



IBC NEWS

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Source: Duane Chattin, Vincennes University
Dick Helton, president of Vincennes University, greets the Bicentennial Commission at its November meeting held at Beckes Student Union.

An End to a Great Year

Perry Hammock, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission

As the year comes to a close, we have the opportunity to look back with reflection and forward with anticipation. As we prepare for a new and exciting year, it is important to take time to recognize those who have made a difference in 2014. I would like to especially thank Rene' Stanley, who is pursuing a wonderful new career opportunity. Although only here a few short months, Rene' made a huge contribution to the bicentennial effort. And, kudos to Chris Jensen, who ably led the Commission from its inception to his leaving in May.

Thanks to volunteer coordinators throughout Indiana, members of local committees, our IBC Commissioners, and great staff, progress during 2014 has been swift and meaningful. Commission-endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects now number 113, representing 38 counties. Through the Bicentennial Nature Trust matching grants program, 104 projects (totaling nearly 8,500 acres) have been approved in 49 different counties. Our goal is to

have every county represented with both legacy and nature trust projects by the bicentennial, and we are well on our way!

The upcoming year promises to be even more exciting. Statehood day, December 11, will mark the first major press conference regarding activities planned for the bicentennial year. The Bicentennial Commission's budget request will work its way through the legislative process over the next few months. Scheduled 2015 Commission meetings will be held throughout Indiana, including visits to Martin, Harrison, Lake, and Allen counties.

Be sure to keep up with the excitement on our website, indiana2016.org, and help share the bicentennial message with your friends, colleagues, and Hoosiers around the world. As you celebrate the holiday season, I hope you find time for reflection and anticipation, for family and friends, and for enjoying the year's end with a thankful heart.



Source: Duane Chattin, Vincennes University
First Lady Karen Pence along with IBC members Lee Hamilton, Becky Skillman, and Jim McCormick present Rama Sobhani, the Director of Fox Ridge Nature Park the BNT signage.

November IBC Meeting Recap

The November Indiana Bicentennial Commission meeting was held in historic Vincennes Indiana at the Beckes Student Union of Vincennes University.

First Lady Karen Pence recognized the Knox County Parks Department for its Fox Ridge Nature Park Bicentennial Nature Trust project. This project allowed Knox County to purchase and acquire the former Fox Ridge Golf Course to be transformed into a community park.

Mark Newman, Indiana Office of Tourism Development also presented to the Commission about the progress that the upcoming 2016 Bicentennial Torch Relay is making.

Counties Represented at the IBC Meeting

1 Dubois County Activity

Kevin Manley, Dubois Bicentennial County Coordinator and Mary Ann Hayes, President of the Dubois County Historical Society presented to the Commission. Activities in progress include creating a map of historical markers, one-room school houses and early churches. In November 2014, a Toussaint Dubois plaque was dedicated at the county courthouse. This was a Bicentennial Legacy Project spearheaded by the Dubois County Historical Society.

2 Daviess County Activity

Samantha Bobbitt, Daviess Bicentennial County Coordinator showed her county's growing interest in Indiana's bicentennial celebration. Applications for endorsement for existing festivals such as the Turkey Trot and Old Settlers Festival are being prepared. The creation of a park near the Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area is being explored in collaboration with Martin County.

3 Gibson County Activity

Eric Heidenreich, Gibson Bicentennial County Coordinator shared with the Commission how Gibson County has an endorsed legacy project involving multimedia. This video project involves the reading of Indiana poetry by county residents. Stanley Madison, representing Lyles Station, also introduced work underway to incorporate Lyles Station history into the Indiana African American Trail.

