

Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

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Newsletter

May 2004

Happy Anniversary KTC!

Thirty years ago the KTC began to build trails in Kansas and we're still at it. We continue to add sections to our existing trails as well as build new ones.

The Board is exploring having a 30-year anniversary celebration later in the year. Let us know what kind of event you would like to attend to commemorate the KTC's long history of trail advocacy.

This fall we plan to hold a trail building workshop taught by the IMBA* Trail Care Crew. This workshop will involve classroom presentations and discussions addressing the techniques and the science of building sustainable trails. After the classroom session, participants will have an opportunity for hands-on instruction as we work on building a section of new trail.

The trail building workshop will be offered on two separate days – one for land managers and one for trail volunteers. Watch for announcements of the date and location for this exciting opportunity to learn more about building sustainable multi-use trails.

* International Mountain Bicycling Association.

Close Call

House Bill 2583, which was introduced in the 2004 legislative session, would have exposed "recreational" (Rails-to-Trails) organizations and their members to legal liabilities if the trails were not maintained to certain standards. The initial draft language would have allowed trail volunteers to be sued personally.

During House committee hearings many volunteer organizations, including the KTC, testified in opposition to the bill. The bill was subsequently redrafted significantly and the personal liability provisions were removed. The redrafted bill also added some language to permit trail stewards to take legal action when adjacent land owners damaged or littered the trail. This language was deleted in the Senate version. After being passed by the House and passing favorably out of the Senate committee, the significantly amended bill did not come up for a vote in the Senate. The bill died in the Senate for lack of action.

While this bill would have only directly affected "Rails to Trails" types of projects the KTC Board believed that it was not in the best interest of the thousands of trail users and volunteers across the state. Because many of our members are also members of Rails to Trails organizations, we felt it was important to point out the significant, negative impact the bill would have had on organizations like the KTC who depend entirely on volunteers.

We believe that the State should encourage, not discourage, the development of trails in the state. Our trails are used by educators and students, scouting organizations, nature organizations, fishermen, hunters, campers, photographers and amateur and competitive athletes from all walks of life. Our trails improve the quality of life in Kansas and contribute significantly to the State's economy by providing a venue for eco-tourism.

The KTC will continue to monitor and respond to efforts to restrict trail development.

Michael Goodwin, President

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Lewis & Clark The Corps of Discovery

**Meeting at Kaw Point:
A Convergence of Waters and Cultures
June 25 - 27, 2004
Hosting Corps of Discovery II
June 25 - July 4, 2004
Lewis and Clark Historic Park
At Kaw Point
Kansas City, Kansas**

- Visit the historic campsite at Kaw Point
- Meet the men of the Corps of Discovery
- Witness re-enactments of historic events

Music, educational speakers, art, booths, activities, new boat ramp, food and more. For information call: 913-721-1078 or visit www.lewisandclarkwyco.org.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived at Kaw Point on June 26, 1804. Kaw Point is where the Kansas River runs into the Missouri River. Lewis and Clark camped at the mouth of the Kansas River for three days. The men sunned powder, hunted, repaired pirogues, dressed deer skins, took mathematical measurements of the area, and built a six foot high temporary fortification of logs and brush.

This historic location is being restored into a dynamic and commemorative riverfront park for future generations to enjoy. The park will house a boat dock, walking trails, a riverfront boardwalk, and Education Pavilion and the Confluence of Nations Plaza. Come and join the commemorative fun! Celebrate trail-blazing history, right in your backyard.

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KTC Website

The KTC website can now be accessed at the following address: www.kansastrailscouncil.org

We hope this will be easier for our members and new visitors to find and remember!

Kansas River Guided Float Trips

Friends of the Kaw invites all members of the Kansas Trails Council to experience the serene pleasures of a canoe trip on the Kansas River. Join the Kansas Riverkeeper, Laura Calwell, who will share information about the aquatic life and wildlife that inhabits the Kansas River, the recreational and commercial uses of the Kaw, and the vital issue of water quality which impacts the residents and communities in the river's watershed.

