

Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

Volume XXXIII, Issue 3

Newsletter

September 2007

Kansas Built Environment and Trails Summit

October 18 & 19, 2007

Lawrence, KS

The Kansas Trails Council has been working with an alliance of trail supporters to organize a trails conference at the Holiday Inn in Lawrence, October 18 & 19. The conference has been expanded to two days to include sessions on how the built environment can benefit the health of Kansans and the communities in which they live. The second day of the conference will include sessions on trail building and maintenance basics, examples of successful trail development, legal issues, funding sources, input to the development of the State Trails Plan and a hands-on trail building equipment demonstration.

A Trails Summit brochure and registration form may be downloaded from the Calendar page on the KTC website: www.kansastrailscouncil.org Early registrations for the Trails Summit indicate a wide interest in Kansas trails with over 100 registrations received to date. The Trails Summit will provide a unique opportunity to connect with other trail enthusiasts, trail builders, funding agencies and equipment vendors who share an interest in building and maintaining trails in Kansas. We hope you will join us at the Trails Summit!

Recreational Trails Finder

Are there any trails in your county? Does the trail have any amenities like campsites or restrooms? Is there a GPS trail map available on-line? These questions can all be answered by logging on to the RecFinder website at: maps.kansasgis.org/recfinder/public/index.cfm The new website can also be accessed from the Links page on the KTC's website: www.kansastrailscouncil.org

RecFinder was developed through a cooperative effort by Kansas State University, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Geologic Survey and the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association. Professor Sid Stevenson will demonstrate the use and capabilities of RecFinder at the Trails Summit in October (see article above).

New Trail Building Equipment

Our arsenal of trail building equipment has grown to include a Ditch Witch SK650 loader and a Terex HR13 mini-excavator (see action photos on pages 6 & 7). Project fundraising was jump-started last spring by a \$1 for \$2 pledge from the Edward Mosby Lincoln Foundation. Thanks to a donation from the Kansas Wildscape Foundation, a recreational trails grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and contributions from individual KTC members we raised a total of \$48,000.

We had planned to add a backhoe attachment to the Ditch Witch for bench cutting, but after field testing two backhoe attachments, we found that a mini-excavator would provide greater flexibility.



Ditch Witch SK650 & Terex HR13



Inside This Issue

- 2 – Board Meeting Minutes & Contact Info**
- 3 – Membership Form**
- 4 – Trail News**
- 6 – New Equipment At Work**

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by Bob Nicholson, Vice President.

- The KTC Board met at the El Dorado State Park Office, El Dorado, Kansas.
- Board members present were Bob Nicholson, Vice President; Mike Goodwin, Treasurer; Susan Haynes, Secretary; John Haynes; Olivia Huddleston; Terry Plenart; Chris Kaegi-Stephens; and Amy Thornton. Members not present were Doug Palen, Lyle Riedy, Neil Taylor, and Jim Thomas.

Executive Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report: Mike reported on Friends of the Trail balances and investment activity. Investment totals are down somewhat, but income should remain as expected. A summary of grant expenditures to date was also presented. Funding for the Ditch Witch is almost complete. A thank you to contributors will be made soon in the newsletter. During discussion regarding the Ditch Witch, the Board recommended that a new, rather than used, machine should be purchased to take advantage of warranties, etc. John moved and Olivia seconded the motion to accept the treasurer/investment report. The motion was passed unanimously.
- New brochures: Chris presented the new KTC brochures. The tri-fold brochures are geared for use by trail users, while the color booklets are for more formal presentations. Magnetic KTC signs were also distributed to be used on vehicles during workdays, etc.
- Ballot count: Forty-three ballots were received by the Election Committee. Chris Kaegi-Stephens, Jim Thomas, Doug Palen, Olivia Huddleston, Neil Taylor, and Susan Haynes were all re-elected by a majority of votes.

Business Action Items

- KTC's recommendation to KDWP in their development of the State's 5-year trail plan: After discussion, the Board recommended that KTC advocate at the Kansas Trails Summit the two following items: 1) a statewide trail coordinator position in KDWP; 2) urge adequate funding for state parks. Mike Goodwin will be co-hosting presentations at the summit on trail building and maintenance and an equipment demonstration.
- Grant Status: Mike reported that the Statewide Trail Guide is in process. KTC is partnering with the Department of Commerce, KDOT, and KDWP. The Board discussed trail specifics that may be included in the guide and logistics of payment. The project is expected to be finished by the end of the year.
- Request: Mike shared with the Board a request for a George Latham Grant to build a concrete/gravel trail from Wamego to Manhattan. The Board agreed that this kind of trail is not consistent with the type of trail in which KTC specializes.
- Equipment use: A training program was proposed for users of the new Ditch Witch. Mike and Neil will put

Contact Info

together a checklist, a concise training program for use, and a waiver for users to sign after completion of their "certification." Insurance will be in effect for the Ditch Witch when purchased.

- Insurance: With the addition of more equipment, the Board decided it would be wise to investigate other sources of insurance to be sure that KTC has the most advantageous coverage.
- Next meeting: November 11th, possibly in the Salina area - location to be announced.
- Olivia moved and John seconded a motion to adjourn. Motioned carried and meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.

Susan Haynes, Secretary

2007 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

Lyle Reidy, President [9] (Mountain Biker)

Email: lriedy@usd345.com

Phone: 785-286-4103

Bob Nicholson, Vice President [11] (Mountain Biker)

Email: rnicholson@fhsu.edu

Phone: 785-623-8919

Susan Haynes, Secretary [6] (Hiker, Backpacker)

Email: jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

Phone: 913-248-1259

Mike Goodwin, Treasurer [10] (Runner, Hiker)

Email: goodwinmw@cox.net

Phone: 785-266-6218

Chris Kaegi-Stephens [1] (Equestrian)

Email: ckaegi@sheplers.com

Phone: 316-799-2505

John Haynes [8] (Hiker, Backpacker)

Email: jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

Phone: 913-248-1259

Olivia Huddleston [4] (Horseback Rider)

Email: opieh@bluevalley.net

Phone: 785-382-6886

Terry Plenert [12] (Mountain Biker)

Email: pplenert@aol.com

Phone: 316-262-5705

Doug Palen [3] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: djpalen@nckcn.com

Phone: 785-545-3460

Neil Taylor [5] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: medic1@sunflower.com

Phone: 816-392-1038

Jim Thomas [2] (Horseback Rider)

Email: thomasj@kansas.net

Phone: 785-528-4255

Amy Thornton [7] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: amyt@wp.state.ks.us

[Positions 1-6: 2006-2007 term; Positions 7-12: 2007-2008 term]

KANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2007

I would like to: Join Renew my Membership in the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2007

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) \$100.00

Annual Dues: Individual \$10

Trails Supporter \$101 - \$249

Family \$25

Trails Patron \$250 - \$499

Affiliate \$25

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.

Clinton Lake - George Latham Trail

Perry Lake Bike Trail

Clinton Lake - North Shore Trail

Perry Lake Hiking Trail

Elk City Lake - Eagle Rock Bike Trail

Tuttle Creek - Carnahan Trail

Elk City Lake - Elk River Hiking Trail

Tuttle Creek - Randolph Trail

Elk City Lake - Table Mound Hiking Trail

Topeka - Dornwood Park Trail

El Dorado Lake Trail

Topeka - MacLennan Park Trail

Fall River Lake Trails

Toronto Lake Trails

Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Horse Trail

Wilson Lake State Park Trails

Melvern Lake - Ike's 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 extent allowed by law.

Please mail to: Kansas Trails Council ■ PO Box 695 ■ Topeka, KS 66601-0695

Website: www.kansastrailscouncil.org

Trail News

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

The Skills Loop continues to be popular as we add new features like the “Treeage” (see page 6) and the teeter-totters (see below).



Three in a Row



Three Not in a Row

Our next feature will be a trials area where bikers will work their way through large rocks, 30' beams and utility poles which were provided by Westar's Green Team.

The Shoreline trail is now open from the east red stairway connector trail all the way to the west end. The remaining flood damage on the east end of the trail will be repaired in the coming weeks.

Mike Goodwin

Dornwood Trail (Topeka)

Planning to resume some building of new routes and loops at Dornwood this fall. So far the new trails built the last couple years are working out great. Naming the trails and putting up signs and arrows is a priority this fall and winter. Also recruiting volunteers as always at the top of the "things to do" list.

Tom Travis

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) Ike's Trail

As part of a Boy Scout Eagle Project we have been busy working on opening up another 2 miles of Ike's trail. One mile goes through trees and brush and runs along the lake and the other mile will run through the native tall grass typical of the flint hills (which will go much faster).



A trail brochure has been developed and will be going to the printer. The printed copies will be placed at the trail-head at Eisenhower State Park and the park entrance. The brochure should also be available soon through a link on the KTC home page under “Trails” – Melvern – Ike's Trail and also through the Kansas Department of Wildlife &

Trail News

Parks web site: www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/state_parks/locations/eisenhower/trails

A work day is planned for September 15th 9:00 AM - noon.

Tim Gogolski

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) Crooked Knee Equine Trail

Like many areas of the state, Melvern Lake received heavy rains and runoff this spring and early summer. The high water remained over part of Cowboy Camp through mid-July, and some of the lower parts of the equine trail also had to be re-routed. The lake is back to normal level now, and the trails are ridden almost every weekend by individuals and organized groups. Special use permits were granted for about 30 riders in June for a Cowboy Church benefit trail ride.

The Sunflower State Games held their competitive ride on July 29 with about 50 participants. Exciting news is the 50-mile race being held at Melvern Lake as part of the Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race on Sept. 14. In addition to the Eisenhower State Park equine trails, a special use permit has been granted by the Corps of Engineers to extend the trail to the east for about 10 miles to add enough mileage to accommodate this race. A Middle of the Trail Distance event is scheduled for Oct. 10 for 30 riders.

Expansion plans at the West Point Equine Camp include additional corrals for overflow and a corral for use with one of the new Yurts. Future plans also include a new bathhouse with showers in the West Point campground, which will be welcome news to equine campers.

As always, please don't forget to thank Dale and Lynn at Eisenhower State Park for all they have done for equine trail users and campers.

Jim Thomas

Fall River Lake Trails

The Fall River Lake area and the watershed draining into the lake received near record rainfall early this summer. The level of the lake rose to cover roads in places for several weeks. Combined with the rainfall and near perfect growing conditions, the corridor cleared last winter and spring is visible but overgrown.

In October we will resume regular monthly work days. Our goal will be to clear the existing corridor and begin to build

and establish the tread. We also have some short sections of dense brush to clear and crossings at small ravines to build within the existing length of corridor opened to date.

Terry Plenert

MacLennan Park Trails (Topeka)

We are continuing work on the last half-mile of new trail in the northeast section of the park. The trail crew opened about one-third of this new trail section in September, cutting out stubble and widening the corridor. Bench cutting with our new equipment should speed this along this fall.

The Ditch Witch made quick work repairing several sections of the gravel trail where rolling grade dips need occasional upkeep to control the water flow.

Mike Goodwin

Perry Lake Bike Trails

As the summer comes to an end the Perry Bike Trail is in great shape. This year there seemed to be an unusual amount of dead fall branches and large trees causing temporary trail blockages which were quickly cleared.

Several new events were held including a mountain bike race, three trail runs, and two adventure races. Contestants new to the trail gave high praises for the trail. During October plans are to clean up any areas of concern due to normal wear on the tread and begin blowing excessive leaf build up. Decisions will be made about re-routing some of the areas on north sections of the trails to make them a bit easier for less skilled riders.

Lyle Riedy

Perry Lake Hiking Trails

Little summer trail maintenance was done. A few high water events pushed some debris onto low-lying trail crossings - partially remedied so far. Several trailwatchers are planning a few days in September to get ready for the fall hikers. November 10 is planned as a joint work day by the Sierra Club and the Kansas City Outdoor Club. I plan on being up at least once in early October for checking some trails or mowing.

