

Sycamore Trails RC&D 2003 Annual Report



Council Board of Directors for 2003

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Doug Walker
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Office Staff

Bill Beard, Coordinator
Michelle Phillips, Program Asst.
Laura Stearley, Financial Asst.

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Highlights of 2003

Upper Eel River Manure Management Project Completed

The finishing touches were put on a 3 ½ year project aimed at helping livestock producers use the manure generated by their operations as a valuable resource, rather than a liability. A grant of over \$138,000 from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has assisted producers in transporting manure from confined hog operations farther than normal distances for field application. The manure was no-till injected in fields having a phosphorus deficiency, increasing their fertility. Reduced application rates were used to insure the receiving land could fully utilize the additional nutrients.

An additional amount of services of about \$150,000 was provided by the producers and others supporting the project, resulting in a total project value of almost \$300,000. Kathy Oliver was hired to be the project manager of the effort.

Abandoned Mine Lands Program Completes One Grant, Starts Another

The RC&D's abandoned mine lands reclamation program, Partners for Reclamation, was begun in August, 1999. The project was closed out in February, 2003 after successfully reclaiming 22 sites damaged by long-abandoned coal mine operations.

To fund the program, Sycamore Trails RC&D had acquired grants from Indiana Department of Environmental Management and Indiana Department of

Natural Resources – Division of Reclamation totaling over \$230,000.

This program proved to be so successful that these financial sponsors anted up another \$268,000 to continue the reclamation work.

The new round of funding did not take effect until September, 2003, leaving an eight-month gap in support of the ongoing work. Enter Cinergy/PSI and Hoosier Energy power companies, as well as Sullivan and Parke County SWCDs, who contributed a total of \$7,700 to keep the program operating. This project is an excellent example of how RC&D puts together funding sources, technical support, and local decision-making and management to solve problems in its area.

Sycamore Trails "Adopts" Friends of State Parks Groups

Two groups in our area are trying to establish their tax-exempt non-profit status. In order to assist them in this formative stage, Sycamore Trails has taken the Friends of McCormick's Creek and the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks groups under our Council umbrella as standing committees. They benefit from our assistance and may use our 501(c) (3) tax exempt status to accept donations. In return, they appoint a representative to serve on our Board of Directors. We all have many goals and philosophies in common, making this a natural fit. The groups hope to be independent some time in 2004.

Committee Accomplishments in 2003

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council is a nine-county conservation organization that works through volunteer committees to improve the standard of living in west central Indiana. Sponsoring organizations of the RC&D Council are the city of Terre Haute, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the County Commissioners, and the Cooperative Extension Boards in each of the nine counties. Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park and Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks have come under the umbrella of our Council this year, and have appointed representatives to serve on our board. Under the authority of Board Members appointed by our sponsors and the Friends groups, and through the efforts of local volunteers passionate about improving their communities, the following efforts have been completed in the 2003 calendar year.

Education Committee - Sue Crafton and Todd Hutson, Chairs

- ◆ held a pond management workshop at Camp Sycamore at Na-Wa-Kwa
- ◆ held a "Master Naturalist" course, and assisted in statewide organization of this program
- ◆ printed/distributed 5000 copies of children's "Boofo" Soil & Water Conservation newsletter
- ◆ participated in Earth Day event at St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Fish and Wildlife Committee - Max Winchell and Roger Stonebraker, Chairs

- ◆ held spring field day - youth hunter education and quail hunt (partnership with Quail Unlimited)
- ◆ participated in Earth Day event at Sullivan Lake and Park - public education
- ◆ printed/distributed 5000 copies of children's "Boofo" Fish and Wildlife Newsletter (contributions from Triad Mining, Cinergy, and Sullivan County Chapter of Quail Unlimited)
- ◆ planted 1300 trees along banks of Eel River to improve wildlife habitat
- ◆ held wildlife banquet

Forestry Committee - Don Carlson, Chair

- ◆ staffed forestry education tour as part of the Maple Syrup Festival in Parke County
- ◆ held awards banquet in Fountain County to honor top woodland stewards (grants from Pike Lumber Co., C.C. Cook & Son Lumber Co., and Loggers, Incorporated)
- ◆ held forestry field day at Rice Woods in Putnam County, site of a field day 24 years earlier (partnered with Indiana Tree Farm program) - over 100 attended.
- ◆ began establishment of 5 local forest landowner organizations through a grant from IDNR
- ◆ planted 3600 trees along I-70 median with grant from Hardwood Forestry Fund
- ◆ printed/distributed 5000 copies of children's "Boofo" Forestry Newsletter (grants from International Paper and Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association)
- ◆ published and printed 5000 copies of "See a Forester First" brochure to inform landowners of best marketing practices for timber sales
- ◆ presented forestry sessions to 1500 5th graders at Vigo County school field days
- ◆ coordinated forest organization displays/activities at Sullivan County's Earth Day at the Lake
- ◆ commissioned making of and purchased 150 "tree measuring sticks" for resale to woodland owners.

