



The Cannonball Courier

Summer 2016

A Generous Gift

NORTA has been blessed many times in the past with businesses and corporations offering help to improve the trail for all those who use it. I'd like to share another story of a local company who stepped up to partner with us.



Nearly 468 tons of paving material was trucked to the trail by Gerken Paving, Inc.

Gerken Paving, Inc. of Napoleon, Ohio has been serving the people of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan since 1949. Last year I shared with owners Andrea Thompson and Brent Gerken what we at NORTA are all about, and what we were doing. I also shared some of our needs with them. They offered to help us with some loads of aggregate milled from the roadway of a project to resurface State Route 15 in Williams County. They donated 26 Truckloads (at nearly 18 tons each) to us at various sites along the trail to be used to build up the lower areas along the Williams County section. NORTA only had to pay for the freight costs to get the loads from the job site to the trail.

As a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, we count on the help from numerous volunteers and friends of the trail. This spring, Gerken Paving, Inc. stepped up to help us in a very big way. They show us and all of those who use the trail that they care about what goes on in the communities that they serve. We would like to thank everyone at Gerken Paving, Inc. for caring enough to "make a difference."

Randy L. Miller

Annual Meeting

Please join us

Thursday

October 6, 2016

Social hour - 5 p.m.

Dinner - 6 p.m.

Catered buffet - \$20

Please RSVP by September 26.

- see form on page 3 -

Swanton Community Center

(the old rescue squad building)

217 Chestnut, Swanton

Members are welcome to attend just the business meeting at 7:30.

Public Meeting Held

To inform the community about the grant that has been submitted to pave the Trail from Fulton-Lucas County Line to Fulton County Road 11, a public informational meeting was held on May 20, 2016 at Delta Memorial Hall. Meeting sponsors were Toledo Metroparks, NORTA, and Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO).

NORTA President Jay Budde welcomed the attendees and introduced members of the NORTA Board of Trustees as well as representatives of Toledo Metroparks and MVPO. Jay presented an overview of the paving project. Emily Ziegler (Toledo Metroparks) and Ellen Smith (MVPO) explained the grant and their roles in the project. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and peruse the maps and other information provided for them. Thirty-three (33) people attended the meeting.

What Water Shortage?

NORTA Headquarters Flooded

There was no shortage of water on the floor of the NORTA office building that quiet Tuesday morning in July. Nelson Hagerman (maintenance crew) had alerted Bonnie Markley (Secretary) that the carpet tiles in the office building were afloat. He could hear the sound of running water and sprang into action to locate the shut-off. It was a real gusher! Every room in the building was covered with at least an inch of water, coming from a leaking hot water tank. True to form, however, the troops rallied upon receiving the word, armed with mops, brooms, fans, and a shop vac. Before noon, every soggy piece of carpet tile had been removed and hung over the split rail fence to drip dry. Tom Duvendack (maintenance committee chairman) figured the shop vac took up more than 50 gallons of water, not including the water in the saturated carpet tiles.

Fortunately, the concrete floor beneath made the clean-up easier. Tables, chairs, file cabinets, desks, and other such items were supported on strips of lath so air could circulate beneath them as the fans were put into action to begin the drying out process. About the only destruction that resulted was the loss of some display materials—photos and poster board. Hats off to the “first responders” who answered the call! Many thanks to Nelson for his quick thinking and notification and to Tom Duvendack, Tom Striggow, Patti Gehring, John Fitzgibbons, and Bonnie Markley for having done the cleanup. What a crew!



(left to right) Tom Duvendack, John Fitzgibbons, Patti Gehring, Bonnie Markley and Tom Striggow answered the call from Nelson Hagerman, who discovered the flood waters at NORTA headquarters.



The forethought of those who planned the building made it possible to dry out and reuse carpet tiles instead of having to replace the flooring.

NORTA Annual Dinner

Number of Reservations _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

Email _____

Email my confirmation Mail my confirmation

Enclose a check for \$20 per person,
payable to NORTA or pay
online via the PayPal link from
www.wabashcannonballtrail.com.

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

Please RSVP by September 26.

Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assoc. Inc.

