

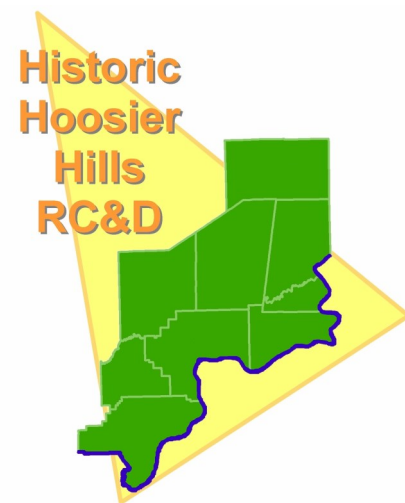
1981 South Industrial Park Road, Ste. 1
PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042

Phone: (812) 689-4107

Fax: (812) 689-6849

Email: hkhills@seidata.com

www.hkhills.org



2016 Annual Report

Helping You to Help Your Hometown
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 &
Staff**

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Katie Collier

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Vacant

SECRETARY
Kaye Hunger

TREASURER
Kim Jolly

MEMBERS
Ken Knouf
Bill Ford
Bob Steiner
Ted Fowler
April Hautman

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Terry Stephenson

Dear Friends of HHH,

Many people often ask, what does **Historic Hoosier Hills** do? Are they involved with historical, local, state, and federal government projects, etc.? Well the answer to all of those questions is yes and we are working on many more projects. Some of our projects are featured in this annual report.

We are currently involved with Lifetime Resources and the Indiana Department of Transportation in implementing the very successful Catch-a-Ride program for Southeast Indiana. There is also a major effort directed to science, technology, engineering, arts, and math known as S.T.E.A.M. We are participating with a number of organizations to further their goals.

We are constantly seeking groups or organizations that may need our services to help with developing a sustainable program to Help you Help their Hometown. Please feel free to share this report or request more information from our offices in Versailles, Indiana. We also have a website than can provide additional information. Thanks for taking the time to review this material and we look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Pittman
President

2016 Historic Hoosier Hills Board Members

Ted Fowler Aurora, IN	Mike Pittman Madison, IN	Kimberly Jolly Versailles, IN	Kaye Hunger Versailles, IN	April Hautman Rising Sun, IN
William Ford Madison, IN	Bob Steiner North Vernon, IN	Katie Collier Vevay, IN	Ken Knouf Madison, IN	

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EST. 1912 **100 YEARS ORIGINAL** **Rely on Friendship**

Vevay Shell
802 WEST MAIN STREET
VEVAY, IN 47043

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

HUNT BROTHERS PIZZA **Genuine BROASTER CHICKEN**

2016 Staff & Contact Information

HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS RC&D:
Casie Auxier, casie.auxier@hhhills.org
Historic Hoosier Hills Program Director
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Educator
Indian-Kentuck Watershed Educator

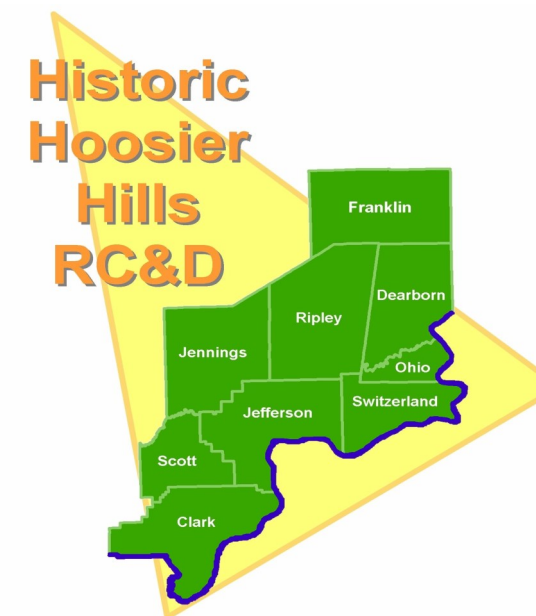
Terry Stephenson, terry.stephenson@hhhills.org
Historic Hoosier Hills Projects Director

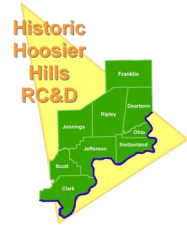
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 407
Versailles, IN 47042





Historic Hoosier Hills Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc.

