



# TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #18

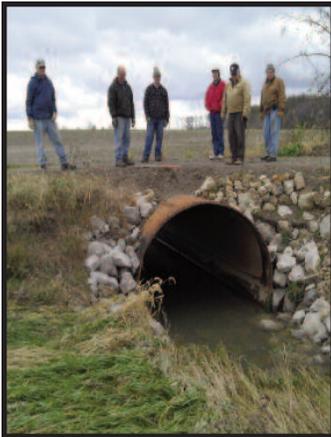
HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SUMMER 2013

## NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

# HEAD EAST!

*Trail grows and improves east of Norwalk*



*As if posing for an album cover, this band of volunteers checks out the tank car turned culvert east of Rt. 601.*

**Question:** How do you get a new trail over a big creek?  
**Answer:** That's easy! Take an old railroad tank car, without the end caps and wheelsets, and stick it in the water!

That's exactly what we did to solve a culvert issue east of Rt. 601. Thanks to some ingenuity by FRTTI member Bill Dupont, Mark Haynes Construction was hired to drop this culvert in place and to grade and build the new trail sections.

"We were really excited to open Medusa to Rt 601 last fall, and even more excited to open Rt. 601 to Laylin Road this summer", said FRTTI President Lance Franke. "The 601 to Laylin stretch now connects us to Ommert Historic Farm and passes through some beautiful scenery. Haynes Construction did an outstanding job in a short amount of time".

Both sections are now open for use, although not fully complete, and crushed stone will be added as the dirt settles by mid- 2014. This now makes 5.3 miles of continuous trail open for use east of Norwalk! A signed road route exists between Derussey Road and Wakeman.

FRTTI will soon fix some low spots near Collins as well as add fresh stone on the existing trail pieces through Collins.



*Last month this was a footpath through a forest. Haynes Construction puts the finishing touches on the grading.*

## OMMERT HISTORIC FARM

Welcome to Ommert Historic Farm, settled in 1831 as part of the original Lockwood tract, and more recently the home of Bill and Carol Ommert, this 45 acre farm along the trail on Rt. 601 was purchased from the Ommert's through a Clean Ohio Grant for use as a future park adjacent to the trail.

The farm now serves as our eastern base of maintenance operations as well as our Ranger headquarters. All tillable acreage is being farmed and a new trailhead has been constructed here on Rt. 601. Rahrig & Sons was hired to paint the barn.

As this beautiful property is developed into a park it will be a real treasure for future generations.



## DEPOT 150TH!

As work continues on the back side of the depot - sanding, painting, etc., we realized 2013 marks the Sesquicentennial of the Depot's Construction in 1863. This depot replaced an original structure at this site when the line was completed in 1853. We are planning a big celebration to mark the 150th birthday of the Depot at Donald E. Morrow Park and hope you will join us for refreshments and the opportunity to check out the historic displays, the new garden, and check out the trail on a fall day.



**SUNDAY  
OCT 20  
2-5 PM  
at the Depot  
69 S. Ridge St.  
(Rt. 99 S)  
Monroeville**



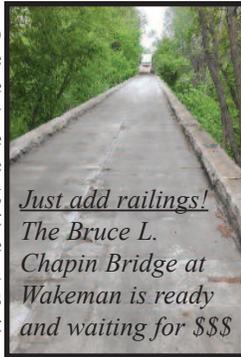
*Washington DC to San Fran on a unicycle! 40 miles a day average, self contained! This gentleman only had one wheel but gave our trail two thumbs up!*

**Check out our totally awesome new website!**

**WWW.FRTTI.ORG**

# MIXED FREIGHT

**FRTTI welcomes our new trail President, Lance Franke!** Lance has been active with our organization for several years, serving recently as the community liaison for the Road Soldiers Cycling Club of the Ohio Veterans Home and also as a Sandusky County Volunteer Bike Patrol Officer on the NCIT to our west. Lance brings many organizational leadership skills and trail safety expertise and will be working closely with **Ranger Dave Ware** and our **Trail Patrol Officers Mike Conney and Larry Nofz....** Former President **Joe Mantey**, who served in this position for the last four years, will concentrate on marketing and trail development ....Trustee **Lisa Wendt** has created a beautiful **new website** [www.frtti.org](http://www.frtti.org)...You can also find us on Facebook.... An **aerial video** of the NCIT is in the works... A big thanks to **Joyce Dupont** for all her accounting work at tax time!...



