



Greenways Ink

Fostering the Development and Preservation of Trails and Greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region

www.foxcitiesgreenways.org

Winter 2011/2012

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President's Letter

Hello Fox Cities Greenways Friends,

As we close out 2011, I reflect on a great year. Some organization highlights for this year include:

- Initiated the annual "Happy Trails" family ride.
- Helped kick off the first annual "Get up and Ride" effort in the Fox Cities as a co-sponsor with Kimberly Clark.
- Assisted in efforts to get bike lanes on Capitol Dr. in Appleton, helped secure funding and support for Province Trail, and paved shoulders on CTH JJ.
- Added more signage to the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Water Trail and donated one of the floating kayak docks in Menasha.
- Provided funding to begin the design of the CB Trail extension and for the funding plan to raise money for its completion.
- Signed 90 percent of the Fox Cities Paper Trail.

Our recognition in the community also grew, as evidenced by some unsolicited contributions and requests for assistance. We made Fox Cities Greenways more visible through booths at Appleton Farmers "Green" Market and various health events and through expanded media spots.

As my 3 years as president comes to an end, I feel good about what we have accomplished and the direction the organization is headed. It's been a real pleasure to serve as head of this great group.

Sincerely,

Dave Muench
President, Fox Cities Greenways

Board of Directors Nominations for 2012

Election of Board of Directors and Officers for 2012 will take place at Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting on Jan. 26, 2012. New nominees for Board of Directors for the coming year include Tom Walsh, Melissa Kraemer Badtke, Rob Gusky, and Mark DesJardin, with B Alford and Connie Roop recommended for off-board positions until additional board vacancies arise.

Tom Walsh previously served two terms on the Board of Directors. He has continued to promote trail connections and safe transportation routes as a liaison to many local groups and municipalities during the past year. Tom's organizational work with the Safe Routes to School program and Bike to Work Week has been a great benefit to many citizens of the Fox Cities.

Melissa Kraemer Badtke has also been a strong advocate for trail connections and safe passage. Melissa is a planner with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, is our regional Safe Routes to School Coordinator, and will be involved in developing a new Regional Trails Plan.

Rob Gusky is currently Kimberly Clark's Ambassador of Cycling, a member of Appleton Trail Advisory Committee, and also works with local, regional, and national groups (League of American Bicyclists, Biker Belong, and Endomondo) to encourage increased bicycle transportation through challenge programs such as the Scott 2011 Get Up and Ride program.

Mark DesJardin is an active bicycle advocate and bicycle racer with experience in marketing throughout the Fox Valley.

Connie Roop's experience teaching high school environmental science and as an author of children's literature will be greatly valued as she assists with editing of our newsletter.

B Alford has long distance bicycling experience (across North America), a great enthusiasm for healthy lifestyles as she instructs yoga classes, and an interest in helping to promote bicycle safety for all ages.

Nominations for Officers are: Tom Walsh - President, Mike Kading - Action Vice President, Marilyn Gardner/Jan Heifner - Program Vice Presidents, Peggy Cox - Secretary, Vickie Kluge - Treasurer. Dave Muench - Past President

We would like to express gratitude to the board members who will be finishing their terms in January. Tom Ales, and Gordy and Linda McDaniel have served three year terms, Pat Spiegelberg five years, and Steve Draws one year. Special thanks go to Pat Spiegelberg and Tom Ales for sharing their expertise to enable us to produce a high quality, informative newsletter and to Gordy and Linda McDaniel for organizing special events, including last summer's very successful 1st annual Happy Trails event. We look forward to continuing this relationship with Gordy and Linda for future events. Many thanks to all outgoing board members for their support and dedication.

Fox Cities Greenways Plans Bike/Ped Mini Series for Local Officials

Fox Cities Greenways is planning to hold three early morning educational programs dealing with the subject of making biking and walking in the Fox Cities easier and safer, and justified by the community. The first program kicks off Friday, January 27th at 7:30 a.m. at Atlas Coffee Mill and continues the next two Fridays, concluding February 10, 2012. Registration and refreshments begin at 7 a.m. The cost is \$25 for all three programs, or \$10 individually. Space is limited, so early registration is suggested.

Kicking off the series on January 27th will be Jack Zabrowski, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for LaCrosse County. He will be coming off a speaking engagement the evening before at the Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting and talking in more detail about why bicycle and pedestrian access is important and how LaCrosse County gained national attention as a bike friendly community. The second topic of the series will be brought to you by Margie Weiss, Weiss Health Group of the Fox Cities. She will discuss the related aspects of biking and walking on community health and report the findings of the recent LIFE Study conducted in the Fox Cities, as it relates to trails. Finally, the third program, presented by Nick Sparocio of the Green Bay Planning Dept., will help officials plan and implement bike and pedestrian efforts in their community.

