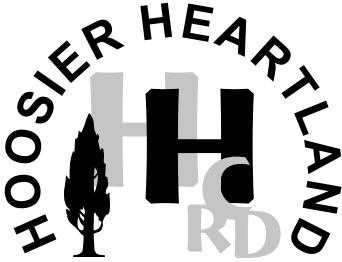


Echoes

NEWS FROM THE HEARTLAND



Echoes, a newsletter from Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., is published quarterly. Please direct all inquiries, story ideas, and requests for additional copies to:

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Thoughts From the New Prez

Do I have great timing or what? Hoosier Heartland is as strong as ever. As the new president, I am taking over from a leader who made our very successful RC&D even more successful. Bob Weaver guided us in developing a business plan that placed a strong foundation under our vision. Under his leadership we began to seek new opportunities to network with others who share our concerns. Each contact broadened our horizons allowing outside groups a chance to learn more about us. Bob brought us—sometimes kicking and screaming—into the computer age. Now we wonder how we managed without e-mail.

I hope to build on these strengths and help the council realize its full potential. Hoosier Heartland has so much to offer, and I believe we can get more accomplished now than ever.

And what about the committees? Meeting attendance is higher than ever. Our staff is flying around trying to keep up with all the activities, innovative ideas, and grant applications. My wish is that I can provide the committees whatever they need to support the wonderful work they do every day. I also will work to spread the message to Central Indiana that our knowledgeable committees are ready to help solve problems and spread

greater understanding.

I grew up in a small town of farmers. Mostly Quakers, they were very independent and well educated people who sought answers when they had problems. People provided special talents and skills and pitched in to solve problems as they arose. Almost all of the farms are gone now, as well as many of the farmers, but I see this same attitude in Hoosier Heartland members.

My teen years were those of the seventies—those darn hippies protesting unjust actions and demonstrating against pollution. Older (for sure) and wiser (not so sure) I still believe in social responsibility and community service. That isn't much different from the old farmers I knew as a kid. Now, as president, I hope I can bring the memory of those solid, independent farmers and those agitated, idealistic hippies together for the good of the council. If you have a gripe, an idea, or a wish for something more, let me know.

In closing, I would like to thank Bob Weaver for his work as president and also thank him for remaining on the executive committee. I want to express my gratitude to Tom Roney for coming back as secretary and allowing me to benefit from his experience. Eli Bloom is a wonder. Whatever happens, good or bad, we can count on his past



experience to steer us through. Finally, I want to thank Kathy Kirk for her years on the executive committee. Lucky for me, her last year was my first, and I learned a great deal from her kind and thoughtful additions to discussion. As I said at the beginning, my timing was great!

Paula Baldwin, President

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Fourth Annual Contractors' Workshop a Success

Last February, Hoosier Heartland RC&D coordinated a workshop entitled *Erosion Control for Changing Seasons* at the State Fairgrounds. The workshop was a joint effort between Hoosier Heartland RC&D, Hamilton, Hendricks and Marion County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil Conservation, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

This popular all-day workshop, now in its fourth year, is geared primarily toward excavating contractors, developers and engineers, and consistently receives good attendance.

Participants learned about better and new ways to protect their construction sites from causing offsite sedimentation. Assistance from a variety of sources was the key for another successful workshop. Over 150 participants attended.

Soil by volume is the greatest pollutant of our surface waters. Construction

sites generally increase soil erosion rates and offsite sedimentation of streams, lakes or wetlands. The State of Indiana maintains regulations to prevent this from occurring, but educating land developers and equipment operators is important for proper implementation.

The program included a panel discussion on erosion and sediment control practices appropriate for seasonal weather conditions, updates on regulatory issues, and two concurrent demonstration sessions.

One session, the highly popular "dirt pile," consists of several truckloads of soil on which erosion control practices are installed at full scale so that the audience can inspect them closely. A scale model of a major highway construction project was also produced to show appropriate erosion and sediment control for that type of project. IDNR's Doug Wolf reviewed the practices for the audience.

The concurrent demonstration session included three short

presentations including mulch options and application, presented by Gary Schlensker of Turfscape, stream crossings and channel work by John South, P.E. with Hamilton County SWCD, and storm sewer outlet stabilization presented by Jim Woody, IDNR Resource Specialist from Hendricks County.

An excellent lunch was provided by Barto's Catering. Time was allotted throughout the day for attendees to visit the trade show which featured erosion control and related products and services of interest to contractors. The day was topped off with drawings for a number of door prizes contributed by local companies.

Evaluations received from the workshop suggest that we are on to a good thing! Almost all were positive and many good suggestions for future programs were provided.

For more information about the workshop, or to assist with next year's program, contact John South at 317/773-1406 extension 106.

Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds

For many years Hoosier Heartland RC&D has offered classroom courses for *TR55-Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds* and other computer programs. These courses are successful because of the quality instructors, moderate fees and local access.

