

Musketawa Trail

NEWSLETTER



National Recreational Trail 2008

Millennium Trail 2000

Spring / Summer / 2016

Vol. 21, No. 43

21 Years of trail work and counting

Dear Trail Friends:

Please excuse the delay in getting out the trail newsletter, a result of some significant personal health issues. On the trail this year, we are building on the momentum of last year when the Ravenna folks added the railroad caboose and small flower garden with a bench nearby. We “capped it off” with a very nice and well received metal arts bike rack, the first of two now installed. Please note photo on back page.

The second metal arts bike rack has been installed at the East Broadway Trailhead as you enter the paved parking lot. I confess yours truly, partially designed, painted, and aided in the installation of these three projects.



Ed Holovka & Tim Nink



The third is still in storage awaiting a site location at Marne or perhaps Conklin, as the Ottawa County Park folks so choose. A spring installation is likely

TRAIL PROJECTS 2016:

On a very hot summer day, our crew of Oscar Reed, Sharon Davis, Diana Holovka, Brian Hopwood, and yours truly scrubbed out and completely cleaned the interior of the caboose in readiness for painting.



Then later, the painting team of Gary and Linda DeKock, Donna Christensen, and Marc Barton completed the job with a fresh coat of paint throughout the interior.



Linda DeKock & Donna Christensen



Freshly painted interior with the new curtains

New “train printed” curtains were made by treasurer, Diana Holovka, and are now installed in the caboose.

The Ravenna folks plan to install educational displays including railroad photos—historical information. Also, steps or a ramp is to be built for easier access. With our previously rebuilding of the 100-year old water tower, the railroad signs and signals that we’ve installed, plus the new additions, the Ravenna Trailhead is becoming the railroad historical focus of the Musketawa Trail, a tribute to our cooperative Ravenna partnership with Bruce Jones, David Ruble, and Harold Drake providing local leadership.

MEMORIAL BENCH:

The latest addition is a memorial bench installed just west of the Broadway Trail entrance by board members Ed Holovka, Oscar Reed, and Tim Nink. The bench is in memory of Paul Larsen and donated by wife Mary and children. Greg Sherburn, manager of the North Muskegon State Park, was helpful in site approval and bench acquisition.



Oscar Reed & C. J.

A HUMBLE APPEAL: Please be careful as you bicycle our trail or elsewhere and wear a quality helmet, and urge others to do so as well. The State Police list 33 bicycle deaths in Michigan in 2015, a 57 percent increase. Our trails and bike lanes are the safest but still require vigilance. Bicycling has the highest rate of head injuries of any sport, exceeding football. This past summer, a 10-year old Pentwater youth was struck by a van, destroyed his bike and threw him head first on the pavement. His helmet, although cracked, saved his life.

MY END OF TENURE THANKS: Goes out to a lot of folks who were and are an integral part of a successful non-profit all volunteer organization including past and present board members who provided the time, skill, muscle, and guidance to get so much trail work and projects done. I should point out specifically, Joel Mikkelsen, current manager of the Hart-Montague Trail, who together we traveled to Lansing and St. Ignace to present before the Natural Resources Trust Fund Commission to obtain the initial funding. Joel, for years, was a project foreman and the hardest worker for all early large trail projects, i.e. trestles, etc. And, we've had a "hard core" of members, nearly 100 strong at this time whose memberships and donations have provided us with the financial means for trail work, enhancement projects, maintenance, and promotion. I appreciated the kind feedback and communication you've provided with my newsletters and personal Thank You cards. Please refer to our web site for a listing of the most generous donors, with Herb and Joan Ritsema, Rick Szezepanski and his Multiple Sclerosis Foundation amongst them.

The Ravenna Village staff were most helpful from the start, especially our ex officio board member and past village president, Harold Drake (a trail visionary), Steve Anderson, maintenance supervisor and his staff, and office personnel including Sandy, DeeDee, and Teresa. Please excuse this partial listing, as many others have lent a helping hand.

