

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

Phone 812-689-6410 ext. 5 www.hhhills.org Fax 812-689-3398



Volume 30

August 2002

Issue 7

Red Wolf Sanctuary Hosts Open House

Paul and Jane Strasser, owners of Red Wolf Sanctuary in Dearborn County, hosted an open house in mid-June for Board members of Historic Hoosier Hills, the Dearborn County Community Foundation, and the Dearborn County Convention, Visitor and Tourism Commission to thank them for their support and show what has been accomplished at Red Wolf in the last two years. Through funding support provided by the Tourism Commission and Community Foundation, and administrative support provided by Historic Hoosier Hills, Paul has made great strides in developing Red Wolf as a premier sanctuary for native wildlife and as a public education center. Red Wolf provides homes for wildlife species that used to be native to the region but are no longer present in the wild – bobcat, cougar, black bear, wolves and others. Many of the animals he has were bought as young animals by people for pets, but grew up to be full grown wild animals that they couldn't manage. Paul uses the animals as teaching tools for school groups and others to show that wild animals have habitat needs and that they do not make good pets.

With grant support, Paul has secured a front-end loader with a post hole auger which has been invaluable in putting up new fence required by federal agencies from whom he

has to secure permits to keep the animals. He also has been able to hire full-time and part-time staff help with the animal care, fencing and other development projects.



Paul Strasser (right) explains the needs of the gray wolves in the cage behind him to members of the Dearborn County Community Foundation Board. Following a tour of the Sanctuary, Paul and Jane provided a cookout for the Board members.

Paul hosts over 1000 school kids each year at the Sanctuary and numerous other youth and adult groups. Red Wolf tours are by appointment only.

Heritage Trail of Madison Receives Major Funding

The Heritage Trail of Madison, one of the project committees affiliated with Historic Hoosier Hills, has been notified that they have been approved for a \$1 million Transportation Enhancement Grant by the Indiana Department of Transportation, according to **Tom Pritchard**, Heritage Trail President. The committee, which held the dedication of the first section of trail last year connecting the Madison State Hospital grounds with downtown Madison, will use this funding to complete the trail section from the Clifty Falls State Park Green Road entrance through the State Hospital property and winding down to the river front. The committee will be working over the next few weeks to raise the match money so they can proceed with trail

This group has persisted for several years to get a trail system developed which will link the hilltop and Clifty Falls State Park with the downtown Madison and riverfront development areas. The trail is designed for non-motorized uses – walking, bicycling, etc, and will be a great asset to the Madison area when completed.

Our congratulations to the Heritage Trail of Madison for their success!

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Guidebook Completed

The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail committee announces the release of the new 56-page tour guide to the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail in Indiana. The guide, which was authored by Lora Schmidt Cahill, covers the events of the July 1863 Civil War Raid in detail from Mauckport in Harrison County to West Harrison in Dearborn County, according to **Richard Skidmore**, project chair.

The book includes maps which can be used as a guide to drive the route, and numerous photos as well as detailed descriptions of events that took place along the raid route.

The book is available from the Historic Hoosier Hills office for \$10.00 each plus \$.50 sales tax, and \$3.00 shipping if they are mailed. Make checks payable to: Historic Hoosier Hills-JHM Heritage Trail and write “Guidebook” on the memo line.



Southeastern Indiana Hosts International Tour

Members of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society visited southeastern Indiana in mid-July as part of their national convention held at Indianapolis. Attendees were given choices of several tours around the state that they could take – southeastern Indiana hosted one of those tours, and the group visited Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in the afternoon to learn of the history and current use of that property. Staff from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Army, and Indiana Air National Guard, plus members of the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership helped plan and conduct the afternoon program. The group visited Old Timbers Lodge and learned of the history of Old Timbers and the Jefferson Proving Ground area prior to the military facility's existence. They also experienced the opportunity to see portions of the Refuge to find out about the important military mission of the proving ground, and the present mission of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. With portions of the 50,000 acres still heavily

contaminated with unexploded ordinance, public uses of the land are different from most national wildlife refuges.



*Refuge Specialist **Dr. Joe Robb**, center, explains the severe washout that occurred at the spillway of Old Timbers Lake with the torrential rains our region experienced this past spring.*

In the morning, the group visited Michaela Farms in Batesville to see first-hand a successful alternative ag enterprise operation.

Historic Hoosier Hills Board Visits Versailles State Park Nature Center

The July meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors was held at the Versailles State Park Nature Center to give members a chance to see the accomplishments of one of the project committees they support. **Kenny Tapp** has worked for three summers under Historic Hoosier Hills with funding support from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Ripley County Community Foundation, the Tyson Fund, the Ripley County Tourism Commission, and the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County to upgrade the nature center programs at Versailles and Clifty Falls State Parks. Kenny, son of

Versailles State Park Property Manager **Ted Tapp**, has been very creative in developing and expanding the programs offered at the two nature centers. He has been very successful at securing donations of additional equipment and funds from area corporations and businesses to provide some high-quality interactive exhibits at the parks.



***Kenny Tapp**, right, explains the Tornado Chamber exhibit he developed as part of the Severe Weather Day held at the park last summer. The display demonstrates how a tornado forms, and details the damage that occurred in Ripley County during the 1990 tornadoes. The exhibit also offers safety tips for those caught in severe weather. The display is part of a weather station demonstration still under development. Kenny is also developing an extensive display of the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its influence on park development.*

Following the tour, the Board met on the beach for a business meeting. The Board approved three new project committees for support and assistance: the Coon Den Stewardship Farm in Jennings County; a national Wood Waste Conference in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service; and the Clark County Non-point Source Pollution Education Program in partnership with the Clark County SWCD.

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.

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