

## Bike & Hike Trail Opens at Mammoth Cave

(MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK -- September 26, 2005, from an article by Vicki Carson) About 120 people attended the opening ceremonies of the first half of the Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike trail on Saturday, September 24, 2005, National Public Lands Day.

Acting Superintendent Bruce Powell acknowledged volunteers and workers who cleared the path and then constructed the trail. Powell also presented Woody Gardner, president of National Park Concessions, Inc, and board members Ozzie Adwell and Clyde Anderson, with a letter from NPS Director Fran Mainella, which stated in part,

"...During my administration, I have emphasized the need for public-private cooperation. This project exemplifies the synergy and greater good that can happen when we work together. I commend you and your board members for supporting the development of this trail. It will connect the park to the community in a new way, encourage alternate methods of transportation, and provide infrastructure for healthy, family recreation." National Park Concessions, Inc. donated \$608,000 toward construction of the trail.

The trail is about 5 miles in length from Park City to Sloan's Crossing and crosses Highway 259 several times. Most of the surface is fine crushed stone. Tommy Cheatham, a Bowling Green cyclist, put together a video of the trail and ceremony on opening day. It is on the Bowling Green League of Bicyclists website. <http://www.bglob.com/gallery.html>.

Park City Mayor David Lyons spoke to the crowd about an adjacent bike trail that will one day connect to the park trail and the historical connection between Bell's Tavern and the Mammoth Cave Railroad.

Trail volunteer groups that were recognized on opening day were the Sierra Club Inner City Outings, Target Store employees, Boy Scouts, Western Kentucky University outdoor recreation students, Bowling Green League of Bicyclists, and the Louisville Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega public service organization.



(Cyclists on the Mammoth Cave Trail, 10/05)

## Kentucky Rail Trails Conference Feburary 17-18, 2006

Planning has started for KRTC's sixth biannual conference in 2006. The theme for the conference is Building Trails for a Healthier KY. The conference will be in Lexington at the Four Points Sheraton on Feb 17th and 18th. The hotel is located across the street from Coldstream Park which has about a 1.5 miles of trail so bring your walking shoes and bike. There will be online registration this year through the hotel's web site. Current sponsors for the conference are UK Prevention Research Center and The Conservation Fund which is funded by Eastman Kodak Company.

KRTC applied for a \$1000 grant from the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program and was one of 47 selected from among over 300 proposals. Kentucky Rails to Trails will be showcased as a national model for its innovative efforts to develop trails and greenways in Kentucky. According to The Conservation Fund's President, Larry Selzer, "The projects selected this year represent some of the best grassroots conservation and greenway development efforts in the United States. The Fund supports these local initiatives because they are thoughtful, action-oriented projects that will serve as models for other communities around the country."



## Our Membership

A very sincere thank-you to all who joined or renewed for the year 2005. Our membership goal for 2005 was to have a current membership of 200. We surpassed that with 228 dues paying members for 2005.

Several of our members took advantage of the option of giving to a local group when they made their donation to the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council. When amounts are not specified, the entire donation is funneled to the local group except for \$15.00 which is kept for administrative support of KRTC's newsletters and website.

Kentucky Rails to Trails officially starts its yearly membership drive in January. You can save KRTC some clerical labor and cost by using the printed form in this the last newsletter of 2005 to renew or join for

### Engineer

James C. Van Meter

### Benefactors

Tom P. Dupree  
Dave Elbon  
William T. Gorton  
Edward Hely  
Becky Keith  
Elizabeth M. Kuhl  
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Ashley Sparks

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Wendy Basil  
Michael Bomford & Kierstenn Moore  
Robert & Lola Boram  
Don Burrell  
Sandy Camargo  
Clements & Osborne  
Bradley Clough  
Roy M. & Linda Cornett  
Brenda & Terry Franey  
Peter Hrabak  
Henry Jackson  
Jean & Jamie Jacobs

2006. Members can join or renew as a supporter (\$25), promoter (\$50), benefactor (\$100), engineer (\$250) or greater. We are happy to receive all contributions large and small. You can also give a membership as a Christmas gift with a holiday acknowledgement card sent to the recipient if your donation is received before December 1<sup>st</sup>. Specify the name and the address of the person to be honored with your donation.

Following are members who have renewed or joined since April and were not recognized in the April 2005 newsletter. A grateful "THANK YOU" to all of you. Without the continued support of our members we would not be able to exist. KRTC is the only state wide organization that supports rails to trails. Our newsletters reach across the state and the updated website is a forum for RT information. If there are omissions or errors in the lists, contact dixiemore@insightbb.com.

Rodney & Jackie Kirtley  
Nathan S. Lord  
Lowell's Bluegrass  
Automotive  
Wanda M. & Jeff McGuffey  
Franklin B. Miller  
Christine C. Missik  
Tanya Mooney  
Muhlenberg Co. Trailriders  
Carlin Robbins  
David Sponcil  
Nancy Webb  
Alice S. Wells  
Mary Witt

### Individuals

John Alford  
Roger Bradford  
Amy Clark  
Lynn Cockerham  
Jennifer C. Falk  
Roy Fugitt  
Bruce D. Gordon  
Rory Kahly  
Mattie Lovan  
Diane S. Meshako  
Crocker Peoples  
Madeline Powell  
Lee D. Richardson  
Alfred Shapere  
Larry Steur  
Scott Sutherland



(KRTC Booth at the Bluegrass Energy Expo, 9/05)

## The KRTC Display Board

This summer KRTC again had booths that prominently feature the display board at several festivals. Thanks to the reliable volunteers who make this possible. This is one of the best ways to get the RT message out to the public. Eddie and Kris Farrey staffed the booth at the Bluegrass Energy Expo at Rupp Arena in Lexington and 15 volunteers were at the Pioneer Festival Days in Winchester over Labor Day.

For the last several months when the display board is not being used at a booth it has had well received exposure in public libraries in Clark, Montgomery, Fayette, Jackson, Magoffin, Jessamine and Madison Counties. If you know of a library or organization that would like to put up a display please contact Dixie Moore at dixiemore@insightbb.com.

## Opening of Lexington's Town Branch Trail

Saturday, October 8, 2005. More than 100 Lexington residents attended the opening of the half-mile stretch of asphalt that winds behind the McConnell's Trace subdivision on the west side of Lexington. This new section hooks up to a trail that runs through Masterson Station Park, just across Leestown Road. The long-term plan is to have trails linking the Kentucky Horse Park, the University of Kentucky's Coldstream research campus off Newtown Pike, Masterson Station Park and the Town Branch Trail. Eventually the trails could connect on the east side of Lexington to the Brighton East Trail that is part of the old CSX line between Lexington and Ashland.

\* \* \* \*

## Update on the Dawkins Line

The Big Sandy ADD and the local counties of Magoffin, Breathitt and Jackson are working on plans to convert the Dawkins line into a nonmotorized rail trail and to obtain funding. You can help by writing to your Congressman, Senator, the County Judges and/or the Big Sandy ADD district showing your support. Addresses are on the KRTC website.

## The Mount Sterling Trail

In 2001, the City of Mount Sterling named the 2002 Leadership Montgomery County class "The Little Mount Trail Commission" to head up the Mount Sterling Rails to Trails Project. The group has received more than \$100,000 in grant money to go towards Phase I of the three mile long trail segment. The "Leadership Mile", the first mile, is projected to begin along the tracks near South Queen Street extending west towards Pribble Park just off Richmond Avenue.

The section in Mt. Sterling is part of the abandoned CSX line that runs from Lexington to Ashland. Local groups in Lexington, Morehead and Olive Hill are working toward turning segments of this road bed in their communities into multi purpose non-motorized trails with the goal of one day being connected.

The City of Mount Sterling graciously donated booth space at their annual "October Court Day" to RT supporters to promote the Mount Sterling Trail and Rails to Trails Projects through out Kentucky.

If you are interested in learning more about Rails to Trails in Mount Sterling please contact: Lynda Wilson, Mount Sterling/Montgomery County Tourism Commission, 126 West Main St, Mount Sterling, KY 40353. (859) 498-8732 or email [littlemounttrailstotrails@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemounttrailstotrails@yahoo.com).



## Serving Central Kentucky for 33 Years & Counting

### Ladies Night

Please join us on October 20th for our final Ladies Night of 2005. Ladies Night will resume next year in March. Ladies Night is from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and includes a basic maintenance clinic as well as a question and answer session. All attendees are given a free gift as well as 15% off any items purchased that evening excluding bikes.

### Trainer Night

Starting in November we'll be having a trainer night each week that will include a spin class led by a certified instructor. Stay tuned to [www.pedalpowerbikes.com](http://www.pedalpowerbikes.com) for more details. Attendees will get 20% off trainers purchased during trainer nights.

### What a Year!

2005 is almost over and its been a great year for cycling. Lots of great events, an exciting Tour de France and much more. Pedal Power looks forward to helping you with your shopping needs this upcoming holiday season as well as more exciting events and sales in 2006!

### Hours of Operation

**Mon - Fri: 9AM - 6 PM**

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## The Journey of the STR Plate

Kentucky will now be the ninth state in the nation to offer a SHARE THE ROAD specialty license plate. Kentucky joins Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. Kentucky will have a SHARE THE ROAD (STR) plate due to the tenacity of Alison Smith over the past 18 months and the support of cyclists, runners, walkers and health and fitness advocates across the state.

In May of 2004, Alison started the initiative to get a STR plate for Kentucky. Alison is a physical therapist from Ashland who now lives in Lexington. She is married with a young child and works part time. She was motivated to help people avoid injuries and promote physical fitness. Her spearheading this initiative was a birthday present for her husband who rides mountain bikes.

The initial response she got was to be "realistic". Approximately 8 out of 10 efforts to get a plate in circulation are unsuccessful. The requirement was that 900 pre paid \$25.00 applications would have to be received by September 1, 2005. She was only allowed to start collecting applications on May 8th, 2005 after the new application had been approved.

Many people along the way helped make this plate a reality; due to space limitations only a few are mentioned here. Paula Nye, the Kentucky Bicycle - Pedestrian Coordinator helped with the initial research. Representative Susan Westrom (D) and Senator Charlie Borders (R) sponsored HB 134 that set up a new mechanism for specialty plates. Willie Payton, Assistant Director, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing, helped guide her through the state regulations and requirements. Damon Brown, a Lexington attorney, helped draft the clause on the voluntary donation. Her husband's medical office, Commonwealth Eye Surgery, sponsored the STR website to provide information on the initiative and facilitate the application process Her brother, Tyler Walters, acted as the webmaster.

Because of the change in law brought about by HB 134, Alison had to revise the state's specialty license plate application. This is because the STR plate will be the first one to have a voluntary donation rather than a set amount that is contributed to a special fund.

She did internet searches and contacted cycling clubs. She put application flyers on cars at parks, gyms, races and cycling events. She connected with newspapers, health publications and TV stations.

She asked graphic artist Erin Back to create designs for a plate. The final plate has silhouettes of a cyclist and runner in colors of blue, red and grass green. Sil-

houettes were used to be inclusive so nationality and ethnicity were not suggested. After the draft versions were placed on the website she received suggestions to make the plate more accurate and visually interesting, i.e. put water bottle on the down tube on the bike, drop the handlebars and have a correct spoke count.



On August 9th, the 900 mark was passed. On September 1st, the cut off date, 1,616 applications had been received. Once running was represented on the plate, Johns' Run Walk Shop in Lexington stepped up and offered a \$25.00 gift coupon/voucher as an in-store incentive for applying for the STR plate. She contacted Ken Combs and the Fleet Feet running stores in Louisville and asked them to match John's offer. They agreed to do so as well. As a result many more applications were received. 340 applications came through the internet after Paypal was added. 40 applications were returned from the insert in the KY Rails to Trails newsletter.

The new law eliminated the need for the state to keep track of individual checks therefore Alison had to become the middle man. She set up a "Share the Road" escrow account. By the time this newsletter is printed she will have sent a check for \$40,400 from the escrow account for the 1616 applications to the Dept. of Transportation with names of the applications organized by country. 68 out of the 128 counties responded. Jefferson had the largest percentage closely followed by Fayette.

If you have already applied for a plate you can pick up your STR plate in mid-January instead of having to wait until your birth month. Your name will be sent to the county you designated on your application. Call ahead to be certain that the plates have arrived in your county. The state asks that you turn in your old license plate when picking up your new plate. The county clerk will have your name on file and know that you have pre-paid for your STR plate. You will owe a \$3 county clerk fee per plate when picking up your initial plate. Please take the opportunity to make a donation to the KY Bicycle and Bikeway Commission (KBBC) when picking up your plate and when renewing. Money generated for the KBBC will be used to further the mission of the Commission as defined under KRS 174.125. Their mission is to "... develop and coordinate a statewide bicycle and bikeways program ..."

More information is at the Share the Road website, <http://www.sharetheroadky.com/>. Thanks to Alison and everyone who made this plate possible.

### State RT website has the

### **Abandoned Railroad Inventory**

The Rail to Trail Development Office website is at <http://gold.ky.gov/grants/railtrail.htm>. The office monitors abandonment applications and other relevant proceedings at the federal level; disseminates information about proposed abandonments to all potentially interested parties; and provides technical assistance to agencies and political subdivisions that are interested in initiating rail banking procedures or applying for funds.

Highlights and conclusions of the 2003 state wide inventory of abandoned rail corridors or in a zipped folder of pdf files that can be viewed or downloaded from a link on the site.

### **Trail Workshops**

The 2005 Kentucky Recreation and Park Society Conference is November 6th thru the 9th in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House. There are two workshops that would be particularly interesting to railtrail supporters, one on designing trails and one on the Ohio River Way - a greenway in Northern Kentucky. The schedule and workshop schedule are posted on the KRPC website, [http://www.kyrec.org/annual\\_conference.html](http://www.kyrec.org/annual_conference.html).

### **Daniel Boone RT Report**

DBRT in Morehead/ Rowan Co. had their first "take-a-kid-riding-day" outing. The ride was 9 miles at Paragon near the Rowan/Morgan County line along the shores of the backwaters of Cave Run Lake and an old rail line.

DBRT is chugging along with it rail trail development efforts. The survey of the first 3 mile section has been completed. The next step is to have the value of the property assessed either for purchase or creating an easement. The City of Morehead and the Kentucky Transportation Department own a large portion of the proposed rail trail. Frontier Housing owns another portion of the property and they have volunteered to give the property to the railtrail. This location will make an excellent location to set up some picnic tables.

DBRT has begun work with the USFS Morehead Office to officially open an abandon rail line at the end of Rodburn Road as a designated rail trail. The stretch is about 1.5 miles in length and will connect to the Shel-towee Trace. Presently the trail is a user developed trail and has many trees down.

KRTC meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month in Lexington at 101 East Vine St. See website for details.

### **Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.**

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION , DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2006**

\$25 Supporter       \$ 50 Promoter       \$ 100 Benefactor       \$ 250 Engineer  
 \$ 500 Trail Blazer       Other Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_      [ ] Address Correction

10/05

*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.)

- Bluegrass Rails Trails Found. (Fayette, Clark & Montgomery Co.)       Daniel Boone Rails-To-Trails (Rowan Co)
- Greenways of Oldham Co. (Oldham Co.)       High Bridge Rail Trail (Jessamine Co)
- Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation (Pulaski Co)       Little Mount Trail Commission (Montgomery Co.)
- Muhlenberg County RT       Pennyryle Rails Trail Foundation (Christian Co.)
- Tyrone Bridge & Rail Trail (Anderson Co.)       Local Project in \_\_\_\_\_

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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**



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Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 c (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995.

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council promotes and advocates for the establishment and use of rail trails and associated greenways in Kentucky.

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

Kentucky Rails to Trail Council, Inc.  
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