



Friends of the Pumpkinvine receive matching grant to close gap in the trail

On Dec. 12, 2014, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine received word from the Elkhart County Community Foundations that they were awarding the Friends of the Pumpkinvine a \$300,000 matching grant for closing the gap in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 33 and County Road 20 between Middlebury and Goshen.

For the past two years, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine have had discussions with the landowners about a possible route for the trail through this area. "Those discussions have proceeded far enough that we felt confident in asking for the development funds even though we did not yet have title to the land over which the trail would run," said Friends president, John Yoder. "We are grateful to the Elkhart County Community Foundation for their faith in this project. Now it is up to us and other trail supporters to raise the matching funds."

In 2013, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine commissioned a consulting firm to estimate what the trail would cost and



received estimates between \$400,000 and \$600,000 (depending on the route), with another \$100,000 for engineering. Those figures do not include the cost of purchasing the land.

"The biggest challenge for us is to raise \$300,000 for the match," Yoder said. "We know that we have many loyal supporters, but we've never attempted to raise an amount this large at one time." Funds raised in previous years will not count toward the local match.

Pumpkinvine Nature Trail tops list of Indiana trails

A list of the top-10 Indiana trails by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) ranked the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail the number one trail in the state. The ranking, which appeared on the RTC blog (<http://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2014/december/01/top-10-trails-in-indiana/>), commented: "Featured as the November Trail of the Month, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail steals the show in Indiana. If you want to experience genuine Midwestern Americana, this is it. Pastoral scenes of Amish life and

fields of gold line the path. A must-visit trail!"

When asked how they arrived at the rankings, Katie Harris, Communications Coordinator for RTC said, "We requested input via social media channels (Facebook and Twitter, primarily). Anyone could contribute a suggestion. Folks could also email us with suggestions. Anyone here at RTC that wanted to cast a vote could also do so. It is an informal ranking process, but it's our best attempt to include all voices in the discussion!"

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See back issues of this newsletter at:
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 [facebook.com/Pumpkinvine](https://www.facebook.com/Pumpkinvine)

 Follow our blog, Along the
Pumpkinvine: fopvnt.blogspot.com/

 @FOPNT

 [youtube.com/user/FOPVNT](https://www.youtube.com/user/FOPVNT)

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers and naturalists who are working with area park departments to create a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine corridor between Goshen, Middlebury and Shippshewana, Ind.

Newsletter layout: Sties Design Agency, LLC



From the president

Meet the Managers: Opening Day on the Pumpkinvine, March 28

As a way to mark the beginning to trail season, the Pumpkinvine Advisory Committee is joining the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and trail enthusiasts around the country for an Opening Day trail event on March 28.

Opening Day means walking or riding the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail on your own or joining groups that will be starting out together from Goshen, Middlebury or Shippshewana. We're calling our event "Meet the Managers" – an opportunity to meet and talk with representatives from the four agencies that manage the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Friends of the Pumpkinvine board members will be there, too, to update you on our efforts to close the gap in the trail.

There is no cost for this event, but if you register on the RTC website (www.railstotrails.org/openingday), you'll be entered into a sweepstakes for the chance to win some incredible prizes, including a brand new Fuji bike! Other prizes include Yakima bike racks and Camelbak hydration packs. And we'll have a better idea of how many are planning to attend.

It may be cool or even cold March 28, so bundle up and join us to kick off the 2015 outdoor season on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

Goshen Park and Recreation

- Time and location: 2 p.m., Abshire Park
- Leaders: Staff from Goshen Park and Recreation or city of Goshen and Friends of the Pumpkinvine board members
- Activity:
 - Walk to CR 28 and return (3.5 miles)
 - Ride to CR 33 and return (10 miles)

Middlebury Parks and Elkhart County Parks

- Time and location: 2 p.m., American Legion parking lot at the corner of SR 13 and York Drive
- Leaders: Staff from Elkhart County Parks, the Middlebury Town Manager, and Friends of the Pumpkinvine board members
- Activity:
 - Walk south west to Learning Corridor and return
 - Ride to Shippshewana and return (14 miles)

Shippshewana

- Time and location: 2 p.m., Parking lot at the Wolfe Building, 345 N. Morton St.
- Leader: Member of the Shippshewana town council and Friends of the Pumpkinvine board member
- Activity:
 - Walk west 1.75 miles and return – 3.50 miles
 - Ride to the DQ and return. 12.5 miles

Check www.pumpkinvine.org and the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Facebook page for any last minutes changes in these plans.



Rhonda Yoder was the treasurer for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine for nine years.

Two Friends of the Pumpkinvine board members resign

Rhonda Yoder, treasurer for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine, resigned from the Friends' board effective Dec. 31, 2014. She joined the board in 2005 and was the Friends' treasurer the last nine years. During the 10 years that she was on the board, she also worked full time as assistant planner in the Goshen Planning and Zoning Department.

However, in 2012 she was appointed City Planner with Goshen Planning and Zoning and with that added responsibility, she felt that she did not have the time to continue as board treasurer. During 2014, she oriented a new treasurer, Kurt Neufeld, to the treasurer's responsibilities.

"We have been extremely fortunate to have had Rhonda on our board and as our treasurer the past 10 years," said John Yoder, Friends president. "The continuity she provided our board during a period when the role of the Friends changed from advocacy to partnership with the local managing agencies, as well as the tremendous growth of the bike ride, was invaluable. In her role as treasurer, she upgraded our financial reporting, managed the many money details associated with the annual bike ride and was a wise voice in all budget-related decisions. As a board member, she had a knack for cutting through the fog of fuzzy discussions and zeroing in on the essential issues."

Commenting on her years with the board, Rhonda said, "Serving on the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board for the past 10 years has been an honor. It has been rewarding to learn from and work with board members and supporters who serve with dedication and integrity. The hard work and perseverance of many board members and loyal supporters over many years has resulted in an award-winning trail that is benefitting the entire community. Thanks to the founders of the Friends for laying a solid foundation that continues to provide vision and leadership for connecting the gaps and supporting long-term trail maintenance."



Steve Riffe served on the Friends board since 2012

Also leaving the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board is **Steve Riffe**, who has been on the board since 2011. Steve and his wife are moving out of state. "I have enjoyed the short time spent with the board, and it has been very interesting," Steve said. "The Pumpkinvine Trail is the number one trail in the state and all of you that have been part of it should be very proud of what you have accomplished. I'm sure the challenges that lay ahead of the board will be overcome with the same winning results as in the past."

"Steve was a tireless advocate for cycling in this area," said John Yoder. "He drove from

Leesburg to Goshen to volunteer his skills to our board meetings and to work at Chain Reaction Bicycle Project as a volunteer. We will miss his expertise."



BIKE RIDE EDITION

- When did the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride begin having two starting locations, Goshen and Shipshewana?
 - 2008
 - 2010
 - 2011
 - 2013
- How many volunteers helped with the 2014 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride?
 - 85
 - 102
 - 125
 - 150
- Rider come from all over the country. How many states were represented on the 2014 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride?
 - 11
 - 19
 - 22
 - 30

1. c. 2011 2. c. 125 3. b. 19. The top four states were Indiana - 94; and Ohio - 18. Illinois - 74; Michigan - 164;

ANSWERS

Annual Dinner

6 p.m. Doors open for
viewing exhibits

6:30 p.m.
Dinner served

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
Greencroft Community Center
1721 Greencroft Blvd., Goshen, Ind.

The 14th annual Friends of the Pumpkinvine dinner is an opportunity to meet other trail supporters, celebrate the progress of the past year and learn about plans for the next year. A highlight will be the latest news on our efforts to close the gap in the trail between CR 33 and CR 35.

