Pumpkinvine Trail Talk
Volume I5 No. 2
August 2006

Governor Daniels backs trails

In a major boast for trails like the Pumpkinvine, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels has put the authority of his office behind the development of trails and greenways in Indiana.

Daniels hosted an Indiana Trails Plan Summit May 31 in Indianapolis at which he announced that the state would double funding for trails in the coming year from $10 to $20 million.

Daniels said that he saw "enormous potential and enormous interest in trails in Indiana." He indicated that he wouldn't be satisfied with a few token trails. "We have the potential to be a national leader" in trails, he said. Indiana is not good for skiing, but it is "perfect for riding bicycles," Daniels said. "The terrain is flat and scenic."

The governor linked access to trails to better health for individuals and for the economy of Indiana. Because Indiana is a more expensive state for health care, it's a problem when he tries to convince businesses to move to the state.

In order to attract businesses, Indiana "must be the most livable space it can be."

That's where trails come in. Trails enhance the quality of life, and an enhanced quality of life attracts people with ideas. "People with ideas can be anywhere," he said. "I want Indiana to be the best sandbox in the world."

Jim Smith, Friends executive director, with Gov. Mitch Daniels at the Plan Summit.

Thus trails will give us a competitive edge, he said. "When we achieve these [trails], we will have a healthier state," physically and economically.

Daniels said the state government was fully committed to making Indiana a showplace for trails. Acknowledging that $20 million wasn't nearly enough to do the job, he said his intention was "to jump start this thing."

Governor Mitch Daniels addressed the Indiana Trails Plan Summit, May 31.

"I love planners. I love doers. It's time to do," he said.

The planning summit is the second major step the governor has take to promote trails. Earlier in the year he appointed Ray Irvin, former head of Indy Greenways, as director of Greenways & Bikeways for the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Three members of the Friends board attended the meeting: Larry Neff, Jim Smith and John Yoder.

"I was impressed with the fact that the governor didn't really bother to debate the pros and cons of trails and greenways," said Yoder. "He assumed they were good for communities and for Indiana. That's a huge change in perspective from when we started working on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail."

Other summit speakers were Kyle Hupfer, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Thomas Sharp, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation. Both endorsed the state's draft plan for trails, greenways and bikeways called "Hoosiers on the Move." The plan proposes access to a trail within 15 minutes or 7.5 miles for all Indiana residents.

Board of Directors

Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, President
533-4943
Jdyoder2@verizon.net

Larry Neff, Vice President
534-8223
clneff@bnin.net

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

Robert Carrico, Secretary
Trail Operations Manager
266-1362
rjcarrico1@verizon.net

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

Mike Bontreger
825-3051
logisticsbb@aol.com

Bob Hatch
262-1739
RHatch4723A@hotmail.com

Quinn Holdeman, Jr.
825-7258
qkholdeman@maplenet.net

Cathy Miller
825-1939
cmiller@lakeland.k12.in.us

Frances Ringenberg
825-2676
mfvr@juno.com

Rhonda Yoder
266-4265
Rhonda_yoder@hotmail.com

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

Danny Graber
Bike Ride Chair
266-4265
dannysg@verizon.net

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

From the president

The Monon turns 10

"The Monon Turns 10" was the headline on the front page of the *Indianapolis Star* on June 25, 2006. In three pages of articles, the *Star* celebrates the 15.7-mile Monon Trails's recreational and economic benefits.

One article traced the development of the Monon from "an abandoned strip of weeds" to "something Hoosiers show off to the out-of-town guests." Former Indy Greenway head, Ray Irvin, was fond of pointing out that the greenway attracts 1.2 million visits a year—more than attend the games of the Indianapolis Colts, Pacers and Indians each year.

The Monon has always attracted bikers and joggers, but more recently has attracted high-end condos from savvy developers. The article titled, "Everyone wants to be on the Monon," by Bill Ruthhart notes the change in attitude about living adjacent to the trail from when it was proposed to today. In the beginning, adjacent landowners feared a trail would reduce their property values; today "land values are soaring along the trail's most popular span, from Broad Ripple to Carmel." In that eight-mile area, 17 residential projects are built or are being planned near the Monon—approximately 2,000 new living units.

Retail businesses have also found the Monon a great location. In Broad Ripple, there are more than 35 restaurants and bars within a block of the trail. The trail boasts four bike shops where you can purchase or rent a bike.

The creativity of people along the trail has added variety and beauty to the greenway experience. Artists have painted two large murals around 16th Street near the south end of the trail. Pat Mack, a sculptor who lives along the trail near 52nd Street, has constructed a 17-foot Angel of Hope in his yard. Gary Cantrell, who lives at 104th Street has constructed a drinking fountain that looks like a fire hydrant.

It's great to see the Monon receive this kind of recognition, but what's its relevance for those of us who support the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail? Let me mention several connections.

- It's a model greenway: Every time I ride on the Monon it inspires me to think about the possibilities for the Pumpkinvine. I see couples riding together, seniors enjoying nature and young families out for a walk. It has turned an eyesore into public space where people interact with each other socially. Its success is a powerful argument for us to persevere in developing the Pumpkinvine for similar uses.
- Attitudes change: Adjacent landowners initially opposed the Monon. Now people are clamoring to live beside the Monon. Recently I heard of residents in Shipshewana who are impatient for the trail to reach them. In 2002, the developer of the Amber Meadows subdivision along the Pumpkinvine placed an ad in *The Truth* that recommended his subdivision along the Pumpkinvine as "the perfect place to live." I take it that he wasn't anticipating a decrease in property values.

If you aren't familiar with the Monon Trail in Indianapolis and Carmel, you should definitely visit it and be inspired. To find a map, go to www.indygreenways.org/monon/monon.htm. You can take a three-minute tour of the Monon at www.indystart.com/monon.

– 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**

Put this date on your calendar for next year:

THE 8TH ANNUAL

PUMPKINVINE BIKE RIDE

JUNE 16, 2007

(The third Saturday of June)

An unusal impression of the ride

By Danny Graber, Bike Ride chair

In the previous six years at the end of the ride, I focused on the things that went wrong and noted them for improvement next year. On this year's ride, something entirely different happened. The day was going to be so hot; I feared it would be too much for the riders and volunteers. Weariness and fatigue is all I could imagine as the heat, sun and lack of shade or breeze would inflict its toll.

But just before noon, as the earliest riders started to return, I began to notice not wobbly legs nor dispirited hearts, but cheery dispositions and enthusiasm for what they had just accomplished. My thoughts switched to, "Okay then, surely at the end of the day—when the longer-distance riders return things will change to my presupposed notion of dreary dispositions and weakened spirits."

My predictions couldn't have been further from the truth. It is true, we had a few more instances of roadside assistance this year and ferried in a few more bikers, but nothing out of the ordinary given the circumstances. Bikers and volunteers alike rose to the occasion, undaunted by the oven-like temperatures leaching away energy at every step and turn of the crank.

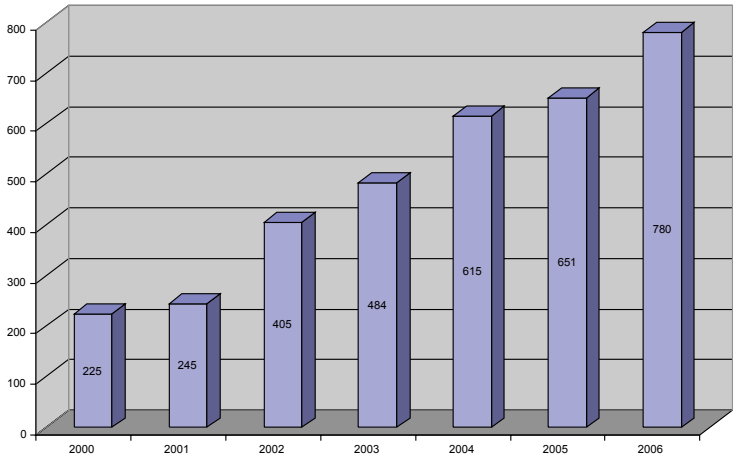
So, as tradition would have it at the end of the day, I focused on what was wrong. I realized it was just me. The resiliency, strength, and dispositions of bikers and volunteers should really be left to themselves, while I focus on keeping myself in line.

So next year I will make sure the food and ice-cold water and Gatorade are in place and leave the weather to itself and to you—the rider and volunteer—I'll offer kudos for spirit and resolve beyond my slightly misguided expectations.

PIE CHART

	PUMPKIN	APPLE	CHERRY	TOTAL
2000	25	-	-	25
2001	12	12	14	38
2002	12	15	15	42
2003	-	25	25	50
2004	5	27	27	59
2005	8	28	29	65
2006	12	26	33	71

Pumpkinvine ride statistics



WHERE DID THEY COME FROM

AREA	NO. OF RIDERS
Goshen /Elkhart/Middlebury/Bristol/Millersburg/ Shipshewana/Lagrange/Nappanee	285
Warsaw/Indianapolis	119
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek/Grand Rapids, Michigan	108
Mishawaka/South Bend/Niles/Granger/Edwardsburg	100
Fort Wayne and region	70
West of South Bend to Illinois	40
Chicago and area	40
Ohio	10
Colorado	3
Arkansas	2
Arizona	1
Pennsylvania	1
Wisconsin	1

HOW FAR DID THEY RIDE?

MILEAGE	NO. OF RIDERS
15	130
22	136
42	226
65	173
102	115

All ages enjoyed the 2006 Pumpkinvine Ride

"I liked the scenery and the fact that people waved to me as I rode along. The food was great—cookies and bananas.
—Becky Rice, Bristol, rode for the first time (65-mile route).

"I liked the round barn and loved finding out more about Shipshewana."
—Lonni Kucik, W. Lafayette, Ind., was on her first ride.

"The food is awesome, and the presentation is great. The hand wipes in Middlebury were a nice touch." —Linda Gibson, Indianapolis

"I come back because I like the roads, the really good food and the good routes. —Rod Recla, Niles, Mich., was riding for the sixth time.

2006 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride volunteers

Abshire Afternoon Food
Cynthia Kauffman
Liese Kreiser
Miriam Stauffer

Abshire Mechanic
Danny Jones

Abshire Parking
Geza Csapo
Dwight Fish
Don Hyde
Alma Hyde-Ousley
Jeff James
Stacy James
June Yoder

Abshire Registration
Janice Carrico
Sherry Howland
Karen Lee
Karen Mackowiak
Carl Metzler
Chet Peachey
Ruth Ann Peachey

Abshire SAG
Dierra Lehman (lead)

Amish Farm SAG
Bob Judson
Marilyn Judson

Brochure design
Dee Birkey

Country Life SAG
Jean Kincaid

County Line SAG
Mary Cripe
Steve Cripe
Christy Richards
June Yoder
Rhonda Yoder (lead)

Food Delivery
Byron Yoder

Food Procurement
Tom Kreiser

Middlebury SAG
Dale Eash
Judy Eash
Darrel Sommers
Karen Sommers
Tim Weldy
Judy Weldy
John Zitlaw
Audrey Zitlaw
Jim Smith (lead)
Sherry Smith (lead)

Naturalist Amish Farms
Andy Landgon

Naturalist Shipshewana Wetlands
Krista Daniels

Ride Committee
Bob Carrico
Georgia Gingrich
Merritt Lehman
Danny Graber (chair)

Ride Preparation
Michelle Rhude

Road Patrol
Stan Gingerich
Wilmer Hollinger
Gary Richards
John Yoder

Rogers Park SAG
Daniel Neff
Larry Neff (lead)
Susie Neff (lead)
Mic Stouder
Randy Stouder

Round Barn
Mary Hankins

Shipshewana Parking
Mike Miller

Shipshewana Registration
Kathie Holdeman
Frances Ringenberg

Shipshewana SAG
Alan Ritchie
Georgia Gingerich
Bob Hatch
Roseleanne Long
Cathy Miller
Marlene Miller

Traffic SR 28
Elvie Bontreger

Traffic SR 4
Ed Weske

Photographers
David Fisher Fast
John McKee, Jr.
John Yoder

We would like to thank these local businesses who helped support the 6th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

Martin's Super Markets
RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
MMA Stewardship Solutions
zimmer
SUPREME CORPORATION DRIVEN TO GO THE EXTRA MILE

"I like the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The hills were hard. I learned to shift and also not to eat too much."
—Maggie Lenacher (11) was her first ride of this type

Annual meeting: Achievements and goals

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail held its annual meeting April 25 at the Farmstead Inn and Conference Center, Shipshewana. More than 290 people attended.

Norm Kauffmann, special projects manager for the Town of Shipshewana, shared master plans for the park and city that included development of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The trail will go into town from CR 850 W and including a spur to the new Visitor's Center and other businesses along SR 13. He used aerial views and photos to show the current condition of the corridor in LaGrange County.

John Yoder, Friends' president, listed achievements from the past year for the various phases of the project and emphasized that in each case the best is yet to come for the trail. Those achievements included:

- **Phase four, Elkhart Co. Line to Shipshewana:** The town of Shipshewana received $1 million to develop this section last year. It could be opened in 2007 or 2008.
- **Phase five, CR 28 (Goshen) to SR 20 (Middlebury):** The Friends negotiated five land agreements with adjacent landowners to settle the route of the trail. These exchanges that go around farm fields have the potential to add variety to trail.
- **Phase six, US 20 to Wayne St.:** The Friends purchased a gap in the corridor from Mary Heign. There's potential for three tunnels under US 20, CR 22 and CR 37.

Goals for 2006-07 include:

- Resolution of one law suit east of Middlebury
- Application for funding of phase 6, including one tunnel
- Application for funding of a section of phase 5, including two tunnels
- Finalizing agreements with five landowners
- Transfer land in phase 3 to Elkhart County Park Dept.
- Transfer land in phase 4 to the Town of Shipshewana

The 2007 annual meeting will be held on April 24 at the Greencroft Senior Center in Goshen.

Put this date on your calendar for next year:

THE FRIENDS
2007 ANNUAL MEETING
TUES., APRIL 24, 2007
Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen, Ind.

Cathy Miller appointed to Friends board

By Buddy Dyck

The board of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. has appointed Cathy Miller to the board. A former high-school teacher, Cathy has a B.A. and a M.A. in library science and is currently media specialist at Lakeland School, LaGrange, Ind. She and husband, Mike, reside in Middlebury, Ind.

As a board member of the Friends, Cathy hopes she can help make the 17-mile trail a reality in order to provide kids and grownups with the opportunity to reconnect with nature. She perceives the development of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as a genuine resource for Shipshewana, Middlebury and Goshen (and communities beyond), and her desire is that all users of the trail might enter into that invigorating setting where peace and beauty intertwine. Cathy anticipates the time when a fully developed trail will provide an option for cycling or walking, especially for those folks not disposed to travel on busy, narrow county roads.

In addition to serving as an outlet for children's health, Cathy also envisions the Pumpkinvine as an economic asset for this region, especially when community authorities begin advertising the trail as an exercise option for the many tourists that want to do more than shop antiques in northern Indiana. And she notes, "Property values increase where people have ready access to the walking and bicycling trails."

One priority as a board member of the Friends is to get kids moving and into nature. "Our children are overweight and many are out of touch with nature," she said. "The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail could be the incentive for schools to form bicycle clubs that would use a safe trail like the Pumpkinvine and thereby address both their obesity and inactivity. In addition, there are the Amish and an increasing number of Spanish immigrants—all are potential users of the Pumpkinvine. For all of these groups and tourists also, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail would provide a fun and safe option for family and cross-cultural activity. I want to do my part in making this happen."

You may become a member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. or renew your membership by completing the form below. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No officers receive remuneration.

By showing your membership card, you will be eligible for discounts on specified purchases at the following area bicycle shops: Elkhart Bicycle and Fitness, Elkhart; Family Bicycle, Elkhart; Hollinger Bicycle, Goshen; Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness, Goshen; and House of Bicycles, Osceola.

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

☐ Benefactor $500 ☐ Benefactor Bronze $1,000 ☐ Benefactor Silver $2,500 ☐ Benefactor Gold $5,000 ☐ 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 _____

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

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