

The Cannonball Courier

Winter 2012



Hello! My name is Mina, the Geodog. I've been asked to write an article about geocaching for this Winter 2012 Newsletter. I am having my humans write what I dictate to them. If you see any spelling mistakes, don't blame the dog!

Winter may seem like a strange time to introduce people to my favorite pastime, geocaching. I spent most of my free time involved with it, but any excuse for me to get out onto the Cannonball Trail is acceptable. Geocaching is often described as high-tech treasure hunting. All you need to do it is:

1. A geocaching.com account (basis membership is free)
2. A GPS, or smart phone with the official geocaching app (\$9.99)
3. A writing instrument of your choice to sign the log sheets of the caches you find.
4. A geodog (optional, but recommended)



To find a cache near you, all you need to do is perform a search at the website and enter the coordinates into your machine. Then, off you go! Most sections of the Trail can be accessed easily from where the roads cross them. In most instances you would unlikely have to travel farther than a half mile from your parking area to a geocache.

Some caches are really small, like a matchstick holder or magnetic keyholder. Others can be as large as an ammo can. The geocaching site often lists the size of the cache so you know what you are looking for. There is also a difficulty rating system (1-easy to 5-hard) as well as a terrain rating system (1-wheelchair accessible to 5-needs a boat or to climb a tree). All caches are rated using this system. Both terrain and caches on the Trail usually merit a 2 rating. But that does not matter to us geodogs. We go straight to the cache (unless a wild critter distracts us). There are almost 250 caches on the WCT.

If you have any questions about geocaching you can contact my humans, Mike and Sheryl at: Geocaching.com: ID:TeamMina or Email shadowcountry@hotmail.com

Now if you will excuse me I have some pizza crust waiting for me.

Article and pictures submitted by Mike and Sheryl Grauman

Sullivan's in Wauseon Site of Annual Meeting

On October 25, 2012 Sullivan's restaurant was the place to be for NORTA members, families and friends. The food was delicious. The tables were festooned with reminders of fall and Halloween, thanks to Linda Doyle. Below are some photos from the evening taken and shared by Jay Budde.

Toledo Metroparks Executive Director Steve Madewell
keynoted the 2012 NORTA Annual Dinner.



This year's annual meeting was very well attended but there is always room for more. If you missed it this year be sure to plan on attending next year.

North Country Trail Association * 2012 Volunteer Award was presented to Nelson Hagerman, who for many years has mowed and maintained the Wabash Cannonball Trail.



Dorthea and Jack Stoner, NORTA "Volunteers of 2012" are congratulated by NORTA Secretary Bonnie Markley at the Annual Dinner.

A LONG SKINNY PARK

Also, NORTA is now on Facebook. If you use Facebook give us a boost and "like" us.

Remember we are a non-profit organization and we rely on your memberships and donations to keep us going

Officers and Board members

President: Ed Snyder
Vice President: Jay Budde
(e-mail: jbudde0407@embarqmail.com)
Secretary: Bonnie Markley
(e-mail: bonniejm@windstream.net)
(Phone: 419-822-4788 or 1-800-951-4788)
Treasurer: Patti Gehring
(e-mail: pmgnota@buckeye-express.com)
Newsletter: Lucille Smith
(e-mail: lucille.smith@rocketmail.com)
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.



Mina, the geodog: photo by Mike Grauman

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 Donation _____

Contributions are tax deductible

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON, ON THE TRAIL AND AT OUR MEETINGS.

The Cannonball Courier page 3

TRAIL DISTANCES

South Fork

Jerome Rd. to Fulton-Lucas Rd. - 10 miles
 Fulton-Lucas Rd. to Colton - 4 miles
 Colton to Liberty Center - 3 miles

WABASH CANNONBALL TRAIL

North Fork

Jerome Rd. to St. Rt. 64 - 10 miles
 St. Rt. 64 to NORTA HQ - 7 miles
 NORTA HQ to Wauseon - 5 miles
 Wauseon to West Unity - 15 miles
 West Unity to Montpelier - 9 miles



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

The Cannonball Courier page 4



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

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