

"PARTNERSHIP TODAY"

FOR THE INDIANA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP (ICP)

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ICP VISION: An innovative Partnership dedicated to effective leadership and quality service in conserving and protecting Indiana's natural resources.

ICP MISSION: To help people manage, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future generations through education, public information, leadership, technical assistance, and development of innovative programs.



'HEART TO HEART' WITH HARDISTY

**October 4th was a beautiful fall day for our first Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) contract signing celebration. With the tranquil backdrop of a wetland near Clinton, Indiana, about 40 ceremony attendees witnessed the historical event.

We were honored to have Lt. Governor Becky Skillman with us to speak on partnerships. She commented that when we work together we can accomplish much more than individually.

WREP requires a partnership effort, and The Nature Conservancy and IDNR have met that requirement by providing their resources to partner in Indiana's first two WREP projects. Mary McConnell, Indiana Director of The Nature Conservancy, and John Bacone, IDNR Director of the Division of Nature Preserves, gave their comments prior to the signing ceremony. Regional Assistant Chief Dick Coombe attended and spoke to the crowd from the national perspective. He praised the Indiana partnership for the great work that is being done here as we "help people help the land."

I want to thank the Vermillion County SWCD and Les Zimmerman, SWCD Board Supervisor, for hosting this event and for organizing the tour of the wetlands site. I trust this is just the beginning of many more partnership efforts to restore wetlands and enhance habitat for wildlife.



****As a follow-up to the Partnership Region Forums, we are conducting a session with each Region Conservation Implementation Team over the next few weeks. The purpose is to provide more detail direction and guidance on how we want the Technical Delivery System to function. We want to answer your questions so those providing technical assistance to customers are clear on administrative and operational issues. We are requiring all NRCS and ISDA field staff to attend one of the sessions, and we want and encourage SWCD employees to attend. See the calendar section of this issue for dates and locations.**

STUDENTS DO MORE THAN GET THEIR FEET WET—Recently, eight students from Vanderburgh County's Stanley Hall Enrichment Center found themselves in shoulder-high grass and ankle-deep water. The students had been helping plan, develop, and create a wetlands area on a former farm now owned by the Angel Mounds State Historic Site. The students, along with two students from University of Southern Indiana and advisors from NRCS, IDNR, and Vanderburgh County SWCD, waded in the Black Willow Wetland Area to plant 20 bald cypress trees.

The Stanley Hall Enrichment Center offers students opportunities to learn at their own pace in a non-traditional classroom setting. The wetlands project was a perfect fit for these students. When they learned of the state's desire to turn the lowland into a wetlands area, the students began studying the ecology of the area, researching native plants and wildlife that once thrived there, and planning how to restore it. NRCS District Conservationist Darrell Rice said, "They had done a tremendous amount of research even before we got involved."

Student Andrew Baker, who had worked on the project since it began, said he would like to continue working on the project even after completing his education at the school. He said, "I really like the environment and it has built character for me, too. I had to plant two acres of native grasses by hand." School Principal Elizabeth McGovern says the school plans to stay involved with the wetlands and to develop it as an outdoor laboratory.

The site is named for a lone black willow tree that stood in its center. It was purchased by the state in 2002 through the Indiana Heritage Trust program. Its thick grasses provide a sheltered stop for migratory shorebirds, nesting habitat for mallard ducks, and feeding grounds for great blue herons. - Submitted by Bonnie Bittner, Vanderburgh County SWCD

A NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS—Farmers in central Indiana have an opportunity to look at and evaluate new rural businesses, thanks to FAN, the Farmers Alliance Network. FAN Director Jim Roudebush says, "We have identified over 800 new rural businesses for farmers to consider as a way to gain and sustain additional income and preserve their rural way of life. According to USDA research, nine out of ten farm families require non-farm income to make ends meet. Why not have your own rural business rather than rely on a job that can disappear due to reasons beyond the farmer's control."

To help farmers with new income opportunities, FAN will conduct four workshops in central Indiana. Each workshop listed below will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- 11/30/2005 - REMC Community Room, 1027 Indianapolis Avenue, Lebanon
- 12/01/2005 - Hancock Extension Service, 802 N. Apple Street, Greenfield
- 12/07/2005 - SWCD Office, 550 E. Jefferson Street, Franklin
- 12/08/2005 - Hoosier Energy, 7398 N. State Road 37, Bloomington

Roudebush, who is a farmer, entrepreneur and college lecturer, will serve as the workshop instructor and facilitator. Sponsors include Purdue Extension,

County Commissioners, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Hoosier Heartland RC&D.

The cost of the workshop is only \$10 in advance, or \$20 at the door. FAN encourages attendance by all family members including sons and daughters who may be interested in starting a rural business to augment traditional farming revenues. The workshop will also benefit new farmers or those who are returning to the farm. Seating is limited, so sponsors recommend early registration. Visit the FAN website at www.farmersalliancenet.org or call 317-290-3250 to register.

FAN, a not-for-profit organization supported by a grant from the Indiana Rural Development Council, will consult with farmers and farm alliance groups on business selection, business planning, marketing, and entrepreneurial training. The organization also offers a broad referral network including Purdue New Ventures, Purdue's Agricultural Innovation & Commercial Center, the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, and many more. - Becky Fletcher, Hoosier Heartland RC&D

QUALITY QUOTES:

"I have never seen a monument erected to a pessimist." - Paul Harvey, Radio commentator

"Partnership Today" is issued on an "as it happens" basis for all conservation team members, reporting on activities, events and successes of the conservation team. Send articles via E-mail to Pam.Davidson@in.usda.gov and type "PARTNERSHIP TODAY" on the subject line, or fax your article to Pam Davidson at (317) 290-3225. Articles should be brief and include a contact person and phone number.

ICP BULLETIN BOARD – October 2005

SWCD SEEKS DISTRICT CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN—The Hancock County SWCD has announced a contractual position with flexible hours available for a district conservation technician. The employee will have responsibility for review of erosion and sediment control plans. A job description is available at the SWCD office or at <http://www.hancockswcd.org>. Resume with cover letter will be accepted until November 1, 2005 at Hancock County SWCD, 1101 W. Main Street, Greenfield, IN 46140. - Cindy Beckner, Hancock County SWCD

29TH ANNUAL ARTS/CRAFT SHOW HELD—The Four Rivers RC&D is hosting their 29th Annual Four Rivers Arts and Crafts Show on October 15-16, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds on Highway 152, five miles south of Jasper. For additional information, contact the Four Rivers RC&D at (812) 354-6808. - Dave Elgin, Petersburg

BOOT CAMP FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES—I.D.E.A. and NRCS will present District Boot Camp sessions for District employees to learn more about NRCS programs on December 12-15, 2005. The time and location will be announced at a later date. Contact Jeri Ziliak at jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net or 812-838-4191, ext. 3 if you have any questions.

SWCDs HOST BASIC TREE CARE WORKSHOP—On October 27, a Basic Tree Care Workshop will be held at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. The workshop sponsors include SWCDs in Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties. Workshop fee is \$15. Please contact one of the sponsoring SWCDs for more information. – Jeri Ziliak, Posey County SWCD

FIELD DAY TO SHOWCASE NO-TILL AND CSP—Mark your calendar to attend the Posey County Conservation Field Day on December 1st. Guest speakers Barry Fisher and Jeff Coats will discuss no-till and CSP. Contact Jeri Ziliak at jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net or 812-838-4191, ext. 3 for more information.

LEARNING ONLINE—An online Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop is offered October 17 to November 27. Sandi Strum, PLT facilitator from Alaska and owner of Creative Conservation, is conducting the workshop. Educators from all states will have the opportunity to explore the PLT Activity guide, discuss lesson plans and share teaching experiences using simple online technology. Check out <http://www.creative-conservation.com/pltstates.htm> for more information and registration form. If interested in participating, please be sure to contact Indiana PLT Coordinator Donna Rogler at plt@dnr.in.gov or 317-549-0354.

SIDESHOW HOLDS RULE 5 WORKSHOP—The Southeastern Indiana District Employees Sharing Hands-On Workshops (SIDESHOW) will be holding a Rule 5 Training on October 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cabana Joe's in Madison. ISDA Field Supervisor Mark Goldsmith and Jerod Chew, ISDA Stormwater Specialist, will discuss topics on individual erosion and sediment control practices and plan review details. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn the ins and outs of completing Rule 5 reviews.

Cost of the workshop is \$20 (includes lunch, materials, and door prizes). Registrations will be accepted until October 21. Please register with Becky Reatherford at the Ripley County SWCD office at 812-689-6410 or becky.reatherford@in.nacdnet.net.

NEW DNR WORKSHOPS OFFERED—Project WET and Hoosier Riverwatch are teaming up to provide advanced workshops for educators in a new curriculum called 'Healthy Water Healthy People.' This new curriculum from the developers of Project WET is focused on raising awareness and understanding about water quality and its relationship to personal, public, and environmental health. Many of the activities focus on monitoring concepts and are a perfect supplement to Riverwatch. These FREE workshops will help educators address science and health standards through interactive activities.

For more information on the Healthy Water Healthy People curriculum, visit www.healthywater.org and register soon for upcoming workshops.

****MARK YOUR CALENDARS****

Oct 15-16 – 29th Annual Four Rivers Arts & Crafts Show, Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds

Oct 17-Nov 27 – Project Learning Tree Workshop (online)

Oct 27 – Basic Tree Care Workshop, Vanderburgh County 4-H Center

Oct 28 – SIDESHOW Rule 5 Training, Cabana Joe's, Madison

Oct 31 AM – Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Rensselaer

Oct 31 PM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Lebanon
Nov 1 AM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Greencastle
Nov 1 PM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Princeton
Nov 3 AM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Albion
Nov 3 PM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Huntington
Nov 4 AM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Greensburg
Nov 4 PM - Region Conservation Implementation Team Meeting, Salem
Nov 30 - Dubois County Conservation Field Day
Dec 1 - Posey County Conservation Field Day
Dec 12-15 - District Boot Camp hosted by I.D.E.A. and NRCS
Dec 13-14 - Indiana CCA Conference, Marriott (NE), Indianapolis

Share your announcements, ideas, and success stories, or request information on the ICP Bulletin Board! Items will remain on the bulletin board for a two-week period, unless marked otherwise. Send your notices (10 typed lines max.) to Pam Davidson, NRCS state office, via E-mail (Pam.Davidson@in.usda.gov), regular mail, or fax (317) 290-3225. Identify the subject or envelope as "ICP Bulletin Board" and include a contact person, phone number, and publication date.
