

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Historic Hoosier Hills Hosts Area Non-profit Workshop



Twenty-five staff members and board members from fourteen non-profit organizations in southeastern Indiana attended a workshop on Best Practices by Dr. Jerry Musich of Quality for Indiana Taxpayers (QFIT) on Tuesday, September 25 at the Jennings County Public Library.

The workshop was designed to help non-profit organizations better understand their roles as non-profit corporations and how to be most effective and efficient with limited resources. Dr. Musich covered various topics including Being Mission Driven; Becoming Outcomes-oriented; and Communicating with your Audiences and Constituents. He also covered information on Governance – responsibilities of board members, staff, and volunteers, organizational behavior, and complying with state and federal (IRS) regulations. He discussed ways for a non-profit to diversify its revenue sources and how to cultivate donors for

long-term program success. He acquainted the group with the wide array of reference resources and technical help available to them through QFIT and other organizations and agencies.

Comments from participants were very positive – they felt they had learned a great deal from Dr. Musich’ experience and information and encourage Historic Hoosier Hills to offer the program again. The Historic Hoosier Hills Board will also look at offering a workshop on Successful Grantwriting by Dr. Musich sometime next year.

Helping with the financial sponsorship of the workshop were the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce and the Dearborn County Convention, Visitor and Tourism Bureau.

Historic Hoosier Hills Participates in Purdue Sustainable Agriculture Exhibit

“Sustaining Family Farms and Rural Communities” was the theme of the Purdue University Horticulture Department tent at the Farm Progress Show September 25 – 28, near Lafayette, Indiana. The exhibit had various displays that covered aspects of investigating, producing and marketing specialty or alternative crops, and encouraged producers to look at options. In the center of the tent were exhibits staffed by producers who were already successful in various ventures – they displayed their products and answered questions about their operations.

The Jefferson County (Indiana) Chamber of Commerce was also represented with a display on the ag entrepreneurial training program, “Tilling the

Soil of Opportunity” which they have offered the past two winters at the Venture Out Business Center in Madison. That program teaches farmers how to write business plans and carry them out to improve their chances of success in a new venture.



Bud Beesley, organizer of the highly successful North Vernon Farmers Market (right) answers questions for visitors at the booth on “Operating Local Food Systems”.

The displays touched on assistance available to producers, much like what has been offered in southeastern Indiana by Purdue Extension through the “Ways to Grow” Program. The displays were funded through Purdue by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. The new Historic Hoosier Hills display was also exhibited at the Farm Progress Show. Traffic through the tent over the three days was steady, with lots of questions by visitors. Ideal weather conditions for the three-day show helped boost attendance to an estimated 300,000 people.

Funds for the Future.....The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

Five Things to Think About

(as December 31 Draws Near)

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

The end of the year will soon be upon us and before we know it, a new year will dawn. To help you

finish up 2001 in charitable style, here are five things to think about:

1. **Charitable giving benefits you, as well as your favorite charity.** A special gift during “The Season of Giving” can bring you added pleasure, especially as you consider the boost your gift will give your charity. You will enjoy knowing that your generosity has made a difference.
2. **Appreciated assets can make dandy gifts.** Not all stocks went south this year. Many maintained or increased in value. If you have some of these and owned them for at least a year and a day, you can receive full value for the gift, including *all* appreciation. And, neither you nor your charity will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift.
3. **Tax-wise charitable gifts often require advanced action.** A stock gift usually takes more time to complete than writing a check, especially at year-end when stockbrokers are very busy. Real estate gifts take even more time. If you are considering a non-cash gift, give yourself time to make an appointment with your financial advisor to go over your plans.
4. **Charitable gifts can be accelerated.** That is, you can reach into next year and pull your charitable giving into the current year. This might be a good idea if you are looking at a higher tax bill this year or if you have extra cash on hand that you would have given next year. Again, it’s a good idea to consult with your financial advisor about this.
5. **A life-income plan may make sense for you at this time.** Certificate of Deposit rates are extremely low right now. If you have a CD maturing soon, consider investing in a Charitable Gift Annuity instead. This type of gift pays you a fixed percentage—in the case of a 72 year old, it could be as much as 7.4% (the older the annuitant, the higher the rate). And your charity will ultimately benefit from the remainder of the annuity. Have a question

about this instrument? Call your local community foundation. Someone there will be able to explain it.

Please help your favorite charities increase their ability to serve your community. It is the greatest gift of all.

(The information provided above is for illustrative purposes only. We encourage you to contact your financial advisors for professional advice.)

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and Old Timbers Host Fall Teachers Workshop

The fall teacher workshop sponsored by the Conservation Education Committee of Historic Hoosier Hills was held Wednesday, October 3 at Old Timbers Lodge in Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (formerly the Jefferson Proving Ground). In a departure from traditional teacher workshops that focus primarily on natural resources, the committee planned this one around a combination of history and natural resources. With help and support from the Department of Defense and the Indiana Air National Guard, the facilities were made available to the committee. About 25 teachers and SWCD employees from southeastern Indiana attended the day-long workshop.

The morning session were focused mostly on history – the history of the area before the proving ground came into existence and the important mission and operation of the proving ground through fifty five years and four wars. Lt. Colonel Matt Swinney with the Indiana Air National Guard welcomed the group at Old Timbers and explained the Air Guard's Mission and importance of the test ranges within the wildlife refuge.

The morning segment was presented by members of the Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Partnership – a project committee of Historic Hoosier Hills which is committed to recording, preserving and telling the history of the area, before, during and after the proving ground. Committee members Norma Lou Irwin, Jean Sauer McClellan, Louis

Munier, and George Bayless, all former residents of communities displaced by the proving ground, gave excerpts of lives growing up in that area. Ken Knouf, present Site Manager for the Jefferson Proving Ground and also a committee member, gave a slide presentation on the mission and operation of the proving ground through 55 years.

Following lunch in Old Timbers, Dr. Joe Robb, Refuge Specialist, introduced the teachers to Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and its mission under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Then under the guidance of Joe, Cliff Chapman with the Division of Nature Preserves, IDNR, and Donna Stanley with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the group loaded into vans and took a very informative two-hour driving tour of areas of the refuge, looking at wildlife, wildlife habitat, historic bridges, and remnants of former communities within the former proving ground area.



The first stop on the tour was an introduction to bird banding conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Teresa Vanosdol-Lewis (seated left on truck) and Summer Intern Denise Jones. The service live-traps songs birds in very fine nets, then captures them, keeps record of their physical condition, and bands them or records information if they are already banded. This information helps the biologist understand the wide range of species that pass through the refuge in spring and fall migrations.

The tour and workshop ended back at Old Timbers with an evaluation of the workshop and requests from teachers to repeat it for others.

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 – (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

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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.