



Photo Credit: Celesta Troyer



Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall/Winter 2020

Newsletter #62

New Programming on the Trail

We all know that the trail provides endless hours of recreation for its visitors, but did you know it offers much more than biking and hiking?

One example of a new attraction along the trail is the Knox County Geocache Trail. This program, created by Knox County Park District in partnership with United Way of Knox County and Get Healthy Knox County of Knox Public Health Department, guides users to discover new places and new businesses. Geocaching is an outdoor, high tech treasure hunt using a GPS device and online clues to guide participants to hidden containers known as caches. The caches are typically hidden in fun-to-find locations that you may not otherwise explore. The water-proof containers include a log book to sign and trinkets for trading. There are over a million geocaches many of which are found in more than 100 countries across the globe.

On the trail, visitors will enjoy picturesque views of

the county. Cachers are encouraged to learn some historical facts through an optional virtual component. By completing the virtual tour, cachers were be rewarded with a 2020 Geocoin. The OTET coin is pictured below. This coin was made possible



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Trail Progress

Cuyahoga County:

For an update on progress on the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail, see here - <http://canalwaypartners.com/towpath-trail/>

Stark County: The Stark County Park District has paved a couple sections that have been troublesome due to periods of high water washing away the trail surface. The newly paved sections are north of Canal Fulton between the Stark and

Summit County lines as well as a short piece of trail just south of Canal Fulton near Lock 4 Park.

The Army Corps of Engineers has started to do preliminary work on the flood easement levee in Massillon. Actual construction and subsequent trail closures will not begin until spring 2021. The area affected is between Tremont Ave. Bridge and Lake Ave. Additional OTET signage will be needed to direct

riders around the area of construction.

Massillon Area Greenways Inc (MAGI) is still planning on doing improvements to the trail and its environs as it enters Massillon from the west.

Holmes County:

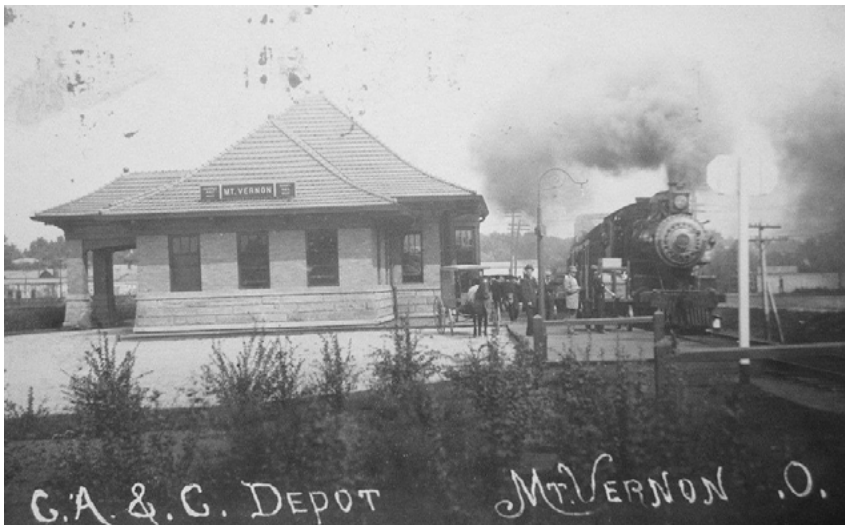
Approximately 4 miles of roadway section between the trail head in Glenmont and just southeast of Killbuck Township Road 54 on State Route 520 is almost fully funded

thanks to the efforts of the State of Ohio, Holmes County Park District, Ohio to Erie Trail board contributions, and local funding activities such as the Holmes County annual auction. Out of the projected estimate of \$3,464,000, \$3,290,000 has been funded. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime after July 1, 2021.

Delaware County: A new 2.5 mile segment from Meredith State

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Geocache cont. from page 1)



A historical photo of the Mount Vernon Depot in Knox County

through United Way of Knox County and the Knox County Park District funding.

In order to engage in geocaching you must go to www.geocaching.com and create a free account.

You will establish a user ID and you will use this information as you locate your geocaches and complete each log. GPS coordinates are provided for each cache and that is the method you will use to locate the treasures.

