

New Years Greetings from the Chair

As the New Year is upon us I cannot help but get excited about what is just around the corner for Kentucky Rails to Trails Council. Several changes are in the works and new opportunities are opening up.

One change that will happen very soon is our web page. We have hired a webmaster that will be able to modify the web site and provide more and better information about KRTC. He will keep the website updated on a monthly basis and new features, such as a forum, will be added. The forum will allow website users to ask questions about Rails to Trails or other pertinent issues and create a dialogue across the state.

Another action we are taking is soliciting Corporate Sponsorships. It has been a while since we sought major donors for KRTC. Our Vice Chair of Finance, Jeanette Coufal, is working on a corporate packet and will be soliciting sponsorships. Not only will KRTC benefit but we hope that our membership base will benefit as well.

We are also in the middle of our first concentrated membership drive. We are actively recruiting new members and asking old members to come back. A letter was sent to all members and former members in December asking them to renew their membership. So, if you don't renew your membership expect a couple more reminders to try to get you to join again. As our membership increases we will have more influence when we talk to our political leaders and policy makers. Our goal is to have 250 active dues paying members in 2005.

For the first time we will be offering benefits to our membership. All members will receive a membership card that can be used for discounts at various retail stores throughout the state. As corporate sponsors sign on we will notify members so they can take advantage of these discounts and bargains. New or renewing members will also receive a KRTC decal. The decals can be displayed on automobile windows or any other glass surface. Members joining at the \$25 level or more will receive a canvas tote bag. As more sponsors sign on, members can expect more benefits.

(Continued on page 2)

Possible Eastern KY Railtrail

Excerpts from the front page of the Breathitt County Voice, December 16, 2004.) "Representative of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council met in Jackson on Saturday and traveled to Evanston with local biking enthusiasts Bob Dungan and Walter Begley and outdoorsman and mountain climber Martin Douthitt. David Ditsch, local horseman, also made the trip. The group is interested in the abandoned R.J. Corman Railroad that travels 36 miles from Evanston in Breathitt Co. to just outside Paintsville in Johnson County. Rails to Trails helps convert abandoned railroads into trails for non-motorized use, including hiking, biking and horseback riding. The group had planned to hike some of the railroad bed, but the weather did not cooperate even a little.

...Officials from Breathitt, Magoffin and Johnson County have held preliminary discussions concerning the old railroad, in hopes that the project could be a major tourist attraction. If completed, it would be the longest trail of its kind in the state. Tentative plans call for the group to reassemble in the spring when the weather will be a little more accommodating."

If you want to be notified when KRTC makes another trip in the spring, call Dixie Moore at 858-263-2772 or email dixiemoore@insightbb.com.



(Left to Right Martin Douthitt, Dixie Moore, Robin Reams, Keith Lovan and Walter Begley.)



KRTC brochures and the KRTC display board have also been revised and updated. New brochures are now available; if you need any please contact me. The display board, which is used at public events and conferences, showed pictures of rail trails in other states because there was nothing to show in Kentucky. Thanks to board member Cindy Deitz, the display board now has pictures of various Kentucky projects. Parts of the display board will be at the Good Foods Coop in Lexington as part of their Good Foods January 2005 Give Where You Live program

On the construction front, at least 2 new projects should be completed this year. The Brighton East Rail Trail in Lexington and the Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike and Hike Trail in Edmonson County are slated for construction. New abandonments are being filed and work is beginning to start rail trail projects in several other counties across the state.

Keith Lovan; Klovax@yahoo.com

Carter County

Carter County has applied for a Recreation Trails Program grant of \$50,000. The purpose is to build the first phase of the Olive Hill to Lawton rail trail along the abandoned CSX railroad corridor between Ashland and Lexington. It will be 3.6 miles long and has 4 significant bridges. The first section will be 1.6 miles from Olive Hill toward Lawton. The estimated cost for phase I is \$100,000. The surface will be crushed limestone and will include a natural soil trail on the side for equestrians.

Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike Trail

There is a new railtrail in the making in Kentucky. The Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike and Hike Trail in Barren and Edmonson Counties. Henry Holman, Management Assistant in the Mammoth Cave National Park is the co-chair of the project along with Jim Carroll, Chief of External Programs. Other persons involved are Mark Rich as the project manager for construction, and Steve Kovar as the park Facility Manager.

The trail will be approximately 8.5 miles when completed. It uses as much of the abandoned grade from the Mammoth Cave Railroad grade as possible. The Mammoth Cave Railroad carried passengers and freight between the main L&N line at Park City and Mammoth Cave from the 1880s until about 1930. About 40% of the grade was obliterated by highway construction in the 1960s. The trail will be able to use most of the remaining grade. It will extend from the Mammoth Cave Hotel, where Engine #4 and a combined coach are displayed at the original terminus, to connect with the existing trail system in Park City and the original junction. Interpretive signs will be part of the project. They hope to have all or parts of the trail open in September 2005.

The project consists of four segments. They have funding for segments 3 and 4 in the form of a donation from National Park Concessions, Inc. (NPCI). The funding for segments 1 and 2 is uncertain at this point. For more information contact Henry Holman at 270-758-2187, F 270-758-2349, Henry_Holman@nps.gov.

The Bowling Green League of Bicyclists (BGLOBAL) scheduled 6 workdays on the trail in the fall of 2004 with 2 cancelled due to inclement weather. Contact Mary Travelsted at travelsted@aol.com if you would like to volunteer for spring workdays.



(View of the Mammoth Cave RR Bike & Hike Trail, H. Holman, 2004)

Tyrone Bridge and Rail Co.

Young's High Bridge has been officially listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The bridge crosses the Kentucky River and is parallel to US 62 between Versailles and Lawrenceburg. Three different engineering companies have evaluated the 2 bridges in the 2.8 mile corridor in the last 2 months and will be presenting a report on the cost of doing a feasibility study. The engineers are impressed with the condition of the bridges. Representatives from the Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company have met with numerous state officials who are interested in the project. The Tyrone Bridge and Rail Co. has developed a brochure and will be soliciting funds and memberships in 2005. The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council working with the Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company filed another extension to the rail-bank request and will continue to work with the interested parties to negotiate with Norfolk Southern. The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council paid the \$300 filing fee. State Senator Julian Carroll and House Representative Ed Barrows have indicated their willingness to help with this endeavor.

* * * * *

Greenways for Oldham Co. Inc.

Greenways for Oldham County Inc. meets every other month in Pewee Valley, KY which is northeast of Louisville. The next meeting is January 31, 2005.

The contact person is Paul Clinton, Director, (502) 241-0471, pclinton@bluegrass.net Their primary project is the Interurban Greenway.

Phase I of the project has been completed and included the renovation of a Historic Railroad Depot in LaGrange. A few hundred feet of rail trail are to be paved, benches and other improvements are to be added. The local Chamber of Commerce has moved into the renovated structure.

Phase II is expected to complete 1.0 to 1.5 miles of greenway and rail trail. Phase II plans to travel along the HW 146 corridor running southwest towards Buckner from LaGrange. This route offers excellent potential access from I-71 and I-265 Gene Snyder Freeway.

Phase II Grant Application was filed but unfortunately was not granted this year.

(Information from Todd Geddes.)

* * * * *

KRTC Open House & Potluck

On December 21st Keith Lovan hosted a KRTC Open House & Potluck in his Lexington home. The food was delicious, the talk interesting and the slides of potential RT sites around the state and the trip to the KATY Trail were eye opening. (Right to left, Keith Lovan, Robin Reams and Todd Geddes.)

Financial Snapshot of KRTC (1/1/2004 to 12/31/04)

\$13,262.20 Donations Received
\$12,820.37 Expenses
 \$441.83 Net Income

Many thanks to Joe Bramer of Bank of the Bluegrass for serving as our treasurer.

When this newsletter was sent to the printers fifty of us had renewed our membership for 2005. Thank you so very much for your quick reply to our membership letter. Let the rest of us now take the time to renew our membership or join for the first time. The more people the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council represents the more we will be heard. We need the financial support to continue to educate, advocate, support, encourage, and promote multipurpose non-motorized greenways and railtrails in the commonwealth.



Board of Directors for 2004-2005

Chair - Keith Lovan
 Vice Chair for Government Affairs - Sandy Shafer
 Vice Chair for Technical Assistance, - Scott Southall
 Vice Chair For Public Relations - Cheryl Wyatt
 Vice Chair for Finance - Jeanette Coufal
 Secretary/Newsletter Editor - Dixie Moore
 Treasurer - Joe Bramer
 Legal Advisor - William T. Gorton, III

Barren River Region - Helen Siewers, Bowling Green
 Bluegrass Region - Eddie Farrey, Richmond
 Bluegrass Region - George Ely, Lexington
 Bluegrass Region - Cindy Deitz, Lexington
 KIPDA Region - Todd Geddes, Louisville
 Bluegrass Region - Philip Meyer, Lexington
 Green River Region - Sue Fowler, Owensboro
 Northern Kentucky - Ben Bishop, Villa Hills

Bluegrass RT Foundation - Robin Reams, Berea
 Daniel Boone RT - April Haight, Morehead
 Greenways of Oldham County - Vacant
 High Bridge RT - Tim Powell, Wilmore
 Lake Cumberland RT - Vacant
 Little Mount, Mt. Sterling - Vacant
 Muhlenberg Co. RT - Becky Keith, Greenville
 Tyrone Bridge & Rail Trail Co. - Jodie Wells, Versailles
 Pennryrile RT - Tom Hayes, Hopkinsville

The Bylaws of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council provide that "the Council Board of Directors shall consist of 10 at large board members and a representative from each proposed and/or existing rails to trails project in Kentucky that has been approved by a majority vote of the at-large board members."

If you are interested in serving on the board or being part of a committee, please let your interest be known by attending a meeting or talking to one of the current officers or board members. Keith Lovan can be contacted at KLovanx@yahoo.com

Ashland

Ashland's cycling club, The Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts (ACE), will submit a project to the FIVCO Area Development District Transportation Committee for inclusion in their list of projects for funding. The proposal is for an urban multipurpose bike/pedestrian path from Ashland to Catlettsburg. Part of the trail already exists as a 7 mile path running along the flood-wall and city streets. They are in the process of filling out the paperwork with the assistance of FIVCO personnel. (Information from Melanie Bailey-Riffe.)

Pulaski - McCreary Co. Rails to Trails Project

The proposed trail will extend south from the existing 2 mile Cathy Crockett Trail for a total distance of approximately 8.5 miles to just north of Greenwood. The majority of the trail will be located on the old Cincinnati Southern rail bed with approximately 3 miles of new trail construction to bypass three missing trestles. Approximately 6 miles of the trail will be within the Daniel Boone National Forest. Two new trailheads will be constructed. One is to be located at approximately the midpoint of the trail near the Alpine Recreation Area and the second is to be constructed north of Camp Greenwood at the southern terminus of the trail.

The trail has numerous historical features including three tunnels on the south end built by Italian and Irish brick masons, the Alpine Coal Camp and Camp Greenwood, a CCC camp occupied from 1934-1936. Historical features will be interpreted through graphic signage strategically placed throughout the trail.

The Pulaski County Fiscal Court has retained the services of John L. Carman and Associates to provide a Scoping - Feasibility Study for the project. This study will determine the extent of work necessary for development of the trail, establish design parameters for development and establish budgets to be utilized for funding and grant application. (Information from Chris Howard of John L. Carman and Associates, Inc.)

Floyd County

CSX is abandoning approximately 8 miles between the Mountain Arts Center and David, Kentucky. Frank Fitzpatrick, President of the Middle Creek National Battlefield Foundation, Inc, has applied for railbanking. Over 1 mile of the line runs directly across the Battlefield. Also on behalf of the Foundation he has applied for railbanking of approximately 13 miles of line on Left Beaver Creek that CSX is abandoning between Printer and Hi Hat. The Floyd County Fiscal Court had originally applied for the railbanking and it was later transferred to the Foundation.



Safe Walking and Biking to Schools

Martha Emmons of Paducah alerted the KRTC community through an email that was posted on the listserv that the Kentucky Department of Education may recommend that the State Board of Education eliminate the rule requiring students to live at least a mile from school before their districts can receive reimbursement for busing. This information was from a story in the November 19, 2004 [Paducah Sun](#). The justification behind this change is that almost no one walks nowadays, so therefore bus routes will be need to be added for every child.

A very public thank you to those who sent letters and emails to the Board of Education encouraging school districts to promote safe walking and biking to school. A state that promotes safe walking and biking to school is a state that will be more receptive to the immediate advantages of railtrails that are non-motorized and safe in their community.

Mary Singler, a member of the Kentucky Physical Activity Coalition and an employee of the Northern Kentucky Health Department, in her email described how obesity is at epidemic proportions. Obesity is directly linked to lack of physical activity and poor nutrition. Thirty years ago, 60% of all American children walked or biked to school, but today less than 10% walk and only about 3% bike. Automobile and buses have become the primary means of transportation. Public health is now looking at ways to increase physical activity including how we send our children to school.

* * * * *

Louisville News

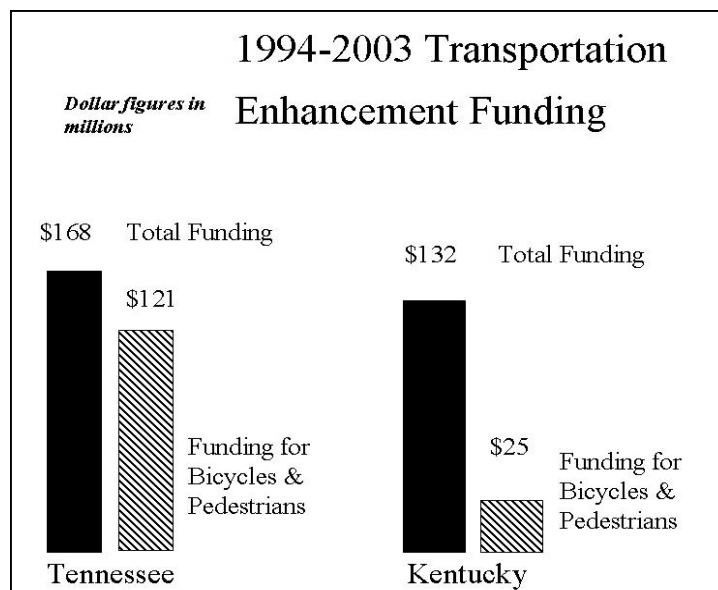
Mayor Jerry Abramson recently launched a "Healthy Hometown Movement. The following are excerpts from "Mayor Jerry Abramson Has Healthy Plans for Louisville" by Laura Proctor in [Kentuckian Health Fitness](#), December 2004.

"Well, when you look at the rates and statistics in this community on obesity, on diabetes, on heart problems, you begin to realize that here are an awful lot of difficulties with health in this community....Its a culture changing process that going to have to take some significant time." The article goes on to talk to about extending off road walking and bike paths and connecting Chickasaw and Shawnee Park with the Belvedere, the Olmstead Parks and going over into Indiana in a 17 mile loop. "At the same time our folks are working with **Oldham County, which has a Rails to Trails program**, as to where they are going to bring that into Louisville."

A Good Benchmark

From 1994-2003 the state of Tennessee received \$168 million in transportation enhancement funding. Of those funds, \$121 million (72%) served bicycle and pedestrian improvements. During that same period the state of Kentucky received \$132 million in TE funding and we spent \$25 million (only 19%) on bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Why the discrepancy? Why has Tennessee put a vastly greater emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure? You might wonder how that squares with the national trend in TE funding. For FY 2004 the US will spend \$290 million in TE funds. Of that, 68% will go for bike/pedestrian and rail/trail projects. Since we are one of the nation's leaders in obesity and diabetes, wouldn't you think we would be more committed to giving Kentuckians a way to exercise? (*reprinted from Town Branch Trail, vol. 5, no. 2, 12/04*)



Meeting Dates for the Council

Meeting dates for the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council will be at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday in January and February and then the 3rd Monday for the rest of the year. No scheduled meeting in December. The location will continue to be the Lexington Fayette County Government Center at 200 East Main St.. The dates are 1/18, 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17 and 11/21. The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council thanks the Lexington Fayette County Government for continuing to provide space for our meetings.



US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
Lexington, KY

Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 e (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995. The purpose of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is to “foster and facilitate the conservation of greenways and rail rights of ways in Kentucky by the conversion of such holdings to trail use for the general public.”

Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Kentucky Rails to Trail Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597
Website: www.KyRailTrail.org
webmaster@kyrailtrail.org

Newspaper Editor, Dixie Moore, 8A, 121 Prosperous Pl.
Lexington, KY 40509, dixiemoore@insightbb.com

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION , DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2005

- \$ 15 Individual
 \$ 25 Family
 \$ 50 Patron
 \$ 100 Benefactor
 \$ 250 Engineer
 \$ 500 Trail Blazer
 \$1000 Golden Spike
 \$5000 Corporate/Partner
 Donation \$ _____
 [] Address Correction

I am making an additional donation of _____ to: (check one)

(If a local group is checked and no additional amount indicated, the donation will go to the local group minus \$15 for KRTC general expenses.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass Rails Trails Found. (Fayette, Clark & Montgomery Co.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Boone Rails-To-Trails (Rowan Co) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenways of Oldham Co. (Oldham Co.) | <input type="checkbox"/> High Bridge Rail Trail (Jessamine Co) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation (Pulaski Co) | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Mount Trail Commission (Montgomery Co.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muhlenberg County RT | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennyriple Rails Trail Foundation (Christian Co.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tyrone Bridge & Rail Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Project in _____ |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ County: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Phone: H W C _____ Email: _____

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is always in need of volunteers, e.g. writing newsletter articles, being an officer or board member, , fundraising, giving presentations, contacting landowners, checking maps, web site design, letter stuffing. [] I would like to volunteer with KRTC.

Please make check payable and mail to: Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 597, Lexington, KY 40588-0597