



**2020-2021 FALL & WINTER  
NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 25 No. 52**

Dear Trail Friends:

We hope this newsletter finds all our friends and trail users staying healthy amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. A year ago, we doubt many of us figured we would be dealing with this ongoing situation in 2021.

Overall, trail usage and outdoor recreation has exploded. Go to your local bike shop and try to find a specific bicycle and you will likely be told you have to wait up to a year or more after you place an order. Our trails and outdoor resources are a “saving grace” of sorts for us to do something to help with our mental and physical health. As you enjoy our outdoor resources, please be mindful of others and maintain your distance amid the pandemic.

With the current situation, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail has been hampered by not being able to hold “in-person” board meetings. This season we hope to have a few “in person” board meetings and work on a couple outstanding projects.

We would like to thank all our continued (and new) donors and friends. Now we would like to ask for some help in the form of interested individuals joining us at board meetings and getting involved with the Friends group. If you love the Musketawa Trail and would like to help, please reach out and contact us. We would love to have some energetic and enthusiastic trail lovers join us.

Thank you for your continued support and use of the Musketawa Trail!

**Trail Projects (2021 and beyond):** As reported in our last couple newsletters, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail has plans for a small upgrade to the Ravenna trail head. We will be adding a handicap access picnic table and a bike repair station all on a new concrete pad. This project will hopefully “take off” this year. We have Michigan DNR approval. All that remains is to finalize the budget numbers, then get started with ordering items and install a concrete pad.

We still have plans for a memorial project for former Friends of the Musketawa Trail board president Ed Holovka. This project will likely get located at/near the Muskegon / Broadway trail head as this was where Ed spent a



**National Recreation Trail 2008**



**Millennium Trail 2000**

lot of personal volunteer time. If you still wish to donate to this project, please submit any donation with a notation of where you would like it to be applied. We will do our best to accommodate.



**Ed at Broadway Trailhead entry**



**Ed & Oscar with bicycle art installed at Broadway Trailhead**

**STAY TUNED** for more project news!

**Trail Maintenance News:** Starting with the 2021 Spring/Summer/Fall season, the Michigan DNR has taken over trail maintenance duties for the Muskegon County section of the Musketawa Trail. Gregory Sherburn and his team out of the Muskegon State Park will handle routine maintenance activities such as mowing, trimming, etc.



**Oscar**

**George**

The Friends of the Musketawa Trail would like to thank the West Shore Snowmobile Council for all their hard work over these many years taking care of maintenance duties. We would like to especially thank both George Czinder and Oscar Reed for their attention to the needs of the Musketawa Trail in Muskegon County (both gentlemen are Friends group board members). They are a very dedicated asset to the Board and hard working trail volunteers.



As a good reminder, here are the trail maintenance contacts and their operation dates:

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ottawa County:**

Kate Alvarez 616-610-0440  
email: [kalvarez@miottawa.org](mailto:kalvarez@miottawa.org) )

**Muskegon County:**

Gregory Sherburn 231-744-3480  
email: [sherburng@michigan.gov](mailto:sherburng@michigan.gov)

**December 1<sup>st</sup>-March 31<sup>st</sup>:**

**Ottawa & Muskegon Counties:**

Steve Veltman 231-861-2442  
email: [veltmanhardware@aol.com](mailto:veltmanhardware@aol.com)

**Ottawa County Parks and Recreation News:**

We are happy to announce that Ottawa County Parks and Recreation has hired Anne Engvall's successor. Kate Alvarez now takes on the role of North Area Parks Supervisor. She and her team cover maintenance duties that include the Musketawa Trail in Ottawa County. Kate shared the following with us about herself:



*"I am entering my 6<sup>th</sup> season with Ottawa County Parks. I spent four years managing the natural areas of our parks for pest and invasive species management, and a year working in the general operations of the parks including helping to maintain the Musketawa Trail. I have a degree in Natural Resources Management from Grand Valley State University where I focused on plants and ecological restoration. I am so excited to be working closely with the Friends of the Musketawa Trail going forward. I am committed to making park user experiences on the trail a positive one!"*

**Kate Alvarez**

*making park user experiences on the trail a positive one!"*

We, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail, look forward to working with Kate and her team to continue to enhance the experience and enjoyment of the trail. If you see Kate out along the trail, please say hello.

**Other Trail News: Explore new trails and programs in 2021:**

It's not going to be hard for 2021 to be better than last year, and as we head into Michigan's great riding weather there are some excellent and recently completed trails you will want to be sure to explore. From the **Musketawa Trail**, you can now head east on the **Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail** and reach the **Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park**. It is now possible to ride from Cadillac to Grand Rapids to Muskegon to Hart, all on trails, except

for two minor gaps in Muskegon (and at least one of those gaps may be finished this year).



**Northbank Trail extension**

through a beautiful winding and wooded landscape, across the M-231 bridge over the Grand River and flood plain, connecting you to the Idema Explorers Trail.

Another trail worthy of exploring is the **Kal-Haven Trail** with the installation of the Heritage Trail program that now includes an app available for Android phones; Apple users can access the app through a web browser. Search "Kal-Haven Heritage Trail" for more details.

(Info provided and written by **John Morrison, Director, West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition**)

Thanks John for the updates.



**Fred Meijer Pocket Park**

Until now, a user still needed to follow two miles of city streets to reach the FM White Pine Trail at Four Mile Road and West River Drive.



