



The Ohio to Erie Trail

Summer 2014

Newsletter #50

Ohio to Erie Trail Fund Names Julie Van Winkle Executive Coordinator

Julie Van Winkle was named Executive Coordinator for The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund by the board of directors. Julie is currently the Director of the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) and has served as the director for the past sixteen years.

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund board president Tom Moffitt said, "We are thrilled to have Julie with her skills and experience to serve as the Executive Coordinator. She will keep the OTETF moving forward."

Van Winkle will work as the spokesperson and manage the affairs of the OTETF at the direction of the Board of Directors. Her familiarity and experience with non-profits and public relations particularly in the area of trails,

parks, and recreation will be a true asset.

Julie is looking forward to her new leadership role and working with trail friends and supporters from across the state. She will be replacing Executive Director, Jerry Rampelt, who departs in December 2014.

Jerry reports that though he will miss working with all the great advocates and supporters of the Ohio To Erie Trail he is confident that this is a good time to make the change.

Jerry has served the OTETF since June 2004 and replaced the founder Ed Honton. Ed started the OTETF in 1991 when a cross state trail was just a dream.

Jerry will work with Julie during the remainder of 2014 to



Julie Van Winkle

ensure that there is a smooth and seamless transition.

Tom Moffitt added, "The strength of the OTETF is rooted in its stability of leadership over the past twenty-three years. We are confident that Julie will continue in the tradition of working toward completing The Ohio to Erie Trail."

Photo of new trail construction in Mount Vernon to connect The Kokosing Gap and The Heart of Ohio Trails. See next page.



Mount Vernon Trail Depot Nears Completion

The Kokosing Gap and Heart of Ohio Trails in Knox County are soon to be linked. The current route to link the two trails is on busy streets in Mount Vernon, and the one-and-one-half mile trail will add safety to the route. The trail is under construction and is scheduled for completion by mid-August.

A train depot was restored on the route and will serve as a park facility for Mount Vernon City and Knox County Parks.



Alan Putnam of the Stark County Bicycle Club receives a set of the new printed maps of The Ohio To Erie Trail from Executive Director Jerry Rampelt at the Ohio Bicycle Summit

Bicycle Summit at Ohio Capitol

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund was in the rotunda of the Ohio State House for the statewide Bicycle Summit on May 13, 2014. Bicycle organizations from across the region were represented and spoke with legislators about bicycling in Ohio. The event provides an opportunity to speak with legislators regardless of political party about the importance of bicycling and bicycling safety.

Chuck Smith from the Ohio Bicycle Federation organizes the event each year, and attendance continues to grow.



Mount Vernon Depot links The Kokosing Gap Trail and The Heart of Ohio Trail in Central Ohio.

PHOTO JERRY RAMPPELT

New Orleans to Boston Rider

Julian Cleary heard his grandfather talk about his perimeter bicycle ride of the United States in the 1970s, and he dreamed someday of doing a similar trip. That opportunity occurred when his computer programming project ended in New Orleans, and he decided to pedal home to Boston.

His goal was to experience total freedom and see everything from a local perspective.

After he completed the Natchez Trace Parkway and while overnighing in a hostel in Nashville some riders told him about The Ohio to Erie Trail. With some research Julian found the route in Cincinnati.

He passed through London in Madison County in the midst of



New trail construction in Mount Vernon will add will add safety and convenience to the Ohio To Erie Trail.

PHOTO JERRY RAMPPELT

the Strawberry ride, and the Madison County volunteers gave him a map of The Ohio to Erie Trail and contact information for Jerry Rampelt.

The twenty-five year old Julian and Jerry Rampelt road together through Columbus on June 9, 2014 as he headed north on The Ohio to Erie Trail.

Julian's ride can be followed on his blog at www.portalsoup.com

Cincinnati Trail Progress

Great Parks of Hamilton County purchased trail Right of Way to extend The Ohio to Erie Trail southwest for three miles from its current end point just south of Avoca Park to Beechmont Ave.

A contract for design of a 210 foot bridge across the Little Miami River near Lunken Airport was awarded in the amount of \$1,000,000. Construction will cost an additional \$5,000,000, and those funds have not been secured

Negotiations are moving forward ever so slowly but positively towards building the Trail for four miles from Lunken Airport to downtown Cincinnati.

The City of Cincinnati gave \$200,000 toward building the southernmost section of the Trail near downtown Cincinnati.

USA Track and Field (USATF) Certifies Ohio to Erie Trail Mileage

Walt Neubauer of the USATF is measuring and certifying the distance points along The Ohio to Erie Trail so that long distance runners know the exact length of sections of the Trail. He uses a calibrated bicycle to conduct the measuring.

Neubauer hopes to complete measuring by the first week of July and finish documenting and mapping the trail in the summer. He will provide copies of his maps to The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund for review and corrections.

USATF is providing a valuable service in accurately measuring The Ohio to Erie Trail.



Ohio to Erie Trail on GOBA

Jerry Rampelt spent the week of June 14-21 on the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure being an ambassador for The Ohio to Erie Trail. He did a great job as over 400 of the new printed maps of The Ohio to Erie Trail were distributed.

Jerry spoke to 70 people on June 15 in Orrville about The Ohio to Erie Trail in anticipation of the next day's ride on the Holmes County Trail.

Later in the week in Knox County riders were on the Kokosing Gap Trail and Heart of Ohio Trail. A total of 32 miles of the over 300 mile GOBA were on The Ohio to Erie Trail.

For the past 26 years GOBA has crossed Ohio on different routes with 2,000 to 3,000 riders participating.

Wayne County Rail Land Litigation

Rails to Trails of Wayne County (RTTWC) and the City of Orrville were sued by dairy farmer John and Lois Douglass of Catalpadale Dairy LTD for the former railroad property. RTTWC purchased the former Norfolk and Southern rail corridor several years ago with the intent of building a leg of The Ohio to Erie Trail.

Several adjacent land owners sued in 2012 and claimed they owned the trail right of way. RTTWC prevailed in common pleas court, but the landowners appealed the case to the court of appeals.

Douglass was not in the original lawsuit and appears to be pursuing his own case. Caralpadale Dairy LTD is the largest dairy farm in Ohio. Litigation such as this has been common when trail groups want to build a trail through some communities.

Maps of The Ohio to Erie Trail

Trail Map Distribution

The demand of the new Ohio to Erie Trail printed maps has been overwhelming, and 15,300 maps were distributed in the past six months. A second printing of 10,000 maps was done in March as requests quickly depleted the original printing of 10,000 maps.

The maps are printed on four sheets of paper that are 8 1/4 X 25 1/2 and folded to make six panels. All four sheets are in a custom envelope making a neat and easy to use navigation kit. The maps have been designed to provide straightforward, user-friendly information with mileage and a written descriptions. Maps can be ordered for the cost of shipping and handling (\$3.25) at ohioerietrail.org.

THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL



118 Graceland Blvd. #146
Columbus, Ohio 43214
www.ohioerietrail.org

A network of trails from Cincinnati to Cleveland, using lands formerly occupied by railroads and canals.

Address Changes:

E-mail changes to: ohioerietrail@gmail.com

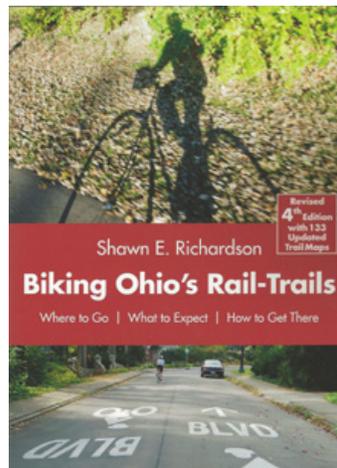
Telephone Number changes to: 614-918-3636

Donate and Receive Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails

Donate \$100 to The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund and receive an auto-graphed copy of Shawn Richardson's newly released update to his book titled *Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails*.

Shawn began writing about Ohio's trails nearly 20 years ago and published the first guide in 1996. The guide is now in its eighth edition.

Shawn has donated the books to help with fundraising for The Ohio to Erie Trail. He said that



the OTETF has been supportive of him and he wanted to give something back.

Shawn has self-published his books and he uses the Ohio based Wooster Book Company for printing and distributing.

Ohio to Erie Trail Bicycle Jerseys

The Ohio to Erie Trail microfiber bicycling jersey is available for \$80. Let fellow riders know you are supporting the trail. To order specify size and

gender and send with the \$80 payment to the address above. Takes 4-6 weeks for delivery via US mail.



Ohio to Erie Trail Fund

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