



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #28

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

FALL 2019

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

SMOOTH OPERATORS

Volunteer crew makes the trail like new!



Ladies and Gentlemen, we only manufacture one product: TRAIL. And never before has it been this good! Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, you can SEE and FEEL the results from Collins to Bellevue! The work crew, led by FRTTI Trustee Doug Jaqua, consisted of Steve Siesel, Dave Pifer, Larry Carpenter, Steve Ivory, Mike Weisenberger and Gordon Oney. The crew spent almost two weeks weeding, grading, and rolling the trail and we finally mastered the process and achieved a long-desired result of a wide, compacted, and smooth trail.

Many thanks are in order to Wilhelm Construction, who loaned the grader and provided expertise. We would also like to show our appreciation to Tuffman Rentals, who was most helpful and accommodating in the rental of the 10-ton vibrating roller which compacted the stone so well. The results speak for themselves: An awesome trail surface - at a full ten feet wide. We plan on repeating this process each year.

There are no trophies for smooth trails. But it is OK to brag to your skinny-tired biking friends. It's that good.



NCIT....America's Transcontinental Route!

www.frtti.org

Thank you “BIG PUSH” Spring Fundraiser Donors !

We kicked off our spring fundraiser in order to raise funds to complete the last section of trail between Laylin and Townsend Streets while maintaining the many miles of trail we have now. We are pleased to announce the drive brought in over \$5,200! The trees have been removed and drainage is being planned. Look for grading work to begin very soon!

Gary & Stella Barman
Bellevue K of C
United Select Fund
(of Bellevue)
Bob & Ruth Brown
Lora Cahill
Martin Coyne
Neil Creary
Joe Etzler
Susan Fridsma
Jody Goble
Ted & Bonnie Goodman
Mark Haynes

Peggy Heydinger
Mr & Mrs Robert Hipkind
Lesley King
Monroeville K of C
Donald Lenher
Jim Lorcher
Phil & Kathy Mantey
Betty Meese
Leon Miller
Tamara Oppen
Bonnie Rhine
Zach Rospert
Anna Ruffing

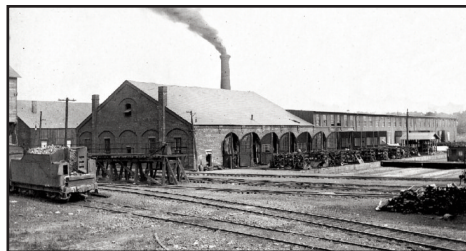
Mike & Chris
Schweiteman
Dr. Jeff & Ramona
Sizemore
Robb Smithson
Richard Spinello
Howard & Teresa
Wyrick
Barney & Kathy
Yaussy



These donors gave during the Big Push fundraising drive this spring. A complete list of 2019 donors will appear in the Winter 2020 edition. Our apologies to anyone we may have overlooked.

Ghosts of the past - Norwalk's W&LE steam facilities

Bikers and hikers on the trail just west of Pleasant Street may have noticed a large clearing off to the south of the existing railroad tracks. This was once the site of a massive locomotive shop constructed by the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad shortly after the road's construction through Norwalk in 1888. Norwalk, specifically Huron Junction, a point on the line near Akron Road and Old State Road, was the junction between the main line (Toledo to Wheeling) and the branch to the Huron Docks. The shop remained in service until August of 1908 when most of it burned, leaving 400 men out of work. The Wheeling proposed rebuilding but the railroad and city could not come to terms. By 1910, the Wheeling had built a more modern shop and yard facility in Brewster, Ohio and moved most operations there. The much-downsized Norwalk facilities (a small yard and locomotive facility) served successor Norfolk and Western until the Huron Branch from Norwalk to Huron was abandoned in the 1990's. In the next issue we'll look at the larger Norwalk facilities of our own Toledo, Norwalk and Cleveland Railroad, later Lake Shore and Michigan Southern.



Just grass and debris remain between the current W&LE line and Jefferson Street. These two photos by F.D. Foster were taken just days apart at the Norwalk Shops in August 1908. The new 1910 shops at Brewster continue in operation for the Wheeling today.

MIXED FREIGHT: Trail News Briefs

Volunteers on bikes and tractors and in charge of weedwackers and saws kept the trail well patrolled and well groomed all summer long. **“Our Volunteer Trail Patrol as well as our mowing pools are a series of well-oiled machines”**, said FRTTI President Josh Wyrick. “We have one of the best maintained trails in the state”.... **Cross country riders** continued to pour through Huron County this summer from places like Seattle, Portland, India, England and Winnipeg. Most head east, a few ride into the wind. The **depot** has two new displays on our visitors from near and far as well as two maps showing their origin points. The depot will be staffed weekends into the fall - be sure to check our facebook page.... FRTTI will host several evening and **night rides** - some slow pedal style - typically starting in Norwalk and heading west... As mentioned above, watch for grading work to start between **Laylin and Townsend soon**. We are anxious to have this walkable soon but stone will probably not arrive til early 2020.... Our friends at **New London Greenwich Rail Trail Inc.** are well underway with clearing and grading from each end. They have officially named the trail the **AC&Y Trail** in honor of its railroad heritage. Please consider joining and donating to their cause. It will be a GREAT trail!.... Watch for our end of year trail recap from President Josh Wyrick. You may renew your memberships and make your year-end donations at that time. In the mean time, **sign up a friend or two**. Just think what we could accomplish with new faces and new funding! Speaking of funding, we will be “on-tour” this winter giving trail updates to civic groups and businesses. If you would be interested in a presentation by us, drop us a line. Thanks to everyone who steps up and takes pride in YOUR trail!

Not a member? Join and support us! Membership forms available at frtti.org