



Friends of the Trail Newsletter

2011—1st Quarter
March 2011

Greetings From the Editor

As the first quarter of 2011 nears a close and summer is just lurking around the corner, I am excited to announce that the CKC and the Friends of the Trail groups are off to a gung-ho start. Please see the updates relating to each section of the trails inside this issue of the CKC Newsletter.

If you are interested in helping with the trail building effort, please contact the Friends of the Trail Team Leaders. They will be more than happy to put you to work.

Ronn Peters has been involved in the CKC, including both trail planning and trail building, from the beginning. Please see his informative and interesting contribution to the CKC Newsletter on page two of this edition.

As a friendly reminder— I am interested in including photographs of the local trails, as well as photos and interesting tidbits from other area trails. Please forward your photos and contributions for future editions of the CKC Trails Newsletter to me at: wallace.write@gmail.com

By Laura Henderson, Editor

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MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTIONS

Interested persons may join the general membership of the CKC or make any tax-deductible contribution of their choice.

For more information regarding membership or contributions, visit the CKC website:

<http://centralkansastrails.org/Membership.html>

This link allows you to donate using your Paypal account.

Check out these links:

CKC Website: <http://centralkansastrails.org/>

Meadowlark Trail Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Meadowlark-Trail/126802194013382>



Find information on upcoming bicycle rides sponsored by the CKC:

<http://centralkansastrails.org/Rides/Rides.html>

The Way I See It, Part 2

Central Kansas Conservancy

While some of you might disagree with me, this will be the way I see it and remember it. (You may have a different view of life and different opinions about what happened.)

It all started back in 1996 or 1997, the records will show exactly when, and I may dig them out later. A group of bicyclists and other interested people got together after Lindsborg had turned down the opportunity to railbank the old Union Pacific railroad right of way between Lindsborg and McPherson. In the beginning, there was a larger group that soon settled into a core group of about 10. The intent was to railbank the right of way and to build a hiking/biking trail for public use. I think this group must have coined the phrase “ignorance is bliss”. We had no idea what we were getting into.

We soon figured out what we were getting into. It wasn't going to be as easy as we had hoped. What looked like an easy community service type project turned into a nightmare. A well-misinformed opposition had been formed, mostly by a local insurance bureau and a reversionary rights group. Lots of details to follow at some time in the future.

That was then and this is now. Not that the opposition has completely gone away, but a lot of things have slowly and painfully worked their way through the court system. It took us a while to realize that our job in the early days was to keep the project alive. At that, we were successful.

Now it's time to get out and build trails. Funding is slowly coming in and we will get a few miles open, perhaps primitive, but safe and open for public use. CKC can use your help at many different levels including construction, maintenance, promotion, membership, fundraising and grant writing. If you want to help or know someone else who wants to help, let us know. Currently groups are working in Lindsborg, McPherson, Galva and Marion. Reach me at 620-241-0350 or ronn@sunflowerrealty.net. Love to hear from any and all of you.

By the way, my Dad wrote part 1 of “The Way I See It” back in his high school days. He denies or doesn't remember, but others in the family do remember.

By Ronn Peters

Sunflower Rail-Trail Conservancy Meeting

Laura, Joye and I went to the Sunflower Rail-Trail Conservancy meeting in Cottonwood Falls in March. SRTC is a statewide organization that's working as a sort of clearinghouse for all Kansas trails. It is amazing how many trails are being worked on in the state. That's a helpful bunch of folks, if ever there was one. They're a great resource for knowledge and encouragement as we work on our own trails. The dream, of course, is to someday have them all connected so we that we can get there from here on a bicycle.

By Jean Kozubowski

Friends of the Trail Updates

Galva Friends of the Trail ~ *By Joye Walker*

The workday on Saturday, March 19th, turned out to be a good day, even though we got rained out early. We had three Galva folks that came by to check us out and who were very interested in the trail. The gentleman that purchased the depot and moved it off the Trail right-of-way came to help and brought three high school boys to help. They cleared trees back before it rained. After the rain, Michelle showed up so Ardie, Michelle walked the first portion of the trail. I'm happy to say no protesters. Ardie, Michelle & I walked 1 1/2 miles of the trail west of Galva on Saturday between rain showers. After two bridges are decked the trail will be very presentable as a primitive adventure. Ardie and I got almost a truck load of trash so the trail head looks a lot better!!! So thanks Ardie! Future workdays are scheduled for the third Saturdays of the month. You may contact Joye Walker at galvatrail@hotmail.com Facebook users are urged to befriend Galva Trail.

McPherson Friends of the Trail ~ *by Ardie Streit*

Michelle Cullen & I walked the full length of the Meadowlark South End (Sunset Trail) from Northview to Pawnee Road on the afternoon of Sunday, March 20, 2011, to assess the work that can be done by our student volunteers that will be working on the Trail on April 6th during their Citizenship Day activities. They will be able to use cordless power drills and hand saws. Michelle & I would like to deck the only bridge in this three-mile stretch of the trail as a portion of this project. There is just a little railroad trash that needs to be picked up.

There are several trees that need to be side-trimmed or removed and we'll enlist the kids to use hand saws to trim off easy branches and move them off the trail. I am in search of an experienced person to use a chainsaw on some of the larger tree issues. Ronn Peters and Dean Stewart have agreed to join Michelle and myself to work on the trail on April 6th. Michelle and I are in the process of negotiating prices on some composite pallets being offered by a company that has recently gone out of business.

I have put in a phone call to the McPherson County Game Warden to learn about badgers lifestyles and their habits. There are numerous badger setts on both the trails that we walked over the weekend. I need to know what our options are for dealing with these menaces that are raising havoc on the trail surface and berms. You may contact Ardie Streit at sharpardie@cox.net

Lindsborg Friends of the Trail ~ *by Jean Kozubowski*

Keep your fingers crossed for the Meadowlark Trail. We have plans to get heavy machinery and then some limestone screenings down on the first mile in April. Thanks to Duane Fredrickson, the first three miles are open, mowed and trimmed, for walkers and mountain bikers. Spring is a great time to enjoy the trail; there are numerous flowering fruit trees along the way, and as the meadows and pastures green up, it's incredibly lovely. We encourage people to get out and enjoy it. Once we get *the* limestone screenings down and rolled, it'll be usable by road bikers, too. And we think we have access to everything we need except a roller. So, if anyone knows of one we can use, please let us know. Also, now that weather is getting nicer, we'll try to keep the second Saturdays of each month to work on the trail. Y'all come! Be sure to like the Facebook Page for Meadowlark Trail. We'll try to keep construction updates posted there. Or email us at falunclassic@gmail.com.

Our big fundraiser every year is the Falun Classic, and we've been getting requests for brochures already! Last year's went so well, apparently, that this year we've added a shorter ride, the Marquette Mini, which will be 9 miles out to Marquette and back for the same cookout the Falun Classic riders will enjoy. We'll have more details on both rides later, but most of the details will be the same as last year. So save Oct. 9, the Sunday of Hyllingsfest Weekend. It'll be a great way to stretch your legs and unwind after a hectic couple of days.

You may contact Jean at falunclassic@gmail.com