

Macomb Orchard Trail News

Summer, August 2009

Published By: Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail

The Armada Times featured an article on July 8, 2009 on the Wolcott Mill Trail Association. The horse trail was sponsored and developed by our FMOT former President Dennis Tipsword. Dennis worked closely with the HCMA Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority to design, layout and construct a horse trail. The trail is now over ten miles long. The WMTA also does the maintenance to keep the trail open. This was one of the promises we could not full fill on the Macomb Orchard Trail.

The Macomb Orchard Trail has a new engineering firm Hubbell, Roth & Clark. They have confirmed that the trail aggregate will not be fixed this year. They have set up a couple of test sections to over lay the shooting marble size aggregate with Stone Cold product 21AA screened to 3/8 dia. Edging will not be required with this material. It pretty well stays put once it is placed. The Engineering firm will do batch test as well as on trail test to confirm material consistency. Trail surface will be 10 foot wide; depth will be 4-6 inches depending on contract pricing from \$300 to \$460k. At this stage any major resurfacing must also be approved through MDOT.

The Clinton River Bridge is closed pending needed repairs. The concrete support structure is showing signs of serious deterioration. The bridge abutment at each end is crumbling at the surface but can be capped. The two supporting piers are also crumbling. The supports are being undermined at the foundation. Additionally the bridge structure requires sand blasting and painting with the other repairs. Hubbell, Roth & Clark submitted five proposals to repair or replace the bridge. MOTC members are reviewing the proposals at this time. The bridge work is complicated by the communication cables running under the deck. John Crumm, Macomb County Planning is checking into enhancement grants for the bridge work. The best detour is north on Powell Rd, east on 33 Mile Rd. and back on to the trail. The trail intersects at 33 Mile Rd. and Romeo Plank Rd.

Bike Rests have been installed by Chuck Mabley-FMOT Board member, in honor of Ted Gondert. Ted, our newsletter editor and long time trail supporter, died unexpectedly a few years ago. The bike rests are located at Armada Ridge & 33 Mile Trailhead and one at Ross Park on West road. A third will be installed in the old Romeo Garage location as it is developed. Ted lived just a few blocks from the Romeo Garage.

The old Romeo Macomb County Road Commission garage is being transformed into a Trailhead Park just north of 32 Mile road. The back of the property includes the trail between 32 Mile road and the M53 Expressway bridge. It is on Clinton street north of 32 Mile road. It will include 25 car parking spaces, tree plantings and restrooms. The park will be maintained under the MOTC along with the trail. Even though the Village of Romeo has not officially joined the MOTC they are cooperating fully in getting the road commission yard approved for a Trailhead Park. Don Brown, District 13 County Commissioner has been instrumental in getting this project developed.

Trail Maps are included with this mailing for members. The maps will be put in the information boxes along the trail as well. The information boxes on the trail are being updated due to vandalism.

ITC provided folders on their tree clearing activities. Any new vegetation in the line area cannot exceed 12 feet in height. The high tension lines are capable of a ten foot flash over; objects near the line can cause a flash over. During bad storms or heat cycles the lines have a 20 foot swing/sag capability which must be accounted for. MOTC and the individual townships must sign a written agreement before any future tree work is to be done. For individual property owners, the right of way easement allows access for line maintenance and tree trimming. Gary Kirsch, ITC representative was the former Washington Township Supervisor.

Macomb Orchard Trail Commission

The Macomb Orchard Trail Commission is made up of

Joseph Youngblood-Chairman-Assistant Director Parks and Recreation of Shelby.

Troy Jeschke-Vice Chairman-Planner for the City of Richmond

Kathy Bosheers-Secretary/Treasurer-Township Clerk of Washington Township

Don Brown-Macomb County Board of Commissioner

Jim Kropp-HCMA Staff

Please contact John Crumm, Macomb County Planning & Economic Development, at 586-469-5285 or e-mail John.Crumm@macombcountymi.gov to report maintenance and trail aesthetic issues.

Editors Note: We have both had health problems at the beginning of the year which prevented us from doing anything extra for a long time. Frankly we were hoping to be replaced but the board members were unable to find a replacement. So we are putting a Want Ad out there to get our selves replaced. We need a fresh writer-editor to come forward and carry on. Please contact us at 586-468-8781 or drumohr@wowway.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail

Chairman: John Tarantino	Director: Neil Kocsis
Vice-Chairman: Richard Platz	Director: Dave Rumohr
Secretary: Christine Hamilton	Director: Marty Osborne
Treasurer: Chuck Mabley	Newsletter Editor: Lee Rumohr

Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail meeting dates are on 4th Tuesday of the month. Check the web site www.orchardtrail.org to make sure of meeting time and location, in the summer we may meet on the trail. Next meeting will be September 29 at 7 P.M.

The Macomb Orchard Trail Commission meets 8:30 am on the 4th Tues of the month. <http://www.macomborchardtrail.com> Check the web site to confirm meeting days and locations.

Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail

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Membership Form

Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail membership expires in January
Please renew now if you have not done so this year.

One year membership \$10, families included

- New Member
- Renewal

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____ E-Mail _____

City: _____ Additional Family member names and e-mail _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Make check payable to and mail to Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail,
PO Box 385, Richmond, MI 48062. Or bring to membership meeting.