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Ph: (812) 689-4107 - Fax: (812) 689-6849 - Email: hhhills@seidata.com

March 1, 2017

Dear Historic Hoosier Hill Committee Members and Supporters,

As we prepare to gather to celebrate another successful year for Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, we ask that you as committee members and supporters remember HHH in your charitable giving plans for 2017. While preparing for another year of hard work with the committee or organization that you serve, it's important to stop and reflect on the ways that Historic Hoosier Hills has helped your group prosper. Please consider setting aside part of your budget to support the work of Historic Hoosier Hills with a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Historic Hoosier Hills provides a number of greatly needed services to its committee's and members, including payroll services, grant writing and the use of the 513C umbrella. In 2016, we provided assistance to numerous committees with over 200 members and volunteers.

Our work has a powerful impact not only on the people that we work with directly, but also on the larger community as a whole. We are completely reliant on grant funding and charitable donations in order to be able to continue to provide these services. That is why we ask you to remember Historic Hoosier Hills with a charitable gift in support of our important work during 2017. Any amount you can share will be greatly appreciated and put to good use right here in Southeastern Indiana.

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

Regards,

Katie Collier
Vice President
Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Board of Directors & Staff

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Mike Pittman
Jefferson County

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Katie Collier
Switzerland County

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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Bill Ford
Bob Steiner
Ted Fowler
April Hautman

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Casie Auxier

PROJECTS DIRECTOR
Terry Stephenson



Great Partnerships

by: Terry Stephenson, Projects Director

What makes project committees of Historic Hoosier Hills successful? Ask that question and you'll get a variety of answers; many would likely say "it's all about funding". While funding is certainly important, it means nothing without the leadership, dedication, and commitment from the individuals making up the project committee.

Here at Historic Hoosier Hills we've had experience with literally hundreds of different projects over our 49 years of existence and it's those groups with drive and persistence that end up crossing the finish line with a successful project.

How about your community group project, is it struggling to get traction or maybe has stalled and not moving forward; or do you have an idea for a new project. Maybe Historic Hoosier Hills can help. We provide services to many organizations which give them the support they need to move forward.

Some of those services include:

- Organizational assistance to project groups
- Serving as a fiscal sponsor
- Organizing events
- Identifying potential funding sources
- Grant application and administration assistance

We provide service to residents of Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland Counties and are ready to hear from you. Simply contact us at 812-689-4107 for more information or visit us at www.hhhills.org.

HHH is about "**H**elping you to **H**elp your **H**ometown"

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 Wednesday of each month. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the office at: 812-689-4107 or hhhills@seidata.com.

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

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

McDonalds



Southeast, Indiana

🍔 Batesville * Greendale 🍔 Lawrenceburg 🍔 Versailles

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Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D & their Volunteers

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community development

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

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

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

Little Grand Theatre Company

by: Laura Ratcliff

The 2015-16 season marked Little Grand Theatre Company's fifth year of presenting live theatre to Madison, Jefferson County and the surrounding areas. In celebration, we updated our logo, thanks to our very talented board member, Rick Lostutter.



Our fifth season was one of change. We began the season with a reprise of A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS in December of 2015. It was so popular in 2014 that we moved it to the larger stage of the Main House of the Ohio Theatre. This allowed room for a larger audience and the use of the digital projection images to enhance the backgrounds and atmosphere for the show. Once again it was a very successful and fun show attracting audiences of all ages to enjoy this classic holiday show sharing the true meaning of Christmas.



We did not have a Spring production as our venue options changed. We did, however, regroup and present our sixth annual Summer Theatre Workshop at Madison Consolidated High School Opal E. Sherman Auditorium in June of 2016. It was exciting to have a new location for this workshop. Our production of THE JUNGLE BOOK KIDS hosted a cast of 20 students ranging in ages between 9 and 16. We had several high school alumni of the summer workshop help with directing, music and choreography allowing them to continue to learn and to pass on the knowledge they have to the next generation of theatre kids.



