

A Tour of the Gardens With Hoosier Heartland's Newest Member

Last September, the Backyard Trees Committee went to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) to meet their newest member Chad Franer and to visit the gardens he supervises and tends. The IMA contains a well-landscaped 152-acre complex which includes several beautiful gardens and a 100-acre Art & Nature Park which is under development.

Several of the museum's main gardens were designed in the 1920s by Percival Gallagher of the renowned landscape architecture firm Olmstead Brothers. These gardens were recently restored to their original glory with as much accurate detail as possible.

The committee viewed the Ravine Garden, a one acre garden terraced on the sloping sides of a cascading stream. The stream tumbles down through three rock-lined pools, descending over forty feet to the Indianapolis Water Company Central Canal. The garden terraces along the stream are crammed with 19,000 bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs for a lush, naturalistic display.

Committee members also visited the Formal Garden, a complete contrast in design from the Ravine Garden. The Formal Garden is a historic, circular parterre which focuses on a central fountain edged by rose-draped arbors.



Next, the committee walked up the Allee, a massive lawn space extending 775 feet in front of the Lilly House. It is bordered with 58 red oak trees and terminates in a circular pool complete with fountain.

Members then meandered through the Border Gardens which run parallel to the Allee on the other side of the red oaks. This garden is a fascinating mixture of sun and shade gardens with twisting paths which make the space feel close and intimate and offer an every changing view of different shrubs, trees, annuals, perennials and bulbs.

The last garden was the Garden for Everyone which Chad designed. It is a sensory garden made to be enjoyed by all people no matter what their age or disability. It is composed

of walled beds, raised high enough that a person in a wheelchair can easily examine the plants. The granite cobble edging along its wide sidewalks serves as a navigational reference for those walking with a cane. The garden is a feast for the eyes, ears, nose, and fingers. Visitors hear water splashing and birds chirping and can also touch the prickly plumes of the fountain grass, the velvety leaves of the lamb's ear, or the smooth bronze sculpture in the middle of the cool fountain. The garden is protected from the bustle around it by a screen of dense, large shrubs which give it a strong sense of quiet and peace.

For more information about the IMA gardens visit www.ima-art.org

Inside Echoes

DECEMBER 2002
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

New Alliance Provides Better Service 2

2002 Farm Bill 3

Backyard Tree Farm is Going Places..... 3

Education Activity 4

Events/Meetings 4

**HOOSIER HEARTLAND
RC&D COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BOONE

Kevin Kouns, SWCD
Al Mohler (Alternate)
Charles Rohrer, Extension
John Ulmer, Commissioner

BROWN

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

HAMILTON

Mike Seeman, SWCD
Jim Riggs (Alternate)
Kathryn Mascaro, Extension
Charles Kiphart, Commissioner
Al Patterson (Alternate)

HANCOCK

Junior Burton, SWCD
Jim Cherry (Alternate)
Tom Roney, Extension (Treasurer)
Roger Wilson (Alternate)
Jack Heiden, Commissioner
Susan Bodkin (Alternate)

HENDRICKS

Mike Warner, SWCD
Paul Miner (Alternate)
John Granath (Alternate)
Jeff Stout, Extension
Cathy Grindstaff, 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)
Marvin Brethauer (Alternate)
Duane Miller, Extension
Natalie German (Alternate)
Bob Eddleman, Commissioner (Secretary)
William Dowden (Alternate)

MONROE

Keith McConnell, SWCD
Todd Litten (Alternate)
Martha Crouch, Extension
Todd Stevenson, Commissioner

MORGAN

Joe Rode, SWCD
Emma Alkire (Alternate)
Janice Bacon, Extension
John Zupancic (Alternate)
Janice Bacon (Commissioner)

SHELBY

Bryan Mohr, SWCD
Chris Everhart, (Alternate)
Mark Nigh, Extension
Marilyn Graham (Alternate)
David Mohr, Jr., Commissioner
Bruce Knecht (Alternate)

STAFF

Becky Fletcher, RC&D Coordinator
Cathy Deal, RC&D Program Assistant
Bonni Browning, RC&D Office Assistant



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

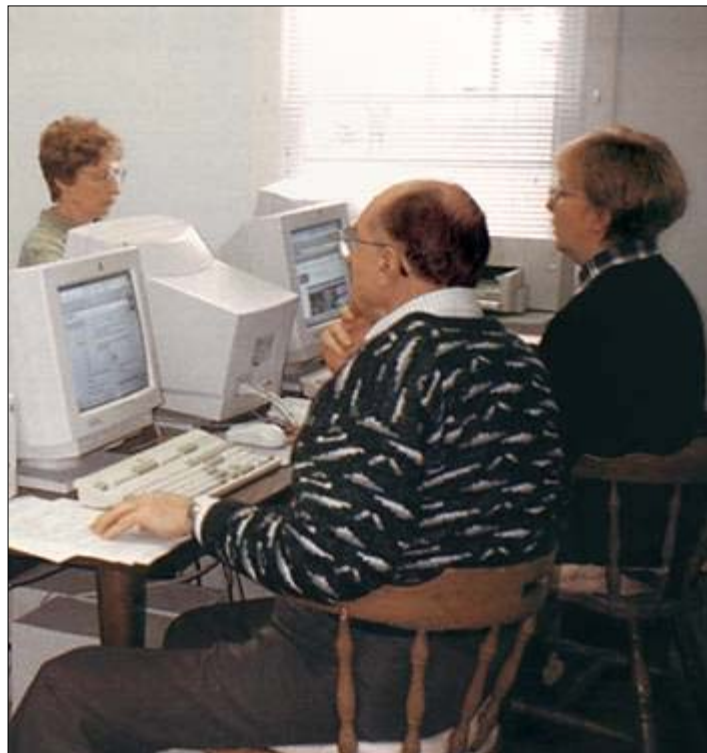
New Alliance Provides Better Service

The Computer Subcommittee of Hoosier Heartland's Education Committee has provided low-cost computer training to our member organizations and our conservation partners for several years. Thanks to our trainers, Computer Help, Computer Tutor, and New Horizons Computer Learning Centers, the committee was able to provide quality training at reasonable costs. Several of our training partners showed great enthusiasm which helped make the program work.

That enthusiasm solved a continuous problem the committee faced—scheduling small classes in an effort to meet minimum class enrollments. Low attendance forced cancellations—a frustration for everyone involved.

New Horizon's Anne Ridegeway suggested membership in NPower. This organization, new to central Indiana, helps not-for-profit groups obtain computer equipment, programs, and training. New Horizons provides all of the computer training for NPower.

Through Hoosier Heartland's membership in NPower, all of their partners are eligible to attend any of New Horizons' scheduled classes at the low rate of \$50.00/day (normally \$225/day). Special live web-based classes and independent on-line classes are also available. NPower students are also eligible for the repeat option and technical support hotline that New Horizons includes in all their classes.



The process for registering is simple. After reviewing New Horizons' class schedule either on-line or by getting a copy from our office, a participant simply fills out the registration form and marks the affiliation with Hoosier Heartland on the form. Payment is due in full prior to the class and can be made by check or credit card directly to New Horizons. New Horizons will also help Hoosier Heartland monitor the success of the program by e-mailing them class participation notices.

Currently, New Horizons is only offering the NPower program in Marion and Hamilton counties. Because of this situation, Hoosier Heartland is making this special rate available to our entire conservation partnership throughout Indiana, along with

Hoosier Heartland's sponsoring organization's staff and volunteers, and our own council representatives and committee members.

Hoosier Heartland is truly facing a "new horizon" in its ability to provide a much needed service for the conservation movement.

For more information about NPower, contact the Hoosier Heartland office at 317/290-3250, or to learn more about the computer classes New Horizons Learning Centers offer, check out their website at <http://www.newhorizons.com>

Backyard Tree Farm Is Going Places

Last September, the Backyard Trees Committee spoke with a large number of interested visitors at two excellent festivals.

At the Hancock Farm Festival, the committee members set up a Backyard Tree Farm display amidst the Pork Producers with their delicious pork burgers, Project Wet with their popular children's games, Hancock County Herb Society with their herbal lemonade, and the energetic Hancock County Master Gardeners. There was a steady flow of people selecting handouts, asking questions, paging through the Backyard Tree Farm notebook, and trying to guess the identity of the wood blocks. It was a very productive afternoon.

