

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

Phone 812-689-6410 ext. 5 www.hhhills.org Fax 812-689-3398



Volume 30

February 2002

Issue 2

New Ag Leadership Class Begins

On Friday, January 18, thirty-one students arrived at Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park, for the first Leadership 20/20 class in southeastern Indiana. Leadership 20/20 is a basic agricultural leadership training program developed by Purdue Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with Indiana Farm Bureau, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD's), and the Indiana League of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils and offered on a multi-county basis statewide. This class is the first in southeastern Indiana, covering Dearborn, Ohio, Switzerland, Ripley and Jefferson Counties.

The participants spent Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning learning about their own individual leadership abilities and styles, and how to develop those skills. This first session was an overnight retreat. The class will meet three more times, for one-day sessions in February, March and April in different host counties. During these sessions, they learn about using leadership skills to deal with conflict and how to help groups work together better.

They learn how to apply their leadership skills to groups, then to the community. The goal of the course is to help individuals and couples involved in agriculture be more comfortable getting involved and serving as effective leaders in the community and in local organizations.



Peggy Titus with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service leads the class through a session on Myers-Briggs Personality Type where participants learn about their individual personality and personal leadership skills.

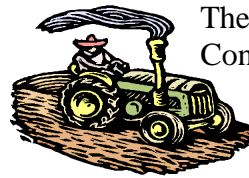
Participants in this class are: from Dearborn County: Amy Schmeid, Carolyn Stuart, Jan Uhlmansiek, Kathy Brandt, and Brian Johnson; from Ohio County: Allan and Traci Lozier, Jason and Claudia Riddell, and Iva Hornsby; from Switzerland County: Angie Satterfield, Kirk Works, Vickie Althoff, and Dan and Kristi Harms; from Jefferson County: David Ferguson, Michael and Sandy Shelton, Gary Lewis, Gary and Janet Short, and William and Phyllis Miller; from Ripley County: Jeff Meinders, Irvin Harmeyer, Dwight Jolly, Larry Huffmeyer, Christopher Linville, Chris Merkel, and David and Susan Meyer.



Participants are divided into groups by personality type and asked to answer questions – all groups answer the same questions, and the answers differ based on how their personalities process the questions. These sessions were informative and usually pretty entertaining!

Historic Hoosier Hills Board Approves New Project Committees

At the January Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved two requests for groups to come under the Historic Hoosier Hills non-profit umbrella. These were the Oak Heritage Conservancy, organized to develop a land trust in ten southeastern Indiana counties; and the Madison Youth Cultural Center, organized to develop youth activities and a center in the Madison area.



The Oak Heritage Conservancy is a land trust group forming to serve eight of our nine Historic Hoosier Hills counties plus Washington and Harrison Counties. The group has met twice and already has a Board of Directors and an advisory board. They want to offer a vehicle for landowners that wish to donate their land or donate conservation easements to protect unique areas or agricultural land from conversion to non-ag uses. They will begin the process of developing their criteria for accepting land, and the legal framework to function as a land trust.

The Madison Youth Cultural Center is a group which has been meeting regularly since last fall and has a Board of Directors, Bylaws, and active subcommittees already in place. Their goal is to open and operate a by-youth, for-youth cultural center in Downtown Madison. Their Mission is to: promote a positive, drug-free, and respectful



environment for youth to showcase who they are and what they are passionate about through creative expression, all the while becoming closer as a community”. The group is in process of seeking their own 501(c)3 status and want to operate under Historic Hoosier Hills until they get their own status approved.



The Board also approved co-sponsorship of a Farmers Market Workshop to be held Wednesday, March 20, 2002 at the Venture Out Business Center in Madison. The focus of the workshop is to help communities start and operate successful farmers markets. The workshop is sponsored by the Southern Indiana Rural Development Project (SIRDP) in partnership with the Southeastern Indiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC), the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and Historic Hoosier Hills.

Plan set for Alternative Agricultural Enterprise Conference

Tuesday, February 26 is the date for a conference for farm families wanting to learn more about alternative crops and supplemental enterprises for their operation. “Are Alternative Agricultural Enterprises for You?” is the theme of the day-long conference set for the Holiday Inn at Columbus, Indiana – the Holiday Inn is located on the northeast corner of the Interstate 65 and State Road 46 interchange. Registration starts at 9:00

A.M. with the program starting at 9:30. Julia Wickard with the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture will open the session with a talk on Indiana’s support of small farms and alternative ag enterprises. Dr. Tim Woods, Ag Economist from the University of Kentucky, will follow with a presentation on considerations in choosing an alternative enterprise. A panel will follow Dr. Woods, and will cover some of the major considerations for developing a successful enterprise, including business planning and entrepreneurial training, marketing, sources for technical assistance, liability considerations, etc.

During lunch, Jim Casper and Dave Swaim with the “Ways to Grow” Program will tell of the development and success of that program.

The afternoon is divided into four breakout sessions, with a panel of successful producers in each breakout telling of their enterprise development



and answering questions. Some topics to be covered include: herbs, growing ornamentals, organic and community supported agriculture, farm visit enterprises, livestock enterprises, honey, and forests and forest products.

Registration is \$35 for one or \$50 for a couple – registration deadline is February 19. Registration information is available from the Historic Hoosier Hills office. Hoosier Heartland RC&D, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D sponsor the conference.

The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720 5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4th Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3rd 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
1st Vice-President – (vacant)
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Treasurer – Raymond West
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak