

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Spring Teacher Workshop Focuses on Caves, Cave Critters

Almost 40 teachers from southeastern and south-central Indiana attended the spring Teacher Workshop at Muscatatuck County Park on Tuesday, May 1, sponsored by the Conservation Education Committee. The theme was “What’s Hiding in There?”, and started with Don Ingle from the Indiana Karst Conservancy talking about Karst (sinkhole) landscape, caves, and cave formation.



IDNR Project WILD Coordinator Warren Gartner gave a most informative presentation on bats and bat folklore.

DNR Wildlife Specialist Scott Johnson concluded the morning session with a slide program on the Bobcat in Indiana and their current research programs to find and study bobcats.

After lunch, Margaret Kahrs of North Vernon made an introductory presentation on fossils of

the area. Brett Caldwell, Jennings County Historian, gave a short presentation on the history of tunnel mill. The group then carpoled to Crosley Fish and Wildlife Area where they walked to Tunnel Mill for hands-on experience in caving, fossil collecting and identification, and history.



Margaret Kahrs helps teachers identify some of the fossils they found in Tunnel Mill Cave.

The Conservation Education Committee’s fall teacher workshop is already scheduled for Wednesday, October 3 and will be held at Old Timbers Lodge at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (formerly the Jefferson Proving Ground). The day-long program will be a mix of history and the unique natural resources of the states newest wildlife refuge.

Historic Hoosier Hills Classified Forest Landowner Reunion Held

By Rob McGriff, District Forester



Approximately 25 people gathered at the Southeast Purdue Ag Center (SEPAC) on Sunday, May 6 to enjoy a hike and participate in a program designed for Classified Forest Owners.

The afternoon program started with a wildflower and tree identification hike lead by District Forester Darrell Breedlove. The hike covered about one mile and participants identified numerous wildflower species as well as trees and shrubs associated with a hardwood forest.

After the hike, everyone returned to the SEPAC buildings for a pitch-in supper. The Woodland Committee provided hamburgers and drinks, and a group of wonderful cooks provided side dishes and desserts.

Glenn Durham, Procurement Manager for Frank Miller Lumber Company, gave a brief presentation on the weakening economy's effect on the lumber market. Glenn gave the attendees a glimpse of what species are still selling well and how lumber is sold on a world market.



The evening ended with a slide presentation of Indiana's forests at the turn of the last century by John Siefert, Purdue Extension Forester. John's slides showed a collection of logging equipment and scenes of what Indiana looked like in the 1800's and early 1900's. Many folks were able to reminisce about days gone by.

JPG Heritage Partnership Learns of Underground Railroad Ties to the Proving Ground Communities



Diane Coon (right), local historian and authority on the Underground Railroad in southeastern Indiana, led a tour for about 25 Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership Committee members and guests on Saturday, May 5, through the north end of the former proving ground.

As the tour wound its way past the site of former communities, Coon identified families and houses that were key parts of the movement of slaves from the Ohio River to safer havens to the north. Much of the movement of slaves was up through what is now the center of the former proving ground – Old Michigan Road to the east was too heavily traveled to be safe, and the route of State Road 7 was a center of slavery sympathizers who caught runaway slaves and sent them back south. The tour and information Diane presented added an interesting dimension to the Partnership which is already committed to capturing and telling the story of the former munitions testing facility.

The Mission of the JPG Heritage Partnership is to “gather, record, and preserve the human

experiences associated with the development of the Jefferson Proving Ground, and to communicate the full story of this military post so present and future generations will understand and appreciate the contributions and sacrifices made.” Their focus has been to collect oral histories from families who were displaced by the proving ground in 1940, and from former civilian and military employees of the proving ground. They are aware of the section of the route of the Civil War Raid of General John Hunt Morgan that passes through the north end of the proving ground, now Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. This section of the route has been viewed by historians and is believed to be the only section of the route through four states that still looks like it did when Morgan made his historic raid. The addition of information on the Underground Railroad adds another significant and interesting segment to the history of this area.

Funds for the Future....

The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

Charitable Gift Annuities

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

This is a true story. The personal characteristics have been changed to protect the donor’s privacy.

Jim, a 76 year old widower, would like to increase the donations he makes to his charities, but, though his retirement income is adequate, he wants to do more to help his children and grandchildren, and maybe travel a little, too.

Jim has a large holding of stock that his father gave him many years ago. On paper anyway, it looks as if he is a wealthy man, but the stock

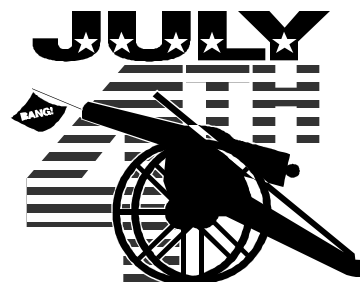
dividends have been very small. He couldn’t afford to sell it because capital gains taxes would eat up most of the sales proceeds.

His accountant suggested he set up a Charitable Gift Annuity in the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between the donor and the Community Foundation. It is governed by IRS regulations. In exchange for a gift, the Foundation promises to pay the donor a fixed income for the rest of his life. The amount is a percentage, depending on the donor’s age, of the original gift. When the donor dies, the remaining funds are endowed to a fund in the Foundation. Grants from the fund go to the charities specified by the donor at the time the contract is signed.

Jim gave \$300,000 worth of stock to the Foundation and received an annuity of 8.2% of the gift, or \$24,600 a year for the rest of his life. His charitable tax deduction was \$126,480-any excess can be carried forward for five years.

Jim is making sure he will continue to support his charities after death, and increased his annual income so he can help his children and travel, too.

If this sounds like something you might like to do, call the Community Foundation and contact your legal or financial advisors for more information.



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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.

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

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