

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

March 2015

KSS Hosting IMBA Workshop

The KTC's Affiliate Member – Kansas Singletrack Society (KSS) - recently announced that they are hosting a trail building workshop that is open to the public. The announcement from KSS is reprinted below.

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IMBA Trail Care Crew is coming to town to do a work shop May 30th 2015 at Camp Horizon Trails. See details below and get registered now via the IMBA web site. [IMBA.com](http://IMBA.com) Go to events calendar and find May 30th and click on event to register or click the register now link.

[Register Now](#)

Subaru-IMBA Trail Care Crew: Camp Horizon Trails, Arkansas City, KS

The Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew, on the road since 1997, is IMBA's grassroots educational program and an authority on sustainable trail building practices. Two teams of professional trail experts travel year-round throughout the United States and beyond, leading trail work sessions, meeting with land managers and working with IMBA-affiliated clubs and the communities they serve to improve mountain biking opportunities.

The Trail Care Crew program has inspired great volunteer trail work across the U.S. and abroad - a big help to government agencies and land managers who have limited funding for trail construction and upkeep. As a direct result, there are now thousands of new and improved trails in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and several European countries.

For more information click here:

<http://www.kssingletrack.com/imba-trail-care-crew-workshop>

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Editors note: the KTC will be sending a Trail in a Box to each of these events to support their trail building efforts.

AmeriCorps Crew to Wichita

New trails are being built everywhere in the Sunflower State! Ruth Holliday of Prairie Travelers (Wichita) just announced that they have one of the national AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) teams scheduled to arrive April 23 to work on area trails for 13 weeks.

“AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18-24. Members are assigned to one of five campuses — Denver, CO; Sacramento, CA; Baltimore, MD; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA. Drawn from the successful models of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the U.S. military, AmeriCorps NCCC is built on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs.”
(<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps-nccc>)

Volunteers of Prairie Travelers have been working on the rail trails on the east and west side of Wichita. For more information click here:

https://www.facebook.com/prairietravelers/timeline?ref=page_internal

GetOutdoorsKansas Milestone

The GetOutdoorsKansas website just reached a milestone of having 1,000 miles of trails online. We have a GPS trail team traveling the state recording trails every day as well as a number of trail volunteers working on recording their favorite trails. Check out the trails at:

www.getoutdoorskansas.org/trails

GetOutdoorsKansas, which launched in November, 2014, now has 57 partners who are posting outdoor events. The website is free to partners and patrons who are interested in posting or finding outdoor activities. For more information please contact GetOutdoorsKansas Project Director, Lynn Gentine at:

lynn.gentine@getoutdoorskansas.org



Trail News

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

Not much to report. Trail is in good shape this week. There has been one tree down. But the trail is dry. I am planning some reroutes for the summer.

Neil Taylor (medic1@sunflower.com)

Eisenhower State Park – Crooked Knee Trail

The Crooked Knee Trails at Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake, are in excellent shape this spring, and with warm weather are seeing regular use by horseback riders and hikers. There are a few trees down, but they are easy to ride around until they are cleared off the trail. The benefit trail ride this past October provided funds for the purchase of additional corral panels allowing for portable horse pens that may be rented and setup at Cowboy Camp, the primitive campground. Request pens from the



ESP office. Plans are also being made to run water to Cowboy Camp. Come out and enjoy the trails at Eisenhower State Park, and be sure to thank park staff for these great trails and facilities.

Jim Thomas (thomasjc68@gmail.com)

Fall River Lake Badger Creek Trail

Fall River trails are in good condition this winter with lighter than usual snowfalls and rain events. I saw less ice than in past years. Also fewer eagles than usual. I imagine that is likely due to fewer ducks and geese staying on the lake through the winter.



I've made several trips out to work on armoring and spreading a little rock on a section of the trail that suffers from a late winter and spring "seep" from a hillside that



otherwise is trouble free the rest of the year. Rather than try to reroute an otherwise nice route I decided to mine a little rock from a nearby hillside along the road and transport it up and over to the site needing some help. You have to love Tracked equipment, it will go just about anywhere and the CanyCom tracked dumper carries a pretty good load

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allowing projects that otherwise couldn't be attempted. The flagstone in the pictures were loaded and moved solo.

Terry Plenert (PPLENERT@aol.com)

Ford County Lake Trail – Dodge City

March 2015, The Ford County Lake trail is 10.5 miles of single track in a variety of settings with a few technical challenges and many short climbs and drops. It runs through grass and into thick trees (yes trees) with log ramps and rocky areas around the lake and across a portion of the dry lake bottom. It includes a mile long circuit of loops and switchbacks over jumps and hills called the "Playground" before leading back to the starting point. The trail is well groomed and in great condition. Recent moisture rendered most of the surface more supple and soft so that anyone desiring a high effort conditioning and skill honing ride will get all that and more. There is a standing "double dog dare" to finish two laps in less than two hours. Visit our Facebook page at, Ford County Lake Trail. The trail head is located on the southwest corner of the lake. For additional information regarding the trail, I can be reached at the address below.

John Wentling (jwentling@buyqgautos.com)

Perry Lake Bike Trails

A mild start to winter provided a longer than usual riding season. Then Feb. brought an extended freeze thaw cycle that halted most trail activities including planned trail maintenance. The only noteworthy improvements to the trail this winter were removal of some fallen trees, tread improvements on a 1-mile section of Logan's Run and some armoring on a mud section of Daisy Point.

This section on Daisy has and will always be a point of concern as this is a section of silt and high water debris just above water table that stays soft for long time after rain. On a warm day in Feb. we were able to shuttle some flagstone and gravel from the edge of the lake to make a hard surface to walk or ride on when things get wet. As the day warmed up and ground was thawing it got too sloppy to continue working so for now we have an optional line to use to avoid further trail damage and allow dry access to this popular 2-mile loop. We explored several re-route options but none were going to solve the problem so armoring this stretch is the best option. More work will have to be done before this can be called a finished project.

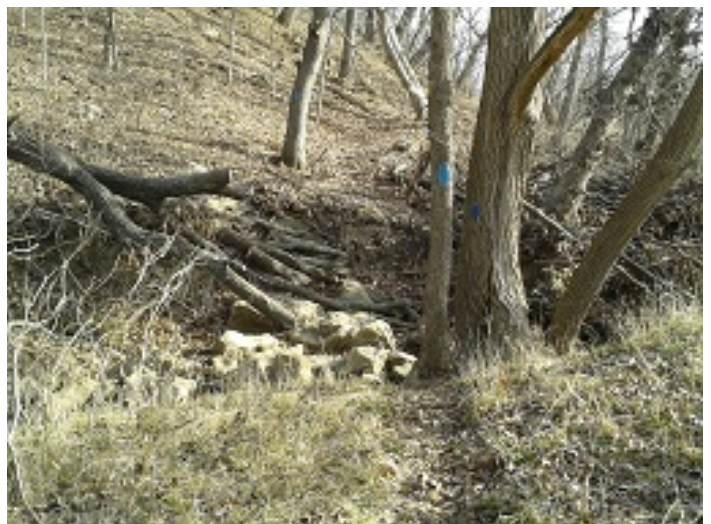
Lyle Riedy (lriedy@usd345.com)

Perry Lake Hiking Trails

The trail's major spring cleanup was held on March 14 on a fantastic sunny 60+ degree day and it had the usual crew: KCOOC, Sierra, other trail watchers, and a meetup person or two. This primarily consisted of mowing parts of the trail that had lespedeza growth and removing many fallen trees. We examined a short (8') ditch crossing that is being undermined and will need relocation, and one messy creek crossing that may be a candidate for a bridge (see the before and after clearing photos). Unfortunately, several fallen trees on section 4 are being left for another day -- no rest for even the marginally wicked.



Before



After

Dave Brackey (dbrackey@att.net)

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Topeka Trails

Dornwood Park Trails

Not much to report from Dornwood. The trail is drying from the recent snow and rain. I have cleared some fallen trees out of the dropout section on the east side. Other than that I will be preparing for the spring spraying and the honeysuckle cut back.

Russ Rupp (russ11@cox.net)

MacLennan Park (Cedar Crest)

Our regular trail crew did some tread repair on a couple of sections in March to re-establish the outslope and do some minor shaping. Honeysuckle is already sprouting leaves as it roars back into life in the spring. The battle continues, but the area we've initially targeted on the east side of the park road is showing progress. One more season and this area may be clear of significant honeysuckle.

We installed one more mid-trail sign on the red trail in March and plan to install similar signage on Kaw River State Park trails soon. For now these new signs have not been targeted for vandalism, but someone really likes our new trail brochures that usually can be found in the map box at the main trail head. Shortly after it gets restocked, someone likes them so much they take them all. Hopefully they find a good home.

Spring rain, snow and frost heave have left some sections on the Red trail too wet to use in recent weeks. Continued use of these sections has resulted in damage that will need repair sometime this spring when conditions permit. Please pass the word to let the trails dry out before hiking, running or biking to help avoid extensive repair work in the future.

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

Skyline Park

The trails are in pretty good condition and are getting increasing usage going into spring. We've flagged in a trail connector between the South Summit Trail and the Sunrise Trail toward the south end of the park. We'll open this section for traffic sometime this spring. In the meantime, please exercise caution and be aware of tripping hazards on this short section.

We've also begun scouting new trail sections in the southwest corner of the park. Our plan is to complete this

loop by year-end which will add about a mile to the three existing miles we've built over the past two years.

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

Tuttle Creek Trails

Randolph State Park

Weather warmed up and we are in the process of removing deadfall from our trails. Nothing very exciting, except we are out in the fresh air and moving. Most trails in good shape awaiting the new growth of brush that in some cases will need spraying or removing. We have one area where the chain saw is needed.

Carnahan

The Carnahan area has some need for small brush removal to better define the existing trail, but all open except beyond Carnahan Creek. The water has been standing and too much mud to cross.

Olivia Huddleston (kayakkid346@gmail.com)

Switchgrass Mountain Bike Trail (Wilson Lake)

Our first event of the new year was on January 11. This is an annual no-host event where a group of locals get together to have a short mountain bike race and have some fun. Fortunately there was a good turnout and it was great weather and trail conditions for that time of year. Other than a session I had with the string trimmer on some of the less accessible sections of the trail, not much was happening.

We had a few light snows over the winter, but only a few days where the trail was too wet to ride (despite the efforts of some who chose to do it anyway). In winter, it takes only a small amount of shade to reduce temperature and evaporation, which will keep a trail wet for long periods of time. Most of our less radiated spots are where the trail is situated on steep north-facing exposures. The Birdy Loop (~2 mi) has lots of trees and stays wet longer than any other parts of the trail. Mostly the trail gets lots of sunshine, even with our low angled winter sun.

With bluebird houses provided by Ks Dept Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, volunteer Jim Strine and I erected 6 houses near the trail. We are both novices at proper location of the bird house, so we are hoping for some good luck in getting some new hatches of the eastern bluebird this summer in the Park. We also hope that trail users will enjoy seeing

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bluebirds feeding the little ones throughout the season. We'll keep you posted on success.



looks a bit more flattened. It also brings gravel back to the center and helps reduce erosion a bit. Once a year seems to be enough and late winter is the best time because the ground is softest after the winter freeze-thaw cycle.

Bob Nicholson (bob.44.nicholson@gmail.com)



Late February and early March was a very cold period, but by mid-month the trail was completely dry. This is the time of year that I go over the ATV accessible sections of the trail with my trail groomer that I built using worn out mower blades. It works well to reverse the effects of displacement caused by the bike tires.



After a period of time the profile of the trail takes on a concave shape, but after being groomed it

Trail in a Box Update

The KTC's Trail in a Box program loans a fully stocked tool trailer to organizations who would like to build public access trails. So far the three Trail in a Box units have been deployed on trail building projects in Manhattan, Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Riley, Baldwin, Fredonia, Iola, Pomona and Herington.

If your group would like to build trails and needs equipment and perhaps a little expert guidance, check out our website at: <http://www.kansastrailsCouncil.org/about/trail-in-a-box/>

We'll be sending a Trail in a Box to support the KSS IMBA workshop and the Prairie Travelers AmeriCorp project and help make them a success (see page 1 articles). The IMBA workshop could have as many as 50 volunteers and the AmeriCorps crew will have 10 to 12 on the team. So we'll be putting our tools to good use for these projects.



Wilson Lake – Switchgrass Trail

Support Kansas Trails in 2015!

We would like to welcome our many new members who have joined in the past few months and thank our renewing and affiliate members for continuing to support Kansas Trails!

Memberships and donations make it possible to do all the work the KTC and our volunteers do every day of the year. If you would you like to support Kansas trails you can make a donation to the KTC Friends of the Trail program. While our on-line PayPal membership feature is easy to use, if you would rather send a check, please fill out and print the on-line membership form and mail it to: KTC, PO Box 695, Topeka, KS 66601-0695. Click here to join the KTC and support your favorite trails: <http://www.kansastrailsCouncil.org/join/ktc-membership-sign-up/>

New Board of Directors Member

We would like to welcome Cliff Jones (Kansas City) to the KTC Board of Directors. Cliff brings with him a variety of trail experience and knowledge and is also affiliated with the Trail Masons who maintain the Wyandotte County Lake trails as well as other KC Metro area trails. With both equestrian and mountain biking experience and he has also worked on trails in Colorado and hiked many Colorado trails and 14'ers. Over the past 5 years he has been instrumental in building and improving 15 miles of trails at Wyandotte County Lake and working with trail volunteers from all the various user groups.