

# The Moonville Rail Trail Association's Rail Trail News



Published Quarterly

Spring 2008



## Inside

2	Trail bridge needs outlined
3	Moonville Area Events
3	Turkey Festival Booth planned
4	Buy your Moonville gear

## Contact Us

Do you have a question or want to become more involved? Contact us!

**Neil and Betty Shaw**  
385-5306

**Marilyn and Hershel Prater**  
596-4772

**Mail Address**  
P.O. Box 513  
McArthur, Ohio 45651

**Meetings**  
Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Hope School. The next meeting will be May 13 at 7 p.m.

## A note from our President

Dear Moonville Volunteers,

We had a very good turn out at the annual Moonville Rail Trail Meeting. We want to thank everyone for their attendance and the good food that they brought.

The elections were held at the meeting and all of the officers were re-elected to their same positions. I am looking forward to working with all of the officers throughout the year.

We currently are looking for bridges. It may be possible to use old railroad flat beds or scale platforms for the two bridges west of Wheelabout Road.

Approximately 17 volunteers showed up for the clean up at

Moonville Tunnel and Raccoon Creek on April 19. There is less trash each time we have our clean up. We would like to thank everyone that showed up and we were happy that the rain held out until we were finished.

I would also like to thank Betty Shaw and Marilyn Prater for the great food that they provided.

If you have not yet signed up to work at the Turkey Festival booth, please give Marilyn Prater a call for times and dates.

Thank You,  
**Neil Shaw**  
*Moonville Rail Trail Assoc. President*

## Annual meeting draws good crowd

The Moonville Rail Trail Association held its annual meeting on April 8 at the Hope School. This meeting drew a large crowd including some new faces as well as some familiar ones. A potluck dinner was followed by a business meeting that covered a lot of ground including elections, bridge discussions and volunteerism for upcoming events.

The big news of the evening was the election of officers. While the organization is beginning to attract some new people, there were no volunteers from the membership to join the board. However, the membership did vote to abolish the existing term limits so that some current board members can continue serving. The membership went



**Board members Marilyn Prater and Jean Mapes are pictured during the annual meeting.**

on to re-elect the existing officers.

The board consists of representation from all groups who have an interest in the Rail Trail. That includes hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and the Brown Twp. trustees. Volunteers are now being sought for next year's election. Come to the next meeting to learn more about the group.

# Bridges are needed to complete rail trail

The length of the Moonville rail trail from Zaleski to New Marshfield features nineteen water crossings and seven road crossings. Of the 19 water crossings, seven of these are concrete or stone structures, which are intact. The other 12 water crossings require bridge spans. When the CSX Railroad abandoned the right of way in the 1980's, they removed the bridge spans, but left the abutments and piers in place.

A major challenge facing our group is the replacement of these bridge spans. The bridges range in size from a couple of 50 foot long, single span structures, to some multiple span structures nearly 200 foot in overall length. The longest single span of any original structure is 78 feet. The nine multiple-span bridges include concrete abutments on each end, plus intermediate piers. Most of these piers were originally build of stone, with many of them receiving concrete additions or reinforcing over the years. A cursory inspection reveals that several intermediate piers are partially deteriorated.

As each bridge site is developed, an assessment of the existing piers by a qualified structural engineer will be required. These inspections will help guide the decision making process. For example, if a certain pier or set of piers is excessively deteriorated, the best solution may be to install a longer span bridge which will simply by-pass the deteriorated pier.

A preliminary estimate of the replacement cost for the twelve spans is about \$2,000,000. These costs are based on the pur-



**When the CSX Railroad abandoned the right of way in the 1980's, they removed the bridge spans but left the abutments and piers in place. The bridge at the Moonville Tunnel, removed several years ago, is pictured above.**

chase and installation of new structures at each location. The costs include all engineering, material, and installation by qualified professional bridge builders. The design criteria for these bridges is based on their capability to carry a small ambulance vehicle, so that any part of the trail can be reached in an emergency situation.

A great deal of interest has been expressed by club members in the idea of utilizing used or non-conventional structures for some of the bridge spans. These may included old road bridges that may have been removed by a county or state highway department, and replaced by new spans. These old bridges are often available as a donation, but require inspection, moving, and installation costs before being ready for trail use. Used flat-bed truck trailers or railroad flat cars

can also be used in some instances. Depending on the location and condition of used structures, they sometimes can be less expensive than a new structure, but other times can cost more.

