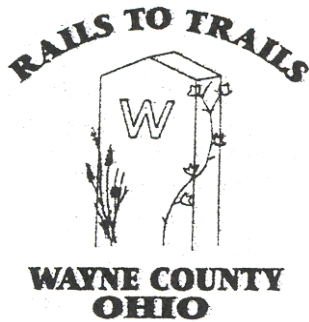


TRAIL TALES

Newsletter of Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County



Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County
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Open Position

Trustees:

Pat Glessner, Sterling

Kevin Gowins, Apple Creek

Bob Gray, Wooster

Roger Maibach, Creston

Rick Neil, Dalton

Chris Oehl, Fredericksburg

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 to get on our list.

President's Comments

We continue to be a dynamic and growing community organization! We welcome 20 new members since November 2007 and one new board member, Pat Glessner, since our annual meeting at Rittman in April. Pat brings unique skills to the board along with her strong involvement in the Sterling community.

We're still looking for a board member to be Trail Tales Newsletter editor. The editor attends board meetings once per month and works closely with Ted and me to publish two newsletters per year. If you have an interest, please let us know. We sincerely thank Amy Gilbert for her good work as editor over the last three years.

The new County Line Trail project between Creston and Rittman continues to be our major focus with final construction planned for sometime in 2009. The complex issues with private land holdings and routings in both Creston and the Sterling areas continue to be worked out by Ted Short with our engineering and acquisition consultants. We were elated this summer to learn that our local legislators were successful in getting \$400,000 of capital funds for final construction. Many thanks to Jim Carmichael and Ron Amstutz for championing our cause in Columbus!

Sippo Valley Trail continues to be a popular destination that we proudly use as a model for other communities. Rick Neil organized three successful work sessions this past summer for general maintenance. We are also indebted to members Ron Ott and Dave Wengerd for keeping the grass trimmed and down-trees cleared throughout the summer. Thank you again, volunteers!!

We are again posting the donor list of gifts of \$100 or more for the County Line Trail project. We are still accepting new donations and additions to current gifts. Since these names will eventually be displayed at or near a trailhead, please let us know as soon as possible if we have made any errors or omissions in our current list. Thank you again for your generous support!

We continue to make updated PowerPoint presentations to community service groups of both youth and adults. We look forward to scheduling a program this winter or next spring with your group.

Don Noble II
President, RTWC

County Line Trail Gets Final \$400,000 for Construction Funding!!!

Kudos to our State Representative, Jim Carmichael, and State Senator, Ron Amstutz, for getting our much needed \$400,000 in the state capital budget to complete this \$2.4 million County Line Trail project!! Jim especially worked very hard for us since the budget is developed primarily in the Ohio State House of Representatives. The importance of this trail to the economic viability and vitality of the Creston, Sterling, and Rittman communities weighed very strongly in Jim's arguments to his colleagues. Each of your financial contributions to the trail also sent a strong message that we have significant local commitment. We continue to appreciate your enthusiastic support of our vision for this trail. We can now aim for the finish line!!

County Line Trail Progress

The Wooster design firm of Shaffer Pomeroy, Ltd., with Keith Amstutz as project leader and John Long as design engineer, have completed detailed plans that have been approved by ODOT with minor changes. And, we have entered into a contract with the Wayne County Commissioners and the O.R. Colan Company to appraise and purchase private and public properties as well as easements along the planned right-of-way.

Major emphasis has been on private properties between Sterling and Creston. All purchases should be completed by the end of 2008 with ODOT paying approximately 80% of the costs and RTWC 20%. Creston council has approved an easement on village property and the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad has agreed to our purchasing an easement along their property in Creston in order to bring the trail out to Brooklyn Avenue along side the Creston police station.

Keith Amstutz and Ted Short continue to negotiate with the CSX Corporation to build the Sterling section of the trail along the south edge of 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 farmland owners in Sterling for right-of-way purchases and public easements continue. Final design, bidding, contract awards, and construction are planned for 2009.

Sippo Valley Trail Updates

Our volunteers did a great job again this last summer of grooming the Wayne County section of the Sippo Valley Trail for appearance, safety, and access. Rick Neil was able to organize three different evening work sessions for volunteers to re-stain bridges, cut brush, and clear log jams under the bridges. Rick also organized the removal of one bollard (post) 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. Rick also went to war with some groundhogs that caused a lot of damage along and under the trail between West Lebanon and Deerfield Roads. If you have any good ideas about groundhog control, Rick would be grateful for your advice and support.

