

# Pumpkinvine

Volume 13 No.2

August 2004



## Friends reach agreement with Yoders

After months of negotiating, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. reached an agreement with Joas and Lillian Yoder regarding the path of the trail beside their property on the east side of CR 43. The Friends swapped 33 feet on the south side of the Pumpkinvine corridor for 33 feet on the north side, which Yoders bought from their neighbor and gave to the Friends. The length of the land exchange is approximately 400 feet from CR 43 to the east.

“In essence, the agreement moves the trail 33 feet north for 400 feet,” said Jim Smith, Friends executive director. “This arrangement allows the Yoders to keep most of the garden that they had planted on the corridor. At the same time, it did not substantially damage the flow of the trail.”



*This area is where the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will run along the north side of the Yoder property.*



## Plans for Middlebury section on schedule

Construction on the .65 miles of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Middlebury will begin in September, if all goes according to plan.

“Everything is moving forward,” said Mark Salee, president of the Middlebury Park Board. “The plans have been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, and we have received and responded to some minor comments from the DNR. We anticipate requesting construction bids on the project in the later part of July and construction is to begin in September.”

The .65-mile section will connect the Wayne Street bike path to York Drive and include repair of the 158-foot bridge over the Little Elkhart River. Funds for the project (\$150,000) come from the Recreational Trails Program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, with the local 20-percent match coming from the value of the land that the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. donated to the town of Middlebury.

## Friends receive two grants

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. have received two grants to cover the anticipated fencing costs associated with development of the trail between Middlebury and the LaGrange County line. The Elkhart County Community Foundation grant to the Friends was \$5,000 grant and the CIBA Foundation grant was \$2,590.

Last fall when the Elkhart County commissioners voted to support the Elkhart County Park Board in its application for federal transportation enhancement funds for trail development, they stipulated that the Friends would need to pay for the local match for fencing for any adjacent landowner who requested it. That cost could be from \$4,000 to \$8,000. These grants will cover that local match.

## Board of Directors

Friends of the Pumpkinvine  
Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, President  
533-4943  
jdyoder@attglobal.net

Larry Neff, Vice President  
534-8223  
chlneff@juno.com

Merritt Lehman, Treasurer  
264-1444  
mdleh@juno.com

Robert Carrico, Secretary  
Trail Operations Manager  
266-1362  
rjcarrico@cs.com

Jim Smith  
Executive Director  
533-7862  
kneesrus@comcast.net

Bob Hatch  
262-1739  
RHatch4723@aol.com

Larry Hahn  
862-2588  
HahnsMule3@aol.com

Quinn Holdeman Jr.  
825-7258  
Kathieh1@juno.com

Galen Kauffmann  
534-0101  
gkauffmann@aol.com

Myron Yoder  
533-2305  
yodermd@juno.com

John McKee  
Liaison to Middlebury Park Board  
825-3900  
johnlyndamckee@aol.com

---

Danny Graber  
Bike Ride Chair  
266-4265  
danny.sg@get.net

---

Dee Birkey  
Newsletter Design  
dee@bydesigndirections.com  
www.bydesigndirections.com

## From the president



I recently spent a week in the Netherlands on a bike and boat vacation with my wife and eight friends. What struck me on this seven-day tour was the integration of cycling into the overall transportation system. We passed a triple-decker bicycle parking garage near the Amsterdam central train station that held thousands of bicycles. There were bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and bicycle racks everywhere we traveled—in the cities and in the country.

The contrast to our transportation system is dramatic. We are autocratic, with a few transportation crumbs given to public transportation and bicycles. The Dutch see value in providing people with more transportation options.

How did the Dutch do it? I think the simple answer is that they had the political will to make it happen. It's not magic; its vision and the willingness to keep motor vehicles in their place.

### A clarification

In my column in the April issue of *Pumpkinvine Trail Talk*, I introduced Jim Smith as Friends executive director and Bob Carrico as trail operations manager—two new staff positions. Some interpreted these appointments as paid positions.

We wish we had the resources to pay Jim and Bob, but that is not the case. They are both volunteers, like all members of the Friends' board.

### Local pride in the Pumpkinvine—two examples

The Pumpkinvine Bike ride continues to grow and with it the importance of this event for area tourism. When people from Michigan, Illinois and central Indiana come to our community, they spend money for gas, motels and food. Some shop areas stores, and some, having discovered the charm of the area, think about coming back to our area. The boast to our economy grows each year.

Local people are starting to see the economic benefits of the trail as well. For the first time, two churches set up food venues on the square in LaGrange on the day of the ride. They understand that riders get hungry, even between sag stops, and it's an opportunity to earn some money for their organization.

Recently Jim Smith received a call from a landowner who lives along the Pumpkinvine asking if it was alright to use the word "Pumpkinvine" in the name of their new equestrian stable. Already people see the economic benefits of locating beside the trail and identifying their business with it.

—John D. Yoder

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers, equestrians 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.

Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and Rails to Trails issues, or see back issues of our newsletter at: [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org)

Once again the ride was perfect! This was our third year to ride the Pumpkinvine, and it is by far my favorite ride of the year! The sags are wonderful—the snacks are JUST right! (I loved the ‘salty’ chips this year!) The routes are absolutely beautiful—the gardens, the colts, the Amish lifestyle—and the quaint northern towns of Middlebury/Shipshe and Lagrange. The volunteers are so friendly and helpful and enthusiastic. Thanks so much for your hard work. We’ll be back next year!

—Bruce and Mindy Lanckenau  
Claypool, Ind.

NUMBER OF RIDERS	
Year	Riders
2000	225
2001	245
2002	405
2003	484
2004	615

HOW FAR THEY RODE (2004)	
Route length	No. of Riders
Barn Loop (15-mile)	79
22 miles	169
42 miles	181
65 miles	106
102 miles	80

☺ PIES EATEN ☺	
2000	25 pumpkin
2001	10 pumpkin, 12 cherry, 14 apple
2002	12 pumpkin, 15 cherry, 15 apple
2003	25 apple, 25 cherry
2004	27 apple, 27 cherry, 5 pumpkin



Put this date on your calendar for next year:

## The 6th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

June 18, 2005

(The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of June)

## Thank you to those who came from far and near ...

By Danny Graber

The Fifth Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride set a record for the number of riders—615, up from 484 last year. Riders covered a total of 27,555 miles and stopped approximately 1,850 times to eat food and drink water and Gatorade.

The wind blessed some and frustrated a few others. Both groups made it home smiling. Aside from the little inconvenient breeze, the weather was perfect. The only really odd thing this year was the increased number of reported flat tires.

The roving SAG personnel helped many riders get back on track. One driver, Wilmer Hollinger, actually went to the hardware store and bought a bolt to repair a broken seat. Another driver, Max Laudeman, picked up two stranded bicyclists, situated the bicycles and their owners in his van only to discover that they were not any of our riders. But he took them home anyway, which was a goodly distance off our route. Being a Good Samaritan, of course, requires “going the extra mile.”

We strive hard to make this a great ride. Your feedback is essential. We want to know what we did wrong as well as what we did right. Various bicyclists sent us e-mail messages with compliments. Thank you for taking time out to express your appreciation.

We also heard suggestions for improvement. We log those into our planning notes for next year and incorporate them as we can. If you have additional feedback, contact us on our website [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org).

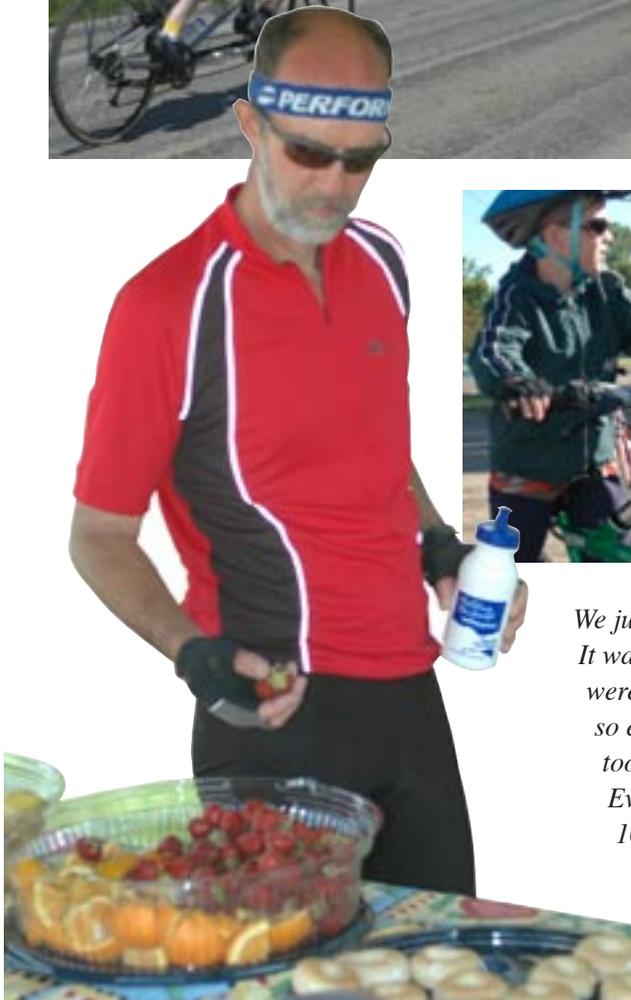
WHERE THEY CAME FROM (2004)	
Goshen Elkhart area and surrounding communities	234
South Bend/Mishawaka and surrounding communities	78
Fort Wayne and surrounding communities	38
South of Goshen, Warsaw to Indianapolis	73
West of South Bend to Illinois line	25
Southern and Central Michigan	93
Illinois (Chicago area)	66
Arizona, Ohio, and Wisconsin	8

*I had the opportunity to ride the Pumpkinvine ride last Saturday, and I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the ride. From the signup to the routes to the sag stops, it was a first-class ride. I would not hesitate to do this ride again. Thanks for all your excellent volunteers, organization, weather and a great Ride.*

—Joyce McNarney, South Bend, Ind.



