



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #15

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SPRING 2011

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

MORE MILES OF TRAIL IN COLLINS



Bike riders in the Collins area may soon find themselves short of breath. This is either because they haven't ridden much over the winter, the trail mileage is growing, or the air is so thin due to the altitude. After all, Collins is the highest point on the original Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway between Buffalo and Chicago!

Mark Haynes

Construction has been busy building and installing new culverts (above), grading miles of new trail, and installing crushed stone between West Collins Road and Medusa Road. In Central Collins, Clark Hahn donated a couple days' worth of backhoe time to excavate ties in the center of Collins. FRTTI Volunteers then yanked and stacked the ties manually for removal with a skid steer loaned by Gerald Oney and operated by FRTTI Treasurer Doug Jaqua.

Mark Haynes was also just awarded the contract to build the key link in Central Collins between Hartland Center and West St. Funding for this section was donated by Gordon and Kathy Oney in memory of their son, David. David was an avid outdoorsman and cyclist.

When complete, we will have 3.4 miles of continuous new trail. In addition, a grant has been submitted to ODNR for an additional 2 miles between Medusa, Rt 601, and Laylin Rd. Grants will be awarded this summer for potential trail work in 2012.

A big thanks to the Wakeman Wranglers 4-H Group: These young ladies have been keeping the open sections free of twigs and debris. We also wish to thank the Townsend Township Trustees and the Norwalk Township Trustees for their resolutions of support for our trail building efforts and grant applications.

Thanks to Trustees Gordon Oney and Stan Bernhardt for overseeing the construction in the Collins area.

KIWANIS HURON RIVER OVERLOOK

Thanks to another project by the Norwalk Kiwanis club, the community has a new asset that spectacularly showcases both nature and history. After more than a year of hard work spearheaded by Kiwanian Jack Schaffer, the Kiwanis Huron River Overlook on the North Coast Inland Trail is ready to be introduced. The public is invited to a dedication ceremony at 1pm Sunday May 1 (see details inside).

The overlook is just over a half-mile west of the North West Street trail-head and provides incredible views of both the 1871 double-arch bridge and the East Branch of the Huron River, which is some 50 feet below.

"Kiwanis exists to help improve the community," Schaffer said. "This project will help encourage fitness while providing an opportunity for more people to learn about the area's rich railroad history and develop more appreciation of nature."

"In addition to efforts by Kiwanians, many people in the community provided funds, labor, equipment, materials and expertise to the project," he said. "Without their help, it couldn't have been done."

Firelands Rails to Trails is extremely pleased and grateful for this massive, and very attractive, overlook. "An overlook here has been a distant dream of many for several years", said FRTTI President Joe Mantey. "The Kiwanis made it a reality, and faster than anyone could imagine".



THE GALEN SAYLER FAMILY PARK

Central Collins will soon be home to a new trailside park on S. Railroad Street known as The Galen Sayler Family Park. Thanks to a generous sale by Collins Elevator owner Galen Sayler, we will now have a beautiful place for trail users to rest and relax. The park will also feature ample horse trailer parking and benches. Look for a Collins area Grand Opening soon.



**IN
THIS
ISSUE:**

Kiwanis Huron River Overlook Grand Opening Details.....	2-3
Trail project updates on all fronts.....	4
Horsepower...1846 style.....	5
A 12-mile march with Delta Company.....	6
<i>The new culvert west of West Collins Rd. Can anyone name this creek?</i>	



HURON RIVER OVERLOOK

KIWANIS VOLUNTEERS



Overlook Volunteers

Emilie Wells	Monetary Donation	
Don Weaver	Don Weaver Contractors Design Engineering	Engineering
Dave Bleile	Lake Erie Construction	Steel and decking
Marvin Smith	Smith Paving & Excavating	Excavating
Charlie Fisher	Hillside Wood Heat, Topsoil King	Equipment Shop
Jim, Luke & Dave Wasiniak	Wasiniak Construction	Concrete site work
Steve Wasiniak	WAZU Concrete	Concrete Pumping
John Lendrum	Norwalk Concrete Industries	Re-bar cages and lift
Dan Newland	D&A Newland Enterprises, Inc.	Equipment
Brad & John Riley		Crane Work
Tom Hedrick	HBE Machine, Inc.	Equipment
Rick Marrett	Marrett Unlimited	Snow Removal
Chris Harlan		Video
Fran Thayer		Equipment
Eugene Dachs	Sawyer	Mill planking for deck
Kevin Austin	Certified Welder	Steel Fabrication

