

# TRAIL TALES

## Newsletter of Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County



*Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County*  
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*Trustees:*

*Bob Gray, Wooster*

*Roger Maibach, Creston*

*Kevin Gowins, Apple Creek*

*Chris Oehl, Fredericksburg*

*Rick Neil, Dalton*

*E-mail Updates Requested*

If you have not been getting periodic announcements concerning meetings and events, please email Ted Short at [short.2@osu.edu](mailto:short.2@osu.edu) to get on our list.

### ***President's Comments***

It's great to be part of a dynamic and growing organization! We welcomed 33 new members this calendar year. Many were recruited in September by our enthusiastic volunteers working at the Wayne County Fair booth. Thank you new members for joining a most worthy community building effort!

Our Sippo Trail continues to be a popular destination that we proudly use as a model for other communities. Rick Neil organized multiple work sessions this summer for painting new approach lines at the intersections and removing some posts for special bike and trailer access. We are also indebted to members Rich Ott and Dave Wingerd for keeping the grass trimmed throughout the summer. Thank you again, volunteers!!

The County Line Trail project between Creston and Rittman continues to be our major focus with final construction likely to be finished 2009. There are numerous complicating issues with private land holdings and complex routing in the Sterling area. Our vice president, Ted Short, and consulting engineer, Keith Amstutz, continue to work out the details of each problem. Many thanks for their persistence.

We are again posting the giving chart for all donations of \$100 or more for the County Line Trail project. These names will be displayed at or near a trailhead with additional recognition at benches/tables, mile-posts, and bridges for the large gifts. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in recognition or in honoring someone in this way. Also, please let us know if we have made any errors or omissions in our current list.

Ted, Chris, and I continue to make PowerPoint presentations to community groups of both youth and adults. Please give us a call to schedule a program this winter or next spring. For organizations we have already visited, invite us again to see and hear our latest updates.

Don't forget to invite your friends to become members and supporters of our dynamic, growing organization! See you on the trails!

Don Noble II  
President, RTWC

## **County Line Trail Progress**

The Wooster design firm of Shaffer Pomeroy, Ltd., with Keith Amstutz as project leader and John Long as design engineer, completed detailed plans this summer and have been negotiating with ODOT for approval. Formal ODOT and Wayne County Commissioner approval is critical to our moving forward with three private property appraisals, followed by purchase offers presented jointly by ODOT and RTWC.

Keith Amstutz and Ted Short have also spent considerable time negotiating with the CSX Corporation to build the Sterling section of the trail on their property. This has involved discussions at local, regional, and national levels with CSX personnel in Lodi and Berea, Ohio, as well as Jacksonville, Florida. Negotiations with private landowners for right-of-way purchases and public easements are expected to occur in early 2008. Final design, bidding, contract awards, and construction will most likely be accomplished into 2009.

We continue to appreciate the enthusiastic involvement and interests of our membership and local residents in realizing RTWC's vision for this trail. We have raised a total of \$2 million for the project and we continue to work with State Representative Jim Carmichael to acquire the remaining \$400,000 in state capital funds to complete construction. Members are encouraged to let Representative Carmichael know the importance of this trail to the economic viability and vitality of the Creston, Sterling, and Rittman communities.

## **Dalton Railway Station History**

The next time you ride or run the Sippo Valley Trail, as you head east past Buckeye Feed and pass along the Wenger Construction equipment storage yard, use your mind's eye to picture the railway station that Paul Winner ran from 1947 until it closed in 1972. A lifelong resident of the Wooster area, Paul came home from WWII in need of a job, and soon found one working as the freight agent in Dalton. The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad transported carloads of raw materials from all over the country to Dalton Equity Feed, Buckeye Feed Mills and the Yost Candy Company, boards to the local lumber mill, lime to the farmers, and coal which a Mr. Douglas sold to local homeowners. There were shipments of cattle coming in from Kansas and some years, when the local growing season had gone well, carloads of hay and wheat going out. There were also the LCL's (less than carloads) that included everything from bathtubs from the Sears and Roebuck catalog to smaller packages that Paul occasionally carried out to a lady's buggy or car. For the first ten years, in addition to running the place, Paul sent and received Western Union telegrams for the community.

