

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Who We Are

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail are a group of local citizens who support, by education and fund-raising, the city and county park departments in their effort to create a linear park on the former Penn Central right-of-way.

Board of Directors

John D. Yoder	Larry Beachy	Karen Ferguson
Norm Kauffmann	Galen Kauffmann	Lowell Miller
Joe Lehman	Sharol Raber	Quinn Holdeman, Jr.
Chet Peachey	Linda Clark	Rosealene Long
Clarence Yoder		

Welcome, New Members!

Welcome to the following new members or renewing members:

Chet and Ruthann Peachey
 Tobi Van Dyck
 Bruce A. Carlson
 Galen and Cynthia Kauffmann
 Thomas E. Marshall
 Charlene and Larry Conn
 Robert Ranta
 Stephen and Shiela Malone
 Dan Seltentright
 Robert Fancil
 Rich Hackel and Family
 Jim Stickel
 Middlebury Garden Club
 Sue Campos
 John Frybort

Friends at Local Events

In April and May as residents of Elkhart County headed outdoors, Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail were there to meet them. We had information booths or speakers at the following events:

- April 10 Indiana Trailriders Conference Indianapolis
- April 18 Concord Mall Bike Expo
- April 25 Lincoln Avenue Schwinn, Goshen, Open House with live remote from WFRN — a big thank you to Danny and his family for allowing us to participate
- May 2 ADEC bike-a-thon
- June 20 & 21 Family Services Spokin' 92

Yoder Available to Groups

Clarence Yoder is available to speak to your community group about the history of rails to trails and the Pumpkinvine. If you are interested, call him evenings at 533-2085. His slide presentation is suitable for groups of all ages and interests — outdoors, history, education, community involvement, etc.

Pumpkinvine T Shirts Available

T shirts with the Pumpkinvine logo and a map of the trail are available at the membership meetings. They are available in 50-50 cotton/polyester blend in large and extra-large sizes. Colors are: royal, raspberry, yellow and gray. Cost is: members \$10, non members \$12.

Pumpkinvine to Sponsor Booth at Elkhart County Fair

Friends of the Pumpkinvine will be sponsoring a booth at the Elkhart County Fair starting July 26. We will be displaying pictures and maps of the trail, answering questions and selling T shirts. We need volunteers to staff the booth. You don't need to be a member to volunteer. You will get to meet a lot of people and get free admission to the fair. If you are interested in helping, call Karen Ferguson at 533-3763. You will be able to choose a time, and an information packet will be available at the booth for guidance. If at the last minute you would be unable to fill your time slot, call Sharol Raber at 848-4641. If you can't work, stop by and say hi. We will be at Booth 7, Building 14. Hope to see you there!

First Fund-raiser Great Success!

This year the Goshen Noon Kiwanis allowed us to participate in their Century Bicycle Ride on May 17. Interested persons could solicit pledges for their ride and donate the money to the Friends of the Pumpkinvine project. Our first fund-raiser was a big success — \$1102 was raised. Our sincerest appreciation to the Kiwanians for making this possible. And thanks to the following people for working on the project: Norm Kauffmann, Galen Kauffmann, Clarence Yoder, Mike Stickel, Thomas Artley, Sandra Clark, Chet Peachey, Joe Lehman, Trudy Herkenroder.

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Memberships

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Sustaining \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$550

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

The Elkhart County Park Foundation for the trail or non tax-deductible check to Friends of the Pumpkinvine for operating expenses.

Mail to:
 Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail
 P.O. Box 392
 Goshen, IN 46526-0392

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

New member Renewing member

"Option to Buy" Signed with Penn Central

In June, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine signed an option to buy the Pumpkinvine Line with Penn Central. For those of you who have been asking about the status of the Pumpkinvine project, Galen Kauffmann's remarks at the press conference are included below.

"I am pleased to announce that a six-month option to buy the Pumpkinvine Line has been signed with Penn Central for an amount not to exceed \$305,000. For those of you who do not know what an option is, it gives the purchaser of the option the exclusive right to purchase the property for the term of the option. During the term of the option, the grantor of the option cannot sell or offer to sell the property to any other party.

"The friends are using this event as the kick-off for a major fundraising and membership drive. As some of you are aware, the Friends were granted funds through the Hometown Indiana grant program. This money is earmarked for us but not yet funded. The grant was to the Elkhart County Park Department and the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department. It is for \$198,000 and calls for a like amount in matching funds or services from local sources, public or private."

"We are also currently exploring other grant programs that may be appropriate for our type of project. These are matching grants and we do need the community's support to supply the matching portion of the project.

"Many questions about ownership have been raised. The Friends have had a title search conducted on the corridor and that search has indicated that Penn Central owns 85-90% of the corridor outright. There are a handful of parcels with reversionary rights. It remains to be seen, however, what event needs to happen to trigger that reversion."

"The Friends have put together a presentation concerning the Pumpkinvine and other similar rails-to-trails conversions for civic clubs. We urge anyone who has an interest in the project and especially those who are opposed to attend one of these presentations to see what an asset this trail could be to our community. We also issue a standing invitation to the general public, the media and those who are opposed to visit the nearby Kal Haven Trail, which runs from Kalamazoo to South Haven in Michigan."

August is Membership Month

Memberships run from September 1 to August 31. Your membership expiration is printed on your mailing label. Please note: Any donation of any kind entitles you to become a member! If your membership is expired, please be a Friend and mail us a check to save another notice. (Be sure to let us know if your mailing label or renewal date contains any errors.) If you are not a member, we would love to hear from you also. These are some of the things your membership has made or will make possible:

- Newsletter to keep you members active and informed.
- Information brochures and programs

- Appraisal of the Pumpkinvine line to satisfy grant requirements

- Title searches to determine property ownership

- T shirt and bike-a-thon expenses

All of your contributions are used on a local level and there is no overhead — rent, utilities, staff members. All of your contribution benefits the members and the project.

Our petition drive is continuing. We need to show public officials and grant sources that the public supports this project. If you wish to circulate a petition at work or among friends and neighbors, please contact Linda Clark at 534-3479. Our heartfelt thanks to Wilbur Hollinger at Hollinger Bicycles for his support of the petition drive — the turnout there was great!

Upcoming Events

Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of the month (except as noted) at the Goshen Public Library. The public is welcome — please bring an interested friend.

Carl Fisher, Director, City of Portage Parks Department, will speak about the history and development of linear trails in Porter County. He is also a Middlebury native and former director of the Goshen Parks and Recreation Department. Thursday, August 6, 6:30 p.m. *Goshen Public Library*. (We will meet early because the library is still following summer hours.)

Richard Vonnegut, Indianapolis; vice president of Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, Inc. will speak about how Hoosier Rails to Trails can keep us informed about developments on a state level which affect legislation and funding of linear trails. Thursday, September 3, 7:00 p.m., Goshen Public Library.

Trip to Kal Haven Trail. This trail follows an abandoned railroad line from Kalamazoo to South Haven, Michigan. It is owned and operated by a private not-for-profit group. Their group will host our visit, so there will be lots of opportunity to learn how their group solved problems with trail opponents. Some of the former opposition are now the trail's biggest supporters. There will be provisions for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and when desired, camping or motels. Call Linda Clark, 534-3479, as early as possible, if you are interested. This event is open to the public. *Saturday, October 3*, time to be announced.

Merle Jacobs, retired biology research professor, Goshen College, will speak about wildlife along the Pumpkinvine and other linear parks in Elkhart County. He has been doing extensive field work and has a video presentation. Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m., Goshen Public Library.

Hoosier Rails to Trails will hold an annual meeting in northwestern Indiana on Saturday, October 24. Anyone wishing to attend and represent the Friends of the Pumpkinvine, please call Galen Kauffmann at 534-0101. This is a good chance to learn what other trail groups in the state of Indiana are doing and find ways that we can work together on common challenges.

Friends of

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P.O. Box 392
Goshen, IN 46526-0392



John and June Yoder
200 Westwood Rd.
GOSHEN, IN 46526

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