Knox County businesses that offer "cache" discounts at their place of business exclusively for Geocachers include Round Hill Dairy, Weavers Farm and Furniture, Half Baked Cafe, Longbranch Pizza, Dave's Cosmic Subs,

Stein Brewing Company, Taigan Hills Winery, Kenyon Bookstore, Gambier Village Market, 1834 Midway Tavern, Everlasting Cup, Danville Outdoors, and Blonde Robin.

The trail has seen over 149 geocachers since its launch on July 4, 2020 and 88 coins have been distributed. Cachers have come from Southern Michigan to Southern Ohio to enjoy the trail.

The virtual component to the Knox County Geo-Caching program focuses on the history of the Pennsylvania Railway, which once occupied what is now considered the Ohio to Erie Trail. The "trail towns" along the railway developed solely as the result of the development of the railroad. The existing railroad has made the multi-use trail system possible.

Trail Connections Webinar Series Starts in December

Although the Ohio Trail Connections Summit scheduled for March of 2020 was cancelled due to concerns with COVID-19, a series of online presentations and workshops, featuring many of the speakers who were originally committed to present at the Summit beginning in December. The series kicked off Wednesday, December 2, 2020 with Amy Camp, Owner of Cycle Forward, a consulting company focused on Trails and Tourism.

Ms. Camp helped launch the nationally recognized

Trail Town Program® on the Great Allegheny Passage. She managed that program leading economic impact studies, the program’s marketing efforts, and on-the-ground improvement projects before starting her consulting practice. She shared how trail communities around the U.S. benefit from connecting to their trails and how Ohio rail-trails and trail networks might see similar results.

Amy also shared some of the best practices detailed in her forthcoming book, *Deciding on*

Trails: 7 Practices of Healthy Trail Towns. She presented an overview of Trail Towns and then launched into related topics that include *Cultivate a Trail Culture, Share Your Story,* and *How to Connect Trail to Town.*

We are planning additional virtual webinars with our Summit speakers and will post details.



Amy Camp of Cycle Forward

Visit our virtual workshop page at: https://ohioerietrail.org/OTCS_virtual

Trail Progress cont. from page 2

Road southwest toward Sunbury that will eventually connect to the trail was completed in Delaware County by our partner Preservation Parks of Delaware

County. A Clean Ohio Recreational Trail grant of \$500,000 and your donations contributed to the funding to make this segment’s completion possible.



A new section of the trail in Delaware County

Franklin County: A new 1 mile segment through the scenic woods of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park was completed in May by our partner Franklin County Metro Parks. This is a welcome addition as trail users no longer have to share the roadway with motorized vehicles as they enter and exit the park.

12/28/20. Construction on this .4 mile segment is scheduled to start 3/14/21 and finish 8/31/22.

Hamilton County: Great Parks of Hamilton County will award the bid for the Beechmont Bridge connection between the Little Miami Scenic Trail and Lunken Airport on

Anderson Township secured \$750,000 from OKI to construct a new trail access point from the planned Beechmont Bridge project to Elstun Road. ODOT District 8 is currently designing the estimated .34 mile project with Anderson Township.

As of October 2020, we estimate that there are 49 miles of the OTET on city streets and rural roads. OTET total mileage

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The Most Rewarding Experience of our Lives!

Two good friends began their journey to ride the entire trail on July 1, 2020 Penny Marchal, who rode with friend Brenda Ribble described the experience as one the most rewarding experiences in their lives.

Penny and Brenda were self-supported, carrying their tents, sleeping bags, clothes and food for the entire time.

After dipping their back wheels in Lake Erie, they started out of Edgewater Park in Cleveland. Penny said, "It is wonderful to view our beautiful state from a bike. You experience

all your senses while traveling on your bike - sight, smell, touch,

the towns and people along the way were so supportive."



Brenda Ribble and Penny Marchal - 2020 326 Club Members

and sound. The views we saw were incredible, the wildlife was amazing and

The duo's first night was at a campsite next to the Tuscarawas River in Canal Fulton which they described as a lovely, vibrant town. Their second night was in Howard, Ohio at the Kokosing Valley Camp & Canoe campgrounds. Their third night was in London, Ohio at the

Friends of Madison County trail-side campsites. After a night of pizza and the "unique" shower located in the woods in London, they headed towards Cincinnati. Their final night was at Morgan's Riverside Campground where the owner treated the campers to a fun, different, and surprisingly one of the best fireworks displays on the 4th of July called "Smoke on the Water". They headed out on July 5, hitting the Ohio River to dip their front wheels in the Ohio River. They finished in Cincinnati around 1:00 pm to the cheers of waiting family.