Passenger trains had ceased to roll through Dalton back in 1934, so the former waiting room functioned as a storage room for records. There was a huge amount of bookkeeping involved in the job, as Paul Winner kept track of everything that came in from the terminal at Brewster, everything that went back out, and the payments for all COD shipments. An early morning phone call to Brewster would inform Paul what to freight to expect and the list would be further clarified by another phone call mid-morning to the clerk in Massillon. Paul would then call the intended recipients and tell them to come and pick up their freight.

The train would arrive with its engineer, conductor, brakemen and fireman. Some of the cars would be shunted onto branch lines and detached. The contents of other cars were unloaded into the terminal for later pick-up. On the train's return trip to Brewster, Dalton Equity Feed and Buckeye Feed Mills shipped out their products by the carload, and the candy company shipped out enough all-day suckers to delight legions of baby boomers. For many decades the railroad was the primary means of shipping and receiving goods in Dalton and for the last two and a half of those decades, freight agent Paul Winner greased the wheels of Dalton's commerce with meticulous communications and record-keeping.

## Financial Support for the County Line Trail as of November 2007

(All gifts above \$100 are expected to be recognized on a plaque at a trail head)

### \$100,000

(Trailblazer recognition)

Stan and Flo Gault  
Donald & Alice Noble Foundation

### \$20,000

(bridge recognition)

Andrew Berkey Endowment, c/o Wayne County Community Foundation  
Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust, c/o National City Bank, Wooster

### \$10,000

(mile-post recognition)

Barry Romich  
Richard & Judy Seaman

### \$5,000

(table/bench recognition)

Gene & Joan Buehler  
Edward, Arlene, & Kaye Maibach; Tug & Alma Maibach;  
c/o Wayne County Community Foundation  
The Burton D. Morgan Foundation  
Ted & Karen Short

### \$500-1,000

Bobbi Douglas  
Jeremy Felland  
Julia Fishelson  
Richard & Dorothy Gillman

Glenn & Diane Miller  
Ellen Moore  
Lemoine Peart  
Jim & Joan Robertson

Dave & Betty Shewmon  
Wayne County Horsemen

### \$100-300

Ralph Amiet  
Sandra Arner  
Don & Marge Beane  
Gary Bollenbacher  
Richard Bromund &  
Virginia Pett  
Thomas & Marlene Brown  
Keith & Dorothy Brown  
Tom & Libby Bruch  
Nancy & Ellen Burkholder  
Brian & Tammie Clark  
Michael & Linda Clement  
Marian Cropp  
Margo Curl & Tom  
Strickler  
John & Marlene Custer  
Don & Imogene Demke  
Pat & Julie Dunster  
Joan Elder  
Jeremy Felland  
First National Bank  
Stewart & Heather  
Fitzgibbon  
Mike & Mary Fulton  
Brian & Andrea Gerber  
Harley & Fae Gerber  
Lester Gerber  
Pam Gerber  
Amy Gilbert

Richard Gillman  
Dick & Patricia Glessner  
Kevin Gowins  
Bob & Linda Gray  
Cliff & Anita Greene  
Roy & Ruth Haynes  
Kathy & Dennis Helmuth  
Robert Hohenshil  
Ron & Pru Holtman  
Margaret & Lud Huck  
Fred Huppert  
Jim & Becky Jewell  
Earl Kerr  
Gary & Evelyn Kitchen  
Mark & Melissa Lemon  
Todd & Wendy McKee  
Gwen Meier  
Fred & Linda Michel  
Amy Miller  
Les & Trish Miller  
JD & Arlene Milliken  
Tim & Jayne Neal  
Rick & Carol Neil  
David & Gayle Noble  
Arlene & Dale Nussbaum  
Orville Cycling & Fitness  
Eric & Susan Oswald  
Mike & Stephanie Reardon  
Kenneth Rhode

