



Discover America

Newsletter of the American Discovery Trail Society

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Winter 2004

ADT Featured Trail:

Pigeon Creek Greenway



Downtown Pigeon Creek Greenway, Evansville, Indiana

Although the American Discovery Trail connects many large local and regional trails together to cross the United States, it also ties into numerous smaller trails that are notable in their own right. For these trails, becoming part of the ADT can provide a valuable incentive, add additional clout when applying for development funding, and showcase the trail to a larger audience.

One of these trails is the Pigeon Creek Greenway in Evansville, Ind. Evansville has been working to reclaim its riverfront as its premier civic space and it is doing so with the help of a trail. The downtown Pigeon Creek Greenway is a 1.7-mile section of a greenway that will eventually encircle Vanderburgh County. In October, the Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation was presented with an “Award of Excel-

lence” by the Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for the innovative design that transformed a rip-rap, weed-infested levee and riverfront wharf area into a new linear park. The bicycle and pedestrian greenway now links downtown Main Street with the Ohio River, an art and science museum, the Four Freedoms Monument, our country’s first Korean War Memorial, a convention and visitors bureau in an historic pagoda-shaped building, a riverboat casino and restaurants, and Sunrise and Sunset parks. It also sets the stage for the greenway’s eventual extension beyond the city limits to Angel Mounds State Historic Site, a pre-historic Indian mound near the city of Newburgh. This is the route that the ADT

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Small Trail, Big Impact

Like Evansville, Ind., 14 miles to the west, the city of Newburgh is also working to make its downtown the heart of its community again. Eighteen months ago the city completed a one block section of a walkway that parallels the Ohio River with the goal of eventually extending the trail five miles to connect it to the Pigeon Creek Greenway and Angel Mounds State Historic Site. But even that one block has already had a tremendous impact on the town. Newburgh city manager Mae Mason says, “The river is a calling card. That one little block of trail has brought loads of people to our downtown.” She sees the trail as a quality of life project for her community. She hopes that one day the people of Evansville will be able to walk or ride their bicycles into Newburgh and vice versa. Because it would be a piece of the ADT, there would be people from across the United States doing the same thing.

National Recreation Trails

Two new national recreation trails have been added to the ADT route. On National Trails Day, three miles of the Pigeon Creek Greenway in Evansville, Ind., and the 173-mile Hennepin Canal Trail in northern Illinois were designated national recreation trails by Interior Secretary Gale Norton.



Pigeon Creek Greenway interpretive signs

ADT Section Named For Glenn Seaborg

A trail in California's Briones Regional Park—and a part of the American Discovery Trail—has been named for scientist and hiker Glenn T. Seaborg. Seaborg is best known as a Nobel-prize winning chemist for his role in discovering 10 chemical elements, including plutonium. He also served as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, as chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, on the President's Commission on Excellence in Education, and in many other capacities.

The trail dedication on October 2 resulted from his strong interest in hiking and the outdoors. He was active for many years in the East Bay Regional Park District and served on the board of directors of the American Hiking Society.

He planned the California portion of AHS' HikaNation event, a coast-to-coast hike in 1980–81 that was the precursor of the American Discovery Trail. He spent his free weekends for a year mapping out a route where hikers could traverse the state, and finding a camping place for the group each night. Much of the route that he first scouted for the HikaNation was incorporated into the ADT route from San Francisco to Sacramento.

Briones Regional Park is a 6,000-acre haven in the "East Bay" portion of the San Francisco Bay area, near the towns of Lafayette and Walnut Creek. Seaborg could hike to Briones from his house and spent many happy hours there, often on the trail that now bears his name. The trail, formerly known as the Homestead Valley Trail, is about a mile and a half long, meandering along a seasonal creek and through the typical open oak woodland ecosystem characteristic of the area.

