Pumpkinvine Trail Talk™
Volume 26 No. 1
March 2017

April 8, 2017 is Opening Day for trails nationwide

This year marks the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy's fifth annual Opening Day for Trails! On Saturday, April 8, 2017, people across the nation will kick off the spring trail season by hitting their favorite trails for a walk, run, ride or special event. Here are a few of the possibility on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, but you might also create an event with family and friends. The point is to get out on a trail and kick off the trail riding-and-walking season. All events are free.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m......**Bike Checks**
Chain Reaction Bicycle Project will be at Abshire Park in Goshen to help make sure your bike is ready for the season. CRBP is a non-profit bicycle shop promoting bicycling in the Goshen community and increasing access to bicycles and repairs for people with low income and on work release.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.....**3.5-mile Group Fitness Walk (round-trip)**
Get your heart rate up and meet other walkers on this brisk walk between Abshire Park and County Road 28. The group will be led by Vivian Schmucker, local marathon walker. Meet at Abshire Park in Goshen.

2:15 p.m......**10-mile Group Bike and Dine (one-way, Goshen to Middlebury)**
Join other cyclists on a ride to 41 Degrees North Restaurant and Bar in Middlebury. The ride is mostly on trail but does include 1.5 miles on county roads where the Pumpkinvine is not yet connected, as well as some local roads in Middlebury. Andrea Milne, local biking and walking advocate, will lead the group. Meet at Abshire Park in Goshen. Enjoy food and drinks with friends at the restaurant, and then meet up with Middlebury-to-Goshen riders at 4:30 p.m.

3* – 4:30 p.m......**Wildflower Hike**
Join John Smith, local amateur naturalist and native plant enthusiast, on a search for the first blooming native wildflowers of spring. The hike will begin at 3 p.m. at the intersection of the Pumpkinvine with County Road 33 and will explore the natural hardwood forest between trail mile markers 4.0 and 5.0. There are no parking spots at the County Road 33 trailhead. Two suggested ways to arrive include:

- Meet at 2:15 p.m. at Abshire Park in Goshen for a 5-mile group bike ride to the site.
- Meet at 2:45 p.m. at the County Road 35 parking lot on the Pumpkinvine Trail to carpool.

4:30 p.m......**12-mile Group Bike and Dine (one-way, Middlebury to Goshen)**
Join other cyclists on a ride to Goshen Brewing Company. The ride is mostly on trail, but does include 1.5 miles on county roads where the Pumpkinvine is not yet connected, as well as some local roads in Goshen. Spencer and Brittany Short, owners of Pumpkinvine Cyclery, will lead the group. Meet at Pumpkinvine Cyclery, 413 N Main St, Middlebury. Enjoy food and drinks with friends at the restaurant.

Share how you plan to celebrate and explore trails on Opening Day with us on social media using #RTCOpeningDay!

For more information about Opening Day for Trails, visit http://www.railstotrails.org/opening-day-for-trails/

Board of Directors

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, *president*
574-596-4299 • yoder.johny@gmail.com

Andrea Milne, *vice president*
574-400-5858 • andreajillmilne@gmail.com

Jane Short, *secretary*
574-238-1159 • Janeshort54@gmail.com

Cory Wilson, *treasurer*
260-336-1685 • Cory.Wilson@mcgladrey.com

Robert Carrico, *trail operations manager*
574-266-1362 • rjcarrico1@frontier.com

Larry Neff
574-538-8713 • clneff1@yahoo.com

Kurt Neufeld
574-238-2610 • kpneufeld@gmail.com

Chet Peachey
574-849-7963 • crpeachey@gmail.com

Debi Riegsecker
574-533-9218 • msjoepye@gmail.com

Vivian Schmucker
574-533-2596 • vschmucker@frontier.com

Brittany Short
574-849-5825 • brittany@pumpkinvinecyclery.com

Bud Wulliman
574-238-1332 • bwulliman@gmail.com

Roger Yoder
260-768-4402 • rogerdy@embarqmail.com

Bernie Cunningham,
Liaison to Elkhart County Parks
574-535-6644
bcunningham@elkhartcounty.com

Tim Drescher, *Bike Ride Director*
574-536-5487 • timdrescher@gmail.com

See back issues of this newsletter at:
www.pumpkinvine.org

Email contact: Friends@pumpkinvine.org

www.facebook.com/Pumpkinvine

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

@FOPNT

http://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 Shipshewana, Ind.

From the president

The amazing trail support from local public agencies

When I look back at the history of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, one feature that permeates that history is the positive partnership between the Friends of the Pumpkinvine and the four local public agencies (LPAs) that built and manage the trail now—Goshen Park and Recreation, Elkhart County Parks, Middlebury Parks and the Town of Shipshewana. They have been indispensable to the Pumpkinvine's creation and success because they had the skills the Friends of the Pumpkinvine volunteers lacked.

The volunteers, who have made up the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board of directors since the early '90s, had skills in writing, photography, public relations and fundraising, but none of us had a clue about how to build or run a park. In other words, we needed expertise beyond our set of skills.

Because of our skill deficit, we knew that we would need the help of the local public agencies where the abandoned Pumpkinvine corridor was located to make it into a linear park. At the beginning, we were primarily in contact with Goshen's park director, Art Bleau and Elkhart County Parks director, Dan Seltenright, and we were thrilled to discover that both were open to the idea of turning the Pumpkinvine corridor into a linear park because that idea was already in their master plans.

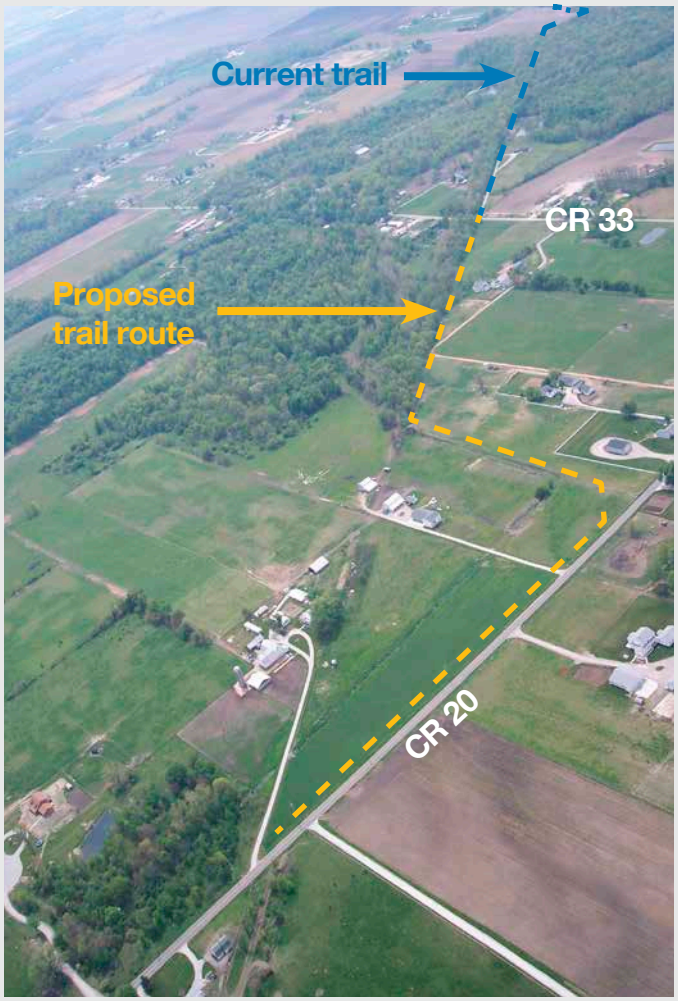
But lines on maps and words on paper are hollow without follow through. The rails-to-trails idea for the Pumpkinvine corridor moved forward because Bleu and Seltenright saw its potential for success by working with the Friends of the Pumpkinvine. That was the beginning of a partnership between the Friends of the Pumpkinvine and the LPA leadership that has lasted over 25 years. When Rich Faye and Sheri Howland succeeded Bleau and Larry Neff and Diane Madison succeeded Seltenright, the collaboration continued. Roger Krider, Middlebury town manager, joined as a partner, as did his successors Marcel Coulomb, Lowell Miller and Mark Salee. In Shipshewana, former Friends of the Pumpkinvine board member, Norm Kauffmann, orchestrated their buy in to the rails-to-trails concept, as did his successors Dave Swartley, Bill Boyer, Mike Puro, Sheryl Kelly and Mike Sutter.

All these changes in leadership for the managing agencies were staggered, assuring continuity in the management of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Yet in the past eight months, we had seen the departure of Madison, Salee and Howland, and, I learned as I was writing this column in mid-February, that Mike Sutter has announced that he is retiring in June 2017. So, within the space of one year we will have new leadership in all four LPAs that manage the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

Will so much change in the leadership of these LPAs be positive or negative for the Pumpkinvine? If the past in any indicator of the future, I'm optimistic the new leaders (see page 4) will continue the tradition of being excellent stewards of the Pumpkinvine. And I'm grateful for the care and vision the departing leaders—Madison, Salee, Howland and Sutter—have shown the trail. They have been outstanding trail managers, advocates and partners.

Closing the CR 33 to CR 20 gap nears completion

The four-year process of closing the 1.7-mile gap in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 33 and County Road 20 is nearing an end. The Friends of the Pumpkinvine and the five families in the area have signed purchase agreements to transfer the land to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine. That transfer should happen in March or April this year. Construction of the trail could begin later this year or in the spring of 2018 after the Friends donate the land to Elkhart County Parks.



The proposed route (looking southwest) for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 20 and County Road 33.

"This land acquisition is the most complicated I've ever worked on," said Larry Neff, former director of Elkhart County Parks and the Friends' board member and the one most involved in the negotiations, "and I was part of many during my 30 years with Elkhart County Parks."

What makes the acquisition so complicated and, therefore, time consuming? Neff listed several reasons.

- Unlike most of the old Pumpkinvine railroad corridor that the Friends of the Pumpkinvine owned, the Friends owned only a fraction of the old corridor in this section, meaning that they had to work with the landowners to negotiate a route for the trail.
- The route could not follow the old Pumpkinvine corridor for the entire distance because homes had been built on parts of it.
- The proposed route required the agreement of five households.
- The trail passes close to three of the households, and that meant extensive discussions about the trail's location, fencing possibilities and vegetation screening.
- When the trail left the Pumpkinvine corridor, it skirted several areas identified as wetlands. Because of using some federal funds to purchase and build the trail, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine needed to get permission from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Elkhart County drainage board to insure that the trail was not in a wetland.
- In one case, the recorded boundary between two properties was confusing, requiring the Friends' consultants to straighten out the ambiguous legal description in that area.
- Another part of the negotiations involved determinging the location easements for the landowners to cross the trail.
- Finally, two of the land owners decided to do a land deal that involved the Pumpkinvine corridor sections they owned, which caused delays in our title searches and final agreements.

"We're grateful to these five families for their willingness to sell their land for the extension of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail," Neff said. "We've become problem-solving partners in this process, and I think the result will be a great extension of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and a valuable asset for these families and the entire community."

Registration deadline: April 14

Friends of the Pumpkinvine

ANNUAL DINNER

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

The Spohn Ballroom | 109 East Clinton Street, Goshen, IN 46528

We're pleased to invite you to the 16th annual Friends of the Pumpkinvine dinner—an opportunity to meet other trail supporters, celebrate the progress on the trail in the past year and learn about plans for the next year. After dinner, Friends President, John Yoder will report on the exciting progress that has been made "closing the gaps" in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and what to expect along those lines in 2017.

The dinner will be April 25th at the Spohn Ballroom in downtown Goshen and will be catered by Elegance in Thyme & Nelson's. Doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing trail-related exhibits and talking with other trail supporters. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p,m., and dress is casual.

The registration deadline is April 14.

Door prizes include gift certificates and other items donated by local bike shops and a Verve Trek hybrid bicycle donated by Elkhart Bicycle Shop. The Verve is an easy-riding hybrid bike and is available in men's or women's models. Key features are a comfortable ride on the pavement or path, a light and strong frame, hybrid wheels that are smooth and fast and a limited life-time warranty backed by Trek.

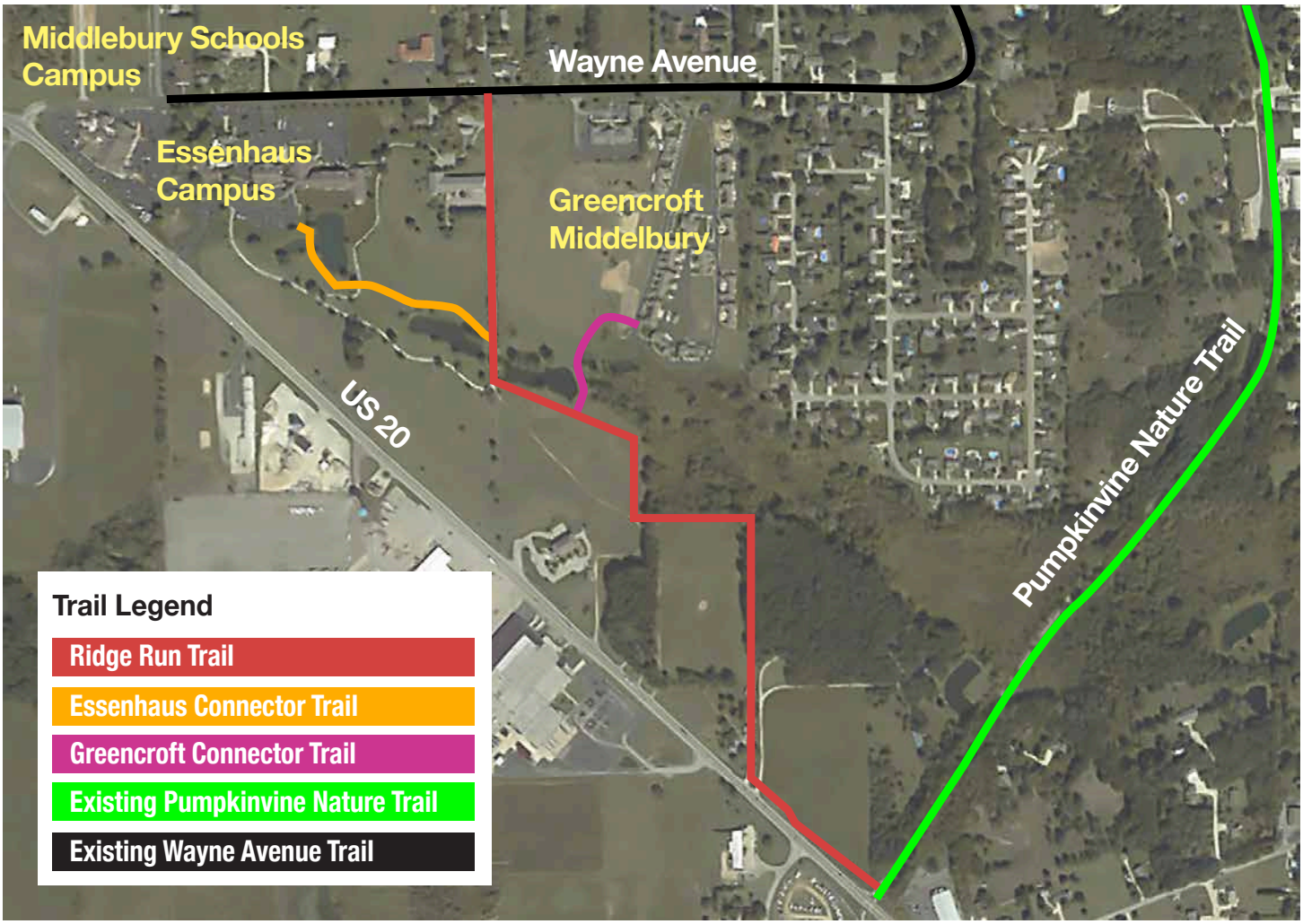
The Trek Verve is the grand prize at the annual dinner.

Parking is available in several locations near the Spohn Ballroom. See a map with parking locations on the registration website.

Please join us for this important event. Invite family members, friends, neighbors and any others who would be interested in learning more about the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The cost per person, including tax and gratuity, is $30.

All registration will be done on line at https://pumpkinvineannualdinner.eventbrite.com. You can also find a link to registration site at www.pumpkinvine.org. During registration, you can pick your table location, If you would like to sit with friends, have them reserve seats at your table. It is easiest to accomplish that by registering together at the same time.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please consider sending a tax-deductible donation in your place. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at brittany@pumpkinvinecyclery.com or call 574-849-5825.



Construction on Ridge Run Trail to begin in spring

Trail will connect to the Pumpkinvine north of U.S. 20

After years of planning and fundraising, the Friends of the Middlebury Parks have signed a contract with Niblock Excavating and Asphalt to build the Ridge Run Trail system. The trail will connect That Pretty Place Bed and Breakfast, the Greencroft Middlebury Retirement Community, the Essenhaus campus and the Middlebury Schools campus with the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

Construction was to have started last fall, but due to Niblock's heavy construction schedule for other projects, construction is now scheduled to begin in spring 2017, according to Jacob Hoeger, Niblock spokesperson. The new trail will have an asphalt surface, be 10-feet wide and connect to the Pumpkinvine just north of the tunnel under U.S. 20. The spur to Greencroft Middlebury will be 10-feet wide and packed stone, and the Essenhaus spur will be 10-feet wide and have an asphalt surface.

The Ridge Run Trail project was made possible from the support of the members of the Friends of the Middlebury Parks organization, grants from the State of Indiana's Place Based Investment Fund and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, donations from the Corson Family Foundation, the Das Dutchman Essenhaus and Greencroft Middlebury, as well as contributions from over 100 individuals, families, civic clubs, family foundations and businesses.

18th Annual www.ride.pumpkinvine.org

Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

Saturday, June 17, 2017

The ride

Add a memorable experience to your 2017 bicycle season by joining the 18th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride—a recreational bicycle ride on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and low-traffic roads in Elkhart and LaGrange Counties. The routes pass through countryside where you will often see livestock grazing in summer pastures. You will bicycle beside a variety of horse-drawn carriages, buggies, carts and wagons. You will be in the company of local residents who use bicycles as their everyday means of transportation.

If you are uneasy about bicycling on roadways, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is a peaceful alternative. The trail twists and turns as it passes through woodlands, fields and towns. A variety of wildflowers grow along the trail, and you will see flower gardens including the popular Krider World's Fair Garden in Middlebury. Seventy-five percent of the trail is shaded by trees in case the day is too warm. The experience is great for all ages, so children are welcome.

Rest stops (SAGs) in Middlebury and Shipshewana will serve drinks, fruit and energy foods. Cold-cut sandwiches will be served at lunch time. Mini-SAGs will replenish your drinks and provide restrooms where necessary. The traditional pie and ice cream will be served to registered bicyclists at the end of the ride.

When & where

Start at your convenience on Saturday, June 17, 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EDT. Go to the Elkhart County Fairgrounds Gate 1 on County Road 34 (Monroe St.) in Goshen, Ind., a half-mile east of Goshen High School.

Benefits

The Pumpkinvine Bike Ride is an annual fundraising event for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Fundraising is especially vital now because Friends are working to close "gaps" in the trail where county roads are presently used as connectors.

Registration before May 17 is $30 per person. After May 17, the fee is $50. Children 13 years and under ride for free. You can reserve a 2017 t-shirt for $15.

VOLUNTEE

The Pumpkinvine Bik
volunteers. If you would li
volunteer, contact Debi R
or email: msjoep

RS NEEDED

e Ride is made possible by
ke to help host the ride as a
iegsecker at 574-533-9218
oye@pobox.com.

Ride routes

- Trail route (22 and 37 miles) – The 22-mile route will follow the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to the Middlebury SAG and then return to Goshen. Three-and-one-half miles will be on county roads where there is a gap in the trail. The 37-mile route will continue on the trail from the Middlebury SAG to the Shipshewana SAG and then return on the trail to Goshen via Middlebury. Four-and-a-half miles will be on county roads.
- 50-Mile route – This ride will head east from the fairgrounds winding through Elkhart and LaGrange County countryside until it reaches the Shipshewana. From there it will return on the trail by way of the Middlebury SAG to Goshen.
- 100-Mile route – It will start on the 50-mile route and will separate later to loop more extensively around LaGrange County. Then it will go west through the Bonneyville hills and arrive at the Middlebury SAG. Finally, the route will follow the trail to Goshen.
- There will be rest stops every 15-20 miles.

Friday Evening Dinner Ride

June 16, 4:30 p.m. EDT (limited to 100 bicyclists)

Work up an appetite by bicycling 10 miles to an Amish home and enjoy a Thresher's Dinner served family style. The menu is ham loaf, poppy seed chicken breasts, homemade bread, apple butter, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade noodles, green beans, broccoli-cauliflower salad, coffee, ice cream with caramel sauce and pie. Here are a few things you need to know:

- You must register for the Saturday ride to participate in the Friday Evening Dinner Ride.
- The ride starts at Woodlawn AM Church, 62861 County Road 41, Goshen, Ind. Plan to arrive there by 4:30 pm. to get your bike ready to ride. Park on the south side of the church. Find detailed directions and a link to a map at ride.pumpkinvine.org.
- We will depart for the 10-mile ride to dinner in several groups starting around 5 p.m. We will return to the church parking lot before dark.
- Cost $30 per person.
- **Do not sign up for this ride unless you can ride for one hour at 10 mph!**

Registration

All registration is online. Go to **ride.pumpkinvine.org** for a link to the registration site. The ride website has additional information including overnight accommodation specials and photos from previous rides. RV camping is available at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. Visit 4hfair.org/fi/fair/fair-camping/ for details.

Naturalists' Corner

What causes the bumps in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail?

By John J. Smith

Users of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, whether bikers or walkers, are aware that bumps have appeared in the trail's asphalt surface. Many of these bumps come from the upward pressure of the roots in nearby trees that have tunneled beneath the asphalt surface and cause it to heave up. The pressure from the tree roots makes for bumps and surface deterioration that challenge bikers and require reparation.

Roots have caused damage to the trail in several different ways. In the open area between mile 3.5 and 4 where the Friends of the Pumpkinvine planted wild flowers, willow seeds from nearby trees started growing in the flower plot along the ditch that borders the flowers, according to Bob Carrico, Friends of the Pumpkinvine trail operations manager. Roots from these little trees grew under the asphalt and sent shoots up through the asphalt creating roundish bumps 6-to-8 inches in diameter. "Although we killed the sprouts and roots with herbicide and snow plows scraped off the bumps, we fight new willows in the flower plots every summer," Carrico said.

A second type of root damage is most noticeable in sections where well-preserved native woodland is on both sides of the trail. Here nearby trees have sent their roots under the trail in search of moisture trapped under the asphalt. The best examples are the wooded areas around mile marker 4.5, just west of County Road 33 and at mile 12.5, east of the County Road 43 parking lot. Although these woods were disrupted in building the railroad and again when preparing and surfacing the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, diverse native plant species have grown back from the healthy forests to the trail's edge. These wooded trail-borders have a far higher diversity of native woody and herbaceous plants, and the lowest populations of invasive, non-native plants, than where farm fields and residential and industrial properties border the trail.

> "... diverse native plant species have grown back from the healthy forests to the trail's edge."

Trail sections that are the most like the landscape before Europeans began farming here and are today the healthiest native environments are the ones that cause the most root damage. But that is only natural. Native trees such as American beech, sugar maple, at least five species of oak, hickory, basswood, black walnut, pawpaw, black cherry and other tree species still grace the Pumpkinvine. That diversity is worth celebrating!

From late March to early November a profusion of beautiful native herbaceous plants bloom in the fine wooded borders near mile markers 4.5 and 12.5: harbinger-of-spring, hepatica, bloodroot, four species of violet, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, Jack-in-the-pulpit, large-flowered trillium, wild ginger, wild blue phlox, wild geranium, mayapple, waterleaf, puttyroot, Michigan lily, ramps, asters, blue-stem goldenrod zigzag goldenrod and many others. The diversity is wonderful and is something to remember when you hit a bump, something to expect in maintaining an authentic nature trail. The diversity of native plants and associated insects, birds and other animals make the Pumpkinvine an authentic nature trail, in addition to being a first-rate bike path.

Elkhart County Parks removed roots that damaged the trail surface near mile post 4.5

Large-flowered trillium and wild phlox blue

Mary Cripe

Tanya Heyde

Ronda DeCaire

New leaders appointed in Goshen, Middlebury and Elkhart County Parks

By Andrea Wagoner Thompson

The past six months has seen major changes in the leadership of three of the four agencies that manage the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail: Mary Cripe became Middlebury town manager; Ronda DeCaire became director of Elkhart County Parks; and Tanya Heyde became superintendent of Goshen Park and Recreation. These are important positions in the Pumpkinvine world as they are responsible for the day-to-day management of the trail in their respective jurisdictions.

Mary Cripe comes to Middlebury after 15 years as city engineer with the City of Goshen. During her tenure there, she worked on several important construction projects including the MapleHeart Trail, the Monroe Street Trail, the Abshire Trail, Goshen College pedestrian underpasses and the Waterford Mills Parkway.

In her new role as Middlebury Town Manager, Cripe is tasked with everything from supervising public works and city planning to finance and recreation. While overseeing the trails is only part of what she does, she fully understands their importance. "I see the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as an economic catalyst. It connects people from Shipshewana, Middlebury and Goshen and allows them to access the places they like to frequent," she says says.

In the spring, the town will begin working on the Ridge Run Trail connecting the Wayne Avenue Trail to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail (see page 5). There is another trail in the works to connect Old Mill Park with Riverbend Park as well.

With her extensive engineering background, Cripe looks forward to collaborating with others to find ways to improve Middlebury's quality of life. "Quality of place improves quality of life," she believes.

Tanya Heyde was named superintendent of Goshen Parks and Recreation last fall. Heyde has been with the City of Goshen since 2006, most recently as the recreation supervisor.

Heyde is committed to improving the quality of life in Goshen. "I am very much in favor of active transportation," Heyde says. Her support of this is important because, according to railstotrails.org, areas that have and promote safe and convenient ways to travel on foot or by bicycle are usually healthier. Residents can be more physically active, enjoying fresh air as they go from community to community for work, school, shopping — or just for recreation.

One issue that Heyde would like to address is the nearly two miles of unpaved surface on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail from SR 4 to CR 28. "It's very costly to pave that much trail, but it's also very difficult to maintain the current surface," Heyde says. "I'm looking into ways we can get it paved."

With just a few months under her belt, Heyde is getting to work on this and other important issues that will help make Goshen an even better place to live, work and play.

After seven-and-a-half years as superintendent of operations for the Elkhart County Parks and interim director since July, **Ronda DeCaire** became director last fall.

Prior to her work for the Elkhart County Parks, she worked for the Elkhart Environmental Center as director of environmental education and before that, she worked with the Woodlawn Nature Center in Elkhart as well as seasonal positions at Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Camp Wolverine and St. Joseph County Parks.

Creating a master plan is a priority in her new role. "We'll definitely incorporate the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in that plan," she says. "Trail systems are really important to parks departments across the country," DeCaire says. "The challenge is that they can't be built on their own. We need to partner with non-for-profits to accomplish this." Currently, her park staff is working with the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to close the gap in the trail between C.R. 33 and C.R. 20.

"I grew up in Michigan riding my bike everywhere as a child. The roads were wider, and we didn't worry about distracted drivers using cell phones during that era. Today, we can give families with children a safe place to ride their bikes with trails." DeCaire says.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine website is now mobile friendly

By Bob Carrico

You won't notice radical changes when you log on to the new Friends of the Pumpkinvine website (it has the same URL: www.Pumpkinvine.org), unless you log on from a phone or tablet. Recent changes to the underlying platform have made the site work much better on those mobile devices.

The Friends have had a website since the 1990s when Brent Cummings, an early member of Friends' board of directors, designed and managed it. When Brent left the board, he turned the maintenance of the website over to me. I recreated the website with new software in 2004, preserving much of the original page design, such as the yellow background and the pumpkin vine graphics.

Since I started managing the Friends' website, what it is possible to do with webpages has expanded rapidly, and in 2012, I began using software that would facilitate the new developments. But by 2016, the Friends' website had two shortcomings. First, many web users were now viewing pages on the small screens of tablet or smart phones instead of on computer screens. The templates needed to create webpages have become increasingly complex, specifically to retain webpage resolution and usability on large desk top screens as well as small smart phones. Modern templates resize and restack page contents as screen widths change.

The second issue was that since the software was on my computer, I was the only one who could edit pages. The Friends need a system where more than one person can edit the webpages from their personal computers.

When Tim Drescher became the director of the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride in 2015, he recommended that we install WordPress on our host server (Brightnet in New Paris) server and manage the website from there. This system would allow anyone with security credentials to edit webpages. In addition, WordPress is a widely used, free and open-source software. Many developers create free templates with a variety of desirable features.

However, our switch to WordPress at Brightnet was fraught with problems, and we decided to move our site to a server at SiteGround, which is setup to accommodate WordPress requirements. SiteGround also provides a high level of technical support. Now the site is working well.

Website users (2014–2016)	
Year	**Users**
2014	25,471
2015	29,204
2016	25,086

PRE-CONSTRUCTION EDITION

1. What permits or variances are needed before construction can begin to close the gap between County Road 33 and County Road 20?
   a. a. Permit for construction in a floodway permit from the DNR.
   b. Permit from Indiana Department of Environmental Management for erosion control.
   c. Permit from the Army Corp of Engineers for construction near wetlands
   d. A zoning variance for the trail from the county zoning board.
   e. A road cut permit where the trail interfaces with CR 33 and CR 20.
   f. All the above

2. How long does it take to receive a "categorical exclusion," an environmental permit that shows the trail does not make significant impact on planned growth or land use for the area, does not require the relocation of significant numbers of people; does not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resource; does not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts; does not have significant impacts on travel patterns; or does not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.
   a. Three months
   b. Six months
   c. Nine months
   d. 12 months

3. How long have the Friends of the Pumpkinvine been negotiating a route for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 33 and County Road 20 with the five landowners in this area?
   a. 12 months
   b. 24 months
   c. 36 months
   d. 48 months

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

these local businesses that supported the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

PLATINUM SPONSOR

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ELKHART COUNTY | Inspiring good. Impacting success.

Ron & Lisa Fenech Foundation, Inc.

GOLD SPONSORS

ECCVB Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc. TOURISM FUELING OUR ECONOMY

Miller Amish Country Poultry

MBA Michiana Bicycle Association

Corson Family Foundation, Inc.

SILVER SPONSORS

ATC

E&S Sales, LLC

Everence

LCVB LaGrange County Convention & Visitor's Bureau

LionsHead Specialty Tire & Wheel, LLC. Established 1992

Parkview LaGrange Hospital

Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Member New York Stock Exchange 230 N Main St., Suite 1 Elkhart, IN 46516 574-293-7585

Smoker Craft, Inc. TheBestBoatBrands.com

BRONZE SPONSORS

Goshen Health

Jayco Generations of family fun.

JPR Jones Petrie Rafinski

Maple City Greenway

Martin's Super Markets

Woodland Park

Time to re-enroll in Kroger rewards program

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine receive a donation from The Kroger Community Rewards Program when Friends' supporters link their Plus card to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine on the Kroger Rewards' website. Last year the Friends of the Pumpkinvine received $773.97 from this program from the purchases of 43 participating households.

However, **all participants must re-enroll in the program each year for the benefits to continue**. Fortunately, that re-enrollment is very easy. Once you log in to your Kroger account at http://www.pumpkinvine.org/html/kroger_rewards.html, you will see a button "Re-enroll now." Click on it and the re-enroll is done.

If you would like to become a participant in the program and enroll for the first time, see the instructions at http://pumpkinvine.org/about/kroger-rewards-2/ .

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. F. All the above 2. Anywhere from three to 12 months. Twelve months is typical. 3. D. 48 months

Friends of the
Pumpkinvine™
Nature Trail

PO Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46527

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 172
Goshen, IN 46527

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::

☐ Individual $30 ☐ Family $40 ☐ Sustaining $60 ☐ Contributing $100 ☐ Patron $250

☐ Benefactor $500 ☐ Benefactor Silver $1,000 ☐ Benefactor Gold $2,500 ☐ Benefactor Platinum > $5,000

Send your membership payment to:

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail • P.O. Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46527

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____