



# BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

JUNE, 2010

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## PROPOSED TRAIL PROJECTS: STATUS UPDATE

Since the DNR acquired the former railroad corridor in 1998, there has been a continuing process to convert it to the Trail we now enjoy. It took nine separate construction projects to build the Trail from the Lake Michigan Beach in Frankfort to Thompson St. in Thompsonville. The process continues. The status of the ongoing projects is as follows:

**Crystal Lake Boating Access Site:** The DNR is responsible for this project and we have worked with them to try to assure that the Trail thru the site is safe (see Site Plan on pg. 3). The Trail will be relocated around the paved launching pad, crossing the access road with a 4-way stop. At the insistence of the Crystal Lake Property Rights Assoc., locked bollards will be placed at the crossing to keep vehicles off the Trail. We have objected to these because they pose a danger to Trail users and are a barrier to fire and medical emergency vehicles. We're told that all emergency vehicles will have keys. Construction at the junction of Mollineaux Rd. and M-115 should start in July and some construction at the Lake shore is expected this summer. The project is scheduled for completion next spring. We have been assured that there will be a safe passageway for Trail users thru the site during construction, though we will have to walk our bikes most of the time.

**Mollineaux Rd. and River Rd. Trailheads:** More parking is needed at Mollineaux Rd. and the parking area at River Rd. is in very poor condition because of erosion. We met with DNR officials in May. We had developed some

preliminary plans and offered to pay for some improvements to both areas this summer. The DNR has more elaborate plans in mind and rejected our offer. The bad news; no improvements this summer. The good news; better Trailheads than we had expected and at the DNR's expense. We just don't know when.

**Beulah to Thompsonville Trail:** The surface of this 12 plus mile segment is road aggregate. Sizable stones have worked to the surface making biking less than ideal for many. The Trailway Council (BVTMC) and FBVT Board have considered resurfacing this segment with 3 inches of crushed limestone, the same material used along Railroad Point. This would cost about \$300,000, requiring a major grant and a large match from FBVT. The BVTMC recently hired the Benzie County Road Comm. to brush sweep the surface stones from the Trail. The result is very gratifying and may be the best solution for now. Try it. You'll like it.

**Trail to the Elberta Waterfront:** Completing this portion of the Trail has been our highest priority for a long time. Last summer a Master Plan for the project was completed and can be viewed in the Elberta Village office. Unfortunately, construction is on hold until an easement can be developed thru the Elberta Land Holding Co. property between the Cabbage Shed and the Elberta Village Waterfront Park.

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Visit our web page: [www.BetsieValleyTrail.org](http://www.BetsieValleyTrail.org)

## 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**FBVT Board Meetings:** 6:30 PM, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, Century 21 Sleeping Bear Realty in Beulah.

**Thursday, July 1, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Business After Hours:** A Frankfort-Elberta C of C event, Cabbage Shed Restaurant in Elberta. Co-sponsored by the Cabbage Shed and the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail. Food, prizes, fun and networking. Bring your friends . Open to the public!

**Saturday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Beulah Art Fair:** A popular annual event where FBVT has traditionally staffed a booth.

**Saturday, July 17, 8:00 a.m. Port City Run on the Trail:** This annual event features 1-mile and 5-k events and starts at the open space in Frankfort.

**Tuesday, July 27, FBVT Annual Meeting:** 6:30 pm, Century 21 Sleeping Bear Realty in Beulah. All FBVT members are welcome.

**Wednesday, July 28, CSA Art Fair:** FBVT again will have a booth at the Congregational Assembly, two miles north of Frankfort on M-22.

**Saturday, August 21, Frankfort Art Fair:** FBVT will staff a booth. Stop by and see us!

**Sunday, August 22, Bike Benzie Tour:** Sponsored by the Benzie Sunrise Rotary, beginning and ending at Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa in Thompsonville. For registration information google [Bike Benzie](#).

**Saturday, September 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Birding by Bike on the BVT:** A Benzie Audubon event led by Bryce and Paula Dreeszen (275-7199 for info) looking for bluebirds, possibly inspecting and cleaning out bluebird bird houses along the Trail. Everyone is welcome!

**Sunday, October 3, Betsie Valley Run:** This annual event begins and ends at the Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa in Thompsonville and features everything from a 5k walk to a half marathon.

## BOY SCOUTS BLUEBIRD PROJECT

BEULAH – On May 18 Boy Scouts from Troop #10 sponsored by the Blaine Christian Church completed their service project of building and installing seven new bluebird houses along the Betsie Valley Trail between Beulah and Thompsonville. The scouts built the boxes earlier this year with the support of the Benzie Audubon Club and under the supervision of Scoutmaster Pete Nugent. They completed their project by driving posts and attaching the new houses to them at locations along the Trail selected by representatives of Benzie Audubon and the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail. Future plans include cleaning out the boxes in the fall, which should allow the scouts to determine which species have taken to the new houses.

