



THE GREENWAY NEWS

October - December 2008

Ozark Greenways Membership Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 4

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Willard Leads the Way With Local Safe Routes to School Program

The Willard School District received a **Safe Routes to School** federal grant through the Missouri Department of Transportation in 2007, to implement a Bicycle Education program in their four elementary schools and Intermediate School (5th/6th grade). Second, third and fourth grade classes now have a bicycle education course during their PE class. The school district also purchased bicycles and tricycles with the grant, along with a helmet for each student to take home! Each school had the bikes for two weeks and then they moved to the next school. The PE teachers set up their own course, taught proper hand signals, talked about helmet safety, used cones for demonstrations and used a cantaloupe to show what could happen to your head if you crashed on a bicycle or skateboard if they weren't wearing a helmet.

Students who didn't know how to ride a bike used tricycles and the coaches made sure they didn't feel "made fun of". It was eye-opening how many third graders did not know how to ride a bike. **(Continued on page 2...)**



The Willard school district is the first in our the area to start a "Safe Routes to School" bicycle education program.

National Trek Rep to Speak at Annual Meeting

Don't miss our interesting speaker at the upcoming Ozark Greenways annual meeting, Thursday, February 12, 6-9PM at the Hammons Heart Institute auditorium.

Rebecca Anderson is the Director of Advocacy for Trek Bicycles, and leads their commitment in a new "One World, Two Wheels" effort. Trek's putting in \$1.6 million over three years to support the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community program, to increase trips by bike from the current 1% to 5% by 2017. With 40% of car trips being under two miles, it's doable!

2nd annual Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival Oct. 25—Nov. 2

Marathon
Cohick Half Marathon
Ozark Greenways 5K/10K
Cox Wellness Walk, Metric
Century & much more
Volunteers needed

www.basspro.com/fitness

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11th annual Fall Dinner A Success

The 11th annual OG fall fundraising dinner, on September 25, was blessed with good weather, good food and great company. Held again in a lovely field next to a spring flowing into the James River, it was a pleasant way to spend an evening and raise money for the trail system.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success, including the following committee, underwriters and volunteers.

Committee

Abbe Ehlers, Rosalie Wooten
Susie Henry, Bruce Adib-Yazdi
Monty Montgomery, John Ehlers

Underwriters

Rosalie Wooten
Watts Radiant
Conco Companies
Tim & Brooke O'Reilly
Larry & Nancy O'Reilly
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly
Hood-Rich Architects & Engineers
Kirkpatrick Phillips Miller CPA's
Edward Jones-Greg DeLong
Wild Horse Development

Volunteers Waiters

Tim Smith, Ric Mayer
JD Slaughter, Gail Emrie
Shaun Smith, Christine Schilling
Abbe Ehlers, Susie Henry
Cliff Jacobs, Richard Rice
Mozelle DeLong

**Don't leave
valuables in your
car while parked
at trailheads.**

(Thieves are getting smarter.)



Joel Schroeder, of the Polk County Bike Club, headed up a crew to execute his design for a new trail information kiosk at the Bolivar trailhead of the Frisco Highline Trail.



Polk County volunteers raise the new Bolivar trailhead kiosk. Thank you to everyone who helped—it looks great!



40 OG volunteers joined the Audubon/Toyota "Together Green" workday at Valley Water Mill in Sept., to build a neighborhood connection.



In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

— John Muir

**Thank You
New &
Renewed
Members
Received
July 1—
September 30**

New Members—Welcome!

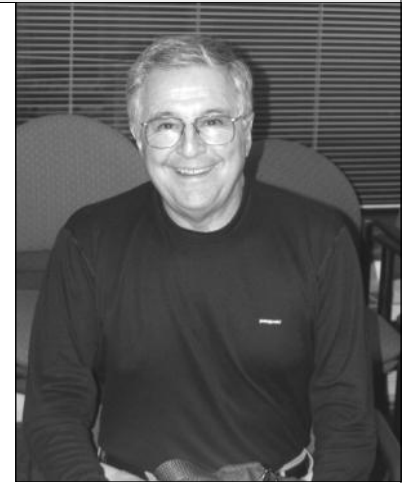
- Mike & Cathy Baker
- Andrew Cline
- Charlotte Hiebert
- Stuart Meulpolder
- Carolyn Schirmer

Renewed Members

- Bill Bush
- Ron Evans Family
- Richard & Dawne Gardner
- Tim Hainey
- Kevin & Kathy Hopper
- Bill Magers
- Joel & Elizabeth Paddock
- Stan & Susan Parrish
- Joe Payne
- Harvey & Gloria Saalberg
- Kathryn Wells
- John Wyrsh



**Ron Averett
Beloved Trail Watch
Volunteer Passes On**



Many trail users were fortunate enough to get to meet Ron Averett. After just two and a half years as a volunteer Trail Watcher for Ozark Greenways, Ron had become a fixture out on the greenways. Whether someone had a question about the trail or a problem, if Ron came along, chances were the problem would be solved! Just over one week before this newsletter was written, an extremely grateful young woman called the Ozark Greenways office to gush about how great Ron was in finding her keys out on Galloway Creek Greenway. It took an hour, but Ron found them! That was the typical commitment Ron had for helping others and giving back to the community. He even fixed flat bike tires for folks and was glad to do it. And if something needed attention anywhere along the trails, we knew we could count on Ron to let us know. What a great partnership.

We are so sad that Ron passed away October 4. It reminds us how precious life is while we have it, and to appreciate all the people in our lives who give us smiles and kindness. With his friendliness, outgoing personality and tons of energy to bike, kayak, fly planes and play frisbee golf, it was hard to believe that Ron wasn't younger than his 70 years. He was fortunate to have a youthful passion for life and people. He never met a stranger.

For all he did for Ozark Greenways and the trail users in Springfield, here's to you, Ron!

**Contributions for a memorial that will be created can be sent to:
J.J. Averett, 262 Blue Jay Way, Nixa MO 65714**



Yes, *I want to help preserve greenspace and provide family-oriented recreation in the Springfield community.*

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

___NEW MEMBER ___Tell me about Endowment Fund Giving

___RENEWAL *Planning your will? Consider a gift to Ozark Greenways.*

- Endowment Fund
- \$500-Corporate Member
- \$100-Trail Blazer
- \$50-Greenway Friend
- \$35-Family
- \$25-Individual

Checks payable to Ozark Greenways, P.O. Box 50733, Springfield 65805

Trail



Galloway Creek Greenway Everyone is asking us about what will happen to the trail when MoDOT begins its major reconfiguration of the Highway 60/65 interchange. Good news—the trail will be one of the first things to get re-routed, but trail traffic shouldn't be interrupted for long, if at all.

Frisco Highline Trail Things are progressing to get the trail back in shape after multiple weather-related hurdles. Working with volunteers, contractors and the contribution of time and resources from Lamar Advertising, the ruts and washed out areas are getting fixed. The trail is still quite passable, but it is always wise to pay attention to any kind of abnormalities in the surface, etc. Improvements to the trail are currently ongoing and anyone who would like to help is encouraged to call us at 864-2015.

New mile marker posts are also going up. These bright yellow posts will help trail users gauge their location and the distance they travel, as well as reflect the historic railroad mileage.

We continue to work with Polk County 911 responders on emergency response mapping for the trail, as we have done with Greene County.

South Dry Sac Greenway Thanks to a land donation and a Community Foundation grant, there's a new trail connection from the Ashcroft Estates neighborhood to South Dry Sac Greenway. This trail is only being accessed by neighbors, until the new Lost Hill Park opens as its trailhead this spring.



Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation, there's a new South Dry Sac Greenway neighborhood connection from Ashcroft Estates to the trail. This trail is only being used by the neighbors, until the new Lost Hill Park opens as a trailhead.

(Continued from page 1...)

In a class at Willard North Elementary, one student said, "This is the best PE class ever."

Coach Bills, at Willard North, said, "I thought the bike safety unit was a great program to implement. Most of my kids loved it. I'm sure it will continue next year. I thought the kids were very interested and listened intently, the unit went well. I'm sure we will learn from this year and continue to get better."

Coach Brown, at Willard Central said, "I was very excited when I found out that we received the grant to teach bicycle safety in the Willard School district. Bicycling is a lifetime recreational and physical activity that promotes healthy living. As a physical educator, it's my goal to teach students about fitness and health that will impact them throughout their life. By receiving this grant, we were able to have the equipment necessary to properly teach safety. It brought the lesson 'alive' and the students thoroughly enjoyed learning and participating. I had a few students who didn't know how to ride a bike and since finishing the lesson, they've come back to me and said, 'Coach, guess what? I learned to ride my bike without training wheels!' I hope to have the opportunity to teach this unit every year!"

Willard Central even utilized their bikes during what's called TNT (Tigers Need Time). During this short period during the day, students are allowed time to work on homework or subjects they need extra help on. They can also choose from other things if they don't have work they need to do. Some chose to go on a bike ride during the two weeks the bikes were at their school! Willard Central has a small trail the school constructed several years ago connecting to an adjacent neighborhood. The kids were able to utilize the skills they learned in their PE class and get a little extra exercise during school to refresh their minds.

Want a program like this in your child's school? Contact Dawne Gardner, of MoDOT, at 895-7662.

CALENDAR

Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival

October 25—November 2

Need volunteers! www.basspro.com/fitness

Monthly Volunteer Workdays

Oct/Nov workday will be at fitness festival

Check website calendar for details

Christmas on the Frisco

Saturday, November 15, 6PM

Frisco Highline Trail, Willard Trailhead

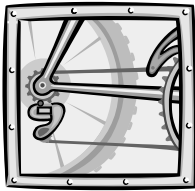
**19th annual
National Trails Symposium**

November 15-18

Little Rock, Hosted by American Trails

(417) 864-2015

www.ozarkgreenways.org



Alternative Transportation Website

In our effort to promote the combined resources of greenways, on-street bike routes, the city bus and Safe Routes to School, we've developed a website within our main OG website to communicate what's currently available for alternative transportation in Springfield.

We've started with the basics, including maps and tips, and of course the annual Bike, Bus, Walk Week Challenge.

So stop by and give us your input. There will be a new survey soon to help us get inside people's minds to see why they do or don't want to use alternative transportation. If you build it, will they come?

www.ozarkgreenways.org

Click on the link in the upper left-hand corner.

Ozark Greenways Promotes Alternative Transportation

As Springfield continues to grow, the need for a well diversified transportation system becomes vital in attracting new investments and providing a high quality of life for area residents.

Ozark Greenways supports a future community transportation system that will:

- Provide for the preservation of the current infrastructure.
- Provide system connectivity between modes.
- Provide a comprehensive on-street route system.
- Place greater attention on providing, supporting and encouraging use of the public transit system.
- Encourage and support car/van pooling to reduce car trips and congestion.
- Provide education and encouragement for the public to use alternative modes, and use them properly.
- Provide resources to schools to start their own Safe Routes to School programs.
- Seek multiple funding sources and work closely with other transportation providers to integrate the network.

Ozark Greenways is encouraged by the recent passage of the City's 1/8-cent tax for traffic improvements, and the fact that for the first time a "priority for inter-modal connectivity improvements" was addressed. We support a greater program for this use of funds in the future.



Get yourself an Ozark Greenways "Bike to Work/Leave Your Car Behind" ballcap in black. Available now at our office, for just \$15.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



In This Issue... We're still looking for volunteers to help with the Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival, Nov. 1 & 2...

Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival to include

1st annual—New!
**St. John's Tour de Bass
bike ride**
Saturday, October 25

10th annual
Ozark Greenways 5K/10K
Saturday, November 1

This year's event is growing, to include all sorts of fun activities, including a Cox Wellness Walk, 25/50K trail run, canoe/kayak race, metric century and other bike ride lengths.

For details about everything going on during the Fitness Festival, go to their website!
www.basspro.com/fitness

Attention Trail Users

If you plan to use either South Creek or Galloway Creek greenways on November 1 & 2, you may be sharing the trail with runners and walkers participating in the Bass Pro Marathon, Maynard Co-hick Half-Marathon or Ozark Greenways 5K/10K.

Please use caution and be courteous. You might even enjoy seeing everyone, including a group of elite and unique runners such as "The Joggler"! Yep, he juggles while he runs marathons! And apparently this year he will be attempting to break a World's Record.

Thank you for your patience and continued support of our community's growing greenway system. We couldn't do it without you!