



# Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall 2016

Newsletter #54

## 3rd Annual OTET Adventure Ride a Success



Twenty-six bicycle riders took part in the third annual OTET Great Bike Adventure the week of September 10 by riding from the Ohio River in Cincinnati to Lake Erie in Cleveland. The 300+ mile ride spanned six days and five nights, with the shortest day at 40 miles and the longest 71.

Ranging from their mid-thirties to 79 years old, riders came from Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and

Washington. The average age of the participants was 62. Three riders had taken part in the 2015 ride as well.

The nineteen men and seven women were assisted by a volunteer staff of five including OTETF Board members Tom Moffitt and Mike Groeber, Sandy Sanders of Hamilton, Ohio and Ron Overly and Bob Niedenthal of Oxford, Ohio. Mike Groeber was the group's bike mechanic. The OTET Adventure Ride was a fund raiser for OTET. A portion of the registration fees were a donation. Approximately \$8,000 was raised from the event.

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For info about the 4th Annual Ride, see page 2.



## Apple Creek Now on OTET Route

This past summer the OTET route was changed in Wayne County to include the Village of Apple Creek between Fredericksburg and Dalton. The new route eliminates several hills and places travelers on safer country roads. Bicycle 1 OTET signs are up and travelers passing through Apple Creek are enjoying Amish bakery goods in this small Ohio town with a bank, laundromat, grocer, deli and the park shelter. The new OTET Tour Guide includes the modified 8-mile route.



[www.ohioerietrail.org](http://www.ohioerietrail.org)



[facebook.com/OhioErie](https://facebook.com/OhioErie)

## Trip Brings History to OTET Ride



first paved trails in Illinois and in Newark, Ohio in the 1980s. Tripp served on the OTET board during most of the 1990s through 2006. She has been an OTET Advisory Board member from 2009 to present.

Ohio cycling history traveled with the 30 riders of the 2016 OTET ride in the form of Ellen Tripp, founding OTET board member who has remained on the board through the last 3 decades in various roles.

"I came to trails as an advocate for the greenways", said Tripp, a former runner who got into cycling once she began riding on some of the

She trained for the 6-day annual OTET ride by riding 1-2x per week, starting with 20 miles and working her way up to 60 miles. "It's surprising that I never felt sore the next morning." She serves as an inspiration for many of us, both in her advocacy for the greenways in Ohio, and for remaining an active cyclist in her 7th decade!

## NEW OTET Trail Guides Pre-Orders Available

Pre-orders for the all new OTET Tour Guide are available at [www.OhioErieTrail.com](http://www.OhioErieTrail.com) for \$15 and will be mailed out February 1, 2017. The new guides contain updated maps of the OTET/Ohio Route 1 and are filled with helpful information about lodging, food, parking, restrooms and much more. Become a Friend of OTET and save \$5 on your pre-order!



*A sneak peek at the 2017 OTET Trail Guides*



## Annual OTET Ride Registration Opens In December

The 4th Ohio to Erie Trail Annual Adventure Ride will be held September 9-15, 2017. The 2017 Cincinnati to Cleveland ride will be six nights, seven days. Early registrants (before February 1, 2017) will be asked to donate \$500. The ride is fully supported with a luggage truck, SAG cars and an outstanding bike mechanic.

Participants pay for lodging and food costs, but significant reduction in hotel rates have been pre-

arranged for OTET riders. The ride is rated intermediate, however since the majority of the 300+ miles are on flat paved trail, this is a first-time rider's dream. Transportation back to Columbus and Cincinnati is available for a small fee. 2016 riders rated their experience as "excellent" and said, "we'll tell our friends this is a must do adventure!" Space is limited to 40 participants so watch for sign-up as of December 1 on the OTET web site.

