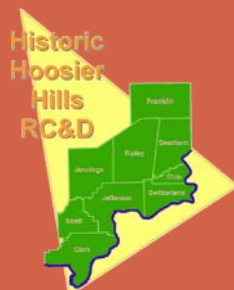


Helping you to Help your Hometown

Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development



Empowering local people to carry out projects for the future.



2013 Annual Report

A non-profit organization serving Southeast Indiana since 1968.



Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

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Dear Friends of HHH,

Two years have passed since I took over as president of Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH), and my admiration and respect for the organization has grown immeasurably. HHH occupies a very special niche in the region---although one that relatively few people in our respective counties fully appreciate and understand. Your board realizes that marketing of our services has been a longtime challenge of HHH, and we intend in 2014 to do something about that. A tag line has been developed that you will see on literature and signs that spells out the mission of HHH: "Helping You to Help Your Hometown." This has always been our primary objective - enabling people to make a substantial difference in their community.

Due to people's passion to make a difference, HHH has 17 functioning project committees focusing on a wide gambit of natural resource, cultural tourism, and social science issues. Three of these are watersheds that affect multiple counties. We were able to hire a new educator for the Indian Creek Watershed Project, and welcomed Chelsea Tooley to the HHH staff. This year the board welcomed our newest committee Ohio Valley Vintage Hydroplanes which is aimed at students applying mathematical, engineering, and design principles needed to construct model scale hydroplanes. I believe you will be most impressed as you scan your annual report and see the achievements made by all of the project committees.

For years HHH operated with a general board that met every other month. The executive board met the alternate months. Because of this mode of operation, decision making was occasionally hampered. Either we would have to wait for the executive board to make the final decision or the executive board would wait and take information to the general session. It was a process that proved cumbersome and made us vulnerable to some criticism that decisions were being made by a "select few." Over the past year, we opted for a management change of involving all board members in a monthly meeting. Although there are a number of board vacancies, your current board represents a diverse group and is the strongest board I have seen since my involvement in HHH. Consequently I believe you will see strategic decisions being made effectively and efficiently. Any fat from HHH has already been trimmed, and we are proceeding into exciting times.

I would be greatly remiss if I didn't close with mention of the dedication and contributions exhibited by your two longtime HHH staff, program manager Casie Auxier and project manager Terry Stephenson. Over the years both have brought an amazing array of diverse skills to HHH, and I can't thank them enough for the support and responsiveness while they oversee the day to day operation. The success of HHH for the most part is due to these two outstanding individuals. If you get a chance, thank them for their effort. They deserve it! And a big thanks to all HHH members. Your work has made a difference and will continue to make a difference.

Kenneth Knouf
President



Your Mark on the World

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

As we get older we often imagine what the world will be like after we are gone. Will our children and grandchildren have the same opportunities and challenges that we have had in life or will it be totally different. Do you find yourself thinking “what difference have I made in this world and what mark will I be remembered by after I’m gone”. I believe we have all asked those questions at some point in our lives and we go on without ever coming up with a definite answer.

Whether we realize it or not, we have made a mark on this world and I believe that it is never too late in life to continue making a difference and setting new milestones. Working with HHH for decades as a volunteer, coordinator, and projects director, I have seen firsthand the affect dedicated individuals have made in the lives of others. Folks ranging in age from teenagers to their late nineties have been involved in HHH projects they are passionate about and have made lasting impacts in the lives of others. Often it is not easy and there can be many failures along the way but those who are devoted and persistent find ways to succeed and make their mark.

How does this happen? Historic Hoosier Hills and its volunteers work with fledgling groups to cultivate ideas and provide services that motivate, structure, and locate sources of funding to turn that idea into a viable project. You can see evidence of this in the Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Report. There are many projects in the area that started with a simple vision and HHH provided the tools and encouragement necessary to help the project succeed. We also work with projects that are already established but find they can use assistance from an organization like HHH that offer services meeting their particular needs.

We’ve been doing this for 46 years and are constantly adapting to changing environments and planning for new opportunities and challenges. If your group has an idea or project that could use assistance, give us a call at 812-689-4107 or stop by our office to discuss possible ways we may help.

Mission & Vision of Historic Hoosier Hills

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

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

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

John Hunt Morgan Raid Commemorative Tour

Article by: Ken Knouf & Photos by: Mike Moore

This past July represented the 150th anniversary of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's Raid across southern Indiana and Ohio. To commemorate the Civil War's longest raid, Historic Hoosier Hills in partnership with Big Oaks Conservation Society and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge as well as other sponsors conducted a one day tour on Saturday, July 13th, 2013. This day was exactly 150 years and one day since Morgan and 2,200 Confederate cavalymen rode from Dupont, IN to Sunman on their way east with hopes of eventually re-crossing the Ohio River.