Day trips and overnight trips are scheduled; overnights include camping on a river sandbar on a moon-lit weekend. For details, visit the FOK website at www.kansasriver.com or call the Kansas Riverkeeper, Laura Calwell, at 785-312-7200 or email at riverkeeper@kansasriver.com.

2004 Float Trip Calendar

May 1 (Saturday)
Mud Creek (Lawrence) to Eudora

July 3 & 4 (Saturday, Sunday)
Overnight from Seward Ave. (Topeka) to Lawrence Riverfront Park.

July 31 & August 1 (Saturday, Sunday)
Overnight from Wamego to Maple Hill Bridge.

August 28 & 29 (Saturday, Sunday)
Overnight from Maple Hill Bridge to Topeka.

September 25 (Saturday)
Manhattan to St. George.

September 26 (Sunday)
St. George to Wamego

October 2 (Saturday)
Lawrence 8th St. Ramp to Eudora

October 3 (Sunday)
Eudora to DeSoto or Cedar Creek.

October 16 & 17 (Saturday, Sunday)
Overnight from Junction City to Manhattan.

[Information provided by Stephen Garlow – KTC and FOK Board member.]

Board Meeting Highlights

The KTC Board met at Eisenhower State Park located at Melvern Reservoir on January 18, 2004 commencing about 12:30 PM.

Election: Olivia reported that, according to the by-laws, election of officers should have been held at the January meeting rather than the last meeting of the previous year. A motion was made to keep the slate of officers decided upon at the last meeting. In discussion Trish Cleland declined the position of secretary and Susan Haynes was nominated to fill the vacancy. The motion was carried electing Mike Goodwin as President, Lyle Riedy as Vice President, Jim Copeland as Treasurer, and Susan Haynes as Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was discussed and approved. It was noted that actual spending for 2003 exceeded the budget by \$2,366.91, but that included both operating expenses and capital expenditures for equipment. There was discussion on the possibility of moving the \$3,000 from life memberships, currently in a CD, to another venue that would generate more income.

Investment report: It was noted that not as much income was generated in 2003 as in previous years. John also presented a recommendation for possible changes to investments. John moved and Stephen seconded a motion that between now and the next meeting Jim, Mike, and John (budget committee) get together in person to make a final recommendation on investment changes. The motion carried.

Our Hosts: A moment was taken to welcome our hosts to our meeting and to thank them for letting the KTC use the Eisenhower State Park facility for the meeting. The park will have a new shelter house finished in May that would be suitable for future meetings.

2004 Operating Budget proposals were discussed. Jim moved and Virginia seconded a motion to continue paying mileage. Motion was approved. Steve moved and Mike seconded a motion to accept the Operating Budget as amended. Motion carried.

2004 Capital Budget proposal was presented by Mike. The line item, *Trail Equipment - Existing Trails*, in the amount of \$1,000 was tabled until the next meeting. Mike moved and Stephen seconded that we fund \$3,000 for George Latham Legacy Grants in the 2004 budget. Motion did not carry. Jim moved and John seconded a motion to use \$2,000 for the George Latham Legacy Grant for 2004. Motion carried.

Trail Grant Criterion: Development of the criterion for selecting George Latham Legacy Grant applications was assigned to the Trail Evaluation Committee. The Committee will also develop a standardized Memorandum of Understanding to be used on new trail projects.

Trail Coordinators reported on their respective trails and ongoing projects.

Trail Building Workshop: The Board continued discussing sponsoring a trail building workshop to be conducted by the IMBA Trail Care Crew sometime in the Fall of 2004.

Electronic newsletter delivery: Mike moved and Ken seconded that we move to predominately distributing the newsletter by electronic means. Those who want a paper copy will still get one. Motion carried.

Webmaster & editor transition - Ken and Mike both have people in mind for the webmaster position. Mike will contact Terry Spradley about the newsletter editor spot. These positions would not have a salary.

Group memberships: Mike moved and it was seconded that Ken, John, and Susan form a committee to study membership fees and structure. Motion passed.

Memberships: Jim brought up the question of KTC membership in other organizations. Lyle moved and Ken seconded a motion to join the same organizations as we did last year. Motion passed.

Commemoration of Rocky Shire's contributions to the Board - No action was taken due to lack of time. Mike suggested we think about it and continue at next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 PM.

Susan Haynes - Secretary

Newsletter Editor Position

With Rocky Shire's retirement, the KTC is in need of a Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested in taking this important job, please contact us at:

goodwinmw@cox.net

Trail Reports

Tuttle Creek

Randolph State Park: The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is in the process of developing 20 camp sites with electrical hookups at Randolph South. There will be rock for parking and water in two more places. One camp loop for 10 will be called "horseshoe" and the other "spur."

Both North and South Randolph trails are in excellent shape (with redbuds blooming at the moment) and are being used extensively by both horses and runners.

The Carnahan trails are open and we are polishing up a few places. One area is being redone to make it safer. We are redeveloping an abandon loop on the north edge of the Garrison Area. This involves digging out a large bank and moving many large rocks. The volunteers are hard at work.

Olivia Huddleston

Invest In Your Favorite Trail!

In 2003, the KTC initiated a new program enabling members to contribute directly to their trail of choice. One of the projects funded by these contributions was the installation of trail map displays on the Clinton North Shore Trails (see photo). The trail map display materials were purchased using contributions from the Friends of the Trail program, then area Boy Scouts assembled and installed the six displays as an Eagle Scout project last summer.



Friends of the Trail contributions are tax deductible and directly benefit the selected trail.

Have you invested in your favorite trail?

Perry Bike Trails

3 1/2 miles of new single-track trail were added to the Perry Bike Trail this past winter. The corridor was cleared and was being ridden by several riders by New Years. After the long snow and ice cover melted near the end of February, work resumed on the tread and has progressed nicely. Now as things are greening up it will be time to start mowing. Plans are to start mowing the new sections near the 1st week of May then on to the rest of the trail to have it all complete and "race ready" by June 6. The new trail will have to be addressed several times with trimmers before summer is up. In the past it takes 30-40 man-hours on trimmers to cover the trail system once. We usually mow it all twice and some spots get more attention.

Sometime this spring the Corp of Engineers will be closing all motor vehicle traffic to the Grasshopper Point Campground, which about 7 miles of the trail travels through and around. The abandoned campgrounds and boat ramp are popular sites for illegal dumping and weekend parties. This closure may help curb the increasing amount of illegal trail use by ATVs, motorcycles and other unapproved activities. When finally closed and gated the 2.5 miles of winding roads will be incorporated into the trail system and serve as a parking area for a trail head.

June 12 is the date for our annual mountain bike race. The venue for this year's race will be at the Grange Conference Camp located adjacent the Grasshopper Point area. The location of this wonderful facility will greatly enhance this event with its ample parking, showers, kitchen, bunkhouses and camping.

Lyle Riedy

Elk River, Fall River and Toronto Lake Trails

Eight to ten miles of these trails have been re-blazed and lopped recently.

The Elk River Hiking Trail has a new coordinator! Ron Boyer from Fredonia has agreed to take on this important job.

If you would like to join Ron's maintenance team email him at: rainbowvalley@terraworld.net

Virginia Lefferd

Trail Reports

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) First Loop of Ike's Trail

We started the new trail layout in November and spent most of December and January clearing the trail corridor. All of the January snow slowed the trail work down considerably. We finished trail clearing in February and began working on the trail tread. This work has continued through March and into April.

We have built four of our stream crossing and numerous grade dips, most of the work lately has been scraping the vegetation off down to mineral soil and tamping and more tamping. I can't forget all of the stump removals. We are about halfway through scraping and tamping the trail sections that require that type of preparations. We plan to begin mowing other trail sections soon.



Ike's trail crew has been small yet dedicated and we have received some help from the park's AmeriCorp crew. Special thanks to Barb Thomas who has logged almost as many hours as I have working on the trail. Overall we are close to 150 volunteer hours since November.

Ed DeTrude

George Latham Trail (Clinton - Woodridge Park)

Long time trail watcher and coordinator, Clark Coan, has resigned to devote more time to other trail interests. Anyone interested in becoming the trail coordinator for this beautiful 4.5 mile trail, please contact us at: goodwinmw@cox.net

Clinton – North Shore Trails – Shoreline Trail

We continue to make progress on the new Shoreline Trail west of Lands End. This section is a very technical, yet beautiful trail that meanders beside the water for about a mile. We have finished the eastern half of the trail after investing over 350 volunteer hours in the effort. This reflects the difficult terrain AND the dedication of our crews. Several of the new connector trails have been completed by Lawrence area Eagle Scout candidates and their teams.