Dave Brackey

Trail News

Wilson State Park Trails

The Wilson Rollercoaster bike/hike trail as of early September has finally gotten dried out after a pretty wet spring and summer. Some sections have been mowed 5 times. I've used 4 sets of mower blades, 2 of which are worn out completely and 2 need sharpening. "Mowing rocks" is what I tell people that I do for a pastime now-a-days.

A new short section that I built just east of the Switchgrass Trailhead in early summer is getting burned in pretty well, but as it has dried out, the tread in some sections has become dry sand a few inches deep. Not great fun, but challenging for the mountain biker. Because this is part of the EZ loop, it will need some form of paving, hopefully rock. I recently rode some of the Colorado Trail where heavy steel mesh was used in a similar situation – it works but not very esthetic.

Constructed by the local Ellsworth inmate crew with our 06-07 trail grant funds, the new trailhead kiosk is up now and displaying some trail maps, event info, and posters. Not a lot on there yet, but I will put up more posters and other information about the trail, trail events, the park, and local natural history, flora, and fauna.



The new section KTC/KMBC, et al., built back in April is holding up extremely well and is a challenging delight to ride. We're hoping to have another trail friends workshop the first weekend of November, but that is still tentative on the exact date.

Bob Nicholson

Tuttle Creek Trails

We have found a lot of damage on some of our Corps trails due to the fluctuating water levels this summer, so naturally we are spending too much time repairing undercuts and washouts. With the Flint Hills CTR coming up October 5-7 we are in rush mode.

Randolph State Park has been in full swing starting with the Labor Day Weekend. It is good to see the people using our trails. The cooler weather will bring even more riders and hikers out.

Olivia Huddleston

New Equipment at Work

In the first month of operation the KTC's new Ditch Witch hit the ground running, or perhaps "digging" is more descriptive. The Ditch Witch made easy work of the removal of two large tree stumps for a new log ride feature on the Clinton Lake Skills Loop.



After clearing the stumps, which would have been a daunting task by hand, the Ditch Witch lifted the two 40-foot long fallen tree trunks so that a foundation rock could be placed under each end.

Then dirt ramps were created for approaches and exits so that the two logs are ready to be ridden (see photo on page 7). Return trail loops create a figure 8 layout for this skill feature which we're calling "Treeage" (pronounced like the medical term "triage").

Trail News



"Treeage"

When the Ditch Witch reaches its 650 lb. carrying capacity, it is still powerful enough to drag a half-ton rock into place on the Skills Loop.



The First Bench Cut – September 2007

The Terex has tracks that extend to 50 inches for greater stability on slopes. When navigating narrow corridors the tracks retract to the body width of 39 inches.



Playing with rocks

The Ditch Witch helped clear several new sections of trail at the September trail workday at Dornwood in Topeka.

The Terex mini-excavator, sometimes referred to as a trackhoe will be used primarily for bench cutting. Hopefully, this will eliminate much of the difficult hand labor previously required for bench cutting. Our crews will still be needed for the lighter work necessary to finish the tread (smoothing, tamping, etc.) and for rough corridor clearing in advance of the machinery.



Traveling down the trail corridor

The KTC At Work

At the second quarter Board meeting, the Board approved printing truck magnets for our trail coordinators (see photo).

Now, when we are building or maintaining trails, the public will notice that the Kansas Trails Council is hard at work.



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

Board of Directors Election

After counting the ballots, all of the following candidates were re-elected to their respective Board of Director positions for the 2008-2009 term: Susan Haynes, Chris Kaegi-Stephens, Olivia Huddleston, Doug Palen, Neil Taylor and Jim Thomas.

New KTC Members & Support

The KTC would like to welcome the following new members who have joined recently: Julie Cirlincuina, Melissa Eskilson, Peter O'Malley, Jason Puett and the Don Shultz family.

We would like to express our appreciation for the generous contributions by our members to the Friends of the Trail Program and for their contributions to the Ditch Witch project.

Fourth Quarter KTC Board Meeting

The next KTC board meeting will be held on November 11 in Salina at a location to be determined. Check the Calendar page on the KTC website for more details in the coming weeks.