The Bridge Committee is working on solutions for all the bridges, and we are always interested in ideas and opportunities for creative solutions to our needs. The two bridge spans closest to Zaleski have been inspected by The Ohio Bridge Corporation of Cambridge, Ohio, and that company has provided cost estimates for those bridges. Installation of these two bridges is our highest priority, although if opportunities arise to install bridges on other parts of the trail, we will seize those opportunities. Based on the costs provided by Ohio Bridge, the grants committee is already seeking grant funding to accomplish those projects.

# Moonville to share Turkey Festival booth with Raccoon Creek

The Moonville Rail Trail Association will have a presence at this year's Vinton County Wild Turkey Festival. The festival is in McArthur on May 1-4 and the group will share space with the Raccoon Creek group.

Shirts and hats will be available for sale and the group will distribute membership information. There will also be a nice computer slideshow that will cover the life, work and history of this organization.

Volunteers are now being recruited to help run this booth. The booth must be manned at all times during the festival hours. Those hours are May 1— 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.; May 2 10 a.m.—9 p.m.; May 3 10 a.m.—9 p.m.; and May 4 Noon—5 p.m. Booth volunteers are being sought for two and four hour shifts. Contact Marilyn at 596-4772 or Betty at 385-5306 to schedule your time at the booth.

## Invite your friends to join us

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

*(By including your email address, you agree to receive the Moonville newsletter via email)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Individual Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Family Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Organization Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I am interested in serving on a committee! Please contact me!

Please Make Checks Payable to Moonville Rail Trail, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 513, McArthur, Ohio 45651

## Moonville Area Events

*Are you looking for something to do on your next visit to Moonville? Check out these local events or call 1-800-596-4459 for a Vinton County Visitors' Guide for more info.*

May 3 **Youth Fishing Tournament** – For kids ages 1-16. Adult must be present with each child. Held at the parking lot below the Lake Hope Dam. Trophy presentation and cookout afterwards. The park will provide poles and bait or participants can bring their own. 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. (740-596-3030)

May 10 **Migration Birdwalk** – Search different habitats for spring migrants. Last year we saw 50 species of birds! Some binoculars provided. Meet at the Hope Furnace 9 a.m. – Noon. (740-596-3030)

May 24 **Holiday Shop Hop** – Travel the hills and dales of Vinton County to over 20 quaint shops, art studios, restaurants and scenic attractions. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (1-800-477-1541)

May 31 **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Raccoon Creek Float** - Join the Raccoon Creek Water Trails Association during this annual float in the Zaleski State Forest.

May 31- June 1 **RC Fly-In** – This fly in for remote controlled aircraft will bring out the kid in you. Food will be available both days including a bean dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Held at the Vinton County Airport. (740-385-9392)

June 18 – Labor Day **Hand-Feeding Hummingbirds** – Participants can make a feeder and attempt to hand-feed hummingbirds. Held at the Nature Center. Contact for days and times. (740-596-3030)

July 5 **Holiday Shop Hop** – Travel the hills and dales of Vinton County to over 20 quaint shops, art studios, restaurants and scenic attractions. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (1-800-477-1541)

July 12 **Hummingbird Banding Program** – Hummingbird expert Allen Chartier will capture and band hummingbirds. Chartier will also present his research about Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds at the Lake Hope Nature Center. A power point presentation will be given at 10 a.m. with the banding demo conducted at noon. (740-596-3030)

**Pre-Paid  
Shirt/ Hat Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Shirt sizes** : S, M, L, XL, XXL  
**Shirt Colors**: Rust, Bt. Yellow, Sand, Green, Lt. Blue,  
 Dk. Blue, Gray, Tan

**Hats**: One size fits all  
**Hat Colors**: Beige, Black, Denim

Please indicate number of each item, color and size:

Quantity	Item Description	Size	Color	Price
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Shipping: \$5.00, each additional item is \$2.50

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to the Moonville Rail Trail Association and  
 mail to P.O. Box 513 McArthur, Ohio 45651*

**Moonville  
Merchandise Prices**

**T-Shirt**  
 Small: \$10  
 Medium - Large \$12  
 XXL \$15

**Long Sleeve T-Shirt**  
 Small \$15  
 Medium - Large \$18  
 XXL \$20

**Sweatshirt**  
 Small \$15  
 Medium - Large \$20  
 XXL \$22

**Hoodies**  
 Small \$25  
 Medium - Large \$30  
 XXL \$35

**Hats** \$10

**Moonville Rail Trail, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 513**  
**McArthur, Ohio 45651**