Pumpkinvine Trail Talk
Volume 19 No. 2
July 2010

U.S. 20 tunnel makes steady progress

Work on the tunnel for Pumpkinvine Nature Trail under U.S. 20 has been on a fast track since it was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which targeted shovel-ready projects. The tunnel on the south side was completed in July.

In early August, workers were ready to start digging on the north side but were delayed because AT&T has procrastinated in moving their underground cables.

"Whether it will be done by Oct. 1 is anyone's guess at this point," said Larry Neff, acting director of Elkhart County Parks.

Meanwhile, work continues on the trail south of U.S. 20. The area between U.S. 20 and County Road 22 is waiting for the material under the north side of U.S. 20 to raise the trail to the level of County Road 22. The area between County Road 22 and Country Road 37 will be a parking lot, and it, along with the .3 miles west of County Road 37, are ready for paving.

Construction and funding of the trail west of Country Road 37 stopped half way to County Road 35 because of a landowner adjacent to the trail is claiming ownership of a small section of the corridor. That issue is scheduled for mediation Aug. 24.

Approach to U.S.20 tunnel, looking north, Aug. 6. 2010

When the tunnel is finished, it will likely be at least 18 months before it connects with the completed section of trail at Wayne Street in Middlebury, according to Mark Salee, Middlebury town manager.

Reflections of a ride (with a few ripples)

By Danny Graber, Bike Ride Chair

Rider passes one of the many trees felled by the storm that moved through Elkhart and LaGrange counties June 18. Winds were clocked at 60 mph.

The easiest thing to say about this year's ride is that we were blown away. Three things stand out: the trail and roads strewn with trees, riders who took it all in stride, and volunteers who pulled extra duty to alter plans and keep the ride going.

How damaged was the Pumpkinvine by the storm? John Buschert, a canoeist as well as a bicyclist, couldn't imagine things were all that bad, so on his return route to the high school, he decided to ride the Pumpkinvine. He reported that he had to "portage" his bicycle across fallen trees and debris 40 times in five-miles.

Our new Friday evening dinner ride was a great success as 55 bicyclists enjoyed a superbly prepared home-cooked meal. All made it there on bicycles, but when the unannounced, menacing storm hit, every bicycle and person had to be "portaged" back to the high school. Everyone made it back unscathed along with a story to tell.

Our new starting location at Goshen High School went well. The showers were well received, except they weren't working right. We enjoyed the extra space, but also felt we were missing the "commons" area where bicyclists gather to chat and swap tidbits about their ride experiences. We will find solutions to this situation in 2011.

All in all, I am humbled and honored by the great feedback we get about this ride. We work hard and plan diligently to make it the best we can. If all goes well, we will have seven miles of new trail to ride on and another Friday evening ride next year. And last but not least, we will look to improve the logistics of home base (a better "commons" area) and starting the ride without having to cross the railroad tracks. We keep plugging for that instance where the "sun warms your face and the wind cools your back."

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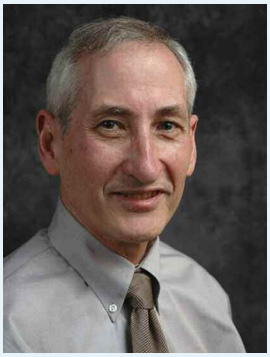
From the president

The best-laid plans – are a good thing



The key to a successful event like the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride is having capable people in leadership, people who sweat the details. We have been extremely fortunate to have had that kind of person in Danny Graber who has chaired the ride committee for all of its 11 years. And for 11 years, I've observed his attention to details about food, road markings, traffic guards, registration procedures, and picking roads for the ride, to mention a few areas he obsesses over most of the year.

But, in all of that planning, none of us ever anticipated a storm like the one that rolled through Elkhart and LaGrange counties between 7 and 9 p.m. on June 17. We always worry about rain on the day of the ride, but I don't remember discussing the impact of a storm the night before. We learned later that winds reached 60 mph and several mini tornadoes hit the city of Goshen.

That evening I was leading our ride to an Amish home for dinner when the storm hit. We had seen a line of thunderstorms to the west on our cell phones before we left Goshen, but we thought they wouldn't be that severe, or that they would arrive as we ate and clear off when we were ready to return home. Instead we had torrential rain, lightening and high wind that knocked down trees and power lines all over the area.

What happened next illustrates the value of good leadership. Danny called my cell phone from Goshen where the storm had already hit (we were east of town) and advised us not to ride back to town. So we sent 15 people back to Goshen in three cars to get vehicles to bring the rest of us to the high school.

At that point, we still didn't know the extent of the damage to the Pumpkinvine. Larry Neff and I were able to make a quick assessment of the damage by walking onto the trail from County Road 33. We quickly concluded that there was no way we could clear the trees that had fallen across the trail before 7 a.m. on the 18th when the ride was to start. We didn't have light to see, chain saws, the people or the time.

But since we used the trail as the beginning of all our bike-ride routes, what should we do? Should we cancel the ride? What were the alternative routes? Were the roads passable?

It wasn't long before Danny, with feedback from the ride planning committee, came up with a solution. He proposed rerouting the first five miles of all the rides onto State Road 4, County Road 127 and County Road 28 -- the route we had planned for people returning from Middlebury. All we needed to do was repaint the orange pumpkins on the road on those three miles, highlight the new route on 1,000 maps and regretfully cancel the trail-only ride.

One final item that needed attention was to have someone drive as much of the routes as possible to see if they were passable. Danny arranged for a number of us (including himself) to drive the routes Friday night and early Saturday to assess the damage. We found that the roads were rideable: problem solved; disaster (no ride) averted.

Thanks, Danny, for your quick thinking and leadership, making the 2010 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride possible and giving pleasure to so many riders.

— John D. Yoder

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, Indiana.

Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and Rails Trails issues, or see back issues of our newsletter at: **www.pumpkinvine.org**

Bud Wulliman joins Friends' board

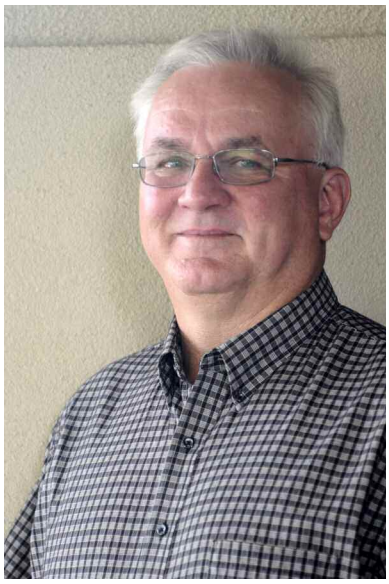
Bud Wulliman has spent the last 30 years as a high-school science teacher. Now he is hoping to help educate a broader audience about the potential of biking and the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail for enhancing transportation options in our community by serving on the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board.

"I've biked to work from Goshen to Elkhart, and the new bike path along Wilden Avenue (CR 45) made it much easier," he said. "My trip to Germany and Eastern Europe illustrated what the potential of biking is in the U.S."

Wulliman, who has a B.A. from Goshen College and a M.A.T. from Indiana University, was a biology and ecology teacher in the Elkhart school system. Two years ago he retired from that full-time job and worked part-time as an Instructional Assistant at Merit School in the Goshen Community School system. This fall he will be teaching full time at Merit.

For relaxation he enjoys gardening, yard work, reading mystery and suspense novels, and keeping up with national and international news. He also enjoys biking whenever he can. "I love the quiet and the physical challenge of biking," he said. "You get to see so much more as you bike."

Wulliman has taken over the job of membership chair on the Friends' board.



Second Maple City Walk will showcase Pumpkinvine fall colors

The second Maple City Walk will be held October 16, 2010. Again this year, the route will feature the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as the core of its 13.1-mile course, which is equivalent to a half-marathon.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. outside the Mill Race Farmers Market, 212 W. Washington Street and walk the walk starts at 8 a.m. Parking is available in the city lots on 3rd street. Cost is $15 for preregistration and $20 the day of the walk. Register on-line at http://www.cityonthego.org/maple_city_walk_2010.

"Most of the Pumpkinvine is tree lined," said Julia Gautsche, chair of the planning committee. "We moved the date of the walk back two weeks this year so that walkers can enjoy the fall colors. It can be spectacular."

Every participant who completes the walk will receive a Maple City Walk medal and be entered into a drawing for a pair of walking shoes.

For more information and a map of the course:

- Visit the Maple City Walk's web site: http://cityonthego.org
- E-mail ljgautsche@hotmail.com
- Call Julia Gautsche: 574-596-1632.

Sponsors of the event are: Cripe Septic Cleaning Service, Inc., Downtown Goshen, Inc., Elkhart County Parks, Friends of the Pumpkinvine, Goshen City Park and Recreation Department, Hawkins Water Tech, Kercher's Sunrise Orchards, Inc., Maple City Market, Spacious Heart Yoga, The Wellness Studio, Woldruff's Footwear & Apparel.

Put this date on your calendar

The 12th annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride June 18, 2011

(The third Saturday in June)

Bike ride photos on the web

You can view bike-ride photos at the following link:
http://2010pvride.shutterfly.com

There is also a link on the bike ride home page:
http://www.pumpkinvine.org/html/annual_bike_ride.html

Photos from the Friday evening dinner ride are at:
http://2010pvdinnerride.shutterfly.com

The storm added another adventure. The routes, even the detours, are to be commended. Even though the roads were a mess, they were all passable, so that's a real commendation, too. It's a beautiful route; we come almost every year. We like this starting location, too, with the showers, restrooms and a place to come in and eat. The SAG people were wonderful.

– Bill and Judy Lee, Walkerton, Ind.

The new route that broke up the long ride on 200S into the wind fixed the only complaint I had with the ride. I complained about it, and you fixed it. You listened.

– Hans Thorgersen, Goshen, Ind.

The scenery is amazing; it's just so pretty. And the roads were very nice, too. We like the animals. We stop and pet the animals along the way. Getting away from the city and seeing horses: that's pretty much what we do. You have your planned SAG stops, and we have ours.

– Leslie Davis and Karen Wymkoop, Fort Wayne, Ind.

I really like the country. The Amish really keep their places well kept.

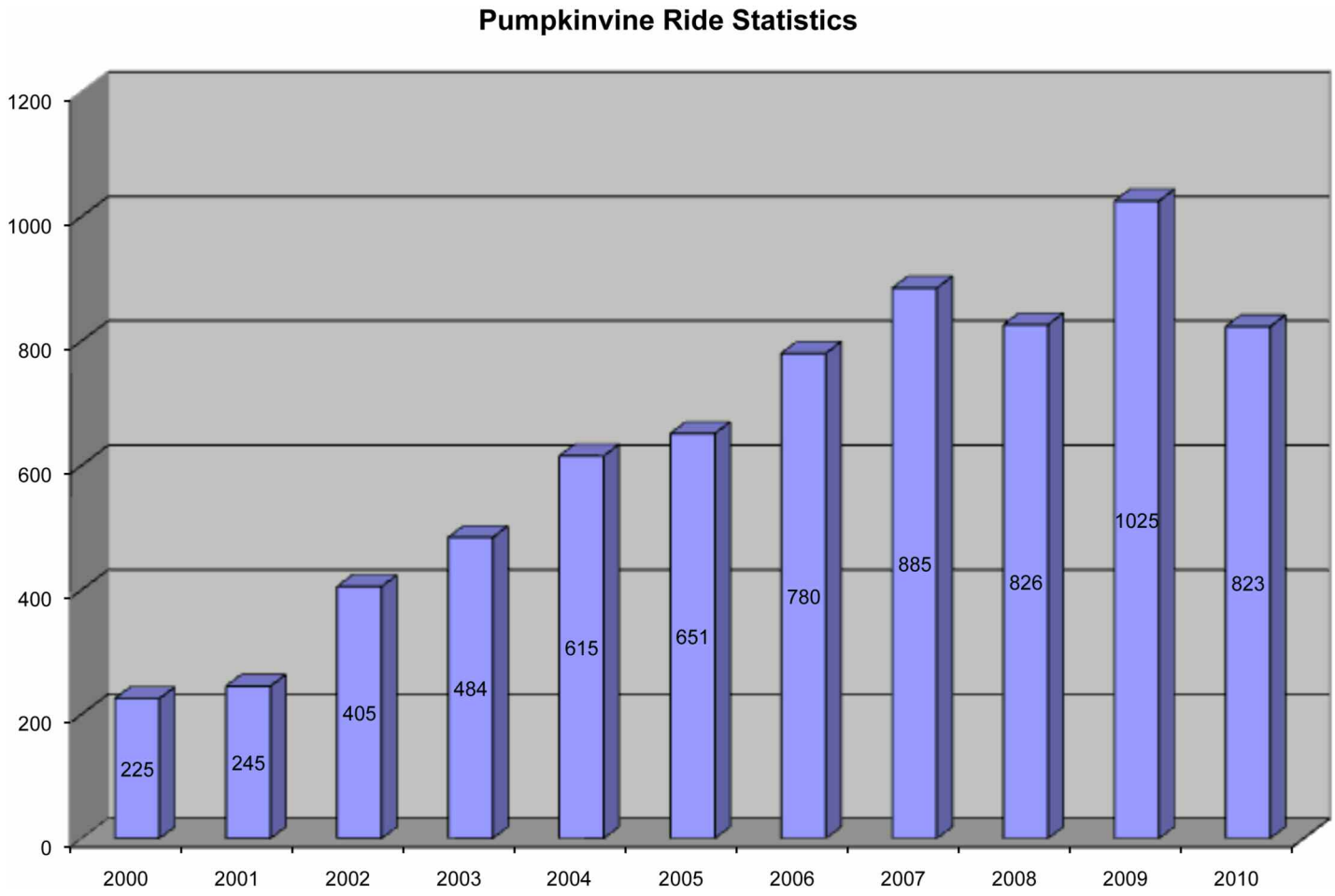
– Duane Wyse, Wauseon, Ohio

Where did they come from – 2010

Area	No. of riders
Goshen/Elkhart/Middlebury/Bristol/ Millersburg/Bremen/Shipshewana/ Lagrange/Nappanee/Osceola/New Paris North Webster/Wakarusa/Syracuse	313
Warsaw south to Indianapolis	106
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek/Grand Rapids	112
Mishawaka/South Bend/Walkerton New Carlisle/Niles/Granger/Edwardsburg	105
Fort Wayne and region	106
Chicago and area	30
West of South Bend to Illinois	24
Arizona	1
Florida	2
Iowa	2
Kentucky	1
Minnesota	5
Missouri	1
Ohio	9
Texas	1
Virginia	1
Wisconsin	4

2010 How far did they ride?	
Distance	No. of riders
12.5*	66
30	232
48	227
69	154
102	144
Total	823

**Since this ride distance was cancelled due to the storm and closing of the trail, we are not certain what distance these people chose to ride. This is what showed on their registration form.*



Annual Pumpkinvine Ride Memories

By B. Harry Dyck

Annual bicycle club rides have been a magnet for me ever since I took up bicycling 20 or so years ago. But the one ride that has had the most attraction and in which I have participated as a rider for no less than 11 years has been the annual Pumpkinvine Ride. Having kept my fanny flags since my first ride in 2000 and added a few ride-related facts to each, I find that I have cycled well over 700 miles in total, endured 90 plus degree temperatures, 25 mph headwinds, thunder and lightning, and the pleasure of knowing hundreds of other cyclers have done and experienced some of the same.

Not the least of the memories is the gradual and continuous rise and fall of the terrain. Ride planners have done a fine job of mapping, not only distance, but also found scenic routes on both the shorter and longer options such as few other event rides provide. I remember the first time I cycled the extra loop from Middlebury to Bonneyville Park: I really began to wonder if I were still in Elkhart County! What a beautiful series of ups and downs, sweeping curves, cool wooded canopies overhead, and open spaces of ripening grain in so short a distance.

Ours being Amish Country, it is no surprise that many riders reflect on the encounter with these good rural folk. Many will remember adolescents anticipating their marketing fortunes as they offer homemade lemonade and cookies or some such refreshment to whoever has need or merely stops for the pleasure of patronizing these little entrepreneurs. And then of course there are those like me who wave – in too big a hurry to stop for a morsel – only to rue the missed opportunity to replenish both soul and body at a SAG with a distinctly rural flavor. I should have when I could have.

SAGs are, of course, the resource center of Pumpkinvine Rides, and I would dare to assert that the Pumpkinvine SAGs takes second place to none. I have lasting memories from as far back as 2002 when I first noticed that these SAGS were a cut above in gracious, helpful staffing, setting up tables of a variety of good fruits, vegetables, sandwiches -- proactive to 'get the bread out'-- to lather it with peanut butter and or jam, doing whatever it takes to make riders feel these staffers are for real. And of special importance to me, and all of us who are conscientious about group hygiene, providing wet wipes and other such amenities. I have oft voiced my conviction

Buddy Dyck on the 2010 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

that "Nobody does it better than the people staffing our Pumpkinvine Bike Ride SAG stations."

I remember two embarrassing occasions when due to my inattention to route directives I came up short in my intentions to total at least 100 miles: once when I failed to heed the directive on the home stretch to take a right off SR 4 at CR 35(?); and another time after a sag in Middlebury when I was too focused on catching up with a group of riders ahead to heed the arrow directing 100 miler riders to take a left for a loop in the vicinity of Bonneyville Park (a most beautiful portion of the 100 mile total). Ah yes; the arrows and the numbers were clear and numerous, but if one cycles with the mind in neutral or at any rate not focused, all the directives in the world won't suffice.

And I remember the gesture of good will by the Amish man on our most recent ride who upon overtaking me as I struggled into an energy-sapping headwind, leaned out of his buggy's door and with a voice of invitation called, "It's a strong wind out there; let me provide a windbreak for you." And for the next two miles or so, I was free to follow in his wake, spare my sapped resources as horseman and cyclist rode in tandem as far as our paths continued in a common direction. Mr. Amish man, you made my day.

Bike ride volunteers

Bike Ride Committee
- Danny Graber, Chair
- Bob Carrico
- Georgia Gingerich
- Bob Hatch
- John Nafziger
- Cosette Torrance
- John Yoder

Address data base
- Mark Byler
- Cosette Torrance

Home base (various duties)
- Dierra Lehman, Lead
- Phyllis and Gordon Hostetler
- Tom Krieser
- Bud Wulliman
- June Yoder
- Rhonda Yoder

Middlebury SAG
- Cathy and Mike Miller, Lead
- Tom Enright
- Stacy and Ian James
- Justine Pletcher
- Marlene Springer
- Barbara Stahly
- Becky and Byron Yoder
- Janette Yoder

Shipshewana SAG
- Marlene Miller, Lead
- Elma and Gary Chapman
- Sheryl McClure
- Phyllis Miller
- Margret Schrock
- Karen and Darrel Sommers

Topeka SAG
- Susie and Larry Neff, Lead
- Daniel Neff
- Mic and Randy Stouder

County line SAG
- Jeanie and Greg Martin, Lead
- Kathryn Aschilman
- Dale Eash
- Georgia Gingerich
- Elizabeth Jacobs
- Lois Nafziger
- Sue Van Galder
- Katie Yoder

Road painting
- Bob Carrico
- Danny Graber
- Devon Hoffman
- Merritt Lehman
- Rhonda Yoder

Food and SAG supply coordinators
- Dierra and Merritt Lehman

Photography
- John Yoder, Lead
- Branden Beachy
- Dottie Kauffmann
- Cathy Kenny
- Vincent Massa

Media center (weather and photos)
- John Yoder
- Branden Beachy

Maps
- John Nafziger

Registration
- Janice Carrico, Lead
- Georgia Gingerich
- Lois Longenecker
- Francis Ringenberg
- Mary Spilman
- Miriam and Loren Stauffer
- Cosette Torrance
- Rhonda Yoder

Roving SAGs
- Wilmer Hollinger
- Stan Gingerich
- Kerm Garber
- Paul Reimer
- Danny Jones (home base)

Traffic directors
- Bob Hatch, Lead
- Ervin Beck
- Mike Bontreger
- Stan King
- Al Longenecker
- Carl Metzler
- Steve Pletcher

Paper supplies purchaser
- June Yoder*

Parking
- Dwight Fish
- Alma and Don Lousie-Hyde
- John King
- Ed Weske

Signs
- Bob Carrico
- Danny Graber

Treasurer
- Rhonda Yoder

Volunteer coordinator
- Bob Hatch

T-shirt design
- Bob Carrico

Quilting demonstration at Shipshewana
- Carol Honderich
- Cathy Hughes
- Janis Nelson
- Lynn Nelson
- Edith Shanholt
- Marie Troyer

SAG logistics coordinator
- Craig Kirkwood

Friday evening ride
- June and John Yoder, Lead
- Dolly and Don Craft
- John Nafziger
- Ora Troyer
- Phyllis and Bud Wulliman

Naturalists*
- Nick Hoffman, Lead
- Krista Daniels
- Andy Langdon
- Rebecca Oestriech

**These jobs were blown away with the storm, literally and figuratively. Their assignments along the trail, of course, were cancelled.*

Friends are on Facebook – Option to renew memberships online

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., have added two new electronic ways to connect with supporters. In April, the Friends launched a page on Facebook, the social media website. The Friends' Facebook page gives "fans" the latest news of trail and Friends' events. Most of the posts to date have been pictures of progress on the tunnel under U.S. 20 south of Middlebury.

"Facebook seemed like a natural way (in this electronic age) to update our supporters on the tunnel construction and other coming events," said John Yoder, Friends president. "People are so bombarded with e-mails that often they don't register. With Facebook, people can to go to the site to see what is happening when they want to."

As of early August, over 200 fans had indicated their interest in the Friends. Interested supporters can find the Friends' Facebook page through a button on the Friends' home page, by searching for Friends of the Pumpkinvine on Facebook or going directly to http://www.facebook.com/#!/Pumpkinvine.

The second feature is the ability to renew Friends' memberships from the Friends' homepage: www.pumpkinvine.org. Members can renew using their PayPal account or a credit card through the secure PayPal system, without a PayPal account.

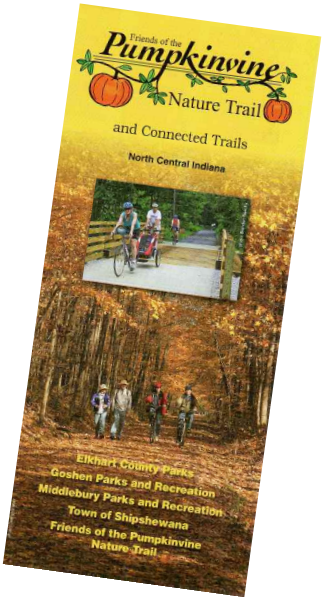
"Supporters have told us that they like donating and renewing memberships online, and now they can," Yoder said.

New trail brochure available

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., and the four area park departments that will manage the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail have produced a new four-color brochure that includes the Pumpkinvine, as well as all the trails that connect to it.

Those connecting trails include the Maple City Greenway in Goshen, the MapleHeart Trail between Goshen and Elkhart, the Elkhart Bike Ways, and the Trails in Middlebury. The brochure includes a useful table showing the distances between various points on the map and tips on trail etiquette.

Brochures are available at area bike shops and the Goshen and Elkhart park departments.



Trail cleared in four days

Thanks to the quick work of the Goshen and Elkhart park departments and volunteers from the Friends of the Pumpkinvine, the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail was cleared of fallen trees in four working days after the June 17 storm.

Bob Carrico eyes one of the many trees that fell on the Pumpkinvine in the June 17 storm.

Using chain saws, a Bob Cat, and dump truck, Goshen Park and Recreation maintenance staff, Roger Taylor, Ron Suggs, Richard Kindel, David Giddens, cleared the section between SR 4 and CR 28, with the assistance of Friends board members Bob Carrico, Bud Wulliman and John Yoder, who cut up and stacked the fallen trees.

Steve Gangloff, Craig Kirkwood and Mark Renkiewicz of the Elkhart County Parks maintenance staff with the help of Carrioco, Yoder and DeVon Hoffman cleared the three miles from CR 28 to CR 33 with chain saws, a chipper and a blower.

"On Monday the trail was a disaster, with downed trees, leaves and branches everywhere," Yoder said. "Then six more trees when down on Wednesday night from another storm. But by Thursday afternoon, the trail was as litter free as I've ever seen it. It was gratifying to see that the park departments saw making it ride able again a priority."

Pumpkinvine Work Party

When: Saturday, October 2, 2010, 8:30 am

What: Friends will team up with Elkhart County Parks to install wooden fences where the Pumpkinvine trail intersects with County Roads 28, 127 and 33. Elkhart County Parks will provide a powered post-hole digger, an electric generator, lumber and screws.

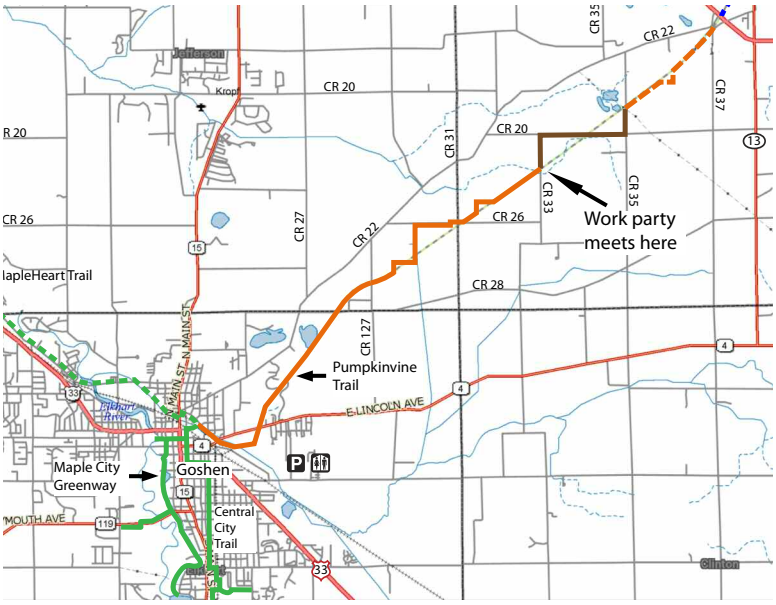
Participation: If you plan to help, please notify Bob Carrico at rjcarrico1@verizon.net.

What to bring: Below is a list of equipment we will need. Bring the equipment you have on hand:

1. Shovel, garden rake and tamp stick to pack dirt around posts.
2. Manual post hole diggers to cleanup holes made by the power digger.
3. Electric drill (we will have a generator, but cordless drills will be useful too) and bits to make pilot holes for screws. Also, driver bits for bugle head screws. We plan to use 3.5 inch TORX (bugle head) screws. Parks will bring a few extra driver bits so do not buy bits for this project.
4. Gloves, tape measure, pencil to mark boards
5. Extension cord
6. Circular saw and carpenter square
7. Level, 24 inch or longer

We will provide drinking water.

Where: We will start at the intersection of the trail and County Road 33 and then move to the other work sites. See the map below. Parking space will be limited so car pool if possible. We will park vehicles on the trail.



We would like to thank these local businesses that supported the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

Silver level

ECCVB ELKHART COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU INC.
TOURISM FUELING OUR ECONOMY

Bronze level

MAPLE CITY GREENWAY

MBA Michiana Bicycle Association

Das Dutchman Essenhaus

david george & associates, inc. a creative team

MMA® Stewardship Solutions

RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Member New York Stock Exchange
230 N Main St , Suite 1
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-293-7585

Family Bike FB

NORTHERN BOX COMPANY

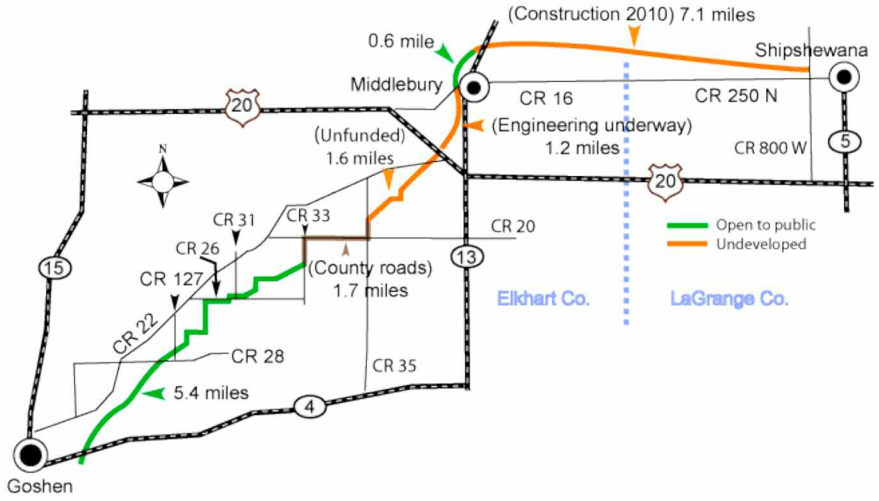
MILLER AMISH COUNTRY POULTRY

LCVB LaGrange County Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Martin's SUPER MARKETS

Trail status report

This map and table shows construction progress on the various phases of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. See the table below for those details.



Pumpkinvine phases in geographical order from south to north: Goshen to Middlebury to Shipshewana.

Phases	Location	Miles	Managing Agency	Status
1	State Road 4 to CR 28**	1.75	Goshen Park Dept.	• Opened in 1999
5A1	CR 28 to CR 127	0.54	Elkhart County Parks	• Completed in 2008
5A2	CR 127 to CR 26 & 31	1.61	Elkhart County Parks	• Opened June 6, 2009
5A3	CR 26 & 31 to CR 33	1.24	Elkhart County Parks	• Opened June 6, 2009
5B	CR 33 to CR 35	1.70	(County roads)	• No current plans
5C	CR 35 to US 20	1.60	Elkhart County Parks*	• Funding still needed
5C & 6	Tunnel under US 20		Elkhart County Parks	• South side nearly completed
6	US 20 to Wayne St.	1.20	Town of Middlebury*	• Design work began in August 2009 • Completion in 2012
2	Wayne St. to York Dr.	0.64	Town of Middlebury	• Opened in 2005
3	York Dr. to Elkhart Co. – LaGrange Co. line	2.40	Elkhart County Parks	• Funded • **Construction to begin fall 2010**
4	Elkhart Co. – LaGrange Co. line to CR 850 West	4.70	Town of Shipshewana	• Funded • **Construction to begin fall 2010**
	Total Miles	17.4		

Changed since the last newsletter are in bold
*Parts of this section are owned by the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

Trail Volunteer Opportunities

Elkhart County Parks and Friends of the Pumpkinvine are developing a volunteer program for interested parties to help with:

- monitoring activities on the trail,
- routine trail maintenance and
- occasional work such as cleaning up storm damage and special trail enhancement projects.

For more information about volunteering with the Elkhart County Parks Department or to receive a volunteer application – call the administrative office at 535-6458.

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 complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and goes toward paying the day-to-day expenses 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; Pumpkinvine Cyclery, Middlebury; and Union Cycle Works, Shipshewana.

Has your membership expired?

If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, it's time to renew 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 Bronze $1,000 ☐ Benefactor Bronze $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

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