

## Over eighty enjoy 2019 Spring Supporter Event



On May 10 the rains stopped, a beautiful spring evening appeared, and over eighty Newton Trails' supporters gathered to celebrate the many people and businesses which contribute cash and in-kind gifts to help build and maintain Newton County's trails.

The event was hosted by Heather and Josh King at their historic home on Covington's Floyd Street. Many, many thanks to the King family! Tello's Mexican Grill catered dinner; IDYLLS provided musical entertainment.

Newton Trails thanks its supporters as well as everyone who helped make the event a success!

## Intern puts Newton County's trails on the map

Early this year Jon McBray (left in photo) hiked Newton County's current and proposed trails carrying a Garmin global positioning system. As he walked, that unit recorded the coordinates of his location every five seconds. Later, using geographic information system software provided by a grant from the Earth Science Resource Institute, McBray connected the dots and created digital trail maps.



Now the data is ready for use in creating interactive online maps on platforms such as Google Earth as well as maps suitable for use by local units of government, Newton Trails, and others in their publications, brochures, planning efforts, and for other purposes. A particularly exciting outcome is that the Atlanta Regional Commission will integrate McBray's maps with its own, thus putting Newton County's trails on its map of trails throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area.

McBray is a graduate student at Georgia College in Milledgeville. His work is being done as part of an internship under the direction of Bob Thomson, Porterdale city manager (right in photo) and with help from Greg Richardson, Newton Trails board chair.

## Montessori 7th & 8th graders adopt Cricket Frog Trail section



Last August, seventh and eighth grade students at the Montessori School of Covington discussed service projects they might want to take on during the academic year. They chose to adopt and improve a segment of the Cricket Frog Trail near their school.

"Service projects are an important part of Montessori," said Tamela Mills, their teacher. "Service to community and service to others is one of the foundations of the Montessori philosophy." She added that these types of projects, which are chosen, planned, led, and executed by students, teach the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills students need.

The students worked on the trail for an hour and a half every other Tuesday and Thursday. First, they cleared a foot path from the end of Park Street to the trail, giving them and others in the Clark Grove neighborhood a convenient way to access the trail. After that they picked up litter, old tires, and other debris as well as built a log seating area in a clearing near the trail. Mills provided the accompanying photo of Noah Gerber moving a log to the seating area.

"We worked hard and it's really pretty now; I'm proud," said student Jordyn Gritten. When Brandon Lange was asked what he liked best about the project, he said, "I got involved and was able to help the community." Students who return next year may continue the project by improving the access path, labeling trees identified along the trail, and continuing to pick up litter.

In recognition of their efforts and for joining Newton Trails' adopt-a-spot program, Newton Trails board chair Greg Richardson awarded the Montessori School of Covington a certificate of recognition.

## Upcoming events

- **Wednesday morning hikes** - During the hot summer months, hikers meet at a nearby trailhead at 8:00 a.m. To get on the email distribution list for details, contact [info@newtontrails.org](mailto:info@newtontrails.org).
- **Thursday morning trail maintenance** - Volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. at a designated work site and work one hour. To get on the email distribution list for details, contact [info@newtontrails.org](mailto:info@newtontrails.org).
- **First Sunday community bike ride** - The first Sunday of each month people gather at 3:00 p.m. at the Covington Square for a no-drop, family-friendly bicycle ride around town.

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**Newton Trails' mission is to promote, develop, and sustain a connected system of trails that supports a vibrant, healthy, and prosperous community.**