

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

September 2014

8th Annual Built Environment & Outdoors Summit

The 2014 BEOS Conference was held in Wichita September 16-18 and was attended by about 200 outdoor enthusiasts and active living advocates. KTC Board member, Mike Goodwin, has served on the conference planning committee for each of the eight conferences.

Mike and trail colleagues Bill Riphahn (Shawnee County Parks Planner) and Jeff Bender (Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Region Manager) led an urban hike from Old Town to the Arkansas River. The hike was recorded on various GPS devices and the GPS tracks were downloaded, displayed and discussed in the classroom breakout session following the hike.



On the Hike: Keeper of the Plains Statue & Arkansas River Pedestrian Bridge & Trail

Bill Botten, Accessibility Specialist, Office of Technical and Information Services, United States Access Board joined the group on the hike and explained various accessibility issues during the following breakout session.

For more information about the conference and to download speaker slide presentations go to:

<http://www.kansasbeos.org/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/KansasBEOS>

Wichita area bikers led a city tour to showcase projects aimed at making the city more bike-able.

Conference presentations on day two included a Funders Roundtable and a presentation about the new GetOutdoorsKansas website that is under development. In the Funders Roundtable session, representatives of various organizations discussed their trail building resources with prospective grantees.

The GetOutdoorsKansas website that is being developed will showcase outdoor activities and Kansas trails information. The website is scheduled for an official launch in January 2015.



Trail News

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

Trail runners were all over the trails in September, literally. The month began with races ranging from a 5k to a half marathon sponsored by the Trail Nerds. One week later the Lawrence Trailhawks staged a marathon, 50 mile and 100 mile race that used every inch of the trail system. This event continues to grow with 38 registering for the 100 mile option this year.

A special thanks goes to Trailhawk, Sharrie Klover, for renewing the trail blazes over the entire trail system in advance of the Trailhawks race.

Over the past 13 years I have had the pleasure of guiding the trail development and maintenance at Clinton Lake, but due to several new projects requiring more of my attention, it is time to hand off the North Shore Trails to my trail colleague Neil Taylor (medic1@sunflower.com). Neil has been building and maintaining Lawrence area trails since 1996. Neil was one of the original designers and builders of the Lawrence River Trail and the trail coordinator there for many years. He has also been instrumental in managing the KTC's large equipment operations. With the continuing assistance of our dedicated trail watchers, the park managers and their staff and with Neil's considerable experience, I know that my favorite trail will be in good hands. It has been rewarding and fun working with the North Shore Trail Crew in a truly team effort!

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

Fall River Lake Badger Creek Trail

The Badger Creek Trails at Fall River were in serious need of some attention due to a LOT of rain through the normal spring trail work season and through most of the summer as well. Last weekend Lonnie Cooper, Kelley Harper, Tyler Branine and myself worked on the south trail and finished cutting back encroaching ground brush and lopping the "hangers and slappers" from trees along the entire length of the trail. The south trail is a lot more open from brush and branches that were growing out and blocking a lot of places along the tread. The North Trail only needed some spot work to clear out some of the branches and brush that were starting to get in the way of riding and hiking. Tread is in really good shape and has become well compacted with little erosion through the rains and quite a bit of use.

With the fall season upon us once again we have to be aware of hunters in the field, especially in the area of the shared use trails at Badger Creek. This year a new Pre-

Rut Firearms season for Whitetail Antlerless only: Oct 11 – Oct. 12th. Any permit that allows the harvest of a white tailed antlerless deer is valid during this season so that weekend may see some hunters in hunting areas.

Archery runs from Sept. 15 – Dec. 31st.
Regular Firearm: Dec. 3 – Dec. 14.

This is a good time of the year to get out and get dirty working and playing on trails but be sure to play safe and plan outings at times that are less likely to encroach on the seasonal users of the trail. Most hunts are early morning and late afternoon but wearing a little Blaze Orange is always a good idea if you know you will be in a shared use area.

Terry Plenert (PPLENERT@aol.com)

Ford County Lake Trail – Dodge City

September 2014, this year has been a huge challenge for the Ford County Lake Trail volunteers. Unusual rainfall has changed the area to dense poison ivy growth, which is out of control. Previous years help came from the Ford County Weed Control Department but the lake had been closed for several months with no activity. The trail can still be identified and plans for clearing will be set after our first hard freeze and vegetation begins to diminish. When work days are scheduled it will be posted to our Facebook page, Ford County Lake Trail. For additional information regarding the trail, I can be reached at the email address below

John Wentling (jwentling@buyggautos.com)

Perry Lake Bike Trails

Summer winding down leaving trails in excellent condition. No major storm damage but in July and Aug. an unusual number of old oak trees are losing large branches or are tipping out of ground causing many trail blockages that we cleared up quickly. Frustrating at times to clear a section and in just a few days another tree falls blocking near or in some cases the same location. As Sept. winds down all seems well again.

Lyle Riedy (lriedy@usd345.com)

Perry Lake Hiking Trails

It was another quiet summer for the Perry Hiking Trail crew. Tradition dies hard, most are waiting for cooler weather (or frost) before hitting the trails in earnest. Of course, that means mowing and likely more mowing as

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soon as we can. And as to staffing, we still have a vacancy for a trail watcher on section 4W.
Dave Brackey (dbrackey@att.net)

Topeka Trails

Dornwood Park Trails

Dornwood is looking good. All the single track is cleared and all the double wide has been mowed by the county. I will be getting ready soon for some work days to clear the fallen leaves. Enjoy!

Russ Rupp (russ11@cox.net)

Skyline Park

Our volunteer crew is continuing to work on expanding the new Skyline trail system. We're currently working on a new 1-mile loop in the southeast area of the park (see blue trail on the map). The new corridor is open and a little rough although most of the bench cutting and dirt work is completed. We will be lopping and clearing on our next workdays to get it ready for use. For more information about the trails at Skyline Park please check out the KTC website at: <http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org/trails/skyline/>



Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

MacLennan Park (Cedar Crest)

The trails are trimmed and ready for fall and winter. We'll be firing up the honeysuckle removal crew in November and December to continue restoring the forest to a more natural state that is not infected by this invasive plant species. Stay tuned for upcoming workday announcements.

We have built a new kiosk at the main parking lot by the Governor's residence and will be installing a trailhead map and map boxes this fall. We also plan to install mid-trail maps at key intersections throughout the park.

Mike Goodwin (goodwinmw@cox.net)

Tuttle Creek Trails

Randolph State Park

With the purchase of the new loggers to map our trails, we are excited about getting some real work done now that the weather has cooled a bit and the ticks have decided to go underground.

After started our fall check of the trails at Randolph State Park we have found some down trees. So far only one is requiring a chain saw, but after the winds last night I am sure there will be more. The trails have been well used, but we have spotted some places that need a bit of work.

Carnahan

A lot of our summer projects have just been doing the trash pickup. We have some overgrown spots on the Carnahan Camp Loops which need correcting. The water level on Tuttle Creek Lake has kept activity off the long shore trail, usually decreases later on in the fall and the new cut area will be a nice adventure.

We hope everyone gets out and enjoys the fall weather and color. The Tuttle Creek Area is in its "Fruit Loops" mode and makes some great pictures.

Olivia Huddleston (riverrat@bluevalley.net)

Switchgrass Mountain Bike Trail (Wilson Lake)

As usual, vegetation management consumes a huge chunk of time on the Switchgrass Trail – even have to cut some switchgrass once in a while!! Well timed rains have kept things growing vigorously. Our most notorious weed is the puncturevine, which really gets with it when the weather's hot. It has been unintentionally spread throughout the park by the intense mowing practices, particularly along the park roadsides. Actually puncturevine is quite easily controlled by spraying with a selective herbicide such as 2,4-D or by hand roguing (and disposing of the vines by deep burial or burning). I ride the entire trail at least once a week and do my best to keep it off the trail.

We are working with KDWPT toward approval and installation of a "brown" sign on I-70 for the 206 exit, something like Switchgrass Epic Mountain Trail. Exit 206 already has Garden of Eden and Scenic Byway signs. The IMBA Epic designation of 2012, has greatly increased the number of I-70 travelers that have as a consequence planned to visit and ride, but highway signs will increase the number of people that haven't done any advanced

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homework to stop there. I don't spend a lot of time promoting the trail and I think this would be a good way to get a few more people out of their cars.

WildwithyouLLC has been conducting running events on the trail during the warm seasons for the past several years. This year there were 6 events on the trail including a 5k/25k event in July and in September a 5k/30k with a relay team option on the 30k. Events have been very well attended and continue to increase in popularity. Although the trail was designed and built by and for mountain bikers, trail runners love this venue. The final running event of the year is the BIG one – 50k, with a relay team option. <http://www.wildwithyou.com/HellCreekOnHeels.html>

WildwithyouLLC is also conducting a USACycling-sanctioned cross country mountain bike race October 12. <https://www.facebook.com/events/343981142440150/>



One of the design features of this trail is convenience for using the trail for races. The entire trail is 24.5 miles, and there is only one trail intersection (two sections of trail coming together creating an X). Elsewhere on the trail there are 11 forks that create numerous

options to shorten the ride or run. These are more like the letter Y and each is marked with a sign and lettered consecutively A-L. This also makes the trail very easy for beginners to navigate as well experienced users. To ride the big Epic Loop (22.5 mi) just stay left at all of the forks. Easy to navigate, racing or not – regardless, not so easy to run or pedal it!!