From Penny - "I highly recommend this trail to anyone thinking about riding it. Thank you for your dedication to the trail and all the people who volunteer."



Penny and Brenda's campsite. Shown here is Penny's husband, Kelley, who supported them with water and ice on the days the temps were over 90 degrees.

Interested in becoming a member of the 326 Club?

The only requirement is to travel the entire trail (326 miles) in one trip.

You can travel north to south or south to north. You can leapfrog (travel along one segment one way and another segment the other way). Take a photo of yourself (ideally

at Lake Erie or at the Ohio River) and e-mail it to us at ohioerietrail@gmail.com along with your name and hometown. We'll put your photo on our Club 326 webpage at



ohioerietrail.org/326-club/

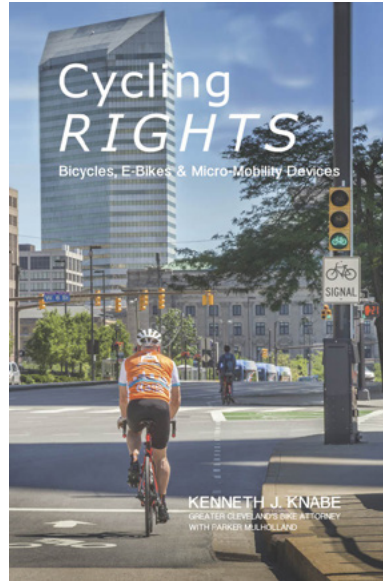
Trail Progress cont. from page 3

is326: Streets/Roads 15%; Dedicated Trail 85%.

A complete list of the locations of all streets and road mileage, along with many other helpful information can be found on the Plan Your Trip page - <https://ohioerietrail.org/plan-your-trip/>.

New Trail Guides reflecting the new mileage were printing earlier this fall and are available through our store for \$18. Northbound and southbound versions are available

Cycling Rights



Attorney, avid cyclist and OTET board member Ken

Knabe of Knabe Law Firm, LPA is proud to announce the publication of his book, **CYCLING RIGHTS: Bicycles, E-Bikes & Micro-Mobility Devices**.

As you may have noticed, our roadways are currently booming with increased cycling due to the global pandemic and this book details cycling rights and how to “cycle right”, which is paramount for road

safety. In addition, one chapter for motorists explains the “whys” of what cyclists are doing out there, and another discusses real Ohio bike cases involving cyclists in a multitude of situations—with varying results! Ken’s book also answers cycling-related questions and issues that confront cyclists every day.

Copies of Cycling Rights are available at: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K3MPBWT>

#OH2ERIE



Moffitt Memorial 2021

The seven-day, six-night Moffitt Memorial annual ride is being planned for 2021. Although the dates are to be determined, depending on the pandemic circumstances, they are tentatively Saturday, September 11 - Friday, September 17.

Tour Capacity:
45 riders

Daily Mileage:
Distances range from 30 to 67 miles. Shorter days allow for a more leisurely ride 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 that are typical for Ohio cycling.

Overnight Lodging:
Riders stay at hotels at special rates.

SAG (Support and Gear):
This ride is fully supported with luggage transfers, on-route

vehicles, a mechanic and OTET staff. Participants only need to carry what they will need for the day. Support water and snack stops are about every 15 miles.

Pricing:
The cost is variable, depending on the date of registration, ranging from \$700 to \$800.

A unique aspect of this ride is that much of



the cost is considered to be a tax-deductible DONATION. Food and lodging are paid for by the participants.

We anticipate opening registration sometime in the spring. Watch our website and social media for updates.



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Send address and email changes to: ohioerietrail@gmail.com

Holiday Shopping



Don't forget that our shop includes lots of fun items perfect for the person on your list that enjoys the trail. Patches, moisture-wicking t-shirts, luggage tags!

We also have new this

season - long sleeved jerseys! Check out the cotton/poly blend t-shirts, jerseys, and stickers for you or a cyclist friend!

Become a Friend of the OTET and save \$5 on your Tour Guide order.

<http://ohioerietrail.org/shop/>

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