



WRRC&D QUARTERLY

Providing local solutions for local concerns

Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project to Start in 2011



water quality



land inventory



education/outreach

The White River RC&D Council will have a new project committee come January, 2011!

Coordinated by White River RC&D and funded by a 319 Management Plan grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project (MCBR) is an exciting program designed to create public awareness of watershed issues which result in responsible environmental actions.

The proposed watershed project will support the production of a watershed management plan, addressing the causes, sources, and prevention of point and nonpoint source pollution. A watershed coordinator will be hired to manage the development and dissemination of the management plan. The management plan, and pollution prevention program within it, will serve as a guide and itemize the problems, priorities, and activities to be addressed to improve and protect the watershed.

In addition to developing the plan, the watershed coordinator will develop and implement an education and outreach program to keep the public informed about the project's findings and its progress. This program will provide a structured opportunity for

participation by the stakeholders in the Mill Creek-Blue River watershed. This program will also increase public awareness of local water quality issues. Increasing public awareness will occur through print and broadcast media, e-mails, newsletters, word of mouth and presentations to targeted audiences, tours, field days, education days, and fact sheets. Project feedback will be encouraged and sought as part of the evaluation process.

Furthermore, a service program will be implemented to engage young adults and community members in actively addressing nonpoint source pollution and other water quality issues. This program will address these issues by engaging volunteers in storm drain marking, volunteer water quality testing, and community clean up days.

To learn more about the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project or to serve on the committee, please log on to www.whiteriverrcd.org or call the White River RC&D office at: 812-883-3704 ext 5.

White River RC&D is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Family Forest Fun Day a Success!



2010 Holiday Assistance Program

The White River RC&D Council is assisting the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and several other charitable organizations throughout the county in this year's "Holiday Assistance program".

This program will assist approximately 1,000 economically disadvantaged children living within Washington County during the holiday season by providing clothing, toys and other important necessities. Donations from churches, the Salvation Army and many other organizations will be sorted and placed into large gift bags. These gift bags will then be distributed to families throughout Washington County.

Help make this holiday season a bright one for a little boy or girl in Washington County by donating today. WRRCC&D and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce are still in need of gift bags. If you would like to make a monetary or product donation to this year's "Holiday Assistance Program", please contact the White River RC&D at: 812-883-3704 ext 5 or by e-mail at: council@whiteriverrcd.org

October 9, 2010—There were nine stations set up along the edge of the woods at Murray Forest Park and as families got out of their cars and came over to register they scattered like quail to try each of the stations.

Some of the kids were soon darting along the woods looking for a specific leaf or a sweet gum ball to check off items on the scavenger hunt led by Jerry Lish, recently retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Nearby the Bedford Park Department had a station where kids could make a bird feeder and learn about taking care of the birds this winter. They left with a bird feeder stocked with bird seed and ready to hang.

Andy Ritter had a station to teach people several methods to measure trees, both heights and diameters. His friend Jesse was leading kids on a bug hunt. Dennis Eger laughed that the logs along the edge of the woods looked like they'd been pulverized from all the kids prying them apart looking for bugs. Dennis, hidden back in the woods, could be heard all day making all matter of animal calls. If anyone heard reports of an elk being heard in Bedford on Saturday, it was only Dennis.

Carol Payton from the Orange County SWCD had nature crafts. Kids made a variety of fun crafts from leaves and acorns. They were sporting duck tape bracelets with colorful leaves and acorns stuck merrily around the band and carrying pictures made from leaves and sticks. A little boy in a wheelchair, carefully gluing maple leaves on a paper to make a moth – explained that his father had given him two choices of what to do that day. He could have gone to Seymour and ridden in an airplane, or come to the Forest Fun Day. He said he chose this event and he was glad he did because he was sure having a fun time.

Hoosier National Forest's Teena Ligman taught map and compass navigation. One

couple came all the way from Gosport when they saw the map and compass class was going to be offered. They hung on every word and were delighted to be able to finally learn how to read a map and use a compass. Several people who had no idea how to use a compass were thrilled to learn and said they intended to buy one because this seemed such a fun way to be able to find your way around.

Janet Eger, from the Indiana DNR, had activities on invasive species. She had an interactive game on how invasives get into our environment and how we could each do our part to keep them out. She said most people were unaware that they played a part in spreading invasives. At noon, Leslie Grow, also from IDNR, brought raptors from Hardy Lake and gave a program to a large crowd.

Perhaps the most popular station was Sam Bond and his saws. Sam had not only a chainsaw, but also had two of the Forest Service's small 2-person buck saws. He let the kids use the bucksaws and saw their own "cookies" of wood, and then guess how much time it would take him to cut a slice with his chainsaw. He had a pile of wood "cookies" to the side and let each kid decorate a slice with a face and set up a rogue gallery of faces. Each kid autographed his artwork after discovering and drawing the face hidden in the wood.

The Bedford Park Department had also recently maintained the trail at Murray Forest Park and encouraged people to hike the trail before they left.

The weather was perfect for the 130+ attendees and we all agreed the event was a complete success! People had fun and left with maps of other outdoor recreation opportunities nearby and a wealth of new information about forests and the great outdoors.

*- written by Ms. Teena Ligman,
WRRCC&D Forestry Committee Member*

