

The Cannonball Courier



July, August, September 2011

It's that time again!

20th Annual Meeting and Chili Supper

NORTA Headquarters building at Pettisville Grain, Corner of Rt. 109 and Fulton Co, Rd. EF

Please note the new location. This year's meeting date is on **October 8th** which is the second Saturday of October. Again, this year, we are asking for a five dollar donation to help defray the cost of the chili fixings and other incidental expenses that go along with putting together the event. All of us are asked to bring a dish to share. Chili with fixings will be provided. **We will gather at 4pm. The meeting part of the evening is set for 5pm.** After the meeting we will enjoy the campfire, chili and other foods, friendship, music and more. The 50/50 raffle will still be held. You are encouraged to come prepared to renew your membership if you have not already done so. It would also be great if you would be able to convince others to attend and become members of NORTA.

Time Capsule

By Ed Snyder,

Got a favorite memento, memorabilia, photo or the like you want to share with the future? At the 20th Annual (can you believe it?) Meeting we will be taking items for a TIME CAPSULE for NORTA. It will not be buried where it could be lost like some unnamed county time capsules from the Bicentennial (for more details, come to the Meeting!), but suspended from the ceiling of the Maintenance Building; out of mind, but not sight, or something like that. Hope to see you & some stuff there!

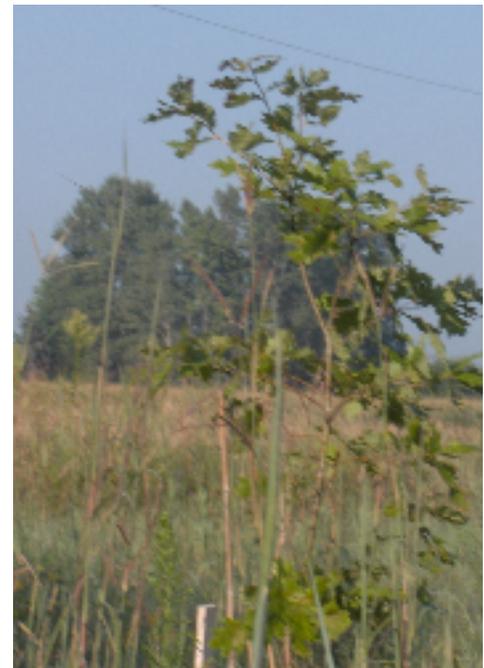
A long, skinny park

Sunshine's Walk, Run & Roll

NORTA is pleased to be able to participate in the sixty-first Sunshine Walk, Run & Roll. The walk is for 5K on the trail in Monclova Township, the run is along Black Road.

The roll, of course, is the wheelchair participants in each event. The event is held annually on the second Saturday in September at Monclova Elementary School, just a mile south of Sunshine on Monclova Rd. This year's date is September 10.

Registration will begin at 7 AM in the Monclova Elementary School Community Room. The run will begin at 8:30 AM and the walk will begin at 9:30 AM. Preregistration entry fee is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Day of registration fee is \$20. For registration and other information contact Jeff Alt, founder, at jeffalt.com or call (513) 227-2301



photos by Lucille Smith

Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

but in between they are little oaks

If you can get out to the northwest corner of Fulton County roads F and 10 you will see those little acorns stretching their new found limbs. You will also see a lot of native grasses and some wild flowers. Which flowers you will see will depend on when you get out there. On August 27th I found Black-eyed Susans.



Member Hikes for Fulton County Trail Sections

Member Paul Zumfelde recently proposed to Jay Budde that he would like to hike border-to-border in Fulton County on the Wabash Cannonball Trail. In fact, Paul has already hiked much of the trail but his additional idea now is to photographically document the trail, including road crossings, scenic areas and other key trail features in Fulton County sections. These photos will be used to create or update maps and possibly to create a Google map for trail access and reference when planning to use the trail. The border-to-border aspect of the hikes will be accomplished by a number of short 7 day hikes.

The first trail section Paul and Jay plan to hike and photograph is Fulton Co. Road 16 to 20. This section will be hiked in August. Future 4 – 5 mile trail sections will be hiked and photographed this fall. A tentative second trail section hike (location yet to be determined) is planned for Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

These hikes are open to interested NORTA members. If you would like to join these hikes or want more information, contact Jay Budde at 419-445-2123 or jbudde0407@embarqmail.com.

article by Jay Budde

HIP HIP HURRAY FOR HI

NORTA would like to thank the Toledo Area Council of Hostelling International for it's generous donation of \$2,000. This great local group sponsors many area bike rides, some utilizing parts of the Wabash Cannonball Trail, and we applaud their efforts. Their next ride is the Irish Hills Tour on September 18, and my personal favorite is the Tombstone Tour on October 15. For details, check out their website:

www.hitoleado.org/bicycletours.htm.

article by Patti Gehring

The following article was submitted by Ed Snyder from his family newsletter "Snyde Comments". It was written by Mary Ivory, Ed's sister and member of NORTA. It is good to see what a nearby Rails-to-Trails organization is doing.