MY PARTING NOTE: Approaching 85 years and rehabbing from open heart surgery, beginning January 1, 2017, it's time to pass the gavel to new president Tim Nink. Reflecting over the past, I feel that I made past contributions to family, community, country, and to human-kind. I've provided well for wife Diana, son Michael, daughter Terry, and four grandchildren. My trail work, oversite board (Foster care Review Board) chairing for abused and neglected children, 51 years of helping troubled individuals as a licensed psychologist, plus many projects for handicapped kids, has contributed to community. Ten years of U. S. Army/Active Army Reserve service during and after the Korean War was my contribution to country reaching the rank of M/Sgt (E-7). I served human-kind with mission trips to Haiti, Mexico, Louisiana, Ukraine, with six months of teaching in Slovakia, my mother's home country. I guess I also served myself well by obtaining four university degrees with a PhD, thanks in part to the G.I. Bill.

Isn't this great country when a kid raised in the shadows of the coal mines, one of nine children of immigrant parents with father a coalminer can achieve these goals—motivation for other kids to work, learn, and learn to become a team player.

STATE NEWS: The recent Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (MTGA) reports great news regarding the expansion of connection trails, including the Great Lake—to Lake Trail from Port Huron to South Haven by 2018. A host of other connections will be coming on line by that date.

Also noted, is the 26th Annual Michigander bicycle tour through "the most beautiful place in America". The tour dated July 15 – 22nd will run from Traverse City, Leland, Frankfort, shores of Lake Michigan, wine country, and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Three options are available, two, six, and eight day tours. What a ride!! More info is available at their website, www.Michigantrails.org

Consider joining this organization, with Nancy Krupiarz, Executive Director and staff at the forefront of trails development in Michigan over the years.

Friends of the Musketawa Trail is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with donations tax deductible. Thank you for your contributions and enjoy the trail. Your donations can be made via PayPal on the trail web site or mail them in the enclosed envelope to:

**Friends of the Musketawa Trail
PO Box 5082
Muskegon MI 49445**

Your donations provide us with the means to continue our trail enhancements, promotions, and maintenance work so you can enjoy a safe ride.

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
2016 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

April 6, 2017, Thursday - 7:00 p.m.
June 1, 2017, Thursday - 7:00 p.m.
August 3, 2017, Thursday - 7:00 p.m.
October 5, 2017 Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

**Meetings are held at Ravenna Village Hall
12090 Crockery Creek Drive**

You're all welcome to come join us.
We appreciate your input and insight

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
BOARD MEMBERS**

Edward Holovka, President	(231) 744-8133
Tim Nink, Vice President	(231) 747-6116
Sharon Davis, Secretary	(616) 837-9310
Diana Holovka, Treasurer	(231) 744-8133
Oscar Reed, Director	(231) 744-5731
Mark Fritsma, Director	(616) 897-2198
George Czinder, Director	(616) 847-0947
Joann Schmitt, Director	(231) 733-2196
Gary DeKock, Director	(616) 791-9490
Donna Christensen, Director	(616) 531-9683
Harold Drake (Ex-Officio)	





GOLD SPIKE TRAIL TOUR III

was held May 28, 2016. Here are just a few of the photos taken of our Gold Spike rider participants. The day was questionable with rain looming overhead. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and complimented the SAG stop volunteers for providing a very organized ride and refreshments. We had 133 registered riders who started at the Meijer parking lot in Walker, riding on the Fred Meijer Trail to the Musketawa Trail through farmlands, small villages and towns, to the Broadway Trailhead in Muskegon. We want to thank all of our participants for coming out and supporting our Ride. We hope to carry on this tradition and would love to have volunteers give us a hand. All you need to do is contact any of the board members listed if you are able to offer your time and talent. Looking forward to seeing you on the trail. Be safe and enjoy the ride.



New additions at Ravenna Trailhead—metal art bike rack, bench, and garden area.



Original interior of caboose—date unknown



**Happy Holidays to all from
Friends of the Musketawa Trail**

Please visit us on our [FaceBook](#) page and our website: www.musketawatrail.org



Friends of the Musketawa Trail
PO Box 5082
Muskegon MI 49445