

ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY

SEPTEMBER 2010 TRAIL NEWS

CHECK OUT THE NEXT MILE: AMERICA'S TO DO LIST OF BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS @ <http://nextmile.americabikes.org/>!

- As of Aug. 13, Brendan McEntee from American Bikes e-mailed that he has 6 projects from Illinois listed on the next mile web site. Keep them coming.

BAD NEWS FOR 2010 ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY FUNDS

- \$76,424,382 in unobligated Federal-aid highway funds are hereby rescinded as required by section 330 of Public Law 111-226.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR 2010 ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

- The rescission shall not apply to funds distributed in accordance with Section 133 (d)(1) of title 23 for the safety set-asides under the Surface Transportation Program in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the SAFETEA Act. YIKES THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!!

A Public Forum on President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, a 21st Century agenda for conservation, recreation and connecting with the outdoors was held August 30.

- Bev took the train to Chicago to attend this forum and was TOTALLY FRUSTRATED. The only speakers that she heard were those from CHICAGO. It seemed as though no one else was allowed to speak even though they had arrived early and had signed up to speak on a first come, first served basis. Bev sent a letter directly to President Obama indicating her frustration and shared her comments as well as those from Diana Cooper who had signed up to speak.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Contact Megan at DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov re webinars to be conducted on September 7, Sept. 21, October 5 and October 19 at Noon to 1:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY IS OCTOBER 6, 2010. Register your participation at the site listed above. Registering a Walk to School event provides organizers access to a variety of downloadable materials. See www.walktoschool.org to view 2009 photos.

STATE TRAIL NEWS:

- Money available for improvements to non-highway projects, bike/pedestrian, streetscapes, historic funding cycle is \$70-\$80 million which is more than we've ever had. Hopefully those projects approved will be announced by October. IDNR received 10 applications for Snowmobile grants requesting \$164,430 with only \$120,000 available.
- Illinois High School Seniors are invited to apply for Conservation Achievement Scholarships for \$5,000, \$3,000 or \$2,000 by contacting Kathy Wheeler at 217-785-2003.

REGIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- T Y Lin was selected by RMAP to administer the 3rd update of the **Boone & Winnebago** Regional Greenways & Trails Plan.
- Vandewalle & Associates is working on **the Stateline Area** Bike and Pedestrian System Plan. Bev & Diana rode bicycles from Rockton to Beloit to attend the Public Participation Meeting on August 5. Diana works at the BeloitYMCA and has used her recumbent as transportation and is familiar with the needs in the area. Bev was impressed by the good work of Vandewalle & Associates staff.
- **180 Public Meeting was held in Joliet on August 18.** Bev attended the meeting and placed sticky notes indicating ITC's desire for connections of the I & M Canal Trail, the Wauponsee Trail and the Old Plank Road Trail. She followed it up by submitting a written Comment Form via the U.S. Postal Service. The IDOT Engineers were not aware of the Official State Bicycle Maps. Bev mailed them.
- **The Forbidden Trail or Chicago's Secret Passage** otherwise known as the Bloomingdale elevated trail was highlighted in a Chicago Tribune Redeye supplement aimed at readers under 40. ITC member Bill Fried mailed Bev the article. Bev mailed him back information from October 1996. Trails take a long time becoming a reality.

LOCAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **I & M Canal Towpath Trail** improvements have been made from Channahon to AuSable. ITC Member **Louise Grobl** says IDNR deserves a BIG THANK YOU for the work that has been done.
- **Bloomington to Shirley Trail** which is a 3.7 mile section of what will become part of the Route 66 Bike Route is complete. ITC member **Bob Clay** reported that it is a nice ride and connects to the Hamilton Road Sidepath of the Constitution Trail. Bloomington City Council gave its approval to supporting McLean County's grant application for \$137,000 for a Route 66 Bike Route extension from Normal northeast to Towanda. At Towanda there is already approximately 3 miles using the abandoned Southbound lanes of Old Highway 66.
- **The new IPP-Elgin Bridge over the EJ&E railroad is open to traffic.** Robert Guico from Carol Stream Bikes arrived at the same time a coal train did. Separation of peds/cyclists and trains is always a good thing. Bob uploaded a You Tube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CytpYSkZscA> ITC Member Mike Incopero sends KUDOS to Deb Fagan and her team at DuPage County.
- **A connection between Will County through DuPage and up into Hawk Hollow/Bartlett** application for ITEP funds has been submitted.
- **Elmhurst Park District was to decide the fate of the final segment of the Salt Creek Trail.** ITC Member **Mike Incopero** shares that the area has a number of NIMBY's (NOT IN MY BACK YARD) who have fought this trail since 1965. Mike says "Let's finally stop these madmen in their tracks and get this trail done for the safety of younger cyclists."
- **McHenry County Bicycle Advocates** led by **Eberhard Veit** continue to meet on Monday Evenings at Algonquin Township Building. Eberhard sent Bev a copy of the Randall Road and Rakow Road Highway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Plan. The Advocates have submitted a letter of support for the Edgewood Bike Trail. Information regarding Bicycling & Rumble Strips is available.
- **A Chicago "Flyover" Bridge over the Lakeshore Path** was forwarded to Bev by **Greg Valent**. According to what Greg sent Bev it will fly over Navy Pier???
- **Caledonia to Rock Cut Park** or Willow Creek Extension has been a project that Bev has worked on since 1999. She is working with local land owners to see if we can get agreement on a corridor.
- **Lombard Mayor Bill Mueller** is concerned about trail safety on the Great Western Trail.
- **Great River Trail between Savanna & Thompson** grand opening will be soon I hope.
- **The 2010 Riverside Bicycle Plan** was mailed to Bev by ITC Member Greg Valent. Remember, Bev only has dial up and cannot download big files on her equipment.

IN AUGUST ITC,

- **E-mailed TRAIL NEWS** to 128 members and postal mailed to 82 members. Keep in mind that several of our members are clubs with many members. One Trailblazer member renewal for \$100.00 was received from Bob Hargis who now lives in Ohio.
- **Mary Ann & Ron Ayers in Flora** sent Bev their new e-mail address. HAS YOURS CHANGED??
- **Friends in Ohio & Minnesota** share information with Bev like the Article in the Star Tribune "Minneapolis: City of Bikes" Recumbant & Fixed Gear Bicycles are becoming more popular.
- **Diana Cooper has air conditioned accommodations for Maggie** her Yorkie on her recumbent.
- **Electric Assist Bikes** are also becoming more popular as each of us continues to get older.
- **ITC continues to support Center for Neighborhood Technology.** They do good work.
- **ITC Member Peter Botzek** shared another of his fun stories "Chasing Geese in an Airplane"
- **The new book "Best Rail Trails Illinois** is available from ITC with a foreward by Bev.
- **Kishwaukee Riverfront Development Plans for Harvest Fest** are supported by ITC.
- **Charlie Johnson from Lisle will receive an automatic update of his membership** due to his accident that occurred last winter when he broke off four front teeth and now has a \$20,000 dental bill. Charlie shares that collar county trail development has been absolutely super with the DuPage River Trail being completed and the West Branch Trail extension nearing completion. He shared that he rode the I & M Canal west of Ottawa. At Buffalo Rock the trail is closed with a very robust barricade so he rode the roadway to Utica. Another closure was located at the end of the pavement east of Utica.
- **ITC MEMBERS ARE GREAT!!!**

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

- **September 13 – Recreational Trail Advocates Meeting in Peoria 7:00 p.m. at Safety Town**
- ***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 20 – McHenry County Advocates Meeting at Algonquin Township Building at 7:30 p.m.**
- **September 21-25 – Brita Climate Ride California** is a 5 day, 320 mile ride beginning in Eureka and tracing its way through Northern California redwoods, along the Pacific Coast, through Wine Country and across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Check Rails to Trails web site for information and registration.
- **September 24 through November 30 – Nygren Wetland Preserve Juried Art Exhibit at Burpee Natural History Museum in Rockford.**
- **September 25 – 6th Annual 5K Walk/Run on the Galena River Trail.**
- **September 29 – Environmental Leadership Dinner at Holiday Inn in Chicago.** RSVP by Sept. 12 @ www.ilenviro.org
- **October 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Call for Projects opens.** A School Travel Plan is necessary
- **October 6 – INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**
- **October 10 – ITC ANNUAL MEETING at Eisenhower Community Fitness Center in Lansing.**
- **October 16 & 17 – TRAIL OF HISTORY in Glacial Park, Ringwood off Route 31 north of McHenry**
- **October 20 – Greenways & Trails Council Meeting**
- **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
- **October 23 – 2010 Tour de Shawnee in Olive Brnce, Illinois.** See www.tourdeshawnee.org for info.
- **November 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day to Submit School Travel Plan**
- **November 5-7 – ANNUAL CONVENTION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS.** Best Western Praire In n of Galesburg
- **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, McHenry County Pedaler, Center for Neighborhood Technology, CMAP Weekly Update, Friends of the Parks, TC Corner from the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Illinois Trail Riders and McHenry County Conservation Dist. Landscapes.

CONTACT ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY at www.ILLTrails.com or Bev at bebomoore@aol.com or feel free to telephone me at 815-569-2472 regarding anything mentioned in TRAIL NEWS.