2016 finance summary:

Project Committee Balances as of December 31, 2016

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros.....	\$8,557.56
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 2.....	587.03
Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Phase 3.....	(19,129.28)
Chicks on the Farm.....	8.20
Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Trail Club.....	1,191.60
Friends of Muscatatuck.....	2,556.86
George Rogers Clark Land Trust.....	45,628.16
Hereford Lake Preservation Society.....	40,067.53
Hogan Creek Watershed.....	467.79
Indian-Kentuck Watershed Phase 2.....	(6,893.67)
Indian-Kentuck Watershed.....	540.87
John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	2,196.75
Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership.....	1,696.89
Laughery Valley Fish & Wildlife Association.....	100.32
Leadership Institute.....	675.14
Little Grand Theatre.....	720.00
Madison Archery.....	970.00
Oak Heritage Conservancy.....	1,849.04
Phoenix House.....	53.56
RC&D Council.....	17,142.44
RC&D Council (Reserve Fund).....	11,940.00
Red Wolf Sanctuary.....	3,820.34
South East Indiana Media Arts Council.....	656.26
Southeast Indiana Historic Film.....	1,770.38
STEM+ Alliance.....	4,721.50
Tanners Creek Watershed.....	758.02
Versailles Historical Society.....	9,370.71
W.A.V.E.S. for Kids.....	7.08
Ways to Grow.....	16,421.14
Whitewater Watershed.....	83.97
Woodland Committee.....	381.57
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEES BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016.....	\$148,917.76

Project Committee Reserve Funds Balances as of 12/31/16

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail.....	3,630.00
RC&D Council.....	23,263.97
Woodland Committee.....	7,357.32
State Park Nature Center.....	167.22
TOTAL PROJECT COMMITTEE RESERVE FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016.....	\$34,418.51

grant monies received in 2016

Central Muscatatuck Watershed - Phase 3

IDEM - 319 Grant\$147,225.60

Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club

Interim Healthcare—Columbus Foundation.....\$1,000.00
 Ohio County Community Foundation.....\$5,000.00
 United Community Bank.....\$250.00
 PFS Community Foundation.....\$1,000.00

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County (Endowment Returns).....\$6,300.00
 Dearborn County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....\$188.17
 Jennings County Community Foundation (Endowment Return).....\$183.94

Indian Creek Watershed Project - Phase 2

IDEM - 319 Grant.....\$88,159.00

Indian-Kentuck Watershed

IDEM - 319 Grant.....\$12,148.91
 Ripley County Community Foundation.....\$300.00
 Wal-Mart.....\$250.00

Laughery Valley Food & Growers Association

Interact for Health.....\$5,000.00

Ohio County Soil & Water Conservation District

Ohio County Community Foundation.....\$1,000.00

STEM+ Alliance

Duke Energy.....\$3,050.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MONIES RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2016.....\$271,055.62

donations received in 2016

Hereford Lake Preservation - Various Funders.....\$44,711.49

Historic Hoosier Hills - Various Funders.....\$694.59

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

Madison Archery - One Funder.....\$1,000.00

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros - Various Funders.....\$14,466.44

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project - Various Funders.....\$390.00

Regional No-Till Committee - Various Funders.....\$175.00

Woodland Committee - Various Funders.....\$100.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF December 31, 2016.....\$61,787.52

We began our 6th season reaching out to a new audience at a new location with a new type of show for LGTC. In September 2016, we presented VINTAGE HITCHCOCK: A LIVE RADIO PLAY at Hanover College in Fitzgibbon Recital Hall. The show consisted of three short stories by Hitchcock adapted to be performed as if being told on a radio show. The cast consisted of 9 actors who performed over 50 different characters between the three stories. In addition to the acting cast, we had two more cast members who took on the challenging job of creating all of the sound effects on the stage. It was exciting to challenge our actors with something different. It was also exciting to explore performing in a new space and working with Hanover College.



