

# TRAIL TRACKS

Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail

P O Box 455, Edmore, MI 48829



[www.montcalm.org/trail](http://www.montcalm.org/trail)

December 2022

## Trail Amenities Added

This year several families and individuals have chosen to support the FMHT with picnic tables or benches that serve as memorials to a family member or just to give to the Trail.

### Memorial Tables

In memory of Fred Clark of Edmore, located in McBride next to the parking lot.

In memory of Harold "Hud" Springsteen and Dean Iverson, long-time Board Members and Trail supporters, located in McBride, south of the Trail Building.

### Hexagon Table

Ken Mitchell of Sidney constructed a lovely hexagon shaped table for the parking area in Sidney.



### Picnic Table

Three youngsters from Alma raised money to replace a table in Elwell that was destroyed by vandals. Lincoln, Bailey and Luke held bake sales to raise over \$300 to pay for the table, cover the cost of the plaque, and contribute to trail maintenance costs.



Much appreciation to all!!

*FFMHT is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.*

## ANNUAL BANQUET & FUNDRAISER RESUMES!

by The Board of FMHT

We think you'll like this next news!! After a couple years' hiatus due to COVID, the Board has once again scheduled the **Annual Fundraiser, Silent Auction, Raffle, and Banquet!** See you **May 6, 2023**, at the Curtis Community Building in the Village of Edmore. Mary Ellen Coldwell, the caterer in past years, has retired. She recommended Jennys Catering out of Shepherd, Michigan, and the Board has taken her recommendation. Check out Jennys Catering online at [www.jennyscatering.net](http://www.jennyscatering.net). We are looking for volunteers and we welcome all help with the silent auction, raffle ticket sales, and sponsors to make 2023's Fundraising Banquet a success!

### VETERAN'S PARK IN STANTON-CONNECTOR TO TRAIL

by Patty Rockafellow

Veteran's Park in Stanton is coming along nicely, and a special feature is the connecting path that leads to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. The half mile path is not only beautiful, but also educational! Kiosks along the path feature information about wildlife and plants that are native to Michigan. The connection to the Heartland Trail is just a bit North of the Intermediate School District connection. As you enter the



Trail from the park, please be aware of folks already traveling on the Trail. The park entrance from the Trail is marked by large boulders, fencing, and signs. We hope that this joint effort makes using the park easy for all.

### FFMHT Board of Directors

Your Board is an active group. Board members organized monthly work days focusing on particular areas of the trail. Members attended, with necessary tools in hand to work. Throughout the season, Board Members go out to fill holes, remove fallen trees from the trail, cut brush, spray, paint, put up or take down snowmobile barriers, process mailings, and deal with legal matters. Whatever needs to be done. Board Members are: Chairman, Don Stearns, Vice Chair, Tim Kellner, Secretary, Jane Hemenway, Treasurer, Mary Humm, Nellie Lou Simmons, Dianne Wilson, Patty Rockafellow, Karen Stearns, Trudy Petersen, Sabine Maltby, Rick Baldwin and Wayne Addis. ALL who give their time to the Trail have a common goal...to keep users happy, safe, and coming back to the Heartland Trail with positive comments.



Picture: Board Member and Vice Chairman, Tim Kellner and his wife Sharie at the B & B that they won at last year's raffle

### FFMHT Monthly Meeting Places

by Dianne Wilson

The FMHT Board met in the *Montcalm Area Intermediate School District* building in Stanton for many years. In 2021-2022 the

Board met at the *White Pine District Library* in Stanton. In July of 2022 a meeting was held in the *Vestaburg Depot* so our new members could see this beautiful building along the Trail. A work day in August was held in Riverdale. Pizza, followed by our monthly meeting was held in the *Riverdale School Museum*, where Linda Harrell gave us some of the school history of the area. For our September meeting, Patty Rockafellow invited the Board to her home for a potluck and social gathering before our meeting. Good food and a good time!

Meetings may be held along the Trail at different sites in 2023. Check in monthly on our Facebook page for locations.