This winter nine people completed the one-day course. These participants will be better equipped to properly design the stormwater facilities required for all new commercial, retail and residential land developments. Good drainage and proper water management were identified as key elements for site design in central Indiana. This course provides information for project designers and plan reviewers.

For more information about these classroom courses, contact the Hoosier Heartland RC&D office at 317/290-3250.

Education Committee Hosts TAG Meetings

The Education Committee sponsors various workshops and activities each year geared for educators. In order to help us evaluate and plan for new activities for this audience, the committee decided to host teacher advisory group meetings to get more input on our activities.

The first meeting was held on March 8th at the Johnson County SWCD office. The Hoosier Heartland Education Committee provided a lasagna dinner for the 24 teachers who attended. The brainstorming session was very beneficial and the committee received wonderful input and ideas for future workshops.

A second TAG meeting was held on the Wednesday evening of the Camp Gallahue Educators Workshop in Brown County. The meeting was advertised at the workshop and educators were encouraged to meet the committee in Nashville for dinner. A much smaller group attended this meeting, but it still provided some good ideas and insight.

Overall the education committee found these meetings to be worthwhile and hope to host one more on the northern side of the Hoosier Heartland area in the future.

For more information about the advisory group meetings, contact Julie Haxton-Farr at 317/317/535-7730.

RC&D 101

A new publication has been put together by the Indiana RC&D Coordinators entitled *RC&D 101*. The publication contains everything you've ever wanted to know about RC&D including

- What is an RC&D?
- What are the benefits of an RC&D?
- Who can be involved?
- How you can get involved?
- How an RC&D is organized.
- What are sponsors?
- What is a council?
- How RC&D is funded.
- What Assistance does RC&D provide?
- What is the role of the Indiana League of RC&D Councils?

Other information includes how we work with partners, the role of committees in RC&D, and how RC&D is unique.

For more information about the publication, or to obtain a copy, contact the Hoosier Heartland office at 317-290-3250.



Dan Ernst demonstrates grafting of a persimmon tree at the Backyard Tree Farm Workshop.

Ernst Family Hosts Backyard Tree Farm Workshop

It was a perfect spring day – blue, blue Indiana skies, bright sun, and gentle breeze. The place was a picturesque backyard in Franklin, belonging to Dan and Jeanne Ernst. Their property, a one acre wooded lot complete with native trees, garden plot, compost site, nesting boxes, native wildflowers, and lovely landscaped home was the perfect site for a Backyard Tree Farm workshop held on April 29th.

Nearly residents were invited to stop by to meet their neighbors, look at the property, and to talk about how to plan and care for trees, shrubs, wildlife areas, and other backyard enhancements and have lunch.

Eighteen neighbors gathered in Dan and Jeanne's backyard to sit on lawn chairs and picnic tables and learn more about planting, composting, pruning, mulching, planting, and the natural resources right in their own neighborhood from Forestry Committee members Jim Farr, Al Weber, and of course, Dan.

The workshop wrapped up with a tasty backyard cookout, complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, homemade pie, and Crick bank 'tators (prepared by chefs Bob Eddleman, Harold Thompson, and Cathy Myers).

Dan and Jeanne were among the first to sign up as first Backyard Tree Farm members in the Hoosier Heartland RC&D area. To recognize their accomplishments and completed projects, Dottie Warner, BYTF coordinator, presented them a sign identifying them as a Backyard Tree Farm member.

As part of their ongoing plans as BYTF members, Dan and Jeanne will encourage stewardship of the remaining native trees and forests in their neighborhood as well as offer trees and answer questions, whenever they can.

Save A Tree

In an effort to cut back on postage and paper costs, Hoosier Heartland RC&D is offering its *Echoes* subscribers the opportunity to receive the newsletter via e-mail.

All you need to do is e-mail the following information to Cathy Deal at cdeal@in.nrcs.usda.gov:

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- E-mail address

Once Cathy receives your e-mail request, she'll remove you from the hardcopy mailing list and place you on the electronic list.

It's as simple as that! Help save a tree, and help Hoosier Heartland pinch a few pennies with one simple e-mail.

HEARTLAND WEBSITE:

You can access *Echoes* through the Hoosier Heartland RC&D website located at www.hhrcd.org.

Calendar of Events

June 5

Council Meeting

Location: Ponderosa Steak House, Lebanon, IN

June 18-21

National Association of RC&Ds Conference

Location: Ogden, Utah

September 6

Council Meeting

Location: To be Announced

September 17

Farm Fest

Location: Johnson County

September 27 (Tentative)

Wetlands Workshop

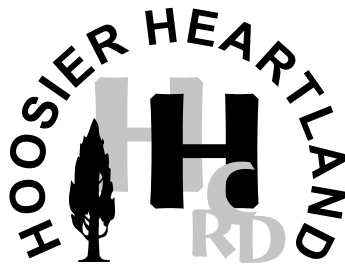
Location: Franklin, IN

NEWLETTER DEADLINES

Deadlines for submitting copy for *Echoes* are as follows: August 1, and November 1. To contribute an article, contact Cathy Deal at 317/290-3250.

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