At the 3-day Forest Fest, held in September at the Woody Warehouse (formerly Berg-Warner Nursery) in Hendricks County, the committee again set up the Backyard Tree Farm display and were able to talk with fest goers about how to establish a woodlot on a former pasture or crop field. The Hoosier Heartland RC&D staff was also able to make a presentation about the Backyard Tree Farm program to over 25 participants.

Also this fall, Kathryn Mascaro and Bonni Browning made a presentation to over 25 participants of the Indiana District Employees Association about the Backyard Tree Farm program and how SWCDs can get involved. SWCDs and Extension Service offices can receive \$5 for each Backyard Tree Farm Program Resource Guide they sell. Special thanks to Paula Baldwin, Harold Thompson, Becky Fletcher, Kathryn Mascaro, Mike Warner, Jonathan Boggs, Susan Shultz, and Bonni Browning for making these exhibit opportunities happen.

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



Chapel Glen Students Remember September 11

Last September, students of Chapel Glen School in Marion County planted 44 container grown trees along Cox Creek near their school. The tree planting was part of their Patriots Day celebration. As part of the school's honor day event in remembering September 11, students decided to do something permanent for the future of their community.

Students remarked that the 22 species of trees planted along the riparian corridor adjacent to the school will be there for a long time and will serve as reminders that America is strong and looks forward to a great future. All of the trees planted were different species than what now grow in the area.

The Chapel Glen Greenbelt area, owned by the local neighborhood association, will help students and everyone living in the community learn about new kinds of trees. All of the trees are native to Indiana and will act as an educational asset to future generations of the community.

An additional 1,200 trees were planted along the creek as a part of the Hoosier Heartland Riparian Corridor Buffer project. This project makes cost-share and technical assistance available to land users, businesses, and community groups who wish to establish forested buffer plantings along streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands in the Upper White River Watershed. Reimbursement of up to 75 percent of the costs required to establish the buffers is available.

The purpose of the project is to improve water quality. Forested buffers trap sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants as they move from the landscape to water bodies. The plant roots also absorb nutrients as they move underground toward the water. Carbon sequestration for greenhouse gas reduction is another benefit of the buffers as they capture carbon dioxide from the air and store the carbon in the plant tissue.

For more information about the Hoosier Heartland Riparian Corridor Project, contact Randy Jones, Buffer Coordinator, at 317/933-4169, or contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Offices.

Events

December

- 5 Beginner Window '98 Computer Workshop, IUPUI University Library, registration required
10-12 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Workshop (registration closed—workshop full)

January

- 7 Woodland Owners Clinic Workshop, 8 week course, Tuesdays, 1/7 - 2/25, Johnson County (registration required)

March

- 23 Master Naturalist Program, 8 week course (registration required)

April

- 23-24 Camp Gallahue Environmental Teacher/Youth Leader Workshop (registration required)
23 Pond Seminar, 4 week course, Wednesdays, (4/23 and 30, 5/7 and 14, field day 5/17) (registration required)

Meetings

December

- 2 Quarterly Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Ponderosa Steakhouse, Lebanon, IN
5 Urban Committee, 9:00 a.m.
10 Forestry Committee, 6:30 p.m.
11 Education Committee, 9:30 a.m.
17 Rural Issues Committee, 10:00 a.m.

January

- 9 Urban Committee, 9:00 a.m. (Date change due to holidays)
15 Education Committee, 9:30 a.m.
(Date change due to SWCS Annual Conference)
23 Backyard Trees Committee, 1:00 p.m.
28 Rural Issues Committee, 10:00 a.m.

February

- 6 Urban Committee, 9:00 a.m.
11 Forestry Committee, 6:30 p.m.
12 Education Committee, 9:30 a.m.
24 HHRC&D Annual Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Location to be announced
25 Rural Issues Committee, 10:00 a.m.

Contact the council office for meeting location and agenda information. 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 and we will return your call as quickly as possible.

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

Deadlines for submitting copy for *Echoes* are as follows: 2/1/03, 5/1/03, 8/1/03, and 11/1/03. To contribute an article, contact Cathy Deal at 317/290-3250.

