

# Kansas Trails Council

ESTABLISHED IN 1974

Volume XXXV, Issue 4

Newsletter

December 2009

## Special People

The KTC is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who enjoy working on trails. Among the most dedicated are the KTC's Trail Coordinators (see adjoining article regarding this job title) who take on the responsibility to manage a particular trail. Our trail coordinators work tirelessly to maintain and improve our trails with the help of the local volunteers they recruit.

This labor of love usually involves working on most weekends when volunteers are available. Sometimes the job of Trail Coordinator can be hectic. When the weeds are growing in the spring or flood water has washed out a bridge a sense of urgency pushes our Trail Coordinators to action.

Trail Coordinators are very special people. So when life intervenes and a Trail Coordinator resigns we realize just how special they are. Two recent examples are Tom Travis and Tim Gogolski.

When the KTC adopted the MacLennan Park Trails, Tom Travis was one of the most active trail builders during the redesign and construction phase. When the KTC decided to adopt the Topeka Dornwood Trail, Tom Travis quickly volunteered for the Trail Coordinator job. Over the next several years, Tom repaired, improved and expanded the Dornwood Trails extensively. This year when Tom's job began to take him out of state for weeks at a time, he no longer had the time to devote to the trails. Fortunately, another special person stepped forward to manage the Dornwood Trails. Russ Rupp has picked up where Tom left off and the trails remain in good hands.

Ed DeTrude, Life member and former KTC Board of Directors member, designed and built the first two miles of biking and hiking trails at Eisenhower State Park. When Ed relocated to Wisconsin, we knew it would be hard to find someone who would be as dedicated to trails. Then Tim Gogolski agreed to take the Trail Coordinator job. Tim has shown his commitment to trails by expanding the ESP bike trails to about seven miles and by spearheading the development of trails in the nearby town of Melvern. We recently learned that Tim is moving to a new job out of state and will be turning over the management of the bike trails at ESP. So, we wish Tim well in his new job and, once again, we hope to find a replacement who is just as special.

## Trail "Coordinators"

Each KTC trail is managed by a Trail Coordinator who is responsible for recruiting other volunteers, working with the land manager and park personnel and designing, repairing and maintaining the trail. The KTC Board has been discussing whether to change the name from Trail Coordinator to something more descriptive of the work done by these dedicated people.

Trail Coordinators typically donate hundreds of hours each year working on trail projects, so they clearly do more than "coordinate". While the title for this job is less important than the work that is being done, it is worth considering whether the title adequately conveys the responsibility and commitment of these volunteers.

One title being considered is Trail Steward. Clearly our Trail Coordinators are the ultimate steward of the trails they maintain, yet everyone volunteering on or using the trails are also stewards of the trails. Another title being considered is Trail Manager. This title conveys somewhat more authority and may be useful at times when the occasional trail user is not being such a good steward of the trail.

A few other titles we have seen include:

- Trail Supervisor
- Trail Mason
- Trail Director

Let us know what you think the title should be.



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# Trail News

## **Baldwin City**

We recently scouted several areas in Baldwin City and flagged a one-half mile trail corridor in a city park. An eagle scout is planning to build a single track hiking and biking trail in this corridor in the coming months.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## **Clinton Lake**

### North Shore Trails

This fall we have been focusing on several sections of the first mile of the blue and white trails which have water issues. A new bridge was added to one section (see photo) and five reroutes of the original trail have been completed to eliminate chronically muddy areas.



Gravel armoring was added to sections of the blue and white trail which hold water because of the flat terrain near Mile 1. A 20 foot long skinny boardwalk has been added on the blue trail near the skills loop to cross a wet area below a year-round spring. One major blue trail reroute is flagged and ready for crews. A white trail reroute near Lands End is almost complete and ready for eagle watching.

These projects were completed by volunteers from the Lawrence Trail Hawks running club, Eric Nelson's Seabury Academy students, local Boy Scouts and our regular volunteer crew. Much thanks to all who have helped.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## George Latham Trail

The trail is in great condition for winter hiking. The gate to the parking lot is closed during the winter season, but hikers may park near the gate as long as it is not blocked.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## **Fall River Lake Trails**

It has been kind of quiet around the Fall River Project this late fall/early winter. We've been dealing with a busy Holiday and first half of deer season. I had the misfortune of forgetting the opening weekend and went out to flag the next extension for the Badger Creek area. Luckily, I had tossed in an orange vest just in case and now have a snappy new blaze orange cap to match. We will be continuing to extend the trail back farther into Badger Creek, working to get it planned out and flagged in the next few weeks. We plan a scheduled work day for Saturday, January 9th with the hope of completing another mile or more of new trail.

