

# Rickenbaugh News

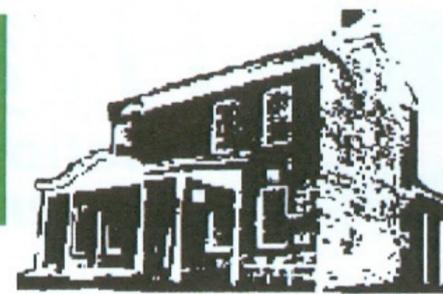


Photo of Rickenbaugh House taken at the Hands on the Land Open House in May, 2007: by Nancy Myers

Hello Friends,

We are pleased to send you the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Rickenbaugh News and keep you updated on House happenings throughout 2007.

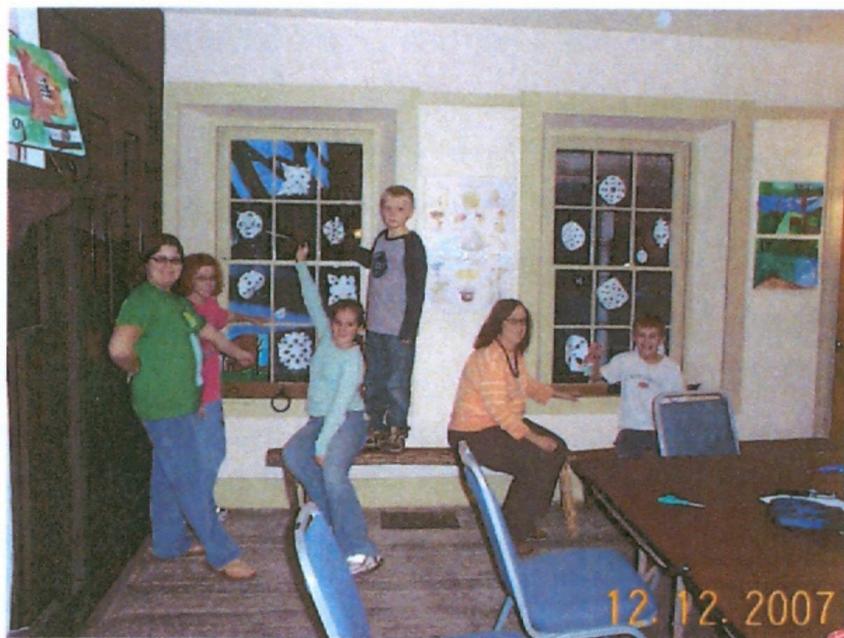
Several exciting events were held at the House in 2007 including the Hands on the Land Network of Outdoor Classrooms Open House in May, tours hosted by the Tell City summer Interpreter on Sundays throughout the summer, National Public Lands Day in September, and an open house for the 2007 Perry County Hoosier Heritage Fall Festival in October.

If you have any questions regarding the Rickenbaugh House or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please email [nmyers@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmyers@fs.fed.us) or write to me at the office – Hoosier National Forest, 248 15<sup>th</sup>, Tell City, IN 47586.

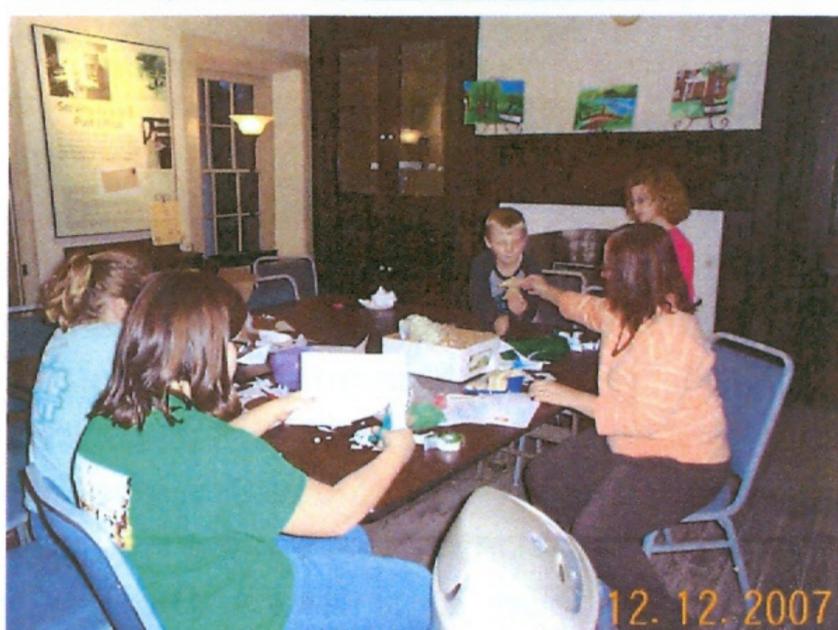
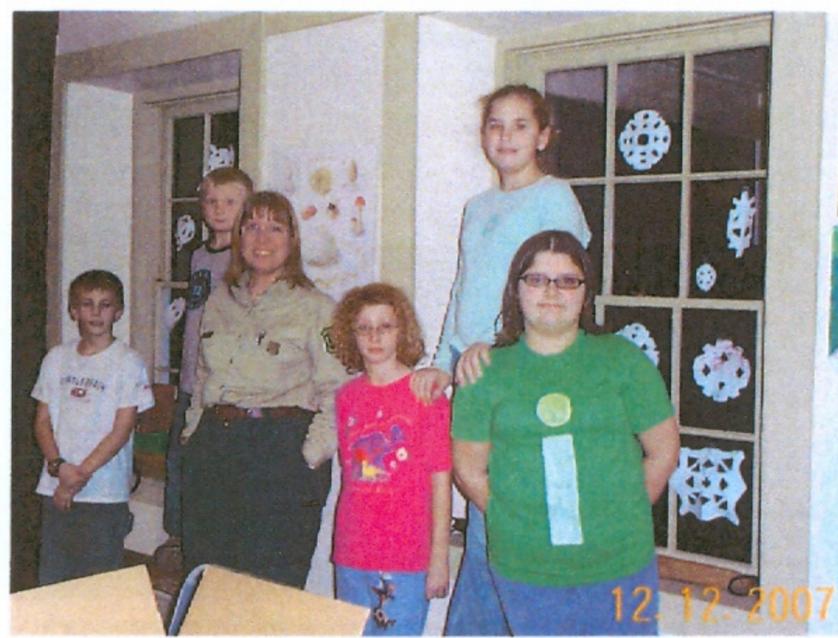
We hope you enjoy reading about the educational programs and special events held at the House throughout 2007. Thank you for your interest and support of the beautiful, historic Rickenbaugh House!

*Nancy Myers*

## Making Holiday Crafts at the Rickenbaugh House-December 12, 2007



The Perry Central School "Hands on the Land" students and Family Life Coordinator, Jackie Colucci are busy making holiday crafts at the Rickenbaugh House December 12, 2007. Nancy Myers, Jackie and the students had opportunities to pose for some photos above.





# Hands on the Land

A National Network of Field Classrooms Linking Students, Teachers, and Parents to their Public Lands and Waterways

## Featured Site

### Rickenbaugh House

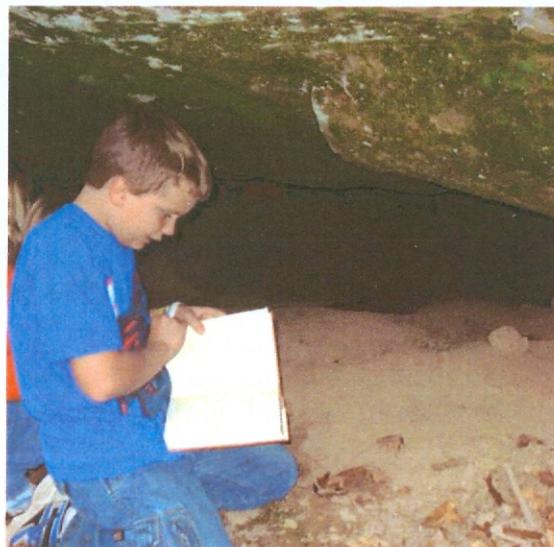
As part of the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana, the Rickenbaugh House offers visitors and students an inside look at life in the 1800s. With restoration completed in 2003, the House hosts area students to HOL events, National Public Lands Day projects, festivals and serves as a meeting place for local community groups. With its rich history and surrounding natural resources, the Rickenbaugh House is a unique Hands on the Land site.

In 1874, Jacob Rickenbaugh hired three Belgium stone masons to build a house constructed out of local sandstone and wood. After almost 100 years as a family home, post office and temporary church site, it was acquired by the Forest Service in 1968. Thanks to the efforts of the Celina Interpretive Association, the USFS and other grantees, the house was restored, thus preserving the local area's history for years to come.



Students learn about life at the Rickenbaugh house in the 1870's from local hunter and re-enactor Albert Hagedorn.

Utilizing the unique attributes of the Rickenbaugh House, Forest Service Partners have created programs that invite area students to take a step back in time. In 2006, over 100 students volunteered their services to help with the site's upkeep and learned from community volunteers and Rickenbaugh descendants about life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Students learned about the animals and plants that live in the woods and enjoyed a wild edible feast. Others learned how to identify animal tracks and used that knowledge to create a learning game for other Rickenbaugh House visitors to enjoy.



Students identify animal tracks in the natural surroundings of the Rickenbaugh House.

As spring arrives, and the weather warms, the students work and learn outside. They will plant native flowers in front of the House, take nature walks to learn about tree identification and about the Native Americans who are said to have lived in the cliffs behind the house. Later this month they will be learning how to identify bird songs and participate in an annual bird count. Earth Day will bring lessons about the forest environment and a trail maintenance hike. A Hands on the Land after school group plans to take a boat ride on the lake to learn about the lake environment and boat safety from an Indiana conservation officer and several local fishermen. A 7th grade art class will create paintings of the Rickenbaugh House, Celina Lake and the nearby forest. Their artwork will be on display during a public open house in May that will also feature artifact displays created by another junior high class. Tours will also be conducted by students who will be sharing what they learned with area residents and other students.

To learn more, contact Nancy Myers at [nmyers@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmyers@fs.fed.us) or visit the site profile on the HOL website,

[http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile\\_details.cfm?sitecode=riho](http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile_details.cfm?sitecode=riho).

# Perry County Fall Festival Features Rickenbaugh Open House

By: **Nancy Myers**  
**R09\_Hoosier**

Posted: 11/07/2007

*Historic Rickenbaugh house is opened to the public for the annual fall foliage tours and the enjoyment of many local visitors.*

The weather was beautiful for the opening weekend of the annual Perry County Hoosier Heritage Fall Tour. The tour features many activities and scenic drives throughout Perry County for four weekends in September and October. The Perry County CVB works with the Hoosier National Forest to schedule the



**Visitors to the Rickenbaugh House during the Perry County Hoosier Heritage Fall tour.**

Rickenbaugh House to be open for the second weekend of the Tour.

This year was no exception as the House was open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7. Nancy Myers hosted 72 visitors and Todd Dempsey hosted 51. Light refreshments were served and information about recreation opportunities on the Forest and the southern Indiana region was available. Particularly popular was the new Hoosier National Forest free visitor map.

"People just love the Rickenbaugh House and are so excited when they have an opportunity to see the inside," Myers observed.

According to Myers, many visitors explained that they have been watching the House's progress from the outside over the years and they jump at the chance to come in. Visitors poured over the interpretive panels and looked at Rickenbaugh House and period artifacts displayed in the cupboards.

One visitor filmed the house with a video camera. A highlight for Myers was a Tell City table donated by Rickenbaugh relative Alvin Blunk. Blunk brought the table over Saturday morning and it is located in the north parlor.

The interpretation of the House was enhanced this year thanks to the Perry Central School Rickenbaugh Club. The Rickenbaugh Club was formed as a result of a grant obtained from the Washington Office Conservation Education office and allowed elementary and middle school students an opportunity to learn about the history of the House and local area.

The Rickenbaugh House is now part of the Hands on the Land Network of Outdoor Classrooms. It's wonderful to see the House used to showcase the cultural heritage of the Indian-Celina Recreation Area and Perry County.

