



Ohio to Erie Trail

Spring 2017

Newsletter #55

OTETF Support For Closing the Gap in Madison County

The Ohio to Erie Trail Board recently donated \$7,800 towards the construction of approximately 1,600 feet of trail surface on the east side of London. Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails Board earmarked \$20,000 for the project and individual donors have donated another \$1,300 so far. The total cost for this section from Maple Street to Walnut Street will be about \$78,000. Supporting the completion of the trail is a major goal of the OTETF Board.



The Madison County Commissioners purchased the land to start filling in the OTET gap in London. The previous land owner, Kelley Manns, generously donated about 20% of the property for the trail

corridor. The Commissioners applied for a Clean Ohio grant to help reimburse part of the remaining costs. FMCPT paid the property survey, appraisal, and closing costs.

Volunteers have cleared the corridor of brush and trees, and with the help of the County Engineer's crew, the brush has been chipped. They also hauled away the firewood and the corridor is ready for a bulldozer to clear the tree stumps and prepare the trail foundation.

FMCPT continues to contact businesses and individual in Madison County to give them an opportunity to be a part of this effort. If you would like to help fill this gap in the Ohio to Erie Trail, you can do so online at www.fmcpt.com, or send a check to: FMCPT, P.O. Box 308, London, Ohio 43140.



www.ohioerietrail.org



facebook.com/OhioErie

Galena Progress Supported by OTETF

The group in the photo below met on a blustery day last November to commemorate the opening of the newest sections of trail in the Village of Galena. Already, the Village is ready to make even more progress as plans for 1,775 additional linear feet of pavement is being planned for in a project partnership between the Village of

Galena and Delaware County, the Ohio to Erie Trail, and Delaware County Friends of the Trail, in their submission for a ODNR grant.

Trail visitors will find several miles of newly finished trail in this area. Galena offers the perfect day trip from Columbus with its restaurants and scenic Hoover Reservoir!



#OH2ERIE

This string of characters is the official Ohio to Erie tag used for social media posts. Keep your eyes peeled for a campaign announced on Facebook that will reward the best photo posted tagged with #OH2ERIE. The winner will win an official OTETF jersey, valued at \$100!



New OTETF Trail Guides Available

The all new OTETF Tour Guides are available at www.OhiotoErieTrail.com for \$15. The new guides contain updated maps of the OTETF/Ohio Route 1 and are filled with helpful information about lodging, food, parking, restrooms and much more. Become a Friend of OTETF and save \$5 on your order!



2017 OTETF Trail Guides

Becoming a Friend of the Trail

A new program, Friends of the Trail, is being offered to those supporters who want to be rewarded and recognized 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 OTETF sticker for free. The Friends program has several different giving levels, ranging from \$25 to \$1,000. For more information, go to our website.



OTETF Board from 2002

Writer Needed for the OTETF History Book

The OTETF Board is seeking an individual interested in writing a short book on the history of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund, created in 1991 by Ed Honton of Columbus, Ohio. The work will require interviewing past and present Board members, searching the files of the organization, reviewing minutes as well as photos and maps to

develop a chronological historical story about the 26 year-old organization and our success in creating the longest recreational trail in the state from Cincinnati to Cleveland. We imagine that the project will take about a year. Experience in publishing is preferred. Contact Lisa Daris, OTETF Coordinator at ohiotoerietrail@gmail.com



Thank you to our Friends of the Trail!

Individual

Janis Comstock-Jones
James Dunham
Jeff Fenter
Andrea Jensen
Andy Johnson
Jeff Kloss
Kenneth Kramer
Elijah Lamp
Beth Morrow
Lesley Page
Tristan Stewart
Doug Shope
Elaine Stien
Rick Weber
Stephen Weiss
David Westman
Richard Wilson

Family

Joyce Dupont Family
Jody Dzurandin Family
Phil Grimm
Rick Groth Family
The Dwight Kline Family
William & Doris Knuth Family
Kathleen Lannan Family
Scott Moffitt Family
Lee Tracy Family

Sustaining

Gaybrielle Gordon
Chuck Kutchera
Kim Powers
Michael Wallace





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Address Changes:

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Telephone Number changes to: 614-918-3636

Cincinnati Honors Honton Through New Sign

Visitors to Cincinnati's Smale Park on the Riverfront will soon enjoy this historical sign, designed by Bob Niedenthal of Oxford, Ohio. The sign will be located next to the famous Roebling Suspension Bridge on Mehring Way which is at the southern terminus of the OTET. The sign tells the story of Ed Honton, founder, gives the 22



regional trails that are connected, and shows a map of all the cities and villages the OTET touches as it crosses Ohio. OTET donors supported the construction and installation of the \$3,000 sign project that includes a way-finding sign next to it. Another way-finding sign will soon be supplied by the OTETF and installed by the Village of Apple Creek.



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Annual OTET Ride Sept. 9–15 Now Open for Registration



The seven-day, six-night 2017 Ohio to Erie Trail bicycle ride from Cincinnati to Cleveland is open for reservations on our web site at www.OhioToErieTrail.org. Only 40 lucky riders will be joining us on this great adventure!

Daily mileage ranges from 40 to 67 with nightly stays in Xenia, Columbus, Mt. Vernon, Millersburg, Massillon and Akron. The entire 320 miles is fully supported with a luggage/bike vehicle, mechanic and OTET staffers. There is a cost range depending on when you register. Individuals will be responsible for making their own motel/hotel registrations at lodging facilities where OTET has reserved rooms at special rates and paying for their own food.

A unique aspect of the OTET Ride is that individuals DONATE to ride.

After the ride, the cost to produce the ride per individual is then subtracted from the amount donated. Every rider then gets a letter stating how much of their ride donation was without services or goods. Riders in 2016 actually ended up donating about half of their ride cost to the OTET and were sent acknowledgements for tax purposes.

By September, several older sections of the OTET will be paved and the route will utilize the beautiful former train route in the section spanning from the Bridge of Dreams to Glenmont in Holmes County. Some days, the distance traveled will be shorter than others, allowing for

bikers to either take a more leisurely ride, explore other trails or spend time at sites along the way. Trail surfaces are fine for road bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes. The OTET ride is considered a beginner to intermediate level



adventure. While 90% of the trail is essentially flat, there are some hills along the way but none that are too long to just enjoy walking. Participants only need to carry what they

will need for the day. Weather in September in Ohio is typically dry with temps ranging from morning lows of 45-55 to afternoons of 70-80... perfect for bike travel.

Starting in downtown Cincinnati at Smale Park on the Ohio River, participants will depart for Xenia (67 miles) and stay at the Ramada Inn. Day 2 finds the group going to Columbus (60) for a night in the center of town at the Red Roof Inn. Day three we cross through Columbus to the Alum Creek Trail and end up 50 miles later in Mt. Vernon at the Grand Hotel just three blocks from the OTET. On day 4 we head for

Amish Country to historic Millersburg (48) and the Comfort Inn. Day 5 we travel on to Massillon (40) and stay at the Hampton Inn. Day 6 is a short day but very exciting! We leave



Massillon via the Ohio & Erie Canal Path and wind our way north to Akron through some of the most beautiful land in the state. This is a very leisure day and allows us

to stop and visit all along the Canal Path including our trail partner bike shop, Ernie's just north of Massillon, then on to Canal Fulton which is right on the canal way. We end our day about 35 miles later in Akron and we stay on the north side at the beautiful Akron Marriott Courtyard just a football field from the Trail head! We are within walking distance of downtown Akron.

Day 7 is also so special. After breakfast we start the trek downhill on the tow path and into the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is the ONLY National Park in

Ohio and our participants will ride from one end to the other visiting canal displays and museum centers and shops. Truly, the only way to see Cuyahoga National Park. We arrive in Cleveland and follow the signs for about 6 miles to Lake Erie at Edgewater Park where we gather to change clothes and eat a late lunch at the yacht club next to the park.

Bikes and luggage are transported back to Columbus or Cleveland using our support truck and those who wish to be transported back to either city ride in our support vehicles or passenger vans we rent in Cleveland. We arrive home in Cincinnati between 8 and 9 p.m. on that Friday

evening, September 15 after a stop in Columbus just off I-71.

There is room for only 19 participants left at this time on a first-come, first-serve basis for this fundraising event. The cost is \$600 by June 1 plus transportation fee back to Columbus or Cincinnati of \$60. After June 1, if there is space, the cost is \$650. Cancellation fees are donations of \$100 until July 1. After July 1 the refund is a \$150 donation from the donation made.

To join us in the adventure, go to the web site at www.OhioToErieTrail.org. For more information contact Tom at MoffittOTET@gmail.com.

See you on the Ohio Adventure!

A special thanks to the **Westerville Bike Club** and **Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carter** of Harrisburg, PA for their generous donations during the past few months. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carter's donation was in memory of Ed Honton, the founder of OTET, and in honor of his wife, Melodee Kornacker and Ellen Tripp. Both women have served on the board of OTET through the years and supported the organization.

Additionally, OTET received many generous donations in honor of **David Pulliam**, an avid trail rider and supporter who passed away in February. Our sincere condolences go out to his friends and family.

Your donations are important to the progress of the trail. Each and every penny counts and is typically put towards matching funds for grants that our trail partners secure.

