



White River RC&D
801 Anson Street
Salem, IN 47167
www.whiteriverrcd.org

LOOK INSIDE FOR THE 2009 WHITE RIVER RC&D ANNUAL REPORT!

The Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (SICWMA) took significant strides in 2009. After organizing as a non-profit corporation in late 2008, we continued the process of preparing the organization for future challenges:

- We successfully created three working committees (Communication, Projects, and Organizational Development) to undertake the activities needed to achieve our goals.
- We applied for and obtained 501-c-3 status from the IRS
- We completed and adopted a strategic plan with specific goals and objectives
- We drafted Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Letters of Support (LOSs) and began asking our many partners to formalize their support of the CWMA.
- We instigated the formation of one local Invasive Species organization (Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species) and began working on a template and plan for encouraging formation of additional local groups.

We also undertook a significant "demonstration project" at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in 2009. In February, about 30 volunteers assisted with a work project to clear a large area of Autumn Olive at the Refuge. We returned in May for an education day which provided presentations, resource material and field identification on numerous invasive species. As part of the education day, we assembled a Landowner's Toolkit with a wide variety of resource materials designed to help landowners identify invasive species and control them.

SICWMA committee members and volunteers participated in dozens of educational and control projects in 2009 – from giving invasive species presentations to interested groups – to leading field day demonstrations and discussions – to participating in invasive species work days.

We continued to pursue grants and funding. We received a grant from the US Forest Service to conduct a survey of aquatic and wetland invasive species along the Ohio River and other waterways in Southern Indiana. Likewise, we are cooperating with CWMA's in Ohio and Illinois on this Summer 2010 project and hope to expand it by obtaining additional funding from State sources.

SHOWING THEIR INDIANA ROOTS.

SOUTHERN INDIANA COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA.



Bush Honeysuckle Removal

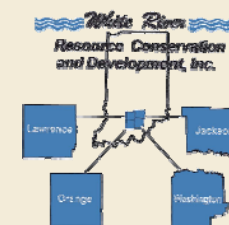


WHITE RIVER RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Serving as a catalyst to nurture, promote, and develop
volunteer efforts in providing local solutions for local concerns.*



2009 Annual Report



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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2009 has brought about many new beginnings for White River RC&D. In February, Kris Vance joined the team as the new White River RC&D Coordinator. In April, we developed our new 5 year plan of work. In June, we moved into our new office in Washington County. And, throughout the year, White River RC&D has been working on strengthening their council and developing new project ideas.

The White River RC & D Forestry and Education Committees remain very active. Forestry Committee activities include a very popular spring Wildflower tour, a fall Stump to Product Tour, tree ID classes, and a Fall Forest Fun Day. The Education Committee continues to sponsor the very popular South Central Regional Envirothon. They are also working on a series of rotating workshops including Composting and Backyard Landscaping. After a very busy and successful start several years ago, the Manure Management Committee has temporarily deactivated, but has received several suggestions for new projects and requests for reactivation.

Seed Grant money set aside for small community development projects has been well received and several new projects have been submitted and approved, including a White River RC&D Farmer's Market Grant and an Adopt-An-Art Project. Additionally, Orange County has set up a Main Street organization to promote the local businesses within the communities in the county. White River RC&D is assisting Orange County Main Street in developing their program and obtaining their own 501(c) (3) status. A 319 Grant Application has been submitted for development and implementation of a Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Management Plan. Other future project objectives include demonstrating Energy Audit programs for Agriculture, and developing proactive programs to better explain modern agricultural practices to a public that no longer has much actual contact with farm life.

The White River RC&D Council has enjoyed 2009 and hope you will join us in an even better 2010.



Sincerely,
Frank Gottbrath
White River RC&D President

The White River RC&D Council meets on the second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the office at: 812-883-3704 ext 5 or council@whiteriverrcd.org

All programs and assistance of the White River RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientations and marital or family status.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS
Springs Valley - Howard Allen (M)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Orange County - Lyndel Manship (M)
Washington Co. - David Walker (T)

SOIL & WATER CONS. DISTRICTS

Jackson Co. - David Abner (VP)
Lawrence Co. - Gene Mundy (M)
Orange Co. - Hannah Goyna (M)
Washington Co. - Frank Gottbrath (P)
David Hoar, (A)

STAFF

Kris Vance, NRCS RC&D Coordinator
Mary Jane Deel, NRCS Program Asst.



As White River's RC&D's newest Project Committee, Orange County Main Street, Inc. is dedicated to enhancing the growth and sustainability of downtown business districts and Orange County's cultural and architectural heritage through concentrated efforts focused on design, economic restructuring, promotion and organization.

PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITES. ORANGE COUNTY MAIN STREET.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Participants experienced the magical charm of the season and spread some holiday cheer during OC Main Street's *Twelve Days of Christmas Extravaganza*. Tree lighting ceremonies were scheduled for November 19 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in French Lick and Paoli and for November 20 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in Orleans. Locals filled their Christmas stockings with great gifts, supported local merchants, and entered to win fabulous prizes at participating Main Street businesses between November 20-November 30, 2009. Likewise, the jolly old elf himself was waiting at each event to hear everyone's Christmas wishes.

The Springs Valley Elementary choir, under the direction of Lori Chestnut, started the festivities with their presentation of several Christmas carols. Santa was welcomed as he arrived in a Model A car. The evenings concluded with caroling led by the local group, Sacred Calling.

THIRD GRADE COLORING CONTEST

Orange County Main Street sponsored a coloring contest for Orleans Elementary, Throop Elementary, and Springs Valley Elementary Schools. Old National Bank donated a \$100, \$75 and \$50 Savings Bond for the winners from each school. The pictures will be placed at local businesses around town.

ORNAMENT DECORATING CONTEST

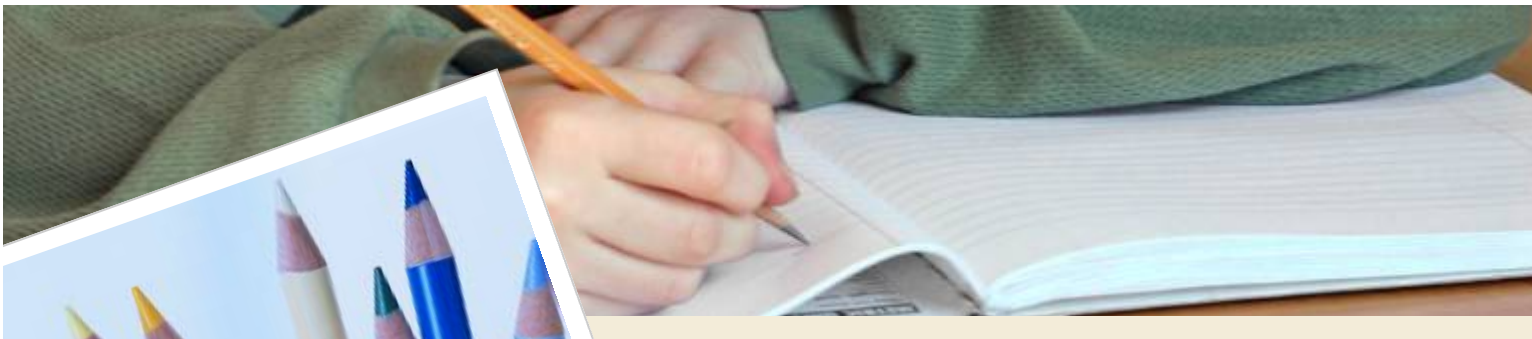
Orange County Main Street sponsored a holiday ornament contest during the Twelve Days of Christmas Extravaganza. Area residents were asked to reveal their artist talents by making handcrafted ornament that reflected the Twelve Days of Christmas theme. All ornaments entered in the contest will be displayed on Christmas Trees in the downtown area of each community during the holiday season. Ornaments were entered in two categories; ages 12 & under, and ages 13 & up. Prize winners were announced during the evening's festivities. Prizes included a Webkin sponsored by Winger's Floral for ages 12 and under and a \$25.00 gift certificate sponsored by Hoosier Hills Credit Union for ages 13 & up.

Orange County Main Street plans on making the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' program an annual event.



Twelve Days of Christmas, 2009

Local Main Street programs are structured in a variety of ways. Most often, they are freestanding, nonprofit organizations. Others are part of an existing organization, such as an RC&D. Regardless of where the community's Main Street program is housed, it must be a volunteer-driven effort that has support and participation from a variety of stakeholders in the revitalization effort. Community members should consider working with their local Main Street organization to help improve their communities.



Envirothon, 2009

SOUTH CENTRAL ENVIROTHON

The White River RC&D Education Committee was once again sponsors of the South-Central Envirothon. Twenty-two teams from twelve schools participated in the event, with each team consisting of five members and one alternate.



Five stations were set up where professionals provided instructions in the fields of Wildlife, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and a current environmental issue. The teams rotated between the stations where they were provided with information they could find on their exam at the end of the session.



Each participant received a certificate for their participation, and medals were awarded to the members of the top three scoring teams. Plaques recognizing their accomplishment were presented to the schools of the winning teams.



Taking the honors at the 2009 South-Central Envirothon was 1st Place, North Posey; 2nd Place, Salem FFA; and 3rd Place, Bedford North-Lawrence.

WHITE RIVER EDUCATION COMMITTEE. TEACHING OUR YOUTH THE VALUE OF TOMORROW.



FAIR BOOTH

White River RC&D Education Committee set up a booth at the Washington, Orange, and Jackson County fairs. Fair participants were asked to explore the fair in search of natural resource questions. Once they found all the questions, they returned back to the booth to answer them. If all questions were answered correctly they received a natural resource "treasure". More than 100 kids and adults participated in this activity.

Thanks to our local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for letting us set up at their booth!!!!

The Education Committee developed their 5 year Plan of Work in February of 2009. Be on the lookout for new programs coming in 2010 including:

- Taxidermy Seminar
- Native Landscaping/Design Seminar
- Backyard Composting Workshop
- Organic Gardening Workshop
- Rain Garden Seminar
- Cave Cruise
- Wild Edibles Workshop
- South Central Envirothon
- County Fair Displays



A new grant opportunity has hit the area aimed at helping local farmers' markets located with Jackson, Lawrence, Orange and Washington Counties. Developed and dispersed by White River Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (RC&D), the "White River Farmers' Market Grant" was created to help improve local farmers' markets located within the four county region. The grant was targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. The maximum amount awarded for any one proposal did not exceed \$500. Entities eligible to apply included agricultural cooperatives, producer networks, producer associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities and Tribal governments.

NEW GRANT AIDS LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS. FARM FRESH RIGHT TO YOUR TABLE.

SEYMOUR

With the assistance of White River RC&D, the Seymour Agri-Business committee is working with local entrepreneurs to incorporate locally grown produce into local restaurants. Once restaurants agree to use locally grown produce, they will be designated a 'locally grown, locally sold' restaurant and will be listed on promotional materials designating them as such.

MEDORA

The White River RC&D is working with the Medora Farmer's Market (MFM) to help promote the newly formed market to area residents. WRR&CD will assist the MFM with publicity and advertisement ventures including poster development and newspaper advertisements. Additionally, WRR&CD will assist in obtaining pop-up structures which will be used to temporarily house the market until a permanent structure is available.

ORLEANS

Each week the Orange County HomeGrown Farmers Market in Orleans offers a variety of fun events to attract visitors to the local market. White River RC&D is partnering with them to assist in the three most popular events: "Farm to Fork" Chef Demonstration, Farmer's Market Bingo, and Make-Your-Own Scarecrow.

BEDFORD

The Bedford Farmer's Market is featured weekly during the months of May through October. The goal of this organization is to create awareness and support for local farmers and gardeners by making their locally grown products directly assessable to the public. With assistance from White River RC&D, the Bedford Farmer's Market will display six 2'x4' vertical banners along the perimeter of Bedford's town square. The banners will be displayed for seven months throughout the year.



Farm Fresh Strawberries

Direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets continues to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide. Farmers markets, now an integral part in the urban/farm linkage, have continued to rise in popularity, mostly due to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the farm. In mid-2008, the farmers market directory listed 4,685 farmers markets operating in the United States, representing an 6.8 percent increase from 4,385 farmers markets in 2006. This growth clearly indicates that farmers markets are meeting the needs of a growing number of farmers with small- to medium-size operations.



Realizing that most people love trees and forested areas but often take those resources for granted, the Forestry Committee is dedicated to helping educate the citizens of the 4-county area. Our volunteers feel that by knowing and understanding the effects that trees and woodlands have on their lives, a person will become more involved in protecting those assets.

WHITE RIVER FORESTRY COMMITTEE. PROTECTING ONE OF NATURE'S FINEST.