If you are an elected official, and haven't received registration information, please email us at: greenways@focol.org. Questions? Contact Dave Muench (920/422-1789)

Upcoming Events Worth Noting

February 4, 2012
Snowshoeing for Families/Beginners
Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London

February 10, 2012
Moonlight Ski
Bubolz Nature Preserve

February 11, 2012
Sturgeon Ride
High Cliff State Park

February 11, 2012
Valentine Run
Midwest Sports Events, De Pere

February 21, 2012
Wisconsin Bike Summit
Madison, WI

March 20-22, 2012
National Bike Summit
Washington DC

March 30, 2012
Orthopedic-Sports Inst./Miron April Fool's 5K
Appleton

April 28, 2012
Navarino Trail Fun Run-Walk
Shiocton

May 1, 2012
Get Up and Ride Challenge Begins
National

May 5, 2012
Festival Foods La Crosse Fitness Festival
Riverside Park, Neenah

May 13-19, 2012
Bike Week
Fox Valley and National

May 19, 2012
Happy Trails Event
Telulah Park, Appleton



Member and Contributor Recognition



*Thanks to all of
our contributors
who help us help
others by creating
trails and
greenways for our
communities!*

In our first newsletter of the year, we list our generous members and donors from last year. We're very grateful for the support of our members, some who have been members for several years. Membership dues are our main source of revenue, accounting for 30% of our income in 2011.

Grants were our second highest source of revenue at 21% and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Scott Get Up and Ride initiative for \$5,000 and Miller Electric Manufacturing for \$1,500. We also received a \$250 grant from the Ironwood Foundation. Another longtime supporter, the J.J. Keller Foundation, designated \$1,000 to the Town of Clayton and with \$1,000 they granted from a previous year, the funds helped purchase a sign at the Town of Clayton Park.

Other corporate donations were received from Peak Performance Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine who donated \$1,246 in proceeds they received from a couple of their special clinics featuring guest speakers. Tara Lila, LLC donated \$1,000. Through the Express Convenience Centers Giving Program, local convenience centers collected nearly \$350 in their donation cans. Through our Happy Trails Run/Walk last spring that was used to raise funds and bring trail awareness to the community, we received additional donations and prizes for participants from the following: \$500 from Eagle Flats, \$500 from Midwest Sports Events, \$150 from Recyclist Bike Shop, and \$150 from Run Away Shoes.

The contributions of these community-minded individuals and businesses have been used to educate and raise awareness of our off-street trails and bike routes through the promotion of the Safe Routes to School and Bike to Work programs, the Trails for Tomorrow workshop, the Happy Trails Run/Walk, and the distribution of our newsletter throughout the valley. We've also extended our outreach to waterways trails by providing signs for the portages along the Fox River and a floating kayak dock in the city of Menasha.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you goes out to those who have supported our mission to foster the development of trails and greenways in the Fox Valley. Your generosity continues to improve the quality of living in our communities.

Online Donations



For those who prefer the convenience of online giving, Fox Cities Greenways offers the option of donating via PayPal on our website at <http://www.focol.org/greenways/donate.html>. Just a click of a membership level or special contribution button on this page allows you to donate using any major credit card or an e-check.

Thanks to our 2011 Contributors!

The list below recognizes the past year's membership renewals and unrestricted contributions to Fox Cities Greenways.

Thank you!

PATHFINDER

Richard & Amy Jo Aylward

TRAILBLAZER

Paul Dixon
Ted Galloway
Mark & Jan Heifner

CONSERVATOR

Dr. Jon & Susan Derksen
Mike & Vickie Milde
Dr. Jeanna Owens
Greg Schmidt
Kim Schueller
John & Mary Sensenbrenner Jr
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Diane Uitenbrock
Tom & Ellen Walsh

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George & Judy Massey
Richard McCrory
Gordy & Linda McDaniel
Richard & Rita Menet
Mike & Jill Mitchler
Sandra Paulus
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Little Chute Bike Lanes Update

The Fox Valley has made great strides in installing trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes over the past 15 years. There are now over ninety miles of bike lanes and trails in the valley. While this is great news, we get reminded we have to stay alert or we could lose what we've worked so hard to get.

Every once in awhile a hot button issue will cause a town, village or city board or council to turn over. While this can be beneficial, it can also be disruptive. This is what we saw earlier this year in the Village of Little Chute. Only one member of the six-person board in Little Chute was in place when their Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan was adopted. This change in leadership and the resulting lack of information lead to two disturbing developments.

During the summer of 2011, the Village of Little Chute removed a section of bike lane on Washington Street in favor of street parking. The board of Fox Cities Greenways didn't know the Village was considering this until after it happened. Not more than a month later, the Village of Little Chute decided to place parking on Rose Hill Road instead of the planned bike lanes or a combination of parking and bike lanes. This was despite efforts of residents and Greenways members to convince the board to take a different approach. It became apparent there was a lack of understanding by the Little Chute Village Board about the positive nature of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in a community. In response to these developments, President Dave Muench asked if Fox Cities Greenways could speak with the village board in order to help educate the board about non-motorized facilities.

