

# Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

# Newsletter

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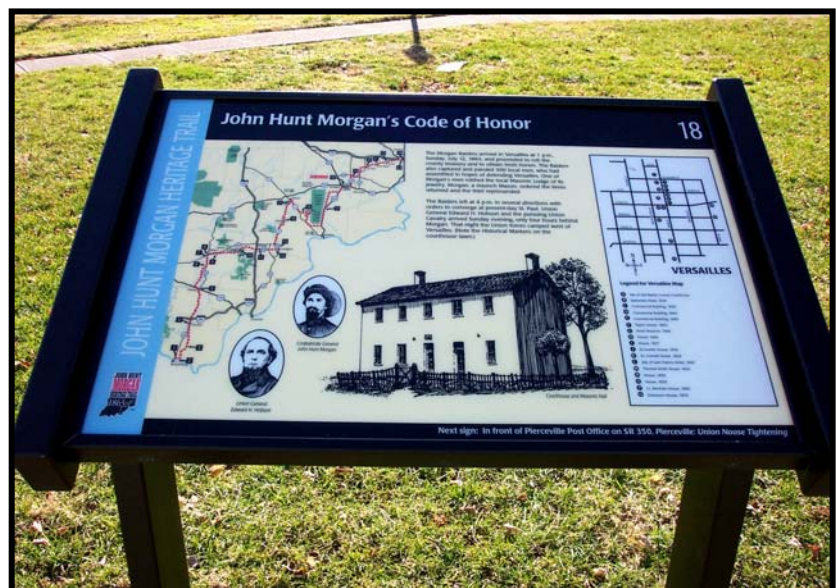
January 2003

Issue 1

## **John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project Milestone**

The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project marked a milestone in their progress in December when installation of the wayside exhibits, or informational signs, which are placed in twenty-seven strategic locations along the 185-mile route through southeastern Indiana, was completed. In addition, the audio tapes and CDs were delivered in early January. This makes all five of the products the committee designed completed and in place. The project was created to “identify, interpret, and promote the route of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his 2000 raiders through Indiana in July of 1863”. It is a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills.

The project now offers visitors a free navigational guide that will help them drive the tour route; a free educational brochure designed for use in fourth grade history classes in southern Indiana; a 56-page detailed Guidebook which explains many events that took place during the Confederate Raid in northern territory; 27 four-color wayside exhibits along the route which explain events that took place at each location and tie back to the navigational brochure and Guidebook; almost 100 directional signs to help keep visitors on the route; and a professional developed audio tape or CD which provides first-person accounts of events during the raid, complete with sound effects and background music. The Guidebooks sell for \$10 each plus Indiana sales tax; the audio tapes sell for \$10 plus tax and the CDs sell for \$20 plus tax. The CD is a two-disc set with part of the narration on the second CD – the balance of the second CD is the background music used throughout the narration. Products are available through the Historic Hoosier Hills office.



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In late February, the County Tourism Bureaus of the seven counties involved are planning a route dedication in Harrison County, the gateway to the raid route from Kentucky where Morgan and his men entered. In April, a re-enactment is being planned with activities taking place in several locations over two days. The re-enactment will include “General Morgan” and several of his cavalymen on horseback.

The project is led by Richard Skidmore from Hanover with committee of Civil War historians, published authors, and representatives from each of the seven counties involved. The group has a lot of hard work and many hours in the project, and can take great pride in its accomplishment. Funding which paid for the products was provided by a Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA) Grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation. Local funding was provided by the Harrison County Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County, and the Dearborn County Community Foundation. Other funders included the County Commissioners in Jennings, Scott and Washington Counties, and the Ripley County Visitors Bureau. We are deeply indebted to these funders for their support that made the project possible.

### **Oak Heritage Conservancy Publication Available**

The Oak Heritage Conservancy, a land trust formed under Historic Hoosier Hills to serve ten counties in southeastern Indiana, has recently published an attractive brochure explaining its goals and offering individuals the opportunity to support the conservancy by membership or donation. Oak Heritage Conservancy formed one year ago with a Mission to “preserve, protect, and conserve land and water resources that have special natural, agricultural, scenic or cultural significance. OHC will strive to educate the public about the critical importance of honoring land, water, and local culture.” The organization has officers and a Board of Directors of dedicated conservationists from southeastern Indiana. Current President is John Miller from Dearborn County.

Free copies of the brochure are available from the Historic Hoosier Hills office or by contacting the OHC at P O Box 335, Hanover, IN 47243. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the USDA Service Center in Versailles (Historic Hoosier Hills office location). Visitors and guests are welcome.

### **Woodland Committee Hosts Program on Economics**

Focus of the January meeting of the Woodland Committee of Historic Hoosier Hills was the positive economic benefits of long-term woodland management. Professional Foresters John Siefert, Purdue Extension Forester, and Dan Meisberger, Consulting Forester, sited records and examples from woodlands they have worked with for many years, and kept detailed records of management expenses and income. Results of the records show that long term sound management provided net income per acre that rivaled or exceeded that of cash grain crops with some average annual returns ranging as high as 10 – 18%. Foresters and landowners have seen the results of sound management for years, but there has been very little hard data to back up their observations. The records of these woodland tracts demonstrate with numbers that sound long-term management on the right soils will pay financial dividends to the owners in addition to the other benefits of watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and forest recreation. It involves investing in timber stand improvement and other practices but results in long term gains in higher quality of species and of timber production per acre.

If you are interested in more information on forest management, contact John Siefert at (812) 458-6978 or Rob McGriff, District Forester, or Darrell Breedlove, District Forester, at (812) 346-2286.

## **Ripley County Farmers Market Sets Plans for 2003**

After a very successful start in 2002, the vendors for the Ripley County Farmers Market met in Osgood in early January, selected their market master for 2003, selected a board of directors, and reviewed and adopted market rules.

**Darla Westerfeld**, Director with the Ripley County Parks Department, served as market master for 2002 and was re-appointed unanimously by those present to serve this year. The market is held at the Ripley County Fairgrounds on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The group elected five vendors to serve as a board to guide the market. They set their opening date for Saturday, April 5 and changed market hours slightly from last year.



The market will be open from 8:00 A.M. to Noon on Saturdays and from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays. The market provides an excellent opportunity for area residents to buy locally grown, fresh produce. All vendors have to grow what they sell – nothing is brought to the market unless it is produced by the seller.

For further information on the market, contact Darla Westerfeld at (812) 689-6535.

## **Rural Heritage Workshop Offered**

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, in partnership with the Clarks Valley Land Trust and the Seymour Heritage Foundation, present “Protecting the Family Farm”, a workshop on the advantages and benefits of saving farms from urban sprawl. It will also provide information on some of the financial incentives involved with saving historic farm buildings. The workshop is set for Friday, February 21, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church in Seymour.

The group has secured very knowledgeable presenters including Randall Arendt, nationally known land-use planner, author, lecturer, and conservation planning advocate. Special lunch speaker U. S. Representative Baron Hill will talk about the Farmland Protection Program, a provision of The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Registration is \$30 per person or \$20 for members of Historic Landmarks. Registration includes a one-year membership in all three sponsoring organizations. Deadline is Friday, February 14. For further information, call Historic Landmarks Foundation Southern Regional Office at (812) 284-4534 or e-mail [south@historiclandmarks.org](mailto:south@historiclandmarks.org).

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Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every other month that the Council does not meet. All meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend will certainly be welcome.

## **Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D**

### ***Mission Statement:***

“Serve as a catalyst to empower local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the area, and to properly develop, utilize, and conserve our natural and human resources.”

### ***Vision Statement:***

“Workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.”

### ***Officers & Staff***

Council President – Lilian Carmer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Vacant  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – William Corning  
Secretary – Barbara Corning  
Interim Treasurer – William Corning  
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant  
RC&D Program Assistant – Phyllis May  
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak