

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

September 2004

National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day, September 18, 2004 is a day set aside each year for trail enthusiasts to get their hands dirty working on a nearby trail.

All of the KTC's trails were created and are maintained by volunteers who log thousands of hours each year on their favorite trails. If you haven't had the chance to work on an area trail this is a great day to start!

A few of the scheduled events can be found on the National Public Lands Day website:

www.npld.com/involved/kansas.cfm

New Board Members

Congratulations to Ed DeTrude (Topeka) and Amy Thornton (Lawrence) who joined the KTC's Board of Directors at the August meeting.

Ed is a capital improvements project manager in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Ed is a hiker and mountain biker whose favorite trail is the Konza Prairie Trail south of Manhattan.

Amy is an attorney in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Amy is a mountain biker and hiker.

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Board Meeting Minutes

• The KTC Board met August 22 at the new shelter house at Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Reservoir.

• Board members present were Lyle Riedy, Vice President; Jim Copeland, Treasurer; Stephen Garlow; John Haynes; Susan Haynes, Secretary; Olivia Huddleston; and Virginia Lefferd. Guests present were Ed DeTrude, trail coordinator for Eisenhower; Dale Schwieger, park manager; and Amy Thornton, attorney with KDWP.

• The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Lyle Riedy, Vice President, in the absence of Mike Goodwin, President.

• **Approval of minutes:** Stephen moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Olivia seconded. Motion carried.

• **Treasurer's report:** Jim presented the report, noting that the checking account balance was less due to the investment made. Stephen moved to accept the report, Olivia seconded. Motion carried.

• **Investment report:** John recapped the April 4th Finance Committee meeting and reported on the investments bought and sold. Stephen moved to accept the report and Virginia seconded. The motion passed.

• **Nomination of new Board Member:** Stephen moved to accept the resignation of Trish Cleveland. John seconded the motion; motion carried. It was noted that this leaves two open positions on the Board. Olivia moved to nominate Ed DeTrude to fill the position vacated by Harriet Barber, Stephen seconded. Motion carried. John moved to nominate Amy Thornton to fill the position opened by Trish Cleveland's resignation. Virginia seconded the motion and it passed.

Trail Reports

• Tuttle Creek - Olivia reported a grant from North American Trail Conference would provide for the restroom on the north side. More hookups are being put

Board Minutes (Cont'd)

in and gravel on parking pads. The trails are in good shape and have been remarked. Fancy Creek - new trails are being built.

- Toronto/Fall River - Virginia and Delores Baker did re-blazing last spring and plan to blaze again in the next month or so.
- Perry Bike Trail - Lyle reported that the trail held up well during the hard rain. Some spots that are difficult to maintain will be rerouted.
- Perry, east side - John re-blazed last spring and will do more this fall. There is a possibility of help on the trail from KCOC.
- El Dorado - Jim reported some difficulty in trying to find the new trailhead. The area is mostly grassland.
- Elk River Trail - It was noted that some logs on the trail need to be removed. Ron Boyer and the Ultra Runners will soon be working on the trail.
- Eisenhower State Park - Ed reported that some rerouting is planned on the equestrian trail. More work and fine-tuning is planned on the hiking trail. Park officials plan to erect a trailhead sign for the hiking trail.
- Clinton/Latham - Mike worked on an addition to the trail along the shoreline. A recent workday was held and more are planned.

Committee Reports

- Latham Grant - Lyle lead a discussion on possible applicants to fund. There was also discussion about the merits of a DR Field and Brush Mower.
- Election Committee - Fifty-four out of eighty-six ballots were returned. Board members Stephen Garlow, Mike Goodwin, John Haynes, and Lyle Riedy were all re-elected by a majority of votes. Stephen moved and John seconded to accept the election results. Motion carried.

Continuing Business

- Kansas Trails Book - The book is currently out of print, but authors are working on an update. Some copies might be found at Kansas Historical Society or some park offices.
- KTC's 30th Year - Next year is also the 50-year anniversary of state parks and 100 year anniversary of KDWP. It was suggested that we explore the possibility of coordinating our celebration with theirs in the parks where we have trails. Everyone is encouraged to think of ways to help and/or participate in the celebrations.
- IMBA Trail Building Workshop - After some discussion this topic was deferred until more information can be

obtained from Mike and Ken.

- Newsletter - There was discussion about distribution difficulties; some copies may need to be mailed. Mike has been filling in while seeking a new editor. Stephen suggested we all get stories to Mike and that we include in the next newsletter the option to get the newsletter by email. Further discussion was tabled until more information is available.
- Website - Difficulty has been encountered in getting the proposed manager. There was discussion about finding another person.
- Menninger/Cedar Crest Trail Project Update - Lyle reported that things are progressing nicely. Money is now available for carrying out master planning. Plans have been made to acquire land needed. KTC will be asked for help on trails and Friends of the Kaw for help on boat ramps. Planners are coordinating with the Governor's Mansion to form a nice loop trail.
- Recognition for Rocky and Harriet - There was discussion on the trailhead plaque for Rocky proposed at the last meeting. John moved and Stephen seconded that the secretary develop and send a letter of recognition to Rocky Shire. Olivia moved and Virginia seconded that the same be done for Harriet Barber. Both motions passed.

New Business

- KDWP Grant - Ed DeTrude led discussion on the grant. Olivia proposed and Stephen seconded a motion to approve Ed to write a grant application for the Recreational Trails Art funds for the purpose of purchasing trail building equipment (DR Trimmer). Motion passed.
- Jim shared a letter of thanks from Mike Hayden for our donation to Wildlife Trust.
- Lyle proposed that all work on two things for the next meeting: Think about social events to tie in with the park celebrations. Think about the purchase of the DR mower.
- **Next Meeting** - November 7th at Perry. Lyle will get more info to us on the location (possibly held in park office or golf course area) and lunch.
- Jim moved and Stephen seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Susan Haynes, Secretary

Trail Reports

Tuttle Creek

Tuttle Creek Trails are all open and well used. The new parking pads are taking shape. We received a grant from the North American Trail Ride Conference to help with the cost of an outdoor restroom at Randolph North.

Our local group is preparing for the competition trail ride (Flint Hills CTR) on October 1, 2, 3, 2004. We are hoping for nice cool weather with lots of riders and many volunteers. It takes about 40 volunteers to make this event go well.

Olivia Huddleston

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

It has been a battle this summer keeping up with the mowing and weed whipping and the trail is a little over grown in spots. In September our plans are to mow, spray Round-up, and weed whip to get the trail into shape for the fall season. This fall and winter we have several projects that we are planning to work on. Several of our stream crossings need work and that is our first priority. We also hope to build several connector trails and side trail off of the main trail. If time permits we will build a second short loop trail.

Ed DeTrude

George Latham Trail (Clinton - Woodridge Park)

The new trail coordinator for the Latham Trail is Brandon Cherry who is currently a student at the University of Kansas. Brandon, a cross country runner at the University of Kansas, has been working with the Clinton North Shore trail team for the past year.

The trail has been partially trimmed and lopped. The remaining sections should be completed in a late September workday.

For information about trail workdays Brandon may be contacted at bcherry@ku.edu

Perry Bike Trails

Considering the wet and wild weather conditions this summer the Perry Bike Trail is in great shape. After numerous cleanups from the wind and rain storms, the trail is void of major problems. The weed and brush mowing and trimming techniques used the past few years have really helped. Except for a few open grassy areas the trail did not need to be mowed a 2nd time this summer. Typically there are two complete mowings and about 1/2 the trail gets a 3rd cutting.

Extensive erosion control quick fixes were once again needed on the Skyline section of trail. Plans this winter are to re-route major sections of Skyline and entrances to Great White that require yearly erosion repairs. Included in the re-routes of these trails will be the addition of about one mile of contour/easy trail. Depending on weather conditions and volunteer help there may be some extensions added to the Blackfoot section of trail. The additions to Blackfoot would be to add length to the trail and eliminate two steep technical climbing turns that many novice riders are finding too challenging.

Lyle Riedy

Clinton – North Shore Trails – Shoreline Trail

This summer's rains have definitely created a challenge to maintain the Clinton trails. We have trimmed some of the grassy sections four times this year. Usually these areas are trimmed only twice.

We have also had an amazing number of trees to clear from the trail. We are developing the theory that many of our native hickory and locust trees are genetically predisposed to fall across the nearest trail.

Then there is the erosion damage. Some of the small ravines crossing the trails washed out large caverns during some of the 6 inch downpours. And Mud Creek on the blue trail is under about 4 feet of water.

Our fall and winter plans include rerouting several sections to improve water drainage. We will also finish the final ½ mile of the new Shoreline Trail below Campground 1.

Mike Goodwin

Contact Information

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KTC Trail Coordinators

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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 Website

The KTC website is being revised and updated and should be completed in the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience while we're in transition.

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. Please be assured that your email address will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be provided to any other entity.

4th Quarter KTC Meeting

The next KTC meeting will be held at Perry Lake on Sunday, November 7, 2004. More details will be announced ahead of the meeting.

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HARRIETT BARBER RETIRES FROM BOARD



Harriett Barber is moving on to a new chapter in her life. For many years she has been one of the “horse” board members of the KTC.

Many remember her first horse “Eagle” who is retired at her farm. Minka moved into the lineup as first ride choice several years ago and provided Harriett many hours of fine companionship.

After some health problems Harriett decided to give up her place on the Board and devote more time to golfing and playing with the senior citizens band. Her music will be remembered at many of the Super Outdoor Weekends when she played her guitar and led the campfire sing-alongs.

Harriett was coordinator for the horse/hiking trail at El Dorado Lake. She served as the KTC President for two years, hosted the Board meeting at her home and traveled many miles with her camper and horse trailer. We will miss seeing her at the Board meetings, but hope she keeps in touch.