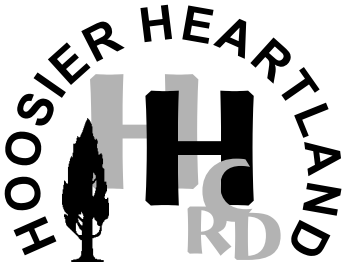


Echoes

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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Wayne County Farmers Attend Urban Tour

Last July, the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council and Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted 60 Wayne County farmers for an urban tour. The group, led by Quentin Williamson, Wayne County SWCD Technician, spent a day in Marion and Hendricks counties.



Over 60 Wayne County farmers attended an urban tour hosted by the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council and Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The first stop was a visit to the National Future Farmers of America Center located on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

The group then traveled to the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage located across from the State Fairgrounds (a.k.a. "The Barn") for presentations by Executive Director Betsy Kranz and project founder, Maurie Williamson. This incredible multi-year project features the restored Normandy Farms Dairy Barn and will eventually include several other types of barns when complete. This Center will result in higher recognition of the importance of agricultural benefits and

heritage in the nation.

After a catered lunch the group ventured to the Indianapolis International Airport to visit the Wildlife and Wetland Mitigation area. There, Marvin Brethauer, Airport Maintenance Manager and Marion County SWCD Supervisor, spoke about how development activities affect the watershed, natural resources, wildlife, and wetland areas in and around the airport. Winding down the day, the group traveled north to Lizton to tour the Berg-Warner Nursery where superior container tree seedlings are raised for successful reforestation

efforts in wetlands, river bottoms, and other highly erodible areas.

Following their day in Indianapolis, the group headed south for a tour of Ray McCormick's farm.

Special thanks to Marcia Matthieu, Bill Howard, and Bill Harting for helping to organize and plan the tour and to Marvin Brethauer, Betsy Kranz, Maurie Williamson, Mike and Dottie Warner, and Paul Miner for their warm hospitality.

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

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Stream Bank Workshop Emphasizes Restoration Techniques

Last September, the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and City of Lawrence teamed up with Hoosier Heartland RC&D to host a Stream Bank Restoration Workshop. Thirty-one participants representing local government and industry attended the workshop.

Ken Collins and Joe Gasperi, Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented information about various restoration and bioengineering techniques. While Randy Jones, IDEM's Office of Water Management, John Hall, IDNR Division of Water, and Amy Allen, Army Corps of Engineers' Indianapolis facility, discussed permitting issues related to stream bank projects. Wade Amos, IDEM's Section 319 Grant Office, also educated participants about the 319



After stabilization, the stream bank is armored against further undercutting with rip rap.

grant process.

The program, funded by a IDEM Section 319 grant, has allowed the Marion County SWCD and City of Lawrence to stabilize the stream banks of Trittipo Ditch in

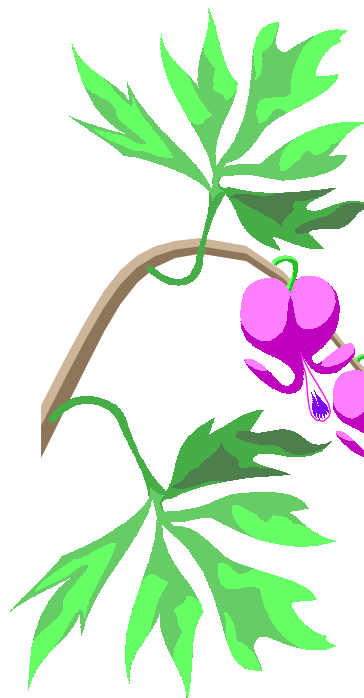
northeastern Marion County.

For more information about the Trittipo Ditch restoration project, contact the Marion County SWCD at 317/780-1765.

Education Committee Visits Fallwood

The September Education Committee meeting, hosted by Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), offered a guided tour of Fallwood. Bill Brenneman, conservation educator coordinator, guided committee members through Fallwood, a privately owned 32-acre outdoor learning and nature center. The committee viewed a 6-acre wetland pond and a 1.5-acre deep-water pond, as well as walked the trails through the hills and forested area.

Many area schools and adult groups take advantage of this facility to learn more about wetlands, wildlife and nature in general. Projects and activities available at Fallwood include: marked hiking trails through woodland areas which identify trees and plants, nursery stock plantings, native prairie grass area, tree plantings and reforestation, and much more. For more information on Fallwood, contact Bill Brenneman, Morgan County SWCD, at (765) 342-5594.



Farm Fest 2000

The official count is in! 2001 people visited the Farm Fest stop at Paradise Farms (owned and operated by the Al Meyer's Family) in Johnson County on September 17th. The forestry committee assisted Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Al Meyer in planning and staffing this part of the five farm tour held on one of the most perfect late summer days ever.

Farm Fest is sponsored each year by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, along with partners including local SWCDs, Farm Bureau, IDNR, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and others located in the surrounding counties of Indianapolis.

The primary purpose of the driving tour is to get "city" youth out to the country for an afternoon on a working farm. This year's tour featured grain, dairy, horse, sheep and tree farms. The farms experienced large numbers of visitors totaling anywhere from 1,946 to 3,350.

The tour showcased a variety of forestry and heritage activities including the Meyer's property, a well managed tree farm featuring a variety of hardwood plantings and a beautifully preserved 1840s Tramp Barn which served as a gathering place for this year's tour.

Johnson County SWCD hosted a booth for natural resources activities for youth, including the Treeture character *Sprig* on loan from American Forests. *Sprig* made regular appearances during the afternoon delighting both young and old.

IDNR Forester Ralph Unversaw and wife Debbie were busy with an area of interactive and fun forestry educational activities for youth and adults. A soils pit was located near the rear of the property where NRCS Duane Drockleman and Alvin Balmer explained to Farm Fest goers the history of the Meyer's property and how plantings of trees were planned according to best soil type.

Two walking tours were available through one of the plantations. These tours were planned and guided by IDNR Forester Chuck Ratts and others.

Throughout the afternoon lumber cutting demonstrations were alternated between an antique sawmill and Wood-Mizer portable sawmill.

The forestry committee exhibited the Backyard Tree Farm Display and distributed copies of the NACD *Operation Backyard* coloring books (donated by Johnson County SWCD).

In a thank you note Al Meyer said, "This was the most successful forestry event I have ever been involved with."



Harold Thompson, NRCS, takes time to pose with Emma Unversaw and Sprig at Farm Fest 2000.

Pond Seminars Held In Johnson County

Last September, the Urban Committee held two pond seminars in Franklin Lakes Subdivision and Franklin Parks located in Franklin, Indiana. Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted these workshops. The workshops *Retention Pond Management* (held September 7th) and *Incorporating Wetlands in Detention/Retention Ponds* (held September 27th) attracted over 120 participants.

The workshops discussed a wide range of topics including designing, building, constructing, maintaining, or simply living near a pond. Participants included employees of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local health departments, as well as surveyors, planners, engineers, developers, contractors, builders, grounds keepers, property managers, natural resources managers, and homeowner's associations.

Topics presented at the wetlands workshop, held at the Young's Creek Wetland area, included planning, designing, construction of wetlands, and creation of wildlife habitat. Of special interest was a discussion led by Lynn Wilhelm (Custer Baker Middle School teacher) who explained how she uses the Young's Creek Wetland area to conduct a variety of educational activities and Meg Jones (Franklin Parks Horticulturist) who explained how to involve the community in wetland development.

Topics included in the retention pond workshop included tree planting (Mike Warner, Berg-Warner Resource Management); aquatic weed control, aeration, and fish stocking (Steve Chafin, Eco Systems); incorporating wetland plants in pond management (Ron Dixon, Natural Resources Consulting, Inc.); pond design and watershed management (Fred Glover, USDA NRCS); and the purposes and impacts of detention ponds (John South, Hamilton County SWCD).

Special thanks to Beth McNabb, Bill Howard, John South, and Bob Weaver for planning these two successful workshops.

Volunteer

Your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) gives you the opportunity to influence natural resource issues in your community. By becoming a SWCD Supervisor, Associate Supervisor, or committee member, you can participate in local natural resource decision-making and project implementation.

Indiana's SWCDs work locally to protect and improve natural resources on private lands. Indiana's SWCDs provide assistance to land users on pollution control, drainage, water supply, and woodland and wildlife management.

SWCDs also provide assistance to communities concerned with development-related erosion or pollution; provide information on soil suitability for urban proposes such as housing, infrastructure, or recreation; and connect citizens with the natural resource information they need.

Many SWCDs collaborate with other SWCDs and organizations on regional programs, like watershed projects.

For more information, or to contact your county SWCD, visit www.iaswcd.org, or call April Ingle at 317/692-7519.

HEARTLAND WEBSITE:

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

Calendar of Events

December 4, 2000

HHRC&D Quarterly Council Meeting

Time: 6 pm

Location: Waffle House, Greenfield, IN

January 8 - February 26, 2001 (Monday Evenings)

Woodland Owners Clinic (8 weeks)

Time: 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Location: Hancock County Extension Office, Greenfield, IN

January 9 - February 27, 2001 (Tuesday Evenings)

Woodland Owners Clinic (8 weeks)

Time: 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Location: Martinsville, IN

January 17, 2001

Land Use Planning Workshop (with Randall Arendt)

Time: 4 pm to 9 pm Location: Shelbyville, IN

March 5, 2001

HHRC&D Annual Council Meeting

Location/Time: TBA

March 27-29, 2001

North Central RC&D Association Annual Meeting

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

April 25-26, 2001

Camp Gallahue Environmental Teacher Workshop

Location: Brown County, IN

NEWLETTER DEADLINES

Deadlines for submitting copy for *Echoes* are as follows: 2/1/01, 5/1/01, 8/1/01, and 11/1/01. To contribute an article, contact Cathy Deal at 317/290-3250.

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