



## 2021-2022 FALL & WINTER NEWSLETTER Vol. 26 No. 55

**OPENING:** We, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail, hope this newsletter reaches our readers/supporters with the Spring and Summer of 2022 well underway. COVID-19 has disrupted many things, but outdoor trails usage and activities have “spiked”, and we hope this trend stays elevated.

We continue to see great support for Michigan’s vast network of trails. Our small group of “Friends” continues to do what we can to enhance your experience on the Musketawa Trail.

Thank you for your continued interest, support and use of the Musketawa Trail! We hope that you enjoy the content of this newsletter.

**Friends Board news:** Our small Friends board recently had a couple of additions at our first board meeting of 2022. We would like to officially welcome and introduce Cari Draft and Paul Boucon! Both Cari and Paul attended our last meeting of 2021 and returned with the desire to become board members. Cari even asked about our vacant secretary position and was then nominated and accepted into said role.

Cari Draft is an ACE-certified personal trainer and plant-based nutrition coach. She is on her bicycle daily. Cari created and maintains the “Bike Path Riders: West Michigan” private group on Facebook (search and join), where you’ll find free, organized,



**Cari Draft & Paul Boucon  
new board members**

in-person group rides that you can join throughout the local area. Cari is also the founder of EcoTrek Fitness, a company promoting outdoor fitness since 2006.

Paul Boucon is a lawyer in the Muskegon area. He is a frequent bicycle rider of the Musketawa Trail. Paul seems very passionate about trails.



**National Recreation Trail 2008**



**Millennium Trail 2000**

We are very happy to have both Paul and Cari join us! If you are interested in seeing what our Friends group is about, please feel free to attend any of our upcoming board meetings.

**Trail Projects (2022 and beyond):** Friends of the Musketawa Trail project work started quickly in 2022. Our new board member, Cari Draft, organized a volunteer clean-up of the trail head at Muskegon/ Broadway.

This clean-up work took place on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> on a very pleasant and sunny morning. We had five (5) board members attend along with some other dedicated and hard-working volunteers.



The work included picking up trash around the lot and also raking leaves around the flower box and sign at the entrance to the parking lot. Potting soil and plants/ flowers were added

to the flower box to “spruce up” the entrance. Cari even brought some healthy snacks for everyone. A big “Thank You” to both Cari and all our volunteers who came out for this fun project.



Many of you have likely seen the upgrade project at the Ravenna trail head that was installed in 2021. The Friends group removed the old, wood handicap decking and table next to the park-



ing lot surface. We replaced the old stuff with a new concrete pad, handicap access table and bike repair station.

We are excited to announce that we will be adding bike repair stations to both the Marne and Conklin trail heads. In late 2021, the friends group applied for and was awarded a matching grant from the Michigan DNR. With this matching grant, the Michigan DNR will provide the materials and installation of concrete pads at both sites. The Friends group will purchase and install the bike repair stations once the pads are completed and cured.

Look for both of these additions to be in place before the end of the 2022 riding season!

We are still taking donations for the Ed Holovka memorial fund. We do not have the project plans finalized as of printing of this newsletter. In conjunction with our local contacts with the Michigan DNR, we hope to “roll” the memorial project in with the DNR’s plans to repave/rebuild the Musketawa Trail. The Michigan DNR has tentative plans for repave engineering work in 2022.



As of right now, our plans call for the Ed Holovka memorial to include a covered shelter and table along the trail side at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. We have installed a post at the Muskegon/Broadway intended site. The post includes an info sheet with a short paragraph about Ed and the project.



Our group would also like to include the “final” trail head bike repair station with this memorial project.

Tim & Ron installing Ed Holovka memorial information post at Broadway Trail head.

If you wish to donate to the Ed Holovka memorial, please submit any donation with a notation of your desire for it to be applied to the “Ed Holovka memorial”. Donations can be submitted via standard mail or thru our website ([www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com)) Donations that are “earmarked” for Ed’s memorial will be reserved for this project and not used for any other purpose.