Community Volunteer Laborers

Gary Meilke Tom Eastman Taylor Schaffer Rick Schaffer

Kiwanis Volunteers

Larry McGlinchy Engineering, site work, setting of equipment
Harlon Jennings Site work and photography
Al Holb Site Work
John Brooks Concrete pouring and setting of equipment

**Additional site work and planning by: Judy Mosher, Betty Meese, Michele Skinn,
 John Fries, Bruce Leimbach, Joe Thomas, and Jennie Hipp, Kiwanis President.**

Jack Schaffer Project Manager and visionary

Walk among the tree tops, *Soar* where eagles dare,
See the mighty river below, *Feel* the wind in your fur.

GRAND OPENING
of the
HURON RIVER OVERLOOK
DESIGNED, DONATED, AND CONSTRUCTED
BY THE NORWALK KIWANIS



With a spectacular view of the
1871 STONE DOUBLE ARCH BRIDGE,
ON THE NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL,
One half-mile west of North West Street, Norwalk.



SUNDAY MAY 1, 2011 1:00 PM

Parking available at the North West Street Trailhead
82 North West Street, Norwalk 44857
On-trail shuttle will be available for those in need.

BRIDGE IT!



Thanks to the grant from ODOT, Schirmer Construction is moving along with the Huron River Bridge project near Rt. 99 in Monroeville. This massive 225' bridge is being prepared for a new concrete deck and railings. The view will be amazing.

DEPOT DOINGS



The depot at Donald E. Morrow Park now has a red roof, green siding, and dark green trim - the correct colors of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Ry. in 1914. Funds for the new roof and windows were donated by Pam Morrow. We also wish to thank the Ridgefield Township Trustees for their cooperation during construction.

CREW CUT



Our trail got the sides trimmed way back thanks to a generous donation of this ditch bank mower by R.S. Hanline and loaned tractor from Gerald Oney. This mower will enable us to easily keep the vegetation from encroaching on the trail this summer.

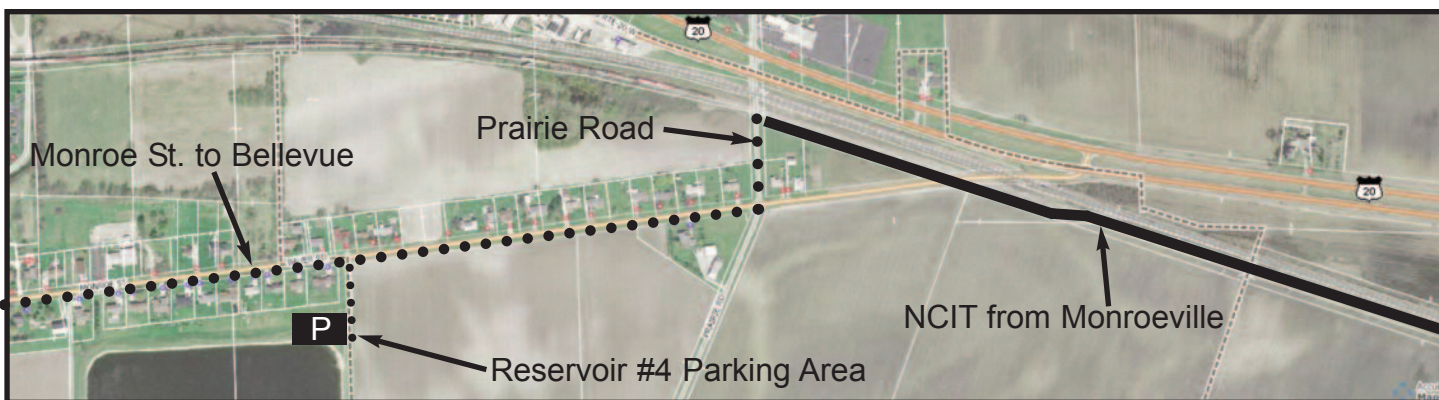
ONE BIG CHECK!

