



Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall 2017

Newsletter #56

Progress Planned on the OTET



(l-r) OTET Executive Coordinator Lisa Daris; Brian Boldman, Executive VP of Stanley Electric US, Mike Michaels, President of Friends of Madison County Parks and Trail (FMCPT); Bill Dean, State Representative, District 74; Patrick Closser, Mayor of City of London; Madison County; Bob Hacket, State Senator, District 10, and Bryan Dhume, Madison County Engineer *(Photo credit: Michael Williamson of the Madison Press)*

Madison County - Groundbreaking for a new section of the trail between Maple and Walnut Streets in London took place on September 7, 2017.

OTETF has pledged \$7,800 (10%) of the construction costs for this segment in London, scheduled to be completed in 2018.

To help fill this gap in the Ohio to Erie Trail, contribute online at www.fmcpt.com, or send a check to: FMCPT, P.O. Box 308, London, Ohio 43140.

At the time of publication, an ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant for this segment is pending.

The Village of Galena has applied for Clean Ohio Trails funding (approval pending at the time of publication) to continue construction of the trail on the north side of Galena (Phase 2), starting at Holmes St. OTETF has pledged \$13,500 for this 1,775 linear feet of paved multi-use trail.

The Orrville Heartland Trail has applied for Clean Ohio Trail funding (approval pending at the time of publication) to build a 2.4 mile trail between Orrville and Marshallville. OTETF has pledged \$15,000 towards this new section which, once connected, will become part of the OTET.



www.ohioerietrail.org



facebook.com/OhioToErie

A Celebration in Glenmont

Thanks to the years of hard work by OTETF Board Member Tom Alexander of Glenmont and the Holmes County Trail Board, the 7 mile segment at the southern end of the

Holmes County Trail was opened the first of this September just in

time for the 2017 OTETF Annual Adventure Cyclists to experience this beautiful part of Route 1. Cyclists and hikers are enjoying

the easy 2% grade to the top of Baddow Pass and then the descent down another 3.5 miles into Glenmont as you head south to north. A welcoming trail head



is under construction and will include a shelter, picnic tables and restroom facilities. Glenmont has a grocery store and a restaurant.



#OH2ERIE

Congratulations to Joshua Godby, the winner of the #OH2ERIE image contest. The image shown above shows Josh during his 9-day trip as he raised awareness and funds for



Autism Speaks. It received the most likes on the social media channels, winning Josh an official OTETF jersey. A very deserving winner!

New Mileage Marker Signs



The OTETF Board approved the expenditure of \$8,000 to add five new wayfinding 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 of 2018.



Dr. Thomas Moffitt III, 1948-2017

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of OTETF Board of Directors President Tom Moffitt. Tom passionately served as Board President for over 16 years and worked tirelessly to fulfill Ed Honton's vision of a multi-purpose cross state trail/greenway. Tom's leadership and enthusiasm in working with local agencies and trail organizations to complete the Ohio to Erie Trail will forever be appreciated by present and future gener-

ations of trail users. Tom was a devoted educator in the greater Cincinnati area for over 45 years and as many of you may know an avid cyclist. He completed several cross county rides and rode the entire length of the Ohio to Erie Trail a number of times including this past September. Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Ride in Peace Tom.

To view obituary: <http://www.hodappfuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-thomas-l-moffitt-iii/>

OTET Adventure Ride Announcement

Next year's seven-day, six-night Ohio to Erie Trail bicycle ride is set for September 8-14, 2018. Reservations can be made through our web site at OhioToErieTrail.org beginning in December. New this year are half rides from Cincinnati to Columbus and Columbus to Cleveland.

Tour Capacity:

40 riders

Daily Mileage:

Ranges between 30 to 67, beginner to intermediate level. Shorter days allow for a more leisurely ride, additional miles on other trails, or site-seeing along the way.

Terrain:

Trail surfaces are fine for road bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes. 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.

Overnight Lodging:

Riders stay at hotels at special rates.

SAG (Support and Gear):

Fully supported with a luggage/bike vehicle, mechanic and OTET staff. Participants only need to carry what they will need for the day. Support stops are about every 15 miles with water and snacks.

Pricing:

The cost is variable, depending on the date of

registration, ranging from \$500 to \$650.

Half rides from Cincinnati to Columbus: \$225

Columbus to Cleveland: \$350

A unique aspect of this ride is that much of the costs are considered to be tax-deductible DONATIONS. After the ride, the cost to produce the ride per individual is then subtracted from the amount each participant donated. Riders receive a letter stating how much of their payment was applied without services or goods given in return. For example, riders in 2018 ended up donating about $\frac{2}{3}$ of their ride cost.

Food and lodging are paid for by participants.

Weather:

September in Ohio is typically dry with temps ranging from morning lows of 45-55° to afternoons of 70-80°.

Itinerary:

Day 1 (67 miles):

Start in downtown Cincinnati at Smale Park on the Ohio River. Destination: Xenia, Ramada Inn

Day 2: (59 miles)

Destination: Downtown Columbus, Red Roof Inn

Day 3: (51 miles)

Destination: Mt. Vernon, the Grand Hotel

Day 4: (41 miles)

Destination: Amish Country to historic Millersburg, Comfort Inn

Day 5: (38 miles)

Destination: Massillon, Hampton Inn

Day 6: (30 miles)

Destination: Downtown Akron Marriott Courtyard

This leisurely day allows for stops along the Canal Path including our trail partner bike shop, Ernie's.

Optional: Venture into the Cuyahoga National Park and ride the scenic train back to Akron.

Day 7: (40 miles)

Destination: Lake Erie, Cleveland

Riders travel through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the ONLY National Park in Ohio. There is time to visit museum centers,



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

memorials, and shops. The grand finale is a shared lunch celebration at the Edgewater Yacht Club.

Return Transportation:

Available for a small fee to Columbus or Cincinnati. Half tour riders who ride Cincinnati to Columbus must provide their own transportation back to Cincinnati.

Cancellation Fees:

\$100 until July 1
\$150 after July 1

For more information, access our website or contact Tom at MoffittOTET@gmail.com.

OTET Merchandise for the Holidays

Got a fan of the OTET on your holiday list? Have they been naughty or nice? Either way, make sure they start the 2018 season off with style! Order an official OTET jersey or sticker for them. Look for t-shirts to come soon.



THE 326 CLUB

The 326 Club includes more than 70 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 of its newest members below!



Name: Nicole

Age: 32

Trail Experience: Biked all 326 miles in 2 days, flip-flop style

Segment 1: Mount Vernon to Cleveland, 12 hours

Segment 2: Cincinnati to Mount Vernon, 13 hours

Month of Trip: June

Focus: Strength and Fitness

Bike: Fuji Sportiff - a road bike

Occupation: Musician, Composer

Inspired By: The need to strike a balance between the long hours I spend in front of a computer composing music and enjoying doing something physical.



Name: Leslie

Age: 54

Trail Experience: Biked all 326 miles in 6 days as a participant on the Annual OTET Adventure Ride.

Month of Trip: September

Focus: Sight-seeing and Fitness

Bike: Felt V85 2016 – an adventure road bike

Occupation: Scientist Officer for the US Public Health Service

Inspired by: The desire to have a goal that prioritized my health and wellness. The goal to complete the 326 mile route was my 2017 New Year's Resolution made to challenge myself to find greater work-life balance – and it worked!

OTET E-Bike Policy

The controversy to allow or not allow electric assist bicycles on recreational trails in the state of Ohio is a very complicated one. As our population ages, there are many outdoor enthusiasts who love to experience the trails but simply need a little support from the new electric assist bicycles. Two individuals used their assist bikes on the Annual OTET Adventure Rides in the past two years, and without, neither individual would have been able to take part. The OTETF Board of Directors recommend a compromise that ensures trail safety while also allowing those who need support to use electric assist bikes. The Board supports local trail partners who limit and monitor the use of e-bikes. Here is the OTETF's position on the use of electric bikes:

The Board of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund endorses legislation in Ohio that permits the use of electric assist bicycles on trails to make the outdoor adventures more accessible to those who **need** such assistance. We strongly encourage such legislation to limit such bike top speeds to 20 miles per hour and we support local trail authorities to post speed limits on their own sections of the Ohio to Erie Trail."



4th Annual OTET Adventure Ride a Success!

Thirty-seven riders from eight different states took part in the Fourth Annual OTET Great Bike Adventure September 9-15. The cyclists pedaled from the Ohio River in Cincinnati to Lake Erie in Cleveland, dipping their tires in both bodies of water at the start and the end of their adventure. The 326-mile ride took seven days and six nights.

The average age of the participants was 62. The shortest day was 35 miles and the longest 68.

The 23 men and 14 women were assisted by a volunteer staff including OTETF board members Tom Moffitt and Mike Groeber, the ride's mechanic. Also assisting were Executive Coordinator Lisa Daris, Sandy Sanders



Mary & Ron Plumley of Columbus shared their excitement in Cleveland!



Ladies of the OTET Annual Ride

Riders ranged in ages from the late thirties to 78 years old. In addition to those from Ohio, riders came from Mississippi, New York, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Texas, Maryland.

of Hamilton, Ohio, Ron Overly and Bob Niedenthal of Oxford, Ohio, and Terry Kassnel of Loveland, Ohio.

The ride was a major fund raiser for the trail's

non-profit fund. Riders donated money to participate. Approximately \$17,000 was raised, topping the 2016 ride which raised \$8,000.

Next year's Adventure Ride has been scheduled for

September 8-14, 2018. The ride will be open to 40 cyclists but transportation back to Columbus and Cincinnati may close some spots early. Watch the website for registration to open soon!



2017 Adventure Riders



OTET volunteer Ron Overly and riders prepare for a day on the OTET



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#OH2ERIE



This string of characters is the official Ohio to Erie tag used for social media posts.

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



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