

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Alternative Agriculture Workshop Held At Columbus

About 25 farm families were introduced to a wide range of specialty crops at a conference held at the Holiday Inn at Columbus, Indiana on February 26. Co-sponsored by Hoosier Heartland RC&D, the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, the workshop was designed to help families evaluate whether specialty crops would work for their situation, either to replace tobacco or as a supplemental enterprise to diversify their income base.

The morning plenary session opened with Julia Wickard from the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture speaking on their support of small farms and alternative enterprises – Julia reviewed some of the funding programs offered by the Commissioners Office. Dr. Tim Woods, University of Kentucky Ag Economist, spoke on the major factors farm families have to consider in evaluating whether specialty crops would work into their operation. A panel followed to discuss issues such as Business Plan Development, complying with Planning and Zoning requirements, and Marketing considerations.

During lunch, Jim Casper, former Field Coordinator for the “Ways to Grow” Program, told the group of the development and success of the program. It is currently unfunded and not being offered, although efforts are under way to find alternative funding sources.

The afternoon was divided into four breakout groups covering a variety of specialty crops and enterprises. Participants were given opportunity to sit in on two of the four offerings and ask questions of the presenters.



Jack Schmeckebier from Decatur County talked on the culture and growing of herbs. Sharing the breakout was Jerry Brelage from B&B Farms in Ripley County who produces and markets local honey.

The conference provided a great opportunity for experienced producers and those looking at new startups to share information and ideas with each other.

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Accepted into Civil War Discovery Trail

Richard Skidmore, chair of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project, has been notified by the Civil War Preservation Trust, that the Indiana trail project has been accepted into the national program. The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail will be included in the Trust's latest edition of the Civil War Discovery Trail guidebook, due out in the Fall of 2002.

The letter states, in part, "Civil War Discovery Trail sites are especially selected for their historic significance and educational opportunities. The Civil War Preservation Trust created the Civil War Discovery Trail in partnership with state tourism and historic preservation agencies, and communities across the nation that were touched by the war. The Trust developed the trail to promote education and to encourage historic preservation and heritage tourism." This is a significant step for the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project. The group is currently working to finish up a detailed guidebook of the Indiana raid, and an audiotape with first person accounts of events during that July 1863 raid. The last and largest step is completing 27 four-color roadside exhibits that will mark significant events on the raid route from Mauckport in Harrison County, Indiana, to West Harrison, Indiana in Dearborn County.

Historic Hoosier Hills offers its congratulations to the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project in its most recent success!

Woodland Committee Hosts Tree Plantation Workshop



Purdue Extension Forester John Siefert led a class on tree planting and plantation management at the Purdue Farm at Butlerville on February 20 and 23. The evening session on the 20th was indoors, and covered tree species for planting, planting purposes, and planting methods. A follow-up field session was held on Saturday afternoon to look at some of the tree planting work done at the Purdue Farm. The workshop was planned by the Woodland Committee of HHH and co-sponsored with the Purdue School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and the Division of Forestry, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Woodland Committee's Fifth Annual Timber Industry Meeting Held

The Fifth Annual dinner meeting for loggers and sawmill operators in southeastern Indiana was held on Wednesday, March 3 at the Southeast Purdue Ag Center at Butlerville. About 50 attended the dinner and program which is designed to get area timber industry people and professional foresters together to share information and ideas to help the industry. Greg Koontz, Forester/Timber Buyer for Foley Hardwoods, presented a most informative program on Ecoterrorism. He has extensive experience with disruptive activities carried out against forests and the forest industry by those who wish to stop all timber harvesting in Indiana. He also addressed some concerns on



the future of timber harvesting and sale in Indiana as it is negatively impacted by foreign production. Woodland Committee Vice Chair Joe Schuerman moderated the program.

Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership has Intern Help

Emily Bagienski, a senior majoring in history at Madison Consolidated High School, is serving as an intern with the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership. Some of Emily's duties will be to help with collection of oral histories from former residents of the proving ground are, and from former employees. Emily's efforts will help the committee in collecting the many histories by interviewing those who lived or worked on the proving ground. These histories will become part of an



extensive database of information and artifacts the committee plans to use to ultimately establish a visitor center and museum on the proving ground property. The group's goal is to capture and tell the story of the

Jefferson Proving Ground area, from the time before it was established (1940) to its closing in 1995 and its present use as a National Wildlife Refuge, with private development on the south end where the buildings are situated. Great sacrifices were made for the war effort in southeastern Indiana and the committee wants to make sure that story is told to future generations so they will understand and not forget.

We welcome Emily's assistance and express our appreciation to her teacher, Beth Cox Johnson, for making the internship possible.

Second Leadership 20/20 Session Held

The Senior Citizens Center at Vevay was the host site for the February session of Leadership 20/20 class with about 30 of the class members participating. This session focused on effective communications with others.



Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Joe Pearson addressed the group on current issues in agriculture, including the tobacco program and its impact on southern Indiana. The afternoon topics were on "Communicating through the Media" and "Public Speaking".

The third session will be held in Rising Sun in March. Leadership 20/20 is a basic "Introduction to Ag Leadership" sponsored locally by the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, the SWCD's of Dearborn, Ohio, Switzerland, Jefferson and Ripley Counties, and Historic Hoosier Hills.

A HAPPY EASTER TO ALL

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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
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