

ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY

JULY 2010 TRAIL NEWS

2010 ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (ITEP)

- Applications and information available at www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html
- 80% reimbursement for eligible projects costs. 20% Project Sponsor Cost.
- August 31, 2010 Deadline to submit on line with a paper copy within 3 working days.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Contact Megan at DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov

LOCAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **Illinois Prairie Path** 12 foot wide bridge over the EJ&E Railroad in place of the at-grade track crossing. Brochure mailed to ITC by Louise Grobl from Naperville.
- **Galena** Jo Davies Conservation Foundation is the recipient of two private \$545,000.00 grants to assist in the purchase of 100 acres of a 213 acre property. Cathy Winslow from Galena hopes for trails.
- **St. Charles in Kane County** RTC notified ITC that a 3.17 mile abandonment of railroad tracks will be available from Union Pacific on or about June 4. You are urged to **take action now**. Contact http://www.railstotrails.org/resources/documents/resource_docs/RTC%20Fact%20Sheet_Railbanking.pdf for a “boiler-plate” letter to use with the Surface Transportation Board docket #AB-33 sub no. 284x. Filing this letter does not commit you to acquire this corridor, it merely gives you time to develop a rail-trail proposal.
- **Lemont Trails** James Brown and Diane Banta from National Park Service will be hosting another meeting regarding trail connections in the area.
- **Rockford** Bike path plan awaits decision by city leaders. **Please contact your alderman** and let them know that we need more trail connections. A couple shared their frustration at having to ride along a dangerous section of Perryville Road from Cherry Valley to reach their nearest trail.
- **Loves Park** will annex a portion of Argyle to allow operation of Paulson’s Agricultural Museum.
- **Poplar Grove** is planning to enhance the Long Prairie Trail with Trellis Signs.
- **Belvidere** is planning a brochure to identify trails and connections. Bev got lost on McKinley Street.
- **Carlisle** a motorist who hit and killed a bicyclist received a sentence of 9 years & a \$5,000.00 fine.
- **Rock Island Trail in Peoria** has experienced wash out problems. Bev shared that FEMA has provided funds for other trails that have been damaged by stormwater.

REGIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **RMAP GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN 3RD UPDATE** is down to 3 Consultants for the Project.
- **Savanna to Thompson** connection on the Great River Trail should be finished soon. Bev rode around the barricade and got about 2 miles down the new section before she was sent back by a person from the Wildlife Center. Riders who tried later made it all the way down to Thompson. NO MORE RIDES DOWN HIGHWAY 84. YIPPEE.
- **Highway 66 from South Bloomington to Shirley** should be complete by fall. Construction of the 7/10 mile extension of the Constitution Trail Main North South Branch is also continuing. McLean County announced they are applying for grants that would build a trail segment from North Normal along Route 66 to the Towanda Bike Trail. Thanks for info from Bob Clay in Bloomington.
- **McHenry County Conservation District** news can be found at DiscoverMCCD.
- **DuPage County Planning** shared a copy of their Resolution EN-0003-10 SUPPORTING COMPLETE STREETS FEDERAL LEGISLATION. Bev would be happy to share a copy with you.
- **CMAP IN CHICAGO** will be hosting meetings of the 2040 Draft of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. (See a list of locations under Opportunities for You). They also shared that the Federal Highway Administration reports that biking and walking trips have increased 25 percent nationally since 2001.
- **IDOT IN GRUNDY COUNTY** will be providing a 10” multi-use path across the structure on Minooka Road at the request of ITC.
- **A connection between the Rock Island Trail and the Hennepin Trail** will currently exist via roads.

STATE TRAIL NEWS:

- **GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL 10TH ANNIVERSARY** – ITC provided a cake in Savanna to be shared by the GITAP riders while we all tried out the new trail between Savanna & Thompson.
- **IDNR Outdoor Hall of Fame Nominations for 2011** should be submitted before Sept. 17. For a copy of the nomination form contact Ron.Allen@Illinois.gov
- **The Route 66 Trail Concept Plan** is complete. Contact marla.gursh@illinois.gov to see it.
- **Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator Megan Holt Swanson** says the more folks that we get educated and on board with SRTS the better. Bev's niece out in California took the training.

NATIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **Rails to Trails supports THE ACTIVE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2010.** Representatives from Illinois who support this Legislation are Daniel Lipinski, Jesse Jackson Jr. & Luis Gutierrez. THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU.

IN JUNE ITC,

- **E-mailed TRAIL NEWS** to 124 members and postal mailed to 74 members. Keep in mind that several of our members are clubs with many more members such as the Blackhawk Bike Club in Rockford who joined with a check for \$100.00. – Trailblazer renewals for \$100.00 were received from Duard Inch of Geneseo, Village of Godfrey & Randall Miller from Lombard.
- **Sally Olds from Chicago** called to ask Bev why she had not cashed her check for \$300.00. I think the check got lost in the postal mail. She cautioned Bev not to spend it all in one place so Bev looked at the financial statement and saw that \$1,000 has been spent on the web site, \$900 on Office Supplies and \$700 on Postage. Bev does not take income but rent for the office is \$800.00 for 8 months. Gross revenue for 8 months is \$6,100.00. Bev is definitely cheap & continues to whine for more TRAILS.
- **Chuck Oestreich from Rock Island** thanked Bev for bringing a cake for the party in Savanna.
- **George Burrier in Peoria** got a wonderful write up in the Sunday Journal Star. HE IS MR. TRAIL.
- **IDOT LETTERS WERE MAILED** re projects in Livingston County, Grundy County and Bureau County asking for wide shoulders for bicyclists.
- **Mary & Ron Ayers from Flora** asked for information about the George Rogers Clark Discovery Trail.
- **George Wight Sr. from Crystal Lake & Sally Olds** each requested the updated IDOT Bicycle Maps.
- **Deborah Fagan from DuPage County** sent Bev the News Release of the County Employees who Bike to Work. YEAH for DuPage County. The Trail Maintenance Policy Task Force Meeting has been changed to July 19 at the Jack Knuepfer Administration Center on County Farm Road. Room 3-500B.
- **Bev drove Tim Milan at IDOT nuts** when she kept bugging him for information about ITEP funds
- **Don Lawrence from Carbondale** stopped in to visit Bev in Capron and see her electric assist bike.
- **Bruce Perry from Port Byron** and his 10 year old grandson rode their tandem from Port Byron to Savanna for the Grand Illinois Trail 10th Anniversary Party.
- **Tommy Greer in Antioch** is working on getting our BLOG to be useable for Bev. I hope you got a chance to try the Google connection to set up a bike route.
- **Bob Hargis from Ohio** shared information about the newspaper article from the Peoria Journal.
- **Bev enjoys hearing from all ITC Members** Greg Valent from Chicago regarding his renewal, Dennis Vidoni from Urbana about his trouble downloading TRAIL NEWS, Jean Collins with fun magazine articles about bicycling, Peter Botzek from Chicago with suggestions about highlighting out of state trails and Eberhard Veit who is out of the country on holiday

WE ENDED UP WITH A THREE PAGER AGAIN. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

- **July 10-11 – Plein Air on the Prairie Art Event @ Nygren Wetland Preserve** in Rockton
- **July 10-11 – Friends of the Parks’ L.A.T.E. Ride** in Chicago. See www.lateride.org for more information.
- **July 13 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at Woodstock Public Library 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 15 – CMAP Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force** meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Chicago.
- ***July 17 – Jo Davies Natural Area Guardians Nature Walk.** Call 815-777-6932 for more information
- **July 17 – McDonald Farm Open House** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Naperville
- **July 19 – DuPage County Trail Maintenance Policy Task Force** – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 20 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at Cicero Comm. Center 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 21 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at Kane Co. Gov. Center 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 27 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at Moraine Valley Comm. College, Fogelson Theater in Palos Heights. 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 29 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at Arlington Heights Public Library 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **July 31 – Chase the Moon** midnight bike ride sponsored by Conservation Foundation. www.chasethe-moon.com
- **August 3 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at CMAP Offices in Chicago 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ***August – Quad Cities Marathon**
- **August 4 – Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor** meeting in Lemont 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **August 5 – Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor** meeting at Ottawa City Hall 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ***August 7 – POKER RUN ON THE LONG PRAIRIE TRAIL** – 8:00 a.m. – Noon. Call Bev @ 815-569-2472
- **August 10 – BRATS Meeting** at Wheaton Park District Comm. Center – 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- **August 10-15 – Boone County Fair** – Come Visit Bev at the ITC trails exhibit.
- **August 14 – Sullivan Area Arts Bicycle Tour: Cruisin’ the Cornfields** E-mail Zak @ zstand@hotmail.com
- ***September 18 – Midwest Health & Fitness Center 6th Annual 5K Walk Run.** Start at 9 a.m.. Call 815-777-4960
- ***September 18 – Fever River Adventure Triathlon** – 6 mile paddle, 17 mile bike ride and 3.1 mile run. Call Deb Malone @ 815-776-9425
- **September 24 through November 30 – Nygren Wetland Preserve Juried Art Exhibit** at Burpee Natural History Museum in Rockford.
- **October 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Call for Projects opens.** A School Travel Plan is necessary
- **October 21 – Public Meeting for the Environmental Literacy of Illinois Strategic Plan** in Lisle
- **October 23 – Harvest Fest in Belvidere** a Fundraiser for Riverfront Development of the Trail – 9:00-5:00
- **November 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day to Submit School Travel Plan**
- **November 12 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day for 2010 Application Cycle**
- **Nov. 14-17 – 20th American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee** email symposium@americantrails.org to register.
- **December 15 – Safe Routes to Schools Call for Projects. No more applications accepted.**
- **January 2011 – Safe Routes to Schools Application Review & Scoring begins.**
- **Mid to Late 2011 – Safe Routes to Schools Funded Projects Announced.**

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT ITC: includes NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE IN ROCKFORD, OUTDOOR ILLINOIS MAGAZINE from IDNR, RAILS TO TRAILS, American Trails National Symposium, The Confluence and Trail Net in St. Louis, Conservation Foundation News Flash, McHenry County Pedaler and National Park Service News.

CONTACT ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY at www.ILLTrails.com or Bev at bebomoore@aol.com regarding anything mentioned in TRAIL NEWS.