



The Cannonball Courier

Fall 2014

Steel Run 5K

The June 28 North Star BlueScope Steel Run 5K was another wonderful family fun day on the trail. Nearly 130 runners, walkers and “strollers” participated in the event along with many volunteers and supporters. The day’s events started with a kids’ one mile “Fun Run.”



Participants gather in anticipation of the start of the North Star Blue Scope Steel Run 5K.

Promptly at 9:00 AM, the starting gun released the runners down the trail for a five kilometer run/walk. Everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, finished the race. You can view the Steel Run video online. Rob Hall was the first to finish this year with a time of 18:14 minutes.

Special thanks to North Star Blue Scope Steel, Levy-Fulton Mill Service, Dave’s Running Shop, Linde and Worthington for all their efforts and donations that went into making the race a success.

This annual race is NORTA’s largest fundraiser, and this year we received well over \$5,000 to help with trail improvements.

Major Gift of Equipment



Volunteer Roxie Miller shows off the recently purchased tractor and mowing deck.

The Northwestern Ohio Rails - to - Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA) has received a generous donation from Al Benjamin. Using matching funds and working with Superior Farm Supply, Inc., a new tractor with a front-end loader and mowing deck were purchased to help the many volunteers maintain this valuable resource in Williams County.

The new equipment will ease the heavy work done by volunteers who mow, cut back brush and pick up trash so all of the runners, hikers, bikers, cross country skiers and horseback riders can better enjoy the trail.

Recently, the new tractor and mower were driven in a local parade. The parade went well, and we received good feedback from many in the Bryan area who saw the new equipment. Most were not aware that we were working to open up more

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NORTA Annual Meeting at Rotary Park, Wauseon October 23, 2014

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Bonney

Mr. Bonney started out with the Norfolk Western Railroad which later changed its name to Norfolk Southern. In his 13-year career, he was employed as a brakeman, then a conductor. In the final year of his employment, he worked on the last and only train running up and down our trail!

Reservations for _____ people
Cost: \$18 per person

Send reservation slip with check to:
NORTA
P.O. Box 234
Delta, OH 43515

WANTED/NEEDED

- New members and volunteers
- Visitor to our website www.WabashCannonballTrail.org
- Friends to Like us on Facebook
- Your email address to reduce our postage costs
- Generic "ROUNDUP" (2.5 gallon is cheapest) for grass and weed control
- Toilet paper, bottled water, window cleaner, paper towels
- Air compressor (10-30 gallon) for truck, tractor and trailer tires and cleaning tractor and mower, etc.
- Cash donations - specify toward one of the above and it will be used for that purpose
- Shop rags
- Metal safety cabinet for storing flammable materials
- Hand cleaner such as Go-Joe



It's just a skinny park!

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 (pmgorta@buckeye-express.com)

Newsletter: Lucille Smith (lucille.smith@rocketmail.com)

Maintenance: Tom Duvendack (TomForTrails@windstream.net), 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.



Scan this code
to access our website.

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

News and Notes

The NORTA Board acted on the West Unity Resolution and supported moving forward with discussions. We are excited that the village is interested in acquiring two miles of the trail. West Unity has placed temporary restrooms in Wabash Park along the trail.

The kiosk at Colton has been put in place. The Tallman kiosk is complete, with the exception of graphics and maps.

A new bench has been installed on the trail between Williams County Roads 16 and 15. Three benches have already been placed near the maintenance building. More of the benches donated by the Metroparks are waiting to be installed along the trail.

Name the Tractor Contest

Let's Name the Tractor:

Email your submission to bonniejm@windstream.net or join the contest on Facebook by liking NORTA and adding your submission to a post. You may also mail this form with your donation in the enclosed envelope.

Equipment - cont'd from front page



Volunteer Randy Miller is very excited about the new equipment. It fits into the Sugar Shack (behind him) with room to spare.

of the trail. There were “thousands and thousands” of people lined up in Little Kunkle, Ohio for the Biggest Parade around. People from Stryker, Archbold, Defiance and many more Ohio towns, as well as Michigan and Indiana residents attended. In addition, Bryan Local TV station 26 filmed the whole parade and re-played it the following week.

Giving Envelope

In this mailing, we have enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. Please note that you will need to affix postage. This envelope is multi-functional. Please use it to send NORTA any or all of the following:

- Your annual membership dues.
- Any additional donation towards our general operating expenses, such as insurance, utilities, tractor fuel, etc.
- Your paid dinner reservation for the October 23 Annual Meeting .
- Purchase 50-50 raffle tickets. These must be received by October 17, prior to the Annual Meeting. You may also buy tickets the night of the meeting.
- Your entry in the “Name the Tractor Contest”.

We appreciate the continuing support of our members and friends. The expense of owning, developing, and maintaining 31 miles of the Wabash Cannonball Trail is not cheap, but with the community’s support, we are getting it done! Thank you!

Membership Renewal Time

September 1 is the beginning of NORTA’s annual membership period. Now is the time to join or renew your membership in Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. NORTA was formed on October of 1991, and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization the following year. We are an all volunteer group, dedicated to the development of the Wabash Cannonball Trail. Your support is appreciated.

Can’t remember if you are current in your dues? Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If there is a green checkmark in the corner, then you are paid up, or have a lifetime membership status.

50 – 50 Raffle

A recurring event at NORTA’s annual meeting, is a 50 – 50 raffle, where a drawing is held, and the winner gets half of the total jackpot and NORTA gets the other half. Tickets are sold at the meeting, and solicited beforehand by board members. This year, we are offering to sell advance tickets to our membership through this newsletter. You do not have to be present to win. The drawing is on October 23, and your ticket purchase must be received by Oct. 17.

Tickets are \$1 apiece or six tickets for \$5, twelve for \$10, etc. I will personally fill out your entry ticket, and will need your name and contact information. Good Luck!

Patti Gehring
NORTA treasurer

Opening Up the Western Frontier

Numerous people have had a hand in opening up the western section of the trail in Williams County over the last year. Many volunteers have stepped forward logging many hours mowing, cutting overgrowth and fallen trees, clearing brush, picking up trash, fixing signs, refurbishing park benches and placing them along the trail, and much more.

Dave Hopper and Bob Hofbauer are mowing with both their own equipment, and also now using the new tractor donated by Al Benjamin. We have had work days with board members and county residents like Mike Richer, Dale and Jack Stoner, Roxie Miller and more.

One resident, Brian Semer, enjoys the trail with his horse and has developed a way to carry a small chainsaw and cutting tools with him as he rides the trail. When he encounters an area that needs to be cleared he dismounts and ties up his horse while working on the section that needs attention. This investment of time by volunteers has given Williams County the gift that was dreamed of 20 years ago, when the idea of the trail began with NORTA's formation.

We are nearing completion of the new partnership with the village of West Unity to share in the ongoing care and



Pictured left to right are Mark Singer, Matt Bowers, Randy Miller, Al Benjamin, Barb Love, Dave Hopper, Roxie Miller and Bob Hofbauer.

development of the trail from County Road 20 past the New School. We are also in the process of opening up the last mile of trail that will lead into Montpelier, Ohio. The land has been surveyed, and because of generous financial support, we will be able to excavate and prepare this section over the next year. We cannot thank everyone enough for the help in opening this resource for everyone to enjoy.

"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.

P.O. Box 234

Delta, OH 43515

1-800-951-4788

www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

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PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO
RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY.**