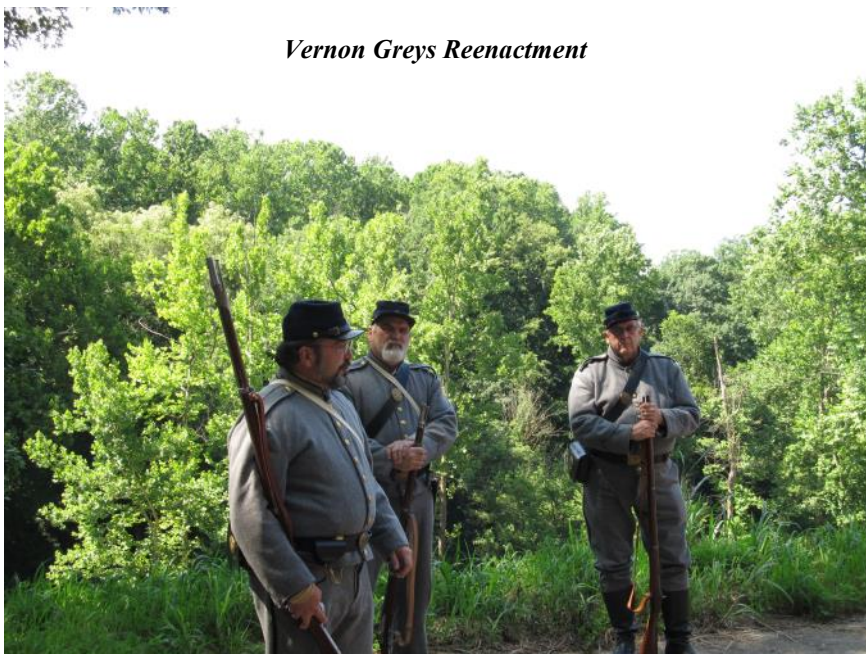
Nearly 40 registrants, drivers, and narrators convened to begin the tour in Madison. After a briefing by Ken Knouf, the vans convoyed to Lexington, IN where Morgan spent a night. From Lexington, the vans headed north through Blocher, Deputy, Paris, and Stream Cliff Farm, before stopping at Vernon to hear about the town's defense as related by the Vernon Greys Reenactment Unit (an HHH committee). After participants enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Stream Cliff at Muscatatuck County Park, the tour headed south down Hwy 7 to Dupont. Here historian Elbert Hinds discussed the town's role in the raid.

The vans then headed east skirting the west perimeter of Big Oaks. Entering the former Jefferson Proving Ground at the south end, the tour then traveled up to D Road and covered a portion of the original route followed by Morgan's column. A stop was made where three of Morgan's men were captured. This was a special feature of the tour since this area is rarely open to the public. Interested people, great food, fantastic weather, and knowledgeable guides all helped to make this HHH tour a rousing success. All participants came away with a much better understanding of Morgan's Raid—perhaps another tour of a different section of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail is in order.



Attendees at the JHM Raid Commemorative Tour

Vernon Greys Reenactment



John Hunt Morgan Marker Located in the former Jefferson Proving Ground

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

Little Grand Theatre Company

by: Laura Ratcliff, lratcliff@emeraldtheatres.com

The 2013 season was a very exciting year and one of continued growth, with an expanded number of shows and growth in the number of people participating. There was also an increase in the number of people attending our performances. In addition, Little Grand Theatre Company (LGTC) had the opportunity to work with Madison Consolidated High School Theatre and the Lanier Mansion.

January 2013 brought the production of THE SPOOFYDOOFS FUNNYBONE with a special opening performance by local musician Rusty Bladen. Performed in the Balcony house of the Ohio Theatre, the show included kids from Kindergarten through High School, representing Madison, Pope John/Shawe and homeschool, as well as two adults. It played to full houses all three performance.



WILLABELLA WITCH'S LAST SPELL was an addition to the season. Performed by adults and high school students for young children and families, it was the first time school children were invited to come during the school day to an LGTC performance. Two special daytime performances were attended by local elementary school children, introducing them to live theatre in their own community. The children had the opportunity to have question and answer time with the actors following each performance. For many, this was their first experience with live theatre!

In May the production of LEND ME A TENOR was performed. For this show, the entire cast was made up of adults, several making their debut with LGTC. It was also the first fully stage production in the Main House of the Ohio Theatre, with an elaborate set, costumes and overall production. It met with rave reviews and large audiences of over 100 people per performance.

