



The Cannonball Courier

Fall 2013

Annual Meeting October 17 at Rotary Park, Wauseon

**Chief Baw Beese Chapter President
to Speak at Annual Dinner**
(registration form on page 3)



Mike Dundas is President of the Chief Baw Beese Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail. He is a retired teacher of music, history, drama, and math. At present, he tutors these subjects at Oakland Community College near his home in Southfield, Michigan. He still sings in his church choir, though he is a recently retired soloist. Mike

lives in - and works constantly on - a house which was built at the beginning of World War II, and into which his wife, Pam, was born. He is also active in local theater.

The *North Country National Scenic Trail*, a part of the congressionally-created and federally-funded National Trails System (think the *Appalachian* and *Pacific Crest Trails*), is over thirty years old. It seems, however, to have remained relatively unknown to the American public. This is especially unfortunate for the state of Michigan, which contains the lion's share of the NCT's roughly 4,600 miles. Because of its youth compared to other trails in our National System, the NCT has 'miles to go' before it can be regarded as truly finished. This presentation outlines the beauty, diversity, challenges, and opportunities associated with the Trail's development with a focus on the Chief Baw Beese Chapter - the southernmost Michigan chapter - of the North Country Trail Association. For more information, visit www.northcountrytrail.org.

Sunshine Walk, 5K Run & Roll started with one cause and one reason

When Jeff Alt was in college, he began thinking about ways to advocate for his brother, Aaron, who was served at Sunshine. After graduation, Jeff realized that he wanted to help raise funds for Sunshine, so he decided to walk the entire length of the Appalachian trail in 1998.

The Sunshine community, inspired by Jeff's efforts, organized a walk that same year that raised \$16,000, establishing the fundraiser as an annual event. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$260,000 for the people that Sunshine serves.

The date of this year's run is September 7th. Sunshine hopes to raise funds on behalf of the 1,000 individuals that this non-profit serves in northwest Ohio. Awards will be given to the top three runners in each age group. The Walk, 5K Run & Roll also includes activities for the whole family. The children's activity area includes craft projects, music and more. Leashed pets are welcome. No bikes or roller blades are permitted. For detailed information, go to www.SunshineincNWO.com.

You are invited
To
NORTA's Annual Dinner!

Thurs., October 17th, 2013
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Rotary Park Pavilion
Wauseon, Ohio

Mark your calendar
\$15 per person
(includes dinner and program)
Mail pre-paid
Reservation on page 3
To join the fun

WANTED/NEEDED

- Shop-Vac Thank you, Dan Hubbard, for the donation!
Gas leaf blower for clearing bridge decks of leaves and debris
Air compressor (10-30 gallon) for truck, tractor and trailer tires and cleaning tractor and mower etc.
Shop rags
Hand cleaner such as Go-Joe
Round Up herbicide (concentrate is best, and in five gallon is cheapest) for grass control around signs, fences, buildings, etc.
Cash donations - specify one of the above and it will be used for that purpose
New members and volunteers
Visit our website www.wabashcannonballtrail.org
Like us on Facebook



Officers and Board members

Below you will find contact information for various board members. You may also contact us via our website: www.wabashcannonballtrail.org. Phone: 419-822-4788 or 1-800-951-4788

- President: Jay Budde (jbudde0407@embarqmail.com)
Vice President: Ed Snyder
Secretary: Bonnie Markley (bonniejm@windstream.net)
Treasurer: Patti Gehring (pmgnorta@buckeye-express.com)
Newsletter: Lucille Smith (lucille.smith@rocketmail.com)
Maintenance: Tom Duvendack, Sandy Mason, Tom Striggow (tstriggow@yahoo.com)
Edith Trowbridge

NORTHWESTERN OHIO RAILS-TO-TRAILS ASSOCIATION, INC. (NORTA)
Membership Form

Name(s)
Home Phone Work Phone
Cell (Optional)
Address Apt.
City State Zip
E-mail Address

Membership Categories:
Senior/Student \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25
Patron \$100 Business/Organization \$50 Other \$
Lifetime \$1,000 Donation

Contributions are tax deductible

Trail Near State Route 15 Cleared in August



Can you see the monkey in the trees on the left?



The volunteers used loppers and bow saws to widen and clear out overgrowth that had, at points, narrowed the trail to nearly impassable. Tom Duvendack spent most of two days in the cab of a track skid-steer with a brush grinder mounted in front, opening a path for the hand-clearing crew. Special thanks go to Mike Richer who brought his 15-foot brush hog mowing deck to really finish out the path to trail-width.

Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers

Our two successful work days in August accomplished clearing and removing brush from over three miles of trail from Williams Co. Road 16 to State Route 15. Special thanks to our Williams County "Crew":

Bob Hofbauer	David Hopper
Randy Miller	Mike Richer
Dale Stoner	Jack & Dortha Stoner

NORTA Board members working were Tom D. Bonnie M, Patti G. and Jay B.

Two Sections Transferred

We are happy to announce that six miles of our trail have been transferred to Wauseon, and Wabash Park has been transferred to West Unity. These sections will remain for use as park land, trail and wildlife areas, but be maintained and improved by our trail partners, the City of Wauseon and Village of West Unity. West Unity has told us they plan to build a new restroom facility in Wabash Park which would enhance the trail and provide a source of water to trail users.

NORTA Annual Dinner

Number of Reservations _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

Email _____

Email my confirmation Mail my confirmation

**Enclose a check for \$15 per person,
payable to NORTA.**

**Mail to: NORTA Treasurer
P.O. Box 234
Delta, OH 43515**

Please RSVP by October 10, 2013.

North Country National Scenic Trail and NORTA



It's just a long, skinny park!

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) is America's longest National Scenic Trail. Stretching 4600 miles from New York to North Dakota, it links seven states. NORTA provides a passage on the Wabash Cannonball Trail (WCT) as the NCNST travels through Ohio. The National Park Service administers the NCNST.

The NCNST picks up the WCT just east of Liberty Center and follows its path along the south fork to just east of Neapolis, where the NCNST goes off through the Maumee State Forest. The trail then leaves the State forest and traverses through a portion of Oak Openings Preserve Metropark to a

point on the North Fork of the Wabash Trail near State Route 64. It heads west on the WCT through Fulton County, through Wauseon, and on to Williams County, following the Wabash Trail to State Route 127. The NCNST departs the Wabash Trail at this intersection and heads north on public roads to Michigan.

NORTA is an affiliate member of the North Country Trail Association and allows passage on our trail. In return, we are allowed to use signs on our trail with the NCNST blue blaze emblem for trail users to follow the route. For more information go to www.northcountrytrail.org.

Tom Striggow, NORTA Board member

"Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA) is a private nonprofit volunteer organization, whose mission is to promote and steward the development and maintenance of the Wabash Cannonball Trail for public recreational use."

Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assoc. Inc.
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www.wabashcannonballtrail.org