# Hands on the Lands students help eliminate invasives on National Public Lands Day



Some of the volunteers who participated in NPLD at the Rickenbaugh House are shown with their bags of Japanese stilt grass.

By: Nancy Myers  
R09\_Hoosier

Posted: 10/04/2007

*The Hands on the Land conservation education group participated in a National Public Lands Day event on trails in the Celina Lake Recreation Area.*

It was a gorgeous fall day at Celina Lake for the annual National Public Lands volunteer work day on the Hoosier National Forest. The Hoosier took the opportunity for the Hands on the Land Rickenbaugh House site to host another NPLD event. Saturday morning September 29th, Teena

Ligman and Nancy Myers met Perry Central School Family Outreach Coordinator Jackie Colucci and three students from Perry Central School at the Rickenbaugh House. One of the students brought along his family to volunteer.

"Though we had planned for a larger group of students and their families to participate," noted Ligman, Public Affairs Specialist, "the group we had was very motivated and interested in working." The project involved invasive plants, specifically pulling Japanese stilt grass from the Rickenbaugh Interpretive Trail and the Two Lakes National Recreation Trail.

The previous Wednesday, the Perry Central student's Rickenbaugh Club met at the House for their weekly Hands on the Land program. Nancy talked to the students about the invasive weed problem on the trail, and showed them pictures of Japanese stilt grass. Nancy, Jackie and the students hiked a short segment of the trail and picked up a bag full of the Stilt Grass in order to become familiar with the weed. The earlier exercise prepared the kids for the National Public Lands Day project.

Saturday morning, with gloves and bags in hand the volunteers hiked down the Rickenbaugh Interpretive Trail to the Two Lakes Trail ready to pull as much of the prolific invasive plant as we could. Fortunately, Japanese stilt grass has a shallow root system and is very easy to pull. The plant particularly likes shady riparian areas, and grows abundantly along the Two Lakes Trail at a creek crossing. Though the stilt grass had spread down the creek to the lake in a heavy carpet, the group focused their attention near the trail and got to work pulling weeds.

With no danger of running out of weeds to pull, the group worked steadily all morning. As one young boy pointed out, "As long as I focus on how many weeds are in my trash bag I feel like I'm really making progress - but don't look up!" Though the area behind the group was devoid of stilt grass, the invasive spread out as far as the group could see out ahead of them. They collected twelve or more 33 gallon bags of weeds.

As the group was busy pulling weeds, we came in contact with many backpackers and hikers who were enjoying the Two Lakes Trail. Myers, Recreation Planner on the Tell City District, greeted each group and explained to them what we were doing and told them about National Public Lands Day and the invasive weed problem on the trail. "After we were finished," Myers noted, "we could see the progress we made in our area. It was a great day to be out in the forest and accomplish a project to improve our public lands."

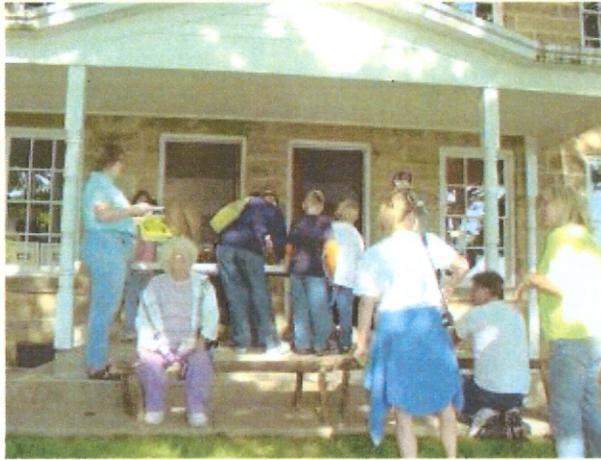
# Open House Celebrates First Year of Hoosier's Hands on the Land Program

**By: Nancy Myers  
R09\_Hoosier**

**Posted: 07/07/2007**

*Rickenbaugh Club highlights their first year of projects and programming with funding from the Hands on the Lands grant at the Rickenbaugh House on the Hoosier National Forest.*

On Friday, May 18 the Perry Central School's Rickenbaugh Club held an open house for their parents and the public. The purpose was to showcase many projects the elementary and middle school students accomplished to enhance interpretation of



**Excited students welcome guests to the Rickenbaugh Open House for the Hands on the Land project.**

the Rickenbaugh House during the 2006-2007 school year.

The Hoosier National Forest and Perry Central School received an \$8,000 grant from the Forest Service Conservation Education Program to include the Rickenbaugh House in the Hands on the Land Network of Outdoor Classrooms. The grant funded many Rickenbaugh Club-Hands on the Land projects and programs. Throughout the school year, Perry Central students regularly visited the Rickenbaugh House to help with its upkeep and learn about natural resources and the history of the House, the Rickenbaugh family, and local area.

With the help of Perry Central School employees, parent volunteers, and Perry County residents, the students learned about environmental and cultural heritage topics including bee keeping and bee hives, edible plants, animal tracks, tanning, tree identification, and pioneer life. Several Rickenbaugh relatives participated in the after-school programs and described life during the late 1800s and 1900s when the family lived in the House.

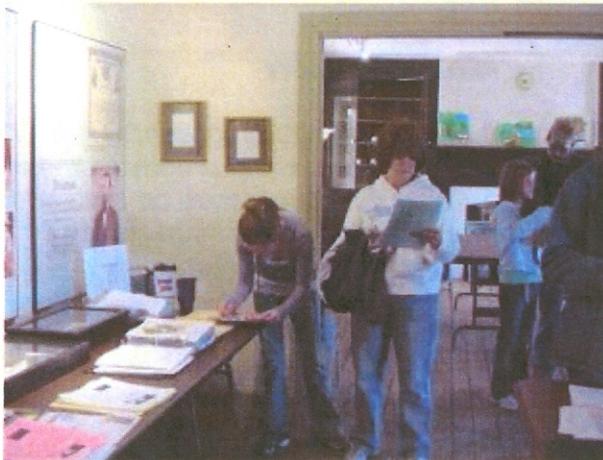
The students also decorated the House for the holidays, planted native plants around the House, and made shadow-box displays from historical artifacts. In addition, the students made several educational games, Rickenbaugh House fact sheets, a book about pioneer life, a Rickenbaugh family time line, and a Rickenbaugh family tree.

A highlight of the open house was an exhibit of beautiful paintings the art class created of the House and Celina Lake. Several of the students' paintings are on permanent display.

Many parents, Rickenbaugh relatives, and members of the public came to the open house as the excited students gave tours and presented their projects. It was a beautiful afternoon on Celina Lake and a great time to showcase the Rickenbaugh House Hands on the Land site.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Perry Central Rickenbaugh Club, visitors to the House will learn more about its wonderful heritage.

# Forest Hosts William Tell Elementary School Field Day



**William Tell Elementary School children and parents tour the historic Rickenbaugh House.**

**By: Nancy Myers  
R09\_Hoosier**

**Posted: 11/08/2007**

*Tell City District employees host a field day for the sixth grade class at William Tell Elementary School.*

Six Tell City Ranger District employees hosted 26 parents, teachers, and approximately 150 students from the sixth grade class at William Tell Elementary School for a day-long field trip at Celina Lake. Tom Krueger, Tom Thake, Amanda Kunzmann, Nancy Myers, Ben Ingram, and Ryan Otto led four sessions for the students on various topics ranging from

the carbon cycle, fire use, history of the Forest, the Rickenbaugh House, and learning about different tree species.

The students were placed into multiple groups and four groups at a time rotated through the sessions. Nancy Myers presented the Rickenbaugh House session. Students and their parents and teachers were fascinated with the House and asked a lot of questions. The teachers had given the students a word puzzle about the House that they had to answer. After the formal Rickenbaugh presentation and tour were over, the students particularly enjoyed playing the nature games at the House. All the sessions ended around noon.

Tom Krueger led three busloads of the students to four campsites in Southslope where he supervised building a campfire and cooking hot dogs on sticks. After lunch the students participated in an orienteering exercise and used their new-found skills to use a map and compass to locate trees, a cemetery, and a snack of trail mix at the end of the trail. It was a beautiful crisp fall day at Celina Lake which made for a great outing field trip for all involved.