*Just add railings!  
The Bruce L.  
Chapin Bridge at  
Wakeman is ready  
and waiting for \$\$\$*

**Maintenance work** continued on the NCIT through late winter, spring and summer. Volunteers spent many weekends clearing brush, dead trees, and fallen trees with the many recent storms.... We have reached 1/5 of our goal of a \$20,000 match to add railings to the **Bruce L. Chapin Bridge** in Wakeman and hope to reach this by next summer with some help from you!.... The Wakeman - Kipton US20 bike path connector is in design stage... stay tuned for details in 2014... **Wilhelm Construction** donated some backhoe time and expertise this past winter to fix a very deep sinkhole on the trail just west of the Norwalk double-arch bridge. Joe Wilhelm sent us a postcard from the Great Wall of China.... **Ken Smith of RKS Design & Construction LLC** donated a much needed generator for running tools on the trail...**Robert Rouse** donated a RR Land Line marker and installed it east of the Mville Bridge... **Denny Seifker** donated a rare 1950's depot photo... **Grant Thompson**, Naturalist from LCMP, donated some LS&MS stock certificates... **Jerry Gormley** donated some old W&LE Mville Waybills... **Harold Siesel** donated an old NKP switchman's lantern... **Eagle Scout projects** are underway: **Danny Ivory**, of Troop 203 Bellevue, will construct a kiosk near Bellevue. **Mason Thorley**, of Troop 236 Berlin Hts. will construct a kiosk at the Wakeman Bridge... A **route into Norwalk** from North West St. is still in the works... details are forthcoming.... We have started an **Endowment Fund** (for the long term success of the NCIT) and a **Legacy Donation Program** (as a memorial to someone or in honor of a person or event) as a way to donate to FRTTI.

## RAILROAD HERITAGE

The Bruce L. Chapin Bridge may be coming to a TV near you! Beacon Productions, of Canton, is producing a documentary on the 1876 Ashtabula Bridge Disaster in which 97 people perished and Chief Engineer Charles Collins was murdered. Our Wakeman Bridge, while in no danger of collapse, shares some similar abutment components. FRTTI Trustee Fritz Kuenzel has been working with Beacon Productions on the historical details. For more interesting info on this exciting documentary, visit [www.engineeringtragedy.com](http://www.engineeringtragedy.com).

## Contact us!

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization.  
44 E. Main St. (Excel Bike & Fitness) Norwalk OH 44857  
419-668-3027 Joe Missler / Excel 419-465-3367 Depot Voice Mail  
Meetings are the 1st Thurs of the month, 7:30 pm at the Depot  
The Depot is at 69 S. Ridge St., Monroeville  
**Membership forms and additional info: [www.frtti.org](http://www.frtti.org)**  
Trail News is written and edited by Joe Mantey, FRTTI Trustee

# TRAIL ACTIVITIES

The number of trail activities continues to grow exponentially! 5K's, nature walks, bike rides, you name it! The best ways to keep up to speed on the latest happenings are to: 1. Become a member and sign up for email announcements and 2. Follow us on Facebook.



Cub Scout Pack 729, right, from Bay Village, visited the trail in May after camping south of Norwalk. They hiked, checked out the depot, and participated in a "Before and After photo challenge" using a dozen 100 year-old photos taken near the depot. The objective was to find the exact spot where the photos were taken. Not as easy as it sounds as a lot has changed with respect to the railroad scene in Monroeville.

Thinking about a group outing on the trail? All group outings now require a USE PERMIT, which we will generously and graciously issue to you once provided with some information. This permit identifies those involved and most importantly lets our safety officers and maintenance people serve you better. Our new Use Permit system is in full operation and it has been nothing but positive for all involved.

## JUST IMAGINE!

### Something to ponder as you pedal...

FRTTI now has close to 200 members - an all time high - yet like most non-profits, a dozen dedicated individuals are mowing, trimming trees, making decisions, and working round the clock to ensure the success of the NCIT in Huron County.

**Just imagine** if a dozen new people showed up at a dozen work days per year. Just imagine if a half dozen new people attended a half dozen board meetings per year and gave some input. Just imagine if a half dozen people volunteered to mow some sections or some trailheads. Just imagine if you handed out ten brochures. Just imagine if every one of our members signed up one or two friends, who probably already use the trail! Just imagine if now 600 members each donated \$50. (Yes, that is a lot of fresh crushed limestone to improve surfaces-almost 3 miles worth spread out and rolled!)

Grants for trail construction can be found in many places, and we have had much success. But... maintaining our trail and our organization is strictly up to YOU!



It's  
up  
to  
YOU!

## 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lance Franke, President	Joe Mantey
Steve Siesel, Vice President	Pam Morrow
Rick Schaffer, Treasurer	Jan Tkach
Joe Missler, Secretary	Lisa Wendt
Stan Bernhardt	
Larry Carpenter	
Joyce Dupont	
Doug Jaqua	
Fritz Kuenzel	

## THANK YOU!

For your memberships, donations, hard work and also for talking up the trail! More and more users mean less and less weeds and more people out enjoying the trail, the scenery, and the company of friends!