, for a Condition Assessment of the Stone Arch Bridge which was built for the Madison Railroad Incline in 1862.

The HTC has been developing the Heritage Trail Master Plan which will encompass over 12 miles of connecting trails within Madison's city limits. Trails to the new Madison-Milton Bridge and Clifty Falls State Park are being proposed.

The HTC launched a new website. It can be found at www.heritagetrailconservancy.com, It features the video *The Heritage Park Story – Trash to Treasure* and other newsworthy items about the HTC.

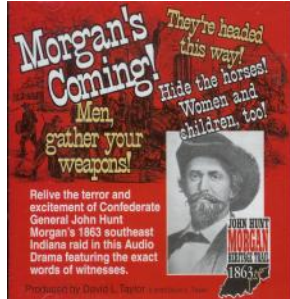
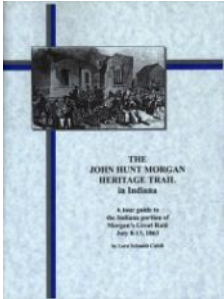
In January, Bob Greene, President/Executive Director of the HTC, was awarded the prestigious Jeff Garrett Community Service Award by the Madison Chamber of Commerce for his volunteer work on the HTC.

The HTC would like to thank all the volunteers and donors who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to the advancement of the mission of the HTC. Thanks as well to Historic Hoosier Hills for their valuable services that help to make it all happen.

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail

www.hhhills.org/JohnHuntMorgan

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



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

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

Contact: Richard Ullrich, richardullrichjr@gmail.com

Filming and production continue on the historical documentary "Take the River." The film is being created by the Southeastern Indiana Historic Film Project, sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills.

Members who attended the annual meeting in March of 2011 will remember the film that was shown at dinner that night. It was a special preview of the first 26 minutes of the documentary already completed at that date. The final program will be one-hour long and will be broadcast on CET PBS in Cincinnati and KET PBS in Kentucky. It is hoped that the film will be ready for airing in late 2012 or early 2013.



"Take the River" explores the history of southeastern Indiana and specifically Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland counties, from ancient civilizations to the early pioneers and into the 20th century and beyond. Stories highlighted include Lochry's Defeat, the Underground Railroad in this area, Morgan's Raid through southeastern Indiana and of course the Ohio River and its impact on our history and our communities. Historic Hoosier Hills member, Richard Skidmore appears in the recently edited Morgan's Raid segment, along with Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Lester Horwitz. Dearborn County Historian Chris McHenry describes Indian battles and life on the frontier, Bobby and Tessie Lischkge of Aurora talk about the 1937 Flood and more. A number of other area historians and residents also appear in the film.

Richard Ullrich, Jr., is chairman of the Southeastern Indiana Historic Film Project, Terry Stephenson is project advisor for Historic Hoosier Hills, and former First Lady of Indiana, Judy O'Bannon is special project advisor for the film. Dennis Neary, a native of Aurora, is writer and producer.



Pictured to the right: Bobby & Tessie Lischkge

watersheds

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

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

Sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills

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

Project Committees of Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ **Hogan Creek Watershed**
 - ◆ **Tanners Creek Watershed**
 - ◆ **Indian-Kentuck Watershed**
-

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

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



Central Muscatatuck
Watershed

What an exciting year 2011 turned out to be for the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project (CMWP)!

We are currently finishing up our second year of the implementation phase and getting ready to start our third year of best management practices being installed in our 164,000 acre watershed. The CMWP covers parts of Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley and Scott Counties.

In October, Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) project sponsor, was awarded an additional one year extension on the CMWP grant and an extra \$55,000 to use towards cost-share and salary. Since additional funding was received for cost-share of best management practices a total of \$282,250.00 has been available to landowners in the counties listed above.

As of December 31, 2011, a total of \$109,761.85 has been spent locally on the cost-share program with the following best management practices being installed:



- Five heavy use area protection,
- 32,020 feet of fence,
- 1,765 feet of pipeline to supply alternative livestock water,
- 8 watering facilities,
- 1 well,
- 50 acres of pasture renovation, and
- 1 roof runoff management system.

These installed practices will exclude livestock from direct access to streams and the Muscatatuck River.

If you are interested in learning more about the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Cost-Share Program, contact Steve Franklin at 812-689-4107 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.

Indian-Kentuck Watershed

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

In 2010, a group of individuals came forward to take action to prevent impairment of the Indian-Kentuck Watershed (IKW) and in 2012 they will be awarded with a 205(j) grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to study the watershed.