We also appreciated the efforts of RTWC members Ron Ott and Dave Wengerd for keeping the grass trimmed throughout the summer with their heavy-duty mowers. We also thank the Dave Wengerd family and Ralph Jones for clearing 14 trees from the trail in the aftermath of hurricane Ike leaving the trail closed for no more than two days. Sippo Trail got a lot of regional publicity this summer as it was part of the GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure) route for approximately 3000 riders. One unfortunate event, however, was the vandalism and arson of the Lincoln Park Bridge in Massillon. To date, there are no plans or adequate funds for the Massillon Parks Department to replace the bridge. The creek is very difficult to transverse when the water is high. Vandalism is very hard to understand...

Sippo Valley Trail Poker Run

The Sippo Valley Trail Poker Run fund raiser on Saturday, October 18 was a great success with 176 participants who purchased 281 hands of cards. Total income for the event was \$1406 that we split evenly with our partners, the Massillon Area Greenways, Inc. Over \$200 was also raised for the bridge replacement at Lincoln Park by raffling a Smucker's product basket. Special thanks to Bob Gray and his RTWC volunteers for making the event a fun activity as well as a financial success.

Do You Have a New Email Address?

We periodically send very brief email messages to our membership about current Rails to Trails of Wayne County activities, opportunities, and/or issues. If you got a new email in the last one-two years, however, we may not have you in our files. To get connected, please send a simple email message to our Vice President Ted Short at <short.2@osu.edu> so that we can continue to keep you informed. Thanks!

Welcome New Members

We welcome these newest members who have joined since November 2007:

Diane & Keith Amstutz, Orrville, Ohio
Brian & Laurie Beam, Wooster, Ohio
Joel & Lisa Bender, Wooster, Ohio
Greg Dyer, Wooster, Ohio
Bob & Jane Haugh, Wooster, Ohio
Roy & Ruth Haynes, Wooster, Ohio
Suzanne Jelinek, Dalton, Ohio
James & Candice Kinney, Wooster, Ohio
Diana Glanco, Sterling, Ohio
Bonnie Kaufman, Wooster, Ohio

William Morgan, Wooster, Ohio
Clyde Potts, Wooster, Ohio
Christopher Robertson, Rittman, Ohio
Charles Robinson, Wooster, Ohio
Greg & Josephine Shaya, Wooster, Ohio
Bruce Slater, Wooster, Ohio
Ed Sollenberger, Wooster, Ohio
Anthony Troyer, Wooster, Ohio
Stacey & Aaron Veon, Wooster, Ohio
Paul Zimmerman, Orrville, Ohio

Officer Changes

We welcome Pat Glessner to the board to serve as a trustee with special emphasis on the County Line Trail issues at Sterling. Pat is life long resident of Sterling and involved locally with the Milton Twp Fire Department and the Sterling Methodist Church. Patty has also been a law librarian with the Wayne County Bar Association and will soon be moving to the University of Akron to head that Law Library.

We say good-bye and many thanks to Amy Gilbert for her three years of service as newsletter editor. Amy continues to be head of vocal groups at Wooster High School and continues to be an avid trail biker having done "overnighters" along the Cumberland Trail this last summer. We have not yet filled this open position, but are hoping that someone will step up to the job in the coming year. Please contact Ted Short or Don Noble or Amy Gilbert if you have an interest.

Huge Turnouts for Wooster & Rittman Parades!!

We celebrated Wooster's Bicentennial on July 5 and Rittman Sleepwalker event on July 24. Each gave us a chance to promote RTWC to the thousands of onlookers along the parade route. The Wooster's "Past, Present, & Future" theme gave us a unique chance to ride some antique bicycles. We were featured as "Mayor Choice" entry in the Rittman Parade as Mayor William Robertson is one of our most enthusiastic members and supporters!!! We were especially proud to wear our new tee-shirts thanks to the computer design work of Pam Schoenberger and Ted Short. Please contact Ted Short at 330-262-2711 or email short.2@osu.edu if you are interested in shirts for a holiday season gifts. Cost is \$15.

Bike Raffle at Rittman Sleepwalker's Festival

Rittman Mayor and RTWC member, Bill Robertson, organized a bicycle raffle as part of the Sleepwalkers event with all proceeds above the cost of the bike going to RTWC. A total of \$650 in tickets were sold at \$5 each, or 5 for \$20, for a new TREK hybrid bike netting RTWC \$358. Bill rode the bike in both the Wooster Bicentennial Parade and the Rittman Sleepwalkers Parade. The bicycle was awarded on Friday, July 25, to Nate Pelfry of Rittman. His parents had purchased the tickets for him as he had been wanting a new bike all summer. Nate is in his early 20's and was thrilled to receive it! Thanks again, Bill, for this extra effort on behalf of Rails to Trails!!

Dalton Day at the Park Was a New Event

Joe and Vicki Slater planned and hosted our booth for the first year at the "Dalton Day at the Park" on July 7, 2008. The purpose of the activity was to educate Dalton residents about the activities of Rails to Trails. Joe and Vicki organized an entertaining watermelon seed spitting contest that drew a lot of young people and parents to our booth. While kids were spitting seeds, parents were learning about our association and commitment to Sippo Valley Trail. We also sold Ohio trail books, new RTWC tee-shirts, and tickets for a hybrid bicycle that was raffled at the Rittman Sleepwalker event. Obviously, a good time was had by all!! Thanks Joe and Vickie for a job well done!!

Wayne County Fair Better than Ever!

We had our usual tent with volunteers and continuous walk-in customers for the entire week of the Wayne County Fair. Special thanks to Don Noble for organizing volunteers and setting up the tent and to Keith Workmen for being on call to fill in open-slots every day. Keith made special note that he didn't have to talk to anyone who was negative to trails this year! People were pleased to get brochures with maps of our two trails. The Holmes County brochures were especially a big hit even though they showed the trail ending at Millersburg rather than Killbuck. We picked up many new members who were local and showed special interest in having trails near their home. Many thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers who gave personal time to this important outreach project.

Name Search Continues for the County Line Trail

Ted Short noted in the last newsletter that we are still looking for a unique name for the County Line Trail. Names such as Chippewa Headlands, Killbuck Headwaters, or just Headwaters Trail are still possibilities as they 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 Cincinnati also make interesting word combinations for a trail name. Keith Workman recently got a microfilm copy of a book titled "Over The Atlantic and Great Western Railway" that was written in 1866 by an Englishman who was reporting to English investors. He goes chapter by chapter about each large town on the railway from Salamanca, New York to Cincinnati, Ohio. He details the industry and shipping options for the areas and profit making possibilities for the railroad. The Atlantic & Great Western was of the same gage (width) as the Erie and had a working agreement with them but was (at that time) a separate company. In the two chapters related to Akron and Mansfield, the Ohio & Erie Canal at Akron was noted as competition as was the Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Chicago (Pennsy) Railroad. No mention was made of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O; now CSX) which apparently came later with a crossing at Sterling. As an interesting sidebar, the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad was showing great profits at that time in hauling oil from Franklin, PA to Meadville, PA in wooden vats on flat cars. That rail line is now a really nice bicycle trail.

Financial Support for County Line Trail (Oct 2008)

\$100,000

Stan and Flo Gault
Donald & Alice Noble Foundation

\$20,000

Andrew Berkey Endowment
Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust

\$10,000

Don & Theresa Noble
Barry Romich
Richard & Judy Seaman

\$5,000

Gene & Joan Buehler
Edward, Arlene, & Kaye Maibach; Tug & Alma Maibach
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
Don Buren
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
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
Kathy & Dennis Helmuth
Robert Hohenshil
Ron & Pru Holtman

Margaret & Ludwig Huck
Fred Huppert
Jim & Becky Jewell
Earl Kerr
Gary & Evelyn Kitchen
Rittman Kiwanis Club
Don Kosier
Harold & Jane Laurila
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
Orrville Cycling & Fitness
Eric & Susan Oswald
Carolyn & Frank Rasmussen
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
Joe & Vicki Slater

Rick Smith
Smith Dairy Products Co.
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

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

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

*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.*