

As the new year begins, we all reflect upon what we have accomplished and what needs work. In my case it is a resolution to get my newsletter done in a timely fashion in the future after being so late this time.

Over the years, our goal has been to develop and improve trail in the tri-county area. Gradually, that roll has changed as other entities such as the Ross and Fayette County Park Districts and cities take over much of that responsibility. In Fayette County, that responsibility is still very much in transition with the recent creation of that park district. To that end, we want to transfer our holdings in good shape, to give them breathing room to get their feet firmly set on the ground. This year, in Fayette County, **we repaired cracks and did some pavement and bridge repairs**. Then in October, **we hired Bioestor to seal trail in Fayette County** to the tune of \$42,000+ for almost eight miles of trail. It is a clear coating, not your typical petroleum-based black sealer, which will reduce long-term damage from water infiltration, ultraviolet radiation and loss of pavement binders. This should prevent the need for repaving for many years to come.

Also in Fayette County, efforts are STILL ongoing to get the \$500,000 Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant, from a couple of years ago, completed. The officials from Washington C.H. and Jim Schneider, a trail development expert, are working with ODNR to get the final trail alignment (routing) done with **hopes of getting the trail work done by June**.

The Clinton County Regional Planning Commission is working on a line item state funding request to develop trail from Sabina to the current end of the trail in Fayette County at Bush Road. Will let you know more, as more information becomes available. This would connect our section of the Friendship Trail with theirs.

In Ross County, we have a couple of projects in the early development stage, but more on that later.

Our 24th **Annual Cookie Ride will take place Sunday, August 19** at Brad Lightle Park in Frankfort, Ohio. Last years was a success other than some injuries that will not occur again after addressing a couple of issues. More details will be available on our Web site, www.tricountytriangletrail.org, after January 31st or our Facebook page.

Unfortunately, **our annual half-marathon/5k will not happen this April**. As has been mentioned in our last newsletter, we just don't have the manpower/energy to keep it going as our small group of active volunteers has gotten older. We have sought to find a solution for keeping it going and may have found an answer, but too late for this year. The Ross County Park District may take it over and perhaps have an autumn edition of the event in the Fall. We will let you know more as we get the information.

Our trail is getting a new name between Chillicothe and Washington C.H. It will be the Paint Creek Recreational Trail. As the trail system grows in the state, we need logical and consistent naming of trail segments. They will even be getting route numbers, just like roads. Our trail was the Adena Recreation Trail in Ross County and the Fayette County Trail in that county. Also, everyone referred to it as the Tri-County Triangle Trail. Truthfully, as one leg of trail development fell through, it will never be a triangle trail either. Confusing. And yes, I know it is actually the NORTH FORK of Paint Creek, but that is just too long of a name.

Our **annual meeting** will be held in Washington C.H. at the WCH Service Center located at 220 Park Avenue in Washington C.H. on Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Enclosed, you will find your **membership renewal form**. Thank you in advance for your continued generous support of our efforts. You will find your membership number on your address label beside your name.

See you on the trail – try to stay warm and safe.



Jacquelyn Doles; Corresponding Secretary/VP