Local landowners, Jefferson, Ripley, and Switzerland County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, with the help of Historic Hoosier Hills were key to the success of being awarded the grant to develop a Plan of Action and Scope of Work for the Indian-Kentuck Watershed Management Plan.



As more information becomes available regarding IKW it will be posted at www.hhhwatershed.org.

Indian Creek Watershed

Indian Creek Watershed Project

by: Cary Louderback, cary.louderback@hhhills.org



The Indian Creek Watershed Project (ICWP) had another very busy and highly productive year in 2011. The original \$143,000.00 in cost-share assistance funding was allocated, and over \$135,000.00 has been paid to producers for installation of conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs). There is work in process that will account for the remaining original cost-share funds. Original grant operational funds were exhausted as of October 1, 2011; however, ICWP successfully solicited the Switzerland County Council to approve six (6) months of funding which would keep the project operational through March, 2012. The original grant was to completely expire on February 25, 2012, but in November, 2011, ICWP received a grant contract amendment from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) that provided operational funding through February 25, 2013, and an additional \$50,000.00 in cost-share funding. Nearly all of the total \$193,000.00 in cost share funds has been allocated to producers within the ICW. Installation of BMPs will begin in the spring of 2012.

BMPs installed include:

- 9 Alternative Watering Systems
- 1,725 ft. Pipeline
- 10 Heavy Use Area Protection Pads
- 11 Watering Facilities
- 360 ft. Travel Lane
- 13 Seeding/reseedings (100+acres)
- 28,000 ft. Fence (for pasture grazing systems)



Fifteen additional watershed monitors were trained at Switzerland County High School in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Class. On October 21, 2011, these student monitors, under the supervision of their teacher, completed a study at all twelve Indian Creek monitoring sites for E.coli bacteria. Five of the twelve sites exceeded the Indiana E.coli bacterial standards of 235 bacterial colonies per 100 mL sample. The twelve sites ranged from values of 0-1100 E.coli per 100 mL sample. Also, a complete set of biological, chemical, and physical data was gathered for all twelve sites during the month of October, 2011. Volunteer monitors will again be at work in the watershed in April, 2012.

South Laughery Creek Watershed

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



The South Laughery Creek Watershed Project is currently wrapping up the second phase of implementation through an EPA 319 Grant from IDEM! The project has been very successful throughout the last five years but 2011 brought many exciting practices and events. Some highlighted events over the past year are:

- 2 No-Till Breakfasts in Ripley and Switzerland Co.
- 2 Cover Crop Field Days
- Streambank stabilization Tour
- 1 Stream Clean Up
- Presentations at Ohio Co Arbor Day, 3 County Fairs, and 4 Annual Mtgs.
- Held 2 Public Meetings
- Presented at Ripley and Switzerland Ag Days
- Developed and mailed 6 newsletters

Cost Share for funds received by landowners totals to \$47,289.58. A total of 23 landowners participating installing 42 difference practices. These practices include:



- 22 ac of Pasture/Hayland seeding
- 15 ac of Cover Crops
- 11,959 ft of Fence
- 11 Heavy Use Area Protection
- 1 Spring Development
- 2,100 ft of Pipeline
- 10 Livestock Tanks or Fountains
- 1 Roof Runoff System

All these practices help save 2,518 tons of soil from erosion, which totals to approximately 126 dump truck loads. There were also 2,871 lbs of Nitrogen and 1,437 lbs of Phosphorus prevented from entering our streams thanks to these practices. Due to the adverse weather conditions during the past year some practices were planned and unable to be installed and have not been reported above.

For more information on events and cost share please call (812)689-4701. This Phase will end on January 31, 2013. Total cost share dollars for this phase total \$250,000.

Hogan Creek Watershed

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

The Hogan Creek Watershed is roughly 83,000 acres with approximately 64,000 of them in Dearborn County and the remaining acres are in Ripley County. The Hogan Creek Watershed Project is currently working on its 2nd Implementation grant through IDEM's 319 Watershed Program. This grant started in November of 2010 and runs through November 2013.



The grant's 70% cost-share program with not to exceed rates and practice and landowner caps was developed and approved the end of January 2011. In 2011, practices installed included: 340' of pipeline, 2 watering facilities, 3,752' of fence, 6,308 sq ft of gravel HUAPs, and 2,226 sq ft concrete HUAP. The estimated load reductions from the installation of these practices are 30 tons of sediment, 46 lbs of phosphorus, and 92 lbs of nitrogen a year. Applications are still being accepted for the cost-share program.