FRTTI received a BIG check, in the amount of \$2,500 from the Monsanto Fund's "America's Farmers Grow Communities". Trail members Frank and Julie (Schaffer) Linder were the selected recipients of the grant which she applied for on behalf of her dad's farm. As the winner, Julie selected Firelands Rails to Trails as the beneficiary. Julie described FRTTI as "a perfect representation of what community means to me." A big thank you to Julie and the entire Schaffer family for all they have done towards the success of the NCIT.



THE LAST LINK TO BELLEVUE!

The final link to Bellevue is almost complete! Wilhelm Construction will soon be installing crushed limestone between Bauer and Prairie Roads. Parking will be available at the north east corner of Reservoir #4. Trail users from Bellevue may park there and ride out Monroe Street to Bauer and Prairie. Bellevue officials are working on a plan to route the NCIT through the city to connect up with the NCIT on the west side, which will soon (2012-2013) be built east from Clyde by the Sandusky County Park District. The map below shows the east side of Bellevue trail and parking arrangement. There will be no roadside parking on Prairie Road. Within a few weeks, Bellevue residents will be able to ride all the way to Monroeville and vice versa. New mileposts and road signs will be up soon.



MORE NEW STONE!



Fresh stone has been installed at the following trailhead parking lots: Sand Hill Road (left); North West St., Norwalk; Hartland Center Rd., Collins; and Res. #4, Bellevue. Horse trailer parking at The Galen Sayler Family Park is in the works. Thanks to Brian Lonz of the Huron County Park District for his assistance in acquiring the parking lot stone through ODOT.

BLUEBIRD TRAIL

The Firelands Audubon Society awarded FRTTI the Conservation Award for 2010 for their greenspace preservation efforts. Seen below are Stan Bernhardt, Lisa Wendt, and Gordon Oney receiving the award. In partnership with the FAS, our bluebird trail has grown with nest boxes dotting the landscape between Williams Rd. west to Young Road. The rail trail has proven to be prime habitat for bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens and woodpeckers. A keen eye can also spot many other types of wildlife with the most unique being a mink scampering in the underbrush west of North West Street. Look from afar, but do not disturb!



FORNEY BENCH



Bob and Dorothy Forney, of Bellevue, donated this deluxe bench near Megginson Creek. Bob even went a step further and had the area cleaned up so trail users may stop and enjoy the creekside scenery. Stan Bernhardt constructed the bench.

MIXED FREIGHT

Pam Morrow is our newest board member! Pam has been instrumental in the development of Donald E. Morrow Park, named in memory of her late husband. Pam is a true outdoor lover and is now involved in trail management and operations....We finally gave up the telegraph and got a **phone** at the depot, our number

419-465-DEMP

stands for Donald E. Morrow Park. Messages are checked daily.... We also now accept **PayPal** for memberships and donations via the website, thanks



to Trustee **Lisa Wendt**.... 5K Race coordinator **Joyce Dupont** announced this year's **5K walk and run** will be held in Monroeville Sat. May 14 at 9am. Race

will start just west of the depot... In addition to **Capt. Mike Conney**, we have added three more bike **trail patrol officers: Debbie Wagner, Larry Noftz, and Dave Daniels**. Look for them on the trail. They will be looking out for you!... The **Annual Meeting** at Berry's in February was a packed house. Guest speaker was **Eric Oberg**, Director of Trail Development, Midwest Office of the Rails to Trails Conservancy. Eric discussed the many trails under construction and the positive impacts on local communities.... We are looking for individuals who would be willing to **adopt trailheads** for general maintenance and pickup and mowing with a push mower.... We are also looking for civic minded groups to adopt sections of newly opened trail. Several miles are still available.... 2011 plans to be a busy year of trail construction but we also have budgeted to fully install **new crushed stone** between Halfway Rd. and Peru Center Rd.... A big thanks to FRTTI Trustee **Doug Jaqua** for his ten years of service as our treasurer. Doug's outstanding bookkeeping efforts have kept us in the black. Join us in welcoming our new treasurer, Trustee **Rick Schaffer**.

