Pumpkinvine Trail Talk™
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August 2016

Ron Suggs illustrates how he walked around Goshen Parks with Google Trekker, here on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail near Abshire Park.

The Google Trekker, mounted on a Gator, photographed the Pumpkinvine from Goshen to Shipshewana.

Google Trekker maps the Pumpkinvine

People around the world will soon have the opportunity to see a ground-level view the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail complements of staff from Goshen Park and Recreation, Elkhart County Parks and the Google Trekker, a portable version of the camera system used to create Google's street view for Google Maps and Google Earth. The Indiana Park and Recreation Association borrowed the Trekker camera from Google, then shared it with parks departments in Indiana to photograph unique locations.

Over a three-day period in early May, Ron Suggs and Tanya Heyde of Goshen Parks carried the Trekker around the trails in Goshen Parks, then Suggs and Nick Steele of Elkhart County Parks mounted the Trekker on a Gator, and mapped the Pumpkinvine all the way to Shipshewana.

The Google Trekker has 15 five-megapixel cameras mounted in a sphere that takes a picture every two seconds as it is carried forward, then software stitches the 15 images together seamlessly to give a 360-degree view. The Trekker images "provide a way for the public to view our trail system," Heyde said. "It's a nice feature for those who may be visiting the area from out of town to see what we have to offer or for those who may be planning a bike, walk or run the route. Google Maps will be yet another means for showcasing our extensive trail system attracting those seeking active transportation, recreation, biking, walking, running or enjoying nature."

Nick Steele and Ron Suggs attach the Google Trekker to a Gator as Tanya Heyde, Goshen Parks, looks on.

It takes up to six months for Google to process and post the images online, so we won't see the results until November, Heyde said.

To view images previously taken with Google Trekker in other locations, see google.com/maps/about/treks/#/grid.

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

Email contact: Friends@pumpkinvine.org

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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

Friends and landowners sign option to purchase

At our Friends of the Pumpkinvine annual dinner on April 28, I reported the good news that the Friends of the Pumpkinvine had recently signed Options to Purchase with three landowners between County Road 33 and County Road 20. This agreement gives the Friends the ability to purchase a route for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail through this section as soon as the details of the boundaries for the purchase and other details are settled. In exchange, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine paid the land owners half the estimated final cost of the land.

What are these "details of the boundaries" and "other details" that still need to be worked out? The boundaries issue refers to the problem of determining where the property line is between two of the farms. Current legal descriptions place the boundary in the center of a legal drainage ditch, the South Fork of Pine Creek. Unfortunately, the creek has meandered over the years so that it is not a reliable boundary marker. The solution is to have the county drainage board straighten the creek, based on other boundary makers.

Meanwhile, the drainage board, the Friends and farmers agreed that it would be best to replace a right-angle curve in the creek with a gentler curve so that drainage would not be impeded and erosion would not be as prevalent. And the realigned curve would not deny access to land owned by one of the farmer. So straightening of the creek will be combined with moving a small section.

However, this moving has been delayed until the drainage board receives assurances from the Army Corp of Engineers that the area to which they are moving the creek is not wetlands. Our consultants have tested the area (as reported in our April Trail Talk newsletter) and believe it is not wetlands, but the Corp has the final say. Unfortunately, the Corp works on their own timetable, and we are waiting for them to respond to our requests for a decision.

While we were working with the three families to map out a route for the trail and agreeing on a price for the land, we also were talking to a fourth family about the possibility of keeping the trail on the old Pumpkinvine corridor that cuts through their property, rather than leaving the corridor and going through a wet woods. This new option may reduce the cost of trail construction, and we believe would offer the family greater privacy for their cabin and residence. We have been actively working out the details of this change in the route the last six months.

So we are making progress in closing the gap in the trail between County Road 33 and County Road 20, but it is a slow process, because it has so many moving parts. Larry Neff, who has been involved in all the negotiations between the Friends of the Pumpkinvine and landowners for the last 20 years, says that this purchase and negotiations on the trail's location are the most complex he has ever been involved in.

I agree, but I resist complaining about it. Mostly I'm grateful that these landowners have made it possible to extend the trail through their land, because they see the benefits the trail brings to their community.

Still time recognition for helping to close the gap

We are grateful to the hundreds of households and organizations that have contributed to the Campaign to Close the Gap in the past 18 months. The gap in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail we are trying to close is between County Road 33 and County Road 20 where riders must currently be on county roads. Your contributions have helped us match the $300,000 challenge grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, but we still need to raise $140,000 to fully fund the construction of the trail, whose cost we estimate will be over $1 million.

Organizations or households that contribute a total of $1,000 to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine in 2015 and 2016, will have their names recognized in the County Road 33 to County Road 20 gap when that project is completed. A list of those who contributed $1,000 through Feb. 28, 2016 was printed in our spring Trail Talk newsletter. Below are those who contributed $1,000 between March and July 2016.

Individuals:
Dale and Judy Eash
Ron and Lisa Fenech
Samuel Abe Graber
Robert and Angelika Hostetler
Max and Janet Lauderman
Lynn Schram and Mary Michalak
Joseph and Debra Riegsecker
Dennis Sensenig
Ted and Marlene Springer
Anne Wilson

Organizations:
Aluminum Trailer Co.
DLZ Indiana
E&S Sales
Everence
Lionshead Specialty Tire and Wheel
Martin's Supermarket
Raymond James and Associates
Well Foundation
Ziggity Systems

This plaque at Abshire Park in Goshen recognizes the households and organization that gave $500 toward the purchase of the Pumpkinvine corridor in 1993. Donors who give $1,000 to help close the gap in the Pumpkinvine between CR 33 and CR 20 between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2016 will be recognized in this section of the trail.

Sealing cracks in trail asphalt is good maintenance practice

By Bob Carrico

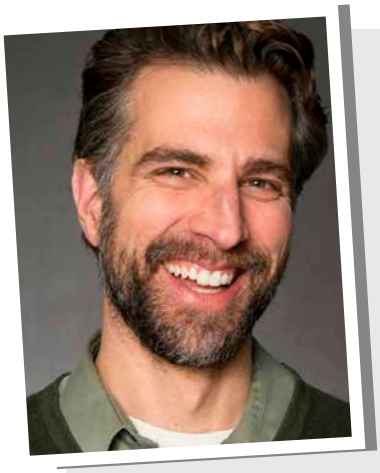
Three Friends of the Pumpkinvine volunteers—Tom Watson, Chuck Thompson and myself—have made riding the trail much smoother this summer and by making repairs that help preserve the surface. Most of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail has an asphalt surface. As the trail ages, cracks form in the asphalt due to weathering, expansion and contraction with temperature changes and shifting of the soil that supports the asphalt. Water flows into the cracks where it can freeze and thaw in cold weather, and this action can widen the cracks. Also, various plants can grow in the cracks during the warm season. As a result, annual sealing of cracks in the trail is a good way to reduce the impact of the freeze-thaw cycle.

We pour a liquid sealing tar onto the narrow cracks, spread the tar with a squeegee and sprinkle sand on the tar to create a hard finish and prevent the tar from sticking to trail users. For wide cracks we sweep out any debris and fill the crack with dry sand. Then we sweep out part of the sand to form a one-quarter to one-half inch deep channel, pour in sealing tar and spread it with a squeegee.

Finally, we cover the tar with sand. The tar seeps into the sand over a period of a few days to create a tar-sand plug. The plug remains somewhat plastic and reshapes when the crack widens or narrows. It is not unusual for a sealed crack to reopened a year later. We expect the tar-sand plug is still sealing the crack a short distance below the asphalt surface. In these cases, we seal the crack again.

Sealing the cracks in the trail is expected to extend the life of the trail surface. Trail maintenance guides recommend that the entire trail surface be coated with a sealer at 10-year intervals. The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail has not been sealed because of the high cost.

Chuck Thompson pouring tar into a crack in the asphalt.



Reflections

It is an extraordinary experience to witness 1160 riders and around 100 volunteers come together to show their support for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Folks from all over the United States descended upon the Elkhart County Fairgrounds to partake in a biking adventure on Saturday, June 18. For about ⅓ of the riders (who responded to the survey), this was their first experience on the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

As a first time ride director, I accepted the challenge and knew that there would be certain risks in trying to organize an event like this. When well over 1,200 opinions and preferences are combined with physical excursion and food desires, criticism and suggestions are sure to flow freely. Balancing my strong desire to create a beautiful experience with the numerous variables, stretched me and the planning committee in new ways.

Time and again, I was reminded of the good that wells up and flows out of people. So many people stepped forward to help, with hardly a thought to the amount of time they would spend. So many riders showed such kindness, patience and gratitude throughout the day, even when they experienced disappointment or pain. So many donated funds that helped us meet our goal. The ride, like the trail, was a shining example of what happens when caring communities are connected together for a good reason.

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and the annual bike ride that promotes and raises funds for it rely on the goodness and connectedness of all of us. In a world on the verge of chaos, supporting a local treasure, like this trail, empowers all of us to become better people. We are given the opportunity to make a positive difference in tens of thousands of lives, just by promoting and contributing to the Pumpkinvine.

A big thanks goes to the planning committee, all of the volunteers, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail board, the Goshen, Elkhart, Middlebury and Shipshewana Parks, the city and county law enforcement, the Elkhart County Fairgrounds, the local merchants and communities and especially to all of the riders who helped make the 17th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride a wonderful experience.

PUMPKINVINE TRIVIA

Answers are on page 9.

1. What wild animal is being raised a quarter mile west of CR 33?
   a. Deer b. Buffalo c. Cougar d. Camel
2. What's the name of the largest stream or river that the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail crosses?
   a. St. Joseph River c. Elkhart River
   b. Pine Creek d. Little Elkhart River
3. Sponsors at the platinum level donate this amount to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine each year.
   a. $1,000 b. $2,500 c. $5,000 d. $7,500

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Bike the Bend
Jayco — Generations of family fun.
MBA — Michiana Bicycle Association

GOLD SPONSORS

ciba foundation — Promoting the benefits of cycling
ECCVB Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc. — Tourism Fueling Our Economy
Miller — Amish Country Poultry

SILVER SPONSORS

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LCVB LaGrange County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
LionsHead
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DLZ — Engineers • Architects • Scientists
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Everence
IU Health Goshen
Martin's Super Markets
Woodland Park

2016 PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE

We appreciate your enthusiastic participation!

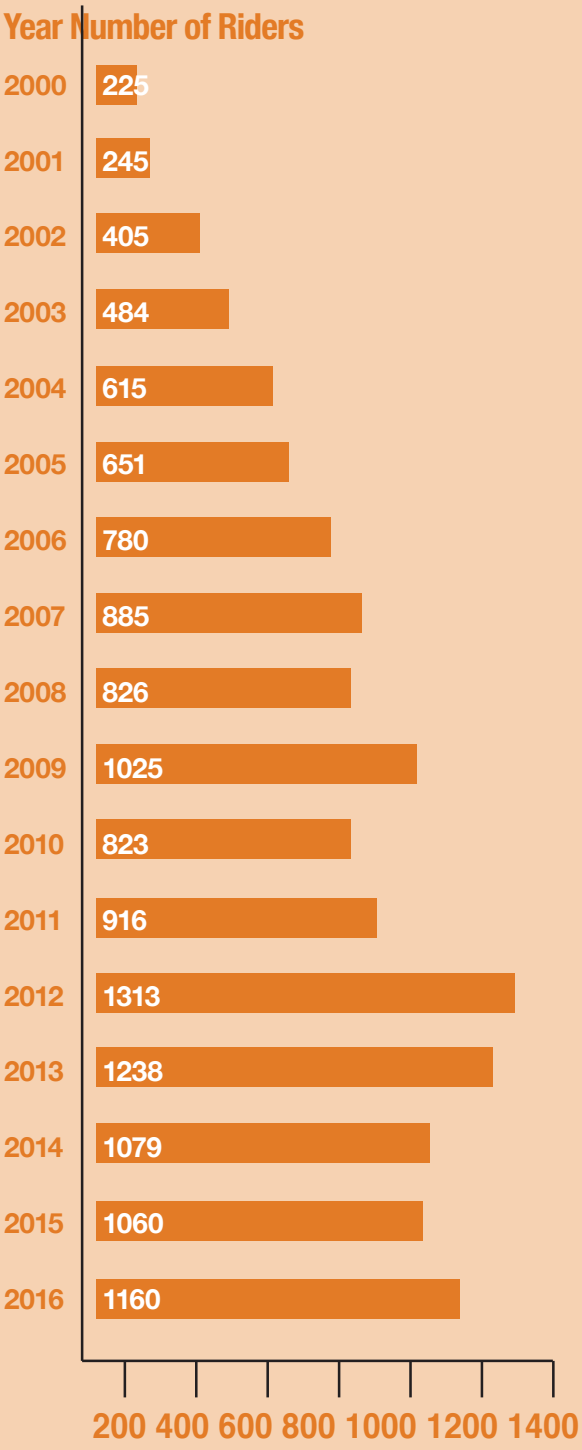
The ride is well organized, and the SAGs had healthy selections. Volunteers were helpful with street crossings. I love the sanitation stations outside the porta potties

—Judy Gay, Kalamazoo, Mich. (1st year, 33 miles)

This ride is my warm up for the RAIN Ride [Ride Across Indiana]. The starting point is more convenient, compared to earlier years. It's an enjoyable ride.

—Daniel Diener, Goshen, Ind. (10th year, 83 miles)

PUMPKINVINE RIDE STATISTICS



BIKE RIDE PHOTOS AVAILABLE

YOU CAN VIEW AND ORDER PHOTOS OF THE 2016 PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

https://2016PVbikeride.shutterfly.com or
www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_HTML/POST_PBR.HTML.

I love biking and want to support the trail. We come early and stay a couple of nights in a motel. I enjoy the mix of Amish and countryside. The trail is beautiful and the directions are good.

—Michael O'Laughlin, Indianapolis, Ind. (10th time, 53 miles)
(O'Laughlin is the former Bicycle Coordinator for the State of Indiana)

We enjoyed the horses and the shade of the trail coming back to the start. We appreciate the support vehicles and the way people look out for each other. The flea market is a great place for the Shipshewana SAG.

—Larry & Ruth Carlson, Middlebury, Ind.
(1st ride, 50 miles)

People were so friendly along the route. The Amish SAG was delightful.

—Sher King, Goshen, Ind. (1st ride, 28 miles)

I enjoyed the varied landscape–farms and woods. I'd ridden the trail before and wanted to see the road. I thought the drivers were respectful. There was not an inordinate amount of traffic.

—Judy VanderWeg, Kalamazoo, Mich. (1st year, 33 miles)

Mark your calendars now!

June 17, 2017

18th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

BIKE RIDE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you!

Bike Ride Committee
Tim Drescher, Director
Dana Bontrager
Myron Bontrager
Bob Carrico
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Don Graves
Phil Mason
Debi Riegsecker
Renee Springer
Matt Thomas

Food Coordinators and Sorting Detail
Renee Springer

Thursday Grape and Orange Cleaning
Tim Croyle
Tim Drescher
Dana Bontrager
Myron Bontrager
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Claire Gisel
Dave Shenk
Renee Springer

Friday Food & Supply Deliveries
Janice Carrico
Jen Drescher
Tim Drescher
Georgia Gingerich
Mark Gingerich
Claire Gisel
Phil Mason
Dave Shenk
Renee Springer

Goshen Location Supervisor
Bob Carrico

Goshen Registration
Cossette Torrance
Janice Carrico
Jen Drescher
Grant Miller
Merv Miller
Tom Parrish
Kathye Parrish
Miriam Stauffer
Robert Wheeler

Parking
Jay Steiner, Lead
Dwight Grieser
Cliff Hochstetler
Loren Stauffer

Goshen Direction Assistants
Carl Dintaman
Darlene Dintaman

Goshen Mechanic
Danny Jones

Shipshewana Location Supervisor
Chuck Thompson

Shipshewana SAG
Jeanie Martin, Lead
Greg Martin, Lead
Lois Bare
Lynn Diener
Glen Gilbert
Mary Gilbert
Phyllis Hostetler
Judy Preheim
Carl Rutt
Lovina Rutt
Roger Yoder

Shipshewana Direction Assistants
Tyler Torrance
Gordon Hostetler

Middlebury Location Supervisor
Larry Neff

Middlebury SAG
Jane Short, lead
Tim Short, lead
Lois Hartzler
Ann Kauffman
Les Keener
Judy Keener
Judy Kolb
Karen Miller
Phyllis Miller
David Rouch
Linda Rouch
Barb Shembab
Chuck Spencer
Judy Spencer
Byron Yoder
Becky Yoder

Middlebury Direction Assistants
Bob Hatch
Bill Miller

Emma SAG
Jane Bontrager, lead
Sally Fuller
Jack Fuller
Fran Miller
Jolene Lehman

Emma Direction Assistants
Larry Miller

Howe SAG
Gary Chapman, Lead
Elma Chapman
Becky Lee
Debi Riegsecker
Ruth Schrock
Tom Schrock

Truck Driver (food & equipment)
Tim Drescher
Phil Mason

Merchandise Sales
Chet Peachey
Ruthann Peachey

Friday Dinner Ride
John Yoder, Lead
Cal Graber
Jean Mann Graber
Roy Hartzler
Chet Peachey
Ruthann Peachey
June Yoder

Roving SAGs
Ryan Hochstetler
Wilmer Hollinger
Kerm Garber
Paul Reimer

Civilian Patrol
Cal Graber
Roy Hartzler
Lee Hochstetler
Bill Kercher
Julia King
Stuart Meade
Steve Pletcher
Joe Riegsecker
Francis Shembab
Curt Wenger

Volunteer Coordinator
Debi Riegsecker

Maps
Tim Drescher
Don Graves
Matt Thomas

Road Markings
Tim Drescher
Don Graves
Matt Thomas

Treasurer
Cory Wilson

Online Registration
Tim Drescher

Ride Website/Social Media Ads
Tim Drescher

Photographers
Brandon Beachy
Danny Graber
Jim Loomis
Kay Rhodes
John Yoder

Paper Supplies
Renee Springer

Tents
Bob Carrico
Fran Carrico
Tom Enright
Devon Hoffman
Chuck Thompson

Signs
Bob Carrico
Tim Drescher
Chuck Thompson

Ice Cream and Pie
Marie Clemens
Donald Clemens
Jen Drescher
Sheryl Graves
Ed Herr
Delia Herr
Miriam Schrock
Orie Schrock
Tom Stump
Linda Stump

NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS: If you will not be able to volunteer for the 2017 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride, please drop your volunteer T-shirt off at Family Bicycle Center, 3410 S. Main St., Elkhart, Lincoln Ave. Cycling and Fitness, 430 Lincoln Ave., Goshen or in the box on the front porch at 1404 Pembroke Circle Apt 4, Goshen.

Debi Riegsecker elected to Friends of the Pumpkinvine board

At its July meeting, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine elected Debi Riegsecker as a board member. Riegsecker grew up on a dairy farm near Middlebury and attended Middlebury schools. She attended Goshen College and graduated from IU-Bloomington with a double major in Speech Communications and Telecommunications in 1981. For the next 31 years she was a corporate travel agent in Elkhart County. The past year, she has been a barista at the Starbucks in Martins on College Avenue.

Although she learned to ride bicycle on local dirt roads as a child, she didn't begin to ride "seriously" until she and her husband bought a tandem in 1999. They now have over 25,000 miles on the tandem.

"In the past two years, I have added more than 10,000 miles on my single bike - most of them on the Pumpkinvine," she said. "The Pumpkinvine is my slice of heaven here on earth. I love the trail—the safety, the shade, the peace and quiet."

Asked what she can contribute to the board, Riegsecker mentioned energy and enthusiasm, "and after years of working with local businesses, I am comfortable playing a role in fund raising."

"She did an outstanding job as volunteer coordinator the Pumpkinvine Bike ride this year, and we welcome the skills, connections and passion she brings to the board," said John Yoder, board president.

Mike Bontreger leaves Friends' board after 23 years

Longtime Friends of the Pumpkinvine board member, Mike Bontreger, has resigned. Bontreger joined the Friends' board in 1993 at a time when the trail was still quite controversial.

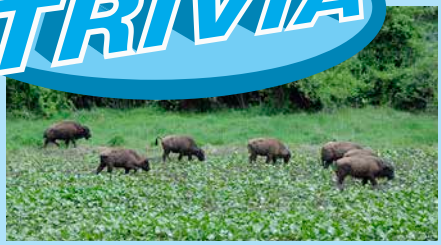
"Mike used his business experience and knowledge of the community to help us make important decisions about the direction of the Friends in those critical years," said John Yoder, Friends president.

Bontreger felt the time to leave the board was right because of his growing business. "It gives me much pleasure to look back and see how the trail went from a vision to the nicest trail in Indiana," he said. "I feel privileged to have played a small part in it. Right now my obligations with the business just keep growing."

In recent years, he kept us grounded, Yoder said. "I will never forget the board meeting where I enthusiastically presented the idea of getting supporters to enroll with Amazon.com's charitable giving program (Amazon Smile) that raised funds for non-profit organizations. Once supporters designated the Friends of the Pumpkinvine as their preferred charity, the Friends would receive a percent of every sale at Amazon.com. Mike pointed out that in order for us to receive $5 from Amazon in this program supporters would have to buy $5,000 at Amazon Smile. So much for my great idea of raising lots of money that way. He had done the math and I hadn't."

Bontreger plans to continue to be involved as a trail supporter. "I certainly intend to continue to help the trail financially as I am able and intend to contribute from my estate as well," he said. "I also look forward to being in the ride this year."

PUMPKINVINE TRIVIA



ANSWER KEY

1. *b*. Buffalo
2. *d*. The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail crosses the Little Elkhart River in Middlebury. The bridge is approximately 158 feet long.
3. *c*. $5,000

Recent Events

A variety of wildflowers planted several years ago along the Pumpkinvine have matured and now add color to the open sections of the trail.

The Pumpkinvine attracts riders from all over the area, including those who arrive by buggy. This buggy with a bicycle trailer attached was spotted in the parking lot at CR 35 in June

One hundred riders enjoyed a liesurely 10-mile ride to the Amish-cooked thresher's dinner on Friday night before the Saturday Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

One of the activities on Opening Day forTtrails, April 16, was a bird and tree identification walk led byMelissa Kinsey and Goshen City Forester, Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley.

Middlebury Parks installed eight bike racks along the Pumpkinvine at Krider Garden.

Participants in the Opening Day 3.5 -mile fitness walk were Nicole Di Bella, Deborah Johnston, Vivian Schmucker, Monica Leatherman, and Julia Gautsche.

Friends of the Pumpkinvine FLASHBACK

>> Items from past newsletters <<

Friends of the Pumpkinvine board members and former board members take part in the ribbon cutting opening the six miles of trail between Middlebury and Shipshewana: Bob Carrico, Larry Neff, Myron Yoder, Jim Smith, John Yoder, Norm Kauffmann, Chet Peachey, Mike Bontreger

Five years ago—Summer 2011

The ribbon cutting for the Middlebury-to-Shipshewana section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail was held Sept 20 at County Road 900 in LaGrange County. The trail has a small gap from York Street and State Road 13 to east of the DQ in Middlebury that will be finished in 2012 or 2013.

Elkhart County Parks received $150,000 Recreational Trails Program grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between County Road 35 and County Road 37.

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine won its legal case on a disputed section of trail between County Road 35 and County Road 37. In a unanimous decision, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled that the Friends were the owners of the parcel in question. This ruling permits the Friends of the Pumpkinvine to donate the land to Elkhart County Parks to finish the trail in this section.

10 years ago—Summer 2006

Cathy Miller of Middlebury was elected to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board of directors.

The eighth annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride had 780 participants, an increase of 129 from the 2005 ride. It was also an increase in riders for the seven straight year. Riders came from nine states.

15 years ago—Summer 2001

Rich Fay, superintendent of Goshen Park and Recreation Department, left Goshen for a job in Oregon. Fay was a strong supporter of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and was responsible for managing the opening of the first 1.75 miles of trail between State Road 4 and County Road 28 in Goshen in 2000.

20 years ago—Summer 1996

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine received a $10,000 grant from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service to create an inviting trail entrance north of State Road 4 and Abshire Park.

Larry Neff, superintendent of Elkhart County Parks, and Allan Kauffman, a member of the Goshen City Council, were elected to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board of directors.

On Aug. 17, 1996, the Friends' volunteers cleared scrub trees that had grown up on the Pumpkinvine corridor north of State Road 4. They then planted a row of trees on the east side of the trail and created a trail head—all a result of the grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

Kroger shoppers can support the Friends of the Pumpkinvine by using their Plus card

Kroger shoppers who also are supporters of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine now have a way to contribute to the Friends simply by using their Plus card when they shop. All that is required is for Kroger shoppers to pick the Friends of the Pumpkinvine from a list of eligible organizations on the Kroger website. Instructions for how to sign up are at pumpkinvine.org/html/kroger_rewards.html.

Friends of the
Pumpkinvine™
Nature Trail

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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::

☐ 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:

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Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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