The watershed project has participated and held many educational events in 2011 including:

- Forage Workshop – 52 people attended and learned about re-establishing hay/pasture fields, fertilizer, and inter-seeding
- Presented an Arbor Day educational program to 25 fifth graders and 6 adults
- EnviroSCOPE presentations was presented at the Dearborn County Ag Days – students learned about watersheds, pollution, and water quality
- Coordinated the River Sweep - 6 clean-up sites and 118 volunteers
- Cover Crop Workshop – 52 people attended – The speakers were well received and the cover crop plot that was planted (17 different plots) was also a highlight
- Conservation Tillage Meeting – 68 people attended to learn how to properly store and maintain fertilizer/chemical tanks, proper transportation, and how to control weeds in pasture/hay fields

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

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

Tanners Creek Watershed

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



The Tanners Creek Watershed Project (TCWP) used IDEM's 319 Watershed Grant program and obtained 4 different grants over a 10 year period. The final implementation grant ended in November 2011.

The following practices were installed at 75% cost-share rate:

- 27,758 ft of Fence
- 628 ft of Roof Runoff Management
- 44.8 acres of Hay/Pasture Plantings
- 2,340 ft of Tile Outlet
- 45,658 sq. ft. of Heavy Use Area Protection
- 2 Watering Hydrants
- 3,757 ft of Pipeline
- 1 Pond with Pumping Plant
- 13 Livestock Watering Facilities
- 7 acres of Cover Crops
- 560 ft Animal Walkway
- 1 Trickle Flow Collector
- 54.6 acres WSG Plantings

TCWP sponsored many educational programs and events over the past 10 years. TCWP has used the opportunity of Ag Days to present to all of the 3rd graders in Dearborn County. The watershed project also presents an educational program to St. Lawrence fifth graders during the annual Arbor Day program. The annual River Sweep clean-up is another event the watershed project has helped sponsor and organize on a yearly basis.

In 2011, TCWP assisted the Sunman Dearborn Intermediate School with its outdoor classroom. The US Fish & Wildlife Service provided funds to help enhance and manage it. The watershed project organized an educational workshop for the teachers and co-sponsored a Backyard Conservation Workshop.

The TCWP would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the South Dearborn Regional Sewer District, Bill Neyer, and Grover Sefton for their gracious services and support for the project.



forestry

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

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

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

Woodland Committee

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

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 within HHH's counties through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources. Membership is open to anyone who shows this interest.

In 2011, several events were held and sponsored by the Woodland Committee that included the Annual Kick-Off Dinner, a workshop of Soil Health, Timber Industry Meeting, and the Awards Banquet.

On April 4, 2012, the Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Pines Restaurant in Madison. The dinner meeting will begin at 6 p.m. If you are interested in attending the banquet please contact the HHH office at 689-4107.

Plant a Tree for You & Me

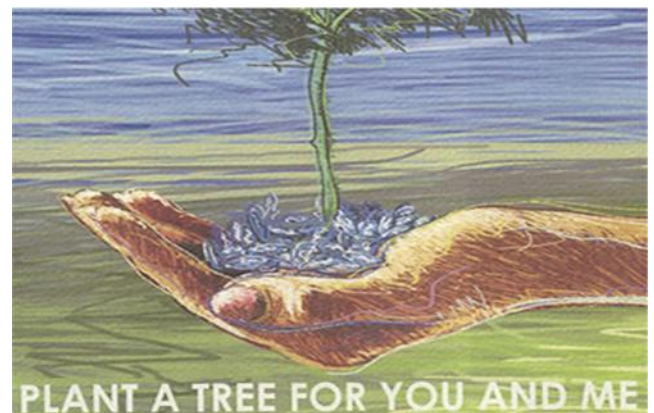
by: Kayla Hubbard, www.clarkswcd.org/PAT

"Plant a Tree for You and Me" is a joint project of Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Ripley, and Scott County Soil and Water Conservation Districts in corporation with Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D.

The goals of this five-year project is to plant 100,000 trees in the seven county area by 2012, and to help people learn to manage and take proper care of both existing trees, and those that they plant. To date there have been 65,909 trees planted, which have been documented in our program. There has been a favorable response to the project, which has gained a diverse group of sponsors.

We will continue to recruit sponsors throughout the life of the project.