**FM extension construction**

Other trails worthy of exploration are the **North Bank** which now runs from Spring Lake through a beautiful new section connecting to Nunica. In Nunica, jump on the recently completed final section of the **Spoonville Trail** taking you



**Spoonville Trail Bridge**



**John Morrison, enjoying a ride**

**The Trails Connect!**

With the completion of the **Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail**, we now celebrate a trail connection from the **Musketawa** trailhead in Marne all the way to the **Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park** in Walker. True, the west end of the **FM Pioneer Trail** was opened in 2012 and was later extended along Three Mile Road from Walker Avenue



Our new trail link not only gets you off the streets, but also provides a free weather forecast as you pass the WZZM Weatherball located on a tower on the north side of Three Mile. If you do not know the full Weatherball poem, just remember the last line which is "Colors blinking bright, rain or snow in sight"!

When I rode east through the neighborhood recently, there were four or five children out for an adventure on the trail, and it was such a pleasure to yield to the next generation of happy trail users. As I approached West River Drive, I was alerted by a cyclist coming toward me that the road crossing required a zig zag. You cannot ride straight across the street. The island in the middle of the street offers a safe spot to wait for traffic to clear but requires a tight S turn to cross and then only if no one else is already using the island. Following the abandoned railway north, the trail passes under four I-96 bridges and soon reaches Lamoreaux Memorial Park. The park offers parking and connections to the **FM White Pine Trail** and the City of Grand Rapids' **Riverside Trail**.

There is no better time to get out on the trail than today. For the people who have worked since 1996 as **Friends of the Musketawa Trail**, there is nothing more delightful than seeing users fill the trail!



**Article by Gary DeKock, Gary & wife, Linda canoeing Vice President, Friends of the Musketawa Trail**

Thanks Gary, lots of great and useful information for trail users.

In closing, we hope you have enjoyed this Fall/Winter 2020/2021 update on the Musketawa Trail and other local trail happenings. As always, we welcome any comments or questions you may have. We would love to hear about how much you are enjoying the trail. Also, we hope all our friends and trail users continue to enjoy the Musketawa Trail in a safe and responsible way! If you are interested in getting involved, please join us at a board meeting or reach out and email us. We need your help! Many hands make less work and more friends.

Thank you for your continued support and best regards,

**Tim Nink, President  
Friends of the Musketawa Trail**

Thanks Tim for great trail info.

We hope you all can get out and enjoy the trails this summer. 2021 is opening up so stay healthy!

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL 2021 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

**April 1, 2021 Canceled 7:00 p.m.**  
**June 3, 2021 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**August 5, 2021 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**October 7, 2021 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meetings are held at Ravenna Village Hall**  
**12090 Crockery Creek Drive**

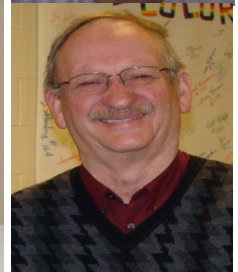
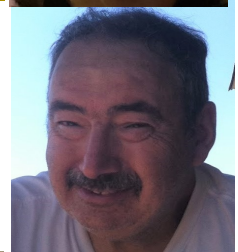
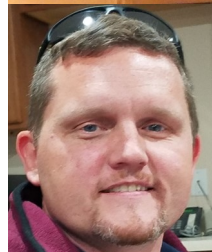
**Friends of the Musketawa Trail is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with donations tax deductible. Thank you for your contributions and enjoy the trail. Your donations can be made via PayPal on the trail web site or mail them in the enclosed envelope to:**

**Friends of the Musketawa Trail**  
**4467 Spruce Ct**  
**Norton Shores, MI 49441**

**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 BOARD MEMBERS

Tim Nink, President	(231) 747-6116
Gary DeKock, Vice President	(616) 791-9490
Diana Holovka, Treasurer	(231) 744-8133
James Smith, Director	(231) 266-3263
Secretary	<b>O P E N</b>
George Czinder, Director	(616) 847-0947
Joann Schmitt, Director	(231) 733-2196
Mark Fritsma, Director	(616) 897-2198
Oscar Reed, Director	(231) 744-5731





**Trail Beginnings**



**Joel Mikkelson, Ed Holovka, Oscar Reed**

**Our volunteers hard at work over the years at various points on the Musketawa Trail.**

**If any of you have any photo's or experiences on the trail and would like to share, please contact one of the board members or mail your photo. We would like to add trail users' insight to our newsletters. Let us know how you use the trail, walking, biking, roller-blading, and wildlife activities you see along the way. Thank you for your interest in the Musketawa Trail.**



**Ed Holovka & Gary Dekock enjoying a few laughs at Meijer Garden WMTG social event.in 2017**



**Marne Trailhead project, George Czinder, Brian Hopwood, James Smith, Tim Nink, and Joel Mikkelson.**

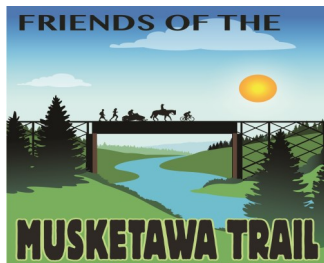


**2019 Trail promotion at Quiet Water Symposium-board member James Smith**



**Tim Nink with his new bicycle.**

**Please visit us on our Face Book page and website:  
[www.Musketawatrail.com](http://www.Musketawatrail.com)**



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