

# Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

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Newsletter

December 2007

## Kansas Built Environment & Trail Summit Well Attended

Over one-hundred trail enthusiasts, park professionals and land managers attended the first annual Kansas Built Environment & Trails Summit in Lawrence in October. Day one focused on creating healthy communities and promoting a healthy lifestyle through outdoor activity. Day two addressed trail building basics, legal issues, risk management, equipment demo's, success stories and the new RECFINDER trail resource (see following article).



The Kansas Trails Council would like to thank the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Department of Wildlife and Parks for making this important conference possible. The KTC will continue working with this trail alliance to plan a 2008 Trail Summit.

## Recreational Trails Finder

Dr. Sid Stevenson (Kansas State University) demonstrated the RECFINDER trail locator and information system at the Trail Summit. 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. This new resource can be found at: [maps.kansasgis.org/recfinder/public/index.cfm](http://maps.kansasgis.org/recfinder/public/index.cfm) or it may be accessed from a link on the KTC website at: [www.kansastrailscouncil.org](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org).

## Happy New Year From The KTC!

We hope that you have been able to enjoy our beautiful trails during the past year. Kansans are fortunate to have over 1,000 miles of trails scattered across the state. Our trails vary from short, urban, park trails to long, rural, rail-trails and the many single track, natural surface trails located around Kansas lakes and rivers. Kansas' trails are used for a variety of outdoor activities including mountain biking, horseback riding, running, hiking, adventure racing, enjoying native plants and wildlife viewing.

The year ahead promises to be a busy one as many of our trails were impacted by the flooding, ice storms and blizzards of 2007. But we'll keep working to keep them in top condition. Most of the trails across the state have been built and are maintained by volunteers. If you would like to help build or maintain trails, please contact a trail coordinator near you (see the trail reports for email addresses).

In this year-end edition we wanted to share with our readers some of the beautiful scenery that surrounds our Kansas trails. We hope you'll enjoy the photos beginning on page 6. From the banks of the Missouri River in the northeast, to the dry channel of the Cimarron River in the southwest, Kansas has a trail for everyone. Some of our trails are forested with oak, hickory, osage orange and cedars and some are adorned with native prairie grasses and plants. Abundant wildlife enriches our trail experience with glimpses of bald eagles, wild turkeys, badgers, wood chucks, raccoons, bobcats, rattlesnakes, armadillos and the ubiquitous white tail deer. These are some of the reasons we build trails!



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# Board Meeting Minutes

- The KTC Board of Directors met in Salina, Kansas on November 11, 2007 with eight members in attendance.
- Treasurer's Report: Reports on income and expenses, Friends of the Trail balances, trail projects, and investment activity were presented. Investment totals are still down due to the market, but dividends continue to come in. Forms for property donations are available for tax purposes if needed. Some investments will be temporarily liquidated to provide cash flow to cover trail project expenses until reimbursement is received from grants.
- After discussion the Board agreed that KTC should not be funding individual trail websites when sufficient coverage is available on the KTC official website.
- The treasurer's reports and the minutes were approved.
- Statewide Trail Guide: Mike reported that he had visited most trail sites, except for a few in the northeast part of the state. A rough draft of info gathered was given to the Board, with a request for any additions or corrections.
- Trail Summit: About 150 people attended. There was a good mix of trail user types—hiking, biking, equestrian, motorized—as well as land managers and trail builders. This was an open forum providing a time for all user groups to input their viewpoints of what should be included in the statewide trail plan. Bob presented the KTC position of requesting a statewide coordinator and increased funding for state parks. No official feedback was received on the various opinions presented. The Board thanked Bob for making the KTC presentation. The Board also discussed the related topic of the Kansas park fees and funding dilemma.
- Article for Backpacker Magazine: After discussion it was decided that an article need not necessarily be written by a Board member, but by any KTC member.
- A new trail coordinator for the George Latham Trail may begin soon.
- Status of statewide trails map/brochure: Mike explained the proposed design of the Statewide Trail Guide: a state map indicating major trails and basic info on them. KTC is partnering with the Department of Commerce, KDOT, and KDWP on this project.
- Comprehensive State Trail Guide: KTC has received requests for a printed comprehensive guide to trails in Kansas. The Board feels that we are not in a position to pursue this project at this time. Other sources are currently available.

# Contact Info

- Equipment needs: Three backpack sprayers, more KTC magnetic signs, and KTC decals will be purchased.
- Items proposed for the next agenda include discussion of trail signage, trail kiosks and standardizing KTC trail maps.
- Mike inquired if anyone was interested in taking over the Membership Chair. Everyone agreed that Nancy Goodwin was doing an excellent job and that it is greatly appreciated!
- Next meeting: January 13th, with a backup date of January 20th, in Salina at Martinelli's.

Susan Haynes, Secretary

## 2007 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

**Lyle Reidy, President** [9] (Mountain Biker)

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

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**Amy Thornton** [7] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

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

# KANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2008

I would like to: Join ☐ Renew my Membership in ☐ the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2008

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](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org)

# Trail News

## Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

The Shoreline Trail renovation was completed this fall thanks to the energy and hard work supplied by the trail crew on Make A Difference Day. Fifteen volunteers from KU (see below) rebuilt a long bench cut and repaired the last of sections of trail damaged by the summer flooding.



Our regular trail crew finished the job on the Shoreline Trail in November by constructing a new switch back section, complete with technical rock qualifiers to warn mountain bikers of the upcoming trail difficulty level.

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

## Dornwood Trail (Topeka)

Work days will start again as soon as the weather permits. The plan is to continue with a new trail section that is east of the foundation. It will be a few hundred yards long and be an addition to the existing 1st loop.

We'll also continue with the cleanup of the area at the trail head, mostly the removal of brush so that the shade from some of the large trees can be utilized during an event.

We were given permission to use the concrete parking blocks as trail markers. Using the Ditch Witch, we'll move the blocks to key intersections along the trail, painting arrows on the blocks to show the route to take for each loop. This gives us a marker that is far less likely to be disturbed.

Tom Travis (tktravis6@yahoo.com)

## Melvern Lake - Ike's Trail

What started out to be two miles of additional trail turned into four miles – three of which are done and rides really nice. While I've never seen any rattlesnakes on the trail the last time out, before the cold weather hit, I saw several deer, turkey and one beaver. We should be done with this addition sometime in February and have named it the Eagle Loop. All that is left to complete is a couple of crossings and a little mowing. We had some tough stuff to go through, but we decided that the more cover you have (trees) the less maintenance down the road (or should I say trail). We have another six miles planned for next year which will give us a total of 12 miles. The trail brochure has been printed had copies placed at the trail head at the Five Star Camp Ground in Eisenhower State Park and at the park entrance. The brochure should also be available soon through a link on the KTC home page under "Trails" – Melvern – Ike's Trail. I would like to give a big thanks to all of the volunteers that helped. There were over 131 hours of volunteer time donated last year just on the trail addition. And Thanks to Mike and the Kansas Trails Council for your support and time.



Testing the trail to make sure the flow is right.

Tim Gogolski (gogotaz17@hotmail.com)

## Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Equine Trail

2007 was a very good year for Eisenhower State Park Equine Trails. With the State Park usage fee cut in half, the trail saw a lot of use and many scheduled events. With increased use, there's always trail maintenance needed to maintain our excellent trails system. I put in approximately 116 hours this year and other volunteers put in over 176 hours cleaning, marking and maintaining the trails.

2008 will be another good year with many planned events already on the books. We should have a new restroom & bathhouse in the West Point camp by spring. This addition will enhance the already great facilities (15 leveled sites with water and electric hookups, manure bunkers and a horse wash station). What a terrific place to camp, ride and enjoy the beautiful lake scenery! Just a reminder, some areas of the trail have been re-routed due to erosion; so please save our trails and use the new route.

Jim Thomas (thomasj@kansas.net)



# Trail News

## Fall River Lake Trails

Work on the Fall River project is progressing. With the season, busy schedules and weather, progress has been slow. We were able to clear a corridor through roughly ¼ mile of heavy brush to connect previously cleared sections of the trail. Also, Mike Goodwin and Neil Taylor spent several days with the new "heavy equipment" to clear a section of the trail of vegetation. Their time there proved that the mini-excavator and Ditch Witch can produce at a ratio of about one to ten. One machine hour will produce the equivalent of around ten hours of manual labor for clearing the tough Bluestem grass and vegetation from this trail. All in all, pretty impressive. We will continue the Fall River project with work days scheduled for the third weekend of each month in 2008.

Terry Plenert (PLENERT@aol.com)

## MacLennan Park Trails (Topeka)

The new northeast trail loop will be completed soon if it quits snowing so that we can see the trail tread! We installed a new trail kiosk near the parking lot and will have a large trail map mounted in the coming weeks. When the temperature climbs a little we plan to add tree blazing to mark the various loops with the corresponding colors.

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

## Perry Lake Bike Trails

Prior to the December ice storm the Perry bike trail was in great shape. All sections were blown clean and getting lots of use. Two days after the ice storm about 10 miles of the trail was cleared of storm damage with the rest to be done before New Years.

Lyle Riedy (lriedy@usd345.com)

## Perry Lake Hiking Trails

Autumn 2007 work covered the old standbys of general clearing, removing limbs and saplings, and blazing, but also included a different twist to mowing. We tried an earlier mowing of the lespedeza on October 6 to open part of Section 1 of the trail for fall hikers -- and I hope that will avoid the need of an early spring mow. If really lucky, we won't need to mow until next September/October, but the trail will be thick during summer. The Corps helped out with the removal of several large fallen trees on Section 2. One of our original bridges near OMT may have finally "sagged to the ground" recently -- more replacement work.

We haven't had the time to check out the recent ice storm damage, but we expect to find plenty of work ready for us. I'm working with Kevin Otterman to transfer the operation of the Perry Lake Trail website from him to me.

Dave Brackey (dbrackey@tb-engr.com)

## Tuttle Creek Trails

After five days of no electricity, heat or water I realized I have 35 miles of trail in trees. Considering my yard looks like a war zone, guess what I'll be doing in 2008? All help is appreciated. Happy New Year!

Olivia Huddleston (opieh@bluevalley.net)

## Wilson State Park Trails

The 4th quarter at WSP was excellent and saw good usage by mountain bikers. One new minor re-route was installed to simplify navigation of a confusing intersection for new users. The fall workday on November 3-4 had no attendance. Winter has arrived and the snow now is about a foot deep on the trails. Spring promises to provide an opportunity for adding a few new features to the trail.

Bob Nicholson (rnicholson@fhsu.edu)

## Thanks!

We would like to thank Kevin Fredrickson and Eagle Trailer of Lawrence for their generous donation of 17 railroad timbers and a huge trailer-load of treated lumber. We quickly put them to good use building new features on the Skills Loop at Clinton Lake.



Unloading one of the 28-foot, 800 lb. beams

# Trail Scenery

Fall River Lake



Hillsdale Lake



Cimarron National Grasslands



Wichita



Great Bend



El Dorado Lake





# Trail Scenery

Scott Lake



Kanopolis Lake



Toronto Lake



Clinton Lake



Big Hill Lake



Elk City Lake



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

## **KTC Membership Renewal**

The KTC currently manages and maintains 16 trails, spanning over 200 miles, with the help of our members and many other volunteers. In addition, several new trails are in various stages of construction. All of this is possible because of the dedication of our members. We hope you will continue to enjoy the rich diversity of Kansas' trails in the coming year and that you will take a moment amidst the holiday rush to renew your membership in the KTC.

## **Thanks to Westar's Green Team!**

We would like to thank Westar's Green Team for providing some used utility poles for the Clinton trails. These 30-foot poles came in handy for a new Skills Loop feature.

## **First Quarter 2008 KTC Board Meeting**

The first quarter 2008 KTC board meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on January 13 in Salina at Martinelli's Little Italy. Check the Meetings page on the KTC website ([www.kansastrailscouncil.org](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org)) for directions. The Board will meet for lunch at 12:00 in advance of the meeting. All KTC members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend the lunch and meeting.