The Lawrence Mountain Bike Club conducted a group ride weekend event during the last weekend of September, which was well attended.



Last, but not least, we're all still quite numb with the relocation of our buddy and #1 trail patron, Doug Chambers. Doug was one of 2-3 mountain bike enthusiasts who put in the original few mi of trail in the park. Doug has been the solitary constant at this trail for the past 20 years, since the first bike rolled on the first few feet of tread. His absence in the community and the biking world of central Kansas will be profoundly felt and for a long time to come. His impact on trail riding in this area cannot be overstated nor can his influence on my life since I became Trail Coordinator here. And for that I'm eternally grateful. He and I could literally chat for hours and hours about the nuances of the trail. Regardless, we wish Doug the absolute best of success with his new family enterprise in Buffalo Creek, Colorado, at the newly minted Long Trail Ranch.

Bob Nicholson (bob.44.nicholson@gmail.com)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 14, 2014

Call to order

- The KTC Board met at Radina's Coffeehouse in Manhattan, KS.
- Board members present were Lyle Riedy, President; Olivia Huddleston, Vice President; Mike Goodwin, Treasurer; Susan Haynes, Secretary; John Haynes; Terry Plenert; Russ Rupp; and Neil Taylor. Not present: Bob Nicholson, Doug Palen, Jim Thomas and John Wentling.
- The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by President Lyle Riedy.

Previous Business

- **Minutes:** Mike moved and John seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Mike presented the report and discussed points with the Board. Insurance claim proceeds have been received and equipment replaced by Bob. It was recommended that all fuel expenses be noted together. After further discussion, Olivia moved and Neil seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.
- **Election results:** All candidates nominated were re-elected.

New Business

- **Trail in a Box update:** Mike reported that the #2 trailer was outfitted and transported to Fredonia within a week and #3 trailer was outfitted and deployed to Douglas County Lake (Baldwin) in a couple of days after funding. Trailer #1 is currently at Manhattan with Aaron Apel, which is enabling him and his group to work on areas with the potential for 50 miles of trails. A work day is scheduled at Fort Riley on September 26-27.
- **Creation of Committees:** Lyle led discussion on the creation of committees for such areas as TIAB, finance, equipment, events/member activities. After discussion Russ moved and Terry seconded the formation of three committees and that they be defined and responded to before the next meeting. Motion passed.
- **Replacement of John Wentling's position:** The Board discussed the vacancy left by John W.'s resignation. The Board wishes to thank him for his service.
- **Equipment request:** Jim made a motion to buy a pull-behind brush mower via email. Finding no second the motion was tabled pending further discussion.
- **Clinton trail blazes:** John brought up a request for re-blazing trail at Clinton. Mike reported that he had a volunteer that had already completed the task!
- **Clinton Trail Coordinator:** Neil announced that he has volunteered to take over as trail coordinator at Clinton.
- **GOKS project update:** Mike discussed the GOKS (Get Outdoors Kansas) project progress. The website is being developed and work is beginning on accumulating GPS tracks of all trails in Kansas. Russ moved and Mike seconded to buy three Data Loggers (to aide in this process). Motion carried.
- **Next meeting:** December 7, 2014, place to be announced.
- Susan moved and Neil seconded that we adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Susan Haynes, Secretary



New Trails at Ft. Riley built with Trail in a Box
(Manhattan Trail Works)

Supporting Kansas Trails

Would you like to support Kansas trails? Just make a donation to the KTC Friends of the Trail program. The KTC is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. While our on-line PayPal membership feature is easy to use, if you would rather send a check, please fill out and print the on-line membership form and mail it to: KTC, PO Box 695, Topeka, KS 66601-0695. Click here to join the KTC and support your favorite trails:

<http://www.kansastrailscouncil.org/join/ktc-membership-sign-up/>

Board of Directors Changes

John Wentling, (Dodge City) KTC's trail coordinator for the Ford County Lake trails near Dodge City, has resigned from the Board. John has served on the Board for the past six years and will continue to manage the Ford County Lake trail. We wish John the best in his future business endeavors and thank him for his dedication to the KTC and service on the Board of Directors.

Kevin Otterman (Basehor), a long time KTC member and past Board member for many years has been appointed to replace John on the Board. Kevin has been active building and maintaining trails at Lake Perry and in northeast Kansas for many years. Kevin is the KTC's resident GPS expert as a result of his career in the industry and his passion for trails. We look forward to working with Kevin again!