



**2022 SPRING & SUMMER
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 27 No. 56**



National Recreational Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

OPENING: Fall of 2022 is upon us and the warmer weather Musketawa Trail usage is fading fast. We hope our trail users and Friends have had an enjoyable year on the trail.

Our project year has been busy and very productive for 2022. Please enjoy some details of that work in the following paragraphs (and pictures).

Thank you for your continued interest, support, and use of the Musketawa Trail! We truly cannot continue our volunteer work without it.

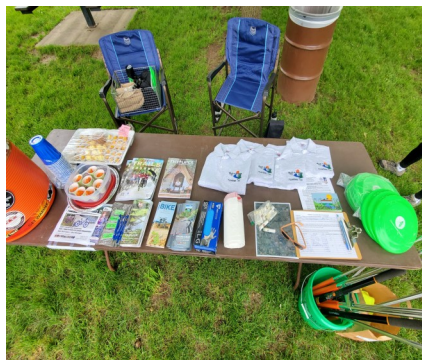
Caboose Open House Days: Many of you have probably seen the railroad caboose located next to the trail head in Ravenna. It is a grand addition to the Musketawa Trail and provides a “look back” at bygone history. Our



board vice president, Gary DeKock, had a gestating idea of having “Open House” times for this caboose. This idea became reality this summer as Gary and his wife

Linda planned and held not one, not two, but four open house events (June 25, July 23, August 27 & September 10). Gary and Linda were joined by many enthusiastic and curious caboose visitors. They also greeted trail users as they passed by. We thank them both for their time and efforts in this endeavor!

Trail Projects (2022 and beyond) Friends of the Musketawa Trail project work continued strong after a Spring



Welcome Table for cleanup day

“clean-up” day in Muskegon. Our board secretary, Cari Draft, organized Friends volunteers for a trail clean-up day taking place on National Trails Day (6/4/22). Cari worked in conjunction with members of Ottawa County Parks and Recrea-



Cari & Gary and Linda DeKock

tion to work on sections of the trail between Conklin and Marne. Volunteer tasks included (but were not limited to) litter removal and trail trimming work. We want to thank Cari and all the volunteers that added their talents and hard work on this project.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail applied for and won a matching grant with the Michigan DNR. The project entailed installing concrete pads and bike repair stations for the Marne and Conklin



Marne



Conklin

trail head locations. The Michigan DNR provided the labor and materials for the concrete pads. The Friends

group purchased the bike repair stations and labor for their installation. Both additions are now in place. We hope our users are finding them useful. A unit for Muskegon is planned for install with the Ed Holovka memorial in the near future. If you



Ed



Ed Memorial post site

you still wish to donate to the Ed Holovka memorial fund, please submit any donation with a notation of your desire for it to be applied to the “Ed Holovka memorial.” Donations may be submitted via our website (www.musketawatrail.com) or via standard mail. Please see our last newsletter for more details on our tentative plans for the memorial.



The memorial for former board secretary, Sharon Davis is well underway. As reported last newsletter, Sharon passed away in May of this year. Sharon was a frequent bicycle rider, strong trails advocate, enthusiastic board member and good friend. Sharon's husband and family had some good ideas for a memorial. As

the Conklin trail head does not have a metal arts bike rack like the other trail head locations, the family wanted to add a metal arts bike rack to this location. Fabrication and painting of the bike rack is now complete. The Friends are in the process of getting plans together for the concrete pad to mount the bike rack to. Look forward to this addition late Fall 2022 or early in 2023.



Trail users going by the Ravenna trail head may have noticed that the railroad crossing arm that used to be



over parking lot entrance has been relocated. Board president, Tim Nink and board members James

Smith and George Czinder visited Ravenna one late summer evening and moved the crossing arm a few feet to the northeast. There was some concern that our users, especially bike riders, might hit their head on the arm. "Thank you" goes out to Sheri Nink for graciously taking pictures during the move.

STAY TUNED for more updates and new project news!

Trail Maintenance News: We have been receiving increasing 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. We want users to know that both the Michigan DNR and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation are aware of the surface conditions. Ottawa County Parks team members have been doing their best to mark/highlight and repair / fill the cracks and holes as best they can. Year 2022 has seen a sharp "uptick" in the

amount of time they spend addressing these issues. Ottawa County Parks also added caution signs (between Conklin and Marne) to the trail and 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. To our trail users, please take care and be vigilant as you utilize the trail. Proceed with caution in the rough areas. Regarding this topic and on a brighter note, 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 in place yet, but we estimate the work will take place in the next 2-3 years. As you may or may not know, the Friends group does not own the trail. The Michigan DNR/State of Michigan owns the Musketawa Trail and the associated property.

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

April 1st – November 30th

Ottawa County:

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

Muskegon County:

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

December 1st-March 31st

Ottawa & Muskegon Counties:

Steve Veltman 616-610-0440
email: veltmanhardware@aol.com

Local Trail News: The City of Muskegon Public Works Department completed the connector trail between the Musketawa Trail (Muskegon, West end) and the Laketon Trail. A road "diet" allowed for a separated trail surface to be installed. In the future, there are tentative plans to connect the Laketon Trail to the Muskegon Lakeshore Trail. Currently you can get between the two (2) trails via a street connector route.

The City of Norton Shores has announced plans to add a paved trail between Lake Harbor Park and PJ Hoffmaster State Park next to and along Lake Harbor Road in Muskegon County. The 3-mile-long trail is in the preliminary stages of development with an engineering consultant still to be selected. The currently proposed trail looks to be installed on the west side of Lake Harbor Road with an 8-foot wide trail surface.

Closing Statement: We hope you have enjoyed this Spring/Summer 2022 update on the Musketawa Trail and other local trail news and happenings. Please feel free to share any comments or questions that you may have. These can be shared via our website or standard mail. We genuinely enjoy hearing from our fellow Musketawa Trail users. As always, please continue to utilize the Musketawa Trail in a safe, responsible, and respectful way! Lastly, if you have an interest in doing more than just using the trail, and want to get involved, please join us at an upcoming board meeting or reach out via email.

Thank you for your continued support
Best Regards

Tim Nink, President
Friends of the Musketawa Trail



**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
2022 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.

We would like to add trail users' insight to our newsletters. Let us know how you use the trail, walking, biking, rollerblading, 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 BOARD MEMBERS

Left to right

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

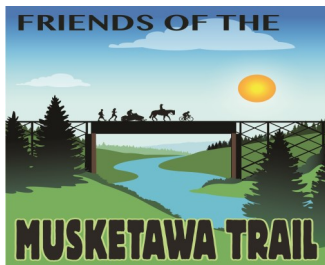


Director-George Czinder
Director-Joan Schmidt
Director-Mark Fritsma
Director-Oscar Reed
Director-Paul Boucon





Left to right: Caboose Days with Gary & Linda DeKock hosting the event
 Ravenna trailhead passing the water tower and depot
Center: Close up view of bike repair station at Conklin
Left to right: Caboose with new location of the railroad arm
 Char Kluting, sister of the late Sharon Davis, participating in trail clean-up



4467 Spruce Ct
 Norton Shores MI 49441