

white RIVER

A publication of the White River Resource, Conservation and Development Inc.

Annual Report



Our Mission...

To serve as a catalyst to nurture, promote and develop volunteer efforts in providing local solutions for local concerns; thereby enhancing the quality of life within the White River RC&D Area.

Our Staff...

Coordinator
Kris Vance

Program Assistant
Mary Jane Deel

Our Contact Info...

White River RC&D
1919 Steven Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421

Phone: 812-279-8117 ext 5

2008 White River RC&D Annual Meeting Recap

With the retirement of Catrina (Kitty) Perkinson, White River RC&D moved into 2008 without a coordinator. The position has remained open throughout the year with Jerry Lish, Lawrence County District Conservationist, filling in as Acting Coordinator.

For the sixth year in a row, White River RC&D celebrated their anniversary with a dinner meeting. The 2008 dinner was held at Spring Mill Inn, located in Spring Mill State Park. Tim Burton, guest speaker, provided a slide presentation of the working Sugar Bush – Maple Syrup business he and his partner, David Abner, have developed. Tim then answered questions from the attendees prior to conducting a drawing to give away several bottles of the pure maple syrup. He also



provided each attendee with a sample bottle of maple syrup. Burton and Abner will be hosting the USA's first "National Maple Syrup Festival" during the first and second weekends in March, 2009. The event is open to the public. A schedule of the activities taking place during the festival can be found on the web: www.nationalmaplesyrupfestival.com.

Education Committee holds Envirothon

The Education Committee sponsored the South Central Regional Envirothon for high school agriculture teams in March. With a volunteer crew of twelve and



support from the four county SWCDs, they hosted 125 students (25 teams) and fourteen coach/advisors at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. The students were addressed by professionals in the fields of soil/land use, aquatic ecology, wildlife, forestry, and a current environmental issue. Each five member team then completed a written

test. The students were treated to a morning snack when they arrived and were served lunch while their tests were being graded. The three top placing teams from each region are invited to represent the region during the state contest later in the year. Our 2008 top three were Northeast Dubois FFA, 1st; Clay City FFA, 2nd; and Salem FFA, 3rd.



Bright Ideas!

Public Seminars

Transferring Forestlands

The free seminar "Transferring Forestland to the Next Generation" that was co-sponsored by the White River Forestry Committee in 2006 is still generating requests for information. A large number of full information packets were mailed in the past year. White River RC&D has willingly provided the information to the woodland owners and will continue to do so as requests come from those interested in preserving their forests for future generations.

Alien Threats

In 2007, White River sponsored a seminar on "Alien Threats to Southern Indiana Forestlands." As a result of the seminar, the White River Forestry Committee received requests for carrying the project a little further by forming a group to help control invasive species in Southern Indiana. The Southern Indiana Combined Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a direct result of that request and the White River RC&D volunteers who carried through with the request. The CWMA has received their not-for-profit status from the State of Indiana and is currently pursuing a 501 (c) 3 rating. Tom Tremain, a White River RC&D volunteer, is

serving as the first president of the group. White River RC&D has been pleased to provide the umbrella for the forming of this group and give them their full support.



Forestry & Wildflower Committees Make Big Impacts

The Sycamore Land Trust joined with the White River Forestry Committee in sponsoring our annual Wildflower Hike. The hikers were led by Kay Yatskievych, renowned author and documenter of wildflowers in Indiana. Kay is a Curator, Researcher, and Publications Consultant at Missouri Botanical Garden. She is a founding member of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society and the Brown County Spring Wildflower Count. Kay was assisted by Carroll Ritter, retired local school teacher, wildflower expert, and active member/volunteer of the Sycamore Land Trust. Carroll also served as organizer and chair of the committee. Thirty-nine participants, including eight students, enjoyed the hike that took them to Hemlock Bluff Nature Preserve and the Jeremy K. Oakley Nature Preserve. Kay and Carroll have volunteered their services again to lead the 2009 Wildflower Hike that will begin in Spring Mill State Park and conclude at Cave River Valley, a property that is currently being acquired by the Nature Conservancy and scheduled to be managed by Spring Mill Park.

The Forestry Committee sponsored a "Stump to Product" tour that took participants on a tour of the Jim and Martha Walton classified forest, that included a tree harvesting demonstration by Sam Bond, professional forester and consultant. State Forester, Janet Eger, and Sam provided information for maintaining the life and growth of a healthy forest as he prepared to fell a large walnut tree. The participants were then taken on a tour of the Paul Adkins Sawmill, where the mill manager, Dennis Voyles, explained the grading and processing of logs. Following a catered lunch at Mitchell Park, the group concluded their day with a tour of the Fibertech Plant in Mitchell. Jack Faubion, Plant Manager and Mike Watjen, Timber Buyer, welcomed the participants and led a very informative and interesting tour of the business where nothing is ever wasted. Specializing in small and low grade lumber products, they utilize the sawdust for energy in the building and process the remaining side products into mulch for which there is a constant demand.

Although the roadside wildflower project officially reached closure in 2007, members of the committee provided for some upkeep on the existing plots. Several of the plots were re-seeded to provide for a denser stand of vegetation and blooms during the season. With the establishment of the wildflower plots complete, the sponsors expect a return of colorful blooms for years to come.