

# Rail Trail News

Published four times a year by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail  
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48640-0505  
[www.LMB.org/pmrt](http://www.LMB.org/pmrt)

May, 2010

Vol. 18 No. 1

Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of our Newsletter. Please also check the Friends web site [www.lmb.org/pmrt](http://www.lmb.org/pmrt) where all the latest news flashes, information on rides and formal newsletters are posted.

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## Board Officers

At the Annual General Meeting Dave Waite stepped down from the President role to make way for Mark McCartney to bring a fresh pair of eyes and new energy to the role. Dave Waite will fill the vacant Vice President role. Other continuing Officers are: Joe Malan as Treasurer, Craig Kendziorski as Secretary and Kelly Busse as Membership Director.

## 2010 “3 Trails in 3 Days” and 17th Annual Friends Walk, Skate & Ride

Let's make this year's ride an even bigger turn out than 2009! so please use the enclosed Flyer to sign up and mark your calendars for our one and only annual fund raiser. As last year we are partnering with the Bay City and Saginaw Friends in support of the Great Lakes Bay Regional pathway project.

Friday, July 23 Saginaw

Saturday, July 24 Midland

Sunday, July 25 Bay City including the picnic with door prize drawing.

## Safety First Corner

Summer is fast approaching and it's time to get out your skates, bikes and walking shoes.

Time also to remember the basic rules of the trail:

- Stay to the right, pass on the left,
- Be courteous to slower trail users
- Wear a helmet (it could save your life)

If you plan to bike to the Trail on city streets and walkways remember:

- It is legal to bike on walkways BUT be aware of drive ways, not all motorists look for bikers when they back down their driveway
- When you bike on city streets you might think of the bumper sticker I saw on a County Sheriff's cruiser, it had symbols of a bike and a car and the following phrases
  - Same Roads
  - Same Rights (bikes have the right to be there)
  - Same Rules (bikers have to obey the same traffic rules e.g. stop signs, no turn on red. etc)

Be healthy but above all be SAFE

## **Annual General Meeting – April 22, 2010**

If I may say so this was THE best AGM ever! We had a great turn out and outstanding guest presenters. For those of you who missed this opportunity to hear about our trail and trail developments in Michigan here is summary of the meeting.

The Friends are “alive” and “active”, we have sound finances and a steady membership level. We eliminated ‘complimentary memberships’ and now offer Life and 3-year membership options. We donated \$10,000 to two significant projects: the Clare Extension and the Sanford Connector. We are actively engaged in the GLBR path project and the Midland City NMT project. Our Mission continues to be to promote the non-motorized recreational Trail between the towns, or hubs, of Midland and Clare, Michigan and make it one of the best in the State.

### **Rails to Trails Conservancy Trail of the Month and Hall of Fame**

Rhonda Border-Boose, Director of the Mid-West Office of the Rails to Trails Conservancy formally inaugurated the Pere Marquette Rail Trail into the Hall of Fame.

This is 5 year program so we will need to continue to work hard to keep the Trail one of the best! Rhonda had the following to say about the trail “You are among the top 25 trails nationally and have demonstrated what a rail trail can be and how it can affect the community, PMRT sets a tremendous example as one of the flag ship trails in the Midwest”.

The Rails to Trails conservancy is headquartered in Washington D.C. and its’ mission is to ‘Create healthier places for healthier people’, it advocates and defends on behalf of the rail trails legislatively, it provides technical assistance and promotion, and it encourages rail trail development. She noted that Michigan is one of the few states with a dedicated trail program driven by the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (see later).

Rhonda outlined the Active Community Transportation Act of 2010. The Conservancy is attempting to gain support from Detroit representatives Carolyn Kilpatrick and John Conyers as co-sponsors of the bill. Please write or e-mail them with your support. The bill will provide \$2 billion in “Active Transportation Infrastructure”.

Midland City Mayor Maureen Donker had the following to add “Good things are happening in Midland, the Friends group demonstrates community spirit at its finest, congratulations for bringing the award to this community, and thank you”.

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### **Membership Section**

Welcome to our new members. We hope you’ll all play an active role through volunteering to help with maintaining and promoting the rail-trail and our activities.