4 Knox County Activity

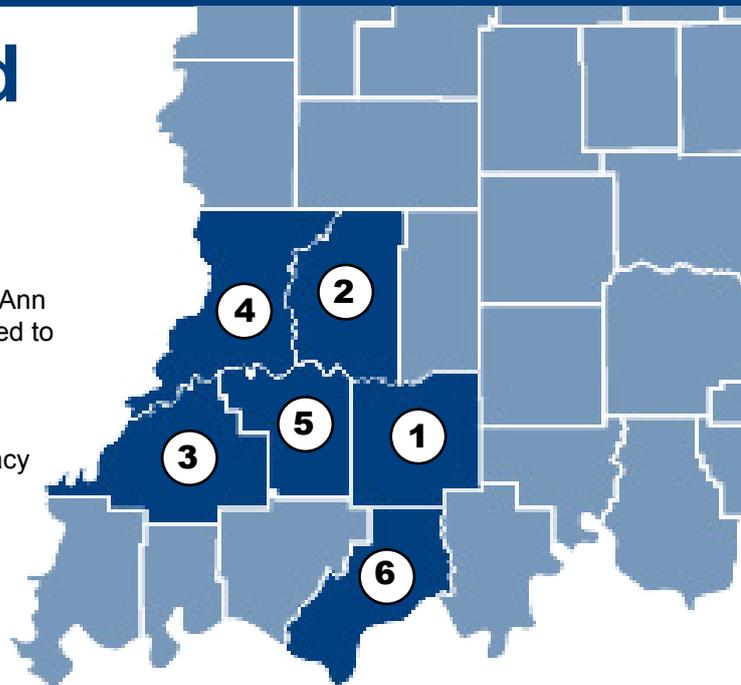
Mark Hill, Knox Bicentennial County Coordinator described the bicentennial activities taking place in Knox County including a 2015 buffalo theme for the Rendezvous and John Small (maker of the state gun) for 2016. Other bicentennial plans in Knox County include a 50-year anniversary celebration of George Rogers Clark National Park and Grouseland rehabilitation.

5 Pike County Activity

Alycia Church, Pike Bicentennial County Coordinator informed the Commission how Pike County plans to celebrate its own county bicentennial in 2016 along with the state's celebration. Pike County legacy projects include Girl Scouts reading Indiana-related books to young Hoosiers, a legacy quilt project and a county tractor club event with a historic emphasis. A diversity of additional plans is in the works for Pike County as well.

6 Spencer County Activity

Melissa Brockman, Spencer Bicentennial County Coordinator and Kendell Thompson, Superintendent of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial discussed the preparations that are underway to celebrate the Lincoln family's arrival in Indiana in 1816. There are currently four endorsed Spencer County bicentennial legacy projects and additional projects are in progress.



Source: in.gov

Lyles Station remains one of the most intact African-American settlements in the state.



Source: Duane Chattin, Vincennes University

Kendell Thompson of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial displays a type of cushaw squash that was grown in Thomas Lincoln's garden in southern Indiana.



Paul Meagher from Scottsburg, shares his mother's winter painting of their scenic farm.

Indiana Oil Paintings

"This is the one and only oil that my mother painted. Upon completing it, my dad John L. Meagher went to our barn on our Scott County farm near Nabb IN and took a piece of wood to construct the frame.

As you can see from the corners, the craftsmanship isn't quite journeyman quality but it is priceless to me.

I returned home from IU in 1981 to find that my mother was so distraught about the smudge that she had made near her signature in the lower right hand corner that she had stored it away in a closet.

I staked claim to this painting and it returned to campus with me and has been in my possession to this day.

Today it sits in my Farm Credit Mid America office."

Paul Meagher, Scottsburg, Scott County



Fourth of July fireworks shoot up over the Indiana Statehouse in this work by Carter Rost, a seventh grader.

Student Art Contest Celebrates Bicentennial History

A Legacy Project, "Student Art Contest / Cooperative Calendar of Student Art 2016", sponsored by Indiana Electric Cooperatives is a unique chance for Indiana youth to become an "official" part of our bicentennial history through the arts!

An officially endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Project, the contest is open to student artists in grades K-12 across Indiana.

The 2016 Calendar will encourage artwork relating to Indiana's bicentennial in a fairly broad sense including, Indiana events, locations and landscapes.

Many past winners in the contest have incorporated their Hoosier surroundings in their works.

Visit <http://www.electricconsumer.org/StudentArtContest.aspx> for the contest rules and the required entry forms.

You will also find a tip sheet that includes examples of past winners that would meet the new "bicentennial" criteria for the 2016 calendar as part of Indiana's 2016 bicentennial celebration.

There is still time to compete in the Contest as the art submission deadline is March 20, 2015.

To learn more about the Student Art Contest, listen to Indiana First Lady Karen Pence as she discusses the 2015 Cooperative Calendar Art Contest and Reception by clicking [here](#).



Fall festivals are everywhere in Indiana. Mikala Greenlee created a portrait of her little sister asleep in her father's arms at the Hope Heritage Festival.



Dubois County Honors Namesake

The Dubois County Historical Society set out to honor the county's namesake as part of Indiana's bicentennial celebration. A plaque was created in honor of Toussaint Dubois, the Frenchman who fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe and was the first man to buy land in what is now Dubois County.

Community leaders dedicated the commemorative plaque on the Dubois County courthouse November 3, 2014.

"The Dubois County Historical Society is honored to have been able to provide this plaque for Dubois County," said Mary Ann Hayes, president of the society. She introduced vice president and plaque committee chairman Lee Bilderback.

"We in Dubois County are very proud of our heritage. It is fitting that the day before the election, a week before Veteran's Day and just a year until the beginning of our state's bicentennial festivities, we celebrate for whom all of those days justly apply — Toussaint Dubois," Bilderback said, using the French pronunciation — Du-Bwah.

"Or as we say down here — DEW-boys".

About Toussaint Dubois

Toussaint Dubois, as the plaque reads, settled in Vincennes in 1780 after having spent time in lower Canada.

As a merchant and fur trader with the Native Americans, Dubois was a crucial negotiator between William Henry Harrison and siblings Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa known as "The Prophet", in present-day Tippecanoe County.

When his efforts for peace were unsuccessful, Dubois fought by Harrison's side in a victorious Battle of Tippecanoe.

Many figures from that battle have had counties named after them in Indiana; that group includes Spencer County — it's named for Capt. Spier Spencer, who spent most of his life in Kentucky, Vincennes and Corydon — as well as Daviess, Harrison, Bartholomew, White and Owen.

Dubois went on to fight in the War of 1812 as a major, leading a company of mounted spies. He continued his trading operation after that in Vincennes, setting up a large estate.

Dubois died on March 11, 1816, when his horse was swept from underneath while traversing a stream near Vincennes.

It is said Dubois was returning from a business trip in St. Louis and had a large amount of gold and silver in his saddle bags, which kept the horse from rising above the rushing water.

To learn more about the life of Toussaint Dubois, click [here](#).



The commemorative plaque depicts how the Indiana Legislature in an act passed December 20, 1817, created and named the county in honor of Toussaint Dubois.



An artist's sketch of Toussaint Dubois

Source: npshistory.com



Principal Daniel Allen works with children to plant a tulip tree, Indiana's state tree at Randolph Southern Elementary.

Students in Randolph County Take Part in Planting History

The Randolph Southern School Corporation Tulip Trees Planting Project involves the students in Randolph Southern's 4th grades in 2014, 2015 and 2016 to plant two tulip trees each year on the school's campus. The campus now has its first two state trees on its property from this year's event.

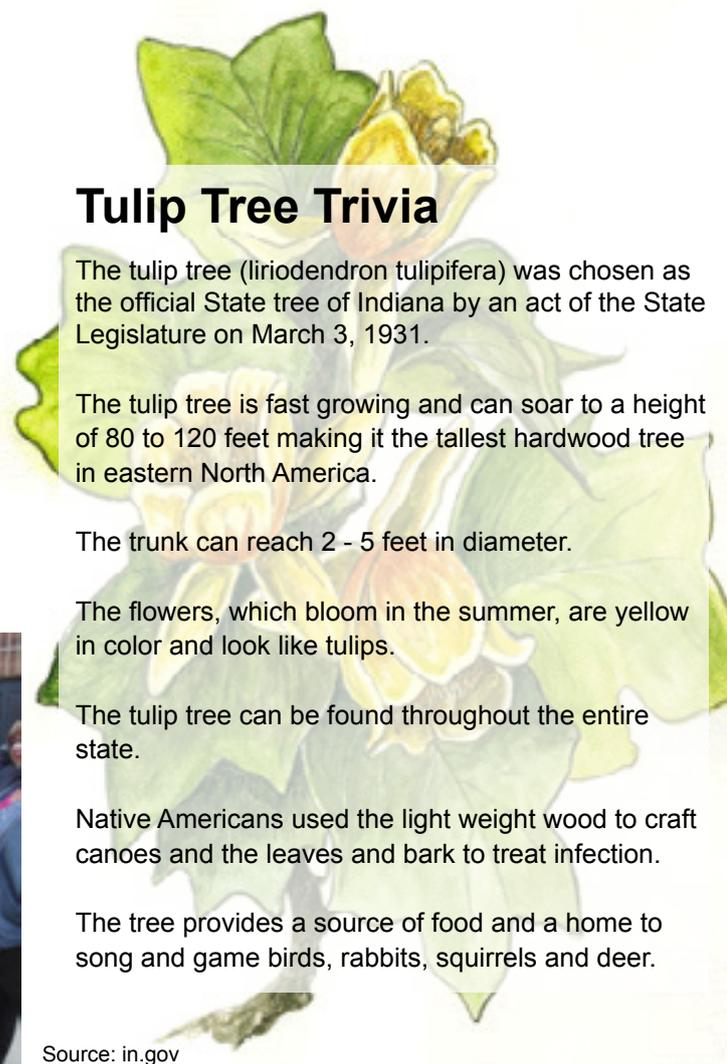
The special tree planting event included a family picnic, which of course included the Indiana State pie provided by Wick's Pies in Randolph County, a presentation by the students and concluded with the students singing the state song and the planting of the trees which involved the 4th graders and their parents.

The 2016 tulip tree planting event will be expanded to include the entire school body and Lynn community in celebration of the State's 200th birthday.

A plaque will be placed by the trees planted in 2016 to honor the state's bicentennial with the bicentennial logo included on the plaque.



"Grill Master" Daniel Allen, principal of Randolph Southern Elementary prepares food for those participating in the family picnic.



Tulip Tree Trivia

The tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) was chosen as the official State tree of Indiana by an act of the State Legislature on March 3, 1931.

The tulip tree is fast growing and can soar to a height of 80 to 120 feet making it the tallest hardwood tree in eastern North America.

The trunk can reach 2 - 5 feet in diameter.

The flowers, which bloom in the summer, are yellow in color and look like tulips.

The tulip tree can be found throughout the entire state.

Native Americans used the light weight wood to craft canoes and the leaves and bark to treat infection.

The tree provides a source of food and a home to song and game birds, rabbits, squirrels and deer.

Source: in.gov

Drawing of tulip tree foliage by Mike Sherer



Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial staff, community partners and volunteers began their participation in the Lincoln Squash project in 2013 by planting and growing the squash and harvesting seeds.

Celebrating with Squash

When the Lincoln family left Indiana for Illinois in 1830, Thomas Lincoln traded some squash seeds with a farmer in Illinois. According to their family lore, they have been growing the squash, often called the cushaw “Lincoln” squash, ever since.

The history of the squash became popular in Illinois when Abraham Lincoln was elected president.

It has recently been rediscovered as a heritage crop at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Indiana’s first national park unit and the place where Lincoln grew up from age 7 to 21.

Through a Bicentennial Legacy Project there are plans to have elementary students learn about the history of the squash and grow them in their own gardens.

“We want to have every garden in Spencer County growing the Lincoln squash in 2016,” says Kendell Thompson, Superintendent at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

“Our goal is to inspire our youth by engaging them in their heritage by planting the seeds and sharing the story of Lincoln and his Indiana family farm with others. This project will also

“We want to have every garden in Spencer County growing the Lincoln squash in 2016”

- Kendell Thompson



“Lincoln” cushaw squashes are stacked along a fence in Spencer County.

encourage them to get outside, get their hands dirty, and maybe even help feed their family.”

Over 10,000 seeds have already been collected by National Memorial staff, community partners and volunteers who began their participation in the Lincoln Squash project in 2013 by planting and growing the squash and harvesting the seeds.

This project will help celebrate Indiana’s bicentennial in 2016 and also the centennial of the National Park Service.



Instagram photos courtesy of René Stanley; except center photo courtesy of Marla Jones, Lawrence County Coordinator

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