The western half of the Shoreline Trail has more large rocks and obstacles to work through or around than the eastern half. We have been moving the "smaller" rocks (up to 500 lbs) with a sling made from two five foot aluminum pipes and a section of chain link fence. The big rocks (below)



were moved with rock bars and brute strength. We learned quickly that moving a rock downhill is easier than moving it uphill thanks to the forces of gravity!

Michael Goodwin

Contact Information

2004 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

Mike Goodwin, President (Runner, Hiker, Kayaker)
Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails Coordinator
Email: goodwinmw@cox.net
Phone: 785-266-6218

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Perry Lake Bike Trails Coordinator
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Crooked Knee Horse Trail (Eisenhower S.P.) Coordinator
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Ken Miner (Mountain Biker, Single Track Advocate)
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KTC Trail Coordinators

Clinton Lake North Shore Trails - Mike Goodwin
Email: goodwinmw@cox.net
Phone: 785-266-6218

Clinton Lake George Latham Trail – (Position Open)

Eagle Rock Mountain Bike Trail – Rocky Shire
Email: bevrock@hit.net
Phone: 620-331-7670

Elk City Lake Hiking Trail – Ron Boyer
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El Dorado Lake Trail - Harriett Barber
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Eisenhower State Park Bike Trail – Ed DeTrude
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Perry Lake Bike Trails - Lyle Reidy
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Phone: 785-286-4103

Tuttle Creek Lake Trails - Olivia Huddleston
Email: opieh@bluevalley.net
Phone: 785-382-6886

The Kansas Trails Council supports the following organizations through annual contributions:

The Santa Fe Trail Association
❖
The International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)
❖
The American Hiking Society
❖
The Kansas Horse Council
❖
The Friends of the Kaw

KTC Membership Form

I would like to join (or renew my membership in) the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2004

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Note: It is the KTC's policy that mailing and email address information will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be distributed to any other entity.

In the interest of conserving the KTC's resources (time, postage, copying and supplies) and being more environmentally friendly, the KTC newsletter may now be received by email and by a download from the KTC website. If you prefer to continue receiving the newsletter by mail please check here _____.

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Membership Contributions

Amounts

Annual Dues (Circle one): Individual - \$10 Family/Corporate - \$25 Lifetime - \$100 _____

Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution *

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|
| Friend of the Clinton Lake North Shore Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the George Latham Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Eagle Rock Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Eisenhower St. Park Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the El Dorado Lake Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Elk River Hiking Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Perry Lake Bike Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Perry Lake Hiking Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Tuttle Creek Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Cross Timbers St. Park Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |
| Friend of the Toronto State Park Trail | (Any Amount is appreciated) | _____ |

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

* Your tax deductible Friends of the Trail contributions are used directly to maintain the selected trail(s).

Please Mail To:

Kansas Trails Council, Inc.
 Jim Copeland, Treasurer
 1415 Chelle Court
 El Dorado, Kansas 67042

We'll Miss You Harriett and Rocky!

After serving the KTC for many years, Rocky Shire has decided to resign from the Board and "really" retire. As many of you know, Rocky was our internet webmaster, our newsletter editor and a Board member since 1999. He will continue as the trail coordinator for the Eagle Rock Bike Trail near Elk City Lake.

Harriett Barber resigned from the KTC Board at the April meeting after many years of service to the organization. Harriett, who joined the Board in 1991, is an equestrian and coordinator of the El Dorado Lake Horse Trails.

The Board wishes Rocky and Harriett the best in their future endeavors.

Trails News and Events

Many of our members supplied email addresses on the membership renewal form this year, but we are still lacking a few. If you would like to receive up-to-date information about the KTC and Kansas trail matters please send your email address to: goodwinmw@cox.net.

We are exploring several new ways to communicate with our members using email lists or list servers. Please be assured that your email address will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be provided to any other entity.

Kansas Trails Council, Inc.
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