As VINTAGE HITCHCOCK wrapped we immediately moved on to the next production, a collaboration with MCHS Madison Theatre, MEET ME IN ST LOUIS. This large scale musical production allowed adults and younger students in the community to participate with the Madison high school theatre students. This partnership between Madison Theatre and LGTC gives the students an opportunity to learn from the adults and for the adults to learn from the students. The lead actress was an alum of the MCHS theatre program. She was able to relate with the current students and share her history and knowledge from her days at MCHS. The other wonderful aspect was the opportunity for several parents to be in a show with their kids. It gives the parents that participated a first-hand look at what the students go thru in preparing for each performance. MEET ME IN ST LOUIS was another successful show and partnership.

As we look forward to the second half of our sixth season, we are again taking on a new challenge. At the end of February we have auditions for our largest production yet (that is not in partnership with MCHS). We will be presenting THE WIZARD OF OZ in May. We are working out the final details with the venue, it will be a first for them and our first time performing there. We are looking to have a cast that ranges in age from 9 thru adult and with the opportunity for a very large cast, we are hopeful to include many new people in this adventure! We will round out our season with our 7th annual Summer Theatre Workshop in June.



education

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

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

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

Friends of Muscatatuck River Society

by: Tom Moore, www.fomrs.org

In 2016 the Friends of Muscatatuck River Society held two very successful River Sweeps. The first Sweep was held on April 23, 2016. One hundred seventeen of Jennings County's finest residents, many of them youth, coalesced into a force of benefit to beautify Jennings' Muscatatuck River banks by liberating the riparian areas of 6,127 pounds of litter and 32 tires.



Then again on October 1, 2016, the group traveled to the oldest park in Indiana, the Vernon Commons, for the 13th Annual Shady Sweep of the meandering Muscatatuck River, involved stirring a thin soup of fog that clouded the passage, akin to the several chili soups that had been prepared by loving hands meant for the faithful volunteers that would be occupying stations throughout the county, cleaning the banks of the friendly Muscatatuck. Most participants gathered at the now familiar park around 8 a.m. to register, collect gear, plan strategy, and remember George Yeager and Nancy Eastman, for whom the sweep was dedicated. In all 83 individuals volunteered their Saturday morning to help make the Muscatatuck River a better place for you and me!

Since 1999 the Friends of Muscatatuck River Society members and volunteers have collected 236,287 pounds of trash and 2,231 tires by 3,111 volunteers spending 12,382 hours volunteering their time.



STEM+ Alliance

by: Ted Fowler

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

importantly students and parents will be able to explore possible careers and understand what students need to do in school to prepare for future training or college study. The Alliance will be a partnership of existing organizations: Ivy Tech, nature centers, government agencies, and a variety of community organizations.

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

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



forestry

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

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

- ◆ Woodland Committee

Woodland Committee

by: Allie Cline

The Historic Hoosier Hills Woodlands Committee is a volunteer non-profit organization made up of landowners, professional foresters, and others interested in woodland conservation in southeastern Indiana. The goal of the committee is to provide leadership for enhancement of economic opportunities with HHH's counties through conservation, improvement, and wise use and development of the area's woodland resources. We service Clark, Scott, Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley, Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn, and Franklin Counties.

This year Abe Bear was nominated as the new chairperson for the Woodland Committee. Abe has done an excellent job getting guest speakers and interesting topics for the Woodland Committee meetings. This year meetings were held September 2016 through April 2017. No meetings were held December of 2015 or January of 2016.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was AJ Ariens, Archeologist for the Division of Forestry. She talked about Indiana's forests from before statehood to the present. In October, we had a tour of Selmire State Forest. Property Manager Rob McGriff talked about harvesting and the good timber management that is being done on state forests. Our November guest speaker was Dan Shaver from The Nature Conservancy. He talked about the importance of Oak in Indiana forests and what TNC is doing to promote oak regeneration on their properties around the state. At our February meeting, we will hear from Jim Mckenna about the American chestnut tree. March 8th, 2017 is our annual timber industry meeting. This meeting is for loggers, timber buyers, and anyone from or interested in the timber industry. In April, we will visit Clifty Falls State Park for a presentation on spring wildflowers.



