

Pumpkinvine

Volume 17 No. 1

April 2008



Grant will extend trail a half mile north of CR 28

Ever since the first section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail from S.R. 4 to C.R. 28 opened in 2000, supporters of the trail have been wondering when it would go further. That wait is now over, thanks to a grant of \$250,000 to the Elkhart County Parks Department from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation Division. The money originated from a Lilly Foundation Endowment Grant to the State of Indiana for trail development.

As reported in our last newsletter, the money will be used for additional costs in Phase 3 of the Pumpkinvine Trail, the Middlebury trail connector to Elkhart-LaGrange County line.

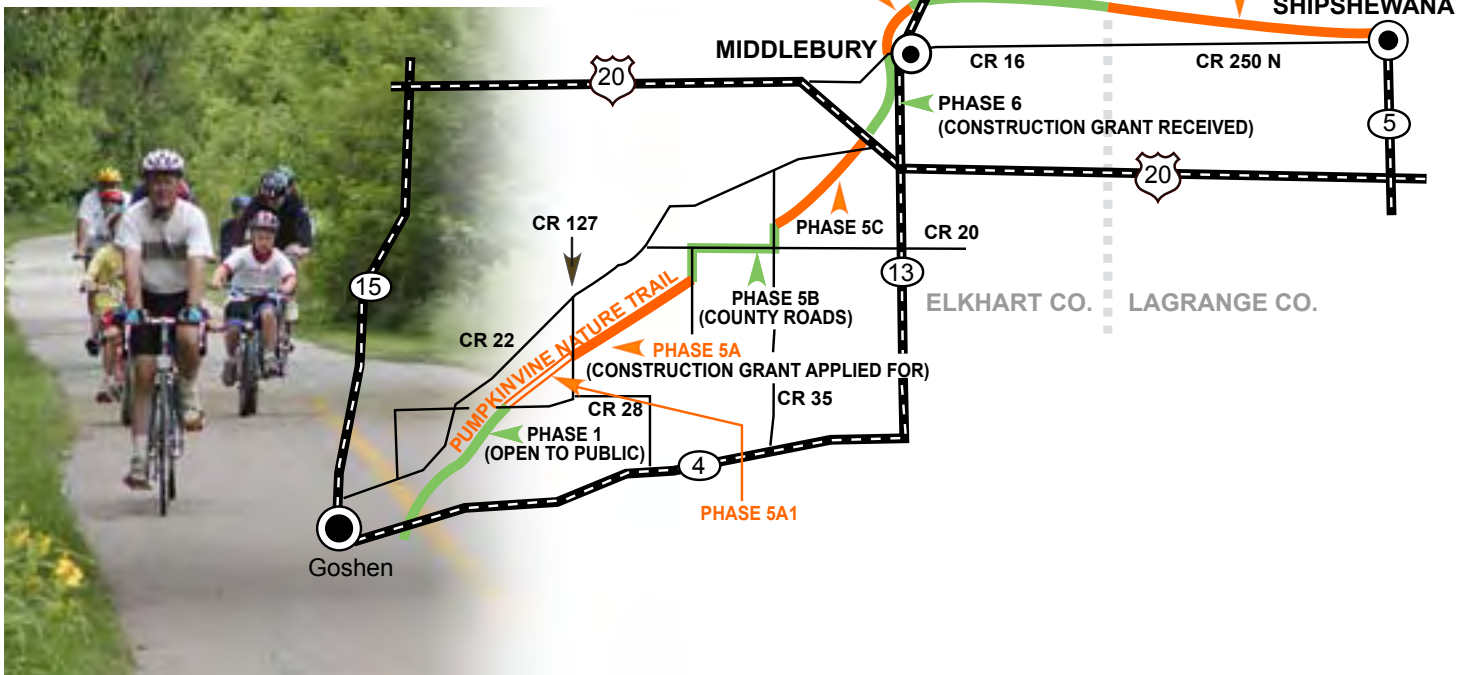
But, enough of the grant will be left over so that it can be used for development of unfunded phases of the Pumpkinvine Trail. The Elkhart County Park Department and board decided the section of the trail between C.R. 28 and C.R. 127 (**Phase 5A1**) was a good section to develop

because the entire original grade is present and there are no bridges to drive up the cost.

This gift has a deadline for all work to be completed by the fall of 2009 when all of Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed. Hopefully, Phase 4, the LaGrange County section, will also be completed in 2009.

Work on Phase 3 east from Middlebury will include the renovation of two wooden trestle bridges and a small parking lot located on C.R. 43 east of Middlebury. Any excess money may be used for appraisals that are necessary to match the original Transportation Enhancement Grant with the Indiana Department of Transportation.

The Friends are grateful for the gift and appreciate the support that the state has shown in support of the Pumpkinvine Trail, a "Backbone Trail" of Indiana.



Board of Directors

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, President
533-4943
Jdyoder2@verizon.net

Larry Neff, Vice President
534-8223
clneff@bnin.net

Rhonda Yoder, Treasurer
266-4265
Rhonda_yoder@hotmail.com

Robert Carrico, Secretary
Trail Operations Manager
266-1362
rjcarrico1@verizon.net

Jim Smith
Executive Director
533-7862
kneesrus@comcast.net

Mike Bontreger
825-3051
logisticsbb@aol.com

Bob Hatch
262-1739
RHatch4723A@hotmail.com

Quinn Holdeman, Jr.
825-7258
qkholdeman@maplenet.net

Cathy Miller
825-1939
cmiller@lakeland.k12.in.us

Frances Ringenberg
825-2676
mfvr@juno.com

John McKee
Liaison to Middlebury Park Board
825-3900
johnlyndamckee@aol.com

Danny Graber
Bike Ride Chair
266-4265
dannysg@verizon.net

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers, equestrians and naturalists who are working with area park departments to create a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine corridor between Goshen, Middlebury and Shippshewana, Ind.

Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and Rails to Trails issues, or see back issues of our newsletter at: www.pumpkinvine.org

Dee Birkey, Newsletter Design
dee@bydesigndirections.com
www.bydesigndirections.com



From the president

The joys of cycling

The spring cycling season is here, and I look forward to riding my bike Friday to work and riding with my wife on our tandem on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

I got involved in this project primarily because I wanted to improve the options for cycling in our community. I'm grateful for those with other interests—nature lovers, cross-country skiers, walkers and joggers—who also support

recycling the Pumpkinvine railroad into a linear park.

But, from the beginning of this project in the early '90s, the majority of our members have been cyclists. Now that we are having a few none-snow days, it's a good time to reflect on why cycling, whether we engage in it for fitness, transportation or conversation, is so enjoyable.

Over the years, I've collected a smattering of sayings about cycling that attempt to capture the joy of this unique form of human-powered locomotion. Here are a few to put you in the mood for the 9th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride or other rides this year.

A person on a bicycle "can go three or four times faster than the pedestrian, but uses five times less energy in the process. He carries one gram of his weight over a kilometer of flat road at an expense of only 0-15 calories. The bicycle is the perfect transducer to match man's metabolic energy to the impedance of locomotion. Equipped with this tool, man out-strips the efficiency of not only all machines, but all other animals as well." *Energy and Equity*, by Ivan Illich. Perennial Library, Harper & Row. New York, 1974. (pp. 59-64)

"It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car only a high hill impresses you, and you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle." —Ernest Hemingway

Perhaps H.G. Wells expressed it best in his famous saying: "Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race."

As you enjoy your ride this summer, think about the marvelous machine the bicycle is and why making places for families to enjoy it in safety is important for a healthy community.

Editorial gives thanks for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

The day before Thanksgiving last year, the Elkhart *Truth* published an editorial: "Things to be thankful" for this Thanksgiving. It began:

"There are many things to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. For instance:

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail continues to expand, recently receiving \$1.82 million for an additional 8.2 miles of path. Also, the C.R. 45 bike path connecting Elkhart and Goshen was recently finished. The paths are great alternatives for those who want to get out of their cars and on their bikes."

Also mentioned were: LaCasa of Goshen Inc. is completing a 13-month renovation of the historic Shoots Building and the Hattle in the Maple City, and most radio stations have opted to wait until after Thanksgiving to begin playing Christmas music.

— John D. Yoder



The 7th annual Pumpkinvine meeting and dinner

The 7th annual meeting and dinner of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will be held on Tuesday, April 29,

2008. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. sharp. The meeting will be held at the new Shishewana Town Center, 760 S. Van Buren Street (S.R. 5) in Shishewana.

Come early and visit the Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum located next door to the Convention Center. The museum will be open from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at no additional charge to anyone who registers for the dinner. Pumpkinvine Nature Trail exhibits will open at 5 p.m. Dress is casual and all seats are assigned.

Our featured speaker for this year's meeting will be Andy Dodzik from DLZ Indiana, LLC.

This engineering-consulting firm was hired by the Elkhart County Parks & Recreation Department and the Town of Shishewana to design and manage the construction of Phases 3 and 4, the section of trail from Middlebury to Shishewana.



Mr. Dodzik will speak about the design process, specific features of the trail in Phases 3 and 4 and the current timetable for completion with an up-to-date report on the progress of the project.

In addition, you will hear a presentation from the Pumpkinvine Board that brings you up-to-date on each of the other project phases.

- The \$250,000 grant that will fund development of the trail from C.R. 28 to C.R. 127 northeast of Goshen and assist with the cost of Phase 3.
- The \$300,854 supplemental grant received by Elkhart County Parks & Recreation Department to assist in building Phase 3.
- The \$517,530 supplemental grant received by the Town of Shishewana to assist in building Phase 4.
- The \$1 million received by the Town of Middlebury for Phase 6, 1.2 miles from Wayne Street to U.S. 20.
- The grant to be submitted by Elkhart County Parks & Recreation Department for Phase 5A, 3.4 miles from C.R. 127 to C.R. 33.

Come join us to share a delicious meal and to hear current up-date presentations on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail project.

Friends of the Pumpkinvine 7th Annual Meeting & Dinner

Shishewana Town Center, 760 S. Van Buren St., Shishewana, Indiana
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing exhibits and enjoying light refreshments.
The dinner/meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. sharp. Dress is casual; all seats are assigned.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Send in your reservation as soon as possible to secure your place at the table.

- Circle the number of tickets and write a check for that amount.
- Make check payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Mail check and completed Reservation Form to:

FRIENDS OF THE PUMPKINVINE
P.O. BOX 392
GOSHEN, IN 46527-0392

- No refunds will be possible after April 15.
- Your ticket(s) will be mailed to you. (For reservations received after April 22, tickets will be available for pickup at the convention center after 6 p.m. the evening of the meeting.)

Can't attend? Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Friends.

- Enter your name and address above. Indicate the amount of your gift.
- Make check payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Mail check and this form to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine, P.O. Box 392, Goshen, IN 46527-0392
- A receipt will be sent to you for your gift.

I can't attend the meeting, but enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____. *Thank you!*

| Ticket Calculator | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1 x \$23 = | \$23 |
| 2 x \$23 = | \$46 |
| 3 x \$23 = | \$69 |
| 4 x \$23 = | \$92 |

9th Annual Bike Ride June 21

Join other cyclists from around the Midwest who will enjoy the 9th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride June 21. Last year we had 885 riders. Our goal this year is 1,000 riders. Come and be a part of trail history.

New this year: You can now register online for an added fee (minimum \$3) based on the total charges. For online registration, you can find a link at www.pumpkinvine.org or go directly to: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1544240

There are two staging areas for the ride (Goshen's Abshire Park and Shippshewana's soccer field) and five routes to choose from (22, 42, 65 and 102 mile loops, plus a 15-mile Country-Life loop).

Special features of the ride include:

- Excellent SAG stops with cyclist-specific food and drinks, restrooms and biker assistance.
- Homemade pie with Vic's ice cream at the end of the ride.
- Free massages (Goshen staging area only).
- Opportunity to see working farms with horses, foals, sheep, goats and cattle.
- The Country-Life loop has optional stops to visit a Shetland and miniature pony farm, and an Amish owned and operated bike shop.
- Colorful short-sleeved T-shirts available for purchase.

Proceeds from the ride support the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., in their efforts to convert the 17-mile Pumpkinvine corridor into a linear park and greenway.

Cost of the ride is \$18 by May 30 and \$23 after May 30. Family registration is \$36 by May 30 and \$46 after May 30. T-shirts are \$10.

For more information and maps of all the routes, check our web site: www.pumpkinvine.org or contact Bob Carrico at (574) 266-1362 or rjcarrico1@verizon.net.



Register early ... Save money!
To be sure to get this year's commemorative T-shirt, preorder on the Bike Ride registration form.



You count. Be one of 1,000!

Our goal this year is 1,000 riders, and we want you to help us reach that mark. Come and be part of a group that can make a difference; come and be an individual that has made a contribution. Food, recreation, drink and rest in a bucolic countryside are waiting for you.





Hike the Pumpkinvine on National Trails Day June 7

The Middlebury Parks and Friends of the Pumpkinvine Trail are sponsoring the second annual hike on the Pumpkinvine corridor on National Trails Day, June 7, 2008.

This year the walk will showcase the section of the Pumpkinvine corridor from S.R. 13 to C.R. 43. This section of the Pumpkinvine corridor will be developed in the next 18 months.

The total distance of the hike will be approximately 3 miles and last about an hour and a half. Hikers may choose to walk the entire distance or walk just as far as they are able. The hike will begin at 9 a.m.

Hiker should park at the Middlebury Town Hall on S.R. 13 north of the Dairy Queen. There members of the Middlebury Park Department and the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will meet you and lead the hike. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the hike.

This hike will be a great opportunity to meet others in the Elkhart County area who are interested in hiking and walking. Join us for a relaxing walk on the Pumpkinvine corridor.

National Trails day is celebrated nationally at thousands of events. It was created to

- Promote public awareness of and appreciation for America's trails and the people who build and maintain them.
- Promote the health benefits of trails.
- Build partnerships among trail groups, businesses and public land managers.
- Encourage cooperative efforts among the various trail users, including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers and others.

National Trails Day is organized by the American Hiking Society, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing, protecting and maintaining America's foot trails. For more information see <http://www.americanhiking.org/>

Sponsors support the Pumpkinvine

2008 is the second year we have recognized corporate sponsors of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Sponsors will receive recognition through a display of their organization's name and logo in a variety of ways, depending on the level of their contributions. Examples including the Friends' web site: www.pumpkinvine.org, the Friends' newsletter, Pumpkinvine Trail Talk, the Pumpkinvine bike ride brochure, signs at SAG stops at the bike ride, insert in the annual meeting packet, other forms of special recognition at the annual meeting.

The 13 organizations who signed on as sponsors for 2008 are:

Platinum Level

- Subway Restaurants, Goshen area

Gold level

- Jayco, Middlebury
- Miller Poultry (Pine Manor, Inc.), Orland, Ind.

Silver

- CIBA Foundation
- Elkhart County Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Bronze level

- DLZ Indiana, LLC, Ft. Wayne
- Essenhause, Inc., Middlebury
- Greencroft Middlebury
- LaGrange County Community Foundation
- Maple City Greenway, Goshen
- Martin's Supermarket, South Bend
- Michiana Bicycle Association, Granger
- MMA, Goshen
- Raymond James and Associates, Elkhart

If your organization is interested in becoming a Friends' sponsor, contact Jim Smith at kneesrus@comcast.net or (574) 536-7033.



You may become a member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. or renew your membership by completing the form below. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No officers receive remuneration.

By showing your membership card, you will be eligible for discounts on specified purchases at the following area bicycle shops: Elkhart Bicycle and Fitness, Elkhart; Family Bicycle, Elkhart; JL Bike Shop, Nappanee; Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness, Goshen; House of Bicycles, Osceola; and Union Cycle Works, Shipshewana.

Don't forget your membership dues!

If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, it's time to renew your membership in the **Friends**. Membership levels are:

- Individual \$30 Family \$40 Sustaining \$60 Contributing \$100 Patron \$250
 Benefactor Bronze \$500 Benefactor Silver \$1,000 Benefactor Gold \$2,500 Benefactor Platinum \$5,000

Send your membership payment to:

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail • P.O. Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46527

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 172
Goshen, IN 46527