The 2012-13 season finished with our annual Summer Youth Theatre Workshop. Over the course of two weeks in June, thirty one kids learned the music, lines, choreography and movements for WILLY WONKA KIDS. This was the largest number of participants we have had in the 4 years we have offered the workshop. The kids represented all of the local schools plus homeschool with ages ranging from 8-16. The kids also learned about advertising the show and making props for the show. The workshop finished with a public performance to show what the kids had learned. It had a record attendance of 220.



education



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

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

- ◆ Conservation Education Committee
- ◆ Denver Siekman Environmental Park
- ◆ Friends of Muscatatuck River Society
- ◆ Red Wolf Sanctuary
- ◆ Vernon Greys

Denver Siekman Environmental Park

April Hautman, President

The Denver Siekman Environmental Park (DSEP) was formed in approximately 1998. Approximately 20 acres of land was donated to Ohio County and was restricted to be used for recreation and education purposes. The park was funded primarily by the City of Rising Sun and Ohio County and in 2012 the funding for the park was cut due to budget constraints. The DSEP board searched for ways to maintain the park but it was not possible. Ohio County gave control of the park to the joint Parks and Recreation Commission and DSEP lost their home.

With the help of HHH the board members are in the process of regrouping and taking a new direction. Terry Stephenson has done one-on-one work with the board to develop a strategic plan which included a new vision and mission statement.

Currently the board is focusing on 2 projects. One of the projects is to continue to do summer education programs through Eco15 at the education center in Rising Sun. The director of Eco15, Debbie Thomason, has chosen the curriculum and will summarize the details and cost of the program. Denver Siekman Education Program (aka Denver Siekman Environmental Park) is committed to helping with the cost of the program and provide volunteers. This is an opportunity for the education center to expand their existing program and in return DSEP will be announced as a partner in the program.

The second program the board is focusing on is the second annual community garden. Last year the board was able to procure a tract of land in town to use for the garden location. We got a late start so we only had 7 gardeners. However, 2014 hopes to be a better year. The board has approved the budget and the advertising options and we have reached out to potential partners to be involved in it. Some gardeners from last year want to participate again and we hope to have individuals as well as groups such as 4-Hers, church groups and scout groups ready and willing to attempt to grow and possibly sell their wares at the local farmers market.

All in all it's been a roller coaster ride but the board feels it's headed in the right direction now and we believe it's from the help of HHH that we didn't give up.



Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul Strasser, www.redwolf.org

Did you know that bird watching is the second most popular recreation in this nation and Red Wolf Sanctuary (RWS) has made their 452-acre sanctuary a prime birding habitat. RWS goal is to draw in birders in the next year to view eagles, hawks, owls, and all of the migratory birds that travel through. We need birders and other nature enthusiast's help to preserve and protect this land for future generations to enjoy.



I am very happy to report that none of our animals left us this year and this past season saw a record number of raptors and mammals rehabilitated and returned to the wild. Young downy Screech Owls, Kestrels, and Red Shouldered Hawks kept us very busy. Even a Broad Winged Hawk (a species we have not seen in years) was released (although it was found back inside its hacking cage several days later). Orphaned Red Fox kits dug from a den were returned to the wild and now are occasionally seen, popping their heads out of the many culvert pipes distributed throughout the farm to provide them safe hiding areas. All of these success stories were the direct result of a group of dedicated volunteers and part time employees who stepped in and took care of this facility.

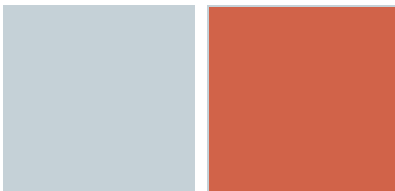
An Eagle Scout project to construct large outdoor enclosures for the various color phases of Red Foxes that RWS care for is underway. Assisted by groups from Ball State University, Hocking Hills Technical College, and Miami University construction kept us busy last fall. This project was just in time as RWS received another pet *Red Fox*. This magnificent, immature Red Fox is named "AKIMA" ("Chief" in the Miami nation).

Through the generosity of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation RWS was able to build a large outside enclosure for YUMA the Puma. Generous funding from the Ohio County Community Foundation prepared a new site for a 3-acre Red Wolf pen. It has been several years since the sanctuaries last Red Wolf "Chattahoochee" died, leaving a major void in our hearts and educational programs. To date all of our Red Wolves came out of the wild during that time when the few remaining wild Red Wolves were being trapped to start a captive breeding program. The barriers to obtain Red Wolves from the captive breeding program historically have been far too costly for a small private sanctuary to afford. In recognition of the need to enroll more educational facilities in the quest to help save this, the most endangered of North American mammals, AZA has revised its process; we have submitted a formal application and have had a site visit. It is my hope that by this time next year our canine chorus will once again include the Red Wolf.

For nearly four decades I have worked as a volunteer on a quest to help *save the living past for the future to enjoy*. Joined in this adventure by Dr. Jane Strasser and a very long list of student groups, volunteers, nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters, a board of directors, and individuals who have supported this effort. For the first time in 13 years I was able to attend the International Wolf Center's conference to reconnect with the scientists whose books we have all read and who have provided us insight into the world of the wolf. Everyone has gotten old. New generations of researchers, and former graduate students now are at the forefront. It is the time to look to the future.

