



2019-2020 Fall & Winter
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 25 No. 50



National Recreational Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

Dear Trail Friends:

With the completion of another fall and winter on the Musketawa Trail, we are sad to report of the loss of a dear member and Friend of the Musketawa Trail. Former Friends board president and ex-officio, Edward (Ed) Holovka, passed away in October last Fall (2019). Ed was the Friends of the Musketawa Trail President for 20+ years and loved the Musketawa Trail and trails in general. Ed will



Dec 1931—Oct 2019

be sorely missed for his strong leadership ability, his great passion for the Musketawa Trail and his work (in conjunction with his wife Diana) on the Trail Newsletter.



We hope that everyone is enjoying the early, warm weather and have taken a chance to enjoy the trail. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all of us. We ask that you enjoy the Musketawa (or any trail) responsibly and follow the rules posted and recommended.

Your continued support and use of the Musketawa Trail are very much appreciated. Thank you!

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Musketawa Trail use: It is without a doubt that everyone is affected by the novel coronavirus. Businesses are closed, the school year was cut short and many other changes to our normal life are occurring. We are all pretty-much homebound. Luckily, we are still able to en-

joy the outdoors including our local trails, and this is encouraged. However, we must follow some precautions and rules to do our part and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. With that in mind please keep the following in mind:

- 1) Follow all rules as posted at trail heads and online at: www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus
- 2) Practice social distancing. Maintain a 6-foot distance from other trail users.
- 3) Do not congregate. Trail benches and overlooks are off limits while this pandemic is occurring.
- 4) Practice a “carry-in, carry-out” mentality. Garbage containers along the trail will either be closed or removed while the pandemic is occurring.



Also, please be aware that the Michigan DNR has suspended maintenance activities along the trail during this time. Maintenance such as grass mowing, trail clearing, trash removal, etc., is not authorized and will not be performed. As soon as it is again permitted, please know that our trail managers will be back, hard-at-work, keeping the trail ready for you!

2020 TRAIL PROMOTION: Board president Tim Nink and board member James Smith (along with their significant others) attended the 2020 Quiet Adventure Symposium in Lansing at the MSU Pavilion representing the Friends of the Musketawa Trail. Our display boards (pictured) provided trail information and pictures about the Musketawa Trail and the Friends projects over the years. Our presence reflects



Tim Nink



James Smith

our commitment to promote our group and the Musketawa Trail. We handed out some Musketawa Trail “goodies” along with the remainder of our stock of Musketawa Trail t-shirts. Tim and James reported a fair amount of interest in the table and our group. If you were one of the individuals who



visited our table, thank you for stopping by. Please don't be afraid to attend one of our meetings or to get involved!

Trail Projects 2020: Ravenna Depot

If you have been out and about on the Musketawa Trail last Fall or this year at the Ravenna trail head, you have likely noticed a new addition to the east of the water tower. A replica depot building is taking shape along the trail. The Ravenna Historical Society



in conjunction with the Village of Ravenna and many generous donors (including the Friends of the Musketawa Trail) are responsible for this wonderful project. Current plans include hav-

ing some seating under the entrance awning along with possible “open house” days inside with historical items on display. Currently, there are no plans to have restroom facilities available. We hope you enjoy the new addition to what we feel is the “premier” trail head along the Musketawa Trail.



RAVENNA TRAIL HEAD UPGRADE: The Friends of the Musketawa Trail have plans to add a concrete pad with a handicap access picnic table and bike repair station to the Ravenna trail head location. The pad will be located between the existing picnic tables that we recently upgraded. The repair station will include tools for common bike



repair and a bike pump. We have Michigan DNR approval for this project. We are hoping to get this completed in 2020, pending some project quotes and a release of volunteer/project work following the COVID-19 pandemic. STAY TUNED!



We hope you have enjoyed this update on the Musketawa Trail and local trail happenings. Please feel free to submit your comments, stories or news to us to review. We always like to hear about how much you enjoy the trail and who knows, we might include an excerpt in an upcoming newsletter. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards,
Tim Nink
President, Friends of the Musketawa Trail

Thanks Tim for the newsletter information. If anyone reading our newsletters has anything they would like us to inform trail members and donors, please email or call any of the board members listed. It could be about a great ride you had, a picnic on the trail with family, any sightings of flowers or wildlife, we would like to hear from YOU!!

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
2020 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

Oscar Reed, Director on the Board of the Musketawa Trail provided the following information:

West Shore Snowmobile Council is getting another tractor/groomer (new to us) coming down from Drummond Island. Meanwhile, with our new equipment grant from the DNR, we will be purchasing a brand new grooming drag. Both of these two pieces will be used on the Musketawa Trail this coming winter season.

Jill Sell, our Southwest Michigan Trail Specialist, has suspended all trail-related work due to the "STAY HOME, STAY SAFE" executive order by Governor Whitmer. Also, Paul Yauk of the DNR who signs all of our Grants, has put a spending freeze on all of our Special Maintenance trail projects. This suspension was effective March 30, 2020.

Therefore, there will be no maintenance work by George Czinder nor any Port-a-Jons on the Musketawa Trail until the Executive Order is lifted.

Thank you Oscar for this important info.

New tractor/groomer with drag behind



Front of tractor/groomer

Canceled - April 2, 2020 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
 June 4, 2020 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
 August 6, 2020 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
 October 1, 2020 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
Donna Christensen, Secretary	(616) 531-9683
George Czinder, Director	(616) 847-0947
Joann Schmitt, Director	(231) 733-2196
Mark Fritsma, Director	(616) 897-2198
Oscar Reed, Director	(231) 744-5731

Left to Right





Memories of Ed on the Trail



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



4467 Spruce Ct
Norton Shores MI 49441