Committee Accomplishments (continued from page 2)

Grants Committee - Nancy Wagner, Chair

- ◆ held Grant Writing I training course
- ◆ held Grant Writing II training course
- ◆ held a Scholarship Workshop for high school students, parents, and advisors
- ◆ held a workshop for non-profits on “Accessing Local Dollars”
- ◆ conducted a number of funding searches for other organizations’ projects

Land Trust Committee - Bill Cary, Chris South, Chairs

- ◆ monitored conservation easement that the Council holds on 250 acre tract of wildlife/ timberland in Vigo County
- ◆ directed the Council efforts in fundraising for operations

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee - Charlie Lee, Chair

- ◆ Completed four-year effort funded by IDEM and IDNR-Reclamation that reclaimed a total of twenty-two abandoned coal mine sites
- ◆ reclaimed eight (8) additional abandoned mine sites with assistance from IDNR-Reclamation, Cinergy/PSI, Hoosier Energy, Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Parke County SWCD
- ◆ received a new three-year grant from IDEM to reclaim abandoned mine lands in Council area
- ◆ held tour of completed and underway reclamation projects

Other Council activities

- ◆ operated the Interstate Welcome Center on I-74, under contract with Indiana Dept. of Commerce
- ◆ installed 2 dry hydrants to improve rural fire protection
- ◆ completed implementation of the \$300,000 Upper Eel River Manure Management Project in cooperation with the Putnam County Pork Producers and Putnam County SWCD
- ◆ in cooperation with the West Central Chapter of Quail Unlimited, installed over 150 acres of conservation buffers and warm season grasses through the Big Walnut/Deer Creek Conservation Buffer Project
- ◆ initiated two new committees: Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks; and Friends of McCormick’s Creek State Park
- ◆ partnered with other RC&Ds, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, IDNR Division of State Parks & Reservoirs, and Master Naturalist graduates to form a statewide Master Naturalist Program advisory committee.

Sycamore Trails RC&D Council, Inc.
 Statement of Financial Income and Expense
 January through December 2003

01/23/2004 Cash Basis

Balance 1/1/2003 38,910.96

Income

Total Contributions Income	8,541.00
Dues Received	2,700.00
Total Grants	144,053.66
Interest Income	592.85
Membership	765.00
Miscellaneous Income	175.00
Rebates/Refunds	6.80
Registration/Reservation	8,818.75
Reimbursements from others	1,280.26
ReLeaf Program Landowner Depos	4,500.00
Total Sales	717.10
Services for outside orgs	75.00
Sponsorship	2,600.00
Tree Planting Income	675.00
Welcome Center contract	32,468.27

Total Income 207,968.69 207,968.69

Expenses

AML Proj Mgmt	11,016.39
Bank Service Charges	35.75
Dues and Subscriptions	2,183.00
Employee Gifts	350.00
Equipment purchase	283.87
Total Grants Expns	138,080.56
Information Technology	109.55
Total Insurance	340.20
Internet Service Expense	180.00
Licenses and Permits	68.75
Total Meetings Expense	838.36
Miscellaneous	160.00
Non-Profit State Filing Fee	20.00
Total Payroll exp	34,686.26
Total Postage and Delivery	3,448.44
Total Printing and Reproduction	3,130.54
Total Professional Fees	525.00
Program Expense	327.83
Promotional/Marketing	138.00
Total Purchases for resale	575.00
Registration Fee	910.00
Reimbursable Expense	687.50
ReLeaf Landowner exp	1,740.00
Shipping and Handling	41.62
Total Supplies	1,455.06
Telephone	662.34
Total Travel	63.36
Total Workshop/Event Expns	10,451.83

