



The Ohio to Erie Trail

Winter 2015

Newsletter #51

Jerry Rampelt Retires as Ohio to Erie Trail Fund Executive Director

As I approach my departure from the Ohio to Erie Trail as the Executive Director, I look back at the past ten years with a feeling of great accomplishment. Ed Honton was the founder of the Ohio to Erie Trail, and it was humbling to attempt to continue the work he began. He mentored me in 2004 as he battled cancer so that the Trail would be completed.

The mission to build a trail from Cincinnati on the Ohio River to Cleveland on Lake Erie remains crystal clear, and that is what I strived to help our Board accomplish each day.

I learned quickly that it takes three things to build such a trail: a committed group of trail supporters, the trail right-of-way and money. Most people assume that

money is the most important factor, but nothing happens without a group committed to completion of the Trail.

Working with Ohio to Erie Trail Board and our supporters has been enormously rewarding. I am not leaving entirely for I will become a member of the OTET Board in January.

I thank everyone for the opportunity to help continue the growth of the Ohio to Erie Trail across this great state.

JULIE VAN WINKLE will assume Rampelt's duties as Executive Coordinator for the Ohio to Erie Trail. She will work as the spokesperson and manage the affairs of the OTET at the direction of the Board of Directors. It is well



Jerry Rampelt






known that the strength of the OTET is rooted in its stability of leadership and we are confident that Julie will continue in this tradition. The Board of Directors expresses its sincere gratitude to Jerry for his service and commitment on behalf of all Ohio To Erie Trail users and supporters.

Photo of the Ohio To Erie Trail in Summit County.



Ohio to Erie Trail Strategic Planning Retreat

The Board of the Ohio to Erie Trail held a retreat on August 9, 2014 and created a strategic plan to guide the Board over the next four years. The previous 2010 plan provided a clear direction toward completion of the Ohio to Erie Trail. Zoe Klopf Switzer facilitated the full day retreat, and the outcome was the creation of these strategic goals and action plans.

-  Hold a conference with trail managers and other stakeholders
-  Update the website to meet the needs of our trail visitors
-  Evaluate and improve our marketing and branding of the Ohio to Erie Trail
-  Focus our efforts on trail completion projects
-  Address trail maintenance and upkeep issues with our constituents



ODNR Awards 27% of Clean Ohio Funds to Ohio to Erie Trail Projects

In October 2014 The Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded three grants to trail projects along the Ohio to Erie Trail.

- Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works was awarded \$500,000 for Stage 3 of the Towpath Trail, and the total project costs \$1,621,862.
- Preservation Parks of Delaware County was awarded \$566,858 for paving the Success Acres Trail off Meredith State Road. It will connect with the Heart of Ohio Trail in Knox County as part of the Ohio to Erie Trail. This 1.6 mile addition is in a rural and wooded area of eastern Delaware County.
- City of Orrville in Wayne County was awarded \$416,831 to construct the trail across the city limits as well as trailhead facilities as part of the Ohio to Erie Trail.



Zoe Klopf Switzer, Tom Moffitt, OTET Board President and Julie Van Winkle OTET Executive Coordinator discuss the future goals for the Ohio To Erie Trail at a planning retreat.



Tom Moffitt presented Bill Baker and Sam Speck with awards for their years of service to OTET.

Friend of The Ohio to Erie Trail Award

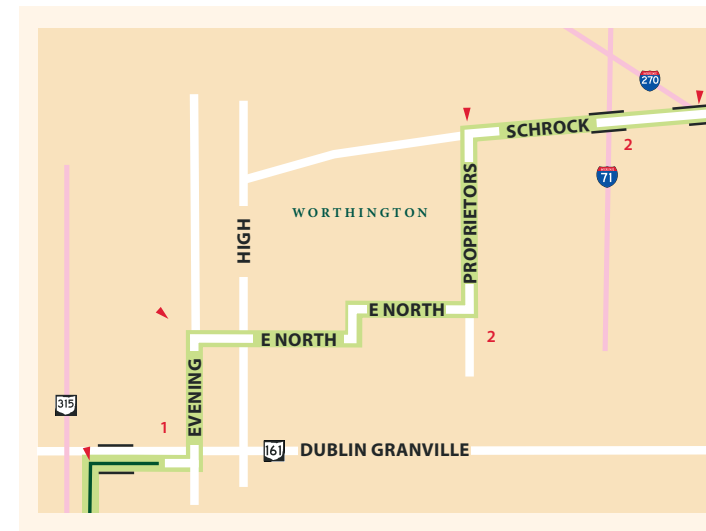
OTET Board members Sam Speck and Bill Baker along with Director John O'Meara of Franklin County Metro Parks were named Friends of the Ohio to Erie Trail. Bill and Sam received their awards at the November 5 board meeting and John O'Meara received his at the Metro Parks board meeting on November 12. The newly created award will be given to individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution toward completion of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

Alum Creek Trail Update

Thanks to the Columbus City Council the route of the Ohio to Erie Trail through Columbus will soon be connected as it was originally planned. Council voted in July to approve the money needed to construct the final two linkages.

The Ohio to Erie route currently utilizes sections

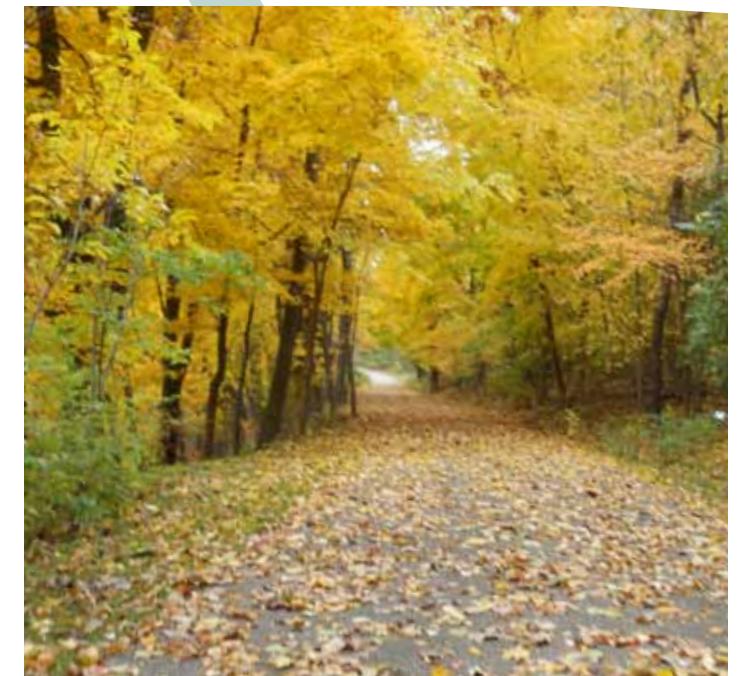
of road from Westerville to the Olentangy Bike Path. The Alum Creek Trail sections will be finished in 2015 so users will enjoy a continuous paved trail from Westerville to the Downtown Columbus connector and beyond. Watch our website in the spring for updates.



Cincinnati Area Trail News

Decisions have been made in Cincinnati which will further the Trail development from Downtown to Lunken Airport to the east. Cincinnati City Council voted this fall to convert part of the Oasis Light Rail Line into a trail for the 4 miles to connect to Lunken Airport. While this is a major development, it will still take several years for all

approvals and for construction to take place. In addition, the section from Lunken Airport to Newtown will see an extension in the next year, under the management of Great Parks of Hamilton County. Still, additional funding will be needed for a bridge to be built over the Little Miami River to complete this connection.



OTET Quarter Century Mark Is on the Horizon

The 25th year of the Ohio to Erie Trail will be upon us as we conclude 2015.

Ed Honton was the spirit behind the concept and birth of the Ohio to Erie Trail in 1991. With the input of Tom Barlow (first GOBA Director) and Ann Gerckens (Columbus Outdoor Pursuits) Ed Honton began the quest to create the Trail.

As we approach our 25th year, we are grateful for the support of many generous benefactors who have given of their money, time and talents to overcome many challenges in land acquisition, funding sources, trail construction and signage, operation and maintenance.

Thanks to all of them, we are proud to celebrate that the Trail is more than 80% complete. It is now possible to traverse the entire route from end to end, as documented in our trail map published in late 2013. The goal continues to be the accomplishment of a fully connected off road trail system.

Over the next two years, trail projects across the state will bring us at least 36 miles closer to our target. Please watch our website, Facebook page and newsletters, as we recognize the contributors and celebrate our approaching 25th anniversary.



Ohio to Erie Trail Ride

Nine riders dipped their bicycle rear tires in the Ohio River in Cincinnati on September 13 and were having lunch in Cleveland on the 17th. It was a great five days on the Ohio to Erie Trail. Join us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary of the OTET with a ride in September 2015. See the article later in this newsletter.

Board President Tom Moffitt and Jerry Rampelt came across Renee Humphries and Steve Kemp of Seattle, Washington as they were riding the Ohio to Erie Trail in Holmes County. The 83 year old couple (they said it was OK to use their ages) were at a bridge tournament in

Cincinnati and added the bicycle ride to their trip. Renee and Steve said that they add bicycling to bridge tournaments. In their research for the Cincinnati trip they discovered the new Ohio to Erie Trail map and decided to ride the route in both directions using the new map as their guide.

It is really incredible how many people are traveling to Ohio from all across the United States to ride their bicycles on the Ohio To Erie Trail.

Pictured above are the nine riders, left to right: Jim Perrine; Ron Overly; Tom Moffitt; Jerry Rampelt; Steve Wartenberg; Andrew Grandjean; Julie Van Winkle; Dave Borish; Tim McGinty.



Tom Moffitt, Steve Kemp, Renee Humphries & Jerry Rampelt riding along The Ohio To Erie Trail



After 300 miles the river to lake ride on the Ohio To Erie Trail ended in downtown Cleveland with lunch at a popular micro-brewery.

Join us as 25 Riders Celebrate 25th Year on The Ohio To Erie Trail

Twenty-five riders will be celebrating the 25th year by riding the Ohio to Erie Trail in September 2015. This will include five days of riding, friendship, and fun for the lucky 25.

The ride is being organized by Jerry Rampelt for the OTET Board. He has ridden the route numerous times. Overnight stops will be in Cedarville, Columbus, Millersburg and Massillon.

We are asking that each rider donate \$500 as a charitable contribution to the Ohio to Erie Trail to participate. Riders will be responsible for their own meals and lodging.

A vehicle will carry the gear and serve as a sag during the five days of the ride. More information will be forthcoming in 2015.

Photo of Ohio to Erie Trail in Knox County.



Donate \$100 and Receive E-version of *Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails*

Due to the popularity of Shawn Richardson's book, *Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails*, the 4th and latest edition, is sold out in the print version. The same valuable information lives on, however, in digital format.

Donate \$100 now to the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund, and we will send you the link to the full digital version, for Nook or Kindle, of the 4th edition of *Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails*. Complete the form and mail with your check. Ninety percent of your donation will be used to bring our beloved Ohio to Erie Trail closer to completion. Please allow up to 3 weeks to receive your link.

Deadline for this offer: January 31, 2015.

Yes, I am enclosing my check to OTETF for a \$100.00 donation.
Please send me the link to the E-version of *Biking Ohio's Rail-Trails*. Please print!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Check one: Nook Kindle

Mail to: Ohio To Erie Trail, 118 Graceland Blvd. #146, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Thank you for your support of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

Over two dozen individuals expressed an interest in serving on the OTET Board of Directors and we welcome the following eight individuals to the Ohio to Erie Trail Board in January 2015.

Tom Alexander, Holmes County; Mike Groeber, Clark/Greene Counties; Sean McGurr, Summit County; Mary Plumley, Franklin County; Jerry Rampelt, Franklin County; Bob Taft, Greene County; Jack Williams, Ross County; and Thomas Yablonsky, Cuyahoga County.

Current Directors Bill Baker (Holmes) and Sam Speck (Franklin) are leaving the Board and will become Advisory Board members in 2015.

NOT PICTURED new members: Tom Alexander, Holmes County; Thomas Yablonsky, Cuyahoga County. Continuing members: Don Noble, Wayne County; Dan Ritchey, Muskingum County; Elizabeth Watts, Franklin County, Treasurer.

Ohio To Erie Trail Welcomes Eight New Board Members



Mike Groeber, Clark/Greene Counties



Sean McGurr, Summit County



Mary Plumley, Franklin County



Jerry Rampelt, Franklin County



Bob Taft, Greene County



Jack Williams, Ross County



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James Flaherty, Delaware County



Don Mills, Hamilton County



Tom Moffitt, Butler County, President



Dan Rice, Summit County



Wayne Roberts, Madison County, Secretary



Jim Schneider, Greene County



Brad Westall, Franklin County

Maps of The Ohio to Erie Trail!



Seeking Sponsors To Update Ohio To Erie Trail Maps

We need sponsors to help with the costs of an updated version of the printed map. Over 19,000 OTET maps

were distributed in 2014 including 1,100 maps mailed to people who ordered online for a handling and postage

fee. There are fewer than 1,000 maps in stock and the reprint is needed before the spring of 2015. Since new sections of trail are being paved each year the updates have become an important and necessary task to keep the information as current as possible.

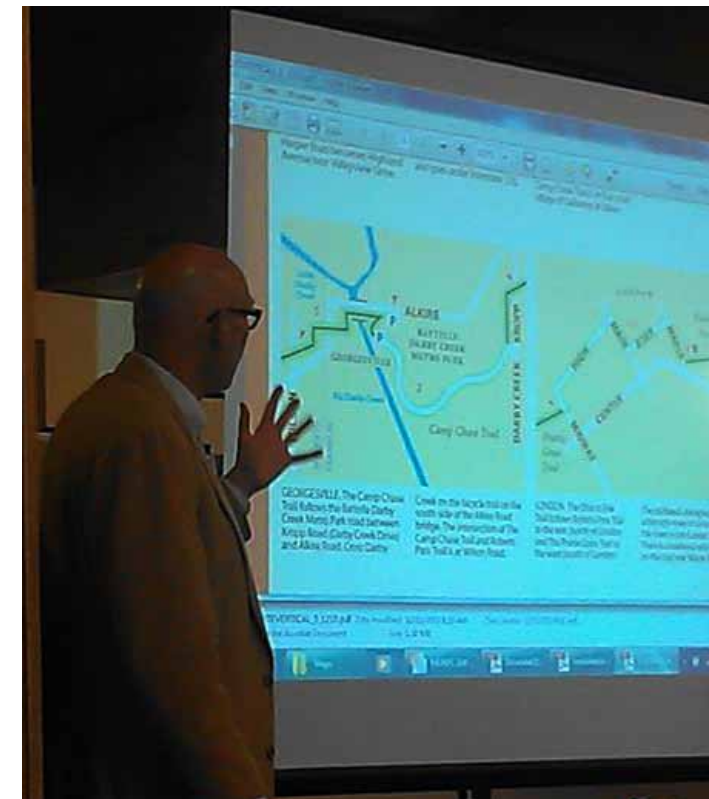
Major sponsors for the 2014 map were American Electric Power, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Large and small donations will help tremendously. A \$5,000 donation will entitle you to a major sponsorship for the 2015 map.

The Ohio To Erie Trail 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 on the website: ohioerietrail.org.

Jerry Rampelt explains how new sections of trail are being paved each year making updates to the printed map an important and necessary task.



THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL



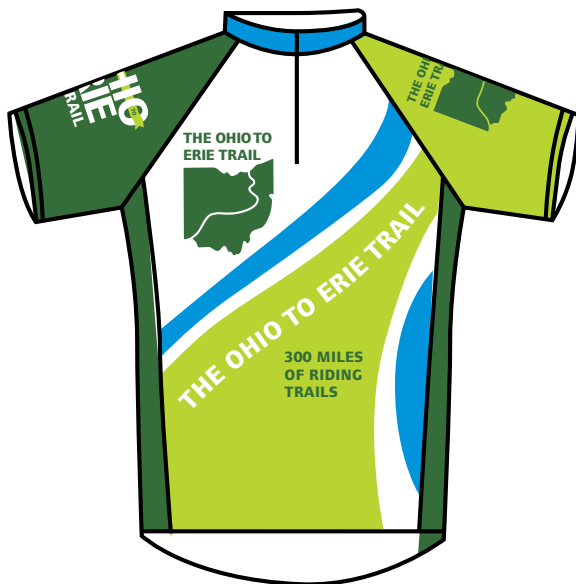
118 Graceland Blvd. #146
Columbus, Ohio 43214
www.ohioerietrail.org

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



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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