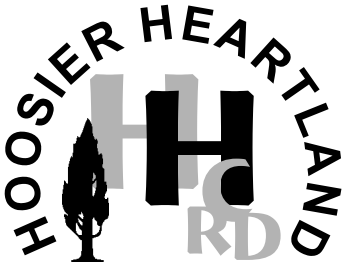


# Echoes

NEWS FROM THE HEARTLAND



## CORE 4 Project

### **Assistance Available to Landowners in Lower White River and Eel-Big Walnut Watersheds**

*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:*

*Hoosier Heartland RC&D  
5995 Lakeside Blvd., Suite B  
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1996  
317/290-3250  
317/290-3150 Fax  
hhrcd@hhrcd.org*

Hoosier Heartland RC&D is participating with two other RC&Ds (Four Rivers and Sycamore Trails) and 17 west central SWCDs in an exciting cost-share project for farmers based on the Core4 concept.

The project, funded by an IDEM Section 319 Non-

point Pollution Grant, is providing over \$450,000 of assistance in Lower White River and Eel-Big Walnut Watersheds. Grant coordinators are hoping to encourage landowners to use the Core 4 approach to improve farm profitability while addressing environmental concerns.

Jim Loughmiller (Hendricks County) and Todd Litton (Monroe County) serve as Hoosier Heartland RC&D's representatives on the steering committee. The steering committee oversees the project, selects the targeted watersheds, and ranks the applications.



### Inside Echoes

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For the first phase of the project two smaller watersheds were targeted, Clear Creek (Hendricks and Putnam Counties) and Lick Creek in Owen County to receive \$126,000 in cost-share for installing CORE 4 practices. Phase II of the project will begin later this year and will include even more cost-share dollars (approximately \$180,000). Proposals for Phase II projects are due June 1, 2001.

The Core 4 management system adapts easily to virtually any farming situation and can be fine-tuned to fit any farm's unique needs. Each of the CORE 4 practices

including conservation tillage, crop nutrient management, weed and pest management, and conservation buffers, work best when integrated into a farm management plan.

Bruce Finkbiner, CORE 4 Coordinator, will be visiting the five eligible counties in Hoosier Heartland to talk about Phase II and how to submit a proposal for a small (14-digit) watershed in need of restoration. For more information about the CORE 4 Project and how to get assistance, contact Bruce at 812/382-4472.

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# Conservation Easements Coming to Hoosier Heartland

The Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council voted at the December 2000 meeting to begin the process of accepting donated conservation easements. The Land Resources Taskforce met in January to develop criteria for eligible types of land and to look at a sample contract.

“Although we have a lot of unanswered questions we are excited about the prospect of helping private landowners in this area,” said Paula Baldwin, President, Hoosier Heartland RC&D. “If you know individuals who would be interested in helping us get this project off the ground,

please call us.”

The project needs volunteers who possess experience in legal contracts, real estate evaluation, natural resource inventories, and land use planning.

“We are on the verge of getting a very timely program under way in central Indiana, one in which lasting impact will be realized,” said Baldwin. “Everyone involved will see true changes taking place and know they had a hand in making these changes happen.”

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

## Ten Rules of Land Use

1. Never assume that undeveloped land in your neighborhood will always remain so. Unless you own it, count on something else being built there.
2. Water runs downhill. Unless you live at the top you will probably experience stormwater runoff problems.
3. The winter sun rises low in the sky. If you must live on the side of a mountain, always choose the south side.
4. Not all land is restrictively zoned. If property near you is not so zoned, then think of the most obnoxious use conceivable and picture it in your community.
5. If you are not native to your county, whatever attracted you there will likely attract others. This phenomenon is known as growth.
6. Land values are driven by supply and demand. Taxes are based on land value. These things change.
7. There are significant differences between public and private roads. If you must live on a private road, be prepared to pay for it.
8. Wells and septic tanks tend to fail. Make no mistake about this.
9. If your land is so located that it is safe from annexation or incorporation, it is probably a prime candidate for a landfill, prison, utility tower, quarry, or reservoir.
10. In land use issues, the common good usually prevails. Never assume that you know what the common good is.

Author Unknown

## Save A Tree

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

Just e-mail the following information to Cathy Deal at [cdeal@in.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:cdeal@in.nrcs.usda.gov):

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

When Cathy receives your e-mail request, she'll remove you from the snail-mail list and place you on the electronic list. It's as simple as that!

Help save a tree, and help Hoosier Heartland RC&D pinch a few pennies with one simple e-mail.

## Land Use Planning Workshop

Over 100 people attended the Rural Issues Committee's first workshop January 17, to address land use. The workshop, entitled *Conservation Subdivision Design as a Tool for Building Community-Wide Open Space Networks*, featured one of the nation's foremost leaders on conservation planning, Randall Arendt.

This workshop was designed for planners, developers, engineers, public officials, landscape architects, and others involved in land use changes. Arendt presented practical, easy to use techniques about how to work together to accomplish different objectives when developing full density residential subdivisions, as well as build community support and permanently conserve land.

Arendt conducted a 6-hour course with hands-on activities for the participants. After a slide show lecture, small groups were given the task of identifying the primary conservation areas on a sample development site. The groups were instructed to look for areas such as wetlands, ponds, natural waterways, or steep slopes. Secondly, they pin-pointed conservation areas with aesthetic value such as a grove of trees, an open meadow, or a stone wall; all of which increase property values because they enhance the beauty and livability of the area. The group also designated the development areas.

Participants learned that even with 50 percent of an area set aside for conservation, a developer can build the same number of homes on the land simply by putting them on smaller lots. The selling point of the property is the open space and that homebuyers believe they are buying 81 acres, not one acre. It's a proven fact that homebuyers will pay top dollar for areas of preserved open space.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Shelby County Plan Commission, Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension Service, the Indiana Land Resources Council, IDNR Division of Soil Conservation, and NRCS.

The Rural Issues committee plans to continue efforts to educate planners, developers, engineers, and other involved in local land use planning as they move into their second year.

For more information about the Landuse Workshop, or to assist in planning a workshop in your area, contact the Hoosier Heartland RC&D at 317/290-3250.



## Education Committee

### ***New Chairperson***

Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council welcomes Cathy Myers, Hamilton County SWCD District Manager and Educator, as the new chairperson of the Education Committee.

Cathy has worked for Hamilton County SWCD for three years. Prior to that, she worked as a grant coordinator for the IDNR Urban Forestry Program. Cathy recently completed her work on a Master's degree in Agronomy from Purdue University. She has many interests in the areas of education and natural resources, and possesses a strong background in soils and forestry. Cathy brings much experience and enthusiasm to the education committee.

The Education Committee also welcomes Jason Kent, Resource Conservationist, Marion County SWCD, as the new vice-chair and Marilyn Hughes, Secretary, Marion County SWCD, as the new secretary. Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council especially thanks Julie Farr for her dedicated leadership as chair for the past two years.

### ***Computer College 4***

The education committee took on an ambitious schedule of computer classes in this year's plan of work.

Eleven classes are scheduled for a variety of computer programs including MS-Word, MS-Access, MS-Excel, Quick Books, MS-Publisher, and Arcview. A class is scheduled for every month through the remainder of the year.

The workshops will be conducted at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. A contract with ComputerTutor in Indianapolis has been drawn up to provide the first series of classes.

The education committee plans to keep the cost of the classes low to allow for SWCD, Extension Service, NRCS, and County employees to attend. A take home manual will be provided.

For more information about the computer classes, or to obtain a schedule of classes, contact the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council office at 317/290-3250.

## Forestry Classes

Over 100 landowners are currently attending two simultaneous courses in Hancock and Morgan Counties entitled *Forestry Management for the Private Woodland Owner*. The eight-week course, conducted by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, assists private landowners in becoming more knowledgeable managers of their woodland resource.

Class topics include tree species identification, forest biology, tree measurement, wildlife management, timber stand improvement, timber marketing and harvesting methods, timber taxation, and record keeping, and economics. Participants receive a tree identification book, course materials, and a tree measuring stick, along with two field trips to enhance the learning experience. The emphasis of the course is devoted to teaching basic forest management principles.

If your county is interested in hosting a forestry course next year, contact Hoosier Heartland RC&D at 317/290-3250.

### HEARTLAND WEBSITE:

You can access *Echoes* through the Hoosier Heartland RC&D website located at [www.hhrcd.org](http://www.hhrcd.org).

## Calendar of Events

### National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis Training

February 28 – West Lafayette, Purdue University

March 8 – Dillsboro, SeiCommunications

March 9 – Vincennes, Vincennes University

April 10 – Fort Wayne, St. Frances University

April 12 – Indianapolis, IUPUI Library

### RC&D Council Meetings

March 5, June 4, Sept. 5, and Dec. 3

### March 15 – MS-Publisher for Beginners

Location: IUPUI Library (registration required)

### March 27-29 – North Central Region RC&D Conference

Location: Cedar Falls, Iowa

### March 29-April 2 – Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour

Location: Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey

### April 11 – Wildland Urban Interface Risk Assessment Training

Location: Martinsville, IN

### April 25-26 – Camp Gallahue

Location: Brown County

### May 9 – Envirothon State Contest

Location: Trafalger

### May 15-16 – Hydrology and Hydraulics for Beginners

Location: IUPUI Library (registration required)

### May 17 – Stormwater Phase II Workshop

Location: Indianapolis

### NEWLETTER DEADLINES

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

**HOOSIER HEARTLAND RC&D COUNCIL, INC.**  
5995 LAKESIDE BLVD., SUITE B  
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