## WANTED: TRAIL PHOTOS

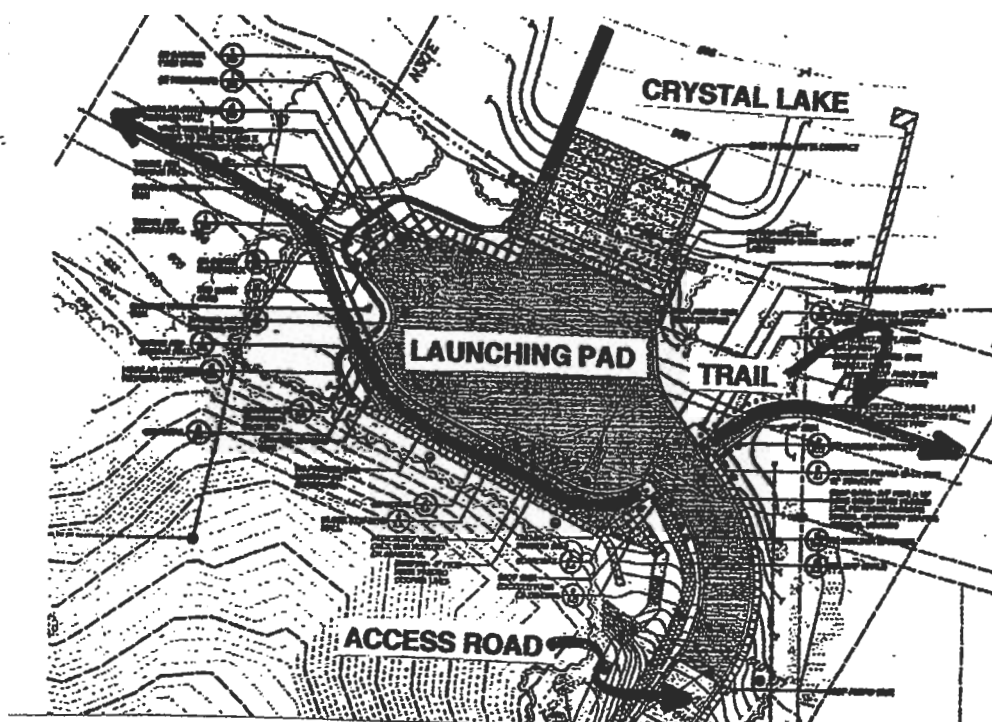
If you have any good photos of the Trail and/or people on it, please contact John Ester at 231-325-2445 or send them to him at [jesterr625earthlink.net](mailto:jesterr625earthlink.net) for possible inclusion on our web "pictures" page.

## PLEASE SCHEDULE TRAIL EVENTS

If you are planning an event on the Betsie Valley Trail, please review the procedure for scheduling the event by visiting our web site ([www.BetsieValleyTrail.org](http://www.BetsieValleyTrail.org)) and clicking on 'Trail Use' and "Trail Ordinance". This will help you avoid conflicts with other events and comply with the County's Trail Use Ordinance. There are special restrictions on "organized bicycle groups of 10 or more cyclists" which plan to use the Trail between Mollineaux Rd. and Beulah, and they must be registered before May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ADDRESS CHANGE?

If so, please call 231-352-6049 or e-mail [akoclark@att.net](mailto:akoclark@att.net)



## Crystal Lake Boat Launch Work Ready to Begin

By Ed Hoogterp

After years of controversy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment is ready to start construction on a new boat launch on Crystal Lake.

Reconstruction of the intersection of M-115 and Mollineaux Road, 1.5 miles west of Beulah is expected to begin in July. When the road work is complete, crews will move to the interior of the site, with a parking lot on high ground near Mollineaux Road and a paved launch area on the water. A two-lane paved access road and a pedestrian stairway will traverse a steep, 70-foot hillside to link the launch ramps with the parking area. The entire project is expected to be open for business late this fall or in the spring of 2011. It will cost just over \$1 million, not including land acquisition and legal expenses.

