

Sycamore Trails RC&D 2004 Annual Report



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Office Staff

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

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Highlights of 2004

Dry Hydrant Grant Funded - Installations Begun

Sycamore Trails obtained a grant for \$60,000.00 from the U.S. Forest Service to install dry (non-pressurized) hydrants in our nine-county area. Five such facilities have been installed in Putnam County, and coordinator/contact persons have been identified in the counties.

Benefits of Dry Hydrants include:

- ◆ Closer water supplies and less fuel & travel time for tankers, allowing for quicker fire control.
- ◆ Financial savings for small towns by using natural unprocessed water as opposed to costly treated water to fight fires.
- ◆ Potential for lower insurance premiums of rural residents.

Sycamore Trails can pay for up to 50% of the cost of installing a dry hydrant facility. The value of volunteer labor and donated use of equipment can be used to cover the 50% local share. Hydrants must be located near an adequate water supply, within 10 feet of an all-weather road, with safe pull-off and access for fire equipment.

Indiana RC&D's Host Regional RC&D Conference

The seven-state North Central Association of RC&D Councils held

their annual meeting at Pokagon State Park March 21-23. Sycamore Trails' role was to provide administrative support and registration services for the conference.

Nearly 200 people attended the conference. Special guests included Sharon Ruggi, President of the National Association of RC&D Councils; Smith Covey, National RC&D Coordinator; Nedda Simon, President of the North Central Assoc.; Charles Whitmore, NRCS Regional Conservationist; and Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist.

Speakers included Marta Brockmeyer on Project Management, Larry Clemens with The Nature Conservancy, Dave Altman on the Story of Tecumseh, and motivational speaker Susan Miller. Breakout sessions provided participants with an opportunity to hear about successful projects sponsored by Indiana RC&D Councils.

Tours included the Wild Winds Buffalo Preserve and Satek Winery, the Auburn*Cord*Duesenberg Auto Museum, and the Prime Outlet Shopping Mall.

This was a great opportunity to network with RC&D folks from neighboring states, to swap ideas, and to get inspired.

--adapted from article by
John Poenisch, NRCS, Indianapolis

Committee Accomplishments in 2004

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 "Master Naturalist" course, and assisted in statewide organization of this program
- ◆ printed/distributed 5000 copies of children's "Boofo" Soil & Water Conservation newsletter
- ◆ held Soil health workshop at the White Violet Center at St. Mary-of-the-Woods

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

- ◆ 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 National Wild Turkey Federation, Covered Bridge Chapter)
- ◆ installed fish structures to improve fish habitat at Raccoon Lake SRA in Parke County
- ◆ 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 at McCormick's Creek State Park Canyon Inn to honor top woodland stewards (grants from C.C. Cook & Son Lumber Co., and Pingleton Sawmill)
- ◆ supported establishment of 5 local forest landowner organizations through a grant from IDNR
- ◆ held 4 organizational/educational meetings & field days of the Putnam County Woodland Owners
- ◆ held Parke/Vermillion County Woodland Owners field day on the Summers property.
- ◆ planted 12,600 trees along State Road 63 in Vermillion County with grant from Hardwood Forestry Fund, some near a school, where they will be used for educational purposes.
- ◆ printed/distributed 5000 copies of children's "Boofo" Forestry Newsletter (grants from International Paper and Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association)
- ◆ presented forestry sessions to 1500 5th graders at Vigo County school field days
- ◆ hosted a forestry field day in Montgomery County at the Moore property

Committee Accomplishments (continued from page 2)

- ◆ assisted with a bush honeysuckle control workshop in cooperation with Vigo County Parks, Purdue University & Townshend Chemical
- ◆ held a timber stand improvement day in Parke County
- ◆ held Forest Industry Recognition Tour & Dinner for landowners, forestry industry, and agency personnel. Pingleton Sawmill hosted the tour.

Grants Committee - Bud Sharp, Chair

- ◆ Grants Committee was officially decommissioned in 2004

Land Trust Committee - Bud Sharp, Chris South, Chairs

- ◆ monitored conservation easement that the Council holds on 250 acre tract of wildlife/agricultural/timberland in Vigo County
- ◆ made land protection presentations in 3 counties
- ◆ Worked with Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. in protecting a 104-acre tract of forestland along Sugar Creek in Parke County.

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee - Charlie Lee, Chair

- ◆ continued work under an agreement funded by IDEM and IDNR-Reclamation to reclaim at least twenty abandoned coal mine sites
- ◆ hired a new project coordinator

Other Council activities

- ◆ operated the Interstate Welcome Center on I-74, under contract with Indiana Dept. of Commerce
- ◆ installed 5 dry hydrants to improve rural fire protection
- ◆ in cooperation with the West Central Chapter of Quail Unlimited, Putnam and Hendricks SWCDs, and IDEM, installed about 170 acres of conservation buffers and warm season grasses through the Big Walnut/Deer Creek Conservation Buffer Project
- ◆ continued to support Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks and Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park as committees under the council's non-profit umbrella
- ◆ Supported IDNR-Division of Reclamation "ReLeaf" program to create forests on recently mined lands.
- ◆ Partnered with the other 9 RC&D Councils in Indiana to host the 7-state regional RC&D Conference in March.
- ◆ Represented the Indiana League of RC&Ds at the RC&D Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. , visiting all members of Indiana's congressional delegation to promote and explain the RC&D program.

Sycamore Trails RC&D Council, Inc.

Statement of Financial Income and Expense

January through December 2004

Balance 1/1/2004		34,370.44
Income		
4000 · Contributed Support	117,817.67	
5000 · Earned revenues	44,967.43	
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	668.07	
6100 · Reimbursements from others	3,817.97	
6200 · Rebates/Refunds	132.22	
6300 · ReLeaf Prog Landowner Dep	6,630.00	
Total Income	174,033.36	174,033.36
Expense		
7000 · Grant & contract expense	96,976.46	
7100 · Workshop/Event Expense	6,115.10	
7200 · Program Expenses	1,201.72	
7400 · Salaries & Related Expenses	33,979.93	
7500 · Other personnel expenses	1,772.00	
8100 · Non-personnel exp-Mgmt/Overhead	3,256.11	
8300 · Travel & meetings expenses	4,049.87	
8500 · Misc expenses		
8520 · Insurance-non employee	1,026.00	
8525 · Endowment Fund Contrib.	1,370.00	
8530 · Membership dues	1,550.00	
8550 · Reimbursable Expense	3,491.27	
8555 · Refund	1,355.00	
8500 · Misc expenses - Other	1,564.39	
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	10,356.66	
Total Expense	157,707.85	157,707.85
Net Income	16,325.51	
Balance 12/31/2004		50,695.95

Contributors / Sponsors

GENERAL OPERATIONS SPONSORS

Bronze Level Sponsor

Midland-Impact LLP

Other Sponsors

R.R. Donnelly Foundation

PROJECT SPONSORS

C.C. Cook & Son Lumber Co., Inc.

Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Assoc

International Paper

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

National Wild Turkey Federation,
Covered Bridge Chapter

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

Pike Lumber Company

PROJECT PARTNERS

West Central Chapter Quail Unlimited

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Dave Burns

Betsy Smith

Linda Croft

Jim & Sue Spence

Max & Joy Evans

STRC&D Land Trust

Bill Hartman

Committee

Raoul Moore

Several anonymous

Gerald Sharp

donors



**to all who
support us –
we couldn't do it
without you!**

Leadership Forum in Washington, DC

The National Association of RC&D Councils conducted a Leadership Forum on Feb. 23-24, 2004 to increase the effectiveness of RC&D Board members from across the country. The Indiana League of RC&D Councils was represented by four of our board members (see photo), who carried the message of all Indiana RC&Ds to many of Indiana's Senators and Representatives.

The forum educates local Council Directors on the "big picture" of RC&D at the national level, and then gives our RC&D volunteers a chance to educate their legislators on the benefits and accomplishments of local RC&D activities in their districts. Marshall, Bud, and Charlie have attended before, and all four men heartily concur that any director who attends will gain great insights.



(L to R) Sycamore Trails Board Members Marshall Nuckolls, Charlie Lee, Jim Spence, and Bud Sharp represented all the Indiana RC&D Councils at the Leadership Forum in Washington DC.

Our Faithful Earth Team Volunteer

The Sycamore Trails office has been fortunate to have a faithful Earth Team Volunteer working in the office. Margaret Neild began her service with us in the Fall of 2002.

Margaret was recruited from the Putnam County Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She comes in when needed to help with mailings and other office tasks, and has 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 volunteer Margaret Neild.

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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.

Sycamore Trails RC&D is an equal opportunity provider and employer.