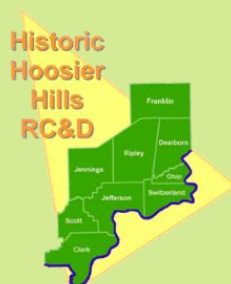


# Helping you to Help your Hometown

Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development

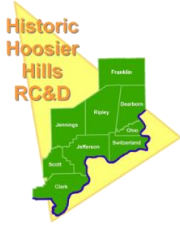


Helping You to Help Your Hometown



## 2014 Annual Report

*A non-profit organization serving Southeast Indiana since 1968.*



## Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

1981 South Industrial Park Road, Suite 1 - P.O. Box 407 - Versailles, Indiana 47042  
Ph: (812) 689-4107 - Fax: (812) 689-6849 - Email: hhhills@seidata.com

### Board of Directors

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Terry Stephenson

Dear Friends of Historic Hoosier Hills,

This has been an interesting year for HHH! I've had a chance to interact with many of our projects and enjoyed leading our board through the process of updating our by-laws. Many thanks to Ted Fowler for helping develop and implementing the by-laws we will follow during 2015 and beyond.

During 2015, we will be focusing on our organization's mission to "Help you Help your Hometown" through updated outreach programs. We must also be aware of the need to be self-sustaining as an organization. We welcome any ideas or projects that can help us achieve our mission of improving the quality of life in Southeast Indiana while providing us the ability to sustain our organization. We plan on developing programs to reach out to various projects and organizations within our area and to detail our unique abilities in helping non-profits achieve their goals.

Historic Hoosier Hills has a bright future with the dedication and focus to seek out projects and programs that can benefit from our contacts, training and expertise. I'm extremely pleased to be a part of an organization that not only talks about helping improve the quality of life, but delivers on the mission of "Helping you Help your Hometown".

Best Regards,

Mike Pittman  
President

## 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.

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



## The Future of Change

by: Terry Stephenson, [terry.stephenson@hhhills.org](mailto:terry.stephenson@hhhills.org)

This year's article is an opportunity to say "Thank You" to the Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors for making many important adjustments to an organization that has been in operation for 47 years. Some changes were difficult to agree upon but all recognized the need for change. That's one sign of a dynamic board, coming to consensus when challenges arise. I want to thank all involved in this movement and encourage them to stay on track with new and innovative ideas that make Historic Hoosier Hills (HHH) a leading non-profit this is "Helping you Help your Hometown".

There were many successes in 2014, a few of them include:

- Completion of the Indian-Kentuck watershed management study by HHH.
- Grant from IDEM awarded to HHH for Central Muscatatuck Watershed for \$449,914.
- Grant written by HHH for Indian-Kentuck Watershed for \$394,980.
- Adoption of the new tag line "HHH - Helping you Help your Hometown".
- Major by-law revisions allowing HHH more creativity and flexibility.
- Various workshops and field days offered through HHH and its project partners
- Numerous grants awarded to HHH for its project committees.
- Additional funding to our Community Foundation endowments for HHH.
- Major donation to Old Timbers Lodge administered through HHH.
- Numerous donations to HHH from "Friends of HHH".
- Numerous administrative and payroll services provided by HHH to many of its partners.

In the coming year Historic Hoosier Hills is making an extra effort to reach out to the communities we serve and develop new partnerships by inviting area leaders to be part of an HHH Advisory Group. This is going to allow HHH to recognize and address new challenges and opportunities within the communities of our area.

If you or your group has a particular need that Historic Hoosier Hills might be able to help with why not give us a call at 812-689-4107 or email us at [hills@seidata.com](mailto:hills@seidata.com). We have a good track record of helping many newly formed and some existing groups in - organization and structuring, financial administration, and providing an avenue for funding through grants. Chances are good that we might be the connection you need and if not we'll try to direct you to the right path. Please give HHH a chance to "Help you Help your Hometown"

All the Best.

## community development

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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

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## Project Phoenix

by: Tim Harmon, [www.projectpnx.org](http://www.projectpnx.org)

2014 was a grow and learn year for Project Phoenix. The house was steadily occupied throughout the year and hosted 3 separate families with varying levels of need for housing. Over the past two years our board of directors and volunteers have learned a great deal about how differently people react and respond during the months after losing their home and about the positives, the challenges and the pitfalls of providing a completely free place to live. One very important lesson we have learned is that no matter what the family's situation before coming to us, it is important that we stress the fact that we are temporary housing because almost without exception families will stay as long as given even if they have options for where to move. Another related and equally difficult reality is that the longer a family stays, the more of a sense of ownership or even entitlement is felt about the house. Adjusting to this reality has led us to shorten the amount of time a family is initially promised to be able to stay and then striving to maintain close communications with the family about their needs and then working with them on a more individual, case-by-case basis to determine how long they stay. Finding the balance between the needs of the families working through the stresses of their loss and the need to maintain the house and have it available for the next family is the ongoing challenge for Project Phoenix.

Another interesting observation is that regardless of the circumstances under which a family arrives or departs the Project Phoenix house is that they express such gratitude that the house exists and is available to them. We realize that we won't always know exactly what or how much of an impact Project Phoenix has had on a family but this year we were surprised and humbled and gratified to receive the following letter via Facebook from one of our former house guests:

*"I always reminisce about life around this time of year but the Phoenix House holds a special place in my heart for a number of reasons. I want to start this out by THANKING every single one of you for being there for my family and I when we literally had nothing. You made us feel welcomed and it was nice to have a place to lay our heads when we had nothing else to turn to and a place to consolidate our thoughts on how we could rebuild our life. The Phoenix House was a place that changed our life for the better. During our beginning time there, we felt hopeless, lost and as if there was this dark cloud hanging over us. I'd say that's pretty normal after losing everything you've ever had in your life and there is no doubt that was the most difficult feeling I'd experienced in my adult life. We had been through quite a lot but it was in that house that we had a life changing moment that would change us, and the course of our lives, forever. Not only were we shown an overwhelming amount of love and support but that blessings can be disguised in many, many forms. When we left the Phoenix House, we weren't too sure on the direction we were going but we left with a rejuvenated feeling about humanity and a positive pep in our step. Looking back on it now, I know that it was THIS house that changed many things for me. It changed me as a person, as mother and as a wife. It opened my eyes in so many ways. It reaffirmed my passion for helping and giving back to others, something that I think we all lose sight of at times - especially when life takes control and you go into autopilot mode. So many amazing blessings that I know wouldn't have come to surface without this experience. We are now in a MUCH, MUCH better place and I attribute so much of that to our experience here. I'm now paying it forward to others as a Health and Fitness Coach because of my reaffirmed passion and experience at the Phoenix House. My family is much closer than ever before. We live every day thankful for the experience and the passion that you all put into what you do. So much that we do everything we can to put that same experience into everything we do and more. While this is a sincere attempt at thanking you, I know that words can't express the thankfulness that we truly hold for you all. But just know that there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about that time, our time at the Phoenix House and how incredibly grateful I feel for having a second chance at rebuilding our life, the life we want to live! Happy Holidays from my family to yours! Without your help, I can't say for sure where we would be today. But here we are! And for that, I'm super grateful." -Alex Southwell*

We invite you to check out our website at [www.projectpnx.org](http://www.projectpnx.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 2015 will be another terrific year for Project Phoenix.

# Little Grand Theatre Company

by: Laura Ratcliff, [lrattcliff@emeraldtheatres.com](mailto:lrattcliff@emeraldtheatres.com)

2013-2014 Season was again one of continued growth. With an expanded number of shows in the season, growth in the number of people participating in our productions both on stage and behind the scenes and an increase in the number of people attending our performances LGTC had a very exciting year.

The 2013-14 Season got off to a great start in October of 2013 with a performance of DOROTHY MEETS ALICE or THE WIZARD OF WONDERLAND. The show had a cast of 11 but 24 people auditioned. We took the opportunity to get everyone involved by adding two smaller shows. Everyone who auditioned got a part and were able to be in the final performances. This change opened up the need for more directors. We partnered up the new adults who were interested and let them take on the exciting challenge of directing a show. It was a great success and a great show.



March of 2014 brought our first musical that combined adults and kids, SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE JR. All the great songs from the TV show brought to life on the stage by our cast of 14 actors. We designed new moveable background walls that could change throughout the show and used the Ohio Theatre's screen to add to the storytelling of the show. Audiences sang along to the familiar tunes and the cast had a great time performing them.

BUSYBODY, a comedy murder mystery, featuring a very nosy cleaning lady, a misplaced dead body and disappearing evidence made its way to the Main Stage of the Ohio Theatre for Memorial Day Weekend. The whodunnit kept everyone guessing until the end.

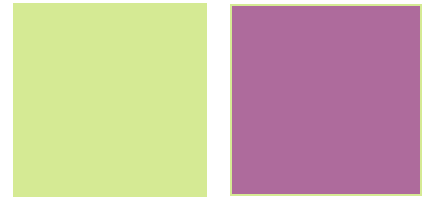
The 2013-2014 season came to a close with our Fourth Annual Summer Youth Theatre Workshop in June, DISNEY'S LITTLE MERMAID Jr.. The summer workshop is open to anyone who has completed 3rd grade thru 12th grade. We had 32 acting participants and another 10 youth that assisted with sets, props, costumes, lights and sound. The summer workshop was a much larger production this year. A Junior version was chosen instead of a kids version, making it a longer show with more challenging musical arrangements. It was a great challenge for the kids who were returning participants from past years but familiar enough for the new kids to learn. Each year our number of participants increases along with the audience and this year was no exception.

Through all of these shows, The Little Grand Theatre Company has had the opportunity to grow our performers, directors, audiences and performances. We are looking forward to continued growth in the 2014-15 season. Our goal is to continue to make live theatre available and exciting to all ages in Jefferson County and the surrounding areas.



## education

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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

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## Conservation Education Committee

by: Katie Collier, [katie.collier@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:katie.collier@in.nacdnet.net)

In 2014 the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Conservation Education Committee helped to support the Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) for the fall conference that took place in Switzerland County. IDEA's mission is to enhance local conservation programs through a network which provides leadership, support, and education for its members and other district employees. IDEA helps to strengthen Soil and Water Conservation Districts by providing a system whereby the exchange of information and ideas will encourage unification and coordination of district programs throughout the state of Indiana. The 2014 Fall Conference was held at Belterra Casino and Resort on October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Over 75 participants were treated to sessions covering a wide range of work topics from Quick Books to Rule 5 updates to how to work with the SWCD board. Motivational speaker Craig Tornquist entertained participants during lunch while hypnotist T.G. Rivers kept everyone on their toes during the evening session. Those in attendance were also able to visit the Markland Dam, Kentucky Speedway and Dagaz Acres. The conference was a great networking event that left participants refreshed and ready to take new ideas and perspectives back to their counties.



# Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul Strasser, [www.redwolf.org](http://www.redwolf.org)



2014 saw an addition of Three Grey Wolf puppies to our aging wolf pack. **Three Grey Wolf Puppies** : Croix, Souix and Kioawa were hand raised from 13 days of age. This once in a lifetime opportunity was shared with our staff, volunteers, and hundreds of visitors. Today, the opportunity to share with the general public the development of these beautiful bundles of energy continues to be a great teaching opportunity, drawing in visitors from all over the world. Last year we hosted over 200 tours of various age groups from around the tri-state, numerous states, and a variety of countries.

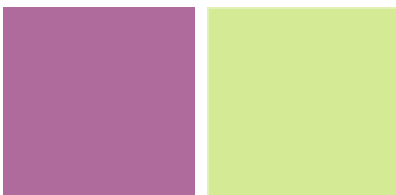
Our Rehabilitation efforts continued returning numerous Raptors and various orphaned mammals to their wild homes.

The Red Wolf Sanctuary hosted its first RED WOLF RAMPAGE, a 5K/10K TRAIL RUN, allowing runners from all over the Tri-State area the opportunity to "Run Wild In Rising Sun". Following trails that traversed our Prairie, Wooded Hillsides and Meadows, runners got the opportunity to race along our enclosures housing wolves and bears (each of which wondered why humans are so slow).

We also hosted the Board and Staff of Historic Hoosier Hills for a tour of our facilities in Rising Sun. Historic Hoosier Hills has been greatly involved in the development of Red Wolf Sanctuary. THANK YOU!



Our plans for this year are to continue to construct the best quality enclosures for our foxes, and to improve the habitat for our wild residents by planting more nut-bearing trees, removing invasive exotic plants and burn the prairie which has not been rejuvenated for 5 years. As always our efforts through education and public outreach will continue in efforts to generate much needed revenue and community support.



# rural opportunities

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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
- 

## George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Tami Krueger, [tami.krueger@in.nacdn.net](mailto:tami.krueger@in.nacdn.net)

Seeing the need to help local landowners preserve their farmland for future generations, the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District formed a Land-Use Committee in 1997. From that committee, a local land trust developed. Over time, the George Rogers Clark Land Trust (GRCLT) has evolved into a regional land trust that currently holds conservation easements approximately 395 acres in Clark and Harrison counties.

One of the easements held by the GRCLT is on the 195 acre Spriestersbach Farm in Charlestown, Indiana that dates back to the 1830's. Spriestersbach descendant and the last Spriestersbach family member to own the property, Louis Spriestersbach, never married but he wanted to pass his love of agriculture on to future generations. Spriestersbach died in 2008 at the age of 90.

The Spriestersbach Farm Corporation Foundation, formed in association with the Indiana Farm Bureau, worked in conjunction with the GRCLT to develop a plan to preserve the land and honor Spriestersbach's wishes. The farm was broken into several parcels and sold at auction in late 2012. A couple of small parcels fronting Ind. 62 across from the Clark County Fairgrounds were sold to commercial developers.

A conservation easement was recorded on nearly 200 acres, and the property was subsequently purchased by Clark County resident and business owner, Dan Cristiani. Under the terms of the easement, the property may not be subdivided for residential or commercial development and the land must be used for agricultural purposes in perpetuity. Cristiani has expressed his love for the farm and his delight in being able to purchase the historic property.





# Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association

by: *Bonnie Robbins, www.foodandgrowers.org*

The Food & Growers Association of Laughery Valley (FGA) had a busy, and productive, year in 2014. In early February we held our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Producers Seminar. Our focus for 2014 was on small animals. Speakers included April Boyle, discussing backyard poultry; Mike Hoopengardener speaking on dairy goats; and Richard Stewart on beekeeping. As always, our seminar was well attended.



In early 2014, FGA was chosen as one of two groups in the state of Indiana to partner with Purdue Extension as part of their pilot program, Rebuilding Local Food Systems. We held numerous meetings, involving individuals from different groups in our community to discuss, identify and develop a plan for growing our local food system. Various members of this group took trips to visit farmer markets, restaurants and distribution groups. As a result, we are currently compiling information to develop a new strategic plan for FGA. We believe that the future of what our group can do for our local food system-both producers and consumers-is bright!

Another important accomplishment we were part of was the securing, with the help of Michael Morrow of Hoosier Harvest Market, of a \$30,000 planning grant from Interact for Health. Interact for Health is passionate about helping people throughout the Cincinnati region live healthier lives. They award grants to support health promotion programs that will make their communities healthier, stronger and more resilient. This year's priorities is to help improve the Food Distribution Systems Infrastructure.

Our goals for this planning grant are 3 fold: to identify growers interested in diversifying into specialty crops that can be used in institutions in our counties, to collaborate with Ivy Tech Agriculture department to identify training needs for these growers, and to evaluate the needs and possibility of a central processing and/or distribution center for these growers. Our annual meeting was held in September and featured updates about our work with Purdue and information on the school gardens at Batesville Community Schools, among other topics of interest.

We look forward to 2015 being a time of refocusing our efforts on planning the future of FGA and helping both local producers and consumers in their goals of contributing to our local food system.

## Regional No-Till Committee

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

The 21st Annual No-Till Breakfast was held on March 6, 2014. 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 22nd Annual No-Till Breakfast will be held on March 5, 2015. It will begin at 8:00 AM and will be held at either the Hopewell Baptist Church or Versailles Baptist Church pending repairs on Hopewell. Larry Huffmeyer will be the moderator for the morning with a panel 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.



# 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
- ◆ Madison Area Arts Alliance

## Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Ken Knouf, kgknouf@yahoo.com

When Jefferson Proving Ground was closed in 1995, there were folks whose families had been forced by the government to sell their land in 1940 so the Army could establish a huge ammunition testing facility. This was heartbreaking for many residents, but very few of the over 2,000 people affected balked at their patriotic duty. For over 50 years, JPG tested all types of conventional ammunition. But then came the base closure announcement in 1988, and there were many who wondered whether family sacrifices and contributions by a dedicated workforce would be remembered—or lost to history. Hence the JPG Heritage Partnership was organized as an HHH project committee in 1996 to tell the story of the military installation and to make sure people understood its significance.

The group initially had a vision of a permanent museum, but quickly realized that the vision was overly ambitious. Decisions were made that resulted in the organization going into deep debt, and it would have been very easy to give up. But the same Hoosier character that was exhibited through the active history of JPG came into play, and the group developed a new strategy. With grateful assistance from the HHH board and staff, the group undertook a more realistic approach. Telling the JPG story was always the focus so we applied for a grant to reprint the long out-of-print book entitled “Old Timbers”, and we started selling these books dealing with the best known historic structure on the property. JPGHP members even volunteered to park cars at Regatta in Madison, and we used the revenue to start paying down our debt. Members hosted a series of popular educational seminars. At the same time we received another grant to compile oral histories of JPG, and after a few years published this as a book. Other books, all available through HHH, were created and published, and over time our debt was paid off.

Still an exhibit was desired, and we coordinated with the Jefferson County Historical Society to develop and construct a permanent exhibit which stands as a major showcase within the museum. Two years ago, members took a fieldtrip to the Indiana Historical Society where we noticed a total absence of any mention of Jefferson Proving Ground. We met with society staff, who advised us that a computer touchscreen program could be incorporated into the Indiana Destinations exhibit—at a cost of \$4,000. Less than a year later the story of JPG can easily be found in Indianapolis at the historical society.

Our group has never numbered any more than 25 members, but we believe we leave a legacy of what can be done when people care--- in making sure the JPG story is told and future generations will understand its significance. Our thanks to HHH for believing in us!

## 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](http://www.hhhills.org/JohnHuntMorgan) or stop by the HHH office.



# Heritage Trail Conservancy

by: Bob Greene, [www.heritagetrailconservancy.com](http://www.heritagetrailconservancy.com)

For the last several years The Heritage Trail Conservancy (HTC) has been focused on the environmental cleanup of blighted properties along the Ohio Riverfront on Madison's lower west end and acquiring those lands to protect, preserve, and restore them as public greenspace. As a result, the community now has over 20 acres of beautifully forested and grassy landscapes to enjoy in place of dilapidated trailers, rusted cars and mountains of garbage. As an added bonus, most of the land is legally protected with state conservation easements, which assure that they will not be endangered by industrial, commercial or residential development in the future.

With that mission largely accomplished, HTC is entering into a new operational phase in 2015 of creating a master plan for upgrading and expanding the Heritage Trail and developing Heritage Park. The HTC slogan "connecting the community to the past, nature and one another" will be an underlying motivation in all future design plans. The following are key components that designers, planners, and developers will be implementing into a comprehensive master plan.

1. Enhancement of the existing ecology and creating landscape designs that will introduce new native plants and new habitat features to attract threatened and endangered wildlife; among prominent features will be a Monarch Waystation and a Purple Martin Housing System.
2. Environmental education programs including biodiversity research and study internships, interpretative signage, interactive nature activities such as school-age children observing weekly purple martin nest checks to assure the nestlings are not threatened by wet nests or parasites. (Martins are unique wild animals in that they are very tolerant of humans; allowing us to be around their houses, nests and even handle their young!)
3. Recreational/nature trails that encircle Madison and link the different neighborhoods, businesses and places-of-interest together with a 12-mile trail system. Currently, HTC has developed a full outdoor activities schedule for people of all ages and abilities. One of our unique services is providing van tours for senior citizens and those who are unable to walk the trail.



Funding will come from among a variety of sources including local, state and federal government, economic and tourism agencies, foundations, endowments, and private and corporate philanthropy. Throughout the nation, communities have come to recognize parks and trails as one of the most worthwhile investments in promoting a healthy economic climate and for raising the quality of life. They are often one of the community's most valuable assets.

The Heritage Trail Conservancy is privileged to have the opportunity to be the stewards of the Heritage Trail and Heritage Park. We consider it a high responsibility to make sure these valuable natural resources are utilized for their highest and best use.

THANK YOU HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS FOR BEING OUR PARTNER ON THIS JOURNEY!

# Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

by: Richard Ullrich, [richardullrichjr@gmail.com](mailto:richardullrichjr@gmail.com)

"Take the River," a documentary film, has been planned to air in early 2016 as a kick off to Indiana's Bicentennial next year. This T.V. program will showcase the unique history and culture of Southeastern Indiana to Tri-State television audiences in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

A significant local benefit is that DVDs are going to be utilized by Ripley County Schools as a learning program for fourth grade students throughout Ripley County.

"Morgan's Comin'" is a 12-minute section of the one-hour program that explores Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan's Raid through Ripley and Dearborn Counties in the summer of 1863 during the Civil War.

The Ripley County Community Foundation wanted the "Morgan's Comin'" DVDs for use in fourth grades, which is when Indiana History is taught in grade school. The benefit to the school children throughout Ripley County is that they'll get to see and learn from a professionally produced program about the most significant event that happened in Indiana during the Civil War...and it happened in their own home county!

It is also a great teachers' aide in teaching the fourth graders about a unique and historic Civil War event. And, it is not only an excellent visual aide for Indiana History classes, it is also a great discussion starter for History class.

We expect similar additional educational spinoffs of the hour-long "Take the River" film once it is broadcast on PBS stations in Cincinnati and Kentucky.

"Take the River" is an hour-long, historical documentary about southeastern Indiana, being created by the Southeastern Indiana Historic Film Project, a project of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D. HHH Project Advisor is Terry Stephenson. Richard Ullrich, Jr. is Chairman of the Southeastern Indiana Historic Film Project. Dennis Neary, writer/producer and other SIHFP board members are Chris McHenry, Dearborn County Historian, and Martha Bladen, Director, Switzerland County Historical Society.



## Madison Area Arts Alliance

by: Kim Nyberg, [kfnyberg@gmail.com](mailto:kfnyberg@gmail.com)

HHH was gracious to offer guidance for the Madison Area Arts Alliance--a non profit dedicated to working with artists and arts organizations in the Madison Indiana area to promote, nurture, and advocate the arts and arts education, while cultivating new creative ventures for a greater art-centric identity, quality of living and a stronger creative economy.

For additional information contact Kim Nyberg at 812-801-9863.

# watersheds

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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
- ◆ Central Muscatatuck Watershed

## *Project Committees of Historic Hoosier Hills*

- ◆ Hogan Creek Watershed
  - ◆ Indian-Kentuck Watershed
- 

## Indian Creek Watershed

by: Chelsea Tooley, [chelsea.tooley@hhills.org](mailto:chelsea.tooley@hhills.org)



It is said that "in the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught (-Babe Dioum)" This year the Indian Creek Watershed (ICW) Project has focused on teaching the community lessons of conservation to inspire a passion and responsibility for the watershed that leads to change. In addition to the continued success of the cost share program, putting conservation practices on the land that protect our water, the project has enjoyed great success with their water quality monitoring.

The amount of volunteers increased four-fold from last year and many members of the community were able to work hands on with the watershed. By exposing volunteers of all ages to some up-close and personal time in the water, people left feeling more connected to the watershed and understanding what they can do to help.

In the spring the ICW project enjoyed help from not only community volunteers but also help from a local high school's biology class. The class took a field trip to spend a day at one of the testing sites. While there, the students were given the opportunity to get their hands dirty. Each student got to perform a set of chemical tests such as taking temperature, pH, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, and nitrate readings. The students also got to participate in some biological testing. Each student was given time to catch macroinvertebrates (small water dwelling bugs). Since certain bugs have higher or lower tolerance of pollutions they give us a good idea about how good or bad the water is. After identifying the species of bugs, each site was given a score that indicates whether the water gets a "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," or "very good" rating. The students had fun "fishing" for multiple types of bugs and learning about which bugs meant the water was good and which meant the water was bad.

The project continued with more success in the fall where the ICW project had more volunteers than ever before. Members of all ages from the community came to lend a hand. Many participants remarked that they could do this sampling in their own backyards or tell their classmates about their experience at school the next day. Spending time in nature leaves a more lasting impression and memory for those that participate.



I want to take time to thank each and every person who donated their time and help with the water quality sampling. Your help is valued and appreciated. If you would like further information about the results of the sampling or would like to get involved in this year's sampling please contact Chelsea Tooley, ICW Educator, at 1-812-689-4107. Here is to another year of wet feet, crayfish hunting, color test reading, and rock turning in the continued effort to keep our local watershed healthy, clean, and available for everyone.

