



Discover America

Newsletter of the American Discovery Trail Society

Volume 15, Number 4

www.discoverytrail.org

Winter 2010

ADT Featured Area Madison, Indiana



The downtown area of Madison, Ind., bustles with activity, its vintage storefronts beckoning shoppers and tourists alike.

Photo courtesy of Gary Nero

By Jim Shaner and Laurel Foot

Those of us from a certain generation may remember family road trips that are likely different from many today. Interstate highways were not mapped on the car GPS, and roads did not avoid small towns. Speed, efficiency, and national chain stores may be helpful when we are in a hurry, but it may cause us to miss the more personable encounters and charming communities along the way that can be found with a slower approach.

Traveling by horse, bicycle, or foot on the American Discovery Trail is an excellent example of the slower approach and Madison, Ind., right along its route, is one of those smaller cities that make the trip so special.

As the 1960s arrived, many main streets of small cities and large towns in America began to notice a change. Just outside of town, strip malls, fast-food joints, mega retail stores, and multi-movie complexes began to appear. When the downtown houses were removed, many towns started to lose their identity as the stores and shops closed their doors.

But walking down Main Street in Madison is like experiencing a time warp. Its storefronts and houses look much as they did in the 1950s. There is even an old movie theater. As with most towns, Madison has its share of stately mansions, but there are also a great number of “shotgun” houses, deep but only 12-foot-wide homes. Most of them are well-maintained and painted with bright colors, offering variety and interest.

Who or what made the difference in Madison? In 1960, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Windle founded Historic Madison, Inc. Its function is to preserve, restore, and develop Madison’s historic district. Today, its 133-block historic district, with its 1,500 historic residential, commercial, and industrial structures, is designated as a National Register Historic District by the National Park Service. Examples of all the major architectural styles of the 19th and early 20th centuries, from Federal to arte moderne, are represented.

Besides its interesting architecture, Madison’s history reflects the pride, struggles, and work ethic of its 12,000 residents. It began as a river town, then grew to be the largest city in the state and seat of the county government. Soon the first railroad in Indiana was built here. But first the river traffic declined, and then the train traffic lessened as newer railroads were built to connect cities like Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Louisville.

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Unique and brightly painted homes, such as this duplex, offer variety and visual appeal.

Photo courtesy of Gary Nero

Trail News

Maryland

When Maryland state coordinator Harry David Cyphers learned from an ADT thru-hiker that an ADT shelter had been trashed and become uninhabitable, he notified state officials. Upon visiting the park three days later, he found the shelter restored to mint condition.

Ohio

In 2009–2010, a total of 36 volunteers contributed 858 hours of labor on the ADT in Ohio. Efforts included re-blazing and mowing, as well as developing a new 1.5-mile multi-use trail to make the route more user-friendly.

West Virginia

ADT volunteer Brian Thompson provided trail maintenance in West Virginia by checking trail signs and posts throughout the state and reposting one area where there were missing trail signs. Another volunteer, James Jones, keeps trail kiosks up to date to help trail users stay informed. Tim McClung is assisting by adding boxes along the trail and regularly supplying them with trail maps and other trail information.

Indiana

State Coordinator Jeff Edmondson is working with the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission for the adoption of several segments of trails in the area into the American Discovery Trail. These trail changes will increase accessibility to local communities and trail users.

Kansas

The ADT route and logo will be added to the new version of the Kansas state bicycle guide distributed to thousands of residents and tourists each year. In addition, state coordinator Ron Ruoff surveyed trail routes for new services and possible camping locations. He also provided information on the trail to shop owners along the route to increase community,

small business, and trail-user support.

Colorado

ADT Colorado Coordinator Dick Bratton led many meetings with local officials to gain approval to reopen and improve the historic Ute Indian Trail between Manitou Springs and Cascade. This will result in getting ADT hikers off four miles of busy U.S. Highway 24, which has little or no shoulder. He also convinced officials to include the ADT on a new Colorado State Trails Map now in development.

Over 100 trail volunteers worked to improve and reroute the ADT through the Pike National Forest and the White River National Forest on the Continental Divide to avoid motorized traffic.

Nevada

State Coordinator Ted Oxborrow inspected the trail conditions along the ADT and considered new biking route alternatives. He then organized a mountain bike ride with Reno *Evening Gazette* reporters to increase public awareness of the trail.

California

Two kiosks were installed at major trail intersections on East Bay Regional Park land that show maps of the American Discovery Trail route through the area, raising the trail's visibility.

A round of thanks and a warm welcome

A number of committed ADT state coordinators have recently stepped down from their positions resulting in some new faces and some fond farewells.

Leaving are Stacy Campbell of Southern Indiana, Tom Neenam of Iowa, John O'Dell of Southern Illinois, Chuck Oestreich of Northern Illinois, and Ron Ruoff of Kansas. The American Discovery Trail Society would like to thank each of them for their dedicated service and

efforts on behalf of trails and the ADT in their states.

Going forward, Jeff Edmondson will add southern Indiana to his assignment as northern Indiana coordinator, becoming coordinator for all of Indiana, and Ed Lincoln will be taking over in Kansas. Lynne Cobb, who has been serving as a temporary coordinator for the state of Utah has signed on to become its official representative.

By way of introduction, new Kansas state coordinator Ed Lincoln describes his interest in trails and how he became involved with the American Discovery Trail:

“In 1977, when I was twenty-something, I was an avid runner and finished a couple of marathons. At one of those races there was an ‘old geezer’ named Ross Greathouse (*Ed. note: Greathouse is an ADT Society board member.*) running his first marathon.

“Twenty-six years later...I had moved five times, changed careers, married, gained three kids and eighty pounds. In 2003, my sisters and I were considering how to honor our mother's memory. My mother had financially supported an early trail project in Lincoln, Neb., called the MoPac East. So, we decided that building trails was an endeavor where we could make a seminal impact that would survive for generations. I called a friend in Lincoln and learned that, apparently, Ross Greathouse was still alive and had evolved into a trail builder.

“At the same time, I decided to focus my personal volunteer commitments on trails. I had seen some early rail-trail opportunities in Wichita forfeited. So, I asked one question, made one phone call and showed up that night for a local trail meeting, swelling the attendance to five. Kansas and Kansans being what they are, there was a wide open opportunity to make a difference. In seven years I have learned patience, if not humility, and we have made real progress in Kansas and look forward to a future full of trail building.”

The American Discovery Trail Society would like to thank all the donors who supported our work this year with a generous contribution above and beyond their annual membership dues.

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Long-Distance Hikers Gather in West Virginia

By Joyce Cottrell

Pete and I attended the 29th Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) Gathering at Concord University in Athens, W.Va., the weekend of Oct. 15. This year's group of hikers and trail folks came from all over the country and even the world. So many returned, as they do every year, while others were "dreamers," eager to learn from those who had already gone the distance. Workshops, presentations, a photo contest, apple tastings, and friendships, old and new, were enjoyed.

Pete and I set up the ADT booth display, with its magnificent line through a large map, in the hiker fair room next to other long-distance presenters. It drew a lot of interest and we gave handouts to many. One common misperception was that the ADT was all on roads. All our ADT experiences quickly spilled out into our

words to correct these statements and answer questions. We have high hopes someone will choose to walk the adventure of a lifetime – the American Discovery Trail!

Joyce Cottrell is an ADT Society board member who, with her husband, Pete, has hiked the entire American Discovery Trail.

Can You Help Us Get the Word Out About the ADT?

Throughout 2010, ADT Society state coordinators and volunteers across the country worked hard to promote more public awareness of this unique network of trails which form the American Discovery Trail. Many of these creative ideas have helped spread the word while also offering social and entertaining activities.

If you would like to become more involved with this truly American trail, take a look at some of the activities that were completed this year on behalf of the ADT.

Then contact your state coordinator and offer to become a part of the adventure. Many states are forming committees to support the trail. Whatever your interests or skills, opportunities exist for you to help us let others know about our trail.

Efforts in 2010 included having volunteers:

- Staff an ADT booth at an outdoor or hiking festival or conference,
- Share ADT information with nearby parks or tourism bureaus so they can tell others about us,
- Attend regional meetings to advocate for the ADT,
- Organize social events along the trail,
- Write press releases for local newspapers about developments along the trail,
- Conduct guided hikes, bicycle tours or horse rides to showcase the trail,
- Meet with their congressional representative and staff members to seek support for the National Discovery Trails Act, highlighting the increased state tourism and small business support the trail brings to their state.

Memberships and Donations

A membership in the American Discovery Trail Society helps to promote and sustain America's only cross-country non-motorized trail. It also makes a great gift! Did you know that the American Discovery Trail Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your donations are tax-deductible?

Each new membership includes an ADT decal, patch, lapel pin, member I.D. card, and the quarterly *Discover America* newsletter. Discovery and Life members receive the book, *American Discoveries*, written by Eric Seaborg and Ellen Dudley. Plus, Life members also receive a walking stick and certificate.

Yes, I want to be a part of this American adventure!

Explorer Member - \$30

Family - \$50

Discovery Member - \$100

Corporate Member - \$250

Life Member - \$1,000

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Broadway Fountain was originally cast in iron and exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. It was purchased by a Madison Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and presented to the city of Madison in 1886. The fountain was recast in bronze as a community Bicentennial project in 1976.

Photo courtesy of Gary Nero

Madison, Ind.

(Continued from page 1)

Still, highlights came in unusual forms. In 1954, Hollywood came to Madison for the filming of the movie, *Some Came Running*, starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Shirley MacLaine. Also, Madison has a unique feature to which no other city or town in the world can lay claim. It has a powerboat racing tradition dating back to at least 1911 and it owns a hydroplane, named Miss Madison, that competes in the unlimited racing class.

From 1961 to 2005, this boat won only six races, but one of the wins was the 1971 Regatta when the American Power Boat Association Gold Cup was held in Madison for the first time. Driven by Jim McCormick, Miss Madison upset the highly favored Miss Budweiser.

The win has become a local legend and in 1999 Hollywood came to Madison again. This time it was to film the movie, *Madison*, based on Jim McCormick and his win in the regatta, echoing the movie *Hoosiers*. Since 1954 the city has hosted the Madison Regatta on the 4th of July

weekend with crowds of up to 100,000 attending the week-long riverfront festival that surrounds this racing event.

Madison is one of the many joys that the American Discovery Trail provides to its travelers who take a slower and more intimate look at the cities and towns along the route.

Jim Shaner has walked more than 1,176 miles on the ADT over the past eight years as he tackles it bit by bit.



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An award-winning volunteer



Laurie Foot presents the Outstanding ADT Volunteer Happifeet Award to Don Burrell at the October 2010 board meeting held at Hanover College near Madison, Ind. As a bicycling/pedestrian professional and an avid volunteer, Burrell was involved in developing the original route of the ADT throughout the Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana region. More recently, he identified the route of the Dearborn Trail to provide a link for the ADT between Lawrenceburg and Aurora, Ind. He also got it mapped and marked. He is an outstanding example of why the ADT Society has been so successful in establishing a connected route all the way across the United States. To show his enthusiasm for non-motorized transportation, Burrell even bicycled to the board meeting.

Photo courtesy of Gary Nero

Attention Federal Employees

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