

KRTC's Trip to the Virginia Creeper

Sixteen people made the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council trip to the Virginia Creeper Trail near Abingdon, Virginia on October 21, 2006. The Virginia Creeper Trail is a 33 mile public access, shared-use trail connecting Abingdon, Virginia with the Virginia-North Carolina Border. The railroad was abandoned in 1977 and in the early 80's the ROW was purchased with bridges and trestles intact. Half of the trail is owned by the federal government as part of the Mt. Rogers National Recreational Area and half by local towns around the trail.

Damascus while others only did the segment from Damascus to Abingdon. However, a few brave souls did the entire 33 miles! "No matter which part of the trail we took, we all enjoyed the ride. In fact, we are already thinking about when we will be going back to ride the trail again."

Tourist use of the Creeper trail started to significantly increase in 1995. They now estimate that 200,000 to 250,000 tourists come through Damascus yearly because of the trail. They now have 5 bike rentals in the town and extra vans for shuttles are

rented by the shops during peak weekends in the fall. Like most railtrails there is no fee to ride or walk the Virginia Creeper. The town recoups financially from hosting the trail by having a 5% "meals and lodging" tax inside the town limits. The tax base of the town has also increased since the trail was opened and this rise is attributed to the increased attractiveness of the town to businesses due to the economic impact of the trail and higher residential real estate values.

Many thanks to Helen Siewers who organized the trip and to Parson Brinkerhoff Consulting Engineers who picked up the dinner tab on Friday night.



(KRTC Members and supporters on their Trip to the Virginia Creeper, G. Kulp, 10/06)

Pictures of the trip are at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/Virginia-Creeper> and last year's trip to the Creeper are at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/album03> and <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/VA-Creeper-tour>

Denise Thomas of the Big Sandy ADD district went on the trip along with others from eastern Kentucky. They uniformly felt they had a GREAT trip and gathered lots of valuable insight that will hopefully motivate others to join their efforts locally to make the Dawkins Line RT happen.

Gail Kulp from Madison County went on the trip and reported that some people only went from White Top to



(Virginia Creeper Trail, G. Kulp, 10/06)

Visit to the Little Miami

On October 21, 2006, The Little Mount Trail Commission, Inc visited the Little Miami Scenic Trail on an absolutely gorgeous Saturday!

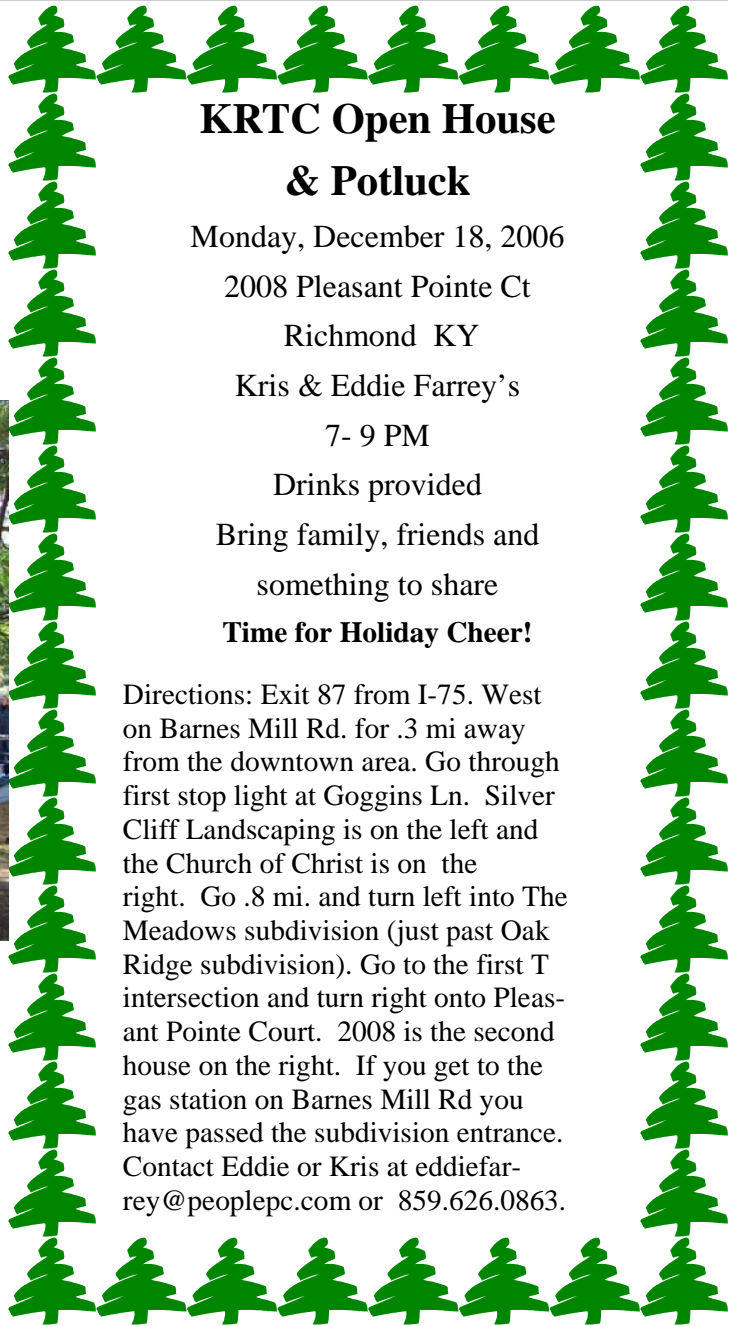
Lynda Wilson of the Mt. Sterling/ Montgomery County Tourism Commission described it as “refreshing to see the beautiful trail and parks full of laughing children riding bicycles, parents pulling their children in wagons, couples walking, walkers, bicyclists, and runners.” They listen to Nick Montjoy, a native of Mount



(Members of the Little Mount Trail Commission listened to the Trail Center Grand Opening on the Little Miami, L. Wilson, 10/2006.)

Sterling, speak about the wonderful effect the trail has had on his nearby home close to Loveland. Those visiting from Mount Sterling took every opportunity to walk, ride, eat, and shop along the trail.

The Little Mount Trail Commission plans to schedule another trail familiarization visit in the spring for the community.



KRTC Open House & Potluck

Monday, December 18, 2006

2008 Pleasant Pointe Ct

Richmond KY

Kris & Eddie Farrey’s

7- 9 PM

Drinks provided

Bring family, friends and something to share

Time for Holiday Cheer!

Directions: Exit 87 from I-75. West on Barnes Mill Rd. for .3 mi away from the downtown area. Go through first stop light at Goggins Ln. Silver Cliff Landscaping is on the left and the Church of Christ is on the right. Go .8 mi. and turn left into The Meadows subdivision (just past Oak Ridge subdivision). Go to the first T intersection and turn right onto Pleasant Pointe Court. 2008 is the second house on the right. If you get to the gas station on Barnes Mill Rd you have passed the subdivision entrance. Contact Eddie or Kris at eddiefarrey@peoplepc.com or 859.626.0863.



Holiday Gift Idea

You can give a membership in Kentucky Rails to Trails Council as a holiday gift. Just send in a donation with mailing information for the recipient. They will receive a seasonal acknowledgement of your gift donation and the newsletters during the coming year. Great way to promote “the establishment and use of rail trails and associated greenways in Kentucky.”



KRTC benefits from the Bike Coalition’s Generosity

The Bicycle Coalition of Kentucky has disbanded and in accordance with their bylaws have given \$2,200, half of their remaining funds, to KRTC and the other half to the League of American Bicyclists. They asked that the funds be used as part of the advocacy and/or education budget. KRTC gratefully thanks Keith Logsdon, the past President Chair of the Bike Coalition, Cheryl Wyatt and the other members of the Bike Coalition for their generosity.

Our Membership for 2006

Many thank to the 170 members listed below who joined or renewed for 2006. Without your continued financial support our volunteers would not have the resources to do the many tasks of advocacy and education that is the hallmark of KRTC. It is still not to late to pay your 2006 membership dues. For error correction please contact the Secretary, Dixie Moore at Dixiemoore@insightbb.com or 859-227-6165. Members who paid in the last month might not be listed but will be recognized for their contribution in the first newsletter of 2007.

Trail Blazer.(\$500+)

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Lynda Wilson (Mt. Sterling/Montgomery Co. Tourism)

Corporate Sponsors

Cave Run Bicycle & Outdoor Center
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White Plains - Hopkins County

The Pennyrile Area Cyclists of Madisonville and Hopkins County hosted a Family Fun Ride in White Plains on September 30. The eleven mile road ride was held to attract new and beginning riders, to promote the local 1.5 mile rail trail, to stir interest in community involvement for the expansion of this trail and to raise awareness about other trails in Kentucky as well as neighboring states. We accomplished all these goals, including the inspiration for PAC to join KRTC as a Member Organization. Par-



(A RT supporter sits on her favorite rock at the White Plains rail trail. A. Wheeler, 2006)

ticipants also had a lot of fun. "We enjoyed ourselves immensely," said Phil Randall, a Nortonville resident. "The rail trail is splendid and has the potential to be extended in the future. It is a great asset to our community."

The KRTC table display at the White Plains Senior/Community Center was the centerpiece of the event. Participants were impressed with its size and the information it provided. Everyone was surprised at how many rail trail miles are possible in



(A young RT supporter and Larry Bowman at the Nortonville Library, A. Wheeler, 2006)

Kentucky compared to how many currently exist.

"I think it's a shame that Kentucky has such a large untapped resource with all the abandoned rail lines. It seems to me that more people would want these to be opened up and improved for the enjoyment of the public," said Brad Rose of Nortonville.

White Plains Mayor, Ronnie Lewis, spoke of the need for community leaders to envision a higher quality of life that a rail trail can bring to a community. He was instrumental in securing the trail as well as the newly opened Senior/Community Center adjacent to the trail. The trail is adorned with an old caboose, large boulders and benches for resting and adds a warm welcome to the little town of White Plains.

The KRTC display was housed briefly at Madisonville Community College and was at the Nortonville Library for over a week. Article by Airin Wheeler.



(A sampling of Family Fun and rail trail riders at White Plains, A. Wheeler, 2006)

KRTC Working with Local groups

Madison Co. Greenways and Trails Association and the **Little Mount Trail Commission** (Mt. Sterling) are reviewing and revising their organizational structure to enhance their ability to advocate for railtrails and greenways in their local communities and to be consistent with the KRTC structure and corporate capabilities. Many thanks to Bill Gorton, the legal advisor to KRTC and an attorney in the Lexington office of Stites & Harbison. He has guided Eddie Farrey of Madison Trails and Greenways and Lynda Wilson of the Little Mount Commission as they draft and file the articles of incorporations as 501 © (3) nonprofit groups. KRTC has given the two groups \$500 start up grants to cover the associated costs.

We also congratulate Bill on his recent appointment to the KY Bicycle and Bikeways Commission.

Student restoration of Mt. Sterling's C & O Depot

The C&O Train Depot in Mount Sterling, Kentucky will have a restored new look thanks to extraordinary students at the Montgomery County Area Technology Center.

School clubs, Future Business Leaders of America and SkillsUSA students have teamed up to restore what will become the Mount Sterling Trailhead along the proposed Lexington Big Sandy Rail Trail.

The students have successfully applied through the City of Mount Sterling and secured \$153,000 through Kentucky State Transportation Enhancement Funds for their remarkable community service project. These students will be completely hands on in the restoration of the structure to its original honor, beauty, and prestige throughout the next three years.

The C&O Train depot is on the National and State Registry of Historic Buildings. Once completed the attraction will house a community multi-purpose meeting room and a train museum.

If anyone is interested in learning more or helping the cause, please contact FBLA Advisor Ronda Bowles, 682 Woodford Drive, Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353 or by calling (859) 498-1103. Article by Lynda Wilson.



(Mt. Sterling Depot, L. Wilson, 2006)

Cave Run Bicycle & Outdoor Center

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Morehead, KY 40351
(606) 784-1818

caverunbikeshop.com

Bike, Paddle, Climb & Play

Rail Trail in Pulaski County

In September Keith Lovan from KRTC and Brent Sweger from the Transportation Department met with Joel Zimmer, Alex Godsey, and Mark Travis, representatives from the Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation to discuss the expansion of the Cathy Crockett Rail Trail in Pulaski County. Based upon a study done by John L. Carman and Associates the trail has another 8 miles of potential. The study recommended new trail construction and improving the existing railbed. It also recommended improvements at Alpine Coal Camp and Camp Greenwood.



(Two KRTC members on the Cathy Crockett in 2005, K. Lovan)

Alex Godsey said that there was some funding available from the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP). He thinks he could clear some of the existing vegetation to make it suitable for hiking/walking and maybe even mountain biking. Recognizing that it would not be enough money to construct the entire corridor he felt that if he could get enough area cleared and show the citizens of Pulaski County what could be done then he could get more support for more funding to complete the entire trail.

Joel, Mark and Alex were going to meet with local contractors and local city and county officials to see if they could get the project moving again. They feel with the influx of new residents to the community that are looking for more facilities like rail trails then this is the most logical place to start. People interested in working on this project please contact Alex Godsey, 606) 678-6693 or at agodsey@cityofsomerset.com.



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

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

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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.

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(11/06)