

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

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Volume 30

December 2002

Issue 11



Versailles Historical Society Hosts Lighting Dedication



The first phase of installing historic lights around the Versailles Square is complete, with sixteen of twenty-four lights in place. To celebrate that success and thank their supporters, the Versailles Historical Society (VHS) held a light dedication program at the Historical Society Building on the square in Versailles. Committee chair **Danny Jackson** introduced VHS members and recognized representatives of funders and other supporters present. He reviewed the accomplishments of Phase I – the 16 lights already in place. He then explained Phase II that involves placing 8 more lights around the square and removal of the large modern streetlights. Jackson went on to explain some additional long-term goals of the VHS.

Following the program, the Society presented plaques of appreciation to the supporters and provided refreshments for the group.

Members of the Versailles Historical Society, along with representatives of the Tyson Fund Board, the Ripley County Community Foundation, Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Versailles Town Board and Historic Hoosier Hills gather for a group photo before enjoying the refreshments.

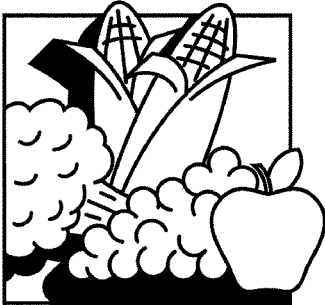


Conservation Education Committee Elects Officers for 2003

At their final meeting for 2002, members of the Conservation Education Committee of Historic Hoosier Hills completed plans for their spring Teacher Workshop and elected officers for the following year. **Jennifer Groves**, Educator with the Dearborn County SWCD was elected to the Chair position; **Becky Asche**, Administrator for the Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District, was elected as Vice Chair. The group rotates Secretary responsibilities at each meeting. Other committee members include **Amy Carpenter**, Jefferson County SWCD Coordinator; **Wanda Brooks**, Jennings County SWCD Administrative Assistant; **Sara Hughes**, retired elementary teacher; Donna Stanley, recreation planner for Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge; **Casie Auxier**, SWCD Office Manager for Switzerland County; **Jan Kloepfer**, retired elementary teacher; **Velda Miller**, volunteer from Dearborn County; and **Cliff Chapman**, Regional Ecologist with the Division of Nature Preserves, IDNR.

The Conservation Education Committee is a standing committee of Historic Hoosier Hills and sponsors two teacher workshops each year to help southern Indiana teachers learn more about conservation and natural resources, using the out of doors as a teaching tool. The workshops have been very successful with good attendance and high interest in the hands-on activities the committee provides.

Ripley County Farmers Market Wraps up Successful First Year



Attendance and support for the new Ripley County Farmers Market far exceeded expectations this year, as shown in a report provided by the Ripley County Parks Department. While the market didn't open until mid-summer – the second Saturday of the County Fair was opening day – support by vendors and buyers was excellent. The market was open 12 Saturdays and 12 Wednesdays, and averaged 7 vendors per market day. It also averaged 141 customers on Saturdays and 44 on Wednesdays.

The market was developed after a conference in Madison last February planted the seeds. That conference was sponsored by the Southern Indiana Rural Development Project (SIRD) and offered a series of breakout sessions on how to plan, set up and operate a local farmers market.

Darla Westerfeld, Parks Director for the Ripley County Parks Department, and **Katherine Taul**, Executive Director of the Ripley County Tourism Commission, attended the conference and decided to see if a market would work in Ripley County. With help

from **Bud Beesley** of the Jennings County Farmers Market and support from the **Ripley County Farm Bureau** and Historic Hoosier Hills, the Ripley County market was put into operation. The market gives local growers a place to market their produce and other farm products locally, and gives residents access to farm fresh items.

The Market group is holding a dinner meeting on January 9 at Osgood to elect a board of directors from the list of first year vendors, and to review and adopt market rules for 2003. The Ripley County Farmers Market is a great asset for both producers and consumers, and looks forward to an even better year in 2003.

End-of-year Gifts

Historic Hoosier Hills depends on several sources of income for its operating funds, but one important source is our Endowment Fund. Perhaps a tax-deductible gift or donation to Historic Hoosier Hills directly or to the Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund would help you with tax reporting. Contact the Historic Hoosier Hills office (direct donation) or contact the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County (Endowment Fund gift: 812-265-3327) for more information.

Save the Date!

Annual Dinner Meeting of Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, Inc. – Monday, March 24th at 6:00 P.M. Southeastern Career Center in Versailles (tentative). Guest speaker will be Joe Pearson, Indiana's Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture.

Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference – Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25 and 26 at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Indiana. The conference will offer a day and a half of presentations, workshops and discussions focusing on agricultural marketing. Breakout sessions will center on horticulture, livestock, and agri-tourism. The conference is designed for producers in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, and is organized by partners from all three states. Registration information will be announced in January.



***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the
RC&D Council and Staff of Historic Hoosier Hills!!!***

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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