5K

**WALK / RUN 9am
SAT MAY 14, 2011
AT THE DEPOT
MONROEVILLE**

PRESERVING OUR RAILROAD HERITAGE

The B&O



Horsepower had a literal meaning when the Sandusky, Mansfield and Newark's first trains ran in 1846. They were pulled by horses! Steam locomotives, at the time, were being produced in England and were scarce in the U.S. The SM&N's first tracks were made of the traditional crossties but with timbers laid perpendicular upon which a steel strap was spiked. "Strap rail" as it was known, would occasionally break and snap up like a snake, causing damage to passing trains and often causing derailments.

The SM&N was not the first rail line in Ohio but was one of the earliest. Sandusky boomed in the 1840's and 50's and rail lines radiated out of this important Lake Erie port in all directions. Sandusky's heyday would be short lived as Chicago quickly grew into a more important port and rail hub of the midwest within a few short years.

Soon the SM&N became part of the expanding Baltimore and Ohio. The line crossed the B&O main line at Chicago Junction, later renamed Willard after Daniel Willard, President of the B&O. The line served its original namesake towns hauling agricultural products, general merchandise, and passengers.

In 1962, the B&O came under control of Cleveland-based Chesapeake & Ohio. In 1972, C&O's lines: C&O, B&O, and Western Maryland became known as the Chessie System. During the 1970's traffic on Chessie's B&O through Monroeville began to dwindle. By the early 1980's, Chessie abandoned most of the former SM&N. The Richland B&O trail runs on a section of the original SM&N.

Nothing remains of the B&O structures in Monroeville. The photo at top left was taken looking north from our current trail (then the LS&MS Railway) about 1900, with hotel at left and freight depot across the Wheeling. The depot at right of the photo (a joint B&O-W&LE facility) has been moved to Rt 13 and is now the Coupling Reserve. The bottom photo shows a north-bound passenger train at the B&O Depot, about to cross the Wheeling in 1906. Our LS&MS depot is just barely visible at right. Ghosts of another era.

- J.P. Mantey, F.N. Kuenzel



HURON COUNTY'S RECREATIONAL TRAIL

5

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues: _____ New _____ Renewal

____ Student \$ 5.00

____ Individual \$ 10.00

____ Family \$ 15.00

____ Club or Organization \$ 30.00

____ Supporting \$ 50.00

____ Sustaining \$ 100.00

____ Benefactor \$ 250.00

____ Donation _____

____ Depot restoration fund _____

TOTAL _____

I would also like to donate:

____ Labor _____

____ Equipment _____

Detach and Mail this section.

Please make your check payable to:

Firelands Rails To Trails, Inc.

44 East Main St. Norwalk, OH 44857

Membership fees and donations to Firelands Rails to Trails are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

TN15

The EXTRA BOARDThe latest news and information

DELTA COMPANY



Delta Company, 1st-148th Infantry Regiment, of Sandusky, has been training regularly on the North Coast Inland Trail in Huron County. These men, seen here at the North West Street trailhead, are qualifying for Air Assault School at Ft. Benning, GA and are required to carry 30 lb. packs twelve miles in under three hours. FRTTI wishes them good luck as they will mobilize this August for deployment to Afghanistan.

CONTACT US

Firelands Rails To Trails Inc.
44 East Main St. Norwalk, OH
bikedoc123@frontier.com
419-465-3367 or 668-3027
or via the website:
www.firelandsrailstotrails.org

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Cut and mail the form above or visit us online and print the membership form.
- Join FRTTI for as little as \$5
- Sign up for our Email News
- Join us on one of our Work Days
- Tell some friends about it!

Sat. April 16: Trash pickup 8a-12p

East of Laylin Road

Sun. May 1: Overlook Opening 1 pm

Thurs. May 5: Board Meeting 7:30p

Sat. May 7: Depot work day 8a-12p

Sat. May 14: 5K Mville 9 am

Sun. May 22: Work Day 8a-12p

TRAIL NEWS

Published by the Trustees of
Firelands Rails to Trails Inc. (FRTTI)
and is mailed to all members.

Editors: Joe Mantey

and Rick Schaffer

Photos by Joe Mantey, Rick Schaffer,
Stan Bernhardt and Fritz Kuenzel
unless noted otherwise.



Firelands Rails to Trails
44 E. Main St.
Norwalk, OH 44857