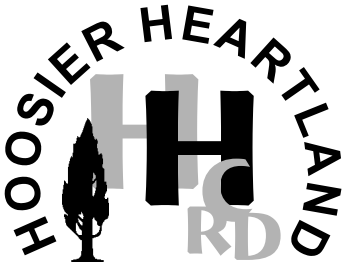


Echoes

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:

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

RC&D Receives Geographic Information Systems Grant

Bob Weaver, Council member from Johnson County SWCD visited all the standing committees over the past two months to discuss how to best implement a grant the RC&D received from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

The grant was a result of a \$2 million dollar partnership between the National Association of RC&D Councils and ESRI to provide RC&D Councils nationwide with an opportunity to obtain software, training, and resource materials. The grant will help interested Council members learn how to use the power of ArcView GIS to more effectively analyze and present issues important to their council.

Hoosier Heartland applied for and received 10 software licenses to teach ArcView, Spatial Analyst software, and advanced training courses for two members of our RC&D, in addition to the initial package grant (consisting of a copy of ArcView, a GIS library and data disk). The data and exercises included in the basic ArcView package are designed to help ArcView serve as the basic building block to help communities to bridge the digital divide for all its citizens. The Spatial Analyst extension uses raster and



vector data in an integrated environment to create, run and edit spatial models.

In February, Bob Weaver and Jason Kent (Marion County SWCD) went to St. Louis, Missouri for a 3-day training session in Spatial Analyst. They made a commitment to assist the RC&D with the implementation of a GIS training program and system in our RC&D area.

A taskforce has been put together to help determine the next steps in implementing the grant. If you are interested in getting involved with the planning and implementation

of this project, contact Bob Weaver at 317/736-9540, or Jason Kent at 317/780-1765, or the RC&D office at 317/290-3250.

As individuals and communities within the Hoosier Heartland RC&D work to help people care for, conserve, and protect natural resources in a way that improves the economy, environment, and quality of life for each citizen and future generations, we will need thorough information about our natural and cultural world.

Inside Echoes

**JUNE 2001
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2**

Forestry
Committee 2

Wildland Fire Safety .. 2

Conservation
Practices 3

Phase II 3

Pesticide Risk
Analysis 3

Camp Gallahue 4

Calendar 4

HOOSIER HEARTLAND RC&D COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOONE

Andrew Padgett, SWCD
Kathy Clawson (Alternate)
Charles Rohrer, Extension
Charles Mohr (Alternate)
Larry Frye, Commissioner
Robert Guernsey (Alternate)

BROWN

Kathy Kirk, SWCD
Al Weber (Alternate)
Keith Kirk, Extension
Cathy Donaldson (Alternate)
Cathy Paradise, Commissioner

HAMILTON

Dick Egler, SWCD
Donald Dunkerly (Alternate)
Kathryn Mascaro, Extension
Charles Kiphart, Commissioner
Al Patterson (Alternate)

HANCOCK

Russell Dove, SWCD
Junior Burton (Alternate)
Tom Roney, Extension (Secretary)
Roger Wilson (Alternate)
Roger Wilson, Commissioner
Armin Apple (Alternate)

HENDRICKS

Mike Warner, SWCD
Dave Wyeth (Alternate)
Jeff Stout, Extension
Meridith Kincaid, Commissioner

JOHNSON

Bob Weaver, SWCD (Vice-President)
Charlie Canary (Alternate)
Tom Bechman, Extension
Mahlon Byerly (Alternate)
Beth McNabb, Commissioner
Joseph DeHart (Alternate)

MARION

Paula Baldwin, SWCD (President)
Robert Kleinops (Alternate)
Natalie German, Extension
Thomas Gary (Alternate)
Eli Bloom, Indianapolis/Marion County
Unified Council (Treasurer)
William Dowden (Alternate)

MONROE

Keith McConnell, SWCD
Vivian May (Alternate)
Martha Crouch, Extension
Joyce Peden (Alternate)
Vacant, Commissioner

MORGAN

Robert Burke, SWCD
Dee Terrell (Alternate)
Janice Bacon, Extension
John Zupancic (Alternate)
Janice Bacon (Alternate
Commissioner)

SHELBY

Steve Webb, SWCD
Greg Shepherd (Alternate)
Mark Nigh, Extension
Marilyn Graham (Alternate)
David Mohr, Jr., Commissioner
Bruce Knecht (Alternate)



This newsletter is printed on
recycled paper.

