



The Cannonball Courier

Summer 2015

Third Annual 5K Steel Run a Growing Event

Get Ready...



New this year was The Dawg House, a vender of hot dogs and various snacks. Also new this year was music provided by "Big Fish and Dad", a local DJ and karaoke service.

Get Set...



There were 82 runners registered. Fruit and refreshments were provided by the run organizers. We appreciate Dave's Running Shop's involvement in the event's success.

GO!!!



There were just seven bike riders for the Steel Run, but what they lacked in numbers, they made up in enthusiasm! We hope to interest more riders in the future.

Ramp Dedication in Williams County

On Thursday, July 9, 2015 a dedication was held at the newly (nearly) completed access ramp and parking area at Williams County Rd. 15, south of State Rt. 20A. Present were NORTA officers, trustees and volunteers, representatives from Jefferson Township and Williams County, as well as interested folks from the surrounding community.

Randy Miller, trail crew leader in Williams County, welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the trail, particularly those sections in Williams County. The ramp at CR 15 will afford trail users easy access heretofore not possible because of the elevation and dense brush. Randy expressed NORTA's gratitude to his crew and trail

friends who have dedicated well over 100 hours of labor, Jefferson Township trustees for their assistance in establishing the parking area, the Village of Montpelier for contributing the asphalt grindings to provide surface material for the ramp and parking lot.

Williams County Commissioner Lew Hilkert and Jefferson Township Trustee Steve Batterson both expressed their appreciation for a job well done. Hilkert spoke to the value of the trail as a multi-use recreational trail that will also serve as a connector between communities.

Ron Osburn, reporter for *The Bryan Times*, was present to gather data about the event and



This view shows the top of transition ramp which takes you from the parking area at Williams County Rd. 15, south of State Rt. 20A to the trail. A picnic area is to the right.

interview various attendees. Osburn had published the announcement of the public dedication in the July 9, 2015 edition of *The Bryan Times*.

"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."

.....

Thanks to Our Donors and Volunteers

We are pleased to report that our wish list has become considerably shorter due to donations of a shop vac, leaf blower and air compressor. Our generous donors and volunteers are essential to the trail and we appreciate all that you do.

Ongoing needs include:

- Hand cleaner such as Go-Joe
- Shop rags
- Round Up herbicide for grass control around signs, fences, buildings, etc.
- Cash donations - specify toward one of the above 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 (tomfortrails@windstream.net), Sandy Mason, Tom Striggow (tstriggow@yahoo.com), Randy Miller (RMiller@frontier.com)

It's just a skinny park!

.....

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

Name(s) _____

Home 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

.....

Cleaning Up More Than Fallen Trees

Graffiti on Bridge



On June 2, Tom Striggow, Bob Apgar and Tom Vanden Eynden removed graffiti from the Williams County Rd. 15 bridge abutment where Randy's crew has created a parking area and a ramp to access the trail.

Colton Kiosk Burns



On June 18, 2015 a caller reported that the kiosk at Colton had apparently been set on fire and was still smoldering. The Henry County Sheriff's Department was contacted. Upon investigation, the incident report stated that "The sign (roof) appeared to have been lit on fire on the east side of the sign and burned about 1/2 half of the sign" and that "nothing on the scene was located to indicate how it was started or who lit the sign on fire". The kiosk had been acquired from Toledo Metroparks and had not yet been set upright pending pouring a concrete pad on which it was to be placed.

The Last Mile Opens



In early June, Mark Hollinger started clearing the last mile, and it looks GREAT! The stakes that the work crew (Tom D., Bonnie, Patti, etc.) painted earlier really helped Mark "see his way" through the brush. It is amazing to see what can be accomplished by these great volunteers.

Tallman Kiosk



The Tallman Kiosk near NORTA headquarters had informational panels installed in time for the 5K Steel Run. The panels show a map of the trail with towns and highlights noted. There are still panels to be filled in, but when finished, the kiosk will benefit trail users for years to come.

Tom D. also installed a sign on the side facing County Rd E-F that calls for volunteers and provides contact information for anyone interested in helping.



Annual Dinner Notice

NORTA Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner
and General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2015
5:30 - 8:30 PM

The Barn Restaurant
22611 State Rt.2
(between Co. Rd 22 and State Rt. 66)
Archbold, Ohio

Seating is limited! Make reservations
and payment by **October 1.**



NORTA Annual Dinner

Number of Reservations _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

Email _____

Email my confirmation Mail my confirmation

Send a check for \$20 per person,
payable to NORTA.

Mail to: NORTA Treasurer
P.O. Box 234
Delta, OH 43515

You may also pay online
through PayPal. Go to
www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

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