



BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

JUNE 2014

JOIN US AT A “STATE OF THE TRAIL” FUNDRAISER AT STORMCLOUD!

Rick Schmitt and **Brian Confer**, the owners of Stormcloud Brewing Company, have announced that Stormcloud will be championing an area organization each month. In June they have chosen to highlight the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail!

Stormcloud will be promoting the Trail on Facebook and Twitter, on their website, and through visual materials in the pub. They also will be generously donating 20% of their sales at our “State of the Trail” get-together at Stormcloud in downtown Frankfort on Saturday, June 21st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The emphasis will be on socializing and enjoying all that Stormcloud has to offer in ambience, food and beverages. Please join us, enjoy the fun and lend your support to the Trail.



Rick Schmitt



Brian Confer

Visit our web site: www.betsievalleytrail.org

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH OUR ENDOWMENT

In last November's *Trailblazer* we rolled out the **William R. Olsen Endowment for the Betsie Valley Trail at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation**. Since then, initial contributions have gotten the Endowment up and running. Our goal is to build the Endowment each fiscal year until it reaches the level necessary to provide an independent source of ongoing funding for the operation and maintenance of the Trail. That's going to take something like \$1 million (or more). So the time to start building the Fund is now.

GTRCF's tag line is "Where a donor's wish lives . . . forever!" And making that "forever" gift is something that you can do now through a variety of means—cash, stocks and bonds, real estate, personal property, life insurance, and IRA roll-over, to name some of the principal methods.

And you can personalize your gift by creating a "named" fund (e.g., the "John & Mary Wells Endowment") that designates the FBVT as the Fund's earnings recipient.

Of course you also can choose a deferred gift to the Endowment: Bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable annuity trusts and charitable lead trusts are traditional avenues for this kind of giving.

--Jim Ryan, VP and Committee Chair

PROGRESS ON THE TRAIL

Trailhead at Adams Road: FBVT long recognized that the parking area on River Road needed improvement, even offering funds for that purpose. The DNR agreed that the area needed work and developed its own plans that included pit toilets like the one at the new boat launch. Crystal Lake Township urged the DNR to go forward at Adams Road, and the DNR did so when funds became available. As of late May a new pit toilet had been installed and the parking area had been leveled and was awaiting gravel. New boat ramps eventually will be installed.

Beulah to Thompsonville Resurfacing: We previously advised that the DNR said that this Trail segment would be improved with crushed limestone when funds became available. The Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council applied for a DNR grant for the project, and FBVT was one of many groups supporting the request. Since then the resurfacing has been put on the back burner by reason of serious wash-out issues on the segment of the Trail near Benzie Street in Beulah. BVTMC, the Village of Beulah and the DNR are all working on this problem.

Short Trail in Beulah: The Village of Beulah has approached the BVTMC about the construction of a short trail through Beulah Park to connect the bicycle lanes along Crystal Lake to the Trail. FBVT supports the idea of such an improvement to the trail complex.

THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are indebted to many who have supported the Trail and the work of the Friends:

Sharon McKinley and her assembling teams:

- **The November newsletter:** Maggie Baker, Carol Bowman, Tina Clark, Shirley Kinnan, Debby Laslow, Joan Miller, Luann Seymour and Elaine Vanderberg.
- **The President’s Letter:** Bryce and Paula Dreeszen, Char Ester, Thelma Rider and John Ruckrich.

BLUA for storing the Trail tractor and blower.

Don and Chris Smeltzer for storing our trailer.

Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa and **New Belgium Brewing Co.** for donating a portion of the proceeds from the Fat Chance Fat Tire Race to FBVT.

Nick Fant, David Lyon, Jim Ryan and Bill Olsen for clearing downed trees and performing other tasks along the Trail from Frankfort to Thompsonville.

Martha Garber and her **Adopt-a-Trail** volunteers:

- Jim Buzzell** from the **Friends of Betsie Bay**
- Joyce Gatrell** and the **Elberta United Methodist Church**
- Michelle Cannart** from the **Conundrum Café**
- Benzie Bike Club**
- Nancy Call** and **Crystal Mountain** employees

Mel Pierce for doing a super job mowing the shoulder between Frankfort and Elberta.

Daylene and Kris Welty for inviting Trail users to stop at the **Betsie River Campsite** for a drink or to use the bathroom facilities.



Nick, Dave and Jim place posts and tape to close the Trail washed out from water flowing down Benzie St.



Lucie Kinzel interrupts her bike ride to weed at the Garden of Possibilities by the Beulah Trailhead.

MORE HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS!



Sharon and Tina headed up the November newsletter team at St. Ann Catholic Church in Frankfort.



Members of the Tuesday Walking Club helping out included Joan, Luann and Elaine.



Other walkers on the task at St. Ann were Carol, Shirley, Maggie and Debby.



Sharon and Thelma were among those assembling the President's Letter in December at Trinity Lutheran.



Bryce and Char also did their part.



John and Paula rounded out the December team.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Annual Meeting in July marks the end of my six years on the FBVT Board, the last two of which have been spent as President. It has been gratifying to work with good people on a project with great community support. A special thanks to my fellow Board members, all of whom (along with two new ones) will remain on the Board after the Annual Meeting.

And of course the Board would go nowhere without help from those of you who are so generous with your time and resources. Volunteers literally keep the Trail clean and make possible the distribution of our newsletters. The generous contributions of FBVT members provide all the financial resources with which we work. And special friends like Stormcloud Brewing Company and Betsie River Campsite have come up with promotions of their own to help us out.

As an organization we are always looking for ways not only to maintain the Trail in its present condition, but to improve it for the future. This was the driving force behind our decision to establish the endowment fund. If you have not yet contributed to the fund, please give it your consideration.

In the meantime, happy trails!

-John Ester

SCHEDULE OF TRAIL EVENTS

Saturday, June 21, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Stormcloud Reception

Join us at the Stormcloud Brewing Company in downtown Frankfort. We will be there to talk about the state of the Trail, and our host will donate 20% of its sales during the event to FBVT.

Monday, July 14, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Michigander Stop at Beulah Trailhead

FBVT will host a rest stop on the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance "Michigander" ride from Mesick to Frankfort.

Saturday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. Port City Run

This is an annual event beginning and ending in Frankfort and using portions of the Trail. For further information call (231) 352-7251.

Wednesday, July 23, 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual membership meeting at the Benzie County Resource Center at 6051 Frankfort Highway (M-115). The Annual Meeting is immediately followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Saturday, August 2, 6:30 p.m. Big Al's Skunk Run

This is a second annual fishing tournament at the Betsie River Campsite, 1923 River Road, Frankfort, followed by a cookout and raffle open to the public, with proceeds going to the Trail.

Saturday, August 23 Archibald Jones Day

Dedication of a Michigan Historical Marker at the Crystal Lake Outlet. A two-sided bronze plaque will be placed at the site where the Betsie Valley Trail crosses Mollineaux Road near the Outlet .



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indicates that your 2014 dues have
been paid. Thank you!

SEE YOU AT STORMCLOUD!
Saturday, June 21, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Stormcloud Brewing Company
Frankfort, MI

ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 23, 7:00 p.m.
Benzie County Community Resource Center
6051 Frankfort Highway (M-115)
Benzonia, MI 49616

AGENDA
Minutes from 2013 Annual Meeting
Financial report
Progress and planning reports
Comments from members
Election of three Directors