# Central Muscatatuck Watershed

by: Casie Auxier, [casie.auxier@hhhills.org](mailto:casie.auxier@hhhills.org)

Historic Hoosier Hills recently was awarded \$449,914.00 to implement the Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project. The grant was awarded by Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The funds will be used to implement a cost-share program on best management practices and for educational outreach.

The Central Muscatatuck Watershed consists of approximately 164,196 acres in portions of Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley and Scott Counties in Indiana. The voluntary cost-share program is intended to provide landowners with financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices, also known as Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the watershed.

The cost-share program will pay up to 60 percent of the total cost with a \$25,000 cap per participant. To be eligible for this program you must tend crops or livestock in the Central Muscatatuck Watershed and be interested in encompassing conservation practices into your operation. Received applications will be ranked based on proximity to a waterbody and potential for reducing sediment, E. coli, and nutrient pollution.

For more information on the cost-share program please contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office at 812-689-4107.

# Indian-Kentuck Watershed

by: Terry Stephenson, [terry.stephenson@hhhills.org](mailto:terry.stephenson@hhhills.org)

The Indian-Kentuck Watershed (IKW) management plan was completed in June of 2014 after two years of study that gave us a better understanding of the watershed and factors that affect its water quality.

During this two year period, residents of IKW formed a project steering committee which assisted to direct the study. Activities of the project over the two year period included water sampling, conducting steering committee meetings, visual survey, public meetings, workshops and field days, roadside clean-ups, educational video and a survey to 400 residents in the watershed.

The study is undergoing final review at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and should be released within a few months. Once released, electronic copies will be available from HHH.

**What's next:** In September 2014, a follow-up grant proposal was sent to the IDEM to conduct a project that will allow cost share to landusers within the Indian-Kentuck Watershed. If approved these funds will be used to assist landusers in installing conservation practices that will improve the water quality of Indian-Kentuck Creek. We should know by May 2015 if funding has been approved. Eligible conservation practices will be decided by the IKW Steering Committee and will be available upon approval from IDEM. Landusers may apply after approval and will be ranked using a system designed by the IKW Steering Committee.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the IKW please contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office at 812-689-4107 or email [hhhills@seidata.com](mailto:hhhills@seidata.com)

# Hogan Creek Watershed

by: Heather Wirth, [heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net)

The Hogan Creek Watershed Project had a very successful and busy year in 2014 wrapping up the grant that started in November 2010. The year started with several presentations, workshops, and field days as part of the watershed's outreach and educational efforts. The Hogan Creek Watershed also participated in the Annual River Sweep Clean-up for the Ohio River and its tributaries in June. The highlight of the year was the Grazing Field Day held in August which was very well attended and successful. It was held at Jeff & Leah Meinders's Farm near Milan and had many informative presenters discussing beef health, nutrition, and management. A farm tour was also given to highlight some best management practices that have been installed on the farm.

Many landowners and operators in the Hogan Creek Watershed participated in the watershed's cost-share program to implement and install conservation practices. The grant that concluded in November provided \$260,000 in cost-share funds. The cost-share program funded 36 landowners in Dearborn and Ripley Counties.

The watershed was fortunate enough to receive another 319 grant to continue its educational, outreach, and implementation efforts for another 3 years. The project will be able to start implementing their next cost-share program very soon. The main focus will be on implementing and installing complete conservation systems for both grazing and crop land. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the cost-share program or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Heather Wirth, Watershed Technician at (812) 926-2406 ext. 107 or [heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net).



## forestry

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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

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## Woodland Committee

by: Casie Auxier, [casie.auxier@hhills.org](mailto: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 with HHH's counties through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources.

This year the woodland committee held numerous events including information on wild boars and birds of prey. A woodland field day was held at Parrish Woods located in Nebraska, Indiana. During the field day foresters gave presentations regarding tree and invasive species identification. In March, the 17th Annual Timber Industry Meeting was held for loggers and anyone who has an interest in the timber industry.

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



# grant monies received in 2014

## Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....	\$5,500.00
Dearborn County Community Foundation.....	\$234.42
Jennings County Community Foundation.....	\$200.16

## Indian Creek Watershed Project

IDEM - 319 Grant.....	\$98,604.26
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## Little Grand Theatre

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County.....	\$800.00
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## Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

UCB Charitable Foundation.....	\$1,000.00
Ripley County Community Foundation.....	\$5,000.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2014.....\$111,338.84**

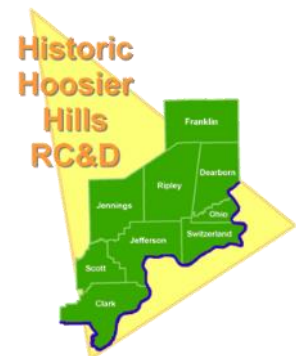
# donations received in 2014

Heritage Trail Conservancy - Various Funders.....	\$25,289.19
Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....	\$1,300.00
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership - One Funder.....	\$2.00
Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association - One Funder.....	\$2,500.00
Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project - One Funder.....	\$1,500.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2014.....\$30,591.19**

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!!!*





## 2014 finance summary:

### *Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2014*

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2 .....	\$629.98
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 3.....	(13,909.02)
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Forage & Livestock Committee.....	9,561.43
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	46,943.00
Heritage Trail Conservancy.....	9,147.64
Hogan Creek Watershed.....	141.54
Indian Creek Watershed Project Phase 2.....	(3,626.28)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	859.68
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	1,325.50
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	1,431.94
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	81.56
Laughery Valley Food & Growers.....	5,031.77
Leadership Institute.....	1,543.80
Little Grand Theatre.....	720.00
Phoenix House.....	67.84
RC&D Council.....	38,375.02
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	14,140.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	1,696.43
Regional No-Till Committee.....	(1,403.99)
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	466.26
Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project.....	14,728.10
Switzerland County Contribution.....	(569.63)
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	526.25
Tourism Resource & Development.....	39.18
Versailles Historical Society.....	19,370.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	16,421.14
Whitewater Watershed.....	171.81
Woodland Committee.....	3,028.40
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014.....</b>	<b>\$169,812.20</b>

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### *Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/14*

Forage & Livestock Committee.....	\$1,300.00
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
Leadership Program.....	2,319.73
RC&D Council.....	19,279.76
Woodland Committee.....	7,281.68
Televillage Executive Committee.....	31.45
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
CSP Workshop.....	140.44
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014.....</b>	<b>\$34,150.28</b>

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# 2014 Historic Hoosier Hills Board Members

Mike Pittman  
*President*

Katie Collier  
*1st Vice-President*

Kaye Hunger  
*Secretary*

Kimberly Jolly  
*Treasurer*

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Michael Ochs  
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Kimberly Jolly  
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Kaye Hunger  
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William Ford  
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Bob Steiner  
North Vernon, IN

Katie Collier  
Vevay, IN

Jon Bond  
Vevay, IN

Sue Meisberger  
Versailles, IN

Ken Knouf  
Madison, IN

## Staff & Contact Information

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Central Muscatatuck Watershed Educator**

Terry Stephenson, [terry.stephenson@hhhills.org](mailto:terry.stephenson@hhhills.org)

**Historic Hoosier Hills Projects Director**

Chelsea Tooley, [chelsea.tooley@hhhills.org](mailto:chelsea.tooley@hhhills.org)

**Indian Creek Watershed Educator**

Steve Franklin, [steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net)

**Central Muscatatuck Watershed Conservation Technician**

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

### **LOCATION:**

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

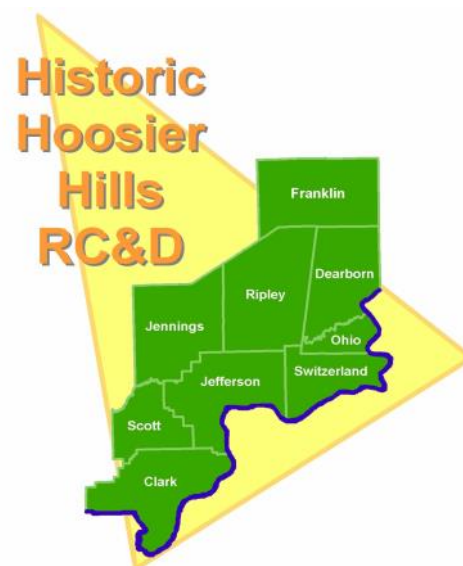
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**WEB:** [www.hhhills.org](http://www.hhhills.org)




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802 WEST MAIN STREET  
VEVAY, IN 47043

**"THANK YOU"**  
**HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS**  
*For all the support and good work you do for Switzerland County*





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