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

Indian-Kentuck Watershed

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

What an exciting first year for the Indian-Kentuck Watershed Project. The project officially started on January 11, 2016, the first public meeting was held on March 3 to announce the project and cost-share that was available to landowners. By July 1 all of the \$225,000 of cost-share funds had been allocated to landowners in Jefferson, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties and projects started to be installed.

The best management practices that have been installed or will be installed include hayland and pasture seeding, fencing, heavy use area protection, access roads, watering systems, cover crops, and roof runoff structures.

Also, held throughout the year were steering committee meetings, a road side clean up in Ripley County on Benham Road, public meeting, a display for cover crops, and a visual survey of the watershed in general. More workshops and events will be held throughout the coming year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Indian-Kentuck Watershed please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or Casie Auxier at 812-689-4107. Be sure to LIKE the Indian-Kentuck Watershed on Facebook.



Rivertown Quilters Guild

<http://rivertownquilters.com>

Throughout 2016, guild members continued to enjoy the comradery of fellow quilters and used their skills to support causes in the community. From October 2015 to 2016, members logged 1381 volunteer hours. These volunteer hours were focused on our commitments to the Quilt of Valor project and comfort quilts for children in the local Yes Home. To facilitate more involvement in our outreach programs, we moved our meetings and workdays to the Tanner Valley United Methodist Church. The Church has



supported our guild by supplying storage areas for our fabric reserves and accommodating our need for meeting and work-day space. Pastor Michael has also served as a spiritual inspiration to the guild and we have contributed some of our resources to supporting the Church. Working in a larger space has allowed us to extend an invitation to non-members to join us on our charity work-days which have been renamed to Soup n Sew Days. Attendance at the charity work-days has continued to grow and we have increased the production of available charity quilts.

In September 2016, the guild participated in the Southeastern Indiana Expo in Rising Sun by operating an expanded booth area to promote membership and to inform the public about the Quilts of Valor project. Working in association

with the local quilt shop organizers, we were able to present six Quilts of Valor at the event. Many visitors took the opportunity to sign blocks and donate to support additional quilts for this great cause. Since our initial involvement with the project, Rivertown Quilters Guild has delivered twenty-five quilts to the state QOV organization and we have presented forty-seven Quilts of Valor locally. The Quilters Garden shop in Lawrenceburg has been extremely generous in donating bolts of fabric for the guild work on Quilts of Valor.

The guild made organizational progress by obtaining Articles of Incorporation which allowed Rivertown Quilters to open an independent bank account with a local institution. New officers were installed in October and will serve two year terms. Members continue to enjoy personal interaction and communications through our closed Facebook page while we maintain a separate website for the public. Members also enjoyed educational and inspirational programs at monthly meetings, including the sharing of projects through the ever popular Show N Tell segment. Opportunities for social interaction and skill sharing also occurred at the annual guild retreat and monthly sew days.

At a recent meeting, the guild coordinated with the local quilt shop to award nine quilts to veterans. Family members were invited for the presentation and refreshments were provided by the guild. One of the recipients was Paul "P.G." Gentrup from Rising Sun, IN. Paul has worked with the guild on many previous presentations as our official presenter. Paul is a Vietnam Veteran who still serves our country today by working with the Indiana Department of Veterans. Paul arranges Honor Flights and activities for Veterans. As our official presenter of Quilts of Valor, Paul



has gone to hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, private homes, and parks to award our quilts to deserving Veterans. The guild was honored to present a Quilt of Valor to Paul for his past and continuing service to our country.

Please check our website at rivertownquilters.com to find out more about us. We are always open to new members and we welcome sewers at all skill levels. We have big plans 2017!

Red Wolf Sanctuary

by: Paul Strasser, www.redwolf.org

As we come to the end of baby season we will not dwell on the fox kits, baby skunks, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, hawks, owls, weasels, coyotes, bobcat and a small army of deer fawns. Admittedly I have the SUCKER gene and babies are awfully cute, and maybe sleep is overrated, but think what would have happened if I had wanted them. I was however thrilled to have the opportunity to successfully raise and release two baby mink kits. Dubbed "Winky" & "Dinky" they are members of the weasel family that includes the wolverines, skunks, badgers and weasels. These meso-carnivores presented quite a challenge, as they were thumb size, naked, and very weak. But after many sleepless nights and a lot of warmth and TLC we were able save and eventually release them into one of our riparian (wetland) ponds. All of the remaining babies have now grown up and are free. Throughout the year we take in injured raptors, in the spring it is chicks, in the summer it is injured, and in the fall and winter it is often the young of that year that are starving.



Last winter we were presented with a tremendous challenge when an **ADULT BALD EAGLE** was brought to us after being caught in a leg-hold trap. Exhausted from its terrifying ordeal and caked in pounds of mud from struggling from its painful shackles I was not initially able to tell if it had a white tail. After several warm showers the magnificence of our national symbol began to emerge. Named **EMMY**, in honor of my Granddaughter, she was a very thin and very stressed raptor. When attempts to get her to eat on her own failed, daily force feedings with vitamin packed foods, were literally shoved down her throat. Ill tempered by nature and equipped with very sharp and powerful talons and beak, each session ended with her well fed and me seeking Band-Aids. The ordeal left me battered and bleeding but the experience will last them a lifetime. (A visit to our **RED WOLF SANCTUARY'S FACE BOOK** page will show you some magnificent photos and videos of **EMMY**). With all of the care and support by our dedicated crew **EMMY** was returned to the wild and was last seen soaring over the neighboring fields.

Far too many animals are brought to us after a failed attempt to raise wild animals as "PETS". Fox kits of various color phases sold as a great house pets, are evicted and abandoned with the realization of their needs and the stench of their scent glands. Because they can climb as well as dig, housing foxes presents us with the challenge of providing them with adequate space to run and burrow. At a cost of over \$10,000 we were able to complete our third fox enclosure this year but must once again start another as our population has nearly doubled with a flood of rejected or abandoned non-releasable foxes this year. Other canines, this time **COYOTE** pups, made their way here after four of them were dug out of a den and distributed to individuals to raise as pets. Today after receiving lots of care and proper diet they are ready to be transferred to our larger out-door enclosures.

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



watersheds

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

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

Sponsored by Historic Hoosier Hills

- ◆ Central Muscatatuck Watershed
- ◆ Indian-Kentuck Watershed

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

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

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project educates the public about the watershed and shares information through workshops, online resources, and the installation of best management practices.



Central Muscatatuck Watershed

What an exciting year the Central Muscatatuck Watershed (CMW) has had in 2016! We have helped to partner with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts on many programs. Workshops and events we have aided with included a Cover Crop Workshop, Water Quality Workshop, a Regional No-Till Breakfast, Roadside Clean-ups, and Septic System Seminars.

The watershed also was able to allocate the full \$250,000 for the installation of best management practices. Many landowners have been hard at work installing various projects including, fence, heavy use area protection, cover crops, alternative watering systems, and planting of pasture and hayland.

The current grant will wrap up in September 2017 and we are excited to announce that Historic Hoosier Hills applied for a 3rd round of cost-share funds and more educational events. We have learned that the grant has been submitted to EPA for approval and we are just waiting to hear that we were successfully awarded the grant. Stay tuned for more information!

If you are interested in learning more about the Central Muscatatuck Watershed visit our website at www.hhhwatershed.org, call Casie Auxier at 812-689-4107, or visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District.