I cannot expect someone to dedicate the next 40 years of his or her life to this cause without a paycheck. I know that you believe in Red Wolf Sanctuary, it wouldn't exist without you. In order to ensure the care of the animals and the continuation of this important mission we must concentrate on building an endowment to compensate those who will care for the creatures who depend on us and who will guide the next generations as they tour this beautiful facility. It is my hope that you share in our belief that *if WE do not step up to ensure the fate and future of the wonderful wildlife that share this earth no*

one else will. The sun will rise tomorrow. What creatures will be left to feel its warmth is up to 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
-

Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association

by: Bonnie Robbins & Claire Whalen, www.foodandgrower.org

Laughery Valley Food and Growers Association (FGA) started 2013 off with its 7th Annual Growers/Producer Seminar Journey to Local Sustainable Food: Growing in Challenging Conditions. It was held at the Batesville Intermediate School on Feb 9, 2013. Participants came from central and southeastern Indiana. The 2013 keynote speaker was Permaculture expert/author, Peter Bane, who presented ways to let nature restore our agricultural activities during excessive heat and drought.



Other speakers included Robert Zupancic and Tim Schwipps, both connected with Natural Resources Conservation Service, sharing information about the benefit of cover crops. Richard Cartwright offered solutions to drought conditions using drip irrigation and Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Hancock County, shared current state information to benefit small farms, including niche marketing, legislative actions and food safety rules. Vendors addressing the Conference theme offered practical solutions.

The FGA sponsors the Batesville Farmers' Market held on Saturdays in downtown Batesville from mid-May to the end of October. Greater Batesville and the Laughery Valley contain many producers of fine quality vegetables, flowers, herbs, and crafts from local artisans.

In 2013, Batesville Farmers' Market was one of several local farmers markets to receive grant funding to help promote use of SNAP benefits at the market. The grant enabled us to purchase a card reader, tokens, signage and other items to help encourage SNAP recipients to use their SNAP benefits at the local farmers market.

Kathy Cooley wrote, and received, a grant to promote the benefits of sweet potatoes! School gardens grew sweet potatoes, school menus incorporated sweet potatoes and students of Batesville School Corporation received certificates to use at the farmers market. Kathy Cooley continues to work with the Batesville Schools in promoting and strengthening their school garden program.

FGA Annual Meeting and Food Tasting, *Celebration of Local Food*, was held on September 13, 2013, at the Batesville Intermediate School Cafeteria with Chef Adam Israel catering the food. Kathy Cooley spoke about food as medicine and Debbie Mullins shared the story of how switching to healthy foods changed the lives of herself and her husband. Locally grown foods were utilized by Chef Israel to highlight the variety of healthy, locally grown, locally available foods from our area.

In November, 2013 FGA hosted a meeting with Roy Ballard, Hancock County Extension Agent and, Jill Pritchard, Indiana Department of Agriculture who worked together to create Hoosier Harvest Market, a virtual online farmers market located in Greenfield, Indiana. They explained how the market worked and encouraged FGA to consider such a project. Then in December, FGA received an invitation from Purdue University to submit a grant application to work with its Local Food professionals to study the possibilities of such a project within a broader framework of rebuilding the local food system in Southern Indiana. FGA did submit that application in early January and did obtain the grant. Several key community leaders joined with FGA as a Core Group for this project including the school superintendent, the local hospital, and the economic development director for the city of Batesville.



Regional No-Till Committee

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



Regional No-Till Breakfast

The 20th Annual No-Till Breakfast was held on March 7, 2013. This annual event is a partnership effort between the Ripley County SWCD, Purdue Extension, and the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D No-till Committee. The 21st Annual No-Till Breakfast will be held on March 6, 2014. It will begin at 8:00 AM and will once again be held at the Hopewell Baptist Church. Larry Huffmeyer will be the moderator for the morning with a panel of friends, neighbors, and experts to help with the round table discussion. To receive your PARP credits you must be present at 8:00. For reservations please call (812)689-6410 ext. 3.

Cover Crop Field Days

In the fall of 2012 the Ripley County SWCD planted a cover crop plot at the North Branch of Laughery Valley Ag Coop in Osgood, IN. On March 19, 2013 the SWCD hosted a Cover Crop Field day showing the importance of cover crops on your property. The day began in the morning at 9:00 and concluded at 12:00 with a lunch

provided by the Regional No-Till committee. In attendance were more than 25 farmers, landowners, agency personnel and others.

