BOLLARD ISSUE REMAINS CONTENTIOUS

EXPANSION OF THE RAILROAD POINT NATURAL AREA PLANNED

140 more acres will extend the Area from Crystal Lake to the Betsie River

This year the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy begins its third land protection effort at the Railroad Point Natural Area. What started in 1996 with the initial protection of 66 precious acres continues today bringing the Railroad Point Natural Area to more than 200 acres, extending it all the way from Crystal Lake to the Betsie River!

After years of discussions, owners of land near the Natural Area have offered to sell their property, which will be owned by Benzie County. A newer, grander Railroad Point is emerging, one that more than doubles the acreage, adds wetlands and provides a wildlife corridor between Crystal Lake and the Wild and Scenic Betsie River. Plans also call for a new trail creating stunning new access to the bluff overlooking Crystal Lake. The Mary Margaret Johnson Trail will be built this summer thanks to a generous early gift to this project in Mary Margaret's honor from her husband, Walt Johnson. The new trail will be a sustainable one, designed to showcase the full beauty of the natural area and follow the

(continues on page 2)

Bollards also block passage of emergency responders, they violate the terms of the Bigelow et al Settlement Agreement we negotiated with CLPRA 15 years ago and they violate the mandates of the Betsie Valley Trailway Ordinance. Accordingly, we remain opposed to their installation.

The bollards became an issue during the negotiations of a lawsuit CLPRA filed against the State to try to prevent the State from constructing the boat launch. The boat launch was not stopped but, unknown to us or the Trailway Management Council, the bollards became part of the Negotiated

(continues on page 2)

Visit our web page: www.BetsieValleyTrail.org
Settlement. Unless we modify that settlement, they will be installed. So what are our plans?

We have filed a notice of violation to all relevant parties and the response from CLPRA's leadership is noted above. However, some of their members agree that the bollards are dangerous, do not think fighting for them is in CLPRA's best interest and plan to discuss the issue at CLPRA's Annual Meeting in early July. We will withhold any further action until after that meeting. If they agree to join us in signing the Stipulated Order, a lot of grief and money will be saved. If not, we will immediately file suit to have the bollards removed from the boat launch plan.

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) and clicking on “Trail Use” and “Trail Ordinance”. This will help you avoid conflicts with other events and comply with Benzie County’s Trail Use Ordinance.

There are special restrictions for “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 15th (Trail Ordinance requirement).

BOY SCOUTS HELP AGAIN

Boy Scout Troop #10 from the Blaine Christian Church built another 50 new bluebird houses for installation along the BVT. The plan was to replace all broken houses this spring, but a few were already “occupied”. Working with Audubon member Keith Westphal, ten houses were placed in May. In the fall, after Keith finishes his annual nest tabulation, broken boxes will be replaced and additional boxes added as needed. See the photo of this year’s Boy Scout crew on page four.

The Conservance still needs to raise $325,825 locally. That’s in addition to the most recent Trust Fund grant to Railroad Point of nearly one million and other early donations. Like the earlier protection efforts, it will take love and energy from local families to rally around Railroad Point.

Every Saturday this summer from noon-5:00 pm and on June 10th and 17th, July 8th, 16th, and 18th, and August 5th and 19th there will be special events at the area including biking on the Betsie Valley Trail. Times vary. See the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail web page (www.BetsieValleyTrail.org) for details.

To learn more about the Railroad Point Natural Area expansion and events, call Sarah Naperal at 231-929-7911 or visit www.gtrlc.org.

FBVT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ADDRESS CHANGE?

If so, please e-mail akoclark@att.net or call 231-352-6049
A. Existing Railroad Point Natural area, owned by Benzie County
B. Proposed Expansion, including two small parcels on Crystal Lake
C. Outlet property, owned by the Department of Natural Resources
D. Existing Railroad Point Natural Area, owned by Benzie County
E. Crystal Lake Boating Access Site (boat launch, under construction), owned by the Department of Natural Resources
Preparing the fall newsletter: Mary Ellen Miller (end of table, then clockwise), Lucie Kinzel, Dick Robb, Steve Wentworth, Charlie Kinzel, Jan Robb, George Granlund, Gretchen Staub, Catherine Granlund and Peg Lawrenson (missing).

