

Volunteers Spend 500 Hours Working on Trails in 2020

By Jack Potter, Trails Committee Chairman

I would like to thank everyone who came to one or more of our nine trail workdays this season. We had 32 volunteers put in an incredible 514 hours on the three single-track trails. Including drive time to Black River Falls, they donated a whopping 785 hours. See page 4 for a list of everyone who helped this year.

Thanks to their efforts, the trails at Crawford Hills County Park are in the best shape they've been in for many years. We've gotten a lot of compliments.

\$8,000 Grant from County

This year the Jackson County Forestry and Parks Department secured an \$8,000 grant from the federal Recreational Trails Program. We were told we could turn in our work hours for reimbursement of up to \$4,000 and the rest would be available in 2021. But because of the number of hours worked, the county gave us the entire \$8,000 this year.

At our work days, many of you mentioned the need for better signage, so the officers had planned to get estimates on having location markers, one-way, stop ahead and other signs made. But as you'll read about

elsewhere in the newsletter, the county is going to pay for having signs made along with posts to install them. The club is responsible for sign installation.

Getting the signs up is a project that we could do between April 1 to July 15 when we can't cut brush. The county has a ban on cutting oak during that time to lessen the spread of oak wilt.

Since the county is paying for the signs, the officers will meet this winter to discuss other possible ideas for the use of the grant funds. We don't know for sure yet that additional funding will be available down the road or if this was a one-time grant.

New Youth Loop Planned

The County Forestry and Parks Department asked if we could put in a youth loop. There had been a youth loop years ago, but it hasn't been kept up in recent years due to a lack of help keeping trails cleared.

We are looking at a couple of locations near the Crawford Hills campground for a trail for beginning riders ages 12 and younger.

The county also approved letting us add a half-mile loop to the South Loop to replace a half-mile section that we lost a few years ago.

Watch for Facebook posts and e-mail alerts for our 2021 workdays.

Membership Tripled in 2020

We thank all you who have been long-time JCTR members and those of you who joined this year. Membership in 2020 increased from 30 to 94. On page 4 you can see Treasurer Steve Roof's report on how your dues and donations were used.

I would also like to thank my wife Lorry Erickson for donating her marketing skills to create and run a club Facebook group for us, writing this newsletter and making food for our workday lunches.

Hope to see you on the trails in 2021!

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Installation of Location Markers Planned for Trails

By Lorry Erickson, Communications Coordinator

The three single-track trails at Crawford Hills will have location markers installed next season in an effort to aid Emergency Medical Services in finding injured riders more quickly.

Jackson County Forestry and Parks Department Assistant Administrator Jon Schweitzer requested a meeting with JCTR President Bob Ybema and Trails Committee Chairman Jack Potter to identify access points for EMS/First Responders on the three trails.

From the President's Desk

I want to personally thank our new and old members alike for a great 2020 working and riding season at Crawford Hills. We accomplished a lot last season thanks to the many volunteers who came to our trail workdays.

The single-track trails reopen May 15, which is not all that far away. We are continuing to make trail improvements that you'll read about elsewhere.

Our club will also continue to assist the Jackson County ATV Club next season in maintaining the Crawford Hills County Park campground.

The ATV Club took over mowing and other upkeep after the county announced their plan to mothball the campground due to a lack of manpower and funds.

Since our trail head is there, we felt we needed to partner with the ATV Club to keep the campground open.

See you on the trails in 2021!

Bob Ybema, JCTR President

Bob, Jack and Jon also discussed installing location markers. Jon said his department would pay for signs and posts. The club will be responsible for installing the signs which will be placed every half mile along the North, South and McKenna Loops.

The new signs will have a letter and a number that will correspond to a county-wide system used for the other recreational trails in Jackson County. Each trail will have a different letter. The number will indicate the mileage from the trail head.

The officer team discussed using "N" for the North Loop and "S" for the South Loop. Because "N" and "M" sound similar, it was proposed the McKenna Loop be renamed the East Loop and the letter "E" be used.

Why Change the Trail Names?

There have been times when First Responders had difficulty locating injured riders who didn't know what trail they are on when calling for help. Also, there was a suggestion years ago to give the North Loop and the South Loop more unique names that never was acted upon. So we asked for ideas on our Facebook page.

These are a few of the suggestions that came from the Facebook polls or were e-mailed to us:

- **ANIMAL NAMES:** Give the trails animal names like Deer, Bear and Wolf and include an image of a deer, for example, to make it easier for an injured rider to recall the trail name. And should we ever add more trails, we would have a Noah's Ark full of options for additional names.
- **DIRECTIONAL NAMES:** Keep North Loop and South Loop but change McKenna to East Loop.
- **HISTORIC NAMES:** The McKenna Loop is named for one of three logging camps that existed in the area in the 1890s. The other two were Zeda and Goodyear.
- **RETAIN THE CURRENT NAMES:** The North Loop is north of state Highway 54, the South Loop is south of Highway 54 and the McKenna Loop is adjacent to McKenna Road.

There were other suggestions submitted but they received few votes or were judged to be too long and are not included above as options.

We want to hear from you. An Advisory Poll can be found on page 5. A final decision on whether or not to change the trail names will be made after the officers meet with county emergency service officials.

Officers Seek Re-election

The current officers of the Jackson County Trail Riders are all willing to continue to serve for another term. The officer team is made up of: President Bob Ybema, Secretary Ron Bohl and Treasurer Steve Roof.

BOB YBEMA

Bob is the newest member of the JCTR officer team. He accepted the position as president in 2016. Bob and his wife, Heather, live in Black River Falls where Bob owns BRB Motors and several other businesses.

A former flat-track racer, Bob competed around the Midwest and won eight Wisconsin amateur and five professional titles.

Bob first visited the Black River Falls area to ride the ATV trails and said he fell in love with the area. He bought a house in Black River Falls in 2001 and moved to Jackson County full time in 2015.

"I joined the Jackson County Trail Riders to help keep the trails open and running and to show that people still care about having the trails," he said.

RON BOHL

Ron and his wife Mary live in Eau Claire. Ron is retired from working 20 years as a custodian and 20 years as a construction inspector. Ron began riding enduros in 1972 on a Honda 350 Motosport.

Ron rode at local events with his brother Butch and the father-son team of Clint and Jack Potter. In 1976 Ron rode in the Six-Day Qualifier, winning a Bronze Medal. He also competed in a few national enduros.

"When I saw the decline in trail riding opportunities, I wanted to help so I joined the JCTR Club. I've been a member ever since, helping where I can. It's nice to see more volunteers at the workdays," he said.

Ron has served as JCTR secretary since 2013.

STEVE ROOF

Steve Roof is the owner of Keytime Motorsports, Warrens, and has served as JCTR treasurer since 2005. Steve began off-road motorcycle riding and racing in the early 2000s.

Steve also allows us to use the Keytime address as the club's mailing address and answers calls from riders with questions about the single-track motorcycle trails at Crawford Hills County Park.

Terms are for one year. The ballot for the slate of officers can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.



Order Your Club T-Shirt

We are now taking orders for the cool new Jackson County Trail Riders club t-shirt featuring the design drawn by member Cortney Higgins. The image above is rather small, but you can see a larger image on our club Facebook page. We also used Cortney's design for the newsletter masthead on page 1.

The unisex shirts are available in your choice of Military Green or Steel Blue in sizes small through XXL. Short-sleeved t-shirts are \$15, plus shipping. Long-sleeved t-shirts (not pictured) are \$20, plus shipping. Shirts can be picked up at Keytime Motorsports in Warrens or at club workdays to save on shipping fees.

Shirts are available only to club members, so mail in your 2021 dues when you place your order.