Jerry Ritzman  
George & Linda Roberts  
William & Donna  
Robertson  
Bill & Robbie Ross  
Sandra & Randall Rowe  
Pam & Phil Schoenberger  
Florence & Jerry Shapiro  
Steve & Cheryl Shapiro  
Paul Shewmon  
Wanda Short  
Rick Smith  
Smith Dairy Products  
Company  
Mike & Pam Steiner  
Rudolph & Patricia  
Tekaucic  
Esther Vanderknaap  
Bob & Joyce Van Keuren  
Bala Venkataraman  
Ron & Jenna Waggoner  
Jim & Joan Watt  
Russ & Debra Welty  
Dave & Cheryl Wengerd  
Mary & John Wicks  
Craig Wiley  
Keith Winkler  
Keith & Carol Workman

## **Welcome New Members**

By the middle of November, we again had over 200 individuals, couples, or businesses who had responded to our 2007 membership drive. Eleven new members were recognized in the Spring Newsletter and we welcome these newest members who have joined since May 2007:

Dawne Andrews, Rittman, Ohio  
Barbara Barden, Rittman, Ohio  
Dick & Sandra Beery, Shreve, Ohio  
Stefan Garcia, Wooster, Ohio  
Rick Gunselman, Wadsworth, Ohio  
Dan & Linda Houston, Wooster, Ohio  
Dana Keirstead, Smithville, Ohio  
Harold & Jane Laurila, Rittman, Ohio  
Steve & Chris Mathew, Wooster, Ohio  
Phil Mariola, Wooster, Ohio  
Carroll Meyer, Shreve, Ohio

Galen & Evie Moomaw, Wooster, Ohio  
Bob & Jane Moore, Wooster, Ohio  
Linda & Randy Plant, Wooster, Ohio  
Norm & Linda Ream, Smithville, Ohio  
Chris & Laurel Schmid, Wooster, Ohio  
Stephen & Catherine Schmid, Wooster  
Steve & Cheryl Shapiro, Wooster, Ohio  
Denise Snyder, Wooster, Ohio  
John Troche, Seville, Ohio  
Jack Visser, Wooster, Ohio  
Dan Wiles, Wooster, Ohio

## **Wayne County Fair**

Rails-to-Trails seems to bring out the best people, not just the "best in people!" Volunteers gave generous amounts of time to staffing our booth at the Wayne County Fair. They sold a record number of the Ohio Rail to Trail guidebooks as well as hats, shirts, handbags, and maps. Many of the new members reported in this newsletter signed up at the fair. Public enthusiasm for our trail developments in both Wayne and Holmes Counties was most apparent. Thanks to all the member volunteers!

## **County Line Trail Funding**

We are really pleased to report that donors have continued to support the future County Line Trail with their generous gifts. And, there is still time (and plenty of need!) to become involved, or become more involved. We have a few new donors since the spring newsletter and some participants who have moved their donation to a higher level. So, we are posting the revised list of donations of \$100 or more. We plan to establish a display of these names near a trailhead and provide additional recognition at benches/tables for gifts of \$5000, at mile-posts for gifts of \$10,000, and at the two new bridges for gifts of \$20,000 or more. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in a new or additional donation. Also, please let us know if we have made any errors or omissions in the current list of donors.

## **We Love a Parade!!**

We have been invited to help celebrate Wooster's Bicentennial on July 5, 2008 by entering a "float" in the parade. The parade theme of "Wooster's Past, Present, & Future" should give us a chance to express our gratitude for the support that the Wooster community has given to our organization. We believe that somewhere within our ranks is someone who will be willing to help plan and coordinate our entry. If this is your kind of challenge, please contact Don Noble or Ted Short.

## **Sippo Trail Updates**

Our volunteers did a great job this summer of grooming the Wayne County section of Sippo Valley Trail for appearance, safety, and access. Rick Neil was able to organize multiple work sessions for volunteers to paint new approach lines at the road intersections and parking lane lines at the West Lebanon trail head. Rick also organized the removal of one bollard at each road crossing to allow easy passage of wide tricycle bikes and kid trailers. Please pass the word along to friends who may want to take advantage of this new accessibility. Two of our Dalton area members, Rich Ott and Dave Wengerd, again, gave numerous hours to mowing the entire Wayne County section with their personal equipment. Thank you Rick, Rich, and Dave!!

## **A Road Route Connecting Two Local Trails**

This summer, we had a request from Jerry Rampelt of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund to help him find a safe bicycling route from the Holmes County Trail at Fredericksburg to the Sippo Valley Trail at Dalton. After getting several suggestions, Don Noble scouted the roads via motorcycle and came up with what we think is the safest, easiest, and most scenic bicycling route possible. For those cyclists who are interested in this 17.5 mile ride, the details follow:

*At the end of the Holmes Co. Trail in Fredericksburg, turn RIGHT onto W. Clay St. heading East (Fredericksburg Elementary School on your Right). Go to the 4-way stop (<0.1 m) in the center of Fredericksburg, turn LEFT onto N. Mill St. heading North. Go one block and turn RIGHT onto Jackson St. heading East. Go one block on Jackson St. and then bear LEFT onto Henry St. (Fredericksburg Community Park on your left) heading North. Henry St. turns into S. Carr Rd. (C-94A). Go 0.8 miles on Henry St./S. Carr Rd. to a 4-way stop. Go STRAIGHT at the stop onto Cutter Rd. (T-205) continuing North. Go 1.6 miles on Cutter Rd. to Moreland Rd. (C-77). Turn RIGHT onto Moreland Rd. heading East and go 4.6 miles to Kansas Rd. (T-179). Turn LEFT onto Kansas Rd. heading North and go 5.0 miles to Arnold Rd. (T-131). Turn RIGHT onto Arnold Rd. heading East and go 4.8 miles to S. Mill St. (SR-94). About 1.6 miles after turning onto Arnold Rd., at the stop sign turn LEFT onto Kidron Rd. (C-52) and then almost immediately turn RIGHT back onto Arnold Rd. continuing East. Turn LEFT onto S. Mill St. heading North. Cross STRAIGHT across SR-30 at the light staying on S. Mill St. Go to the next light in Dalton, and turn RIGHT onto East Main St. heading East. Go 0.2 miles to Freet St. and turn LEFT heading North onto N. Freet St. and your on the Sippo Valley Trail on the West (Left) side of Freet St. (The start of the Sippo Valley Trail is at the Village Green Park on S. Freet St. in Dalton.) Total distance is approximately 17.5 miles from Fredericksburg to the Sippo Valley Trail in Dalton.*

Mr. Rampelt and his associates rode this route by bicycle this summer carrying a GPS unit to establish an Ohio to Erie recommended routing on and between trails. You can learn more about this effort by going to [www.ohioerietrail.net](http://www.ohioerietrail.net). The route should eventually be on their website.

## **Ohio Rail-Trail Books Make Great Holiday Gifts**

The extremely useful *Ohio Trails and Greenways Edition IV* book continues to be available for \$15.00 at Orrville Cycling & Fitness, 9658 W. High St., Orrville, 330-682-1911 and Bikes, Trikes & Boards, 340 East Liberty Street, Wooster, 330-262-9003. All proceeds from the books support our local trail developments, even when purchased at the two local bike shops. Do thank these shop keepers for supporting Rails to Trails.

## **What's in a Name??**

When a new rail trail possibility was developing in northern Wayne County between West Salem and Rittman, Ted Short and Amy Miller tried very hard to find an appropriate name to be used in the initial grant proposal to ODOT. Names such as Chippewa Headlands, Killbuck Headwaters, Tommy Run Creek, and Salt Dome were proposed to reflect the geological and watershed features of the area. Historically related train and track names (Great Windy, Erie Line) and train destinations such as Salamanca (New York) and Chicago emerged. While good names can also reflect the natural wildlife found in the area, nothing really emerged here that we wanted to use...So, for lack of any clear agreement among those involved with the grant writing process, the proposal to ODOT and all later references have named the right-of-way the County Line Trail. We think we can do better and we still have time to establish another name. We seek your thoughtful and creative inputs! Please call, write, or email ideas to Ted Short.

Rails to Trails of Wayne County  
P.O. Box 1566  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

*Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and conversion of unused railroad and green way corridors into multi-purpose, non-motorized public paths.*

*Ohio Trails and Greenways Edition IV book, produced by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Ohio Field Office is available for \$15.00 at Orrville Cycling & Fitness, 9658 W. High St., Orrville, 330-682-1911 and Bikes, Trikes & Boards, 340 East Liberty Street, Wooster, 330-262-9003. It makes an excellent gift for the holidays!!*

*“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson*