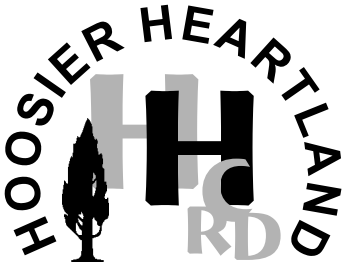


# Echoes

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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## Dry Fire Hydrant Project Underway

The Rural Issues committee has been busy kicking off the new cost share program for dry fire hydrants. The RC&D has received a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with IDNR Resources Division of Forestry to install 100 dry hydrants and/or drafting basins and to provide information and education in RC&D area.



*Bart Bales and Tom Fisher finish a dry hydrant demonstration installation at Johnson County Park.*

Fire departments have for years experienced inadequate water supplies for fighting structural fires in cities and towns. It is even more challenging when the homes and other buildings are scattered along county roads and built among woods and farm fields. Dry Fire Hydrants installed in ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water in rural and suburban areas offer a chance to ensure adequate water supplies and distribution in your area.

To demonstrate how easy they are to install, the rural issues committee with the

assistance of the IDNR Fire Specialist staff has held two demonstration days to actually install a hydrant. One was installed at the Johnson County Park (near the Cottonwood Beach) and the other was installed at a private residence on CR East 200 South in Zionsville. With a good equipment operator and good site conditions, a hydrant can be installed in under 3 hours, from beginning to end. Of course the best time to install a hydrant is before a pond is constructed.

All fire departments in the

Hoosier Heartland RC&D 10-county area are eligible for this grant. The grant pays 50% of the cost of installation and materials of dry fire hydrants or drafting basins installed now through June 1, 2003.

If you have locations for potential installations please contact your local fire department and request assist through this grant. The grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information about the grant or dry hydrants contact the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Office at 317-290-3250.

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This newsletter is printed on  
recycled paper.

# Brown County Forestry Field Day a Tree-mendous Success



Don Duncan discusses timber stand improvement and upland management with participants at the tree planting and forestry field day.

Over 50 private landowners attended the Forestry Field Day sponsored by the Brown County Soil & Water District, the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, and the IDNR Division of Forestry on November 10, 2001 at Gerald Long's property.

Mr. Long's property is located near Yellowwood State Forest outside of Nashville. He has done extensive replanting of hardwoods in the bottomland areas and timber stand improvement in the upland areas of the property in the past few years. Walking tours included discussions on timber stand improvement, harvesting, management techniques, conservation, and tree planting by professionals Chuck Ratts, IDNR District Forester; Don Duncan,

Consulting Forester; Jim Akard, Consulting Forester, and Roger Cult, Wildlife Biologist.

Kathy and Keith Kirk whipped up a batch of their delicious chili cooked slowly over the fire and the SWCD provided hot chocolate, bread, and other snacks.

After lunch, Chuck Ratts demonstrated proper tree planting and discussed the importance of early maintenance. Chuck stressed the right tree for the site and soil conditions. Participants were given information about how to obtain seedlings for the State Tree Nurseries and other sources.

Following Chuck's presentation Craig Walker, Stihl Corporation, gave a talk on chainsaw safety and Al Weber, Brown County SWCD

Supervisor, gave a portable sawmill demonstration. The SWCD also provided educational packets for each participant.

To everyone's amazement Craig Walker used his chainsaw to sculpt a Bald Eagle's head from a log there on site. Craig then donated the carving as a door prize for a drawing held that day.

Special thanks to the Longs for the use of their property and their warm hospitality and to IDNR Division of Soil Conservation Resource Specialist Jerod Chew, IDNR Forester Chuck Ratts, and the Brown County SWCD for their organization and support.

This field day was made possible by two grants from the IDNR Division of Forestry.

## ***Hoosier Heartland Hires Three Council Employees***

**Bonni Browning** was hired in August as the new RC&D office assistant. Bonni works part time helping the office staff and Council officers with a variety of jobs. Bonni was the former Indiana Project Learning Tree coordinator and has an extensive background in elementary education and forestry. This background is a tremendous asset to many of our committee activities and projects. Bonni is also the executive director of the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association. Bonni is married to Lanny and has two children and a beautiful grand daughter, Emma Kay.

**Matt Blake** is the new wetland biologist for Northern Indiana and will monitor WRP easements through an agreement with NRCS. Matt holds a BS in Biology from Southeast Missouri State University and two Masters of Science degrees (Environmental Science and Public Affairs with a concentration in natural resource management and conservation) from Indiana University. Matt worked as a field technician on the Forest Carbon Cycling Project in Morgan-Monroe State Forest and Hoosier National Forest. He was also employed with the Tennessee Department of Conservation as a water quality intern working with private landowners and conducting surveys on streams in eastern Tennessee in regards to regulations and permits for coal mining and reclamation. After graduation he worked as a crew leader for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Oregon State University coordinating and leading forest surveys to assess northern spotted owl habitat in the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges of southwestern Oregon. Matt also does volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and The Nature Conservancy.

**Bob Steiner** is the new wetland biologist for Southern Indiana. He works under the same NRCS agreement as Matt. Bob holds a BS in Agriculture from the Chico State College in California and has 34 years experience with NRCS. He recently retired as district conservationist in Jennings County. Bob has worked with private landowners since the beginning of the Wetland Reserve Program and has provided assistance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through their Partners for Wildlife program. Bob has many interests including serving as coordinator of Jennings County Internet Users Group, President of the Jennings County Chamber of Commerce, Director of SEI Data, and educating youth about natural resources conservation. Bob was instrumental in helping the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D and other organizations establish a telemedicine program in South Eastern Indiana. Bob will work mostly out of his home, but will also have a small office at the NRCS office in Jennings County. He is married to Beth and has six children and 10 grandchildren, with another grandchild due in February.

## **Funds for the Future— The Hoosier Heartland RC&D Endowment**

The following information is provided from the article *Planning for Tomorrow Today*, by Louise Markel, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson Counties.

The thought of taking off into the woods or on a road trip without a compass or map for directions might be alarming. You would have little or no control over your course or the outcome of your journey.

In a similar way, if you have no plan for distributing the assets you have worked a lifetime to earn the same uncertain results can hold true.

A will is the foundation of an estate plan. Without a will to outline the distribution of your assets, the state will determine who will receive your belongings.

With a will you have a great opportunity to direct gifts not only to your loved ones, but also to our favorite charities, perhaps through a permanent endowment, which is permanently invested, would forever benefit your charities. (It's a good idea to let the community foundation know how you want your endowment used so that they have a record of your intentions.)

A will can be changed, altered or amended at any time. A change in financial circumstances, the birth of children or grandchildren and other events can be easily and inexpensively be accommodated by a supplement to your will.

An up-to-date will can bring great peace of mind. And you will feel pleasure to know that after you are gone, your favorite charities will benefit from your generosity.

If you have any questions about charitable giving, please contact your local community foundation.

This information is not intended as specific legal advice. Consult your attorney when considering any legal matter. State laws, which govern wills and contracts, vary and are subject to change.

*When thinking about your will don't forget that the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council has set up a permanent endowment fund with the Brown County Community Foundation. Our fund is called the "Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council Fund." This fund is designated to use to teach youth and adults about the importance of natural resources conservation and to carryout the objectives and goals of the Council. The Council has sole discretion over how the funds are spent. Although we can never touch the principal, the interest earned on the account is available for use. We currently have a balance of approximately \$20,000 in the fund.*

***"You don't need to be wealthy to leave a gift. You just need to be willing."***

# Camp Gallahue

Mark your calendars for the April 24-25, 2002 Camp Gallahue Environmental Workshop in Brown County, Indiana! Camp Gallahue is an environmental workshop organized for teachers and youth leaders which targets field studies involving hands-on activities matching Indiana Department of Education Science and Math Standards.

Many field study selections will be available at the workshop including Project Wild Sampler, Project WET, Language Arts, Theme Gardens, Owl Pellets, Scat Scavenger Hunt, Tracking & Tracks, Ballyoo III, Edible Science, Riverwatch, Rocks & Minerals, Science on a Shoestring, Using A School Site, "Food, Land and People", Treetures, Indiana Soils, and Forest Ecology.

Come join educators and natural resource professionals for a day of idea sharing and resources. For more information, contact Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development at 317-290-3250 or [hhrcd@hhrcd.org](mailto:hhrcd@hhrcd.org). Registration materials will be distributed January 2002.

## 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

## December 2001

- 18 Hydrology & Hydraulics Workshop for Partnership Employees, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis, IN (registration required)
- 20 Backyard Trees Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 27\* Rural Issues Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

## January 2002

- 3 Urban Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 9\* Education Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 24\* Rural Issues Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 27-29 North Central RC&D Annual Meeting, Springfield, IL

## February 2002

- 7\* Urban Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 12\* Forestry Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 13\* Education Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 21\* Rural Issues Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

\*Contact the council office for meeting locations and further details.

During the holiday season staffing at the office may be limited. Please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail the council at [hhrcd@hhrcd.org](mailto:hhrcd@hhrcd.org).

## NEWLETTER DEADLINES

Deadlines for submitting copy for *Echoes* are as follows: 2/1/02, 5/1/02, 8/1/02, and 11/1/02. To contribute an article, contact Cathy Deal at 317/290-3250.

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