

Pumpkinvine

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Trail Talk

9th Pumpkinvine Bike Ride tops 800 riders again

By Danny Graber

The possibility of rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of 826 participants in the June 21 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride. That number compares to 885 who registered last year. (See photos of the ride on pages 4-5.) The community again showed its support for the ride and the development of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

The feedback we heard most often was that the event was "great," "well organized," and "a lovely event." Many said it was their first ride and that they would come back next year and bring their friends.

The forecast of afternoon rain may have been partly responsible for the reduced number of riders. And it did rain. The worst of it, including extremely strong winds, hit

the 102-milers at the far end of their ride.

At one time we had eight vehicles out looking for bicyclists who needed a ride in. Some bikers used their cell phones and called family members to come and pick them up. Others, troopers and heroes to the end, rode out the storm. There were stories of seeking cover in barns, horse shelters, and garages. True to a bicyclist's motto, tales of woe were overshadowed by beaming heroics of endurance.

Feedback welcome

We are always looking for ways to improve the ride. Comments can be directed to me at dannysg@verizon.net. Next year is our 10th anniversary, and we will work toward making it a banner year.

Trail to be extended this fall – Phase 5A2 receives \$900,000 grant

A \$900,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Trails Grant Fund will surface between two and three miles of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail on Goshen's northeast side this fall. The exact length of the project depends on how the bids come in, according to Larry Neff, Superintendent of the Elkhart County Park Department.

This grant follows on the heels of a \$250,000 grant to the Elkhart County Park Department from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to develop the half-mile section of the trail between CR 28 (where the current surfaced trail ends) and CR 127.

The IDNR wants to see more trails in Indiana, Neff said. "They really would like the money to go toward actual "on-the-ground" trails as soon as possible."

Sitescape, Inc., has been hired to work with the Elkhart County Parks as a consultant on this phase, CR 127 to CR 31 or phase 5A2.

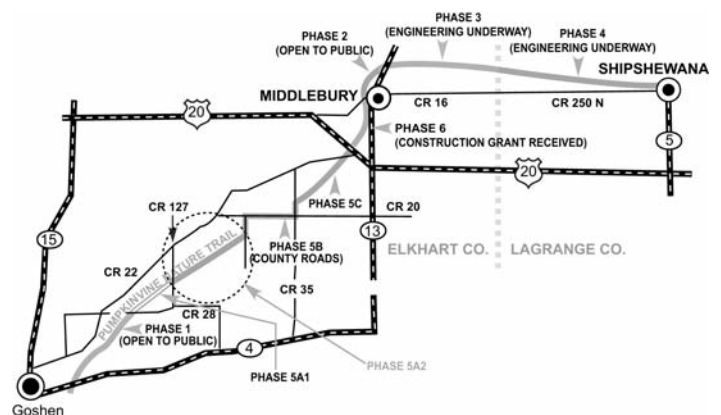
The good news is that construction will be done this fall. "We will have bid documents sometime in August with a bid opening at the September 22nd Elkhart County Park Board meeting," Neff said.

"We will need to construct a new bridge over the Hoover Ditch and a small culvert over a Hoover Ditch

lateral," Neff said. "The rest of the trail is basically laying a 10' strip of asphalt."

Neff hopes that the bids will allow them to reach CR 33, but it will depend on the cost of doing CR 127 to CR 31. "We are always optimistic and project reaching the trail end," Neff said. "There is one bridge in this section (CR 31 to CR 33) that will need decking, handrails and some reinforcement in the abutments."

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., donated the Pumpkinvine corridor from CR 28 to CR 33 to the Elkhart County Park Board at its May meeting.



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From the president Support of cycling grows as gas prices rise



Supporters of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail have been promoting non-motorized transportation for nearly 20 year. With the average price of a gallon of gas around \$4 a gallon across the country, politicians at all levels are starting to see the wisdom of encouraging cycling and more public transportation.

Take the U.S. Conference of Mayors. They recently adopted a resolution that bicycling should be integrated into the country's transportation, climate, energy and health policy initiatives. The resolution provides solid reasons why cities should support cycling:

- “. . . bicycle commuters annually save on average \$1,825 in auto-related costs, reduce their carbon emissions by 128 pounds, conserve 145 gallons of gasoline, and avoid 50 hours of gridlock traffic; and . . .
- 10% of global oil production goes solely toward fueling America's cars and trucks, and the U.S. could save 462 millions of gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from 1% to 1.5% of all trips. . . .”

The entire document is on the League of American Bicyclists website.

Scroll to “Resolution Submitted to the United States Conference of Mayors” at <http://tinyurl.com/4q5yw8>. (Data from the June 26, 2008, www.RoadBikeRider.com.)

At the state level, Governor Daniels continues to put money behind his enthusiastic endorsement of trails. He has used his influence to see that Elkhart County parks received two grants this spring – one for \$250,000 and another for \$900,000. It's exciting to see those funds putting several sections of the Pumpkinvine in place this summer and fall between CR 28 and CR 33. (We wish he would use his power to make the process for obtaining INDOT enhancement funding for trails was less cumbersome, but that's another matter.)

Locally, Goshen has a new paved a trail on the north side of Plymouth Ave. from CR 19 to CR 21 and is planning a trail along C.R. 21 between Clover Trails subdivision and C.R. 36. Last year the county completed a 4.8-mile bike path along CR 45 from Hively Ave. in Elkhart to the Pickwick Village subdivision – the Goshen City limit. Next year (I'm told) the city of Goshen will finish that bike path into the city and connect it with the Maple City Greenway and the Pumpkinvine.

Finally, area cyclists are organizing to take advantage of the pro-cycling mood. A group of cycling advocates in Goshen is meeting to consider what it would take to earn the designation of Bicycle Friendly Community from the League of American Bicyclists. A group in Nappanee, Michiana Bicycle Safety Awareness, is working with the chamber of commerce, local businesses and MACOG to promote cycling safety. Another group in South Bend has organized the Bike Michiana Coalition to coordinate the activities of all the cycling groups in the area. (See www.BikeMichiana.org.) Ten area cycling groups attended an organizing meeting Aug. 7, 2008.

Will the new interest in non-motorized transportation last once people have adjusted to higher gas prices or do they signal a genuine shift in transportation priorities? We saw similar growth in cycling interest after the earlier spikes in gas prices. I'm hopeful that this time we will have the political will turn a fad into a transportation policy that is not auto-centric.

– John D. Yoder

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, Indiana.

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

Put this date on your calendar

The 10th annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride June 20, 2009

(The third Saturday in June)

Lost and Found at the Bike Ride

Two sets of bicycling clothing,
including Pearl Izumi bicycling shorts.

Contact Danny Graber
at dannysg@verizon.net.3

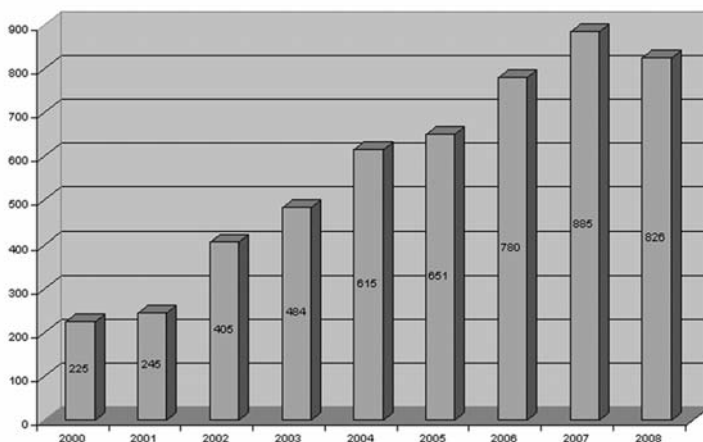
A Non-pie, Pie Chart – what we ate!

| Year | Pumpkin | Apple | Cherry | Total |
|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 2000 | 25 | – | – | 25 |
| 2001 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 38 |
| 2002 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 42 |
| 2003 | – | 25 | 25 | 50 |
| 2004 | 5 | 27 | 27 | 59 |
| 2005 | 8 | 28 | 29 | 65 |
| 2006 | 12 | 26 | 33 | 71 |
| 2007 | 18 | 29 | 39 | 86 |
| 2008 | 22 | 29 | 38 | 89 |

Where did they come from — 2008

| Area | No. of riders |
|---|---------------|
| Goshen/Elkhart/Middlebury/Bristol/ Millersburg/Shipshewana/ LaGrange/Nappanee | 342 |
| Warsaw south to Indianapolis | 122 |
| Kalamazoo/Battle Creek/ Grand Rapids, Michigan | 103 |
| Mishawaka/South Bend/ Niles/Granger/Edwardsburg | 104 |
| Fort Wayne and region | 50 |
| Chicago and area | 52 |
| West of South Bend to Illinois | 35 |
| Ohio | 14 |
| Wisconsin | 1 |
| Maine | 2 |
| Arizona | 1 |

Pumpkinvine Ride Statistics



2008 – How far did they ride

| Distance | No. of riders |
|----------|---------------|
| 15 | 133 |
| 22 | 160 |
| 42 | 267 |
| 65 | 150 |
| 102 | 116 |
| Total | 826 |

"I love this ride! I look forward to it every year. I appreciate the new, big signs telling us where to turn (at some key turns,) and the volunteers at busy intersections (SR 12 in Middlebury."

Ride photos on Shutterfly

View photos of the 2008 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride at <http://2008pvrive.shutterfly.com>.

You may order prints, add your photos to this site or make comments about the ride. You do not have to be a member of Shutterfly to view the photos.



"My wife's and my first bike ride over 42 miles long. We did the 65 mile route. It was great. We will be back next year!!"



"Pie was delicious! Trail was great. We had lots of fun and it was easy to register, park, lots of space."



"Lovely event. Our first of this type. I'm looking forward to next year."



"Great family ride."



“The trip was extremely enjoyable and those that volunteered were very kind and helpful.”



“Great ride – well organized.”



“We had a great time! This was our first organized ride, and we loved it.”



“We loved the ride (we did 42 miles) and will recommend it to our riding friends.”

2007 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride volunteers

I want to say thanks again to the many volunteers who made the ride successful. – Danny Graber

Goshen Home Base

Bob Carrico
Danny Graber
Merritt Lehman

Shipshewana Base and registration

Georgia Gingerich, Co-leader
Bob Hatch, Co-leader
Kim Williams

Home Base Sag

Lois Dyck
Liese and Tom Kreiser
Dierra Lehman, Lead

Registration

Janice Carrico, Lead
Carl Metzler
Karen and Darrel Sommers
Wawn Recla
Miriam and Loren Stauffer
Lorrie Wong

Parking

Skip Barnett
Bob Carrico
Geza Csapo
Dwight Fish
Don Hyde
Alma Hyde-Ousley

Middlebury SAG

Kathie Holdeman
Cathy and Mike Miller, Lead
Susan and Kent Miller
Alan Ritchie
Marlene Springer
Jeanette Yoder

Shipshewana SAG

Elma and Gary Chapman
Brittany Graber
Kathy Graber
Chip Lang
Marlene Miller, Lead

Rogers Memorial Park SAG

Lois and Jim Bare, Lead
Lois and Al Longenecker
Phyllis Stutzman

County Line SAG

Mary and Steve Cripe
Jean Kincaid
Lois Nafziger
Becky Yoder
Rhonda Yoder, Lead

Country-life loop SAG

Marilyn and Bob Judson

Country-life loop special events

Krista Daniels,
Wetlands Narrator

Mary Hankins,
Round Barn Narrator
Nick Hoffman, Coordinator
Carol Honderich, Quilter
Andy Langdon,
Amish Barn Narrator
Janis Nelson, Quilter
Lynn Nelson, Quilter
Rebecca Oestreich,
Chief Shipshewana Narrator
Malcolm Prough,
Round Barn Narrator
and owner
Edith Shanholt, Quilter
Marie Troyer, Quilter

Roving SAG vehicles

Kerm Garber
Stan Gingerich
Ryan Hochstetler
Wilmer Hollinger
Paul Reimer
Jeff Smeltzer

Food purchaser

Tom Krieser

Truck Driver/ Food and supplies distribution

Byron Yoder

Traffic directors

Elvie Bontreger
Jodi Birkey
Elena Nussbaum
Chet Peachy
Ed Weske

Maps

John Nafziger

Address database

Mark Byler
Cosette Torrance

Road signs

Danny Graber
Jim Smith

Tents

Bob Carrico
Mike Miller

Photography

David Johnson
John McKee, Jr.

Bike Ride Committee

Bob Carrico
Georgia and Mark Gingerich
Danny Graber, Chair
Bob Hatch
Tom Kreiser
John Nafziger
Cosette Torrance

We would like to thank these local businesses who supported the 9th annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.



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GREENCROFT
Middlebury



Stewardship Solutions

Construction on CR28 to CR 127 began the week of Aug. 11

Workers with Niblock Excavating, Bristol, Ind., prepare the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail for final surfacing with asphalt. After the surface has been scrapped and leveled, they apply a layer of # 53 proceed gravel, a mixture of clay and small

stones (Photo1). If the machine misses a spot, they fill it in by hand (Photo 2). Then they check to see if the surface is angled level and correctly. (Photo 3). Finally, they roll and compact the gravel (Photo 4).



▲ (Photo 1)



(Photo 2) ►



▲ (Photo 4)



▲ (Photo 3)

Friends receive grant for fencing from CIBA

In January, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., received a \$1,873 grant from the CIBA Foundation of Indianapolis to pay for fencing and gates between CR 26 and CR 33. The foundation is a charitable organization formed and supported by the Central Indiana Bicycling Association.

In their letter that accompanied the check, the foundation said: “The Board is pleased to support the development of trails in Indiana that can provide multiple recreational opportunities and preserve these areas for the present and future generations.”

“The Friends board is grateful to the CIBA foundation for its support of the Pumpkinvine,” said John Yoder, Friends president. “Although the trail has received over \$3 million in federal funds for development, the Friends have received none of those federal dollars. Yet we have many costs like fencing that are part of making the corridor ready for us to donate to the local park departments.”



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

By showing your Friends' membership card, you are 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.

Has your membership expired?

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

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



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