

Fairfield County Trails



Volume 3, Issue 3 Fall 2010

Fairfield Heritage Trail Association

Current trail projects and opportunities in Fairfield County

- Johns Amanda trail Phase II
- Lancaster City Trail Phase IV
- Lancaster City Trail usage count
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Community Brooms
- Bremen
- US 22 from east side OH 37 split to US 33

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Johns Trail Phase I from Marshall's Grain Mill to Sand Hill Rd. and beyond

The Johns Trail in Amanda is on the ground. Phase I, from Marshall's to Sand Hill Rd. was completed the second week of November by Ricketts Excavating of Lancaster.

The Johns Trail is 1.6 miles, passing around Marshall's, behind Mid West Fabricating Co., past private residences, and about 700 feet east of Sand Hill Rd. The trail was funded by grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Fairfield Foundation. Easements for the path have been provided by Marshall's Grain Mill, Mid West Fabricating, and the Johns family.

The packed limestone base provides a solid path for bicycles and

pedestrians.

The Johns Trail in Amanda is a key accomplishment, as it was Claude Ford of Amanda and Bob Williams of Hocking Township who



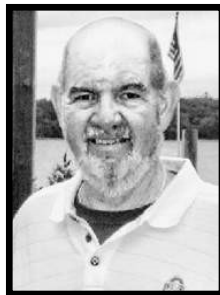
contacted Rails to Trails, independently, in 1998 to inquire about bike trail creation in western

Fairfield County in 1998.

Ford passed away on September 24 of complications from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

"Claude and I hit it off immediately," Williams recalled. "Even though we were about as far apart on the political spectrum as two people could be, we agreed that Fairfield County needed public recreational trails. We each contacted some like-minded friends, and that's where the FHTA got its start. It goes to show that folks who disagree in some ways can still work together on a common goal," Williams said.

Phase II of The Johns Trail is presently in discussion with landowners.



In Memoriam
Claude J. Ford
1940-2010
Co-Founder
Fairfield Heritage Trail Association



Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.

- H. G. Wells

First LCBT gardens planted

On Saturday June 3, two couples installed the first organized gardens along the Lancaster City Bike Trail.

Mary Bozman and Verena Lucker had been using the trail for frequent rides and walks and decided a little beautification was in order. Mary contacted FHTA, sent out a few letters to look for donations, and began to plan the pro-

ject. The friends chose the strip of property between the railroad tracks and gravel driveway for the DOT. They selected plants from their own gardens and recruited their husbands, Rick and Ralf, to help out.

Lancaster West Side Coal Co. sent a donation for supplies, and Lowe's manager Steve Wright contributed mulch at a greatly discounted price. On June

3, the work party met at the Department of Transportation to prepare and create beds around four trees and install the flora.

The simple beds of hostas and other perennials along the trail bring a joy to that section. **Thank you, Mary, Rick, Verena and Ralf.**

Downtown Bike Rack Project kicks off

With donations from FHTA, RayMar Steel, AVA Jewelers, Fairfield Medical Center and Buckeye Honda, the Bike Rack Project is finally on the move.

The simple arch-styled rack was designed by Dave Schmelzer of AVA Jewelers. Ray-Mar Steel's Jim and Cindy Guess donated the

materials, Big Bob's Fabricating rolled the steel into tubes and bent the tubes into arches.

Members of the Lancaster Police Department installed and painted six racks in Fountain Square and near the gazebo on Community Care Day.

FHTA members Dave Scheffler, Jim Barrett and Brett Navin created a map of possible sites for installations. More racks will be manufactured this winter and installed in 2011

Support the businesses which donated to this important and necessary bicycle project. ▲

HATTARICK 2011 — Don't want to miss this one

Once again, FHTA member Rick Holt is organizing a fun day on the bike – the Hockhocking Adena Trail to Athens Rde In the Cold for Koffee (HATTARICK).

Join Rick and the crew on Saturday January 8 at the Hocking College parking lot near the log cabins at 9:45 for a 10:00 AM departure. Lunch will be either in Athens or Eclipse – up for discussion that morning. We'll return to Hocking College

around 2. This is a free, social ride in the cold and you buy your own food. Rick rides in all weather, so be prepared.

In years past, riders have worn overalls, flip flops, ear muffs, and about any other thing you can think of for this great start to the riding season.

Some years, Rick has led over 20 cyclists, some other years, not so many. Get your warm gear ready, get the kids bun-

dled up, get to Nelsonville on time. You really don't want to miss this fun pedal.



Tour de Cause a success, 500+ riders, almost \$40,000 raised for local opiate programs

The first Tour de Cause on July 17 was a great event. On a weekend with at least three other bicycle tours in Central Ohio, the TDC pulled in 540 some riders to push the pedals on one of four rides highlighting the county's many covered bridges.

The 10 mile round-trip from OU-L to Olivedale on the Lancaster City Bike Trail was jammed with families all morning – nearly 200 riders. FHTA members Jim and Nancy Barrett, and Dave and Kristi Scheffler manned the Olivedale stop handing out water and snacks.

"The Olivedale rest stop worked well -- easy in and easy out, plenty of space and tables," Jim reported. He also noted that there were plenty of

"happy cyclists."

FHTA Secretary Peggy Mahler started her day at the registration tables at 7. Soon, she was driving her van all over the county. "I was the gopher- shuttle- and sag. I took supplies to Lockville, Johnson and then a run to Amanda where I brought someone back to OU-L who couldn't finish the next leg."

Lancaster Bicycle, owned by FHTA member Dan Peters, provided mechanical and sag support.

Over \$40,000 was raised for drug education, awareness and treatment at The Recovery Center. FHTA member and The Lancaster Cause Chairman Ron Burris presented the check to

The Recovery Center in November.

The 2011 Tour de Cause will be on Saturday June 16. Once again, Cristy's Pizza will be providing pizza, salad and more for hungry cyclists at the finish; Lancaster Bicycle will be providing mechanical assistance at the start as well as providing the SAG; the Amanda Local School District will allow 62 and 100 milers to have lunch at Amanda Clearcreek High School; and other community businesses will be offering the goods and services for riders.

Mark the date on your calendar, get your bike legs ready and be sure you have a properly fitted helmet for all rides. See you on June 16. ▲



"That was one of the toughest centuries I've ever done. Nice and rolling hills until about Mile 70, then the killers."

Unidentified 100 mile
Tour de Cause cyclist

Endorsements for FHTA

Adventure Cycling Association
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Amanda-Clearcreek Board of Education
Amanda Village Council
Bremen Area Historical Society
Bremen Mayor Toni Harper;
Village of Bremen
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hamburg

Dum-Ford House Bed and Breakfast, Amanda
Fairfield County Commissioners
Fairfield County Historical Park Commission
Fairfield Union Board of Education
Hocking Township Trustees
Lancaster Board of Education
Lancaster City Council

Ohio University - Lancaster
Progressive Referrals Group of Lancaster
Rushcreek Township Trustees
Fairfield County Mental Health & Recovery Service Board
The Friends of Clear Creek
The Friends of the Hocking River



FHTA

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WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association (FHTA) is a grass roots organization of concerned members who support the development of trails. The term *trail* is used throughout our literature to describe a system of greenways for use by non-motorized vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Other names or concepts may include bike path, hiking trail, nature walk, jogging trail, greenway or linear park. The goal of FHTA is to bring together existing and potential users of trails with civic leaders to facilitate the creation of a trail system for Fairfield County, Ohio.

www.fairfieldheritgetrail.org

Some of our notable resources



We look at the following resources (and a few more) to keep up-to-date with nationwide trends and issues. We've lifted info about each group from their website. Check them out.

Adventure Cycling Association: We research and produce cycling maps, publish *Adventure Cyclist*, lead bike tours, work on bicycle advocacy projects, and provide [trip plan resources](#).
www.adventurecycling.org

Alliance for Bicycling & Walking: Create,

strengthen, and unite state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy orgs.
www.peoplepowermovement.org

Bikes Belong: From helping create safe places to ride to promoting bicycling, we carefully select projects and partnerships that have the capacity to make a difference.
www.bikesbelong.org

MORPC (Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission): The place where visions and ideas about our growing region are created,

designed, discussed, and embraced. www.morpc.org

Rails to Trails Conservancy: Creating a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people. www.railstotrails.org

Safe Routes to Schools: Safe Routes to School programs enable community leaders, schools and parents across the United States to improve safety and encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to school. www.saferoutesinfo.org