Forestry Committee Develops New Long Range Plan

A special forestry committee meeting was held in January to identify and discuss issues that related to urban and rural forestry in the 10-county RC&D area. The committee was also looking for input into strategies and actions to be included in the RC&D's long range plan and Council's annual plan of work.

The group, made up of IDNR, USFS, SWCDs, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, NRCS, and Extension Service, reviewed the history of the Hoosier Heartland RC&D forestry committee, including activities and projects of the past few years. The group also

discussed the issues our counties are facing with increased pressures for development and urban sprawl. Hoosier Heartland RC&D area is complex because it encompasses a large and growing urban area, as well as many rural counties. Forestry fragmentation is a major concern.

Under Susan Meadow's leadership as facilitator, the group identified 40 items, which were grouped into categories, issues, and actions. Over the past 4 months the committee has worked to prioritize this list. As the committee works on their new annual plan of work and long

range plan they will focus their efforts in the following areas: riparian area buffers and corridors, timber production; urban forestry; education; wildlife benefits; regulation, beautification, and land use changes.

A major action that has resulted from these meetings is a recommendation to break the forestry committee into two standing committees within the RC&D. One will focus on traditional forestry and one will focus on urban forestry issues such as the Backyard Tree Farm Program, Trees To Furniture project, and other urban forestry activities. Watch for more on this later.

Wildland Fire Safety

Rapid development in rural areas brings several challenges for both residents and those that are responsible for fire safety. Each year, many homes and structures that are lost to wildland fires could be saved if the homeowner and development planners had only known and followed some simple safety precautions.

This is such an important topic that the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council Rural Issues committee joined with the IDNR Division of Forestry (State Fire Coordinator's Staff) to hold a workshop for land developers, planners, public officials, and others on April 11, 2001. The workshop was held at the Cater Haus in Morgan County. Over 20 participants were instructed in how to conduct a thorough survey of their protection area



along with ways to assess property during development. Participants also toured a local subdivision along with the local fire department to assess structures as to survivability in the event of a wildland fire.

Many people who move to rural areas in Indiana come from the city or suburbs where

the threat of a wildland fire is almost non-existent. In a rural setting, residents need to be more responsible for their own fire protection. How they design and maintain their home and landscape their property has a direct impact on survivability in the event of a wild fire.

Conservation Practices for Landscape Management

A workshop for ground superintendents, including those who manage or maintain golf courses, parks and recreational areas, schools and universities, and commercial areas throughout the state was held on February 27, 2001, at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Over 50 participants attended the workshop which provided practical information about surface and tile drainage, streambank and shoreline erosion control, planting and caring for native plants, and the air, land and water permits needed for landscape management. Participants were also introduced to new erosion control supplies and installation techniques.

The program included speakers from J.F. New and Associates, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, IDNR Division of Soil Conservation and Division of Water, Turfscape, John Ward Excavating, NUTEC Supply, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Several commercial vendors were on hand to exhibit at breaks and lunch.

Special thanks to the Hamilton County Parks Department, Hamilton County and Marion County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NUTECH Supply, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stony Creek Golf Course, and John Manley Finish Grading for organizing this workshop.

Central Indiana Phase II Stormwater Regulations

Over 125 participants attended a workshop held in Indianapolis on May 23, designed to help communities, universities, and those who work for the federal, state, county, township, and municipal government understand their responsibilities for implementing Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System requirements within a MS4 area.

