

OUTDOOR INDIANA

MAY/JUNE 2021 \$4

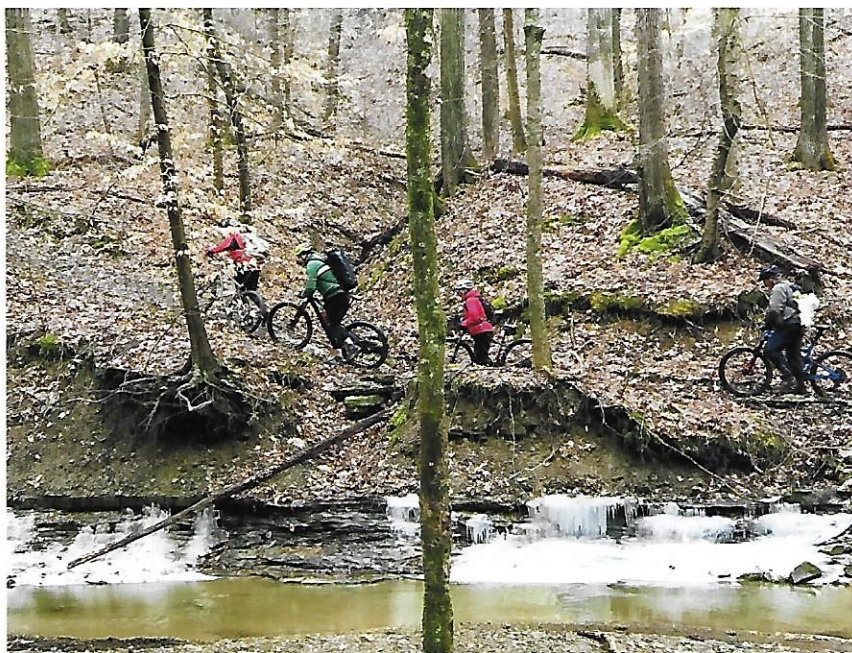


FISHING WITH KIDS

PICNIC PROGRESSION

BUTTERFLIES

BLOOMINGTON BICYCLE CLUB



Yusuf Nur photo

Bloomington Bicycle Club members make their way along Trail 14 in Hoosier National Forest. The club's official riding season runs from March through October.

More than 50 years ago a group of Bloomington locals and Indiana University students formed a bicycle club after Howard Wilcox, executive director of the IU Foundation, started the Little 500 bicycle race. The club grew after "Breaking Away" hit movie theaters in 1979, showing off the area's landscape. The club incorporated in 1982 as the Bloomington Bicycle Club.

The club soon sponsored an invitational fundraising ride called Hoosier Hills and developed an interest in longer distance rides and bicycle touring to see local attractions.

The club has had a long relationship with DNR. In 1980, DNR asked it to organize a week-long bicycle tour using state parks as overnight campsites. During the next 25 years, the Indiana state parks Touring Ride in Rural Indi-

ana (TRIRI) visited 16 state parks from Indiana Dunes and Pokagon in the north to Clifty Falls and Harmonie in the south. This relationship with DNR served as a catalyst for the development of the mountain bike trail system in Brown County State Park that attracts riders from as far away as Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati.

The club has an annual grant program that encourages and funds not-for-profit organizations to promote bicycling in the Bloomington area. Last year, the club gave money to 12 organizations.

Bicyclists can participate in three club rides free. After that, the club asks riders to join. Membership costs \$20 per year for an individual or \$30 for a family. For more information on membership, email membership@bloomingtonbicycleclub.org. □

Location: Bloomington.

Mission: To promote bicycling as recreation, sport, and transportation. The club is active year-round, incorporating road and gravel rides to area attractions like covered bridges, old iron bridges, a train trestle, an art and sculpture garden, and small southern Indiana communities.

Founded: 1982.

Events: The club organizes one major ride each Saturday, several weekday training rides, and a Sunday "Nice and Easy" ride for new riders. The club is most active March through November, but holds events year-round. The club also organizes the yearly RAIN (Ride Across Indiana), a 160-mile one-day pedal from Terre Haute to Richmond that attracts cyclists from all over the Midwest. RAIN also serves as a fundraising ride for the club's grants and other events.

Website:

bloomingtonbicycleclub.org

Do you think your outdoors-related club should be featured in a future issue? If so, please email information similar to what's above to OI@dnr.IN.gov. If we choose your club, we'll take the photo.