

The Cannonball Courier



July-August-September 2010

PLAN TO ATTEND NORTA'S ANNUAL MEETING & CHILI SUPPER

Again this year our Annual Meeting will be held at Bonnie Markley's home at **2266 County Road 5, Delta, Oh.** The picture on the right shows some of the devastation left by the tornado this spring. Bonnie has outdone herself in hospitality to offer her place again for us to meet.



Bonnie Markley's home after tornado photo by Patti Gehring

Be sure to attend and see what numerous volunteers and hours and hours of work have accomplished since this heartbreaking photo was taken.

The meeting date is on **October 2nd** which is the first Saturday of October. This year we are asking for a five dollar donation to help defray the cost of the chili fixings, porta potty rental, and other incidental expenses that go along with putting together the event. There will be a place to sign in and give your donation as you enter the meeting area. All of us are to bring a dish to share.

We will gather at 4pm and 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 become members of NORTA.

The Village Council of West Unity will be discussing the property at Wabash Park during their August meeting. We will share details of the outcome of that meeting at our annual meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

On May 10, 2010 we lost an active and staunch supporter of the trail. Norris Brillhart was killed in a car crash just south of West Unity. His wife, Margaret, who was equally a trail supporter, died on Memorial Day of the injuries she sustained in the accident. Our condolences to their family as we also mourn their loss. They will be sorely missed.

SUNSHINE & DIAMONDS

By Bonnie Markley

Diamond jewelry is the classic gift for a 60th wedding anniversary. Sixty years ago, Roy and Georgette Engler, Archbold, Ohio, created a gem of their own-Sunshine Children's Home, Maumee, Ohio. On Saturday, September 11, 2010, in addition to the annual 5K run, a 60-mile relay will take place in observance of the 60th anniversary of Sunshine Children's Home. The relay will be run on the stretch of the Wabash Cannonball Trail between Monclova and Central Mennonite Church (Archbold), a distance of approximately 30 miles. NORTA will have a table display for this event at Monclova Elementary School.

Williams County Trail Damage

By Jay Budde, NORTA Vice President

In November 2009, the NORTA Board of Directors learned of a serious incident of damage to the trail in Williams County between Williams County Roads 16 and 15. The damage appeared to have occurred as part of an adjacent landowner's attempt to drain his land. Heavy equipment, believed to include a bulldozer and backhoe entered NORTA property, crossing and destroying a fence that was clearly marking the southern boundary of NORTA property. Earthmoving equipment cut through a natural embankment blocking drainage from the adjacent landowner's property and opened a 4 foot wide by 5 foot deep trench draining directly onto the trail. The photo below shows the state of the damage on Nov. 11, 2009.

During the spring and summer of 2010, surface drainage flows, as a result of this damage and heavy spring rains, have eroded the trail surface in this area. The Board is attempting to work with the parties believed to have caused this damage to restore the trail to its condition before the damage.



View to South, from the trail centerline showing bulldozer and backhoe damage of NORTA property. Water flowing onto the trail ditch on S. side of trail approx . 1800 W. of Co. Road 16



Another sign of trail abuse is this truckload of trash that had been dumped on the trail. It was gathered and hauled away by Tom Striggow. Thanks for the clean-up, Tom.

Photo by Bonnie Markley

There is something to be said about belonging...and I plan to say it here.

Editorial comment: by Lucille Smith

In order to send this letter to those who have chosen to receive it by email I had to transfer the email addresses into my address book. While doing so I saw many memberships that had not been renewed for a number of years. I suspect I will find a similar situation when I go through the snail mail addresses as well. Like many nonprofit organizations we rely on these dues to continue our work, which in our case is maintaining and developing the Wabash Cannonball Trail.

I am proud to say "I belong to the NORTA organization" and I am sure many of you feel the same. Along with membership in any group goes the responsibility of supporting that said group. Year after year NORTA has had to spend more than we take in, living, as it were off windfalls that have come our way. We cannot continue on that path.

You will see that there have been some changes in our annual meeting announcement. Just relying on freewill donations has not met the cost of the dinner for the past few years therefore you will see an attendance fee.

Also if any one of you knows of a way we can conduct a successful fund raiser let us know.

(I just saw the movie "Calendar Girls" where elderly ladies pose in the nude. They sold like hot cakes but I don't think that is where we need to go.)

We value you as a member and encourage all who belong to NORTA to pull together in these difficult economic times.

I want to encourage you to receive your newsletter via email if possible. It not only saves us postage but you will have your Courier in full color rather than the black on white or tinted paper. Please send your email address to me at lucille.smith@rocketmail.com if you want the electronic version of the Wabash Cannonball Courier.