### **Trail Maintenance Grants**

by Don and Karen Stearns

With the financial help of the MidWest Michigan Trail Authority (MWMTA) and the Greenville Area Community Foundation, the FFMHT was able to do some extensive trail repairs and maintenance this year. Root bumps were ground off, smoothed, and sealed from Douglas Road to Crystal Road, from Derry Road to the Wolf Creek Bridge, and from Academy Road to Neff Road in Montcalm County. The section from Academy to Neff was also resealed. The \$27,588.00 for these projects was received from the MWMTA. In addition, \$10,920 was received from the Greenville Foundation to grind off root bumps and reseal the Trail from Peck Road to Greenville West Drive. Much gratitude is given for the good work done by D & D Asphalt Specialists of Midland. We received several positive comments from Trail users!

### **Alma College Student Coordinates Volunteer Trimming Crews**

by Don Stearns

Alma College junior, Caleb Schuring, is a Trail user, both on his bike and as a runner. He wanted to do something to help maintain the Trail. He contacted the Board of Directors for the Trail, then went to the Alma College Maintenance Department and ended up working with the Center for College and Community Engagement. This new Center involves student volunteers for community work. On Oct. 14, 2022, approximately 35 students, most of whom were football players, volunteered to trim brush along the Trail from Iowa Street in Alma, west to Elwell (over 4 miles)! Using hedge trimmers and loppers, they worked in pairs and threes on assigned areas for two hours. Alma College President Dr. Jeff Abernathy worked with one of the groups from Iowa Street to Charles Street in Alma. The event gave us, the FMHT, over 70 hours of volunteer work on the Trail in one day! We extend our sincerest appreciation to these students for their generous donation of time and hard work. And a special thanks to Caleb for organizing the whole event! (PS - The football team won their game the next day over Hope College, and followed it up by winning their division and the first round of the NCAA Division III playoffs.



**SAVE THE DATE: May 6, 2023**

**Annual Fundraiser, Silent Auction, Raffle, and Banquet  
Curtis Community Building, Village of Edmore**

## Volunteers on the Trail

by Dianne Wilson and Jane Hemenway

A big “shout out” to all individuals that mow the sides of the Trail. They are volunteers that give of their time all season to ensure the natural beauty of the Trail can be enjoyed by everyone. Many even use their own mower. This year, the FFMHT purchased three new riding mowers to be used by volunteers who do not have access to one. Many thanks to Rolston Hardware and Millards in Stanton for supporting the Trail with these purchases. Mowers for 2022 include: City Church Greenville, David Christensen, Jack Pearl, Ken Mitchell, Rick Baldwin, Bruce Basom, Eric Rolston, Roger Hinton, Mike Gilbert, Jeff Hansen, Monty Stratton, Dianne Wilson, Cal Callison, Bill Ball, Ryan Keeler, Dr. Paul Gruca, and Miles Hirson.

Don and Karen Stearns have been using the Trail ditch mower to push back heavy brush and vines along the sides of the Trail. Spring mowing is McBride to Alma and back, and fall mowing is McBride to Greenville (M57) and back, about 40 miles each time.

The FFMHT Board would like to thank ALL of the Trail volunteers who go out on the Trail to do whatever they see needs to be done (trimming, blowing, tree cutting, painting, picking up trash, and more). Some of those that we know about are: Linda Harrell, Jeff Darmody, Odie Brantley, Jr., Phil Peasley, Eric & Niki Hansen, Tom Koepke, Dennis Adams, Ted & Fran Kondek, Ken Dyer, Mark Prout & Sarah Avery, Sue Avery, David Saxton, and MANY other unknown helpers! Please give a BIG Thank You to workers as you pass by!, remembering to maintain distance from workers,



their tools and machines. Be alert. Slow down. Keep everyone safe.

Sabine Maltby and Karen Stearns paint barriers keep motorized vehicles from the Trail in the winter

### Trail Supporters (\$1 - \$99)

Abbott	Richard
Addis	Wayne
Aldrich	Donald
Alma Womans Club	
Aubin	Michael & Betty
Baldwin	Wilma
Barasch	Linda
Bare	Fred & Connie
Barnes	Joseph & Jane
Bassett	Kristine
Bedlek	Richard & Diane
Beede	Louise & John
Bowen	Suzanne
Bowers	Rob & Lynne
Boyce	Ruth
Bunting	Jan
Burr	Bill & Eileen
Chaffin	Sue
Christensen	David

**Trail Supporters (\$1 - \$99), Continued**

Clark	Pat & Jerry
Clements	Terry
Clements	Janice
Crites	Diane
Dana	Linda
Doerr	Thomas
Drobish	Linda & John
Ehle Builders	
Fanslow	Ron & Lois
Gagne	Juan
Gilbert	Michael
Gladding	Barbara
Green	Evelyn
Griffin	Denny & Tammy
Gurecki	Ginger
Hansen	Duane
Harrell	Linda
Harvey	Gerry
Hattery	Barbara
Hemenway	Jane & Tim
Highland Blush	
Horn	Catherine
Huyge	Tim
Jarman	Dale
Johnson	Gary & Cindy
Koepke	Tom & Deb
Kondek	Ted & Fran
LaPaugh	Rosella
Larsen	Bethel
Lovell	Robert
Ludy	Lynne
Maybore	Laura & Craig
McClintic	Ann
McConnell	Randy
McCormack	John
Michaud	John
Moscariello	Paula
Nelson	Dave & Jane
Nester	Dr. Dale & Marion

**Trail Supporters (\$1 - \$99), Continued**

Nielsen	Richard & Claudia
Ochs	Robert
Pearl	Jack & Jan
Piccolo	Nick & Jeri
	<b>MEA</b> Financial Ser- vices
Prout, Mark	
Reed	Mary & Tom
Richards	Kay
Riemersma	Elizabeth
Riemersma	Jeffery
Rogers	Nancy L
Saltarelli	Bill
Scripture	Reese
Shy.Miller	Janet.Marty
Sias	Sue
Siefer	Jeff & Laura
Simon	Dave & Nancy
Smith	James J.
Smith	Patricia
Speiser	Steve
Splitstone	Paul
Springsteen	Dorothy
Stearns	Dave & Jean
Tchozeski	Steve & Joyce
Thompson	Michael
Thompson	Darren
VanDeWeghe	Linda & John
Vandlen	Geraldine
Ward	Bob
Warthman	Janet
Wegner	Phyllis L.
Wenzel	Richard
Wesp	Heather
White-Linn	Ginny
Wight	Joneed
Wilson	Dianne
Zilch	Carolyn

**Trail sections are open for adoption. To adopt a section contact  
Dianne Wilson at 268-5143 or [jdwilson@cmsinter.net](mailto:jdwilson@cmsinter.net)**

**Trail Contributors (\$100 - \$249)****A.J. Storage LLC**

Bakker	Kristin
Barberi	Alison
Bebow	Lori
Bussema	David
Charnley	Michaele
Cook	Phillip & Cindy
Dougherty	John & Linda
Downing	Gary
Dvorak	Joseph
Edwards	Ned
Fritsma	Mark & Kristen
Frutiger.Wassenaar	Rich.Sara
Gamble	Robert
Gibbs	George
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Lanning	Tom & Alice
Lowe	Laurie & Greg
Maltby	Sabine
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Michigan One CCU	
Michlitsch	Nancy
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Mullen	Mark
Nyman	Melvin & Arlene
Olsen	Carrie
Paul C Lux Living Trust	
Pitcher	Neville & Lois
Rayburn.Hunter	Gary.Susan

**Trail Contributors (\$100 - \$249), Continued**

Rockafellow	Patty & Joel
Russell	Steve & Jan
Simmons	Nellie Lou
Sova	Steve & Lynette
Whitmore	Andrea & Garrett
Whitmore	Robin
Wittle	Lawrence & Karen

**Trail Sustainers (\$250 & up)**

Arnold	John & Julie
Bader	Mark
Bain	Ralph
Byl	Carolyn
Christiansen	John
Clark	Yvonne
Freed Construction	Carol Freed
Headwaters Renewables	
Humm	Mary
Johnson	Walter L
Lambrecht	Tim & Anne
Luetkemeier	Maurie & Patricia
Maess	Lori
Marple	Cheryl
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Painter Trust	Phyllis
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Rowland	Jim & Donna
Schiffman	Marita & Randy
Simmons	Steve
Smith	Carol, LS Enginerring
Sorensen	Ron & Sharon
Stearns	Don & Karen
Tacia	Victoria & Peter
Terry's Cycle	
Whitmore	Eric & Holli