

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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A Tribute To Raymond West....



Raymond West passed away on Friday, April 5 after a brief illness. Raymond came to Historic Hoosier Hills in 1986 as a new Director on the Board representing the Ripley County Commissioners. He assumed the Treasurer's position in 1986 and served in that capacity to the present. He grew with Historic Hoosier Hills and with the Treasurer's position – when he came, he had three accounts to manage and handled a few thousand dollars per year. By 2001, he was managing twenty-six accounts for our various committees, handling over \$400,000. Raymond was the best kind of volunteer any organization might have – he worked hard to fulfill his responsibilities. He made sure we were able to meet expenses no matter how little money was in the treasury. He kept us within budget and managed the Historic Hoosier Hills finances very wisely. He would come into the office almost every

Friday afternoon with his friendly smile and talk a few minutes. His first question to Phyllis would be “did my check register agree with Quickbooks this week?” Then he would spend 2 – 4 hours working on the books for the week. If he didn't get done, he would take the books home for the weekend and finish them there.

He left us so quickly, but his friendly smile remains with us. He was a treasurer, financial advisor, budget keeper, and money manager, but mostly Raymond was a friend. He was a friend to Historic Hoosier Hills and to those of us who had the pleasure of working with him and knowing him. He enjoyed life and was very willing to serve – he served his family, his church, his community and his country. He has left a huge void, but we are better because of him.

The Executive Committee/Office Staff

Annual Meeting 2002

About 80 members, committee members, friends and guests attended the 33rd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors on Monday, March 25 at the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles. Highlights of the evening included presentation of four awards, an encouraging presentation on the RC&D Program by NRCS State Conservationist **Jane Hardisty**, and informative displays by nine of our project committees.

Each year the Board of Directors honors an Outstanding Project affiliated with Historic Hoosier Hills, and an Outstanding Individual for their service to Historic Hoosier Hills or to their committee. The Outstanding Project Award for 2001 was presented to the Southeastern Indiana Forage and Livestock Association for their program to make livestock watering equipment available to producers statewide to Management Intensive Grazing.



*Historic Hoosier Hills president **Lilian Carmer** presented the award to **John Harrell**, President of the Association Board of Directors.*

The program allows producers to select from five different types of watering equipment and try it out on their farm for one season free of charge to see if it will solve the problem of water access to pasture paddocks. The program was funded initially by a Value Added Grant from the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. While the

grant was for one year, the Association Board will continue to make the equipment available statewide for years to come.

Outstanding Individual Award was given to **Joe Schuerman, Jr**, consultant forester in southeastern Indiana, for his inspirational leadership and service to the Woodland Committee. Joe was unable to attend and was presented the award at the Woodland Committee's Woodland Owner Awards Banquet.

Two Tenacity Awards were also presented – the Tenacity Awards are given to individuals who exhibit a commitment to their project and persist over a long time to achieve their goals, usually in spite of adversity or obstacles that would cause many of us to give up.



***Lilian Carmer** presents a Tenacity Award to **Paul Strasser** for his vision and accomplishments over 22 years to develop Red Wolf Sanctuary into a public education facility as well as a wild animal rehabilitation center.*

The other award was given to **Ruth Rowland** who has led the committee to develop an inn at Versailles State Park since 1986. Ruth was unable to attend the meeting.

In other business, new directors were appointed for the 2002 – 2003 term on the Board. New officers were elected for the same two year term:

Lilian Carmer, President; **Kelli Misamore**, First Vice President; **Bill Corning**, Second Vice President; **Barbara Corning**, Secretary; and **Raymond West**, Treasurer. The Board also presented its Annual Report for 2001 to the public. Copies are available on request from the Historic Hoosier Hills office.



*Guest speaker for the evening was **Jane Hardisty**, State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana.*

Jane brought the group up to date on progress of the 2002 Farm Bill and its potential positive impact on the RC&D Program. Jane commended the Board for its leadership role in southeastern Indiana.

Nine project or resource committees affiliated with Historic Hoosier Hills set up displays to show their accomplishments for the past year.

Those included the Conservation Education Committee; the Forage and Livestock Association; the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership; Madison Pearl Park Project; the Jennings County Growers Cooperative; Red Wolf Sanctuary; Friends of Muscatatuck River Steering Committee; the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project; and the WAVES (Water Alliance for Vital Eco-Systems).



***Richard Skidmore** with the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail discusses the Forage and Livestock display with **John Harrell**, Association President.*

Forage and Livestock Association Holds Annual Meeting and Program

Dr. Ron Lemanager, Purdue Animal Science Specialist, spoke to the Southeast Indiana Forage and Livestock Association at their annual meeting on Thursday, March 11 at the South Ripley Elementary School. He explained the Five State Beef Initiative to members and guests, showing how the program is designed to improve production and income for producers, and improve quality to the consumer. He stressed that producers need to be part of a program to certify to the consumer that their beef is tender and safe. Producers have to identify quality defects in their animals and then implement the necessary changes to correct those defects if they are to be competitive for the consumer market.

Officers for 2002 were introduced – **John Harrell** of Jefferson County was re-elected President; **Sherman Hughes** of Dearborn County was re-elected Vice President; and **Jim Casper**, Dearborn County, was re-elected Secretary. The Historic Hoosier Hills Treasurer serves as treasurer for the Association. New directors elected for 2002 – 2004 were: **John Harrell**, **Sherman Hughes**, and **Charles Rohlving** (Ripley County).

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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 – Kelly Misamore
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Interim Treasurer – William Corning
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak