



**2022 -2023 Fall & Winter
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 28 No. 57**



National Recreational Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

OPENING: Spring of 2023 came quickly with early warm weather. We’ve had a little “cool down”, but warmer weather comes and so will an uptick in usage of the Musketawa Trail. We hope this newsletter finds our friends and trail users well and active.

Our project year for 2023 started early. Please enjoy some details of that work in the following paragraphs (and pictures).

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Musketawa Trail! Our Friends group wouldn’t be able to continue without that generous support.

Caboose Open House Days: Our Caboose Open House days will continue in 2023. Our board vice president, Gary DeKock, and his wife Linda put together this idea and hosted a handful of events in 2022.



Attendees will get a chance to go inside the caboose and the replica depot building next to the Ravenna trail head. The first planned Open House is set for Saturday, June 3, 2023. We will also have dates of July 8 and August 5.



Caboose interior, come see for yourself

Open House times for all dates are 9AM to 1PM. Attendance is FREE and no reservation is needed. Come take a peek and enjoy ALL that the Musketawa Trail has to offer!



Trail Projects (2023 and beyond): We have added “Trail Etiquette” (or rules) sheets to all the trailhead kiosks (in Muskegon, Ravenna, Conklin and Marne). Please review this information in regards to usage of the Musketawa Trail. This “Trail Etiquette” document can also be found on our website.

Musketawa Trail work projects started early with work in April. On Friday, April 21, 2023, Friends board president Tim Nink and his wife Sheri built and installed a replacement flower box for the Muskegon/Broadway trail head entrance. The old flower box was damaged beyond repair late last Fall by a vehicle. The flower box is in honor of John and Joyce Austin.



Tim Nink, president, hard at work rebuilding flower box .



Friends of the Musketawa Trail project work continued the next morning (04/22/23) with a Spring “clean-up” day in Muskegon. Our board secretary, Cari Draft, organized Friends volunteers for the work which also corresponded to National Trails Day. Board members Cari Draft, George Czinder, Tim Nink and non-board member Sheri Nink worked to clean-up trash and rake leaves to beautify the trail

head. They also planted flowers in the newly rebuilt flower box at the parking lot entrance. The Michigan DNR will come out to remove the trash and also to



Completed flower box with freshly planted flowers

replace the stop sign lost late last Fall.

The next day, Sunday, April 23, work was finalized on the Sharon Davis Memorial. Family members brought out a metal arts bike rack to the Conklin trail head. Friends board president,



Sharon Davis family & memorial

We are very happy to get this project completed. A special "Thank you" goes out to Sheri Nink for taking pictures for this event and during the busy project weekend.



At our last Friends board meeting, we discussed the topic of the Ed Holovka Memorial project. It was decided to pursue a covered shelter for the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. This location was Ed's adopted project area. He planted trees, flowers and did occasional clean-up work. The project will include the shelter, concrete pad, picnic table and the last bike repair station. Costs will exceed \$20K, so we will need to do further fundraising to cover the costs. Anyone who wants to help



Before cleanup



After cleanup



Tim Nink, installed the bike rack with assistance from Sharon's family. The parking lot at Conklin was full from the attendance of family members and friends including Sharon's husband, son, brother and sister, grandkids and friends.

with this project may send a donation via U.S. mail or via our website: www.musketawatrail.com



Ed Holovka at the Broadway Trail-head

Please note that your donation is for the "Ed Holovka Memorial" in the comments or on the check. If anyone is curious as to the location of this project, there is a 4 x 4 post in the ground next to the trail at the Broadway trail head. The location is just after the trail access path meets the normal trail surface.



E. Holovka memorial post marker

Trail Maintenance News: We continue to receive contact from trail users about the trail surface conditions of the Musketawa Trail. The section between Conklin and Marne has some rough patches including cracks, holes and failing asphalt. Both the Michigan DNR and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation are aware of the surface conditions. Ottawa County Parks is well prepared for 2023 with materials to fill holes and cracks as they appear. Ottawa County Parks also has caution signs (between Conklin and Marne) along the trail and at the kiosks to inform trail users of the conditions. We thank them for their strong efforts to work with trail surfaces that are 24 years old. Trail users, please take extra special care and be vigilant as you utilize the trail. Proceed with caution in the rough areas. The Michigan DNR is in the process of planning work for resurfacing of the entire 25-mile length of the Musketawa Trail. Plans are not final yet. The Michigan DNR has until the end of December of 2024 to have an agreement with a contractor in place to keep a large portion of grant funds for the repavement project. We would expect the actual construction work to happen in 2025 or 2026. The Friends group does not own the Musketawa Trail. It is owned by the Michigan DNR/State of Michigan.

Closing Statement: We hope you have enjoyed this Fall 2022/Winter 2023 update with regards to happenings on and with the Musketawa Trail. As always, please feel free to share any comments or questions that you may have. These can be shared via our website or standard mail. Also, please continue to use the Musketawa Trail in a safe, responsible, and respectful way!

Lastly as a reminder, the public is always free to join us at any upcoming Friends board meetings (see dates listed) or to reach out via email (use the "Contact Us" area on our website).

Thank you for your continued support
Best Regards

Tim Nink, President
Friends of the Musketawa Trail

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

April 1st – November 30th

Ottawa County:

Kate Alvarez
Phone: 616-610-0440,
Email: kalvarez@miottawa.org

Muskegon County:

Gregory Sherburn
Phone: 231-744-3480,
Email: sherburng@michigan.gov

December 1st-March 31st

Ottawa & Muskegon Counties:

Steve Veltman
Phone: 231-861-2442
Email: veltmanhardware@aol.com

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 our website:
www.Musketawatrail.com

Thanks to all of our donors, your donations have helped make the trail what it is today.

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
2023 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

April 6, 2023 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
June 1, 2023 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
August 3, 2023 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
October 5, 2023 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

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.



Examples of trail maintenance & enhancement projects

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





Sharon Davis



**Sharon Davis Memorial
Bicycle rack**



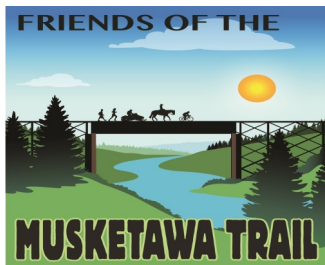
**Memories of Ed at the Marne
Trailhead with Gary DeKock**



**Broadway Trailhead
cleanup organized by
our secretary Cari
Draft.**



**Gary DeKock & wife Linda manning the
table for Caboose Open House Days.
Stop by on the designated dates noted
on page one (1).**



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