As part of an agreement signed March 31 by Benzie Circuit Court Judge James Batzer, the state's original design has been modified to: reduce the hard-surface parking area by nearly 50 percent; eliminate a separate "staging dock" at

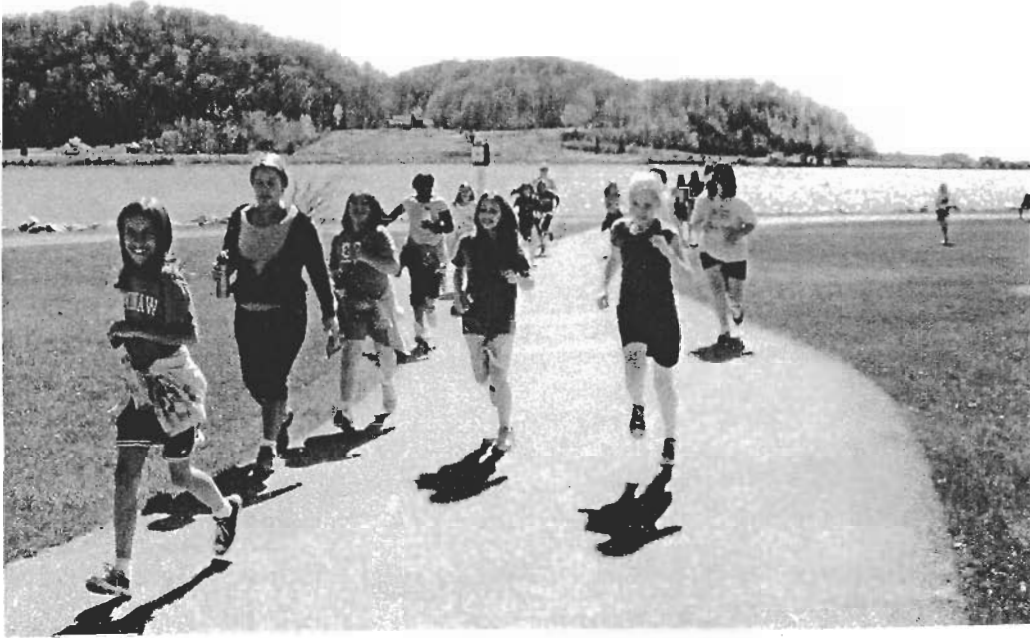
the site; and include a boardwalk where a section of the Betsie Valley Trail crosses a wetland at the launch site.

The new design reflects a legal settlement of litigation ongoing since 2004 between The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (CLWA), The Crystal Lake Property Owners Association (CLPRA), Benzie County and the DNRE. CLWA challenged the state environmental permits issued for the project in 2004, contending that the environmental impact of the project could be reduced. CLPRA filed a lawsuit that year, arguing that the boating access facility should not be allowed under the Betsie Valley Trail agreement, or under local zoning. The court settlement ends both cases and allows the DNRE to go ahead with construction under the modified design.

As part of the agreement with CLPRA, the state is to specify that the site is intended only for boating access to Crystal Lake, not as an access to the Betsie Valley Trail. The design also specifies signage where the trail crosses the access road, and "bollards" to keep motorists from driving on the trail.

## BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

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**Frankfort Elementary School Girls on The Run and Girls on Track teams start a training run on the Betsie Valley Trail:** Nearly 40 girls participate in Frankfort's GOTR program coached by Amy Heniser and Linda Turner. Several parent volunteers also assist coaches with practices and supervision. The BVT provides a safe and scenic training route as the girls prepare to participate in a regional 5K event held in Traverse City. Girls on the Run(®) is a 501(c) 3 positive youth development program internationally based in Charlotte, NC which combines an interactive curriculum and running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls.



Mary Chandler looks on while (l-r) Jan Kline, Kate Easlick and Keira Duvernoy prepare '09 appeal letters for mailing.



**BOY SCOUT TROUP  
BLUEBIRD HOUSE  
PROJECT**

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Jay Larson holds son  
Cory as he pounds in  
the stake.



Cory Larson (bottom)  
and (clockwise)  
Eric Feala, Josh Dean,  
Keith Westphal and Bill  
Olsen attach a box to  
the stake

## **Many, Many Thanks!!!**

**Carol Beldler, Marcia Jakeway, Chris Kitzman,  
Kay Noah, Karen Remington  
and Thelma Rider-Novak**

for  
folding and stuffing the November newsletters  
and to

**The Benzie Area Historical Society**

for  
furnishing space at the museum to do so

**Mary Chandler, Kelra Duvernoy, Kate Easlck,  
Chris Kitzman and Jan Klein**

for  
folding and stuffing the December appeal letters  
and to

**Ron Harrison and Sheila Prochnow**

for  
furnishing space at the Phoenix Café to do so.