Total Expense 212,509.21 212,509.21

Net Income -4,540.52

Balance 12/31/2003 34,370.44

Contributors / Sponsors

GENERAL OPERATIONS SPONSORS

Silver Level Sponsor

Midland-Impact LLP

Other Sponsors

R.R. Donnelly Foundation
 State Farm Companies Foundation

PROJECT SPONSORS

Cinergy Foundation
 Hoosier Energy
 C.C. Cook & Son Lumber Co., Inc.
 Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Assoc
 International Paper
 Pike Lumber Company
 Triad Mining

Sullivan County Chapter of Quail Unlimited
 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 of Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen,
 Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion,
 and Vigo Counties

PROJECT GRANT/CONTRACT SOURCES

Hardwood Forestry Fund
 Indiana Dept of Natural Resources
 - Div of Reclamation
 - Div of Forestry
 Indiana Dept of Environmental Mgmt -
 Office of Water Mgmt
 Indiana Department of Commerce -
 Tourism Development Division

PROJECT PARTNERS

West Central Chapter Quail Unlimited
 Putnam County Pork Producers
 Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
 The "No-Sail" Splash Guard Co., Inc.

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Gerald Sharp
 William Swern

Midland Renews Corporate Sponsorship

Midland-Impact LLP, an agricultural limited liability partnership based in Danville, Indiana, renewed its corporate sponsorship of Sycamore Trails RC&D. Midland, as a “Silver Level” sponsor, has agreed to contribute \$1,000 annually to Sycamore Trails RC&D operations and programs. Midland’s mission is:

1. To be a leading agricultural supplier of top-quality products, services, information, and technology which enhances the profitability of their member-owners;
2. To grow and diversify their business for the long-term benefit of their customers, employees, and community in an environmentally responsible manner.

Midland serves a multi-county area in west central Indiana, overlapping with several counties in the Sycamore Trails area. Midland’s focus on being involved with the community at the local level, and its desire to

serve its customer base while protecting the environment made it a natural partner for the RC&D Council.

Midland provides a wide variety of products and services including lawn, garden, and pet care products, seed and fertilizers, home/commercial heating oil and LP gas, agronomy and livestock management services, farm equipment, and even crop insurance. According to CEO Kevin Still, Midland’s goal is to deliver information and technology, state-of-the-art equipment, and quality products that producers need to succeed in today’s changing market. Midland’s products and services are available to the public as well as its producer-members.

We thank Midland-Impact LLP for its partnership with Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council, “making things happen” at the local level.

Earth Team Volunteers Serve Well

The Sycamore Trails office has been fortunate to have faithful Earth Team Volunteers working in the office. They began their service in the Fall of 2002.

These ladies from the Putnam County Retired Senior Volunteer Program come in when needed to help with mailings and other office tasks. Frances O’Neal and Margaret Neild are from Greencastle and have been a great help in the efficiency of the RC&D office.

We are always looking for folks who would like to donate their time to help Sycamore Trails achieve our goals. If you are interested, contact the office.



Office volunteers Frances O’Neal (left) and Margaret Neild.

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
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Greencastle, IN 46135-1887



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENCASTLE, IN PERMIT NO. 224

Serving Nine Counties in West Central Indiana

Clay
Fountain
Montgomery
Owen
Parke
Putnam
Sullivan
Vermillion
Vigo

What Is Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Council?

Our Vision: Local citizens cooperating to maintain a healthy, vibrant, and diverse environment and economy in the Sycamore Trails RC&D area.

Our Mission: To motivate, assist, enable, and coordinate local citizens in the conservation and development of natural, human, and economic resources.

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council was organized by local people in 1970. The RC&D program is a combination of people, rural development needs, opportunities, and solutions.

RC&D provides a vehicle for dealing with many rural issues through citizen participation. It is as much a way of doing things—a process—as it is a program.

Many dedicated volunteers make Sycamore Trails RC&D successful. Local people work together to set goals

and priorities, select projects, and take actions.

Office space, a program coordinator, and a program assistant are provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, no federal funds are provided for the operation of the RC&D Council or resource committees.

Sycamore Trails is incorporated as not-for-profit within the state of Indiana and is tax-exempt by Internal Revenue Service determination.

Sycamore Trails serves as a frame-

work for local individuals, groups, businesses, and units of government to cooperate *regionally* to meet common needs and tackle common problems.

If you have an interest in helping improve the quality of life in west central Indiana, you have a place in Sycamore Trails RC&D. You may be an individual or a representative of a group, organization, association, or agency.

To find out more about Sycamore Trails RC&D and to voice your concerns about resource problems and opportunities, contact the office or a Council Board member.

All programs and services of Sycamore Trails RC&D are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, or marital status.