



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #29

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SPRING 2020

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

CONNECT IT !

Construction underway for key link into Wakeman



The last link between Kipton and Wakeman is underway, specifically between Red Cap Park / State Route 60 and the east end of the Bruce L. Chapin Bridge, thus crossing the Vermilion River and into Wakeman!

Big thanks are in order to local volunteer Kenny Tkach, seen at left, loading large stones from our reserve pile at Rt 601, and depositing them at the Wakeman job site. Wilhelm Construction was the low bidder and was hired to complete this short stretch of trail leading to the bridge. The large stones will be used as a retaining wall where the trail curves.

The Wakeman business community is extremely excited to have this key piece of the NCIT under way as it links their business district to points east on the trail including Kipton, Oberlin and Elyria. Wakeman Village Council knows the value of trails and connectivity - it's all about bringing bikers and hikers into the village - and they are already coming in search of local amenities. Soon they will come via finished trail.

The connector project is a joint venture between FRTTI, Wakeman Village, and Lorain County Metroparks. A big thanks is also in order to Wakeman Village for offering to assist with routine mowing in this area.

We have applied for State Capital Funding for this project as well.

Norwalk Eastward !

Laylin to Townsend trail construction is back underway now that things are drying out. Fill is being added at Townsend Avenue, as seen here, across from the Norwalk Township Hall. Next up is some more grading by a volunteer dozer operator. This will be followed by a stone base of donated road grindings. Drainage work will soon be underway behind the industrial park.

This key and scenic section of trail will link Uptown Norwalk with the beautiful trail to Collins and points east. Stay tuned for more updates.



It's entirely up to you!



What's missing here? The operator? No, he is taking the picture...and it's FRTTI President Josh Wyrick, out mowing east of Bellevue under a Kodachrome sky.

Is it more donations from our existing donors? No, we can't ask them for anything more. They have been extremely generous year after year after year.

It's the donations and memberships from the hundreds of new faces on the trail, perhaps discovering new parts of the trail this spring for the first time. We are not supported by local tax dollars. We are all-volunteer and rely strictly on donations as seen on the next page.

Trail use is at an all-time high. If you love it as much as we think you do, will you please join us?

We are ALL-DONATION! What is the trail worth to you?? www.frtti.org

These people make it happen!

We are all-volunteer... and we are all-donation. From funding grass cutting, to ditch cleaning, to stone resurfacing and new trail construction, these are the donors who made it happen in 2019. A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who donates to our cause. The trail would not look as good as it does without these generous donors. Are YOU on board?

Welcome New Members!

Gary Barman
Stella Barman
David Boyd
Deric Eldor
Debra Havice
Richard Hespen
Tom and Tamra Kagy
Debra Mackey
Norwalk Community Foundation
Zach Rospert
Anna Ruffing
Joyce Seitz
Joy Sizemore
Kim Wilburn

New Life Members \$1,000

Dennis & Gladys Hauler
In addition to 22 current Life Members. A complete list will be published in the fall issue of trail news along with our Trail Endorsers.

Golden Spike Club \$1,000+

Life Members and also:

Lance & Lynn Franke
Peggy Heydinger
Betty Meese
Ken & Jan Tkach
Twenty First Century Foundation

Trail Blazers \$500+

Bellevue Knights Columbus
Mark Haynes
Phil & Kathy Mantey
Joe & Carol Missler
Pamela Morrow
Silver Wheels Cycling Club
Robb Smithson

Benefactors \$250+

Mark & Valerie Bumb
Ed & Dot Herman
Mr & Mrs Robert Hipskind
Network For Good
Steve & Erin Shine

Sustaining \$100+

Robert Andrews
Bellevue United
Select Fund
Bob & Ruth Brown
Lora Cahill
Martin Coyne
Thomas Dupee
Joe Etzler
Judy Goble
Sue Goodsite
Jeff & Sharon Harwood
Chris & Janet Hipp
Fred Hupp
Steve & Mary Ivory
Lesley King
Mike & Ann Krupp
Jim Lorcher
Alan McLeod
John & Carolyn Mench
Gwen Miller
Leon Miller

Sustaining \$100+ cont'd

Bonnie Rhine
Mike & Chriss Schweiterman
Seneca Caverns / Denise Bell
Jeff & Ramona Sizemore
Gary & Christine Wolf
Howard & Theresa Wyrick

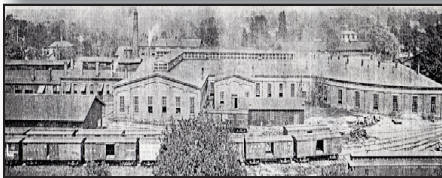
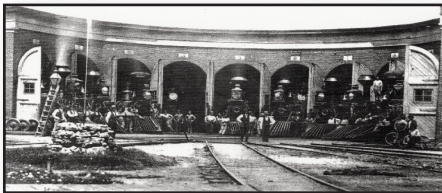
Track Gang \$15 +

We had **EIGHTY-TWO additional donors** who helped via membership dues and small donations!

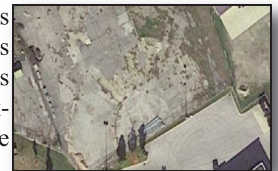
We are not supported by local tax dollars, so what you see here is what makes up the yearly trail budget.

These donors gave during the 2019 calendar year. Some may not have been recorded until 2020 and we will recognize them next time. Our apologies to anyone we may have overlooked.

For archaeologists to ponder - Norwalk's LS&MS Shops



One wonders what archaeologists will think some day centuries from now when they stumble upon Norwalk's Stonehenge - ruins of a half-round monument as seen at lower right, located halfway between Franklin and Railroad Streets. Why it's the foundation of the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad Roundhouse, built in 1853, seen at left in the 1880's, then operated by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern. This view, with wood-burning locomotives in the doorways, looks north across the turntable. The photo at bottom left looks east, with the roundhouse at right and shops behind it. This elaborate complex was the town's largest employer before LS&MS expanded its Collinwood Shops east of Cleveland in the early 1900's and the Norwalk Shops were quickly downgraded and soon closed as the line through Sandusky became the main line. The shop buildings remained standing until demolition in 2002. Oh to have been track-side on November 18, 1852 when local reporters first witnessed "The Iron Horse as he snorted and pranced along through the town"!



MIXED FREIGHT: Trail News Briefs

What makes FRTTI continue to grow and thrive? New volunteers like Susie, pictured here, on one of our sunny winter work days lugging some cut logs off the trail. It is the camaraderie and dedication which keeps so many new faces coming back. Volunteers worked through the winter removing dead trees and low limbs... Thinking of making a large donation to FRTTI?? Ask us for a copy of our new, 8-page, all-color Business Plan... We plan on having popular Open Depot Hours on weekends this summer... The north side of the depot will get a fresh coat of paint soon... Our Annual Meeting will be rescheduled to fall... and we hope to take our new marketing program on the road soon.... Mowing and trimming crews have begun their rotations and the trail looks A-1... Volunteer Trail Patrol has started up as well. Look for the friendly faces in the yellow vests out on the trail. They are a well-trained crew looking out for your safety... Got the need for speed? You need to make a visit to the Marion Tallgrass Trail. 13 miles of beautiful paved trail on the former Erie Railroad.... Did you know Elmore to Genoa

NCIT construction is underway?!... And Wabash Cannonball Trail is getting another half-dozen miles of asphalt pavement!... New London - Greenwich Rail Trail hopes to have a section of its new AC&Y trail open late summer! WOW!

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