**Tom and Mary Osborn**

for  
letting us use their pole barn to store our tractor,  
supplies and equipment

**Dan and Sue Remahl**

for  
folding and distributing trail maps

**Rob Mummy of Advanced Tree Service**

for  
cutting up a large downed tree

**Mel Pierce**

for  
mowing the Trail between River Rd. and Frankfort

**Bob Hawes, David Lyon, Bill Olsen  
and Bob Zwink**

for  
removing the winter downed trees from the Trail

**Larry Garber, David Lyon and Bill Olsen**

for  
placing the new bench between Frankfort and  
Elberta

**Pete Nugent and the Blain Christian Church  
Boy Scout Troup #10**

for  
building and placing seven bluebird house along the  
Trail between Beulah and Thompsonville

**To our Adopt-a-Trail volunteers**

who clear trash from the Trail each spring

**Friends of Betsie Bay**

**Bob Dittrich, Susanne Glynn, Suz McLaughlin,  
Tom Richmond, Tom Twigg and  
Sloane Wilkins**

**Elberta United Methodist Church  
Virginia Craker, Joyce Gatrell and Ken Holmes**

**Benzie Bicycle Club**

**Margaret and Doug Wozniak**

**Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail**

**Jan and Dick Robb and Judy McQuinn**

**Crystal Mountain Employees**

### **BENZIE BUS WILL SPOT BIKERS**

Want to ride any part of the Trail one way?  
Call Benzie Bus at (231-325-300, make a  
reservation, spot your car, and the bus will pick  
you up and take you, your bike and your friends to  
any where the Trail crosses a road. While a 24  
hour reservation is preferred, sometimes  
reservations can be made on short notice. For  
more information contact [www.BenzieBus.com](http://www.BenzieBus.com)

### **PLEASE HELP KEEP TRAIL CLEAN**

Each spring, scores of volunteer hours are  
spent preparing the Trail for the season. The trees  
and branches are cleared, Adopt-a-Trail groups  
pick up trash, signs are replaced and a variety of  
minor repairs and improvements are made. As you  
use the Trail, please take a moment to throw a  
fallen branch into the woods and/or pick up the  
occasional bottle or piece of paper. Thank you!!!

## Contributing Members 2010

Terry and Lois Almquist  
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Charles and Maudie Anderson  
Robert and Molly Appleford  
Jon and Mary Armstrong  
Richard and Patricia Austin  
Steven and Virginia Axton  
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James and Barbara Baitazar  
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 Larry and Carolyn Storie  
 Eugene and Jean Terrill  
 Kelly and Carolyn Thayer  
 Tom and Mary Torbet  
 Charles and Sharon Trense  
 Judy Twigg  
 Beau Vallance and  
     Jack Carpenter  
 Toby and Christy Tull  
 Kristin Van Ausdal  
 Carol Van Senus  
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 John and Lynn Vinkemulder  
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 Steve and Amy Whitlach  
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 Elizabeth Lee Williams  
 Nancy E. Williamson  
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 Cecile Wolszon  
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 Douglas and Margaret Wozniak  
 Will Wuerthele  
 Donna Wyatt  
 Dennis and Jan Wyckoff  
 Mark A. Wyckoff  
 Jay and Pam Yarwood  
 Bob Mary Young  
 Stephan and Gail Zachmann  
 Bernie and Julie Zahm  
 Robert and Greta Zwinck

**In Honor of**

Carl & Betsy Anderson  
     Sandy and Yves Besson  
 Moby Benedict  
     James and Louanne Buzzell  
 Sally Berlin  
     James and Patricia Laarman  
 Steve Betts & Suz McLaughlin  
     The Peacock Family  
 Bill (Wm. R. MD) Olsen  
     Ed and Patty Petrick

**In Memory of**

Karen Lyon  
     Kristen Van Ausdal  
 Dale Mix  
     Jack and Evelyn Beugnot  
     Charles and Rose Burns  
     Dean and Laura Chamberlin  
     Eugene Lee and  
     Christopher Stone  
     Ida Mix and Joan Thomas



**THE BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER**



**We need your help to continue to develop and maintain the Betsie Valley Trail. Contributions are appreciated.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels: Single (\$10) Family (\$15) Donor (\$25) Patron (\$50) Benefactor (\$100) Sponsor (\$250)

Operating Account \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Betsie Valley Trail Capital Account \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your tax deductible contribution to:  
Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, P.O. Box 474, Beulah, MI 49617



**Visit our revised web page ([BetsieValleyTrail.org](http://BetsieValleyTrail.org))**

- **Contact Board members**
- **Trail/people photos**
- **Event schedules**
- **Volunteer "opportunities"**
- **Trail event scheduling**
- **Recent newsletters**



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BEULAH, MICHIGAN  
49617-0474

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Permit No. 22

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ADDRESS SERVICE  
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## **TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

6:30 pm Tuesday July 27, 2010  
Century 21 Sleeping Bear Realty  
Beulah, MI

### **AGENDA**

Financial Report  
Progress and planning reports  
Comments from members  
Election of three directors