Conductors of Southeastern Indiana Model Train Club

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

The 2016 Fourth Annual Christmas Train Show was a success again this year. The show opened November 26. We had many new additions to our displays this year. The first addition was the creation by Mike and Barbara Estep for the Polar Express display. They collaborated on constructing a new North Pole which consisted of 40 hand-made elves, a toy conveyor, a hand-pumping cart, street light, and a Santa, sleigh, and reindeer that went around the top of a large Christmas tree. The second addition was the G-scale Christmas train display, which consisted of a lighted Christmas train and many buildings and other accessories. The third addition was the N-scale that was created by John Hollis. He had two N-scale trains along with a side switch, Christmas lights, oil tanks, and a sound that was bigger than any other train in the displays. The fourth addition was the display created by Bernie Wallick and Mike Estep which was a large barn, silos and two large fields and a continuing process of developing the replica of a local farm-Fox Farms, located on the outskirts of Rising Sun. And the fifth addition was created by Charles White. There was a carnival which consisted of two carousels, a round-up, a big wheel ferris wheel, the swings and a bumper car ride, along with games and concession stands.



Santa Claus was also present on many different occasions for all the children and for picture taking. We gave out candy canes and goody bags to the children too. Everyone enjoyed the new additions and many said they couldn't wait till the fifth annual show because it is very enjoyable and it gets them into the Christmas spirit and many families are beginning to make annual show a family tradition.

We were also able to do some larger marketing this year through a grant that we received from the Ohio County Tourism organization. We worked with Eagle Radio for advertising and for a contest that had a choice of a trip with a choice of many different destinations. We also worked with NASH radio in Cincinnati to present our show to a larger listening market.

We are very appreciative of the community support along with grants and donations from the Ohio County Community Foundation, Interim Home Healthcare, Devilles Pharmacy, The Friendship State Bank, UCB Bank, Modern Printing, The Sign Shop, Sign-a-roma, and being a Project Committee with the Historic Hoosier Hills organization.

We are busy preparing for the 2017 show and are excited in having another very successful holiday season.



rural opportunities

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

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

- ◆ George Rogers Clark Land Trust
- ◆ Madison Growers Association CSA
- ◆ Regional No-Till Committee

George Rogers Clark Land Trust

by: Tami Krueger, tami.krueger@in.nacdnet.net

The idea of forming a land trust emerged from a "Locally Led Conservation Process" held by the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in 1997. Shortly thereafter a SWCD Land Use Committee was formed, whose main goals were educational in nature. From that process the Clark's Valley Land Trust emerged and was formed as a separate entity from the SWCD.

From that process the Clark's Valley Land Trust emerged and was formed as a separate entity from the SWCD. Over time the land trust has changed its name to the George Rogers Clark Land Trust (GRCLT) and continued its work on a regional basis. Currently the GRCLT holds conservation easements on approximately 395 acres in Clark and Harrison counties. Additional easements are in various stages of planning and development.

2016 was a busy year for the George Rogers Clark Land Trust. The GRCLT planned and implemented some joint projects with the Oak Heritage Conservancy (OHC). A Farmland Preservation Workshop was held in March of 2016 in Harrison County and additional workshops are in the planning stages for 2017. Also with OHC, the GRCLT received a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission which allowed the partners to host a photo contest entitled, "Capturing the Beauty of Working Farms". Once photos were entered, the photos traveled to various SWCD Annual Meetings and other regional events, to solicit community input in choosing a grand-prize winner and to assess people's interest in preserving farmland and other sensitive lands.

During 2016, the GRCLT welcomed Michael Loudon, of Harrison County to join the Board of Directors. Other directors include: Jennifer Knable Thompson of Perry County, Pat Larr of Scott County, Jim Heitkemper and Jim Klintstiver of Harrison County, and Tami Krueger of Clark County. In addition to adding another director to the Board, the GRCLT hired a consultant to help them make some important decisions for the future of the land trust. The mission and vision statement were revised, a business plan and annual work plan were developed, and an annual budget was adopted.

We anticipate 2017 being another great year for GRCLT. We look forward to reporting our continued success in 2018.

