

# BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 516 Crestwood, KY 40014 www.brownsboroalliance.org

### MISSION

Brownsboro Alliance's (BA) mission is to renew and reconnect the economy, environment, and people of Brownsboro into a sustainable innovative rural community, offering surrounding areas the opportunity to experience the beauty of the woodlands and rolling hills that Brownsboro has to offer. BA, through its establishment of the Brownsboro Alliance Trail Association (BATA), also works to connect and maintain a hiking and horseback riding trail for membership on new and existing trails and roadbeds through the scenic farms of Brownsboro and Oldham County.

BA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community organization. In 2014, BA started connecting farms and joining old trails and forging new trails for walkers and horseback riders, through the establishment of BATA. Today there are 15 miles of scenic recreational spaces where



members can enjoy and restore. This trail system is truly the newest amenity in our rural agriculturally based neighborhood. It is a hidden gem just outside Louisville, Kentucky. Please see **BACKGROUND** below for additional history.

#### PHASE II TRAIL MAINTENANCE

In 2015, BATA partnered with the University of Louisville to expand the trail (Phase II) onto property owned by the University, doubling the length of the Brownsboro Alliance Trails. This sizable extension opened many routes in which the trail can further expand. (See **2015 Year End Report** on our website for more information.)

While breathtakingly beautiful, Phase II continues to present special demands which require funds to continue to grow. For example, an old road has eroded to large rock. This old road needs to have layers of different rock density laid and compressed on



top. In 2016, BATA worked with an engineer from a local quarry to look at the area and advise as to what would be the best way to resurface this area and minimize run off. Through its supporters and fundraisers, BATA will be correcting this portion of the trail in the very near future.

On another portion of the trail there is a section that is an old stage coach road and is moderately steep. Due to the contour of the land the trail cannot be moved. The main issue is drainage. In the upcoming year, BATA is addressing a solution to these typical trail issues. Thus, with trail expansion comes trail design, maintenance, and endurance – all of which requires continuous fundraising efforts for a 501(c)(3) not-forprofit.

#### **GROWING SUPPORT IN 2016**

BA and BATA have tirelessly worked this year to promote the trails existence and to create awareness of one of Greater Louisville's hidden gems. Through word-of-mouth, educational opportunities on the trails, neighborhood informational meetings, one-on-one meetings with local government officials, grant proposals, and more, the Brownsboro Alliance Trails are being recognized as a viable recreational and healthy amenity in Oldham County.

In October, BA's First Annual Farm to Fork Cocktail Supper was an evening of art, food, silent auction and celebration in honor of Carlton Ridge.



Carlton was an artist, designer, writer, avid horsewoman, and a supporter of the BA Trails from the beginning. Hosted by BATA Landowner and BA Board Member Henry and Missy Camp, local artists were on hand to paint and sell and a silent auction was conducted for numerous items donated by generous BATA supporters. The event SOLD OUT and all proceeds benefitted the BATA Trails. In the spring of 2017, a memorial on the BATA trails will be dedicated to Carlton Ridge.

Additionally, BA was genuinely humbled to be chosen by the Oldham County Community Foundation to receive \$2,400 in 2016 grant monies. Those funds will be used to provide year-round portable restrooms on the trail. Out of 28 applicants, a total of 13 nonprofit organizations serving the residents of Oldham County were selected this year.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND ON THE TRAILS

BATA members and guests are encouraged to hike and ride year-round on the Brownsboro Trail System. Throughout 2016, BATA offered educational events and other opportunities to enjoy the trails with friends, neighbors, and knowledgable guides.

A Spring 2016 event on the trail was led by Tavia Cathcart Brown, Executive Director of the Creasey McMahan Preservation Center. Co-author of *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachias* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Tavia is an expert in her



Arborist and co-owner of Limbwalkers Tree Service Chris O'Bryan served as our guide, sharing his love and knowledge of trees, their leaves, their growing patterns and needs. Chris is also one of our favorite trail guides, and provided his expertise during the Brownsboro Youth Experience as well.

beauty on the trails. Certified

### **BROWNSBORO YOUTH EXPERIENCE 2016**

Brownsboro Youth Experience (BYE) is a week-long experience for area youth ages 12-17 years of age set in the Trail's natural "outdoor classroom" and led by a Youth Board (comprised of 17+ year olds, including an Eagle Scout, high school athletes, and an Olympic Horse Rider). BA successfully hosted the second annual BYE in 2016.

BA's objective was to get teenagers involved in outdoor activities, emphasizing education, new skills, leadership and teamwork that boost their confidence and selfesteem. Outdoor educators – specialists in their respective fields – each had a day with the campers introducing about 30 young people to hands-on, nature-based learning.

BA was extremely honored to have BYE chosen in 2016 to be graciously supported by the Arbonne Charitable Foundation, whose mission is to provide support for programs and opportunities that promote the development of confidence and self-esteem in teenage girls and boys.

Mark your calendars for BYE 2017: June 19-23!



### BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

BA's Little Free Library opened in the spring of 2016, serving Brownsboro, Crestwood, and surrounding areas in one convenient location at the Apple Patch Community. The



Little Free Library concept began in Wisconsin in 2009, with one library filled with free books for exchange. Today, the BA Little Free Library is one of 36,000 registered Little Free Libraries all over the world. Spearheaded by BA Board Member, Debbie Bergman, the BA Little Free Library was built with donated wood, and was constructed and install by BA volunteers.

### **BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE STAFF**

As BATA membership continues to grow and trails expand, responsibilities of our parttime BA staff increases. BA's Executive Director and Webmaster continue to be responsible for our day-to-day operations, including communication with our new BATA members and prospective members, liaisons with BA interests groups, membership processing, organization of activities and events, etc.

BA's Webmaster continues to maintain our website and social media outlets, keeping information current and timely not only for BA and BATA but also for the Brownsboro Community as a whole. In 2016, BA introduced a new Facebook page (/batatrails) dedicated solely to BATA and trail information, in an effort to keep members, supporters, and prospects better informed with a streamlined source for trail-related



news. Trail closures, event registration, and other important information is posted to our website and both Facebook pages. Additionally, blog posts are posted to the website weekly, and the BA Weekly Update is emailed to BATA members, friends, neighbors, and others interested in BA news and events.

BA's Executive Director helps administer and keep order the work of both BA and BATA complimenting the direction of the BA Board of Directors. There is no other administrative or staff expense allowing most all funds to go to community projects and/or trail expansion and maintenance.

### FUNDING FOR THE BA VISION

*Your help is now needed to keep the trail going and expand community projects.* BATA membership dues cover important *minor* maintenance expenses, but securing larger funding adds more scenic miles to the Brownsboro trail system.

Goals for 2017 are ambitious as land access and easements come to BA from property owners that significantly expand the reach of the BATA Trails. A key 2017 objective is to expand the reach and impact of our community and educational events as we build on our success and connect more people from all walks of life to the sustainable and unique hiking and horseback riding trails that are less than 20 miles from downtown Louisville.

Donate, renew your membership, and/or become a member to enjoy this unique and remarkable trail. Your contribution – whether you give of your time, talent, or treasure –

will insure the trail continues to grow now and in the future. Donations are tax deductible and can also count toward your BATA membership.

Keep informed about trail happenings by accessing the BA website often and like us on Facebook for photos and other updates. Donations can be made online at <a href="http://brownsboroalliance.org/">http://brownsboroalliance.org/</a> or mailed to P.O. Box 516, Crestwood, KY 40014.

The BA trails are growing in gratifying ways with many more miles available as funding becomes available. Adding more trails provides the use and preservation of more of Brownsboro's beautiful land, more exposure to health-building, outdoor experiences and activities benefiting our neighbors. In Abigail Wise's article, "Proof that Hiking Makes You Happier and Healthier," (*The Huffington Post*, July, 2014) she states research has proven hiking and spending quality time in nature comes with abundant mental and physical perks, i.e. from boosting brainpower, creativity, mental clarity and overall sense of well-being to the obvious physical fitness benefits.

Remember that a healthy world begins in our own backyard! We'll see you on the trail! Brownsboro Alliance Board of Directors

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#### BACKGROUND: BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE & THE BROWNSBORO TRAILS

In 1999, a small group of Brownsboro neighbors began meeting to discuss proposed and potential land development, land use changes, water, sewer and traffic issues, increased taxation, and other matters pertaining to Brownsboro growth.

Fifteen years later, this group is known as Brownsboro Alliance (BA) with a formal mission to serve, to renew and reconnect the economy, environment and people of Brownsboro into a sustainable, innovative, rural community.

One of BA's objectives was the establishment of the Brownsboro Alliance Trail Association (BATA). It had long been a dream of many BA Board Members to establish a trail system throughout Brownsboro. This trail project began in earnest two years ago. In 2014, BA, along with Land Founders Edward and Cornelia Bonnie, Henry and Missy Camp, William and Katherine Camp, Foxhollow Farm and sponsor Fifth Third Bank, opened Phase I of the Brownsboro Alliance Trails under the auspices of BATA. A 7-mile loop opened to members for hiking and horseback riding. A trailhead with a coded gate entry was constructed for both cars and horse trailers. A membership developed to utilize the beauty of this connection of the natural trail beds along Brownsboro's farmland; thus, realizing BA's mission of connecting county to county, farm to farm, family to family.

#### WHY TRAILS?

In 2009, many of BA's current Board Members responded to the call sent out by Oldham County Planning and Zoning to assist the agency in fulfilling KRS:100 which calls for a community master planning process every 5 years. Neighbors in the Brownsboro area attended months of meeting and helped write the Brownsboro Master Plan. This Master Plan was in turn adopted by county officials.

The Brownsboro Master Plan recommended steps for Brownsboro to develop trails for the community as old trails and roadbeds have been used for generations by landowners and their guests. A few years ago, BA determined to carry out this part of the Master Plan by connecting this natural trail system through the scenic farms for responsible membership who wished to use the trail for hiking and/or horseback riding. BA asked landowners to consider taking advantage of Kentucky legislation that makes it possible for landowners to have minimal exposure when they allow us of their land, if they receive no benefit from those who use the trails.