Rails to Trails: There are rails-to-trails from Clyde going West and from Elyria coming East all the way past Steve's work in Monroeville. Last year, the Firelands' Rails to Trails organization (headquartered near Steve's work) started working on the trail West of Monroeville heading to Bellevue. They got to Route 4 before weather became uncooperative and they waited to finish until this past spring. Steve and I decided we should volunteer at one of the group's Saturday work days-so we did, and we "dragged" Danny with us. (Afterwards, Danny said it "wasn't so bad-it was actually fun.")

For our first work day, we drove to Monroeville to the Firelands Rails to Trails headquarters, the Monroeville Depot. On the way, we were discussing what projects they might be working on that day. Steve said "as long as we didn't have to paint", (we weren't dressed for painting), he was up for practically anything. When we arrived, the other volunteers seemed surprised. It's been a while, I think, since they got new volunteers. They didn't know what to have us do, "unless you want to help put the second coat of paint" on the depot. So we got brushes and a ladder and did some painting. It wasn't bad at all. Since we used brushes at the depot, there was not a lot of mess. When the other volunteers were done with their work, they started painting too, so by noon the entire north side of the depot had a second coat. Only the West side of the depot is completely finished with new paint, windows and trim. There is still a lot of work to do on the remaining two sides along with finishing a "porch" on the front.

A couple weeks later, Steve had to do some work and Danny and I went to the depot to volunteer again. This time we helped put together sign posts and mile markers for the trail. A couple weeks later, Steve, Danny and I drove to Collins (west of Norwalk) and helped install signs and helped with some clearing. I took some pictures of the volunteers so I could send it to our local newspaper. I was hoping that it would help attract more volunteers from Bellevue. They actually put my two pictures, which included Danny and Steve and the other volunteers, along with details of our Saturday workday. A week later, the three of us were working on the trail in Bellevue putting up the signs and mile markers that Danny and I had put together. The president of the Rails to Trails organization had his camera this time and he took a picture of all of us holding a big sign that read "Welcome Bellevue, We made it!" He sent the picture out with a press release and it made it into our paper the next week.

At the last Rails to Trails monthly meeting it was noted that one of their goals was to gain 2 members from Bellevue. Since there are the three of us helping now, they were excited to exceed their goal! The trail has reached Bellevue from the East, but then hits a dead end. Our recreation department in town and the city department are working on directing trail traffic to our recreation center by city roads and then through our town until hitting the west side of town where Sandusky County will assist in getting the trail to meet up with the Clyde trail. (To be continued in our Winter issue.)

Officers and Board members

President: Ed Snyder
Vice President: Jay Budde
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Secretary: Bonnie Markley
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Treasurer: Patti Gehring
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Maintenance: Tom Duvendack
 Sandy Mason
 Tom Striggow
(e-mail: tstriggow@yahoo.com)
 Edith Trowbridge
(Cell Phone: 419-633-4441)

Included above you will find contact information for various board members or you may contact us via our website: www.wabashcannonballtrail.org or by phone: 419-822-4788 or 1-800-951-4788

\$500 Offer is on the Table

NORTA members and avid supporters and volunteers, Gary and Jan Samples, have made an offer that we would like to cash in on. Here's the deal: if NORTA can raise \$500 in donations to improve the trail surface on the North Fork, heading west from the Lucas/Fulton County line, the Samples will match that \$500, giving us at least \$1,000 for crushed stone surfacing. We have already received one generous check towards that match and we're getting close to fulfilling our end of the deal. If you would like to join in the challenge, send your check to NORTA with the notation "Sample Match".

article by Patti Gehring

Loppers & bow saws
 Round Up spray material
 Bottled water for workers
 Cash for matching \$500 grant offer. (See above article.)
 Power pole pruner (18') for reaching higher branches and those off the sides of hills.
 We have 2 portable generators that need repair. If anyone would like to volunteer to repair them, or make one good one out of the two contact us.

from Tom Duvendack

SOME THINGS WE NEED

How to renew, join, make a contribution and/or offer to volunteer:

Complete and send the form below by postal mail with your check (payable to **NORTA**) to: Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA, Inc.)
 P.O. Box 234 - Delta, Ohio 43515

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

Name(s) _____

Home Tel. _____ Work Tel.: _____ Cell (Optional) _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address _____

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

_____ I am interested in volunteering: *Tell us a little about yourself and what you enjoy doing.*

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON, ON THE TRAIL AND AT OUR MEETINGS.
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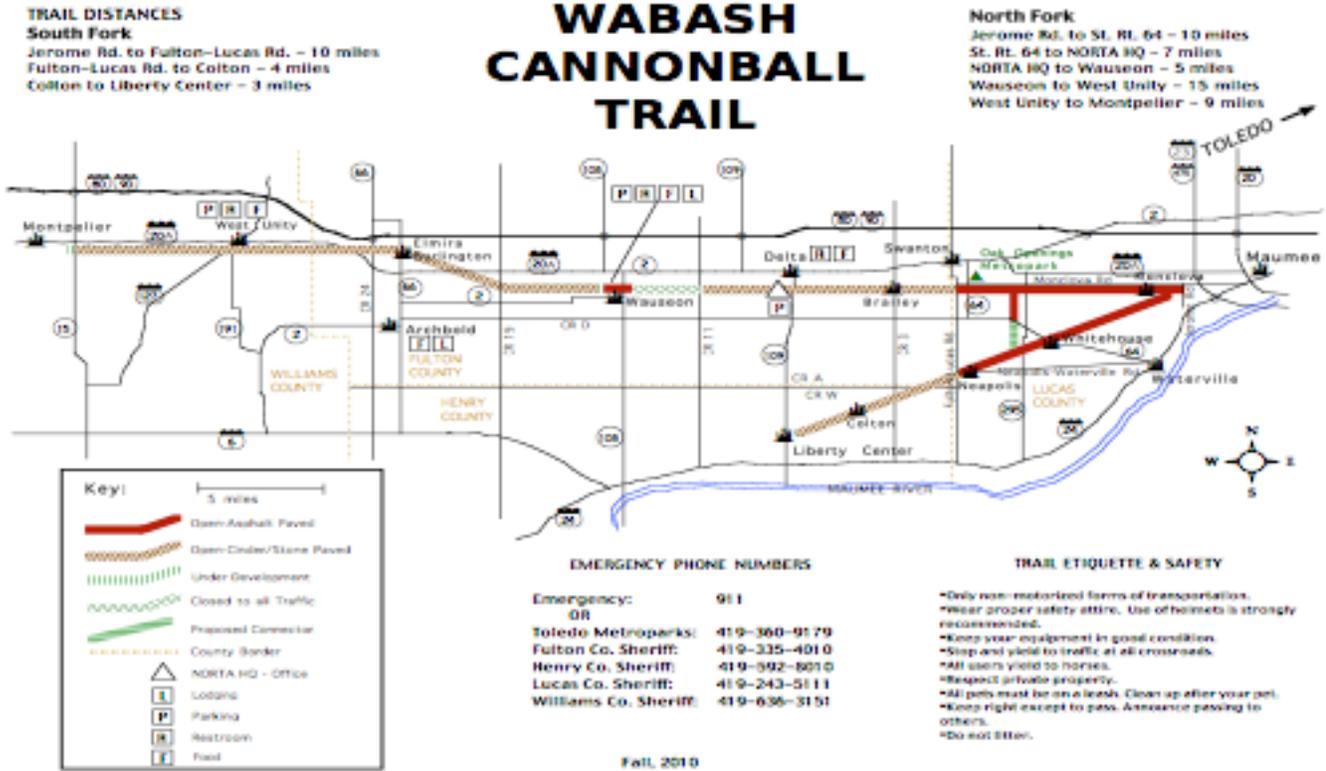
My Favorite Mile -Fulton County Road 20 to 21

By: Jay Budde

One of the beautiful, wooded sections of the Wabash Cannonball Trail, which my wife and I love to hike throughout the year is between Fulton Co. Roads 20 and 21. We love the variety of environments and views you encounter at different seasons: cultivated farm fields, hardwood forest, spring pools with singing tree frogs, wildflowers. We hike this section in all seasons.

Winter X-country skiing this section is also a thrill with wind-sculpted drifts in a middle of this mile often looking more like the arctic than NW Ohio. The old hilltop cemetery of some long gone Eckley church, one of the "ghost towns" of the trail, makes for an interesting side stroll at the East end to this mile.

There is easy parking at either the East (Road 20) or the West ends. You will want to avoid the summer mosquito months, but in spring, winter and fall this favorite mile is a treat.



An interactive map can be found at: www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

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Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assoc., Inc.
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