



The Cannonball Courier

Spring 2014

Steel Run Date Set

At a recent meeting, it was confirmed that **Saturday, June 28, 2014** will be the date of the next 5K Steel Run organized by North Star BlueScope Steel. Preliminary plans are moving along well. NORTA will take charge of the parking again. Once the weather clears, someone from Fulton Mill will look at the trail surface and determine where to add more aggregate. More details will be shared as plans are completed.

Liberty Street Bridge Damaged

On December 17, 2013, a truck struck the Liberty Street Bridge in West Unity. The clearance on the bridge is 10'6", which was indicated by a low clearance sign, but the truck was 11'6". Insurance will cover the needed repair and new signage is posted.

Wabash Cannonball Trail & Swanton Fine Art Exhibit



The Swanton Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the

2014 Open Juried Exhibit October 18, 2014

Valleywood Golf Club, Swanton, Ohio

Local and regional artists will have the summer to work on entries for the Swanton Fine Art Exhibit. There will be cash awards. Ribbons will be presented for the following categories: Best in Show and 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place for each group. There will be special recognition for entries representing the **Wabash Cannonball Trail**.

The subject matter must be suitable for family viewing. The jury will make selections based on artist merit.

For more details, email SwantonCC@aol.com.



(Editor's Note: It may be worth commenting at this point that NORTA maintains several bridges along the trail. They require regular maintenance for preservation and safety. Your contributions are an important part of funding this and the many other needs we have along the trail. NORTA has been the recipient of two major boosts to our income this past year with over \$10,000 from the Steel Run (which will be held again this summer) and an anonymous \$100,000 donation for the development of the trail in Williams County. We hope that the momentum we are experiencing will continue and expand as we attract more users to the trail. It is truly an ecological and recreational asset to our area.)

"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."

WANTED/NEEDED

- Countyline Sprayer model available at Tractor Supply Co. (or equivalent.) The list price for model #1014417 is \$299.99.
- 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 toward 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)



Randy Miller has graciously accepted an appointment to the board until elections are held in October. We welcome Randy as a representative of the western end of the trail.

Edith Trowbridge has stepped down from the board, as she has moved to the Xenia, OH area and the commute would be a bit too much. We wish Edith the best and offer our heartfelt gratitude for the service she has rendered to NORTA.

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

TrailSafe ID - Just in Case

A recent article in the *Evergreen Community News* featured an identification system for horseback riders developed by Myndi Milliken of Berkey, Ohio. In the event of an accident or injury, TrailSafe ID provides first responders with information they need to know when you cannot speak for yourself. It can also help identify riderless horses.

The identification system provides emergency contacts and medical information as well as photo identification of rider and horse. The system works even when there's no cell phone service, and no annual membership is required. For more details, go to www.TrailSafeID.com.



More Trail Clearing

Randy Miller writes: My wife, Roxie, and I have just returned home from working to clear trees that have fallen and blocked the trail completely along the two-mile stretch of County Rds 21 to 23. We started at 3:00 pm and worked till dark. The trail is now almost clear through to Lockport Road. We cut up and cleared back over 17 trees.

Before



After



Spring Clean Up



Clearing leaves and limbs from the Spile Bridge deck west of Colton on South Fork -



It's just a long skinny park!



One of many dead Ash tree limbs on the North Fork, west of the Fulton-Lucas county line, that was cut and dragged off the trail

News and Notes

Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm - Swanton Library meeting room.

NORTA member, Cheryl McCormick, will give a presentation with slide show of her thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail.

Saturday, June 21, 9:00 am. - NORTA work project TBA

Saturday, June 28 - Delta 5K Steel Run

NORTA has become a member of the Delta Chamber of Commerce.

Also of note, on March 24, 1994, twenty years ago, the Wabash Cannonball Trail corridor was purchased from the Norfolk and Southern Railroad Line, and thus, a rail-trail was born!

HELP US - HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

With the rising costs of printing and postage, we would appreciate being able to migrate more copies to email delivery. It will also save some trees. Please contact Lucille.Smith@rocketmail.com to change your delivery option.

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