



THE GREENWAY NEWS

January - March 2009

Ozark Greenways Membership Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 1

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OZARKGREENWAYS . ORG
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18th Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, February 12, 6-8PM

Everyone is invited to join Ozark Greenways for a free evening of refreshments, project updates and energizing guest speaker.

The meeting will take place Thursday, February 12, 6-8PM, in the auditorium of Hammons Heart Institute, which is on the north side of Cherokee, between National and Fremont.

We are very excited to have best-selling author and TV personality, Chris Balish, talk to us about his book, *How to Live Well Without Owning a Car; Save Money, Breathe Easier and Get More Mileage Out of Life*. Chris has been on The Today Show, CNN, NPR, in Newsweek and many other media outlets to promote his experience living without a car. Originally from St. Louis and now living in Los Angeles, we look forward to hearing what advice Chris has to share with us.

To read more about Chris, go to www.chrisbalish.com



Television personality and best-selling author, Chris Balish, will speak at our 18th annual meeting on Thurs., Feb. 12.

60/65 Interchange Bringing Change to Galloway Trail

Many members and trail users are curious about the work MoDOT has begun on the major redesign of the 60/65 highway interchange, and how this is affecting the Galloway Trail.

There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that there will be temporary interruptions along that section of the trail for the next year or so. The good news is that any inconveniences for trail use should be minimal and brief, and the current trail won't be closed permanently until the replacement section is completed. Once the trail is realigned, it will be as wonderful as ever - if not better!

Soooo, in the meantime, we know it's not ideal when you're jogging along and come across hazard tape or workers in hard hats, but hopefully everyone will be patient with the process.

Whenever safety is an issue, we always advise caution. Be safe out there.

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Tax-Free IRA Charitable Distributions

By Greg DeLong
Edward Jones

There's a unique opportunity this year to make a tax-free charitable donation through an IRA, but don't delay—it'll expire before we know it!

The qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA option only applies to distributions made prior to December 31, 2009. Any distributions made on or after January 1, 2010, will not be eligible for QCD treatment. This provision allows IRA owners age 70.5 and older to donate from their IRA directly to a qualified charity tax free—an action previously prohibited by the federal government.

Other important details include:

- Must be a direct transfer to a qualified charity
- \$100,000 per person maximum
- Can satisfy Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

This provision is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2009, so take advantage of this deadline driven opportunity today!

Questions? Contact Greg DeLong at Edward Jones Investments, 881-5358.

All the flowers of tomorrow are the seeds of today.

— Native American Proverb



On Nov. 2, Willard Scout Troop 52 planted 21 trees along the Frisco Highline Trail in front of Willard Middle School, as part of an Eagle Scout project, coordinated by scout, Shaun Colson.



The 2nd annual Outdoor Fitness Festival in November was a huge hit! The Bass Pro Marathon, Maynard Cohick Half Marathon, Ozark Greenways 5/10K and more, were full of happy runners and spectators.



Check out the bike sculpture that the Springbike Club installed on Galloway Creek Greenway near Southern Hills pool.



New & Renewing Members

From October through December 2008

New

Jeff Hays
 Kerry & Greg McManus
 Christopher & Lynne McNeese

Renewed

Jennifer Ailor & Don Alday
 Carl & Lolita Albers
 Benjamin & Becky Alexander
 Don Alexander
 Scott & Dot Atkinson
 Randy & Christine Austin
 Bob & Ruby Ball
 Brent Barnett
 John & Janese Barnhardt
 Catherine Banks & Gregory Janeczko
 Lee Beall
 John & Joyce Bearden
 Garry & Julia Benage-Pedersen
 Ellie Bennett
 Delores (Dee) Biggers
 Elizabeth Bock
 Joe Bolton
 Neil & Tonya Brady
 Steve & Elena Brady
 Jody, Anita, Aaron Breazeale
 Loring & Carol Bullard
 Howard Canada
 Kurt Chaloupecky
 Robert & Pam Childress
 Michael Clarke
 Russ Conroy
 Jim & Rosalie Cook
 Andy Dalton
 Hal & Diane Davidson
 Kim Dean
 Genelle Deaton
 Michael DePue

Neal & Laura DeShazo
 Rich & Donna De Vries
 Randy Dillon
 John Dodson
 Dogwood Trailblazers
 Cathy Doman
 Nancy & Tom Dornan
 Bill & Merrill Drummond
 Susan Duckworth
 John Ehlers
 Steven Fenner
 Roger Fillmer
 Inge & Robert Foster
 Tim Garrett
 Judith Good
 Mike & Nancy Good
 Brent Green
 Joe Greenlee
 Doug Greiner
 Brendan & Susan Griesemer
 David & Nichol Hamilton
 Clark Harris
 Hugh & Kathryn Harris
 Ronda Headland
 David & Donna Henderson
 Janet Hicks & Mike Smith
 Jim & Linda Holt
 Mary Horton
 Michael Todd Houge
 Sally Hubbard
 Don & Vera Hunziker
 Cliff Jacobs
 Gloria Johnson
 Steve Johnson
 Bob Jones
 Donna Jones & Dennis Rutledge
 Janet Kern
 Dan Kinney

Larry Kist
 Tim & Jean Knapp
 Betty Kniep
 George Knowles
 Lassman-Eul Family
 Liberty Bank
 Donald Lieberwitz
 Deryll Locke
 Ron & Melinda Love
 Robin & Mary Luke
 Diana Lyman
 Mark Mahy
 Richard Malone
 Bob & Jo Martin
 Jim Mayfield & Dulcy Stewart
 Kim & Joe Mayus
 Karen McDonald
 John McElhaney
 Gene & Connie McKeen
 Tamra McNabb
 Mary Kay Meek
 John Mihalevich
 Larry Moore
 Jerry Morgan
 Todd & Kathy Morriss
 Ed & Pam Mosher
 Bill Nesbitt
 Steve Neu
 Jeff & Nancy Nippes
 Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly
 Tim & Brooke O'Reilly
 Heather & Eric Parker-Reece
 Betty & Todd Parnell
 Kent & Nancy Parrish
 Joe & Krista Payne
 Donald Pirwitz
 Paul & Mary Potthoff
 Tom & Penni Quinn

Gary Rader
 Linda & Chris Revoir
 Dean Rising
 Ralph & Judy Rognstad
 Jim Rucker
 Dan & Jeannie Rudge
 Rob Sarrazin
 Fred & Melanie Schattauer
 Geri Schlegel
 Sue Schuble
 Scott Consulting Engineers
 Larry & Joy Scriven
 JD Slaughter & Gail Emrie
 Paul & Elizabeth Smith
 Springfield Underground
 Carla Stine
 Tim & Sharon Stout
 Don & Phyllis Tack
 Andrew Thomas
 Bob & Dorothy Thurman
 Tim & Penny Turner
 David Ukena
 Charles Vermillion
 Patricia Walker
 Wally Wetzel
 Bill & Becky White
 Steve & Carla Wiemer
 Mike & Carol Williamson
 Mike Wilson
 Mike & Jan Wooten
 Joel & Kelly Wylie

Renewing

Corporate Members
 Hamra Management Co.
 Hutchens Industries

Thank you all!



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.*

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

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

Trail Update

Galloway Creek Greenway

See page 1 of this newsletter for more information about the ongoing 60/65 interchange construction project. None of the old trail will be removed until the new trail section is completed. Be patient and safe with various trail interruptions, that will hopefully be brief.

Check out the cool new steel bicycle sculpture that the Springbike Club recently installed next to the trail at Southern Hills Blvd in honor of Ray Wagman and cycling in Springfield.

Frisco Highline Trail

Watch for the new yellow mile markers going up.

The Springfield-Greene County Library has decided to refrain from establishing a library in the large block building at the Willard trailhead due to a number of constraints, financially and otherwise, but we have good news. The building has recently been leased to a green building supplier, called Enviro-Structures, Inc.

South Dry Sac Greenway

Construction plans for the Lost Hill Park trailhead on north Grant and a gap in the trail by Truman Elementary School are being reviewed by MoDOT and will hopefully go out to bid in early spring. This will be great news, because then we'll be able to officially open and connect a significant amount of this trail.

At the Valley Water Mill end of this trail, the Watershed Committee recently dedicated their new bridge across the lake there. This is a great feature of the learning center and trail connection around the lake. This area connects to South Dry Sac Greenway, which will eventually head west all the way to Ritter Springs Park.



A cool new bridge spans the lake at Valley Water Mill. The Watershed Committee dedicated this important feature in their plans for a comprehensive learning center, all about educating the public about the importance of water quality.

Trail Mix

- Thank you to the awesome staff at **Bass Pro** and all the fabulous volunteers who made the 2nd annual Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness festival a huge success this past November! Nearly 5,000 people participated in all the many activities from the marathon to the canoe races to cycling and walking. We so appreciate the financial support of local businesses, like Bass Pro, in the effort to continue developing Springfield's trail and alternative transportation system. We couldn't do it without you!
- Thank you to **Norman & Jean Youngsteadt** for their donation to purchase prairie seeds for the Galloway prairie north of Battlefield Road.
- Toyota and the National Audubon Society will hold their next **"Together Green"** volunteer work-day on Saturday, February 7, at Lake Springfield Park. There will be trail building and glade restoration from 9AM-Noon and a shore clean-up from 1-4PM, with lunch at noon. To register, or for more info, call Ellen at 864-1051.
- A new event is making its way to the Frisco Highline Trail, set for Saturday, April 18. The "Frisco Fifty" is being planned by Richard Johnson of **Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners** and is to include a 50K run and a marathon, for starters... with proceeds going to Ozark Greenways! Stay tuned to our website or www.omrr.org for details.

Don't forget our trail mantras:

**Announce When Passing
Pass on Left, Walk on Right
Dogs Must be on a Leash
Be Courteous of Others
Keep Speed Down**

CALENDAR

TogetherGreen Volunteer Workday
Sponsored by Toyota & Audubon
 Sat., Feb. 7, (9AM-Noon, 1-4PM)
 Lake Springfield Park
 To register, call Ellen at 864-1051

18th Annual Meeting of OG
 Thurs., February 12 (6-8PM)
 Hammons Heart Institute auditorium

Monthly Volunteer Workday
 Sat., February 21 (8:30AM-Noon)
 Frisco Highline Trail, Wishart Trailhead
 (Carpool/caravan option:
 Meet at 8AM, at the gas
 station at Highways 13 & 0)

(417) 864-2015
www.ozarkgreenways.org



Springfield Will Host 5th annual Missouri Trail Summit

Just announced: Springfield has been chosen to host the very popular annual Missouri Trail Summit in October! We are really excited to show other non-profits and public agencies from around the state what we're trying to establish here with a trail and alternative transportation network.

As in previous years, this 3-day conference will include field trips to local trails and openspaces, workshops about current relevant topics and the sharing of information between statewide professionals and advocates.

Interested in getting involved? I'm sure we'll need help. Unlike bigger trail organizations (such as in St. Louis!), we work with a staff of two, but still have a lot going on, so any input is wel-

Important Tax Vote Coming Tuesday, February 3

You're probably aware of the police and fire pension deficit issue on the ballot for Springfield's city residents on Tuesday, February 3. We greatly appreciate the support of the police and fire professionals in their response to trail incidents over the years. While nobody likes a new sales tax, this current ballot issue will have a direct impact not only on our city's emergency response employees, but also on Ozark Greenways, should it not be approved.

Funding for the 18 year public-private partnership between Ozark Greenways and the City, which has been a model for other communities to follow, is one of the many city services slated for removal. This directly impacts support for Ozark Greenways staff in their role of acquiring easements, writing grants, and raising private funds for new trail projects. It will severely impact our role in the continuation toward achieving the goals of the *Vision 20/20 Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Plan*. In addition, trail related services and maintenance currently under the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will be in jeopardy and susceptible to future budget cuts also.

Much has been said about Springfield's excellent quality of life and our ability to attract new residents and business investment to the community. Thousands of us find the trails and greenways to be a large and important ingredient in a healthy lifestyle, and our quality of life. Severe budget cuts may result in the necessity of only funding perceived core services for our community. Funding for trails and parks may simply not be available.

Please help us keep the work of Ozark Greenways in a forward motion by informing friends or family who live in the city limits about this very important issue so they may cast an educated vote. For additional information, please feel free to contact the Ozark Greenways office at 864-2014 or visit www.springfieldmo.gov/elections. Creative funding ideas are welcome!



The Frisco Highline Trail got a good clearing from our terrific Polk County volunteer crew. Thank you, guys, for all your hard work!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*When
planning your
estate, consider
a gift to Ozark
Greenways*

In This Issue...

If you live within Springfield city limits, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, Feb. 3... See page 1.



OG Board Member Slate for 2009

We cannot thank our board of directors enough for their ongoing passion, support and commitment to serve Springfield's trail development needs. We are blessed to have one of the best boards around and they should feel very proud!

Nominated officers:

President - Kurt Larson
Treasurer - Tammy Weller
Secretary - Steve Brady
Past President - Greg DeLong

To be elected 2/12:

Carol Cruise and Brad Kielhofner

Remaining board members:

Marla Calico, Kit Carson,
Chris Flouer, Gene McKeen,
Tom Netzer, David Peery,
Richard Rice, J.D. Slaughter,
Jason Smith

Our favorite engineer, Jeff Bentley of Hood-Rich, took his son John's Boy Scout Troop #210 from Immaculate Conception, on a fun biking adventure along the Frisco Highline Trail over a very chilly November weekend. Share your trail photos with us!