TREE ID WORKSHOP

Two Tree ID Workshops were sponsored by White River RC&D in 2009. The first workshop was conducted in March in Orange County and the second was conducted in November in Bartholomew County. The first workshop, hosted by Janet Eger, State Forester, provided information on how to identify 30 to 40 trees native or common to Indiana by their location, branching habits, shape, bark, and leaf characteristics. Opening with a Thursday evening classroom instruction, and concluding with a follow up of a hands-on experience in the forest, the program provided the participants with knowledge that they could incorporate into their work or hobbies. Everyone was provided with a copy of the "101 Trees of Indiana" book for future references. The second workshop, sponsored in a partnership with Sycamore Land Trust, was conducted at the 'Touch the Earth' preserve, located in Bartholomew County. Led by Rob McGriff, IDNR District Forester and White River RC&D volunteer, participants were instructed on how to identify trees after the leaves have fallen and many other clues have disappeared.

Stump to Product Tour



STUMP TO PRODUCT TOUR

White River RC&D's Forestry Committee sponsored a Stump to Product Tour on September 24th, that featured presentations on Best Management Practices, Landowner Chainsaw Safety, a picnic lunch at a restored grist mill, and a tour of an active sawmill. The tour was supported by IDNR Division of Forestry, Friends of Beck's Mill, and International Wood. Participants started their day at the Jackson-Washington State Forest-ShIPLEY Property located between Brownstown and Salem. Jeff Settle, Forest Products Specialist at the Jackson-Washington State Forest and an active White River RC&D volunteer, hosted the tour. The BMP's for forestry stewardship was presented by Mike Spaulding, Resource Specialist at the Jackson-Washington State Forest. Jacob has extensive experience in planning and administering timber sales at the state forest where BMP's are routinely practiced. The chainsaw safety presentation was conducted by Duane McCoy, Licensed Timber Buyer Forester, from the Division of Forestry State Office in Indianapolis. McCoy has 12 years experience in training chainsaw safety. Included in the safety program was the felling of a tree. A picnic lunch was served on the grounds of Beck's Mill, a restored grist mill where members of the 'Friends of Beck's Mill' welcomed our guests in for a short tour of the mill. Gavin Freel, Co-Manager of International Wood of Salem, wrapped up the day's activities by hosting a tour of the working sawmill.



WILDFLOWER HIKE

A record number of 51 nature lovers participated in the 6th annual White River RC&D Wildflower Hike on April 11th. The hike was co-hosted by Sycamore Land Trust with Kay Yatskievych and Carroll Ritter leading the group over two beautiful and well preserved wildlife areas located in Lawrence County.



Participants met at the Inn in Spring Mill State Park and hiked through the parks' prairie glade where they found some unusual flora. Following lunch at the Inn, the group moved on to Cave River Valley. Previously preserved by private landowners, Cave River Valley was recently acquired by the Nature Conservancy, which placed it in protective hands at Spring Mill State Park. At the time of the White River RC&D Wildflower Hike the property was still closed to the public. Cave River Valley features rocky prairie barrens, a spectacular valley with caves and a rushing stream with moss covered rocks. Thirty five species of plants were recorded in the area.



Kay Yatskievych, author of "Field Guide to Indiana Wildflowers" is a native Hoosier, transplanted to Missouri. She is professionally engaged as a Curator at Missouri Botanical Gardens and as a Publications Consultant for the Missouri Botanical Garden Press in St. Louis. She was a founding member of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society and of the Brown County Spring Wildflower Count. Kay continues to do outreach work for both of the not-for-profit organizations. Carroll Ritter is a retired Lawrence County teacher and a dedicated volunteer for both of the sponsoring organizations. He is currently serving as president of the White River RC&D Forestry Committee and as Environmental Education Coordinator for Sycamore Land Trust. Carroll coordinated the details for the two site hike.



Cave River Valley, 2009

FAMILY FOREST FUN DAY

The first annual 'Family Forest Fun Day' was co-sponsored by the White River RC&D Forestry Committee and Sycamore Land Trust in Lawrence County on October 24th. The event was graciously hosted by the John Williams Family on their family farm near Williams. Eight volunteers provided educational entertainment centered around the family forest. Session topics included orienteering, plant identification, wild animal calls, old fashioned crosscut bucksaw demonstrations and tree height calculations.

