



Photo Credit: Adam Cairns

# Ohio to Erie Trail

Spring 2018

Newsletter #57

## More Trail Miles and Amenities for OTET

**Knox County** will be repaving from Bridge of Dreams to the Holmes County Line. The parking lot area will also be improved to make it ADA compliant handicap vehicle/van accessible. Three new way-marking signs have been added along the HOOT (Heart of Ohio Trail) segment.

The City of Columbus opened the new Wilson Road Park trailhead last year along the **Camp Chase** segment in Franklin County. The trailhead, shown below, includes shelter, drinking water, a tool kiosk, and restrooms.



The Wilson Road Park trailhead

The trail connector along Camp Chase between Sullivan Ave and Georgesville Road is currently under construction and expected to be finished in the next few months. This will eliminate the one mile roadway along Industrial Mile Rd.

Additionally, the new Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park connector in **Franklin County** is expected to be finished by Fall of 2018. Metro Parks will extend and pave the Indian Ridge Trail within the park which replaces the segment where bicyclists currently ride on the park road.

**Rails to Trails of Wayne County and City of Orville** has received \$500,000 of Clean Ohio Trail funding to build a 2.4 mile trail between Orville and Marshallville. OTETF has pledged \$15,000 towards this new section which, once connected, will become part of the OTET. Funding is still needed for last 673 yards (at \$260 per yard) of the project.

**Glenmont's** trailhead will be complete with a shelter, picnic tables and restrooms this year. The OTETF board recently approved a new waymarking sign at this location.

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



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

## Cycle in Style

The official OTET t-shirt has arrived. The shirt is 4.3 oz. 60% combed ring-spun cotton/40% polyester and fits true to size. To order: [www.ohioerietrailshop.com](http://www.ohioerietrailshop.com).



Don't forget about our jerseys and stickers available in the shop too! [www.ohioerietrail.org/shop](http://www.ohioerietrail.org/shop).



## Adventure Ride Update

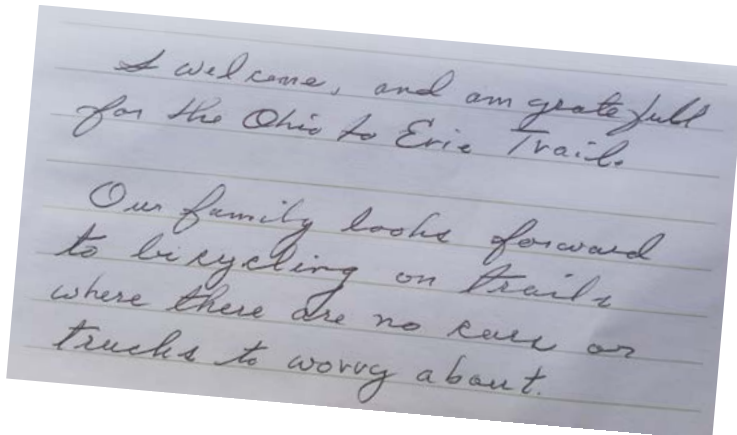
As of March 1, the 2018 Adventure Ride has sold out. To be placed on the waiting list, contact [ohioerietrail@gmail.com](mailto:ohioerietrail@gmail.com)



Riders of the 2017 Adventure Ride at Sunbury's Johnny Appleseed statue

## Fan Mail

We love hearing from fans of the trail! Here are some nice notes we received in the past few months.



## New Mileage Marker Signs



The OTETF Board approved the expenditure of \$8,000 to add five new marking signs

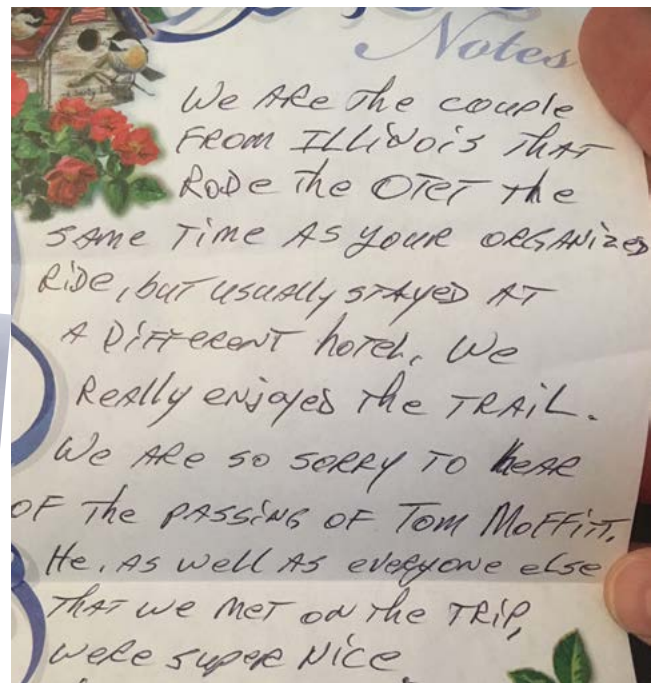
at strategic points along Route 1. New signs will go up in Galena at the end of the Galena Brick Trail in the parking lot; three signs along the Heart of Ohio Trail in Knox County including Centerburg and Mount Vernon; and one sign in Avoca Park of Great Parks of Hamilton County. All five signs will be installed before spring.

## New OTET Trail Guides Available

The newly redesigned OTET Tour Guides, with complete mileage charts, are available for your planning, available at [www.OhioErieTrail.com](http://www.OhioErieTrail.com) for just \$15. Become a Friend of the OTET and save \$5 on your Tour Guide order.



In 2018, guides have been mailed to 24 states.



## More Trail Miles (con't from page 1)

The **Licking County** Area Transportation Study (LCATS) has secured funding through a District 17 NRAC (Natural Resources Assistance Council) to make public access improvements, including parking.

**Village of Galena** was awarded \$130,000 through a Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant to build a segment of trail on the north side of the village from Miller Park to the Heathermere Subdivision.

**Great Parks of Hamilton County** has received \$4.3 million in federal funding through a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant to build the bridge that connects the southern terminus of The OTET to Lunken Trail. They will begin construction in 2019 with an anticipated opening in 2021.

**Preservation Parks of Delaware County** will pave the trail section between Cherry and Walnut Streets and the Sandel Legacy Trail in Sunbury. Paving will be completed by fall 2018.

**Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails** will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony in London on Opening Day of the Trails, April 7 for a recently finished segment of the trail at Maple Street (near SR 665).

## THE 326 CLUB

The 326 Club includes more than 100 people that have cycled, hiked, or otherwise traveled the entire length of the Ohio to Erie Trail in a single trip since 2016. If you qualify for the 326 Club, please let us know and we'll add your name and home state to the webpage. Meet two 326 members below!



**Name:** Andy Niekamp, aka "Captain Blue"

**Age at time of trip:** 52

**Trail Experience:** 2013 South to North in 20 days. Along the way, I camped along the trail, camped in city parks and stayed with friends.

**Month of Trip:** April

**Focus:** My passion is long distance hiking. I've backpacked over 14,000 miles including the entire Appalachian Trail end-to-end four times.

**Hiking Boots:** Merrell Moab trail running shoe (low cut, breathable)

**Occupation:** Author, presenter, adventurer and backpacking instructor. Retired from a career in Information Technology

**Read about Andy's Trip:** "Captain Blue on the Blue Blazes - The First Solo Thru-Hike of Ohio's 1,444 Mile Buckeye Trail" at [www.buckeyetrailhiker.com](http://www.buckeyetrailhiker.com).

**Cuyahoga County** has multiple projects in the works that will take roadway miles off the trail in the downtown Cleveland area. Stay



**Name:** Mark Looney

**Age at time of trip:** 56

**Trail Experience:** 2014 North to South and 2017 South to North.

**Month of Trip:** 2014: May, 2017: September

**Focus:** To return to my first love of distance cycling after a 35-year competitive running career and a known degenerative arthritis in the hips. I also enjoy adventure and outdoors.

**Bike:** Trek 520 steel frame

**Occupation:** Director of Quality United Technologies Aerospace Landing Gear Division

**Read about Mark's Trip:**

Read about adventure travel first hand as a soloist and recently in the OTET Fund ride with 35 other like minded travelers via "A Path Through Ohio" available on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/2IUL-Plh>.

tuned for how these projects will affect the OTET route and its northern terminus location!



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Post your photos with this hashtag and you might see your photo shared on our site or in our newsletter!



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