Todd & Cynthia Hogan  
Theodore Beidler

Vicky Sowden  
Jim & Anna Hemeyer

## Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance

Nancy Kupiarz, executive director of the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance said “PMRT is the first Michigan trail in the Hall Of Fame and I cannot think of a better choice. Thank you for having such a great model for other trails to emulate. It is one of the first trails to have a common look and feel for signage, etc. It is the first trail to get an endowment for trail maintenance and the first trail to have a trail user survey.”

The MI Greenways Alliance has over 1,000 members, the MI Trail Directory (revising this year), 156 downloadable resources on their website, including conference presentations and a toolkit.

Nancy summarized some of the great projects happening in Michigan:

The MI Airline Trail, developed based on a grant from Kreske Foundation, running from Port Huron (Lake Huron) to South Haven (Lake Michigan).

Rehabilitation of the I-275 pathway in Detroit, a trail along the I-275 that was originally built during the 1970s gas shortage.

Work on “green” infrastructure with connecting parks, wetlands, etc. with rail trails.

The Detroit Midtown loop, linking cultural institutions in downtown Detroit.

Safe Routes to School project providing connections from trails to schools, they are looking for best school candidates to implement.

Legislative Advocacy Day, 5/26/10, will be at State Capitol, with a push for Complete Streets Statewide legislation. The intention is that building and rebuilding streets will have a “holistic” approach to all types of transportation and be built into transportation planning. For more information go to [www.LMB.org](http://www.LMB.org).

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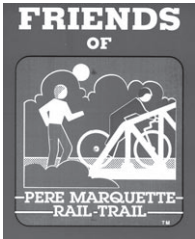
## Improving the Trail Activities 2010

**Great Lakes Bay Regional Rail Trails:** The Bay to Saginaw project is proceeding on schedule and planned for completion in 2011/12. Work continues towards pursuing the necessary right-of-way for the future construction of a path between Bay City and Saginaw, local match has been secured from Saginaw WIN and Dow Chemical. No new news on the Midland to Bay City route. If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite. You can review the Phase 2 report on <http://www.co.midland.mi.us/departments/extra.php?id=21&pid=613>

**Midland Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP):** The NMT Advisory Committee plan for non-motorized transportation capabilities and infrastructure in the City is now moving into implementation. A Complete Streets Policy has been submitted to the City Council and Planning Committee for approval. The League of American Bicyclist (LAB) “Bicycle Friendly Community” certification board has recognized Midland with an Honorable Mention, as we implement our NMT plan we will reapply for an award. Expect to see new Designated Bike Routes and Shared Lane Bike Lanes with opening events & ceremonies in August through September! If you would like to know more about this project contact Dave Waite, e-mail [davewaite@charter.net](mailto:davewaite@charter.net).

**Clare Extensions:** The Clare Friends was formed and is now active. A new 7 mile section of trail heading west from Farwell will be constructed this summer. Negotiations continue to find a solution to close the 2 mile gap section from the center of Clare to link with the Farwell section. If you would like to know more about this project contact Don Kolander of the Clare County Parks & Recreation, e-mail [kolanderd@clareco.com](mailto:kolanderd@clareco.com)

**Adopt a Trail:** 2 organizations continue to partner with the Friends to adopt a section of Trail and improve the appearance and housekeeping. If you would like to know more about this project contact Kelly Busse, e-mail [bussek@charter.net](mailto:bussek@charter.net).



**FRIENDS OF THE  
PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL**  
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**Business members:** Cottage Creamery, Chippewa Nature Center, Ray's Bike Shop

### HELP SUPPORT YOUR RAIL-TRAIL

The Pere Marquette Rail-Trail is one of Michigan's premiere linear parks. You can help enhance and maintain this superb facility by using the form below to make a donation to the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail and/or become a FPMRT member. FPMRT is a non-profit organization pledged to improve, promote and maintain the Midland-to-Clare link in Michigan's extensive rail-trail system. If you enjoy the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail now is the time to show your support. Both membership fees and donations are fully tax-deductible . Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone( \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be notified of Rail-Trail activities or would be willing to get the newsletter electronically in order to save us costs, please include an email address.

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail (FPMRT) and mail to:  
P.O. Box 505, Midland, MI 48641

Membership Categories (indicate amount in \$):

Annual Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Family \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Year Individual \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Year Family \$80 \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Individual \$300 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Family \$600 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in addition to membership: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would consider volunteering, please include phone number: \_\_\_\_\_