

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Historic Hoosier Hills Annual Meeting Well Attended

About 75 members, friends and guests attended the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors March 24 at the Southeast Career Center in Versailles. **Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Joe Pearson** was guest speaker, talking on the future direction of agriculture in Indiana, including the biotechnology revolution. He also commended the Board and project committees for their accomplishments in serving southeastern Indiana, singling out examples from some of the 15 project committees that had set up displays for the evening.

The Board's Outstanding Project Award for 2002 was presented to representatives of the Laughery Valley Fish and Game Club for their Aquatic Learning Center and Shooting Facility they have developed for public education purposes on the group's property on the Elrod – Friendship Road in Ripley County. Outstanding Individual Award was presented to Bud Beesley of Jennings County for his hard work setting up and supporting Farmers Markets in Southeastern Indiana, and his efforts supporting alternative agricultural enterprises for producers.

Tenacity Awards were presented to the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership, the Conservation Education Committee, and To Bill Corning, Treasurer of Historic Hoosier Hills, for his many years of service.



The Board also unveiled a new award that is in honor of our past treasurer of 16 years – the Raymond F. West Outstanding Service Award, for exemplary dedication to Historic Hoosier Hills. Raymond passed away a short time after the 2002 Annual Meeting. Previous awards are project-oriented, but this award will be given to deserving individuals who have provided service to the Historic Hoosier Hills organization. A commemorative plaque was presented to Mrs. Raymond (Ella) West.

The meeting was chaired by Lilian Carmer, President, who introduced two new officers on the Executive Committee – Galen Eberhart, who had accepted the First Vice President position, and Bob Hughes who had agreed to serve as Second Vice President. Bill Corning had resigned from the Second Vice President position to accept Treasurer full time. Lilian

also recognized two new Directors recently appointed to the Board – Kay Hunger, representing the Ripley County Commissioners, and Joe Robbins, representing the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Annual Report for 2002 was also made available to the members and the public.

During a brief business meeting, the Board approved a contract with General Butler State Park for the 2004 Leadership 20/20 Retreat, and approved a request from the Steering Committee of the “Ways to Grow and Beyond...” Program to come under the Historic Hoosier Hills organizational umbrella.

Woodland Award Banquet at Scottsburg

The Woodland Committee held their annual Outstanding Woodland Owner Awards dinner program at the Scottsburg Best Western on April 2. Twenty-five members and guests enjoyed a very informative program by *Clark County Conservation Officer Mac Spainhour* who told the group of evidence that might illegal drug activity taking place in their woods. Mac also answered a lot of questions on trespass and liability issues.



The Outstanding Woodland Owner for 2002 was presented to Bob and Loraine Bowen of Clark County for their years of expert stewardship of their woodlands and for their dedication to promoting sound forest management through Historic Hoosier Hills activities. The Bowens were nominated by District Forester Don Stump who made the award presentation of the carved owl trophy from Weberding's Carving Shop. Also recognized were county winners Ralph and Barbara Cooley of Jennings County, nominated by District Forester Rob McGriff, and Clarence Burch of Jefferson County, nominated by Don Stump.

The Woodland Committee will meet again on July 16 at 9:00 A.M. in the Historic Hoosier Hills office to develop their Plan of Work for 2003 – 2004. Committee members are encouraged to put that date on their calendars.

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project Honored by Indiana Tourism

The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project was one of nine tourism-related organizations and historic events to receive Milestone Awards from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Office of Tourism and Film Development on March 25 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis. Project Chair Richard Skidmore received the award from Lt Governor Joe Kernan at the annual Hoosier Hospitality Conference. Milestone Awards are given to mark organizations or events that are 75 years old or older.

– the Morgan Trail Project was formally dedicated earlier this year, which is the 140th anniversary of the Confederate Raid on Indiana during the Civil War.



Attending from Southeastern Indiana were Richard Skidmore, Ripley County Tourism Director Katherine Taul, Jennings County Tourism Director Susan Walters (in period costume), Confederate General John Hunt Morgan (Morgan Raque – re-enactor), and Gary Conant, Historic Hoosier Hills Coordinator.

Re-enactments are planned later this month in Corydon, Salem, Lexington and Versailles on Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19 to commemorate completion of the “identification, interpretation, and promotion” of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail through Indiana. Details will be in local newspapers.

Leadership 20/20 Classes Hold Reunion

Members of the 1996 and 2003 graduating classes of the southeastern Indiana Leadership 20/20 Program met in Versailles on Tuesday evening, March 11 for dinner, a program, to renew acquaintances, and share accomplishments. The Leadership 20/20 Program is a basic ag leadership course offered statewide by a partnership of Purdue Cooperative Extension, county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD’s), county Farm Bureaus, and RC&D’s like Historic Hoosier Hills. Moderator for the evening was John Keeton, retired Extension Educator from Switzerland County. Guest speaker was *Indiana’s Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, Joe Pearson*, who applauded the efforts of the group and told them that “if you don’t step up to the plate in your local community, no one will do it for you”. Joe pointed out that he has not seen any other area of Indiana has the level of cooperation and partnership between individuals, groups and organizations that southeastern Indiana has. He cautioned the group on some pending state legislation that can have significant negative impact on ag producers and encouraged the leaders to stay involved.



A new Leadership 20/20 Class will be offered in January through April of 2004 in southeastern Indiana – more information will be available this fall at county Extension and SWCD offices.

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 – Galen Eberhart

2nd Vice-President – Bob Hughes

Treasurer – William Corning

Secretary – Barbara Corning

RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant

RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May

Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak