



THE GREENWAY NEWS

July - September 2009

Ozark Greenways Membership Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 3

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Greenways Founder Passes On: Fred May Leaves a Legacy

“Just do the right thing, dammit.” That phrase might make you wonder just what it’s referring to. There are several issues in society today that are questionable as to whether the importance of the public good is being put first. But every so often, we are lucky enough to know someone with the power to make good things happen who actually does just that. In this case, his name is Fred May.

While Fred was director of the Springfield Planning Department from 1985–2003, the plans were laid to form the greenways we love today. Many of us knew Fred and got to witness his amazing ability to bring people together in a common goal with a calm, friendly approach that was very successful. He never took himself too seriously and his focus was always on the public good. Even a diagnosis of Lou Gehrig’s Disease in 2006 couldn’t stop this city planner’s passion to help communities develop. **(Continued on page 2...)**



Memorial donations can be sent to OG to plant trees on the trail at Fred May Plaza.

Collaborative Funding to Span Budget Shortfall

Your membership is really important. How important? Without our members, Ozark Greenways wouldn’t exist. We don’t take that for granted, and in fact, we usually try to flaunt that we’re a successful citizens’ organization. We can act quickly and take opportunities that governmental agencies don’t usually have the luxury of.

That brings us to the current unfortunate situation the City of Springfield is in. The City had been paying a third of our operating expenses - \$67,500 - in order for us to apply for and administer large grants through various sources to fulfill Vision 20/20 plans. As much as we’ve penny pinched and used all sources of funding wisely, no one could have predicted the current financial predicament. Tough choices have to be made.

Our board of directors has been working closely with City and Greene County leaders to find the best **(Continued on page 2...)**

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Bike Advocates Activate

Our new committee on alternative transportation and bicycle advocacy is off and running with several initiatives. The latest is the completion of a bike commuter how-to booklet which picks up on the “Drive Less, Live More” campaign. This was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, with writing and design by OG member, Andy Cline, and MSU grad student, Annie DeGraff. It’s available at local bike shops and our office. Other projects include “Bike Springfield”, marketing Greene County as a bicycle destination, Springfield Regional Bicycle Summit, and a bike initiative petition at bike shops.

Committee members presented a petition last year to City Council requesting greater consideration for bikes on our streets. The Council seemed supportive of the petition and it might have a positive impact on future street projects. Thanks to all who signed the petition—please sign the new petition in bike shops now. Let us know if you’d like to join the Advocacy Committee.

Train Your Body for Free

Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival Training Programs Are Underway

Details about activities at www.basspro.com/fitness

60/65 Project

Get the latest updates on Galloway Creek Greenway Closures from MoDOT

www.6065interchange.org
895-7600



It was a very cold, wet April morning for these tough participants in the “Run for Scouting” event that took place on the Frisco Highline Trail.



A bird? A plane? No! It's a brightly colored gigantic billboard donated by Lamar Advertising in May to promote Bike, Bus, Walk Week.



These folks are some of the smiling volunteers who plan and coordinate the entire Ozark Greenways Adventure Race. (L to R) Kurt Larson, Monty Montgomery, Marla Calico, John Bradley and Terry Whaley.



New & Renewed Members

april through june 2009

New

Tim Conklin
Kwen & Cheryl Griffeth
Greg & Tori Hoffman
Sara Hollis
Jason & Tracy Krebs
Mitch Morrissey
RCBA Architects
Charley Reed

Renewed

Abe & Kris Abdalla
David & Meredith Adams
Teresa Allen
Hearld Ambler
Andy Anderson
James Anderson
Ron & Jana Anderson
Ted Anderson
Mike & Theresa Appleby
Jack Bagby
Norb & Ann Bagley
Michael & Teri Baird
Jim & Peggy Baremore
Brian & Jackie Basham
Craig & Mary Bills
Michael Bracewell
Linda Brewer
Wilbur & Lorene Brill
Mike & Martha Brooks
Rochelle & Bucky Buckner
Jay & Maureen Burchfield
Marla Calico & Jeff Geyman
Maryann Campbell
Betty & Lynn Carleton
Ron & Leslie Carrier
LD Carter
John & Linda Charles
Bill & Maret Cheek
Larry & Penny Childress
Nathaniel & Barbara Clark
Debbie Clary
Carol Claxton
Diane Cline
Major Close
Dan Compas
Mark & Tammy Crabtree
Elise Crain
Doris Crooks
Cycles Unlimited
Frankie & Jo Danderson
Gary Deaver & Kathy Shatto
Darrell & Mary Decker
Dennis deJong
Stewart & Pam Delnevo
Jeff & Shana DelVecchio
Bill & Jane Derrington
Henry & Mary Beth DeShazo
Dale Donat

Tom & Joy Dye
Adam Eadens
John & Terri Emmons
Tom & Judith Flanagan
Susan Fletcher
Hadley & Jacque Ford
Karen French
Glenn & Mona Fromme
Michelle Fronick
Pete & Kathy Gassenberger
Ted & Cathryn Gearing
Jerry & Joan Gentry
John & Carolyn Gerdes
Larry & Kathy Gifford
Gerald Glass
Mike & Debbie Good
Carol Gough
Wil & Andrea Hardiman
Cecilia Harris
Clark & Donna Harris
Jeff Harrison
John Heitz
Robert Helm
Gail & Sharon Helton
Mark Herndon
Kirk Heyle
Billy & Carolin Hixon
Mike & Becky Hollis
Jack & Fran Hood
Bob & Janet Hopkins
Michael & Zita Horan
Karen Horny
Mary Horton
John & Michelle Hulett
Jacob & Stephanie Hurt
David & Shirley Hutchison
Melissa & Terry Hutton
Betty & Kay Johnson
Mimi Kauffman
Tracy Kimberlin
Bob & Barbara Kipfer
David Kjellerson
Jim & Joan Landewe
Terry & Lisa Langley
Lassman-Eul Family
Peggy Day Lee
Barbara Lemasters
Bill Lindsey & Family
Richard & Faye Loeb
Les Long
Kathy & Bill Love
Jerry Lumpe
David Lutz
Diana Lyman
Jim & Roxanne Mason
Mary McCarthy
Mac & Stella McClain
Corky & Becky McCormack
Robert McCoy

Fred & Teri McQueary
John McSpadden
Bryon & Lisa Medley
John & Barbara Melton
Michael Mihalik
Mark Mikesch
Arden & Sheryl Miller
James & Louise Miller
Steve & Mindy Miller
Andrea Mitchell
Vern & Maggie Morgan
Tad & Juli Moseley
Dave & Sarah Muegge
Joyce & Wallace Munden
John Neill
Doug & Rae Nickell
Gus & Glyna Nickels
Earl Niewald
Dale Nimmo
Alan & Dana Nippes
Keith & Joyce Noble
Judy Nortridge
Oak Grove Construction Services
Martha Odom
Richard & Teresa Ollis
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly
Gene Pabst
Victor Pardie
Nelson Parke
Mike & Susie Peace
Dennis Pearce
Patricia Pendleton
Beth Perine & Jill Hays
Donald & Virginia Potter
Tom & Kim Prater
Deborah Preston
Carl & Kathy Price
Public Works, Marc Thornsberry
Bill Pyle
Gail Randolph
Andrea Reynolds
Judy Richardson
Tracy Roberts
Tim Robie
Lance Rubin
Bob & Susan Rubino
Pam Sailors
Erin & Nick Sanders
Peggy & James Sauer
Steve & Janet Scharitz
Mike Schilling
Bruno Schmidt
Steve & Kris Schomaker
Joel & Peggy Schroeder
Julia & Curtis Schreiber
Shadowood Homeowners Assoc.
Tony & Linda Shalloup
Mike, Jeanne, Rae, Niles Simpson
Marsha & Tom Slaight

Charles Smith
James Smith
Sam & Lois Smith
Tim Smith
Byron & Kara Snider
Chris & Linda Snyder
Roberta Stewart
Jim Stiles & Gee Williams
Alan & Arlene Stone
Dave & Mary Sturdevant
Ross Stryker
Glenn & Janet Thomas
Gary Thompson
Mick & Joyce Tolliver
Barbara Tombridge
Chris Trumbull
George & Jan Tucker
Joe & Linda Tucker
DeDe Vest & Steve Wilson
Sheryl & Ron Wachter
John Waldo
Judy Warren
Lee Webb
William Welsh
Daniel & Paula Wilken
Bob & Debbie Williams
Nancy Williams & Kevin Evans
Cindy Willis
Carol Winans & Parris Geiser
Thomas Withers
Norman & Jean Youngsteadt

Renewing Corporate Member
Edward Jones – Greg DeLong

**Forgot to send in
your membership
renewal?**

**Need a
renewal form?**

**Print the form at
ozarkgreenways.org**

**Or call us and we
will send you one
864-2015**

Frisco Highline Trail: A Work in Progress

Ozark Greenways' largest land holding is the 35-mile long, 468-acre Frisco Highline Trail corridor. Our partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the Parks Greenway Maintenance Crew make the Greene County half of the trail a joy to visit, whether on foot or bike. However, the Polk County half, which represents 18 miles of the trail and 15 bridges, is a challenge to maintain. We do the best with what we have and appreciate your patience. We are so grateful for the many volunteers and the Polk County Bike Club who work to help us keep up the trail.

Fortunately, more help is on the way. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a few improvements are now planned, including an asphalt surface from Mile 32 to 33, near the La Petite Prairie, and development of the small trailhead at Wishart. In Greene County, we will asphalt the surface starting at Willard and work back toward Springfield as far as we can with funding currently available. We presented some \$660,000 worth of potential improvement projects which could improve the trail and these were the ones the government chose.

Strong spring storms hit several sections of the trail, making the surface rough. Surface repairs are scheduled. The storm tree debris has been removed and volunteers are working to fight back encroaching vegetation on the edges. We have an aggressive plan to remove problem trees this fall. Ongoing improvements continue on mile markers, bollard replacements, bridge identification signs, kiosk upgrades, and road crossing safety.

While the ARRA improvements will be great additions, we still need support through funding, membership and volunteer time to stay on the Polk County section and make the Frisco Highline Trail the best possible trail experience in southwest Missouri. To learn how you can assist, call 864-2014.



During our monthly workday in June, volunteers helped with a morning of maintenance on the Polk County section of the Frisco Highline Trail, near Walnut Grove.

(Continued from Fred, page 1...)

On June 16, we lost Fred to his disease, but his legacy will continue to remind us of his powerful vision for our community and real quality of life. The next time you're on one of the greenways, stop and think of the people who brought this concept to reality! Fred was even the original creator of this newsletter. We want to thank Fred, Diane and his family for being part of this whole crazy wonderful greenway process.

Walk With Us—Sat., September 19

Help is necessary in the battle to defeat ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The City of Springfield and Ozark Greenways have formed a team to walk in the ALS Association's "Walk to Defeat ALS" event, to be held in Jordan Valley Park, Saturday, September 19. We invite you to join us!

We will begin gathering at 9:00am with the walk starting at 10:30. There will be complimentary food and bounce houses. The walk is 2 miles, non-competitive and not everyone has to walk. Join our walk team and make a donation by going to www.asla.org, or contact team co-captains, Vern Morgan at 864-1844, or Gene McKeen at 425-3202.

(Continued from Funding, page 1...)

solution to sustain our organization, so we can continue to make Springfield more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Through a collaborative funding effort between the Park Board, City Utilities and City/County federal transportation planning grants, Ozark Greenways will be able to operate through 2009.

Now we turn to the private side of our public-private partnership. We talk about increasing our membership base a lot, but it really takes more collaboration to make this happen. Many of us have running buddies, biking partners or know a lot of people who would or should be OG members, but aren't. Now is the time to ask them to join us. If we each brought in just one person, that would make a huge difference.

Let's work together to ensure the future of Ozark Greenways, and the trail system we all love and enjoy. You are our solid base of support and the reason for our success. Besides, we have way too many plans to stop now!

CALENDAR

Monthly Volunteer Workdays

Third Saturdays (9AM—Noon)
Check website for locations

12th annual Fall Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, September 24
Let us know if you'd like an invitation!

Tour de Bass

Sat., October 24 (7:30AM)
Century, 70-mile, 35-mile, 9-mile
www.stjohns.com/tourdebass

Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival

October 17—November 1
Everything from running to camping
www.basspro.com/fitness

(417) 864-2015

www.ozarkgreenways.org



10th annual Adventure Race Showcased New Format

Ten years have passed since a hardy group of OG volunteers met for breakfast in the wee hours of the morning to discuss the possibility of this “new” kind of race. Well, it sure worked all right—it became the largest annual OG fundraiser! This year’s race had a new spin, with teams having to orienteer the whole way. We’d like to again extend our great thanks to those volunteers we affectionately call “the committee” for all they do and have done. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated, including the following generous event sponsors:

- Larson Law Firm
- Ozark Adventures
- New Belgium Brewing Company
- Salomon
- CoxHealth Fitness Centers
- Hogan Land Title
- Ridge Runner Sports
- McCann Printing
- O’Reilly Auto Parts

National Park Service Representative Leads OG Workshop

We all know what Springfield & Greene County are known for...Fantastic Caverns, Bass Pro, Route 66, rivers, lakes and trails. But, could Greene County become “*The Bicycle Destination of the Midwest*”? We have a great county road system, fantastic scenery that we take for granted, and we have interesting historical, cultural and natural features to explore. With interest in eco-tourism and close to home vacations increasing, why not show off what we have, not only to visitors, but also our residents...and, with a different transportation mode: bikes.

Ozark Greenways submitted this idea to the National Park Service’s *Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program* and was selected to receive technical assistance to explore this possibility. In May, a group of community leaders met for a half-day brain storming session to discuss the possibilities. In addition to reviewing other states’ programs, playing with maps, and dreaming about themed bicycle tour routes, the group came up with some recommendations, including the tagline for the project, “Bicycle Destination of the Ozarks”, defining our unique geographical location.

OG staff is following up with the National Park Service and exploring issues raised at the workshop. Challenges include route selection, route safety, way finding/signage, marketing and the always required funding. Stay tuned for follow-up on this exciting project. If you have thoughts, contact our office.

Thank you to the participants for their time and input: Tracy Kimberlin Susan Wade, and Laura Wilser with the Springfield Convention & Visitor Bureau; Dawne Gardner with MoDOT; Presiding Greene County Commissioner David Coonrod; Tim Smith, Joel Keller, and Dan Smith with Greene County; Ted Hillmer with Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield; Lisa Zimmerman with the Springfield-Greene County Parks; David Hutchison with the Public Works/Traffic; Jerany Jackson with Great River Engineering; Marla Calico, Carol Cruise, Chris Flouer and David Peery with the OG board.



Public Works has restriped Benton/Kimbrough Ave., south of Chestnut Expressway, to merge 4 skinny lanes into 2 — and included bike lanes. What a great solution!



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estate, consider
a gift to Ozark
Greenways*

In This Issue... Join us for our next monthly workday on the Frisco Highline Trail... See page 2.

Bike, Bus, Walk to Work Week Winners

Rountree Elementary
School Category

Springfield Area Chamber
of Commerce
Small Size Business

Butler Rosenbury & Partners
Medium Size Business

CoxHealth Fitness Centers
Large Size Business

Thank you Art Bike Artists and the nine downtown businesses who displayed them: Queen City Cycles, The Moxie Cinema, Staxx Apparel, Park Central Library, Coffee Ethic, Nonna's, YMCA, Good Girl Art, Fresh Gallery.

Special thanks to Panera Bread Co., City Utilities, Bruce Murrell and Mark Montgomery, and everyone else who helped make this event happen again!



1. Rountree third grade teacher, John Walstrand, accepted the school trophy for most participation from OG president, Kurt Larson.

2. Rountree third graders paper-mached an Art Bike with poems they wrote about biking!

3. Artist, Alan Beumer, created this amazing fabric covered Art Bike.