

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

January 2013, Indiana

Retirees Help Preserve Indiana's Conservation History

Recently, nine former Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees volunteered their time to sort through approximately 3,000 historical slides and photos to help identify the people who have impacted Indiana NRCS for so many years.

While photos should be documented shortly after print, the reality is they often are not, leaving behind images of unknown faces, places and events. As the years pass, it becomes increasingly difficult to identify people, places and events within historical images.

Historical photos are not only fun to look at and reminisce about old times, but they also document important events within the Agency's history.

Whether it be the first watershed structure built in the state or a conservation practice implemented on land, each of these photos tells a story of Indiana's conservation history. Properly identifying and recording these documents is imperative to preserving history for future generations.

By utilizing the talents of these nine men and women, Indiana NRCS' Public Affairs department is able to archive these photos and slides properly. The slides will be digitized and used for future publications, presentations and historical references.



NRCS retirees, now Earth Team Volunteers, helped sort through and identify the people in nearly 3,000 images. Standing L - R: Jerome Daugherty, Dick Schafer, Charlie Gossett, Julie Pyle, Ken Pyle. Seated L - R: Jim Dunaway, Bob Eddleman, Jane Hardisty (Indiana State Conservationist), and Bob Bollman.



Left: Jerome Daugherty, former Contract Officer, identifies staff in old conservation practice photos.



Left: Former State Conservationist Bob Eddleman, helps identify historical slides.



Right: Ken Pyle, former Public Affairs Specialist, is making his way through the urban conservation practice photos.



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.usda.nrcs.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.