Blain Christian Church BoyScout Troop placing bluebird boxes: (l to r), Front row: Corey Larson and Eryk Feala. Back row: Joel Kiskinen, William Richardson. Adam Kaskinen, Pete Nugent, Scoutmaster, Josh Dean and Mike Kaskinen, Assistant Scoutmaster.
CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES CLEAR TRASH BETWEEN THOMPSONVILLE AND BEULAH

Trash bag ladies (left to right)
Jordan Lentz, Alyssa Smith and Deidre Lentz

Johnston family (left to right)
Allison, Aidan and Stephani

Contributing Members 2011

Terry and Lois Almquist
Marjie Anderson
Robert & Molly Appleford
Jon and Mary Armstrong
Richard and Patricia Austin
Bob and Nancy Baglan
James & Barbara Baltazar
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Annis Pratt
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Dennis and Patricia Ritchie
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Mark and Renee Roberts
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Faith Sanders
Gregg and Chelin Satherlie
Rick and Jennie Schmitt
Roger and Jane Schultz
David Scott
Ed and Pat Scott
Bill and Kathie Seitz
Helen Sharp
Michael and Luveda Skimin
Barbara Skurdall and Ann Strehle
Robert Skurdall and Debra Eller
Ronald Smeltzer
Thank You 2011 Volunteers!!!

Bob Appelford, Jerry Boyd, Harold Case, Tom Davy, Nick Fant, Dick Hitchingham, David Lyon, Phil Mix, Bill Olsen, Rick Taylor and Steve Wentworth
for Clearing downed trees this spring

Dan Remahl and Jane Gary
for distributing the Trail maps

Brad Plat, CENTURY 21 Northland
for letting FBVT to use their Beulah office for Board meetings

The group that folded the November newsletter
see photos

Chris Kitzman and Shaun Johnson
for folding and mailing the May newsletter

Mel Pierce
for mowing the Trail shoulders between River Rd. and 10th St.

Our Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers
who keep the Trail clear of trash;

Connundrum Cafe
Rob and Michele Cannaert

Friends of Betsie Bay

Elberta United Methodist Church

Benzie Bicycle Club
Margaret and Doug Wozniak

Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail
Mary Ellen Miller, Julie McKnight, and Jan Robb

Crystal Mountain Employees
see photos

In Memory of
Dean Fales
by Dr. and Mrs. William Toole

In Honor of
Benjamin and Pat Quigg
by Carl and Cyndie Hood,

Adam Strauss
by Jerry and Pat Jehle
Clearing Fallen Trees; a Continuous Job

Tom Davy, Phil Mix and David Long (l to r)

Bob Appleford, Dick Hitchingham and Jerry Boyd (l to r)
Enjoying the Trail on Easter Sunday Afternoon

Faith Sanders, her nephew John Stamm, great granddaughter Trinity Wiencek and daughter Beth Sanders (l to r)

The Thayer family (l to r), Kelly, Alex, Carolyn and Quincy
We need your help to continue to develop and maintain the Betsie Valley Trail. Contributions are appreciated.

Name(s) ______________________ phone __________________

Primary address ____________________________ e-mail __________________

Seasonal address ____________________________ dates ______ to ______

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
or use pay pal

Dear members,

In July, I will conclude my 2nd term on the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail board. As a member of that board, I've had the pleasure of working with a wonderful group of skilled & committed individuals, and under the leadership of this capable board, your organization is in excellent shape going forward.

Through the generosity of our members, we've been able to support Trail maintenance and operations, as well as fund capital improvements. Being on the board for any non-profit would be very difficult without strong membership support. In that respect, you've made the job easy.

I anticipate that our organization will be filing suit against the Crystal Lake Property Rights Association (CLPRA), because of the bollards they have insisted upon being placed in the Trail at the new Crystal Lake Boat Launch site. The bollards are dangerous to Trail users and your board is adamantly opposed to their instillation. We are hopeful that logic will prevail and the bollards will be removed from the Boat Launch plan. However, the CLPRA organization has taken a firm stance against removal of the bollards. Unless that changes, our organization will be forced to fight this issue in court. Please know that your board has not arrived at this decision lightly, and it will be careful and respectful about expenditure of the membership dollars you have entrusted to the FBVT in support of your Trail.

Thank you for opportunity to serve you as a board member and happy trails!

____________________________
Nancy Mullen Call
President
A green line on your address label indicates that your 2011 dues have been paid
Thank you!!!

BOLLARDS REMAIN CONTENTIOUS

ANNUAL MEETING
6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Crystal Conference Center
Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa
Thompsonville, MI

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