



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #25

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SPRING 2018

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL



ALL SIGNALS GREEN FOR 2018 !



Big Plans plus Big Donations mean Big Trail Projects !

The time has come to get some things done!

All thanks to much strategic planning over the last two years but with special thanks to our donors and new Life Members for stepping up to fund so many of the projects which have been in the works for some time.

As you may have noticed on the east end of the county, the US20 Bikeway east of Wakeman is now complete. That leaves just the piece between SR 60 and our Bruce L. Chapin Bridge to finally link Kipton and Wakeman. This piece will be completed this spring. On the west end of the county, the City of Bellevue and ODOT have completed the paved route through town thus finally linking Monroeville, Bellevue, Clyde and points west. Watch for a surge of long distance riders via Norwalk this summer.



US20 Bikeway

Not just bikers, but also hikers! The Buckeye Trail Association will soon be applying their blue blazes to the NCIT route once the Chapin Bridge connector is complete. Stay tuned for details!

Another massive project which has been in the planning stages for years is the Norwalk Double Arch bridge head-wall repair, which went out for bid this winter. After on-site visits with a potomologist, discussions with the Army Corps of Engineering and the Huron Soil and Water Conservation District, the headwall will be repaired with Wilhelm Construction as the awarded contractor.

Thanks to the Life Members who have each donated \$1,000 in membership dues, we will also resurface some of our roughest sections of trail. Overall the trail is in excellent shape but some sections need a new top coat. Our mowing crews are ready to go the minute the grass starts to grow. Volunteers have worked through the winter clearing dead tress and trimming back the sides of the trail corridor.



We are All-Volunteer!

Last but certainly not least, the FRTTI board was made aware of some state grant money which is available for paving of the trail, thanks to research done by the Huron County Commissioners, Terry Boose in particular. Terry alerted FRTTI and we have since discussed the prospect with our fellow park district co-owners who agree the time is now. FRTTI Board members will meet with grant consultant Poggemeyer Design Group this spring to discuss details and the grant application process.

Thanks to all who help with FRTTI's overall success both on and off the trail. So many individual efforts on all fronts help our organization succeed in creating and maintaining your beautiful trail right here in Huron County!

Be sure to watch your email and our Facebook page for upcoming summer trail events and Depot open hours.

On February 5, Firelands Rails To Trails conducted its annual meeting of members, held this year at Pean's Pizza in Monroeville. Presentations were given on the progress of 2017 and our plans for 2018, a plaque was dedicated to those who have become Life Members of FRTTI, and two board members were re-elected for another term.

Our guest speakers this year were Tom and Marianne Duvendack of the Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association (NORTA), who gave a well detailed presentation of the history and future plans of the Wabash Cannonball Trail as well as trail developments in the greater Toledo area. NORTA was the original purchaser of the NCIT property in Huron County before transferring portions of ownership to surrounding park districts. Just last August, NORTA transferred their 28% ownership in the NCIT to FRTTI.



NORTA makes it happen!

If you have not ridden the Wabash Cannonball Trail, be sure to put it on your list. At 63 miles long, it stretches from the west side of Toledo almost to Indiana along with a branch. Some sections are paved as other sections are being developed.

To our south, New London-Greenwich Rail Trail, Inc. is in the final stages of purchasing the trail corridor between these two communities for the proposed AC&Y Trail.

Thank you to our Donors in 2017 !!

Welcome New Members

who joined in 2017:

Pete Amato
Sarah Beard
Rob and Peg Bobel
Lora Cahill
Jacob Collins
Minetta Erf
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hipskind
Jeff and Laurie Huber
Rotary Club - Norwalk
Saint-Gobain Corp.
Davion Seavers
Adam Shepherd
Mike Weisenberger
William White

New Life Members in 2017:

(\$1,000 one-time membership)

Dustin and Melissa Beal
Thomas and Glenda Beres
John and Mary Lou Bores
Ray and Marjorie Chapin
Rodney and Monica Cook
William and Linda Cornell
Lance and Lynn Franke
RS Hanline & Company
Chris and Janet Hipp
Dan and Barb Lesch
Larry McGlinchy
Tom and Cindy McLaughlin
Arnold and Ethel Missler
Pamela Morrow
Gordon and Kathy Oney
Tom and Karen Sharpnack
Dan Styer

New Life Members in 2017:

(continued)
Henry and Marty Timman
Helen Wheeler
Theresa Wilde

Golden Spike Club \$1,000 +

All of the Life Members; and, donations outside of the life membership dues in excess of \$1,000 in 2017:

John and Mary Lou Borres
Lance and Lynn Franke
Pam Morrow

Trail Blazers \$500+

Jeff Colvin
Patricia Douglas - Memorial
Silver Wheels Cycling Club
Dan and Lorna Strayer

Benefactors \$250+

Molly Doss
Ed & Dot Herman
Mark Haynes
Rotary Club - Norwalk
Saint-Gobain Corp.
Ken and Jan Tkach
Helen Wheeler

Sustaining \$100+

Dustin and Melissa Beal
Steve and Carol Beal
Thomas and Glenda Beres
Bob and Ruth Brown
Mark and Valerie Bumb
Marcy Burns
Jim and Char Busek
Kyle and Amber Cebull
Travis Chapin
Margaret D'Aneri
Don and Celeste Eastman
Joe Etzler
John and Laurie Flickinger
Tim and Lisa Freriks
Judy Goble
Sue Goodsite
R.S. Hanline & Company
Jeff and Sharon Harwood
Dave and Lisa Hedrick
Jennie Henry
Peggy Heydinger
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hipskind
Steve, Mary & Daniel Ivory
Allen and Sue Lesch
Jim Lorcher
James and Sandra Mantey
Allen McLeod
Nick and Stephanie Morrow
Tod and Marcia Morrow
David and Judy Nunez
Anna O'Donnell
Bill Owens
James Schlachter
Clayton & Elsie Schluchter
Pat Schwann

Sustaining \$100+

Mike and Chriss Schwieterman
Denise Bell / Seneca Caverns
Patricia Serio
Dr. Jeff and Ramona Sizemore
Jim and Reta Stark
Henry and Marty Timman
Janice Weltlin

And over fifty names of Supporting Members (\$50 and above) and individual, family, and club members!!

Thanks to all who have joined our organization and have generously donated to this wonderful project and have endorsed our efforts. Our sincere apologies to anyone we may have missed. Please note some donations may be posted as 2018.

Special thanks to our new Life Members !!!

Special thanks are also in order to:

- Firelands Rails to Trails Board of Trustees
- Financial, marketing, membership, and work / trail planning committees
- Volunteer Trail Patrol members
- Mowing and weedwacking crew volunteers
- Work Day volunteers
- Trail Patrol Officers and Ranger
- Our Endorsers and local political supporters
- Northwestern Ohio Rails To Trails Association
- Our consortium of park district co-owners:
Lorain Co. Metroparks, Toledo Metroparks, Wood Co. Park District, Erie Metroparks, Sandusky County Park District

Thank you to our Trail Endorsers

What is an endorser???

An endorser is just that: A business, civic group, non-profit organization, or government entity (not an individual) who has presented us with a **written letter of endorsement** stating their support for Firelands Rails to Trails and the North Coast Inland Trail in Huron County.

Letters of Endorsement are kept on file and are published in our newsletter and brochure / map to show potential grantors and financial donors how much support we have and who specifically in the area supports us.

Are these donors?

They may or may not have donated funds, but the time they spent to write a brief, personal letter of support and mail it may be worth big grant money for your trail which may have been spent elsewhere in the state of Ohio!

We're always looking for more letters. **Is your group on board?**

Andrews Asphalt Maintenance - Norwalk
Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce
Bellevue Parks & Recreation Dept.
Bellevue Knights of Columbus
Bellevue VFW
Berry's Restaurant - Norwalk
Bluto's Sports Bar and Grille - Norwalk
BMP Industries - Birmingham
Citizen's Banking - Norwalk
City of Bellevue
City of Norwalk
Dr. Ted N. Clark, Jr., DVM - Bellevue
Jeff Colvin CPA - Norwalk
Domino's Pizza - Norwalk
Excel Bike & Fitness - Norwalk
Firelands Audubon Society
Haynes Construction - Norwalk
Huron County Board of Commissioners
Lyme Township Board of Trustees
MB's Pooch Parlor - Norwalk
Mad River & NKP Railroad Society - Bellevue
Miller's Drive-In - Bellevue
Monroeville Knights of Columbus
Monroeville Marine Inc.
Mossman Music - Norwalk
Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness - Norwalk

New London Family Practice
New London-Greenwich Rail-Trail Inc.
Norwalk Community Bicycle Club - NEW!
Norwalk Kiwanis
Norwalk Lions
Norwalk Township Trustees
Dr. Anna O'Donnell, DVM - Norwalk
Ohio Horseman's Council - Erie Co. Chapter
Owens Law Firm - Norwalk
Pean's Pizza & Subs - Monroeville
Perkins Restaurant - Sandusky
Project Leadership - Norwalk
Ridgefield Township Board of Trustees
Seneca Caverns - Bellevue
Sharpnack Chevrolet-Buick - Cadillac - Willard
Sharpnack Ford - Willard
Silver Wheels Cycling Club - Lorain County
Sheri's Coffee - Norwalk
Twenty First Century Foundation - Norwalk
Townsend Township Trustees
Underground Utilities Inc. - Monroeville
Village Gallery & Framer - Huron
Village of Monroeville
Wakeman Wranglers 4-H Group- Wakeman
Wasiniak Construction - Norwalk
Wilhelm Construction - Monroeville

www.frtti.org or see you on the trail !