# Photos from the 2004 Pumpkinvine Bi



*We just wanted to thank you again for a wonderful ride. It was so well organized, the multitude of volunteers were all so welcoming and well informed. The pumpkins so easy to see and interpret on the roads, well placed, too. Not to mention the great food, and friendly people. Even the weather cooperated. We thank you again for 103 miles of pure pleasure.*

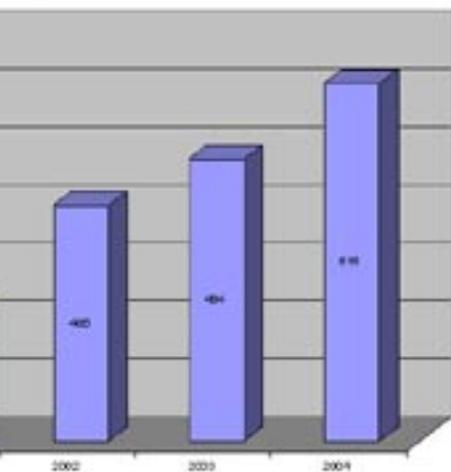
*—Chuck and Nancy Garber  
South Haven, Mich.*



Great ride/great day! A group of us from the Michiana Bicycle Association rode our first one this year after hearing wonderful things about the Pumpkinvine ride, and all of them were true. Really a first-rate job, from maps, to marking the routes, to easy and fast registration, to all the helpful and friendly volunteers and sag locations! I should make you aware of one problem, however. This is probably the only bike ride I've ever been on where I rode 42 miles and gained 5 pounds!! What outstanding sags!!!! We were all especially impressed with the volunteers putting the peanut butter & jelly on bagels, so we didn't have to handle the knife or spoon which is covered with gunk like on most rides (including ours!). And then the pie and ice cream at the end (groan). We twisted each other's arms and did our share. You can be sure we'll mark next year's date on our calendars early and already look forward to riding it again. Thanks for the special day!  
 —Scott Williamson. Eau Claire, Mich.



Pumpkinvine Rides





*Ron Carter (center) visits with Jim Smith and John Yoder after the annual meeting.*



*The annual meeting was held at Greencroft Senior Center.*

## Friends Annual Meeting

# Trails enhance the quality of life—Ron Carter

Nearly 190 supporters attended the annual meeting and dinner of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, April 27, 2004 at the Greencroft Senior Center in Goshen. Supporters came from Bremen, Bristol, Elkhart, Goshen, Huntertown, Lagrange, Middlebury, Nappanee, New Paris, Osceola, Shipshewana, South Bend and Wakarusa.

Ron Carter, president of the Carmel City Council, was the featured speaker. Carter first ran for the council in 1995 advocating the acquisition and development of the Monon Trail and parks in general. During Ron's tenure, Carmel's park land increased from 43 acres to nearly 600, and the Monon was acquired, developed and opened to rave reviews.

Under Carter's leadership, the council developed a vision for the features and amenities that would make Carmel an attractive place to live, while keeping the tax structure low. The Council believed that one of the amenities that would help the community was the Monon Trail.

To illustrate his point, he mentioned that Carmel was recently in competition with other Indiana cities as the site for a high-quality company. While other cities offered tax breaks and other incentives to attract the company, Carmel simply offered a community that would be attractive to the employees and families of the company—a higher quality of life with amenities like the Monon Trail. This strategy worked: the company chose to locate in Carmel.

Carter emphasized that linear parks such as the Monon and the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail do provide a place for safe exercise and an alternative means of transportation. He suggested, however, that perhaps their greatest benefit comes when such amenities are included in an overall strategic plan, supported by the community, which collectively serves as a magnet to draw people and industry to the area.

John Yoder, the Friend's president, reported on the progress made in 2003. In the segment between Middlebury and Shipshewana, one encroachment had been settled; two more were close to agreement. In addition, the Friends had worked with the town of Shipshewana and the Elkhart County Park Board to submit applications to INDOT for development funding. Such funding comes from federal transportation monies allocated to the states for transportation enhancement projects such as rails-to-trails projects. We expect to hear in the next few months if these applications were successful.

Inside Middlebury, the Friends donated 0.65 miles of the corridor to the town and assisted in seeking development funds from the Indiana DNR. Middlebury was awarded \$150,000 for development of this segment. Work continues on ideas for how the trail will cross SR 13.

Yoder also reviewed the status of the corridor between Middlebury and Goshen. The Friends are still waiting for the courts to issue their ruling on the legal status of this section—a ruling promised a year ago. That ruling will come from a settlement of a class-action lawsuit against Penn Central. Preliminary indications are that the settlement agreement will be very favorable to the Friends in this section.

The next  
**ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER**  
will be held at the  
Essenhaus Conference Center  
in Middlebury  
on  
Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

# 2004 Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride volunteers

## Abshire Parking

Gesa Gsapo  
Dwight Fish  
Don Hyde  
Alma Ousley  
John King

## Middlebury Parking

Gordon Hostetler  
Carl Metzler

## Abshire Registration

Kim Abshagen  
Alice Roth  
Janice Carrico  
Beth Miller  
Sherry Howland  
Dierra Lehman  
Francis Ringenberg

## Abshire Park Food Serving

Mike Rice  
Lu Rice



## Middlebury Registration

Rhonda Yoder  
Phyllis Hostetler  
Spring St Traffic  
Dawn Hatch



## Ride Mechanics

Stan Gingrich  
Jeremy Profitt  
Wilmer Hollinger  
Danny Jones  
Max Laudeman

## Middlebury SAG

Jim Smith  
Sherry Smith  
Darel Sommers  
Karen Sommers  
Tim Weldy  
Judy Weldy  
John Zitlaw  
Audre Zitlaw

## Shipshewana SAG

Roseleane Long  
Bill Long  
June Yoder  
Valorie Breedon

## Rogers Park SAG

Larry Neff  
Susie Neff  
Daniel Neff  
Mic Stouder  
Randy Stouder

## County Line SAG

Cynthia Kauffman  
Galen Kauffman  
Aaron Kauffman  
Janet Laudeman  
Kathryn Aschilman

## Ride Committee

Merritt Lehman  
Bob Carrico  
Danny Graber  
Bob Hatch

## CR 28 Traffic

Dale Stutzman

## SR 4 Traffic

Mike Bontreger

## Are you missing a T-shirt order?

We received two requests for T-shirts for our membership incentive offers with no name attached. If you requested a T-shirt but have not received it, contact Bob Hatch at (574) 262-1739.

## Maps

John Nafziger

## Brochure

Dee Birkey

## Musicians

Leah Neff  
Julia Smucker  
Caleb Schrock-Shenk  
Steve Greer

## Barn Host

Bob & Marilyn Hudson  
Andy Langdon  
Mary Hankins  
Gary Richards

## Photographers

David Fisher Fast  
John Yoder

All funds go toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No officers receive remuneration.

## Don't forget your membership dues!

If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, it's time to renew your membership in the **Friends**. Membership levels are:

Individual \$20     
  Family \$30     
  Sustaining \$50  
 Contributing \$100     
  Patron \$250     
  Benefactor \$500

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Friends members  
receive discounts  
at these five  
local bike shops.

Just show  
your membership  
card!

ELKHART  
**Bicycle  
& fitness**

**FRANK CASSELLA**

President

2707 Cassopolis Street  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 294-7243  
(800) 850-7403  
Fax (574) 295-4601  
www.elkhartbike.com

The Home for all Your  
Cycling Needs

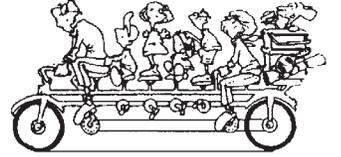
**HOUSE OF  
Bicycles**

**Rod McNeill**  
Owner

10-7 Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat  
10140 McKinley • Osceola, IN 46561

Ph. (574) 679-4992  
Fax (574) 679-4991

www.houseofbicycles.com



**Family Bicycle Center**

3410 S. Main St.  
Elkhart, IN 46517

**(574) 294-2865**

New Bikes by GT/Dyno & Giant

Quality Repairs



**LINCOLN  
AVENUE**

**CYCLING  
& FITNESS**

430 W. LINCOLN AVE. • GOSHEN, IN 46526

**Danny & Terri Jones  
and Staff**

1-800-215-2453

(574) 533-7425



**Hollinger Bicycles**

Inc.

**CYCLING EXPERTISE**

Raleigh • Fuji • GT • Giant  
Parts and Accessories

Chris Gaby  
(574) 534-2274  
cgaby@bnin.net

120 N. Main St.  
Goshen, IN 46526

fax: (574) 533-0004 www.hollingerbicycles.co



P.O. Box 392 • Goshen, IN 46527

Friends of the

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