

# Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

Volume XXXVI, Issue 1

Newsletter

March 2010

## Trail Volunteers Honored

At their annual conference in January, the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association (KRPA) recognized the Kansas Trails Council's Mike Goodwin as the 2010 Distinguished Volunteer. Mike serves on the Board of Directors and is the Treasurer of the Kansas Trails Council. He also manages the North Shore Trails and the George Latham Trail at Clinton Lake and the MacLennan Park Trail in Topeka. He has been actively involved in developing new trails across the state over the past ten years and enjoys teaching trail building concepts and methods. Mike has been involved with a number of recreational trail grant projects in recent years including extension of the Lawrence Bike Trail to the Clinton Lake trails and the development of a statewide trail map brochure showing the location of over 1,000 miles of trails in the State. The KTC's members and the volunteers they recruit typically contribute over 4,000 hours of their time annually maintaining and building trails in Kansas.



Mike Goodwin

Sean Cairns

KRPA also honored Sean Cairns and the Earthriders Trail Association (ERTA) by conferring upon them the 2010 Distinguished Public Service Award. ERTA is dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of single trails across the Midwest. Sean and volunteer members of ERTA have worked tirelessly to maintain and develop new trails in the Kansas City Metro area and throughout the region. ERTA volunteers have contributed over 5,000 hours to trail projects for the Johnson County Park and Recreation District over the past 9 years. Sean and other ERTA volunteers continue to manage and expand Shawnee Mission Park, Deer Creek and other area trails.

## Special People

Editor's Note: In our last newsletter, the article "Special People" mentioned several dedicated trail volunteers who have inspired us to do great things for trails. After reading that article, Dolores Baker, a long time trail volunteer and founding member of the KTC, wrote to us about another special person who also inspired us over the years.

Letter to the Editor....

Thanks for the newsletter. It is indeed gratifying to see that trail work continues even when some volunteers move out of state. The article **Special People** reminds me to tell you of the passing of a Special Person.

Bud Baker passed away November 19, the result of a stroke. His health had gradually deteriorated and he just couldn't do the things any more that had previously been enjoyable. He had spent many, many hours of work on the trails at various locations, but especially at Elk City Lake. He was the one who got permission to take in a chain saw in the days when we had to get Corps permission to use anything with a motor. He was my best supporter when I got permission to lay out a new trail or do a reroute. He very much enjoyed camping out with a work group and visiting over a campfire. He always said, these KTC people sure are nice to be with. Although a number of the original trail blazers, such as Richard Douthit, are gone now, their work remains and continues. What wonderful memories I have. I miss him.

Dolores Baker



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# Trail News

## Clinton Lake

### North Shore Trails

The weather this winter has made trail work nearly impossible. As soon as the trails dry out, we plan to continue with various reroutes to eliminate problem trail sections which were originally built on the fall line or on very flat terrain which does not drain well.

We recently completed a new boardwalk over a hillside spring and boggy area on the west end of the blue trail near the skills loop. Technically the boardwalk is a "skinny", but it is wider than those we built in the skills loop. Two blue trail reroutes are planned for the spring when weather and conditions permit. The first 2 miles of both trails continue to be damaged by trail usage during wet conditions. Traffic on these trail sections is heavy due to the free access point outside the state park. We are considering armoring a lengthy section of the white trail as one solution to this problem.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

### George Latham Trail

The trail is in relatively good condition considering the continuing wet conditions. We have plans to repaint the benches and repair the north bench which has broken away from the vertical mountings.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## Fall River Lake Trails

Trail work at Fall River Lake is still in a holding pattern due to the long wet weather pattern through this winter and continuing into early spring. I have two miles of trail flagged in East Badger Creek to extend beyond the two and one half that we currently have open. With some dry weather we'll get that cleared in two or three work days with a crew of six to eight volunteers. With that, we will have run out of real estate on the east side of Badger Creek and will be moving to the West side to add the next loop, connecting the two sides together with a spur trail.

Total Kansas Singletrack Society (KSS) hours worked in 2009 – 317 hours.

Terry Plenert ([PPLENERT@aol.com](mailto:PPLENERT@aol.com))

## Kaw River State Park (Topeka)

Winter weather has slowed trail building significantly, but portions of the double wide gravel trail have been completed and bridges are being preassembled and readied for installation when ground conditions permit. One section of new trail is located on a particularly steep sideslope so the park has built a gabion crib wall to support the downslope edge of the trail.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## Melvern Lake

### Five Star Bike Trail at Eisenhower State Park

We are presently searching for a trail manager to replace Tim Gogolski who moved out of state in January. If anyone is interested in this job, please email us at:

[goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net)

## Perry Lake Bike Trails

Because of the heavy snow and ice cover there has been very little activity on the trail. With the exception of clearing a few down trees there has been no trail work done this winter. This will really put me behind on trail improvements going into spring when mowing and trimming starts.

Lyle Riedy ([lriedy@usd345.com](mailto:lriedy@usd345.com))

## Perry Lake Hiking Trails

For the Perry hiking trails, I really doubt much has been done in the last three months. On the bright side, both KCOC and Sierra Club are planning on a joint workday at Perry on the 13th.

My estimate of the total volunteer hours spent on maintaining the Perry hiking trail between Oct 1, 2008, and Sept 30, 2009, is 215 hours. A total of 28 people showed up to complete that work.

Dave Brackey ([dbrackey@tb-engr.com](mailto:dbrackey@tb-engr.com))

## Sedan City Lake Trails

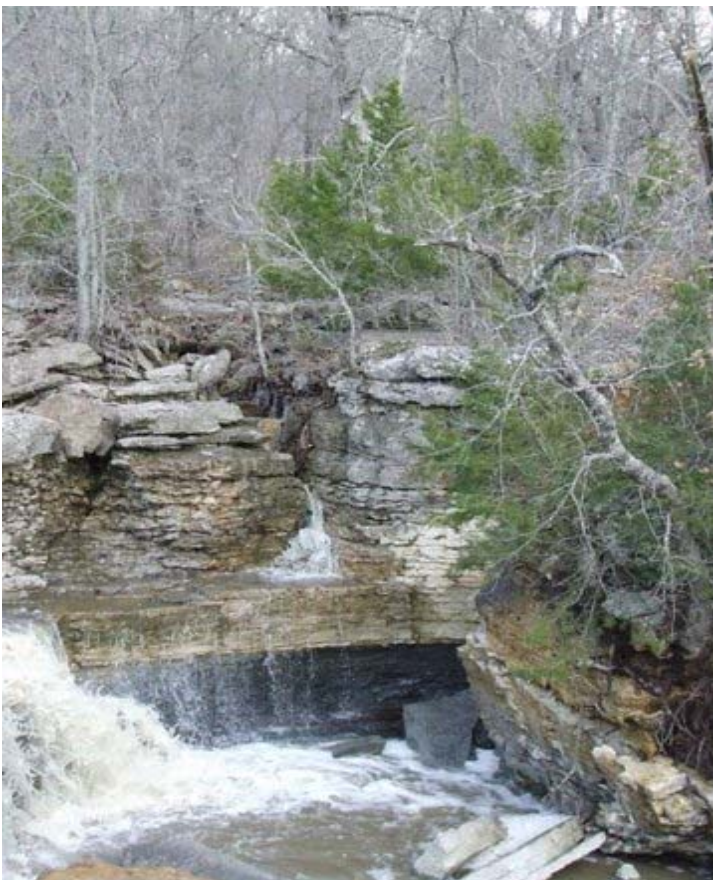
The Sedan City Lakes are located north of Sedan on Highway 99 in Chautauqua County. The 125 acres of water areas are surrounded by 800 acres consisting of Cross Timbers woodlands, shrublands and prairies. The redbud trees are beautiful in spring and the black jack

# Trail News

trees are pretty in the fall, along with other hardwood native trees. The abundant wildlife including deer, songbirds and frogs along the shore offer exceptional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by camping or hiking.



New Sedan City Lake



Waterfall below Old Sedan City Lake

The trail between the two lakes was originally a road that was closed due to problems maintaining it. The trail is 2.2 miles one way; has two foot bridges built by West Star's Green team several years ago. One-quarter mile from the south trail head is a nature loop trail with four benches to rest or for bird watching. The trail is very wet in the spring from the south trail head to the first bridge.

Sue Kill

Sedan Area Economic Development Commission

Editor's Note: The Sedan Lake Trails are now an affiliate of the KTC. These two beautiful lakes are truly hidden gems in the Chautauqua Hills west of Winfield.

## Tuttle Creek Trails

Between the weather not cooperating on week-ends and too many personal and family projects going on, 2009 has been a slack year for volunteers. Coordinator hours were (only) 71, and other volunteer hours: 38, for a total of 109 hours. The coordinator drove 1200 miles. The pole saw was used 4 hours, the chain saws were used for 10 hours, and brush cutter for 11 hours. We did work both at Randolph State Park and the Carnahan Area.

Most of our plans for 2010 will be maintenance. Several fixes are needed at the state park level. Plans are underway to get more done on the Carnahan Trail. We have been working to get new volunteers and I am pleased we have a new Chairman for the Flint Hills Competitive Trail Ride in October. Preston Buckland from Junction City has agreed to do this. He has been with us since the first "Ride" we managed at Carnahan in 1987, so he knows what goes into this project. With new connections and more help, I am excited to see what can be accomplished.

We still have enough snow up here on the Nebraska/Kansas line to last until Spring. I hope it melts soon so we can hit the trails.

Olivia Huddleston ([opieh@bluevalley.net](mailto:opieh@bluevalley.net))

## Topeka Trails

### Dornwood Trail

Muddy, muddy, muddy. With all this snow I hope the trail dries out soon. We need some warm windy days.

I have logged about 5.5 hours since January 1. Walking the trail and clearing downed limbs mostly.

Russ Rupp ([russ11@cox.net](mailto:russ11@cox.net))



# Trail News

## MacLennan Park (Cedar Crest) Trails

As with most of our trails, wet conditions have limited trail work during the winter. Most trail sections have, however, survived continued high usage during wet conditions with little damage. We plan to armor the short section across the dam of the lower (little) pond when conditions permit this spring.

We also plan to continue improving the drainage on the flat red trail sections along the north side of the park. The raised trail tread sections seem to have been effective although some additional maintenance will be required to minor settling and usage. Long term plans also include a major rerouting of the gravel trail south of the foot bridge. This section was originally built on the fall line with few grade reversals to shed water.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## **Wilson State Park Trails**

Switchgrass Trail work in January and February consisted of mapping efforts indoors as the trail was mostly either too snowy or too wet for the entire period. After adding over a mile of new trail and a few other smaller re-routes last fall, the existing maps were functionally obsolete. I created two types of maps. The first was made using GPS data collected with a Garmin Map 76c, while riding. I set it to collect a coordinate every 2 seconds. That gets a pretty accurate track, otherwise it rounds off the short bends in the trail. I uploaded the tracks to Google Earth. Unfortunately, GE does not accurately project the track data (all points are off by about 10 meters or so. After many frustrating attempts to find the correct map projection, I gave up. It was very tedious to deal with this by moving by hand (actually the mouse) all the points into the correct position. Once done however, it is easy to do future revisions. This map was printed as a color poster and goes up on the kiosk at the trail head.

My second map was more of a sketch, constructed to depict navigational features on a handout for trail users. I use the realtor boxes (from Home Depot) mounted on the kiosk for handouts. They are see-through and waterproof (but not sunproof). This map is also available as a pdf for download from several internet locations. I also created a mile by mile trail narrative as a handout.

Since the thaw, we've had lots of riders. It started very soft, but now is packed really well. I've done a couple more short re-routes and put down a mechanical buffing on a new 0.6-mile section in the Hell Creek Loop. This year we will have 17 mi of single track. The first race is a USAC XC event scheduled for 1-2 May. This is the first sanctioned

event at the Switchgrass Trail. Will try to get the maps posted on the KTC web site.

Bob Nicholson ([rnicholson@fhsu.edu](mailto:rnicholson@fhsu.edu))

## **2010 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting**

Due to scheduling conflicts and limited business to conduct, the Board elected to hold a limited board meeting on-line rather than meet face-to-face. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board meeting will be held April 25 in Topeka. Please check the KTC website for details about location and time.

## **Board Members**

### Board Positions 1 – 6 (2010 & 2011)

1 - Chris Kaegi-Stephens  
Valley Center

2 - Jim Thomas  
Lyndon

3- Doug Palen  
Glen Elder

4 - Olivia Huddleston  
Vermillion

5 - Neil Taylor  
Lawrence

6 - Susan Haynes, Secretary  
Shawnee

### Board Positions 7 – 12 (2009 & 2010)

7 - John Wentling  
Dodge City

8 - John Haynes  
Shawnee

9 - Lyle Riedy, Vice President  
Topeka

10 - Michael Goodwin, Treasurer  
Topeka

11 - Bob Nicholson, President  
Hays

12 - Terry Plenert  
Wichita

## KANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2010

I would like to: Join  Renew my Membership in  the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: It is the KTC's policy that the above information will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be distributed to any other entity. In the interest of conserving resources (time, postage, copying, etc.) and being more environmentally friendly, the KTC newsletter is primarily distributed by email. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular U.S. mail, please check the box on the right and your name will be added to the newsletter mailing list.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

AMOUNT

Lifetime Membership: (One-time payment, no annual dues)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	
Annual Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Supporter	\$101 - \$249
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Patron	\$250 - \$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> KTC Sponsor	\$500+
(groups, clubs, etc.)			\$ _____

**Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution** (any amount is appreciated) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate the trail(s) you would like to support with your Friend of the Trail donation.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - George Latham Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - North Shore Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Eagle Rock Bike Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Elk River Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Table Mound Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> El Dorado Lake Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fall River Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ford County State Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Ike's Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Bike Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek - Carnahan Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek - Randolph Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Topeka - Dornwood Park Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Topeka - MacLennan Park Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Toronto Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wilson Lake State Park Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Horse Trail |
|---|---|

(Annual Dues + Friend of the Trail Contribution)      **Total Amount Enclosed**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

KTC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Friends of the Trail donations are used directly to maintain the selected trail(s) and are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

**Please mail to: Kansas Trails Council ■ PO Box 695 ■ Topeka, KS 66601-0695**  
 Website: [www.kansastrailscouncil.org](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org)

12/2009

**Kansas Trails Council  
PO Box 695  
Topeka, KS 66601-0695**

### **Second Quarter 2010 KTC Board Meeting**

The next KTC Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 25 in Topeka. Please check the KTC website ([www.kansastrailscouncil.org](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org)) for further details in the coming weeks. All KTC members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend the meeting. Bring a friend and find out what is happening on nearby trails!

### **Supporting the KTC and Kansas Trails**

Did you know that the KTC's members and the volunteers they recruit maintain about 250 miles of trails in Kansas? The KTC currently manages 16 trails across the state. We appreciate all the support of our members and volunteers. If you or someone you know are interested in supporting Kansas trails we hope you will consider becoming a member of the KTC or volunteering on a nearby trail

If you have a favorite trail you would like to support we hope you will consider donating to the KTC Friends of the Trail program. Your tax deductible contribution will be used solely to support the trail(s) you select. The KTC is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. We appreciate your continued support of Kansas Trails!