

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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The *Annual Meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors* will be held Monday, April 23, dinner at 6:00 P.M. at the Reservation Restaurant in Milan (Ripley County). Program will be on the proposed High Speed Rail Service planned for Indiana and the Midwest region – speaker is Dennis Hodges, Vice President of the Indiana High Speed Rail Association based at Merrillville. Buffet dinner cost is \$6.00 per person – reservations need to be called in to the Historic Hoosier Hills office at (812) 689-6410 ext 5 by Wednesday, April 18.

Woodland Committee Honors Outstanding Woodland Owners

Over thirty private woodland owners and professional foresters were present to honor *Mr. & Mrs. Clyde May* of Jennings County as the *Outstanding Woodland Owners for 2000*. They were recognized at the Woodland Committee's Awards Banquet April 4 at the Reservation Restaurant in Milan. Woodland owners who are doing an exemplary job of managing their woodlands for timber, wildlife and recreational uses are nominated for the award by area foresters. The Woodland Committee makes the final selection each year from the nominees and presents the winner with a beautiful carved owl trophy from the Weberding Carving Shop at Batesville.

Guest speaker for the evening program was Dr. Charles Michler, Director of the new Purdue Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center (HTIRC). The Center was created in 1998 to capture some of the genetic advances made in field crops and apply them to trees. Current nursery stock for forestry comes from mixed and unknown genetic backgrounds. Results of HTIRC research will produce seedlings of consistently high quality with desirable genetic characteristics such as disease resistance.

During a brief business meeting, the group agreed to submit a proposal to the Forest Stewardship Challenge Grant Program to fund a cost-share program for forest improvement work in southeastern Indiana. The group voted to ask each of the nine cooperating SWCD's in the Historic Hoosier Hills area to contribute \$500 toward the cash match required by the grant, and the committee would add \$2000 of their money. If the grant is funded and all SWCD's contribute, the proposal would fund over \$50,000 in timber improvement work in the nine Historic Hoosier Hills counties later this year and in to 2002.

The Woodland Committee's next meeting will be Sunday, May 6, for a Sunday afternoon tour through several area woodlots to look at examples of outstanding management practices. The field day will begin at SEPAC – the Purdue Farm at Butlerville. More details are available in the May Activities Calendar.

Cliff Hill Cemetery Project Completed

On Thursday, March 15, Surveyor Jeff French met with members of the “*Friends of Cliff Hill Cemetery*”, a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills, to provide them with finished copies of the maps and plot information on Cliff Hill Cemetery in Versailles. Project committee members Jerry Gilpin, representing the Cemetery Board; Sue Meisberger, representing the Town of Versailles; and Bill Corning, representing Historic Hoosier Hills; were joined by Carl Taul, also a Cemetery Board member, to receive the finished products. The project was funded by a grant from the Tyson Fund of Versailles.

The project came about because written information on the cemetery, and especially records of early burials, were scarce, piecemeal, and in various locations. The two people who knew the most about cemetery history were both deceased, and it was becoming imperative to develop some written records for present and future use. The “Friends” group was formed through Historic Hoosier Hills and funded by a grant from the Tyson Fund Board. The committee contracted with Jeff French for the work. In five months, he had the maps and records completed after exhaustive field work and record searches. Copies of the maps, detailed plats of each section, and records of burials and plot ownership are in the County Surveyor's Office, in the County Records Office, with the Cemetery Association Board, and with Historic Hoosier Hills. The fifth set is available for public access at the Ripley County Historical Society.

New Project Committees Approved

The *Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors* approved three new project committees to operate under non-profit, tax exempt umbrella at the March Board meeting. This brings to 46 the number of citizen groups the Board is sponsoring and supporting. Requests approved included:

- The Versailles Historical Society*
- Farmers Market Workshop for Community Leaders*
- Riverboat Restoration Project*

The Versailles Historical Society is a new organization and is seeking help in securing funds for projects they wish to complete in Versailles. They also will participate in a facilitated planning process to help develop their organizational structure and project plans.

The Farmers Market Workshop is partially a result of the “Ways to Grow” Program which has resulted in the development of new farmers markets or the expansion of existing markets in almost all our nine counties. The Workshop is planned and presented by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service at New Albany on April 30. It is designed to help local governmental officials, tourism, economic development, chambers of commerce, and others understand the full range of benefits of a local farmers market. The program hopes to encourage stronger support and involvement of local leaders in the growth and promotion of farmers markets. Historic Hoosier Hills will help with publicity and promotion.

The Riverboat Restoration Project came from a couple who had recently bought the oldest operating sternwheeler riverboat still in operation. They want help setting up a non-profit corporation of their own,

and want support from Historic Hoosier Hills is securing funds under our umbrella until they are developed enough to form their own independent non-profit organization. They want to refurbish and restore the riverboat so they can display the historic boat to the public.

The Board of Directors accepts requests from citizen groups for project support based on set criteria. The goals and objectives of the groups must coincide with those of Historic Hoosier Hills and the assistance they request from Historic Hoosier Hills must not duplicate what another organization or business can provide. The assistance from Historic Hoosier Hills is unique and is not intended to be competitive with private enterprise or with programs of other organizations. The support from Historic Hoosier Hills is focused on support for the project committee members – a “people” program. The grant seeking support that Historic Hoosier Hills provides is secondary, and is only to support the plans of the approved project committees directly affiliated with Historic Hoosier Hills.

Funds for the Future...the Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment

*By Louise Markel, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County*

George was reviewing his will with his attorney because he wanted to be sure his favorite charities were included in it. His attorney noticed George had some old Series EE savings bonds. George said he hadn't cashed them because that would trigger a lot of taxes on the interest, and besides, he has enough income from other sources.

His attorney told George that these bonds were perhaps the best asset to leave to the charity. This is because the interest would be subject to estate and income taxes, which could reduce the amount a beneficiary would receive by more than 50%. But since 501(c)3 public charities are tax-exempt, no tax would be due.

The easiest way to make a charitable bequest of savings bonds, and have the interest income excluded from the estate's tax return, is to have the will specifically identify the public charity that has the right to receive the bonds.

Sample wording for this might be “all of my savings bonds shall become the property of the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Endowment in the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County, Inc.” (It's important to have the charity's exact name, or the distribution of the estate could become complicated.)

If this story seems to fit your circumstances, contact your attorney and review your will with him or her. Perhaps it will be possible for you to leave a lasting legacy to your community by supporting the good work of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, or the charity of your choice.

Have a question about endowments or the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Endowment Fund in the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County, Inc? Gary Conant at Historic Hoosier Hills or Louise Markel at the Community Foundation (812-265-3327) would be pleased to talk with you. All discussions and donations will be kept confidential if the donor's requests.

(The information provided in this example is for illustrative purposes only. Please contact your attorney or accountant for professional advice.)

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

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.

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