This forum was designed to help community representatives to learn about the new regulations and their potential impact on a community. From an opening "mock" town council meeting to specific Indiana case studies, presenters provided useful experience on implementation of this new regulation and demonstrate various approaches to solving complex water quality problems associated with storm water run-off. The Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulation will affect approximately 150 Indiana towns, cities, and counties located in urbanized areas.

The HHRC&D Urban Committee, chaired by John South, worked with a number of program sponsors including Indiana Association Cities and Towns, Association of Indiana Counties, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Division of Soil Conservation), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Upper White River Watershed Alliance. Financial sponsors included a number of engineering firms.



National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis

Last winter, the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Education Committee was asked to help organize and coordinate the new pesticide risk analysis training recently developed by NRCS, the Office of the Indiana State Chemist, Purdue University, and IDNR Division of Soil Conservation.

This web-based training session was developed with the financial assistance of an IDEM 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant. The sessions were held at five locations around the state and the target audience was certified crop advisors, farmers, and employees of the Extension Service, NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and IDNR, Division of Soil Conservation.

The National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis (NAPRA) training included a discussion about the need for a pesticide risk analysis and "hands-on" activities to involve students in the model's use. Other topics included how management activities can affect pesticide movement in, on, and through the soil. The participants in the training sessions were eligible to receive Commercial Pesticide Applicator certification credits and Certified Crop Advisor CEUs.

The education committee was excited to assist the partnership with this project since one of their goals is to provide opportunities for computer program training for employees. Over 65 participants attended the sessions held around the state in February, March, and April.

Camp Gallahue

By at least third grade, most students can tell you all about the rainforest. They know about the unique animals, the delicate balance of soil, water, and life, and they can explain why these fragile systems are so very threatened. How many of them have an equal understanding of their own backyards?

Well, guess what – we do that! Every year, Hoosier Heartland’s Education Committee takes on the challenge of finding inspiring ways to teach conservation, and then gather the best teachers they can find to teach at Camp Gallahue Environmental Workshop. The Education Committee helps teach people who work with youth how to use their own backyards as a tool to understand the concerns and issues of conservation.

Last April, aquatic life, bats, and Indiana prairies were a few of the sessions that will help educators teach students to see the world around them as an exciting and unique place. Getting children (and their parents) involved in conservation gets them wondering, concerned, and ready to take on conservation issues here in Indiana so that they can make wise choices for their future.

HEARTLAND WEBSITE:

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

Calendar of Events

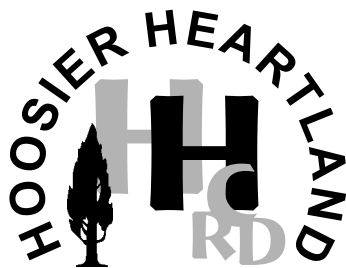
- June 12 Backyard Tree Farm Committee Meeting**
9:00 a.m., HHRC&D Office
 - June 14 Land Trust Meeting**
7:00 p.m., HHRC&D Office
 - June 19 MS Access Computer Workshop**
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
IUPUI Downtown Campus, University Library
Cost: \$38.00 (Registration Required)
 - June 30 Forestry Field Day**
Hamilton County (watch for mailing).
 - July 10-13 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Workshop**
Purdue University (Registration Required)
 - July 17 MS Excel Computer Workshop**
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
IUPUI Downtown Campus, University Library
Cost: \$38.00 (Registration Required)
 - July 19 Urban Development Guide Taskforce – Special Meeting**
9:30 a.m., Indianapolis
 - Sept. 3 Holiday – Office Closed**
 - Sept. 5 HHRC&D Quarterly Council Meeting**
6:00 p.m., Location TBA
 - Sept. 24 LTHEA (Land Use Modeling Program) Workshop**
Location TBA
- ** Contact the council office for meeting location and further details

NEWLETTER DEADLINES

Deadlines for submitting copy for *Echoes* are as follows: 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
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46278-1996

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 7733**



Return Service Requested

All programs and services of the Hoosier Heartland RC&D are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.