

Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

Volume XXXI, Issue 1

Newsletter

February 2005

Great Turnout For Trail Building Workshop

On January 22, braving the freezing temperatures and the 30 mph winds, 40 dedicated trail volunteers attended the IMBA Trail Building workshop sponsored by the KTC. A similar workshop sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was attended by 40 land managers on Jan. 20. The KTC provided lunches, snacks, beverages and logistical support for both workshops.

There was so much interest in these trail building workshops that they filled to capacity in about one week. For those who had a standby registration, please watch the KTC website calendar page for future trail building workshops in Kansas this spring.

The KTC would like to thank the KDWP for making the new Region 2 office available for the workshop. The KTC appreciated the opportunity to partner with the KDWP to bring these workshops to Kansas.

The KTC would also like to thank Mark Schmidt, the IMBA workshop instructor, for his knowledge, expertise and dedication to building sustainable multi-use trails.

Super Outdoor Weekend

The 2005 KTC Super Outdoor Weekend is scheduled for April 23 and 24 at Eisenhower State Park on the north side of Melvern Lake.

Every spring since 1982, the KTC's members and friends have gathered in the spring to celebrate and enjoy Kansas trails. We will be hiking, biking, kayaking, geocaching, camping and riding horses.

See the enclosed flyer for further details. We hope you'll come play with us in April at Melvern Lake!

Affiliate Memberships

The KTC has established a new Affiliate Membership category for trail user and trail building organizations in Kansas to join the KTC.

Our Affiliate Members support the KTC's efforts to develop and maintain trails in Kansas. The KTC is available to advise and assist Affiliate Members with trail development projects.

Many trail user groups and trail building groups often have limited resources, difficulty attracting members, little publicity, minimal contact with other trail groups and no internet presence. By becoming Affiliate Members of the KTC, these groups can increase their public recognition and utilize the resources and expertise of the KTC to become more effective trail groups. Affiliate Membership annual dues are \$25 and benefits include:

- Posting events on the KTC website Calendar page
- Affiliate Member information page on the KTC website
- Affiliate Member "Trails" page on the KTC website
- Connection to the KTC's members and resources
- Electronic receipt of the KTC newsletter
- One vote in KTC elections

If you are aware of a trail organization which might benefit by becoming an Affiliate Member of the KTC, please email us at: goodwinmw@cox.net



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Trail News and Issues
- 3 Kansas Legislative News
- 4 KTC Trail Reports
- 5 Board Meeting Minutes
- 6 Board Perspectives

Trail News and Issues



The Agritourism Promotion Act was passed by the 2004 Kansas Legislature and signed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius. It encourages the growth of agritourism by creating a registration process through which the Kansas Department of Commerce can assist in the promotion of agritourism operations, limiting liability through signage, and creating a tax credit to help offset the expense of agritourism liability insurance for existing and new operations. New and existing agritourism operations must register with the Kansas Department of Commerce to be eligible for the limited liability and the income tax credit. There is no fee for registration. For more information on the Agritourism Promotion Act, please contact the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-8132 or (785) 368-7260 or agritourism@kansascommerce.com.

The goal of the Kansas Agritourism Initiative is to generate more tourism revenue for the state and to help Kansas farmers and ranchers boost their income. For family farmers and ranchers facing the challenge of making a living from agriculture, the growing travel trend of agritourism can help them increase revenue and ultimately remain on their land. [*Kansas Department of Commerce News Release*]



2005 marks the 100th anniversary of the Kansas Fish and Game Department and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the State Park and Resources Authority, which were combined in 1987, by the Executive Order of then Governor Michael Hayden, to form the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The Department is celebrating "100 Years of Recreation, Resources, and People" through out the year. Visit the KDWP website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us to learn more and to see a list of special events planned for 2005.



More KDWP news - A new boat ramp is coming to the Kansas River. KDWP has awarded a contract to construct a new boat ramp north of Lecompton. Construction should begin this spring and the ramp should open for use this Memorial Day, weather permitting.



KDWP has begun to develop a master plan for State

Park #24 located in Shawnee County (behind the Menninger Campus). Bartlett & West Engineers is preparing the master plan and IMBA Trail Solutions has already completed the trail inventory and assessment. KDWP plans to have an open house this summer to seek public comment.



The 2004 IMBA report card is out and Kansas got a B – an improvement from last year. IMBA cites new rolling single track in Wichita as a plus and lots of private property that limits trail opportunities as a minus. [*IMBA Trail News Winter 2004*]



You've probably got a great backpack for your longer excursions, so why are you still using your kid's book bag for day hikes? If you haven't discovered the joy of a well-fitting daypack that supports the load in a way that's easier on your body, it may be time to do some research!

If you plan on carrying loads of more than 20 pounds or so, you may want to consider a daypack with a hip belt. You may also want to consider one that accepts a hydration system if that's your thing. Whatever type you choose, make sure you wear the pack with some weight in it before purchasing it and/or taking the tags off. Don't be in a hurry – correct fit is crucial. You'll soon find that the right pack will put some extra spring in your step! [*American Hiking Society's Paperless Trail, February 2005, www.AmericanHiking.org*]



"MORE" Receives Maryland Grant for Mountain Bike Trail Development. Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich recently announced a \$75,000 grant to the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), the Washington, DC region's largest mountain bike club, to help the club continue its work of developing and improving trails in Maryland. "We're thrilled and honored to receive this generous grant from the State of Maryland," said MORE President Eric von Eckartberg. "The grant will help us create new trail systems for all Marylanders to enjoy." A top priority for MORE is to develop trails on so-called "Brownfield" sites that will turn distressed land into a resource for healthy outdoor recreation. [*League of American Bicyclists – BikeLeague News February 2, 2005 Vol. 5, No. 2*]



Trail News and Issues – Cont'd

Geocaching: Using Technology for Outdoor Recreation

Thus, the purpose of this University of Minnesota project, lead by Dr. Ingrid Schneider, was to profile geocachers, the benefits they seek in the activity, as well as attitudes toward low-impact behaviors. An electronically administered questionnaire to geocachers in Minnesota, in fall 2003 revealed geocachers are primarily middle aged, white, and possess high educational and income status. The majority of geocachers find, rather than hide, caches and prefer to find them in public park areas. Seven benefit factors emerged related to geocaching: physical fitness, experiencing nature, learning, stimulation, relaxation, autonomy, and socialization. The benefits sought differed by group type but not geocaching experience levels. Geocachers indicated moderate to strong attitudes toward environmentally responsible behaviors. Preferences for geocaching included finding caches in well-maintained areas and clear policies about geocaching. For more information about this study contact Debbie Chavez at dchavez@fs.fed.us [U.S. Forest Service Recreation Research Update, Pacific Southwest Research Station August 2004 No. 49]



Last Thanksgiving IMBA mailed thousands of thank you notes to their grassroots advocacy network as part of a campaign to thank land managers for their tireless work on behalf of trails. "This is our way of showing appreciation to land managers for all the great places we get to ride," said IMBA government affairs director Jenn Dice. IMBA reminds all mountain bikers to take a moment to thank the staff of their local trail systems. To request IMBA thank you cards visit imba.com. [IMBA Trail News Winter 2004]



Senate

Editors Note: SB 87 would increase funding for the state parks and would allocate funds to the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program which has not been fully funded in recent years. This bill would eliminate the daily and annual permit fees for vehicles with a Kansas license tag. SB 87 also provides for a refund to anyone who requests one. This funding approach has been used successfully by the State of Montana. We encourage you to support this bill by contacting your legislator. You may find your legislator on this website: www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/redistricting.do

HB 2116 Summary: This bill is one of KDWP's initiatives and would protect the federal portion of the wildlife conservation fund from being diverted to other purposes, besides those given to KDWP in statute.

Action Taken: Introduced in House Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Committee on 1/20/05. Referred to House Appropriations Committee on 1/21/05.

HB 2226 Summary: This bill prescribes certain procedures for land acquisition by the KDWP, including review by the applicable county commission and provision for county residents to petition and disallow the acquisition. Also under this bill the legislature would have to approve land acquisitions. **Action Taken:** Introduced on 1/31/2005 and referred to the House Appropriations Committee on 2/1/2005.

[KDWP Website - www.kdwp.state.ks.us/legislative/legislativereport.html]

KTC Trail Reports

Perry Lake Hiking Trails (East Side)

Over 350 volunteer hours were invested in upkeep and improvements on Perry Lake Hiking Trail during 2004. Eagle scouts are earning merit badges and learning skills by building bridges over problem crossings along the trail. The first bridge was put in eight years ago by KTC and Sierra Club volunteers. In the last couple years two additional bridges have been built, with yet another expected later this year. A scout volunteer will be placing a new kiosk at the Old Military Trail Trailhead this spring. Last fall, the second memorial park bench was put in place west of Old Military Trail area along the trail. This memorial was for long-time KTC member and former coordinator Dorothy Moore. The first park bench was placed along the trail near Lakeside Village about a year ago, for park ranger Richard "Mobe" Rucker. A third park bench will be installed on the trail north of Longview later this year, as a memorial for long-time KTC member and former trail coordinator Richard Douthit.

Upcoming trail maintenance outings:

- Sierra Club - March 19th, 9 AM at Old Military Trail.
- Kansas City Outdoor Club - TBA (possibly 3/19), at Slough Creek Park area.

Check the KTC website calendar for further details.

Kevin Otterman

Perry Bike Trails (West Side)

2004 proved to be a good year for the Perry Bike Trail 384 volunteer hours recorded. These volunteers worked hard in the first 3 months of the year to open 3 miles of new trail, which completed the original plan of encompassing the Grasshopper Point campgrounds. During the summer 3 steep slopes that started to show signs of excess wear and erosion were corrected by reestablishing a proper off slope, and rock armoring. In early fall 1/2 mile of new trail was added to Skyline bringing this beginner level loop to 3 1/2 miles. November saw the first Earn Your Dirt workday at Perry. On this day 18 experienced trail builders added a 1/4-mile re-route of the west entrance to Great White. This was an awesome example of skilled trail builders working together to develop a quality sustainable trail that traverses a particularly difficult hillside.

For 2005 we are planning with the Corp. and State Park to add additional trail, and a possible new trail.

Lyle Riedy

Tuttle Creek – Randolph & Carnahan Trails

This year our volunteer group put in 1,120 hours working on the trails. The KDWP is adding 20 electric hookups, with picnic tables, rock parking pads, and forms of stabling equipment for horses. A new outhouse has been installed at Randolph State Park South. A grant from the North American Trail Ride Conference will allow one of the old outhouses from Randolph South to be moved to Randolph North, where no facilities exist.

We have added some "PRIVATE PROPERTY" signs to help relations with local landowners. We hope to be able to add a mile to the existing Garrison Trail this spring. We also plan on sponsoring the Flint Hills Competitive Trail Ride October 1 and 2, 2005.

Olivia Huddleston

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

2004 was a busy year on the North Shore Trails! Trail volunteers contributed 791 hours building and maintaining trails during the year. Construction of the Shoreline Trail, which began in the fall of 2003, took 705 volunteer hours to complete.

Our plans for 2005 include: building an eagle watching platform, rerouting and reclaiming eroded trail sections and debarment throughout the 22 mile trail system. We also plan to add an east trailhead to the blue trail and a connector trail to the Clinton Lake overlook area.

The north shore trails continue to be heavily used, averaging about 18,000 trail users per year entering at the east trailhead.

Mike Goodwin

Ike's Trail (Eisenhower State Park - Melvern Lake)

Trail volunteers contributed 180 hours in 2004. The trail crew is still working on the second loop. There are two final sections of trail that need to be worked on to complete the second loop. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can complete them soon. The next trail workday is Feb. 26. We meet at the Park Office at 9:00 AM. Beginning in March we will switch to maintenance mode.

Ed DeTrude

Board Meeting Minutes

The KTC Board met January 23, 2005 at the Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake, with eleven members in attendance.

Administrative Matters

- The minutes, treasurer's report, and investment report were all approved.
- Election of 2005 Officers: The present officers were retained.

Continuing Business

- There was discussion about new legislation proposing a \$5 fee attached to personal vehicle registration to provide revenue for state parks so that no vehicle access fees would be necessary for those with a Kansas license tag. It was moved and seconded that the KTC president send a letter to the legislative committee to show KTC's support of the new legislation. Motion passed.

- Trail Building Workshop Report - The first workshop on Thursday was well attended by land managers, Wildlife and Parks people, park managers, and Corp representatives. The Saturday workshop was also well attended by a great assortment of various club members, volunteer trail stewards and KTC members, bringing the total attendance to about 80. All comments indicated that the workshops were very well received. KTC provided refreshments and lunch for both workshops.

- New Equipment & Trailer Report - Details were provided about the trailer and the various equipment purchased, including the new DR Brush Cutter. During discussion several suggestions were made, including having the trailer pulled only by a KTC member, having photos of the new purchases and serial numbers recorded in an inventory, and promoting sponsorship of the trailer through contributions for promotional decals.

- Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) - A draft MOA was developed, discussed, and will be revised.

New Business

- National Recreational Trails Program - Trails with this designation are listed on a national database listing trail specifics. Perry Lake Trail is on the list and Clinton & Elk River were said to have been listed in the past. This will be checked on. It was proposed that each coordinator be

contacted to seek designation for their trail.

- Backpacker Magazine - The magazine is developing a new section of regional interest and has approached KTC as a source for information from our area.

- Affiliate Memberships - It was proposed that membership be expanded by offering "Affiliate Membership" to other trail user groups. The dues would be \$25.00, the same as a "Corporate/Family." This would be a mutually beneficial arrangement. Affiliate benefits would include the following:

- Posting events on the KTC website Calendar page
- Affiliate Member information page on the KTC website
- Affiliate Member Trails Page on the KTC website
- Connection to the KTC's members and resources
- Electronic receipt of the KTC newsletter
- One vote in KTC elections

The motion to approve the new membership designation was approved.

- Volunteer of the Year - KTC's own Jim Copeland received the distinguished "Volunteer of the Year" award from KDWP. Congratulations, Jim!

- Website Update - Mike is working on harvesting old website photos and articles for the new website and researching website links to see how KTC is accessible on the web.

- Ed Dorado Lake Trail Coordinator - El Dorado is currently without a coordinator. Contacts will be made about a candidate.

- Super Outdoor Weekend - There was much discussion about possible new venues for SOW and the possibility of rotating locations. The motion to have this year's SOW on the weekend of April 23-24 at Melvern Lake passed. It was proposed that KTC provide meat for the Saturday night potluck. Other details will be communicated via email.

- 2005 Operating Budget and Capital Budget- After discussion the 2005 budgets were approved.

- Next Meeting - April 23 at Super Outdoor Weekend at Melvern Lake. Details to follow.

Susan Haynes, Secretary

Contact Information

2005 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

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[Positions 1-6: 2004-2005 term; Positions 7-12: 2005-2006 term]

For contact information for our trail coordinators, please log onto our website at: www.kansastrailscouncil.org.

Board Perspectives

Tale from the Trail

I leave the parking area, winding and slithering through the woods. I climb steadily to the tops of hills, breaking through rock ledges along the way. I descend down rooted rocky slopes and hop over small creeks. I dodge fallen trees, dive under low limbs, and tumble over small boulders. I skirt the shoreline of the lake and blast across a sandy beach. To some I am a dirty, rough, sadistic fool. To others I am a thoughtful, caring, entertaining friend always looking for adventure and release. I am an adrenaline rush and a calming elixir. I am anxious and enchanting. I breed deep thought or remove all thoughts. I give to some, and from others I take. I exist only from hard work. But I'm here simply for play. I need time to play, to wander, and to explore. Sooner or later though I get tired and hurt. I need to rest and to heal. But sometimes it's hard to rest when you are a trail.

Sometimes I get so tired and weak. There are times when I get down right sick. I can be damaged, broken and in need of repair. I need the rain to wash dust and gravel from my face. Then I need the warm, drying wind to burn off excess water that soaks into my flesh making it soft and susceptible to invasion from that terrible virus, erosion. Erosion is like a cancer that spreads throughout me--threatening to destroy me. I can't stop it by myself. I need help.

As winter approaches, a heavy freeze settles over the land and I rest. While I rest, I heal. The deep scars left from the heavy fall rains cut deep into the cracks of my skin leaving ugly wrinkles that only get bigger and uglier if not cared for. But my keepers love me and care for me. I feel them tend to my wounds. They pick away protruding stones from the high side of off-camber areas. This gives room for riders to maneuver gently without scratching and skidding on the same narrow path, creating a wound with their biting tires. They patch me where the waters have dug in. To me the fast-moving water is like the sharp edge of a pendulum that cuts a little deeper with each pass. I hear the buzz of chain saws as they remove the fallen trees that blocked trail users from visiting me.

You must understand. I like--no; I need treading upon. That's what keeps me alive. Without the usage I will become unkempt and eventually die. It's a good thing to have many users on me. But please respect me when I need to be left alone. When I am wet, I am weak and can be easily bruised or broken. Treat me with respect and I will always be here. I am here to

Board Perspectives

lead you through a flowing meandering journey away from the hectic, crowded, paved world where you spend too much time. I will be your escape. But now I rest. And with rest comes growth.

As I rest under frozen land, I feel pressure building inside. It is a pressure telling me to stretch, to adjust, and to grow. I feel the tingling of many footprints zigzagging across the land above me. Back and forth, over here, over there and back again. Now on the ridge, now in the drainage they are. I come out of my winter sleep with excitement--many bike tires massage my awakening body. As the snow gives way to warm spring rain, my new figure is exposed. Will the users like it? Will they appreciate what I have become? Will they abuse the tender new flesh that is the extension of my soul? Will they come to enjoy and praise me for my beauty, my talent, my ability to entertain and my ability to challenge?

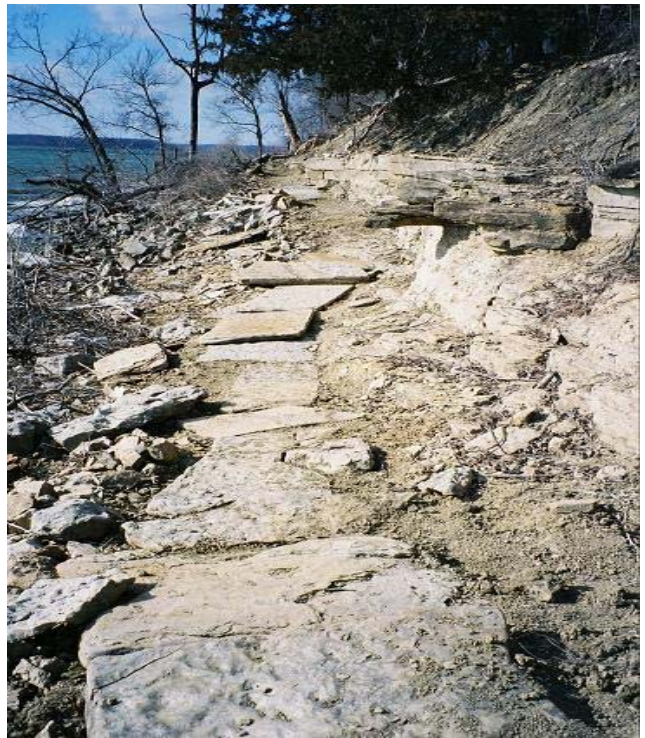
I hope and pray they respect me as a living, caring being. Most people up there think of me as dirt and stone, but I know I am so much more. I am the cumulative result of dirt, soil, elevation, trees, roots, water, mud, sweat, thought, more sweat, more thought, and most of all, I am the result of caring hands that mold me and keep me alive. I am a trail, not a piece of dirt.