**Stay tuned for updates!**

As of the printing of this newsletter, our new Musketawa Trail map/brochure is out “in the wild”. We employed a graphic artist (Amy Gustin) to help our group with the design work on this project. A nice group of businesses from the area provided sponsorship monies to help support the design and printing of these. You will find those groups in the sponsor area in the new brochure. Please help us in thanking them for their support. We would also like to thank Sheri Nink (our board president’s wife) for some of the nice, new pictures in the brochure (including the cover shot). Also, thank you to Amy Gustin for the awesome update and design work. You can find the new Musketawa Trail brochures at the trail head kiosks and at local bike shops.

**STAY TUNED for updates and new project news.**

**Trail Maintenance News:** With the change in seasons and weather, we would like to provide a small reminder of who handles trail maintenance for the Musketawa Trail. Here are the trail maintenance contacts and their dates of operation.

### **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 616-610-0440  
email: [veltmanhardware@aol.com](mailto:veltmanhardware@aol.com)



**Local Trail Connector News:** As reported in our last newsletter, the Musketawa Trail will finally be connected to the Laketon Trail in Muskegon via separated trail. The City of Muskegon Public Works Department has undertaken work to make that final connection. Work on this project was delayed from Fall of 2021 to early 2022. A ¾ mile asphalt connector is being constructed through the Port City Industrial Park from the current end of the Laketon Trail on Port City Boulevard. It will travel south along Port City Boulevard, east on Latimer Drive and south on Black Creek Road. Space for the separated asphalt trail comes from Black Creek Road getting a road “diet” (narrowing) to allow for space for the separated trail surface. Please see the pictures of the work from April of 2022.



### New connector for Musketawa to Laketon Trail

### FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL 2022 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

April 7, 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
June 2, 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
August 4, 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
October 6, 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at Ravenna Village Hall  
12090 Crockery Creek Drive

Come join us, we appreciate your input and insight

**Closing Statement:** We hope you have enjoyed this Fall/Winter 2021/2022 update on the Musketawa Trail and other local trail news. We welcome any comments or questions you may have. We enjoy hearing from our users and their enjoyment and usage of the Musketawa Trail. As always, please continue to utilize the Musketawa Trail in a safe, responsible and respectful way! Also as a reminder, if you are interested in getting involved, please join us as at an upcoming board meeting or reach out via email.

Thank you for your continued support  
and best regards,

Tim Nink, President  
Friends of the Musketawa Trail

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 projects so you can enjoy a safe ride.

### FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL BOARD MEMBERS

Left to right

President-Tim Nink  
V-President-Gary DeKock  
Secretary-Cari Draft  
Treasurer- Diana Holovka  
Director- James Smith



Director-George Czinder  
Director-Joan Schmidt  
Director-Mark Fritsma  
Director-Oscar Reed  
Director- Paul Boucon



**In Memory of Sharon Davis  
February 1947—May 2022**

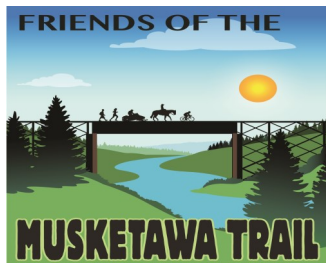
It is with heavy hearts that we report former Friends of the Musketawa Trail board member and secretary, Sharon Davis, passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

Sharon was a long time board member of the Friends group from pretty much the beginning (over 20 years of dedicated volunteer service). Sharon was enthusiastic about the trails and spent lots of time bicycling either alone or with family/friends. Her favorite section to ride of the Musketawa Trail was between 8th Ave. (Marne) and Ravenna. She also biked many other trails throughout the United States, went on a couple of bike trips in Canada and also a bike/barge trip in the Netherlands. She loved to get around on her bike!

Sharon requested that memorial donations go to the Friends of the Musketawa Trail. We genuinely appreciate Sharon's request and any donations made in her name will be held in a special account. Said funds will be used towards a memorial to be decided upon by her husband and family. Please visit our website to make donations electronically or you may mail a check to our physical mailing address on this newsletter. Donations should include "in memory of Sharon Davis" as a notation so that we can apply the funds properly.

Sharon is and will continue to be missed! Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Sharon's husband and family.

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



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