

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Funding for Tri State Farm Marketing Conference Approved

The Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture has notified Historic Hoosier Hills that the application for a USDA Block Grant to provide seed money for a Tri State Farm Market Conference has been approved. The funding should be available later this summer. The grant proposal was fully funded at \$10,000.

Historic Hoosier Hills made application on behalf of several partners who are working together to create a two-day conference to bring specialty crop producers for Indiana, Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio together. Goals of the conference are to get producers together to share ideas and information, and to begin creating market sharing opportunities between states to extend the market season in all three states.



The conference is being planned under the Southern Indiana Rural Development Project (SIRDP) with numerous partners helping with the planning and conducting of the program. Indiana partners include the Indiana Farm Bureau, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Madison Area Small Business Development Center, USDA Rural Development, and Historic Hoosier Hills. Kentucky partners include the Kentucky Commodity Growers Cooperative (which includes some southeastern Indiana counties), and the University of Kentucky. Our Ohio Partner is the Miami Valley RC&D in southwest Ohio. In addition, Heifer Project International and the National Farmers Union have committed funding in support of the conference.

Final plans for the conference will be made this summer, with the conference taking place in January or February. The conference will be well advertised once final arrangements are complete.

The Jennings County Growers Cooperative, a project committee under Historic Hoosier Hills, also received most of its funding request through the USDA Block Grant Program. Their proposal involves establishing an education and market development program for specialty crop growers in Jennings County. The program they develop will have application in southeastern Indiana and state wide once it is completed. David Swaim,

formerly the Program Coordinator for the “Ways to Grow” Program, will serve as part-time staff for the project to help the Co-op Board achieve their goals through the initiative. The program will include educational seminars, workshops and field days; area information resources center; and individualized planning assistance for producers. The project will also assist with market infrastructure planning and development, and assessing feasibility of value-added processing for specific crops.

Ripley County to Open Farmers Market

Saturday, July 27 will be the opening day for the new Ripley County Farmers Market at the Ripley County Fairgrounds at Osgood. The market will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Saturdays and 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Wednesdays after July 27th. The market is sponsored by Ripley County Farm Bureau, the Ripley County Parks Department, Ripley County Tourism Bureau, and the County Commissioners. Historic Hoosier Hills has been assisting with planning help.



The market is modeled after the highly-successful Jennings County Farmers Market which is in its fourth year. **Bud Beesley**, first Market Master for Jennings County, met with the Ripley County group and provided some excellent guidance in getting started. **Darla Westerfeld**, Director of the Ripley County Parks Department, will serve as Market Master for this first year. The group plans to host a meeting this winter of all producers who sell at the Ripley County Market and invite them to elect their own Directors, set their own rules, and select their own Market Master after this first year. The market will then be operated and overseen by those who use it most.

Area vegetable producers re invited to participate – there is no charge to set up and sell at the market. Vendors must grow 100% of what they sell, and are responsible for complying with all local and state laws regarding the products they sell. For a copy of the market rules for vendors, or to learn more about the market, call Darla Westerfeld at (812) 689-6535.

Oak Heritage Conservancy Elects First Officers, Adopts Bylaws

The Oak Heritage Conservancy, a new Land Trust organized under Historic Hoosier Hills earlier this year, elected their first officers at the June meeting. The group has been focused on organization and structure since its first meeting late last fall. John Miller was elected President; Dr. Daniel Webster was elected Vice President; Brian Lowry was elected Secretary; and Paul Carmony as Treasurer. All officers will serve for the balance of 2002.

The group also finalized and adopted their Bylaws at the June meeting. Their first Board of Directors is set, with Directors including the officers plus Dr. Bob Mulford, Daryl Karns, Cliff Chapman, and Beth Black. Dr. Joe Robb with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is serving as technical advisor. Several other southeastern Indiana individuals are assisting with the development of the land trust as well.

The group's focus is on providing a vehicle for landowners who want to preserve and protect their land long-term from development or conversion to other non-rural uses. They will cover nine counties, including all of Historic Hoosier Hills except Franklin, and including Washington County outside the Historic Hoosier Hills area. For more information, contact Cliff Chapman at (812) 522-5707 or e-mail at chappymo@msn.com.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Conservation Field Day

August 24, 2002

10:00 A.M. (slow time)

Ripley County USDA Service Center

The *Conservation Field Day* will highlight actual conservation practices and wildlife habitat management. There will be wagon tours that will display different practices on Dr. Bob and Ellen Mulford's farm and also the SWCD Educational Plot located across from the USDA office building. A Hog Roast lunch will be provided compliments of the Laughery Valley AG Co-Op. Booths will be displayed from the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, and the Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District. (*Bring your Mercury Thermometer to exchange for a Digital one compliments of the SISWD.*)



Speakers include:

- Ed Guljas – Warm Season Grasses, Quail Habitat
- Ellen Mulford – Monarch Butterflies
- Darrell Breedove – Classified Forests
- Brian MacGowan – Wetlands
- Larry Lehman – Pond Management
- NRCS Representative – Conservation Practices

RSVP by August 16th to the Ripley County SWCD at (812) 689-6410, ext. 3.

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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