By Lyle Riedy

How do you build a trail that will survive being under water occasionally? The answer: Armoring! Armoring a trail involves placing rocks directly in the trail tread. Nearby large slabs were perfect for building a boulder causeway. As shown below these 3x6 foot 600 lb. rocks were layered in 2 inch slices that could be split off by driving a wedge between each layer.



The quarried slices were then used to pave the trail as shown below. When the water rises and then recedes this armored trail tread will still be intact.



By Mike Goodwin

Armoring Project

The recently completed Shoreline Trail at Clinton Lake posed many construction challenges. Much of the trail is littered with enormous rock slabs which provided interesting obstacles and useful building material. One section (shown below) is situated along a rock bluff at an elevation which is sometimes under water.



Volunteer of the Year

Jim Copeland, our treasurer and long time KTC Board Member, was honored as the Volunteer of the Year at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks annual meeting in Topeka on January 20, 2005. Congratulations Jim, for this much deserved award for your many years of volunteer service!

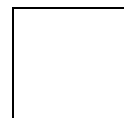
Upcoming Trail Events

To stay informed about upcoming trail events, please log onto our website (www.kansastrailscouncil.org) calendar page. If you know about trail building or special events scheduled for Kansas trails in your area, you may email the information to goodwinmw@cox.net for posting on the KTC calendar.

Second Quarter 2005 KTC Board Meeting

The next KTC Board meeting will be held in the new shelter house at Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) on Saturday, April 23. Check our website for further details: www.kansastrailscouncil.org.

Kansas Trails Council, Inc.
3819 SE 31st Street
Topeka, KS 66605-2109





SUPER OUTDOOR WEEKEND

MELVERN LAKE - EISENHOWER STATE PARK

APRIL 23 & 24, 2005

Every spring KTC members, families and friends* get together on a weekend in April to enjoy the outdoors. We'll be hiking, biking, horse riding, kayaking, geocaching and camping so bring your favorite mode of transportation and come play with us!

Schedule of Events

Saturday April 23

8:00 - 10:00 AM	Register** for group events, dinner and breakfast
10:00	Group hikes, bike rides, horse rides***
2:00	Group Kayaking & Canoeing
6:00	Potluck dinner and cook out with burgers provided by the KTC (Bring your own table service and a dish to share)
7:30	KTC Board meeting

Sunday April 24

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00	Hiking, biking, horse riding, kayaking on your own
10:00	Trail Assessment Hike (guided hike to discuss trail building concepts)

* You don't have to be a member to attend.

** Follow SOW signs to registration table

*** Horse riders: Out-of-state horse owners must have Coggins test and health papers for each horse.

Daily Camping Fees: Primitive - \$1.50; Electricity - \$13.50; Electricity & Water - \$15.50

State Park Permit: \$6.50/day (No fee with annual permit)

Contact goodwinmw@cox.net or check our website at www.kansastrailscouncil.org for maps and other information.

KTC Membership Form

I would like to join (or renew my membership in) the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2005

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 Dues and Contributions

Amounts

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

Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution * (Any Amount is appreciated)

Friend of the Clinton Lake North Shore Trail	_____
Friend of the George Latham Trail	_____
Friend of the Eagle Rock Trail	_____
Friend of the Ike's Trail (Eisenhower State Park)	_____
Friend of the Crooked Knee Horse Trail (Eisenhower SP)	_____
Friend of the El Dorado Lake Trail	_____
Friend of the Elk River Hiking Trail	_____
Friend of the Perry Lake Bike Trail	_____
Friend of the Perry Lake Hiking Trail	_____
Friend of the Tuttle Creek Trail	_____
Friend of the Cross Timbers St. Park Trail	_____
Friend of the Toronto State Park Trail	_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

* Your tax deductible Friends of the Trail contributions are used directly to maintain the selected trail(s). The KTC is a non-profit 501c3 corporation.

Please Mail To:

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