You can help maintain the Wabash Cannonball Trail

Join and volunteer. We welcome you! Our board meetings (which are open to ALL members) are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the headquarters building (the old Pettisville Grain scale house) on Rt. 109 one mile south of Delta.

We do not share our membership list with any other organizations.

NORTA is exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)-(3) of the IRS Code and is qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions.

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

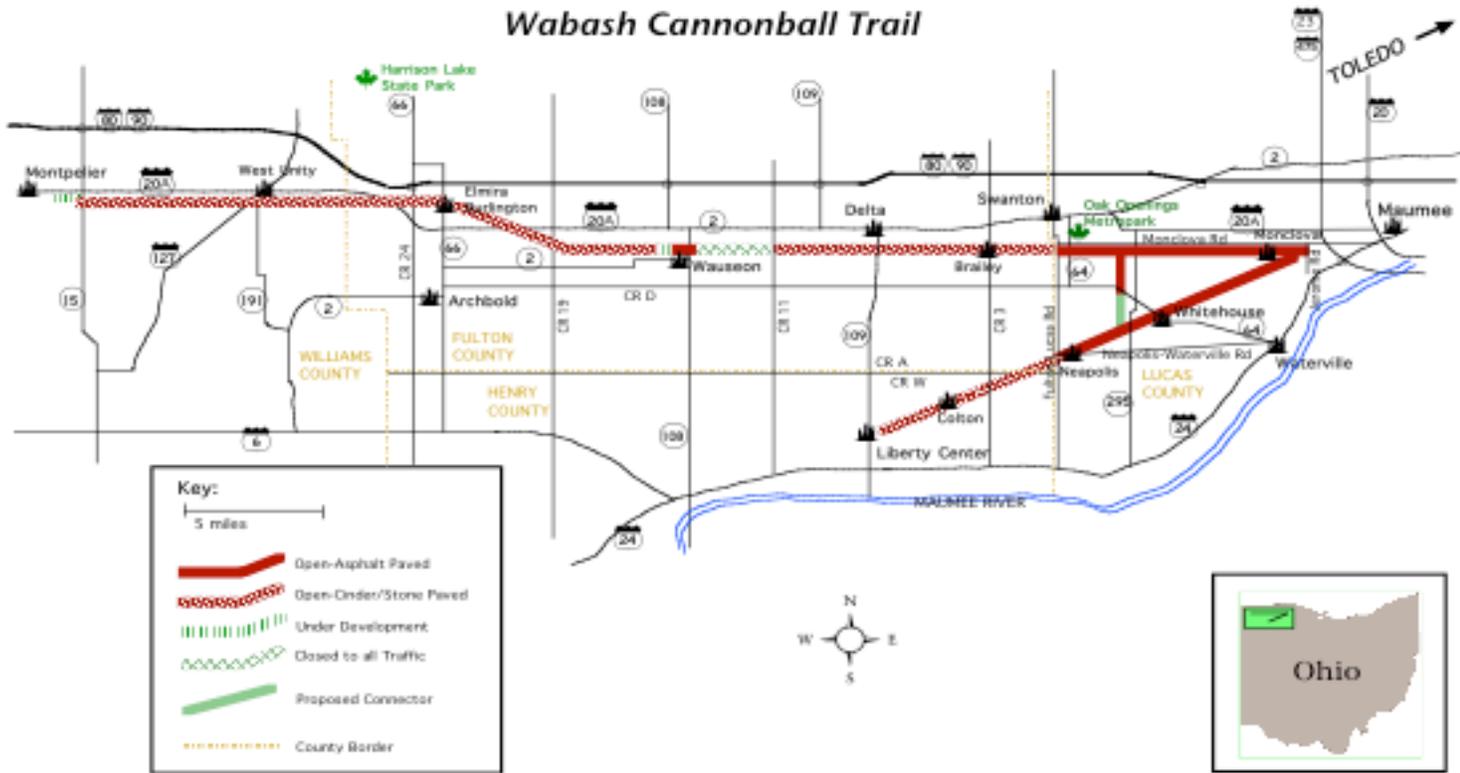
Complete and send the form below by postal mail with your check (payable to **NORTA**) to: Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA, Inc.)

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: _____
EEmail Address _____			
Membership Categories:			
_____ Senior/Student \$10		_____ Individual \$15	
_____ Business/Organization \$50		_____ Family \$25	
_____ Lifetime \$1,000		_____ Patron \$100	
_____ Additional Contribution _____			
_____ I am interested in volunteering: <i>Tell us a little about yourself and what you enjoy doing.</i>			

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

Wabash Cannonball Trail



Visit www.wabashcannonballtrail.org for interactive version of this map.



Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assoc., Inc.
 P.O. Box 234
 Delta, Ohio 43515
 1-800-951-4788
www.wabashcannonballtrail.org