

# Pumpkinvine

Volume 22 No.1

March 2013



## Construction on State Road 4 will close Pumpkinvine at County Road 43 Trail could be closed several months

Construction of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail between York Dr. and the end of the current trail east of the Dairy Queen in Middlebury will close a major gap in the trail.

Unfortunately, that construction will create a work area along State Road 13 and east of the Dairy Queen that will make the trail unsafe for trail users. As a result, the three organization responsible for the construction, Elkhart County Parks (the managing agency), Indiana Department of Transportation (the funding agency) and Walsh and Kelly (the construction firm), have decided to close the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail from State Road 13 to County Road 43 from mid-March until construction is finished. Construction is scheduled to be finished by the end of May 2013.

“The closing is necessary because trail construction is happening at the same time State Road 13 will be resurfaced from the Dairy Queen to State Road 4, making it impossible to have trail traffic exit onto State Road 13 at the Dairy Queen,” said Scott Van Ommeran, superintendent of Elkhart County Parks.

“We do not want people continuing west past County Road 43 and getting to the end of the trail with nowhere to



*This section of the trail will be closed beginning mid-March, but is scheduled to be finished by the end of May 2013.*



*Construction between York Dr. and the end of the current trail east of the Dairy Queen in Middlebury will close a major gap in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.*

go,” Van Ommeran said. “The liability of allowing people to blaze their own trail through the construction zone or across private property is too high. After discussion of alternatives to closing the trail, Elkhart County Parks, INDOT and Walsh and Kelly agreed that they could not provide temporary access across private property in order to keep the trail open during construction.”

Van Ommeran advised trail users to be patient with the inconvenience because the end result will be a great addition to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. He suggested trail users coming from the east turn north on CR 43 and use CR 14 to reach State Road 13.

**Learn more about the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail at [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org)**

## Board of Directors Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

John Yoder, *President*  
574-533-4943 • Jdyoder2@frontier.com

Larry Neff, *Vice President & Liaison to Elkhart County Park Dept.*  
574-534-8223 (evening)  
574-535-6458 (day)  
lneff@elkhartcounty.com

Robert Carrico, *Secretary  
Trail Operations Manager*  
574-266-1362 • rjcarrico1@frontier.com

Rhonda Yoder, *Treasurer*  
574-266-4265  
Rhonda\_yoder@hotmail.com

Evan Bontrager, *Bike Ride Chair*  
574-538-4212 • Evan@Bontrager.net

Mike Bontreger  
574-848-7699 • logisticsbb@aol.com

Chet Peachey  
574-533-3418 • crpeachey@gmail.com

Steve Riffe  
574-834-4094 • sbrpsr@gmail.com

Vonnie Trumble  
574-206-8583 • trumblev@aol.com

Bud Wulliman  
574-533-5777 • bwulliman@gmail.com

Roger Yoder  
260-768-4402 • rogerdy@embarqmail.com

---

Danny Graber, *Bike Ride Consultant*  
574-266-4265 • dannygs@frontier.com

---

*Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and rail-trail issues or see back issues of our newsletter at: [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org)*

Email contact: [Friends@pumpkinvine.org](mailto:Friends@pumpkinvine.org)

 [www.facebook.com/Pumpkinvine](http://www.facebook.com/Pumpkinvine)

 Follow our blog, Along the Pumpkinvine:  
<http://fopvnt.blogspot.com/>

 @FOPNT

 <http://www.youtube.com/user/FOPVNT>

---

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.

---

Newsletter layout: Sties Design Agency, LLC



## From the president What's next for the Friends?

2013 looks like it will be a banner year for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. By August, two gaps in the trail will be closed: one between U.S. 20 and Wayne St. and the other between York Drive and the Dairy Queen, both in Middlebury. By August, all funded portions of the trail will be done.

As an organization, the Friends are in excellent shape as well. Our finances are sound, we have more supporting households than we had 10 years ago, 19 organizations and businesses have become sponsors, we've helped launch a Pumpkinvine Advisory Committee to develop common policies among the four managing agencies, we have over 940 fans on Facebook, and we have a splendid bike ride that continues to grow and provide funds for trail maintenance.

What's next for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.? Three major challenges remain. The first is the gap of 1.7 miles in the trail between County Road 33 and County Road 35. The second is a gap in the trail between County Road 850W and downtown Shipshewana.

The third is defining our future as an organization. What do we want the Friends of the Pumpkinvine organization to look like in 10 years? What should be our focus now that the trail is nearing completion?

Challenges one and two will not be easy. They will require that the owners of the former Pumpkinvine corridor be willing to sell us land or provide a viable alternative route for the trail. Watch for developments on these challenges in future newsletters.

The Friends board has been debating the third challenge, our future as an organization, ever since it became clear two or three years ago that the funded portions of the trail would be completed in 2013. I have mentioned these debates the last several years in my "state of the trail" address at our annual dinner. Here are some of the options we're considering.

1. Continue as we are, working primarily to close the gaps in the trail.
2. Shift our focus to the annual bike ride, the most visible and popular activity of the Friends. Proceeds could go toward trail support.
3. Focus on supporting the four trail-managing agencies financially. We have already pledged to help with trail maintenance, publicity and a website for the Pumpkinvine Advisory Committee, but we could do more.
4. Become advocates for additional trails the area. Various groups have suggested a trail from Goshen to Warsaw, for example. We could lend our experience and expertise to such an effort.
5. Join others or take the lead in promoting cycling in the area. The big emphasis in cycling circles these days is on linking trails, bike lanes and mass transit into a true alternative transportation system.
6. Become a programming and promotional organization for the trail. We could organize events on the Pumpkinvine in addition to the bike ride.

I don't have space here to outline the pros and cons of each approach, but we welcome your feedback on what direction to take. Not only do we want the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail to be finished, but we also want it to be a transportation and recreation asset that the community will want to sustain.

# Inbox



I have always been thankful for the Pumpkinvine as it offers the opportunity to “smell the roses.” Last year I got to the point where the majority of my rides were on the Pumpkinvine for that reason. It’s much safer to “smell the roses” when you don’t need to worry about traffic, dogs, etc.

I’ve been able to talk with many people on the Pumpkinvine during my rides. All of them are amazed and impressed with the trail. This winter I even met a man at a Purdue basketball game who comes to Middlebury

ride the trail. He and his wife stay overnight and ride between Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana. You can imagine my surprise when he told me he is a farmer in the Rossville, Indiana area.

—Dan L. Seltenright

*[Editor’s note: Seltenright is the former director of the Elkhart County Park Dept. and one of the key figures in making it possible to develop the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.]*



## Facebook message

This [presence of bike trails like the Pumpkinvine] is one reason, among others, we will most likely retire to Goshen. Family and Goshen College would be the others. —Richard A. Kauffman



Follow construction of the Middlebury section of the Pumpkinvine on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Pumpkinvine>.

## Friends pledge funds to Local Public Agencies

For the first time in its history, the board of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., has pledged financial support to the four Local Public Agencies that manage the Pumpkinvine: Goshen Park and Recreation, Elkhart County Parks, the Town of Middlebury and the Town of Shipshewana.

“In the past we have made contributions to the Local Public Agencies (LPAs) for fencing, signs and other amenities for the Pumpkinvine on an ad hoc basis,” said John Yoder, Friends’ president. “This action is the first time we have pledged support for general maintenance of the trail. This year we pledged \$12,000 to the LPAs, which is about a third of the cost of maintaining the 16-mile trail.” The Friends’ board divided the funds among the four LPAs based on the miles of trail each owns and maintains.

A Memo of Understanding, still in process, specifies that the funds are to go into a designated Pumpkinvine fund within each LPA to be used only for Pumpkinvine maintenance or amenities. The Friends board hopes to make this an annual pledge of support for trail maintenance.



FRIENDS OF THE PUMPKINVINE  
**12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER • THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013**  
 CATERED BY BREAD & CHOCOLATE



YOU ARE INVITED to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., Thursday, April 25, 2013, at The Old Bag Factory in Goshen. This event is a great opportunity to review trail accomplishments of the past year, meet other trail supporters, and learn about current challenges.

Our guest speaker is Steve Buchtel, executive director of Trails for Illinois. Before taking his current job in 2011, Buchtel, who grew up outside Millersburg, Ind., was a community bicycle planner and the south suburban coordinator for Active Transportation Alliance (formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation). Buchtel will speak on the topic, “Turning Homes into Trailheads.”



Guest speaker Steve Buchtel

The dinner is on the third floor of The Old Bag Factory. The cost of the meal is \$28 per person. Doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing trail-related exhibits, and the dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. A vegetarian option is available. Door prizes include gift certificates to local bicycle shops and an Electra Townie 7D donated by Elkhart Bicycle Shop.

Seats are not reserved. If you would like to sit with friends, plan for your party to arrive early, or you can purchase a table for eight people, and we will hold that table for you. You can download a longer registration form at [http://www.pumpkinvine.org/html/annual\\_dinner.html](http://www.pumpkinvine.org/html/annual_dinner.html).



**THE OLD BAG FACTORY**  
 1100 CHICAGO AVE., GOSHEN, IND.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Ticket Calculator**

- 1 x \$28 = \$28
- 2 x \$28 = \$56
- 3 x \$28 = \$84
- 4 x \$28 = \$112
- 5 x \$28 = \$140
- 6 x \$28 = \$168
- 7 x \$28 = \$196
- 8 x \$28 = \$224

- Circle those names that would like a vegetarian meal.
- Circle total # of tickets and write check for that amount.
- Make check payable to: Friends of the Pumpkinvine.
- Mail check and completed Reservation Form to:  
 Friends of the Pumpkinvine  
 P.O. Box 392  
 Goshen, IN 46527-0392
- No refunds will be possible after April 15.

If you cannot attend the dinner, we invite you to make a tax-deductible contribution instead using this same form.





## Groups sponsoring fundraising on the trail should register their event

Groups planning fundraising events on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail need to register their events with the appropriate managing agency (Goshen Parks, Elkhart County Parks, Town of Middlebury or Town of Shipshewana) to avoid conflicts with other scheduled events. Details on what is required to register an event are part of the application form that is available at the offices of the managing agencies or the Friends' website. Look under Trail Administration, then click on Schedule Trail Events or enter this URL: [www.pumpkinvine.org/html/trail\\_events-2.html](http://www.pumpkinvine.org/html/trail_events-2.html).

All registered events will be listed on the Pumpkinvine Events calendar at [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org). As a special thank you to groups that donate \$1 per participant toward the upkeep and enhancement of the Pumpkinvine, the Friends of the Pumpkinvine will feature your event on their website, Facebook page and in the Pumpkinvine Trail Talk newsletter.

## Holdeman resigns from board



Quinn Holdeman, Jr., a member of the Friends' board since 1993, has resigned. Holdeman became interested in the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in its early years when the Friends' board dreamed of having an equestrian trail parallel to the biking and hiking trail in the Pumpkinvine corridor. However, once the Friends turned the land over to the various park departments, regulations prohibiting horses on park property has left that dream unfulfilled.

Despite the fact that a separate trail for horses didn't become a part of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Holdeman continued as a board member contributing his energy to helping with manual labor on the trail. "Quinn participated in many work parties beginning in the early days of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail project," said Bob Carrico, trail operations manager. "Much of the work was cutting trees and brush from the middle of the abandoned railroad corridor and from fence rows when neighbors requested new fences. He owned a truck and trailer that was often used to haul old fence to the scrap yard. Quinn also had a tractor with a bush hog that he used to mow the corridor for many years before the trail was built."

"It was great to be a part of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine board and see it all come together in the different phases," Holdeman said, "and I look forward to it being finished. I feel the trail is a great opportunity for families and friends to spend time together in a safe place. My wife and I will look forward to seeing old and new friends on the trail."



## Date for 2013 Maple City walk has changed

Due to a conflict with the Mennonite Relief Sale, the annual Maple City Walk has changed its date to September 21, 2013. Walkers can choose a 10-K walk and a half- and full-marathon walk most of which will be on the Pumpkinvine. More information is available by emailing [jgautsche@hotmail.com](mailto:jgautsche@hotmail.com) or by calling Julia Gautsche: 574-533-0778.

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride June 15, 2013

REGISTER  
EARLY &  
\$SAVE!

The annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride has something for everyone. The routes will satisfy bicyclists who want a light or vigorous workout. You can ride on an off-road trail or low-traffic county roads. Bicyclists have the opportunity to experience horses with buggies, farm animals in fields, flower gardens, country schools, quilt gardens and small towns. The acclaimed SAG stops provide refreshments at no extra cost.

## NEW for 2013

- **FREE – Online registration at no additional cost** – Go to our bike ride website page at [http://www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR\\_html/annual\\_PBR.html](http://www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/annual_PBR.html)
- **New trail completed** – We revised the Goshen-to-Middlebury route this year to include 1.4 miles of new trail southwest of Middlebury. From there you will continue into Middlebury on county roads.
- **Middlebury to Shippshewana route change** – This route is changed to avoid trail construction from York Drive to the Dairy Queen and also the resurfacing of Main St. in Middlebury. The new route will pass through Krider Nursery World's Fair Garden and then use county roads as well as 3.6 miles of trail between Middlebury and Shippshewana. Before reaching Shippshewana, the route will turn off of the trail onto the scenic road along Shippshewana Lake.
- **Quilt Gardens** – The 2013 Quilt Garden patterns in Shippshewana will be Community Roots at Menohof and Goose Tracks at the Farmstead Inn. Both gardens are across from the Shippshewana SAG and registration stop. A third Quilt Garden at Krider Garden in Middlebury will feature a Pumpkin pattern.

**Cost:** The 21-, 28-, 33-, 47-, 54-, 61- and 100-mile routes are \$25 by May 31 and \$35 after May 31. The Trail Ride is \$20 before May 31 and \$30 after May 31. T-shirts are \$12.

Check our web site: [www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR\\_html/annual\\_PBR.html](http://www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/annual_PBR.html) for more information and maps of all the routes, or contact Bob Carrico at (574) 266-1362 or [rjcarrico1@frontier.com](mailto:rjcarrico1@frontier.com).

Proceeds from the ride support the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc., in their efforts to convert the entire 17-mile Pumpkinvine corridor into a linear park and greenway.

## Friday Dinner Ride, June 14, 4:45 & 5:15 pm (see below)

### Limited Registration

Enjoy an Amish-cooked Thresher's Dinner at an Old Order Amish home on Friday evening. The menu includes roast beef and chicken, homemade bread, apple butter, mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade noodles, vegetables, salad, coffee and pie. The cost is \$25, which include tax and tip.

- You also must be registered for the Saturday ride and register for both rides by May 31.
- You may start at the Shippshewana Flea Market or Abshire Park in Goshen. You do not have to choose the same starting location that you choose for Saturday's ride.
- The round trip from Goshen (with hills) is 24 miles and 16 miles from Shippshewana. The ride from Goshen leaves at 4:45 p.m.; the ride from Shippshewana will leave at 5:15 p.m.
- No change in starting location on the day of the ride.
- **Note: Please do not sign up for this ride unless you can ride at least 10 mph for an hour.**



# 14th Annual Pumpkinvine Bike Ride Registration Form\* - June 15, 2013

- One person or one family with the same mailing address per application (you may photocopy this page).

<b>Name (Please print)</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Please mark your choices.</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<b>I want to start in Goshen (see map on back)</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> 28 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 47 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 61 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 100 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ride 10 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Dinner Ride 28 mi.				
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<b>I want to start in Shipshewana (see map on back)</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 & under or; <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & older	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 33 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 54 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 61 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> 100 mi <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Ride 13 mi. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Evening Dinner Ride 16 mi.				
<b>Street address:</b>						
<b>City:</b>		<b>E-mail address:</b>				
<b>State:</b>		<b>Zip Code:</b>		<b>Home or Cell Phone#:</b>		
<b>Emergency contact phone#:</b>						
<b>Entry Category</b>		<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Per Unit Price By May 31</b>	<b>Per Unit Price After May 31</b>	<b>Total Fee</b>	
• Children age 13 or under are free						
Individual(s)			\$25.00	\$35.00		
Individual - Trail Ride			\$20.00	\$30.00		
Friday Dinner Ride, must be registered for Sat. ride			\$25.00	Not available		
<b>Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail membership:</b> Individual - <b>\$30</b> Family - <b>\$40</b>						
PBR T-shirts – His and Hers	<b>Indicate number ordered for each size:</b>					Total T-shirts X \$12.00
	S:	M:	L:	X-L:	XX-L:	
PBR Jersey – <b>For Her***</b>	S:    M:    L:    X-L:    XX-L:					Total Jerseys X \$62.00
	S:    M:    L:    X-L:    XX-L:					
PBR Jersey – <b>For Him***</b>	S:    M:    L:    X-L:    XX-L:					Total Jerseys X \$62.00
	S:    M:    L:    X-L:    XX-L:					
*Mail registration to: <b>Bob Carrico, 52829 Wildflower Lane, Elkhart, IN 46514</b> ** Make checks payable to: <b>Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.</b> ***For jersey sizing information: see <a href="http://www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/t-shirt.html">www.pumpkinvine.org/PBR_html/t-shirt.html</a>					<b>Grand Total**</b>	No refunds after May 31, 2013.

**Release of Liability:** I, the undersigned, know that participating in the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride (PBR) is a potentially hazardous activity and I participate in it out of my own free will and choice. In choosing to participate in the PBR and related events, I fully accept and assume all risks including without limitation, physical injury, mental injury or trauma, death, contact with other participants, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, the effects of weather including extreme temperature conditions, traffic, contact with motor vehicles of all types and descriptions, collision with other riders or fixed objects, the conditions of the road and participating in events along the route, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I examined PBR routes and recognize that they are on and across public roads without special bike lanes. I agree that PBR is not responsible for the conditions of public roads. I assume the risk of all conditions and occurrences during the PBR and its related events and waive all specific notice of the existence of either. I shall pay my own medical and emergency expenses in the event of accident, illness, or other incapacity regardless of whether I have authorized such expense.

I understand and agree that a situation may arise during the PBR which may be beyond the control of the sponsors, promoters or organizers and agree to ride so as not to endanger myself or others. I agree to abide by all traffic rules applicable to automobiles and recognize that failure to do so can put me and others in danger. I agree to be solely responsible for the condition and adequacy of my bicycle, safety gear and riding equipment.

Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of my entry acceptance, I for myself and anyone acting on my behalf, waive and release PBR sponsors and participating clubs, government agencies, communities and organizations, PBR officials, volunteers and their representatives, Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. and the officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and successors of all of the above (the "Released Parties"), from any and all claims of any kind I have, may have or may hereafter accrue against the Released Parties either directly or indirectly, including claims brought by third parties, arising out of or relating in any respect to my attending or participating in the PBR, including without limitation, damage or harm to me or my property which may be caused by any negligent act or omission by the Released Parties. I further agree to indemnify and hold the Released Parties from any and all losses, damages, claims and expenses, including attorney fees, arising from or relating in any respect to my participation in the PBR or related events. I further agree to abide by all PBR rules and regulations. I agree that photos and videos taken of me during this ride may be used in Friends of the Pumpkinvine newsletters, website or ride brochures.

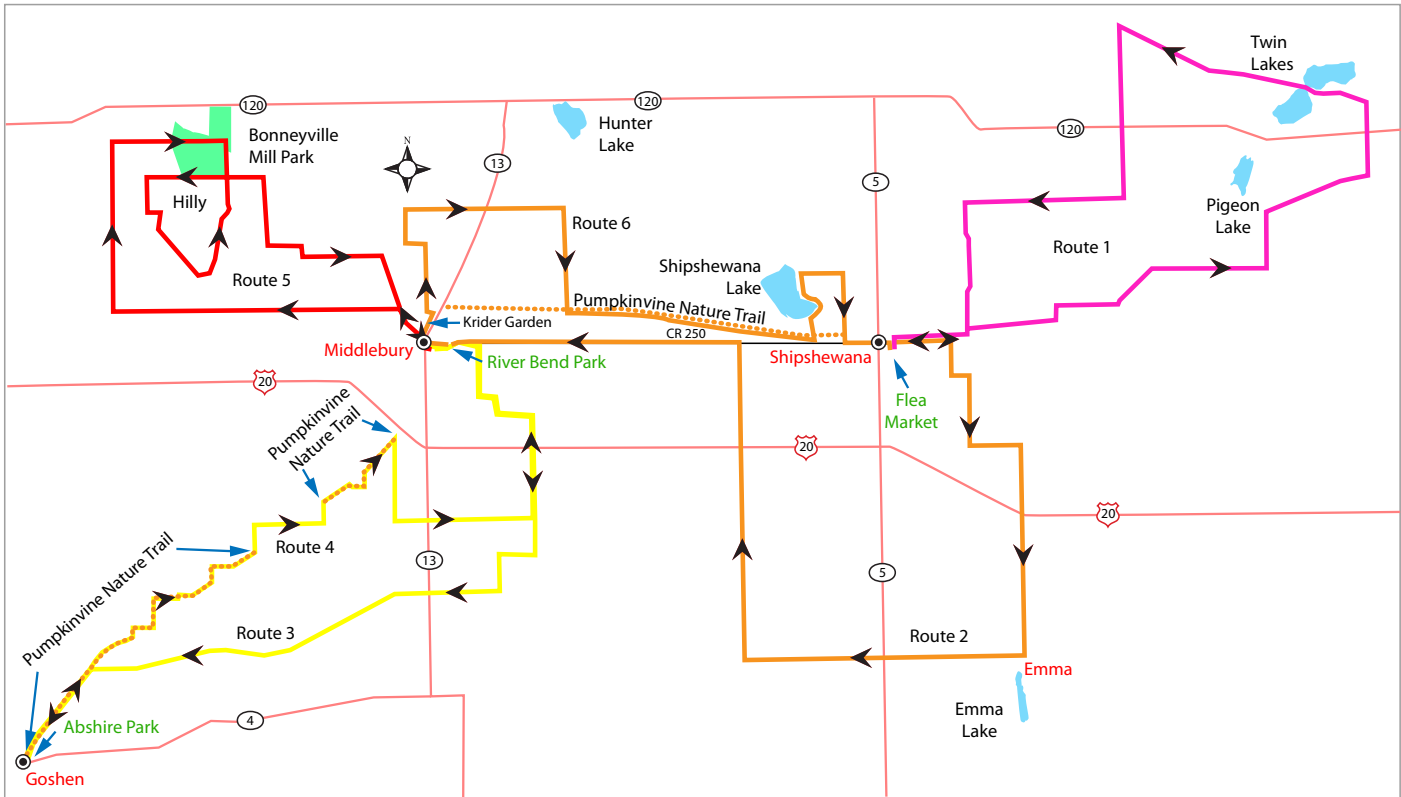
**A parent or legal guardian must sign for anyone under 18      CPSC- or SNELL-approved helmets are MANDATORY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



Rides starting in Shiptshewana	
Ride	Description
21-mile	Shiptshewana east to Twin Lakes, return to Shiptshewana
33-mile	Shiptshewana to Middlebury, return to Shiptshewana
54-mile	Shiptshewana to Twin Lakes, return to Shiptshewana, then to Middlebury and return to Shiptshewana
61-mile	Shiptshewana, Middlebury, Goshen, Middlebury and return to Shiptshewana
100-mile	Shiptshewana to Twin Lakes, Shiptshewana, Middlebury, Goshen, Middlebury, Bonneyville, Middlebury again and return to Shiptshewana
Trail Ride 13-mile	Shiptshewana to Middlebury and return.



Rides starting in Goshen	
Ride	Description
28-mile	Goshen to Middlebury and return to Goshen
47-mile	Goshen to Middlebury, to Bonneyville returning to Middlebury and then return to Goshen
61-mile	Goshen, Middlebury, Shiptshewana, Middlebury and return to Goshen
100-mile	Goshen, Middlebury, Bonneyville, Middlebury, Shiptshewana, Twin Lakes, Shiptshewana, Middlebury again and then return to Goshen
Trail Ride 10-mile	Trail to County Road 33 and return





# Spring wildflower walk is April 21

*Walk will explore a new section of the Pumpkinvine*

Each spring a group of dedicated wildflower enthusiasts has helped reminded us of why the word “nature” is in the name of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Under the leadership of John and Joann Smith, this group has had a spring walk to identify and photograph wildflower along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail the past three years. In the past, the walk covered the section of Pumpkinvine Nature Trail west of County Road 33, but this year the walk will be on the half-mile section of the trail east of the County Road 43 parking lot.

The walk will be on April 21, starting at 3 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Walkers should meet at the County Road 43 parking lot at 3 p.m.

Native wildflowers likely to be in bloom mid-to-late April in this section of the Pumpkinvine are large-flowered trillium, bellwort, wild blue phlox, wild geranium, spring beauty, bishop’s cap, two-three violet species, and several others. Smiths will also point out some of the most invasive non-native species.

John and Joann Smith are wildflower enthusiasts who regularly hike the woods of northern Indiana looking for wildflower.

If you have questions, contact Smiths at [johnjs@goshen.edu](mailto:johnjs@goshen.edu) or 533-9496.



*Bellwort*



*Bishop's cap*



*Trillium and blue phlox*

## Pumpkinvine jerseys and caps for sale

You can show your support for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in many ways, including wearing a Pumpkinvine jersey.

Four bike shops in Elkhart County have Pumpkinvine Jerseys and hats for sale: Elkhart Bicycle Shop, Family Bike Center, Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness and Pumpkinvine Cyclery. Both items also will be available at the June 15 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride.

### Features of the jersey include:

- Three deep pockets in the back
- A three-quarter zipper in front
- An elastic band on the bottom to keep it from riding up
- Polyester fabric that wicks away moisture.
- Men’s and women’s sizes.



*Raglan Sleeve, Club Cut Jersey  
High Collar, Hidden Zipper*



# Friends of the Pumpkinvine flashback

*Items from past newsletters*

## Five years ago – March 2008

- Elkhart County Parks received a \$250,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to fund development of the Pumpkinvine between County Road 28 and County Road 127.
- Andy Dodzik of DLZ Indiana, LLC, the engineering and consulting firm hired to design and manage the construction of the Pumpkinvine between Middlebury and Shpshewana, was to be the speak at the Friends Annual Dinner at the Shpshewana Town Center in April.

## 10 years ago – March 2003

- The Pumpkinvine Bike Ride will add a 100-mile route for the first time.
- The Indiana Park and Recreation Association trails and greenways interest group will hold a workshop on greenway issues at Abshire Park in June.
- John McKee became the liaison between the Friends of the Pumpkinvine and Middlebury Parks.
- Goshen Park and Recreation planned to close the gap in the trail between the bridge over Rock Run Creek and State Road 4.



*IPRA members watch a demonstration of how to groom a limestone trail, June 4, 2003.*

## YouTube video of 2012 Bike Ride



Matt Lind has produced a six-minute video with highlights of the 2012 Pumpkinvine Bike Ride. You can view the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU3IRz70vRE>. There is a live link at <http://fopvnt.blogspot.com/>.

## 15 years ago – March 1998

- The Friends of the Pumpkinvine offered to give the 1.75 miles of the Pumpkinvine corridor between State Road 4 and County Road 28 to the City of Goshen.
- The Friends of the Pumpkinvine set up a new website: [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org).
- Several members of the Friends' board attended the national Rails-to-Trails conference in San Diego, Calif.

## 20 years ago – March 1993

- Three organizations announced support for the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail: Goshen City Council, Face of the City board and the Goshen Chamber of Commerce.
- The Friends of the Pumpkinvine held public meetings in Middlebury and Goshen to explain the benefits of the trail. The speaker at the Middlebury meeting was Steve Haddad, who originally opposed the construction of the Kal-Haven Trail in Michigan. He is now on that trail's board.
- The newsletter urged trail supporters to call or write the Elkhart County Commissioners, Patsy Ronzone, Dave Hess and Philip Neff, in support of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail
- Pledges were needed for purchase of the Pumpkinvine corridor. The option to purchase the corridor from Penn Central would expire June 1.
- The Friends stopped the demolition of the steel railroad bridge over Rock Run Creek at the corner of North Cottage Ave., Bridge St. and Crescent St. by agreeing to "supply the labor needed to do the much needed repairs."



*Fulfilling the promise to supply labor at the bridge across Rock Run Cree, Galen Kauffmann and Mike Bontrager lead a group of volunteers clearing vegetation at the bridge on Sept. 8, 1993.*

Friends of the  
**Pumpkinvine**  
 Nature Trail

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

**GOLD SPONSORS**

CIBA FOUNDATION PROMOTING CYCLING | OSMC

**SILVER SPONSORS**

BIKE MICHIANA COALITION | DQ | ECCVB | Jayco | MILLER AMISH COUNTRY POULTRY | PARKVIEW LAGRANGE HOSPITAL

**BRONZE SPONSORS**

Das Dutchman Essenhaus | DLZ | ESS SALES, LLC | Elkhardt Bicycle Shop | Everence | Family Bicycle Center, Inc. | LCVB | LINCOLN AVENUE | MAPLE CITY GREENWAY | MBA

# One grateful property owner along the Pumpkinvine

*B. Harry Dyck*

Of all the property owners along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail it would be difficult to find anyone who is more enthusiastic about its development than Wayne Bontrager, owner of Meadowlark Cars located at 1430 North Main St. in Goshen. Although his business isn't on the historic Pumpkinvine railroad, it is at the beginning of what the City of Goshen calls the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. (The railroad corridor used for the trail in this area was part of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway commonly called the "Big Four.")

Bontrager's one word for the trail was "amazing." He uses that word first for the city planners, like city engineer, Mary Cripe, who connected the Pumpkinvine with the Wilden Ave. Trail that winds from the Oakridge Cemetery, beneath the State Road 15 overpass, and meanders east along Rock Run Creek to Abshire Park.

For Bontrager, "amazing" also pertained to the number of people using the trail at all hours of the day—the many who use the trail either to or from work, school employees taking a noon-day breather in the great outdoors, and the many young people who zip about along the trail as energy or errands dictate. Mr. Bontrager chuckled with delight at the memory of at least three trail users who have come back a day or so later to purchase cars from him.

Although Bontrager owns no bicycle, he takes great pleasure just walking the trail, primarily to the underpass, to take in the ambience of water tumbling over the rocks and birds flitting about the underbrush. In the evening, he enjoys the beauty of the lights installed among the girders of the underpass pouring light on the scene below.

Bontrager, who purchased his business 27 years ago, clearly has never been more excited about his business location and what the city has created in developing this end of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail adjacent to his Meadowlark Cars.



Wayne Bontrager owns Meadowlark Cars, the business located where the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail meets the Maple City Greenway on Goshen's north side. He is amazed at the number of people who use the trail.

Friends of the



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

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::

- |   |  |  |  |                                       |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$60         | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$100            | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Silver \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Gold \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_