P.O. Box 234

Delta, OH 43515

1-800-951-4788

www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

WANTED/NEEDED

Ongoing needs include:

- Heavy deep cell battery
- Battery charger/jumper
- Hand cleaner such as Go-Joe
- Round Up herbicide for grass control
- Shop rags
- Small apartment-size refrigerator
- Cash donations - specify toward any of the above and money will be used for that purpose

Would You Like to Earn Your Wings?

Become a Trail Angel

Picture yourself an ambitious long distance hiker. Your goal is to traverse the entire length of the Wabash Cannonball Trail. Or better yet, the entire North Country National Scenic Trail, which uses the Wabash as one of its segments. Now, start to think about the logistics of such a journey. Where are you going to pitch your tent at night or take a shower? How are you going to get to the post office, laundromat, or retail store for new supplies? What if you need a ride to a walk-in clinic? Where can you find electricity to recharge your phone or GPS? Enter a Trail Angel to work some Trail Magic.

If you, the reader, have a soft spot in your heart and a willingness to offer some help to long distance hikers, the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) is developing a database of Trail Angels. The information will be kept private from the general public but shared only with long distance hikers who inquire to NCTA about your area. In addition, a Facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/groups/trail00angels00of00the00NCNST/> has been set up to connect long distance hikers with Trail Angels across the Trail.

If interested in participating, email NORTA at norta.email@yahoo.com or call 1-800-951-4788 and we can forward a contact information form to you, or you can contact the NCTA organizers directly at nct@northcountrytrail.org or 906-226-6210 and ask for Lorana. Please note the program is being administered by NCTA, not by NORTA.



“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.”

Building a Wall at Beaver Creek

This spring volunteers spent many hours building up the retaining wall at Beaver Creek in Williams County. Forty blocks, weighing 500 pounds each, were used on the east and west sides of the new bridge to protect the stone ramps from erosion. The blocks were provided by the Metroparks. We are grateful for their generosity.



The erosion is apparent on the ramp leading to the Beaver Creek bridge.



With the blocks in place, the ramp should be stable for many years to come.

Do You Have a Green Thumb?

We know there are many talents among our members. We are looking for volunteers to clean up and maintain the native flower beds at the maintenance building across the street from NORTA's headquarters. A knowledge of native plants would be helpful, but a love of digging in the dirt is more essential. If you have a green thumb and a little time to give, please contact Bonnie Markley at bonniejm@windstream.net or call 419-822-4788.



Donated Generator



NORTA is the grateful recipient of a beautifully maintained Honda industrial 5,000 watt inverter generator that had a \$2,400 price tag when new. The generous donors, who prefer to remain anonymous, rarely used it and wanted it to have a good home. Thank you for this great tool!

Trail Work Requires Machinery and (Hu)manpower

Our trail is a great recreational area because of the hard work of the NORTA volunteer crew. Below is a sample of typical trail work that accomplishes much in a relatively short time. Randy Miller reports:

"I spent 6 hours on Tuesday, and 4 hours on Wednesday cutting up downed trees. Here are some stats.....

- Started at State Route 15 and cleared through West Unity to the Liberty Street Bridge.
- Cut up 23 trees over 8" in diameter plus hundreds of small downed limbs etc.
- Nine areas of the trail were completely blocked.
- I filled the chainsaw with fuel seven times.
- Now Rusty is going to start the cut back beginning at State Route 15.
- I am going to try to get back out and work on the sections East of West Unity so he can keep moving east to Tiffin River.
- With the strong winds yesterday and last night, I hope he doesn't encounter more downed trees after my clean up. BUT, that is the way of the trail.
- I will inspect his work today, and talk with him to assure good cut back is being provided.
- I also inspected the welding done at the bridge on County Rd. 15, and it seems very strong.



This summer, volunteers moved aggregate from the parking area at County Rd. 15 and filled in the tire ruts on the path to the trail. This re-opened some space for parking. Prior to that, they moved two truckloads of aggregate to fill in the wet spots west of County Rd. 16.



New Dumper Purchased and Installed



In July, the Board approved purchase of a hydraulic "dumper" insert for the NORTA pickup (at left with the insert installed). With its quick installation by Tom Duvendack, John Fitzgibbons, Tom Striggow and Bob Hofbauer (thereby saving several hundred dollars - way to go guys!) the truck-with-dumper is now in-service and greatly helps us maintain the whole trail. Up to two cubic yards of aggregate can be loaded on the truck with our tractor with bucket loader and quickly spread for trail resurfacing and low area filling.