Trail Extension Opens

Nebraska ADT coordinator Gary Gebhard reports that construction has started on a new rail-trail project in eastern Nebraska. This 4.7-mile portion of the MoPac Trail is an important connection from Springfield to the Platte River flood plain. It will take the user away from a busy highway to a tree-



Runners came from 20 different states to participate in the State-to-State run.

Photo courtesy of Tom Madine

Ohio State-to-State Half Marathon a Runaway Success

The second annual State-to-State Half Marathon was another great success. in Oxford, Ohio. This year it drew 917 runners on a bright, cool September Sunday morning. The five percent increase in participants included runners from 20 different states, some from as far away as California.

The name of the race comes from the fact that route starts in Oxford and runs to neighboring Indiana. Besides the half-marathon, there was a 5K race, a 1K Kids' Fun Run, and an unscheduled toddlers' run, so there was plenty of opportunity for everyone to get in on the action.

Once again, proceeds from the race helped to support the American Discovery Trail and Oxford Area Trails. This year the ADTS received \$5000 as our share of the proceeds.



A proud runner with his ribbon

Photo courtesy of Tom Madine

lined trail through scenic farmlands, wetlands, and woods. The crushed limestone trail is scheduled to open in late fall.

There are plans to develop two additional sections of six and eight miles that will complete the ADT route to the state capitol in Lincoln.

Meanwhile, Nebraska's ADT crossing of the Missouri River via a new pedestrian bridge is being redesigned as the original construction bids came in approximately 100% over budget. This bridge is needed to replace the only legal crossing within the Omaha area now, which is a narrow automobile bridge that slopes uphill from east to west.



ADTS President Eric Seaborg, left, presents the Happifect Award to Reese Lukei.

Reese Lukei Receives Happifect Award

Reese Lukei received the American Discovery Trail Society's Happifect Award at the ADTS board meeting in Harrisburg, Ill., on Sept. 18. The Happifect Award is given to the volunteer whose actions, enthusiasm, and commitment to the American Discovery Trail serve as an inspiration to others. Lukei has been ac-

tive with the ADTS since 1989, serving in various roles including as past National Coordinator and current Vice President of Government Affairs. Lukei's many years of trail activism include serving on the boards of the Appalachian Trail Conference and the American Hiking Society.

Proclamation

The American Discovery Trail is our nation's first coast-to-coast, non-motorized, multi-use recreational trail. It extends 6,800 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and passes through 15 states and the District of Columbia. The ADT connects people in large metropolitan cities to people in small towns and villages. The ADT links oceans, communities, ecosystems, cultural and historic sites, and trails for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians.

The development and success of the American Discovery Trail has been led by the volunteer leadership of the ADT State Coordinators who have worked with local, state, and federal land managers and local and regional trails organizations to define and implement the route of the ADT.

Paul Daniel's service as the ADT Ohio/Kentucky State Coordinator since 1991 exemplifies the dedication and leadership qualities that have created the American Discovery Trail.

In recognition thereof, and with the support and endorsement of the South Western Ohio Trails Association, the American Discovery Trail Society hereby declares the section of the American Discovery Trail from Elizabethtown northward to the Ohio/Indiana state line as the

Paul Daniel Trail

American Discovery Trail Society
November 10, 2004

Paul Daniel Trail

On November 10, the South Western Ohio Trails Association and the American Discovery Trail Society joined forces to honor the contributions of Paul Daniel to both organizations.

At a dinner meeting, Daniel was given a proclamation recognizing the dedication and leadership he displayed as the Ohio/Kentucky State Coordinator for the ADTS since 1991, and declaring the 56-mile section of the American Discovery Trail from Elizabethtown, Ohio, northward to the Ohio/Indiana state line as the Paul Daniel Trail.

Daniel has been active with the ADT since the beginning, working with the Buckeye Trail Association to lay out the original route and guiding the scouting team in 1991. He then laid out Ohio's northern route as well.

During his tenure as state coordinator, Daniel worked with SWOTA to define the ADT route through the Cincinnati area and he later determined the route for the northern leg of the ADT from Cincinnati to the Indiana/Ohio state line in Richmond, Ind. Daniel has been an enthusiastic and supportive SWOTA member for 12 years, contributing his knowledge of the region's flora and fauna, leading hikes, and sharing stories of his experiences. Also, as state coordinator for the ADT, he spearheaded the creation of the Ohio State-to-State Half Marathon.

In addition to his work on behalf of the American Discovery Trail, Daniel has been involved with other trails for many years. He is an Appalachian Trail 2000-miler and has completed a hike of the entire Buckeye Trail in Ohio. He was on the board of the Buckeye Trail Association and spent many volunteer hours on trail maintenance. He is a retired professor of biology at Miami University of Ohio and director of its natural history museum. He and his wife, Lois, are moving to Maryland to be closer to their daughter.

Gift Memberships

Give a gift that will leave a lasting legacy—a membership in the American Discovery Trail Society. To continue the important work of establishing a cross-country trail we need more members, and you probably know someone who shares our dream. A gift membership to your family or a trail buddy would make a nice holiday or birthday present.

Each membership includes a member ID card, a lapel pin, and *Discover America* newsletter. Discovery and Life members also receive an ADT decal, patch, and a guidebook.

Yes, please send a gift membership to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

- Life Member — \$1,000
- Corporate Member — \$250
- Discovery Member — \$100
- Family — \$50
- Member — \$30

From:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

If gift, personal message:

...and Donations

Did you know that the American Discovery Trail Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your donations are tax deductible? When reviewing your year-end giving, please consider the ADTS.

Yes, I want to support the ADT Society's efforts to promote and sustain America's only cross-country non-motorized trail. Here's my gift of:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other: _____

Enclosed is my check (made payable to ADTS)

Charge my MC VISA AMEX Discover

Card# _____

Exp ____ \ ____ Sign: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

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E-mail _____

Mail to: American Discovery Trail Society
PO Box 20155, Washington, DC 20041-2155



Lipton Simple Steps Hike in Indiana

This happy group of hikers just completed a September hike on the Knobstone Trail in Indiana. Simple Steps hikes were organized by the ADTS in various states in cooperation with Lipton Tea to show people simple things they could do to improve their health.

*Proud sponsor of
the ADT Society*



The Coleman Company Continues Its Role as Longtime ADT Supporter

When you are out on the trail, you want a hiking buddy you can depend upon. The Coleman Company, a leading manufacturer of outdoor equipment and camping gear, has been a supporter of the American Discovery Trail for many years. The ADT would like to thank Coleman for helping us to provide information to trails users through our website, showcase our trail in brochures, and coordinate with local and regional trails.



Attention Federal Employees

The ADTS is participating again this year in the Combined Federal Campaign nationwide. Please consider a donation to the ADT when you give this year.

The ADTS donation number is 2350.

People on the Trail

This sampling of American Discovery Trail adventurers highlights a variety of experiences the ADT can offer.

- The ADT connects cities to rural America:

ADT California coordinator **John Fazel** has been knocking out the ADT state-by-state over several years. This year he decided on a new approach. Rather than run across the state as he has in the past, he bought a hybrid bicycle rugged enough to handle the back roads and dirt trails of Nebraska.

Starting in Denver where the northern and southern ADT routes diverge, Fazel biked east to Lincoln, Neb. He reports that he especially enjoyed the Denver trail system which had only two road crossings in 22 miles. It included not only the natural beauty of the South Platte River but also a view of the adjacent Coors Stadium, the downtown riverfront park, and even REI and Starbucks stores right alongside the trail.

- The ADT connects to other trails for unlimited exploration options:

Matt Buchwalder has reached the Mississippi River after hiking from Delaware west on the ADT for three and a half months. He was surprised by the remoteness he found in southern Illinois on the River to River Trail. He says it was the first time he had to worry about how much food to carry with him because of the distance between towns. One night, a lightning storm followed by the shuffling of nearby leaves and the howl of a coyote made for some restless sleep.

Now Buchwalder is trying to decide whether to continue to follow the ADT west across Missouri, Kansas and Colorado or head south to warmer weather along some different trail that connects to the ADT.

- The ADT affords a personal view of history and people as it passes near 10,000 scenic, historic, and cultural points of interest:

Jim Shaner finds the ADT an excellent way to escape the hustle and bustle of our daily lives while he completes his church mission. This past month he used his hike as an opportunity to revisit Fort Ashby, a West Virginia town he had previously hiked through.

Talking with the locals, Shaner learned about the history of the town, including the founding of the fort, an Indian massacre, and how the name of the town had changed from Frankfort to Alaska to Fort Ashby. He has walked a total of 420 ADT miles to date, joined by 43 other walkers for parts of the trip.

- The ADT offers recreation and unique experiences:

John Kupiec of Rhode Island selects a different state or country to visit each summer. This year he decided to pick a section of the ADT in Ohio to walk for about 9 weeks. During his walk, Kupiec took great pleasure in informing people that they were living on a trail that goes across the country.

Open to new experiences, Kupiec writes that on his fifth day on the trail he came upon the Smokerise Ranch where he met a friendly cowboy who told him about an upcoming horse and cattle competition. Having never seen anything like that, Kupiec offered to help the ranch with their preparations and he was soon put to work.

One assignment included going to the corral where bulls were sent through a chute and confined, one at a time, in a holding pen. His job was to clasp a numbered band around each bull's neck. When he realized his arms would be going through the same bars as a cowboy who got a dislocated thumb while giving injections, Kupiec began to get nervous. When another cowboy asked him how much experience he had in castrating bulls, he got really nervous. Luckily, that skill was not needed and Kupiec ended up working at the ranch for two weeks and staying for a birthday dinner of wild game before getting back out on the ADT.

He reports that many people he met on the trail helped him with water, accommodations, or plain conversation. It was those experiences that made the trip so worthwhile that he would recommend it to anyone looking for this kind of adventure.

Pigeon Creek Greenway

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will follow into Evansville when that section is completed.

The already completed downtown Pigeon Creek Greenway trail is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and has interpretive signs that chronicle the history of the Ohio River in Evansville. The challenge for the designers was to work with the existing flood protection levees and turn them into an attractive and accessible park. In the process they also created river-viewing pockets of calm off the trail and an outdoor plaza trailhead with seating areas for outdoor activities. The paved pathway allows bicyclists on the right-hand side and pedestrians on the left-hand side so they can access the river with views from an overlook. An obtrusive barbed wire security fence was replaced with a "Sculptural Fence" designed by a local artist. The sculpted gate leads into the museum sculpture garden.

The finished downtown greenway has been greeted enthusiastically by local citizens. It has developed a level of activity, energy, and excitement along the Evansville riverfront that has not been seen for decades. While trail supporters had anticipated that there would be many users once everything was connected, they have been surprised at the number of people taking advantage of the short section now open. Shirley James, chair of the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage Advisory Board, noted on a warm May night this year, "The riverfront was packed with people. There was not an empty bench to be seen. There were old people, handicapped people, children, bicyclers, and dog walkers. It was amazing."



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**Cedar Valley Nature Trail
Adds Off-Road Miles**

Iowa has a network of rail-trails that the American Discovery Trail uses whenever possible to traverse the over 500 miles of our route in that state.

Cedar Rapids has extended the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from the northern suburb Hiawatha to downtown Cedar Rapids, a distance of more than five miles. To accomplish this, two large concrete culverts were used as road underpasses to avoid heavily traveled roads and address safety concerns. A parking lot for 40 cars was added to accommodate the additional users this trail extension is expected to attract. The total cost of this project was over \$300,000.

Additional plans are in place to fund a further extension of the rail-trail into Linn County and almost to the Johnson County line, adding another four miles of off-road travel.

*Making Connections...
Coast to Coast*

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