In November of 2013 another Cover Crop Field Day & Tillage meeting was held at Marshall Alford's on the Ripley/Dearborn County line. This field day was held with the help of Dearborn County SWCD & the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative team. A lunch was provided to the attendees and PARP certification was available. A similar field day will be held at Larry Huffmeyer's in Ripley County on March 13, 2014. Watch for more details to come about this field day.



tourism

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

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

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

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Ken Knouf, kgknouf@yahoo.com

Heritage Center & Railroad Station Museum
FREE ADMISSION
Saturday, October 19, 2013

Come & Learn About
Jefferson County's History

FREE Admission to the
Heritage Center & Railroad Station Museum at the
Jefferson County Historical Society
(615 West First Street, Madison, IN)
Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:
JPG Partnership
Jefferson County Historical Society

Next time you travel up to Indianapolis to visit the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, better known as the Indiana Historical Society, stop by the Indiana Destinations interactive computer module area and view the newest display funded by the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership (JPGHP), a longtime project committee under HHH.

In early 2013, JPGHP members ventured up to the Historical Society, and we noticed a lapse in the information presented---no mention of Jefferson Proving Ground. Given our mission of making sure people don't forget about the history and sacrifices made to establish JPG, the group decided this was unacceptable. So we met with Society staff personnel who informed us that for a mere \$5,000 this could be rectified. Although at first taken back, we discussed payment options (the society offered a 3-year payment plan), and ultimately decided this was too important not to proceed ahead. When informed that we were willing to fund the exhibit and provide photos and draft text, the Society reduced the cost to \$4,000. Member Mike Moore started to assemble photos and draft text---the challenge was keeping under the 500 character maximum per panel and we were restricted to 13 panels.

By the early summer of 2013, the presentation took shape and was submitted to Indianapolis for their actual production. In August we were informed the display was ready, and members again traveled to Indy, very anxious and excited.



John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail

The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail (JHMHT) 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 JHMHT has been a project of Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) since 1996.

HHH has for purchase at their office the following JHMHT information: guidebook, self-guided cassette tape and CD and have free self-guided travel brochure and student brochures. If you are interested in learning more about the JHMHT check out our website at www.hhhills.org/JohnHuntMorgan or stop by the HHH office.

Heritage Trail Conservancy

by: Bob Greene, www.heritagetrailconservancy.com

The Heritage Trail Conservancy (HTC) has five key components to its mission all of which are designed to impact the lives of people in our community.

1. Building, maintaining and promoting the Heritage Trail and Heritage Park. The completion of this nature/recreational trail from the Madison State Hospital to the River Walk by HTC has provided a very popular quality of life resource for almost every conceivable group in Madison. Several people walk the trail every day, rain or shine, freezing cold or blistering heat as part of their daily regimen.

2. Protecting, preserving and enhancing the rich ecological resources of the Heritage Trail Greenway. 15 acres of downtown Madison's riverfront have been preserved into perpetuity for green space by a State of Indiana conservation easement that prohibits commercial or industrial development on the land. The public was enthralled last spring with the opportunity to observe an active fox den in Heritage Park with six kits frolicking outside. The easement will ensure that residents and visitors will be able to enjoy nature scenes like that in the future.

3. Preserving, rebuilding and promoting Madison's great historical transportation landmarks. Extensions of the Heritage Trail have enabled three significant historic structures, that just a few years ago were virtually unknown by most residents of Madison, to be rediscovered as part of Madison's fascinating past. They are:

- ◆ The Cat Steps, limestone steps that workers at the state hospital used daily to climb up a steep bluff to reach their jobs at the hillside facility from their homes along the riverfront.
- ◆ The Scott Bridge, which was a part of the original entrance to the town of Madison when entering from the west.
- ◆ The Stone Arch Culvert, which carries the Madison Railroad incline over Crooked Creek.

It's hard to believe that these amazing architectural landmarks, near Madison's downtown, had been forgotten. Today, as a result of HTC initiatives, they are delightful and interesting parts of the Heritage Trail experience, admired by all.

4. Establishing a system that promotes community wellness through programs and activities on the Heritage Trail and the Heritage Parklands. Partnering with King's Daughters Hospital and the City of Madison, HTC's newest initiative is an ongoing plan to organize and provide multi-dimensional outdoor experiences that will have recreational, fitness, educational, and environmental components. In some respects, the Heritage Trail has already become a popular fitness center of choice for many!

5. Providing work, community service and educational opportunities for our youth and all who are looking to advance their lives.

Few people know how HTC has been able to develop a phenomenal trail and park system with an incredibly small operating budget. Since our beginning in 1995, volunteerism has been at the center of all we do. Dedicated and committed volunteers have enabled us to do much with little. Beginning in 2007, we expanded our traditional volunteer base to include work crews from the Madison Correctional Facility, the Madison Juvenile Facility, the Jefferson County Probation Department, public and private school

groups, Hanover College fraternities and sororities. HTC has positioned itself to be available for opening doors for those looking for a new start. Partnering with the Madison Salvation Army we are providing job opportunities, when funding is available, for those with little options in life. One of the greatest blessings anyone can receive in being involved with this project is seeing prisoners (offenders) probationers, and yes, even the homeless begin to have new hope when they begin to realize that through their work and service on this project they too, can make meaningful contributions to this world.

Finally, maybe the truest measure of The Heritage Trail Conservancy's impact on Madison is not how many trails we build or how many acres of green space we preserve, or how many people use the park and trail, but could it be, that ultimately, the greatest impact HTC has, is in the lives that are changed in getting to those ends.



HTC's newest acquisition August 2013 at W. First and Cragmont Streets. The three-car garage will serve as HTC's maintenance facility. The white cinder block building will be converted into a Welcome Center/Interpretative Center/Office for HTC.

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

by: Dennis Neary

The historical television documentary *Take the River* will reach thousands of viewers throughout the tri-state area in a very unique way when it is broadcast by WCET and WKET Public Television stations upon completion.

Take the River explores Ripley, Switzerland, Ohio and Dearborn Counties, retelling true stories of heroism, courage, determination and ingenuity that made us what we are today.

“We were glad that Venoge could contribute to the film in telling the early story of the county,” noted Donna Weaver of Musee de Venoge, a historic home from Switzerland County’s early Swiss Colony wine-making days. “The volunteers who were there had a great time, maybe their first time in a film.”

Weaver’s sentiment is shared by Martha Bladden, Director of the Switzerland County Historical Society. “The restoration of the Theibaud House was a challenging project. Seeing it come to life with people and activities validates the house as a living museum. Being a part of *Take the River* will strengthen our efforts in preserving Switzerland County’s unique local history.”

The film features re-enactment footage of exciting times such as Gen. John Hunt Morgan’s raid of Versailles and southeastern Indiana during the Civil War, along with interview bites with learned local historians and recognizable area people. Aurora artist and humorist Tom Ward appears in the program, along with Dearborn County historian Chris McHenry and Carl Westmoreland, Senior Historian at Cincinnati’s National Underground Railroad Museum.

Viewers will see the unfolding of a Revolutionary War battle near Laughery Creek, meet Native American chiefs living alongside Aurora’s first settlers and relive the 1937 flood with people who lived through it from Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Patriot and more.

By airing to a wide audience of tri-state area viewers this Historic Hoosier Hills project will showcase the culture, history and treasures of southeastern Indiana, enticing viewers to learn more and explore the beauty of the land, river and people here.

To southeastern Indiana viewers, the film represents an opportunity to shine a light on the unique and colorful history of our own region, and make area residents more aware of their rich heritage.



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

- ♦ Indian Creek Watershed

Project Committees of Historic Hoosier Hills

- ♦ Hogan Creek Watershed
 - ♦ Indian-Kentuck Watershed
-

Indian Creek Watershed

by: Chelsea Tooley, chelsea.tooley@hhills.org

This year the second implementation phase for the Indian Creek Watershed Project began. The Indian Creek Watershed flows about 15 miles from its' beginnings near Avonburg to the Ohio River, just West of Vevay. It consists of nearly 44,000 acres and is the largest of seven watersheds within Switzerland County. This year funds were obtained through a 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). This grant approved \$202,000 to go directly to landowners with the goal of improving the watershed.

The cost share program for the Indian Creek Watershed Project has been very successful this year. Over 1,085.91 acres of land have put conservation practices to work on their lands. This has contributed to reducing sediment in the watershed by 12,114 tons per year, phosphorus by 8,339 tons per year, and nitrogen by 16,710 tons per year.

The project also has an education and community outreach component. This year the Indian Creek Watershed Project (ICWP) enjoyed help from new partners and volunteers. The ICWP gave several classroom presentations, published multiple news articles, and completed their fall monitoring. All of the events were a success and a great way for members of Switzerland County to get up close and personal with their watershed.

The ICWP is looking forward to the many upcoming events. Spring monitoring is approaching as well as stream clean up days. In addition, funds are still available to landowners to put conservations practices on their land. For more information about the ICWP contact Chelsea Tooley, ICW Educator, at 1-812-698-4107 or Katie Collier and Cheryl Furnish at 1-812-427-3126.



Indian-Kentuck Watershed

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

It is hard to believe that the Indian-Kentuck Watershed Project (IKWP) is entering the last year of a two year grant.

During the past year the project has achieved many accomplishments including appearances and displays at Historic Hoosier Hills and Jefferson, Ripley, Switzerland County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) Annual Meetings, Regional No-Till Meeting, Switzerland County SWCD Nutritional Livestock Meeting, and the Natural Resource Enterprise Field Day, as well as being present at all three county fairs.

Another great accomplishment was the creation of the Indian-Kentuck Watershed News a publication that was created to help educate and inform citizens of the watershed about many topics. The watershed steering committee sent out 395 information surveys to individuals who lived, worked or owned property in the watershed. Of the 395 surveys sent out 101 was received back with valuable information that will be used in an upcoming newsletter article and the management plan for the watershed.

In addition to the above listed accomplishments the one year water monitoring study began earlier this year by Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The study information received will be used in the management plan and also will be discussed at an upcoming steering committee meeting.

The Indian-Kentuck Watershed is always looking for positive members who want to contribute valuable information to the project. If you are interested in becoming involved, looking for program ideas or just wish to receive a copy of the Indian-Kentuck Watershed News please contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office at 812-689-4107 or email hhills@seidata.com

Hogan Creek Watershed

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

The Hogan Creek Watershed is roughly 83,000 acres with approximately 64,000 of them in Dearborn County and the remaining acres are in Ripley County. The headwaters of the watershed start near Sunman and west of Milan and flows into the Ohio River in Aurora. Approximately 50% of the watershed is woodland, 47% is agriculture, 2% urban, and the final 1% is water. The Hogan Creek Watershed Project is currently working on its 2nd Implementation grant through IDEM's 319 Watershed Program. This grant, which includes both cost-share and educational components, started in November of 2010 and was extended until November 2014.



The grant's cost-share program was developed and approved the end of January 2011. Some of the practices available for cost-share include: animal walkways, cover crops, filter strips, grassed waterways, heavy use area protection, pasture/hay planting, fence, livestock watering systems, roof runoff, stream crossings, riparian buffer, and tree/shrub establishment. The cost-share rate is 70% with not to exceed rates and practice and landowner caps. In 2013, the Hogan Watershed cost-share program paid out \$74,431.36. The estimated load reductions from the installation of these practices are 1,603 tons of sediment, 1,914 lbs of phosphorus, and 3,695 lbs of nitrogen a year. Many other practices are planned and designed and are waiting to be installed in 2014.



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. Another implementation grant was wrote and submitted to IDEM for possible funding. The new grant will allow the continuation of the project's efforts of improving the water quality of the Hogan Creek Watershed through cost-share and education. The final decision on the funding should be known by summer. If funded the watershed project will continue on for an additional 3 years.



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: Rob McGriff, rmcgriff@dnr.in.gov

The HHH woodland committee is a longstanding committee made up of woodland landowners and professional foresters who promote good stewardship of natural resources. The committee offers educational programs on a wide variety of natural resource issues. They also co-host forestry field days and support the local timber industry and other conservation partners.

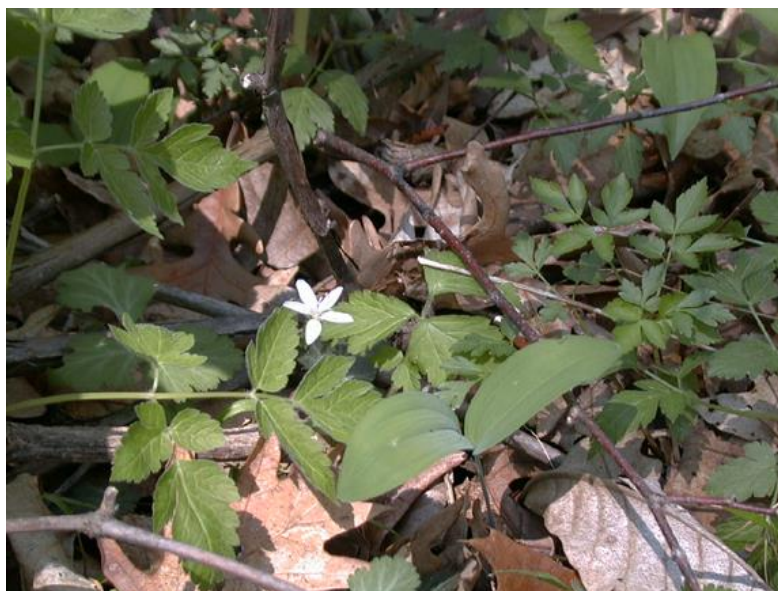
This year the woodland committee invited Purdue dendrology (tree identification) professor, Sally Weeks, to southeastern IN for a field trip and talk about identifying trees. Mrs. Weeks also talked about the importance of landscaping with native plants and explained the benefits of native plants to wildlife.

The October meeting started out with a pitch-in/cookout. Following the good food, Dr. Jim Hollis of the IN State Board of Health gave an informative program on ticks and tick diseases in Indiana. Tick borne diseases are becoming increasing common in Indiana, putting outdoor lovers at risk of catching several serious diseases.

In November Alex Wardwell, the director for the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management Workgroup, gave a presentation on invasive plants and their impact on the ecosystem. She stressed the importance of early detection and rapid response when attempting to control invasive plants in your forest. Ms. Wardwell show pictures of several new invasive plants that landowners should be on the lookout for.

The woodland committee has been doing their part to control invasive plants. The committee has undertaken a project to control autumn olive on a property in Ripley County. This project shows landowners what invasives look like and the impact they can have on the environment. Landowners are also able to experience the hard work involved in controlling invasive plants.

The Woodland Committee is always looking for new landowners. "Membership" is free and is open to anyone who has an interest in natural resources.



grant monies received in 2013

<i>Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 2</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant	\$203,943.81
<i>Denver Siekman Environmental Park</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$20,000.00
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,500.00
Dearborn County Community Foundation.....	\$168.08
<i>Heritage Trail Conservancy</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County.....	\$10,000.00
<i>Hogan Creek Watershed</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$7,583.41
<i>Indian Creek Watershed Project</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$56,505.00
<i>Project Phoenix</i>	
Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County.....	\$1,500.00
<i>Red Wolf Sanctuary</i>	
Salary Fund.....	\$19,000.00
<i>South Laughery Creek Watershed</i>	
IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$78,252.60
<i>Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project</i>	
Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation.....	\$5,000.00
Switzerland County Community Foundation.....	\$1,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2013.....	\$408,452.90

donations received in 2013

<i>Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....</i>	\$58,840.00
<i>Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....</i>	\$200.00
Irwin Fund.....	\$5,000.00
<i>Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership - Various Funders.....</i>	\$235.00
<i>John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail - One Funder.....</i>	\$5.00
<i>Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project - Various Funders.....</i>	\$10,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2013.....	\$74,280.00

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

Helping you to Help your Hometown!!!



2013 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2013

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project.....	\$1.53
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	639.13
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Conservation Education Committee.....	262.17
Denver Siekman Environmental Park.....	1,648.13
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	9,586.18
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	47,193.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	18,737.76
Hogan Creek Watershed.....	6,450.64
Indian Creek Watershed Project.....	(2,114.80)
Indian Creek Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(4,896.09)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	(1,838.39)
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	611.92
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	908.82
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	54.57
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	2,771.17
Leadership Institute.....	4,493.99
Phoenix House.....	1,882.12
NRE Workshop.....	229.65
RC&D Council.....	50,679.14
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	7,640.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	717.81
Regional No-Till Committee.....	(971.23)
Ripley County Contribution.....	237.29
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	466.26
Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project.....	6,385.00
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(333.53)
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	631.25
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	24,870.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	24,621.14
Woodland Committee.....	3,982.82
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013.....	\$208,159.48

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/13

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	19,132.32
Woodland Committee.....	7,241.72
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013.....	\$33,962.08

2013 Historic Hoosier Hills Council Members

Ken Knouf
President

Brad Dawson
1st Vice-President

Jon Bond
2nd Vice-President

Kaye Hunger
Secretary

Kimberly Jolly
Treasurer

CLARK COUNTY

Vacant
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Vacant
County Commissioner Representative

DEARBORN COUNTY

Brad Dawson
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Ted Fowler
County Commissioner Representative

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dave Hartman
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

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County Commissioner Representative

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mike Pittman
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

William Ford
County Commissioner Representative

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Bob Steiner
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Mike Ochs
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OHIO COUNTY

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April Hautman
County Commissioner Representative

RIPLEY COUNTY

Kimberly Jolly
Soil & Water Conservation District Representative

Kaye Hunger
County Commissioner Representative

SCOTT COUNTY

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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

Vacant

CITY OF RISING SUN

Vacant

TOWN OF VERSAILLES

Sue Meisenberger

STUCKER FORK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Sherrill Miller

AT-LARGE

Ken Knouf
Jefferson County



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

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2013 Staff & Contact Information

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Historic Hoosier Hills Program Director

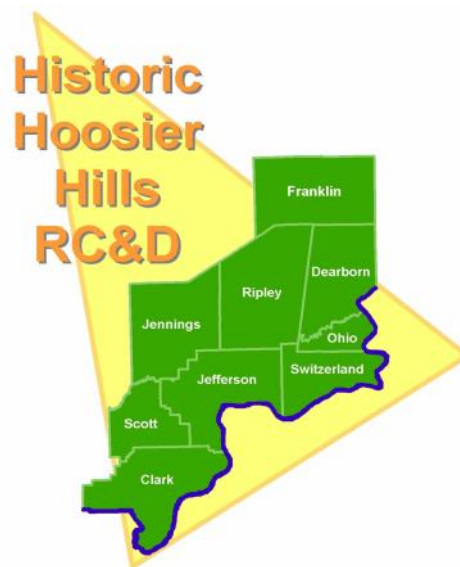
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