Our guest speaker is Rhonda Romano, director of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) Midwest office in Columbus, Ohio. She is the first staff person from RTC to address our annual dinner. In her current job, she is responsible for management and operations of the six-state Midwest regional office, including policy, legislative and advocacy



*Guest speaker
Rhonda Romano*

activities as they relate to non-motorized transportation. In short, Rhonda brings a national perspective to issues facing rails-to-trails projects like the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

The dinner will be on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at Greencroft Community Center, Goshen, Ind. The doors will open at 6 p.m. for viewing trail-related exhibits and light refreshments. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dress is casual. There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Door prizes include gift certificates for sports equipment and a men's or women's Trek Verve 2 bike donated by Lincoln Ave. Cycling.

Please join us for this important event. Register now; early registrants get preferred seating. Invite family members, friends and neighbors who would be interested in learning more about the health and recreation benefits the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail brings to our community. The cost per person, including tax and gratuity, is \$30

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

E-mail _____

1. We will send a confirmation email or postcard to all who provide an email or street address.
2. Registration deadline is April 21.
3. Indicate dietary preferences: Circle the names that want a vegetarian meal; underline names for a gluten-free meal.
4. Make check payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
5. Mail check and contact information to:

Friends of the Pumpkinvine
P.O. Box 392
Goshen, IN 46527-0392



*Grand prize: Trek Verve 2
21-speed, suspension
fork and seat post*

If you cannot attend the meeting, consider sending a tax-deductible donation instead. For questions, email friends@pumpkinvine.org or call 574-533-4943.

Photo Contest Winners



1st place: Carl Metzler



2nd place: Jessa Caffee



3rd place: Mary Ann Martin



4th place: Erin Miranda



Honorable mention: Cheryl Chaffee

2014 photo contest winners to be displayed at annual dinner

Twelve photographers submitted photos to the 2014 Pumpkinvine photo contest and the winner (selected by the Goshen Photographer's Guild) are: first place, Carl Metzler; second place, Jessa Caffee; third place, Mary Ann Martin; fourth place, Erin Miranda; honorable mention, Cheryl Chaffee. The winning photos are posted on the Friends of the Pumpkinvine website (www.pumpkinvine.org) and Facebook and prints will be displayed at the Friends of the Pumpkinvine annual dinner April 28 at Greencroft Community Center.

For any great photographs taken along the Pumpkinvine Trail during 2015, photographers are encouraged to submit photographs to the Elkhart County Parks 36th Annual Photo Contest. Contact them at 574-535-6458 or www.elkhartcountyparks.org for eligibility and deadlines.

16th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride: June 20, 2015

REGISTER
EARLY AND
SAVE
\$10



The annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride has something for everyone. The routes will satisfy bicyclists who want a light or vigorous workout. You can ride on an off-road trail or low-traffic county roads. Bicyclists have the opportunity to experience horses with buggies, farm animals in fields, flower gardens, country schools, quilt gardens and small towns. The acclaimed SAG stops provide refreshments at no extra cost.

New in 2015

- **New ride routes** – We changed our ride routes for 2015 to make use of better roads with distances up to 101 miles.
- **New Trail Ride** – You can ride on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail starting from either Goshen or Shipshewana, choosing your distance of up to 35 miles, round trip. Up to six miles of this ride will be on county roads.
- **Trail of the month** – The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail was the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Trail of the Month in November 2014.
- **A new beverage** – chocolate milk will be served at the primary SAGs.
- **New mural attractions** – See 15 historical murals on buildings in Shipshewana. See <http://shipshewanawalldogs.com/the-walls.html>.
- **Quilt Gardens** – See the 2015 Quilt Garden pattern at Krider World's Fair Garden in Middlebury featuring a Double Wedding Ring pattern.
- **New T-shirt material** – Be cool! Our moisture-wicking T-shirts improve your riding comfort.

Cost: All routes are \$30 by May 31 and **\$40 after May 31**. T-shirts are \$15. Children under 13 are free.

Check our web site: www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/annual_PBR.html for more information and maps of all the routes, or contact Bob Carrico at (574) 266-1362 or rjcarrico1@frontier.com.

Proceeds from the ride support the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., in their efforts to close the gap in the trail between CR 33 and CR 35.

Friday Dinner Ride, June 19, 4:45 & 5:15 pm (Limited registration)

Enjoy a Thresher's Dinner at an Old Order Amish home on Friday evening. The menu includes roast beef and chicken, homemade bread, apple butter, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade noodles, vegetables, salad, coffee and pie. The cost is \$30, which include tax and tip.

- You also must be registered for the Saturday ride and register for both rides by May 31.
- You may start at the Shipshewana Flea Market or Abshire Park in Goshen. You do not have to choose the same starting location that you choose for Saturday's ride.
- The round trip from Goshen (with hills) is 24 miles and 16 miles from Shipshewana. The ride from Goshen leaves at 4:45 p.m.; the ride from Shipshewana will leave at 5:15 p.m.
- You must start at the location you registered for. No last minute starting location changes will be accepted.
- **Note: Please do not sign up for this ride unless you can ride at least 10 mph for an hour.**

16th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride Registration Form* - June 20, 2015

One person or one family with the same mailing address per application (you may photocopy this page).

Name (Please print)	Age	Please mark your choices.					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	I want to start in Goshen (see map on back)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> 27 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 45 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 61 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 101 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ride					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Dinner Ride 24 mi.					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	I want to start in Shipshewana (see map on back)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 33 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 61 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 101 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ride					
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Dinner Ride 16 mi.					
Street address:							
City:		E-mail address:					
State:		Zip Code:		Home or Cell Phone#:			
		Emergency contact phone#:					
Entry Category	Quantity	Per Unit Price By May 31	Per Unit Price After May 31	Total Fee			
• Children age 13-and-under are free.							
Individual(s)		\$30.00	\$40.00				
Friday Dinner Ride, must be registered for Sat. ride		\$30.00	Not available				
Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail membership:		Individual - \$30 Family - \$40					
		<i>Indicate number ordered for each size:</i>					
PBR T-shirts – His and Hers	S:	M:	L:	X-L:	XX-L:	Total T-shirts X \$15.00	
PBR Jersey – For Her***	S:	M:	L:	X-L:	XX-L:	Total Jerseys X \$62.00	
PBR Jersey – For Him***	S:	M:	L:	X-L:	XX-L:	Total Jerseys X \$62.00	
*Mail registration to: Bob Carrico, 52829 Wildflower Lane, Elkhart, IN 46514						Grand Total**	
** Make checks payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.						No refunds after May 31, 2015.	
***For jersey sizing information: see www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/t-shirt.html							

Release of Liability: I, the undersigned, know that participating in the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride (PBR) is a potentially hazardous activity and I participate in it out of my own free will and choice. In choosing to participate in the PBR and related events, I fully accept and assume all risks including without limitation, physical injury, mental injury or trauma, death, contact with other participants, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, the effects of weather including extreme temperature conditions, traffic, contact with motor vehicles of all types and descriptions, collision with other riders or fixed objects, the conditions of the road and participating in events along the route, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I examined PBR routes and recognize that they are on and across public roads without special bike lanes. I agree that PBR is not responsible for the conditions of public roads. I assume the risk of all conditions and occurrences during the PBR and its related events and waive all specific notice of the existence of either. I shall pay my own medical and emergency expenses in the event of accident, illness, or other incapacity regardless of whether I have authorized such expense.

I understand and agree that a situation may arise during the PBR which may be beyond the control of the sponsors, promoters or organizers and agree to ride so as not to endanger myself or others. I agree to abide by all traffic rules applicable to automobiles and recognize that failure to do so can put me and others in danger. I agree to be solely responsible for the condition and adequacy of my bicycle, safety gear and riding equipment.

Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of my entry acceptance, I for myself and anyone acting on my behalf, waive and release PBR sponsors and participating clubs, government agencies, communities and organizations, PBR officials, volunteers and their representatives, Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and the officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and successors of all of the above (the "Released Parties"), from any and all claims of any kind I have, may have or may hereafter accrue against the Released Parties either directly or indirectly, including claims brought by third parties, arising out of or relating in any respect to my attending or participating in the PBR, including without limitation, damage or harm to me or my property which may be caused by any negligent act or omission by the Released Parties. I further agree to indemnify and hold the Released Parties from any and all losses, damages, claims and expenses, including attorney fees, arising from or relating in any respect to my participation in the PBR or related events. I further agree to abide by all PBR rules and regulations. I agree that photos and videos taken of me during this ride may be used in Friends of the Pumpkinvine newsletters, website or ride brochures.

All individuals age 18-and-older registered on this form must sign below. A parent or legal guardian must sign for children 17-and-under. Children 17-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.

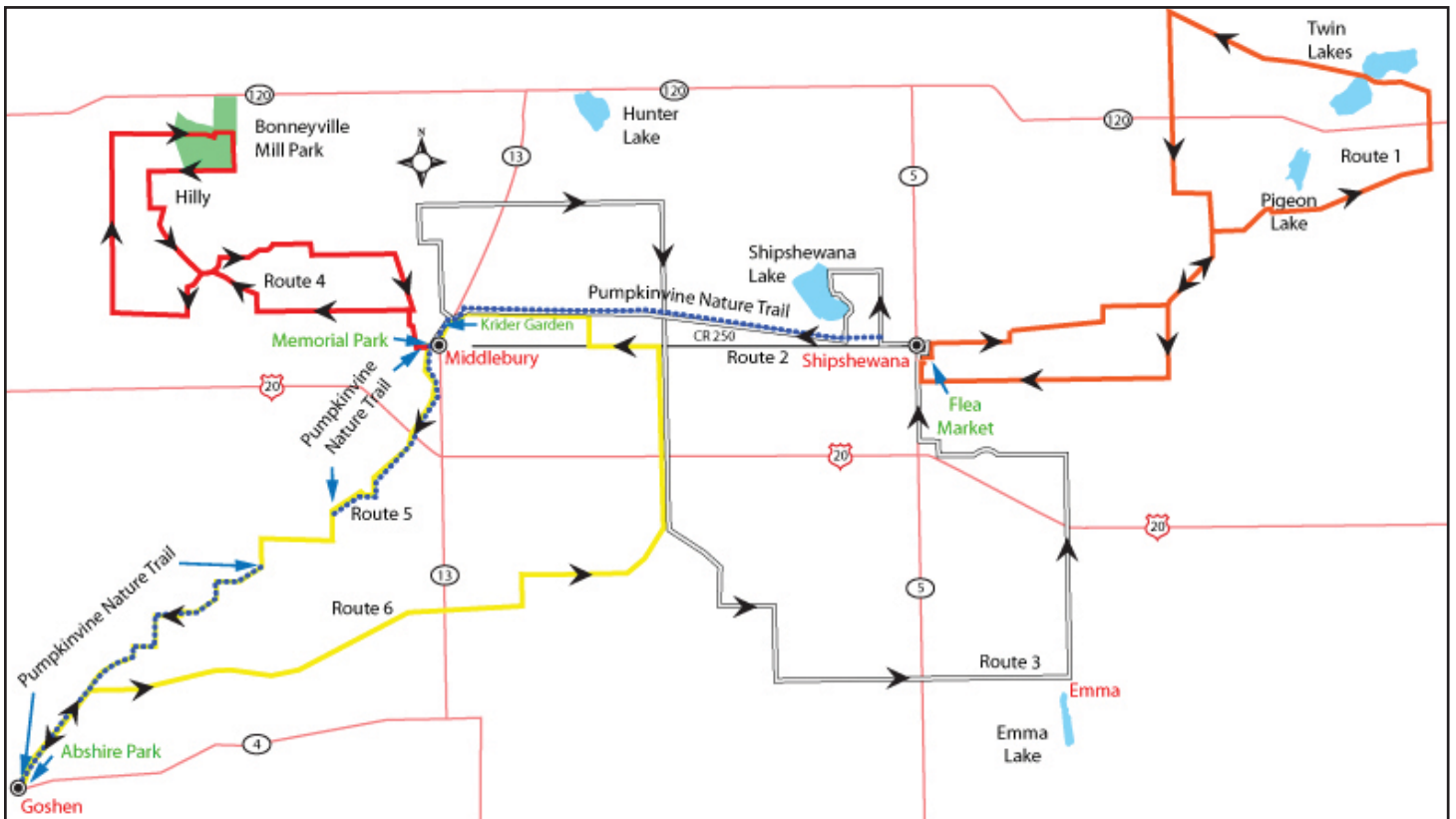
Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Pumpkinvine ride map



Rides starting in Shipshewana	
Ride	Description
Trail ride	Ride on the trail to Middlebury. Continue to Goshen if you wish and return to Shipshewana
23-mile	Shipshewana east to Twin Lakes, return to Shipshewana
33-mile	Shipshewana to Middlebury, return to Shipshewana
61-mile	Shipshewana, Middlebury, Goshen, Middlebury and return to Shipshewana
101-mile	Shipshewana to Twin Lakes, Shipshewana, Middlebury, Goshen, Middlebury, Bonneyville, Middlebury again and return to Shipshewana

Rides starting in Goshen	
Ride	Description
Trail Ride	Ride the trail to Middlebury. Continue to Shipshewana if you wish and return to Goshen
27-mile	Goshen to Middlebury and return to Goshen
45-mile	Goshen to Middlebury, to Bonneyville returning to Middlebury and then return to Goshen
61-mile	Goshen, Middlebury, Shipshewana, Middlebury and return to Goshen
101-mile	Goshen, Middlebury, Bonneyville, Middlebury, Shipshewana, Twin Lakes, Shipshewana, Middlebury again and then return to Goshen

PUMPKINVINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATES TRAIL POLICIES AND EVENTS

Once a month, representatives from Goshen Park and Recreation, Middlebury, Shippshewana, Elkhart County Parks and the Friends of the Pumpkinvine meet to discuss issues related to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The group calls itself the Pumpkinvine Advisory Committee (PAC), and its purpose is to foster cooperation and consistent policies among the four government agencies that manage the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine participate as partners with these government agency representatives, partners who have a keen interest in helping trail users have a great experience.

The group makes decisions by consensus and most of those decisions don't require approval from the boards or councils the PAC members work for. An example is the agreement to color-code the mile markers -- Goshen, blue; Elkhart County Parks, brown; Middlebury, green; and Shippshewana, black -- so that users would know who is managing the section they are in.

If PAC creates a policy that would have legal implications, the agency representatives seek approval from their boards or councils. In other words, PAC does not function at this point as an official inter-governmental agency that makes ordinances on its own. Although members have discussed drawing up an inter-governmental agreement, they don't think it's necessary at this time.

The issues the PAC members discuss in a typical meeting include updates on trail construction projects (like the new section of trail along Railroad St. in Middlebury), and problems encountered on the trail, like lines painted on the trail surface or rough pavement that needs fixing. Another topic is events that various groups are planning for the trail. In 2013, eight groups sponsored

a walk or ride on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to raise funds, and it was the first year that PAC implemented an application process for groups planning an event in an effort to help the various agencies be prepared for the groups and avoid conflicts if two groups wanted events

on the same day. PAC members want groups to have a good experience, and knowing ahead of time where the group plans to walk or run allows the managing agencies for those sections to be sure that the trail is cleaned off and any needed repairs are done.

Another PAC initiative was the policy on what powered vehicles people with disabilities could use on the trail.

The group hammered out the wording using Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, and then each managing agency had its board or council approve the policy. The Friends of the Pumpkinvine agreed to pay for the flags that would be attached to the vehicles to identify them as approved trail vehicles.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine also assist the group by producing the Pumpkinvine trail map, managing the Pumpkinvine website (www.pumpkinvine.org), and answering emails from people who want information about the Pumpkinvine. For example, one person asked what sections of the Pumpkinvine were shaded because they had a skin condition and couldn't be in the sun very long. Others ask where they can park, if there are bed and breakfasts in the area, what's the longest paved section or if there are bikes to rent.

Ongoing discussions concern how to improve intersection safety, and the possibility of adding drinking fountains and more parking and benches.

If you have concerns or suggestions for the operation of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, email friends@pumpkinvine.org.



***Pumpkinvine Advisory Committee:** Front: Mark Salee, town manager; Middlebury; Mike Sutter, town manager, Shippshewana; Tom Enright, park and recreation manager, Middlebury; Tanya Heyde, recreation supervisor, Goshen Parks; Nick Steele, trail and safety coordinator, Elkhart County Parks. Back: Diane Madison, director, Elkhart County Parks; Ronda DeCaire, superintendent of operations, Elkhart County Parks; Lynn Bontrager, member Shippshewana park board; Bob Carrico, vice president, Friends of the Pumpkinvine; Sheri Howland, superintendent, Goshen Parks; John Yoder, president, Friends of the Pumpkinvine.*

Larger trail-crossing signs to be installed in Elkhart County

The Elkhart County Highway Department and Elkhart County Parks have installed two trail-crossing signs at all eight intersections of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and county roads in Elkhart County alerting motorists that a trail crossing is ahead.

However, once installed county officials decided that the 18-inch signs were too small to be seen at a distance, and they will be replaced this spring with 30- or 36-inch signs. In addition, a second pair of signs will be installed at the trail crossing itself. The result will be a sign to alert drivers that there is a trail crossing ahead, and another sign at the trail crossing itself.

The trail signs were funded in part through a \$1,000 grant to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine from the IU Health Goshen Community Benefit Fund.



*Doll's eyes (top)
Wild Geranium (bottom)*

*Golden Rag Wort (top)
Jack in pulpit (bottom)*

Spring bike ride will highlight differences in wildflower density along the Pumpkinvine

Sunday, April 26, 3-5:30 p.m.

For the past four years, John Smith has led a spring wildflower walk on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, but this year the event will involve a bike ride. The ride will start at Abshire Park at 3 p.m. and go to C.R. 33 and back (about 10 miles), stopping at three or four places along the trail to observe the native and invasive plants in bloom. From the beginning of the trail to approximately mile marker 4, there tend to be more invasive plants than native plants. Beginning near mile marker 4.5 and on to CR 33, a fine array of native plants will be on both sides of the trail.

John and his wife Joann have identified 30 wildflowers along the trail including Dolls's Eyes, Wild Geranium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Golden Rag Wort and Hepatica.

There is no cost for the ride, but if you plan to attend, let John Smith know by email at: johnjs@goshen.edu.



These small trail-crossing signs will be replaced with larger signs.

Help beautify the Pumpkinvine by removing invasive species

You are invited to join other Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in removing invasive shrubs, such as Multiflora Rose and Bush Honeysuckle, in the forested region, near mile-marker 4.5, west of where the trail meets CR 33. The removal is schedule from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 4. The rain date is April 11.

Meet at Abshire Park at 9 a.m. to car pool. If you

prefer to ride your bike, plan to meet the others near County Road 33 at 9:15 a.m. If you have a spade and/or loppers, please bring those and dress warmly.

If you can help, contact John Smith at johnjs@goshen.edu or 574-533-9496. Please give your phone number or e-mail so we can contact you if we have to reschedule in the event of inclement weather.

Cunningham appointed superintendent of Elkhart County Parks



The board of Elkhart County Parks has appointed Bernard (Bernie) Cunningham, a 10-year park employee, as the new park superintendent. Cunningham had previously been the trail and safety coordinator for the county park system where one of his major responsibilities was to oversee the seven miles of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail owned and managed by Elkhart County Parks.

Originally from Allentown, Pa., Cunningham attended Indiana University South Bend with a major in Criminal Justice. He began working for Elkhart County Parks in 2004.

Cunningham said his priorities are “finding ways to make the existing park facilities more maintainable and bringing them up to date.” That can be challenging with limited staffing and budget and aging facilities and equipment. “It’s the same for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail,” he said. “The Pumpkinvine is fairly new and beautiful trail. Still it requires constant attention. Making sure we can sustain that beauty over the long term is one of my highest priorities.”



Friends of the Pumpkinvine **FLASHBACK** >> Items from past newsletters <<

Five years ago – Spring 2010

- Elkhart County Parks receives funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to build a tunnel for the Pumpkinvine under U.S. 20 south of Middlebury.
- John and Joann Smith led the first walk to identify wildflowers on the new section of the Pumpkinvine west of County Road 33.

10 years ago – Spring 2005

- Judge Steven David of Boone Circuit Court upheld the ownership by the Friends of the Pumpkinvine to all disputed portions of the Pumpkinvine corridor between U.S. 20 and County Road 28. The ruling came in the form of a settlement agreement in a class-action lawsuit involving all abandoned Penn Central corridors in Indiana.
- The town of Shippshewana submitted a Transportation Enhancement Grant to develop the Pumpkinvine corridor in LaGrange County.
- The Middlebury Park Department has secured funding from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to develop .6 miles of the Pumpkinvine corridor between Wayne Ave. and York St.
- Frances Ringenberg of Middlebury joined the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board.

15 years ago – Spring 2000

- Though the official ribbon cutting wasn’t until July 20, trail supporters gathered on March 2, to celebrate the newly opened section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Goshen from SR 4 to CR 28. From left John Yoder, June Yoder, Ruth Gunden, Cordy Copenhaver, Merle Jacobs, Richard Kindel, Elizabeth Jacobs, Galen Kauffmann and C.J. Yoder.
- Friends of the Pumpkinvine and Syndicate Systems, Inc., Middlebury, agreed to a land swap that routes the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail around the north side of the Syndicate property and south of the Dairy Queen.
- The Friends of the Pumpkinvine announced the first Pumpkinvine Bike Ride for May 20, 2000.



20 years ago – Spring 1995

- Rep. Phil Warner introduced HB 1727 in the Indiana House of Representatives, a bill with numerous provisions making it more difficult to recycling abandoned railroads into multi-use trails.
- Bob Carrico joins the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board.
- Friends of the Pumpkinvine sponsor a “wildflower stomp” to plant wildflowers along Railroad St. in Middlebury.

Friends of the



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You may become a supporting member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail or renew your membership by completing the form below. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to build and maintain the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and goes toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No board members receive remuneration. By showing your Friends' membership card, you are eligible for discounts on specified purchases at the following area bicycle shops: Elkhart Bicycle Shop, Elkhart; Family Bicycle, Elkhart; Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness, Goshen; House of Bicycles, Osceola; and Pumpkinvine Cyclery, Middlebury.

Has your membership expired?

You are receiving this newsletter because you have contributed to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine in the past five years. If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, we hope you'll consider renewing your membership in the **Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Membership levels are:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Silver \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Gold \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Platinum > \$5,000 | |

Send your membership payment to:

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