If you know anyone interested in becoming a sponsor, or would like to have the trees you plant count toward our goal of 100,000 log onto <http://www.clarkswcd.org/PAT/openpage.htm> or contact any of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts listed above.



grant monies received in 2011

<i>Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 2</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant	\$126,201.16
Wal-Mart.....	\$500.00
<i>Denver Siekman Environmental Park</i>	
Rising Sun City Council.....	\$15,000.00
Ohio County Council.....	\$15,000.00
<i>Heritage Trail Conservancy</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County.....	\$16,135.00
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,764.00
<i>Horse Feathers TLC</i>	
Ripley County Community Foundation.....	\$1,242.00
<i>Indian Creek Watershed Project</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$107,674.72
Treasurer of Switzerland County.....	\$26,586.00
<i>Red Wolf Sanctuary</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$29,000.00
<i>Southeast Indiana Film Project</i>	
Dearborn County Community Foundation.....	\$25,000.00
<i>South Laughery Creek Watershed</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$86,094.68
<i>W.A.V.E.S.</i>	
Dewald Family Foundation.....	\$36,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2011.....	\$411,476.56

donations received in 2011

<i>Friends of Muscatatuck River Society - One Funders.....</i>	\$36.31
<i>Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....</i>	\$82,250.49
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....</i>	\$236.00
<i>Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership - Various Funders.....</i>	\$18.25
<i>Project Phoenix - Various Funders.....</i>	\$14,900.00
<i>Regional No-Till Committee- Various Funders.....</i>	\$170.00
<i>Southeast Indiana Media Arts Council - Various Funders.....</i>	\$396.85
<i>Tanners Creek Watershed - One Funder.....</i>	\$100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2011.....	\$98,089.65

2011 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2011

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project.....	\$143.39
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(9,844.55)
Conservation Education Committee.....	1,002.67
Denver Siekman Environmental Park.....	1,544.16
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	10,135.68
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	17,540.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	20,973.55
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	9,439.10
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	850.04
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	5,079.99
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	56.13
Laughery Valley Food & Growers (Farmers Market Funds).....	3,041.88
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	1,693.81
Leadership Institute.....	13,277.70
Phoenix House.....	6,089.26
Plant a Tree for You and Me.....	188.97
RC&D Council.....	44,094.26
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	7,640.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	(878.06)
Ripley County Contribution.....	(116.52)
Southeast Indiana Film Project.....	15,516.81
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	462.59
South Laughery Creek Watershed.....	(9,807.75)
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(566.78)
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	1,013.77
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	28,194.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	8,675.80
Ways to Grow.....	24,621.14
Woodland Committee.....	3,506.96
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011.....	\$206,164.75

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/11

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	18,685.04
Woodland Committee.....	7,131.91
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
Grazing Lands Water Quality.....	304.55
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011.....	\$33,710.34

2011 Historic Hoosier Hills Council Members

Ted Fowler
President

Norbert Schafer
1st Vice-President

Larry Bailey
2nd Vice-President

Kaye Hunger
Secretary

Kimberly Jolly
Treasurer

CLARK COUNTY

Vacant

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Art Haire

County Commissioner Representative

DEARBORN COUNTY

Ted Fowler

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant

County Commissioner Representative

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dave Hartman

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant

County Commissioner Representative

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Norbert Schafer

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

William Ford

County Commissioner Representative

JENNINGS COUNTY

Rob McGriff

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Mike Ochs

County Commissioner Representative

OHIO COUNTY

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Larry Bailey

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RIPLEY COUNTY

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Kaye Hunger

County Commissioner Representative

SCOTT COUNTY

Bob Tobias

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

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County Commissioner Representative

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Katie Collier

Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Jon Bond

County Commissioner Representative

CITY OF AURORA

John Borgman

CITY OF RISING SUN

Vacant

TOWN OF VERSAILLES

John Holzer

STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Sherrill Miller

AT-LARGE

Ken Knouf

Jefferson County

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South Laughery Creek Watershed Educator

Cary Louderback, cary.louderback@hhills.org

Indian Creek Watershed Coordinator

Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@hhills.org

Historic Hoosier Hills Projects Director

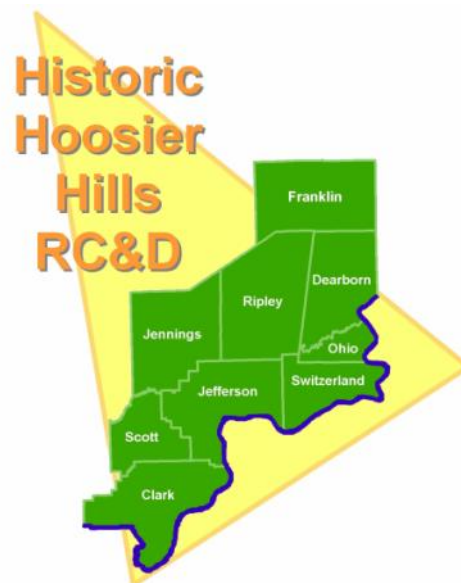
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**Historic
Hoosier
Hills
RC&D**