Regional No-Till Committee

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

The mission of the Regional No-Till Committee is to bring awareness and education to the public on sediment and nutrient reduction through best management practices on the ground. The committee completes this mission by partnering on many events through the year and also holding two events of their own. In 2016 the Regional No-Till Committee held the 23rd Annual No-Till Breakfast, held on March 10, 2016. This annual event is a partnership effort between the Ripley County SWCD, Purdue Extension, and the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D No-till Committee. This event consisted of a presentation and round table discussion with Larry Huffmeyer and a panel of experts. In



2016 the event was held at the Hopewell Baptist Church and over 150 individuals were in attendance. Following this event the committee held a Cover Crop Field Day to showcase the benefits of cover crops in a row cropping system. This field day was held on March 17th and had 35 in attendance.

tourism

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

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

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

5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros

by: Ron Harsin, rharsin@seidata.com

This past September 2016, the newly formed 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros hosted their first vintage hydroplane two day event in Madison, Indiana. 35 vintage hydroplanes hit the water several times over the weekend to provide non-stop action for the spectators on shore.

The oldest vintage hydroplane of the weekend was the Barracuda owned by Tim Settle, it was originally built in 1948. The newest hydroplane was possibly the Miss Jean owned by the event coordinator, Dave Johnson.



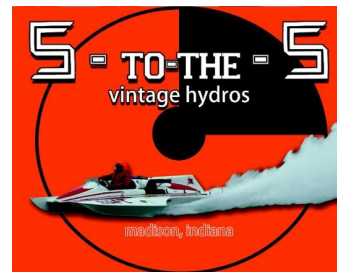
Additionally, the fastest man on water, Ken Warby, holder of the on water worlds speed record of 317.58 miles per hour was on-hand and he brought two boats for the weekend event, one driven by Ken and the other was driven his wife Barbara.

Dave Johnson and Rob Holt along with a group of volunteers hosted the event as a memorial to former race drivers Billy Cousins and Jon Peddie, whom both passed away just a few months earlier. Both families were represented at the event and were given memorial plaques to commemorate the life achievements of each of the individual drivers.

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

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

This coming September 23 – 24, 2017, the 5 to the 5 Vintage Hydros plans to repeat the 2016 event for a second time in Madison, by placing even more hydroplanes on the Ohio River than last year. This coming event will also be a "Free To The Public" event that the entire family can attend.



Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership

by: Norma Lou Irwin, President

The JPGHP was formed shortly after the closure of Jefferson Proving Ground in 1995 by a small dedicated group of former employees and folks who had pre-military family connections with the land. The mission of the project has always been twofold: to ensure that the public is aware of (1) the installation's history and value of JPG to the nation and (2) to the sacrifices made by Hoosier families when they were hurriedly forced to sell their farms in 1941 and leave their lives behind. Entire communities vanished, and it is this story that must be preserved. Over the past 20 plus years, the committee sponsored seminars, published and sold a number of new books and reprints, developed a DVD on JPG's history, initiated a web page, and funded and designed a permanent exhibit on JPG at the Jefferson County Historical Society in Madison and an interactive display at the Indiana State Historical Society in Indianapolis. In 2015 the partnership hosted the 20th reunion of JPG employees and former residents at Old Timbers Lodge.



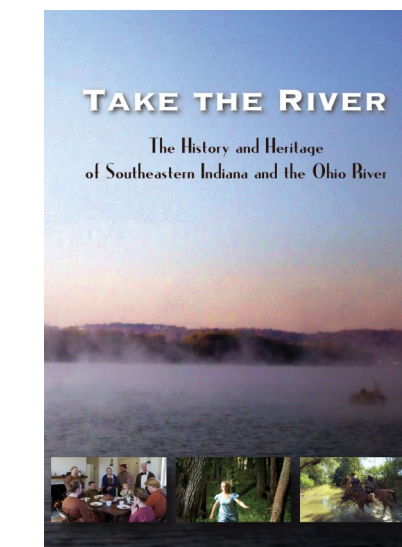
At this point, the JPGHP is considered a graduated committee very proud of accomplishing most of what it intended to achieve, but the glue that keeps the group meeting is its ties to the former Jefferson Proving Ground. In various ways, the installation changed all of us, and a bond has formed that motivates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

Southeast Indiana Historic Film Project

by: Richard Ullrich

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

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



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

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

If you haven't seen *Take the River* yet, you can purchase a DVD online at: hhills.org, or get a link to stream the program online on vimeo.com through the hhills.org connection.