## Becoming a Friend of the Trail

A new program, Friends of the Trail, is being offered to those supporters who want to be rewarded for their support. When you become a friend of the trail through our website (look under Donate), you'll be offered exclusive discounts throughout the year. Currently, Friends of the Trail can pre-order the new 2017 Trail Guide for a \$5 discount and receive a small and large



OTET sticker for free. The Friends program has several different giving levels, ranging from \$25 to \$1,000.



## Ripper Gets to the Root of the Problem



Those buckling bumps and cracks caused by tree roots growing under trails may become a thing of the past, thanks to Friends of the Madison County Prairie Trail (FMCPT), who created the Root Ripper, a machine that stops the roots alongside trails before they have a chance to cause issues.

The "Root Ripper" was designed and built by Jerry Miller and Danny Holt, members of Friends of the Madison County Prairie Trail (FMCPT). The original implement was a donated Howard V Chistle subsoiler unit, and had a trio of cutter blades. Jerry and Danny modified it to have only one blade offset to the right so that the tractor pulling the

unit could remain on the paved trail.

The ripper cuts roots at a depth of about 12 inches deep, and runs at a speed of about 3 mph. It was used by FMCPT in spring of 2015. Last December, in a true example of trail collaboration, Friends of the Little Miami State Park (FLMSP) borrowed the Root Ripper and put it to the test.

The conditions of the Little Miami Trail were much tougher than what the ripper had encountered on the Madison County Prairie Trail. Built on a pre-Civil War abandoned railroad right-of-way, the trail's ground was full of densely packed, 150+ year-old ballast stones.

The tougher conditions encountered last winter prompted Jerry to devise

an elegant system for mounting weights off the cutter's frame to ensure the unit's blade cut consistently 12 inches deep, resulting in a more robust ripper.

George Stockham, member of FLMSP and one of the leaders of the volunteer crew that operated the ripper last winter noted that anyone comfortable pulling equipment on a small tractor can operate the ripper.

Maintenance crews are hopeful that the ripper's schedule will be about every 5 years, but this remains to be seen. Pavement issues will be monitored carefully for the next few years, as the Root Ripper awaits its next opportunity to make the trails bump and buckle-free!

## A Tale of Two Bridges

Two recently completed sections of the trail with bridges were completed just a few weeks prior to this publication. The Heart of Ohio Trail added

a bridge crossing State Route 36 at Lytle Road. The 182 foot bridge was transported in three sections and it took a whole day to install on site by

crews with two large cranes. It has a carrying capacity of 30,000 pounds.

This new section brings the HOOT trail to 16.64 miles.

The recently completed Galena Brick Trail, running between Dustin Road and Holmes Street, covers a distance of 1/2 mile on the old Penn Central Railroad bed. It offers scenic views as it passes over Little Walnut Creek for 145 feet over a historic railroad bridge. The trail also features an observation deck built on the



*The Galena Brick Trail Bridge*

old railroad water tower base, offering a peaceful, wooded picnic location overlooking the Hoover Nature Preserve.



*A new bridge on the HOOT, south of Centerburg, Knox County*



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**Address Changes:**

E-mail changes to: ohioerietrail@gmail.com

Telephone Number changes to: 614-918-3636

**OTET Becomes a Destination for Many**

This past summer, travelers from near and far came to experience all of what OTET and its neighboring communities offer. Thousands of people not only biked, hiked, ran, walked, and skated on OTET's 300+ miles, but they also discovered the best of Ohio through lodging, dining, and visiting the many attractions along the trail. "Where can we camp?" was one of the most common questions. "Where can we park along the trail?" was another. The hospitality of Ohio shined at its finest, welcoming



visitors from Australia, Canada, and 35 states, including the District of Columbia, Washington, New York, Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Colorado, and New Jersey. Board member Mary Plumley helped coordinate a new webpage, "Destinations." This page links to local Convention and Visitor's Bureaus sites, making it easier for visitors to plan their trip. Check it out at [www.ohioerietrail.org/cvb-page/](http://www.ohioerietrail.org/cvb-page/).



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