In late November, President Dave Muench and Tom Walsh made a presentation regarding bike lanes to the Little Chute Village Board. This presentation had several focus points, starting with defining the existing and potential user groups. Community survey results compiled by ALTA Planning stated that 60% of a population is uncomfortable riding in areas without facilities. Many travelers prefer to bike rather than drive when they arrive at their destination. This is typically so they can learn and feel more connected to the place they are visiting. With the construction of the windmill in Little Chute, having bike facilities in place can help get those tourists into downtown safely.

After talking about the users, we discussed bike lanes and pavement markings. Examples of bike lanes, both with and without parking, were shown and discussed. This included dimensional information showing how facilities can be placed on streets without increasing street size. During the presentation, we explained and showed how painting a line on the pavement—yet allowing parking in that lane—doesn't work. Questions were also raised about striping bike lanes in a piecemeal fashion as it is currently done. Members of the board didn't understand why it was done in this manner. It was explained, and emphasized by Village staff, this was a cost effective means of implementing the plan and that one has to take advantage of pieces of potential trail when they become available.

As for the plan itself, three things result:

- Having a plan in place provides guidance to both those in Little Chute and their neighbors where bike lanes are going to be in the future.

- Having a plan and implementing the plan over time will result in a complete system for those wanting to ride a bike as transportation.

- Little Chute will have a transportation system that is safe and usable by ALL roadway users; bicycles, pedestrians and motorized vehicles.

Many communities struggle with the change required to install bicycle facilities. If you hear or know of an opportunity for Fox Cities Greenways to help educate or advocate for bicycle, pedestrian or other trail facilities, please contact us through our web site <http://www.foxcitiesgreenways.org>.



Check out our Facebook Page for up-to-date information on local events!
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fox-Cities-Greenways/334751029057>



http://twitter.com/#!/FC_Greenways

Kasi Koshollek, a graduate student at UW-SP, contacted Fox Cities Greenways and sat in on a couple of board meetings as an assignment for her community building class. She chose Greenways because of her interest in our mission. Below is the follow-up letter she sent us expressing her thoughts about her experience...

Dear Greenways,

I wanted to thank you for allowing me to come and observe your two meetings during the Fall of 2011. As you may remember, one of my UW-SP graduate classes assigned me to sit in on a non-profit community group to observe how they functioned as a group in terms of collaborative leadership. I'm sure you already recognize this, but your community group is very impressive. You adhere to your mission statement while creating tremendous progress for the goals of your organization. The leadership skills that came from each board member was notable and should be celebrated. I had the opportunity to give a presentation on your organization to the rest of my graduate class. The remarks that I received were universally positive. My classmates and professor were impressed with the professionalism of your organization and the tremendous impact you've had on the surrounding

Plan to set aside May 13-19 for great bicycle adventures! Below is a schedule to give you an idea of how you can participate.

Sunday - May 13th

Bike to Worship

Bike to church then out to brunch.

Monday – May 14th

Get Up & Ride

The “Get Up & Ride Challenge” is a fun way to compete with yourself and others. If you need information or want to sign up you can by going to www.endomondo.com/join/national

Tuesday – May 15th

Trail Day

Enjoy the day by taking a ride on one of the local trails. We have quite a few in the area to choose from. Maps are available at www.foxcitiesgreenways.org

Wednesday – May 16th

Ride of Silence

This is a ride or honor those injured or killed, to raise awareness of our presence on the road and ask that we all share the road.

Thursday – May 17th

Bike Safety Day

Keeping safe will keep riding fun. Make sure your bike is

in good riding order and your helmet fits properly. Review the “Rules of the Road” with your kids if you can, so the whole family is safe on the road. See if you can get your school to sponsor an education program or Bike Rodeo. Why not Bike to School today if you have a “Safe Route to School”.

Trails for Tomorrow Conference

Want to learn more about creating a more sustainable and healthy Fox Valley?

Friday – May 18th

Bike to Work Day

Save the gas and enjoy the commute. Free showers are available at the YMCAs around the Fox Cities. Need help getting started? Check out the information available through Fox Cities Greenways at www.foxcitiesgreenways.org.

Saturday – May 19th

Family Day

(Happy Trails Event – Telulah Park, Appleton)

Fox Cities Greenways is highlighting the South River, Newberry and CE Trails this year with a walk/run/ride event starting in Telulah Park. Everyone is welcome, so bring the family for a fun day on the trails.



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Join Fox Cities Greenways Today!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Annual Contribution (includes newsletter and Annual Meeting)

- \$35—Guardian \$50—Sentinel \$100—Advocate
- \$250—Conservator \$500—Trailblazer \$1,000—Pathfinder

My company has a matching gift program. Company name: _____

I wish to make an additional special contribution: \$ _____

I wish to receive my newsletter via...(please circle) Postal Mail Email

I would like to receive occasional special alerts about Fox Cities Greenways via e-mail (please circle) Yes No

I wish to volunteer for:

Trail landscaping, maintenance Photography Newsletter, mailings

Greenways committees Other talents I could share _____

Mail this form to **Fox Cities Greenways, P.O. Box 5, Menasha, WI 54952-0005**

You may also join or donate online with Pay Pal at <http://www.focol.org/greenways/donate.html>

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Email us with any questions at greenways@focol.org

Thank you for your support!