Cortney is planning to do a new design each year, so we won't be ordering a lot of extra shirts. If you want one, send in your order – along with payment – by Monday, Feb. 1. Order form is on page 6.

Vice President Position Added

With the growth of the club, the executive team felt it was time to add the office of vice president. Cortney Higgins is willing to run for the new position. Cortney has also agreed to serve on the Trails Committee.

Cortney and his wife, Connie, live in Edgar. An Iowa native, Cortney moved to Wisconsin 25 years ago. Cortney says he likes quiet places and loud guitars.

"I purchased my first motorbike in March of 2000, a used Harley-Davidson that I kept for 20 years. In 2009 I bought a mountain bike and discovered I like riding in the woods way more than on blacktop. I've helped build and maintain mountain bike single-track trails the last 11 years," Cortney said

"This coming season will be my fourth year on a dirt bike and I hope for many more," he said.

JCTR Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/2020	\$946.50
Income:	\$1,450.00
(Income includes dues, donations and t-shirt sales. Future reports will show breakdown.)	
Expenses:	
• Workday Lunches	\$363.14
• Liability Insurance	\$303.00
• Black River Falls Chamber dues	\$101.00
• Bank Fees (bounced check)	\$5.00
Balance on 11/16/2020	\$1,624.36

The club received grant funds totaling \$8,035.20 from the Jackson County Forestry and Parks Department. We will track expenditures of those funds separately, but with the grant included we have \$9,659.56 in our checkbook.



2021 Stickers Available

The 2021 Jackson County Motorcycle stickers are now available for purchase online from the Jackson County Forestry & Parks Office. Visit their website at www.jacksoncountyparks.us/parks and look for the Permits/Products tab. The cost is \$20 for the annual sticker.

From April 1 through Oct. 15, county stickers are also available at:

- SureStay Plus Hotel - Black River Falls
- Black River Motor Sports - Black River Falls
- Bev's Saddle Mound Tap - Pray
- Millston Kwik Mart - Millston
- County Forestry & Parks Office - Black River Falls

(Note: the county stickers are not available at the District DNR office or the Black River Falls Walmart as some riders were mistakenly told this past season.)

Riders of off-highway motorcycles (aka dirt bikes, dual-sport bikes or non-street legal bikes) must also have a Wisconsin OHM sticker on their bikes when riding at Crawford Hills. The fee is \$30 for first-time registration and \$30 for a 2-year renewal.

Visit the GoWild.WI.gov website to complete an OHM registration. You can complete new, transfers or renew registration on an OHM that has expired decals, as well as order replacement decals and registration cards for OHMs that have an unexpired registration.

Non-resident OHM trail passes will be available beginning April 1, 2021.

Thank You Volunteers!

Below are the volunteers who helped at the nine workdays held in 2020. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

MARCH 22: Mike Ward, Jim Mullen, Duane Baer, Malina Baer, Katrina Baer, John Vasen, Jeff Kane Jr. Scott Christensen, Jack Potter, Lorry Erickson and Corey Schroeder.

MAY 5: Duane Baer, Jack Potter, Lorry Erickson, Corey Schroeder, Cortney Higgins, Ken Schuck, Ryan Mika, Stephan Terry, Josh Terry, Dan Berkeris and Jake Cook.

JULY 18-19: Adam Kent, Andy Kelly, Bob Nielson, Brian Mullane, Brian Bejin, Sparky Bejin, Carl Jahns, Corey Schroeder, Cortney Higgins, Dan Murwin, Duane Baer, Jack Potter, Lorry Erickson, Jeff Vasen, John Vasen, Jim Mullen, Jim Winnemuller, Judd Riggs, Ken Schuck, Keven Last, Larry Strangfeld, Mike Thompson, Rich Brereton, Rob Baerwolse and Scott Christensen.

AUG. 1: Adam Kent, Chris Aspenson, Cortney Higgins, Dan Murwin, John Vasen and Scott Christenson.

SEPT. 12-13: Andrew Jensen, Anthony Robinson, Brodie Robinson, CJ Last, Kevin Last, Kurt Hoier, Jack

Continued on Page 5.

JCTR 2021 Officers Ballot

Shall the following slate of nominees be elected to the positions indicated?

- Bob Ybema, President
- Cortney Higgins, Vice President
- Ron Bohl, Secretary
- Steve Roof, Treasurer

Yes, I approve the slate

No, I disapprove the slate

Return Ballot by Feb. 1, 2021

From the January 2010 Newsletter

The following helped at the 9/26/09 Workday: Wayne Danielson, Ron Bohl, Ken Schuck, Rich Brereton, Bob Ybema, Brad and Ben Kortbein, Jack Potter and Becky Hayes. We were able to finish clearing the McKenna Trail. In the spring we will sign/mark the trail and it will officially be open for the 2010 riding season.

Trail Name Advisory Vote

What do you think? Should we change the trail names? Leave them the same? Return your vote with your membership renewal!

___ ANIMAL NAMES: Rename the three trails as Deer Trail, Bear Trail and Wolf Trail. Include an image of each animal on the trail sign.

___ DIRECTIONAL NAMES: North Loop and South Loop would remain the same. McKenna Loop would be renamed East Loop.

___ HISTORICAL NAMES: McKenna Loop would remain the same. The other two loops would be renamed Goodyear Loop and Zeda Loop after the three logging camp towns that existed in the area in the 1890s.

___ CURRENT NAMES: Retain the current three names of the trails. North Loop is north of state Highway 54. South Loop is south of Highway 54. McKenna Loop is adjacent to McKenna Road.

Return Advisory Vote by Feb. 1, 2021

Thank You Volunteers! Cont. from Page 4

Potter, Lorry Erickson, John Vasen, Cortney Higgins, Dale Gustafson, Dan Murwin, Duane Baer, James Garton, Mike Thompson, Stephan Terry and Tony Trowbridge.

OCT. 24: Bob Ybema, Carley Ybema, Brian Bejin, Sparky Bejin, Corey Schroeder, Cortney Higgins, Jack Potter, Lorry Erickson, Duane Baer, Katrina Baer, Josh Check, Mike Ward, Bev Ward, Ryan Mika, Steve Rhodes, Wesley Romine and Karen Doers.



Carley is Our Youngest Member

Eight-year-old Carley Ybema – daughter of club President Bob Ybema – is the youngest member of the Jackson County Trail Riders. Carley helped cut brush at our Oct. 24 workday and tags along when her dad helps the Jackson County ATV Club mow the campground at Crawford Hills County Park.



Carley, Bob and Treasurer Steve Roof are the only club members who live in Jackson County. We have 76 club members from Wisconsin, 12 from Illinois, four from Iowa and two from Minnesota.

Dues are still just \$10/year. You'll find a renewal form on page 6 of the newsletter.



JCTR T-Shirt Order Form & 2021 Membership Form



	Unisex Adult	Small	Med	Large	XL	XXL	Short Sleeve T-Shirts	
	Military Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Number	Total Cost
	Steel Blue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Unisex Adult	Small	Med	Large	XL	XXL	Long Sleeve T-Shirts	
	Military Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Number	Total Cost
	Steel Blue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$20	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are not ordering t-shirt(s), simply fill out your name and contact information below to send in with your dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Total Number of Shirts Sub Total

1 \$ 4.00
2 - 9 \$ 8.25 Shipping
10-15 \$10.00

Or if picking up, mark PU in the shipping box.

Total for T-Shirt Order

Number of Memberships X \$10

Grand Total

Make check payable to **Jackson County Trail Riders** and mail to:

Jackson County Trail Riders
c/o Keytime Motorsports
28702 County Hwy EW
Warrens, WI 54666

Deadline to order T-shirts is Feb. 1, 2021