



MILLENNIUM
TRAIL



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

Vol.5 No. 16

Dear Friends,

Our spring edition of the trail newsletter is a shorty so that we can mail new trail pamphlet to each of you. Any more than one sheet would boost our mailing costs and we have a short deadline.

Enclosed is our FOUR-COLOR PAMPHLET, which, we think is a beauty as well as being informative. We have 27,500 copies printed at the cost of \$3100 or roughly 11-cents per copy. Thanks to Kristi and colleagues for their donated expertise and the Printer's Display Pack of Grand Rapids for a job well done, and a very reasonable cost. Also thanks to our advertisers listed on the pamphlet who paid for most of the cost as trail boosters. We hope you will consider patronizing them. We have a plan for distribution and will be putting some along the trail. Also available are some of our original pamphlets, so both will be available.

SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS: June 2, 2002, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the trail head in Ravenna. This is an opportunity to recognize special volunteers and to have "on your own trail ride." Certificates will be awarded to adopt-a-trail participants, recognize special volunteers, and generally enjoy an afternoon on the trail. Hot dogs and brats will be available as well as trail shirts and other items available for sale. Let's pray for sunshine and 70's. Like to see you all there!

WEB SITE ACTIVITY: Activity was slow over the winter, averaging a few thousand hits each month, but April had a near record number of 10,000 trail inquiries. This may point to a very busy summer on the trail.

TRAIL PROJECTS: We have not yet received word regarding our \$2400 grant we requested from DELMAC to build two wet land observation decks along the trail. Early feedback was favorable and if funds are made available, we hope to have one up by July 4, and the other by Labor Day. We hope that some of our volunteers will convert these decks to outdoor educational sites with displays, etc.

TRAIL PLANTINGS: Wes, Eldon, Ed, Don, and Jamie were out early in May planting 200 American Beech, 100 Red Oak, 300 Dogwood, 200 Tamarack, and 400 Pines. The weather cooperated with evening rains so that we hope for a good seedling survival rate. There is no greater joy than planting trees and wildlife shrubs for the future. This adds to the several thousand plantings we have done in the past four years.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE TRAIL: Conservation officers and sheriff deputies now have a quad runner to patrol the trail, can now catch those elusive motorized intruders who sprayed the paved trail with gravel and erode the bank. Please be alert and report any citing of trail abuse. Trail manager Wes has been deputized so that he too can issue tickets. Perhaps, this will help to make our trail safer and more enjoyable.

Ottawa County continues to contract with the DNR to maintain the East end of the trail in their county. Thanks to their continued trail support. Mary Lowering has been hired as a part-time seasonal ranger by Ottawa County

to help Wes in managing the trail this summer. The West half of the trail in Muskegon County is administered by the West Shore Snowmobile Council. Our attempt to get Muskegon County involved or consortium of townships to setup a trail commission has not borne fruit, but we will continue our efforts.

SNOWMOBILE STUD TRAIL DAMAGE UPDATE: Trail members, DNR reps, and the Michigan Snowmobile Association Leadership met in April to review and discuss the matter. Possible solutions include: repaving damage which would be paid for my MSA funds and stud manufacturers to discuss research regarding various surface aggregates to withstand stud use. MSA mentioned the need for more education on trail use, greater law enforcement, and increased research. The group will meet again in September to assess progress. The DNR is reluctant to ban snowmobiles from paved trails although many adjacent states have done so. Results of my simple quickies survey on trial snowmobile use will be in a later newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership continues to grow slowly, with new members from Grand Rapids, Mount Clemens, and Berrien Springs. As volunteers, we need your support, your ideas and opinions on issues, and promotion of the trail. Your memberships fees and donations form the major source of funding for our trail enhancement projects. Your talents on building projects and other enhancement activities are all very much appreciated. You have supported the trail well and we thank YOU all. Enjoy the trail, bring others, and observe common sense rules of safety.

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Ravenna Village Hall located at 12090 Crockery Creek Drive in Ravenna.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT THREE MONTHS

June 6, 2002, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Ravenna Village Hall
July 11, 2002, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Ravenna Village Hall
August 1, 2002, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Ravenna Village Hall

Come join us.

Respectfully,

Edward Holovka
President, Friends of the Musketawa Trail

FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL OFFICERS

Edward Holovka, President.....(231) 744-8133	Harold Drake, Director.....(231) 853-2338
Robert O'Brian, Vice President.....(616) 453-0897	Joel Mikkelson, Director.....(231-724-6090 (w)
Don Scherencel, Secretary.....(616) 837-8973	Oscar Reed, Director.....(231) 744-5731
Jim Schmidt, Treasurer.....(231) 733-2196	Mark Fritsma, Director.....(616) 897-2198
Wes Lomax, Trail Manager.....(231) 402-0431	Eldon Pusey, Director.....(231-759-7929

WEBSITE: WWW.MUSKETAWATRIL.COM OR WWW.MUSKETAWATRIL.ORG