

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Quarry Tour is Highlight of April Teacher Workshop

Teachers from southeastern Indiana converged on the Jennings County Public Library on Wednesday, April 16 for the Spring Teacher Workshop hosted by the Conservation Education Committee. The morning program focused on geology and hands-on activities the teachers could use with their students. Presenters were Amy Carpenter, committee member and District Coordinator for the Jefferson County SWCD; and Jeff Kirby with the Indiana Geologic Survey.

In the afternoon, the group was provided a tour of the Hanson Aggregates quarry operation at North Vernon. After some preliminary security and safety briefings, Frank Armstrong, foreman at the Scott County quarry (top right), and John "Red" Davis, Superintendent of the North Vernon operation (left of Armstrong), led the tour through the extensive quarry pit. The group was given several opportunities to get out of the vans to look for fossils, "fools gold" and other unique geologic specimens.



The Conservation Education Committee expresses our appreciation to Hanson Aggregates management for allowing us the opportunity to view the operation and the unique geologic formations.

IDEM Approves Water Quality Grants

Historic Hoosier Hills received notice recently that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has approved two grant applications for 319 water quality projects for this year. One proposal will fund a staff person and cost-share program for two years in Clark, Jefferson and Scott Counties to focus efforts on erosion control and water quality issues related to grazing

lands management. The project is a partnership of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Conservation Partnership staffs in the three counties. The other proposal will fund a staff person for two years to carry out a public education program promoting the clean up and protection of the Muscatatuck River in Jennings County. The “Friends of the Muscatatuck River Society”, a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills, is carrying out that proposal. Historic Hoosier Hills is providing administrative and fiscal assistance on both grants.

Muscatatuck River Clean Up Project Successful

Even though it rained all night before the clean up effort, eighteen loyal committee members and friends showed up to pick up over 8,000 pounds of trash and 31 tires from the Muscatatuck River in Jennings County on Saturday, April 26. Despite the raging waters of the river, crews collected trash by canoe, on foot, and from vehicles, including an old freezer that had been dumped along the river.

The clean up project is an on-going effort of the “Friends of the Muscatatuck River Society” to remove years of junk and debris from the riverbanks and to raise public awareness of the need to keep the river clean and protected from pollution. The group has very strong support from the community and local government in their efforts. With help from local law enforcement officials, future clean ups will include sifting through trash for identification – if something is found, the evidence will be turned over for prosecution under state and local dumping laws.



The clean up initiative ended by noon with lunch provided the wet and hungry crew by the local Subway.

A Note of Thanks!!!

This will be my final effort as newsletter editor – I will be retiring from Historic Hoosier Hills and from the Natural Resources Conservation Service on May 30. The decision was not easy, and the timing was more difficult. But I am looking forward to a “different career”. I have been with Historic Hoosier Hills as Coordinator for 18 years and with USDA for over 35 years, and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. My first trainer in LaGrange County back in 1968 told me that every position I had with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (then the Soil Conservation Service) would be better than the one before it. He didn’t steer me wrong.

I truly appreciate the help, support and encouragement everyone has given me as Coordinator – I have made some great friends through the years. Historic Hoosier Hills has grown tremendously as an organization and in the level of services you provide to southeastern Indiana, because of the strong leadership of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the leadership

within the many resource and project committees. The Board is a very professional organization that I appreciate and have great confidence in. We have many partners who have confidence in Historic Hoosier Hills and support us in many ways. Because of these strengths Historic Hoosier Hills will continue to grow and to provide services to this region that no one else is providing.

I will be helping my wife more with her business which has also grown over the last 12 years. And I have a small bass boat that I hope will see the water more than it has in the past! I will continue to work with the “Ways to Grow and Beyond” Program and hope to help the Steering Committee get that program up and running again. I hope our paths will continue to cross – I have appreciated the opportunity to get to know and work with each of you. You are doing great things for southeastern Indiana! Thank you to each of you!

Gary Conant

Thirty Five years of dedication.....

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council invites you to be our guest at a Retirement Open House honoring Gary on Sunday, May 18, 2003 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. (slow time) at the South Ripley Elementary School Cafeteria in Versailles. In lieu of gifts, Gary requests that donations be made to the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Endowment Fund, c/o Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, P.O. Box 407, Versailles, IN 47042.

South Ripley Elementary School is located south of Versailles – from Highway 421 take State Road 129 at the Police Post and go to Benham Road – turn right and go about ¼ mile – the school is on your right. Enter the first drive and parking is to the right of the drive. Enter the school at the front entrance and the cafeteria is just inside the entrance.

***Thanks Gary from the RC&D Council and office staff at Historic Hoosier Hills...
We will miss your leadership and friendship!!!!***

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

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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.

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

**Note: See Special Invitation
On Inside**