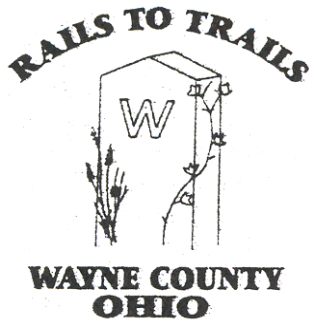


# TRAIL TALES

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



*Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County*  
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*Joe Slater, Wooster*

*Treasurer:*

*Pam Schoenberger, Wooster*

*Newsletter:*

*Amy Gilbert, Wooster*

*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***

The trails will soon be blossoming with wild flowers, wildlife, and cheerful users! Our Sippo Trail especially continues to be a popular destination that we proudly use as a model for communities considering the prospects of a new trail.

We welcome two new board members who were elected at our annual meeting at Sterling Elementary School, April 12. Joe Slater is our new secretary, replacing Evelyn Kitchen and Bob Gray is our newest trustee replacing Keith Workman. We sincerely thank all of these individuals for their past and present dedicated service.

The County Line Trail project between Creston and Rittman continues to be our major focus and is still scheduled for construction in 2008. We have nearly completed our local fund-raiser with a total of approximately \$300,000 given or pledged to date! Thank you one and all for your generous participation!!

We are posting the giving in this newsletter for all donations of \$50 or more. We plan to establish a display on the new County Line Trail that will likely be for donations of \$100 or more. If we have any errors or omissions in the current list, please let us know as soon as possible.

You will read in the newsletter that we still anticipate support from state capital funds for final construction of the County Line Trail. We have enjoyed working with the engineers at the Wooster office of Shaffer-Pomeroy Ltd. to complete the preliminary design. We look forward to appraisals and purchase negotiations later this year.

We were very pleased with the large attendance of enthusiastic, local supporters at our annual meeting in Sterling April 12. Ted, Chris, and I continue to make PowerPoint presentations to your community groups of both youth and adults. Please give us a call for a program this summer or fall.

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

## **New Officers Elected at the Annual Meeting**

Two new officers were elected to the Board at the annual meeting at the Sterling Elementary School on April 12. Joe Slater, from just outside Wooster, replaced Evelyn Kitchen as secretary. Joe is a commercial and farm insurance underwriter and enjoys biking Sippo Valley Trail on the weekends with his wife, Vickie. Bob Gray, from Wooster, replaced Keith Workman as a Board Trustee. Bob is retired from Rubbermaid and works part time as a driver for the Wayne County veterans. Bob and his wife, Linda, especially enjoy walking the trails.

Many of you know that Keith Workman has been a member of the RTWC Board since its beginnings in the early 1990's. We have *allowed* Keith to resign from his trustee position while expecting him to continue in an advisory role for trail planning and development. We celebrate Keith's opportunity to retire from the Will-Burt Company in Orrville in June after a long career in their job shop. Keith and Carol plan to use their Hi-Lo camper to do extensive volunteer work through their church in areas destroyed by the Katrina hurricane.

## **County Line Trail Progress**

To date, we have raised a total of \$2 million for the \$2.4 million County Line Trail to be built between Creston and Rittman. We were disappointed in not getting the final \$400,000 through state capital funds this winter, but Jim Carmichael is confident that we will have a good chance of success in the next State of Ohio capital bill this fall. The Wooster design firm of Shaffer Pomeroy Ltd. with Keith Amstutz as project leader and John Long as design engineer, have completed preliminary design plans that should be sent to ODOT for approval at the end of April. Negotiations with private landowners for right-of-way purchases and easements are expected to occur in mid to late 2007. Final designs, bidding, contract awards, and construction are planned for 2008. We continue to appreciate the enthusiastic involvement and interests of the local residents in our current efforts. The local turnout of over 60 supportive citizens at the annual meeting at Sterling Elementary School on April 12 was especially great!!

## **The Rittman Community Gets Involved!**

When Keith Workman scheduled a workday on our new North County Trail in early January, he was surprised by a large and hard-working crew of volunteers, not only from RTWC, but from the Rittman community. The goal was to clear and haul away brush from a quarter-mile stretch of proposed trail, but some fifteen workers armed with chainsaws cleared a 50' wide strip, ditch to ditch in most places. As work commenced and complications surfaced, Kevin Gowins had impromptu meetings with the owners of adjacent properties, all of whom responded in positive ways. Rittman police officer Mark Waggy brought along his chipper and Don Steiner kept it moving with his backhoe. The Harold Snell family moved building materials and automotive parts that had been stored for a long time on the trail right-of-way. Even Tom opened up Dom's Bar for the occasion and made hamburgers for the crew. Many of the Rittman volunteers expressed an interest in further involvement, both as workers and as members. So, on March 24 and April 14, several of the same crew members (including Mark Waggy and his high powered chipper) returned to clear another half mile of the trail. Mark plans to follow up with a brush-hog to take out the heavy growth of multi-flora rose making the trail very passable for walkers and trail bikers this summer.

## Your Generous Financial Support is Greatly Appreciated!

RTWC wishes to acknowledge the generosity of donors who made major contributions and/or pledges to our rail trail developments, especially the new County Line Trail.

### **\$100,000**

Stan and Flo Gault  
Donald & Alice Noble Foundation

### **\$20,000**

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

### **\$10,000**

Barry Romich  
Richard & Judy Seaman

### **\$5,000**

Gene & Joan Buehler  
Edward, Arlene, & Kaye Maibach; Tug & Alma Maibach;  
c/o Wayne County Community Foundation  
Donald and Theresa Noble  
Ted & Karen Short

### **\$500-\$1,000**

Bobbi Douglas  
Jeremy Felland  
Julia Fishelson

Richard & Dorothy Gillman  
Ellen Moore  
Lemoine Peart

Jim & Joan Robertson  
Dave & Betty Shewmon

### **\$100-\$300**

Ralph Amiet  
Sandra Arner  
Don & Marge Bean  
Gary Bollenbacher  
Rich 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  
First National Bank  
Stewart & Heather Fitzgibbon  
Mike & Mary Fulton  
Brian & Andrea Gerber  
Harley & Fae Gerber  
Lester Gerber  
Amy Gilbert  
Richard Gillman  
Dick & Patricia Glessner

Kevin & Linda 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  
Mark & Melissa Lemon  
Todd & Wendy McKee  
Gwen Meier  
Fred & Linda Michel  
Amy Miller  
Glenn & Diane 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  
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  
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 & Carol Workman

### **\$50-\$99**

William & Jean Baird  
William Buckingham  
Richard Corfman  
John Abt & Jeanne Durkalski  
Alverda Feeman  
Ken Flanagan  
Greg Frink  
Pam Gerber  
Diane & Stanton Hales

Leon & Jan Hilty  
Tom & Kim Long  
Gordon & Margaret Maupin  
Jim & Linda McClenahan  
Paul & Tina McConahay  
Mike & Robin Miller  
Gary & Janis Moore  
Michael & Barbara Moser  
Maddy Noble

Chris & Karen Oehl  
John Parker  
Frank & Carolyn Rasmussen  
Erwin & Susan Riedner  
Viola & Fred Smith  
John & Mary Alice Streeter  
John & Nancy Tyrrell  
Keith Winkler

## Welcome New Members

By the end of calendar year 2006, we had over 200 individuals, couples, or businesses who had responded to our membership drive with special emphasis on funding the new County Line Trail. Sixteen new members were recognized in the Fall Newsletter and we welcome the following newest members since the fall:

Melvin Bolt, Wooster, Ohio  
Dennis Hartzler, Sterling, Ohio  
Lud & Marg Huck, Wooster, Ohio  
Janet McDermot, Burbank, Ohio  
Burton Morgan Foundation, Hudson, Ohio  
Ronald & Joanne Murray, Sterling, Ohio

Bill & Donna Robertson, Rittman, Ohio  
Barry Romich, Wooster, Ohio  
Don Steiner, Rittman, Ohio  
Charles & Carol Young, Wooster, Ohio  
LaVerne Zimmerly, Orrville, Ohio

## Orrville to Clinton Trail

Chris Schmid and Don Noble continue to be in contact with Norfolk and Southern Railroad to pursue potential purchase of the right-of-way from Orrville to Clinton. Keith Amstutz of Shaffer Pomeroy Ltd. has developed preliminary drawings and illustrations of potential shared use of the right-of-way with commercial farming operations. We are proposing that an independent third party negotiate a favorable price, make the purchase, and work with RTWC and the local community on the details that will make the property beneficial to everyone involved.

## Public Power-Point Presentations

Don, Ted, and Chris continue to give PowerPoint presentations to service groups and youth organizations in Wayne County. This has been an excellent way to tell our story locally and build cooperation and support within communities. We look forward to presenting to your organization(s), including repeat visits for the latest updates. Please contact Ted Short <[short.2@osu.edu](mailto:short.2@osu.edu)> for more information and scheduling.

## Ohio Rail-Trail Books for Sale

An extremely useful *Ohio Trails and Greenways Edition IV* book, produced in 2005 by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Ohio Field Office, 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. You can also contact Ted Short at 330-262-2711 or [short.2@osu.edu](mailto:short.2@osu.edu) to arrange for a copy. All proceeds from the books support our local trail developments. Please thank your local bike shop for their support.

## Check out the County Line Trail from Sterling to Rittman

The County Line Trail from Sterling to Rittman is generally open to walkers and non-motorized dirt-bikers between SR-504 on the east side of Sterling to the back of Harold's Garage in Rittman. If the water is high in Tommy Run Creek east of Blough Road, you can bike north to SR-504 and east ¼ mile to a cinder-based road and use Cinder Road going south to get back on the trail. While Cinder Road has an old "private drive" sign at SR-504, it is actually public and OK to use. In Rittman, there is a deep ravine with a missing culvert that can be circumvented by going south a short distance to near the CSX tracks. Parking is best on the edge of the trail at SR-504 or on the edge of the trail just east of cinder road. *PLEASE BE CAREFUL!*

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.*

**Be Sure to Visit the RTWC Fair Booth at this  
Year's Wayne County Fair  
Sept. 8 – 13, 2007**

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