Terry Plenert ([PPLENERT@aol.com](mailto:PPLENERT@aol.com))

## **Ford County Lake**

With the acquisition of new equipment, maintenance and rebuilding activities have increased at Ford County Lake. 98% of the 10 mile trail is now open and groomed for mountain bikers, hikers and wildlife watchers. We still have some trail work in low lying areas and the far east side of the lake but the recent cold weather on weekends has kept additional volunteers from completing the task. Future workdays will be scheduled for the additional trail access after the Holiday Season. Riders are currently coming from Garden City, Hugoton, Ulysses, Cimarron, Jetmore, Kinsley and Dodge City to enjoy the trail. Scheduled group rides are every Sunday at 2pm and every Tuesday night at 6:30pm. We also have an unscheduled ride that happens most Thursday nights at 6:30pm. Anyone who would like additional information can contact me by email.

John Wentling ([jwentling@buygautos.com](mailto:jwentling@buygautos.com))

## **Kaw River State Park**

Kaw River State Park is the new park west of Maclennan Park in Topeka. We are currently assisting in the design and construction of a double wide, gravel surface, trail loop that begins at the KDWP Region 2 office and trailhead. This loop will contain several long bridges to cross ravines and low boggy areas. When this trail is completed, the

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park plans to begin redesigning the existing and adding new single track natural surface trails.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## **KU Field Station**

An Eagle Scout project on October 17 added a new trail section to the KSR trail system that will permit a round trip hike from the Fitch Reserve north to the new ADA trail, west to the overlook platform, then south on to the McColl Reserve, then back east to the Fitch Reserve.



After several rain delays, Justin Saathoff and his crew built the new trail and added a bench overlooking the creek (see photo).

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## **Melvern**

### **Five Star Bike Trail at Eisenhower State Park**

Enough rain already. I'm hopeful that next year the rain will slow down some. I found that you need to be careful in how you ask for things. I don't want it to stop raining altogether, but it would be nice to have a break. That being said the trail had water over it at least 5 times this past year. The trail was sprayed early in the year and mowed at least four times, but the grass out competed me in my efforts. On the bright side the native grass as great to look at as some of it is over 5' tall.

### **Crooked Knee Equine Trail at Eisenhower State Park**

The equestrian trail remains popular at Eisenhower State

Park, Melvern Lake, and has held up well with all the summer rain. This summer ESP has been the location for the annual Friends of The Park benefit ride, the annual Wright Flight benefit ride, a trail riding clinic, several other saddle club rides and competitive rides. Trails have been trimmed recently, and there is still some clean up to do from fallen trees.

### **Melvern City Trail**

This is a must see and ride/walk/run trail. We only lack ½ mile of trail construction for the trail to be complete. A trail run was held in the spring with about 30 participants running the 5K. A second bridge was constructed this fall by Mike Volkman with assistance from the local football team and materials donated by Weststar Green Team. The City and friends of the trail group are looking into restoring the wetlands, which will make it an outstanding educational area as well as enhance the aesthetics. There are 8 geo-cache boxes on the trail which has brought in several people from outside the county and even a few from outside the state. The Kiosk is done; a bathroom has been installed at the trailhead with a water hydrant nearby and a real nice shelter for group picnics.



Students work on finishing a section of Moccasin trail on Melvern City River trail system.

Tim Gogolski ([timothy.gogolski@ks.usda.gov](mailto:timothy.gogolski@ks.usda.gov))

### **Perry Lake Bike Trails**

The Perry Bike Trail is in excellent condition going into the winter. The entire trail has been leaf blown to rid the excess leaves to allow better traction and quicker dry times. There still seems to be more the usual amount of large trees falling causing trail blockages that have to be

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cleared. The fall riding conditions on the trail have been great. The trail remained dry most of the fall so riding has been good and trail work easily completed in a timely manner.

Lyle Riedy ([Iriedy@usd345.com](mailto:Iriedy@usd345.com))

## Perry Lake Hiking Trails

The 4th quarter of 2009 brought out a lot of people for hiking trail improvements. Yes, the usual trash cleanup by local trail watchers as they walk the trail continued. And the COE has been busy removing large fallen trees. But we also had two large workdays and one scouting day. September 19 gave a beautiful day to mow the (deep) grass and weeds by two teams with the large DR trimmers. About two miles of section 1 and nearly two miles of section 4 were mowed, lopped and generally cleaned. The portion of section 1 that was cleared by the power company last fall is returning to a more normal condition – Mother Nature can work wonders.

On November 8, Steve Hassler and I scouted a trail reroute on section 3 where the trail was being swallowed by an eroding riverbank – we looked higher on the hill, looked for property markers, looked across the creek and finally settled on one decent location – a very good use of three hours. Then the COE did their big tree removal magic two days later. And on November 14, ten people from the Sierra Club and the Kansas City Outdoor Club split into two teams. Team 1 mowed, lopped, sawed and cleared about 1.5 miles of section 1. The heavy lifting Team 2 completed the section 3 reroute in record time thanks to the COE. Think about it, a reroute location selected, trees cleared, and the new trail built in six calendar days – we were very lucky with great weather.

Dave Brackey ([dbrackey@tb-engr.com](mailto:dbrackey@tb-engr.com))

## Tuttle Creek Trails

Not a lot going on with the trails at Tuttle Creek Lake. We close down during rifle season on most of the trails and when the snow hit on the north Kansas line, we have been dealing with local issues. Some maintenance was done in November and we have plans to rework a couple of sections that have or will have some problems. Merry Christmas and Happy Trail Work to all.

Olivia Huddleston ([opieh@bluevalley.net](mailto:opieh@bluevalley.net))

## Topeka Trails

### Dornwood Trail

The main 5 mile section of single track has been cleared of leaves and is in good shape. I have put in a small reroute on the south side to bypass a steep rocky section that can be slippery in the winter months. When dry, the trail runs, rides and walks very nice. It continues as always to be a lot of fun. I will be riding the trail this winter and will clear any downed limbs that happen to fall. If you can brave the cold, this trail rides nice in the winter when the ground is frozen. Enjoy.

Russ Rupp ([russ11@cox.net](mailto:russ11@cox.net))

### MacLennan Park (Cedar Crest) Trails

The main challenge these days at MacLennan Park is battling the beavers! One or more industrious beavers regularly block the drain in the lower pond which causes the water to eventually rise and cover a short trail section. Usually within hours of clearing the damn, they have it totally repaired! Otherwise the trails are in great shape. Last fall we raised the trail tread in several flat sections of the lower Red trail near the railroad tracks to eliminate water on the trail.

Mike Goodwin ([goodwinmw@cox.net](mailto:goodwinmw@cox.net))

## Wilson State Park Trails

October 17-18 was the autumn version of our semi-annual trail build weekend at Wilson State Park. We had 8 volunteers on both days and made much progress on an additional 0.9 mi in the Hell Creek Loop. Because I had previously sprayed the tread in the summer, removal of vegetation was much easier. A few sections still required some brush work, but most of the hand work involved bench building. After we quit on Sunday, we got on our bikes and gave it a try – it was rideable but in need of additional work and more riding. Subsequent to the October weekend, I was able to spend several more days on the new trail making improvements.

In mid-November, I flagged and mowed yet another new 0.6 mi in the same general area. Doug Chambers and I proved that this latest section is rideable, but it was rough and soft, thus it will require some hand work to finish it. In the spring I will spray the tread. Unlike the October section, I'll be able to maintain this section with an ATV-mounted sprayer and riding mower. Total mileage on the Switchgrass is now 16.9 mi. A late November club event had to be cancelled because of weather.

## Trail News



My biggest bonus of maintenance of this trail is being able to ride it often. A close second occurred in November when I discovered *Pleurotis Ostreatus*. This of course is the delicious oyster mushroom – several pounds! Given the scarcity of trees in the area, I don't expect this to occur again anytime soon – or more probable -- not in my lifetime.

Bob Nicholson ([rnicholson@fhsu.edu](mailto:rnicholson@fhsu.edu))

### Trail Workshop

Several trail enthusiasts from the Baldwin City area attended a trail building workshop taught by Mike Goodwin and hosted by Robin Goff at the Light Center on November 21. The morning sessions of the workshop included classroom discussions and review of the IMBA trail building video. Participants then scouted potential routes for new trails and practiced a sample benchcut.



### Trail Talk Video

WIBW television in Topeka continues to explore area trails and the KTC's Perry Bike trail is one of the featured videos. The video can be viewed on WIBW's website at: <http://www.wibw.com/running>

# Board Meeting Minutes

## Call to order

- The KTC Board met at LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant on November 15 in Abilene, Kansas.
- Board members present were Lyle Riedy, President; Bob Nicholson, Vice President; Mike Goodwin, Treasurer; Susan Haynes, Secretary; John Haynes; Doug Palen; Terry Plenert; Chris Kaegi-Stephens; Neil Taylor; Jim Thomas; and John Wentling. Not present: Olivia Huddleston.
- The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by President Lyle Riedy.
- Minutes: Terry moved and Doug seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report: Mike presented the financial information, including an update on the grant projects at Ford County Lake and Clinton. After a short discussion Doug moved and Neil seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed.
- Membership Summary: KTC has fourteen new members, year to date.
- On-going Trail Projects: Current projects were discussed, including Ford County Lake, northeast of Dodge City. John W. related that five of the ten miles of trail are completed. Two bridges have been rebuilt and one more is scheduled. There is good local support for the trail.
- New Trail Projects: The Board discussed several possibilities and how each project would fit into the mission of KTC. No action was taken at this time.

## New Business

- Equipment Purchases: After discussion Neil moved and Mike seconded a motion to purchase a mower and trailer after the new year (for funding reasons). The motion carried.
- Coordinator Position: Bob led discussion on the possibility of a name change for "trail coordinator" that would be more descriptive of the position. Suggestions will be discussed at a later date.
- Equestrian Trail Request: Jim led discussion on the possibility of trail modification at the Elk River Trail that would facilitate year-round availability for equestrian use. At present this trail is designated as hiking only. More

specific information is needed before any further action can be recommended by the Board.

- Mapping: Lyle led discussion about the need for more uniform mapping of KTC trails.
- Next meeting: January 31, 2010, place to be announced.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Susan Haynes  
Secretary

## Board Members

### Board Positions 1 – 6 (2008 & 2009)

1 - Chris Kaegi-Stephens  
Valley Center

2 - Jim Thomas  
Lyndon

3- Doug Palen  
Glen Elder

4 - Olivia Huddleston  
Vermillion

5 - Neil Taylor  
Lawrence

6 - Susan Haynes, Secretary  
Shawnee

### Board Positions 7 – 12 (2009 & 2010)

7 - John Wentling  
Dodge City

8 - John Haynes  
Shawnee

9 - Lyle Riedy, President  
Topeka

10 - Michael Goodwin, Treasurer  
Topeka

11 - Bob Nicholson, Vice President  
Hays

12 - Terry Plenert  
Wichita

## KANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2010

I would like to: Join  Renew my Membership in  the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2010

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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	
Annual Dues:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual \$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family \$25	Trails Supporter \$101 - \$249
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affiliate \$25	Trails Patron \$250 - \$499
(groups, clubs, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	KTC Sponsor \$500+	\$ _____

**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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - George Latham Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - North Shore Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Eagle Rock Bike Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Elk River Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Table Mound Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> El Dorado Lake Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fall River Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ford County State Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Ike's Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Bike Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Hiking Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek - Carnahan Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek - Randolph Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Topeka - Dornwood Park Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Topeka - MacLennan Park Trail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Toronto Lake Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wilson Lake State Park Trails<br><input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Horse 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 full 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)

12/2009

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

### **First Quarter 2010 KTC Board Meeting**

The next KTC Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 31 at a location to be announced shortly. Please check the KTC website ([www.kansastrailscouncil.org](http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org)) for details in the coming weeks. All KTC members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend the meeting. Bring a friend and find out what is happening on nearby trails!

### **Supporting the KTC and Kansas Trails**

Did you know that the KTC's members and the volunteers they recruit maintain about 250 miles of trails in Kansas? The KTC currently manages 16 trails across the state. We appreciate all the support of our members and volunteers. If you or someone you know are interested in supporting Kansas trails we hope you will consider becoming a member of the KTC or volunteering on a nearby trail

If you have a favorite trail you would like to support we hope you will consider donating to the KTC Friends of the Trail program. Your tax deductible contribution will be used solely to support the trail(s) you select. The KTC is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. We appreciate your continued support of Kansas Trails!